

Sutton Poyntz



Village Plan

An Initiative of the Sutton Poyntz Society

Sutton Poyntz
VILLAGE PLAN



Community Survey & Action Plan
2007

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Village Plan Steering Group



Left to Right: *Maureen Tepper, Peter Jones, Caroline Richards, Tony Heathershaw, Karyn Punchard, Elisabeth Heathershaw*

Sutton Poyntz VILLAGE PLAN

Introduction

The Sutton Poyntz Village Plan¹ brings together the results of a community survey and an action plan completed over a period of 18 months during 2006 and 2007. Production of the action plan has been informed by the results of the survey and feedback from public meetings. The plan makes proposals for projects and possible lines of funding, to address issues raised during the survey. These cover a wide range of topics including housing development, traffic congestion, road safety, policing, the environment and leisure and recreational facilities. The aim of the plan is not only to enable residents to express their hopes and fears regarding the community they live in, but also to demonstrate how they themselves may be able to tackle some of the issues.

A steering group completed the village plan working under the auspices of the Sutton Poyntz Society and assisted by Dorset Community Action (DCA): funding was by a Community Strategy Grant from Dorset County Council (DCC) and the Dorset Strategic Partnership (DSP). The Plan has its origins in the 1999 Village Survey, also prepared by the Society, and presented to Weymouth & Portland Borough Council for consideration with its revised Local Plan in 2001. The Village Plan takes forward the findings of this important work and adds to it with the results of the community survey and the action plan described herein.

The results of the Survey have been made available to Weymouth & Portland Borough Council (W&PBC), to inform the Local Development Framework (LDF), and to the Weymouth & Portland Partnership (W&PP), to inform the Community Plan (CP)².

The Village of Sutton Poyntz

Sutton Poyntz lies approximately 4 miles to the NE of Weymouth and within the Preston Ward of the Borough of Weymouth & Portland. A small number of properties on the outskirts of the village are located in West Dorset and come under the jurisdiction of West Dorset District Council. For the purposes of the Village Plan, these properties were included in the community survey.

The village enjoys a unique valley setting between the South Dorset Ridgeway and the Jurassic Coast to the east of Weymouth. Surrounded by low hills and agricultural land,



¹ The majority of villages completing Plans in Dorset are located within Parishes and, under normal circumstances, this would be called a 'Parish Plan' with a Steering Group or Committee reporting to a Parish Council. Sutton Poyntz is, however, located within the Borough of Weymouth & Portland and this document is therefore referred to as a Village Plan, prepared to inform Borough Council initiatives.

² At the time of writing (September 2007), the Local Development Framework (LDF) and Community Plan (CP) are out to public consultation.

the village is to some extent isolated from the urban sprawl characterising much of Weymouth and stands apart from Preston by virtue of its location, the presence of open gaps and limited vehicular access along narrow roads.



The village is famous for its Mill and Mill Pond and boasts a fine pub (The Springhead), a small village hall (The Mission Hall), a museum of water supply (Wessex Water) but few other facilities. Apart from a car repair business (The Cartshed), there is little or no industry in the village, although a growing number of people work from

home (internet and home craft) and provide holiday and B&B accommodation. The village can claim some literary connections having featured as ‘Overcombe’ in Thomas Hardy’s ‘The Trumpet Major’, and is popular with walkers seeking access to the hills and extensive network of footpaths. It is also a centre of local archaeological interest.

Sutton Poyntz is generally considered a prosperous area. The 2001 census showed that its households were predominantly owner-occupied with over half owning their home outright and just over 40% with a mortgage or loan. The population is older than the average for the borough (and indeed for England as a whole) with over a quarter being aged over 65 (26.5%). Unsurprisingly therefore the number of children and young people in the area is lower than the average for both the borough and the country, 14.7% as against a national average of just over 20%.

Further details of the village and surrounding countryside can be found in the 1999 Village Survey (Pressly et al, 1999).

Background to Village Plan

The 1999 Village Survey provided a comprehensive visual/character appraisal of the village and described the problems facing it from the effects of development and increased levels of traffic using its lanes and roads. It addressed three primary areas of concern:

- *Threats to the visual character of the village and its perimeter*
- *Vulnerability to serious flooding*
- *Increasing volume and dangers of road traffic*

Building development was identified as the common factor affecting all three.

No survey of the views of residents on these or other matters was undertaken as part of this work.

In November 2005 a public meeting was held at which it was proposed to carry forward the findings of the 1999 Village Survey in the form of a Village Design Statement (VDS). A steering group was formed and a meeting held with a representative of Weymouth & Portland Borough Council (W&PBC) at which the group was subsequently persuaded to pursue its aims in the form of a Village Plan, following the Parish Plan process adopted by communities elsewhere in Dorset (see earlier note).

Funding was secured early in 2006 and by April a questionnaire had been devised and distributed to households in Sutton Poyntz and a number of locations immediately surrounding the village (see below). The questionnaire was based on the menu of questions available in the 'Village Appraisals for Windows®' software package (CCRU, 1998) and supplemented with questions designed to address specific topics relevant to Sutton Poyntz.

The Village Appraisals (VA) software package has been widely used in the preparation of Parish Plans elsewhere. With the assistance of DCA, a licence was purchased to enable it to be used in support of the Sutton Poyntz Village Plan. The software was initially set up on a DCA computer, to enable DCA personnel to enter more general data, the remainder of the data being entered into an Excel Spreadsheet by steering group members working on home PCs.

Survey Design

For the purposes of the Village Plan, a survey area was chosen that included households from locations around the village and adjacent to the Preston-Sutton Poyntz Open Gap. The reason for doing this was to gauge opinion from people who, although not living in the village, might pass through it and/or use its facilities, and therefore be in a position to express a view concerning matters such as access to the countryside, roads, traffic, parking, the local bus service, pub etc. Comments from non-residents were also useful in determining to what extent Sutton Poyntz is a discrete community, holding different views and aspirations to those of the residents of Preston.

Accordingly, the survey area was divided into five smaller areas. These are shown in Figure 1 and Table 1. Area C, which included the whole of Sutton Rd. as a common factor, was later divided into two, C(North) and C(South) – abbreviated to C(N) and C(S), to isolate those households lying either side of the notional village boundary (marked by the Sutton Poyntz 'boundary stone' on Sutton Rd.).

The Village Plan Questionnaire (VPQ), running to 12 pages, was distributed to 397 households with analysable returns obtained from 246 (representing up to 553 individuals), giving a response rate of just under 62%. This is considered by DCA to be an excellent return for this type of survey. The number of households responding to the questionnaire in each of the areas is shown in Table 1.

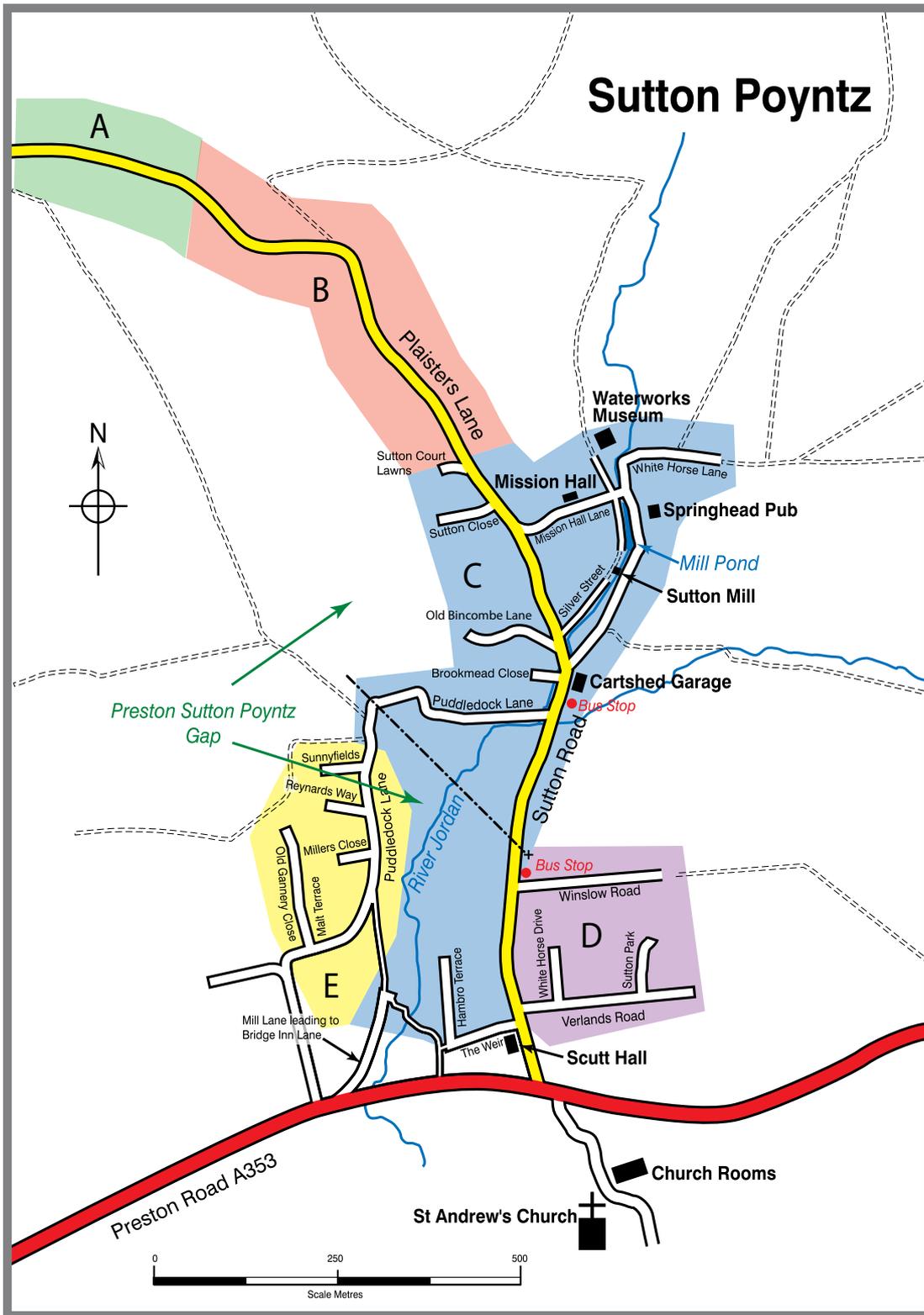


Figure 1 - Map of Sutton Poyntz showing survey areas and key features. Refer also to Table 1. Broken line through area C indicates notional village boundary.

Area	Description	No. of households responding to questionnaire
A	Top end of Plaisters Lane and properties located in West Dorset, just beyond W&PBC boundary.	6
B	Plaisters Lane from W&PBC boundary down to but not including Sutton Court Lawns.	33
C ³	The rest of Plaisters Lane down to its junction with Sutton Rd. and including Sutton Court Lawns, Sutton Close, Old Bincombe Lane, Brookmead Close, Mission Hall Lane, White Horse Lane, Silver Street, the whole of Sutton Rd. as far as The Weir, Hambro Terrace and the northern end of Bridge Lane - and Puddledock Lane from its junction with Sutton Rd. to the end of the unmade road.	135
D	Winslow Rd. and Verlands Rd. including White Horse Drive and Sutton Park	35
E	Old Granary and the rest of Puddledock Lane including Malt Terrace, Rimbrow Close, Millers Close, Reynards Way and Sunnyfields, to the end of the made up road.	36

Table 1 - Description of areas assessed in Sutton Poyntz Village Plan. See footnote regarding area C. The general location of these areas is shown in Figure 1.

Survey data was analysed by the steering group working in conjunction with DCA. The steering group was also responsible for checking the consistency of results and for the analysis and presentation of the data used in public meetings.

A total of 70 questions ('yes'/no' and tick box options) and 42 comment type responses from each of the 246 questionnaires examined, have been analysed in arriving at the results presented below. Some 63% of the questions were analysed by hand with the remainder being processed using the VA software.

Public Meetings

In July 2006 and March 2007, public meetings took place at which the preliminary results of the village plan survey were presented, residents' comments sought and views invited from children and young people. Various Borough and County authorities were present at these meetings (see photographs that follow). These included Weymouth & Portland Borough Council (W&PBC), Dorset Community Action (DCA), Dorset County Council (DCC) Countryside Services and AONB Teams, Dorset Wildlife Trust (DWT) and Dorset Police. These events were also very generously supported by Wessex Water and by local farmers Mr & Mrs G Lunn.

In excess of 200 people attended the Open Day in July 2006 and 60 people attended the March 2007 meeting. The Village Plan steering group also had a 'booth' at the

³ For the purposes of the analysis performed by members of the Village Plan Steering Group, Area C in Table 1 was divided into two parts, area C(N) to the north of the village boundary (see Figure 1) and notionally the village centre, and area C(S), extending south along Sutton Rd towards Preston and ending at its junction with The Weir and Verlands Rd.

Sutton Poyntz Street Fayre in June 2006, with posters and leaflets outlining the aims and objectives of the Village Plan.

