

# Parish Plan



2009

Cover designed by Lizzy de Courcy Wheeler

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# Introduction

## Foreword

Welcome to the Barton St David Parish Plan. Parish Councillors decided that the production of a Plan would be an advantage to the village and advertised in the Village Newsletter for volunteers to come forward to assist the Parish Council.

In October 2007, a group of eight volunteers aged between 28 and 80 held an inaugural meeting to form the Parish Plan Advisory Committee (PPAC).

The brief was to explore the scope of current village activities, to discover the hopes and concerns of villagers and to report back regularly to the Parish Council.

The aim was to bring together the views, needs and opinions of the community in a way that gave everyone the chance to take part in guiding future development.

The PPAC gratefully acknowledges the funding obtained from the County Council and South Somerset District Council as well as from Barton Parish Council.

A year was spent in carrying out research culminating in a Parish Plan Questionnaire which was delivered to all households (210).

87% (183) of the questionnaires with a total of 450 respondents were returned, indicating an impressive level of commitment and interest. The PPAC would like to thank the villagers for their support and interest.

The results were exhibited in the Village Hall during the weekend of 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> February 2009 and are included in the Plan.

The Parish Council endorsed the findings of the research and accepted the final versions of the Plan. They took an active part in devising the action plans that arise from each section of the Plan. Lead responsibilities and time scales appear in the leaflet distributed to all households.

## Barton St David

Barton St David lies in rural Somerset, five miles from Glastonbury and eleven miles from Yeovil. It is a small village which is mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1087. Over 900 years later, there are about 210 households with approximately 400 adult residents and 100 children under 18 years of age. Barton St David has developed from several hamlets clustered around the Church, the Mill, the Manor House, the Public House and various farmsteads. The village spreads out along more than four miles of roadway and there is a network of footpaths and ancient lanes.

Originally a significant apple-growing area, many orchards in the village have been removed in recent years. All the big elm trees have gone and there are comparatively few large trees (notably some ancient oaks) and, apart from the copse at Peacocks Hill, no significant woodland. Facilities include the thirteenth century Church, a Village Hall which used to be the school, a large playing field, a Farm Shop and the Barton Inn. Barton St David Pre-school has taken place in the Hall for almost 35 years but the primary school, shops and post office have all gone. Good use is made of the existing facilities. There is an annual programme of village activities following traditional lines - Carnival, Raft Race and Harvest Supper.

Housing is mixed in style but the development of estates has been avoided. Building that has taken place in the village has generally consisted of infilling, conversion of existing buildings and small groups of houses. Some of the houses have very old origins.

Barton's nearest neighbour is the larger village of Keinton Mandeville which provides a store, a pub, a visiting doctor's surgery and a Primary School. Baltonsborough and Butleigh also provide facilities within a three mile radius. Trains run from the station at Castle Cary, eight miles away and there are links with the A303 and A37. Public transport is minimal. Buses are provided for some schools and colleges and also for brief shopping expeditions. In recent years, Barton has experienced an increase in traffic passing through the village.

Over the past few years there has been a decline in farming in the area. Forty years ago there were 11 dairy farms, today one remains. A significant proportion of land in the village belongs to Somerset County Council. One Council farm is let on a short term tenancy. The old commitment to provide opportunities for young farmers just starting out is fading. Individual fields have been sold to private buyers. Planning applications for building projects are pending.

The Plan sets out to explore the opinions and feelings of all members of the community. What do we want the village to look like in the future? How can we incorporate sustainability and continuity into our daily lives? How do we want the community to operate in relation to safety, mutual support, education, communication and entertainment?

### **How the Parish Plan developed - the events and surveys which shaped it**

A brief leaflet was devised to inform people about the process of creating the Parish Plan and to ask for help in identifying matters which concern them most - delivered to all homes in October 2007.

- The issues which were identified were used as the basis for further research. (Appendix A)
- The Open weekend on 2nd/3rd February 2008 was held to promote interest and involvement from villagers. (Appendix B)
- 'Barton Past, Present and Future' - an open weekend, held on 10th/11th May 2008 was held in the Village Hall to inform and to promote discussion and to encourage people to give their views. (Appendix C)
- Trialling the questionnaire on 6th September 2008 led to significant adjustments and people's views helped the PPAC considerably with the design and production of the Questionnaire. (Appendix D)
- Results of the questionnaire were input to Survey Monkey, an online database facility. The results were analysed by an independent body, South Somerset Community Council, and summarised by the PPAC.
- Presentation of the results to the Parish Council - 10th January 2009. (Appendix E)
- Open weekend to present the results to the village - 7th/8th February 2009
- Reading of the draft Parish Plan - Feb/March 2009
- Consultation with the Parish Council - April 2009
- Publication and distribution April/May 2009

NB The number of respondents sometimes differs from the number of responses to questions. This occurs when people were asked to 'tick all that apply'.

# Findings from the Questionnaire

## 1. COMMUNICATION

### Consultation Results

#### 1.1 Do you have internet access in your home? (418 respondents)

84% of respondents indicated that they have access to the internet.

#### 1.2 If yes, is it available as broadband or dial-up? (351 respondents)

94% use broadband with 6% using dial-up. Five respondents indicated that they use both.

#### 1.3 Do you have problems with a slow or dropped connection to the internet? (351 respondents)

Only 12% indicated that they never have a problem. The other respondents were divided almost equally between -

Often - once or more a day - 29%

Regularly - once or more per week - 30%

Occasionally - once or more per month - 29%

#### 1.4 If a communal internet facility was available, would you use it? (415 respondents)

58% indicated that they would *not* do so. 28% indicated 'maybe' and only 14% said that they would use such a facility.

#### 1.5 How often do you use the telephone kiosk in the village? (437 respondents)

94% said that they never use it, 5% occasionally use it and only 1% use it regularly. The comment, 'Save our telephone box as a feature', was added.

#### 1.6 How often do you use the post boxes in the village? (437 respondents)

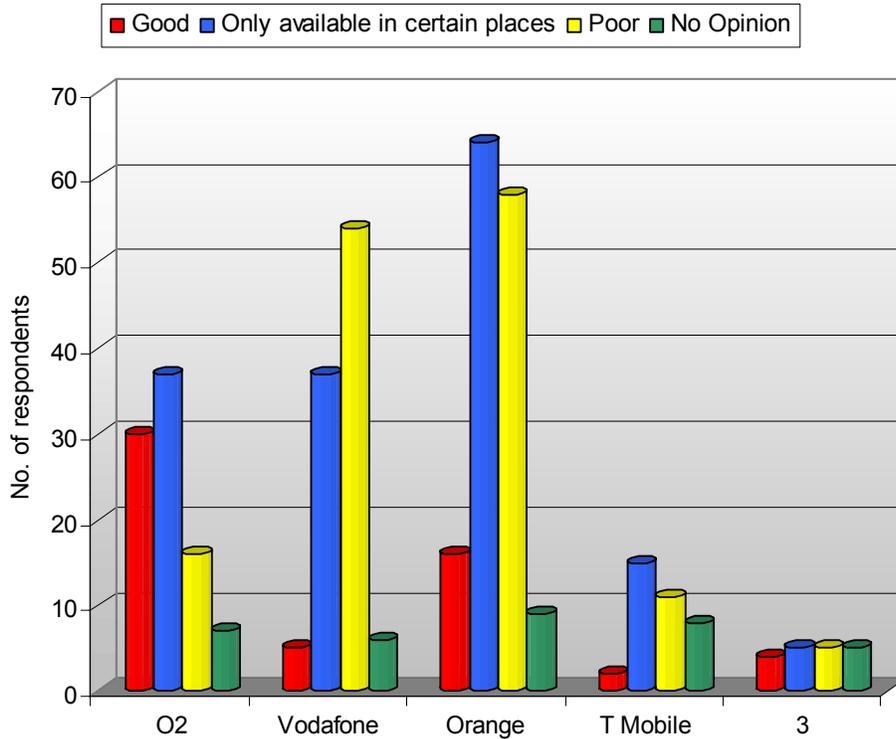
51% use them regularly, 39% use them occasionally and 11% of respondents never use them.

#### 1.7 If you use mobile phones, who are the providers? (358 respondents)

40% of the respondents indicated that they use Orange; 28% use Vodafone and 24% use O2; 8% indicated that they use T Mobile and 3% use 3. Additional comments showed that 22 people use other providers.

**1.8 What is your experience of the mobile coverage available in the village?**  
(347 respondents)

This question specifically asked about respondents' *experience* of mobile coverage in the village (not about the service given by their provider). Experiences of coverage are indicated below:-



**1.9 Do you look at the village website?** (422 respondents)

42% said they never look at the website and 31% said they didn't know there was one. 24% look at it occasionally and 3% regularly.

**1.10 Do you look at the village notice boards?** (431 respondents)

56% look occasionally, 14% look regularly and 24% never look at them. 7% didn't know they exist.

**1.11 Do you read the Barton St David Newsletter?** (438 respondents)

62% say they always read it, 23% sometimes read it and 14% never read it. 1% did not know there is a Newsletter.

## 1.12 How do you get information on local events? (412 respondents)

*Respondents were asked to tick all that apply*

78% (320) obtain information from the Newsletter with 66% (270) by word of mouth, 63% (260) from the Parish Magazine, 39% (160) from posters and 32% (130) from notice boards. 16% (66) said they obtain information from notices in the Barton Inn.

### Comments

Many comments were noted in relation to poor mobile phone signals and broadband provision. A comment relating to broadband stated that improved speed and reliability would make a significant difference to decisions about whether or not to set up a business or to work from home in the village. Although the red phone box is little used, it is considered to be a valued part of the street scene and essential to communication in the event of an emergency situation (see the Village Emergency Plan).

<b>Aim:</b> Improve Communication Channels within as well as to and from the village.	
<b>How can we achieve our aim?</b>	<b>Action required</b>
Lobby providers to improve broadband connection and mobile phone signal coverage.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Contact BT and other providers to identify causes of coverage and connection problems. Investigate potential solutions and communicate them to residents.</li></ul>
Save the red telephone box.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Telephone box is part of Village Emergency Plan – ensure BT are aware.</li></ul>
Ensure villagers have good access to information regarding the village.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Investigate need for additional notice boards and if required and approved, ensure they are provided.</li><li>• Publicise website through newsletter and on notice boards.</li><li>• Set up an e-mail distribution list to disseminate information.</li></ul>

## 2. COMMUNITY SAFETY

### Consultation Results

#### 2.1 Has your household been a victim of any of the following? (245 respondents)

*Only one answer per household was allowed for this question.*

71% of those that responded indicated they have not been a victim of crime with 7% experiencing rowdiness, 6% drunken behaviour, 6% having experience of burglary, 6% of vandalism and 15% had experience of theft from outbuildings.

#### 2.2 Have you, as an individual, been a victim of any of the following?

(389 respondents)

*Respondents were asked to tick all that apply*

91% (352) of villagers have not been a victim of any of the listed. No one in Barton has been a victim of mugging with 5% (20) having experience of car crime and 5% (18) of theft.

