

Brimpton Appraisal & Parish Plan 2019



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Foreword¹

When the Parish Council decided to renew the Parish Plan, we wanted to involve residents, both in the drafting of the Plan itself and in the consultation exercise that would underpin its proposals. To this end we asked for volunteers to form a Steering Group and received a heartening response from people in each of the three communities within the parish.

Whilst other residents have been involved at various stages, we are particularly grateful to the nine volunteers who undertook the survey and who then analysed the results and drafted the Plan as you see it on the following pages. Our thanks go to:

Catherine Bamforth, Paddy Bowring, James Cohen, Mandy Collings, John Dolphin (Vice-Chair),
Catherine Hartz, Sarah Hunt, Liz Masters (Chair), Bill Scott

The extent of the work the Steering Group has undertaken should not be underestimated. They have worked for the best part of a year to put together the survey which almost two thirds of households completed, and from the reactions and the additional comments they received, they have drawn up a series of recommendations that represent the views expressed.

Obviously, no survey will produce a unanimous view as to how the parish should evolve but the work of the Steering Group has given us a picture of where residents see the main areas of concern: speeding vehicles, mobile and broadband communications, protecting the countryside, local facilities and future development.

The Parish Council is currently reviewing the Action Plan, which shows the level of parish support against each of the 35 recommendations drawn up by the Steering Group. The Plan is being grouped into those actions which can be achieved quickly, those which require more preparation and those which will be our long term goals. Many of the recommendations are not within the Parish Council's direct remit, but we will work with others to try to achieve them. We will monitor our progress towards each of these and let residents know the results.

On behalf of the Parish Council, I acknowledge the work of each member of the Steering Group and thank them for their contribution to a Plan that will shape the future of the parish of Brimpton.

Acknowledgements

The Steering Group wish to thank the following:

- All those in Brimpton parish, and the few households in Crookham bordering the parish, who completed the questionnaire.
- Those parishioners who took the time to attend the community workshop at the Village Hall on 25th September 2018 and give valuable feedback on the draft Parish Plan questionnaire.
- Those residents who trialled the draft questionnaire and took the time to comment on things that were unclear or that could be improved. These suggestions were used to refine the final questionnaire.
- The Brimpton Parish Council for their support.
- West Berkshire Council for their support, advice and assistance with setting up a Parish Plan, especially Jo Naylor, Principal Policy Officer and Sarah Winter, Performance, Research & Consultation Officer, who set up the questionnaire online for us in SurveyMonkey.
- Vega Solutions for the loan of their offices in Brimpton for the Steering Group meetings.

¹ Written by John Hicks, Chairman of the Brimpton Parish Council

Introduction and Background

On 5th June 2018 the Parish Council selected eleven (later to reduce to nine, due to resignations) members for a Parish Planning Steering Group to oversee the creation of a second Parish Plan for Brimpton (BPP).

The last Parish Plan was put together in 2003 and was therefore in need of updating, being based on the views and opinions of the residents 16 years ago. We, the Parish Steering Group², were tasked with creating a new, up to date, plan so that this could be adopted by the Parish Council and used as a guide to the development and provision of facilities in Brimpton. To do this, we were asked to:

- Gather the views of as many residents as possible to ensure the Parish Plan is representative of local opinion
- Keep the content and structure similar to the 2002 questionnaire in order to benchmark results and changes in opinion
- Liaise with relevant external organisations whose activities have an impact on the parish
- Analyse the information received from residents and external organisations
- Identify priorities and a timescale for action
- Prepare the final draft plan in June 2019, having first presented findings and recommendations to the Annual Parish Meeting in May 2019

A subcommittee was created of 6 members to agree the format and the questions for the questionnaire. The draft questionnaire was shown to the public at a community workshop at the village hall in September, and trialled online and on paper at the beginning of October. The questionnaire was then refined based on feedback and suggestions from the pilot and the workshop and went live at the end of October. A letter, enclosed in the parish magazine, went out to 232 households in the parish of Brimpton, including the houses along Crookham Common Road, up to and bordering the recreation ground. Adverts were placed on the parish noticeboards, the Parish Council Website, Facebook page and subsequent reminders were then posted through doors requesting that everyone filled in the questionnaire.

We all agreed that the survey should be online to bring the survey into the 21st century and also to allow for ease, cost, more accuracy and reliable entering of data. It also meant we did not have the overhead of printing costs and could collate the results more quickly and hit the deadline of May 2019.

In order to ensure that it was representative of all demographics in the parish, paper copies were also made available to anyone who was uneasy in completing the questionnaire online.

We received responses from 206 residents, 146 households from 33 different postcodes, of whom 177 completed the survey online and 29 on paper. The demographics of the respondents, in terms of age and gender, were compared with the demographics of the 2011 census figures for Brimpton and found to be broadly in line with these. Further information on this can be found in the household section. Although the response rate was slightly lower than in 2002, the results are still sufficient to provide a confidence of +/- 5% in the results.

The content, conclusion, recommendations and action plan in this report are all based on the views and opinions expressed in this questionnaire. The structure of the report is based on the sections of the questionnaire. All charts show the base of the respondents, not everyone responded to all questions as some would have been skipped if they were not applicable.

² The Steering Group is independent of the Parish Council but responsible to it for the work needed to prepare the Plan.

Separate surveys were carried out for children aged 5-10 year olds (child survey), 11-17 year olds (youth survey) and also the school children were surveyed. Although a reasonable sample of school children answered the survey (40 out of the 54 who were attending the school in November 2018), only 3 responses were obtained for the child survey and 10 for the youth survey. Some qualitative data is shown from the youth one as it does represent nearly a quarter of the youths in the parish but the sample is too small to quantify.

Brimpton parish and its history³

Brimpton parish can be found just south of the A4 and the Kennet Valley. There are about 232 houses most of which are to be found in the three main areas: Brimpton Village, Hyde End/West End and Brimpton Common. Approximately 616 residents⁴ live in Brimpton parish.

The village, which is possibly of Anglo-Saxon origins, is clearly the focus of the parish. It is sited on the eastern end of the ridge that lies between the Kennet and Enborne valleys with its highest point, the Parish Church, at just over 90 metres above sea level. The village now includes a hairdressers in what used to be the village stores, the Three Horseshoes Public House, the Alms Houses, the Church of England Primary School and the Parish Church. The Village Hall is sited to the west of the village and the Baptist Church is near the northern boundary. In the mid-19th Century, the building of the Almshouses and the School and the rebuilding of the Church were funded by the Lords of the Manor, the Earl and Countess of Falmouth and their successor James Blyth.

The rest of the parish from the Kennet and Avon Canal to Brimpton Common incorporates mixed farmland, patches of woodland and gravel pits. These areas were once part of either Brimpton or Shalford Manors with the woods managed for timber. Nowadays they are managed for pheasant shooting as well. Hyde End was a separate unit for farming at least from medieval times. Brimpton Common, the highest point in the parish at 106 metres above sea level, probably had no permanent housing until it lost its importance as manorial grazing.

The winding roads, which characterise the area, stretch back to medieval times and are consequently a problem for modern traffic. The land is also criss-crossed with ancient footpaths, tracks and the River Enborne that meanders towards the Kennet, joining it in Aldermaston parish.

Past populations up to World War II worked in the parish mostly in agriculture and related supporting rural activities and crafts, such as making baskets from the osiers cut locally.

Of the present population, 53% of those employed work within a 5 mile radius of the parish. This has shifted from 2002 where only 37% worked in a 5 mile radius of the parish (29% vs 13% at home). Overall though there are fewer people working in the parish than in 2002, 53% versus 71%. Not surprisingly a much higher percentage of the parish are now retired, 40% vs 22%. Much of this is to do with the fact that, due to the stable population in Brimpton, those employed surveyed in 2002, are now of retirement age. The Primary School now takes 30% of parish children which, although low, is a significant increase on the 2002 figure of 14%. Most shopping and other services are located in the surrounding towns of Tadley, Thatcham, Newbury, Reading and Basingstoke. There is a bus service through the parish and the nearest railway stations at Thatcham and Midgham (Woolhampton) are situated on the main, recently electrified, line between Reading and Newbury and serviced by GWR trains.

³ History taken from 2002 Brimpton Parish Appraisal, with figures updated

⁴ Based on 2011 Census data provided by West Berkshire Council

Executive Summary

This findings and conclusions in this report are based on the answers from the Brimpton parishioners of the 2018 Parish Plan survey. The questionnaire was kept similar to the 2002 one in order to benchmark results. However new questions were added and some old ones removed so that the Parish Plan would be more applicable and relevant to current times. 63% of households responded to the questionnaire which meant that we can be confident that the results represent the views of the parish as a whole within +/-5% margin of error.

It was interesting to note that quite a number of the issues remained the same as in 2002 such as Brimpton being a rat run for cars, infrequent bus service, types of home to be built etc. However it was definitely a worthwhile exercise to update the Parish Plan as a number of new actions did arise from the survey. From this we were able to draw up a new Action Plan with priorities and timeframe which has been agreed with the Parish Councillors and West Berkshire Council.

The key points to note, however, are the parish has an ageing and stable population, with 41% of residents having lived in the parish for more than 26 years. 40% of the parish is now retired compared to 22% in 2002 and of those that are employed, 29% now work from home and an additional 4% within the parish. This is very different to the 2002 survey where only 22% of the respondents were retired and only 13% of the residents worked from home.

Both the mobile and broadband services are seen to be poor especially in the areas outside the village such as Hyde End Lane and Brimpton Common, and this is clearly a priority to resolve bearing in mind that such a large proportion of the workers work from home or within the parish.

Safety on the roads within the parish of Brimpton is seen to be a big issue, with 76% of respondents agreeing that there were major danger spots on the roads especially at junctions, poor visibility pulling out, cars speeding on roads in and out of village.

Two thirds of people said the number of houses should increase in next 10 years (a shift in opinion from 2002 where 60% said the parish should not accommodate more houses). 52% felt it should be by less than 10 houses (28% 1-5 houses and 23% 6-10 houses). 71% felt that new houses built should be smaller private affordable dwellings to attract young families to the village or for those who wish to stay in the village and downsize. Also 38% of respondents felt that the current settlement boundary should be reviewed.

Surprisingly more than half of the respondents have been affected personally by crime or anti-social behaviour in the last 5 years. Most reported issues are noise, fly-tipping and theft (approx. a 5th of respondents for each). Neighbourhood Watch exists in Brimpton Common but respondents have said they would be interested in setting up the scheme in Hyde End Lane and Brimpton Village. The latter is currently being pursued.

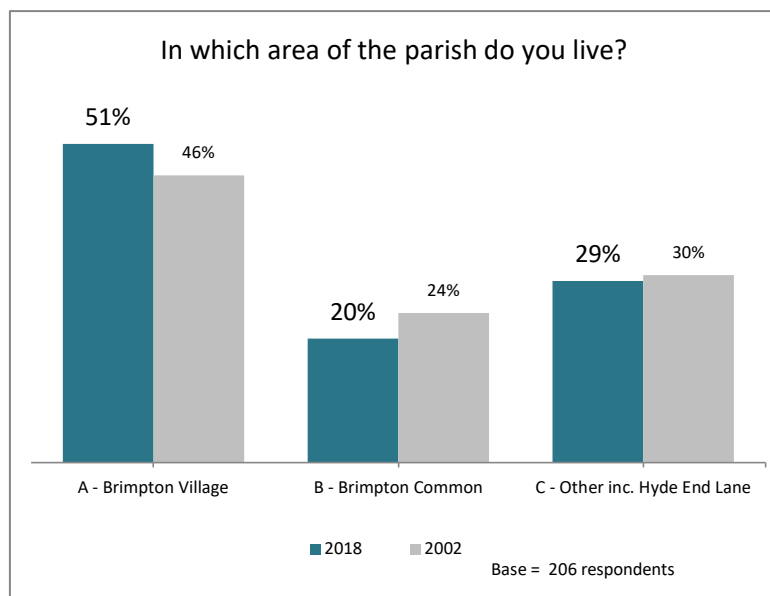
The top four most used facilities for the parish are the public rights of way, Village Hall, Crookham Stores, Parish Church and most important facilities are Village Hall, School, public rights of way and Parish Church. 68% respondents support the creation of new public rights of way and this is something that will be looked at especially as they are the most used "facility/activity".

With regard to local government, respondents felt that certain services have slipped since 2002, especially litter clearance and maintenance of road and verges. However on the upside the majority felt communication from the Parish Council had improved significantly, especially with the introduction of the Parish Council update email.

If you do not have time to read all the report then go to the Conclusions and Recommendations section at the end of the report which summarises the findings for each section of the survey and suggested actions for inclusion in the Brimpton Parish Council Action Plan.

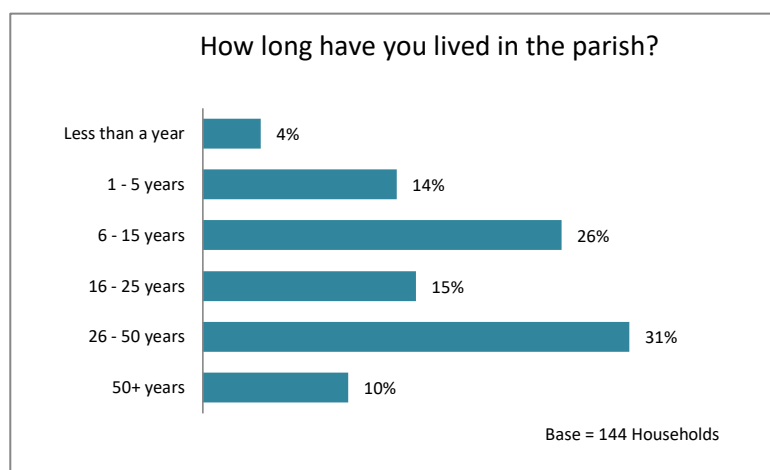
Household Section

The first question identifies where in the parish the respondents live: Area A is the core village, Area B is Brimpton Common and Area C is the remainder of the parish, including Hyde End Lane. This year we also invited (but did not mandate) respondents to provide their postcode, as this will provide the ability to do much more granular analysis which is particularly useful where parishioners' have specific issues.



