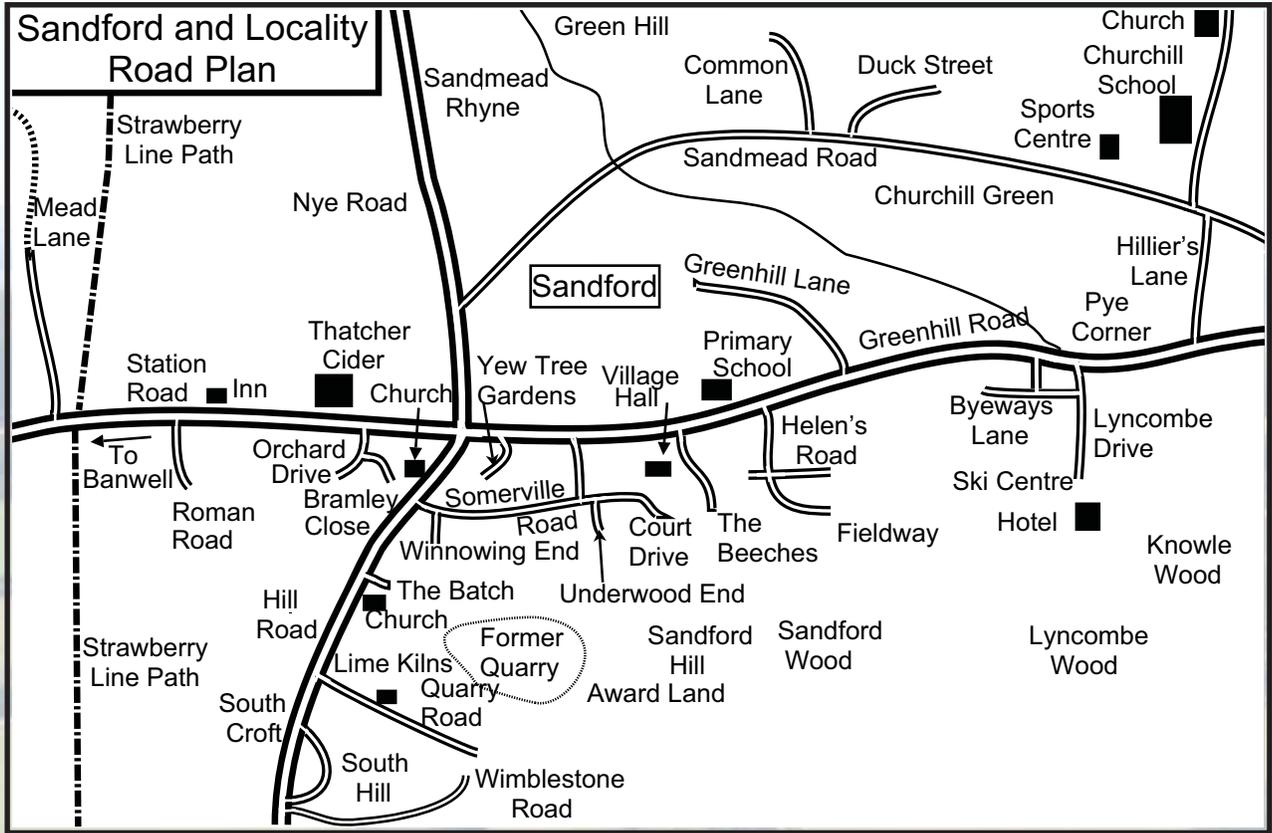


OUR COMMUNITY – OUR FUTURE

*Winscombe & Sandford
Parish Plan Report*



AUGUST 2010





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FOREWORD

Many local Parish councils in North Somerset, and across the country, have produced Parish Plans. They are an ideal way for local councils to find out what matters to their communities and work with them to take action. The main challenge of Parish Planning is to make sure that the whole community is able to participate in developing new Parish Plans and that each Plan links with wider strategies like the Sustainable Community Strategy.

In the March 2010 consultation draft of 'The North Somerset Town and Parish Charter', North Somerset Council stated that it would 'Ensure that council activities in local council's areas will take account of the Parish Plan'.

The Winscombe and Sandford Parish Plan *Our Community - Our Future* has been completed at a time of difficulties in our national economic situation which will undoubtedly affect local authority funding in the future. It is therefore, perhaps, even more important that public bodies, which take decisions affecting our everyday lives, fully understand the needs and concerns of local communities and arrange their priorities,

policies and available funding to meet these issues. In this respect, the timing of this report could not be better!

The Report represents the views of 74% of households in the Parish and we look forward to seeing how our elected representatives and other stakeholders take our views on board over the next 5-10 years.

In this report the word 'Respondents' has been used to describe the number of residents in the parish who, in completing the questionnaire, responded to the particular question referred to by marking either of its 'yes' or 'no' tick-boxes. Anyone who left unmarked these boxes against that particular question has not been counted as a Respondent to that particular question.

I want to publicly thank all the members of the Parish Plan Steering Group for their unstinting hard work over a two year period. It has been a pleasure working with such a dedicated group of community minded people.

Peter Blunt
Chairman, Parish Plan Steering Group
August 2010



Morris Dancers outside the Woodborough Hotel.



Cricket on the Recreation Grounds.



The Michaelmas Fair.



Winscombe Bell Ringers.



Remembrance Day.



Tobogganing at Hillyfields.

