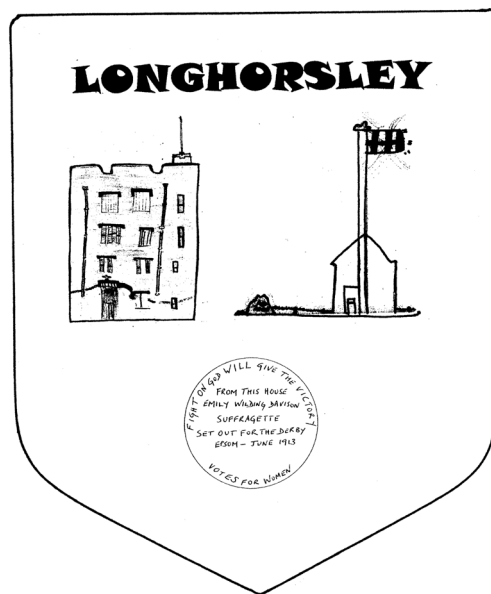
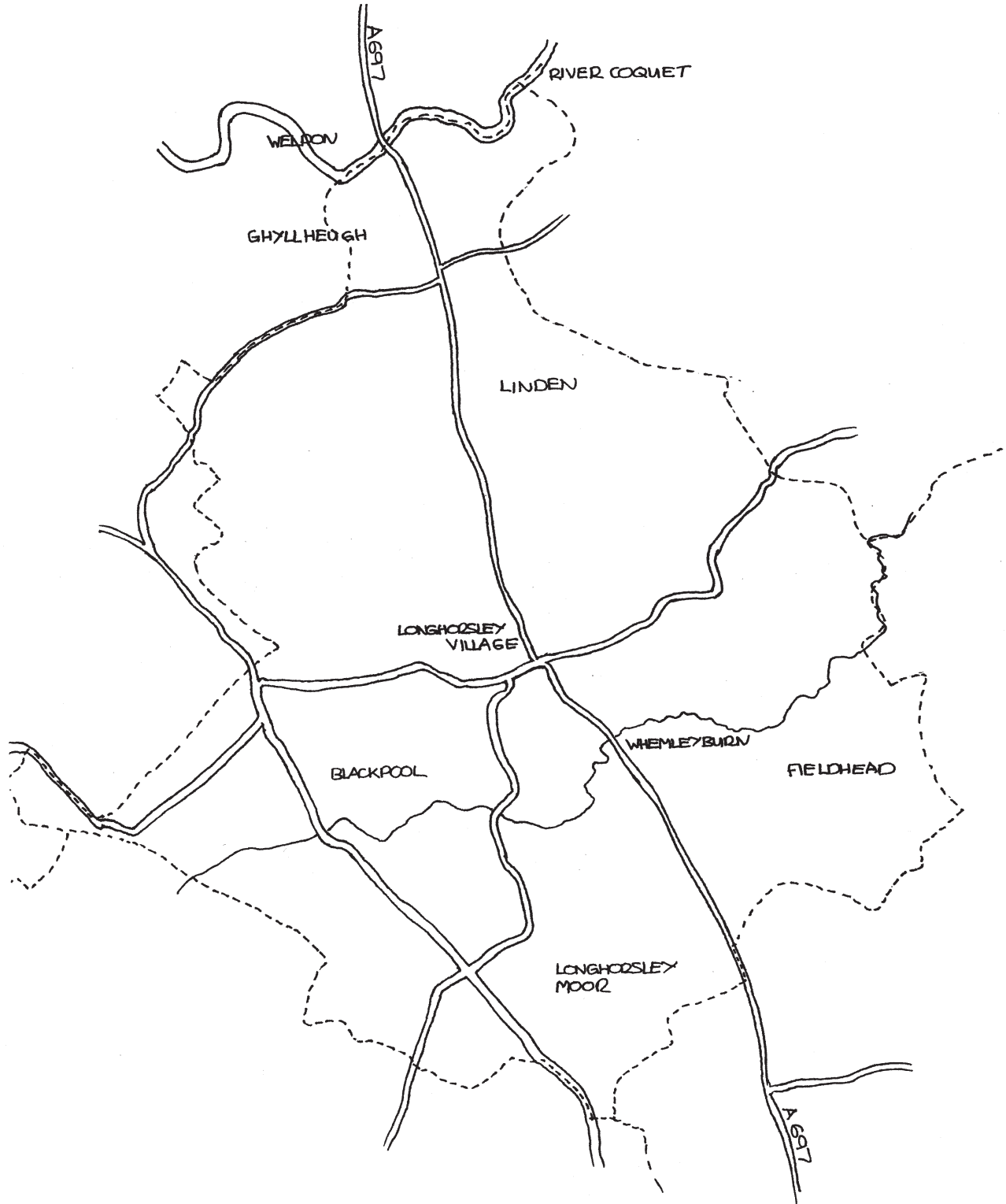


LONGHORSLEY PARISH PLAN



2003

LONGHORSLEY PARISH



LONGHORSLEY VILLAGE



Photograph by John Fallais reproduced by kind permission of Longhorsley Local History Society

Introduction

Longhorsley is a village and parish in Northumberland, some six miles north of Morpeth. Its oldest inhabited building dates back more than 500 years and its newest ones are still being built. There are 375 households with 700 registered electors. The 2001 census has not yet been broken down to parish level, but the total population of the parish is about 1000.

The landscape around Longhorsley is predominantly rural in character. The major land use is mixed farming. There is some woodland, most of it associated with roadsides and watercourses. Longhorsley Moor also contains significant areas of deciduous tree and shrub growth. Part of Longhorsley Moor is a Site of Special Scientific Interest.

The A697, which is one of the main border routes, passes through Longhorsley. The core of the village is linear, orientated east-west, with a central green. At the western end of the village the green widens and extends beyond the housing. Within Longhorsley there are significant belts of mature trees in gardens and along boundaries. The houses are a varied range of cottages, bungalows and two storey houses. Horsley Tower is on West Road, and Linden Hall, now a hotel, lies to the north. The village has a First School, three churches, two shops, a Post Office and Public House. Recreational facilities are provided by a Village Hall, an all-weather court, two play areas for younger children, a golf course and an open area where football is played. Within the parish boundary there is also a caravan park.

In the late 20th Century, new housing development has been concentrated on a relatively large area south of Longhorsley beside the A697. Integration of old and new residents is progressing, though not always smoothly. As the new century progresses, the changes in rural life make it more important than ever that people work together for the common good.

In the summer of 2002 the residents of Longhorsley were asked to consider the possibility of developing a Parish Plan. This is a concept of the Countryside Agency. It would show the concerns and hopes of residents of the parish, would suggest how valued features of the area could be protected and how realistic goals could be achieved.

The Parish Council was supportive, and the 20 or so active groups in the parish produced a list of ideas. An open meeting on 29th August 2002 showed there was enough interest to proceed.

A steering committee was formed, a questionnaire was developed, a "Planning for Real" day was held, and opinions were sought in other ways. The analysis of all this information distilled the views of the parish, and a summary was distributed to every household. A draft Plan was also circulated, and an Open Meeting was held on 26th June 2003 to provide an opportunity for further comment.

The purpose of this document is to show the opinions and wishes expressed. More importantly, it shows how some of those wishes can be fulfilled.

Implementing the Plan will be a challenge, and will call for energy and enthusiasm. If successful, the fruits of that energy and enthusiasm will benefit Longhorsley for years to come, and will forge partnerships which will enable the parish to rise to the unknown challenges of the future.

None of this could have happened without the dedication and hard work of many people, but most importantly it is the result of the interest and help of the whole parish.

The slogan was "Plans Make Progress". We have the Plan; now for the Progress.

Summary of Hopes and Wishes

- A sense of security and better policing
- Road safety
- A replacement for “The Listener”
- Easier access to medical services
- Better access for the disabled to local services
- Litter clearance and recycling
- Tree planting at the south of the village
- A footpath at the south of the village
- A return path at Archie’s Pond
- A play area for older children
- Floral troughs at the village entrances
- A notice board on Drummonds Close
- Sheltered seating
- More car parking space
- Reduction in dog fouling
- Better roads and paths
- More lighting in some areas
- Less pollution from street lights
- Better grass cutting
- A by-pass road
- No more housing
- More employment opportunities
- Better public transport
- Better water
- Reliable electricity supply
- Better use of existing financial resources

This report suggests how these hopes and wishes, which are not listed in order of popularity, can be achieved.

How the process started

During 2002, the Parish Council decided to support the preparation of a Parish Plan if enough general support could be demonstrated. The concept of the “Quality Parish Council” was being developed, and it was felt that if the Council were to seek that status it would have to demonstrate its sensitivity to local opinion. There was no existing easy way of determining people’s views, and the survey needed to produce the Plan would be a valuable resource, for the Council and the parish as a whole, even if “Quality” status was not sought. It could also be used to support applications for funding.

The Countryside Agency was approached for guidance.

Support for the project was judged to be sufficient after views had been expressed by many of the active organisations in the parish, and at an open meeting in August 2002, where 30 people volunteered to help. A Steering Committee was formed.

The Parish Council applied for, and received, a grant from the Countryside Agency, and agreed to fund up to 25% of the cost.

Grateful thanks are due to Richard Powell of the Community Council of Northumberland for his encouragement, support and guidance throughout.

How the information was gathered

In the spring of 2002 the Parish Council wrote to the 20 or so active organisations in the parish in an attempt to gauge support for a Parish Plan. In their replies, the groups suggested things they would like to see.

Many other suggestions were made at the August open meeting.

A separate session was held with the Youth Club.

An open “Planning for Real” day was held in the Village Hall in December 2002, and people of all ages recorded their likes and dislikes.

The questionnaire was designed using software from the Policy Research Institute at Leeds Metropolitan University (Compass for Windows), and many of the suggestions already made were included so their popularity could be tested.

A logo was designed by children of St Helen’s School.

The questionnaire, and a covering letter, were piloted by about 30 randomly selected people, and some modifications were made. The final document had 65 questions, including an opportunity for free comments.

In early January 2003, volunteers delivered the questionnaire to the 700 electors of the parish. A “drop-in day” was held in the Village Hall at the beginning of February to offer help to anyone with difficulty in completing theirs, and arrangements were made for them to be returned within about a fortnight via the village shops, pub and milk ladies.

267 (38%) completed forms were returned, and it was possible to show that these represented about 45% of the households in the parish.