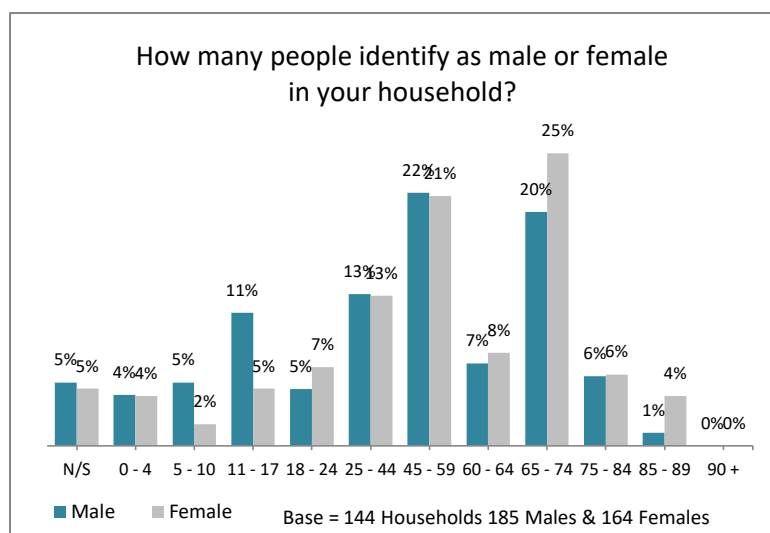
We will not be publishing the data by postcode as the total number of postcodes is considerable, and the overall populations in each postcode is quite small and might enable individual households to be identified.

A total of 146 households out of 232 households (63%) completed the questionnaire, although there are a number of houses that are currently for sale and not occupied.

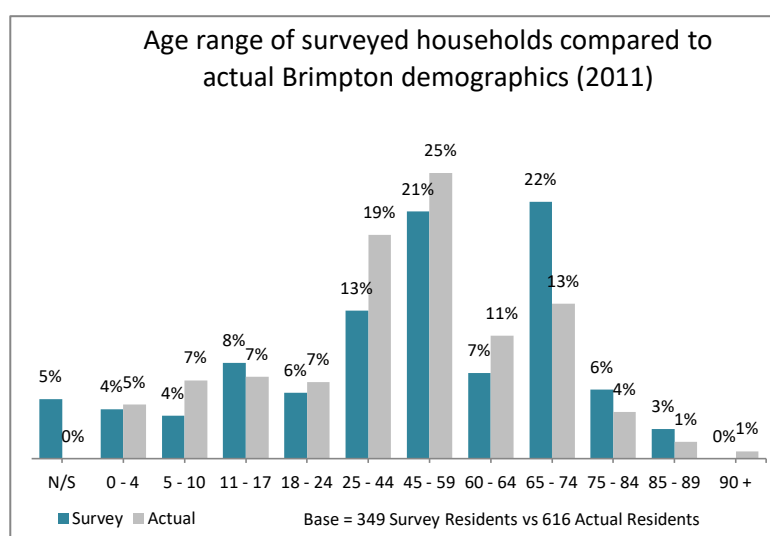


We looked at how long people had lived in the village. This should be considered against analysis that shows that the “average” family move every 23 years⁵. 56% of respondents have lived in Brimpton more than 16 years, with 41% having lived more than 26 years. We can therefore conclude that residents of Brimpton move less than the national average.

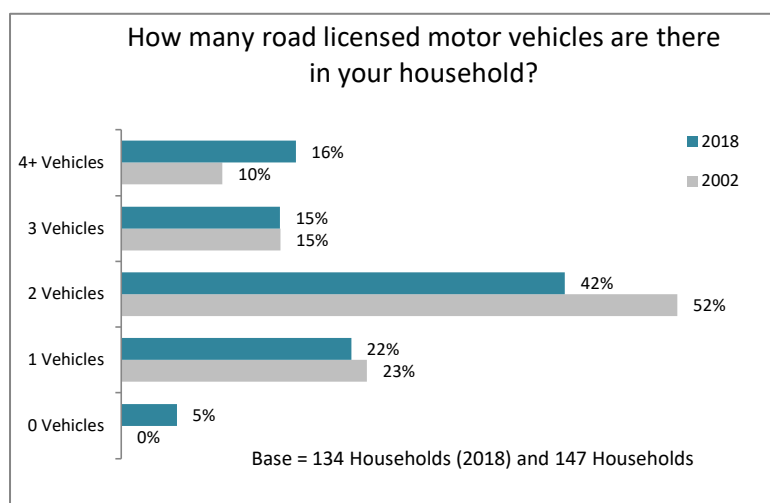
⁵ <https://www.zoopla.co.uk/discover/property-news/how-often-do-we-move-house-in-britain/#qrJQt8mybCUAivSo.97>



The responses indicate that the distribution between male and female in the households are quite evenly distributed, apart from in the 11 to 17 age group where there are significantly more males. There are also slightly more females in the older age brackets. This is to be expected given the mortality rates across the general population. The latest government statistics show that life expectancy at birth is currently 79.2 years for males and 82.9 years for females⁶.



The survey data on residents in the household is broadly in line with the "actual" data provided by the ONS 2011 census, which means that we can conclude that all age group populations are well represented in the survey and that the online methodology was not problematic for any specific age group.



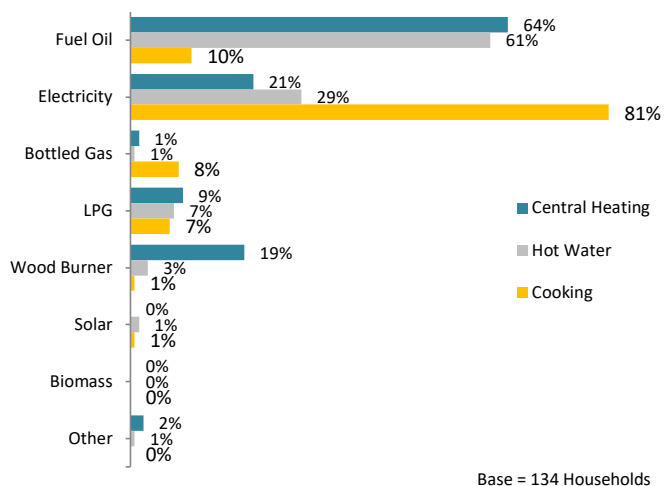
Looking at the number of road licensed motor vehicles, the survey suggests that while there is a small reduction in the number of households with 2 vehicles there is a corresponding small increase in the number of households with 4 or more vehicles. This would suggest that the overall number of licensed vehicles in the parish remains similar to the baseline established in 2002.

The survey shows that only 5% of households have no car. If this is extrapolated to the total number of households in Brimpton this means

about 11 households in Brimpton do not own a vehicle.

⁶<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/lifeexpectancies/bulletins/nationallifetablesunitedkingdom/2015to2017>

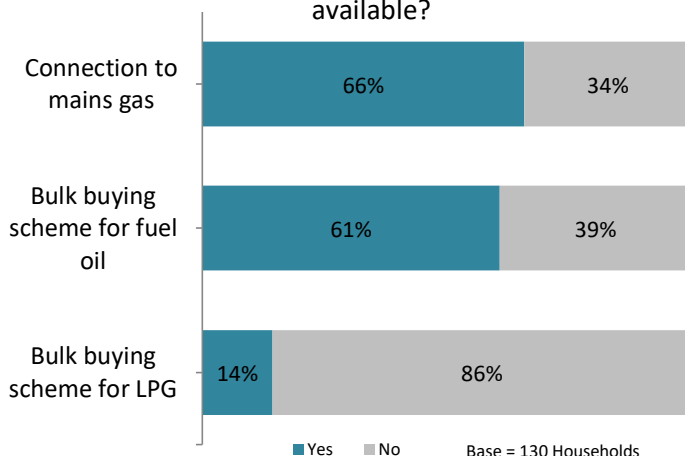
Which of the following do you predominantly use for central heating, hot water and cooking?



In 2002 there was no data collected on the fuels being used within the parish, and given that mains gas is only available in one property in the parish, it is not surprising to see that the majority of properties are dependent on fuel oil for heating (64%) and hot water (61%) and electricity for cooking (81%). (NB. figures may add up to slightly more than 100% because respondents could tick more than one option.)

Two respondents have heat pumps, one ground source and the other air source, and it will be interesting to see when this exercise is repeated, whether the newer technologies are adopted further.

Would you be interested in the following, if available?

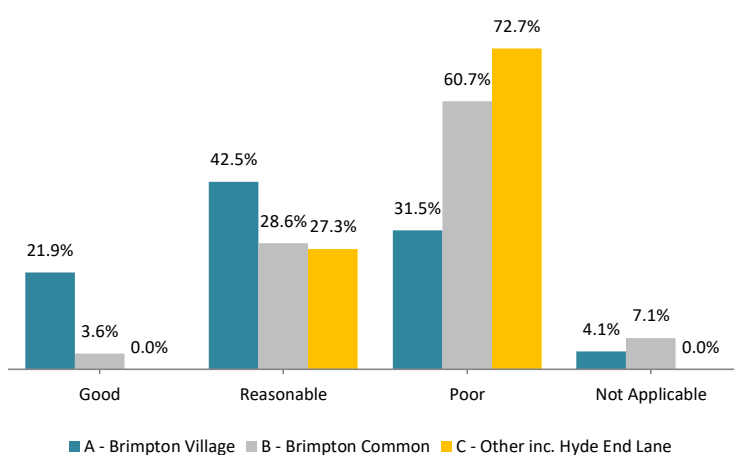


With the cost of LPG and oil it is no surprise that two thirds of respondents would like to be connected to mains gas, and it would seem logical to investigate this further.

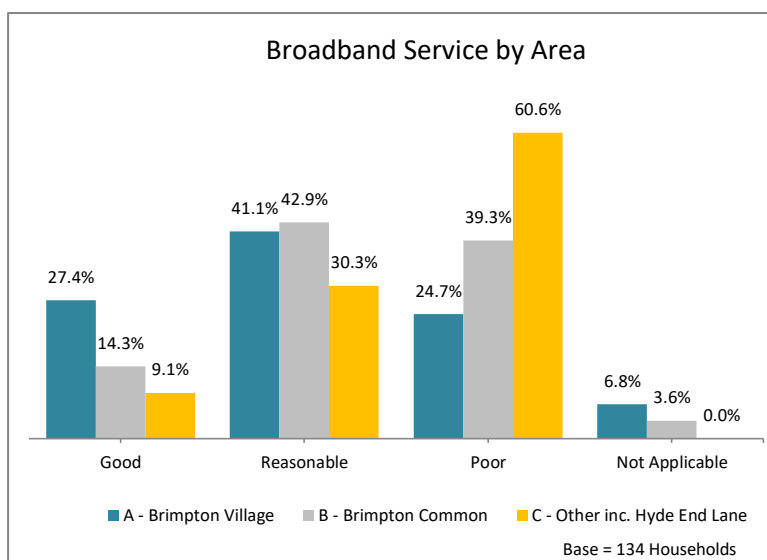
The other action that is clear from the data is the need to evaluate an oil purchase scheme for Brimpton.

When it comes to services such as water, drainage, power and telecommunications, it will come as no surprise to anyone that the lack of 4G mobile telephone and the delays to the Gigaclear roll out are an area of considerable concern to the community.

Mobile Phone Service by Area



When analysing the data by area quite big differences can be seen, 31.5% of households in the centre of the village (Area A) stated mobile was "Poor", compared to 60.7% Brimpton Common (Area B) and 72.7% Hyde End Lane and other areas (Area C). The fact that only 3.6% and 0% said it was "Good" in Areas B and C respectively shows that more needs to be done, especially as more people now work from home and depend on the mobile network for data services.



Likewise with Broadband, only 24.7% said it was “Poor” in the village (Area A) but 39.3% said it was “Poor” in Area B and 60.6% in Area C. Again only 14.3% and 9.1% said it was “Good” in Area B and C respectively.

It is not surprising that such big differences can be seen by area since the majority of the parish receives its broadband from BT (while the Gigaclear rollout remains stalled). BT service households use fibre to the cabinet, and the further from the cabinet the customer is, the slower the service.

The Parish Council and West Berkshire Council (WBC) need to engage with the mobile network suppliers to determine how Brimpton can be better served when it comes to mobile telephony. This is likely to become an even larger problem when the 5G roll out commences, as the parish will be presumably even more dependent on this type of technology by then. With 29% of the parish working from home, the importance of modern communications cannot be over emphasised, and the lack of superfast broadband and reliable mobile telephony (for voice and data) should be considered as an essential service for all.

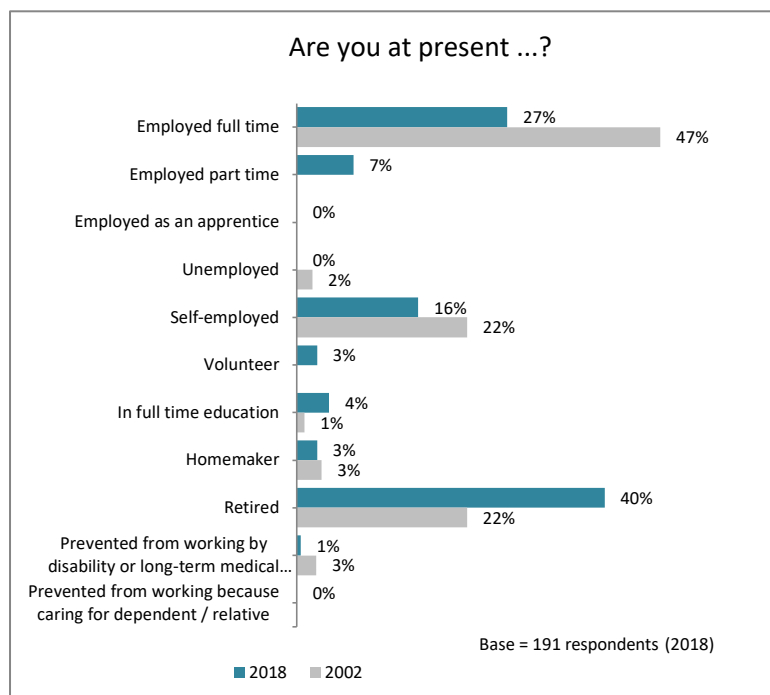


It also has to be recognized that the failure to provide reliable 4G/5G and fast broadband, will have a negative impact on the value of property. It is already well documented that homes without fast broadband are less attractive to buyers.

The geography of Brimpton does not suggest that mobile telephony should be a problem (as the area is relatively flat), and it is probably the case that the population size does not justify the level of investment required to deliver a reasonable service. The parish should expect that WBC, during the planning process, ensure that when 5G is rolled out, it is made available in the rural districts as well as the conurbations. When it comes to broadband, this should be improved when Gigaclear completes its long delayed Fibre to the premises (FTTP) network. WBC need to ensure that Gigaclear deliver on their contractual obligations.