Some examples of children and young people's work from these events appear in the following pages and on the back cover of this document.

My Village

An acrostic poem by Daragh MacDonagh, age 10

Sheep graze on the hillside
Under the shadow of the king
The fields echo to the call of the wild
Trees full of birds that sing
Over the stile the hikers climb
Never rushing, not caring about time

People from the village and beyond
Organising the Victorian Fayre
Youngsters paddling in the pond
Neighbours who are always there
Then when its all over and done
Zzzzing gently in the sun

Village Plan Open Day (July 2006)
and Presentation of Survey Findings (March 2007)



Survey Results

In the following sections, the results of the survey are presented in the order in which they appeared in the Village Plan Questionnaire, which was organised in five main parts. The general survey area, sub-areas and key locations are shown in Figure 1.

General

Part 1 of the questionnaire requested general household information including gender, age, residency period, employment status and work location.

AGE & GENDER

Q1.1⁴ asked for information on gender and age.

553 residents replied or were represented. Just under 40% of these were aged 60 or over. Children and young people under the age of 18 yrs comprise just 11% of the survey population. Children under the ages of 11 and 5 were 7% and 3% respectively. Females outnumber males by about 52% to 48%. These results suggest that the views of younger people may be under-represented in the survey findings, with the village population biased to towards mid to late career and retired people.

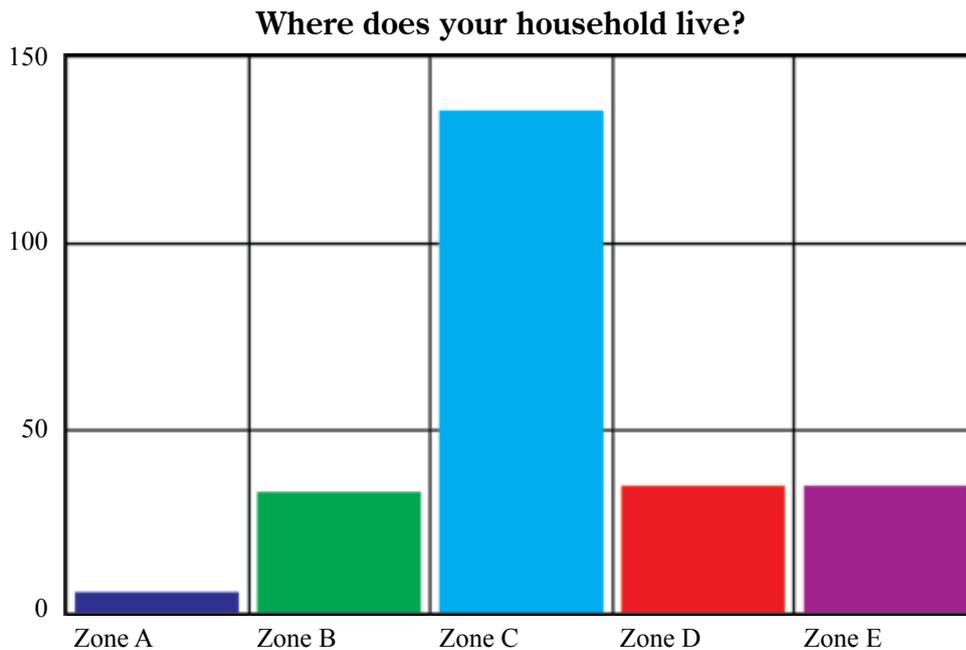


Figure 2 - Number of households responding to the questionnaire and their location (see Table 1 and Figure 1). (Note: 'Zone' is replaced with 'area' in the text)

RESIDENCY

Q1.2 asked how long have you lived in the village?

Responses were obtained from 544 individuals. These indicate a fairly stable population with almost 60% of residents having lived in the village and surrounding

⁴ References to questions are abbreviated Q1.1, Q2.10 etc.

areas for more than 10 yrs. For the “village proper” - area B and the northern part of area C (see Table 1 and Figure 1) - this figure increases only marginally to 61%. Area E (Old Granary, Preston end of Puddledock Lane) has the highest proportion of residents with 10 yrs or more (75.6%), and area D (Winslow Rd. and Verlands Rd.), the lowest (49.4%). A number of senior residents stated precisely how long they had lived in the village! Figures ranged from 28 – 45 years – but none could compete with the 90 years recorded by one resident, having lived in the area since 1916 and able to remember when the roads between Preston and Weymouth were just chalk!

EMPLOYMENT

Q1.3 called for information on employment status.

497 individuals replied to this question. 41% classified themselves as retired (see Figure 3), 34% as employed and 9.5% as self-employed. Only 4 people, less than 1% of the total, considered themselves unemployed, the remainder being in full-time education or training, unwaged housewives/husbands or permanently sick/disabled. Area E (Old Granary, Preston end of Puddledock Lane) would appear to have a higher proportion of residents in employment (just over 51%) while area B (Plaisters Lane etc) the least (22%). Correspondingly, area B has a higher proportion of retired people (50%) and area E the least (34%). Taken overall these figures suggest a population that is fairly evenly split between working and retired people. There is no evidence to suggest that Sutton Poyntz is predominately a retirement community, or predominately a working community (see later – section on Future Development).

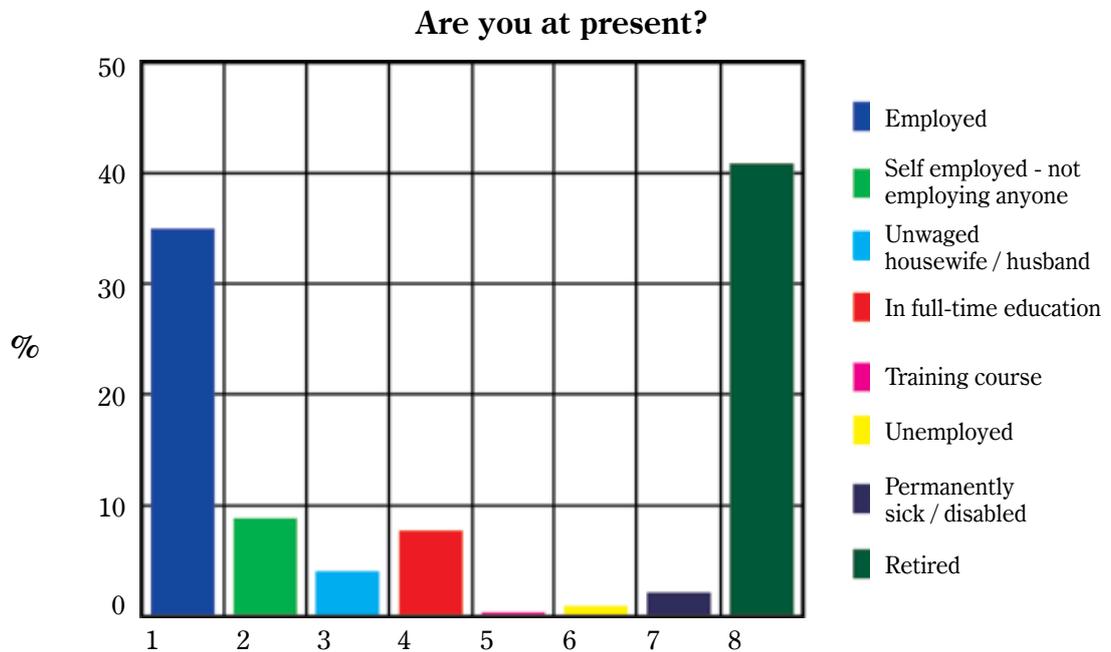


Figure 3 - Occupational status of respondents to the Sutton Poyntz Village Plan questionnaire (all areas).

WORK LOCATION

Q1.4 asked people to describe their work location.

245 people replied to this question. A third (33%) were found to work within 5 miles of the village, 27% within 6-12 miles and 14% more than 13 miles. 7 individuals (nearly 3%) work in the village itself and 30 (12%) work from home. One individual works in London and another in Leicester. One person undertakes temporary contract work anywhere within 1.5 hrs travelling time. Others have jobs that involve county-wide travel. These results suggest a majority working in the Weymouth and Portland areas, in Dorchester and at other major employment sites such as Winfrith and Bovington.

Leisure Facilities and Public Services

Part 2 of the questionnaire was a major part of the survey requirement comprising 12 questions (some multi-part) and opportunities to comment. It dealt with a wide range of issues concerning leisure facilities in and around the village, and the public services accessed by residents. These are dealt with on an item-by-item basis in the following sections.

GENERAL LEISURE & RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

Before proceeding to specific issues, residents were asked how they felt about general leisure and recreational facilities in and around the village and to rate these on a scale from 1 – 4, where 1 was “excellent”, 2 “reasonable”, 3 “poor” and 4 “no opinion”.

455 individuals replied to this question. Respondents generally appear to have mixed feelings about the quality of the general leisure and recreational facilities in and around the village. Although 49% rate them as reasonable and indeed 6% even as excellent, almost a third (31%) consider them poor and 14% have no opinion. Those living in area B (some 43%) are inclined to have a lower opinion of these facilities than others. But overall and discounting those individuals with no opinion, a majority, some 46% to 58%, consider facilities reasonable or better, the highest percentage perversely coming from people living just outside the village (area E – Old Granary and Preston end of Puddledock Lane – see Table 1)!

When asked for suggestions on improvements or changes by far the most popular suggestion was provision of a children’s play area, which was suggested by at least 23 people and identified as a requirement in the Village Plan Open Day held in July 2006. (See also Q2.5 concerning children’s needs). One person even proposed a site: namely the field to the west of the waterworks and north of Mission Hall Lane. Some other suggestions included a sports field (3), tennis courts (5), and a “recreational area for all ages.” On the other hand, a few people suggested that there was no space for any additional facilities or that these were not necessary. Three people suggested there could be improvements at the pub and a variety of

other suggestions are made by one respondent each such as better publicity for village events, more classes for painting and pilates and greater use of footpaths.

THE MISSION HALL

Q2.1 was a multi-part question covering residents' views on the Mission Hall, existing and future uses and volunteering support for future activities.

A valuable asset to the community?

The Mission Hall is overwhelmingly considered a valuable asset to the community with 94% of the 455 respondents to the question saying, "Yes". This view would appear to hold equally well across all areas, only dropping to just under 84% in area E (Old Granary, Preston end of Puddledock Lane), where people might be expected to be less well informed about events in the Mission Hall and the possibilities for its use.



How often do you use it?

57% of respondents declared themselves as occasional users of the Hall and 14% as regular users. Although this still leaves a substantial number (29%) who never use the Hall, it certainly makes the Hall better used than many other similar "village halls" in Dorset.

What do you use it for?

The most popular activity by far, some 33% of stated uses, appears to be social evenings, attended by 183 people, with bazaars also very popular with 114 people. 66 people use the Mission Hall for children's parties and 50 go to quiz nights, 52 go to race nights and 32 to the W.I. Art classes are attended by 17 people, dog training by 11, the Young Wives Group and the Bridge Club by 9 people each but only 3 people go to whist drives.

When asked if they did not use the Mission Hall, why not, 16 responses - and by far the most common comments - indicated this was due to lack of awareness of what was going on - "not well advertised", "do not know what goes on", "do not receive information on what is on". This suggests better publicity for existing activities would probably be beneficial.

Other responses indicated individuals who could not attend due to work commitments and lack of time (5) or that age and access made getting out to the Hall difficult (5). Six people replied that they were not interested in the activities held there. 2 people, both living in area D (Winslow and Verlands Rd) said they did not use the Hall, as other halls, such as the Scutt Hut, were nearer.

Future uses

A variety of other proposals was suggested for future use of the Hall and by far the most popular of these were fund-raising events (161 people) closely followed by pilates (109). Interestingly the most popular suggestions were all physical activities. In addition to pilates, 96 people were interested in yoga, 91 in keep fit, 77 in dancing classes, 70 in table tennis and 67 in skittles. By contrast, only 22 people were interested in darts and 18 in crib. Encouragingly 87 people (out of 373 respondents) claimed to be prepared to help organise such activities, a fact that may be capitalised on in the Action Plan (see later).

Various suggestions were made as to additional facilities in the Mission Hall but these were mostly one-off suggestions although a youth club was mentioned three times and activities for children (“a place for kids to hang out”) a further three times. Two people wanted activities for parents and babies and two a photography club. A few suggested more social events and two a luncheon club.

Further comments on the Mission Hall tended to divide into those expressing a variety of generally complimentary remarks and those making specific suggestions for improvement. There were seven comments on its general desirability (“would be terrible to lose it”). One person did comment there was no need for four village halls in the Preston/Sutton Poyntz area. There were several comments on the problems with parking and traffic – “parking issues have not been addressed to cater for recent increased use” and three on the need for it to have a new floor. Two people requested a BBQ area and there were a few other single comments on e.g. the need for a notice board, picture rails.

SPRINGHEAD PUB

Q2.2 Do you feel the pub is an important part of the community?