#### 2.3 Do you know who the Neighbourhood Watch contact is for your area of the village? (420 respondents)

59% indicated they didn't know while 41% said they did.

#### 2.4 Do you know who the Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator for the village is?

(420 respondents)

67% indicated No while 33% said Yes.

#### 2.5 Have you ever reported anything to the Neighbourhood Watch?

(420 respondents)

87% indicated they hadn't while 13% said they had.

#### 2.6 Do you think there is a need for a light in the bus shelter? (419 respondents)

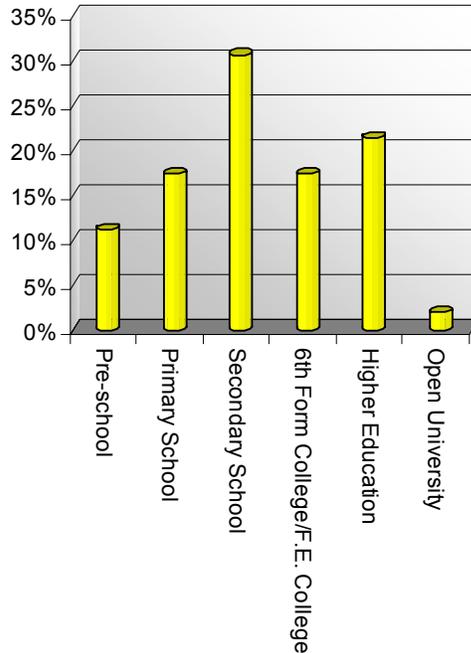
37% of respondents have No Opinion on this question. However 34% indicated they would like a light in the bus shelter and 29% would not.

<b>Aim:</b>	
Maintain and continue to promote the feeling of safety and security in the village.	
<b>How can we achieve our aim?</b>	<b>Action required</b>
Promote the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Neighbourhood watch coordinator to ensure information is available on notice boards, website and provide updates through newsletter.</li> </ul>
Improve lighting in the bus shelter.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fully investigate the feasibility of providing a light in the bus shelter.</li> </ul>
Ensure ongoing contact is maintained with Police Community Support Officer (PCSO).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inform residents of when PCSO will be visiting village (via newsletter, website and notice boards).</li> <li>• Ask PCSO to provide an update for the newsletter at least once every 6 months.</li> </ul>

### 3. EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING

#### Consultation Results

#### 3.1 What place of Education do you attend? (98 respondents)



#### 3.2 Do you attend adult education classes? (331 respondents)

#### 3.3 If you do not take part is it because of ...? (306 respondents)

*Respondents were asked to tick all that apply*

88% (291) do not attend adult education classes. For 45% (138) this is due to lack of time, 45% (139) lack of interest. However, for 12% (38) it was due to the timing of courses and 11% (34) were unaware of courses available. 5 people had no one to go with and 5 had no transport. 4 have mobility problems.

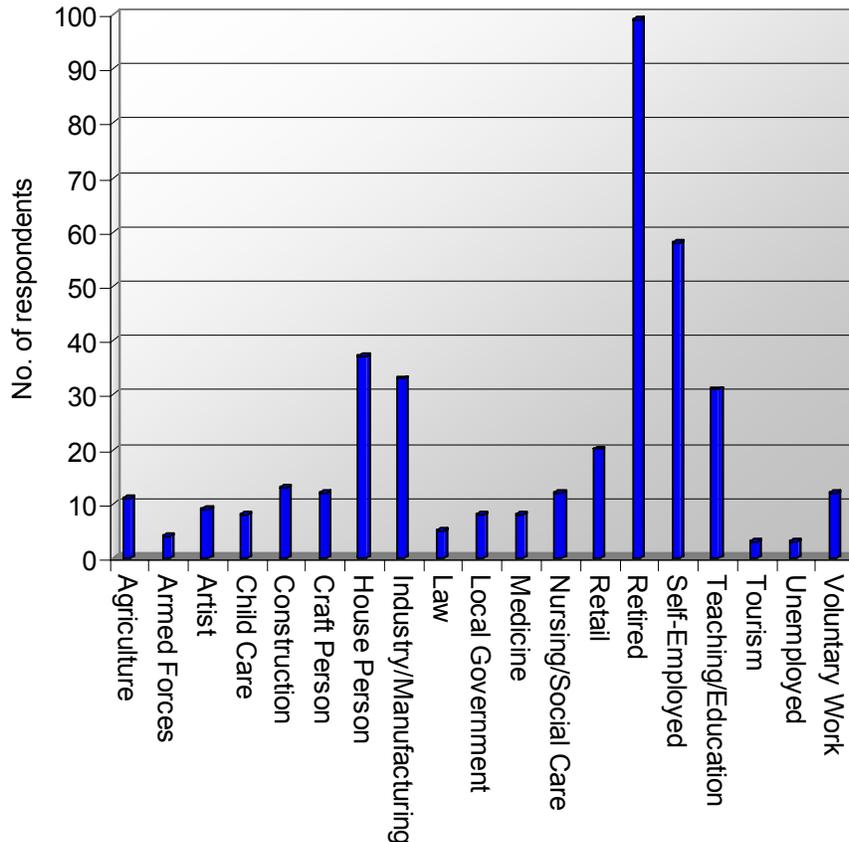
<b>Aim:</b>	
Ensure that information about adult education is readily available.	
<b>How can we achieve our aim?</b>	<b>Action required</b>
Provide access to relevant information on courses and classes being run at local Colleges.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Place links to Yeovil and Strode College and Somerset Skills and Learning on village website.</li> <li>Ask Colleges and Somerset Skills and Learning to provide copies of course brochures (if available) which can be accessed via the Barton Inn and Village Hall.</li> </ul>

## 4. EMPLOYMENT AND THE ECONOMY

### Consultation Results

#### 4.1 Indicate the occupation of each person in your household? (382 respondents)

Respondents were asked to tick all that apply



Other occupations included: Other Healthcare, Student, Fleet Engineer, Freelance Computing, Hairdresser, HGV Driver, Accountant, Property Management, Chef, Property Development, Professional Engineer, Local Housing Association employee, Insurance, MOD, Management, Administration, Finance, Production Manager, Consultant, Motor trade, Bar staff, IT, Catering and Hospitality.

It is particularly interesting to note that 58 village residents are self employed.

#### 4.2 How far do you travel to work? (393 respondents)

Whilst this was not applicable to 42% of respondents, the remaining was fairly equally spread with most (13%) travelling 6-10 miles, the least (3%) travelling 21-30 miles, 9% working at various sites and 8% work from home.

### 4.3 What do you see as barriers to setting up a business in this Parish?

(298 respondents)

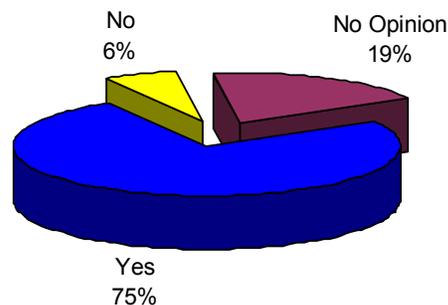
*Respondents were asked to tick all that apply*

35% (105) could see no barriers. However, poor broadband connections 41% (121), poor mobile phone network coverage 33% (98), distance from main centre of commerce 21% (61) and lack of suitable premises 19% (57), were cited as barriers to setting up a business.

### 4.4 Would a directory of village businesses and trades people be useful?

(412 respondents)

75% felt it would be useful to have a directory of village businesses and trades people.



<b>Aim:</b>	
Make it more feasible for people to set up businesses in the village and to make skills known.	
<b>How can we achieve our aim?</b>	<b>Action required</b>
Lobby providers to improve broadband connection and mobile phone signal coverage.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contact BT and other providers to identify causes of coverage and connection problems. Investigate potential solutions and communicate them to residents.</li> </ul>
Promote village businesses and trades people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify funding to support the collation and printing of a directory of village businesses and trades people.</li> <li>Ensure an updated version of directory is available on the village website.</li> </ul>

## 5. ENVIRONMENT AND THE COUNTRYSIDE

### Consultation Results

#### 5.1 Do you believe any of the following contribute to flooding at times of heavy rainfall? (394 respondents)

*Respondents were asked to tick all that apply*

65% (257) of respondents felt the greatest cause of flooding at times of heavy rainfall was blocked ditches followed closely by blocked drains 61% (242). 54% (213) of respondents felt that water run-off from particular fields contributed to the problem.

Inadequate drainage was noted by 41% (161) of respondents as a causal factor and 28% (111) felt that river levels contributed to the problem. The remaining 11% (45) who responded to this question were not concerned about flooding. The remaining 56 out of 450 questionnaire respondents (12%) skipped the question entirely.

#### 5.2 Energy Saving Products (259 respondents)

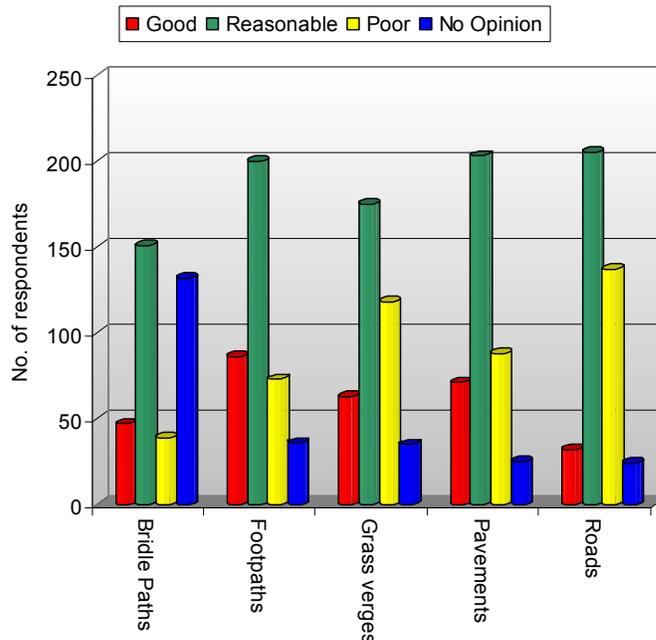
*Respondents were asked to tick all that apply*

72% (187) would like information on energy saving products while 87% (226) would like information on grants for energy saving products.

#### 5.3 What would you say is the state of Bridle Paths, Footpaths, Grass Verges, Pavements and Roads?

(415 respondents)

*This question asked residents to give their opinion on the state of various publicly-accessible areas of the countryside by rating their condition as good, reasonable or poor.*



A number of respondents ticked 'no opinion' to the options provided, ranging from a low of 6% (24) for 'Roads' to a high of 36% (132) in the case of 'Bridle Paths. These 'no opinion' responses were subtracted from the total 'response count' column to gain the information needed for the analysis, i.e. residents' **opinions** on paths, verges, roads, etc.

