

NORTH WALTHAM



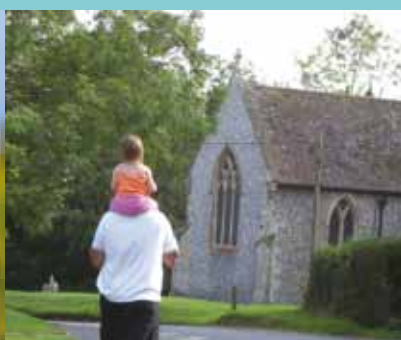
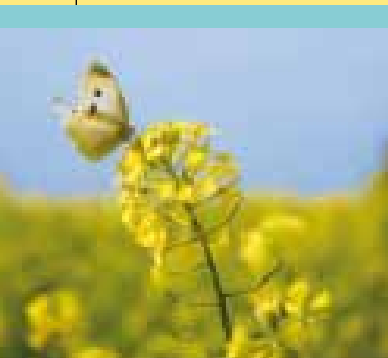
VILLAGE QUESTIONNAIRE | 2010

The second baby's born. Five years after the first village plan, we've hatched its successor. Sponsored by the Borough, we've followed their guidelines to design and test a questionnaire adding another for youngsters, delivered copies to all households and enjoyed a 60% return which we've analysed and now offer our conclusions.

Many results are predictable, some controversial and some requiring actions, which we're providing on Tuesday 29 June. We've fed the planning issues to the Borough in time to influence the Local Development Framework – their planning

tool 2011-2025. Other issues we're feeding to the Parish Council and Village Trust for their consideration and to appropriate bodies like the church, police, RAF Odiham and highways department.

Because so many people wanted activities based in the village, we're providing you with the opportunity to find out about such activities and sign up for the ones that interest you. Designed for all ages and abilities, we hope they will further enrich life in the village we all love.



INTRODUCTION

In May 2009, volunteers were invited by the Parish Council to produce a second Village Plan. This is an official document which influences planning decisions at all levels. Six volunteers emerged – Carolyn Brown, Sally Evans, Neil Forsyth, Jennifer Hordon, Richard Tanner and Gary Whiteside – who met together initially with Adele Stevenson from the 2004/5 team. Sally became our chairman, Carolyn our secretary, Jenny our publicist and Gary our treasurer.

Our mission was "to produce a Village Plan that reflects the views and requirements of the majority of residents that are achievable, sustainable and relevant to the local community".

We produced a draft questionnaire, based on the Borough's parish planning document, which we used to consult with various village organizations before finalizing. The questionnaire was posted through all doors in the parish, the shop collecting 195 completed ones representing 494 respondents.

The results were collated and analysed before appropriate comments were appended to each section. These have been fed to appropriate bodies for their consideration and an activities programme offered by the village plan committee as a key part of the presentation evening.

CONTACTS:

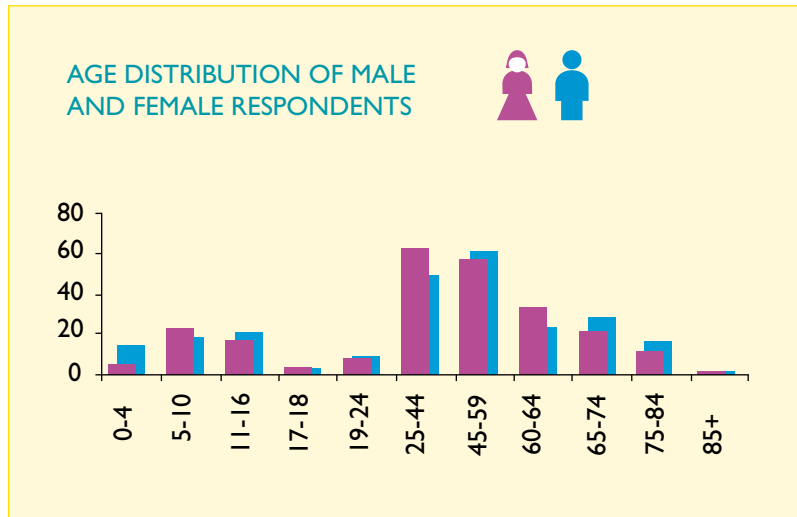
Sally Evans (tel: 397 974)
Carolyn Brown (tel: 397 164)
Gary Whiteside (tel: 397 452)
Jennifer Hordon (tel: 397 394)
Richard Tanner (tel: 397 610)
Neil Forsyth (tel: 397 485)

SCOPE OF RESPONSE

NORTH WALTHAM DEMOGRAPHICS

This survey represents the view of 494 North Waltham residents and equates to an average of 2.5 people per household for those that have responded. 50% were female and 50% male, and we were delighted to receive responses from 1 gentleman and 1 lady who are each over 85 years old.