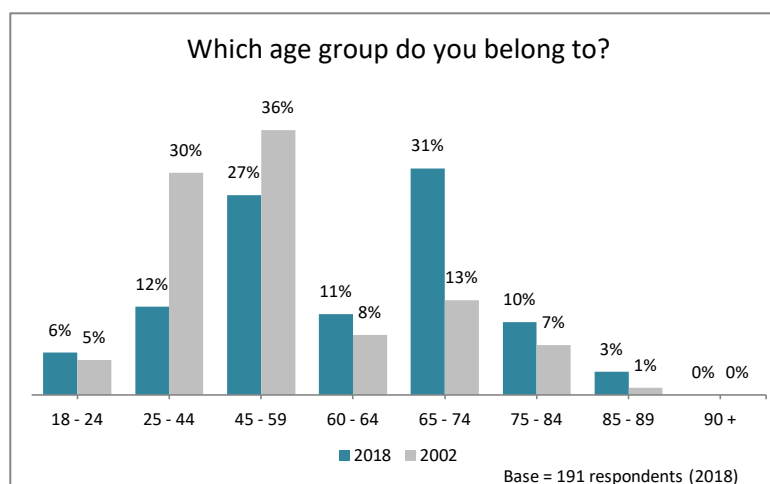
Personal Section

All adults in the household were asked to answer this section, 206 respondents started to enter their data but due to skips or missing data most of the charts in this section are based on 191 respondents.

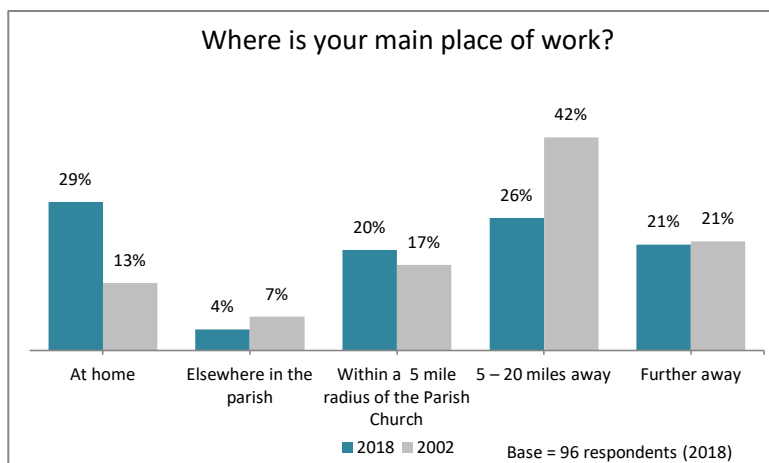


In 2002 Employment Status was collected using fewer categories. In 2018 we used a rather more comprehensive list. However if we try to compare where the categories are the same, these are the results.

In 2002, 47% of the population were employed, but in 2018 the number has fallen to 34%, with a decrease in self-employed from 22% to 16%. The biggest change is in the retired group which was 22% in 2002 but has now doubled to 40%.



This is not a great surprise as the population of over 60s has increased significantly in Brimpton and also the number of responses we received from the over 60s (55% in 2018 vs 29% in 2002). In particular the 65-74 group, which in 2002 accounted for 13% of the responses now accounts for 31%.



Where parishioners work has changed considerably in the past 16 years. In 2002, only 13% of the population primarily worked from home, however by 2018 this has increased to 29%. An increase of almost 125% demonstrates the importance of reliable broadband and mobile telephony. While the majority of the parish now has superfast broadband, and the remainder will hopefully receive this in the near term, the poor quality mobile service has to be cause for concern, and West Berkshire

Council needs to engage the mobile operators, in the same way that they have attempted to resolve the broadband issues.

20 respondents replied that they did operate a business from within the parish, and based on postcode and number of employees this appears to equate to 12 distinct businesses. These businesses employ mostly 1 to 2 people, but one employs 8 people. These statistics exclude non-residents who have businesses in the parish.



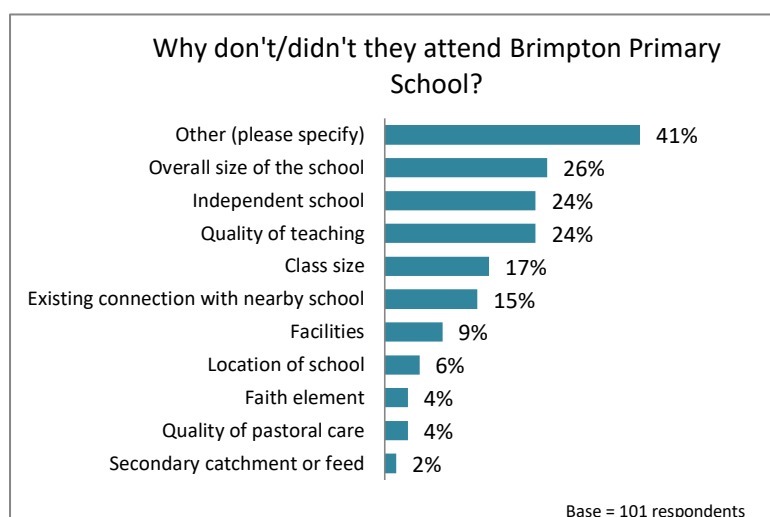
To the question “Do you feel part of the community?” 60% replied “Yes”, 30% replied “Partially” and only 10% replied “No”. Again this question was not asked in 2002, but there were a range of comments as to how this already high level of engagement, could be further improved. The popular suggestions could be summarized as follows:

- More community events (13)
- An upgrade to the village pub (5)
- Better access to different areas of Brimpton on foot (4)
- The village fete is considered a worthwhile initiative (2)
- Local shop, coffee shop or central meeting place (3)

Education



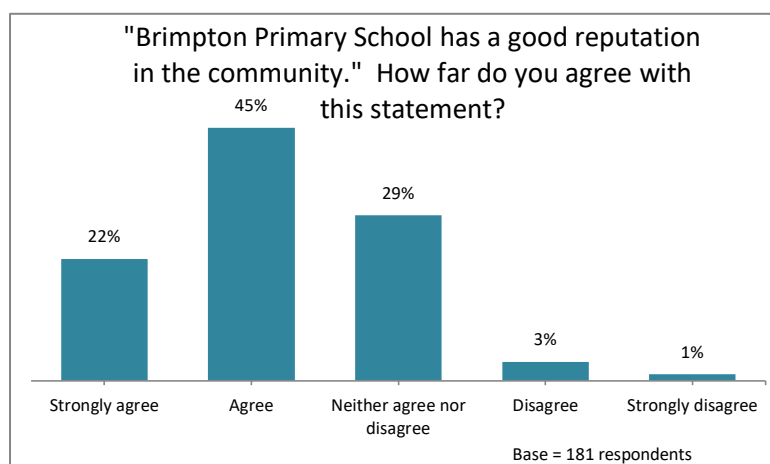
Brimpton Church of England Primary School is a Voluntary Controlled School, which means that it is state funded but that the Diocese of Oxford has some formal influence in the running of the school. The school has a capacity for 63 pupils and currently has 54 pupils (4-11 year olds) enrolled. This compares to only 40 enrolled in 2014 and 34 in 2006 (according to the Ofsted reports of those times). This shows a very healthy increase in the number of pupils, a growth of 65% over 12 years, aided by the additional log cabin built in 2011 to provide more space for early years.



School data indicates that in 2018 a third of children attending the school were resident in the parish, 18% came from Baughurst or Tadley, 13% from Headley/Bishops Green, 17% from Thatcham/Newbury and the remaining 19% from Midgham, Aldermaston, Burghfield Common and Reading.

Reasons given for not attending Brimpton School were as follows: nearly a quarter said that size of school was the reason (too small and 17% said class size was too small) and another quarter mentioned independent school as being the

reason. The large other section seems to be mainly due to the fact that a number of people were not in parish at the time their children were school age or were not satisfied with the standard of teaching at the time (many free text comments related to more than 40 years ago), or they wanted an after school club which was not then available.



67% strongly agreed or agreed that the school has a good reputation, and this is supported by the 2014 and 2018 OFSTED reports which rate the school as "Good" and the 2017 Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) report which rates the School as "Outstanding".

52% felt that the school did not need to be more involved with the community, whilst, 48%, said they would like the school to be more

involved.

Some comments given included:

- Inter-action with older people, e.g. events such as plays
- Community working together, e.g. fete, events at the church
- Access to school, e.g. as a community meeting place
- Community help, e.g. with reading
- Collaborating in community projects
- Better advertising of school events

In summary, overwhelmingly the residents feel that Brimpton C of E Primary School is important to parish life with 77% stating very important, 19% important and only 4% saying not important. Many of the free text comments at the end of the Education section of the survey stress the importance of the school to the community and praise it highly.



"I think Brimpton Primary School is excellent, our son has enjoyed every year he has been there and has grown in confidence immensely."

"It would be a tragedy for the school to close and the village should fight to keep it open. Having young people in the village, is key to a vibrant village."

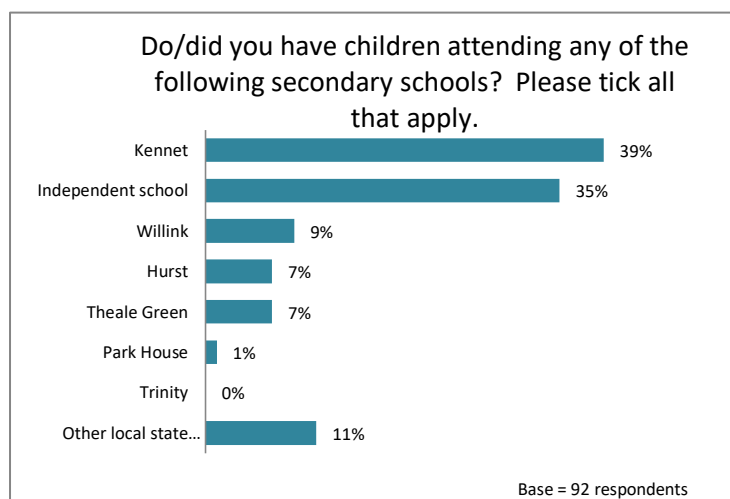
"The school is lucky to have found a new head, and I am so thankful that other children in the village and surrounding villages will have the opportunity to attend such a great primary."

"Brimpton School has improved with remarkable speed since our children were at school, long may it continue."

"Thank you to Brimpton School for making the adjacent land open to the community, very much enjoyed and appreciated."

Negatives mentioned are the access to the school.

A separate Brimpton School survey has been conducted and results for this are shown at the end of this report.



With regard to secondary schooling, 35% of resident pupils attend private schools (against a national average of 7%) and 65% state schools with the majority of those attending Kennet School. The rest are evenly spread between Willink, Hurst and Theale, with only 1% going to Park House. Other state schools stated included Reading School, St Barts and Little Heath School.

Issues mentioned with secondary schooling, are the lack of free transport to school, and the lack of after-hours transport from Kennet School to

Brimpton.

The Church



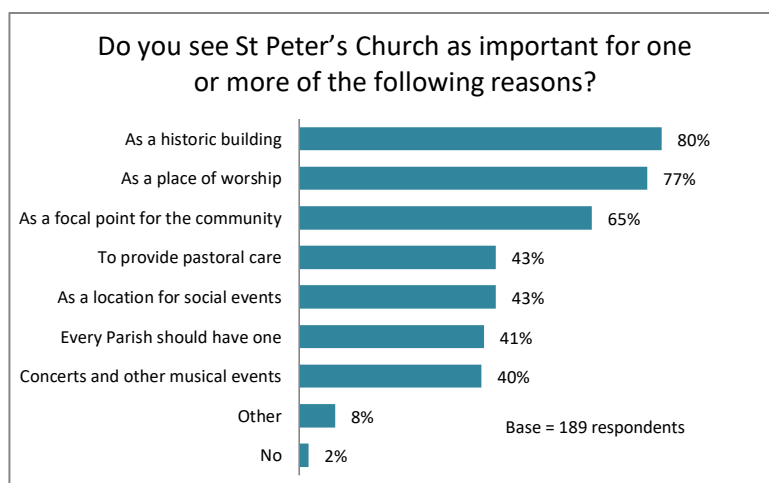
St Peter's Church is part of the Church of England Benefice of Aldermaston and Woolhampton. In terms of governance it has a Parochial Church Council (PCC), elected annually by those on the Church's electoral register (currently about 26) and the churchwardens who are elected annually by the whole parish (currently there is only one churchwarden with a vacancy for a second). There is no financial support from the Church of England, and the PCC has to raise about £12,000 a year to contribute to the Church's costs of providing ministry, and about a similar amount for its costs of running the church and for repairs and maintenance of church and churchyard.

The residents clearly see the church as important to parish life with 95% stating it is either "Very Important" or "Important" (50% and 45% respectively). However, in terms of using the building,

only 15% of parishioners claim to use it often, 33% occasionally, 31% rarely and 21% never. When the residents were asked why they see it as important, the majority stated "As a historic building", "As a place of worship" or "As a focal point for the community". However, a number selected "As a location for social events" (43%) and this should be something that is explored further.



It was interesting to compare these figures to the 2002 survey, and although more reasons were given now, only 47% saw it was important "As a historic building", 30% "As a place for Sunday Worship", 43% "for baptisms, weddings and funerals" and 15% stated that it was "Not important", compared to only 2% now.



Some free text comments made under 'Other' (included important for baptisms, weddings, funerals and significant seasonal services - Easter, Christmas, Harvest, etc.). There were also some lone voices who made comments such as "The bell is very important, I would like to hear more bell ringing", or "Needs to fund itself. Even if this means fund raising in the parish but should not be funded via Parish Council".

In 2018 the PCC spent over £40,000 installing a WC and servery in the church. Apart from simply bringing the church fabric into the 21st century, there was an expectation that by

doing so it would make the church more attractive as a community building or venue. This was a large part of the justification given to the various funders of the £40,000 grants and donations that were received. Brimpton C of E Primary School has already increased its use of the church and now has its own dedicated space in the Lady Chapel.

Meanwhile we have the question posed in the 2018 questionnaire: “Do you have any other suggestions as to how to expand the use of the Church?”. There were a great many suggestions made. A few had a lot of support:

- More car parking is required if any more use is to be made of the church. One suggestion mentioned asking Wasing for some of their land for this (7)
- Concerts or music events (6)

Some more had support from more than one respondent:

- Coffee morning or afternoon/cream teas
- Youth club or youth events

The remainder attracted only one comment each but are worth recording for the sake of completeness and to offer ideas to the PCC for potential fund-raising:

- Make more use of social media to attract custom
- Review opening hours – working folk cannot visit between 10:00 and 16:00
- More church services
- Modernise the services
- More use by school
- Mums & babies mornings
- Evening yoga classes
- Book exchange
- Walks / healthy living
- Village shop, eg as by Beech Hill
- Farmers market
- Christmas market



A further open meeting was held on 23rd January 2019 to discuss possible uses of the church. Various suggestions were made at this meeting which are going to be trialled such as coffee mornings for all ages, a singing group and concerts.