The Analysis

The questionnaire was divided into eight sections, one of which was to be completed by only one member of the household, and the analysis was undertaken by the Steering Committee.

All the information from the questionnaires was entered into the “Compass” programme. Some of the analysis could be done using the software, but the many freely expressed views were dealt with manually. The opinions expressed earlier by the groups, at the open meeting, the “Planning for Real” day and at the Youth Club were incorporated into this part of the analysis.

The sections of the questionnaire will be dealt with in separate Chapters in this report, and are based on the actual numbers of replies received, which varied to some extent from question to question.

The numbers on the chart titles correspond to the question numbers on the questionnaire.

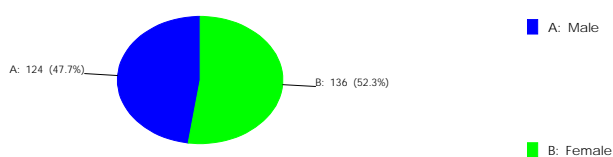
Not all percentages add up to precisely 100 because of “rounding” by the software.

Section A – Personal Details

This section opened with the reassurance that people could remain anonymous should they so choose, and that the information provided would be used only for creating the Parish Plan.

Gender

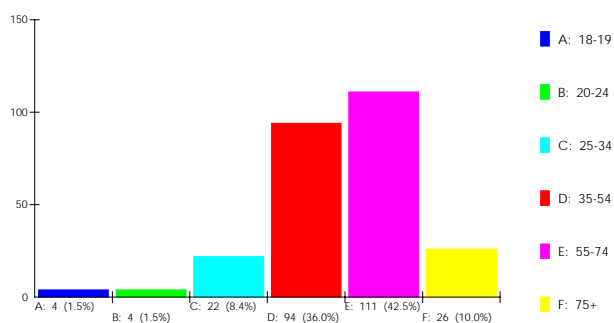
Male	124	(47.7%)
Female	136	(52.3%)



1. Gender

Age Group

18-19	4	(1.5%)
20-24	4	(1.5%)
25-34	22	(8.4%)
35-54	94	(36.0%)
55-74	111	(42.5%)
75+	26	(10.0%)

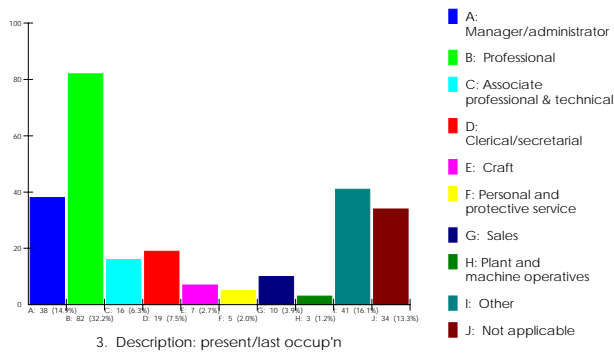


2. Age group

Longhorsley Parish Plan 2003

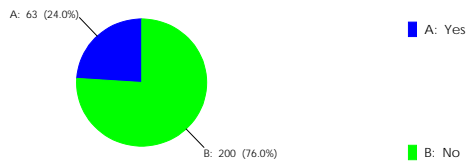
Current or most recent job

Manager/administrator	38	(14.9%)
Professional	82	(32.2%)
Associate professional & technical	16	(6.3%)
Clerical/secretarial	19	(7.5%)
Craft	7	(2.7%)
Personal and protective service	5	(2.0%)
Sales	10	(3.9%)
Plant and machine operatives	3	(1.2%)
Other	41	(16.1%)
Not applicable	34	(13.3%)



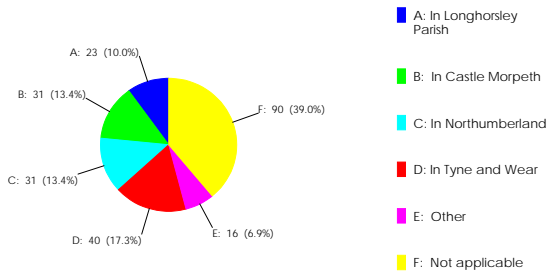
Present interest in undertaking education

Yes	63	(24.0%)
No	200	(76.0%)



Place of work

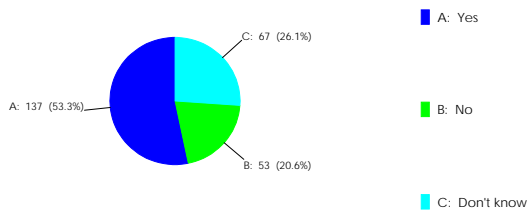
In Longhorsley Parish	23	(10.0%)
In Castle Morpeth	31	(13.4%)
In Northumberland	31	(13.4%)
In Tyne and Wear	40	(17.3%)
Other	16	(6.9%)
Not applicable	90	(39.0%)



5. Main place of work

Wish for more employment opportunities in Longhorsley parish

Yes	137	(53.3%)
No	53	(20.6%)
Don't know	67	(26.1%)

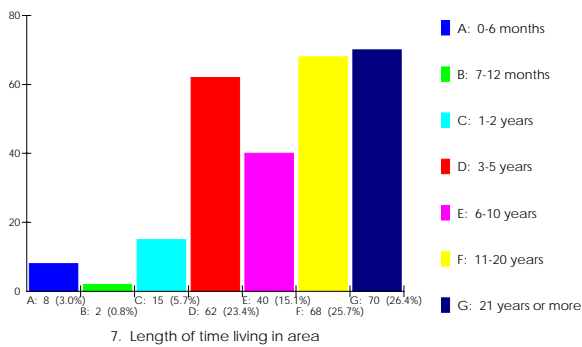


6. Employment in parish

Section B – your neighbourhood

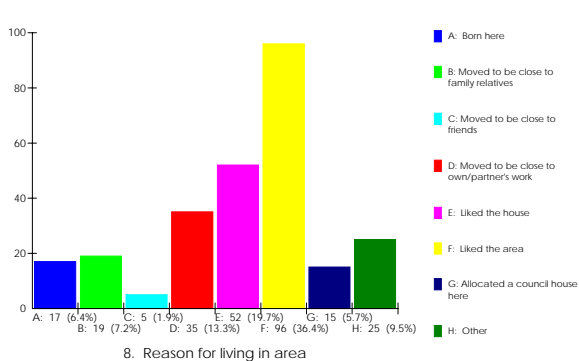
Duration of residence in Longhorsley parish

0-6 months	8	(3.0%)
7-12 months	2	(0.8%)
1-2 years	15	(5.7%)
3-5 years	62	(23.4%)
6-10 years	40	(15.1%)
11-20 years	68	(25.7%)
21 years or more	70	(26.4%)



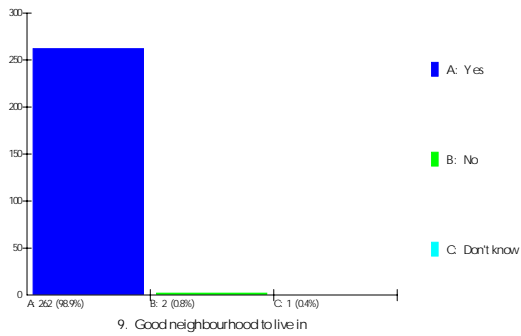
Reason for living in the parish

Born here	17	(6.4%)
Moved to be close to family relatives	19	(7.2%)
Moved to be close to friends	5	(1.9%)
Moved to be close to own/partner's work	35	(13.3%)
Liked the house	52	(19.7%)
Liked the area	96	(36.4%)
Allocated a council house here	15	(5.7%)
Other	25	(9.5%)



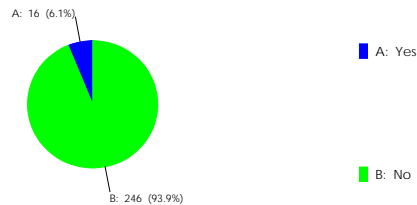
A good neighbourhood to live in?

Yes	262	(98.9%)
No	2	(0.8%)
Don't know	1	(0.4%)



Do you ever feel lonely or isolated?

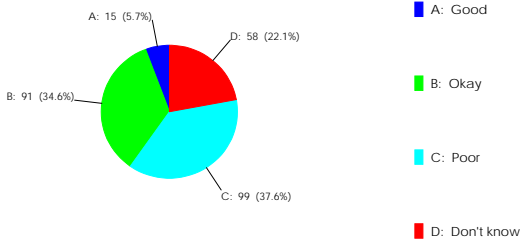
Yes	16	(6.1%)
No	246	(93.9%)



10. Ever feel lonely or isolated

Police service

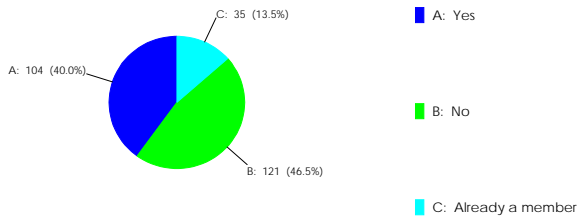
Good	15	(5.7%)
Okay	91	(34.6%)
Poor	99	(37.6%)
Don't know	58	(22.1%)



11. View of police service in area

Interest in Joining Neighbourhood Watch

Yes	104	(40.0%)
No	121	(46.5%)
Already a member	35	(13.5%)



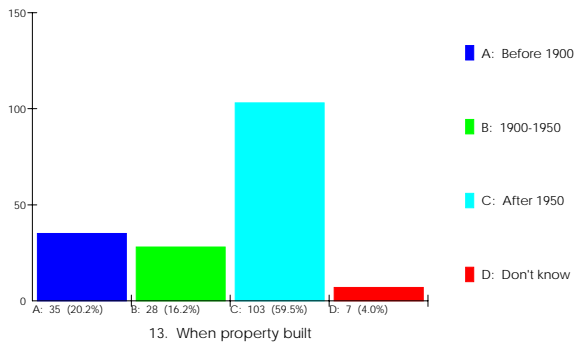
12. Intersted in joining N'bourhood Watch

Section C – Housing

This section of the questionnaire was completed by only one member of the household. This made it possible to determine the number of households represented by the returned questionnaires.