THE PARISH OF WINSCOMBE AND SANDFORD

Environment

The Parish is located partly in the valley of the River Lox Yeo and partly on the Somerset Levels on the northern edge of the limestone Mendip Plateau and varies in height between 10 and 210 metres above sea level. It has a temperate climate with a mean temperature of 10°C and an annual rainfall of between 800 and 900 mm. Most of the area is grassland with some woodland. A large proportion of the Parish is within the Mendip Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

History

In the Domesday Survey of 1086 the 'Manor of Winscombe' is included among the



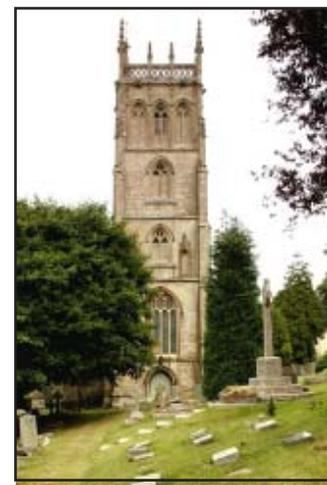
View across the fields towards the Bristol Channel.

possessions of Glastonbury and in 1239 it was given to the Dean and Chapter of Wells Cathedral. The Parish of Winscombe was made up of many separate settlements including: Nye, Sandford, Dinghurst, Max, Woodborough, Ford, Barton, Winscombe, Sidcot, Oakridge and Hale with Winscombe being centred around the Church. The Church of St. James the

Great was first dedicated in 1236 and was subsequently rebuilt in the 15th century.

Agriculture

Farming was originally mixed with both arable, grazing and apple orchards. Today it is mainly grazing with some orchards. Only two dairy herds now remain. Tourism and the conversion of



The Church of St James the Great.



Sheep being driven along Sandford Road, c.1920



*Winscombe Railway Station 1930s
(Courtesy of Eric Partridge)*

farm buildings into self catering accommodation are becoming important.

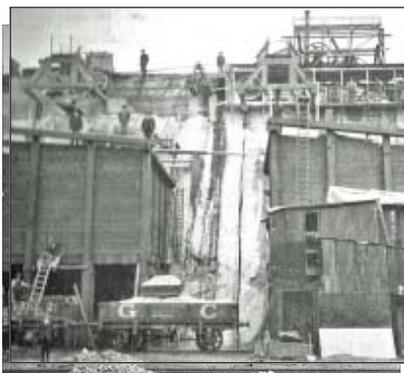
Commerce and Industry

The arrival of the railway in 1869 with stations at Sandford and Winscombe made it possible to transport milk and other farm products to urban areas. Limestone was quarried in Sandford and transported by rail until the railway was closed in 1965. Lead and calamine were mined in the Parish up to the 19th Century. Industry is mainly located in Sandford with road haulage and cider making being the main activities. Winscombe is classified as a 'service village' which supports the adjacent villages, providing their daily

needs including banking, a post office, doctors' surgery, dentists, a public library and a wide range of shops.

Housing

With the coming of the railway, the development of the Parish moved from around the Church to Woodborough and Sandford. In the 1950's the Moorham Road and Belmont Road estates were built and have since been extended. Recently a 'retirement village' has been built at Sandford. Most of Local Authority Housing has been purchased under the 'right to buy' scheme and only a small number remains under the control of North Somerset Council.



Sandford Quarry, c.1880



Then and now, children at Winscombe and Woodborough Primary School (c. 1900 and 2008)

Religious Establishments

There are two Anglican Churches in the Parish: *St. James the Great* in Winscombe, which is the parish church, and *All Saints* in Sandford. There is a Methodist Church in Sandford, a Baptist and United Reformed Church in Winscombe and a Friends Meeting House (Quakers) at Sidcot.



Friends Meeting House, Sidcot

Education

There are Primary Schools in Sandford and in Winscombe. Secondary education is provided in the neighbouring village of Churchill where there is a Community School with a Sixth Form Centre. The private Quaker School at Sidcot provides education for primary and secondary aged children.

Children's Facilities

Play areas for younger children are available in the War Memorial Ground, Winscombe, including a skate board park, and at Winnowing End, Sandford. Both are managed by the Parish Council. The Observatory Field play area in Winscombe is managed by North Somerset Council. The Sports Clubs in the Parish organise training and sport for young people. The Strawberry Line provides a safe route for walkers and cyclists. The Bristol

Children's Help Society Camp at Barton, with a swimming pool, is available to local groups. There is a Scout Group and a Guide Company in the Parish including Scouts, Cubs, Beavers, Brownies and Rainbows. and a Youth Club in Winscombe. There is a number of registered pre-school groups. Sidcot School offers its facilities to local children.

Sports Facilities

The War Memorial Ground provides changing rooms and facilities for the cricket,



War Memorial Ground

football and rugby clubs and pitches for cricket and football with rugby pitches in close proximity. A tennis club with four courts is also adjacent. A bowling club is located near to the centre of the village.

Outdoor Pursuits

There are numerous public footpaths and, at Sandford, a Dry Ski Slope.

Public Facilities

The Parish is well served with inns which have accommodation



The Railway Inn, Sandford.

and restaurants, a number of takeaway food outlets, an hotel, two caravan parks, several well maintained and equipped halls available for hire, a Parish cemetery and allotments. A local market is held every Thursday morning in the Winscombe Community Centre.

Facilities for the Elderly

The Parish is well served with good quality sheltered accommodation, residential care homes and a new unit for those suffering from dementia.

Clubs

There are over 80 Clubs and Societies in the Parish covering many pursuits such as History, Sports, Horticulture, the Arts and activities for the young and elderly.



