

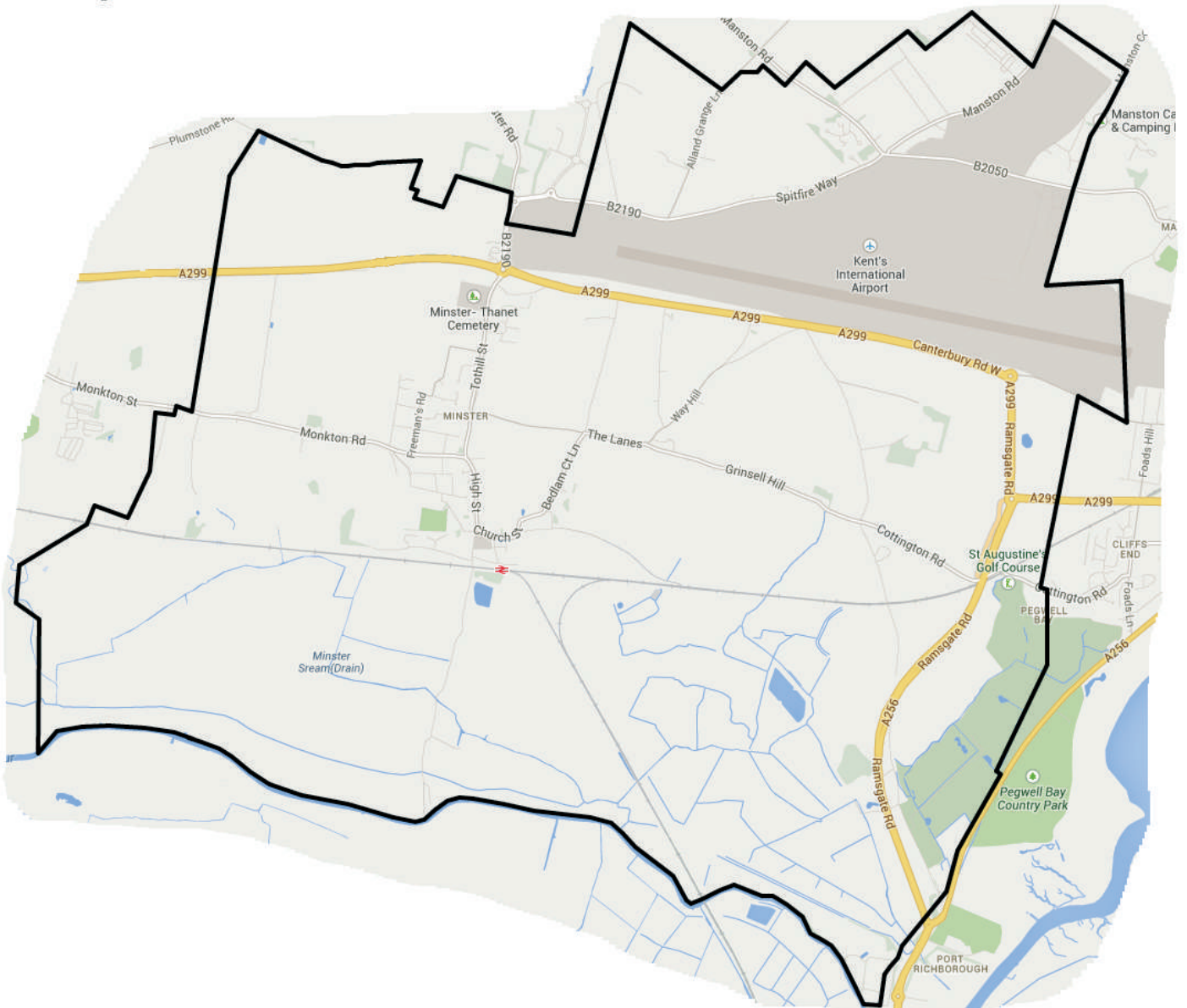
THE PARISH OF MINSTER



COMMUNITY LED PLAN

2013

MAP OF THE PARISH OF MINSTER



Population: 3569 (2011 Census)

The following acronyms are used throughout this document

MPC = Minster Parish Council, TDC = Thanet District Council, KCC = Kent County Council

Chairman's Introduction

"In my opinion, it is an absolute delight to live in the village of Minster. Apart from its rich history, it has many attributes and today is a vibrant community with a variety of businesses, including Kent International Airport, within the Parish boundary. The heart of this village contains hotels, cafés, restaurants and shops with many sports, creative and other activities to engage both residents and visitors.

It has been rewarding to be at the head of an incredible group of volunteers who formed the Steering Group to produce this community led plan. It represents many hundreds of hours collecting, cogitating, collating and finally constructing a plan which reflects the responses of those living in the Parish.

Apart from factual information the following pages accurately illustrate residents' views, wishes and aspirations for the future of this exceptional village.

Thank you to all who have completed the questionnaire, to Steering Group members and to those who have beavered away in the background... all expending much time, energy and enthusiasm to produce this document. The reasons for the Plan and the way it has been produced are explained in the following pages.

The Plan has now been handed to Minster Parish Council and on behalf of the Steering Group, we all hope it will stimulate both action and results."

John Shervington

Dr John Shervington FRCOG
Chairman, Minster Community Led Steering Group

BACKGROUND TO THE COMMUNITY LED PARISH PLAN

In the Autumn of 2012 as a result of the Government's Localism Act (March 2012) and building upon an earlier Healthcheck, Minster Parish Council decided to undertake a project which through community consultation would review where the village currently stood in planning terms.

It was agreed at a Public Meeting held in the Village Hall on Saturday 20th October that a Steering Group be formed of volunteers and representatives of the Parish Council to actively take responsibility for the production of a Community Led Plan, this being a starting block for the community to have a say in their future.

The purposes of the Plan were to focus on how the Village wished to develop in the future and to set out the policies to guide planning, growth and development, should that be desired, at a very local level. It would also look more generally at the success, or otherwise, of other local matters. The Parish Council would then use the findings of consultations with local residents to make recommendations to Thanet District Council for its next strategic Local Plan for the development of Minster and the rural areas.

As a first step in the consultation and to start things off, those at the Public Meeting were invited to express their views on housing and development, social matters, the environment, transport and the economic growth of the Village.

At the Public Meeting, Carl Adams from 'Action with Communities in Rural Kent' set out the step-by-step process of a Community Led Plan that enables every citizen to participate and contribute to further improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of their local area. The Public Meeting agreed that a Steering Group be formed to lead the Plan forward and the following document is the result of the dedicated input of this Group, those who worked and supported in the background and not least the contributions of local residents.

THE APPROACH

At the first meeting of the Steering Group it was agreed that future meetings be held monthly. Many hours were spent working on the Plan between meetings.

The Steering Group identified ways of involving the whole community by the means of Adult, Young Persons and Primary School Childrens' Questionnaires to gather views and opinions. The Questionnaires were produced and delivered through 'Minster Matters' magazine and the school completing them in class.

Group members ensured that as many questionnaires as possible were returned by an organised visit to households and gathering them in from the different collection points in the village.

THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN THE STEERING GROUP

Marion Bullard, Carol Burton, Peter Burton, Nicolette Cole, Edward Gibbon, Christopher Goulding, A. Local, Margaret and Bob Ovenden, Ben Patel, John Shervington (Chairman), Liz Shervington, Kevin Smith, Matthew Spanton, David Sworder and Jack Whybrow.

Parish Council Representatives:

Jonathan Cole (Vice Chairman), Danny Day, Gerry Glover and Donna Morling-Grove.

Co-ordinator: Roy Wade Assistant Co-ordinator: Linda Wade

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Ray Owen and the Minster Matters team for the initial distribution of the questionnaires, setting out of the final document and delivery of same. Staff at the Library, Ben's (Londis) and Attwell's for allowing people to collect questionnaires and leave them when completed. Katie Dixon-Payne for her help in compiling the questionnaire and C. Swain for the computer analysis program. Simon Pickering, Linda Wade, the Minster Archive and Minster Matters for the use of their photographs.



THE SOCIAL HISTORY AND GROWTH OF MINSTER

Minster is the largest Parish on the Isle of Thanet in a delightful rural setting on the north bank of the River Stour. The Village stretches to the north on rising ground to Manston Airfield, an historic site that featured prominently in both World War Two and the Battle of Britain.

The Parish boundary encompasses an area of 4,858 acres, with a population of approximately 3,600, is six miles from Ramsgate to the East and twelve miles to the North West of the cathedral city of Canterbury. The Parish is predominantly high quality arable farmland, the cultivation of which resulted in the loss of woodland and hedgerows that formed important features of the landscape in bygone days, whilst the land along the banks of the River Stour is mostly marshland with a system of man-made dykes that have resulted in an abundance of birds and wildlife. The Village has a fine church, St Mary's, which was founded and built in 670 AD. St Augustine brought Christianity to England when he landed in nearby Ebbsfleet and this resulted in Minster becoming the Mother Parish on the Isle of Thanet. The Church has been rebuilt over the centuries and has a more recently erected spire following loss of the original in the storms of October 1987. Minster Abbey which accommodates the Benedictine Nuns is believed to be one of the oldest continually inhabited buildings in England. The Salvation Army now accommodates a large purpose built hall in the Village centre. There is no longer a Catholic Church in the Village but services for this faith are conducted regularly at both Minster Abbey and more recently at St Mary's C of E Church.

In view of the Parish being made up largely of arable land, the built up area of the Village is comparatively small with just under 1600 residential properties providing homes for around 3,600 residents, the majority having been built within the past 100 years. It is interesting to note that the population of Minster has increased by about 300 since the last census in 2001 and that the number of residences/properties has increased by about 100 with the recently built development at Heronsbrook, just off Monkton Road.

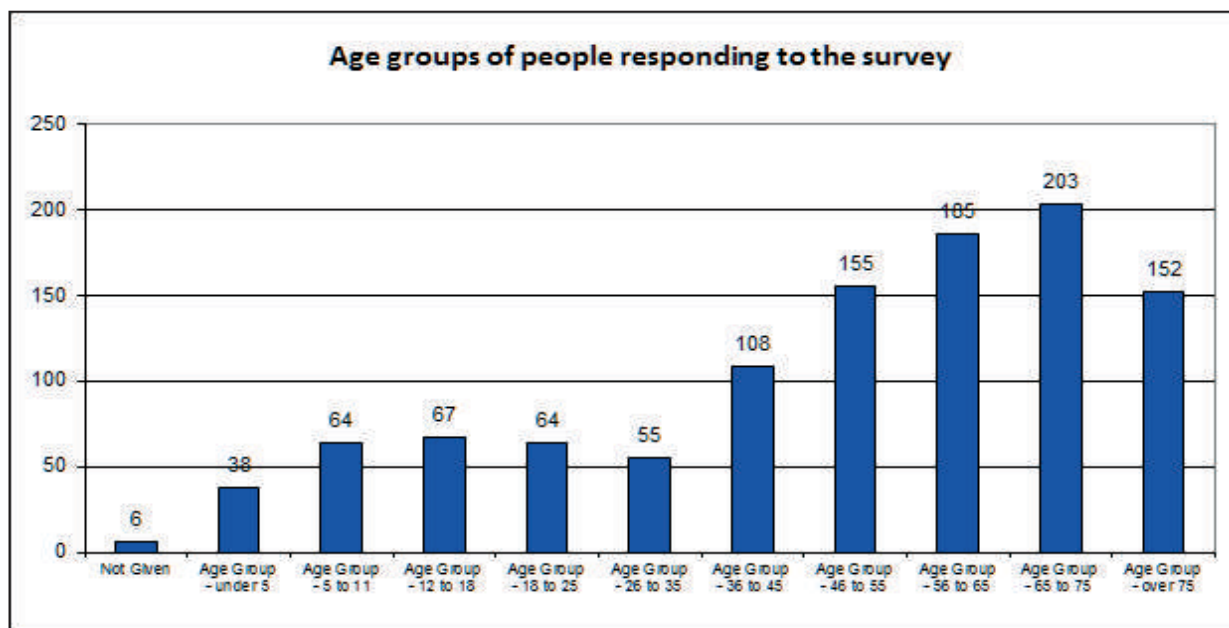
Although there are a few hamlets, the residential homes are located mainly around the Church and Village centre and are supported by a wide range of shops, public houses, restaurants and hotels together with many clubs, a surgery, vet and dentist plus a well-respected primary school and various pre-school groups. Both Minster residents and those in nearby villages use these services and facilities. There is a widely used village hall and a very pro-active Parish Council that strives to make life better for the Villagers.



THE PLAN – WHO RESPONDED?

The Adult Questionnaire

There were 486 questionnaires returned representing the views of 1097 people.



Youth Questionnaire		School Questionnaire	
Age Group	No. Responding	Age Group	No. Responding
13-11yrs	23	4-6yrs	116
14-16yrs	20	7-9yrs	95
17-18yrs	5	9-11yrs	135
Not Given	4	Not Given	1
Total	52	Total	247

LIKES AND DISLIKES

People were asked what they liked and disliked about living in Minster.

Overwhelmingly these expressions describe issues which people find affect their quality of life.

Within each section there was plenty of space to mention their likes and dislikes, the fact they mentioned these at the end shows how important they are to people.

Likes

People liked: the range of amenities (shops, businesses, clubs and leisure), the friendliness of the people, the general “village feel” and its environment.

They praised the community spirit and the simple peace and quiet, the countryside views and easy access.

They were appreciative of the fact that they felt safe and that the crime rate was low, however, 76.03% of those who stated they felt safe also requested an increased police presence.

Others commented about the ease of access to get to other areas by all means of transport although this is slightly contradicted in the dislikes when referring to public transport.

Many praised the clean air and the history/heritage of the village.

Dislikes

The main dislike is traffic in all its forms: cars, bikes, lorries and the driving and parking of them. Other dislikes were the over-development of housing and business premises and the anti-social behaviour of youths and their hanging around in the village.

No surprise – dog fouling was a favourite dislike, this has been the subject of numerous articles in Minster Matters.

Public transport or the lack of it also featured highly with many feeling isolated particularly in the evenings and at weekends.

Many commented on the condition, width and lack of pavements in some areas of the village and to a lesser degree – litter.