Age of property

Before 1900	35	(20.2%)
1900-1950	28	(16.2%)
After 1950	103	(59.5%)
Don't know	7	(4.0%)



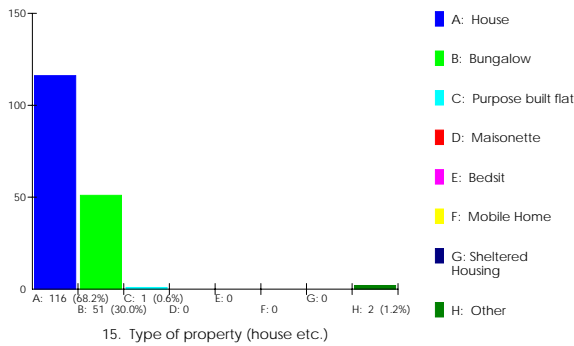
Age range of households

The question asked was, “How many people in your household including yourself are in the following age groups?”

<u>Age range</u>	<u>Number in household</u>	<u>Number of households</u>
0-4	1	13
	2	2
5-9	1	13
	2	6
10-17	1	14
	2	6
	3	1
18-19	1	6
20-24	1	10
	2	1
25-34	1	18
	2	8
35-54	1	32
	2	42
55-74	1	29
	2	54
75+	1	20
	2	4

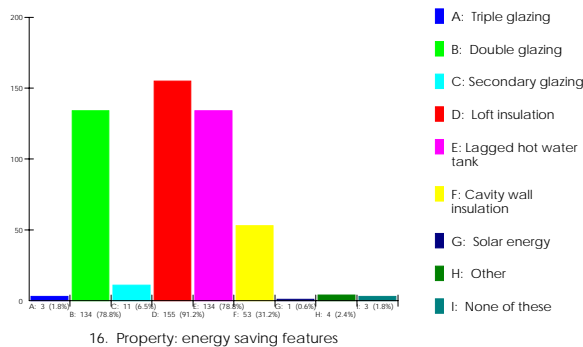
Type of property

House	116	(68.2%)
Bungalow	51	(30.0%)
Purpose built flat	1	(0.6%)
Maisonette	0	(0.0%)
Bed-sit	0	(0.0%)
Mobile Home	0	(0.0%)
Sheltered Housing	0	(0.0%)
Other	2	(1.2%)



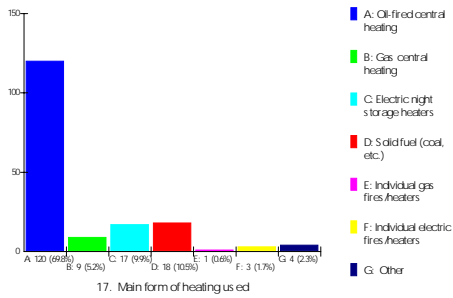
Energy saving features

Triple glazing	3	(1.8%)
Double glazing	134	(78.8%)
Secondary glazing	11	(6.5%)
Loft insulation	155	(91.2%)
Lagged hot water tank	134	(78.8%)
Cavity wall insulation	53	(31.2%)
Solar energy	1	(0.6%)
Other	4	(2.4%)
None of these	3	(1.8%)



Main source of heating

Oil-fired central heating	120	(69.8%)
Gas central heating	9	(5.2%)
Electric night storage heaters	17	(9.9%)
Solid fuel (coal, etc.)	18	(10.5%)
Individual gas fires/heaters	1	(0.6%)
Individual electric fires/heaters	3	(1.7%)
Other	4	(2.3%)

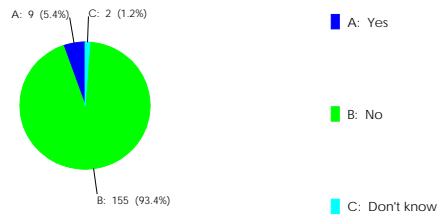


Interest in co-operative purchase of oil and/or gas

Yes	101	(59.4%)
No	40	(23.5%)
Don't know	29	(17.1%)

Has anyone from your household moved away because they were unable to afford to buy/rent locally?

Yes	9	(5.4%)
No	155	(93.4%)
Don't know	2	(1.2%)

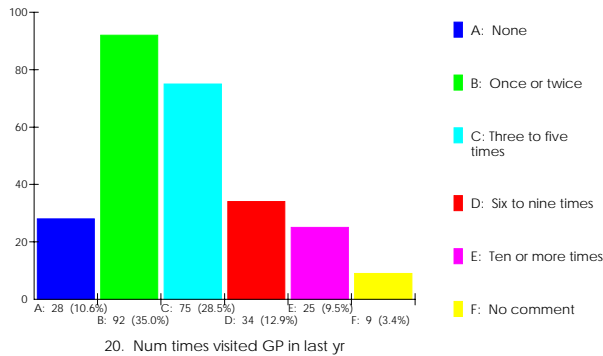


Section D - Community Services

This section sought to find out what use people make of local services, how they regard access to them, and what improvements they would like to see.

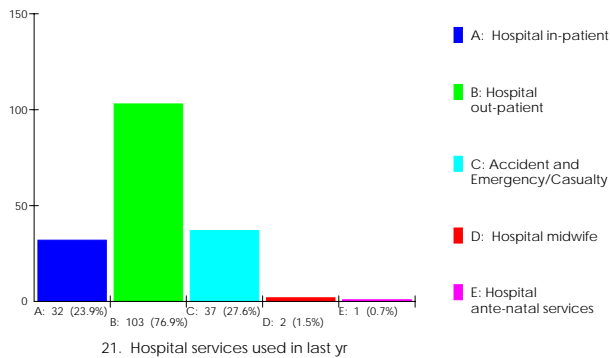
Visits to general medical practitioner in past year

None	28	(10.6%)
Once or twice	92	(35.0%)
Three to five times	75	(28.5%)
Six to nine times	34	(12.9%)
Ten or more times	25	(9.5%)
No comment	9	(3.4%)



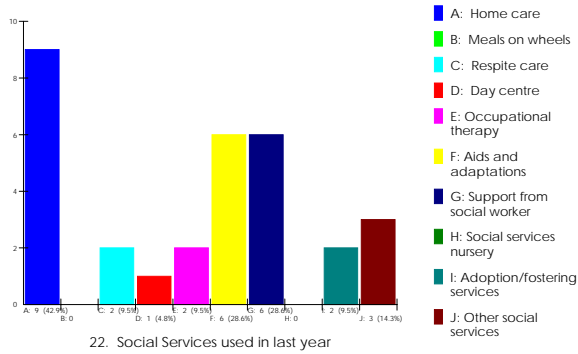
Use of hospital services

Hospital in-patient	32	(23.9%)
Hospital out-patient	103	(76.9%)
Accident and Emergency/Casualty	37	(27.6%)
Hospital midwife	2	(1.5%)
Hospital ante-natal services	1	(0.7%)



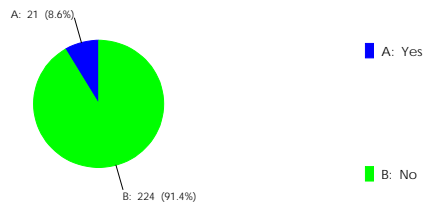
Use of other health and social services

Home care	9	(42.9%)
Meals on wheels	0	(0.0%)
Respite care	2	(9.5%)
Day centre	1	(4.8%)
Occupational therapy	2	(9.5%)
Aids and adaptations	6	(28.6%)
Support from social worker	6	(28.6%)
Social services nursery	0	(0.0%)
Adoption/fostering services	2	(9.5%)
Other social services	3	(14.3%)



Numbers caring for others

Yes	21	(8.6%)
No	224	(91.4%)



Access for disabled people to local services

(a) Local shops		
Good	7	(2.8%)
Okay	47	(18.9%)
Poor	174	(69.9%)
(b) Local Post Office		
Good	17	(6.9%)
Okay	101	(41.1%)
Poor	101	(41.1%)
(c) Local school		
Good	48	(20.3%)
Okay	80	(33.8%)
Poor	20	(8.4%)
(d) Longhorsley Village Hall		
Good	100	(40.7%)
Okay	98	(39.8%)
Poor	11	(4.5%)
(e) Nearest supermarket		
Good	75	(31.4%)
Okay	102	(42.7%)
Poor	18	(7.5%)
(f) Nearest chemist		
Good	44	(18.9%)
Okay	85	(36.5%)
Poor	31	(13.3%)
(g) Nearest launderette		
Good	6	(2.7%)
Okay	10	(4.4%)
Poor	12	(5.3%)
(h) GP/Health centre		
Good	83	(35.6%)
Okay	90	(38.6%)
Poor	12	(5.2%)
(i) Local authority housing office		
Good	4	(1.8%)
Okay	11	(4.8%)
Poor	10	(4.4%)
(j) Social services office		
Good	5	(2.2%)
Okay	14	(6.1%)
Poor	5	(2.2%)

Use of local services

(a) Longhorsley Village Hall		
2-3 times a week	24	(9.4%)
Once a week	25	(9.8%)
2-3 times a month	32	(12.6%)
Once a month	44	(17.3%)
Almost never/never	129	(50.8%)
(b) Local Post Office		
Every day/most days	10	(3.9%)
2-3 times a week	37	(14.3%)
Once a week	70	(27.0%)
2-3 times a month	48	(18.5%)
Once a month	61	(23.6%)
Almost never/never	33	(12.7%)
(c) Local shops		
Every day/most days	62	(23.9%)
2-3 times a week	65	(25.1%)
Once a week	72	(27.8%)
2-3 times a month	26	(10.0%)
Once a month	22	(8.5%)
Almost never/never	12	(4.6%)
(d) Local church		
Every day/most days	3	(1.2%)
2-3 times a week	7	(2.8%)
Once a week	32	(12.8%)
2-3 times a month	11	(4.4%)
Once a month	26	(10.4%)
Almost never/never	171	(68.4%)
(e) Local pub		
Every day/most days	3	(1.2%)
2-3 times a week	11	(4.4%)
Once a week	35	(14.0%)
2-3 times a month	23	(9.2%)
Once a month	51	(20.4%)
Almost never/never	127	(50.8%)
f) Local play area(s) for children		
Every day/most days	5	(2.1%)
2-3 times a week	16	(6.8%)
Once a week	13	(5.5%)
2-3 times a month	7	(3.0%)
Once a month	20	(8.5%)
Almost never/never	174	(74.0%)
(g) Library		
Every day/most days	1	(0.4%)
Once a week	10	(4.2%)
2-3 times a month	18	(7.6%)
Once a month	28	(11.8%)
Almost never/never	181	(76.1%)

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(h) College or school (further education)

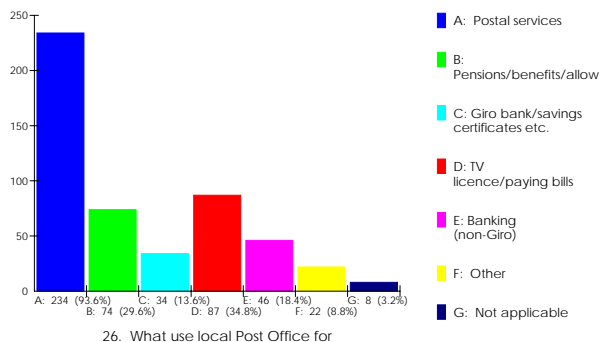
Every day/most days	10	(4.3%)
2-3 times a week	4	(1.7%)
Once a week	6	(2.6%)
2-3 times a month	1	(0.4%)
Once a month	2	(0.9%)
Almost never/never	208	(90.0%)

(i) Recycling point

Every day/most days	4	(1.6%)
2-3 times a week	17	(6.8%)
Once a week	50	(20.1%)
2-3 times a month	36	(14.5%)
Once a month	58	(23.3%)
Almost never/never	84	(33.7%)

If you use the local Post Office, what is this for?