For those who **did** have an opinion about each of the options provided, the highest number of respondents chose the option 'Reasonable.' When combined with the 'Good' responses (to ascertain the level of favourable responses overall) the percentage totals are as follows: 84% judged the state of bridle paths to be 'Reasonable' or 'Good'. Somewhat fewer, 80% judged the state of 'Footpaths' to be 'Reasonable' or 'Good' and fewer still, 76% judged the state of 'Pavements' to be 'Reasonable' or 'Good.' The options with the lowest scores were 'Grass Verges', where 67% judged their state to be 'Reasonable' or 'Good' and 'Roads', where only 63% judged their state to be 'Reasonable' or 'Good.'

#### **5.4 Are you aware of any problems for people with restricted mobility?**

(389 respondents)

90% of respondents were unaware of any problems. However concern was raised over the general lack of pavements meaning that mobility scooters and pushchairs have to use the roads; stiles and footpaths in Stocks Green; area on Main Street with no pavement between pub and the crossroads; entrance to playing fields from High Lane; restricted bus services; pavement at Peacock Hill being very narrow on the bend and stopping on second bend; path between Park Close and Main Street; gates needed rather than stiles; lack of/overgrown footpaths and encroaching hedges in Mill Road, High Lane and Peacocks Hill.

#### **5.5 Do you feel there is a need for further pavements/walkways?** (390 respondents)

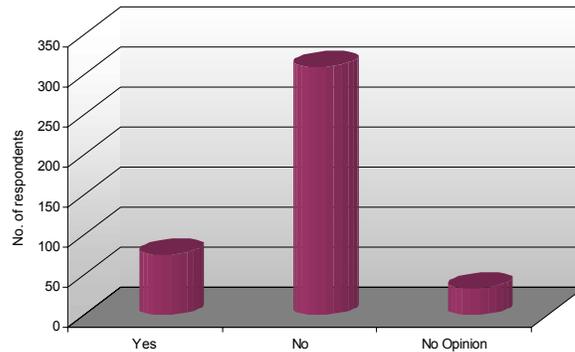
*Respondents were asked to tick all that apply*

Of the 390 respondents who answered this question, 58% (225) feel there is a need for further pavements/walkways between Barton and Keinton Mandeville. A smaller number 23% (88) feel that further pavements/walkways are needed on Mill Road. An additional 40% (156) feel that no further pavements/walkways are needed at either of these locations.

Additional comments: 'By the pub', 'Jarmany Hill', 'Mill Road (needed) but too narrow unless pavements included in traffic calming scheme'

### 5.6 Is there a need for street lights? (420 respondents)

74% do not see the need for street lights.



### 5.7 Regarding Signs, would you like to see ...? (401 respondents)

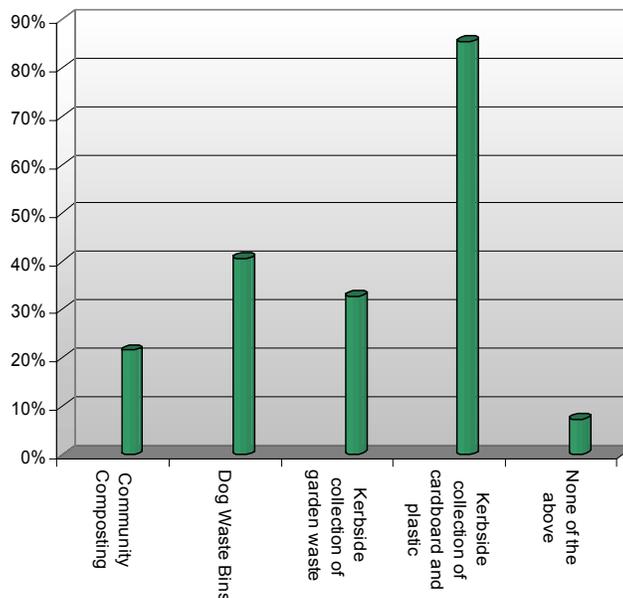
Respondents were asked to tick all that apply

While 47% (189) felt that no more signs were needed, 34% (138) would like to see Heavy Lorries Prohibited signs, 27% (107) Caution signs and 20% (79) Welcome/Exit village signs.

Further suggestions included: 'Road Narrows', 'Narrow Road with Passing Places', '30 mph' on entering village, 'Caution' sign near pub, '7.5cwt'. Some also felt that heavy traffic should be guided to more suitable routes while others felt there are already too many signs and that people ignore them anyway.

### 5.8 Regarding waste, would you like to see ...? (403 respondents)

Respondents were asked to tick all that apply



85% (344) of respondents would like to see kerbside collection of cardboard and plastic, 41% (164) would like to see dog waste bins, 33% (132) kerbside bins and 22% (87) community composting. Only 7% (30) would like to see none of the above.

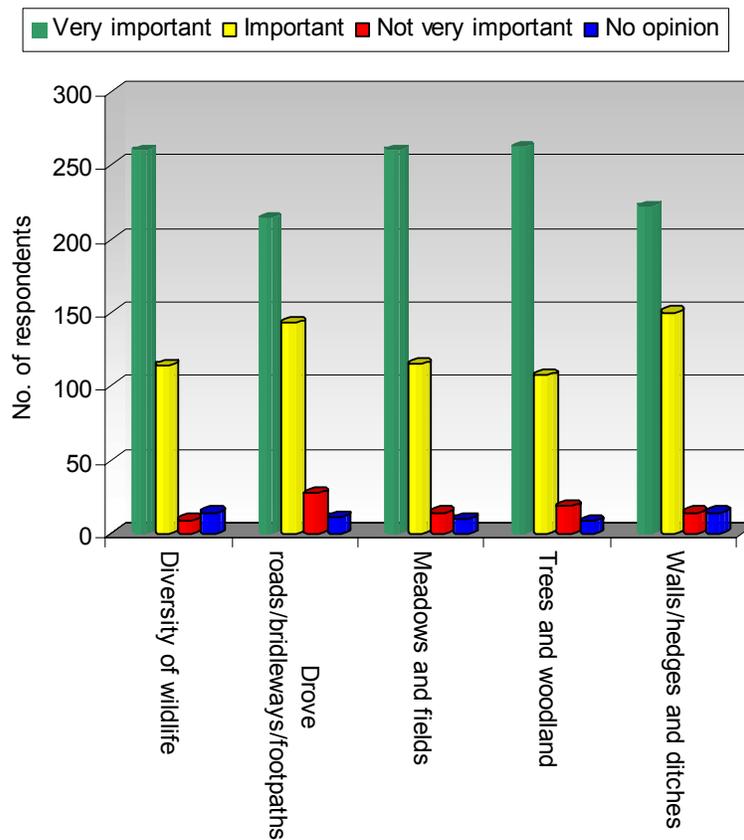
**5.9 If dog waste bins were provided, where should they be sited? (350 respondents)**  
*Respondents were asked to tick all that apply*

Stiles/entrances to fields 40% (142) and public footpaths 35% (122) were the favoured sites. However 35% (123) felt there should be no dog bins ('education of dog owners' and 'dog owners should pick up their own dog waste', 'Bins are unsightly and a haven for Parasites') In addition the following results were recorded: By the telephone box 20% (71), Park Close 8% (28), Park Lane 15% (52) and Silver Street 11% (39).

**5.10 Would you take part in organised rubbish pick up walks? (405 respondents)**

Of those responding, 156 people (39%) said Yes.

**5.11 Is the preservation of Wildlife, Drove Roads/Bridleways/Footpaths, Meadows and Fields, Trees and Woodland, Walls/Hedges and Ditches important to you? (411 responses)**



The 'Diversity of wildlife', 'Meadows and fields' and 'Trees and woodland' are all 'Very important' to at least 65% of respondents. The preservation of 'Drove roads/bridleways/footpaths' and 'Walls/hedges and ditches' is also 'Very important' to at least 54% of respondents. To an additional 27-38%, all four of these qualities are 'Important' to preserve. When the 'Very important' and the 'Important' responses are combined, the preservation of these qualities is 'Important' or Very important' to 93-97% of respondents.

To the remaining 6-9% of respondents, the preservation of these qualities is either 'Not very important' or they have 'No opinion.' To this group, the least important quality is the preservation of 'Drove roads/bridleways/footpaths.'

39 out of 450 respondents (9%) skipped this question entirely.

<b>Aim:</b>	
Promote continuous improvement and maintenance of the environment. Promote sustainability and respect the rural heritage of the village for present and future generations.	
<b>How can we achieve our aim?</b>	<b>Action required</b>
Increase knowledge regarding the risk of flooding in the village.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Undertake a survey of drainage in Barton.</li> </ul>
Provide information to villagers on how to reduce their carbon footprint.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote information on energy saving products, energy efficiency grants and local organisations that can provide free advice (promote via website, newsletter and notice boards).</li> </ul>
Promote the maintenance and safety of village pavements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carry out an audit of pavement provision and quality, including identifying potential problems encountered by people with restricted mobility. Make any findings known to Somerset County Council.</li> </ul>
Promote the maintenance and safety of the village roads.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carry out an audit of the road and grass verge condition.</li> <li>• Investigate the potential need for additional signage relating to road use e.g. weight restrictions.</li> <li>• Investigate the possibility of advising the makers of Satellite Navigation Systems of potential routing amendments.</li> </ul>
Make improvements to waste disposal and recycling in the village.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Look into providing dog waste bins.</li> <li>• Organise a regular litter pick up walk.</li> <li>• Investigate the possibility of kerbside collection of cardboard and plastic.</li> </ul>

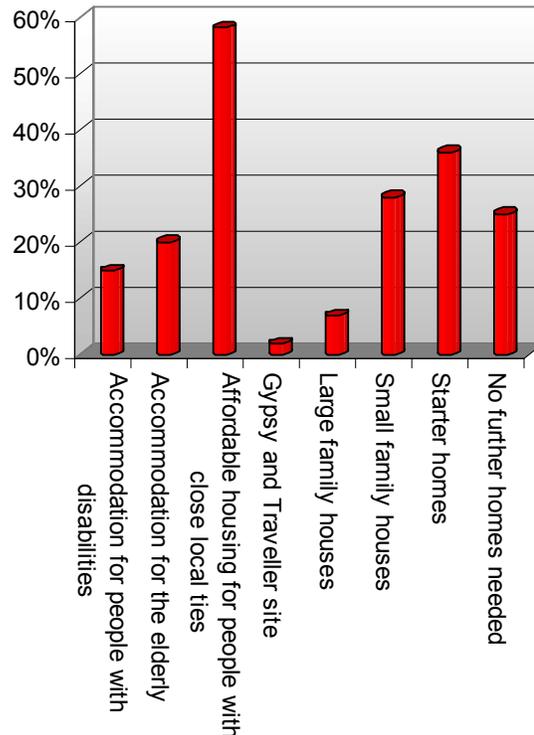
## 6. HOUSING AND LAND

(Only those aged 18 and over completed this section)

### Consultation Results

#### 6.1 What kind of additional accommodation do you think is needed to buy or rent in the village? (336 respondents)

Respondents were asked to tick all that apply



Over half of respondents, 58% (195) think that additional affordable housing for people with close local ties is needed to buy or rent in the village. This was the only option to receive a majority vote. The next largest group of respondents, 36% (120) think that starter homes are needed, followed by small family houses 28% (95). Of the remaining options, no more than 20% were in agreement as to what was required. One quarter of all respondents 25% (83) state that no further homes are needed.