Local Transport

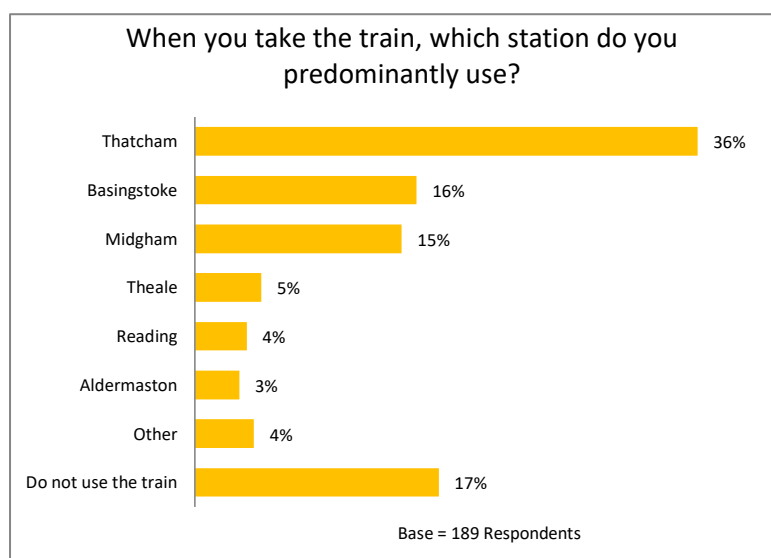
Several questions were asked about public transport. Only 11% of the adult respondents stated that they use the local bus service and about 60% of these only use it occasionally. Only 22% said they use the bus daily. Those who use the service, do so primarily for shopping or social/leisure. About a fifth said they use it for medical visits.

Nearly all bus users stated they would like to see improvements to the timetable and nearly half said they would like to see more route options. Nearly two thirds mentioned reliability.

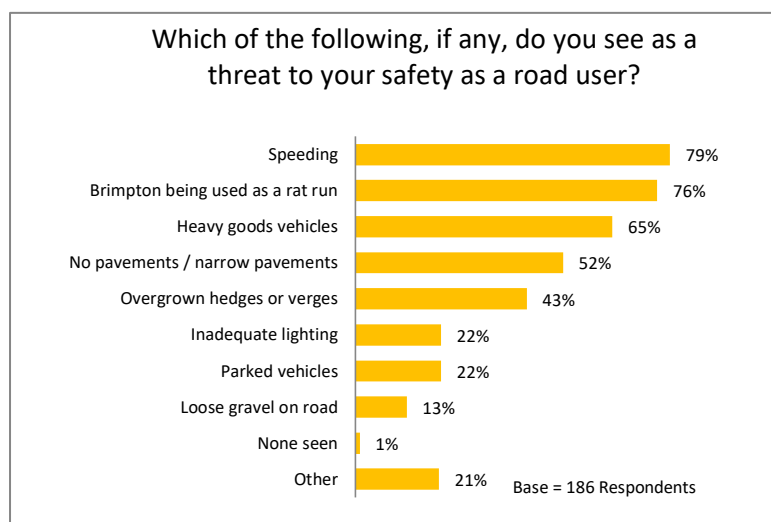
Nearly 80% of non-bus users made comments about the bus, with such comments as:

- *“the current schedule does not suit commuter needs”*
- *“bus service is so infrequent as to make it impractical and useless”*
- Others asked for bus services to Reading, Basingstoke and more to Thatcham and Newbury, a bus on Saturday or a Community bus.

One bus user suggested that perhaps timetables and routes could be improved *“if a small fare was charged for those of us who are retired – as bus passes are no use without a service”*



By contrast 83% of the respondents use the train. The most common station used locally was Thatcham, followed by Basingstoke.



79% of respondents saw speeding as the biggest threat to their safety as a road user, followed by Brimpton being used as a rat run and then heavy goods vehicles.

No pavements / narrow pavements and overgrown hedges or verges were also seen to be a significant issue.

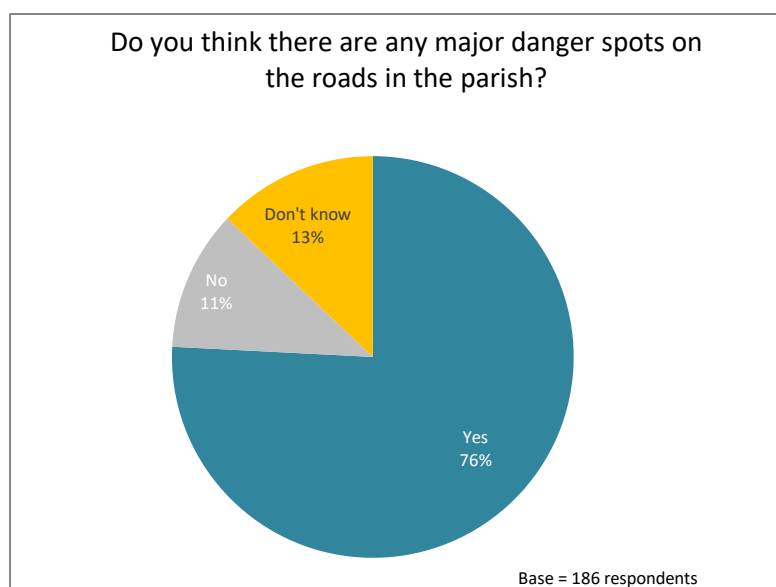
There were many free text comments about this, some examples include:

- *“blind bends , blind accesses , and oh! Speeding.....”*
- *“The roads round Brimpton Common triangle being used as a rat run.”*
- *“It is dangerous as a pedestrian or cyclist. I have seen people walking along the road with headphones on. Also I have seen a pedestrian been hit by the wing mirror on a lorry. It is difficult as a cyclist, especially if you go out cycling as a family. Cars get impatient and overtake you inappropriately, and go too fast.”*

A number of people mentioned poor visibility around corners and when pulling out of Enborne Way and Hatch Lane.

Also many mentioned potholes, heavy good vehicles, surface water and parking on pavements.

- *“People parking on pavements so have to go out into the road with a buggy”*
- *“It is a daily rat run ... There have been numerous accidents on Quaking Bridge since we came here 14 years ago. Exacerbated by heavy vehicles when there are road or rail works further along on Brimpton Road before the A4. In fact, traffic has become one of our major issues here...”*
- *“Surface water after a period of heavy rain. There are some areas where this is a problem. (Three Horseshoes and Able Bridge for example)”*



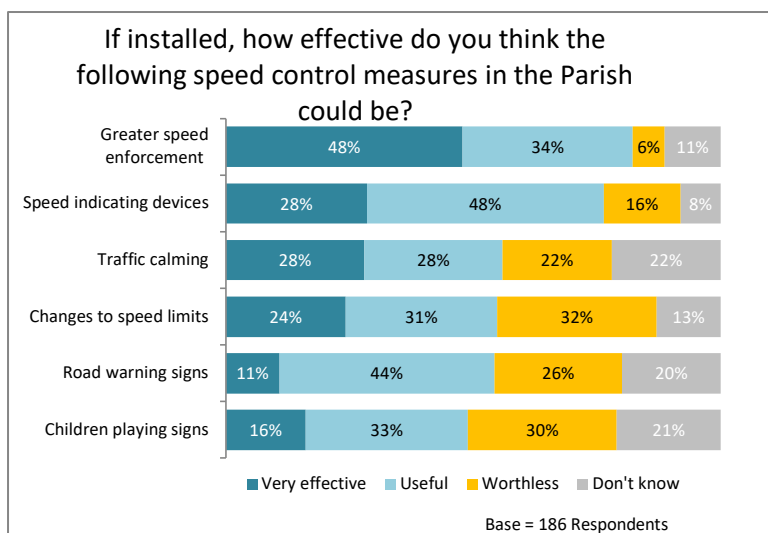
The majority of respondents still feel there are major danger spots on the roads in the parish, with 76% responding yes.

141 free text comments were given here and these were very similar to the ones in 2002. Nearly all roads around the parish are thought to be unsafe because of their narrowness, the twisty bends, dangerous access and poor visibility, parked cars, lack of pavements, traffic speed and HGVs. The areas considered to be danger spots are too

numerous to list.

However those that are the most frequently cited are:

- speeding cars on the road by the school and the narrow pavements there (36)
- speeding cars along the Crookham Common Road (33)
- Brimpton Road – speeding cars and parked car hazard (21)
- Wasing Road especially where it narrows (19)
- Brimpton Common Road and junction (19)
- The War Memorial junction (17)
- Pulling out of Enborne Way (15)
- Three Horseshoes' corner (12)

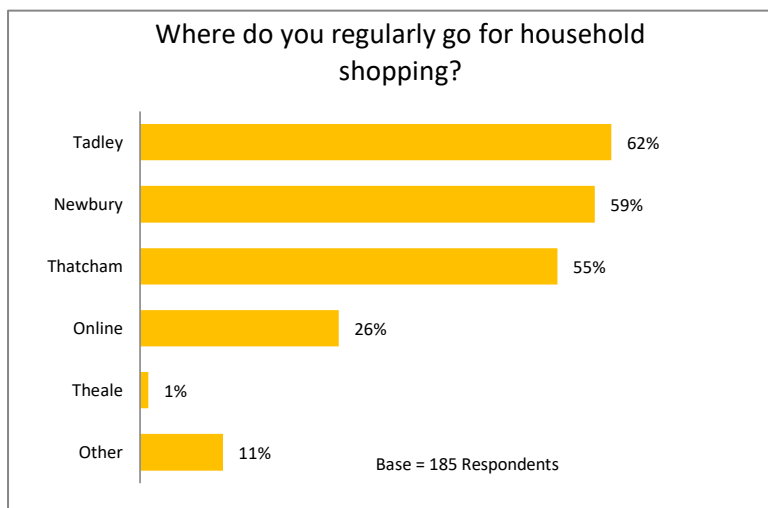


The respondents felt greater speed enforcement would be the most effective speed control measure, followed by speed indicating devices.

When asked “Do you think parking could be improved in the centre of the village?”, 31% of respondents stated “Yes”, 19% “No” and 50% were not sure.

There were also 53 text responses to this question, a sample of which are shown below:

- *“Land needs to be identified to provide parking for both St Peter's Church and village Hall. Perhaps between the two if available. Would also be good for dog walkers and ramblers”.*
- *“The residents in Brimpton Road / Manor View should be encouraged to provide parking within the curtilage of the property.”*
- *“There is virtually no parking in the village. When there was a village store there was no parking available, which may have led to its demise. Unfortunately there seems no solution to this unless the parish could purchase local land for a car park”.*



When asked “Where do you regularly go for household shopping?”, Tadley scored highest with 62%, followed by Newbury 59%, Thatcham 55% and then Other 11%, of which the majority stated Basingstoke.

62 people gave free text comments to the question “Do you have any further comments to make regarding local transport?”

There were many requests for improvements to the bus service and some suggestions. e.g.

- *“A more frequent bus service would be better for those with limited or no transport”*
- *“The hours of the bus service and their destinations are very limited. Is there a local taxi service?”*
- *“The bus as it is currently scheduled does not suit commuter needs. If the service*

frequency cannot be increased due to demand, perhaps a subsidized collective taxi that can be pre-booked to take commuters from the bus stop to Thatcham station could be an option"

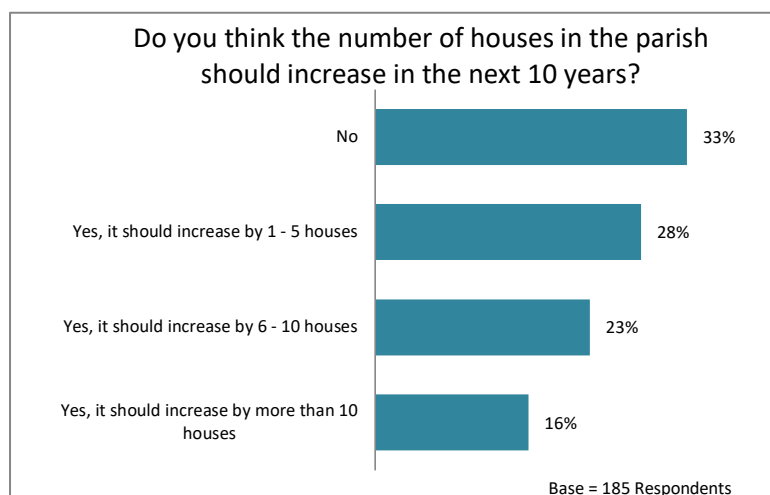
- *"Very limited. On Bank holidays no buses for 3 days (4 when it is Easter)"*
- *"No bus and no shop will not encourage people with young families to the village"*
- *"Make sure all the timetables at the bus stops are correct and up-to-date"*
- *"Is there an opportunity for a local community bus service?"*
- *"The lack of an alternative to the school bus is a disgrace. If the children need to get the bus to Kennet, they get into school by 8am. The school doesn't open until 8.30. I don't understand why they can't just pay as they go on the existing school bus."*
- *"Maybe the bus service could be improved if a small fare was charged for those of us who are retired – as bus passes are no use without a service".*



Other responses included:

- *"More prominent village signs. Keeping hedges cut back important. White lines kept painted. Junction at memorial should be a STOP double line not give way."*
- *"Cycle / Bridleways improved and created for cyclists then made compulsory. Pavements up to A4 would be useful."*
- *"We have to stop the rat run through the village and especially the speeding, lorries and irresponsible driving."*
- *"There is a failing of public welfare in this village. Brimpton is a classic ribbon development - where the road which would have brought people together in the past, is now a barrier... To turn this around, I suggest ... a lower speed limit throughout all areas of the village with cameras, a distinctive road surface, like a coloured sound reducing surface such as Ringway's Ultraphone. The war memorial needs to become the heart of the village again with the pedestrian given priority. Quite simply, cars must be made to slow down to improve the lives of our community".*

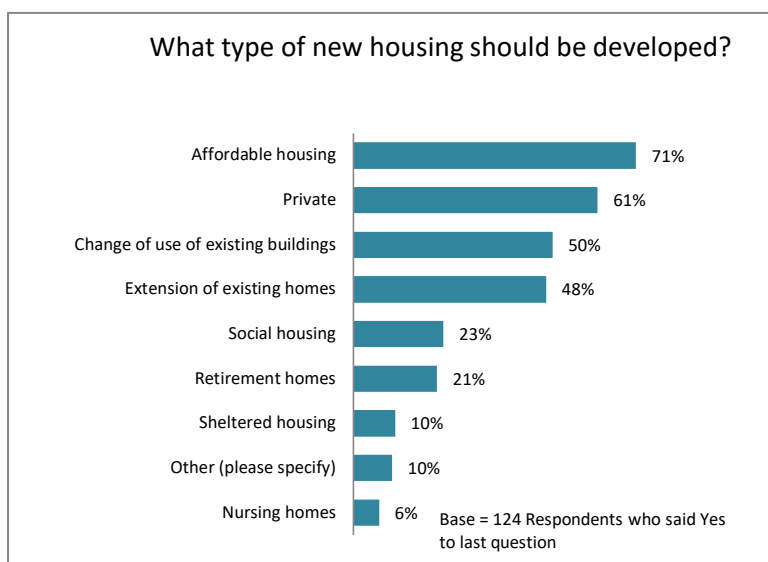
Building and Housing Development



When the residents were asked whether they thought the number of houses in the parish should increase in the next 10 years, 67% said yes compared to 40% in the 2002 survey. This is a significant change and needs to be looked at very carefully, taking into account the concerns returned. Out of those who said "Yes the number of houses should increase", 28% said by 1-5 houses, 23% by 6-10 and 16% by 10+ houses.

