Bishop Middleham and Mainsforth Parish Plan 2013

CONTENTS

Acknowledgements

The Parish Plan Steering Group (a sub-group of the Parish Council including non-councillors), wish to thank the many people from the Parish who have supported this process through attending meetings and workshops and completing the household questionnaire.

Particular thanks are due to our County Councillor John Robinson for financial contribution and practical advice, and to Durham Rural Community Council for expertise and encouragement.

INTRODUCTION

Background

The last village appraisal, produced in 2003, provided a valuable snapshot of residents' views. Issues and priorities change over time, and by 2010, when a review was well overdue, a significant event prompted the decision to prepare a new Parish Plan with a wider scope than before.

In January 2010, a proposal to build a major housing development of 130 houses in Bishop Middleham galvanised some concerned residents into forming a group to challenge this. After a lengthy campaign, the application was eventually turned down by the planning inspectorate on grounds of unsuitable design and not in keeping with the character of the village.

It became apparent that the case against this proposal would have been much stronger had there been hard evidence of the housing needs of current residents. As a consequence, a new steering group was formed with the remit of producing a plan which might address all these issues.

Aims of the Plan

The objective was two-fold:

- To produce a 'Parish Plan' which sets out a wide range of views and aspirations of local people
- To provide the foundation for a 'Neighbourhood Plan'. This is a statutory document addressing spatial planning matters that carries weight in planning decisions

Parish Plan

A Parish plan is produced by local people and sets out to represent the views of residents which will be used to:

- *Identify facilities and services,*
- *Set out problems that need to be tackled,*
- *Influence and lobby outside agencies, e.g. Durham County Council, Highways Agency,*
- *Provide evidence for funding bids,*
- *Demonstrate how distinctive characters and features could be preserved, and how the Parish could develop in the future,*
- *Inform and influence Parish Council Action Plans,*
- *Potentially inform a Neighbourhood Plan (* a way for local communities to shape and influence planning as enabled through the Localism Bill 2011).

This Parish Plan has been adopted by Bishop Middleham and Mainsforth Parish Council and the Action Plan has informed the Council's priorities for the future. Michele MacCallam, Lindsay Johnston, Fernie Boorman and Mike Bourner, founding members of the Steering Group, are indebted to the other members of the group who have given their time and advice over the past two years.

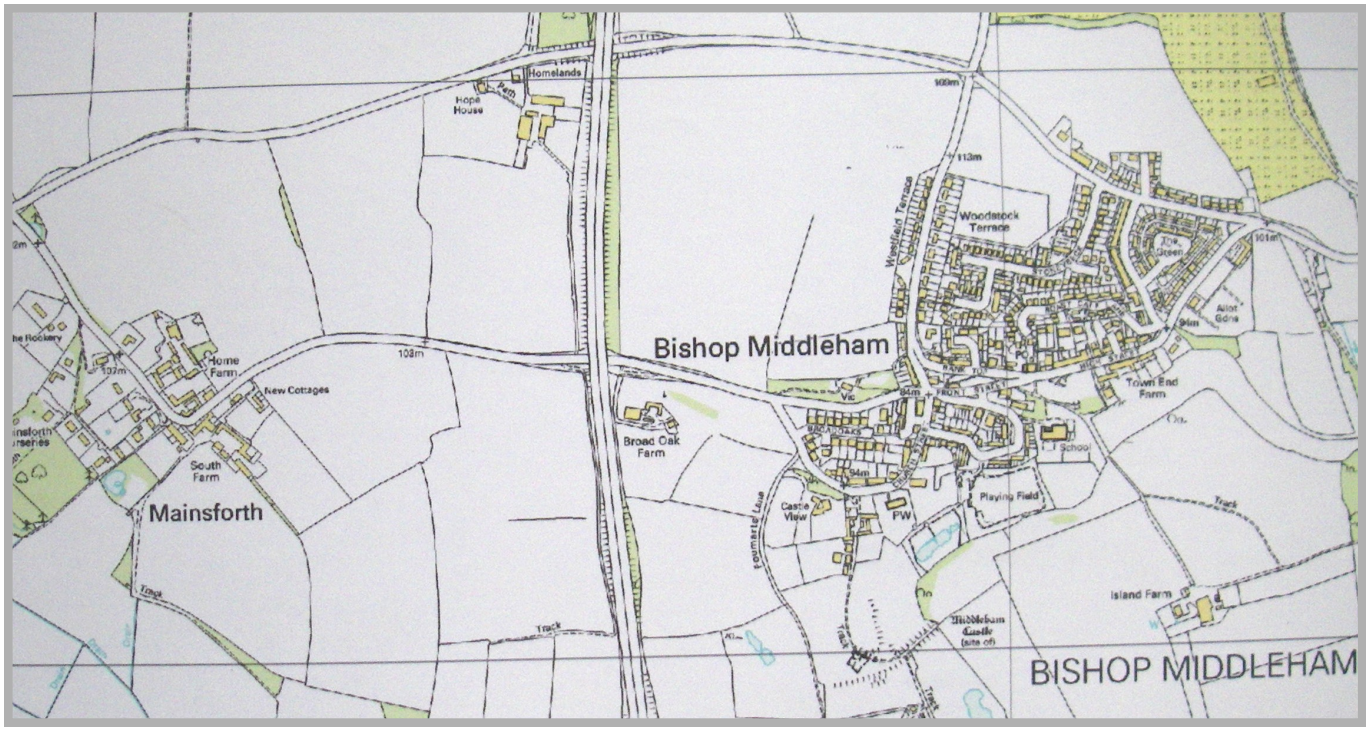
CONTEXT

Location

The Parish of Bishop Middleham and Mainsforth, with a combined population of 1550, is situated approximately 16 kilometres (10 miles) South-East of Durham City.

The River Skerne flows within the Parish.

The neighbouring villages are Sedgefield, West Cornforth, Ferryhill and Fishburn.



A Short History

Archaeological finds from this area date back 4,500 years and Bishop Middleham is thought to have Anglo-Saxon origins. The Castle, or Bishop's Manor House, built in 1099 and situated on the high land to the South of the present day village, was a residence of the Bishops of Durham for 300 years.

Through the years the local industries were mining, quarrying and agriculture. Mining was eventually abandoned in Bishop Middleham due to recurring problems with flooding, but was continued in Mainsforth for many years.

In 1821, there were 87 houses in Bishop Middleham; in 1973 there were 322 and today we have approximately 575 houses in the Parish.

There is a wealth of recorded history regarding Bishop Middleham and Mainsforth thanks to Robert Surtees, Newton Haile and Frank Bellwood.

Thanks are due also to the Local History Society and Mr John Smith.

METHODOLOGY

The *Bishop Middleham and Mainsforth Parish Plan Steering Group* was formed in March 2011, comprising Parish Councillors and residents. The long process of developing a Parish Plan took an additional twist as the Parish was invited by Durham County Council to become a pilot for Neighbourhood Planning. With assistance from Durham Rural Community Council, the group sought to ensure the process met the criteria for Neighbourhood planning through research and discussions with DCC planning department.

Key stages in the process:

Launch

The process was launched in June 2011; it was publicised through information leaflets and delivered to every household in the Parish.

Community workshops

Three workshops were held between June and October to gauge the strength of views around these topics: Business, Services and Amenities, Environment and Planning.

Household questionnaire

Survey questions were formulated, then tested by a trial group. The final questionnaire was issued to all 575 households in May 2012. 35% of households responded through written means or online. The responses were collated and analysed by *Durham Rural Community Council.*
In addition, a survey was carried out at the Primary School and also at an event for the young people of the Parish.

Feedback event

In October 2012 the results were presented at an open evening and consultation meeting. Discussions focused on whether the Parish should pursue the Neighbourhood Planning route.

Summary of results

A summary of the survey results was printed and distributed to all households in December 2012.

Action plan

The Steering Group developed the plan and the associated Action Plan to address the key findings and results of the survey and consultations. The Parish Council reviewed the action plan with a view to incorporating it into the business plan for the next financial year.

Publication

Publication of the final plan and adoption by the Parish Council.

SURVEY RESULTS

Headline Results

- **35% response** rate which is high when compared with other Parish surveys
- A high proportion of over 50s completed the survey
- We are a settled community with the majority of respondents having lived in the village for over **25** years
- The results indicate high levels of community well-being and satisfaction with the Parish.
- **85%** of respondents said they interacted with the community by *'being friendly'*, having '*friendly neighbours'*
- *'village life'*, *'rural'* or *'pleasant'* location, *'safety'* and *'quietness'* were the most common reasons for liking the Parish
- Results demonstrate an appreciation for village green space and historic character, with a large majority against larger scale development (over 50 homes)
- A high proportion, **88%**, have access to a car, yet the reduced bus service was the single issue of most concern for respondents
- Dog-fouling, lack of parking and traffic-related problems featured high in the responses

Young children in the Parish expressed their views through colourful illustrations (see section 10). Traffic speed, dog-mess and litter featured in their concerns, but 50% felt there was nothing wrong at all. While they use the shops, church and play park, their most favourable impressions are: '*friendly', 'family', 'quiet', 'safe'* and *'friends'*.

As with the previous survey, there was a very limited response from those under the age of 30 and very few indeed from teenagers. This has been highlighted as a priority for future engagement.

Comparison with 2003 Appraisal

Many of the positive aspects or themes of living within the Parish continued to be mentioned as being of great value to respondents: friendly village, rural life and location, the quietness and feeling safe.

There appeared to be considerably stronger opinions about future housing development within the Parish, with people being much clearer on what they would and wouldn't want. This may be as a result of the recent large scale development application which is still fresh in Parishioners' minds.

Many issues of concern feature in both the 2003 and 2013 surveys: traffic and speeding, parking, dog-fouling, winter gritting, bus services. But there is a significant difference in the low level of concern about anti-social behaviour and levels of policing compared with 2003.

In summary, the Parish continues to have a very stable population that is very aware of and interested to know more about its historical roots. It is recognised to have a strong sense of "community" and is seen as having, on the whole, good facilities and being a great place to live and bring up a family.

There are, however, continuing and on-going issues which need to be prioritised and tackled, but on the whole, life continues to be good, and in a number of aspects is indeed gradually further improving.