(If respondents ticked 'no further homes are needed' in the above question, they were instructed to miss out the next question.)

#### 6.2 Where do you think this accommodation should be built? (250 respondents)

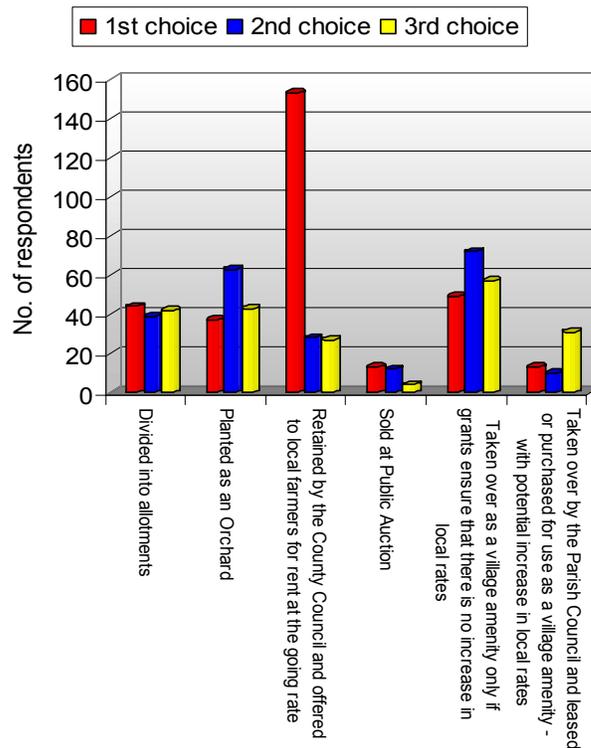
Respondents were asked to tick all that apply.

The responses to this question were fairly evenly grouped between 3 of the 4 listed options. The option with the highest number of responses was a small group of homes on a site adjacent to the development area with 52% (129) of respondents choosing this option. This was followed closely by Infilling within the development area 48% (121) and conversion of existing buildings 46% (114). The fourth option, a larger group on a site adjacent to the development area was selected by only 13% (33) of respondents.

Additional comments suggested that a brown field site should be used, care should be taken to avoid further ribbon development and that any development of affordable homes should be situated so that it is fully integrated into the village.

### 6.3 If County Council land became surplus to requirements - how would you like to see it used? (305 respondents)

Respondents were asked to indicate three preferred choices in order of 1st, 2nd and 3rd



Respondents declared a clear preference for option 3: Retained by the County Council and offered to local farmers. With 153 responses, this option was the first choice by 50% of the 305 respondents who answered this question and received the highest number of responses overall: 208.

The next most popular choice for the use of this land was to be taken over as a village amenity. This option ranked 2nd as a first choice 27% (49), 1st as a second choice 40% (72) and 1st as a third choice 32% (57) with a total of 178 responses overall.

The third most popular option was for the land to be planted as an orchard. Although this option ranked 4th as a first choice of use for the land 26% (37), it ranked a high 2nd as a second choice 44% (63) and 2nd as a third choice 30% (43) with a total of 143 responses overall.

The fourth most popular option was for the land to be divided into allotments. This option ranked 3rd for all three choices.

**6.4 Are you aware of the various sites under consideration for affordable housing?** (353 respondents)

Almost two thirds of the people who answered this question (63%) said that they are aware of the sites under consideration; 37% stated that they are unaware.

Additional comments from respondents:

Housing and land issues are of great concern to many villagers. Some say that there should be no further housing development in the village because of lack of amenities. Some are concerned that the water run-off from development may further exacerbate the problem of excess surface water in certain areas. Some feel that agricultural land should not be used for housing. Some feel that the quiet, peaceful nature of life in Barton St David may be spoiled by further housing development, that encouraging the use of more cars is undesirable and that there is a danger that such development might be unsightly. On the other hand, people with close local ties clearly state the case for affordable housing in the village.

Some would prefer to see such development only on a brownfield site. However, others point out that no such site is available adjacent to the SSDC local plan development area. Some say that an exception site should be identified near to the centre of the village so that residents are fully integrated into the community.

<b>Aim:</b> Within the scope of planning policy, endeavour to retain the rural character of Barton St David	
<b>How can we achieve our aim?</b>	<b>Action required</b>
<p>Use established channels to provide information to residents of proposed developments to the natural and built environment within the village.</p> <p>Keep up to date with all aspects of the emerging Local Development Framework. (see Appendix G)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engage with the planning system to provide a small scale development of affordable housing for people with close local ties.</li> <li>• Work with South Somerset District Council's and Somerset County Council's planning and transport departments to ensure planned developments are made known to residents and they are given the opportunity to comment if they wish.</li> <li>• Ensure villagers are made aware of proposed disposals of County Council land and that their views are communicated.</li> <li>• Ensure that any County Council land being sold is assessed for potential community use and the feasibility of purchasing land for such use is investigated if applicable.</li> <li>• Request that new developments conform to high environmental standards.</li> </ul>

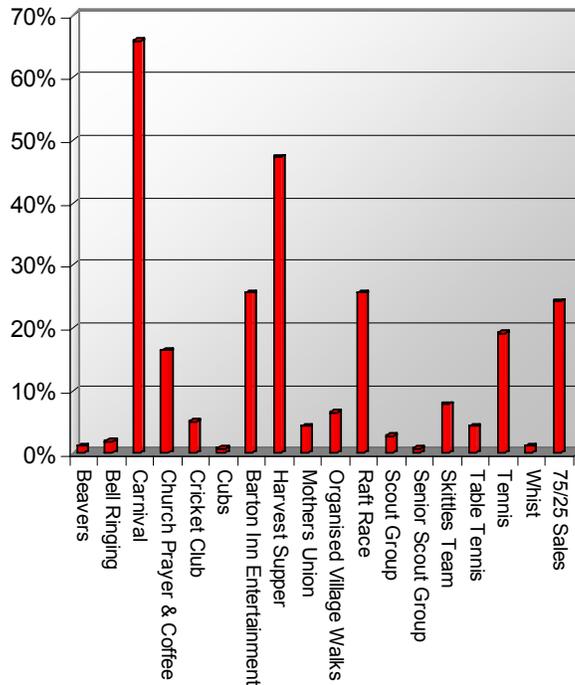
## 7. LEISURE AND AMENITIES

### Consultation Results

#### 7.1 Do you participate in any of the following activities that already take place?

(281 respondents)

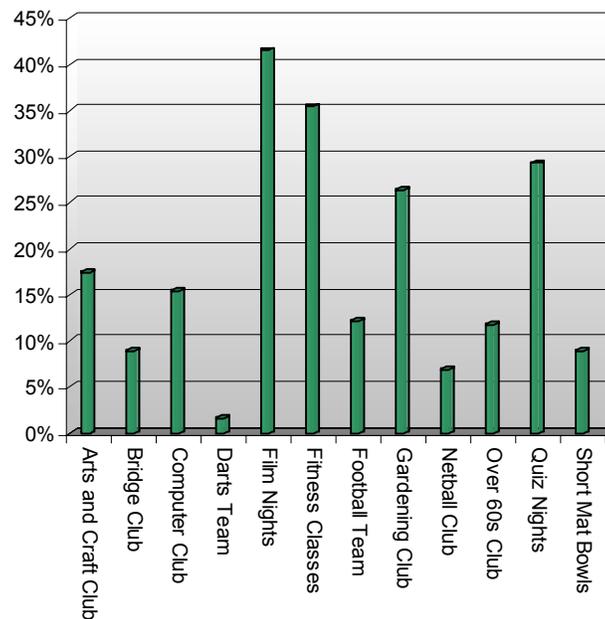
Respondents were asked to tick all that apply



It would appear that villagers like participating in the annual traditional type of village activity with the entertainment organised by The Barton Inn proving popular too. There appears to be a demand for the return of the 75/25 sales. It was brought to our attention that a Youth House Group meets monthly – two out of three times in Barton.

## 7.2 What other activities would you like to see happen? (246 respondents)

Respondents were asked to tick all that apply



Nearly half those that responded would like to see Film Nights taking place in Barton with about a third indicating they would like fitness classes. Types of fitness activities listed were Yoga, Aerobics, Pilates and Tums & Bums - for all ages. Over quarter of respondents mentioned quiz nights and gardening club. Some would like to participate in dance classes, martial art classes, tennis tournaments, rounders and hockey clubs. Christian activities, First Aid and Cycling Proficiency Tests, tea dances and cultural activities were also mentioned.

## 7.3 Would you volunteer to run, or help run, existing and new activities?

(371 respondents)

23% (85) people said they would be prepared to volunteer. However 77% of those that responded indicated that they would not.

## 7.4 Do you think 7 – 11 years olds should be encouraged to use the playing field more by setting aside a designated area? (332 respondents)

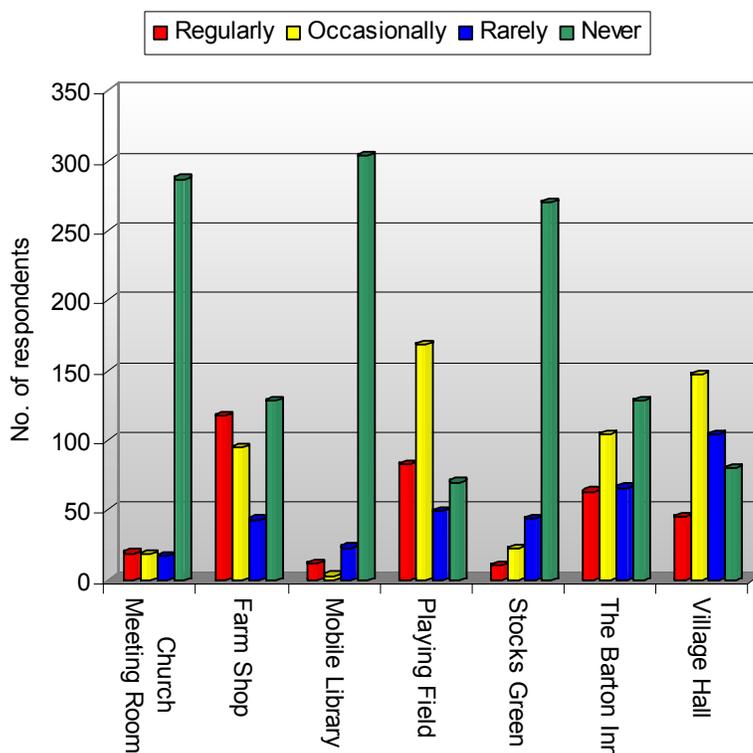
Slightly more people were in favour with 53% indicating Yes and 47% indicating No. Some commented that there should be much more challenging equipment introduced for this age group, e.g. assault course, climbing wall, skateboard type area and an area for bicycles.

## 7.5 What provision should be made for young people? (341 respondents)

Respondents were asked to tick all that apply

60% (206) would like a youth club, 54% (183) regularly organised activities, 19% (64) a youth shelter while 16% (58) felt no further provision is needed.