86% of the 457 people replying to this question considered the pub to be an important part of the community. Support for the pub was high in all areas – ranging from 100% for the group of households at the top of Plaisters Lane (area A) to 77% in Winslow Rd. and Verlands Rd. (area D) – suggesting that distance may not be an obstacle!

Feelings about the pub would appear to run high and a surprisingly large number of people added comments in this section. By far the most common theme of these comments (16) was that the pub was not a true village local as it used to be – as one put it “not a pub – more a restaurant.” Several people felt that recent past landlords had contributed to the problem, with staff and management considered unfriendly. It was “regrettable that recent landlords have not made an effort to attract locals to the pub.” (6). Several felt that the pub, particularly with reference to food, was too expensive (5) although others commented on how much they appreciated eating there (3). There was a change of landlords over the period of

the questionnaire and the new landlord has clearly made a positive impression on some of the respondents. As one put it “ a picturesque popular pub. Good to see it turned back into a family pub.”

There was generally a strong feeling that the pub should be a focal point for the local community, and in parallel with this, also a feeling that the pub should be better supported by the village. On the whole it appears residents would appreciate the pub being more focused on being a community asset run with the interests of the local residents in mind. Several regretted the demise of quiz nights, darts teams etc. One suggested a play area that could serve both the pub and the local children. The view could best be summed up by the words of one respondent: “The pub should be a central part of the community if run correctly and used by local residents”.⁵

WATERWORKS MUSEUM

Q2.3 - Have you visited the Wessex Water Museum?

482 people replied to this question. Of these, 341 - just under 71% of the total – claimed to have visited the museum. This result is consistent across all areas, the only variation being area A, top of Plaisters Lane, where only 1 in 3 has visited the museum.



Comments are almost unanimously complimentary with 15 people mentioning how interesting they found it and others describing it as a good or excellent facility. Six respondents suggested there should be more publicity about it with the same number mentioning either that there should be longer opening times or that opening times in particular

should be better advertised. Two people admitted that they didn’t know of its existence but several commented how much they enjoyed visiting it during the Street Fayre. It is seen as a useful tourist attraction too. One respondent commented that “Wessex Water are extremely accommodating, particularly as regards the Street Fayre”. Altogether the museum appears to be much appreciated by villagers and through the provision of its facilities greatly assisted the preparation of this village plan.

TOURISM

Q2.4 - Promoting the village as a tourist destination?

439 people replied to this question. Just fewer than 70% said “No”, this view being held with equal conviction across all areas (variation 58–73% against). The

⁵ It should be noted that since the village plan survey was completed in April 2006, the Springhead pub has come under new management and a number of the suggested improvements above have already been implemented.

main reasons given, not surprisingly, were around the issues of traffic, parking and general congestion plus a feeling that there were insufficient facilities to cater for any influx. There was also a fear that the village would be spoilt – “too much tourism would spoil an already fragile infrastructure.” On this topic, one resident replied: “This is my home, not a theme park”!

Some of these concerns were shared by those in favour of promoting tourism; for many they wanted such promotion to focus on the walking and historical aspects rather than for a mass market, with the parking problems in particular being recognised. Some would like the Tourist Board and the use of the Internet, particularly the village website, to be used more widely to promote the village as a tourist location.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES & PLAY AREAS

Q2.5 dealt with youth activities and play areas and was in three parts concerning the needs of children and young people in general; the possibility of a youth club at the Mission Hall and the provision of facilities such as a play area, sports field etc

Needs of children and young people adequately addressed?



This set of questions had a high response rate and drew a good deal of comment. It is very clear that most of the people answering the survey did not believe the needs of children and young people were adequately met. Out of 371 respondents, 78% (area variation 75-89%) answered “No”. Bearing in mind that just over 11% of the survey population (62 individuals) were children or young people under the

age of 18 yrs, this suggests that these views are predominantly those of parents or grandparents. It is not possible to say just how many children or young people actually commented on this question – as opposed to being spoken for. However, as noted previously, the views of young people are most probably under represented. The first task of any group pursuing a play /sports area initiative as a result of this plan, should be to involve young people directly.

Youth Club at the Mission Hall?

However respondents were not as definite that a youth club in the Mission Hall was the answer to this – for although a majority answered “Yes” to the question it was by a much smaller margin – 62% (219 out of 351 replies). It should also be noted that there was significant variation across the area in response to this question with more significant opposition to the idea in the centre of the village where the margin was reduced even further with just 52% saying “Yes” and 48% saying “No”.

People were less forthcoming on the question of whether they would be prepared to help, with only 67 out of the 351 saying “Yes” to a youth club submitting a reply and of those that did, 27 indicating that they would be prepared to help. This, in fact, is not a bad result (it would be good to get even one dedicated ‘youth leader’ coming forward!).

A few people wrote that there were insufficient children in the village to make this worthwhile – “not justified by number of young people” and one asked, “Are youth clubs part of the 21st century?” Others commented that developments here should not be at the expense of youth groups elsewhere, e.g. Scutt Hall.

What facilities would you like to see in the village for children and young people?

When asked what they would like to see in the village and remembering that respondents were able to select more than one option and also able to say “No”, the suggestion that found the most favour was a play area for children, with 322 respondents considering this a good idea (26% of expressed preferences). A green space for soccer/cricket followed closely behind, chosen by 313 people (25%). 197 people (16%) thought the idea of a tennis court sounded good, while 192 (15%) considered a picnic and barbeque area an attractive proposition. However, it is worth noting that there was some variation across the survey area with some people thinking that a green space/soccer area was more desirable than a children’s play area, whilst elsewhere tennis courts were ruled out in favour of a picnic or barbeque area. Overall, the level of opposition to any of the ideas was low, with at most just under 6% saying “No”.

Two other open-ended questions were asked about facilities for this age group, one on how respondents would like to see youth activities and play or sports areas developed and where, and the second asking for any other suggestions for improving facilities. As these answers overlapped they have been treated together. Generally the most desired improvement was around the establishment of a play area and play equipment with at least 21 comments on this. Some suggestions combined the idea of play with sports facilities as in a “multi-purpose recreation/sports field.” Fields near the pub or the Mission Hall were mentioned as possible sites although one pointed out it was “difficult to find a location that will not disturb other residents.” Some people thought the list of suggestions given was a good idea – “the above would be excellent” although at least one disagreed – “the above are inappropriate”.

A few one-off suggestions were made such as a late bus into the village allowing young people to get back from the cinema and a plea to make it safer for children to walk or cycle around the village (see later on traffic and road safety). A few respondents thought a change of attitude was needed – “older people to be more tolerant of young people and their activities” and finally one replied to this question “Ask the children and young people!”

Finally respondents were asked if there were any other leisure facilities they would wish to see. Answers here sometimes repeated previously mentioned ideas (cricket pitch, tennis courts etc.) but a few suggested the creation of some kind of village green would be a nice idea. Others wanted nature or wildlife trails with boards and maps.

PUBLIC SERVICES

Q2.6 dealt with police and community safety and covered matters such as police coverage, policing options and the types of crime of concern to residents.

Do you regard the police coverage of Sutton Poyntz to be?

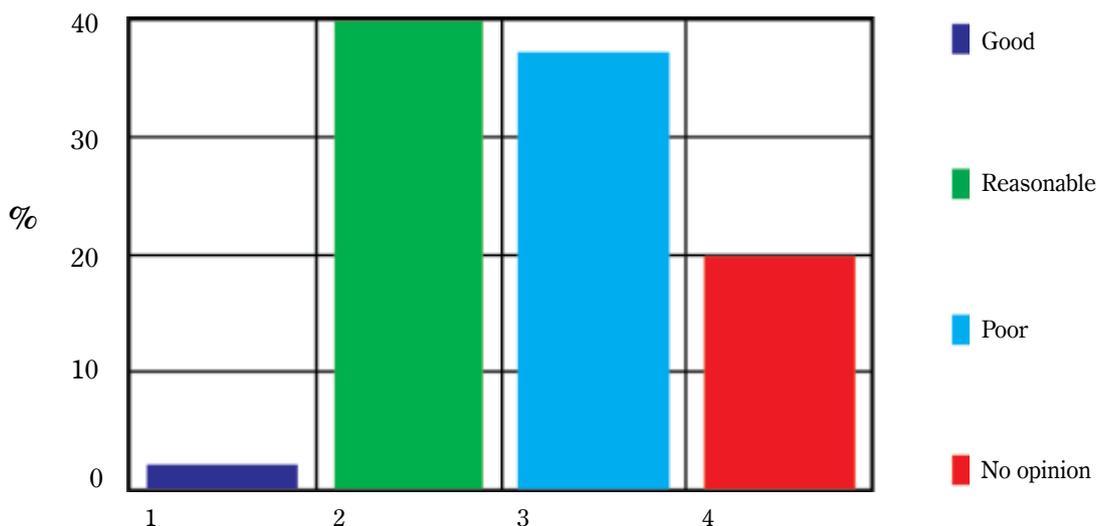


Figure 4 - Views of residents concerning police coverage in Sutton Poyntz (all areas).

Police and community safety

452 individuals replied to the question ‘How do you rate the level of police coverage for the village?’ On this matter, opinion would appear to be fairly evenly split with 40% over the area as a whole rating it as reasonable, 2% excellent⁶ and 37% poor, with the rest having no opinion (see Figure 4). Area variations (up to about 18% max.) suggest that people in areas B and D (Plaisters Lane, Winslow Rd. and Verlands Rd.) are marginally less content with police coverage.

Enhancing police coverage

517 individuals responded on this matter. By far the most common suggestion – some 42% of responses - was for a more visible police presence, with better liaison coming a close second at 37.5%. It should be noted that respondents were able to select more than one option (although few did) and that they could, if they wished, say “No” to any of the suggestions. Only 11% of respondents chose to do this, suggesting a majority in favour of positive action, e.g. greater police presence and/or better liaison.

⁶ The VPQ asked residents if they thought police coverage was excellent, reasonable, poor or if they had no opinion. However, the VA software has presented ‘excellent’ as ‘good’ in Figure 4. For ‘good’ read ‘excellent’.

These views were also reflected in the comments from individuals dissatisfied with police coverage. The need for foot patrols, “an occasional constable on patrol”, “more visible police presence”, are typical of the 38 comments on this matter. Community policing is specifically mentioned four times, speeding twice and police perceived failure to respond to minor crimes or anti-social behaviour is also mentioned three times. A handful of people (just under 20%) observe that there is no need for policing to be enhanced by any of the proposed methods, as there is so little crime.

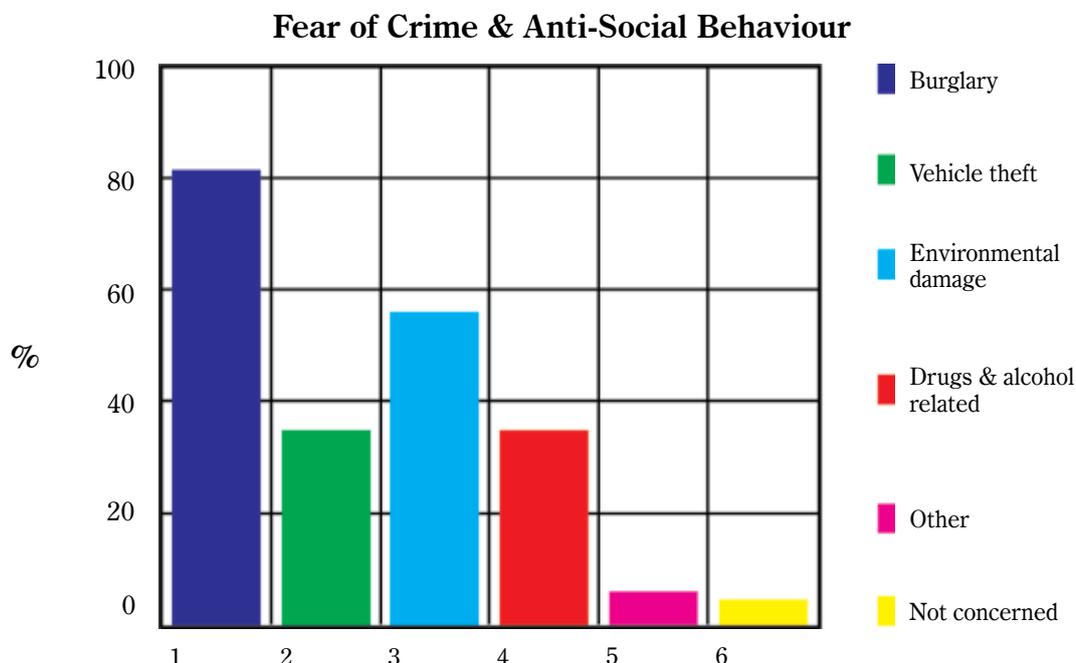


Figure 5 - Types of crime feared most by residents of Sutton Poyntz (all areas).