20% of the female population and 22% of the male respondents are under 18 years and 47 are between the ages of 25 and 59. Elderly gentlemen obviously do very well in the village as we have 16 between the ages of 75 and 84 but only 12 ladies from that same age group.



I. ENVIRONMENT

Planning Applications

95% of the people who gave an opinion are happy with the planning process in North Waltham and 91% are happy with the style and appearance of both the new builds and the extensions in the village.

ACTION :

All planning applications are reported in the monthly village magazine and on the village website. No further action required.

Traffic and Road Safety

As would be expected, traffic is a key area of concern for those who responded to the questionnaire. Almost half (46%) of people who gave an opinion are very concerned about the volume of HGV traffic through the village and a large majority (88%) are concerned about the speed of all traffic. 58% of people who gave an opinion would very much like to see the speed limit reduced to 20mph within the village.

The specific danger spots that have been highlighted are:

- Church Road with particular emphasis on the area around the pond,

- The junction with St Michaels Close
- The junctions with the A30.

During the time that the questionnaire has been in the process of being compiled, the signage on the A30 directing traffic to North Waltham down Maidenthorne Lane has been removed. It will be interesting to see how much this impacts on the volume of traffic on both Maidenthorne Lane and Popham Lane, in the future. 47% of people who gave an opinion are concerned about the street parking in three key areas –

- Around the pond
- Outside the school and church
- On the pavement opposite St Michaels Close

Alternative Energy Provision

The question on improving the energy efficiency of the village resulted in a very split response with 81 in favour of improving our 'carbon footprint', 23 against and 85 had no opinion. Suggestions from those in favour included:

- Use of solar panels on housing and public buildings
- Improved insulation in houses and school
- Promotion within the village on energy saving options (possibly by Parish or Borough Councils).

Recycling and Domestic Waste

Almost all of those who responded are happy with our weekly rubbish collections (99%) and with the fortnightly collection of the green recycling bins (97%). 85% would also like the existing bi-weekly garden waste collection to be free. 83% of people are pleased with the number of litter bins in the village and almost everybody is happy with the number of recycling bins. In contrast, just under 60% are very concerned at the lack of dog litter bins, a problem perhaps eased by the two new bins in Cuckoo Meadow for both rubbish and dog litter.

ACTION :

The Parish Council is to raise the issue of Garden Waste charges.

Now that two more combined rubbish and dog litter bins are in place, no further action is required on this issue.

ACTION :

The Parish Council to arrange for a BDBC representative to present energy saving options at a Parish Council meeting or other event, which would be open to all residents.

“ Village could be more self sufficient and buy locally or garden share. ”