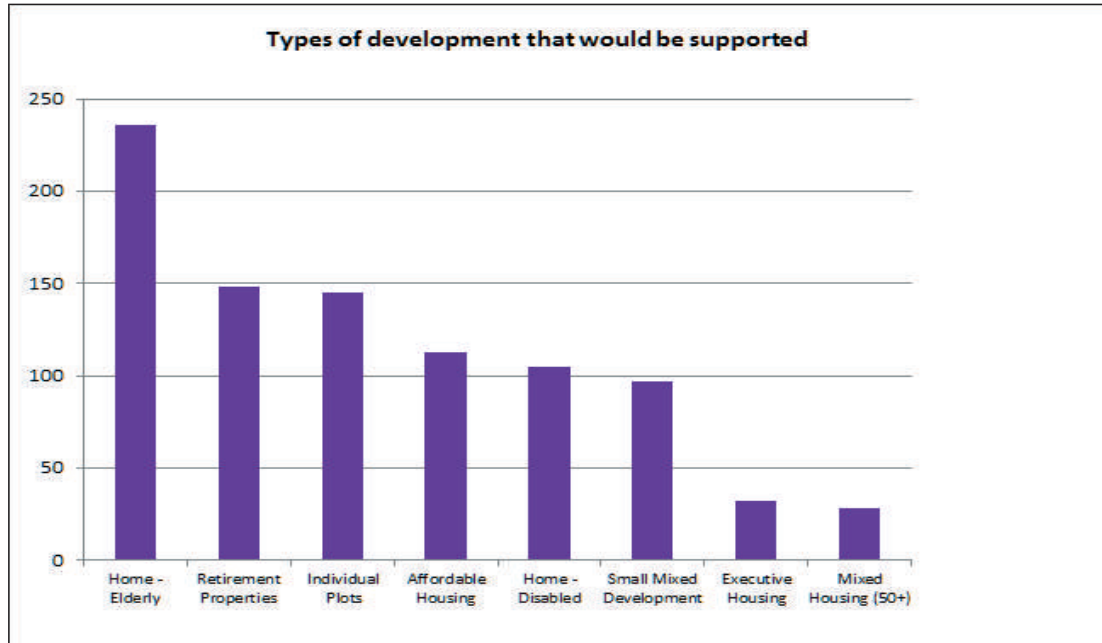
Interestingly and positively 32 people said there was nothing to dislike! So that is good news.

HOUSING

Section 1 of the questionnaire addressed the need for housing development over the next ten years. The community were asked to indicate the types of development they would support.

Owing to Government policy, the option for "no development" was not able to be given.

Just prior to this survey TDC undertook a Housing Needs Survey. That survey did not cover what development people would support within the Parish as it purely dealt with people's perceived need.

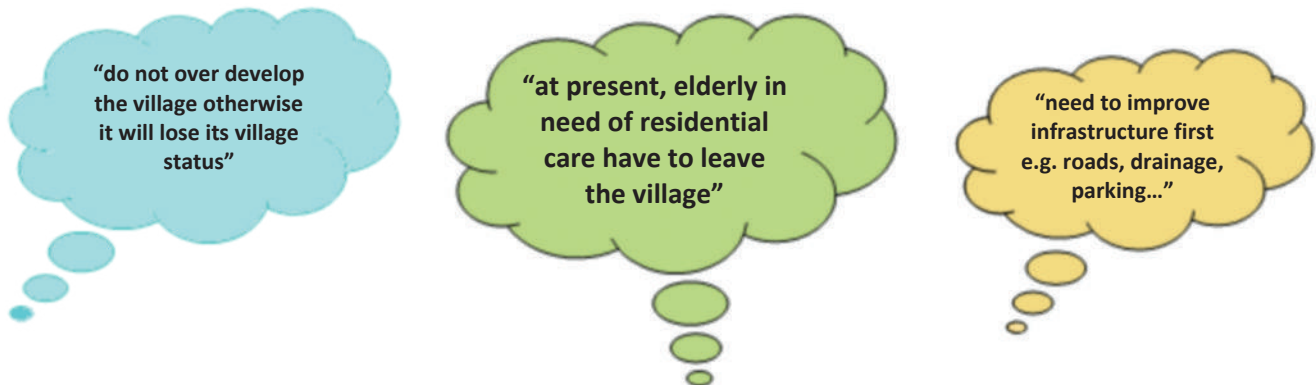


The greatest support was for a residential home for the elderly with the next being retirement properties. Mixed developments of 50+ homes had the least support.

However, 32% of respondents who answered this question did not consider there should be any further development until appropriate infrastructure was in place such as GPs, schools, roads and public transport. Comments evidenced concern that Minster might lose its village feel and become more town-like.

The previous TDC Local Plan acknowledged the need for a residential home for the elderly. TDC's own housing needs survey showed that some elderly people do want to move from their homes but have little option as there are no suitable local retirement properties. It could be that if more was done to address this, housing stock might be more available to accommodate younger families.

A flavour of comments made on this issue:



Action Points

MPC to make representations to TDC to ensure that the accommodation needs of the more elderly in the village are reflected in the Local Plan.

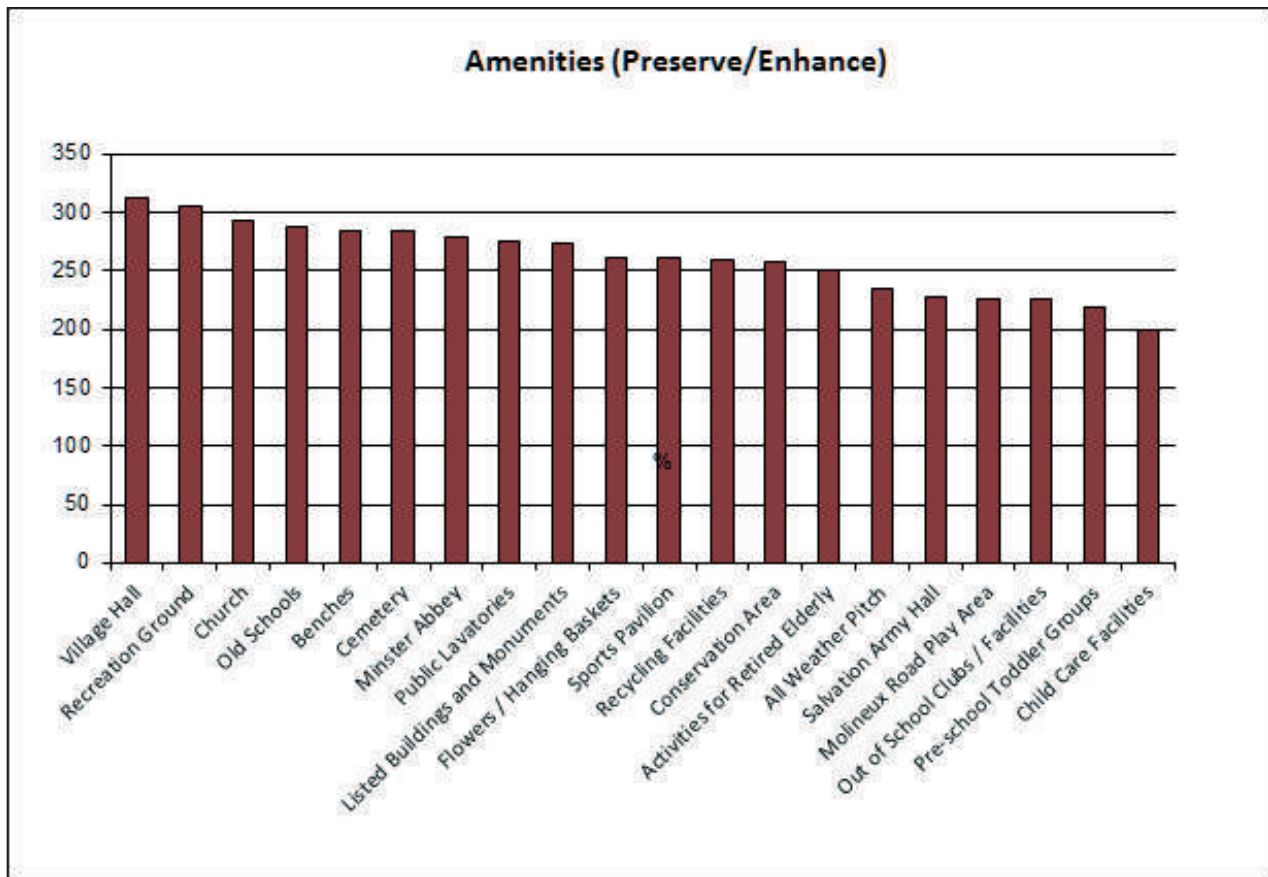
To ensure the wider views of Minster residents on housing are represented in the Local Plan.

SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY

Amenities

People were asked whether existing Village amenities should be Preserved, Enhanced or both. The majority of people offered a view on this complex area.

The graph below illustrates people's priorities:



It is apparent that all the Village facilities from the village hall to childcare facilities are valued by people.

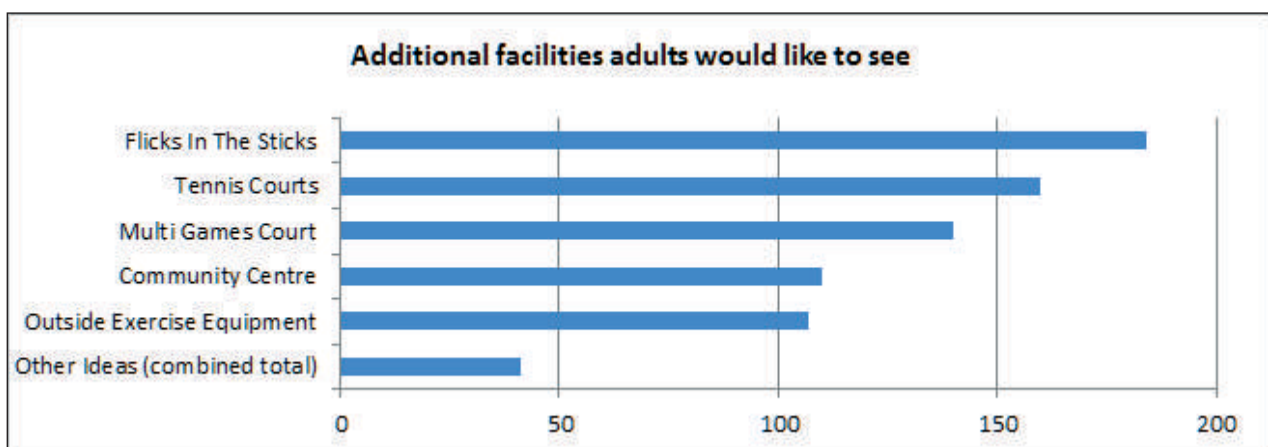
Action Points

MPC to work with the organisers/owners of the amenities to ensure that they are at least maintained to their current level.

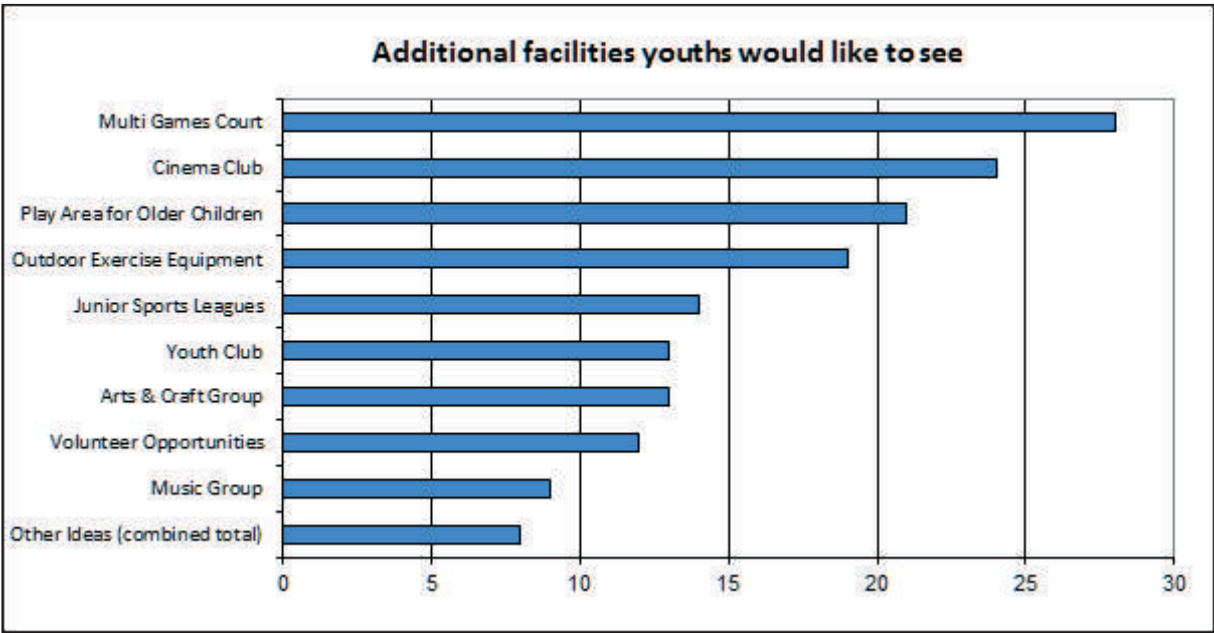
MPC to work with the organisers/owners of the amenities to identify and apply for funding to enable enhancements.

People were asked what additional facilities they would like to have in the Village.

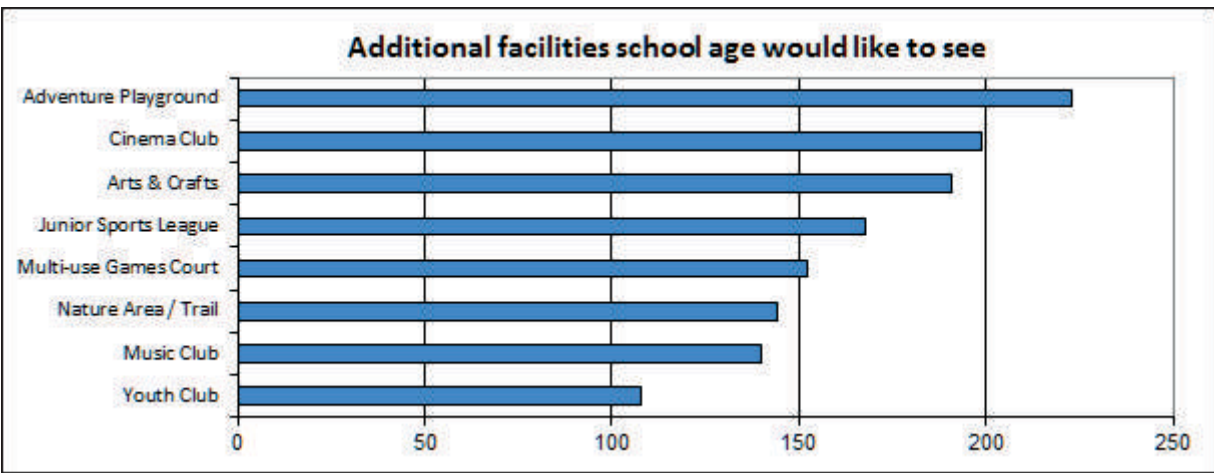
The responses for adults were:



The responses for youths were:



The responses for the school were:



It is interesting to note that all age groups share an interest in cinema with that coming out in the top three each time. Also the shared desire for a multi-games court. *Interestingly the top desires for the youth and school were outdoor based activities.*

Action Points

MPC to follow up on an offer made in a return, by a retired projectionist who lives in the village, to see if a cinema project within the village could work and be sustained.