1 BACKGROUND

1.1 The concept of a Parish Plan has its roots in the Government Rural White Paper: *The Future – A Fair Deal for Rural England*. Early in 2008 Winscombe and Sandford Parish Council arranged two consultative meetings to ascertain if there was an interest within the Parish to elect a committee of volunteers to prepare a Parish Plan which would culminate in a Report. The Report would reflect what issues affect people in our local community and what they would like to see done about them in the future. The response to the Parish Council initiative led to the formation of a Parish Plan Steering Group to take this work forward and to look ahead over a 5-10 year period. The Group operated independently but with the support of the Parish Council.

1.2 The Parish Plan Steering Group collected comments and data about the views and needs of individuals, groups and organisations within the Parish. This information was captured from the following events and sources: the original two Parish Council meetings; the Millennium Green May Fair; Sandford School Fete; the Michaelmas Fair; ‘post boxes’ in a number of premises in the Parish; 3 Public Consultative meetings in Winscombe and Sandford and several Focus Groups consulting with the younger generation, business people, the elderly, clubs and societies and other residents.

1.3 The Steering Group also kept parishioners informed of its work and progress through the Parish Council website; a leaflet to every household; local newspapers; the Parish Magazine and handouts at local events.



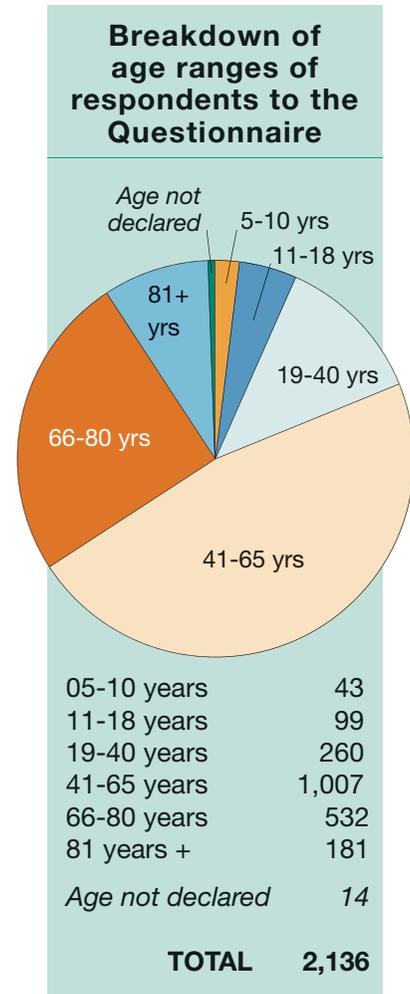
1.4 The information collected from all of the above sources was analysed and a comprehensive Questionnaire was produced. The Questionnaire, consisting of over 200 questions, was circulated among 50 residents/groups in April 2009 for assessment and was revised to take into account their helpful comments and suggestions.

1.5 The main purpose of the questionnaire was to ask as many questions as possible and in a format which would enable the Steering Group to provide accurate information about the current and future issues which will face those living in the Parish over the next 5-10 years.

1.6 The questionnaire was hand delivered to 1,671 households in May 2009 and 1,232 were completed (74%) by 2,136 individuals and collected by hand. The response rate surprised the Steering Group and represents a real indication of the depth of concern and care of parishioners about the future of their community.

1.7 The analysis of the Questionnaire was a challenging and time consuming task for the Steering Group and was completed in a way which (a) accurately reported parishioners feelings and future needs (b) took into account the views of residents in different parts of the Parish, (c) took into account the views of discrete groups, e.g. ages, businesses, organisations and (d) allowed for the presentation of a report which is clear, unambiguous and in a form which everyone can appreciate, understand and act upon.

1.8 The age ranges of the respondents to the questionnaire are shown in the chart (right).



1.9 The questionnaire asked if the householders lived in Sandford, Winscombe, Barton, Sidcot or Oakridge. Sandford residents were consistently clear in their responses to this question but confusion was apparent among some of those living in or near to Winscombe's three outlying hamlets. Therefore it has been possible only to analyse responses between those residents from Sandford (a total of 443) and those from residents in the other four locations grouped together as Winscombe (a total of 1,693).

1.10

i) The Parish Plan Steering Group decided that it would not be necessary or helpful in this report to comment in detail upon responses to every one of the questionnaire's 174 tick-box questions and 29 questions requiring textual entries. The responses in this report are selected according to the following criteria:

Was the question answered by two thirds or more of those who returned completed questionnaires? (i.e. did less than one third abstain). If not, do not include in the main report. If yes, - did 'yes' or 'no' responses amount to two thirds or more of the answers made? If not, do not include in the main report. If yes, include.

Where questions received similarly positive responses from people living in a particular locality or of a particular age group to which the matter may be of particular concern, these have also been dealt within the main report.

ii) A summary of responses to all of the questions is posted on the Parish Council Website and is available for inspection in the Parish Council Office and Winscombe Public Library. This summary will also be sent to all organisations, both voluntary and statutory, who may wish to take note of the responses in order to develop their services in the community.

2 ROAD SAFETY, TRAFFIC & ILLEGAL PARKING

2.1 Enforcement of Existing Laws

i) Respondents are clearly dissatisfied with the lack of enforcement of existing road traffic laws within the Parish. This failure prejudices the safety of both road users and pedestrians.

ii) Over 80% want effective action taken against illegal kerbside parking particularly in Woodborough Road, Winscombe. There is obvious danger both to road users having to pass illegally parked vehicles and to pedestrians who have to step out from behind illegally parked vehicles when crossing the road.

iii) Over two thirds of respondents want more Police resources used to apprehend drivers illegally using mobile phones.

iv) Unapproved heavy goods vehicles (HGVs) regularly use Sidcot Lane and Sandford Road and 85% of respondents want this misuse controlled.



v) Speeding in Greenhill Road, Sandford is a major concern with over 75% of respondents demanding effective speed control measures.