1. PEOPLE

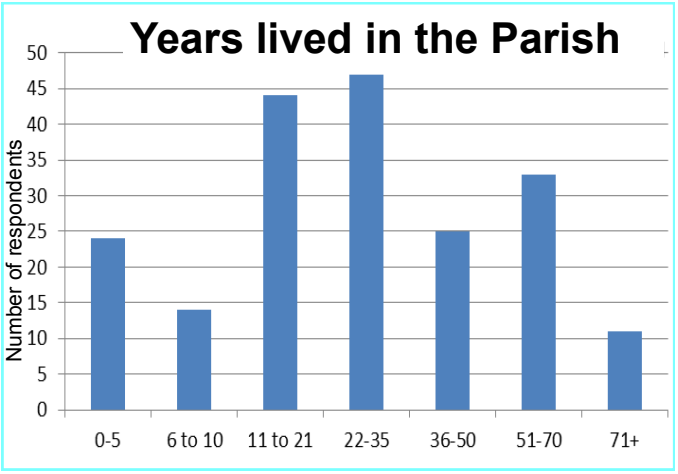
Statistics of Respondents

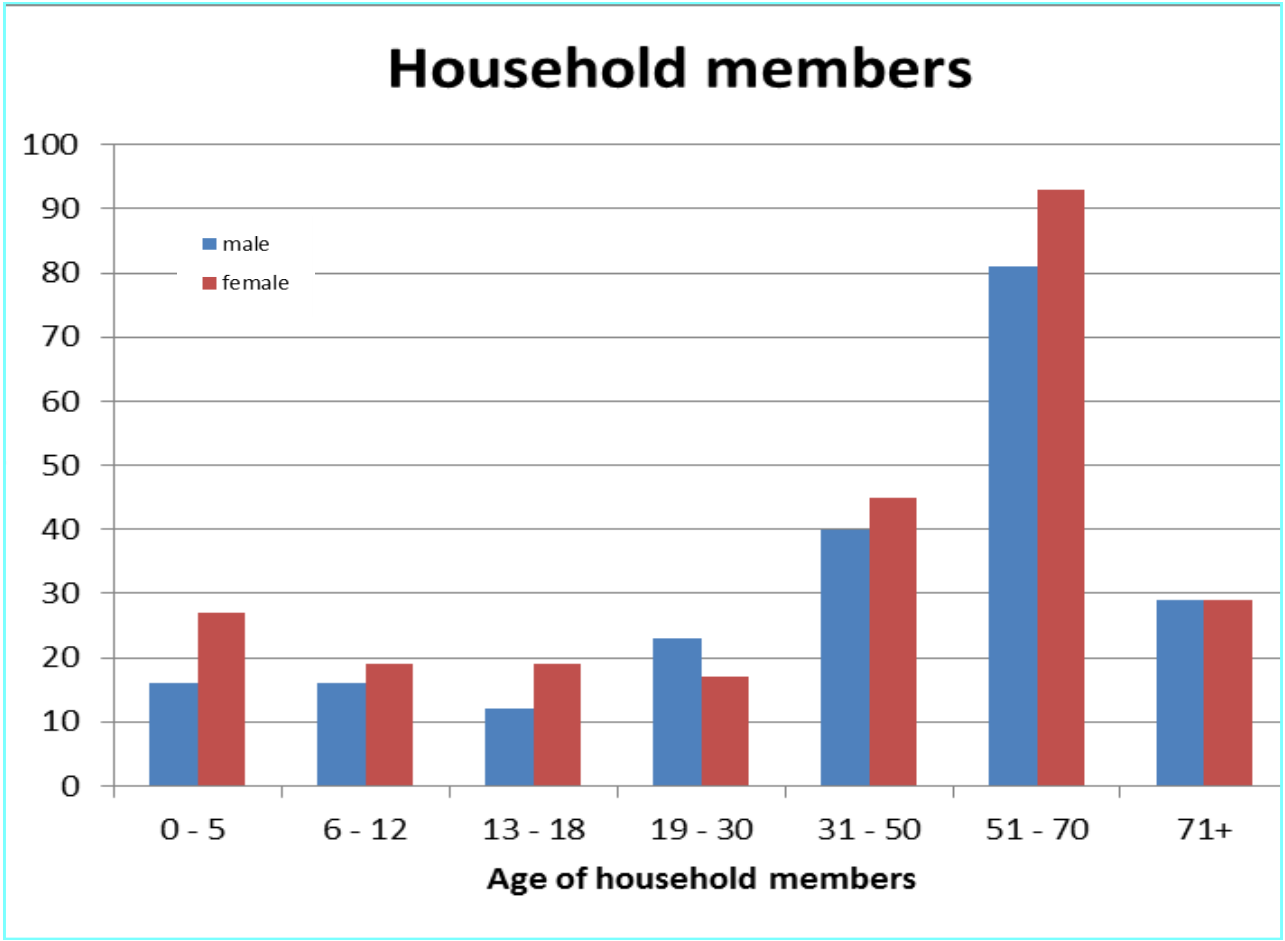
This section has given us information about the participants of the survey.

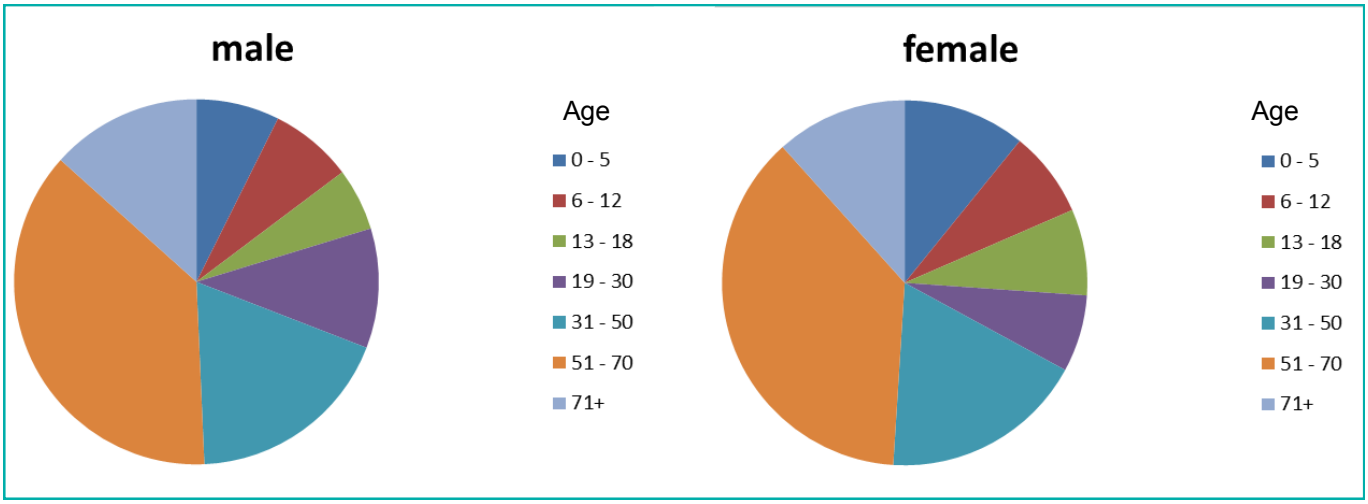
It shows that a disproportionately high number of **51 – 70** years olds have completed the survey.

A high proportion of respondents have lived in the Parish for more than 11 years, the majority for 25 years +, and 11 for over 70 years.

Although being born here and having friends and family is a significant factor, a high proportion chose to live here because of its rural location and it being an attractive place.



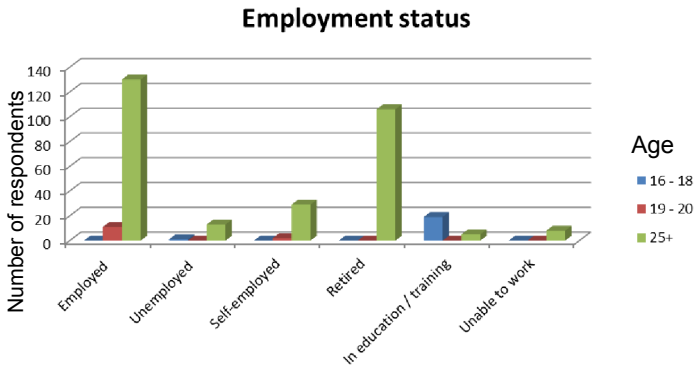




Employment

Employment statistics of the respondents

16-18 year olds - all except one of the survey respondents is still in education or training.
19-20 year olds - The majority, 11 out of 17, are in employment; 4 in training or education.
25+ - 44% are employed,
36% are retired,
10% are unemployed.



In 2010 there were 791 residents of working age: (Source: Jobseekers' Allowance data from 2009-11) The unemployment rate in the North-East was **5.1%.** Bishop Middleham's unemployment rate was less than half this, at **2.5%**, .

In 2009, Bishop Middleham and Mainsforth Parish had a population of **1,271**

- **200** were children aged 0-15 yrs
- **791** were defined as 'working age'
- **280** as 'retired'.

Source: 2011 Statistical Profile, 4Together Partnership, Durham County Council

Education

Key Stage 4 results from Academic Year 2 010 - 2011

AREA	5 or more A*- C including English & Maths	5 or more A*- C
Bishop Middleham	70.6%	100%
County Durham	55.6%	83.9%
England	53.4%	75.4%

Key Stage 2 results from Academic Year 2010 - 2011

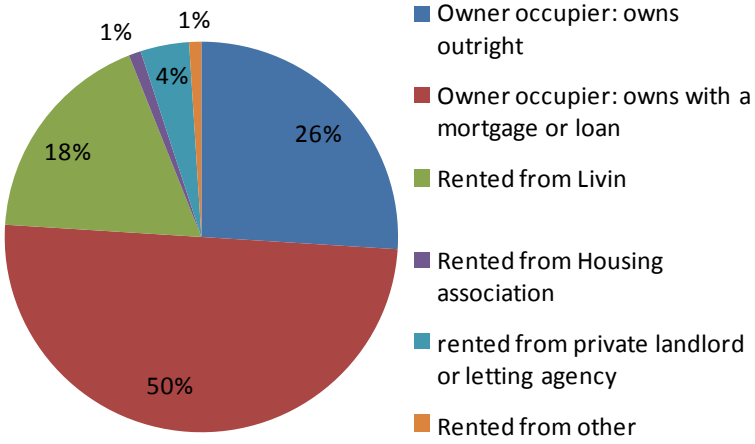
AREA	English Level 4	Maths Level 4	English Level 5	Maths Level 5
St Michael's C of E Primary School	92%	100%	33%	33%
County Durham	81%	80%	31%	32%
England	83%	79%	35%	34%

In 2010, based on child benefit claims, there were **145** families with children, of which:

- **44%** had 1 child,
- **44%** had 2 children
- **10%** had 3 children or more.

Source: Livin Bishop Middleham Community Plan 2011 – 14

Housing



Housing tenure in Bishop Middleham Source: Census 2001

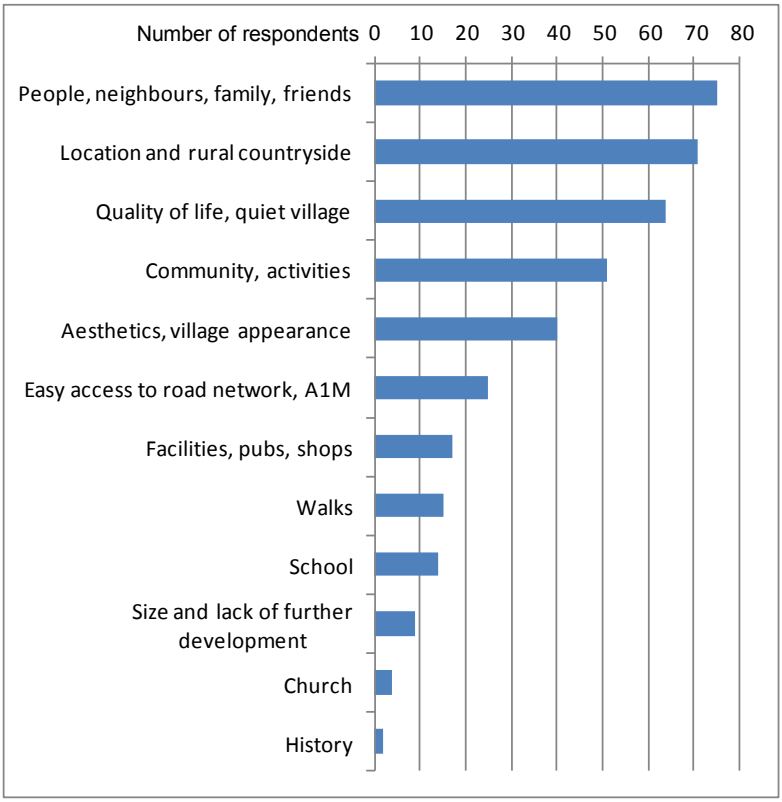
Council tax bands: Government statistics 2009

Council Tax Band	%
A	38
B	26
C	9
D	14
E - I	13

2. LIVING IN THE PARISH

The respondents highlighted the best and the worst things about living in the Parish. The people, friends, family and neighbours came out as the best thing, followed by the rural location, and the quality of life. The Parish is seen as a quiet and friendly place to live.
Public transport was seen to be the worst thing about living in the Parish, followed by the lack of facilities, amenities, shops, healthcare and the continuing problem with dog-fouling.