Postal services	234	(93.6%)
Pensions/benefits/allowances	74	(29.6%)
Giro bank/savings certificates etc.	34	(13.6%)
TV licence/paying bills	87	(34.8%)
Banking (non-Giro)	46	(18.4%)
Other	22	(8.8%)
Not applicable	8	(3.2%)



This section was included to follow up suggestions which had been made by groups and individuals during earlier discussions. The aim was to test the popularity of those ideas.

Interest in additional services

(a) A replacement for “The Listener”		
Yes	210	(82.4%)
No	9	(3.5%)
Don't know	36	(14.1%)
(b) Trees at side of South Road		
Yes	133	(53.6%)
No	48	(19.4%)
Don't know	67	(27.0%)
(c) A return path from Archie's Pond		
Yes	146	(58.6%)
No	38	(15.3%)
Don't know	65	(26.1%)
(d) A play area/swings for older children		
Yes	132	(53.4%)
No	32	(13.0%)
Don't know	83	(33.6%)
(e) Floral troughs at village entrances		
Yes	183	(75.0%)
No	26	(10.7%)
Don't know	35	(14.3%)
(f) Stone floral troughs displaying village name at village entrances		
Yes	168	(72.4%)
No	37	(15.9%)
Don't know	27	(11.6%)
(g) More car parking areas		
Yes	92	(37.9%)
No	82	(33.7%)
Don't know	69	(28.4%)
(h) A path from Whitegates by A697		
Yes	190	(73.6%)
No	36	(14.0%)
Don't know	32	(12.4%)
(i) A notice board in Drummond's Close		
Yes	142	(57.3%)
No	34	(13.7%)
Don't know	72	(29.0%)
(j) Sheltered seating in village centre		
Yes	133	(53.0%)
No	48	(19.1%)
Don't know	70	(27.9%)

Willingness to help with additional services

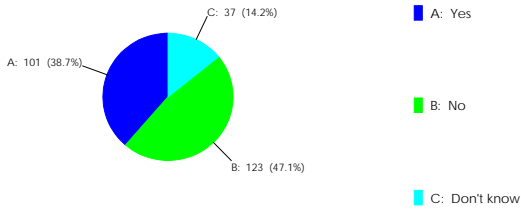
This section will be used to show whether these improvements to parish life could actually be achieved. The help offered may come in many forms, from lead roles to basic, but essential jobs such as “labouring” or delivering.

(a) A replacement for the 'Listener'		
Yes	35	(15.0%)
No	161	(68.8%)
Don't know	38	(16.2%)
(b) Trees at south side of road		
Yes	51	(22.2%)
No	147	(63.9%)
Don't know	32	(13.9%)
(c) A return path from Archie's Pond		
Yes	47	(20.3%)
No	149	(64.5%)
Don't know	35	(15.2%)
(d) A play area/swings for older children		
Yes	26	(11.8%)
No	160	(72.4%)
Don't know	35	(15.8%)
(e) Floral troughs at village entrances		
Yes	46	(20.5%)
No	146	(65.2%)
Don't know	32	(14.3%)
(f) Stone floral troughs		
Yes	41	(19.1%)
No	139	(64.7%)
Don't know	35	(16.3%)
(g) A notice board in Drummond's Close		
Yes	23	(10.3%)
No	168	(75.3%)
Don't know	32	(14.3%)
(h) Sheltered seating in village centre		
Yes	20	(9.0%)
No	167	(75.6%)
Don't know	34	(15.4%)

Potential use of cash machine

If a cash machine were installed in the village, would you use it at least once a week?

Yes	101	(38.7%)
No	123	(47.1%)
Don't know	37	(14.2%)

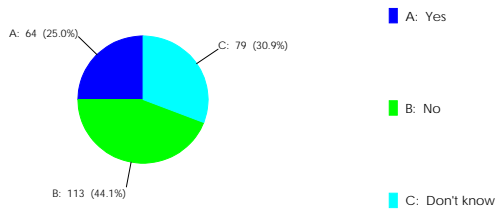


29. Would use cash machine

Potential use of additional visiting food take-away

Would you use an additional visiting take-away amenity?

Yes	64	(25.0%)
No	113	(44.1%)
Don't know	79	(30.9%)



30. Use take-away

Type of food

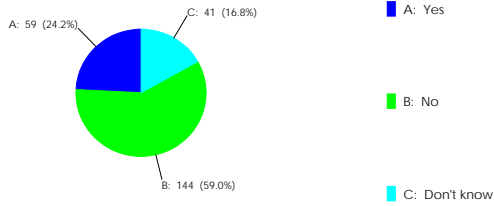
Chinese	27	(45.8%)
Indian	19	(32.2%)

There were 17 other suggestions, representing the remaining 18 people who said they would use an additional take-away.

Potential use of on-line supermarket ordering and delivery

Would you use an on-line supermarket delivery service?

Yes	59	(24.2%)
No	144	(59.0%)
Don't know	41	(16.8%)



32. On-line supermarket delivery

Other services

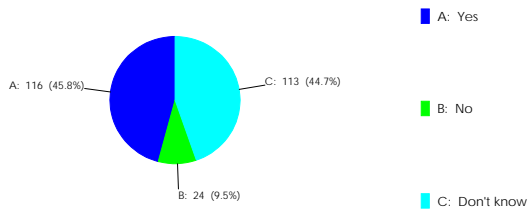
An opportunity was given for people to suggest other services they would like to see in the parish. A long list of interesting ideas resulted, though none was outstandingly well supported.

These suggestions are dealt with, along with other freely made comments, in a separate section.

Section E – Heritage and tourism

Do you think more should be done to preserve the heritage of the parish?

Yes	116	(45.8%)
No	24	(9.5%)
Don't know	113	(44.7%)

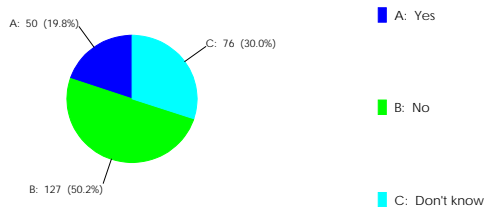


34. Preserve heritage

In answer to the question, “If so, then what do you think should be done” there was a long and varied list of interesting suggestions. Again, these will be dealt with separately.

Would you like to see more facilities in the parish to attract visitors and/or tourists?

Yes	50	(19.8%)
No	127	(50.2%)
Don't know	76	(30.0%)



36. Attract visitors/tourists

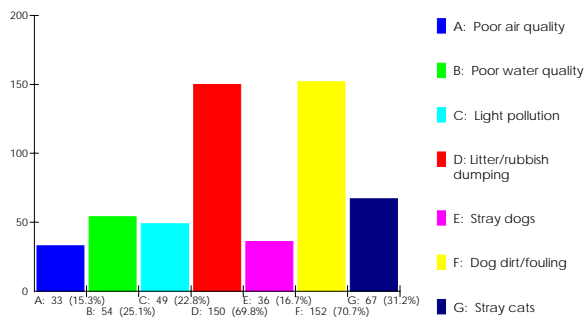
In answer to, “If so, then what do you think should be done” there was another long list of interesting suggestions. Again, these will be dealt with separately.

Section F – Environment

This section was designed to discover the things which concern people about the general environment of the parish. The first two questions gave people the opportunity to say what concerned them as individuals, and to give their views on problems which are of more general concern.

Are you concerned about any of the following?

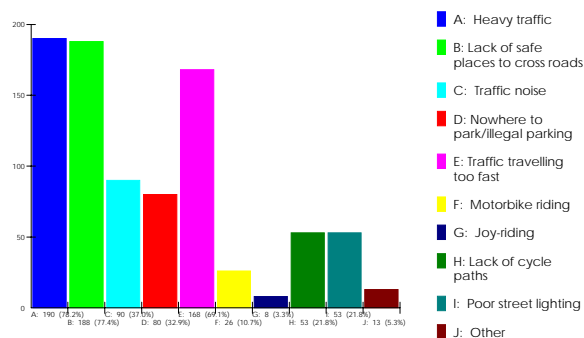
Poor air quality	33	(15.3%)
Poor water quality	54	(25.1%)
Light pollution	49	(22.8%)
Litter/rubbish dumping	150	(69.8%)
Stray dogs	36	(16.7%)
Dog dirt/fouling	152	(70.7%)
Stray cats	67	(31.2%)



38. Types of environmental issues concerned

Would you say that any of the following are a serious problem in the parish?

Heavy traffic	190	(78.2%)
Lack of safe places to cross roads	188	(77.4%)
Traffic noise	90	(37.0%)
Nowhere to park/illegal parking	80	(32.9%)
Traffic travelling too fast	168	(69.1%)
Motorbike riding	26	(10.7%)
Joy-riding	8	(3.3%)
Lack of cycle paths	53	(21.8%)
Poor street lighting	53	(21.8%)
Other	13	(5.3%)



39. Any of these serious problem in area

As before the “other” suggestions will be dealt with in another Chapter.

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The next questions were again designed to discover how much people are able and willing to do things themselves to bring about desired improvements.