Woodborough Road traffic.



Recommendations

1. Effective action to be taken against illegal parking in Woodborough Road.
2. More effective action against illegal use of mobile phones.
3. Effective action against unapproved HGVs using Sandford Road and Sidcot Lane.
4. Introduction of effective speed control measures in Greenhill Road, Sandford.

2.2 Safety of Pedestrians and Road Users

i) There are several issues relating to the safety of pedestrians and road users on which parishioners require action.

ii) Paramount amongst these is a safe pedestrian priority crossing in Woodborough Road, Winscombe between the Co-op and the railway bridge. It is acknowledged that the Parish Council has tried, on several occasions, to action this with North Somerset Council but to no avail. 80% of respondents under the age of 66 have said they find the present situation unacceptable. The figure rises to 85% of respondents who are over the age of 66. The risk to pedestrians is amplified by the failure to control illegal parking on this section of the road.

iii) There is a strong view (70%) that pavements in Woodborough Road, Winscombe are too narrow to accommodate wheel chairs and push chairs. It is impossible for them to pass each other on many stretches of the pavement.

iv) There is no longer a school crossing patrol in either Winscombe or Sandford and over two thirds of affected residents want them re-instated. (Note-the crossing patrols have now been re-instated)

v) Over 70% of Sandford respondents want the A368 through the village downgraded from 'Primary Route' to 'A' road status to allow the introduction of a 7.5 tonne weight limit on vehicles.

vi) In addition to a clamp down on illegal roadside parking, two thirds of respondents want parking to be banned at all times in

Recommendations

5. Provision of a safe pedestrian priority crossing in Woodborough Road, Winscombe between the Co-op and the railway bridge.
6. Widening of pavements in Woodborough Road, Winscombe.
7. Maintenance of school crossing patrols in Winscombe and Sandford.
8. Downgrading of the A368 through Sandford from 'Primary Route' to 'A' road status.





Traffic problems in Woodborough Road

Woodborough Road between the Co-op and the railway bridge.

vii) There is little support for the installation of mini roundabouts or reconfiguration of road junctions in the Parish.

viii) If/when the proposal to construct a Banwell by-pass is reconsidered, 73% of all respondents said they would be in favour of the Banwell by-pass also including Sandford, but the figure for Sandford respondents was 88%.

Recommendations 2.2 continued

9. Double yellow lines in Woodborough Road between the Co-op and the railway bridge.
10. The A368 through Sandford to be by-passed if/when the Banwell by-pass proposals are resurrected.

2.3 Safe Access to Churchill Community School and Sports Centre

i) Although Churchill Community School is outside the Parish of Winscombe and Sandford, it is the local comprehensive school for most of the children of secondary school age in the Parish and respondents are concerned about the safe access to the School and Sports Centre for young people from Winscombe and Sandford. The Strawberry Line Cycleway runs through both villages and close to Churchill Community School and Sports Centre. 84% of respondents want a spur from the Cycleway to the school. This route was also identified by the youth of the village as the most desired improvement for cyclists.

ii) Also, 80% of Sandford respondents want a new footpath from Greenhill Road, Sandford to Churchill Community School.

Recommendations

11. Provision of a cycle path between the Strawberry Line and Churchill Community School.
12. Provision of a footpath between Greenhill Road, Sandford and Churchill Community School.

2.4 Maintenance

i) There is considerable dissatisfaction with the surface and drainage maintenance of the roads throughout the Parish. This also includes pavements. 81% consider the maintenance to be inadequate with the worst areas identified as Woodborough Road (particularly near the railway bridge), The Lynch, Church Road and Sanford Road.

ii) 88% want more effort directed towards the clearance of overgrowth that obstructs traffic and direction signs and pavements.

2.5 Disability and Push Chair Access

i) Winscombe is a particularly disability/push chair ‘unfriendly’ village caused, to a large extent, by its narrow pavements and lack of safe road crossings.

ii) 70% of respondents regard the pavements as too narrow for disability/push chairs with 85% stating there is a need for improved access to shops and other facilities open to the public.

iii) 73% want improved disabled access to public footpaths.

iv) In the over 40 year age group, there is strong support (70%) for disability/push chair access ramps in Moorham Road, Wimblestone Road and Somerville Road.

Recommendations

13. Improvement of surfaces and drainage of roads and pavements.

14. Clearance of overgrowth that obstructs road signs and pavements.

Recommendations

15. Improvement in access to shops, other facilities and public footpaths for the disabled and users of push chairs.

16. Installation of disability/push chair access ramps in Moorham, Wimblestone and Somerville Roads.

3 HOUSING, DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING

3.1

i) Almost 70% of respondents living in Winscombe want more affordable houses to be permitted/provided locally, yet respondents from Sandford were less supportive with only 54% saying that they would be beneficial to the village.

ii) 90% of respondents are in favour of the density of any new housing development being compatible with that of adjacent properties in order to maintain the character of an area.

iii) Development within the Parish is of concern to 88% of respondents who wish to restrict any future development to a maximum of 13 dwellings per acre.



Recommendations

17. Provide more affordable housing in Winscombe.
18. Density of future residential development should be compatible with that of adjacent properties.
19. Density of future residential development should not exceed 13 properties per acre.