MPC to actively seek out funding to improve the outdoor activity facilities in the village for all ages.

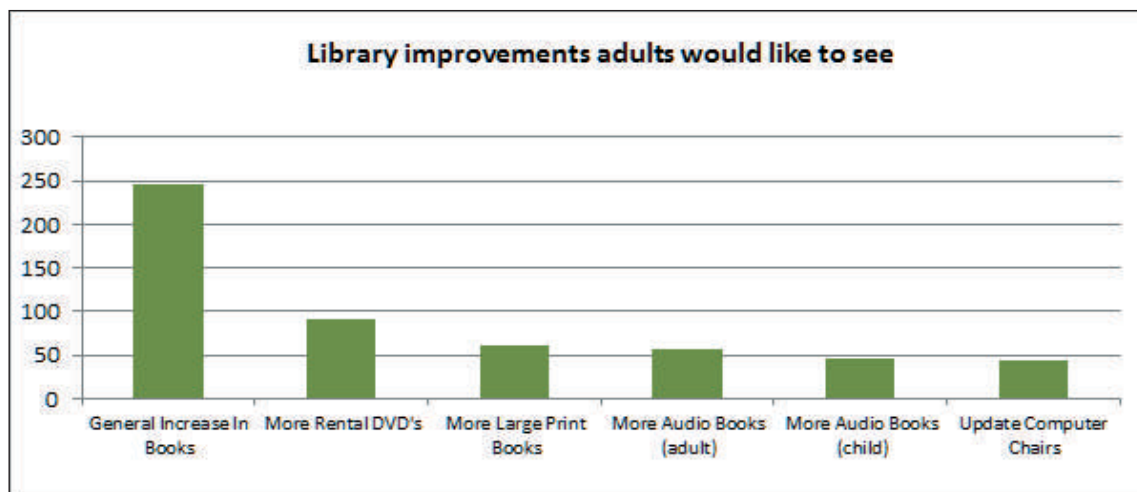
The Library

The library is situated in the heart of the Village and comprises book and DVD loan as well as computer facilities. It is also one of the key reference and information points for both residents and visitors.

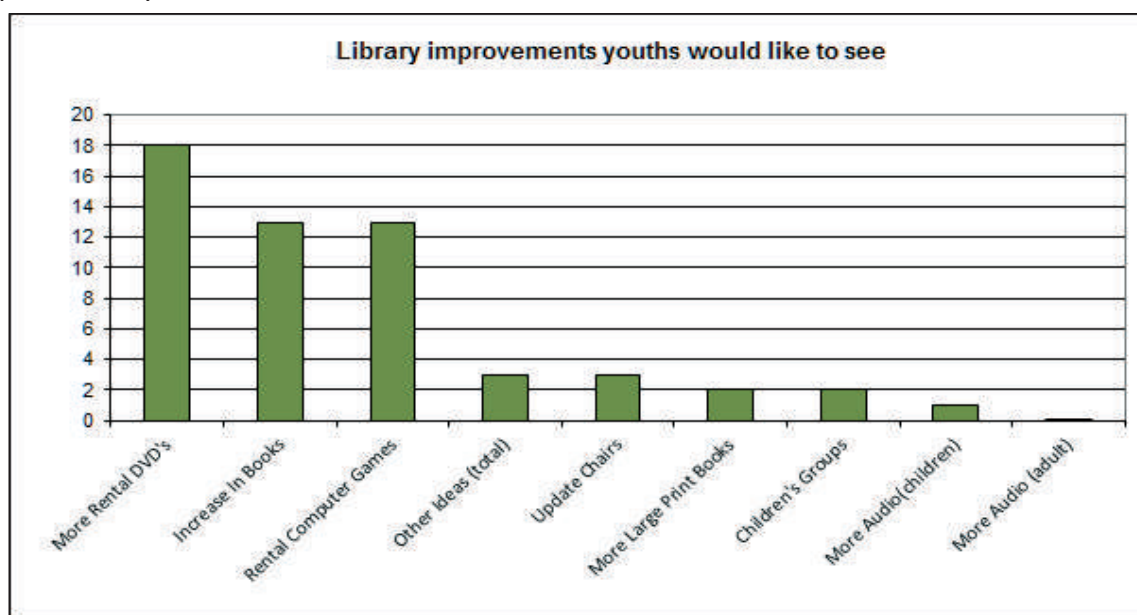
In the period April to June 2013 there were 5179 visitors to the library, these did not include those just seeking advice. In the same period there were 1338 IT sessions on the computers. A very well used and valued facility.

Each age group was asked what facilities in the library they would like to see enhanced.

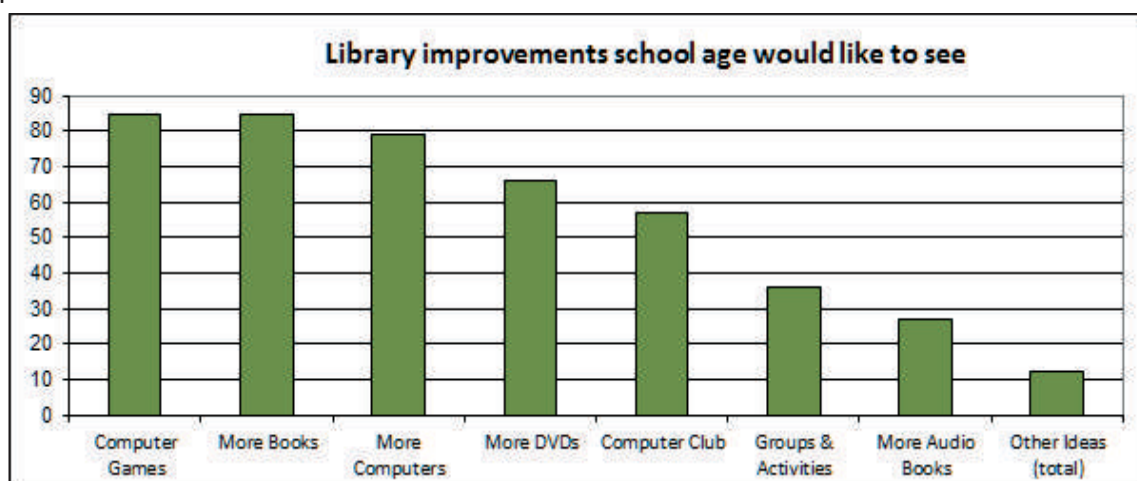
The responses for adults were:



The responses for youths were:



The responses for the School were:



In all of the questionnaires the desire for more books was either top or second. Perhaps predictably, the desire for more computer games and DVD's appear at the top of the younger person's wish list.

The nature of library services may be changing but their importance cannot be underestimated.

Action Points

MPC to liaise with KCC to ensure that when funds become available to spend on the library they are spent in accordance with people's wishes.

MPC to liaise with KCC to ensure that Minster retains its library service and does not become one of those libraries closed down.

Allotments

People were asked whether they would like an allotment if they were available.

35% of those that answered the question expressed an interest.

Interestingly, in the questionnaire people were asked if they had spare land available for use as allotments. Fourteen people stated they may be interested in allowing their land to be used.

Action Points

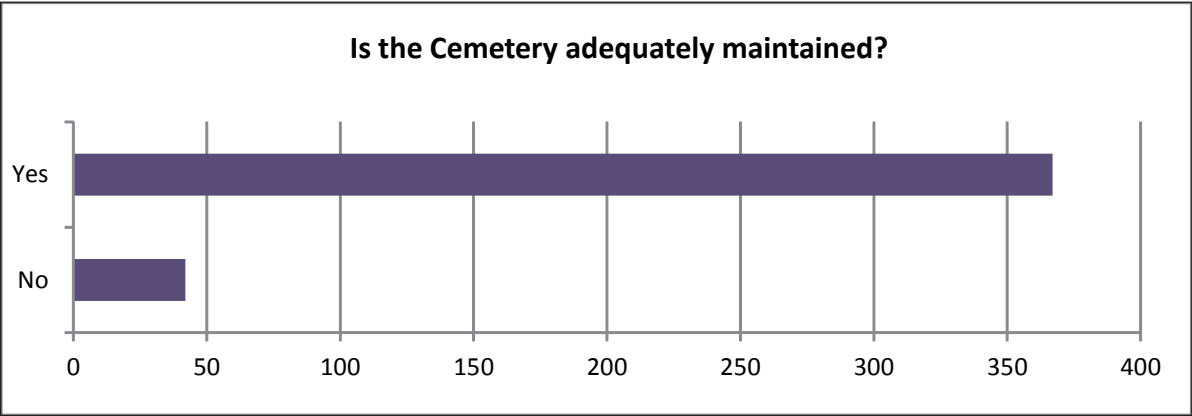
MPC to contact the people who stated they may have land available for use as allotments.

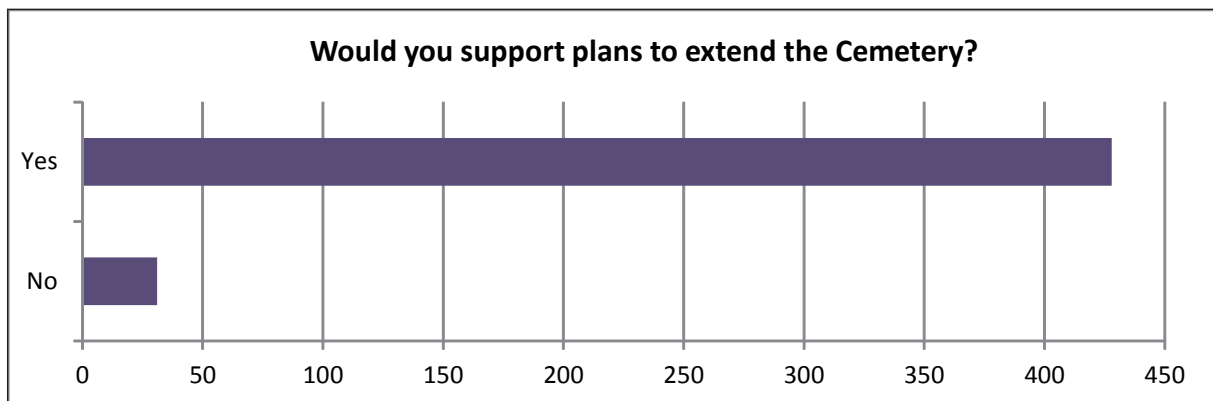
MPC to liaise with the TDC Allotments Officer to see what help they could be in this matter.

The Cemetery



People were asked if they considered whether the cemetery was adequately maintained and if they would support moves to extend the cemetery.





The vast majority of people, 89% of respondents, were satisfied that the maintenance was adequate and 93% supported moves to extend the cemetery.

The cemetery is a highly valued amenity in the Village and is owned and maintained by the Parish Council, with the exception of the War Graves and Memorial which are maintained by The Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

Action Points

MPC to ensure the maintenance of the cemetery is kept to at least the current level and when funds allow, make any improvements felt necessary.

MPC to actively seek land to extend the cemetery.

Village Safety

As has already been noted in the 'Likes' section, people consider Minster to be a generally safe place. Perceptions of safety were covered by different questions in both the adult and youth surveys.

The adults were asked if they considered Minster a safe environment a huge 89.69% who responded said Yes.

The Youth were asked a two part question as to whether they felt safe out during the day or after dark. During the day the vast majority, 98%, said Yes they felt safe. However the percentage feeling safe after dark dropped significantly to only 51%.

In addition the Youth were asked if they had ever been subject to bullying. 20% said Yes.

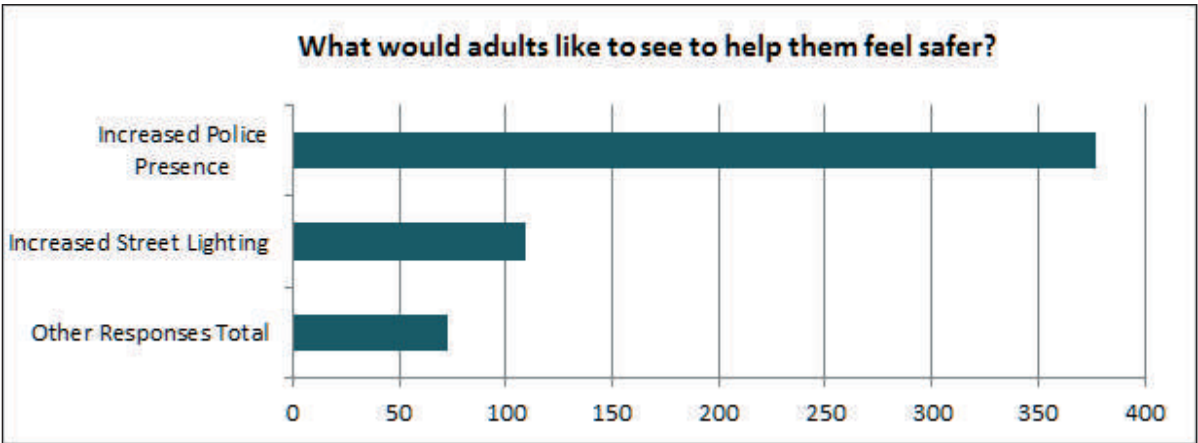
Most people feel safe in the Village which is good, however it is slightly troubling that the Youth consider the feeling of safety reduces significantly during the hours of darkness. This would fit in with the 'Dislikes' mentioned earlier when people complained about misbehaving youths congregating in the Village. It would appear that even the Youths themselves are nervous of some of their peers hanging about.

Of the 20% of Youth who said they had been bullied, the older the respondent the less the bullying reported. It is the younger age who said they are victims.