Would you be prepared to give some of your time to help with:

(a) Environmental work e.g. tree planting

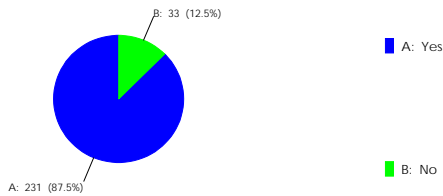
Yes	79	(34.2%)
No	113	(48.9%)
Don't know	39	(16.9%)

(b) Cleaning up the area

Yes	109	(45.8%)
No	93	(39.1%)
Don't know	36	(15.1%)

Would you be prepared to sort your refuse for recycling if separate collections were made (for example paper, glass, plastic)?

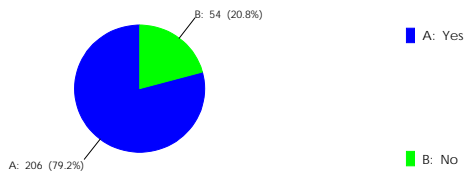
Yes	231	(87.5%)
No	33	(12.5%)



41. Prepared to sort refuse for recycling

If a skip was provided for garden rubbish in a convenient location would you use it?

Yes	206	(79.2%)
No	54	(20.8%)



42. Use skip for garden rubbish if provided

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The next section was provided to enable people to comment on matters which are the responsibility of elected bodies from parish to national level.

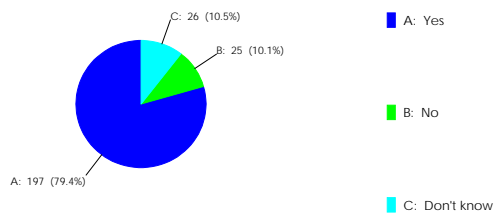
What do you think about the state of repair of:

(a) Paths/pavements in the parish		
Good	8	(3.2%)
Okay	115	(45.5%)
Poor	113	(44.7%)
(b) Roads in the parish		
Good	10	(3.9%)
Okay	105	(41.0%)
Poor	135	(52.7%)
(c) Play areas in the parish		
Good	31	(12.9%)
Okay	112	(46.5%)
Poor	19	(7.9%)
(d) Outdoor seating areas in the parish		
Good	20	(8.0%)
Okay	138	(55.0%)
Poor	40	(15.9%)
(e) Grassed public areas in the parish		
Good	27	(11.2%)
Okay	138	(57.3%)
Poor	54	(22.4%)

A concern which is frequently expressed in a number of different contexts is the problem of traffic within the village and on the approach roads. Questions were included to allow people the widest possible scope for recording their worries.

The first one asked simply if there are thought to be major “danger spots in the parish:

Yes	197	(79.4%)
No	25	(10.1%)
Don't know	26	(10.5%)



44. Danger spots on roads?

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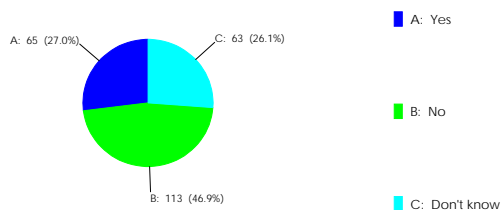
People were then invited to record where they thought the major dangers are. These freely expressed views are summarised in the table, but will be listed in full elsewhere in the report.

Area/topic	Respondents
A697 from PO to Crossroads	189
South of village – path	44
East Road	12
West Road	11
A697 generally	10
Drummonds Close - Parking -	
Mission/School	8
Speeding – general and West Road	22
Mirror	7
Linden	5
Parking – general	4
Drummonds Close - Parking – general,	
traffic calming at school	6
South of village – crossing	3
Camera	3
South of village – road	2
Reivers Gate	2
Path to Morpeth	1
HGVs	1
Drummonds Close – surface	1

A number of people had raised the problems associated with street lighting in the parish, and an opportunity was given in the questionnaire for everyone to express their views. These are summarised in the table, and itemised elsewhere.

Do you think any changes/improvements to street lighting are needed in the parish?

Yes	65	(27.0%)
No	113	(46.9%)
Don't know	63	(26.1%)



46. Changes to street lighting needed in area

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If so, what changes/improvements and where?

<u>Topic</u>	<u>Area</u>	<u>Respondents</u>
<u>More lights</u>		
	East Road	11
	Village Hall area and path south	10
	West Road	8
	Old village	7
	Drummonds Close	7
	Unspecified	2
	Linden	2
	Bus stops	1
	"Cut"	1
		49
<u>Fewer lights</u>		
	Less polluting lighting	10
	General/unspecified	5
	Rural and side roads	2
	West Road	1
		18
<u>Quicker repairs</u>		
		3

Section G – Transport

Public transport is widely acknowledged to be a problem for people living in rural areas. There are possible ways of helping those who are dependent on public services, and this section was designed to assess that dependence, and also to find out if people would use those services if they better suited their needs.

Do you ever have any difficulty getting to the following?

(a) Hospital		
Often	9	(3.7%)
Occasionally	23	(9.5%)
Never	210	(86.8%)
(b) Doctor		
Often	7	(2.9%)
Occasionally	24	(10.0%)
Never	210	(87.1%)
(c) Chemist		
Often	6	(2.5%)
Occasionally	23	(9.7%)
Never	209	(87.8%)
(d) Dentist		
Often	5	(2.1%)
Occasionally	21	(8.9%)
Never	209	(88.9%)
(e) Optician		
Often	4	(1.7%)
Occasionally	18	(7.7%)
Never	211	(90.6%)
(f) Chiropodist		
Often	2	(0.9%)
Occasionally	11	(5.0%)
Never	209	(94.1%)
(g) Other medical facility		
Often	2	(0.9%)
Occasionally	12	(5.6%)
Never	201	(93.5%)

How easy is it to get from your home to the following facilities?

(a) Local shops		
Very easy	173	(67.8%)
Okay	73	(28.6%)
Very difficult	3	(1.2%)
Don't know	0	(0.0%)
Not applicable	6	(2.4%)
(b) Local Post Office		
Very easy	181	(71.0%)
Okay	65	(25.5%)
Very difficult	3	(1.2%)
Don't know	0	(0.0%)
Not applicable	6	(2.4%)

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(c) Local school		
Very easy	157	(63.8%)
Okay	40	(16.3%)
Very difficult	1	(0.4%)
Don't know	1	(0.4%)
Not applicable	47	(19.1%)
(d) Longhorsley Village Hall		
Very easy	184	(73.6%)
Okay	49	(19.6%)
Very difficult	1	(0.4%)
Don't know	1	(0.4%)
Not applicable	15	(6.0%)
(e) Nearest supermarket		
Very easy	85	(34.4%)
Okay	136	(55.1%)
Very difficult	12	(4.9%)
Don't know	1	(0.4%)
Not applicable	13	(5.3%)
(f) Nearest chemist		
Very easy	84	(34.0%)
Okay	131	(53.0%)
Very difficult	14	(5.7%)
Don't know	2	(0.8%)
Not applicable	16	(6.5%)
(g) Nearest launderette		
Very easy	27	(11.4%)
Okay	36	(15.2%)
Very difficult	13	(5.5%)
Don't know	29	(12.2%)
Not applicable	132	(55.7%)
(h) GP/Health Centre		
Very easy	84	(34.0%)
Okay	131	(53.0%)
Very difficult	14	(5.7%)
Don't know	2	(0.8%)
Not applicable	16	(6.5%)
(i) Local Authority housing office		
Very easy	32	(13.5%)
Okay	30	(12.7%)
Very difficult	10	(4.2%)
Don't know	34	(14.3%)
Not applicable	131	(55.3%)
(j) Social Services office		
Very easy	24	(10.2%)
Okay	29	(12.3%)
Very difficult	10	(4.2%)
Don't know	38	(16.1%)
Not applicable	135	(57.2%)

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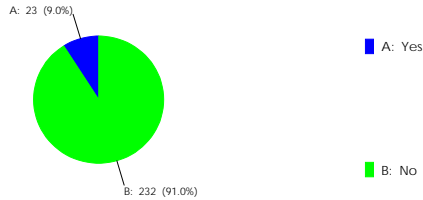
What is the main form of transport that you use to travel to:

(a) Work		
Car	138	(60.5%)
Bus and/or train	4	(1.8%)
Walk	3	(1.3%)
Cycle	2	(0.9%)
Other (inc lift or taxi)	4	(1.8%)
Not applicable	77	(33.8%)
(b) Local shops		
Car	100	(40.5%)
Bus and/or train	2	(0.8%)
Walk	137	(55.5%)
Cycle	4	(1.6%)
Other (inc lift or taxi)	1	(0.4%)
Not applicable	3	(1.2%)
(c) Supermarket		
Car	231	(92.0%)
Bus and/or train	8	(3.2%)
Walk	0	(0.0%)
Cycle	0	(0.0%)
Other (inc lift or taxi)	7	(2.8%)
Not applicable	5	(2.0%)
(d) Children's school or nursery		
Car	42	(18.8%)
Bus and/or train	6	(2.7%)
Walk	37	(16.5%)
Cycle	1	(0.4%)
Other (inc lift or taxi)	0	(0.0%)
Not applicable	138	(61.6%)
(e) Morpeth town centre		
Car	233	(91.0%)
Bus and/or train	13	(5.1%)
Walk	0	(0.0%)
Cycle	0	(0.0%)
Other (inc lift or taxi)	6	(2.3%)
Not applicable	4	(1.6%)
(f) Newcastle city centre		
Car	204	(80.3%)
Bus and/or train	33	(13.0%)
Walk	0	(0.0%)
Cycle	0	(0.0%)
Other (inc lift or taxi)	6	(2.4%)
Not applicable	11	(4.3%)

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Do you regularly experience transport difficulties in getting out of this parish to other places?

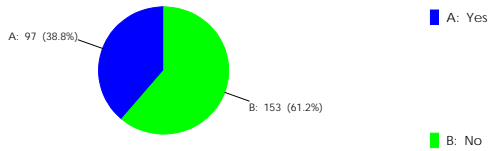
Yes	23	(9.0%)
No	232	(91.0%)
No response	12	



51. Experience transport difficulties getting out of area

Is the availability of public transport a problem?