Fear of crime

Across the area as a whole people would appear to be most concerned about burglary (81%) (see Figure 5), followed by environmental damage (56%) and then vehicle theft and drug and alcohol related crime (both 35%) – views that were held equally well by residents of any of the survey areas. The owners of the Cartshed Garage reported that they had had “break-ins” on their premises and that they would welcome greater police presence.

Neighbourhood Watch Scheme ⁷

The final part of this question dealt with membership of the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme (NWS). Of the 260 households that responded to this question (which was in 3 parts), only 32% (i.e. about 1 in 3) replied that they belonged to a NWS. Of those that did, 87.5% did not have regular meetings with their co-ordinator and of those that didn’t, just 8% (11 individuals or households) were prepared to set up and co-ordinate a local group.

⁷ The Neighbourhood Watch Scheme has since been replaced with Homewatch. Action is needed to make residents aware of the changes that have taken place and to replace NWS signs with the new Homewatch signs.

Comments in this section tended to focus on ways the co-ordinators kept in touch without holding meetings or apologetic explanations for the respondents' inability to get involved. One telling remark however was "would be interested in participating – no approach made in 13 years of residence."

The low take up and/or involvement in a NWS is perhaps surprising given the level of concern expressed regarding police coverage and crime. Several actions could be undertaken here to allay fears regarding crime and to encourage greater involvement in Neighbourhood Watch (see later – Action Plan).

MEDICAL & DENTAL SERVICES

Q2.7 asked individuals to rate and comment on the provision of medical and dental care in the area.

Medical services

The response to this question was high, with views expressed by or on behalf of up to 467 persons (84% of total in survey). On medical and dental services there is a marked difference of opinion. Medical services are rated very highly, with over half of respondents (54%) considering them excellent and almost all the rest (38%) considering them reasonable. Only 19 individuals out of a total of 467 completing this section rated medical services as poor (4%). The few adverse comments on medical services focussed on the out-of-hours service and the difficulty of getting advance appointments – "advance appointments not catered for contrary to government requirements." Other comments however were highly complimentary – "we are served by the best doctor's service I have come across in Weymouth", "obtain prompt same day on request service."

Dental services

By contrast however dental services are rated as poor by 179 of the 458 people replying to this section, well over a third (39%) of those replying. 71 people ticked the "No Opinion" column, presumably because they had no experience of the dental service and if one excludes these the percentage of those rating the service as poor rises even higher to 46%. 121 people (26 %) of the total considered the service reasonable and 87 (19%) as excellent.

The comments on dental services centred on the difficulty of finding a dentist locally (25) and of finding any NHS dentist (6) at all. It is reasonable to assume that these are in fact the same issue expressed slightly differently. "I have just found an NHS dentist after 3 years" and "no dental practice in the vicinity" is typical of these comments. Sutton Poyntz residents, it seems, are forced to travel to Dorchester, Portland and even Sherborne in search of a dentist. There were no comments on the actual quality of the dentistry provided itself; it seems the difficulty of obtaining the service at all is the overriding issue.

TRANSPORT & CAR USE

Q2.8 was a multi-part question dealing with local bus usage, car sharing and walking and/or cycling to/from work or for leisure.

How often do you use the bus?

449 people completed this section of the questionnaire with 136 people, i.e. 27% or just over 1 in 4, claiming to use the bus service on a “regular” basis, although regular was not defined so that the actual number of bus journeys in any period cannot be determined. The results on bus usage were surprisingly consistent across all areas, ranging from 22% in area B to 32% in area D. Area A at the very top of Plaisters Lane with only 6 households and also the furthest from a bus route, is anomalous with no one claiming to use the bus.

What do you use it for?

Of the people replying to this question and noting that an individual might use the bus for more than one purpose, 23 individuals use the bus in connection with work, 109 for shopping, 35 for medical visits, 104 for social and leisure purposes, 15 for getting to school or college and 7 for other (undeclared) purposes. Of the various types of journey, work and school/college are likely to be daily trips, with shopping possibly weekly and medical visits at longer intervals. Notwithstanding these findings and given the fact that 40% of the respondents were over 60 and therefore eligible for a bus pass, this suggests that the bus service might be under-utilised.

Would you like to see any improvements in the bus service with regard to?

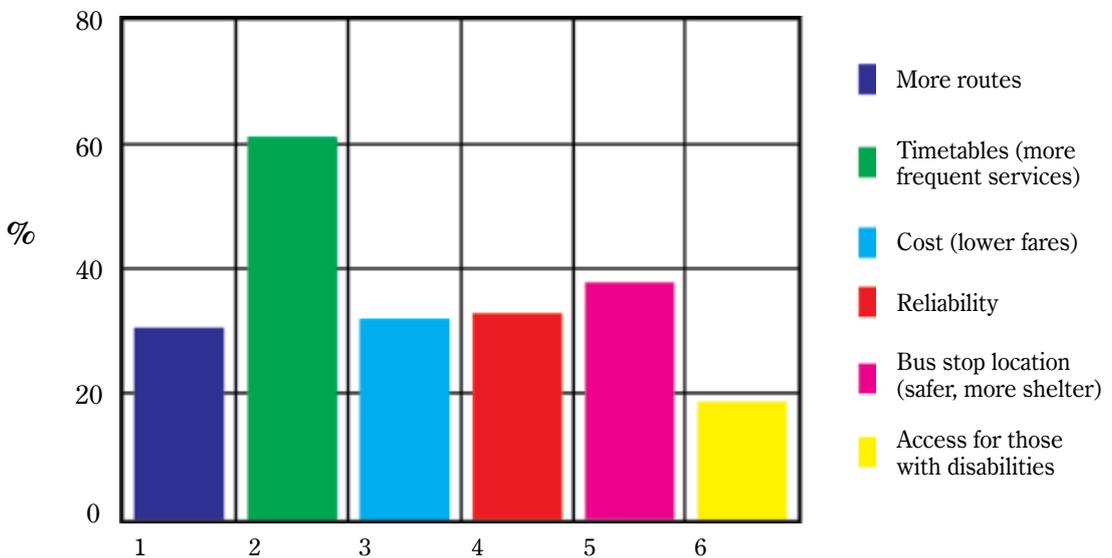


Figure 6 - Views of residents of Sutton Poyntz concerning improvements in local bus service (all areas).

An improved bus service?

261 people replied to the question on improvements in the village bus services. The most desired of the suggested improvements is a more frequent service, with 61% wanting this, the only suggestion to gain a clear majority (see Figure 6). Around a third of respondents would like more routes, lower fares and improved reliability with slightly more (38%) wanting improvements to bus stop location. 19% of respondents would like to see improvements for those with disabilities.

General comments on public transport

The comments on local public transport give a more rounded picture to the responses above. Many people evidently value the service, with eight comments on it being good and two on its importance – “vital to maintain”. Four people complained that double-deckers are too big for the village and should not be used. However, two others suggest bigger buses are needed during the tourist season. There are four comments on the difficulty of turning the bus with one suggesting a turning circle should be created at the Spice Ship. Two people living in area A write that they live too far from the bus stop to use the bus. There are two requests for the bus to go to Littlemoor or via the Littlemoor Rd. so that the library, Post Office, supermarket and garden centre can be reached. However by far the most frequent suggestion, made 9 times, is for a direct bus service to Dorchester.

Do you share your car with others and would you like to see a car sharing pool?

Car sharing would not appear to be a popular idea in Sutton Poyntz, except for leisure activities or shopping. Of the 371 people replying to the first part of this question, 48% did not car share at all. Only 18 (4.8%) share cars for business journeys and 21 (5.6%) for transport to and from work. 15 people (4%) share cars for the school run. However, just over a quarter (26%) share cars for shopping and over a third (37%) for leisure purposes. 67 people (just 20% of all those that responded to the second part of the question) would like to see a car-sharing pool. Interestingly, resistance to car sharing would appear to be greatest amongst people living towards the centre of the village (area C) and in area E (Old Granary, Puddledock Lane, Sunnyfields etc). Car sharing would appear to be most popular amongst the residents of Plaisters Lane (area B) and, Winslow Rd. and Verlands Rd. (area D).

Walking and/or cycling to work and/or for leisure

Over the area as a whole, 148 (30%) people claim to cycle for work or leisure and 346 (70%) to walk. Walking is probably dominated by leisure walkers if the number of people claiming to have recently walked a local footpath is anything to go by (see later **Walking Local Footpaths**). These figures suggest a healthy lifestyle and good use of the footpaths and lanes by village residents.

EDUCATION

Q2.9 was in three parts dealing with schools attended, access to school facilities and voluntary support.

Which schools do your children attend?

On the first part dealing with schools attended, the survey finds that children and young people of the village attend a disparate range of pre-schools, primary, secondary schools and colleges, with 61 of them attending 23 different institutions (see Table 2).

Pre-school		Primary		Middle		Secondary		College		University	
Mulberry	4	St Andrews	14	Dorchester Middle	4	Wey Valley	6	Weymouth	4	Guildford, Surrey	1
Chipmunks	2	St Augustines	2			Thomas Hardy	6			Bournemouth Art Institute	1
Preston Play Group	2	Damers	1			Budmouth	3				
Dorchester Community Nursery	1	Manor Park	1			All Saints	2				
Jellybabies	1	Portesham	1			Parkstone Grammar	1				
Sunninghill	1	Radipole	1								
		Thornlow	1								
		Sunninghill	1								
	11		22		4		18		4		2

Table 2 - *Pre-Schools, Primary, Secondary, Colleges and Higher Education institutions attended by children and young people from Sutton Poyntz (from survey)*

This may not be a complete picture, noting the 62% survey return, but does at least indicate the range of choice being exercised by parents in their children's education, and the implications for transport infrastructure.

Accessing school facilities

On the second part of this question dealing with access to local school facilities, the survey reveals that adult or family-learning opportunities would be of most interest, with 54 people interested in accessing such facilities through their local school. Thirty-five people would be interested in extended study support and the same number in childcare and/or varied activities for children from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. 19 would welcome access to specialist support services for children and young people but only 13 support for their role as parent or carer.

Support for your local school

On the final part of the question, 9 people (just 4% of those responding) would be interested in volunteering to support the development of extended services through their local school. However, given the wide range of schools attended, it isn't clear what constitutes a "local school" in this context.

BOROUGH CLEANSING & REFUSE SERVICES

Q2.10 - How do you rate the services funded by the Council Tax?

Up to 456 people gave their opinion on these services (see Table 3 below). Overall these had a positive rating with 78% rating village cleansing as reasonable or good and 92% rating refuse and waste collection as reasonable or excellent⁸. Some of the comments reinforced this view – “prompt, no mess, reliable” and “good recycling policy and well run tip”. There were however several complaints particularly about kerbside recycling. Complaints included that it was often late and that operatives “dumped” items not suitable for the recycling service. Some people would like recycling facilities in the village itself; suggestions included a communal compost tip and a wood store.

	Excellent	Reasonable	Poor	No Opinion
Village Cleansing	55 (12.3%)	282 (65.4%)	68 (15.8%)	28 (6.5%)
Refuse & Waste Collection	164 (36.0%)	255 (55.9%)	26 (5.7%)	11 (2.4%)

Table 3 - Views of residents concerning Borough Council cleansing and waste and refuse collection services.

As far as roadside sweeping is concerned, four people complained that Plaisters Lane was never swept and two that Sutton Rd. was not swept. One person asked, “Why is Sutton Rd. not swept? Plaisters Lane is!” Another person complained of a lack of road sweeping in Preston and one suggested that the presence of parked cars hampered road sweeping. A few people mentioned that the Sutton Poyntz Society organised village cleansing with two believing that this should be a function of the Borough Council. Two people asserted they were unaware of any village cleansing but a more common response was to suggest specific areas such as local alleyways and footpaths that could do with attention.

GAS

Q2.11 - Should mains gas be available throughout the village?

87% of the 381 people who responded to this question think that mains gas should be available throughout the village. Those saying “No” to this suggestion might have been concerned about the costs of putting gas into properties – particularly where access is difficult or the ground not suitable (e.g. in Plaisters Lane).

COMMUNICATION

Q2.12 - This was a multi-part question covering community spirit, how well informed people felt about village matters, knowledge as to how decisions by statutory bodies impact on village life, membership of and views on the Sutton Poyntz Society and improvements in local communication.

⁸ It should be noted that this reflects the views of residents before the introduction of “wheelie bins” and fortnightly collections.

Good community spirit?

On the first of these issues - “Do you feel there is a good community spirit in the village”? – a majority of people clearly feel there is, with 88% of 415 respondents saying “Yes” – a view held equally well by those people living on the outskirts of the village (e.g. 80% from area E – Old Granary, Preston end of Puddledock Lane etc).

There were fifteen comments on the general friendliness of the village - “very good, open and friendly to newcomers”. The other factor frequently mentioned as contributing to this good community spirit was the range of village projects and activities (5 comments) with also specific mention of the Victorian Street Fayre (6) and the Mission Hall (4).