Respondents were asked to give the reason for their response:

- A few said more housing would help to keep the local services such as pub, hairdressers, shop and school going (11)
- Many commented that there were not the services and infrastructure in place, and that an increase in housing would aggravate traffic problems on local roads and parking (22)
 - *"Roads already busy, doctors always booked up"*
 - *"Mobile and broadband needs improving as well as traffic management"*
 - *"Existing resources (e.g. GP services) can't cope with current population"*
 - *"The roads through the village could not cope with the resultant increase in traffic".*
- Many also commented that the village needed more young people, young families and new blood to keep it going (27)
 - *"Without more housing the village will die, and new blood is needed to help keep the village institutions going"*
- The shortage of affordable housing or starter homes was also mentioned a number of times (16)
- A number also said that we need to do our bit with the increasing population and try to house more people (12)
 - *"Population is expanding, Brimpton needs to play its part in accommodating this fact"*
 - *"Villages should evolve and grow. Fewer people living in single dwellings. Support village school, church, pubs and shop. Share the national burden of housing need. Some emphasis on lower cost housing to attract and retain young people".*
- Quite a few said expansion in the village should be done by infilling (12)
 - *"A low level of infilling/expansion is healthy for the village and supports the need for more housing locally/nationally"*
 - *"Any future housing increase needs to be assessed against a long-term desire of how big the village should become, i.e. if it is decided that the village should increase by 50 houses in next 100 years for example then the plan should be to build one house every two years on average. No extra houses should be built until these calculations have been done"*
- There were those that said they would prefer to keep Brimpton as a small rural village with no change (14)
 - *"This is a small village, it isn't supposed to have lots of houses that's why people move here. If you want it to stay rural and quiet then you cannot afford to have continued infilling".*



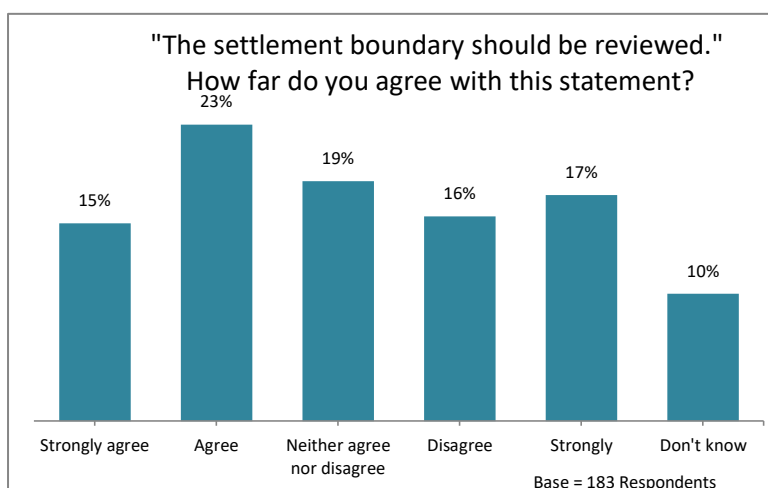
Those that ticked “Yes” to the above question about whether more houses should be built were then asked what type of housing should be developed. The majority, 71%, stated affordable housing and this was similar to the 2002 survey where, although the categories were not identical, 42% ticked homes for young people, 30% low cost housing and 32% small family homes.

Brimpton needs housing at a suitable affordable price point that enables the younger

generation, starting out on house ownership, to purchase a small house in Brimpton, while enabling the older generation to downsize and stay in Brimpton. Brimpton already has a high proportion of rentable social housing, and it is lower cost “owner-occupier” housing that is required.

Those that ticked “Other” in the 2018 survey were asked to specify:

- Three out of the 12 mentioned more options for those wishing to downsize in the village:
 - *“More small units are needed, especially bungalows/chalet houses, to help those who are starting out, and those who wish to downsize. The units should have a condition preventing them from being enlarged out of proportion to downsizing.”*
 - *“Housing to suit local parishioners who wish to downsize from their existing properties in addition to affordable housing.”*
- A couple mentioned that there was already a high proportion of social housing in Enborne and Manor View.

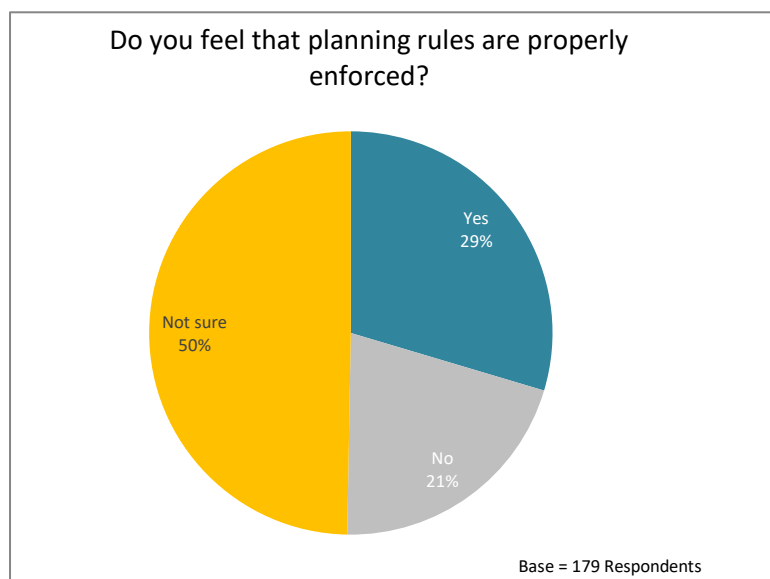


At the present time only Brimpton village has a settlement boundary within which development is permitted, subject to the necessary planning process. Applications in the other two areas can, of course, be considered. When the respondents were asked if the settlement boundary should be reviewed, slightly more either strongly agreed or agreed (38%) with the statement than those who disagreed or

strongly disagreed (33%). It is important that the comments from other questions within this section are taken into consideration. Mainly roads, services and infrastructure need to be assessed.

It should be noted that a recommendation to review the settlement boundary, does not mean that it should be increased, but simply a recommendation to the Parish Council that they should think about the settlement boundary.

- *“While it is reasonable to operate a clearly defined settlement boundary, it is important to review all development proposals with an open mind and assess the benefits which might occur for the village centre and the outlying areas of Hyde End and Brimpton Common”*
- *“It is important not to overcrowd the village centre current settlement area”*
- *“Reasonable housing development should be permitted outside the current settlement boundary. It is mad to allow increasingly dense development of an existing village and not allow any development outside the boundary”*

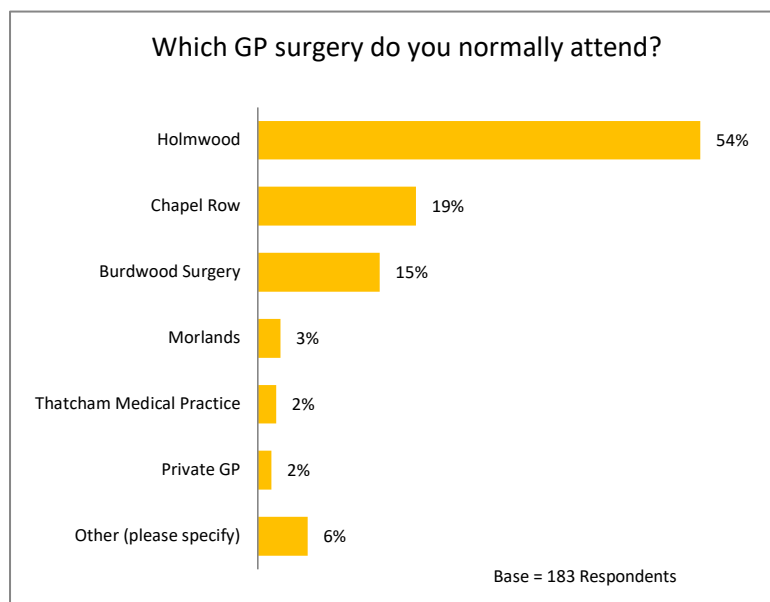


Only 29% of respondents feel that the planning rules are properly enforced, 50% are not sure, and 21% say they are not.

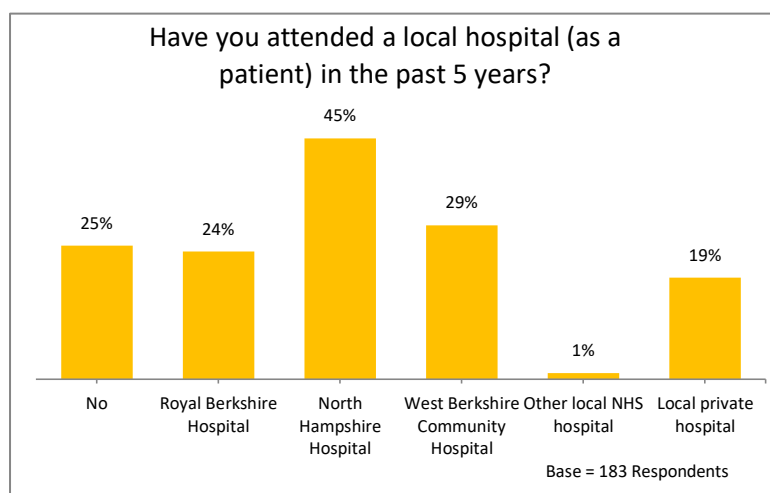
Examples of where residents felt that planning rules had not been properly enforced included:

- The Solar farm (3): *“Solar farm, WBC chose not to enforce. There is no point in applying conditions and then doing nothing.”*
- The two new houses in Manor View (6).
- Gate to new site from 1 The Osiers (4).
- Inconsistency in enforcement was cited.

Health and Social Care

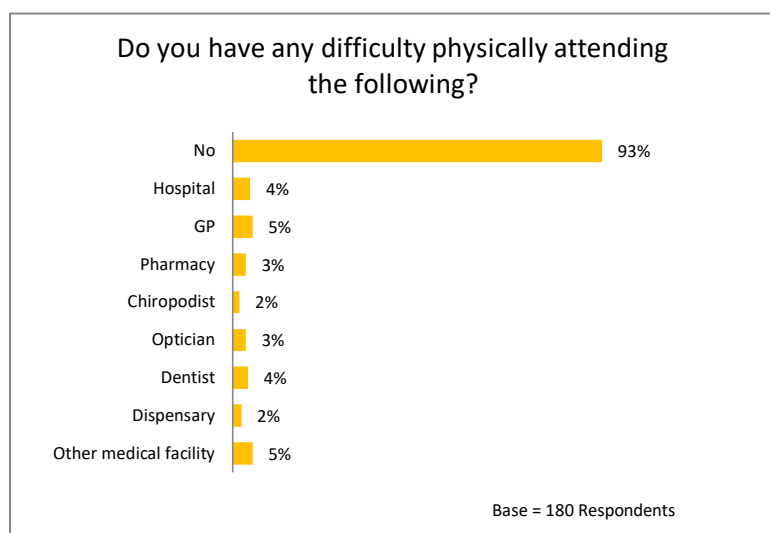


Although Brimpton is in West Berkshire Local Authority area, Primary Care Services are provided by North Hampshire Clinical Commissioning Group and West Berkshire Clinical Commissioning Group. Social Care services are provided by West Berkshire Council. The majority of residents normally attend a GP in Hampshire, this includes Holmwood Surgery and Morlands Surgery. 23 people did not answer this question. In the "Other" group, 4 were not registered with a GP, 3 were registered at Theale, 2 at Kingsclere and 1 at University.



The location of GP will determine which hospital a resident is referred to and this is confirmed in terms of attendance at acute hospital provision with attendance at North Hampshire Hospital at 45%, compared to 24% for Royal Berkshire Hospital. 29% of residents have used the West Berkshire Community Hospital in the past 5 years, proving that this hospital which opened in 2004, fulfils a useful role within the local

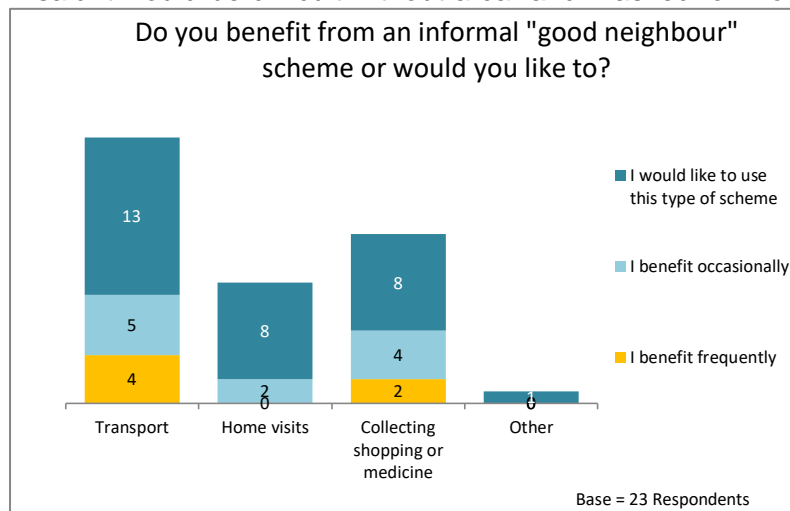
community.



The majority of people (167) have not had any problems attending health care services. For those people who did have problems (13), 6 reported a difficulty based on transport problems either lack of car or bus. This is fewer than the last survey when 23 people reported difficulty accessing a service, however the reason why was not explored so no comparisons can be made.