Housing at Well Close and Moorham Road.

iv) Respondents are very keen to ensure that a Green Belt should be established between the M5 and Sandford and 83% are in favour of preserving the 'village' and open space characteristics of this area.

v) Similarly, 86% of respondents wish to retain the existing settlement boundaries with no development permitted outside these boundaries.

vi) There is cross-parish agreement (almost 70%) that the Mendip Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty should be increased to encompass the entire Parish but there is little support for the provision of more green spaces.

vii) Within the Parish there is a number of properties that are either derelict or have been left unoccupied for a prolonged period of time and 89% of all the respondents indicated a concern that action should be taken to deal with this situation.

*Recommendations
3.1 continued*

20. No large scale developments between Sandford and the M5.
21. All building development within the Parish to be inside existing settlement boundaries.
22. The Mendip Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty to cover the Parish of Winscombe and Sandford.
23. The number of derelict/empty houses within the Parish to be greatly reduced.

4 COMMUNITY AMENITIES

4.1 Parking

- i) There is general satisfaction with short-term car-parking in the Parish. 83% of Sandford respondents are content with parking facilities in Sandford and likewise 74% in Winscombe.
- ii) 69% of respondents are opposed to time limited parking in the car parks in Winscombe and 67% are against a charge being levied for 2 hours parking.



4.2 Bus Services

- i) In general, respondents are equally divided between those who wish to see improvements in services to Bristol and those who do not.
- ii) 74% of respondents below the age of 66 are in favour of an improved service to Weston super Mare via Weston General Hospital. This figure increases to 88% of respondents who are older than 66.
- iii) Overall, respondents decided that there is no current need for a



Bus service to Weston

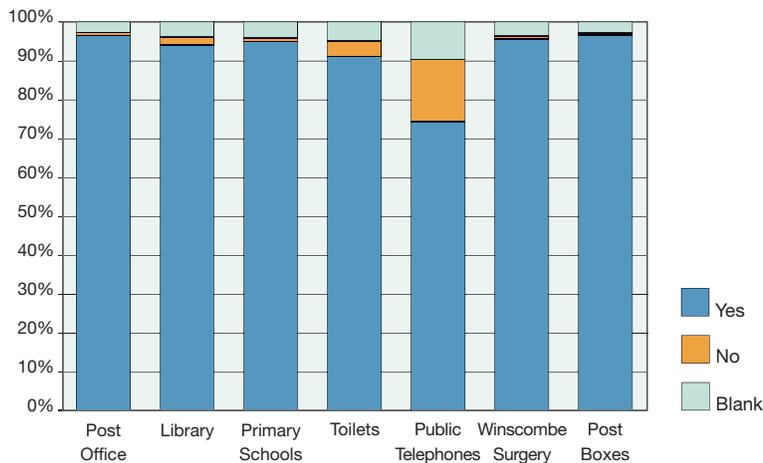
Recommendations

- 24. The provision of an improved bus service between Winscombe and Sandford and Weston-Super-Mare General Hospital.

community funded mini-bus but 346 people put forward suggestions about how one could be used. The main suggestion was to provide local travel for the elderly and disabled.

4.3 Public Amenities

i) The respondents of Winscombe and Sandford are very strongly in favour of retaining the Post Office, Library, Primary Schools, public toilets, public telephones, Winscombe Surgery and the post boxes. The response rate is illustrated in the graph below.



Winscombe Post Office

Recommendations

25. The public services should be protected against removal/closure for use by present and future generations of parishioners.

4.4 Community Supported Amenities

i) Parishioners regard Sandford Village Hall, Winscombe Community Centre, the Railway Walk/Strawberry Line (including the railway bridge over the A371), the Millennium Green, St. James' Church Hall, Sandford Station Heritage Centre and Winscombe Youth Club as vital to the Community. They are

Recommendations

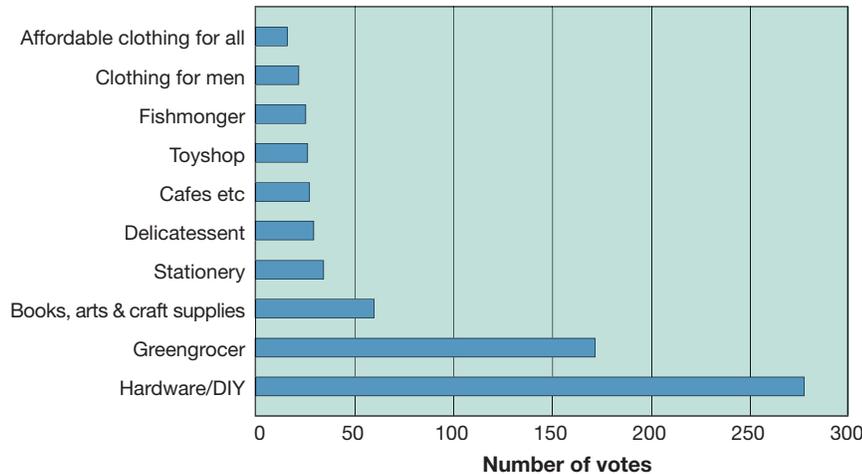
26. Community Supported Facilities to be retained to continue to be an essential and vital component of Parish life.

well used and cherished venues. 97% of the respondents support their long term continuation and development.

4.5 Shops

i) There is considerable interest among respondents (91%) that shops, where appropriate, should stock more locally produced food. Similarly, many respondents (76%) are in favour of shops stocking more 'Fairtrade' products. (The Parish of Winscombe and Sandford is now registered as a 'Fairtrade' Parish.)

ii) 80% of respondents would like to see a wider range of shops including various specialist shops, illustrated in the chart below.



iii) There is considerable demand in Sandford (95%) for the Village Store to be reopened as a General Store, preferably with a Post Office.