## 7.6 How often do you use the following ...? (415 respondents)



## 7.7 How would you like to see Stocks Green used? (315 respondents)

Respondents were asked to tick the ONE they feel has the highest priority

About a third of the respondents, 35%, indicated they would like to see Stocks Green stay just as it is but 26% would like a more inviting and open aspect. 20% would like allotments, 8% would like supervised activities for the young to take place there, 6% would like more seating and 5% would like an exercise area.

Several additional comments were made by respondents saying Stocks Green is an underused area and some suggested it should be built on.

## 7.8 Is the Village Church important to you for the following ...?

(327 respondents)

Respondents were asked to tick all that apply

Worship	33% (109)	Its possible connection to	
Baptisms	32% (106)	an American President	17% ( 54)
Carol Service	48% (157)	Mothers Union Service	10% ( 32)
Church Bells	46% (150)	National Days	10% ( 33)
Community Focal Point	37% (121)	Quiet Contemplation	28% ( 91)
Easter Service	25% ( 81)	Remembrance Day Service	38% (125)
Funerals	44% (146)	Scouts Service	10% ( 33)
Harvest Service	31% (101)	Weddings	48% (158)
Historic Building	70% (228)		

### 7.9 Do you attend Parish Council Meetings? (412 respondents)

6% villagers attend regularly with 31% attending occasionally and 63% never.

### 7.10 Do you know how to access Parish Council Minutes?

(403 respondents)

33% indicated that they do know how to access Parish Council Minutes. However, 67% of the respondents said they do not.

A few comments were raised regarding display of the Minutes in the village for those without a PC.

### 7.11 Do you attend the Village Hall & Playing Fields Committee AGM?

(408 respondents)

95% of the village do not attend the VH&PFC AGM with only 5% stating they do.

### 7.12 Are Village Hall & Playing Fields activities publicised effectively?

(368 respondents)

Over half the respondents (59%) think that the VH&PFC activities are publicised effectively but 41% do not.

### 7.13 Did you find the New Residents Welcome Leaflet ...? (362 respondents)

70% don't remember receiving one but of those that did, 16% found it welcoming, 16% found it useful and 3% found it not useful.

<b>Aim:</b> Ensure that the village amenities are used to their full potential to fulfil the needs of the current population.	
<b>How can we achieve our aim?</b>	<b>Action required</b>
Ensure village activities are well promoted.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Update the Residents Welcome Leaflet and ensure new residents receive a copy.</li><li>• Promote village activities via the website, newsletter and notice boards.</li><li>• Continue to display Parish Council minutes on notice boards and make copies available on the website.</li></ul>
Support residents who would like to volunteer in the village.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Recruit volunteers to help organise and assist with village activities. Promote volunteering opportunities via the website, newsletter and notice boards.</li></ul>
Increase the activities available for children and young people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Improve the range of play equipment available by adding more adventurous equipment for the 7-11 age range.</li><li>• Develop activities for teenage residents based on their identified needs.</li></ul>
Develop underused village amenities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Review the use of Stocks Green.</li></ul>

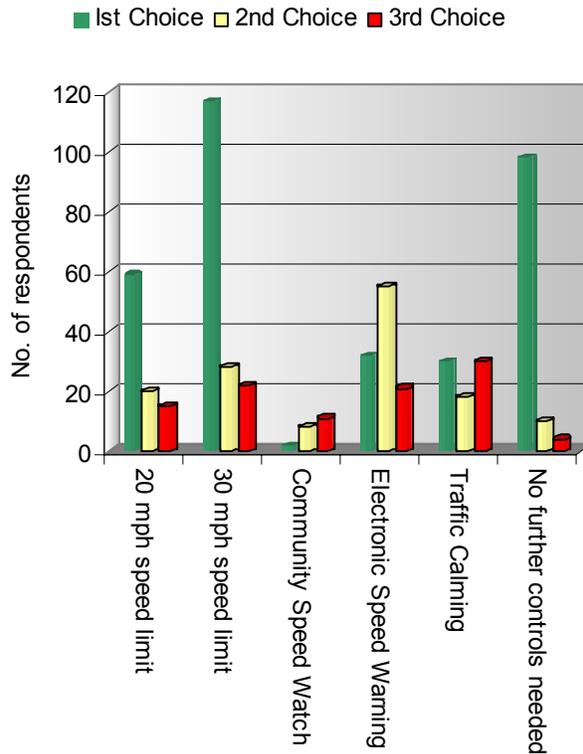
## 8. TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT

(Only those aged 18 and over completed this section)

### Consultation Results

#### 8.1 Do you feel the speed of traffic through the village should be controlled by the following ...? (332 respondents)

*This question asked residents to choose options to limit the speed of traffic through the village and to rank their choices in order of 1st, 2nd and 3rd*



For those who felt speed controls were needed, a 30 mph speed limit was the first choice by 117 respondents (35% of total respondents) and received the highest number of responses overall: 167.

One third of those who answered this question, a total of 112 (34%) ticked no further traffic controls needed and for 98 of these respondents this was their first choice. An additional 14 respondents ticked this option as their second or third choice.

The next most popular choice of speed controls was for electronic speed warning signs. Although this option ranked 4th as a first choice of traffic control (32), it ranked 1st as a second choice of traffic control (55) and was chosen by 108 respondents overall.

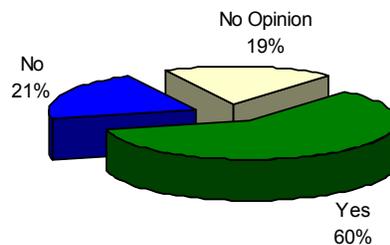
A 20 mph speed limit was the next most popular choice. It came 3rd as a first choice of options (59), 3rd as a second choice of options (20) and 4th as a third choice, and was 4th (94) in responses overall. Traffic calming received a total of 78 responses, followed by Community Speed Watch with 21 responses.

Additional comments from respondents:

While some felt there is natural 'traffic calming' in certain places, others felt there should be 20mph at certain 'pinch points' such as the Mill House, the Pub, bottom of Peacocks Hill. Some said signs should be avoided and limits could be painted on the road. Also some concern was expressed that any speed limits should not be accompanied by street lights. Suggestions were also made that the de-restriction sign at the top of the village (Peacocks Hill) should be removed and hedges need cutting back so existing signs are not obscured.

## 8.2 Should there be vehicle weight restriction through the village?

(357 respondents)



## 8.3 Indicate if you share a car for the following ...? (81 respondents)

*Respondents were asked to tick all that apply*

Of the small number who responded, 59% (48) share a car for shopping, 21% (17) for taking children to school and 37% (30) for transport to work. Others: 'visits to hospital, church events, Alpha course, benefice services when out of Barton'; 'rely on others for transportation' and 'social trips'.

## 8.4 Would you be willing to participate in an organised Village Car Share scheme?

(313 respondents)

80% said they would be unwilling to participate in a Car Share Scheme. However 63 people replied that they would be willing.

## 8.5 Do you use a bus for ...? (336 respondents)

*Respondents were asked to tick all that apply*

While 82% (275) do not use the bus, nevertheless 13% (43) use it for shopping, 9% (29) for leisure, 3% (9) for going to college and 2% (8) for going to work and a few say they use it occasionally. Additional comments were made that the bus timetable is not relevant to train timetables or work.

### 8.6 Do you use a bicycle for ...? (311 respondents)

*Respondents were asked to tick all that apply*

Of those owning a bicycle 55% (171) use it for leisure, 21% (64) going to the local shops, 19% (60) for visiting other people, 4% (13) for going to work and 1% (2) going to college. However 41% (162) do not own a bicycle.

### 8.7 Would you use a bicycle more if there were improvements in cycling facilities, such as cycling tracks? (322 respondents)

Although 58% said they would not use a bicycle more, 43% said they would. 'Can you flatten hills?!' 'Roads are for bikes as well'.

### 8.8 Have you experienced problems with parked cars causing congestion, reduced visibility or blocked roads at the following locations ...?

(326 respondents)

*Respondents were asked to tick all that apply*

53% (173) said they experienced no problems. However 28% (91) experienced problems in Main Street, 27% (87) in Mill Road and 7% (24) in Church Street/Road.

Respondents were invited to comment on other problem locations.

Concern was expressed by some respondents and strong comments were made over both parking and visibility in Brook Lane and the junction of Brook Lane with Main Street. Concern was also expressed about access for emergency vehicles.

An opinion was expressed that when using the playing fields cars should not park by the bus shelter but in the tarmac area in front of the village hall.

Some problems are experienced in Broadclose Way when the Village Hall is being heavily used, also people driving too fast and the road narrowing at Chisletts Corner.

The junctions of Park Lane/ Mill Road, Park Lane/Silver Street and Park Close were also mentioned.

<b>Aim:</b>	
Ensure that the transport infrastructure that services Barton St David is best suited to the requirements of the residents and that traffic passes through the village safely and with minimum inconvenience and risk to residents, road users and pedestrians.	
<b>How can we achieve our aim?</b>	<b>Action required</b>
Ensure traffic parks and travels through the village safely.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Carry out a survey to determine traffic flow and parking issues throughout the village.</li></ul>
Support cycle use in the village.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Contact Somerset County Council Cycling Officer for advice and information.</li></ul>
Support the use of public transport and car share schemes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Contact Somerset County Council's 'Moving Somerset Forward' (Smarter Choices Team) for advice and information in relation to future bus timetabling, links to Castle Cary Train Station and car share schemes.</li></ul>

## 9. YOUTH

### Consultation Results

#### 9.1 How often do you use the children's playground? (361 respondents)

Of the 361 respondents 36% use the children's playground occasionally, 8% use it weekly, 4% use it daily and 52% never use it.

#### 9.2 How do you rate the equipment provided in the children's playground? (347 respondents)

Of those that expressed an opinion 39% rate the equipment provided as reasonable with 29% scoring it as good. Only 3% think it is poor. 30% expressed no opinion.

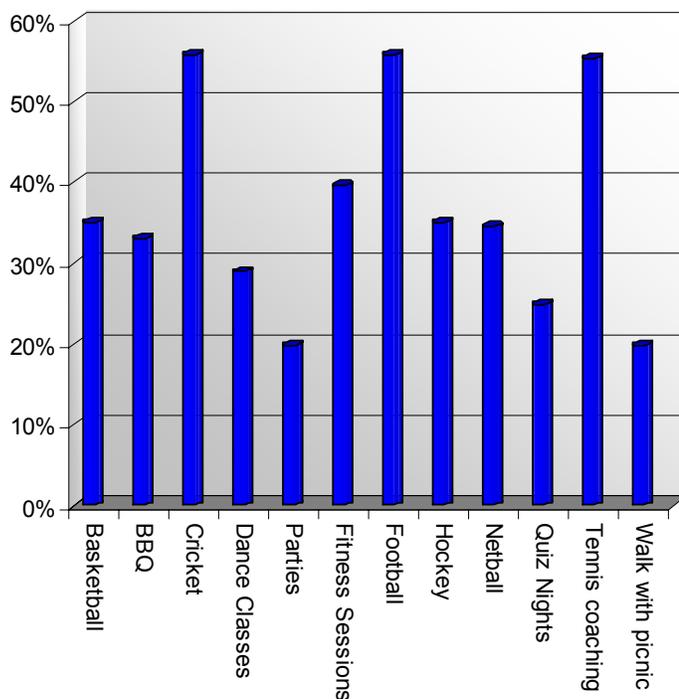
#### 9.3 What organised activities would you like to see provided for the Under 11's? (204 respondents)

*Respondents were asked to tick all that apply*

It seems the Under 11's, or their parents, would like to see physical activities provided with 79% (162) wanting Tennis Coaching, 79% (161) Junior Football and 71% (144) Junior Cricket. Further suggestions included the provision of a Sunday school, summer holiday activities and rugby coaching.