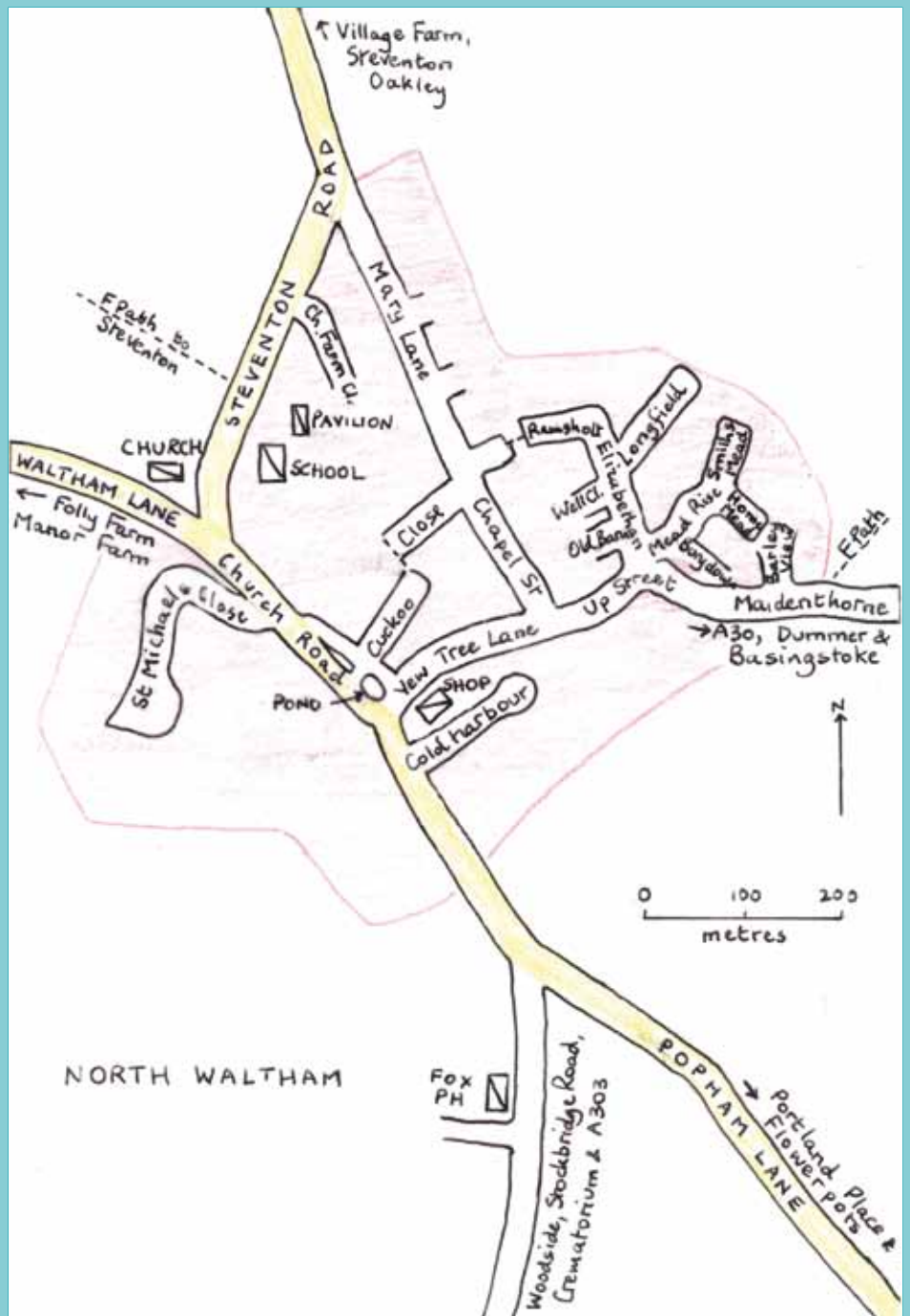
Countryside and Rural Character

Very much in line with the 2005 Village Plan, absolutely everyone who gave an opinion this time would like to keep the rural nature of North Waltham and 96% want residents to have the option to extend existing properties in line with the rural nature of the village.

However, the picture is quite different when you look at other types of expansion. 43% said yes to building single dwellings within the village but only 12% said yes to small developments of multiple properties. It was therefore no surprise to find that, in line with the desire to keep North Waltham rural, a large majority (92%) said no to Basingstoke expanding closer to North Waltham. There is little desire for urban services in North Waltham with only 10% of people in favour of street lighting and 20% in favour of speed bumps.

ACTION:

The Parish Council is to ensure BDBC is made aware of North Waltham residents' views on this issue and to continue to work closely with them on retaining the rural nature of the village.



North Waltham Village Road Map

“ We live in a lovely village, with great community spirit shown by many people. Aren't we lucky? ”

Village Maintenance

Overall people are very happy with the appearance of the village. There were three areas in the ‘could do better/must try harder’ category, which are:

- The Pond
- The Village Green
- The green by Barn Close /Elizabethan Rise

ACTION :

The Parish council is continuing to improve the area around the pond and will raise the other concerns with the appropriate bodies

The village also expressed some dissatisfaction with the maintenance of the verges and hedges within the village.

ACTION :

The Parish Council to raise this matter with the appropriate landowners, both councils and private.

Footpaths – Pedestrian and Rural

When the people of North Waltham take to their feet they are a lot happier than when they are in their cars. Most people (89%) think that the existing rural footpaths are well maintained and are happy with pavement maintenance within the village (96%).

Getting slightly further outside the village, 68% would like to see more rural footpaths around the village, but the ones that we have are felt to be well signposted.

ACTION :

Efforts have been made over the years to increase the number of rural footpaths, including a circular walk around the village, but without success.