But there were some dissenting voices. Amongst these there were 3 comments that it was “a bit cliquey” and definitely a feeling that the community spirit did not extend far enough out – “Sutton Poyntz excludes people from Preston” (a comment from someone living in area D – Winslow Rd. and Verlands Rd), “it would be good to see community involvement extend to outlying areas such as the Puddledocks and Old Granary Close.” Two people suggested that the community spirit did not extend to children and young people and several people made comments suggesting they personally felt excluded from village life.

People equally generally feel well informed about village matters. 86% (390 of the 451 who replied) answered “Yes” to that part of the question. Again, those who did not tend to live outside the village - e.g. areas D and E where the “Yes” vote dropped to 71% and 69% respectively - 8 of them giving this as the reason why they did not know what was going on. Most of those who added comments about the lack of information or contact again lived on the outskirts rather than in the heart of the village.

Decisions made by statutory bodies

Residents obviously felt much less confident when it came to understanding how decisions made by statutory bodies (e.g. Borough and County Council, Environment Agency etc) might impact on village life. The result here was split almost exactly 50:50 between those saying “Yes” (223 individuals) and those saying “No” (224). Only in the centre of the village was there a clear majority saying “Yes”, e.g. areas B and C(N) – 68% and 58% respectively.

Membership of the Sutton Poyntz Society

As might be expected, membership of the Sutton Poyntz Society is strongest in the centre of the village. Overall the figure is 62% - 145 of the 234 households responding – but in areas B and C(N), i.e. the main part of the village, this rises to over 80%. Encouragingly, 5 out of the 6 households in area A (the top of Plaisters Lane and within West Dorset) were members of the Society whilst in area E (Old

Granary etc), this drops to 50% (16) and in areas C(S) and D(Winslow Rd./Verlands Rd.), even lower to 12% (4) and 17% (5) respectively.

Society addresses important issues?

Notwithstanding, many of those who are not members, felt that the Society addresses issues that are important to them in the village – with 335 out of 371 individuals saying “Yes” to this question, i.e. just over 90%. Additional comments were mainly very complimentary about the Society suggesting it does a good job (9 comments). 6 people did not know and 3 thought it addressed some but not all the important issues. One-off comments included remarks that the Society had insufficient influence on the Borough Council, that the interest of most members was too narrow, that it should not associate with the CPRE as this was a political organisation, that it should spend more time on environmental issues and that it spent too much time on trivia i.e. rooks! (This comment relates to nuisance caused by rooks nesting in trees by the waterworks).

Improvements in local communications

Of the various suggestions for improving local communications, 4 were supported and 2 rejected. The results are shown in Table 4 and it should be noted that individuals were able to select more than one option and entitled to say “No”. Of those suggestions finding favour 217 people would like to see better notice boards, 201 a village website, 142 a more comprehensive Society newsletter and 131 would like more local information to be available at the pub. Less popular was the idea of an internet access point for villagers to use, and brown tourist signs, both these ideas being rejected by a significant margin.

	Village Website	More Comprehensive Newsletter	Internet Access Point	Better Notice-boards	Brown Tourist Signs	More Local News in Pub
Nos supporting	201	142	64	217	43	131
Nos opposing	68	71	104	48	111	53

Table 4 - Views concerning improvements in local communications. Table shows number of people voting “Yes” or “No”.

Comments in this section suggested that many people find the present system of village communication perfectly adequate (9). Four people however do not get or did not even know of the existence of the Sutton Poyntz Society newsletter. One person suggested the village definitely needed better notice boards and one remarked that those who use the Internet have access to it already through schools, work, the library and at home.

The Natural and Built Environment

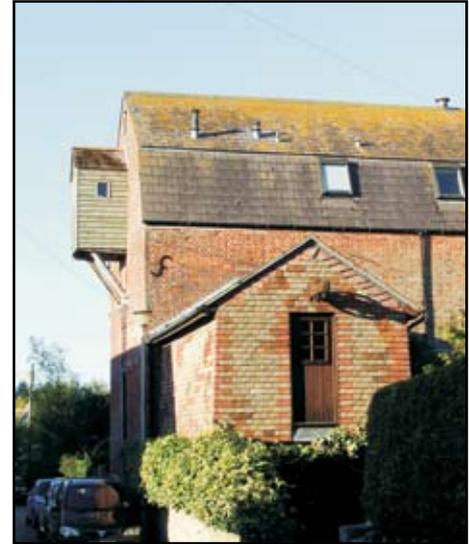
Part 3 of the questionnaire dealt with a wide range of issues concerning the natural and built environments within and around the village and covering such matters as housing development, countryside access, historical and archaeological aspects of the village, environmental issues and traffic and parking.

IN THE VILLAGE

Q3.1 - This was a multipart question dealing with village design and the impact of housing development.

Most valued aspects of the built and natural environment of Sutton Poyntz

Many people commented on this section of the questionnaire and their views are important in understanding many of the concerns felt by residents about housing development, infill building and increased traffic levels in the village (similar concerns to those voiced in the 1999 village survey). Understanding these views will be key to developing a conservation plan for the village – should this option be pursued later (see Action Plan).



Many of the comments are similar and overlap with those elsewhere. Typical responses refer to the village's peace, tranquillity and natural beauty. The picturesque valley setting and surrounding hills, the open views, ease of access to the countryside. The diversity and character of its buildings, the narrow lanes, the use of natural materials including thatch and stone, and the village's convenience for town and seaside. Others comment on the rural aspect, farming activity, the pond, streams and flora and fauna. Some note the quality of life and that the village provides a safe environment for children to grow up. Others appreciate the fact that



the village remains mostly unaffected by tourism and commercial development. Some comment on careful building development, sympathetic design and use of materials, views not necessarily held by others.

One simple short comment probably summarises best what people value most – and that is “Everything”.

The essence of what people value most about the village is described in the 1999 Village Survey (Pressly et al, 1999) which, with the results presented here, should

be the basis of any future action regarding conservation of the village and its surroundings.

Sympathetic design and development



Unsurprisingly virtually everybody (444 out of 458 households or 97%) thinks that the development of new properties and the conversion of old ones within the village should be as sympathetic as possible with existing designs and materials. This view would appear to be held equally well by those living on the outskirts of the village. One person wrote “New builds at the Preston end of Sutton

Rd. reflect this (sympathetic development) very well. Good design in harmony with the surrounding area.” However, another commented that the only area deserving of such attention, was the area at the centre of the village in the vicinity of The Mill and the Mill Pond, and that nothing else was special. Most comments however concentrated on the importance of retaining the village character of Sutton Poyntz, a view expressed succinctly in the 1999 Village Survey, although one or two individuals in this more recent assessment, suggested they did not want the village stuck in a time-warp even so. One respondent commented, “It’s too late to save the village” – although this view does not find general support.



Design and development

The idea of permitting **bold and innovative design** perhaps using modern materials does not find much favour amongst respondents. 345 people answered “No” to this as against 101 saying “Yes” – meaning 77% of respondents are opposed to the idea, a view held equally well across all areas (13% variation). Several additional comments suggested that even those who had said “Yes” had qualified their response – “only if it doesn’t clash”, “modern materials are OK so long as they are used in a sympathetic design”, “yes in Plaisters Lane, not elsewhere.”

Most people did not believe the village was able to support even **limited new development** with 148 people in favour as against 309 opposed to the idea, a ratio of 2:1. While there is some variation in the strength of opinion on this matter – e.g. area B 52% against, area D 81% against - nowhere is there a clear majority in favour of the idea.

Those in favour tended to suggest “in-fill” or “brownfield sites” rather than specific locations for development. When suggestions were made, the most common ones were for locations off Plaisters Lane and White Horse Lane. Several people put in a plea that development should not be by “garden-grabbing”.

There was almost no support for more **significant new development** – only 25 people were in favour with 422 opposed (ie. only 6% in favour). Area by area those opposing the idea comprised 86% to 100% of respondents in each of the areas.

Comments in these sections suggested many respondents were in favour of affordable housing in the village but others suggested, even when sympathetic to the idea of “affordable” housing, that Sutton Poyntz was not the place for it. Comments in favour included: “Affordable housing is very important but it can be built ‘in keeping’ with local style so that it fits in and doesn’t need to mean a big estate. Why not smaller pockets dotted around?” “Yes - to importance of affordable housing - except nowhere left to build. Recent building should have addressed this issue.” “ There should be a commitment to 1/2 bedroom houses as part of the village plan - or housing association housing.” On the other hand respondents write: “ This would only be ‘affordable’ for the initial purchaser in Sutton Poyntz and therefore unsustainable” or “Affordable housing may be a good objective but the village has very restricted building space as it is.”

Preserving village character

Fewer people (363) answered the question on rating various aspects of the village (see Table 5 below). With the exception of affordable housing, the overwhelming majority of respondents considered all the aspects listed as important with the highest rating given for the preservation of



open spaces and green gaps (93%) and the lowest, resistance to in-fill development (72%). Creation of affordable housing was considered “Important” by just under 29% of respondents, with about 45% rejecting the idea as “Not important”. (Note that the figures in rows do not total 100% as not all of the respondents replied on the various issues addressed in the question).

Aspect	Important (%)	Not Important (%)
Preservation of open spaces and green gaps	93.1	2.8
Prime views from and into the village	88.2	3.6
Resistance to in-fill development	72.5	10.7
Protection of the development boundary	87.3	3.6
Creation of affordable housing	28.7	44.6
Preservation / enhancement of village design	84.3	2.5
The 'old' character around the millpond	90.9	2.2
Preservation of the few remaining lanes	88.7	2.2
Other	1.7	0.0

Table 5 - *Opinion concerning key features of the built and natural environments of Sutton Poyntz.*

However, the result on affordable housing does show some interesting variations, finding more support in area D (Winslow Rd./Verlands Rd.) and least support in area C, reflecting the bulk of views of residents in the main part of the village. The views here might reflect pragmatism rather than prejudice, given the limited space for building within the village.

Quality of life in Sutton Poyntz

The question of how people felt about the quality of life in Sutton Poyntz compared to 10 years ago attracted responses from 438 individuals (97% of survey populace). Over the area as a whole, including those living on the outskirts of the village, 31% felt there had been no change, just under 8% thought that it had improved, while just under 27% thought that it had deteriorated and 33% didn't know, possibly because they were fairly recent arrivals to the area.

It is difficult to interpret these findings in terms of an overall feeling of optimism, or conversely pessimism, particularly as there is no reference to the quality of life as it actually was 10 yrs ago. But setting aside the "No Change" and "Don't Know" results, one might conclude that some things have got worse.



SURROUNDING THE VILLAGE

Q3.2 was a multipart question covering changes in the countryside and access to it.

Changes in the countryside

A similar possibly pessimistic viewpoint comes across in the responses to the question concerning the countryside around Sutton Poyntz and how this has changed in the last 10 yrs. This question also had a high response rate and again setting aside the

“No Change” (46%) and “Don’t Know” (24%) responses, one is led to the conclusion that there might have been some deterioration with 26% saying “Worse” compared to the 3% who thought things were “Better”. Just how many respondents have actually visited the countryside around the village recently might be judged from the responses to the questions dealing with footpaths, bridleways and countryside access, and the frequency with which individuals have walked a local footpath.

Footpaths, bridleways & countryside access

Virtually all respondents (99% of the 477 respondents) considered the footpaths, bridleways and access to the countryside around Sutton Poyntz to be important with only 6 individuals having no interest in this issue.

Walking local footpaths

Certainly Sutton Poyntz residents would appear to be enthusiastic walkers: 383 people (79%) claim to have walked a local footpath within the last month, 57 in the past six months and 17 within the last year. Only 21 people claim it was more than a year ago since they walked a footpath and 8 admit to never having walked a local path.

From the comments it would appear many of these walkers are quite happy with the way the footpaths are maintained at the moment. What most people want is for the path to be clear of undergrowth and easily passable. 10 people mentioned improved signage and 11 less dog fouling – “dog walkers should clear up after their animals” – whilst 6 people would like improvements to the stiles, some of them preferring they be replaced by gates⁹. 2 people mentioned there should be no motorised vehicles and another 2 mentioned horses, one wanting no horses and the other that they should be on designated routes only. 3 people would like the paths to be managed and maintained by local volunteers, another 3 would like this to be done by the Council whilst a further individual proposed maintenance “by the local council with volunteers.”

HISTORICAL & ENVIRONMENT

Q3.3 was a multi-part question dealing with historical, archaeological and environmental aspects, including flooding.

History & Archaeology

Unsurprisingly a substantial majority of villagers consider the archaeological and historical features of the village to be important – 94% of the 475 people who answered this particular question. Only 20 individuals admitted to having no interest in the subject while just 9 thought that this was not an important feature of the village.

73% of respondents thought that more emphasis should be placed on the historical and archaeological features of the village and surrounding countryside, 21% said

⁹ 3 of the stiles on village footpaths have since been replaced with kissing gates.