#### 9.4 What organised activities would you like to see provided for 12 – 18 year olds? (197 respondents)

*Respondents were asked to tick all that apply*



Cricket, football and tennis coaching were popular choices. Additional suggestions were rounders, rugby, archaeology and Christian Youth clubs.

**9.5 Do you think it would be a good idea to join with other villages in organising youth activities?** (334 respondents)

59% thought it would be a good idea to join with other villages in organised youth activities. Only 6% thought it would not be a good idea and 35% had no opinion.

<b>Aim:</b>	
Ensure that the needs of the young people of Barton St David are addressed.	
<b>How can we achieve our aim?</b>	<b>Action required</b>
Develop links with young people in the village to give a forum in which they can express their ideas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify and recruit a volunteer Young Person's leader who will champion the needs of young residents (as raised by the Barton Youth Group).</li> </ul>
Increase provision of activities for children and young people in the village.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop adventurous play opportunities for young children under the age of 11.</li> <li>• Develop more activities for young people aged 12-18 as identified by young residents themselves.</li> <li>• Investigate the demand and opportunity for setting up a Sunday School.</li> </ul>

## **Summary of the issues addressed in the Parish Plan**

The issues arose directly from the interests and concerns of Villagers. As well as expressing their views at Parish Plan events, people were asked to complete a questionnaire and to add written comments. The key issues, needs and concerns that were identified are:

People expressed a need to be better informed about events and be more involved in village matters. There is a requirement to improve broadband provision and mobile phone coverage which would also facilitate setting up businesses in the village and enable people to work from home. A significant number would welcome a directory of village businesses and trades people. Village post boxes are well used.

People generally feel safe in their homes and around the village but there is a need to further promote the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme and encourage liaison with Community policing.

The continuous improvement and maintenance of the village environment should be fostered in order to protect its heritage and retain its rural character for present and future generations. There is a need to preserve wildlife habitats and to maintain footpaths, grassy lanes, fields and woodland as well as walls, hedges and ditches. The issue of drainage affects some areas significantly and needs to be fully investigated. Energy-saving, care for the environment and recycling, particularly the need for kerbside collection of cardboard and plastic, are seen as important.

There is a demand that land which may be surplus to County Council requirements should be retained and offered to local farmers to rent or to be taken over as a village amenity. There is a need for a small scale development of houses to accommodate people with close local ties. The location and design of any new houses and road safety issues need to be addressed.

Villagers have identified the need to reduce the speed of traffic through the village, with the largest proportion suggesting a 30mph limit. In addition there is concern about the size of some of the traffic passing through the village. There is particular concern about car parking and safety in certain areas and these need to be investigated.

Village activities are popular. There is support for provision of a greater range of activities. The use of the Village Hall and Playing Field needs to be promoted to make full use of existing facilities for all ages. In some age groups, the provision of extra facilities needs to be considered. There is a clear need for activities and amenities for the under-18s, with tennis, cricket and football being the most popular. There is support for joining with other villages in organised activities for young people. A large number of people expressed an interest in film nights and in the provision of fitness related activities.

There is a need for the young people of the village to be given a voice to express their ideas and for their requirements to be addressed.

## **Community involvement and Review**

Each action plan is given a time scale. Some have a precise length of time for action and some are ongoing. In some cases, village organisations will be responsible for following up action plans. In others an individual or small group will work on particular projects and volunteers will need to be recruited. A process of regular review, managed by the Parish Council, has been put in place.

## **The Future**

The Parish Plan Advisory Committee was set up to carry out research and to advise the Parish Council about its findings. The Parish Plan has been produced in two forms. One contains the results of the questionnaire and other research carried out over the last year with analysis and recommendations. This document has been sent to The County Council, South Somerset District Council, Barton St David Parish Council, the Community Council for Somerset and Barton St David Village Hall and Playing Field Charity. It is available on-line and can be accessed via the Barton St David website, [www.bartonstdavid.org.uk](http://www.bartonstdavid.org.uk), as can the results of the Parish Plan Questionnaire. The compact version of the Parish Plan has been delivered to all homes in the village and contains a summary of the findings, the aims and actions, the lead responsibilities and timescales for implementation.

A review in September is suggested with an annual review thereafter. Reports will regularly be given to the Parish Council and progress reported through the Parish Council, the village website and the newsletter.

## **Acknowledgements**

PPAC members wish to thank everyone who has assisted in the task of producing the Plan. Financial assistance has been provided by the County Council, South Somerset District Council and the Parish Council. The Community Council for Somerset provided invaluable assistance with the production of the questionnaire and the analysis of the results.

## Appendix A

### The Parish Plan Advisory Committee and the initial survey

#### 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2007 - Report from the Parish Plan Advisory Committee [PPAC] to the Parish Council

Funding has been available for some time for each town and parish to draw up an action plan for the future development of their community. Publicity about the need to set up a committee of people to work on the Barton St David Parish Plan appeared in the last two Newsletters. Seven people responded and they met for the first time on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October to discuss the way forward.

The Parish Plan Committee consists of Janet Powell [Chairman], Nicky Wheeler [Secretary], Sue Forbes [Treasurer] and Wally Potts, David Browne, Rob Jarvis and David Odgers and, subsequently, Claire King. The plan must:

1. Bring together the views, needs and opinions of the whole community.
2. Cover the social, economic and environmental issues relevant to the village and our neighbouring villages
3. Set realistic goals for action
4. Give everyone the chance to guide future development.

The main focus of our first meeting was how we might encourage all villagers to take part in creating the plan and to share their views. It was agreed that surveys and questionnaires are an important way to collect written evidence but we will also work to make sure that people have opportunities to express their ideas in other ways. This might, for example, be through social events or by encouraging individuals to canvas the ideas of different age groups in the village. Publicity should be given to the planning process at every opportunity – e.g. at the Harvest Supper and at every Parish Council Meeting. In Keinton Mandeville a graffiti board was apparently used to good effect, giving people a chance to write down their thoughts in an informal way. There is no model or template for a village plan. Each plan is unique to its community. However, we have access to several other plans and we can learn something from each one. Some are available for you to look at this evening. Keinton Mandeville's is seen as being 'particularly good'.

The first action taken by committee members has been to distribute a leaflet giving information and posing an initial question to every household in the village. These will be collected personally by committee members this week. We have simply asked people to express their views about what they see as the most significant issues facing the village at the moment. The results will be collated and used to inform the planning of a more detailed questionnaire in the future. We invited others to join the Committee and as a result we have another member – Claire King from Park Close. Others, particularly those from younger age groups or with a particular interest or skill are still very welcome to get in touch with Janet Powell – 850517.

To be considered effective, a plan must be capable of leading to 'actions'. The Committee, with the active participation of villagers, will strive to produce such a plan.

#### 17<sup>th</sup> December 2007 - Report from the Parish Plan Committee to the Parish Council

The committee is working towards the Open Morning which will take place on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> February between 10am and noon in the Village Hall. The results of the initial survey have been collated into diagrams and graphs. These illustrate the main issues raised by villagers. The activities of village organisations are being identified and representatives will be invited to come to talk to members of the public on the open day. We hope that this will raise awareness of what is already going on in the village, encourage people to join in and help us identify where there are gaps in provision.

The disposal of County Council land and uncertainty about how fields might be used in the future is a matter for concern. The Parish Plan Committee has invited a member of the SSDC planning policy team to attend a meeting to advise us on planning issues. Schemes for the use of fields held in the Land Bank will be given consideration by the County Council [even though in the case of some fields the sieve process is over]. This can include, for example, planting trees or creating amenity areas. We are fortunate enough to have a committee member who works for SSDC and she is able to advise not only on funding but also on the relevant people to consult.

Some time ago John Lee reserved a domain name [www.bartonstdavid.org.uk](http://www.bartonstdavid.org.uk), and the village website is now up and running. He is adding photographs and creating links to village organisations. It's important to keep contributions up to date and current and we are grateful for John's commitment to the project. An invitation to every resident is included with this report in the Village Newsletter. Please come along to make the occasion sociable, lively and worthwhile

The Barton St David Parish Plan Committee invites

**ALL RESIDENTS OF THE VILLAGE**

to an

**OPEN MORNING**

**Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> February, 2008**  
**in the Village Hall**  
**10am until noon**

The results of the preliminary survey will be on display. There will be opportunities to talk about the findings and to share your opinions with neighbours, committee members and members of the Parish Council.

Your County Councillor Pauline Clarke, District Councillor John Calvert and representatives of various organisations in the village have been invited to attend. All will be available to answer questions and to discuss your views.

Much work remains to be done. We have until summer 2008 to create the best possible Parish Plan and we are counting on the help of villagers to achieve this.

Refreshments will be served. We do hope you can join us.

Janet Powell - Chairman 850517  
Nicky Wheeler - Secretary 850200

**2<sup>nd</sup> February 2008 Welcome to the Parish Plan Open Morning**

Thank you for coming today – the Parish Plan committee is grateful for your interest and support. You will find refreshments readily available throughout the morning. Please feel free to wander around the exhibits and to talk to representatives from a variety of organisations. There are opportunities for you to add comments and to indicate which issues most concern you. The results of the initial questionnaire, together with your comments today, will inform the development of a survey to be delivered to all households later this year. The results of this large survey, and the findings from further research carried out by the committee, will form the basis of the Parish Plan.

The Parish Plan committee will hold a social event on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May. We are seeking evidence in the form of artefacts, documents and photographs that will inform us about the development of Barton St David from as far back as possible. All items will be treated with the utmost care and only exhibited with your permission. A prize will be awarded for the item that takes us the furthest back in time.

We hope that you will find this morning a sociable opportunity to discuss ideas and to meet up with new people as well as friends and neighbours. If you have questions that cannot be answered today someone will get back to you - please seek out a member of the committee and use the suggestion box to contribute ideas.