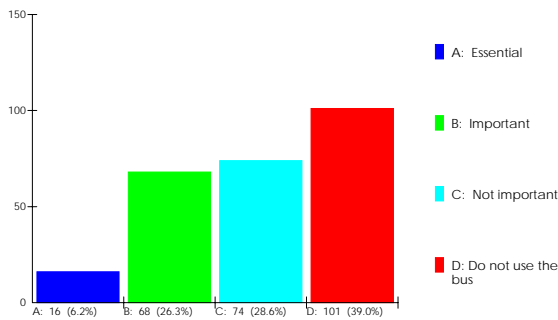
Yes	97	(38.8%)
No	153	(61.2%)
No response	17	



52. Availability of public transport a problem

How important is the bus service to you?

Essential	16	(6.2%)
Important	68	(26.3%)
Not important	74	(28.6%)
Do not use the bus	101	(39.0%)



53. Importance of bus service to you

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How do you rate the following aspects of the bus service?

(a) Route

Good	56	(24.0%)
Okay	66	(28.3%)
Poor	11	(4.7%)
Don't know	100	(42.9%)

(b) Timetable

Good	4	(1.7%)
Okay	36	(15.5%)
Poor	96	(41.2%)
Don't know	97	(41.6%)

(c) Reliability

Good	22	(9.4%)
Okay	67	(28.8%)
Poor	30	(12.9%)
Don't know	114	(48.9%)

(d) Cost

Good	5	(2.2%)
Okay	59	(25.8%)
Poor	62	(27.1%)
Don't know	103	(45.0%)

(e) Friendliness of drivers

Good	42	(18.1%)
Okay	64	(27.6%)
Poor	8	(3.4%)
Don't know	118	(50.9%)

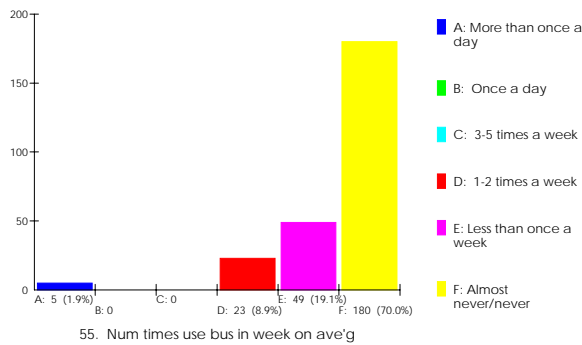
(f) Waiting environment

Good	13	(5.7%)
Okay	90	(39.5%)
Poor	25	(11.0%)
Don't know	100	(43.9%)

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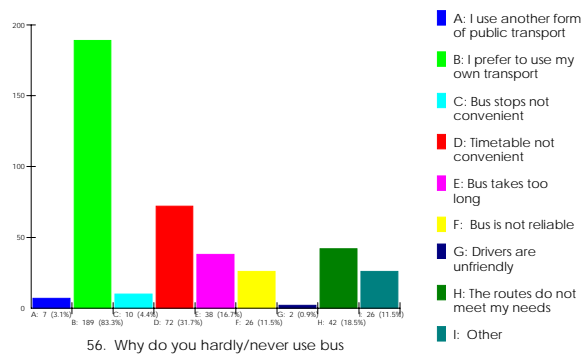
On average how many times a week do you use a bus?

More than once a day	5	(1.9%)
Once a day	0	(0.0%)
3-5 times a week	0	(0.0%)
1-2 times a week	2	(8.9%)
Less than once a week	49	(19.1%)
Almost never/never	180	(70.0%)



If you never or almost never use the bus, why is this?

I use another form of public transport	7	(3.1%)
I prefer to use my own transport	189	(83.3%)
Bus stops not convenient	10	(4.4%)
Timetable not convenient	72	(31.7%)
Bus takes too long	38	(16.7%)
Bus is not reliable	26	(11.5%)
Drivers are unfriendly	2	(0.9%)
The routes do not meet my needs	42	(18.5%)
Other	26	(11.5%)



What improvements, if any, would you like to see to the bus service in this area?

Over 100 comments were made, and the main ones referred to the frequency and convenience of services, and the cost of travel by public transport.

As under previous sections of this kind, they will be dealt with separately.

Section H – General

This, the final section of the questionnaire, asked some broad questions about the quality of life in the parish, and invited people to suggest ideas they might have for improving it. The last question gave those who so wished the chance to express freely anything they, or anyone else in their household, wished to say.

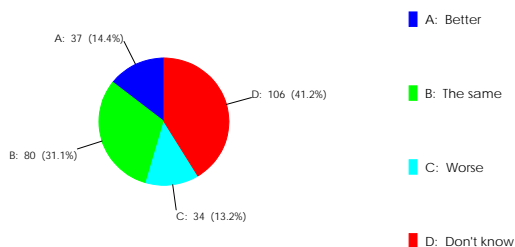
What is the most important thing to you about living in Longhorsley Parish?

Again, there many individual ideas, and the most frequently expressed ones have been summarised in the table. More details can be found in another Chapter.

<u>Number</u>	<u>Topic</u>
92	Rural/village countryside
81	Friendly, caring
56	Quality of life, peace and quiet
31	Safe, low crime rate
30	Community spirit belonging
26	Central location
26	Access to village facilities
20	Friends and neighbours
14	School
14	Access to amenities
10	Near family
9	Housing/home situation
9	Environment air quality
6	Other
5	Village Hall, activities
3	Churches

How would you describe the quality of life in this area compared to ten years ago?

Better	37	(14.4%)
The same	80	(31.1%)
Worse	34	(13.2%)
Don't know	106	(41.2%)

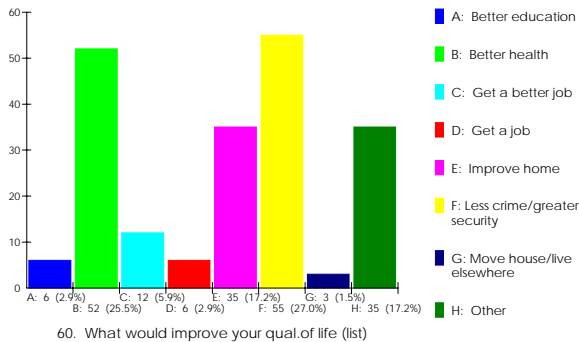


59. Compare qual of life to 10 years ago

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Which of the following would most improve your quality of your life?

Better education	6	(2.9%)
Better health	52	(25.5%)
Get a better job	12	(5.9%)
Get a job	6	(2.9%)
Improve home	35	(17.2%)
Less crime/greater security	55	(27.0%)
Move house/live elsewhere	3	(1.5%)
Other	35	(17.2%)



How much difference do you think each of these would make to the quality of life in this parish?

(a) Better environment

No difference	32	(17.1%)
Minor difference	93	(49.7%)
Major difference	37	(19.8%)
Don't know	25	(13.4%)

(b) Better facilities for children and youth

No difference	20	(10.0%)
Minor difference	59	(29.4%)
Major difference	86	(42.8%)
Don't know	36	(17.9%)

(c) Better facilities for elderly

No difference	15	(7.5%)
Minor difference	53	(26.4%)
Major difference	84	(41.8%)
Don't know	49	(24.4%)

(d) Better health and welfare services

No difference	13	(6.7%)
Minor difference	52	(26.7%)
Major difference	60	(30.8%)
Don't know	70	(35.9%)

(e) Better housing/housing services

No difference	30	(16.4%)
Minor difference	35	(19.1%)
Major difference	26	(14.2%)
Don't know	92	(50.3%)

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(f) Better schools		
No difference	58	(31.7%)
Minor difference	37	(20.2%)
Major difference	22	(12.0%)
Don't know	66	(36.1%)
(g) Less crime		
No difference	18	(9.3%)
Minor difference	73	(37.6%)
Major difference	75	(38.7%)
Don't know	28	(14.4%)
(h) More reliable electricity supply		
No difference	11	(5.2%)
Minor difference	87	(41.4%)
Major difference	101	(48.1%)
Don't know	11	(5.2%)
(i) More money/resources		
No difference	4	(2.1%)
Minor difference	43	(22.8%)
Major difference	83	(43.9%)
Don't know	59	(31.2%)
(j) Reduce unemployment		
No difference	22	(11.5%)
Minor difference	47	(24.6%)
Major difference	49	(25.7%)
Don't know	73	(38.2%)

What else, if anything, would make a major difference to the quality of life in this parish?

Over 80 ideas were put forward, and they have been treated in the same way as other similar sections of the questionnaire.

Number	Topic
23	Bypass
8	Safer roads, speeding, repairs
8	Better utilities
6	New Village Hall
6	Improvement of facilities
5	Footpaths
5	Environment
5	Concern for each other
4	Other
4	Involvement of all residents
4	Health facilities
3	Village activities
3	Transport
2	Leave as it is
2	Housing
1	Visible policing

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Are you in favour of:

(a) More houses being built

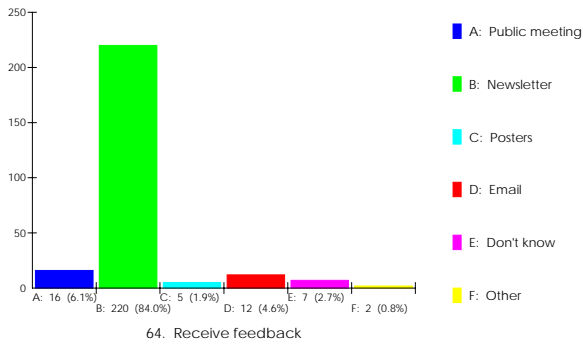
Yes	46	(19.0%)
No	162	(66.9%)
Don't know	34	(14.0%)

(b) Village bypass road

Yes	195	(79.6%)
No	33	(13.5%)
Don't know	17	(6.9%)

How would you like to receive feedback on the findings of this survey?

Public meeting	16	(6.1%)
Newsletter	220	(84.0%)
Posters	5	(1.9%)
Email	12	(4.6%)
Don't know	7	(2.7%)
Other	2	(0.8%)



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Do you have any other comments you or anyone else in your household wish to make?

This interesting section produced many comments. They varied in length from just a few words to a side or more of A4 paper. The topics are summarised under general headings below, and in more detail elsewhere.