“No” to this suggestion and 6% were not interested. Interestingly, opposition to this idea would appear to be greatest amongst residents from the centre of the village, about 30% saying “No” from area C(N).

Wildlife habitats

Just under 82% of 464 respondents said “Yes” to the question, “Would you like wildlife habitats in the area to managed, improved or enhanced by suitable projects”? 62 individuals (13%) said “No” and 23 (5%) declared that they had no interest in the matter.

Aspect	Very Important (%)	Worth Doing (%)	Not Necessary (%)	Don't Know (%)
Plant more trees	20.6	38.3	2.0	3.4
Community signposting scheme	5.7	23.1	2.7	3.6
Electricity lines underground	11.8	51.2	2.9	3.9
Maps of local footpaths and bridleways	9.5	58.0	1.8	2.5

Table 6 - *Improvements in local environment of the village.*

Environmental improvements

As far as improving the environment of the village is concerned (see Table 6) and combining the “Worth Doing” and “Very Important” votes, providing more maps of local footpaths and bridleways would be approved of by nearly 68% of respondents and putting electricity lines underground by 63%. 59% would approve of planting more trees but community signposting was less popular (29%).

Flooding

Although relatively few people reported any problems with flooding, those who did lived almost exclusively in areas B and C (particularly the northern part of this area). Areas D and E reported no problems. In area B (Plaisters Lane, Sutton Court Lawns, Sutton Close) a third of households had some kind of problem with flooding. In area C (lower part of Plaisters Lane, Mission Hall Lane, Sutton Rd. – area around Pond, eastern end Puddledock Lane) this was 28% but with a higher incidence of those reporting “Many problems” (10 households). One issue that got mentioned here and also on the later question of danger spots on the roads was surface water in Sutton Rd.

The owners of the Cartshed Garage (junction of Sutton Rd. with Plaisters Lane) also reported that they had had problems with flooding.

As with the concerns expressed about the impact of housing development, flooding risk was one of the issues identified in the 1999 village survey. It was a problem then and remains a problem today – with future conditions no doubt exacerbated by the effects of climate change and increased storminess.

TRAFFIC & PARKING

Q3.4 was a multipart question covering traffic calming, road safety, improvements for pedestrians and cyclists, danger spots on village roads, vehicle ownership and parking.

Traffic calming, safety measures & danger spots

Judging from the response and range of comments, this section of the village plan questionnaire clearly touched on an issue that is of great concern to villagers, namely the steady increase in road traffic through the village. This was identified as a problem for Sutton Poyntz in the 1999 Village Survey and is a problem shared with many other village communities. Given the overlapping nature of the issues their discussion here has been drawn together under a single heading.

While the first question in this section, i.e. “Would you like traffic calming and other safety measures?” gave a clear majority in favour (71% of the 468 responding saying “Yes”), there were a significant number of people opposed to the idea, with opposition greatest from those in areas D and E on the outskirts of the village (45% and 43% saying “No”). Some

individuals emphasised their response with multiple ticks (counted as 1!) in favour and comments such as “definitely” and “very much so”, while others said “definitely not”. Some said “Yes” to safety measures but “No” to traffic calming. Some felt that “parked cars are adequate traffic calming” while others were concerned that speed bumps would lead to increased traffic



noise (particularly from farm vehicles, vans and lorries). One individual remarked that speed bumps were “expensive, hazardous and ineffective”.

Objections apart and taking into account the feedback received at the Village Plan Open Day in July 2006, most are agreed that something should be done and many suggest a 20 mph limit – some just in Plaisters Lane and others throughout the village. Support for traffic calming was greatest from residents at the Preston end of Sutton Rd. (84%), and in Plaisters Lane (100% in favour at the top dropping to 83% further down – including responses from Sutton Court Lawns and Sutton Close).

Over the area as a whole, improvements for pedestrians and cyclists were supported by 65% of the 430 people replying to this question, leaving just over a third saying “No”. A number of people commented on the conflict in requirements between pedestrians and cyclists, and motorists, where the creation of cycleways or even pavements, would make the already narrow streets and lanes even

narrower, thereby exacerbating the situation for motorists. Perversely, opposition to improvements for pedestrians and cyclists appears to be strongest amongst residents at the centre of the village (area C – 42% saying “No”). However, this still leaves a sizeable majority in favour of improvements.

Almost three-quarters (75%) of respondents (429) think there are major danger spots on the roads of Sutton Poyntz. Sutton Rd. and Plaisters Lane are obviously both considered the most dangerous spots. In fact one respondent writes of Sutton Rd. “I have been hit by a driver who did not stop” whereas another mentions having personally witnessed two accidents. Vehicles parked in Sutton Rd. are often mentioned both for drivers but also for pedestrians as making it hard to see if the road is clear to cross. Blind spots at exits such as lower Plaisters Lane /Sutton Rd., Verlands Rd. onto Sutton Rd., Puddledock Lane onto Sutton Rd., Sutton Close onto Plaisters Lane, are also frequently mentioned. In fact it appears all the junctions onto Sutton Rd. are difficult.

In summary, speeding in the village, again particularly in Sutton Rd., is clearly seen as an important issue and there are clearly many people who feel that some sort of traffic calming is required. Speed bumps are unpopular, but many would welcome a 20 mph speed limit. Making “Slow” signs more prominent was suggested, as were “Slow, elderly and children” and “Slow, horses” signs. Flashing speed warning signs – SIDs or Speed Indication Devices – might help – but are usually only provided on a temporary basis and considered by some to be visually intrusive.

There is clearly no easy answer to this problem, although it is clear from what the residents of Sutton Poyntz have said that something needs to be done.

Vehicle ownership & impact of parked vehicles on village

Many of the problems described above occur because of the general increase in vehicle ownership nationally. Sutton Poyntz is no exception with many residents owning two or more cars. Overall there are more people owning two cars (46%)



compared to those owning one (36%). 14% own 3 and at least 10 households own 4 or more vehicles! From the survey data it is possible to show that the 228 respondents to this question (each assumed to be a single household) own between them at least 417 vehicles! This figure is almost certainly higher if the 62% survey return figure is allowed for.

However, the vast majority of vehicles in the village would appear to be parked off-road (see Figure 7), either in a garage at home (34%) or on the drive (53%). That still leaves just over 11% or 35 of the 307 people answering this question parking

on the road however. If this figure is scaled up to take account of the 62% survey return, it suggests that upwards of 56 vehicles could be parked on the villages roads, and this does not include visitors, tradesman and cars associated with the Cartshed Garage. Only areas A and B have no resident’s vehicles parked on the road.

Not surprisingly, many people (354 out of 450 respondents or 79%) think that the presence of parked cars impacts unfavourably on the village, particularly around the Springhead Pub and Mill Pond, but additional comments suggest that many recognise this as a fact of life and that it may not be possible to do much about it.

If responsible for a vehicle, where do you usually park it?

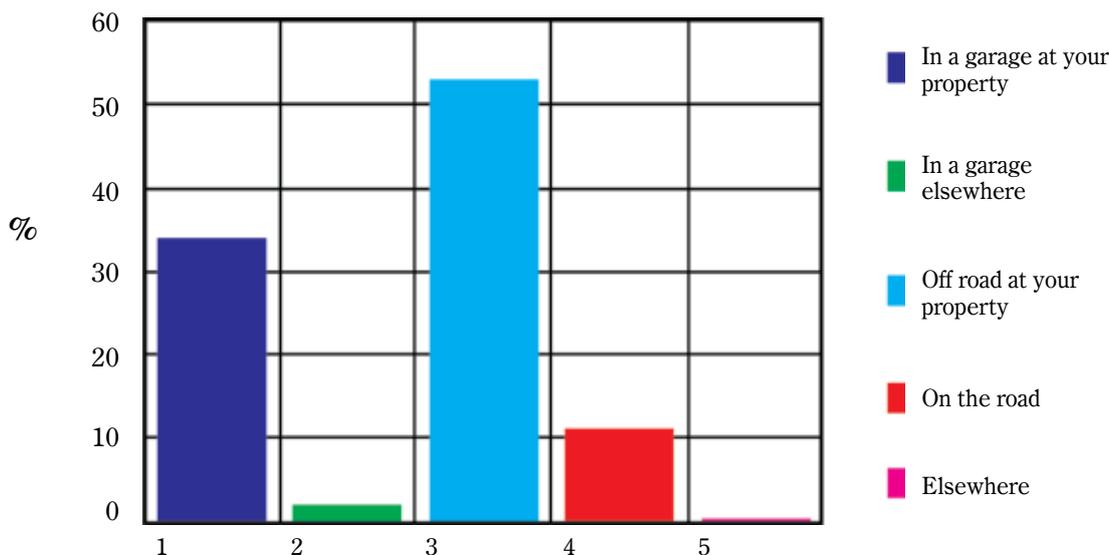


Figure 7 - Location of parked vehicles in Sutton Poyntz (all areas).

Dedicated parking and parking controls

Opinions as to the value of dedicated resident parking are fairly evenly split over the area as a whole, with 55% in favour of the idea – compared to 45% against - out of a total of 399 respondents. Interestingly, opposition to the idea would appear to be greatest from amongst those living at the centre of the village – area C(N) – where there is a majority (58%) saying “No” to dedicated resident parking – possibly through greater awareness of what this actually entails. When those in favour are asked for suggestions as to where such areas should be several replied “That is the question!” 13 people suggest¹⁰ the area near the pond, 6 somewhere along Sutton Rd. and 4 on Wessex Water land near the waterworks.

The overall majority in favour of dedicated residents’ parking translates into a slight majority against dedicated visitor parking (57% out of 403 respondents). Again, those living near the centre of the village seem to go against the overall trend, both areas B and C(N) showing 64% and 69% supporting the idea.

¹⁰ It should be noted that these suggestions and those for new development (see later) are not necessarily consistent and would need to be fully investigated as part of the planning process.

Those in favour of dedicated visitors' parking areas on the whole favour an area near the pub such as the neighbouring field or alternatively approaching Wessex Water to see if it is possible to arrange parking on their land (as indeed was suggested by a few for residents' parking). However there are also some suggestions that visitors should be encouraged to visit the village by public transport, by park-and-ride and so on – "Weymouth is only 3 miles away, encourage visitors to visit by bus".

The final question in this section dealt with the use of restricted parking (e.g. yellow lines, road signs) in any part of the village. Similarly to the responses on resident and visitor parking, opinion on this matter is fairly evenly divided, although there are significant variations from area to area. Over the area as a whole, 51.5% of respondents (423 in total) are against restricted parking. However, this changes according to area, possibly reflecting local conditions. Thus in areas C(S) and D – the Preston end of Sutton Rd. and Verlands Rd. and Winslow Rd. respectively – 57.1% and 63.6% of respondents (totalling 104 individuals) would support restricted parking, particularly in the narrow section of Sutton Rd. between Winslow Rd. and Verlands Rd. and in the vicinity of Scutt Hall.

This section of the village plan questionnaire generated many comments concerning the effect of parked cars. In the main these are confined to the problems that exist along through routes – in particular the Preston end of Sutton Rd. (see above) and the area in the vicinity of the bus stop and Cartshed Garage (junction Sutton Rd. with Plaisters Lane) - but also in side roads such as Old Bincombe Lane and around the Mill Pond. Pedestrian safety was also mentioned in this context. Another issue raised in lengthy comments by two respondents was that of access by emergency vehicles – one was concerned about clear numbering of houses and the other wrote: "I would like to think that both home owners and visitors would use common sense and park in a responsible and safe manner. In Old Bincombe Lane we have concerns about access for emergency vehicles when people park directly opposite an already parked car in such a narrow road".

Here and elsewhere there are many comments – at least 15 - that are critical of parking in the vicinity of the Cartshed Garage, adjoining village post box and the nearby bus stop, eg. "too much parking space is taken up (sometimes double – parked) by vehicles outside the Cartshed" and "Beside village post box – frequently blocked by cars awaiting service/repair". But again calls for parking restrictions here are balanced by others saying that they would not want to see the introduction of restricted parking forcing the garage out of business – "The business remains a village asset as far as we are concerned" one individual says and indeed many residents rely on the garage (see below).

Although most comments, as mentioned in an earlier section, saw parking here as a hazard and undesirable as it restricts traffic flow, at least two respondents thought that the presence of parked vehicles acted as a traffic-calming measure – "parked cars in Sutton Rd. are a blessing – they are the best means of traffic calming".

Concerning restricted parking, others reflect on reality, e.g. “Would be good but would probably present difficulties to many village residents who have no off-street parking” and “Not if it affects residents’ ability to park near their homes”.

To put the garage proprietor’s point of view, a member of the village plan steering group met the owners. They spend a good part of the day (up to 12 hrs) in the village and are thus well placed to comment on a number of the issues raised above, in particular traffic, road safety and parking. The following points were noted. The business has been operating in Sutton Poyntz since 1989 and about 30% of its trade comes from the village, increasing to 70% if customers in Preston and Osmington are included. The remainder comes from further afield. The proprietors make every effort not to block roads with cars parked awaiting servicing. The owners were also concerned about speeding vehicles and safety, including their own. They would welcome traffic calming measures to make vehicle entry/exit to their premises safer.