“
We live in a rural community and expect these sounds!
”

Noise, Light and Pollution

Generally people are not disturbed by either noise or light pollution in the village, with two notable exceptions; the first being the M3 traffic noise and the second is that more than half the respondents suffer from the impact of low-flying military aircraft.

ACTION :

The Parish Council to once again follow-up with RAF Odiham about the reasons for military aircraft . Letter to be sent to Sir George Young to enquire if there is any news on the re-surfacing of the M3 and slip roads between Jcts 7 & 8.

ACTION :

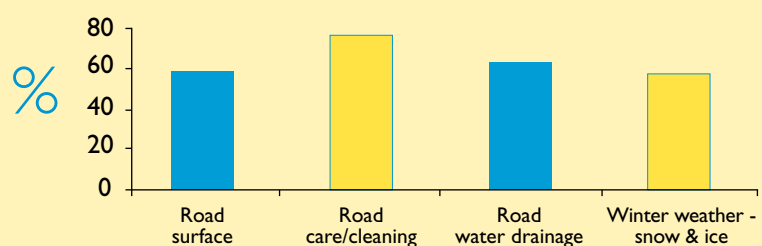
As noted in the The Parish Council AGM Minutes, Hampshire County Council is aware that pot-holes have not been well repaired and work is being carried out to address this. The Council’s aim is to bring the road condition back to that prior to the winter, and then to improve all roads. The Parish Council continues to report and request repair of potholes to the Council.

Roads

This part of the questionnaire has generated the highest level of dissatisfaction with 43% of people not at all satisfied with the maintenance of our road surfaces. This is not due to the clearing and cleaning of our roads, where 74% are satisfied, but more to do with the quality of the road surface. No doubt the problems that have been experienced with road water drainage this winter, have had a direct impact on the 39% dissatisfaction level expressed

Additionally, the unusual and extreme weather conditions during the last winter have led to 44% of people being not at all satisfied with the provision of snow and ice clearance.

PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS WHO ARE SATISFIED WITH ROAD MAINTENANCE



2. TRANSPORT

Transport is not a problem for the vast majority of North Waltham residents, presumably because most are car owners. However, 11% do face issues with getting to work and school on a daily basis or shopping and social events on a weekly basis.

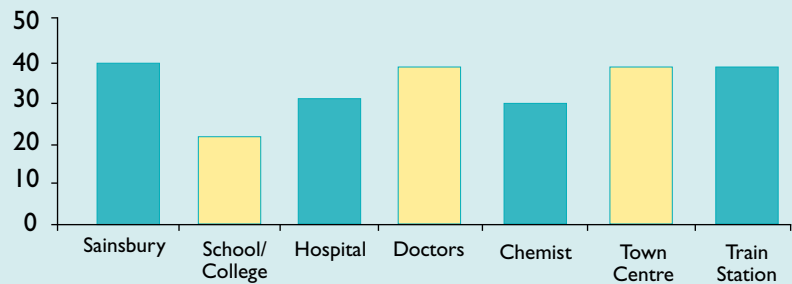
Only 18 of our respondents use the village bus; the main improvements that they would like to see are in terms of the routes and the frequency.

A more interesting statistic is that 37% of respondents say they would use the service if it was more frequent and more particularly an evening service into and out of Basingstoke for leisure purposes if it was available.

More than 90% of the respondents have said they would not be interested in taking advantage of any kind of car share, taxi share, or voluntary driver scheme themselves. However, it appears that there quite a number of people who would be prepared to participate in a voluntary scheme to share their cars for the following journeys.



RESPONDENTS WILLING TO GIVE A LIFT TO LOCAL DESTINATIONS



3. ECONOMY

Services

Broadband reliability is perceived as reasonable, though a large minority of 34% are not at all happy with the speed of the service, possibly because many villagers expect a reasonable speed as they work from home. This could be an area that could be addressed within the village in light of progress being made in other rural areas in the UK.

There are clear and well represented issues with mobile phone reception and user dissatisfaction comes from the three major providers Vodafone, Orange and O2.

Almost everyone (99%) who responded is happy with the water and electricity services and 97% with sewerage. 60 households expressed a wish to see mains gas in the village, but 124 have no interest.

ACTION:

The Parish Council to investigate with BDBC whether we can be put on priority status for the roll-out of the fibre optic system.



4. SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY

Annual Event to Recognise Volunteers

The suggestion to hold an annual event to recognize the good works of its volunteers and charities in the village was well supported with 56% of respondents in favour.