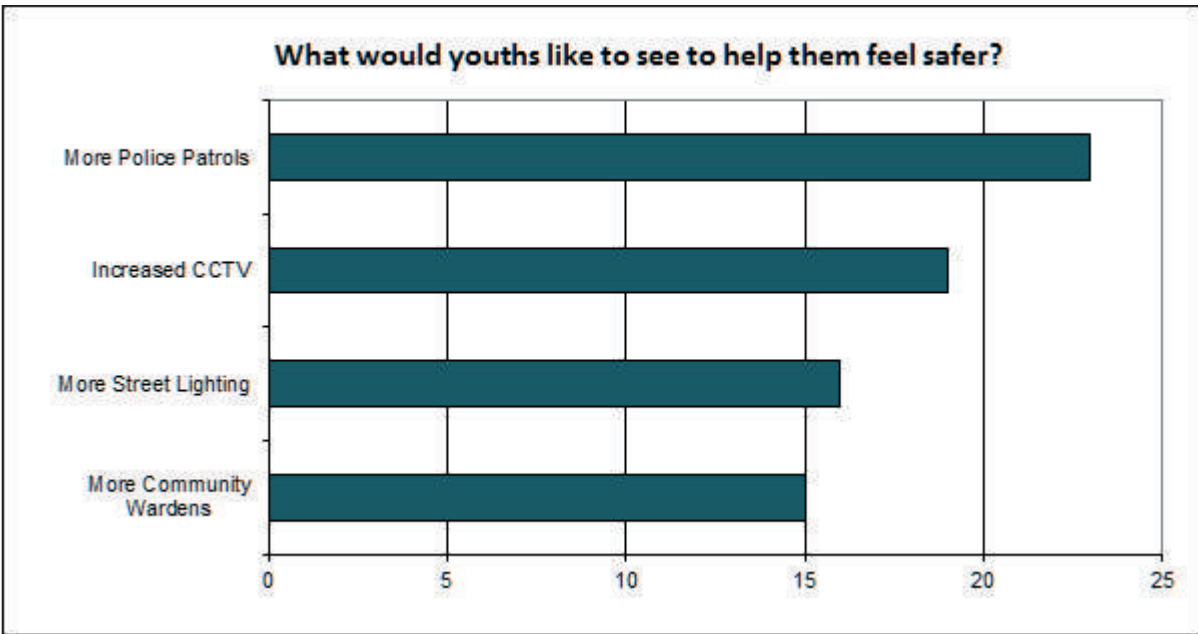
Whilst the school was not asked a specific question on safety a lot of the children made comments about a group acting in an intimidatory manner outside the school gates. The issue making it into their own list of 'Dislikes' covered later in the report.

When asked what would make them feel safer, both the Adult and Youth questionnaires, despite being asked slightly different questions, responded in a very similar fashion.

Adult Responses:



Youth Responses:



More police patrols are what most people see as the answer to making them feel safer.

Action Points

MPC to liaise with the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner, KCC Community Warden Service, TDC Community Safety Partnership and any youth based organisations to ensure that Minster retains and preferably enhances the presence of authority particularly during the hours of darkness.

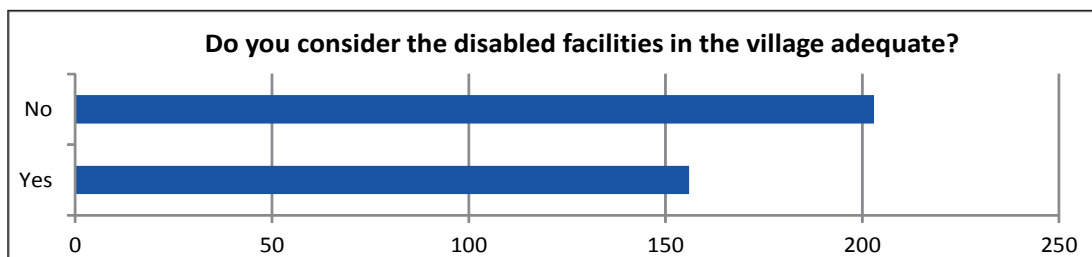
MPC to liaise with KCC regarding whether street lighting can be improved and any problem areas identified.

MPC to liaise with the newly proposed Youth Council, if formed, to see if they can assist with ideas on the issues caused by youths ‘hanging around’.

**** Note – The possibility of a Youth Council being formed was not in formation at the time the questionnaires were distributed. It is a recent innovation and will be covered later in the Youth Questionnaire Section**

Disabled Facilities

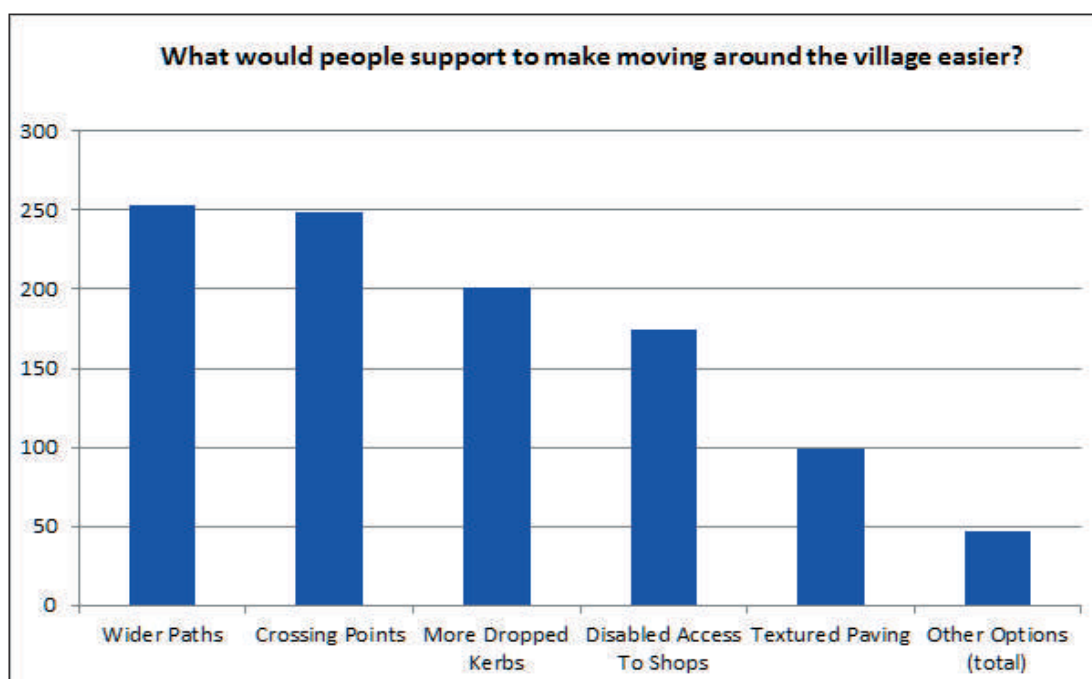
People were asked if they considered facilities for the disabled to be adequate:



Sadly the majority of respondents felt that the facilities were inadequate.

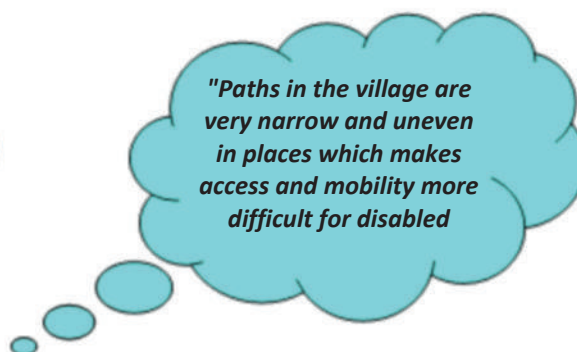
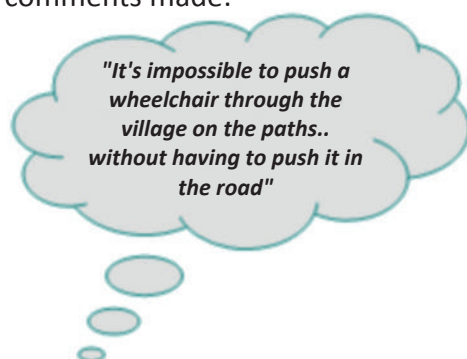
Unfortunately not a lot can be gleaned from the comments as to why people answered as they did. More research is required in this area.

People were asked what they would like to see to make mobility around the village easier:



Whether able bodied or not, most people agreed that the ancient footpaths of the Village need updating to make moving around easier. The state of the pavements also made it into the 'Dislikes' section already covered.

A sample of the comments made:



Action Points

MPC to liaise with relevant Disability Rights Groups to ask people what disabled facilities in the village need to be improved.

MPC to liaise with KCC to improve the quality and width of pavements within the village and to undertake consultation as to where the best places for crossing points would be.

Minster Matters

People were asked if they read Minster Matters and 99% said Yes.

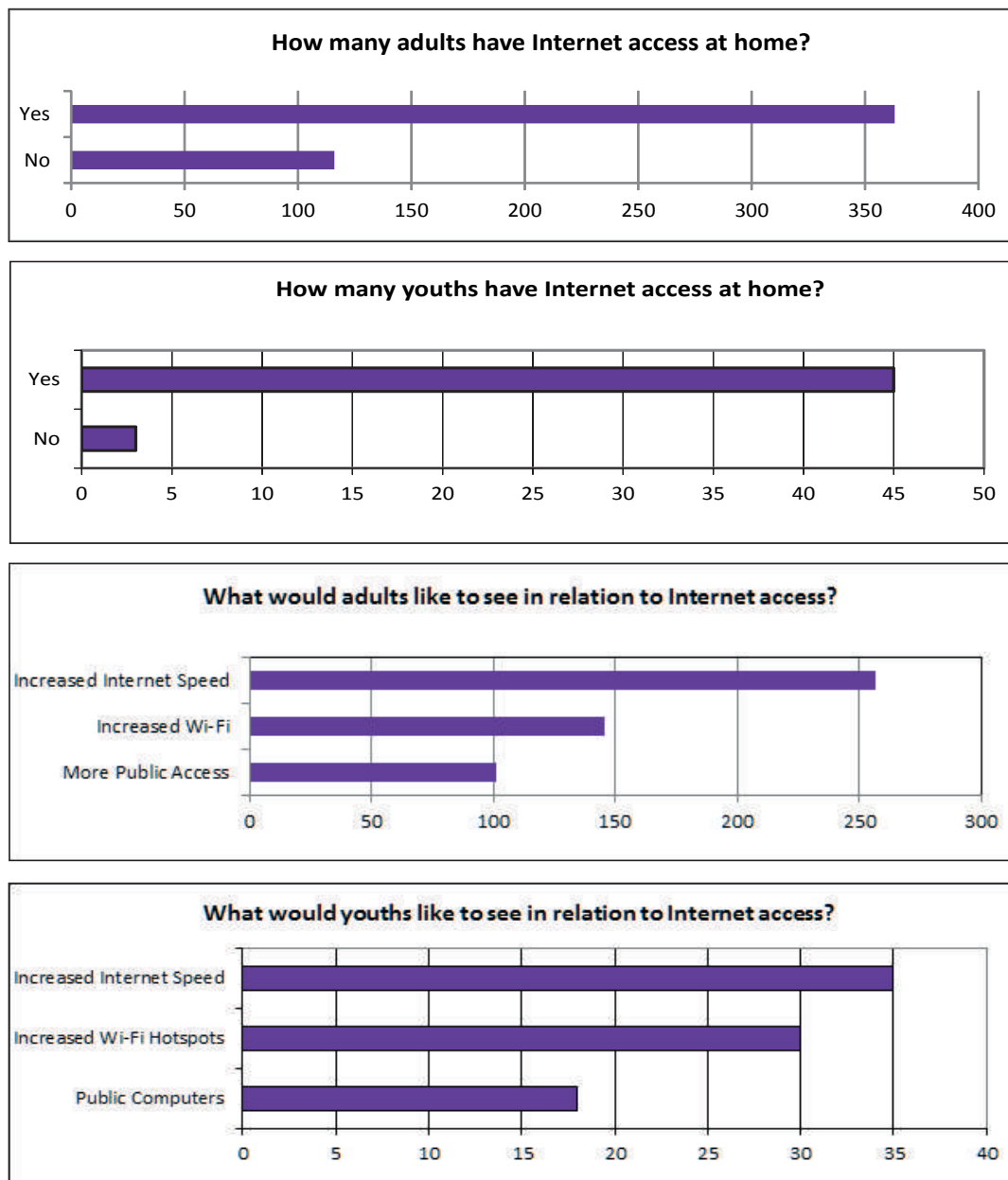
Minster Matters is a highly regarded prizewinning publication that has a wide circulation and from the responses is well read.

Action Points

MPC to encourage the Minster Matters editorial team to continue its excellent work.

Internet Access

Again an example of where similar questions asked across an age range elicited similar responses. The adults and youths were asked if they had Internet access at home and what they would support in relation to Internet access.



Interestingly 24% of Adults who responded to the question stated that they did not have Internet access at home yet only 6% of the Youth had no home access. This tends to indicate it is the more elderly of the adults who do not have access.

Both the Adults and the Youth agree completely on the priorities for Internet access with the 'need for speed' being the top requirement.

Action Points

MPC to liaise with KCC and relevant government departments to ensure that semi-rural Minster gets the best Internet connections available.

MPC to liaise with groups that deal with the elderly to see whether further education on the benefits of the Internet would increase take up.

ENVIRONMENT



The majority of respondents were satisfied with the cleanliness of the Village.

However dog fouling continues to be a major cause for concern and it is one of the most commented on issues in the "Likes" and "Dislikes" section of the questionnaire.

Action Points

MPC to investigate methods which can be deployed to address this issue.

MPC to liaise with the community warden and dog warden to ensure people are reminded of their responsibilities and appropriately prosecuted in accordance with existing byelaws

Most respondents are content with the condition of existing street furniture including street signs (86%), litter bins (72%), lamp posts (88%) and benches (78%).

Action Points

In liaison with KCC Highways, MPC monitor and maintain high standards and ensure these items remain in good condition. Paying particular attention to the positioning and condition of litter bins and condition of benches as these two areas were slightly lower in satisfaction levels.

Cleanliness

Whilst satisfaction was high in relation to the green areas of the Village including hedges, trees and grass, 31% of respondents considered litter clearance was inadequate. However, it is not clear which areas are causing most concern and consequently which organisation, business or agency would be responsible for monitoring and clearing the litter.

Action Points

MPC to liaise with KCC to ensure the Community Warden monitors and records areas causing most concern for any appropriate action to be taken.

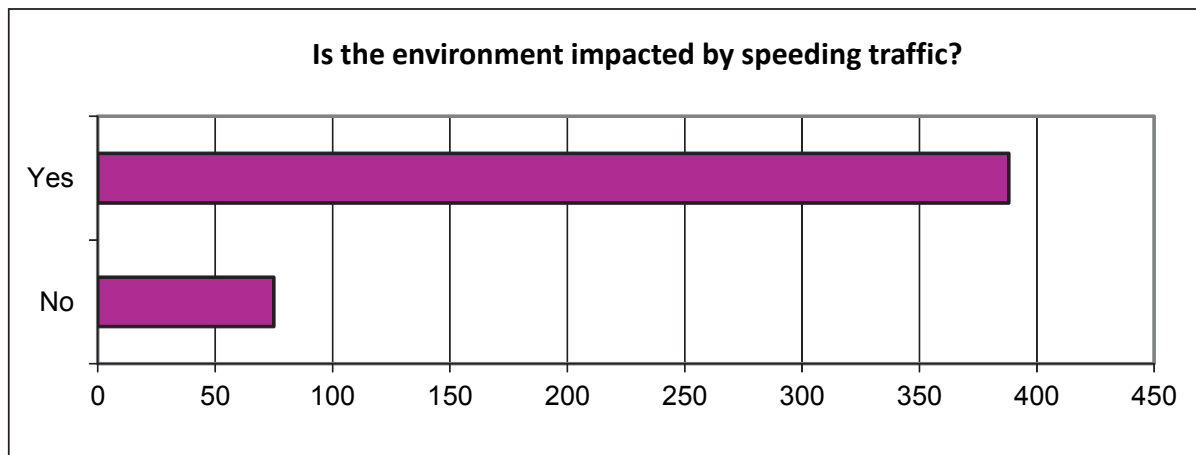
Recycling

35% of respondents considered recycling to be inadequate. It should be noted that planned, imminent improvements are likely to go some way to addressing this problem.