Sandford Station Heritage Centre

Recommendations

27. Shops in Winscombe should stock more locally produced food and 'Fairtrade' products.

28. Ways of re-opening the Sandford Village Store to be energetically explored.

5 COMMUNITY FACILITIES, HEALTH, THE ELDERLY & THE YOUNG

5.1 Community Facilities

i) The response to the question relating to support for the construction of a new multi-purpose building on the Winscombe Community Association site did not meet the criteria set for inclusion in this Report. (See paragraph 1.10(i).) However, in view of the importance of such a new facility to the Parish, the Steering Group decided to publish the results. 50% of respondents would be in favour of new community centre buildings, of these a large majority were in favour of including the following facilities within the accommodation; a large hall with a stage, adult further education and IT provision, space for indoor sports, sports



Winscombe Community Centre

training, keep fit, exercise equipment, a larger Youth Club and an internet café.

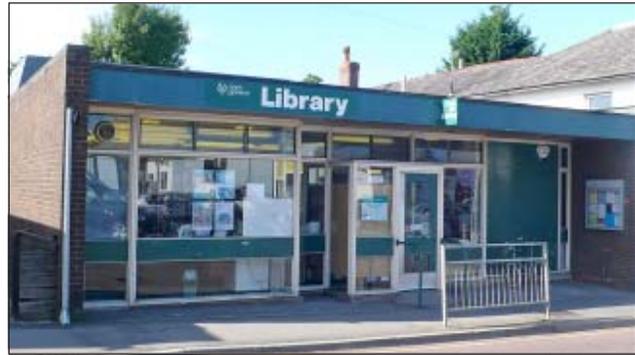
ii) In general, there is a lack of interest in developing the facilities at the Winscombe War Memorial Recreation Ground. An average of 59% of those who returned the questionnaire did not

answer the questions on this topic although the provision of external public toilets on the site was favoured by 67%

Recommendations

29. Consider the development of new accommodation at the Winscombe Community Association site to house a range of activities.
30. Consider how the Winscombe War Memorial Ground might best meet the expressed needs of the youth of the Parish for improved and additional facilities.

respondents. Almost 90% of the 5-18 year olds who responded are strongly in favour of the expansion of sports and leisure facilities. Areas identified as being suitable for improvement include the changing rooms, provision of indoor training facilities, an all weather pitch and better lighting in the car park.



Winscombe Library

iii) Respondents want the library to be open on more days per week (73%) and 67% of Sandford residents would like the library to have longer opening hours.

iv) Access to the library for the elderly, wheelchair and pushchair users and people with disabilities is difficult and 83% of respondents would like to see this problem addressed.

v) Many respondents (65%) think that there is a need for a Citizens Advice Bureau in the Parish.

vi) The quality/speed of broadband within the Parish is poor and 78% of respondents are asking for improvements in this service.

5.2 Health

i) Access to doctors' and dentists' surgeries and to the pharmacy in the Parish is regarded as excellent with a satisfaction rate in excess of 90%.

Recommendations

31. Increase opening days/times of Winscombe Library.
32. Improve access to Winscombe Library for the elderly and disabled.
33. Provide CAB services within the Parish.
34. Improve broadband services to residents and businesses within the Parish.

ii) A small minority of respondents, particularly those who are in employment, would like to be able to visit a doctor during the weekend/evening.

iii) Over 90% of respondents indicated that they would not wish to attend health education sessions on any subject areas.

iv) Only 5% of respondents use any form of home based health care and less than one third think that there is a need for better information concerning Primary Care Services.

5.3 The Elderly

i) Only 8% of respondents currently use the Volunteer Transport Schemes in Winscombe and Sandford but the predicted demands for future use suggest more than a fourfold increase (36%).

ii) 74% of respondents of all age groups show a strong desire for a publicly financed volunteer bus service to Weston General Hospital for use by hospital visitors if a regular public bus service is not feasible.

iii) Two thirds of the respondents over the age of 65 are interested in having some help in their gardens but fewer than 30% are interested in additional activities such as exercising or adult education.

iv) 70% of respondents would welcome the provision of additional seating around the Parish, particularly on the Strawberry Line, at the Recreation Ground, in the centre of Winscombe and at bus stops.

Recommendations

35. Plan for increased demand for volunteer transport to Weston General and other hospitals.

36. Extend volunteer transport services to allow for the elderly to visit relatives in hospital.

37. Explore what assistance might be available to help with gardening for the elderly.

38. Provide additional seating within the Parish, particularly for the elderly.



Bike stunts at the Recreation Ground



Stephen Rowbotham, Winscombe's Olympic rowing bronze medalist with the Under 8's Rugby team

5.4 The Young

- i) A significant number of respondents aged 5-18 (84%) would like to see an increase in sports and leisure facilities. 214 textual responses were received suggesting the location of the additional facilities and these included Winscombe Recreation Ground (111), and the Community Centre (44).
- ii) 72% of 5-18 year old respondents would like to see an increase in the provision of cycle paths/routes particularly from the Strawberry Line to Churchill School and routes to surrounding villages.
- iii) Less than half of 5-18 year old respondents (47%) are interested in having an area set aside for bike stunts. Of those who would like such a facility, Winscombe Recreation Ground was the most favoured location.
- iv) 47% of 5-18 year olds want additional play areas and open spaces and 39% wanted additional Youth Club provision.