The best things about living in the Parish



"almost crime-free"

"we feel safe"

"good place to bring up a family"

"friendly people"

"picturesque village and surroundings"

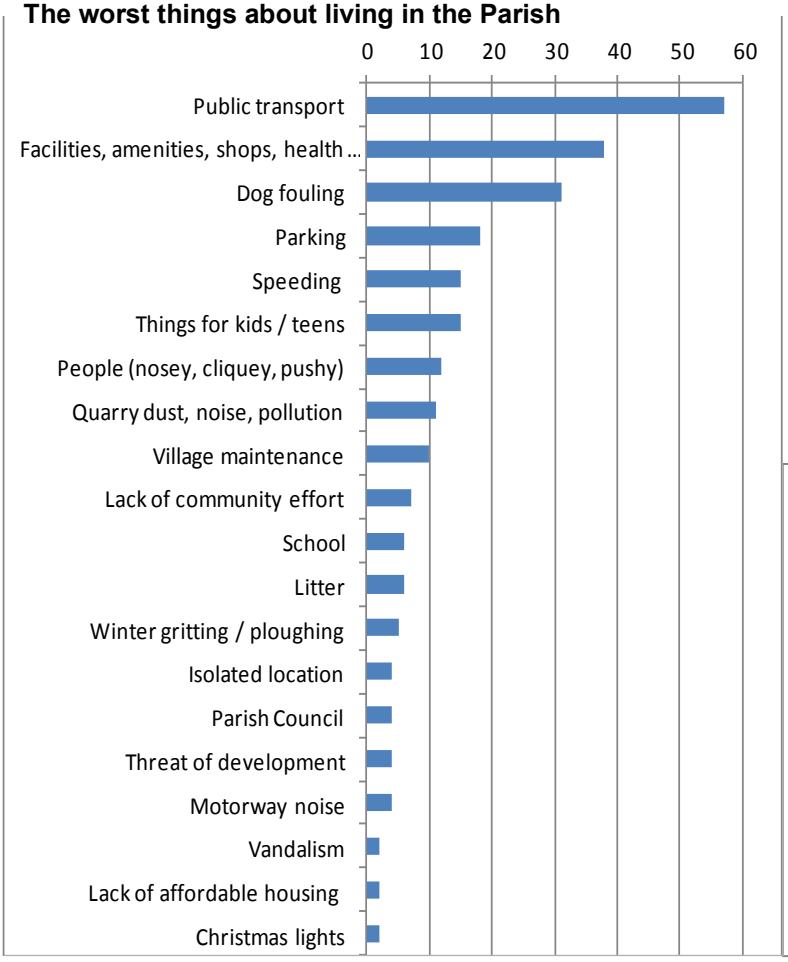
"lack of reliable bus service"

"speeding cars"

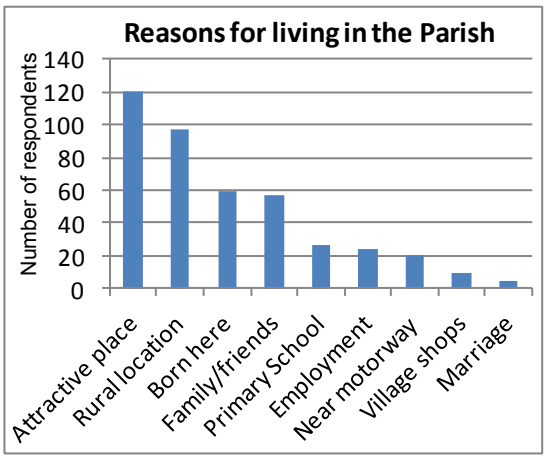
"poor broadband"

"filthy roads and noise because of Quarry"

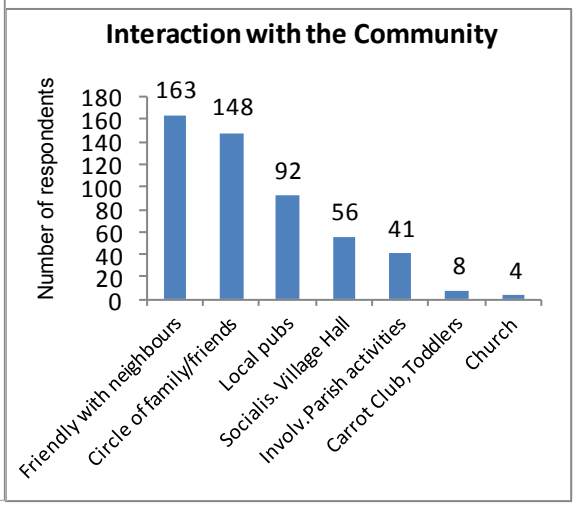
The worst things about living in the Parish



Reasons for living in the Parish

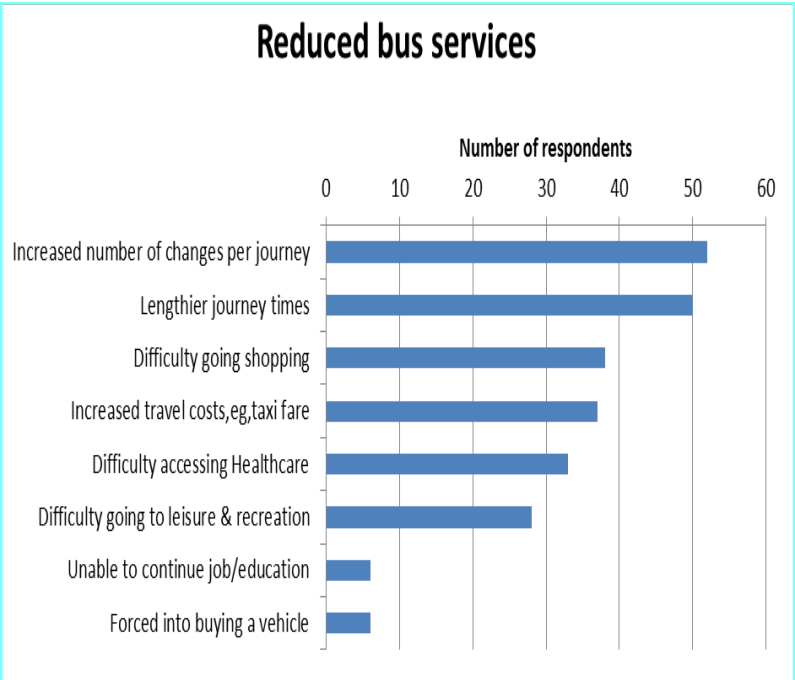


Interaction with the Community



3. TRANSPORT

Whilst almost 90% have access to a car, there are 27% of households with someone reliant on bus services. In January 2012 our community was faced with a significant reduction in bus services. After objections from residents, a partial service was reinstated. However, this reduced service has created significant inconvenience to people needing to reach local hospitals, keep doctors' appointments, go shopping, and to students commuting to further education.



"I would like the Parish Council to sort out the bus service. One bus an hour is no good"

4. TRAFFIC and PARKING

Lack of parking spaces and cars parked on roads were key issues. Options such as sharing drives or garages were not seen as a solution.

Particular areas of concern:

- High Street at weekends.
- School
- Stoneybeck

"More double yellow lines..... not enough 'School' signs"

Responses suggest that improved bus services would help reduce car use.

"No children's crossing signs that flash to warn drivers . . . . . persistent parking on double yellow lines"

Speeding

- Particular areas of concern:
- High Road
- Where Bank Top meets Front Street, (a crossing point to the school)
- The junction at the top of Woodstock/ Westfield Terrace.

".....need something to reduce speed before entrance to Woodstock Terrace"

"...speeding through Mainsforth"

"We need chicanes"

"We need 20 mph limit through the village"

"Observed young drivers through the village driving way above the speed limit and dangerously"

5. NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

Areas of concern in the Parish

Winter gritting problems were highlighted again by many respondents.
A number of other areas of concern were also voiced.

! **Littering and dog-fouling** continue to be major issues in many areas. However, only a minority participated in the recent anti dog-fouling campaign.

The main area of concern was the Play Park, but many streets were mentioned as still suffering from this problem.

Several areas of the Parish were reported as suffering from problems with **pavements and kerbs, footpaths, road repairs and over grown/neglected trees.**

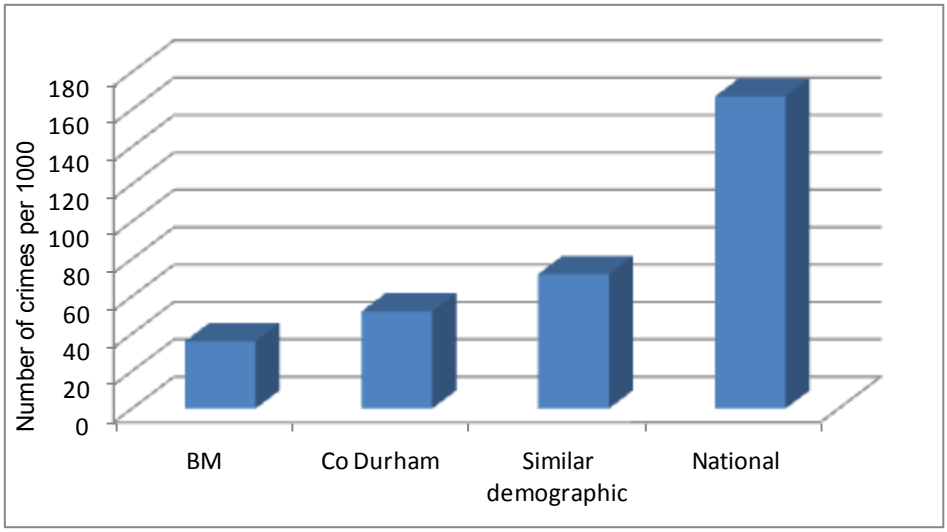
Resident's suggestion:
"re-enter Durham CC Tidy Village contest. We were often winners in the late 60s and 70s"

Resident's comment:
" village flowers always look good"

All these issues will be addressed in the proposed **Action Plan.**

The 2003 household survey revealed concerns about minor crimes such as **vandalism and anti-social behaviour**, but in the 2012 household survey, respondents were not worried about crime in the Parish. The **Farmwatch** and **Pubwatch** schemes help keep the crime rate to a low level. In addition, a small number of residents regularly attend monthly **P.A.C.T.** (Police and Communities Together) meetings. Here, our local police report any outstanding problems occurring in the previous month, and residents can bring any new issues to the table for discussion or action. The P.A.C.T. forum has proved to be an excellent communication tool, and has been of great benefit to our community.

Crime Rate Comparisons (per 1,000 residents) year ending June 2012



Source: Ons.gsi.co.uk Police.uk

"we feel safe"

"almost crime-free"

Please Note

The recent spate of thefts over Christmas 2012 was an unusual occurrence.
As a result of this, a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme is being implemented.