94% of respondents said they did not find it difficult to access

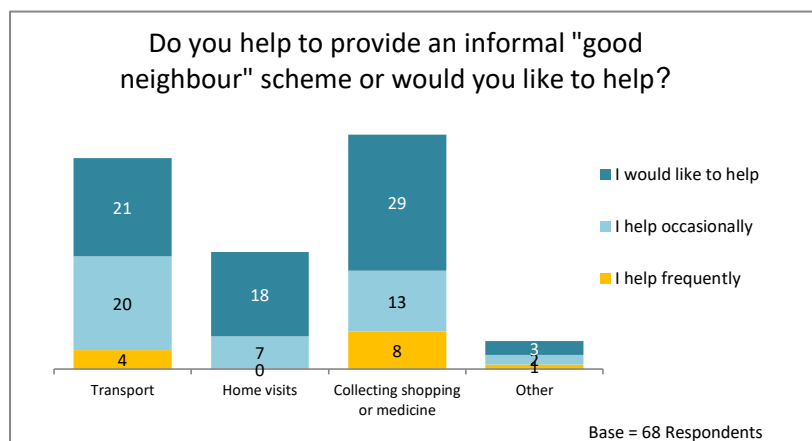
services within their own home, but for those who did give a reason (8), 3 said they had problems making an appointment with a GP, 2 had never needed to access these services, 2 said it would be difficult without a car and 1 asked for more information on the signage for the defibrillators in the village.



The benefits of the "good neighbour" question was answered by 11% (23) of the respondents. Currently a small number of people benefit from such a scheme or volunteer for a scheme, 4 had never heard of a scheme and 13 people would like to have access to a "good neighbour" scheme. This is consistent with the findings of the Parish Plan in 2003.

From the response to providing help, it is clear that there are individuals in Brimpton who would like to help with an informal "good neighbour" scheme and also that there is a small group who already provides assistance for a variety of activities. Respondents provided a range of answers perhaps best summed up by:

- *"It is a pleasure to help my friends and neighbours wherever possible"*
- *"Currently Brimpton is a great community where villagers help each other when needed"*



16 people made further comments for the health and social care section. A few raised concerns about the traffic in the village, impact on health from noise, knowing who needs support in the village and the potential lack of services to support the elderly. 6 people expressed concern in the difficulty in making an appointment:

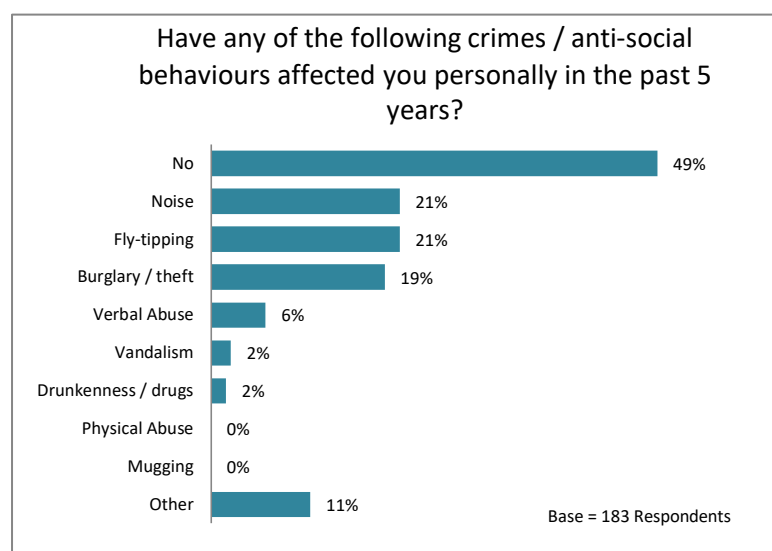
"making appointments with your own doctor at Holmwood and Morland surgeries has become an impossibility, making an appointment with any doctor you now have to wait over a week and longer. This needs to be resolved before any consideration of new housing is given, or it will make matters worse".

One person commented on the notable difference in GP services between the two Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) and asked for this to be addressed by the CCGs.

Holmwood Health Centre and Morland Surgery are both part of Tadley Medical Partnership. This General Practice has two different geographical sites but they share the same GPs. The concerns raised about making an appointment are consistent with the findings of the GP

Survey 2018 (NHS England 2018)⁷. The percentage of people who find it easy to get through on the phone was 63% for Tadley Medical Partnership compared with 96% for Burdwood and 93% for Chapel Row. The National Average is 70% and for both Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) overall average is 73% for West Berkshire CCG and 75% for Hampshire CCG. Overall experience from the GP Survey 2018 for these three practices based on local GP service, making an appointment, your last appointment experience and your health ranged from 88% reporting a good experience for Tadley Medical Partnership compared to 94% for Burdwood and 97% for Chapel Row. The national average is 84% so all practices are above the national average. However local findings from this small sample are consistent that making an appointment at Tadley Medical Partnership is likely to be both below National and CCG average. This could lead to inequality in accessing GP appointments and potentially health care in a timely manner for the residents of Brimpton based on location of GP.

Crime Prevention



Surprisingly more than half of the respondents have been affected personally by crime or anti-social behaviour in the last 5 years. Noise and fly-tipping were the biggest offenders (21% each), closely followed by burglary and theft (19%). Unfortunately these figures cannot be directly compared with the 2002 survey that asked the respondents to state which crimes and anti-social behaviours in the parish “concerned” rather than “affected” them personally. Needless to say the

percentage of people responding to the same questions were significantly higher in the 2002 survey.

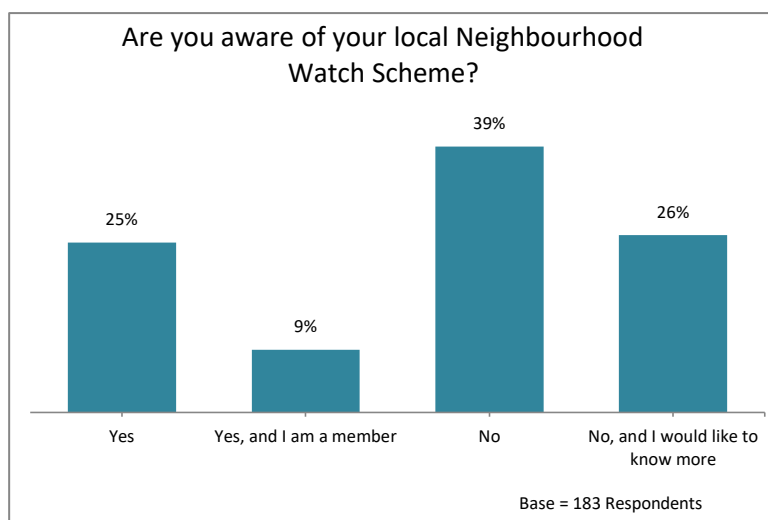
The question about fly-tipping was not specifically asked in 2002 only 9 of the comments related to fly-tipping and litter dropping, which equated to about 3.5% of respondents. We can therefore conclude that this has become more of an issue in the last 16 years.

Noise received the most comments, specifically for excessive vehicle noise, especially motorbikes, and dogs barking. Other free text comments include:

- “Vehicle noise through the village - especially motorbikes with illegal silencers at 5.30 am every morning”
- “Litter is the curse of Brimpton”
- “Motocross noise, sometimes for 2 hrs continuously.”
- “Dogs barking and biting”. “Aggressive dogs.”
- “Rural crime - breaking into agricultural buildings to steal light machinery (e.g. chainsaws)”

⁷ NHS England 2018 link <http://www.gp-patient.co.uk/>

- *“The noise from the gravel pits can be a constant source of irritation, particularly in the summer”*



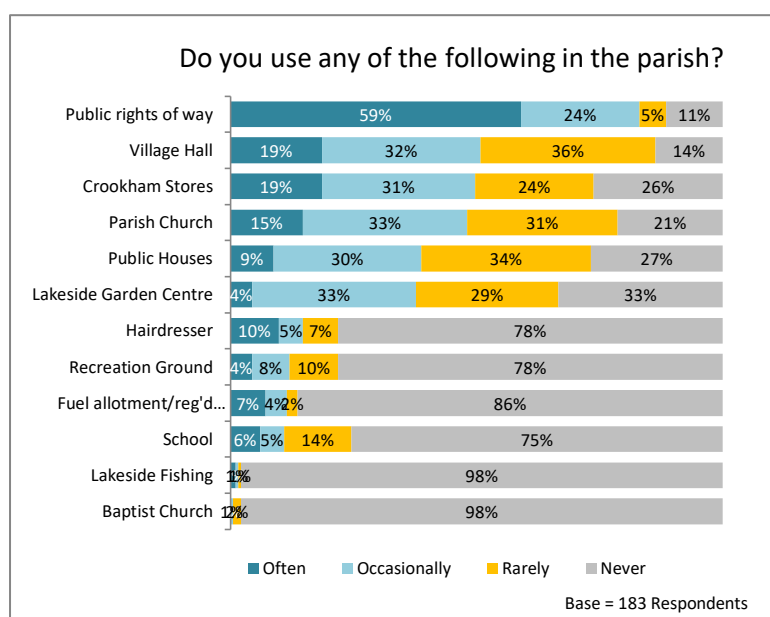
Knowledge of Neighbourhood Watch has decreased from 32% to 25% and membership of it from 36% to 9% when compared to the 2002 survey. The latter could be to do with the fact that the Neighbourhood Watch scheme only currently exists in Brimpton Common. In 2011, people from Brimpton village and Hyde End were asked if they would like to set up the scheme but there was not enough interest at that time. It seems now that there is more interest with 26% saying they

would like to know more about the scheme. We also have some willing volunteers to take on the role and distribute the information for these areas.

For those 63 respondents who answered “Yes” to the above question, 55% of responses were unsure if the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme was effective, 10% thought it was not and 35% thought it was.

Facilities and Activities

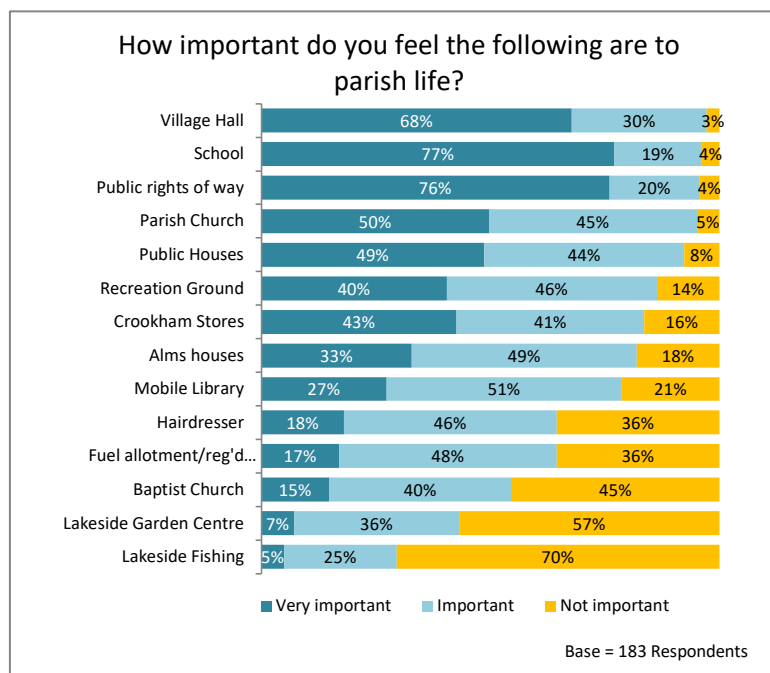
Since the last Parish Plan, the Village shop, Post Office and the old beauty salon/hairdresser have closed. However, we now have a new hairdresser, “Georgina Hill Hairdressing”, which has taken over The Old Forge Shop.



When asked which facilities are used it was public rights of way that scored the highest with 59% of respondents saying they use them “Often” and 24% “Occasionally”. This is not surprising as we do have beautiful walks in and around the parish. The next most popular facility is the Village Hall with 51% responding to using it “Often” or “Occasionally”, followed by Crookham Stores scoring 50%, which although slightly outside the parish boundary, is seen as a valuable asset. Next, the Parish Church scores 48% and the Public Houses 39%.

Although only 11% of respondents say “Often” or “Occasionally” to using the School, we know that 30% of children in the parish attend. This chart also needs to be looked at in conjunction with the next chart based on importance.

This chart is ranked on the proportion of those that responded “Very Important” or “Important” to the following below.



The top 4 are very close in terms of importance and are as follows: Village Hall (97%), School (96%), public rights of way (96%) and Parish Church (95%).

If you rank on “Very important” only, the top four remain the same but the order changes as follows: School (77%), public rights of way (76%), Village Hall (68%) and Parish Church (50%).

The Public Houses score high on importance at 49% but only score 9% on regularly used.

Recreation Ground gets scores 40% on importance but only 4% on regularly used.

Village Hall



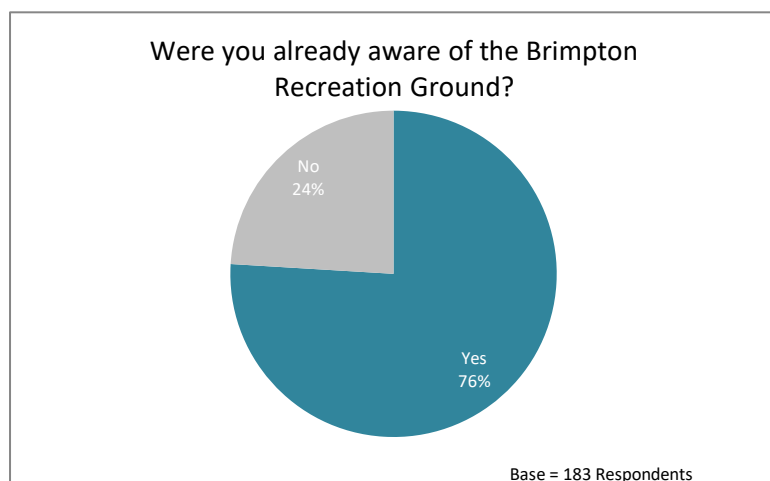
The Village Hall scored well on both use and importance and respondents were also asked if they had any further ideas for the use of this facility. 68 people responded to this.

- The most popular idea appeared to be for a pop-up cinema or film nights (10)
- Others suggested Exercise classes (6) or Badminton/Table Tennis (3), Farmers Market, Village Market, Shop or Indoor car boot sale or plant sale (5)
- Several suggested acquiring extra ground for external functions and a few mentioned BBQs or afternoon teas (4)
- “Coffee morning/afternoon/drop ins. Village store and coffee shop at certain times - could be run by locals for charity! Social evenings - who dun-nit, escape evenings!”
- More quiz nights (4)
- Holding classes such as DIY, Art, Dog training, Wreath making or Gardening (6)
- Youth clubs or meeting place for teenagers, or toddler groups (4)

- *"Any new activities are welcome in Village Hall. Just think it is too far out of the village. If more community events were held in a more central location". 2 respondents mentioned that Village Hall feels a bit far away from the village."*
- *"Hosting local community music, art and other cultural events. Annual horticultural show and competitions, open gardens etc."*
- A couple mentioned better publicising of events: *"Ensure that local residents are informed of what the wide variety of groups are - along with clear contact information should they wish to find out more. Perhaps in parish magazine?"*

Website is being updated with available information <http://www.brimptonvillagehall.com/>

Recreation Ground



Almost a quarter of residents were not aware that Brimpton has a recreation ground the size of two football pitches off Crookham Common Road on the western boundary of the parish.