Concluding this section, there were several comments regretting that new properties are being built with insufficient parking places. This could only add to the problems of parked vehicles in the village. On the other hand, there is also a feeling that traffic and parking is a national problem and that relatively little can be done about it locally.

Additional Information

Part 4 of the questionnaire presented a series of questions dealing with village activities, church going, employment within the village and how people would like to see the village developing in the future. It also asked people for their thoughts on the level of social activity in the village.

SUPPORT FOR VILLAGE ACTIVITIES

Q4.1 asked if people would (if not already doing so) be prepared to support village activities and in what capacity.

Encouragingly 195 people, just fewer than 54% of the 362 responding to this question, stated that they would be prepared to support forthcoming events. Although from the comments this clearly includes some who are already involved in village activities, this still leaves a good number of people who are not, but who might be willing to help at some time in the future. Not surprisingly, the majority of those saying “Yes” live in areas B and C(N) – what might be regarded as the centre of the village.

Amongst the types of things that people could do, a number mention village tidying, 8 would support the Street Fayre. 10 people would be prepared to help “in whatever role is required” or as “general dogsbody”. One person each offered help with the W.I., catering, graphic skills, financial skills, committee work, general

administration and finally one offered to help with producing and delivering the newsletter, being a copywriter by trade. The aim in future will be to identify these individuals with a view to enlisting their support with future village activities and in particular initiatives pursued as a result of this village plan (see Action Plan).

RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES

Q4.2 concerned religious or faith/belief activities.

A number of people found this question intrusive and wondered what it had to do with the village plan. The steering group took the view that the spiritual well-being of the community, and how well this is provided for, should be of as much concern as the material aspects of life. Similar questions have been asked in census returns and other village and parish plans – and the matter also has a bearing on transport, bus services, car sharing etc. People did not have to answer this question if they did not wish to.

But of the 455 who did, just over a third (156) indicated that they were a member or supporter of their local church or faith group. Of these 105 attended St. Andrews Preston¹¹, 4 St Osmunds Osmington, 2 St Francis Littlemoor, 2 St Augustines Weymouth, 2 Dorchester United, 3 St Mary's Weymouth and 3 Weymouth Baptist Church. Other churches and/or places of worship included St Aldhelms Weymouth, Kingdom Hall Weymouth, Maiden Street Methodists Weymouth, Hope United Reformed Church Weymouth, Weymouth Baptists Church, St John the Baptist Fortuneswell, Portland and West Lulworth Church.

These results indicate people having to travel some distance from Sutton Poyntz in order to worship or join in with faith group activities.

EMPLOYMENT IN THE VILLAGE

Q4.3 - This question asked how people would like to see more employment created in the village.

289 people only answered this question and only one suggestion on the list obtained majority support and this was for more employment in the village created by home crafts (see Figure 8). 70% supported this idea as against 49% supporting country industry, 43% tourism and history and 37% the provision of visitor accommodation. Least supported by far was the creation of light industry, attracting only 13.5% of the vote.

¹¹ This includes some who although attending St Andrews principally, also attend St Osmunds or St Francis, all three churches being in the same team ministry.

Would you like to see more employment in the village created by ...

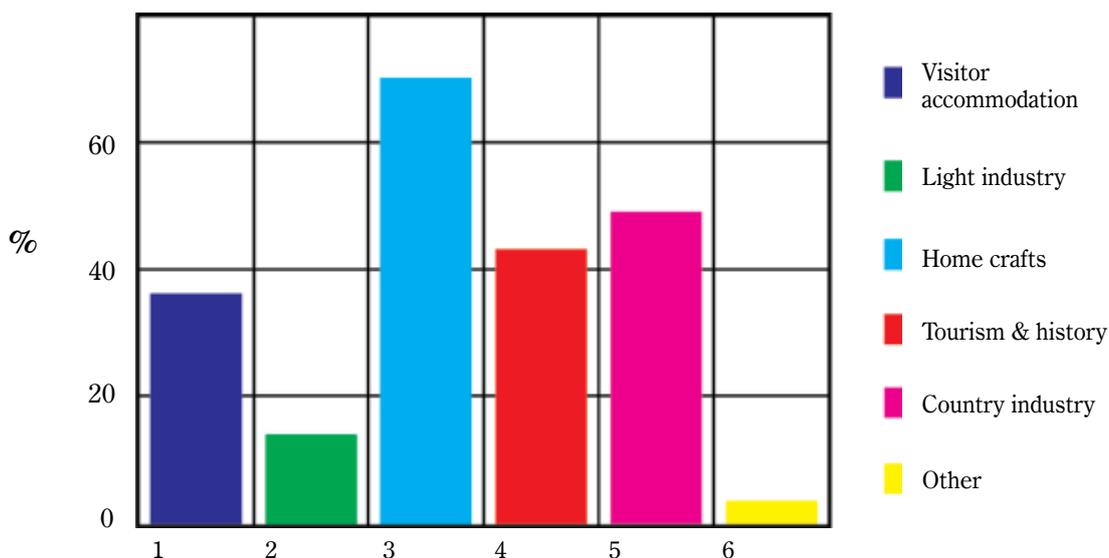


Figure 8 - Creating employment in the village (all areas).

SUTTON POYNTZ - FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

Q4.4 concerned the way that people might like to see Sutton Poyntz developing in the future.

This question attracted a significantly higher response than that concerning employment – probably because people are genuinely concerned about how their community will evolve, given the relentless pace of change at all levels in society.

445 people responded to the question “How would you like to see Sutton Poyntz develop”? Of these just over 80% would like it to stay as it is, clearly the most popular option and perhaps reflecting that people, in general feel most comfortable with what they know. However, 21%¹², just over 1 in 5 felt that it should develop as a working community, and between 4 and 6% each as tourist centre, retirement community and commuter community. These views would appear to be held equally well by those living on the outskirts of the village, eg. area E (Old Granary Rd, western end of Puddledock Lane), 70% to stay as it is, 34% to develop as a working community, and 0 to 8% for the retirement, commuter and tourist centre options.

The results for the whole area, areas C(N) and C(S) combined, are shown in Figure 9.

¹² The total of these percentages exceeds 100% because some respondents chose to select more than one possibility, e.g. ‘working community’ and ‘stay as it is’.

How would you like Sutton Poyntz to develop?

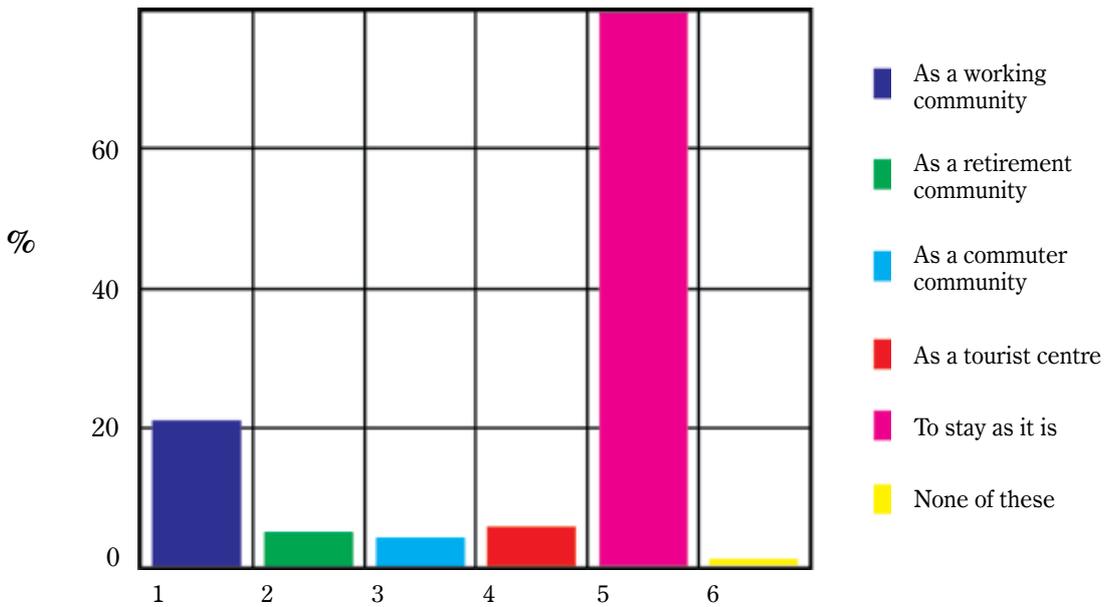


Figure 9 - How people would like to see Sutton Poyntz develop (all areas).

EVENTS

Q4.5 concerned the frequency with which the village organises social and other community events. In two parts, it asked whether people felt there were enough or too few events, and how they would like to see this aspect of village life change in the future.

The steering group recognises that the wording of this question was somewhat confusing. Nevertheless, an unambiguous response emerges from the replies with just under 70% (321 respondents) saying “Yes” to “Enough Events” and just over 76% (307 respondents) saying “Yes” to “No Change”. 39 individuals (8.5%) thought there were too few events while in the second part of the question, 68 people (17%) would like to see more events in the future! The responses to these questions suggest that people are on the whole pleased with the range of events organised in the village. There were however 3 pleas for more events for children and young people, one of these also suggested more ‘Artsreach’ type events.

Adequacy of Questionnaire

Part 5 of the questionnaire asked for feedback on the questionnaire itself – viz “Do you think that this questionnaire addresses a sufficiently representative range of issues relating to Sutton Poyntz? If no what further issues do you think should have been raised?”

Of the small number of people who chose to tackle the first part of this question, 47 said “Yes” and 6 “No”, while others preferred to write (in some cases very lengthy)

comments. It is not possible to report all of these here but overall comments on the survey itself were mainly complimentary (20) saying such things as “well thought out”, “comprehensive” and “your range of issues stimulates debate”. There were however six negative comments, one considering it “very over-elaborate and intrusive” and another “not relevant to our needs and concerns.” Some of the volunteers also reported negative comments from householders who had refused to complete the questionnaire. There was some scepticism in these responses too, such as the belief that the “results will be used to justify a position that has already been decided.” There were some suggestions of issues on which questions should have been asked but weren’t, such as sustainable energy and waste recycling.

Some felt it was all too late and that nothing could be done to prevent Sutton Poyntz becoming just another part of Weymouth’s urban sprawl. One individual was suspicious of the involvement of so called “government money” in the project. Other comments referred to issues that had already been raised such as dog fouling, but there were also many others. Several of these from residents in area E were about not feeling part of Sutton Poyntz, not knowing how to access information about the Sutton Poyntz Society and “have never really felt part of village life nor encouraged to be.” This is a theme picked up by another respondent elsewhere who says the area feels like 3 separate villages – “why so many halls and separate W.Is, surely the aim is to unite.”

One respondent suggested the pub landlord would be interested in the results concerning the pub, another suggested the Street Fayre should be held yearly and another that there should be an additional post box between the one in the village and the one at the Spar convenience store on Preston Rd¹³. There were also single complaints about insufficient street lighting and road cleaning. Two comments were made about the pond, one that it should be improved and the other that it lacked big fish as the wildlife had been affected by recent dredging. Another suggested a village environmental survey would be a good idea (see Action Plan).

There were a few comments here on the fact that people liked Sutton Poyntz as it is and would not like it to change. As one person wrote: “Sutton Poyntz is a village of great charm with a good community spirit, and to implement the issues contained in this questionnaire would be to suburbanise the village and destroy its character.”

Another view expressed, albeit not so often – is that “Sutton Poyntz has to move with the times” and that it is better to manage change rather than fight it as a matter of principle. Finally, another thoughtful point of view: “Many of the good things mentioned will conflict (e.g. conservation v cheap housing...). A village like ours needs an elected group to sort out these discrepancies and make choices.”

Hopefully, the views expressed in this analysis will now be used to inform decision-making and choices regarding the many issues raised in the Sutton Poyntz

¹³ Since rectified with a new post box at the junction of Sutton Rd. with Preston Rd.

community survey and the manner in which they are dealt with in the Action Plan that follows.

Preparing the Action Plan

From the results of the survey and various public meetings held during the village plan project, it has been possible to draw up a list of key concerns and issues and from this to develop an Action Plan.

These ideas were presented to the village community at meetings in July 2006 and March 2007 and are as follows:

- *Village facilities (including those for children and young people)*
- *Road safety and parking*
- *Housing development*
- *Policing and community safety*
- *Countryside access and the environment*
- *Services*
- *Transport*
- *Communication (within the village and its environs)*

In the Action Plan that follows, these ideas are elaborated on with stakeholders and potential partners identified, plus links back to the community survey results so that this information may be used to underpin or support projects and other initiatives, particularly fund raising. The first action however relates to ownership and responsibility for delivering the findings of the Village Plan and pursuing the aims and objectives identified under the topics above.