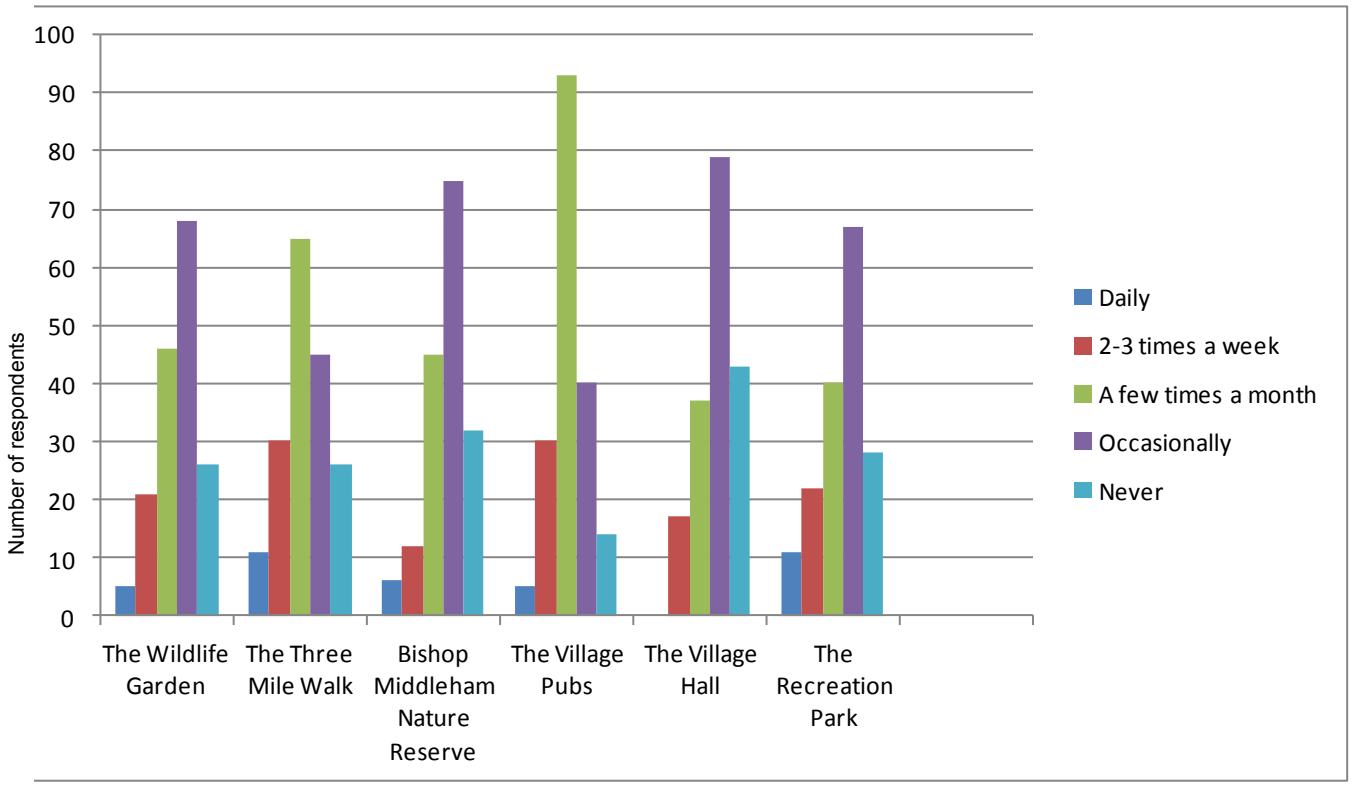
6. LOCAL COMMUNITY

Parish Facilities

Post Office / Shop
Butcher's Shop / Coffee Bar
Farm Shop
Pubs x 2
Church
Primary School
Village Hall
Toddler Play Area
Recreation Park and a Wildlife Garden
Several Country Walks

There was a high level of interest in this section. Overall, although residents do not use these facilities all the time, they appreciate having them in the Parish. When asked how often they make use of the Parish facilities the most common responses were '*occasionally'* and '*several times a month'*. Few people replied '*never'*.

48% of respondents said that they interact with the community in the local pubs. All the village facilities are widely and regularly used; the village pubs and 3 mile walk topped the poll.



St Michael's Church is a 12th Century Grade 2 listed building, and is also a living, working Church.

The Church is expensive to maintain and to insure, and the costs of keeping the Church open are met entirely by members of the congregation. Volunteers help with cleaning, arranging flowers, maintaining the building and the churchyard. Many people in the Parish give a weekly donation.

Although 83% of respondents said the Church was important for baptisms, weddings and funerals, most people were not prepared or able to help financially with its upkeep. However, there were an encouraging number of people who volunteered some of their time to help.
As a result, a considerable amount of work has already been done in the Church grounds.

The Village Hall is maintained by the a small group of volunteers, the '*Bishop Middleham Village Hall Association*'. Built in the 1960s, the building was part funded by contributions from residents. Regular donations contributed to its maintenance for many years. A very important asset to the Parish, the Hall has been used by a range of groups, and has been used to hold parties, meetings and presentations, as well as a variety of classes.
The Parish Council, the Women's Institute, the Village Hall Committee, the Horticultural Society and the Local History Society meet at the Hall once a month. The Library van parks outside the Hall fortnightly. The Parent and Toddler Group, the Carrot Club, Rainbows, Brownies, Over Sixties and the Bowls Club meet once a week. The Playgroup holds two sessions a week. There are also Exercise and Craft classes.

The Church and the Primary School often make use of the Village Hall. The Film and Drama Group, supported by the local PACT Team (Police Action Community Together) hold regular film screenings and discos for children and young people. The annual Horticultural Show also takes place there, and there are occasional Entertainment Nights such as the church Ceilidh and Coffee Mornings for charity.

There were many suggestions for additional activities in the Village Hall:

Badminton	*Keep Fit Classes*	*Dancing*	*Music Sessions*
Language Classes	*Pilates*	*Sports Sessions*	*Computer Classes*
Community Choir	*Yoga*	*Self-Defence Classes*	*Sewing and Craft Classes*

Community

There are several regular community events in the Parish.

- The Scarecrow Festival in July is very popular; many residents and visitors can be seen following the Scarecrow Trail.
- The Carol Singing around the Christmas Tree on the old Brewery Field is followed by mince pies and mulled wine at the Cross Keys Public House.
- The Royal Jubilee 2012 was celebrated by events and parties throughout the Parish.
- Bishop Middleham Football Team play their home games on the football pitch at the Play Park.
- A New Multi-Use Games Area was opened at the Celebration of Life/Party in the Park in September 2012.

"More community events e.g. Picnics, Walks, Quizzes, Treasure Hunts, to bring people together"

Many expressed an interest in further community and charity events. One third of respondents were willing to contribute a small amount of time to the community, but only 3 said they were willing to help organise regular activities at the Village Hall.

Only 15% of respondents were interested in the Parish being twinned with another town or village. A wide variety of places were suggested.

9 respondents were interested in joining the Quarry Liaison Committee.

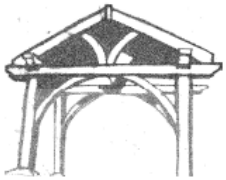
Planning conditions make it a requirement for the quarries to monitor dust and airborne pollution. There is a Quarry Liaison Committee, which includes members of the public, responsible for monitoring these conditions.

Community Projects

A range of community projects had been suggested at the consultation workshops.

- The protection of green spaces in the Parish was thought to be very important.
- Introducing a bye-law to keep dogs out of the play park was also thought to be a good idea.
- The suggestion to re-introduce the Countryside Fair received much support.

PROJECT	% in favour
Protection of the green spaces in the Parish	70
A bye-law to keep dogs on leads in the Play Park	66
Re-introduction of the Countryside Fair	57
A notice board on the sundial/old brewery site, to provide information about the Parish, and to advertise events and activities	49
A fence around the children's play area at the Play Park	37
A low-key natural, wooden activity area on the sundial/old brewery site	26
Re-introduction of replica stocks and pinfold	19
The re-introduction of wall sundials on the houses along Bank Top and around the Parish	17
An outdoor gym at the Play Park	17
Community allotment /orchard	17
A garden-sharing scheme	5



Allotments

Although only a small number are on the waiting list for an allotment, many have been waiting for a considerable time – 3 or 4 years.

18 people said they would like to form an allotment association. Durham County Council have recently reviewed their allotment policy, and have informed residents about future developments.

Energy Efficiency

The issue of **climate change,** coupled with rising energy bills, means we all need to think about actively reducing our energy consumption. There are schemes available to help with insulating our homes.

The results show that there is a good take-up of loft insulation (79%) and cavity wall insulation (64%). **29 people** expressed an interest in solar panels. **20 people** expressed an interest in wind turbines.

Parish Council

A Parish Council operates at a level below District, Borough and County Councils and is the first tier of Local Government. There is a full Council of nine members who all commit their time on a voluntary basis to support the running of our Parish. The job of the Council is to represent the interests of the whole of the community.
The Parish Council is currently introducing the Parish Action Plan and reviewing their methods of communicating with residents.

45 % of respondents were satisfied with the work of the Parish Council.
14 % were not satisfied.
41 % said they didn't know.

52% were aware of the role and responsibilities of the Parish Council.
48% were not.

32% had viewed the Parish Council website.
68% had not.

The preferred method of receiving Parish information	
Newsletter Delivery	*60%*
Parish Notice Board	*52%*
Pubs / Shop windows	*36%*
Parish web site	*29%*
Email	*13%*
Word of mouth	*10%*
Facebook	*4%*
Text message	*2%*
Twitter	*0%*

7. LOCAL ECONOMY

Business

During the initial consultation workshops, the idea of forming a **Parish Business Group** was suggested. This proposal has been included in the Action Plan.

- 23 of the respondents run their own business (10 are based within the Parish)
- 17 people expressed an interest in joining a business group
- To encourage more visitors to the area, these ideas were preferred:
    * information boards and leaflets
    * organised walking groups
    * visitors' car parking

Shopping

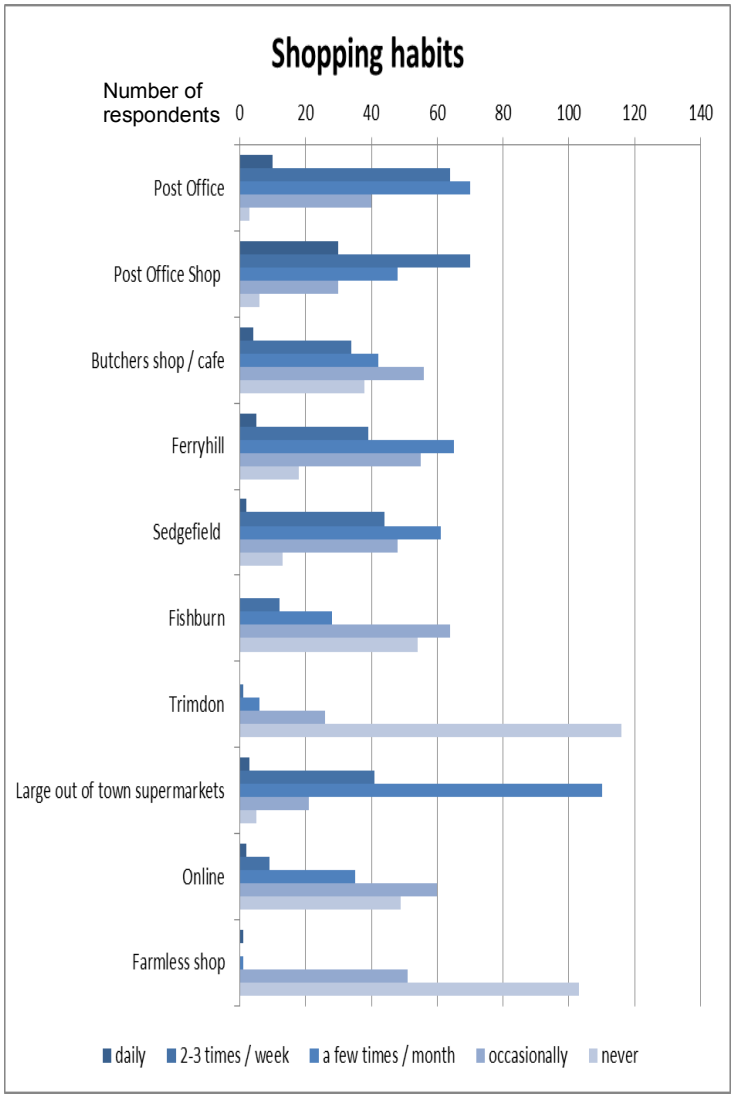
The results of the survey mirror the national trend in shopping habits for more people to use large out-of-town shopping centres. This inevitably leads to the decline of local High Streets and the closure of many village shops. Bishop Middleham and Mainsforth are very fortunate to retain their two existing shops. This contributes significantly to the desirability of living in the Parish.

The Post Office/Shop and Wright's Butcher's / Coffee Bar appear to be well supported by the respondents. However, many residents do not make use of the local shops in the Parish.
Several suggestions were made to encourage more residents to do more of their shopping in the Parish:

"more fresh produce"
"competitive prices"
"more choice"
"longer opening times"
"personal motivation from residents"

And some were more specific:

"New Zealand Sauvignon Blanc please !"



There was considerable interest in increasing the availability of local produce.