52 of the respondents provided free text comments on what other activities they would like to see there.

- The most popular suggestion was a children's

playground or recreational area (12)

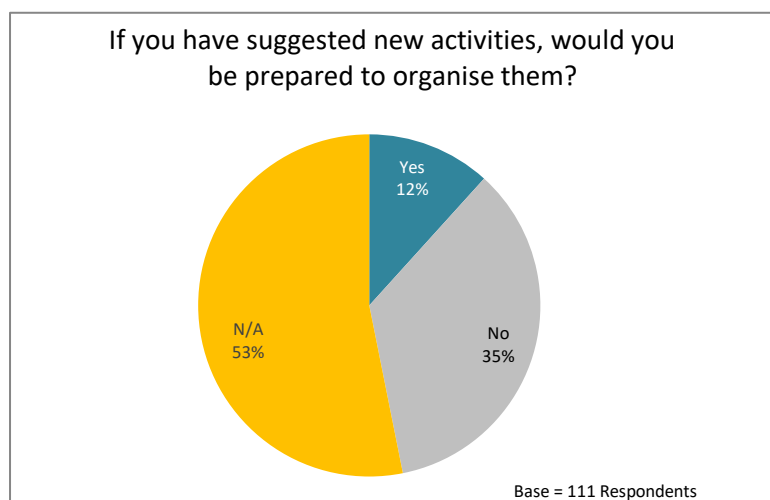
- *"Playground for children. Access via public footpaths"*

- Annual Village Fetes (9)
- Tennis courts (5), a cricket pitch (2), croquet (1) and basketball (1)
- Car boot sales (2)
- Bonfire night (2)

Other suggestions and comments were:

- *"Only quiet ones. Allotments? We definitely do not need two football pitches. For those of us living closest to the ground, it is a noise nuisance when it is being used. Since the ground is not even in the parish, only a very few people you are consulting will be affected by this."*
- *"A football team (mixed genders or two teams one for the guys and one for the ladies). As far as I'm aware we don't have a team and just Newbury FC play there."*
- *"Not sure if it is open to the public for families to bring their children for a kick about?"*
- *"There should be a new Club Room: the field should be widely advertised in the village to encourage people to use it for their own functions. After next year's Village Fete more people will be aware of its existence. The Trustees could write a short description of the history of the field, and outline what sort of activities they would allow on the field. It is a village asset and should be for the villagers. A section on the parish website would be a good place to start."*
- *"Ability to hire it for parties. It would be good to have a good pavilion there so that it could be used for more village events"*
- *"Appreciate this would require funding, but a couple of Tennis Courts or a Children's Recreational area. Make it attractive to the community. However, it's encouraging the community to use it!"*

- *"Although a very good idea unfortunately it is in the wrong location. Walking to it would be a nightmare."*
- *"Sell it"*
- *"I have not visited as I don't know if I could park, or walk dog, dog bin? Exercise equipment would encourage me to use. Childs play or sensory area. seating/ covered seating?"*



12% of the respondents said that they would be prepared to help with the organising of new activities.

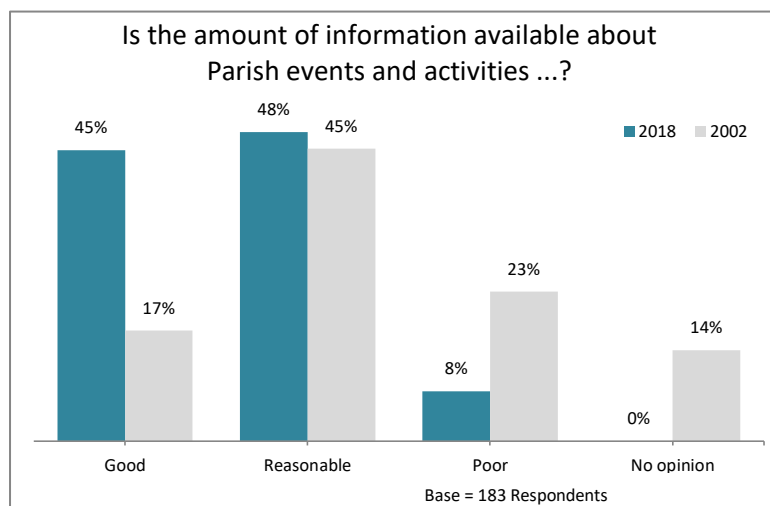
Further comments regarding facilities/activities

Respondents were then asked if they had any further comments to make regarding parish facilities or activities?

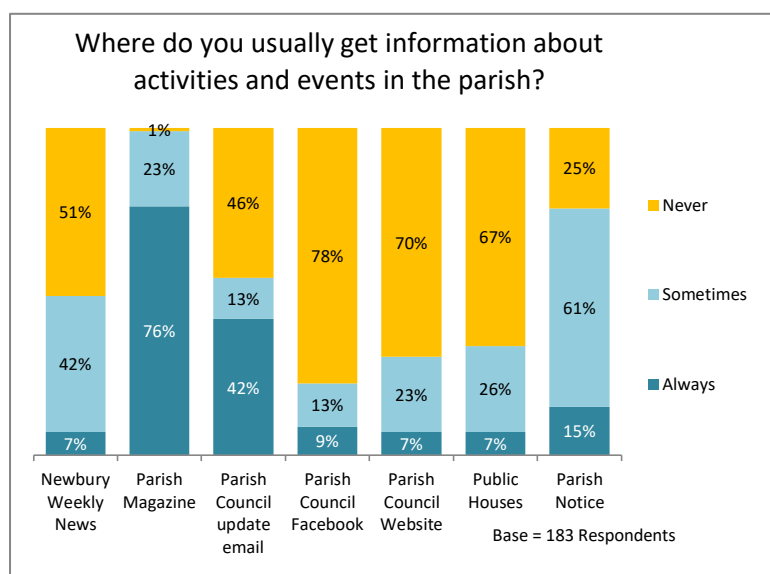
- *"The village hall is certainly a useful facility, but I think we should direct our focus to the centre of the village and work out from there. Our village is centred on the war memorial and we need to make that the heart of our community."*
- *"Lack of parking is big factor in trying to expand activities. Spread-out nature of parish another factor in trying to engender a community spirit."*
- *"The Village Hall website doesn't give any information as to what groups use it & when"*
- *"A pop up tea shop, held in the village hall."*
- *"Recreation ground would be better suited if better location i.e. attached to VH"*
- *"I wonder how many Brimpton parishioners use the recreation ground. My impression is that most users are from outside the parish."*
- *"It would be nice if we had a small shop in the centre of the village, selling bread, milk papers etc."*
- *"A general shop would be very useful and help with social life".*
- *"Need a good local shop – similar to Yattendon"*
- *"I received an email about helping with litter picking earlier this year. Quite a few turned up for a few hours to assist so organisers of events should do the same when help is required. PS everyone enjoyed the litter picking but after one week the litter was back, we need signage erected regarding not dropping litter out of cars THEN do another litter pick?"*
- *"I don't know if there is one already, but perhaps a Brimpton Village Activities Committee would be handy to host and organise community events"*
- *"It is very difficult to cycle around the village"*
- *"More accessible footpaths to village centre needed."*

It is encouraging to see that the limited facilities available are widely used by a very good percentage of the parish, with the exception of the Public Houses and the recreation ground.

Information and Communication



It is encouraging to see that 45% of parishioners now feel that the amount of information about parish events and activities is “Good” with a further 48% seeing it as “Reasonable”. This is a big shift from 2002 where only 17% saw the amount of information available was “Good”. Only 8% now see it as “Poor” compared to 23% in 2002.



The big improvement in communication is clearly down to the parish magazine where 98% of parishioners say they always or sometimes get their information from this. The next most useful source is the new Parish Council update email where 55% read it (this will almost certainly improve as more residents are added to the email circulation list). The next most useful sources are notice boards and the Newbury Weekly News. In the age of broadband and internet it is remarkable that the website is never accessed by 70% of

respondents, and this needs further investigation, as it should by now be a major channel for the publication of statutory information.

Other sources of information given were “Word of Mouth” (9) and “Crookham Stores” (2) .

The, now free, parish magazine is read by 97% whereas the former paid copy was read by only 68% (according to the 2002 survey). There was a lot of praise for the Chairman of the Parish Council, John Hicks’s new parish update email – *“a fantastic idea, a real account of what is happening in the community!”*

There were quite a few comments about making more use of social media, such as Facebook or having a WhatsApp group for updates.

One person mentioned it would be good to have a welcome pack for new residents and another mentioned it would be useful to have the name of the Parish Councillors, their emails and telephone numbers circulated periodically (the latter is available on the Parish

Council website). A few mentioned that it would be useful to have more information about village hall events. Another mentioned making more of the school newsletter.

Not surprisingly, the majority of comments, a mixture of favourable and otherwise, were reserved for the most widely read "Parish Magazine". Here is a brief review of comments/suggestions on all communications:

- *"Excellent parish magazine and excellent parish email from Chair of Parish Council"*
- *"Communication has improved especially now we have the Parish Council update email. The parish magazine is a valuable source of information and I would not want to be without it. I have also found and used many local tradespeople through the adverts in the magazine"*
- *"Recently joined the Brimpton Facebook group as that seems a good way to communicate to the residents - but need to promote joining it via traditional methods"*
- *"There is no lack of information, but perhaps we could make our communications more fun. We need more of a sense of what it is to be a Brimptonian (is that a word?) - we are our community, and communications should reflect this and pull us all together, not just share info. Branding is an overused term, but it would be good if all communications (online or in print) shared a common design theme or logo."*



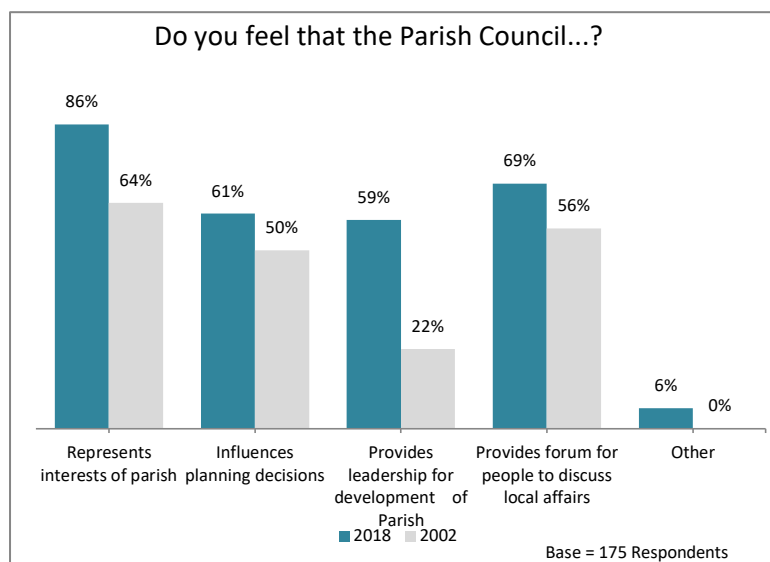
Other suggestions for the parish magazine were:

- Make more prominent the links to Facebook and Parish Council website
- Have a link to the parish magazine from the Parish Council website
- Make it more widely available via local shops and businesses
- Have fewer adverts and more news.
- *"It should be called Church News"* and *"after I get past the religious [stuff] I enjoy reading about the WI and Wasing"*
- *"Can we have a letters page?"*. (Apparently there used to be one some time ago)

Local Government

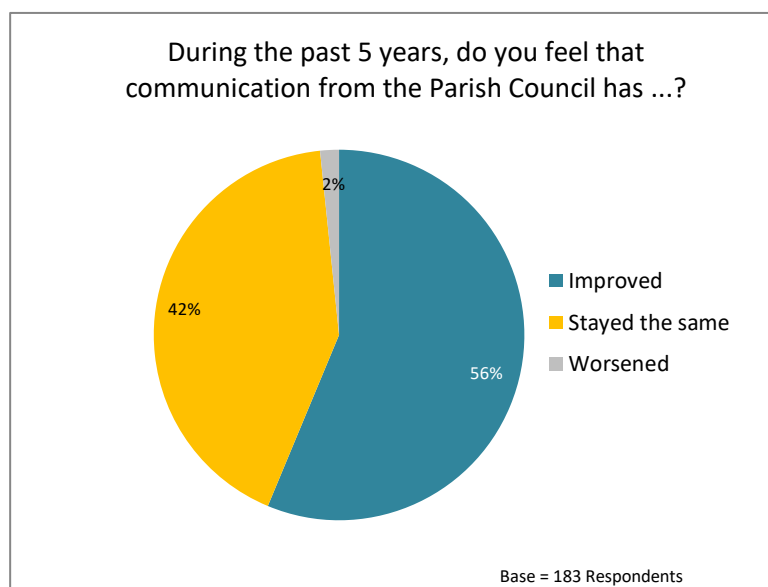
95% of respondents said they were aware they could attend Parish Council Meetings. This compares to 88% in 2002. Despite a greater awareness, only 35% of respondents said they had attended a Parish Council meeting in the past year.

Parish Council meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall and are open to all to attend and listen to what is being discussed. The Agenda for each meeting is put up in advance on each of the 5 parish noticeboards. The meetings are also communicated via John Hicks' Parish Council update email to residents who have signed up for this.



It is good to note that the residents feel strongly that the Parish Council does represent the interests of the parish, with 86% stating this, compared to 64% in 2002. The Parish Council also fared better for the other points, compared to 2002, especially "Provides leadership for development of Parish" 59% now compared to only 22% in 2002. These are clearly positive results for the Parish Council's work for the parish. The 6% who ticked other made the following comments:

- "Don't know – too new to the parish"
- "There are not enough young people on parish who are more future-orientated"
- "The Parish Council influences planning only in a very small way"
- "Need more use of local notice boards"
- A few stated that members of the Parish Council should be mindful that they are in that position to represent the views of the residents, not their own.
- "I think those on the Parish Council do a great job"

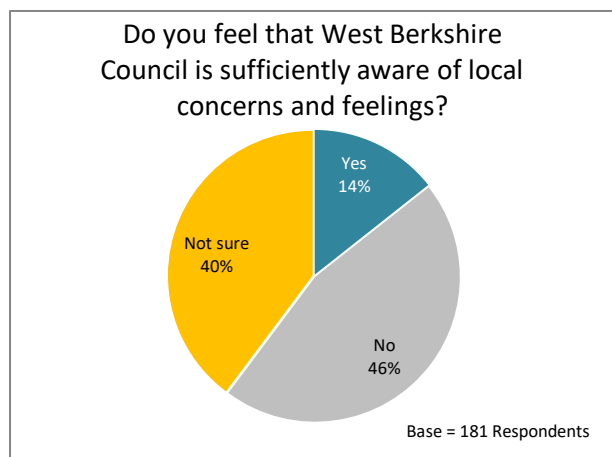


It is encouraging to see that 56% of respondents feel that communication from the Parish Council has improved over the past 5 years and a further 42% felt it had stayed the same. Only 2% felt it had worsened.