Action Points

MPC to review and monitor recycling facilities in view of expected improvements to ensure they meet the needs of the village.

Speeding Traffic



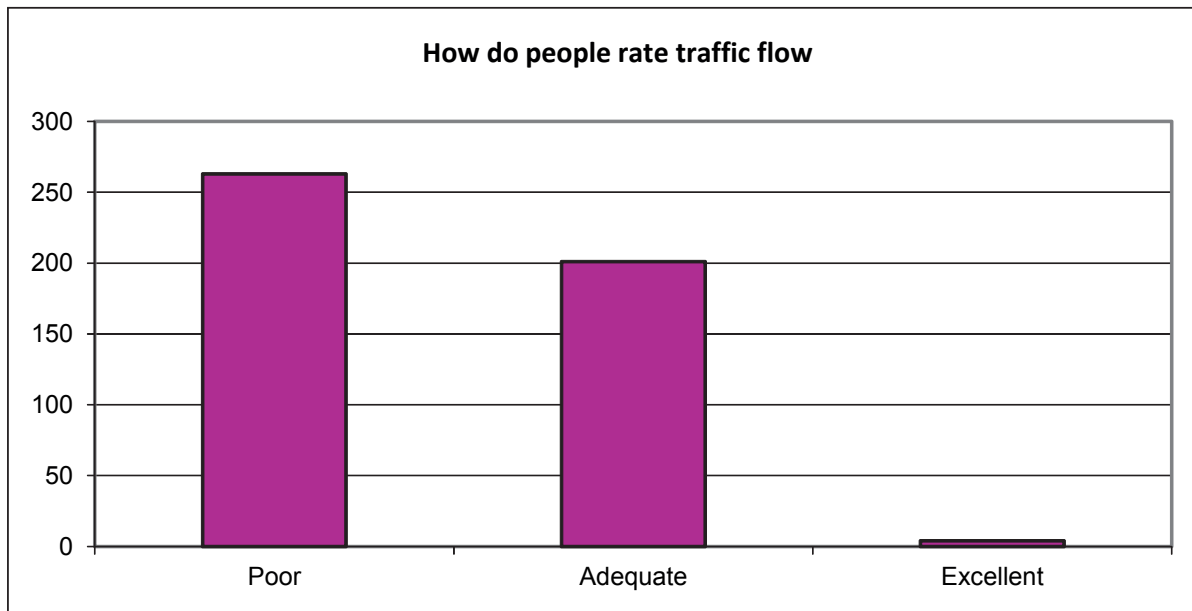
83.8% of respondents considered speeding traffic impacted on the Village environment.

This question looked purely at how people perceived speeding traffic in relation to the environment. The subject of traffic is no doubt a very complex one and appears in its own section later and as already has been seen, gets a strong mention in the 'Dislikes'.

Action Points

MPC to liaise with TDC, KCC Highways and police to address the issue of speed and agree possible solutions

Traffic Flow



The majority of people (56%) considered Village traffic flow to be poor.

Action Points

MPC to liaise with TDC, KCC Highways and police to address this issue but it is important to understand that by improving the flow of traffic there could be a risk of increasing traffic speed.

TRANSPORT

There are many aspects and types of transport but road traffic has increased over the past 10-15 years and is a "hot potato" in the Village. It also impinges on other forms of transport and on Village life generally.

The reasons for the growth of road transport are complex but include such issues as: the expansion of airport activity, the increased development at the Prospect (Tothill) roundabout, the new road system, the loss of shopping in adjoining villages, the steady increase of schoolchildrens' parents driving from outside the Village and many other factors.

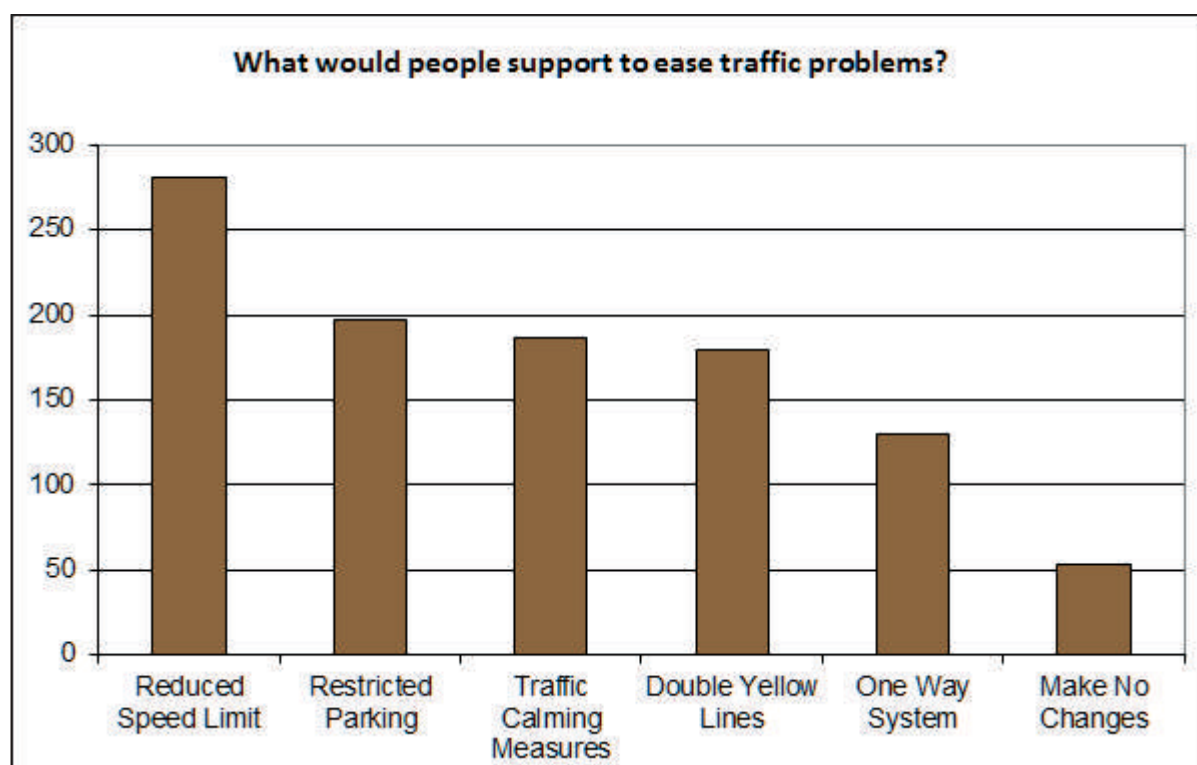
Therefore it was interesting to see that questionnaire responders voiced varied views on this topic and transport in general.

For example 72% of people who responded thought that access to the Village is adequate with only 22.8% thinking there should be an additional access road.

People giving 'No View' were in the majority when asked about introducing restricted parking, traffic calming measures, double yellow lines and a one way system. This was also reflected in the response to the "Make No Changes" option where a mere 11% ticked the box.

This is probably a reflection of the difficulty of the issue. Everyone agrees that traffic in all its forms is an issue within the Village, hence the subject appearing so high in the 'Dislikes' but there are no easy answers.

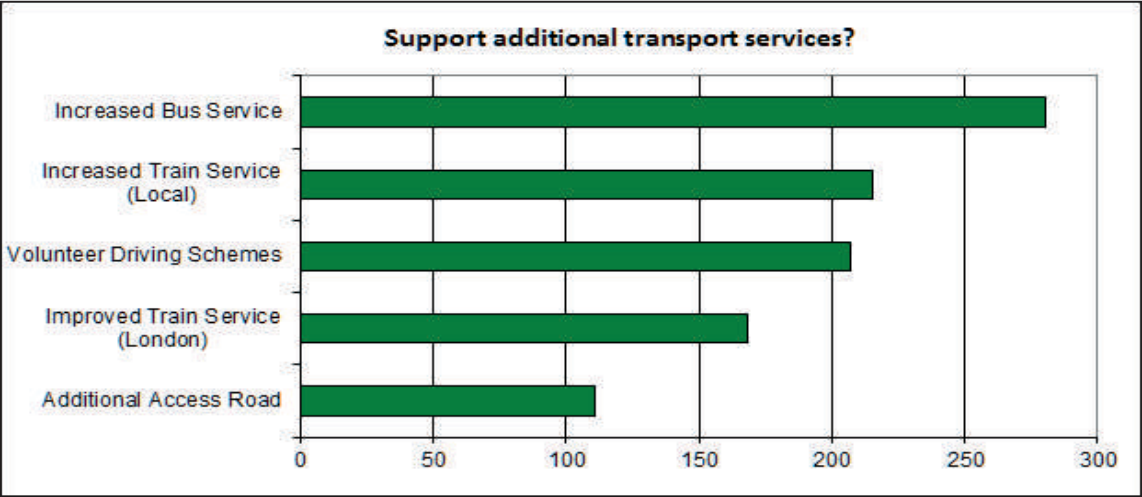
One issue on traffic bucked the 'No Views' being dominant and that was of Speeding Traffic. As already seen people thought speeding traffic impacts on the Village environment. This time they were asked if they would support a reduced speed limit. On this subject 58% would offer their support.



Action Points

MPC to consider the request for a reduced speed limit and if thought appropriate discuss with KCC Highways.

Turning to the issues of bus and train services (both local and London) and volunteer driving schemes the overall picture showed that in all cases the 'No Views' were in the majority, except in the case of an increased bus service.



This possibly illustrates either the "No Views" do not use the facilities, or are content. Conversely those that do have a view want improved facilities. There is no doubt everyone would like better access to public transport particularly in the evenings and weekends. The lack of public transport at those times, as already seen in the 'Dislikes' affects peoples quality of life and can make them feel isolated.

Action Points

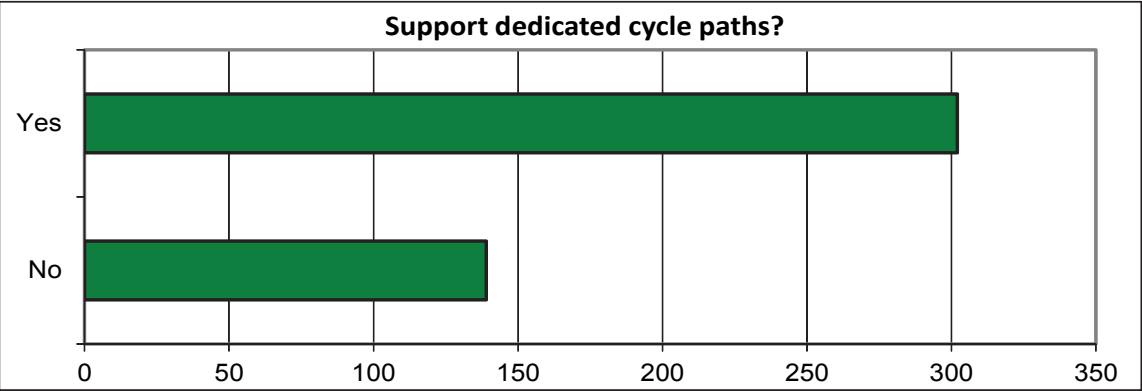
- MPC to review the interest in increased bus services stopping at Minster, a request supported by adults and children.
- MPC to review requests for increased (Local) and improved (London) train services stopping at Minster and negotiate with train providers.
- MPC to consult with local parties who may have an interest in setting up a volunteer driving scheme, for such parties to operate if so desired .

Answers to the question “are the footpaths and pavements in the village adequate?” met with a mixed response because 57.5% said “no” but as already covered in the 'Dislikes' pavements are an issue. As already covered a lot of people would like to see dropped kerbs and crossing points on the pavements. It is clear this may be a topic deserving more analysis as to the particular areas considered inadequate.

Action Points

- MPC, in consultation with KCC Highways, to review the situation.

The views on support for dedicated cycle paths were mixed but there was certainly a majority in favour of support (68.5%).



However there were many comments to the effect that there is too little room for both cars and cycle lanes on the existing roads.

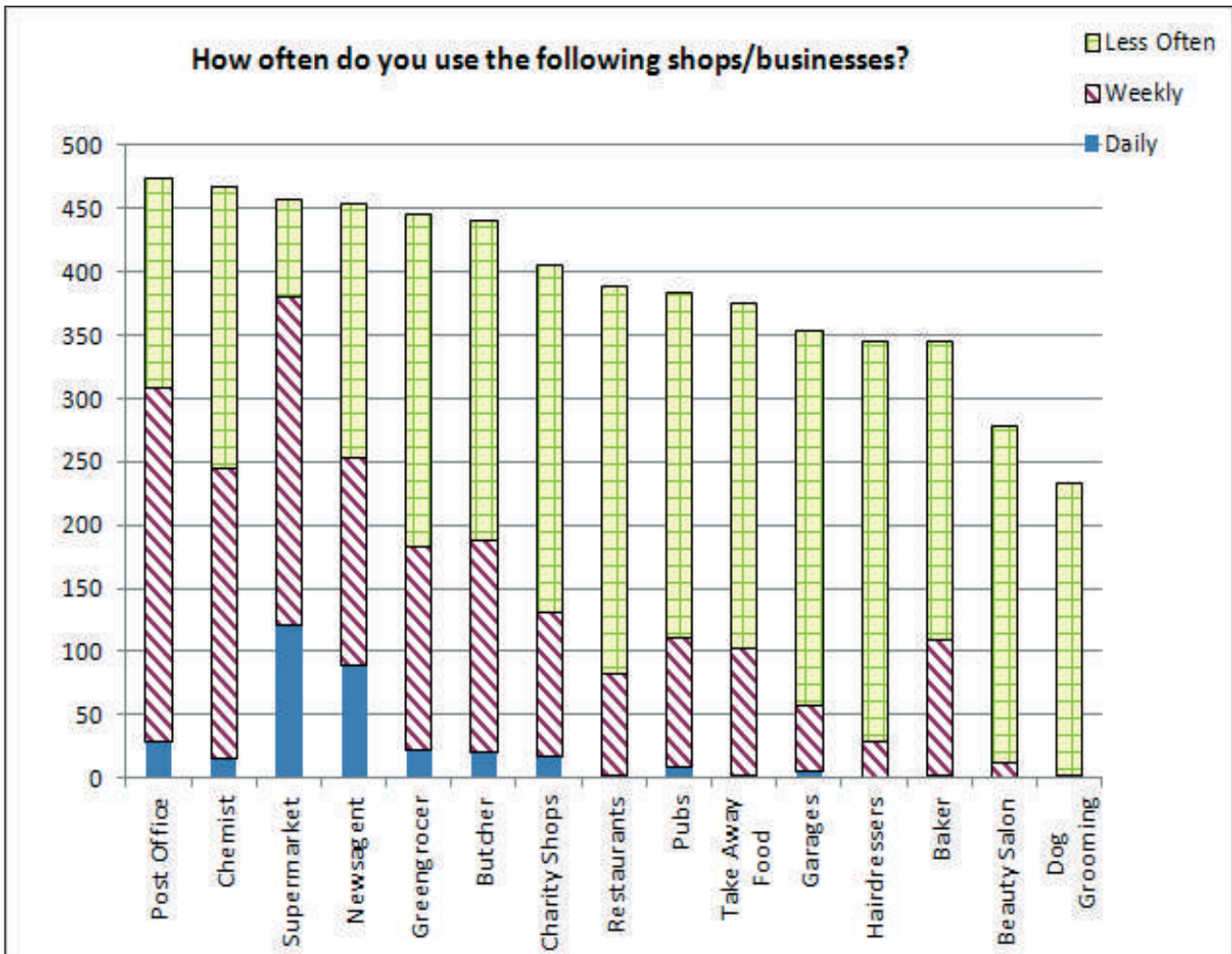
Action Points

- MPC to review the present situation and consider with the appropriate authorities the possibility of introducing dedicated paths where safety is assured.