Janet Powell – 850517

Nicky Wheeler - 850200

**Barton Past, Present and Future**

**28th April 2008 - Report to the Parish Council from the PPAC - Annual Parish Meeting**

The Sustainable Community Strategy for South Somerset identifies trends, goals and key issues that are likely to impact on us all in the future. The definition of sustainable communities that is most generally used is from the Egan Review [2004]. 'Sustainable communities meet the diverse needs of existing and future residents, contribute to a high quality of life and provide opportunity and choice. They achieve this in ways that make effective use of natural resources, enhance the environment, promote social cohesion and inclusion and strengthen economic prosperity.' The way in which this happens varies, of course, from one type of community to another and all kinds of variables influence what can be achieved. Extensive research leads Egan to believe that in order to work towards a sustainable community everyone involved must have a common goal. Making a Parish Plan gives us the opportunity to create a common goal for the residents of Barton.

**The Parish Plan Survey is being prepared and will be carried out in the Autumn.** The Parish Plan Advisory Committee identified six themes arising from the ideas and concerns that villagers have voiced so far and the survey will be divided into sections related to these. Questions will generally require a tick box response and each member of the household can express their views in the separate columns provided. There will be a space in each section for people to contribute ideas so that, as well as revealing a consensus of opinion, individual views will be represented. In order to produce valid results we will need to trial the questionnaire with a randomly selected group of households before the final version is distributed to all. In preparation for that trial we need the help of villagers in establishing the form the questions will take.

**'Barton – Past, Present and Future'** is the theme for an event in the Village Hall during the weekend of 10/11th May with photographs, displays and a quiz. A social event on the Saturday evening from 7.00 to 11pm will enable villagers to look at the exhibits and to mingle and chat while enjoying free refreshments. The Hall will be open from 10am until 12 noon on Sunday - coffee, tea and cake will be provided. Some of the displays will be accompanied by activities and we hope that everyone will take part in these. The responses to the questions will inform the preparation of the survey. The materials related to the history of Barton are to be the start of a catalogued archive collection recorded on the village website. Additional information and corrections will be very welcome!

**The purpose of the survey is to collect quantifiable answers which can be analysed to produce valid data.** This evidence will indicate the practical actions that need to take place to achieve certain goals. The Plan will not formally be ratified by the Parish Council and published until early next year. However, action research and planning is a dynamic process and unexpected events, some of which may need urgent attention, intervene. Findings that emerge as a result of our research are brought regularly to the attention of the Parish Council and are relayed to the public via the Newsletter and the website. Actions are already taking place; some prompted by PPAC activities, some by individuals or other village groups. Examples of these are

- a Housing Survey has been commissioned, to take place immediately, to assess the need for **affordable housing for people with close local ties**
- The Somerset Rural Youth Project is visiting to consult with **young people about their needs and aspirations**
- a **booklet of 'Health Walks'** has been produced which will soon be delivered to all households and Phil will be leading regular walks
- schemes have been proposed and are under consideration for **the creation of woodland areas**.

Attendance at Parish Council meetings has increased significantly. Villagers want to be informed about planning matters and they expect to have the opportunity to be involved in the consultation process for the emerging Local Development Framework. It is gratifying to report that this heightened interest has led to a positive outcome in relation to the land near Peacock Hill House. The County Council decision is to keep the fields in the land bank for the medium term and to review the situation early next year **'in the light of the findings of the Parish Plan'**.

Evidence already gathered in relation to the Parish Plan shows that villagers are generally aware of informal suggestions for possible housing developments. Local and National guidelines indicate that, **in a settlement such as Barton St David**, a small number of additional houses could possibly be justified on an 'exception site' outside the current local plan. For such a proposal to be successful the justification used would give specific evidence of local needs and the availability of commensurate jobs within a certain radius. Evidence from the Community Council's independent Housing Needs Survey will reveal the number of people who actually need affordable housing specifically within the village because of strong local ties. This evidence will be used when the Plan is written.

As well as commenting on community needs, concerns about roads, traffic and the environment the Plan gives all residents an opportunity to state how they would like to see the built environment of the village develop in the future. Evidence of people's views, recorded in the Plan, will be significant when the Parish and District Councils debate planning applications and as we take part in consultations for the creation of the Local Development Framework.

### **Results of the event 'Barton, Past, Present and Future' held on 10<sup>th</sup>/ 11<sup>th</sup> May 2008.**

The purpose of the event was to bring people together in a sociable way to share information about the history of Barton St David and to look at current activities and influences on village life. We also wanted to encourage people to give their views on how they would like to see the village develop in the future. People answered the questions which accompanied the exhibits and the replies are very useful in helping us to devise questions for the final questionnaire. Some interesting [and opposing] views were expressed and here is a selection -

#### **1. The future of County Council land off Barton Road**

- 'Make the land available for allotments' or 'use as a multi-recycling centre.'
- 'Land should be sold at public auction because SCC needs to realise the funds. If the land became the responsibility of the Parish, this would result in higher council tax. This has happened with Stocks Green.'
- 'Should be taken over by the PC as meadow or woodland with financial arrangements that mean it does not become a drain on the Parish.'
- 'We should try to institute a change to the current SCC policy of selling off farm land. It should be made available to farmers to rent at the going rate.'
- 'There is no shortage of takers to rent land.' versus 'No local farmers would want to rent.'
- 'The land should be put to good use for food.'

Most prevalent view from those who replied to these questions - use the land as an amenity for the village or let the fields to local farmers.

#### **2. Environmental issues**

- 'Leave wider field margins to encourage wild life.'
- 'Encourage walking and cycling, particularly for children.'
- 'Publicise information to promote energy saving possibilities.'
- 'Keep drains and cut-outs free of obstruction.'
- 'Not only the lowest lying areas of the village are prone to flooding - run off is a serious problem in some higher areas.'
- 'Make dog owners aware of the law in relation to fouling – bins would promote flies and smells.' versus 'Provide bins in the middle of the village.'

Doorstep recycling, advice on healthier lifestyles [not necessarily 'obvious' to everyone] and controlling the speed of traffic were mentioned the most.

#### **3. Living accommodation**

- 'Build houses of different sizes on varying size plots with big plots available for those who like gardening.'
- 'Few amenities and not enough local jobs make it difficult for families'
- 'Ensure that any affordable homes remain low cost in the future.'
- 'Small development of affordable housing for local people is wanted, not a large development of which a third would be social housing.'
- 'Develop within the existing local plan area only. If using an exception site, do so in the centre of the village.'
- 'No developments which would significantly increase the number of cars going in and out every day.'

Majority of those who replied said 'yes' to low cost homes for those with close local ties; several said 'no further homes needed.' Most ticked infilling, conversion or development on a small exception site as suitable places for building.

As a result of these responses we will adjust the tick-box questions to avoid ambiguity in the final questionnaire – e.g. the words ‘reduce traffic’ and ‘infilling only’ will need to be reworded for clarity. The responses to the open questions will be used to help devise tick-box questions relevant to other sections. Concern about low level crime and personal security does not appear to be great but there is some concern about the security of isolated buildings and out buildings. Useful suggestions were made about environmental issues and about activities for young people. These will be incorporated into the questionnaire.

Over 130 people attended the weekend’s events and all seemed to be entertained by and engrossed in the exhibits. The PPAC is very grateful to all those who provided displays and to those who organised and served the refreshments. Thanks to everyone who attended the event and contributed towards making it worthwhile.

## Appendix D

### Presenting the findings to the Parish Council. Informing villagers of the findings and trialling the draft of the Parish Plan

#### 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2008 - Report to Barton St David Parish Council from the PPAC

Having carried out research and awareness-raising the PPAC is now working to produce the questionnaire which will be sent out to all households in October and to publish the Parish Plan in April 2009. Timetable for this to be achieved -

- 1 July newsletter – preliminary invitation to Parish Councillors and Villagers, asking them to volunteer to attend discussion groups to talk about the draft questions
- 2 Late August/early September - Villagers to join discussion groups in the Hall, led by members of the PPAC, to comment on the draft questions
- 3 Draft the Parish Plan – e.g. write up the research methods and the introduction, decide upon the cover and illustrations and the form and layout of the plan [take professional advice]. Book the printing date.
- 4 Mid-September – distribute the draft questionnaire randomly to about 20 households. Collect quite quickly and analyse results
- 5 Re-draft the questionnaire and produce final version. [Possibly launch it at the Harvest Supper in October.] Deliver to all households by mid-October
- 6 Late October - collect the completed questionnaires. Return to houses until we have collected all we possibly can. However, decide a definite end date around mid- November
- 7 November/December - collate and analyse the results, confirm the findings and the priority to be given to issues and actions. Continue drafting and consulting on the layout of the plan during December/January.
- 8 Early February – produce the first draft of the plan for consultation with the PC and members of the public and then prepare and refine subsequent drafts
- 9 March – produce final draft. [Professional proof-reading]
- 10 April 2009 - Publish the Plan, distribute it and hold an event to celebrate.

#### July/August 2008 – Report from the Parish Plan Advisory Committee to Barton St David Parish Council

The PPAC continues to meet regularly and is making progress, in line with the programme set out earlier this summer, towards publishing the Parish Plan early next year.

The third draft of the questionnaire will be completed this week and it will be trialled with members of the public. Several people have volunteered to take part in this process and they have already been invited to a meeting on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> September at 10.30 am in the Village Hall. Anyone else who would like to come will be welcome – please contact any member of the Committee so we know how many to expect. The event will be informal. We seek your opinion about the format of the questionnaire and the categories of questions and no-one will be expected to give answers to the questions at this stage.

The PPAC was formed to advise the Parish Council and we would particularly like Councillors to attend the meeting if they are able. Otherwise, I would be happy to spend time after the next Parish Council meeting to familiarise the Councillors with the questionnaire.

As you know, we have been following a research process agreed in the early days of the Committee's existence and the questions have emerged from 10 months of public consultation. We have ensured that they address issues directly raised by residents of Barton. A data-base is being independently devised for the collection and analysis of the responses to the questionnaire.

The questionnaire will be launched at the Harvest Supper on 10<sup>th</sup> October. It will be distributed to all households immediately afterwards. By mid-November, the completed forms will be collected personally by Committee members and placed into unmarked envelopes. The confidentiality of all responses will be guarded carefully.

A point of view has been expressed that this is a quiet village, people do not want change and so questions do not need to be asked. PPAC members listened carefully to this point of view and then decided that they should continue to do the job asked of them by the Parish Council. Some villagers, particularly those who have lived here for many years, would like to see Barton 'remain the same' but it is impossible to ignore the fact that change will continue to roll on at an accelerating rate. A Parish Plan, based on valid research evidence, will give Barton a voice in decision-making processes at District and County level. Meanwhile, the public should exercise vigilance about proposals which may be put into action before the Plan is published. If necessary, Villagers should take their comments and concerns either verbally or in writing directly to the Parish Council.

## **22nd September 2008 - Report from the PPAC to the Parish Council**

### Progress on the Questionnaire

- 1 the final draft of the questionnaire will be discussed by the PPAC on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup>
- 2 the committee is grateful for the opinions of those who attended the discussion on 6<sup>th</sup> in the Village Hall
- 3 amendments have been made to the questionnaire as a result
- 4 some issues have been addressed in a question and answer section
- 5 the questionnaire will be delivered to all households in the week beginning 13<sup>th</sup> October
- 6 it will be collected by committee members, during the week beginning 27<sup>th</sup> October.

