

NORTH WALTHAM



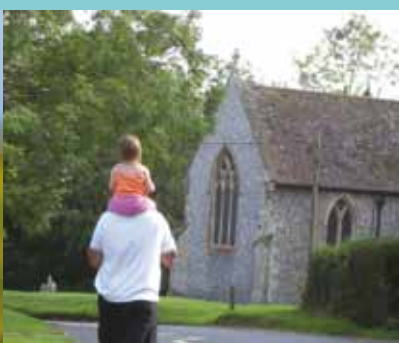
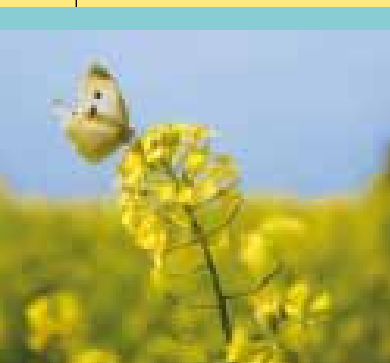
VILLAGE QUESTIONNAIRE | 2010

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:

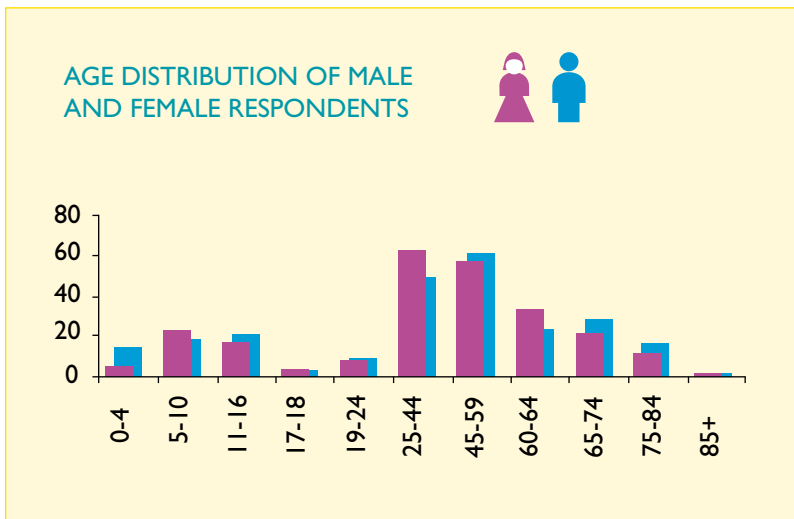
Sally Evans (tel: 397 974)
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SCOPE OF RESPONSE

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. ”