Internet

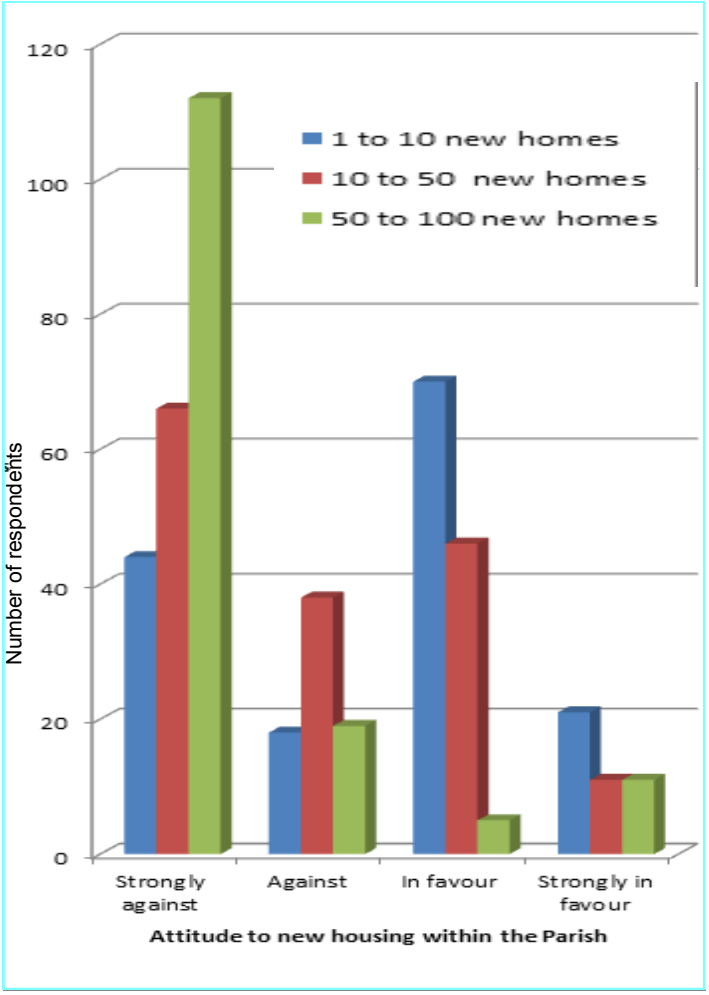
Over 80% have access to the internet. A majority were dissatisfied with the speed of their Broadband connection. There does not seem to be a clear correlation between speed and post code.
However, in some households, BT have recently installed BT Infinity, their new fibre optic Broadband service.

8. PLANNING AND HOUSING

Although most people are satisfied that their home meets their needs for the foreseeable future, 32 people thought they might need to move in the next 10 years, preferring '*bungalow', 'low cost'* and '*single person*' housing.

Attitudes towards new housing development:

- There was a strong response against development of any scale, with a very large majority against large-scale development.
- 59% were in favour of 1–10 homes, and a smaller but significant number were in favour of 10 - 50 homes.



If there was to be any further development within the Parish certain concerns were highlighted.

Issues to be addressed:

1) Drainage system capacity
2) Scale of development
3) Public bus service
4) Highway and parking capacity
5) Primary School places
6) Health care convenience

Developers' Contribution:

1) Subsidised bus services
2) Community facilities
3) Affordable housing
4) Recreation facilities
5) Public parks and streets

Design Statement:

1) Preserve historic features
2) Protect landscape
3) High building standards
4) Preserve village character
5) Mixed developments

Location of new homes: Small infill sites are preferred over an extension to village boundaries.

Conservation Area

Bishop Middleham has a wealth of history; for instance, the Bishop's fortified manor house or castle, which was built in 1099 and stood on the high ridge to the south of the village. The historic centre of the Parish retains much evidence of a medieval past. However, much historic character has been lost through time.
Durham County Council has recently approved a revision to the Conservation Area boundary which will afford greater protection to the Bishop's manor house site.

A number of projects regarding the Conservation Area were favoured in the survey:

- Extension of the Conservation Area (approved subsequent to the survey)
- Repairs to stone walls around the Parish
- Restoration of old buildings through sympathetic development
- The replacement of some street furniture with more historic styles

PROJECT	% in favour
Extend the conservation area to include the Castle site and survey the deer park and fish ponds	72
Repairs to the stone walls around the Parish	72
The restoration of old buildings through sympathetic development	59
The replacement of some street furniture with styles more historic in appearance e.g. street lights, telephone kiosk, post box	57
The archaeological recording of historic features at Hall Farm, Town End Farm and the Byre on Bank Top	48
Open up views along Bank Top towards the Old School by trimming the lower branches of trees	42
Seek grant aid to encourage the replacement of doors and windows with more traditional styles	34

Neighbourhood Plan

The recent implementation of the Localism Bill has brought a new emphasis on local decision-making in planning. Local communities will be able to influence the future development of their area through the creation of Neighbourhood Plans. Durham County Council has encouraged the Steering Group to become engaged in the neighbourhood planning process, and this is currently a matter under discussion.

Durham County Council is currently preparing the main planning framework for the County known as the County Durham Plan. This document will set out strategic planning policies to guide where development is located, and to plan for change in County Durham over the next 20 years. Our Parish Council submitted responses to the consultation document, based on the findings of this Parish Survey in October 2012 (as set out in the Appendix).

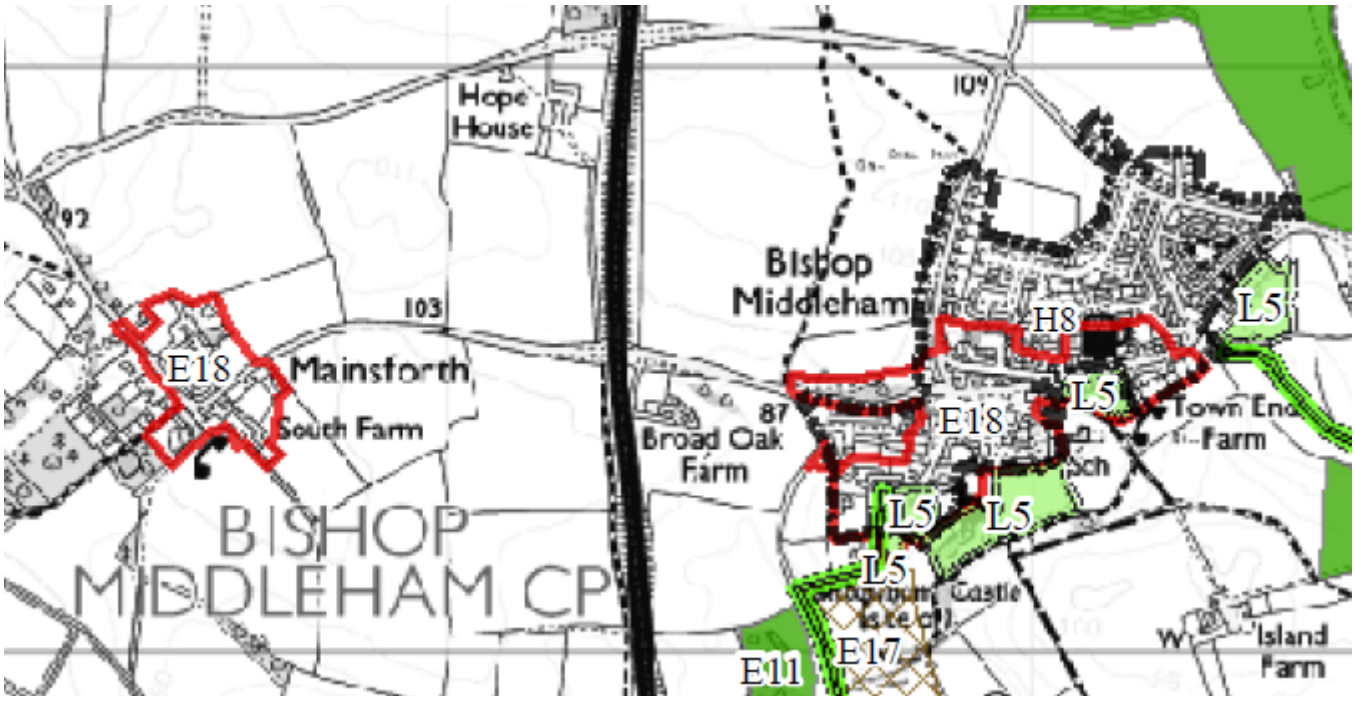
The County Durham Plan will replace the Local Plan inherited from the former Sedgefield Borough Council. Many of the land use designations will disappear, and residential framework boundaries which have up to now defined the extent of village boundaries will be removed. The County Plan will focus on the main towns and larger villages; small 'fourth tier' settlements such as Bishop Middleham and Mainsforth will not be covered in detail. This will result in a weakening of the planning system in respect of smaller settlements such as this Parish.

A Neighbourhood Plan for Bishop Middleham and Mainsforth would provide a complementary, more detailed resolution of planning guidance at a local level. It could :

- Choose where new homes and other development should be built
- Specify the mix of housing types (such as affordable homes, or homes suitable for older people)
- Identify and protect important green spaces
- Influence what new buildings should look like
- Prescribe the use of developers' contributions

The Parish survey was drafted to gauge local opinion on these issues and assess the evidence of need for a Neighbourhood Plan, specifically questions on Planning and Housing Q.s 9-15.

The benefit of a Neighbourhood Plan is that it carries statutory weight in determining planning applications. However, the process of developing a plan is a legal one which would include a referendum and external examiner. It can be a lengthy and costly process. The matter is currently under consideration.



Extract from former Sedgefield Borough Council Local Plan. Durham County Council's new County Plan will remove the settlement boundary shown by the black line.

APPENDIX
Response to County Durham Plan Consultation document

Bishop Middleham and Mainsforth Parish Plan Steering Group 19 Oct 2012

As part of preparations towards a Parish Plan, a survey of all 575 households in Bishop Middleham and Mainsforth was carried out in May 2012.

202 questionnaires were returned, representing 35% of the Parish households.

The results of the survey have relevance to several aspects of the County Durham Plan, as summarised below:

Policy 16 Development on Unallocated sites

The survey shows a strong response against development of any scale with a very large majority against large scale development (76% of respondents were strongly against development of 50-100 homes).
More people were in favour of 1-10 homes than any other category (59%), and a smaller but significant number in favour of 10 - 50 homes.
Comment:
The majority view of the Parish is that larger scale development – over 50 homes - is not appropriate for settlements of this size. This corresponds with the County Plan proposal to restrict larger scale development – over 1.5ha – to those sites that support the County's strategic objectives.

Policy 17 Sustainable Design

When asked about preserving the character of the village, 84% agreed that historic features including the greens should be preserved and 80% agreed that the landscape should be enhanced and preserved.

Policy 31 Addressing Housing need

The housing survey asked for anticipated housing needs in the future. Although most respondents are satisfied that their home meets their needs for the foreseeable future, 72 respondents indicated a perceived need for alternative accommodation for themselves or someone in their household within the next 5 years. The most popular choices were for a bungalow (15), 'starter' home / low cost (14) and single person home (12).
Comment:
These results strongly support the proposed policy to require a proportion of new homes to meet the needs of older people and for a percentage of affordable homes. We would advocate that the County resists any pressure to weaken the qualifying thresholds or allow exceptions.

Policy 36 Development in the Countryside

The survey asked where new homes should be built. A large majority of people would prefer any development to take place in small infill sites and only 28% opted for extending the existing boundary of the villages.
Comment:
This represents support for the principle that land not within existing built-up areas should be treated as countryside and be protected from development.

Policy 47 Sustainable Travel

The survey shows that whilst almost 90% of households have access to a car, there are 27% of households with someone reliant on public bus services. Respondents indicated that the reduction in bus services is creating significant inconvenience (52 respondents citing increased number of changes per journey and lengthier journey times) and reduction in job and training opportunities due to fewer destinations and times served by bus services.

When asked to list the 3 worst things about the Parish, more people referred to public transport than any other issue (58 respondents).

When asked about car sharing, only 9% (18 respondents) indicated that they would be interested.

Comment:
Bus services are a vital service to a significant proportion of the Parish population, and we support any policy that promotes public transport.

Policy 53 Meeting the need for Primary Aggregates

The survey did not touch on the topic of quarrying other than gauging interest in joining the Quarry Liaison Committee. However, in response to a general question inviting comment on quality of life in the Parish, 8th on the list of 3 worst things from 11 respondents, was quarry dust, noise or pollution.

This indicates that quarrying is not without environmental nuisance, and in this respect has an adverse effect on the village.