ECONOMY

The retail scene in the Village has changed dramatically over the past 30 or so years. Since the 1970s closures of shops have included: 3 general stores, a Men's outfitters, a wet fish shop, a 2nd butchers shop and 2 hardware shops. Altogether about 46 in total but not all trading at the same time.

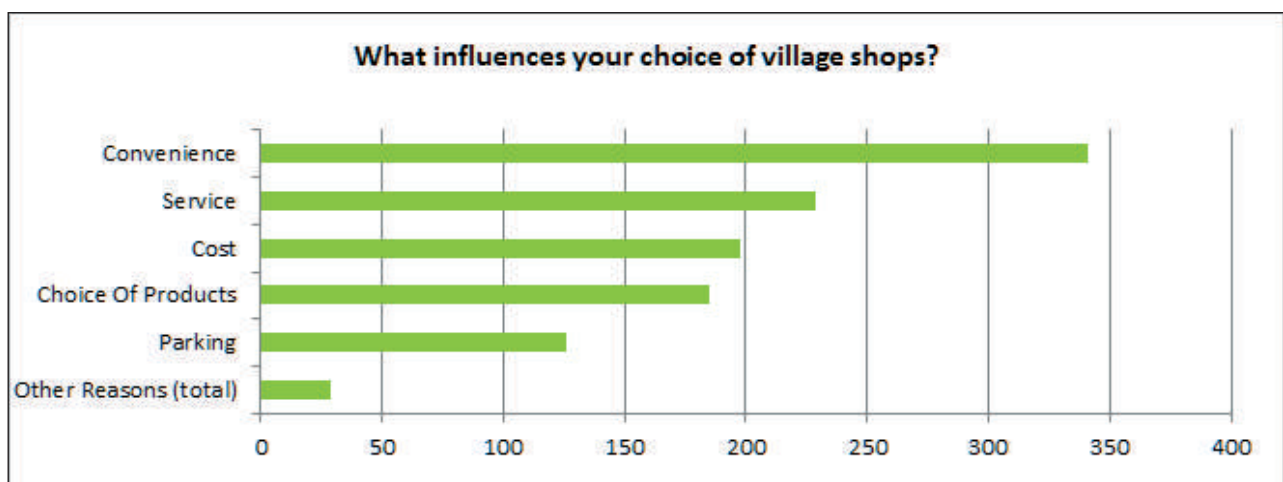
The first question enquired how often people used shops/businesses.



Effectively this applied almost wholly to shops and did not include trades or other businesses.

Not surprisingly the traditional village shops came at the top. A substantial number of comments were made which were very mixed in nature.

"What other factors influence your use of Minster Shops?"



It is apparent the primary reasons for shopping in Minster are convenience and quality of service. People like to support local traders and were positive about the current opening hours.

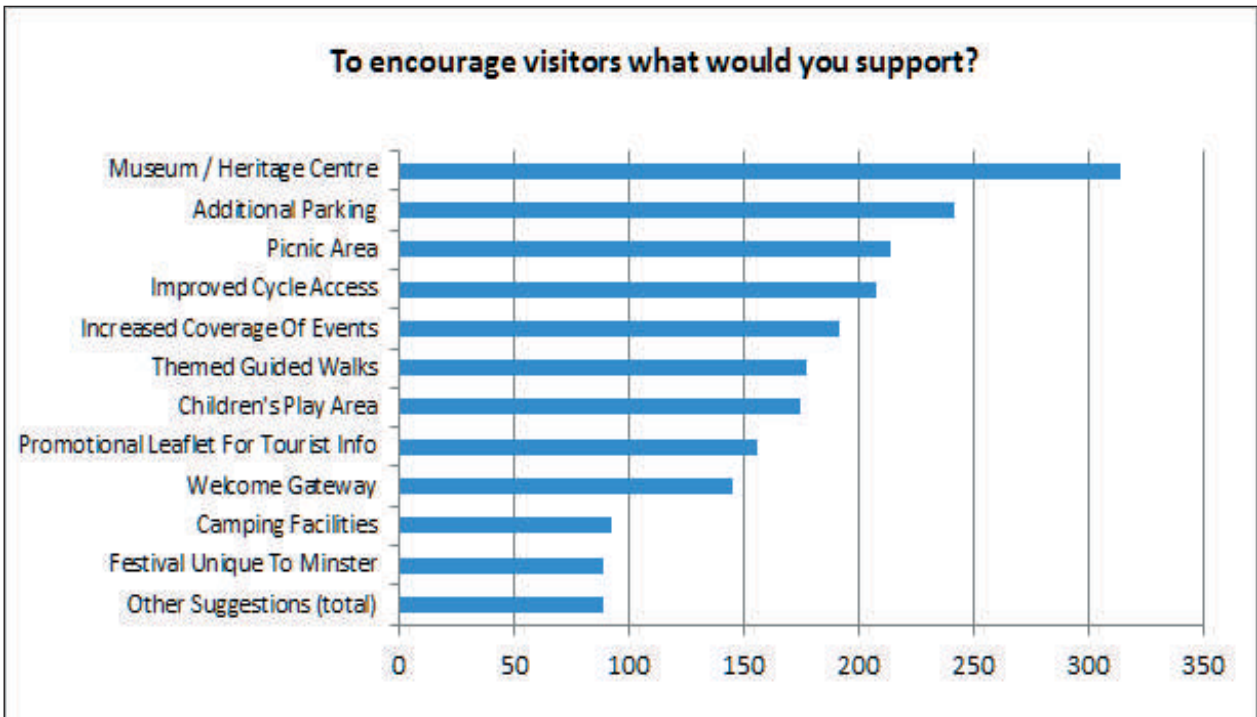
People were less happy with the minimum spend on credit/debit cards, lack of parking and no public toilets in the Village centre.

From a range of possible options including loyalty schemes, transport to the Village centre, Internet shopping and home delivery, interest was not high but 24.5% would welcome a loyalty scheme.

Additional comments included: having the bakery open every day, a village store, a museum, NHS Dental Care, cycle racks, opening hours on website, cheaper prices for residents and a Christmas savings scheme.

Action Points

It is recommended Minster Business Association be encouraged to undertake an independent survey, if it has the resources, to endeavour to establish the extent villagers use the varied local traders, suppliers and all small and medium businesses.



From these suggestions the ones that were supported to any extent were Museum/Heritage Centre, additional parking, picnic area, improved cycle access, increased coverage of events.

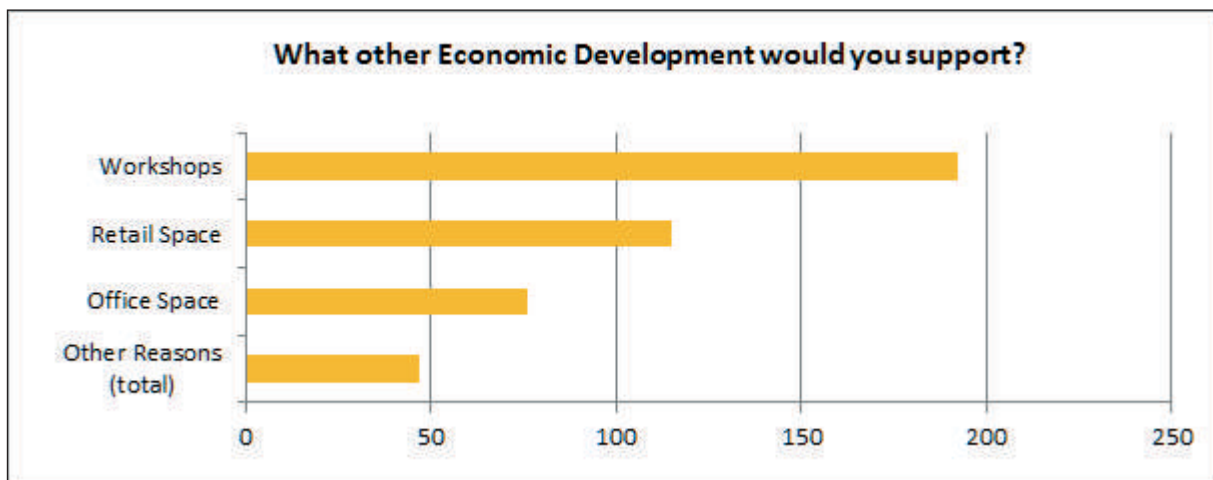
When asked to give their ideas on what sort of Festival or other activity would attract visitors there were a lot of suggestions. The following are examples:

A Minster Festival Weekend - Drama Arts, Horticultural and Motoring Summer Festival - Bands, Trade and Food Stalls with overnight camping, Classic Transport/Car Rally, Village Heritage Event of Old Life in the Village, Olde Minster Festival, Festival to reflect the Abbey and Saxon History, Steam Rally, Mini County Show, Bizarre Guinness Book of Records Event and Beer Festival.

There were several comments noting that a good Minster Show already exists.

Action Points

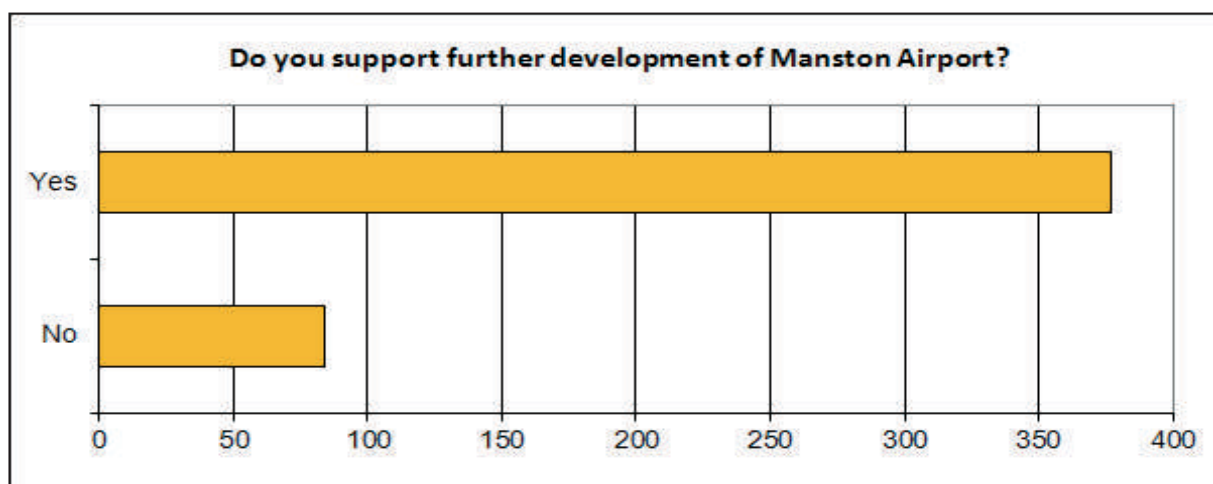
The issues of tourism and visitors interests are major topics which deserve special attention and it is recommended MPC initiate some research by possibly creating a local group to make proposals for the future.



Action Points

It is recommended MPC have discussions with Minster Business Association to ensure that these public preferences are reflected in the MPC submission to TDC's Local Plan.

Further development of Manston Airport received exceptional approval with 81.77% backing the proposal. Whilst there was not an option to object to night flights only 6.6% of the people who backed further expansion took the opportunity to express a desire that night flights should be restricted or banned.



Action Points

Currently MPC have no formal policy in relation to Manston Airport. MPC to consider supporting further development of Manston Airport.

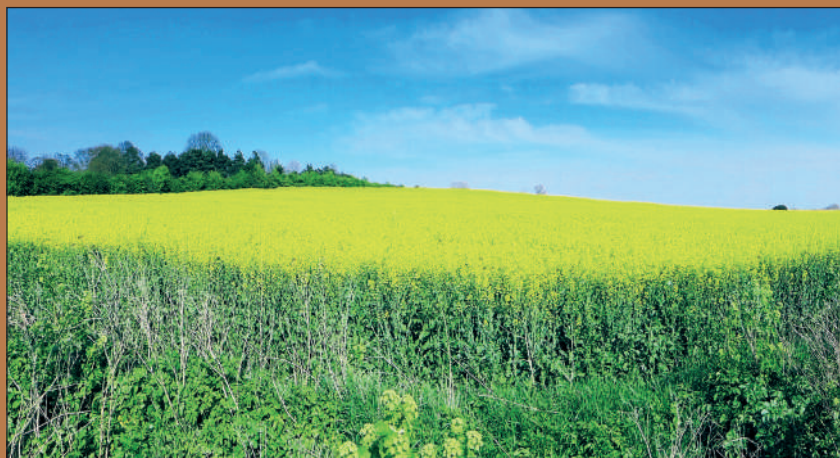
VILLAGE CHANGES – STEERING GROUP OBSERVATIONS

The retail scene in the Village has changed considerably over the past 30 years. We now have a situation where there has been a substantial increase in food and drink shops, establishments and hotels.

To try to predict the retail future over the next 10 years or more would be a form of lottery. However if, as predicted by many, the airport expands then there could be a dramatic amendment to the Village economic scene. The same could be said of any increase in housing development. Either or both of these developments would most likely entail service and infrastructure issues.