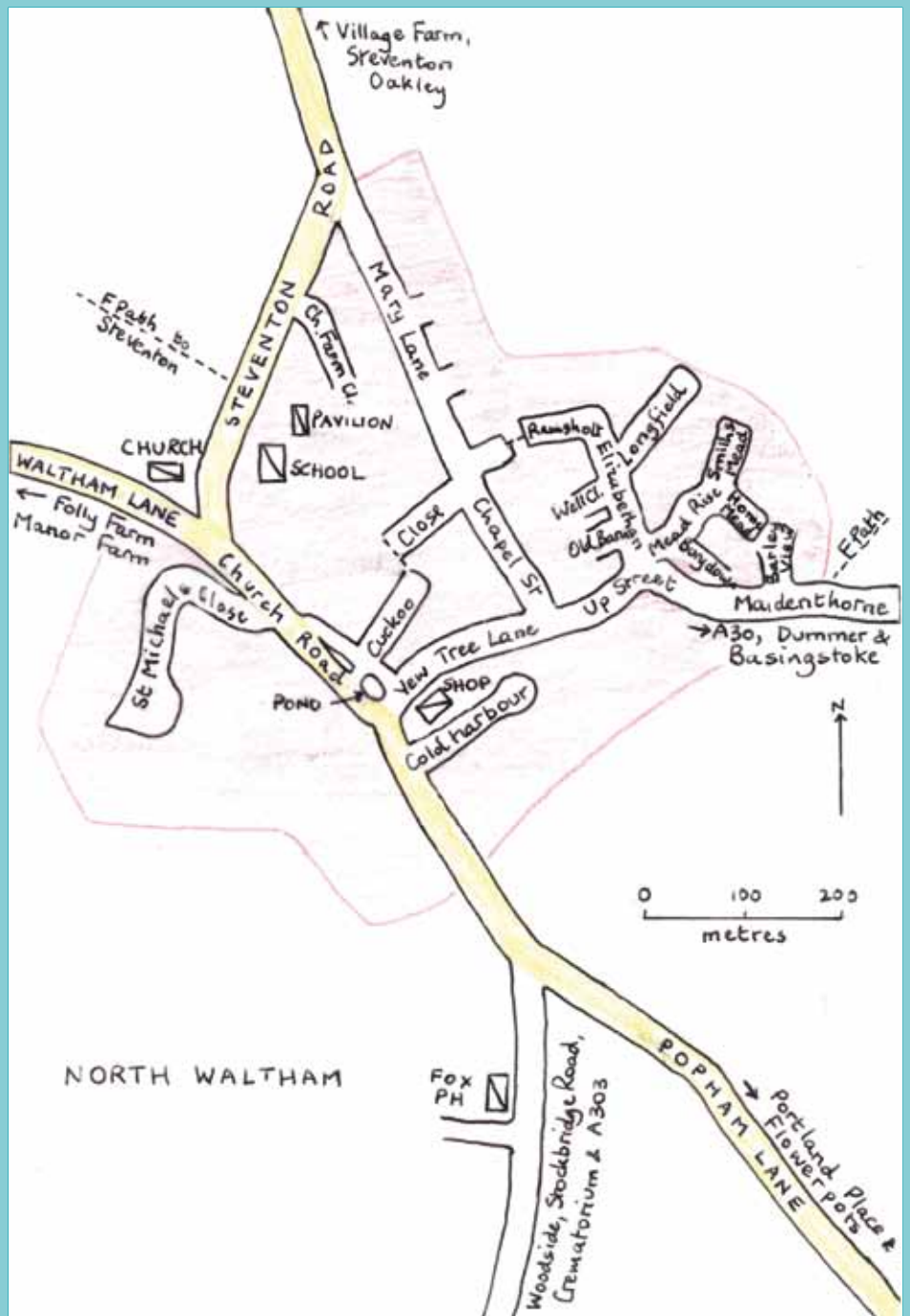
Countryside and Rural Character

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 :

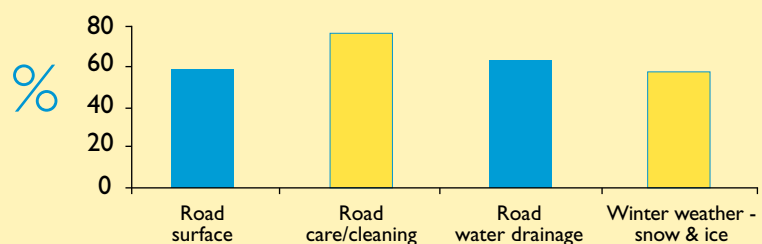
As noted in the The Parish Council AGM Minutes, Hampshire County Council is aware that pot-holes have not been well repaired and work is being carried out to address this. The Council’s aim is to bring the road condition back to that prior to the winter, and then to improve all roads. The Parish Council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

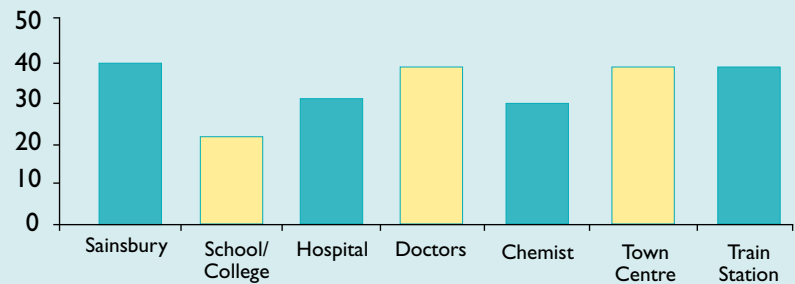
Only 18 of our respondents use the village bus; the main improvements that they would like to see are in terms of the routes and the frequency.

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.