Summary and Acknowledgements

Many hours of work have gone into the production of this village plan, including presentations prepared for public meetings, data input and analysis tasks and the actual writing of the report. None of this would have been possible without the support and understanding of the residents of Sutton Poyntz and the efforts of the steering group over a period of almost 2 years.

But in particular we acknowledge our sponsors, Dorset County Council and the Dorset Strategic Partnership; Dorset Community Action for their encouragement and support, Weymouth & Portland Borough Council for their guidance in the early stages of this work and the Sutton Poyntz Society for their forbearance and managing the project's finances. We also acknowledge the very generous support of Wessex Water and John Willows (Museum Curator) for providing display material and conference and meeting facilities throughout the duration of this project. Weymouth & Portland Borough Council and the Weymouth & Portland Partnership are thanked for their comments on an earlier draft of the Village Plan.

Others who have contributed to the process include:

Dorset County Council Countryside Services, Dorset County Council AONB Team, Dorset Police (PCSO Team), Dorset Wildlife Trust, George & Sally Lunn, Farmers, Tony Eves, Cartshed Garage proprietor - and local residents John Newbould, Stan Thomas, David Broad, David Saunders, Norman & Margaret Brown, Tony Bugler, Caroline Crisp, George Shires, Joyce & Fredy Litschi, Sue Wintle and Maureen Morris for contributing various items of historic and local interest for the July 2006 Open Day. Mike Haine is thanked for preparing the map at Figure 1 and finally the steering group wishes to thank the children of the village for their artistic and literary contributions to the Village Plan.

References

Pressly, M, Meech, R and Jones, P (1999). Sutton Poyntz Village Survey, 22pp, published by the Sutton Poyntz Society, 1999.

CCRU (1998). Village Appraisals for Windows Software. Menu of Questions and User Manual. Published by University of Gloucestershire Countryside & Community Research Unit and Gloucestershire Rural Community Council.

Abbreviations

AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
B&B	Bed and Breakfast
BBQ	Barbecue
CCRU	Countryside & Community Research Unit
CPRE	Campaign to Protect Rural England
CP	Community Plan
DCA	Dorset Community Action
DCC	Dorset County Council
DSP	Dorset Strategic Partnership
DWT	Dorset Wildlife Trust
LDF	Local Development Framework
MHT	Mission Hall Trust
NHS	National Health Service
OYQ	Owermoigne Youth Quest Group
PC	Personal Computer
PCT	Primary Care Trust
PCSO	Police Community Support Officer
SID	Speed Indication Device
SPS	Sutton Poyntz Society
VA	Village Appraisals (software)
VPQ	Village Plan Questionnaire
WI	Womens Institute
W&PBC	Weymouth & Portland Borough Council
W&PP	Weymouth & Portland Partnership

Action Plan

Topic	Item	Aim(s)	Action Point(s)	Potential Partners	Ref
Village Plan	Ownership & delivery of Village Plan findings and Action Plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure that the findings of the Village Plan and community survey, and the aims and objectives of the Action Plan, are pursued to the advantage of the residents of Sutton Poyntz. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sutton Poyntz Society to assume overall responsibility for Village Plan. Copies to be sent to relevant authorities including W&PBC, W&PP, DCC, Police, Health etc (plus copies for W&PBC, W&PP, DCC websites). Engage community to pursue aims and objectives of Action Plan, capitalising on willingness of individuals to help as indicated in survey returns. 	Residents, local interest groups, relevant authorities (W&PBC, W&PP, DCC, DCA)	Pgs 1, 24 & 35
Village Facilities	Mission Hall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To further promote and develop the role of the Mission Hall as a village facility. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate potential changes and development of Mission Hall use through consideration of the Village Plan questionnaire responses. 	Mission Hall Trust Committee	Pg 11
	The Springhead Pub	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To explore the potential extension of the role of the pub in village life. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify interested individuals or group to liaise with Pub landlord. 	Residents, pub landlord, pub owners	Pg 12
	Waterworks Museum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate development of role of waterworks museum as village attraction and heritage / educational facility. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish local interest group to liaise with the museum curator and Wessex Water. 	Residents, Wessex Water, museum curator	Pg 13
	Facilities for Children and Young People	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To improve facilities for children and young people. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set up a children and young people's group to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify play / recreation needs of village. Liaise with W&PBC for results of recent Borough sport and recreation survey. Identify a designated play space within the village. Encourage involvement of younger residents. 	Residents, DCA Play Team, Dorset Play Forum, Active Dorset, W&PBC Parks Team, Owermoigne Youth Quest Group (OYQ), Dorset County Council (Children & Young People's Plan 2006-2009)	Pg 14

Topic	Item	Aim(s)	Action Point(s)	Potential Partners	Ref
Housing Development	Protection and conservation of village character	* To support the high value placed by the majority of residents on village structure, setting and natural environment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Ensure that relevant authorities are made aware of residents' strong wish that development within the village is sympathetic to its character and surroundings. * Prepare Conservation Area Character Appraisal¹⁴ jointly with W&PBC, building on 1999 Village Survey. * Look at options with W&PBC for preparing Conservation Area Management Plan¹⁵ (similar to Weymouth Town Centre). 	SPS, residents, W&PBC	Pg 25
Policing & Community Safety	Fear of crime	* To combat a local perception of crime.	* Establish links with Dorset Community Police.	Residents, SPS, Dorset Community Police	Pgs 16 & 17
	Neighbourhood Watch ¹⁶	* To encourage self-help initiatives.	* Explore local willingness to organise Homewatch schemes.	Residents, SPS, Dorset Crime Reduction Team	Pg 17
Countryside Access & Environment	Litter and dog fouling	* To combat the growing problem of litter and dog fouling.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Increase public awareness through the improvement and increase in number of signs / notices. * Improve visibility of / increase number of dog litter receptacles. 	SPS, residents, W&PBC, Dorset County Council, local farmers	Pgs 29 & 39
	Village Charm and Character	* Protect environmental setting of village, a key feature prized by residents and visitors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Liaise with W&PBC, Dorset County Council and interest groups to convey survey findings and concerns. * Protect green spaces, verges, open gaps within and around village. * Protect Preston - Sutton Poyntz Open Gap. * Flow-through information to Conservation Area Character Appraisal (see 'Housing Development' above) and influence planning policy. 	SPS, residents, W&PBC, Dorset County Council and AONB Team, Dorset Archive, Dorset Wildlife Trust	Pgs 25 & 27

^{14, 15} Terminology as advised by W&PBC.

¹⁶ Now replaced by Homewatch.

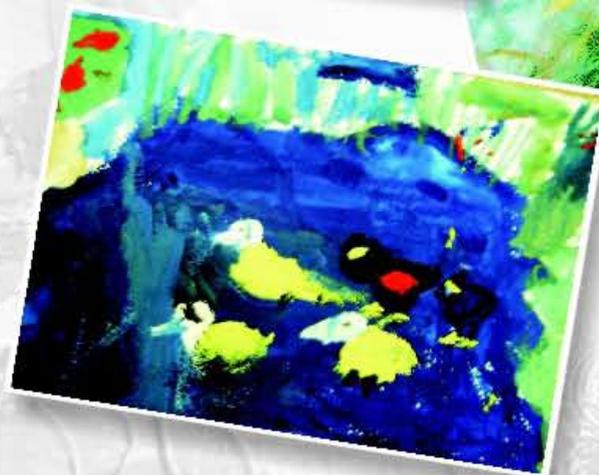
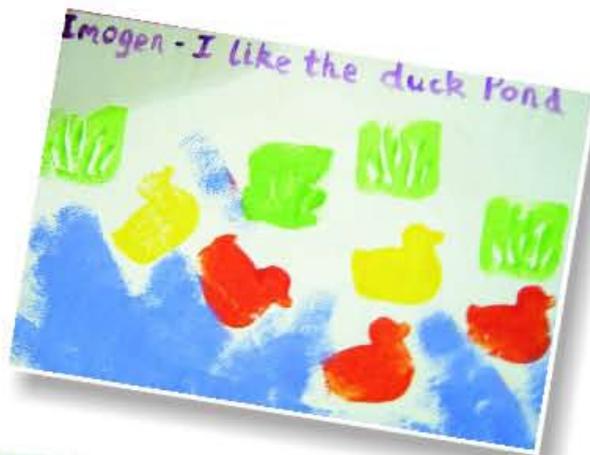
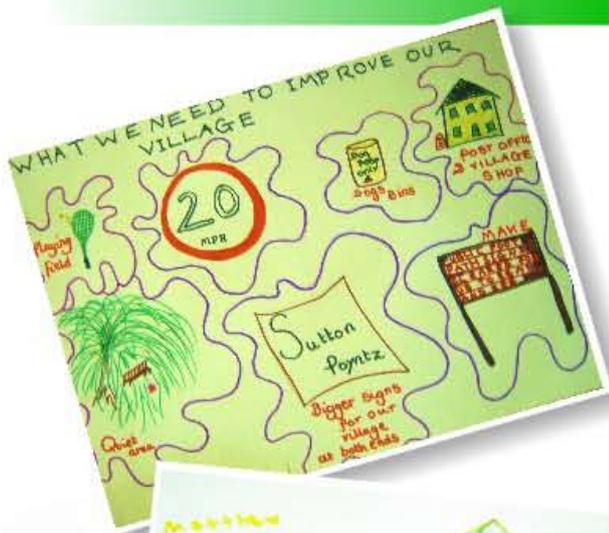
Topic	Item	Aim(s)	Action Point(s)	Potential Partners	Ref
	Heritage & History	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * To preserve the local history of the area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Establish a local interest group. * Seek to record the former way of life of older residents. * Create local history archive. * Encourage involvement of younger residents. * Liaise with similar project on Portland to learn from their experience. * Promote local history through information boards and village map. 	Residents, Museum Curator, Dorset Archive	Pgs 2, 13 & 29
	Wildlife Habitats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * To encourage and improve wildlife habitats. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Establish local interest group to develop projects. 	Residents, Dorset Wildlife Trust	Pg 30
	Maintenance of Footpaths & Bridleways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * To maintain and protect footpaths, bridleways and other rights of way in and around the village. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Work with W&PBC, Dorset County Council Countryside Services, Land Owners and Tenant Farmers to ensure maintenance of footpaths and bridleways to adequate standard and liaise with authorities concerning any changes in rights of way network. 	SPS, Borough & County authorities, landowners, tenants and user groups (e.g. scouts, rambblers)	Pgs 2 & 29
	Information on Rights of Way & Countryside Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * To provide information on public footpaths, bridleways, permissive paths, open access land and other features of interest in and around the village. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Form local interest group to take action forward. * Seek funding to prepare illustrated village map(s) to be located at key locations (to include information on historic, archaeological and environmental features). 	SPS, Natural England, Heritage Lottery Fund, DWT, Dorset Natural History & Archaeological Society, DCC Countryside Services and AONB Team, Wessex Water, Borough and County rights of way authorities.	Pgs 2, 29 & 30

Topic	Item	Aim(s)	Action Point(s)	Potential Partners	Ref
Road Safety & Parking	Impact of parked cars and through traffic on village life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * To create a safer environment in the village and on its approaches. * To reduce the impact of car parking on the quality of life in the village. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Work with Dorset County Council and W&PBC authorities to investigate measures for reducing hazards to pedestrians and cyclists. * Investigate with Dorset County Council and W&PBC measures to reduce speed of traffic within village and combat hazards at identified danger spots. * Work with appropriate bodies¹⁷ to identify suitable areas for both residents' and visitor parking. * Consult with appropriate bodies to determine those issues that are created by vehicles parked on the roadside. 	SPS, Dorset County Council, W&PBC, Police Authority, Wessex Water, Springhead Pub owners and landlord, Cartshed Garage, land owners generally	Pgs 2, 31 & 32
Services	Dental Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * To seek improvements in dental care provision in the area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Approach appropriate bodies to sound out potential for improved, accessible and local services. 	SPS, Primary Care Trust, Dorset Regional Health Authority	Pg 18
	Public transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * To ensure local bus services are maintained, improved and extended as feasible. * To promote local car sharing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Liaise with bus companies to determine best method of achieving aim. * Encourage car sharing through an informal network and via a local website. 	SPS, residents, local bus companies, DCC Transport and W&PBC authorities	Pg 19 & 20

¹⁷ Allocation of new land for parking would need to be progressed through W&PBC planning process.

Topic	Item	Aim(s)	Action Point(s)	Potential Partners	Ref
Communication	Improving communications within the village	* To seek improvements in local communication.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Work with W&PBC to improve publicity for way in which statutory body decisions affect the village. * Develop better community notice boards including village map showing places of interest and local footpaths, rights of way. * Create a dedicated village website and identify a manager. * Consider ways of using SPS newsletter to convey more local news and information. * Work with pub landlord to make more local information available in the Springhead Pub. 	SPS, Mission Hall Trust, Springhead Pub	Pgs 22 & 24

Children's paintings from July 2006 Open Day



This report has been produced as an initiative of the Sutton Poyntz Society