Recommendations

39. Consider the Questionnaire responses from young people and the need to cater for them when planning and developing activities

6 THE ENVIRONMENT

6.1 Footpaths/Cycle Paths

i) There is much support for the public footpaths and cycle paths in the Parish and they are much used. It is clear from the 'Youth' section of this Report that young people would like a wider network of cycle paths. Over two thirds of respondents do not want horse riders to be allowed on cycle/footpaths.

ii) 83% of respondents want the Parish Council to put more pressure on North Somerset Council to oppose attempts to re-designate public footpaths as bridleways or BOATs (Byways Open to All Traffic).



iii) 80% of respondents want the Parish Council/North Somerset Council to be more active in keeping existing public footpaths free from becoming overgrown or subject to overhanging vegetation.

iv) 89% of respondents would like a readily available up-to-date map of the public footpaths within the Parish.

Strawberry Line path



Recommendations

40. Extend the cycle path network.
41. Exclude horse riders from cycle/footpaths.
42. Official opposition to re-designating public footpaths as bridleways or BOATs.
43. Improved clearance of overgrowth from public footpaths.
44. Provide an up-to-date map of public footpaths within the Parish and publicise its availability.

6.2 Land Use and Food

i) Despite the recent provision of more allotments in the Parish, there is still a waiting list and 70% of respondents believe the Parish Council should provide yet more.

ii) There is also concern (75%) about the areas of land held in the Parish not being productively used but being speculatively held for possible future building development.



Allotments

6.3 Recycling/Litter

i) The recycling centre behind the Woodborough Inn is much used by parishioners. However, the area is frequently in a disgusting state and 78% of respondents want the bins emptied more frequently by North Somerset Council. A similar percentage wants a collection point in the Parish for small electrical items.

ii) There is wide support (86%) for door-to-door collection of plastic items but only 50% support for a food waste collection. (Both will be provided by North Somerset Council in July/August 2010).

iii) Over two thirds of respondents want 'litter picking' throughout the Parish.

iv) There is wide satisfaction with North Somerset Council's performance on rubbish collection (88%).

Recommendations

45. Provision of more allotments, particularly in Sandford.

Recommendations

46. More regular emptying of bulk re-cycling bins.

47. Provision of a collecting point for small electrical items.

48. Provision of door-to-door plastic collection.

49. Provision of 'litter picking' throughout the Parish.

7 COMMUNICATION, POLICING & SECURITY

7.1 Communication

i) Communications within the Parish are many and varied. The main information/communication channel is the well produced Winscombe and Sandford Parish Magazine provided by the Church. It is distributed monthly and is delivered to just under 50% of homes throughout the Parish at a cost of 35p.per copy Other means of communication are:- websites (Parish Council), Parish notice boards, public notice boards, shop windows, leaflets and posters.

ii) Respondents have expressed support (70% in Sandford and 65% in Winscombe) for a single free publication distributed regularly to every household in the Parish with information from organisations, Parish Council, Clubs, Churches etc. This method of communication is preferred to notice boards, the Parish Council website and the setting up of a regular forum to discuss ideas and issues concerning the local community.



Parish Council Office

iii) 75% of respondents know the location of the Parish Council Office; 66% know how to contact a Parish Councillor and 64% read the Parish Council notice boards.



Recommendations

50. Interested local bodies to consider the feasibility of producing a free magazine to be delivered regularly to every property in the Parish.

iv) However, 68% of residents who completed the questionnaire have never attended a Parish Council meeting, 47% do not understand the principle or use of the Parish Council precept, 84% have never visited the Parish Council website and 63% are not aware of the range of the Parish Council's responsibilities.

7.2 Policing

i) The policing of rural communities is regarded as an important issue by respondents in Winscombe and Sandford. 80% of respondents think that the visible police presence in the Parish is inadequate and 84% think that the Police presence should be increased at night.

ii) In particular, residents want the Police to be more active in taking action against illegal parking, speeding, apprehending drivers illegally using mobile phones and monitoring the use of prohibited HGVs within the Parish.

iii) 41% of respondents are concerned about the level of vandalism. Of these 87% are concerned about damage to buildings, 80% about damage to facilities and 74% damage to cars.

iv) A total of 88 residents complained that the riding of off-road motor cycles is a problem in the Sandford Quarry, Award Land, Strawberry Line and Sandmead Road/Nye Road areas.

Recommendations 7.1 continued

51. The work and responsibilities of the Parish Council to receive wider publicity.

Recommendations

52. The Police, in discussion with the Parish Council, to agree to prioritise police presence in the Parish during the day and night to deal with:

- i) Speeding offences.
- ii) Illegal parking.
- iii) Drivers illegally using mobile phones.
- iv) Unapproved HGVs using roads within the Parish.
- v) Vandalism to property and possessions.
- vi) The riding of motor-cycles off road.

8 FUNDING

i) A total of 1,046 (69%) individuals out of 1,515 who completed the question stated that they would be prepared to make a small financial contribution towards making some of the proposals in this Report a reality.

ii) Of those who answered 'Yes' to the question above, the average extra amount that 775 households were prepared to pay was £0.54 per week.

ANNEX

Residents' Responses to the Questionnaire

This Report document is based entirely upon an analysis of responses to the Questionnaire. A complete analysis of these responses is contained in the Annex which consists of 29 pages, in tabular format, of the responses made by 2,136 parishioners (anonymously) covering over 200 questions and detailing how many of the residents answered 'yes', 'no' or did not answer a particular question. The resources at the disposal of the Parish Plan Steering Group were insufficient to provide an individual Annex to each parishioner. However, those parishioners and other persons or organisations who wish to look at the Annex may do so at the locations listed on the right.