A document, 'Community Led Plans', was brought to our attention by Maurice – and this will help us to ensure that the Parish Plan will be 'a material consideration' when SSDC Planning Officers look at proposals for future development in the village.

There will be a period of consultation when the Plan is drafted and re-drafted, before publication in March/April 2009.

## **27<sup>th</sup> October 2008 - Report from the PPAC to the Parish Council**

The Parish Plan questionnaire was launched at the Harvest Supper and it has been delivered to all households by members of the PPAC.

**This week, two weeks after the initial delivery, we have begun to collect the completed questionnaires.**

- we will keep going back to houses every day until Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> November; arrangements have been made for people to deliver their own questionnaire through the letterbox at Chapel Farm, Main Street if they wish
- some people may be away from home. If the collector does not receive any response at the door during this week, a note will be delivered telling the householder how to make arrangements for collection
- responses received up to Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> November will be included in the survey
- a draw ticket will be handed to each household when the questionnaire is collected from their home.
- the draw for a £100 prize will be made by Pauline Clark, County Councillor, at the Parish Council meeting on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> November

**PPAC members have given an undertaking to protect the confidentiality of responses to the questions under the terms of the Data Protection Act 1998 and this is seen by all members as a serious issue of trust.**

- no individual or family will be identified in any way either in discussions at PPAC meetings, in the results of the survey or in the final Parish Plan.

- the questionnaires are in sealed envelopes which will not be opened until the information is put into the data collection system.

- the results will be independently analysed and interpreted. A written report will be produced giving a brief summary for each section pointing out highlights

- the findings will be brought before the Parish Council at the earliest opportunity and there will be a period of consultation before the Plan is published.

**The Parish Plan is currently being drafted using some information which has already been collected. The results of the questionnaire will inform the creation of action plans for each section of the Plan.**

#### **24<sup>th</sup> November 2008 - Report from the PPAC to Barton St David Parish Council**

Since the last Parish Council meeting the Parish Plan questionnaires have been collected and the responses have been entered into a database. The survey is now closed. The results are being collated and analysed independently by a professional body [which, like the PPAC itself, has quality control checks in place to ensure reliability]. The results will be discussed in detail with the Parish Council as soon as the process is complete.

A public exhibition of the results, and a draft version of the Parish Plan, will be presented at an event in the Village Hall during the weekend of 7/8<sup>th</sup> February 2009.

87% of the questionnaires distributed were returned. This is an excellent result and such a large percentage return adds significantly to the validity of the findings.

I was asked to report on the raw results for questions 37 and 38 –

#### **37. 'What kind of additional accommodation do you think is needed to buy or rent in the village?'**

**336 people answered the question**

**195 [58%] ticked 'affordable housing for people with close local ties'**

**83 [24.7%] ticked 'no further homes are needed'**

#### **38. 'Where do you think this accommodation should be built?'**

**250 people answered this question**

**129 [51.6%] ticked 'a small group of homes on a site adjacent to the development area ---'**

**114 [45.6%] ticked 'conversion of existing buildings'**

**121 [48.4%] ticked 'infilling ---'**

**33 [13.2%] ticked 'larger group ---'**

The PPAC is currently drafting the Parish Plan using the evidence gathered during the last year. This now includes a short film produced by the Barton Youth Group. The completed questionnaires, together with all other research evidence, will be stored for a period of at least 5 years. The development area maps from the questionnaires and the 'commonly asked questions and answers' are available if people want them for reference. We point out again that the map was never intended to show the whole of the village. It is for reference in relation to the 'housing and land' questions. This is clearly explained in the title of the map as well as in the Q and A section.

Pauline Clarke agreed to select the winning draw ticket at the Parish Council meeting and the prize of £100 was won by Mr and Mrs John Cox.

## Appendix E

### Trialling and carrying out the Questionnaire

#### **Writing the Parish Plan Questionnaire** - [17th December '08 invitation to go in the Village Newsletter]

The Plan committee is preparing the questionnaire which will go out to all households in October. Questions will relate to six themes which have emerged from the awareness-raising process that has been going on for the last eight months. During this time, certain issues of interest and concern to villagers have become evident. We need to ensure that the questions we now ask will provide us with answers that can result in an action plan. We are asking you to help us by offering to attend discussion groups to be held at the end of August/early September. These events will be held at a time of day to suit various needs and we really want people from all age groups and all parts of the village to come along. Refreshments will be provided. Discussions will be light-hearted, despite the fact that they have a serious purpose, and the amount you contribute will be entirely up to you. In order to receive your personal invitation contact before August 15<sup>th</sup> –

Nicky Wheeler – 850200      Sue Forbes – 850612      Janet Powell - 650517

#### **22<sup>nd</sup> December 2008 – Report to the Parish Council from the PPAC**

The results of the questionnaire are being collated and analysed.

The Committee is preparing a report which will be sent to the Parish Councillors during the week beginning 5<sup>th</sup> January 2009.

The PPAC has invited members of the Parish Council to meet with them on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> January at 10.30am in the Church Meeting Room to discuss the questionnaire results and to discuss the actions which might arise.

There will be an open meeting in the Village Hall on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> February at which the results of the questionnaire will be put on display.

The Parish Plan is being drafted and a date will be set for members of the public to see and comment on the draft later in February.

#### **26<sup>th</sup> January 2009 - PPAC report to the Parish Council**

The results of the Parish Plan Questionnaire were circulated to all Parish Councillors and the results were discussed at a meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> January. Only one Councillor was unable to be present. The findings of the research, and the suggested actions arising, were accepted.

There will be a display in the Village Hall on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> February from 1.30 to 4pm and on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> from 10am to 12 noon. The display will show three stages of the development of the Parish Plan -

1. The response to the PP Questionnaire; raw results including individual comments from respondents
2. Detailed analysis of the 'environment and the countryside', housing and land' and 'traffic and transport' sections, carried out by The Community Council for Somerset
3. **In draft form**, the overall aims that arise from the results and the actions that may be needed to carry them out. Visitors to the display will be invited to write down their own comments in response to the suggested aims and actions.

Where appropriate, the PPAC replied to some of the comments and questions raised by respondents to the questionnaire and these responses are listed at the end of the display. Please note that the comments which were written on the questionnaire by respondents are all reproduced verbatim.

Volunteers will be needed to help to carry out some of the actions – over 80 respondents to the questionnaire indicated that they would be willing to become involved in some way. The full Parish Plan is now in its 4<sup>th</sup> draft and we need about 12 people to offer to read through it. 'Can you Help?' sheets will be displayed for people to volunteer.

## 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2009 – PPAC report to the Parish Council

Over 100 people attended the display of the results of the PP Questionnaire and showed great interest. Some people volunteered their services to help with actions, some suggested additional actions and some offered to look through the draft of the full Parish Plan to check that it is clear, readable and consistent [ proof reading will be done professionally later].

The full Parish Plan will be circulated to the County Council, South Somerset District Council and the Parish Council as well as to some other official bodies. It contains the statistics from the questionnaire together with aims and actions. It will be about 50 pages long and will include appendices detailing how the research was carried out. When complete, in April, the full PP will be available on the village website and it will also be possible to borrow a hard copy via the Parish Clerk.

The readers of the draft Plan will be provided with a check list and they will meet in the Village Hall on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March to discuss their views with the PPAC. Parish Councillors and the Parish Clerk will be circulated with the draft and are also invited to attend the meeting on the 7<sup>th</sup>.

The condensed version of the Plan will be professionally printed and circulated to all homes in the village in April/May.

Parish Councillors saw the survey results and the suggested aims and actions on 10th January and accepted the findings. Councillors will now be circulated with the current draft for their final approval so that the Parish Council can move ahead, with the PPAC, to agree who will take responsibility for the actions and the likely time scale. On publication of the Plan, the PPAC suggest that the first review date for progress on actions should be September 2009.

If you were unable to see the results of the questionnaire and the draft aims and actions on 7/8<sup>th</sup> February, they will soon be available on the village website. A hard copy is also available – please contact Janet Powell 850517. While we are still in the draft stage, constructive comments about the proposed aims and actions will be welcomed by the PPAC – please email [janetrainingfox@btinternet.com](mailto:janetrainingfox@btinternet.com) or [nicky.wheeler@talk21.com](mailto:nicky.wheeler@talk21.com).

## Appendix F

### SOMERSET RURAL YOUTH PROJECT/BARTON YOUTH GROUP

The Parish Plan Committee were very keen to make the village consultative process as wide ranging as possible and were particularly anxious to ensure they heard from the youth of the village.

In February 2008 the Somerset Rural Youth Project (SRYP) were invited to Barton with the aim of engaging with Barton's teenagers and seeking their views on the future of their village.

The SRYP Bus turned up most Monday evenings with the project only finishing in November 2008.

An enthusiastic group of teenagers have shown great commitment to the project and with the help of the SRYP leaders produced a DVD giving their unique view of Barton – some good, some not so good – and their hopes for the future of the village. The DVD was shown to the members of the Village Hall & Playing Field Committee at their November meeting.

With the teenager's active participation, they are hopeful that their suggestions will be taken seriously by the Parish Council and Village Hall & Playing Field Committee.

#### THEY LISTED THE FOLLOWING ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

- Reinstate netball hoops
- Nettles around the playing fields
- Youth Shelter
- Bus shelter light in the winter
- More public transport to the larger towns
- Unpleasant interior of public phone box
- Affordable housing
- Parking problems around the pub
- Church Services of interest to teenagers
- Activities for teenagers in the village hall (see 9.4)
- Opportunity for part time work in the village
- Extra basketball hoop
- Parking under the basketball hoops
- Better use of Stocks Green.

## Appendix G

### The South Somerset Local Development Framework and the emerging Regional Development Strategy

In September 2004 the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act introduced major changes to the development plan system. Local Plans are eventually to be replaced by Local Development Frameworks [LDFs]. The LDF is made up of a series of Local Development Documents [LDDs] which together will deliver the spatial planning strategy for the district.

The South Somerset Local Plan was adopted in 2006 and 'saved' until 2009 pending the preparation of replacement LDF documents. The production of these documents is taking longer than expected so the three year period has been further extended.

The adopted South Somerset Local Plan defines Barton St David as 'a village' in Policy ST2 and therefore an appropriate location for limited development within the development area boundary. Also, in certain circumstances identified in Policy HG9, the District Council may relax normal policies to permit affordable housing outside the boundary.

The LDF contains an emerging Core Strategy document which will replace the existing Local Plan. It will set out the long term planning framework for the district up to the year 2026. Once adopted, it will be the key policy document for development in South Somerset. Barton St David Parish Council has taken an active part during the consultation period and Councillors attend meetings to keep up to date with on-going developments.

The Core Strategy has to work within National and Regional development requirements. A key issue for Barton St David will be whether it retains its status as 'a village'.

The use of the following publications is acknowledged:

- The adopted South Somerset Local Plan
- South Somerset Local Development Framework
- SSDC statement of Community Involvement
- South West Regional Spatial Strategy – draft from the SW Regional Assembly

Many references are available on-line and the Parish Council also holds relevant documents.