ACTION :

This will be up to Individuals to take forward – if anyone is interested in assisting please contact one of the Steering Group members.

Housing

There could be a need for social/affordable housing for 26 households representing 39 people, and there could also be a requirement from 8 households representing 12 people who may require sheltered accommodation.

Village Buildings and Spaces

There is a split view on whether Rathbone Pavilion (village hall) is adequate for village needs, with 54% in agreement and 44% not. There is considerable support for a larger hall with indoor sports facilities and more car parking space. Most people seem to be well aware that the Rathbone Pavilion is available for hire but there is lower awareness that there is also space available to rent in the school hall and the music and drama room.

ACTION :

These views to be passed to Village Trust and School.

Clubs and Activities

Given the high level of response to this question regarding new sports clubs and village activities, further follow up would be worthwhile, perhaps offering taster sessions of the most popular activities. Interestingly these figures are not dissimilar from those seen in the 2005 village survey.

Here is a list of all the respondents and the level of interest expressed for all the activities:

ACTION :

The Village Plan Steering Group is to arrange a 'special event' in June 2010 to enable interested villagers to talk to representatives from other local clubs, societies and organizations specialising in the most popular activities highlighted in the questionnaire, and get guidance on bringing them to North Waltham.

ACTIVITY/CLUB AND NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS EXPRESSING INTEREST

Pilates	59	Boules	28	Bridge Club	18
Keep Fit	56	Rugby	25	Judo	12
Gardening Club	49	Bowls	24	GCSE	11
Tennis	42	Choir	24	Music Society	11
Brownies/cubs	41	Drama	22	Volleyball	11
Badminton	38	Football	22	Life Drawing	9
Art Club	33	Skittles	21	Band	8
Cricket	32	Circuit Training	21	Other	5
Archery	31	DOE	21		

ACTION :

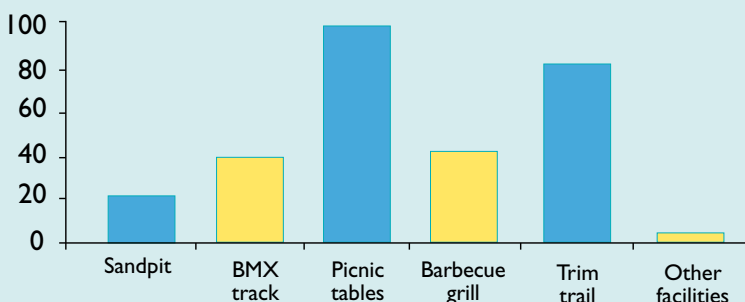
The Village Trust is to investigate the possibility of putting in a picnic table and Trim Trail on Cuckoo Meadow.

Cuckoo Meadow and Playground

Of those that have an opinion on Cuckoo Meadow and the playground, the majority are very happy with the facilities which they feel meet their needs.

Of the additional facilities outlined in the questionnaire, there was very little interest in the sandpit; half the respondents would be interested in a picnic table but only a quarter want a barbecue grill to go with it. From a fitness perspective the trim trail option was very popular and 42 people would like to see a BMX track.

RESPONDENTS IN FAVOUR OF FACILITIES TO BE PROVIDED ON CUCKOO MEADOW



Source of Village Information

The survey confirms how important our Parish Magazine is with 91% getting their village information through this method. As would be expected, chatting around the village shop is also a very valuable source of information for people.

The facility least utilised is the village website with only 20 respondents thinking of it as a source of information and 71 using it once a year. However, just over half the respondents would like to be informed electronically (probably email) of events, activities and decisions about North Waltham.

Community

Of those that have an opinion almost all (90%) are happy with the child care facilities in the village. A more worrying 44% feel that we do not have sufficient police presence in the village. Slightly ameliorating this is the fact that 88% of respondents feel well informed by the Neighbourhood Watch Team.

The Parish Council and the Village Trust appear to be doing a good job of keeping people informed as the vast majority of people are satisfied with them.

An interesting 55 respondents were very keen to have allotments in the village but did not support a garden share scheme.

ACTION :

The Parish Council to investigate real demand for allotments in the village before proceeding further.

The Village Plan Steering Group to feedback concerns about the police presence in our village to our local police personnel.

The Church

The Church is seen as an important part of the village community by 95% of respondents and the need for a resident priest is recognised by 87%. A very significant 88% of respondents would like to see the facilities at the Church be made available for non-church events.

ACTION :

The Village Plan Steering Group is to inform the Church of this.