Policy 15 Neighbourhood planning and Infrastructure

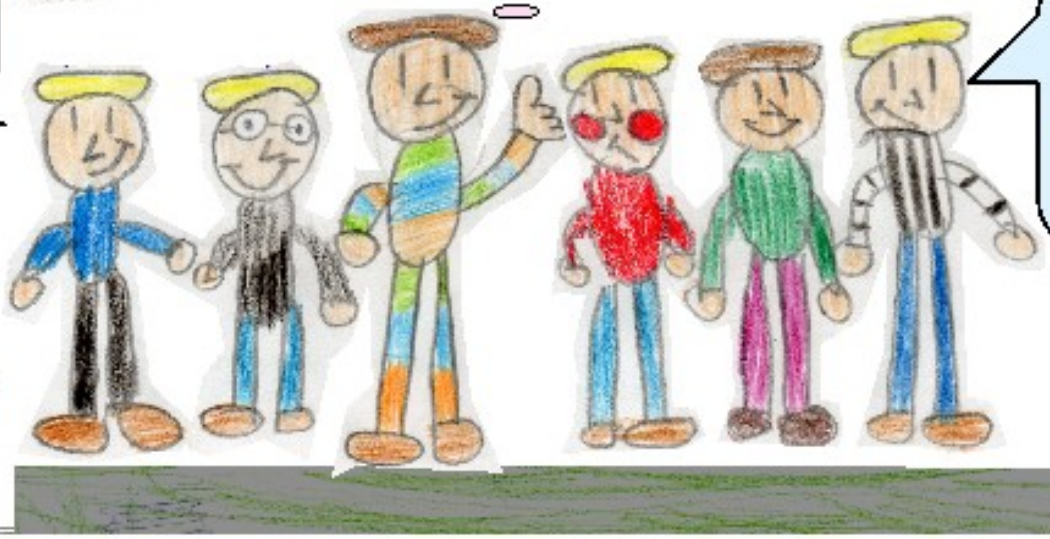
No questions were posed specifically regarding Neighbourhood planning. However, during the public consultations leading up to and following the survey, discussions indicated a strong interest in pursuing the Neighbourhood planning process in order to better protect the Parish boundaries and open spaces. This was in response to the perceived increased threat arising from the recent changes in planning laws.

Bishop Middleham and Mainsforth Parish Plan

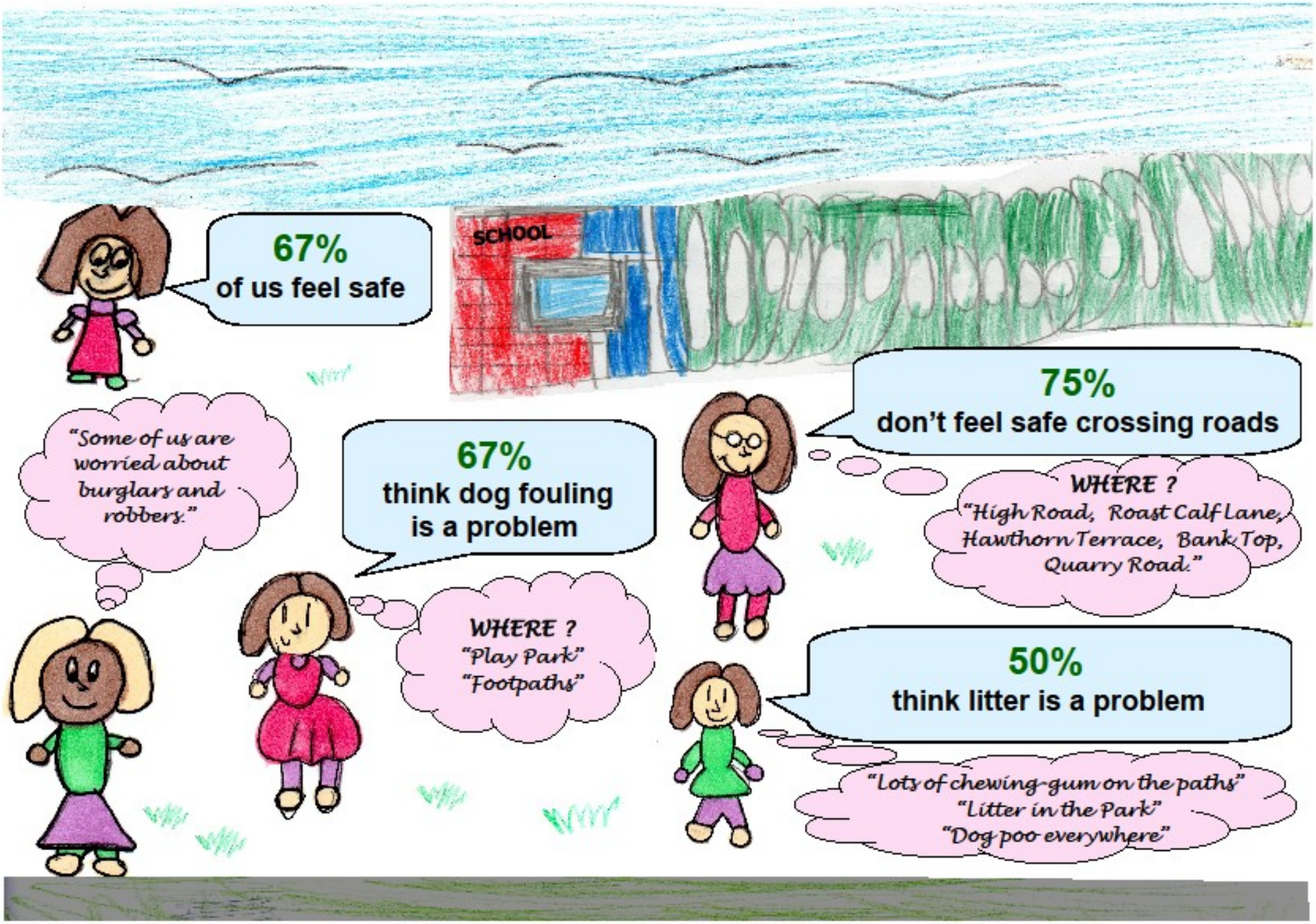
Results of Children's Questionnaire 2013