Annex Locations

Winscombe Library

The Parish Council Office
during opening times

The Parish Council
website www.winscombeandsandfordpc.org.uk
(Parish Plan-Documents)

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

The paragraphs in the text of the Report relating to the recommendations are indicated in brackets after each recommendation.

1. Effective action to be taken against illegal parking in Woodborough Road. 2.1(ii)
2. More effective action against illegal use of mobile phones. 2.1(iii)
3. Effective action against unapproved HGVs using Sandford Road and Sidcot Lane. 2.1(iv)
4. Introduction of effective speed control measures in Greenhill Road, Sandford. 2.1(v)
5. Provision of a safe pedestrian priority crossing in Woodborough Road, Winscombe between the Co-op and the bridge. 2.2(ii)
6. Widening of pavements in Woodborough Road. 2.2(iii)
7. Maintenance of school crossing patrols in Winscombe and Sandford. 2.2(iv)
8. Downgrading of the A368 through Sandford from 'Primary Route' to 'A' road status. 2.2(v)
9. Double yellow lines in Woodborough Road between the Co-op and the railway bridge. 2.2(vi)
10. The A368 through Sandford to be by-passed if/when the Banwell by-pass proposals are resurrected. 2.2(viii)
11. Provision of a cycle path between the Strawberry Line and Churchill Community School. 2.3(i)
12. Provision of a footpath between Greenhill Road, Sandford and Churchill Community School. 2.3(ii)
13. Improvement of surfaces and drainage of roads and pavements. 2.4(i)
14. Clearance of overgrowth that obstructs road signs and pavements. 2.4(ii)
15. Improvement in access to shops, other facilities and public footpaths for the disabled and users of push chairs. 2.5(ii) and 2.5(iii)
16. Installation of disability/push chair access ramps in Moorham Road, Wimblestone Road and Somerville Road. 2.5(iv)
17. Provide more affordable housing in Winscombe. 3.1(i)
18. Density of future residential development should be compatible with that of adjacent properties. 3.1(ii)

19. Density of future residential development should not exceed 13 properties per acre. 3.1(iii)
20. No large scale developments between Sandford and the M5. 3.1(iv)
21. All building development within the Parish to be inside existing settlement boundaries. 3.1(v)
22. The Mendip Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty to cover the Parish of Winscombe and Sandford. 3.1(vi)
23. The number of derelict/empty houses within the Parish to be greatly reduced. 3.1(vii)
24. The provision of an improved bus service between Winscombe and Sandford and Weston-super-Mare General Hospital. 4.1(ii)
25. The public services referred to in Paragraph 4.3(i) should be protected against removal/closure for use by present and future generations of parishioners. 4.3(i)
26. Community Supported Facilities detailed in 4.4(i) to be retained to continue to be an essential and vital component of Parish life. 4.4(i)
27. Shops in Winscombe should stock more locally produced food and “Fairtrade” products. 4.5(i)
28. Ways of re-opening the Sandford Village Store to be energetically explored. 4.5(iii)
29. Consider the development of new accommodation at the Winscombe Community Association site to house a range of activities. 5.1(i).
30. Consider how the Winscombe War Memorial Ground might best meet the expressed needs of the youth of the Parish for improved and additional facilities. 5.1(ii)
31. Increase opening days/times of Winscombe Library. 5.1(iii)
32. Improve access to Winscombe Library for the elderly and disabled. 5.1(iv)
33. Provide CAB services within the Parish. 5.1(v)
34. Improve broadband services to residents and businesses within the Parish. 5.1(vi)
35. Plan for increased demand for volunteer transport to Weston General and other hospitals. 5.3(i)
36. Extend volunteer transport services to allow for the elderly to visit relatives in hospital. 5.3(ii)
37. Explore what assistance might be available to help with gardening for the elderly. 5.3(iii)

38. Provide additional seating within the Parish, particularly for the elderly. 5.3(iv)
39. Consider the Questionnaire responses from young people and the need to cater for them when planning and developing activities. 5.4(i)-(iv)
40. Extend the cycle path network. 6.1(i)
41. Exclude horse riders from cycle/foot paths. 6.1(ii)
42. Official opposition to re-designating public footpaths as bridleways or BOATs. 6.1(ii)
43. Improved clearance of overgrowth from public footpaths. 6.1(iii)
44. Provide an up-to-date map of public footpaths within the Parish and publicise its availability. 6.1(iv)
45. Provision of more allotments, particularly in Sandford. 6.2(i).
46. More regular emptying of bulk re-cycling bins. 6.3(i).
47. Provision of a collecting point for small electrical items. 6.3(i)
48. Provision of door-to-door plastic collection. 6.3(ii)
49. Provision of 'litter picking' throughout the Parish. 6.3(iii)
50. Interested local bodies to consider the feasibility of producing a free magazine to be delivered regularly to every property in the Parish. 7.1(ii)
51. The work and responsibilities of the Parish Council to receive wider publicity. 7.1(iv)
52. The Police, in discussion with the Parish Council, to agree to prioritise police presence in the Parish during the day and night to deal with:-
- i) Speeding offences. 7.2(ii)
 - ii) Illegal parking. 7.2(ii)
 - iii) Drivers illegally using mobile phones. 7.2(ii)
 - iv) Unapproved HGVs using roads within the Parish. 7.2(ii)
 - v) Vandalism to property and possessions. 7.2(iii)
 - vi) The riding of motorcycles off road. 7.2(iv)

Winscombe and Locality Road Plan