<u>Number</u>	<u>Topic</u>
22	Roads
15	Improved facilities
15	Footpaths
13	Quality of life / friendly
13	Other
13	Housing (for & against)
11	Village
6	Village amenities
6	Situation
5	Transport
5	Listener / information
5	Broad Band
5	Activities
4	Police service
4	Lighting
4	Bypass (for & against)
3	Village Hall
3	Litter
3	Countryside
2	Traffic
1	Utilities

Individual Comments

Some sections of the questionnaire invited people to amplify their answers with their own suggestions, and the final question asked for free comments on any topic not already covered. Ideas were also expressed at the Open Meeting in August 2002, at the “Planning for Real” day in December 2002, at a discussion with the Youth Club, and in letters from groups in the parish. Suggestions not covered by the “tick boxes” are the subject of this chapter.

The question “What other services would you like to be made available locally?” elicited the following wide-ranging responses:

Bike hire	1
Broad Band	6
Chemist/prescription service	2
Child care for school-age children – pre/post school and holiday clubs	2
Child nursery/crèche	3
Clinics/surgeries	10
Computer training	3
Cubs/scouts	2
Cycle path to Longframlington	1
Delicatessen foods	1
Dry cleaning pick up / delivery	1
Fish van for fresh fish	1
Footpaths	2
Gardening	1
Gym facilities	1
House cleaner	1
Internet café	7
Library	1
Library van Church View	1
Mains gas	1
Meals on wheels	1
Mini supermarket	2
More activities for elderly	1
News Post Leader delivery	1
Off licence	1
Optician	1
Pedestrian crossing	1
Petrol station	1
Police monthly 'surgery'	2
Prescription delivery service	1
Reading room	1
Services for children	1
Speed traps	1
Subsidised meals	1
Taxi service	4
Tearoom	2
Video hire	4
Village policeman	1
Wednesday afternoon opening of one of the shops	1
Window cleaner	1
Youth centre	1

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The preservation of the heritage of the parish was important to almost half of those who returned questionnaires. Interest was expressed in these topics:

Archaeological sites	2
Archie's pond	1
Audit of present heritage of the parish	1
Be-Ro plaque	1
Information displays	13
Contemporary records/photographs	2
Corn mill	2
Definitive history of Longhorsley	1
Educate children on history of village	1
Emily Davison	2
Footpath/causeway to old church	7
Footpaths	6
Greater presence in local press	1
Heritage point in village	2
Heritage trail	3
Initiation of archive	1
Interview older residents	1
Maintain key heritage elements	2
Nature trail	1
Care of old church and churchyard	19
Park wall	2
Planning controls	13
Presentation	1
Preservation of land	1
Preserve old buildings	2
Village archive	1

Although only 30% of people wanted to see more tourists, a number of suggestions were made about what could be done to increase tourism, or to make the parish generally more attractive:

Bowling green	1
Bridleways	1
Café	2
Car parking	7
Common land and Village Green	1
Craft shop	1
Cycle path	1
Emily Davison	2
Floral displays	2
Footpath/cycleway from hotel to village	1
Footpaths/trails	14
General tidying up	1
Grass cutting	1
Guidebook	4
Information/signs	11
Improved/re-sited pub signs	1

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Less dog dirt	1
Maintenance Archie's pond	1
Mileposts as a feature	1
Planning control	1
Public toilet	5
Refreshments at shop	1
Seating	1
Shoulder of Mutton facilities and signs	2
Tea shop	5
Tower	1
Traffic and road issues	11

Many people were worried about the dangers on the roads in the parish, particularly in the village. Comments have been summarised in the appropriate chapter, but observations, which often described the same problem in different terms, were made about the following areas:

A697	3
A697 blind summit just past turning for Fenrother	1
A697 corner between PO and village shop	3
A697 No cycleway/footpath to Morpeth	1
A697 south to Whitegates	15
Approach to Linden Hall Hotel	2
Bends	4
Better signing	1
Burgham	1
Bus shelter	8
Butcher	7
By parked cars anywhere	2
Camera	1
Camera never on	1
Camera not in right position	1
Cars turning into pub car park	1
Centre of village	3
Church View -speeding cars	1
Church View to A697	1
Church View to bus stop	3
Church View to centre of village	2
Corner at Shoulder of Mutton	3
Cross roads	25
Cross roads - mirror needs replacing	1
Crossing A697 at any point	7
Crossing between Post Office and pub	53
Crossing from Post Office to shop	68
Crossing from Reivers Gate to butchers	1
Distance indicators	1
Drummonds Close	4
Drummonds Close – speeding near school	1
Drummonds Road surface	1
East Road	9
East Road crossroads	8

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East View bungalows	2
Entry to village from South	2
Footpath opposite speed camera	2
Heavy wagons	1
Kerb parking	1
Linden Hall entrance	2
Linden Hillhead farm	1
Mirror	4
Mission parking	2
Near Archie's pond	2
No footpath from Whitegates to village	1
No footpath to old church gate	1
No path to Paxtondene Road	1
Parking near butchers	1
Parking on zigzags	2
Path from Whitegates to Churchyard	1
Path from Whitegates to village	5
Post office	4
Reivers Gate entrance	2
School parking	4
Shop to bus shelter	1
Shrubs near Archie's pond	2
South road footpath	2
Speed limits outside 30mph area	1
Speeding	1
Speeding southbound traffic	1
To pub car park from south	3
Traffic joining or leaving A697 beside PO	1
Walking Church View to village	1
West Road	6
West Road - no footpath	1

Although most people have access to private transport, and many prefer to use their own vehicles, public transport is important or essential for almost a third of those who answered the questionnaire.

These were the topics recorded in answer to the question "What improvements, if any, would you like to see to the bus service in the parish?"

Better scheduling	2
Better vehicles	3
Bus shelter for northbound	1
Bus to wait at stop if early until required	1
Bus/train coordination	4
Cheaper fares	16
Clean/dry bus shelters	1
Cleaner/warmer buses	1
Computerised timetable	1
Co-ordinate timetables	5
Direct service to Newcastle	9
Direct to Ashington	1

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Earlier service	4
Extended routes	1
Improve services to GP surgeries	2
Improve services to hospitals	1
Improved reliability	6
Improved timekeeping	1
Integrated service to the Metro Centre	1
Later service	22
Light in bus shelter	1
Link with Metro	1
Mid-afternoon service	3
More convenient return journeys	1
More frequent services	5
Morpeth bus/train stations together	2
New buses, new bus company	1
Notification of cancelled services	1
Regular timetable update	1
Service to Rothbury for surgery	1
Seats in bus shelter	1

Almost everyone answering the questionnaire said they found Longhorsley a good place to live. Many of them gave their reasons:

Access to shops	21
Access to pub	6
Access to walks	1
Accessible	4
Active	7
Adequate amenities	6
Air quality	1
Availability of public transport	1
Beautiful countryside	24
Beautiful village	2
Belong here	1
Caring	3
Central location	6
Church	2
Churches, school, Village Hall and pub	2
Clean	2
Community spirit	2
Easy access to coast	1
Easy access to countryside	3
Easy access to Morpeth	4
Easy access to Tyneside	6
Familiar	1
Family	1
Feeling of belonging	2
Friendly	7
Friends and neighbours	1
Good environment for children	2

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Good schools	2
Good value housing	1
Happiness	1
Happy memories	1
Healthy	4
Helpful	1
Know most people	1
Lack of traffic	1
Like it here	2
Livestock & farming	1
Location	3
Location of home	1
Low crime rate	1
Mission	1
My home	1
Near job	1
Near town	2
Nice area	1
Nice place to live	2
Not a dormitory	1
Not 'chocolate box'	1
Open aspect	2
Open space	1
Own transport	1
Pace of life	1
Peace and quiet	5
People we know	3
Quality of environment	1
Quality of life	1
Rural/village environment	5
Safe	1
School	1
Situation of home	1
Small	2
Traditional housing	1
Village Hall	2

In spite of this, there were many ideas for improving the quality of life in Longhorsley. Key suggestions centred on the following topics:

Badminton in Village Hall	1
Better advertising of activities at the Hall	1
Better transport	2
Bowling green	1
Broadband internet access	1
Bypass	2
Cardiac-pulmonary resuscitation for each street	1
Concern for each other	1
Concern for environment	2
Craft shop	1

Longhorsley Parish Plan 2003

Crèche/nursery	1
Daffodils at south entrance of village	1
Double glazing	1
Empty bins at pub more often	1
Fireworks on 5 th Nov only	1
First Aid courses for villagers	1
Food service	1
Footpath from churchyard up South Road	1
Housing for 1st time buyers	1
Improve side roads	2
Improve/replace Village Hall	4
Integration of age groups	1
Integration of interest groups	1
Involvement of all residents	2
Less through traffic	3
Local doctor	2
Longer shop hours	2
Mains gas	7
More empathy between old/new residents	1
More footpaths	3
More people doing something	2
More support for shop & pub	1
More trees	1
Pedestrian crossing	1
Proper walkways	1
Reliable electricity supply	1
Road repairs in old village	1
Safer roads	1
Sheltered housing	1
Smoke free zone	1
Speed cameras	1
Speed traps	1
Traffic calming	1
Transport	1
Village Hall	2
Visible policing	1

The final section of the questionnaire left a blank page for free comments from any member of the household. Some of these repeated previously given answers, but others were new. The topics covered are given here:

Action-led groups	1
Affordable housing	2
Against road from Drummonds Cl to Church View	1
Attract fish van (pie man)	1
Be realistic and practical	2
Broader spectrum of help	1
Cheaper housing	1
Christmas Tree on the village green	1
Clinic, residential or outpatient centre	2

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Coffee shop	1
Collect litter near own home	1
Community spirit	1
Contribution of young	1
Cooking pans in village hall	1
Dog fouling	1
Educational opportunities in the village	1
Electricity cuts a problem	1
Evening activities	1
Events calendar	1
Footpath /cycleway from Longhorsley to Linden	1
Footpaths kept clear, unploughed and open	1
Grit bins	1
Horse riding	1
Impact of more houses on school facility	1
Impact of more houses on traffic	1
Improve path from A697 to Drummonds Close	1
Information for new occupants	1
Isolation at Linden	1
Less driving	1
Less litter	1
Light pollution	3
“Listener”	2
“Listener” freely available to all	1
Litter is a key sociological benchmark	1
Low level flying annoyance	1
Molehills	1
More activities	1
More jobs for young	1
More shops	1
More street lights	1
Narrower footpath from mission to village	1
Needs of generations	1
New properties blending with existing	1
New Village Hall	1
No bypass	2
No more houses	2
No return path at Archie's pond	3
No trees on South Road	1
Pastel colours on Drummonds Close houses	1
Path from Church View to Drummonds Close	1
Path from Linden Hall to village	1
Path to churchyard	2
Play area	1
Play area for older children	1
Police service	3
Potholes	3
Preserve rural environment	2
Public toilet	1
Reduced Council tax	1