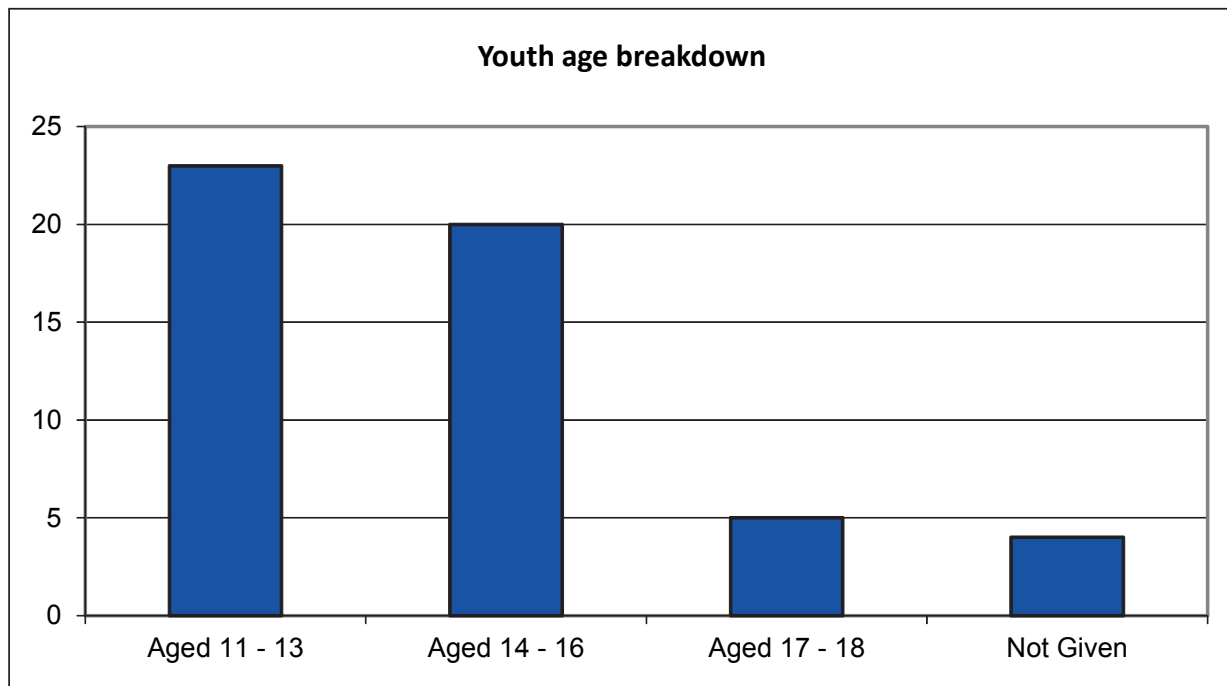
Action Points

Like many towns and villages Minster is almost certain to expand in population during the next decade and it will be vital for MPC to consider infrastructure issues and liaise with other authorities and services.

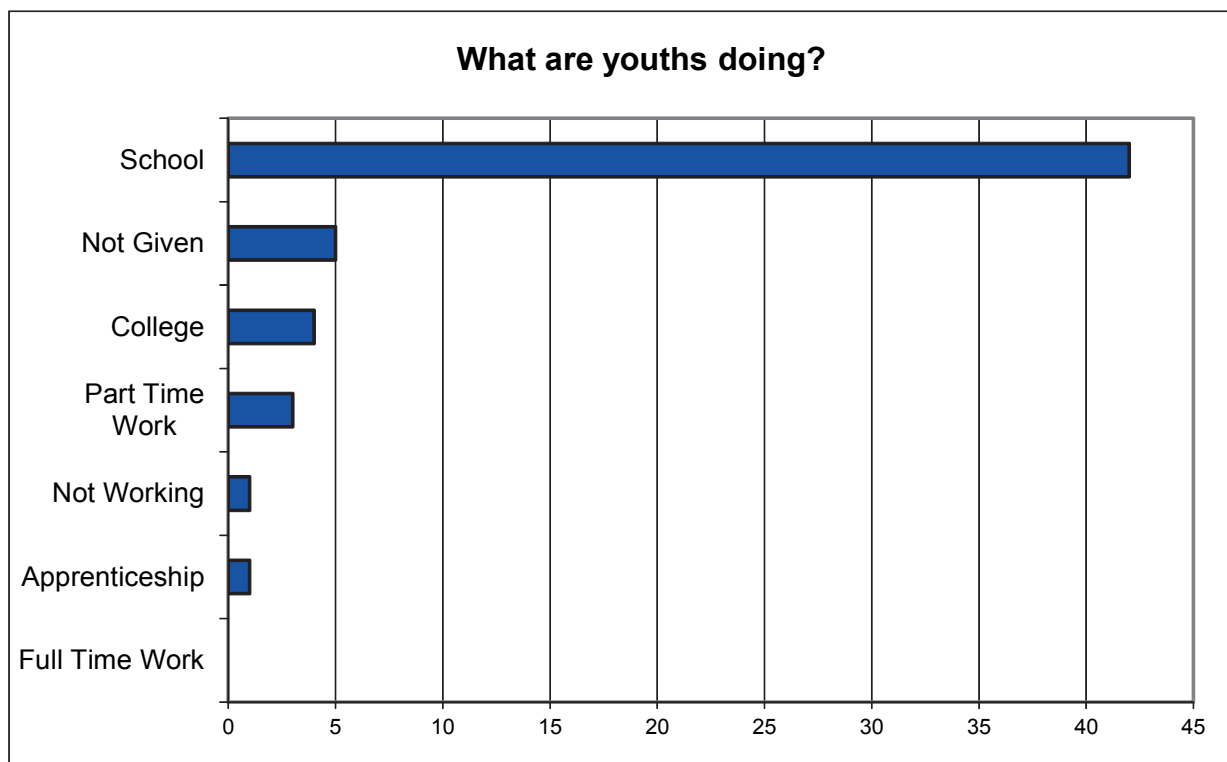


YOUTH

The results from the questionnaire for young people were most interesting, despite there being only 56 responders. Their ages given were:



Unsurprisingly most were at school with none in full time work.

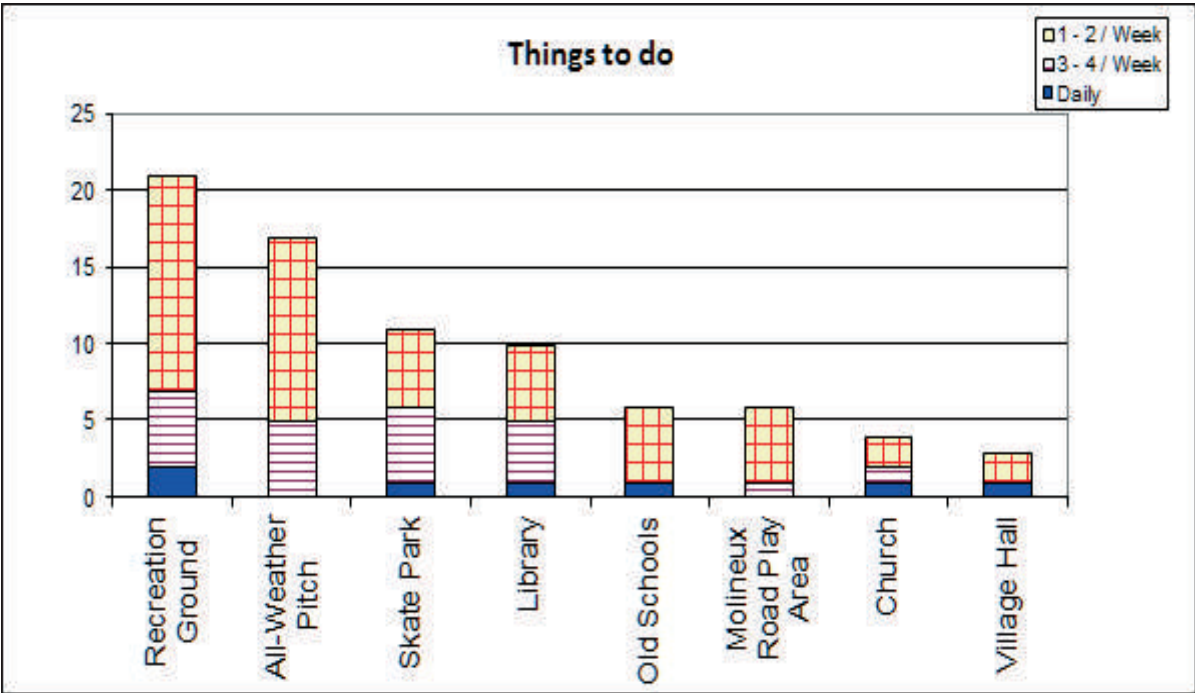


Do you like living in Minster?

It is a pleasure to record a substantial number of replies, **88%**, said they like living in Minster, leaving just a few indicating otherwise or being non-committal. It bodes well for the Village future with the young feeling this way and reflects the positive result in the adult survey of the Village, being friendly and satisfying.

Things to do

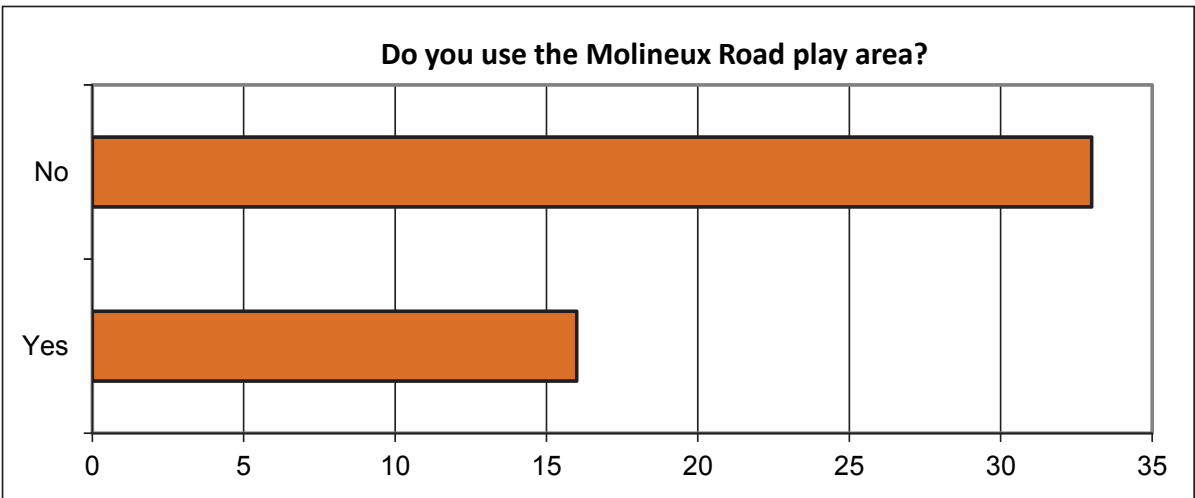
Not surprisingly for this age group, the Recreation Ground, All-Weather Pitch, Skate Park and Library headed the list of options of interest, based on frequency of visits. If occasional use was taken into account the Church and Library would fare slightly better.



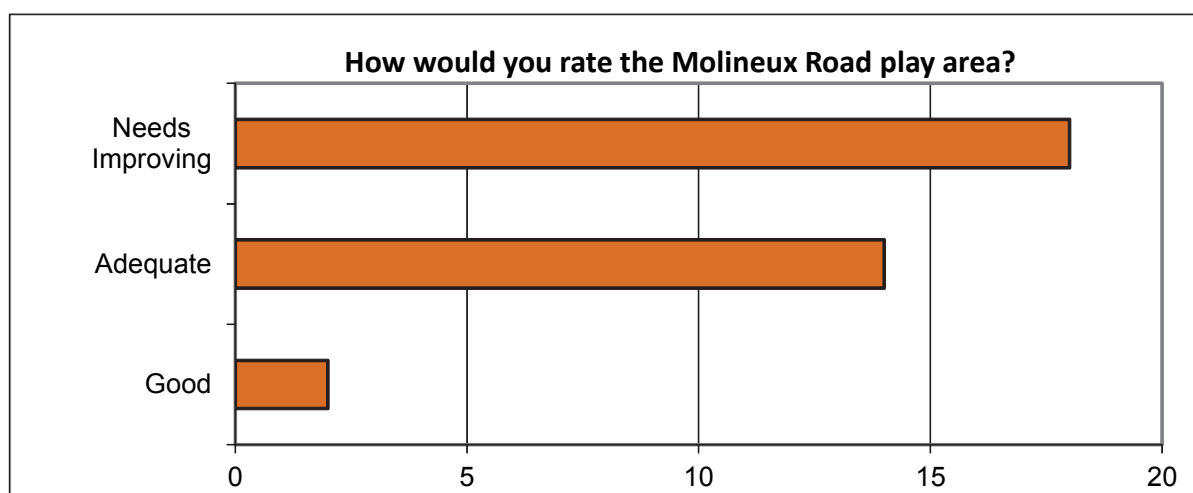
Which Clubs do you attend?

Scouts (3) & Playhouse (3) were the main ones.

Do you use Molineux Road Play Area?



The view of 'No' was often based on the fact that the facilities there are mainly for young children rather than youths.



The general view is that the area and equipment needs more attention and maintenance. But there is also reasonable acceptance that the area is adequate.

What Do You Consider To Be Important To The Village?

In order of interest... Recreation Ground, All Weather Pitch, Sports Pavilion, Skate Park, Public Benches, Molineux Play Area.

What Public Transport Do You Use?

53% train, 44% bus and 7% taxis.

What Would You Support?

Increased bus service, more local and London trains stopping at Minster Station.

Do you consider there are enough activities and clubs for young people?

As usual there was the general view from 74% of respondents about the lack of facilities and interests for the age group 11-18.

However the comments included many suggestions worthy of note and which need to be addressed if things are to progress for the better for this age range during the next decade.

The main points were: There was a genuine interest in what clubs they would like to have and suggestions were, Junior Sports Leagues, Football League, Swimming, Volleyball, Rock Climbing, Children's Cricket, Gym, Badminton, Netball, Table Tennis, Fencing, Basketball, Athletics Club, Rowing Club, Army Cadets, Street Dance Club, Computer Gaming Club and a Running Club.

What is good about the village?

Elicited a brilliant response with 94% believing it is good, safe and friendly.

Many like the shops and eating places.

What could be improved?

The major points being: the Skate Park, All Weather Pitch, Play Area, Transport (Bus and Rail), Parking, Traffic, Youth Club(s) and Things To Do, Bullying - get rid of gangs.

Facilities wanted?

Youth Choir in Church, Tennis Courts, Cycle Paths, Safe Bike Trail and a Graffiti Wall.

Action Points

It is noted MPC is considering the formation of a Minster Youth Council and inviting Youth representatives to attend the Operations Committee. This has been initiated by young people. The authorities and agencies must consider carefully the teenagers' views and take more note and action than is done at present. Hopefully as a result of this development many of the issues raised concerning young persons facilities and interests will be given more attention by MPC.

MPC to investigate what can be done within the local business environment to give support to apprenticeships, those not working, or in part time working and those who have aspirations for the future.