The events of the past couple of years show the importance of a good village shop.

The Shop

In terms of the local economy, it's good to see that a local need is being met as a third of respondents use the shop every day and another third go there 3-4 times a week

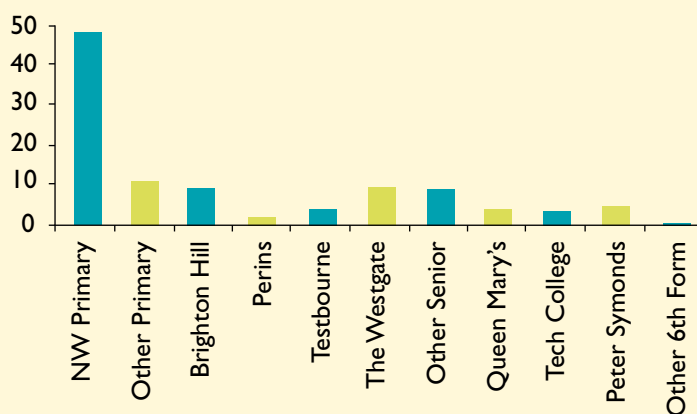
When looking at the shop services, the response is evenly split between those who want to get cash from a cash machine and those that wish to gamble their money on the lottery with more than 100 responses for each. For those not interested in money laundering, dry cleaning is another area of interest with 78 people expressing an interest in this. And without prompting some 13 requests were made for a post office service within the shop.

ACTION :

The Village Plan Steering Group to inform the shop of the areas of interest.

We feel everyone does a good job and we're lucky to have a supportive Parish Council and Village Trust helping to keep our village a lovely place to live. WELL DONE!

DISTRIBUTION OF NW CHILDREN ATTENDING EDUCATIONAL ESTABLISHMENTS



The School

Of the respondents to the survey there will be 53 children of primary age (5-10) in 2012 and 47 are at NW primary today.

Of the 94 village children attending school and college, one third walk to school, one third go by car and only 13% get a bus.

YOUTH SURVEY 10-17YRS

TRAVEL

We were very happy to receive responses from 27 households with 10-17 year olds, of whom 18 indicated they would use the bus service if it ran later in the evenings and on Sundays.

facilities outlined in the questionnaire just under half were interested in an All Weather Surface and a Skateboard Area.

ACTIVITIES

The interest and activities of our respondents were diverse and varied with the more consistent factors being shopping and the cinema in Basingstoke.

One enterprising suggestion was that if there was a youth club at the Rathbone Pavilion, members themselves could raise money through fairs or sports days to provide additional facilities for the club.

AMENITIES

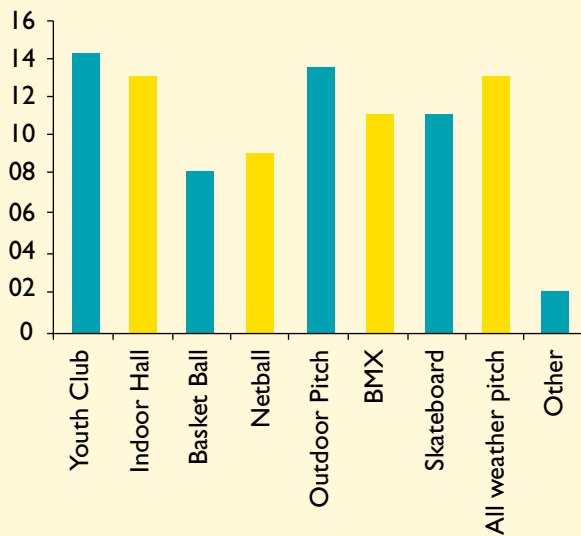
Over 50% of respondents expressed an interest in the provision of a youth club in North Waltham and 50% were keen to see both an outdoor and indoor meeting place for teenagers. Of the additional

ACTION :

More activities for young people in the village can only happen when some of their parents, or other interested individuals, are able to devote the time and motivation to develop something more structured. Hopefully some additional volunteers will be found.

Any interest groups or clubs that that exist, or are developed, in the village should consider how they could make sure that they are seen to be open and inviting to the teenagers of the village

AMENITIES REQUESTED BY CHILDREN IN NORTH WALTHAM



IT WOULD BE GOOD TO HAVE SOMEWHERE WHERE YOU CAN HANG AROUND WITHOUT GETTING COLD OR MOANED AT.