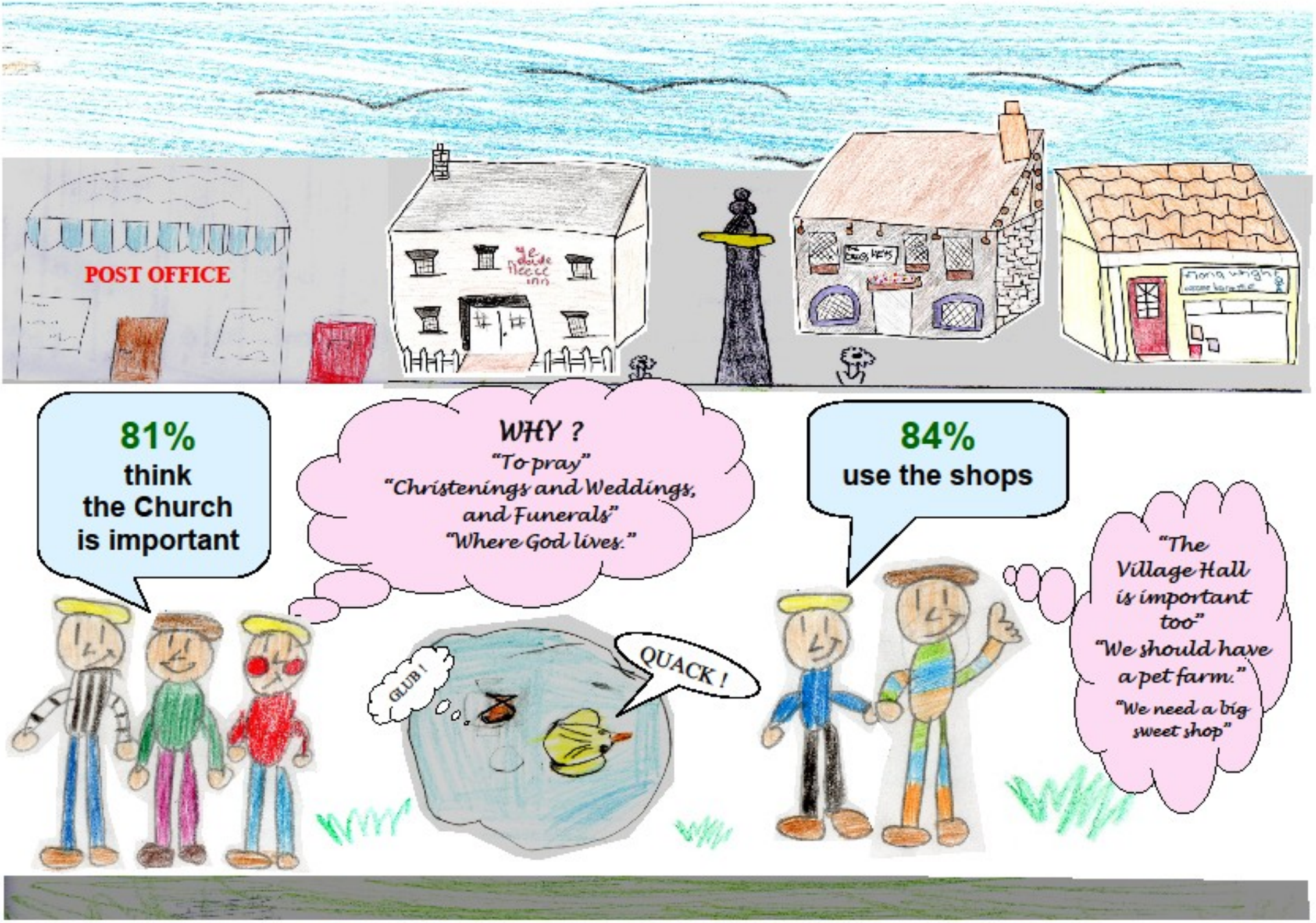
This is what we think

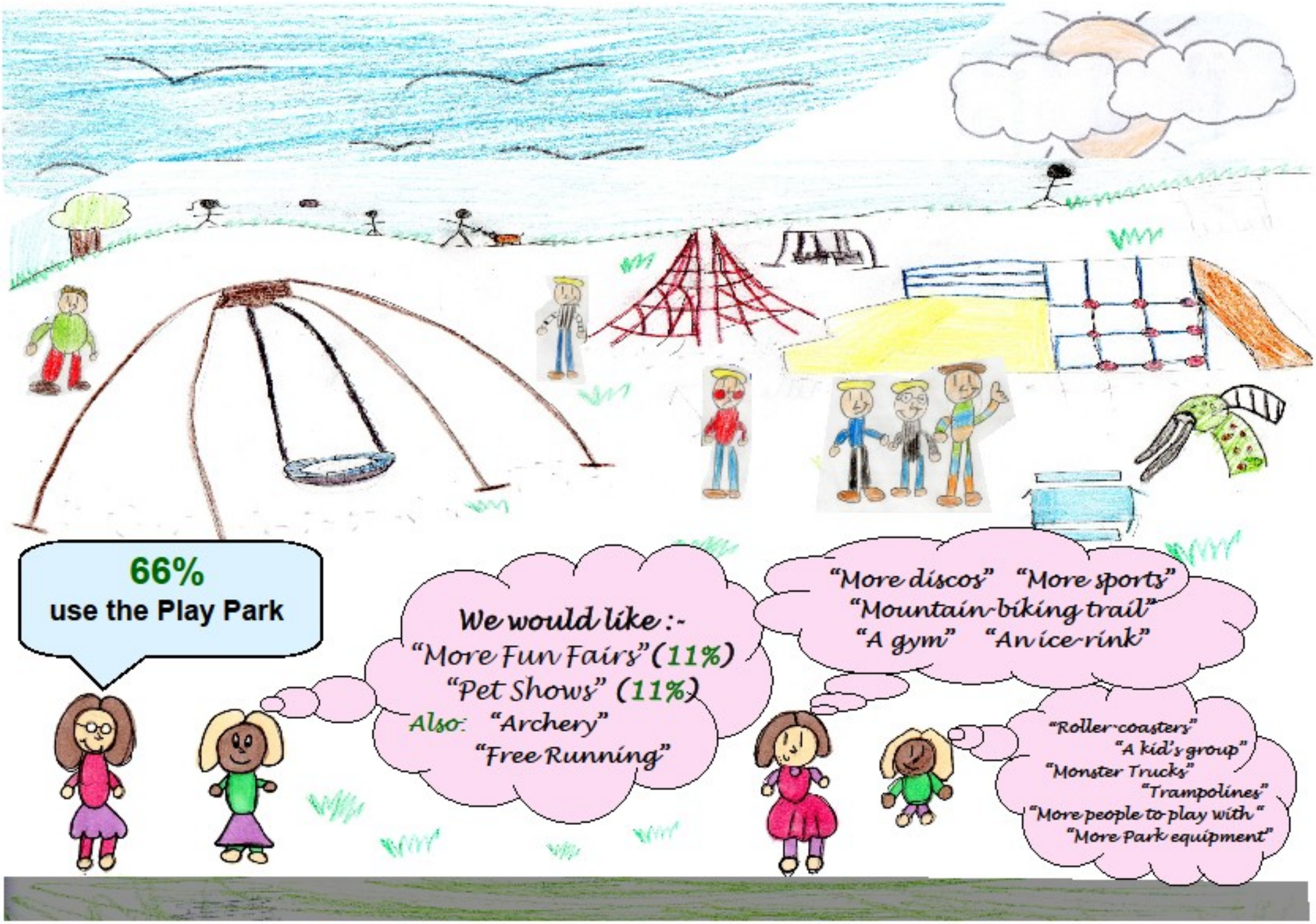
53 children took part



92% of us like living here


67%
of us feel safe
SCHOOL
75%
don't feel safe crossing roads
"Some of us are worried about burglars and robbers."
67%
think dog fouling is a problem
WHERE ?
"High Road, Roast Calf Lane, Hawthorn Terrace, Bank Top, Quarry Road."
WHERE ?
"Play Park"
"Footpaths"
50%
think litter is a problem
"Lots of chewing-gum on the paths"
"Litter in the Park"
"Dog poo everywhere"


POST OFFICE
81%
think
the Church
is important
WHY ?
"To pray"
"Christenings and Weddings,
and Funerals"
"Where God lives."
GLUB !
QUACK !
84%
use the shops
"The
Village Hall
is important
too"
"We should have
a pet farm."
"We need a big
sweet shop"


66%
use the Play Park
We would like :-
"More Fun Fairs" (11%)
"Pet Shows" (11%)
Also: "Archery"
"Free Running"
"More discos" "More sports"
"Mountain biking trail"
"A gym" "An ice-rink"
"Roller coasters"
"A kid's group"
"Monster Trucks"
"Trampolines"
"More people to play with"
"More Park equipment"

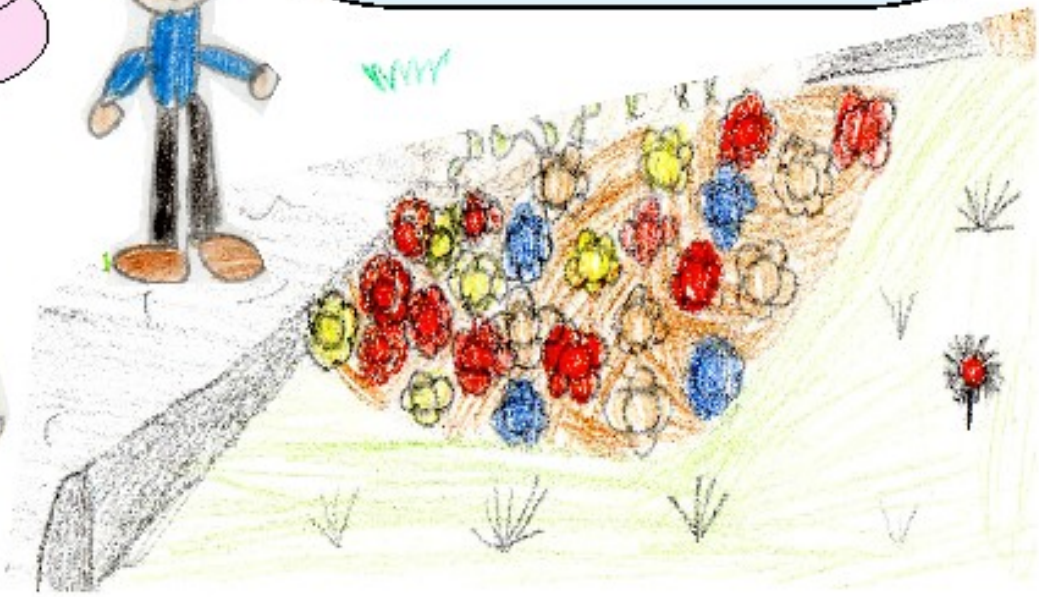
What is the *WORST* thing about living here ?

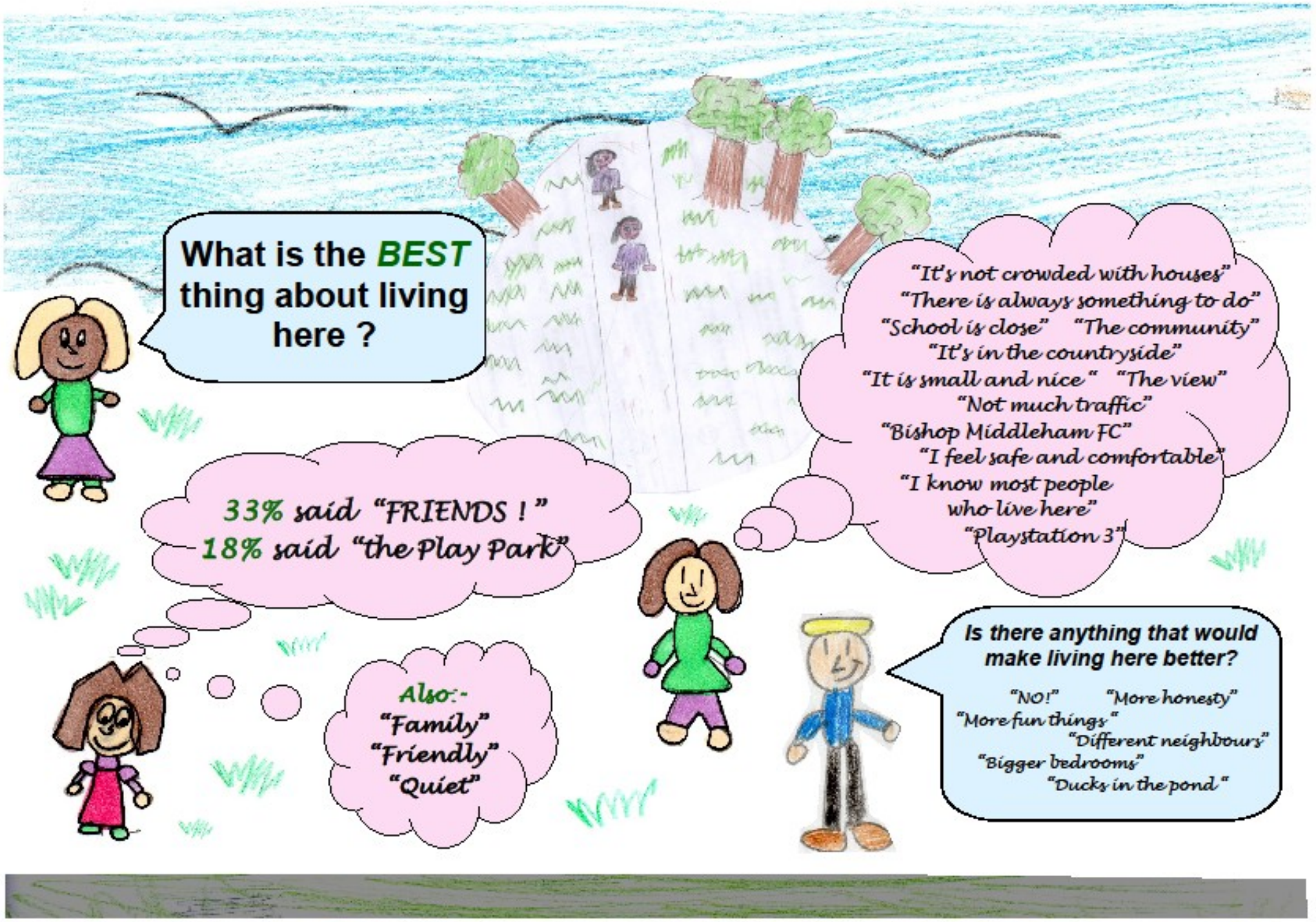
50% said "NOTHING AT ALL !"
15% said "Litter"
11% said "Dog Poo"

Also:-
"Floods" "Bullies"
"Some people are horrible"
"Stupid people"
"Robbers"

Is there anything that would improve the appearance of the village ?

"Plant more flowers"
"Clean up the roads" "Tidy gardens."
"Post Office a different colour"
"Nicer Christmas lights"
"Things painted"




What is the BEST thing about living here ?
"It's not crowded with houses"
"There is always something to do"
"School is close" "The community"
"It's in the countryside"
"It is small and nice" "The view"
"Not much traffic"
"Bishop Middleham FC"
"I feel safe and comfortable"
"I know most people who live here"
"Playstation 3"
33% said "FRIENDS !"
18% said "the Play Park"
Also:-
"Family"
"Friendly"
"Quiet"
Is there anything that would make living here better?
"NO!" "More honesty"
"More fun things"
"Different neighbours"
"Bigger bedrooms"
"Ducks in the pond"

ACTION PLAN

June 2013

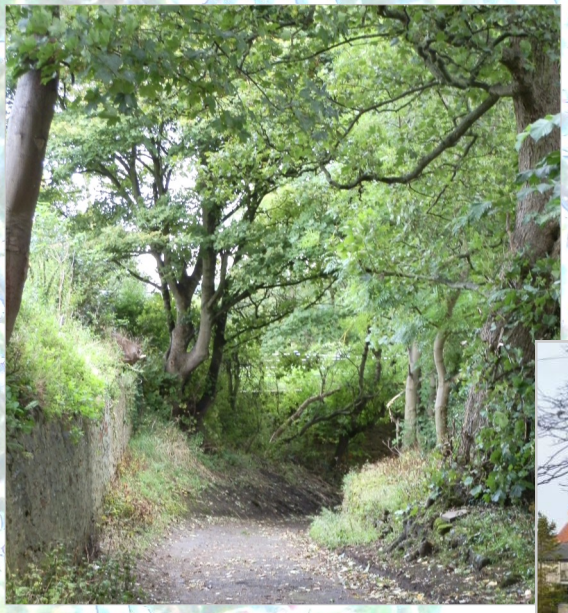
KEY	
	Priority Action for Parish Council
	Priority Action for County Council / other agencies