The Molineux Road Play Area has received considerable criticism about its condition (noted above) and MPC at the time of this report being written has been contacted by McDonalds who wish to work with MPC to provide a working team of six staff to paint and improve the equipment and area. This goodwill gesture is most welcome and perhaps may stimulate other businesses to support MPC and village activities and facilities.

SCHOOL SURVEY

The children who attend Minster Primary School were invited to take part in their own survey.

A 'stand alone' questionnaire was devised for the purpose of this survey. Whilst it does not relate to the main survey, as already seen, there were small overlaps which have been commented on above.

It should be considered as an exercise in community consultation at the youngest level and was used as part of a national curriculum exercise.

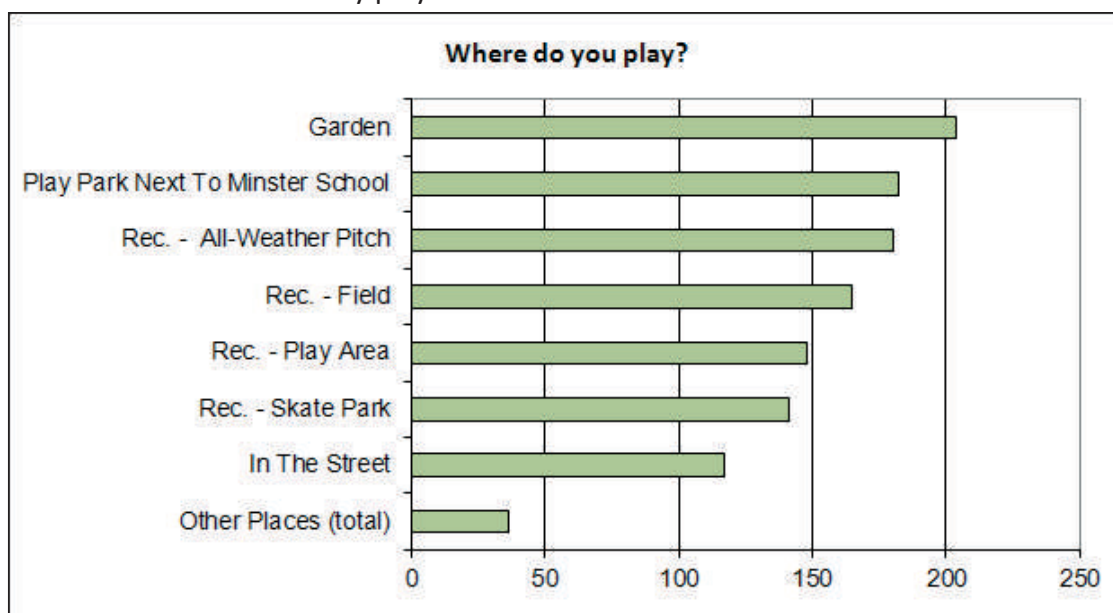
347 children ranging in age from 4 to 11 year olds took part.

47% of the children live in the Village with 53% travelling in from outside the Village.

With more than 50% of children living outside the Village it is no wonder we have a traffic issue at school run times.

Play

The children were asked where they played.



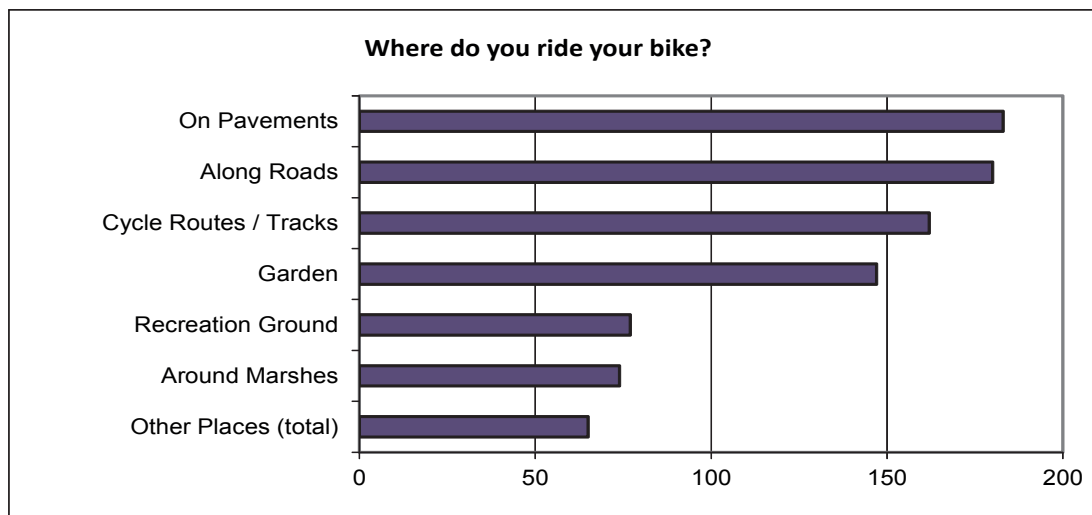
They were generally happy with all of their play opportunities and interestingly most activities were outdoor.

They were also asked whether they would like to have additional facilities provided. The main points were covered in the adult questionnaire. However, interestingly, a youth club falls at the bottom of the list.

It is difficult to say whether they do not want one because they are too young to be interested in such activities or whether they fear gangs of older children who would be attending them.

Cycling

86% of the children said they ride a bike. They were also asked where they ride their bikes



We have no statistics for accidents involving children cycling in the Village and hopefully there are none. It would however, be interesting for further research to be undertaken particularly in view of the comments about speeding traffic in the adult questionnaire.

LIKES AND DISLIKES

Likes

The top likes could barely be separated: the friendliness of the village and the people, the closeness of their friends and family, the many things to do, the great range of shops (Ben's, Jemima's Locket & the Grocer singled out for mention) and the range of places to eat and drink.

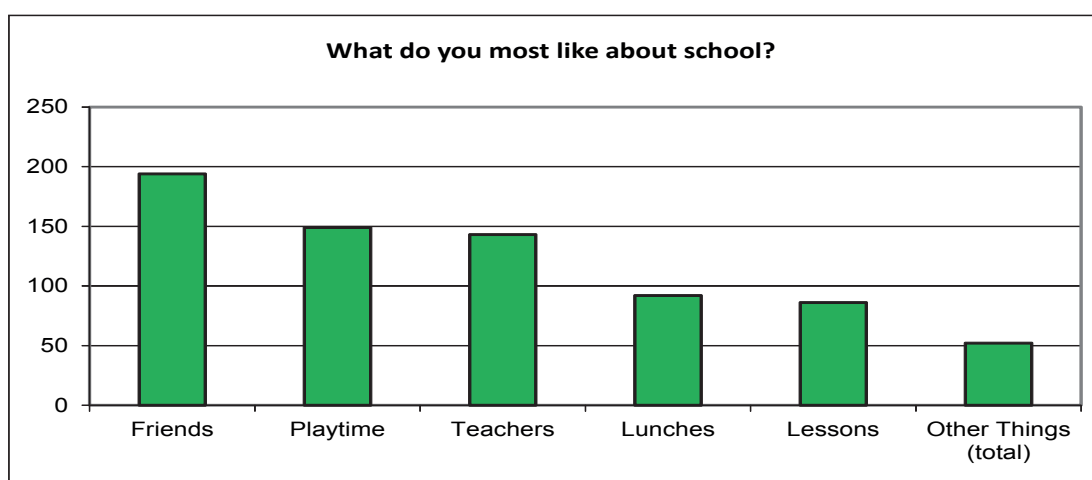
It was great to see the children agreeing with the adults on the friendliness of the village.

Dislikes

It was good to see this list was a lot shorter than the 'Likes'. It included: Speeding Traffic, Litter, Lack of things to do and older youths causing trouble.

It was interesting to note that the views of the children and adults were very similar. It was also intriguing that almost as many complained about the lack of things to do as were happy with the amount of things to do!

Finally, the children were asked what they liked most about their school.



It is good to see that this generation is no different to others and rank lessons lowest.

In the comments only 2 pupils admitted they liked Home Time best!

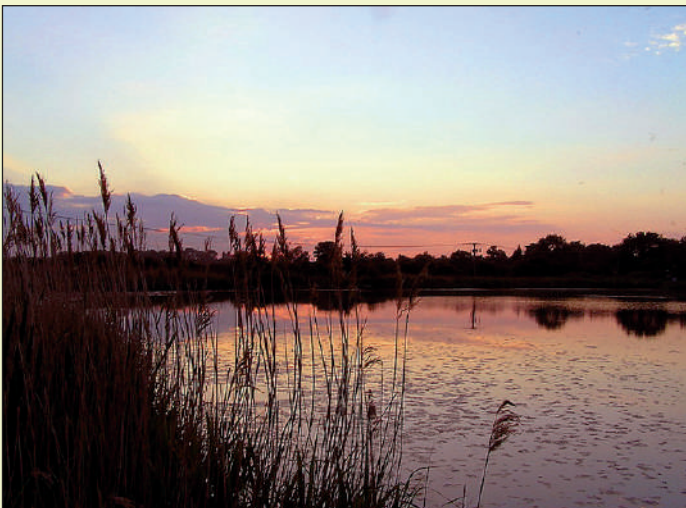
Action Points

MPC to liaise with the Head Teacher to advise on the results of the survey.

ACTION PLAN

Page	Section	Issue
7	Housing	MPC to make representations to TDC to ensure that the accommodation needs of the more elderly in the village are reflected in the Local Plan.
7	Housing	To ensure the wider views of Minster residents on housing are represented in the Local Plan.
8	Amenities - Enhance / Preserve	MPC to work with the organisers / owners of the amenities to ensure that they are at least maintained to their current level.
8	Amenities - Enhance / Preserve	MPC to work with the organisers / owners of the amenities to identify and apply for funding to enable enhancements.
9	Facilities People Would Like	MPC to follow up on an offer made in a return, by a retired projectionist who lives in the village, to see if a cinema project within the village could work and be sustained.
9	Facilities People Would Like	MPC to actively seek out funding to improve the outdoor activity facilities in the village for all ages.
11	Library	MPC to liaise with KCC to ensure that when funds become available to spend on the library they are spent in accordance with people's wishes.
11	Library	MPC to liaise with KCC to ensure that Minster retains its library service and does not become one of those libraries closed down.
11	Allotments	MPC to contact the people who stated they may have land available for use as allotments.
11	Allotments	MPC to liaise with the TDC Allotments Officer to see what help they could be in this matter.
12	Cemetery	MPC to ensure the maintenance of the cemetery is kept to at least the current level and, when funds allow make any improvements felt necessary.
12	Cemetery	MPC to actively seek land to extend the cemetery.
13	People Feeling Safe	MPC to liaise with the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner, KCC Community Warden Service, TDC Community Safety Partnership and any youth based organisations to ensure that Minster retains and preferably enhances the presence of authority particularly during the hours of darkness.
13	People Feeling Safe	MPC to liaise with KCC regarding whether street lighting can be improved and any problem areas identified.
13	People Feeling Safe	MPC to liaise with the newly proposed Youth Council, if formed, to see if they can assist with ideas on the issues caused by youths 'hanging around'.
14	Disabled Facilities	MPC to liaise with relevant Disability Rights Groups to ask people what disabled facilities in the village need to be improved.
14	Moving Around Village	MPC to liaise with KCC to improve the quality and width of pavements within the village and to undertake consultation as to where the best places for crossing points would be.
15	Minster Matters	MPC to encourage the Minster Matters editorial team to continue its excellent work.
15	Internet	MPC to liaise with KCC and relevant government departments to ensure that semi-rural Minster gets the best Internet connections available.
15	Internet	MPC to liaise with groups that deal with the elderly to see whether further education on the benefits of the Internet would increase take up.
16	Dog Fouling	MPC to investigate methods which can be deployed to address this issue.
16	Dog Fouling	MPC to liaise with the Community Warden and Dog Warden to ensure people are reminded of their responsibilities and appropriately prosecuted in accordance with existing byelaws.

Page	Section	Issue
16	Street Furniture	In liaison with KCC Highways, MPC monitor and maintain high standards and ensure these items remain in good condition. Paying particular attention to the positioning and condition of litter bins and condition of benches as these two areas were slightly lower in satisfaction levels.
16	Village Cleanliness	MPC to liaise with KCC to ensure the Community Warden monitors and records areas causing most concern for any appropriate action to be taken.
16	Recycling Facilities	MPC to review and monitor recycling facilities in view of expected improvements to ensure they meet the needs of the village.
17	Speeding Traffic	MPC to liaise with TDC, KCC Highways and police to address the issue of speed and agree possible solutions.
17	Traffic Flow	MPC to liaise with TDC, KCC Highways and police to address this issue but it is important to understand that by improving the flow of traffic there could be a risk of increasing traffic speed.
18	Speed Limit Review	MPC to consider the requests for a reduced speed limit and if thought appropriate discuss with KCC Highways.
19	Public Transport	MPC to review the interest in increased bus services stopping at Minster, a request supported by adults and children.
19	Public Transport	MPC to review requests for increased (Local) and improved (London) train services stopping at Minster and negotiate with train providers.
19	Public Transport	MPC to consult with local parties who may have an interest in setting up a volunteer driving scheme, for such parties to operate if so desired.
19	Pavements	MPC, in consultation with KCC Highways, to review the situation.
19	Dedicated Cycle Lanes	MPC to review the present situation and consider with the appropriate authorities the possibility of introducing dedicated paths where safety is assured.
21	Economy Shops / Businesses	It is recommended Minster Business Association be encouraged to undertake an independent survey, if it has the resources, to endeavour to establish the extent villagers use the varied local traders, suppliers and all small and medium businesses.
21	Encourage Tourists	The issues of tourism and visitors' interests are major topics which deserve special attention and it is recommended MPC initiate some research by possibly creating a local group to make proposals for the future.
22	Types Of Businesses Required	It is recommended MPC have discussions with Minster Business Association to ensure that these public preferences are reflected in the MPC submission to TDC's Local Plan.
22	Manston Airport	Currently MPC have no formal policy in relation to Manston Airport. MPC to consider supporting further development of Manston Airport.
22	Village Changes	Like many towns and villages Minster is almost certain to expand in population during the next decade and it will be vital for MPC to consider infrastructure issues and liaise with other authorities and services.
27	Youth Section	It is noted MPC is considering the formation of a Minster Youth Council and inviting Youth representatives to attend the Operations Committee. This has been initiated by young people. The authorities and agencies must consider carefully the teenagers' views and take more note and action than is done at present. Hopefully as a result of this development many of the issues raised concerning young persons facilities and interests will be given more attention by MPC.
27	Youth Section	MPC to investigate what can be done within the local business environment to give support to apprenticeships, those not working, or in part time working and those who have aspirations for the future.
28	School Survey	MPC to liaise with The Head Teacher to advise on the results of the survey.





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