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Reinstate East Road ponds	1
Service representatives at Parish Council meetings	1
Sheltered housing	1
Shop open more	1
Smallburn Road ditches	1
Speed camera at north	1
Speed Camera re-sited to Church View bus	1
Speeding	1
Stray cats	1
Strimmer damage to trees	1
Swimming pool	1
Take away	1
Tidy bushes to right of footpath from Church View	3
Traffic at Linden Hall Hotel approach	1
Traffic calming measures for through traffic	2
Traffic calming near the school	1
Traffic in Drummonds Close	1
Traffic management	1
Transport	1
Tree planting	1
Upgrade path from A697 Moor Edge to Beacon Hill	1
Verges	1
Village Green problems	2
Village hall	1
Village land upkeep	1
Village policeman	1
Voluntary transport	1
Weekend activities	1
Wild flowers	1

Groups in the parish put forward their ideas when they were asked about the concept of a Parish Plan. The Youth Club also made suggestions in a discussion session. These are summarised here:

Embroiderers:

Replacement for "Listener"
Plant trees at side of road at south side
Recycling bins
Return path for Archie's Pond
Swings for older children

Allotments Association:

Floral troughs at entrance to village
No more house building
More parking areas
Stronger penalties for dog fouling
Village magazine
Lighting for allotments

Women's Institute:

"Listener"

Litter

New Village Hall Committee:

"Listener"

Footpath from Whitegates to village alongside A697

Notice board at top of Drummonds Close

Sheltered seating in centre of village

Youth Club:

Assault course

"Park" area for older children

Small swimming pool

Café

Dirt track for BMX bikes outside village

Increase in bus services, with "passes" available for use at weekends

No more houses

Separate darts/pool room in Village Hall

Cash machine outside Post Office

An additional visiting take-away amenity

(A crèche was suggested at one discussion, but was subsequently felt to be unnecessary)

The Plan

The purpose of this exercise has been not only to find out about people's likes and dislikes, but also to do something about them. The Plan cannot be simply a wish list. The objectives must be specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and timetabled.

Each idea has been looked at from a number of viewpoints. To begin with they were grouped under general headings:

Things to preserve

Things to modify

Things to eradicate

Then the popularity of the ideas was assessed, using not simply the answers to the questionnaire, but also the opinions expressed at meetings and the Open Day, and the suggestions made by groups and organisations.

Some individual suggestions were very imaginative, and if they were not likely to meet serious opposition they have been given serious consideration.

The next question asked was "Could it be done?"

Then the most important question of all – "Who would do it?"

The answers to that depended on the nature of the suggestion or scheme. Sometimes it could be done by individuals, sometimes by informal groups set up for the purpose. Sometimes existing organisations in the parish could undertake projects. Other suggestions would need to be discussed with, and undertaken by Local Government bodies – Parish, Borough or County Councils. A few of the ideas suggested need action or change of policy at a national level. Yet others would depend on their provision by commercial organisations.

Most of the ideas could be fulfilled only if people are motivated and organised enough to carry them out; many need money from one source or another; some could be achieved only if sufficient pressure can be brought to bear on other organisations. It has to be recognised that some ideas, which may be desirable in themselves, are not likely to happen. There are various reasons for this – they may be too costly to put into practice, they may be realisable only if someone provided them as a service, or if a business felt it could make a profit from them. Some people may think another person's ideas are not acceptable.

Some schemes will be implemented as quickly as practicable, while others will need a lot of background work, so will take longer. In the end, the success of most of the ideas in the Plan will depend on the enthusiasm and persistence of the people of Longhorsley.

The Actions

Immediate – Local Action

1 Parish Newsletter

Over 80% of those who returned the questionnaire said they would like to see a replacement for the “Longhorsley Listener” and this view was reinforced from other sources. Help on this project was offered by 35 people. A group of them, led by Caroline Tetley, is working on this, and it is expected that the first edition will appear at the beginning of October. Everything possible will be done to sustain an independent newsletter.

2 Litter

70% of the questionnaires showed that litter and rubbish dumping are a concern. We can all help with this, by not leaving litter ourselves, and by keeping our own surroundings free of it. A litter collection day has already been held, organised by Paul Savage and Jack Robinson, and this will be done again from time to time.

Over 65% of people in the parish used the recycling bins at the Shoulder of Mutton. These were removed because some users – not necessarily local people – left refuse lying around the bins. More than 85% of people would sort their household refuse for recycling, and 80% would use a skip for garden waste. Discussions are being held with Castle Morpeth Borough Council about the provision of separate collections for paper and other recyclable items.

3 Oil and Gas Co-operative

About 100 households would be interested in joining a local co-operative purchasing scheme for buying central heating fuel. Several companies have been approached, and were interested in such a system. However, it has proved difficult to ensure that one supplier’s discounted price would always be cheaper than others’ normal price. Unless this difficulty can be resolved, there would be no guaranteed benefit, so the scheme is not being pursued.

4 Policing, Crime and Security

While most people think Longhorsley is a safe place in which to live, about one-third believe their lives would be more pleasant if they felt more secure. Over 100 people said they would be interested in joining the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme, and 35 are already members. Northumbria Police will be made aware of these concerns, and will be asked to address them. The present Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator is working with the police to incorporate new members.

5 Heritage

Many individual suggestions were made, particularly about the importance of the old church. These have been discussed with the Longhorsley Local History Society, and the implementation of suitable projects is planned. A project to record gravestones in the old churchyard is about to begin. Archive material is already supplied to St Helen’s School for teaching purposes.

6 Christmas Tree

A generous offer by a resident of the parish to provide a Christmas tree on the Village Green will be taken up.

Soon – Local Action

1 Trees and Flowers

More than half the people responding would like to see trees at the side of the road at the south of the village and about 50 people said they would help. About three-quarters would like floral troughs at the village entrances, and over 40 people offered help. A resident has offered possible help in financing this project. In answer to another question, nearly 80 people said they would help with environmental projects.

These schemes are affected by land ownership and safety issues. Maintenance must be planned for. Discussions with Castle Morpeth Borough Council and Northumberland County Council will be arranged.

2 Notice Board at Drummonds Close

More than half of the questionnaires said “yes” to this suggestion, and more than 20 people offered help. Siting and management are important factors. The Parish Council will be consulted about this.

3 A Return Path from Archie's Pond

Nearly 60% thought this would be a good idea, with about 50 people offering help. Land ownership and road safety are important factors, and will be discussed with the relevant authorities.

Immediate – Discuss with Other Bodies

1 Traffic problems

About three-quarters of people were concerned about traffic dangers – speeding, parking and road-crossing in particular. The A697 in the centre of the village causes most concern, but other roads also worry a significant number of people. About 80% were in favour of a by-pass, but some were concerned that this would lead to more housing.

These matters will be discussed with Northumberland County Council, and a survey requested.

2 Development

Over 65% were against more housing in the village, though some would like to see sheltered accommodation or starter homes.

More than half would like to see more employment opportunities in the parish. These views will be discussed with Castle Morpeth Borough Council, with a request that they take them into account when the next Local Plan is being developed.

3 Health Facilities

Most people had visited their surgery or health centre in the previous year. Interest was expressed in having local clinics. The appropriate authorities will be made aware of this, and asked to consider provision.

4 Water

25% of people were concerned about poor water quality. Northumbrian Water will be asked to comment on this.

5 Street Lighting

About a quarter of people were concerned about light pollution, but nearly 50 people wanted more lights in some specific locations. There was also concern about slow repairs. These matters will be discussed with Northumberland County Council.

6 Dogs

Nearly three-quarters of the questionnaires commented on dog fouling, and there was some concern about stray dogs. These issues will be discussed with the Parish Council and Castle Morpeth Borough Council.

7 Cash Point

One hundred people would use a local cash point at least once a week. Possible providers will be made aware of this.

8 Take-away

Over 60 people would use an additional visiting take-away amenity. Chinese and Indian cuisines were the most popular. Possible providers will be made aware of this.

9 On-line ordering

About 60 people would use an on-line supermarket delivery service. Possible providers will be made aware of this.

10 Computer provision

Schemes operated by Northumberland County Council and Community Located Computers will be investigated.

11 Moor Notice Board

This will be discussed with Northumberland County Council.

12 Comments about local services

These will be discussed with the providers.

13 Condition of Roads, Pavements and Grassed Areas

These will be discussed with the appropriate authorities.

Soon – Discuss with Other Bodies

1 Transport

Most people use private transport most of the time, but a significant minority said that the availability of public transport is a problem. For some, it is the only means of transport.

The information gathered will form the basis of discussions with the Countryside Agency, and will be used to investigate the availability of funds for improving provision. Suggestions about improved services will be conveyed to providers.

The Parish Council will be asked to consider upgrading waiting facilities.

2 Housing

Some people expressed an interest in sheltered accommodation and starter homes. These topics will be discussed with the Rural Housing Enabler.

For the Future

Over 85% of those replying use the Post Office and over 95% use the shops at least once a month. This information may prove useful in protecting local services.

Fewer than 20% wanted to attract more tourists, but 45% thought more should be done to preserve the heritage of the parish. Some of the individual suggestions are being taken up by the Local History Society. The Society has an extensive archive of documents, photographs and recordings which can be viewed on request. They are available to members for research. The Society would collate information for notice boards, and plans to produce booklets. Other projects need to be discussed with the Conservation and Regeneration Departments of Castle Morpeth Borough Council and Northumberland County Council.

More than 50% would like a play area for older children.

Nearly 40% would like more parking areas.

Over 70% wanted a footpath beside the A697 between the south of the village and the centre.

More than 50% favoured sheltered seating in the village, and a resident has offered possible help towards financing this

Some would like to see the pond on East Road reinstated.

There are many factors to be considered before these could be provided, and some depend on land being found.

A shorter version of the Plan is being delivered to every household in the parish.

A very detailed version is being kept as an archive. This also includes a complete analysis of every written comment made on the questionnaires and those made at meetings, discussion groups and the Open Day. It contains no personal information, and will be made available to anyone on request.

Many interesting ideas could be taken up by groups organised for particular purposes. People who would like to see their ideas put into practice and wish to contact people of a similar mind would have ready access to the full survey.

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