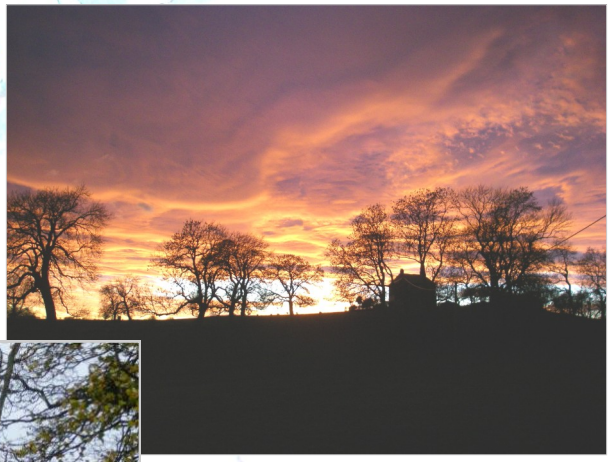
Item no	SECTION	ref to survey Question	KEY ISSUES	PRIORITY - from survey results 1= high, 3 = low	Achievability 1 = readily achievable, 3 = more complex	ACTION	LEAD RESPONSIBILITY	Parish Council role	EXPECTED COSTS
3.00	TRANSPORT								
3.01	Impact of reduced bus service	7	Improve bus services	1	3	Monitor and review	DCC	PC liaise with Co Cllr	NIL
3.02	Reduce car useage	45	As for 3.01 plus encourage more walking and cycling	2	3				
3.03	Interest in car sharing scheme	8	car sharing scheme (18 respondents)	3	3				
4.00	TRAFFIC & PARKING								
4.01	Parking around school entrance	18	Extend 'no parking'restrictions around school entrance	1	3				NIL
4.02	Lack of parking facilities	42	Not enough Parking Spaces throughout BM	1	3	Feasibility study - PC to instigate	DCC	PC	NIL
4.03		42	convert grass outside 75-86 Stoneybeck to parking area	1	3	Feasibility study - PC to instigate	DCC	PC	£40 - £70k
4.04		42	Car parking on Brewery site ref 7.06	2	3	Feasibility study	PC	DCC	
4.05		42	Cars on Kerbs - Obstruction	2	3	Report to Police	Police	PC	
4.06	Traffic speed restrictions needed	46	1 road - raised at PACT meetings. Speed alert signs employed	1	3	Assess feasibility of further speed control measures / extending 30mph zone. Liaise with Co Cllr	Police / DCC	PC PACT rep	£20K
4.07		46	Mainsforth	2	3	Monitor	Police / DCC		
4.08		46	Crosskeys	2	3	Monitor	Police / DCC		
4.09		46	Woodstock	2	3	Monitor	Police / DCC		
4.10		46	Hawthorn Terrace	2	3	Monitor	Police / DCC		
4.11		46	South View	2	3	Monitor	Police / DCC		
4.12		46	Outside Church	2	3	Monitor	Police / DCC		
5.00	NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES								
5.01	Dog fouling problem areas	33	Park	1	1	Programme of escalating measures. Research options re control orders	PC / PACT ? DCC?	steer	£200
5.02		33	Dog-fouling other areas: Post Office, 1 Road, Cut-throughs, South View, Hawthorn Tce, Insula Cottages, Footpath BM - Mainsforth	1	2				NIL
5.03	HIghways / Road Repairs	31	Road safety - top Woodstock tce	2	3	Explore options with 1ways officer: extend 30mph zone	Police / DCC	PC, PACT resident reps	
5.04		31	Potholes throughout Parish	2	2	Maintenance repair programme	DCC	PC	NIL
5.05		31	lorries / wagons parking in village	2	3	Advice / Enforcement by DCC	DCC	PC	
5.06		31	quarry slurry: entrance to Thompson's road	2	2	Advice from DCC	DCC	PC	NIL

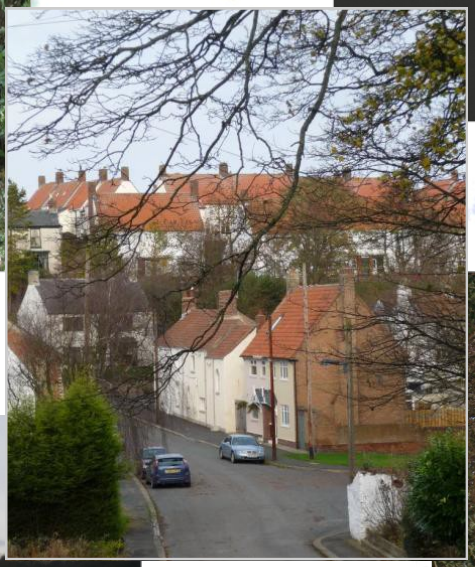
5.07		**31**	poor drainage: bollards on 1 Rd	2	3	Advice from DCC	DCC	PC	
5.08		**31**	Better cleaning of bus shelters		1				
5.09	**Pavements / Dropped Kerbs**	**31**	Poor maintenance generally	2	2	Condition survey	DCC	PC to liaise with Co Cllr	NIL
5.10		**31**	Kiln Cresc - steep path with no rail		2	Condition survey	DCC	"	
5.11		**31**	Stoneybeck pavements		2	Condition survey	DCC	"	
5.12		**31**	Kirkley Tce railings on path		2	Condition survey	DCC	"	
5.13		**31**	Narrow pavement in poor condition nr School House		2	Condition survey	DCC	"	
5.14		**31**	Narrow pavement Bank Top		2	Condition survey	DCC	"	
5.15		**31**	Pavements on Westfield & Woodstock Tce		2	Condition survey	DCC	"	
5.16		**31**	Paths outside village crumbling		2	Condition survey	DCC	"	
5.17		**31**	Path outside the Park		2	Condition survey	DCC	"	
5.18		**31**	no dropped kerbs BishopGarth to Broadoaks		2	Condition survey	DCC	"	
5.19		**31**	Poorly constructed dropped kerbs private drives		3	Condition survey	DCC	"	
5.20		**31**	refuse bins left out: Bishop's Garth / Church st		2	Residents to report to DCC collection service	DCC		
5.21	**Road Verges**	**31**	rd verges: more frequent mowing generally	2	2	Monitor and review maintenance intervals	DCC /PC		
5.22		**31**	litter on road verges		2				
5.23		**31**	damaged by parking: South View	2	3	Consider option of reinforced grass verge solution	PC / DCC	obtain price	
5.24		**31**	BM to Mainsforth rd verges		2				
5.25		**31**	lack of kerb to quarry road		2	refer to 8.06			
5.26		**31**	Overgrown verges and hedgerows at road junction top Westfield tce	1	2	Ask DCC to review maintenance intervals. Consider provision of additional cuts in PC grounds contract			£1,000
5.27		**31**	Overgrown verges and hedgerows at road junction Broadoaks	1	2	Ditto			incl in 10.26
5.28	**Winter gritting**	**31**	Footpaths and roads: Hawthorn / Kirkley tce, Stoneybeck, The Park, 1 Street, Church st, Westfield Tce bank, the Green, Bank Top	1	2	Review provision for gritting	DCC / PC	PC to enquire	?
5.29		**31**	Paths to OAP bungalows	1	2	Review provision for gritting	DCC / PC	"	?
5.30	**Street Lighting**	**31**	street lighting Fishburn rd and Church Bank		3	Design and cost estimate	DCC	liaise with Co Cllr	
5.31		**31**	lower light levels after midnight		3	DCC policy decision	DCC	liaise with Co Cllr	
5.32		**31**	Christmas lights		2	on-going renewal	PC	phased renewal	
5.33	**Environment**	**31, 34**	quarry dust, noise, pollution		1	**Take active role on quarry liaison committee**	PC	**PC to nominate rep**	
5.34	**Countryside Paths**	**31**	Obstructed routes, poor maintenance vegn & surfacing, signage, stiles, gates, benches, steps esp	1	1	Carry out survey and obtain costs. Seek funding from DCC	PC	Recruit and coordinate	£4,000
5.35		**31**	Lakeside furniture	2	1	Obtain costs	PC		£1,000
5.36		**31**	Repair lakeside shelter	1	1	Obtain costs	PC		£1,500
5.37		**31**	Bulls along 3 mile walk	2	2	Monitor and report to DCC	DCC	Report to DCC	
5.38		**31**	Pit road		2				
5.39		**31**	Promotion of walks		2	refer to 7.03	PC	PC	

5.40	**Overgrown / Neglected trees and hedges**	**31**	Trees on Bank top and other parish Co land	2	2	Carry out tree survey on PC land. County tree officer may advise. Allow for cost of pruning works if DCC not prepared to carry out.			£2,000
5.41		**31**	Top Woodstock Tce -ref 8.26	2	2	Review DCC grounds maintenance contracts.			
5.42		**31**	Cut through to Park	2	2	"			
5.43		**31**	Community strip 62 - 74 Stoneybeck	2	2	"			
5.44		**31**	Gardens Insula Cottages	2	2	"			
5.45		**31**	Back Hawthorn / Kirkley Tce	2	2	"			
5.46		**31**	The Green and North View	2	2	"			
5.47		**31**	Gardens and allotments		2	Improve allotment boundary	Allotment Assoc	DCC / PC	
5.48		**31**	tree planting ?		1				
5.49		**31**	No more tree removal		1				
5.50		**31**	Improve Churchyard maintenance		1	Working party to continue on-going maintenance	Church	PC to promote activities	
5.51	**Drainage**	**31**	The Park and playing field	1	3	monitor and report incidents to NWL via P clerk	NWL	Lobby for action	NIL
5.52	**Recreation Park / Wildlife Park**	**31**	Wildlife park needs attention	2	1				INCL IN 10.34
5.53		**31**	Recreation Park		1				
5.54		**31**	Boarding slippy in wet weather		1				
5.55		**31**	Locked gate during day limits access		1				
5.56			Additional lighting: flood-lighting / street lighting	2	2	Quantify on-going supply costs in addition to capital cost		feasibility	£5,000
5.57			Youth shelter	2	2				
5.58			Refurbish changing rooms	2	1				
5.59	**BM Nature reserve**	**31**	Indecent behaviour - nature reserve		2	Monitor and report incidents to PACT	PACT	Pass on reports. Actively support PACT initiatives	
5.60		**31**	Litter - nature reserve		2	ditto	PACT		
5.61	**Vandalism**	**31**	Vandalism Around phone box	3					
5.62		**31**	vandalism in the Park / wildlife park	3					
5.63		**31**	vandalism in Nature reserve						
5.64		**31**	Encourage residents to report vandalism		1				
5.65	**Litter**	**31**	litter on roadsides into village, esp between Mainsforth and BM, 4, Eastern approach - rd to Fishburn, 1, rd to Nature reserve, 2	1	1	Monitor and increase litter picking frequency as necessary	DCC	Report to DCC	NIL
5.66		**31**	more litter bins needed esp near seating	2	1		PC	install	£900
5.67		**31**	in the Park	2	1		PC	install	£600
5.68		**31**	spilt rubbish from bin collections		2				
5.69		**31**	litter on route to school bus: Stoneybeck to Roast Calf Ln		1				
5.70		**31**	more dog waste bins		1				
5.71	**Fly-tipping / ASB**	**31**	fly-tipping: rd to Nature Reserve	2	2	monitor and increase rubbish removal frequency as necessary	DCC	Report to DCC	
5.72		**31**	fly-tipping - Pit Lane			gate may have alleviated this problem?			
5.73		**31**	fly-tipping - local lay-bys		2	monitor	DCC	Report to DCC	
5.74		**31**	scrap dealers entering gardens		2	monitor	PACT	encourage reporting	

5.75	**Allotments**	**50**	Query stabling on allotments		2		DCC		
5.76		**50**	Long waiting time for allotment		2		DCC		
6.00	**LOCAL COMMUNITY**								
6.02	**Community Projects**	**63**	Control order to keep dogs on lead at Park ref 8.01	1	2	**research legislation**	PC	**research**	**£1,500**
6.03		**63**	Re-introduction of countryside fair	2	3	Positive response not matched by numbers willing to become involved			
6.04		**63**	Notice board on the old brewery site	2		**supply and install. Check planning**	PC	**supply and install**	**£3K**
6.05		**63**	Fence around children's play area at park	2		**may be linked to dog-fouling issue**			
6.06		**63**	3 key natural activity area on old brewery site	3					
6.07		**63**	Re-introduction of sundials on houses alond Bank Top	3	3	**research feasibility and receptiveness of property owners**	working group	**support group**	
6.08		**63**	Outdoor gym in park - linked to 11.09	2	1	**apply for funding**	PC	**supply and install**	**£10,000**
6.09		**63**	More activities for young people - youth club / play equip	2	1	**promote existing activities**	PC	**Comms / website**	
6.10		**63**	Appreciation of tidiness of village and/or desire to enter tidy village comp	3	2	**working group to promote competition - cross cutting other issues**	PC	**support group**	
17.00		**56, 58, 59, 61, 62**	Volunteering activities: Village Hall, Church etc				groups	Support through publicity and funding bids	
6.12		**63**	Repair sundial on church	3	2	seek funding	PC		
6.13		**63**	Grant to paint pebbledash houses.	3	3	seek funding	DCC / PC		
	Parish Council communication	**69**	website to be kept up to date	1	1		PC		NIL
		69	Minutes to be posted promptly	1	1		PC		NIL
		65	Parish information through Newsletter	1	2				£300








BISHOP
MIDDLEHAM