With the introduction of the Parish Council email going out from John Hicks (Chairman of the Parish Council) with current news and updates, as

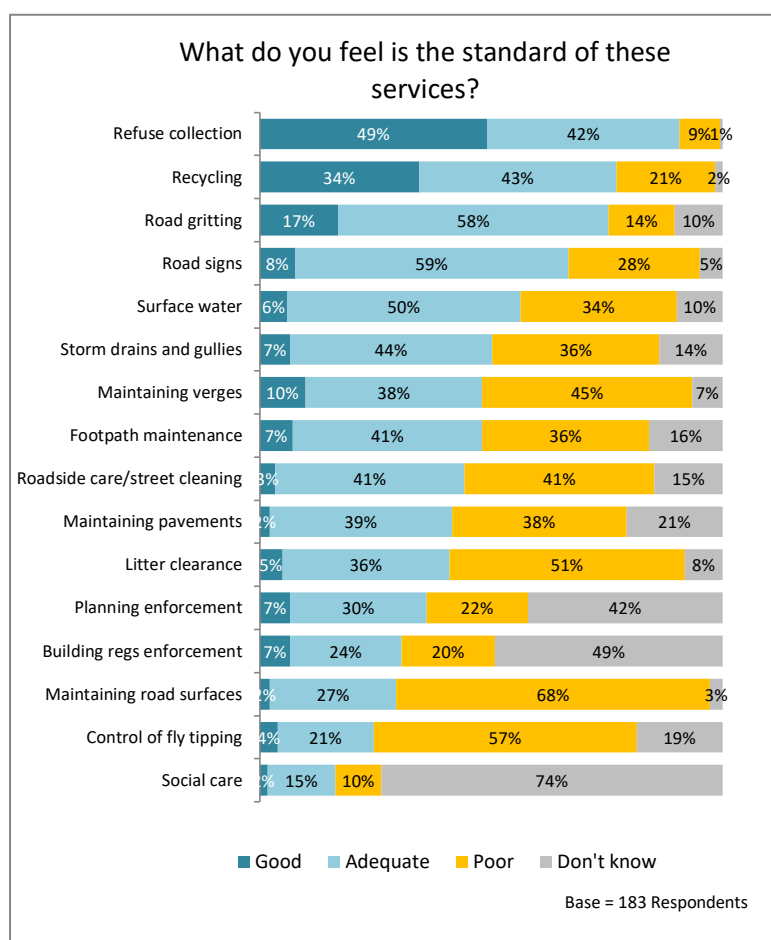
well as the Parish Council website www.brimptonparish.org.uk and Facebook page www.facebook.com/pg/brimptonpc/, many more people are able to keep up-to-date with local information, alerts and Parish Council news⁸.

The question in 2002 was not asked in the same way but at that time 56% did say they would like to know more about activities of the Parish Council.



Only 55% of respondents said they did know who their West Berkshire District Councillor was. It is also worryingly only 14% felt that WBC is aware of local concerns and feelings. Better communication between the Residents, District Councillor and West Berkshire Council (WBC) may help raise awareness of the local issues and lead to the parishioners feeling that their concerns are being heard and dealt with.

Again, the question was phrased slightly differently in 2002, but this lack of awareness was still a concern then, with 63% saying that they did not feel their District Councillor was aware of local concerns and feelings.



The chart is ranked on those that scored best on "Good" and "Adequate". As can be seen, only the Refuse collection and Recycling get a reasonable percentage in the "Good" category. However, the Refuse collection scored better in 2002 with 62% stating good. Recycling has slightly improved with 34% stating good as opposed to 30% in 2002. Still many of the free text comments below indicate that people are keen to be able to recycle more.

Litter clearance, maintaining verges, surface water and maintaining road surfaces are consistently poor in both surveys. However, maintaining road services has declined further with 68% of respondents stating it is "Poor" compared to 57% in 2002.

⁸ if you would like to be included in John Hicks' monthly Parish Council update email, send your email address to chair@brimptonparish.org.uk to request this.

Fly-tipping is also still a problem in our parish⁹.

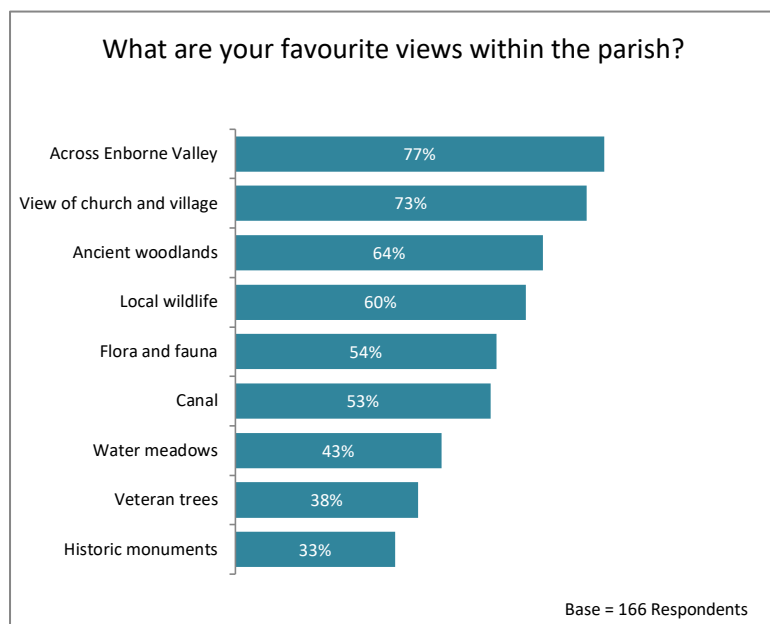
44 respondents answered the free text question “Do you have any further comments to make regarding local government?”. Below is a summary of the comments:

- A few felt they get little for their council tax, apart from rubbish collection. With comments such as bus service is poor, libraries run by volunteers, no pavements or street lighting, potholes are horrendous, verges overgrown and litter everywhere so where is the money going..
- Improve/increase care homes (via increase in council tax)
- Failure to act in the interest of local people
- 6 respondents commented on the control of fly-tipping being a problem and suggested there should be more enforced penalties for throwing rubbish and fly-tipping. There were suggestions relating to public service advertising and education about this issue. A couple commented WBC have no responsibility to clear fly-tipped waste from land owned privately.
- Someone suggested speed cameras at the edges of the village
- More accessible footpaths needed. Roads are too narrow for existing speed limits
- A couple commented on reduced budgets and that maintaining services is a challenge
- *“Parish and town councils have no teeth and all the finance and expenditure lies with WBC”*
- A few mentioned they would like to be able to recycle more, such as all plastics and tetrapaks (like in Devon).
- A few mentioned about the fact they had to pay for the collection of green bin waste. Comments such as *“stealth tax”, make “fly-tipping worse”*. Also another said it was not environmentally friendly – more cars having to drive to the tip.
- *“Clear Hyde End drains and sweep Hyde End Lane so drains do not block”*
- *“Brimpton Road being a rat run not only suffers from people speeding but has an enormous amount of litter dropped - can we get signs erected please warning motorists not to throw rubbish from cars and get it cleared up”*
- *“The road surfaces are poor and, if no complaints were made, they would probably deteriorate further”*.



⁹ Report fly-tipping, potholes, overgrown vegetation etc via the WBC website at www.westberks.gov.uk, send an email to customerservices@westberks.gov.uk or 01635 551111.

Landscape & the Environment



The rural parish of Brimpton is fortunate in having such a wide variety of terrain ranging from hill plateau to river valley, comprising the River Enborne, the River Kennet, the Kennet & Avon Canal and numerous lakes, all of which are within, pass through or border the parish. Favourite views include those across the Enborne valley (77%) and the church and village (73%), whilst ancient woodland, water meadows, local wildlife, flora and fauna, veteran trees, historic monuments and the canal are all popular.

As can be seen from the above chart, the responses endorse those given in the 2002 Parish Plan when it comes to our appreciation of open spaces, local views, local wildlife and rural landscape. There is no doubt from the survey that our wonderfully varied countryside is highly valued and needs to be protected.



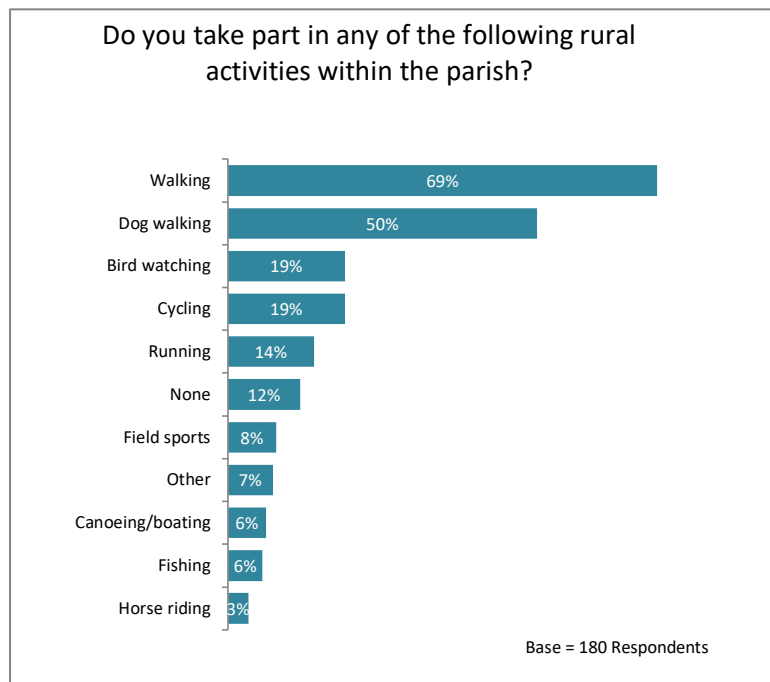
Free text comments include:

- *"I love the views from the Enborne River up to the church and would want to ensure that these are always preserved"*
- *"We are lucky to live in such a beautiful area"*
- *"I think our parish has a beautiful landscape which we are privileged to be surrounded in. I would love to preserve it's beauty for future generations"*
- *"Brimpton has a precious rural environment which, once lost, cannot be restored".*

Rights of way

As mentioned in the Facilities and Activities section of this report, 96% of respondents say public rights of way are either "Very important" or "Important" to parish life and clearly they are as 95% of residents say they use them. The parish is criss-crossed by numerous rights of way, footpaths, bridleways and in part by unofficial cycle ways. These do not always interconnect with the wider network without venturing on to our perilous roads. For example, Manor Lane between Stone House and Brimpton Road is classified as a bridleway but is only accessible from two dangerous roads at either end and in the case of the Brimpton Road end offers no connection to any other bridleway. Consequently it would seem appropriate to review the current network and see how it can be improved.

Local activities

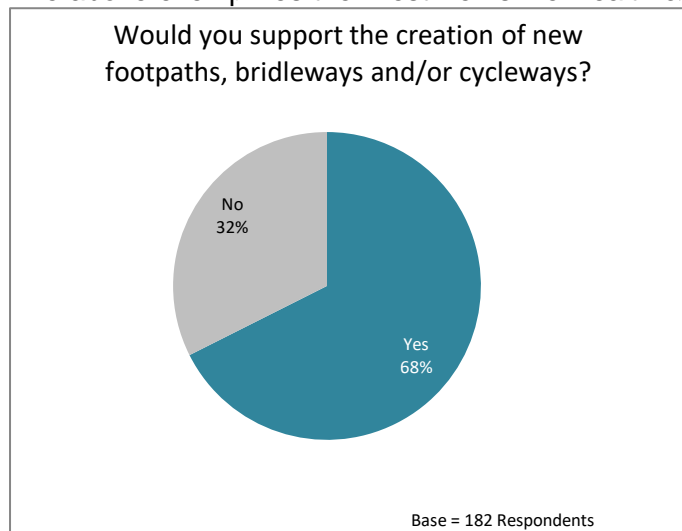


Whilst we may be demographically an older community when compared to 2002, we are certainly an active one with 95% using the footpaths and bridleways: daily (32%), weekly (31%) or occasionally (31%). It would be interesting to see whether this is reflected in the comparative local health statistics for the area.

In addition to walking and dog walking which are by far the most popular activities, others enjoy bird watching (19%), cycling (19%) and running (14%) as well as other activities such as canoeing / boating, fishing and horse riding deserving a mention.

Significantly the above statistics do not include the many visitors (ramblers, cyclists, fishermen and boaters) to Brimpton, who enjoy our footpaths and peaceful rural location.

The above exemplifies the West Berkshire Health & Wellbeing Board Vision 2036 statement:



“West Berkshire's diverse environment and historical and cultural offerings are amongst its strongest assets. They are the reasons why West Berkshire is a popular place to live and have an important role in promoting the health and wellbeing of residents. They are valued and are protected so that they may be available for generations to come”.

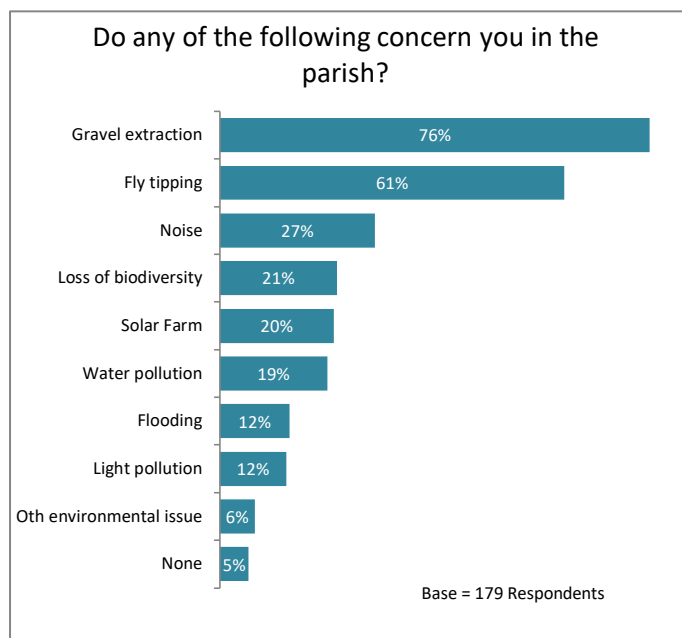
Of the 182 respondents, 68% said they would like to see the network of footpaths, bridleways and cycleways expanded. Of the 82 free text

responses, 19 suggestions are to link Brimpton Common with the village via a footpath/bridleway and or cycle path, which as one person points out would necessitate widening Able Bridge for safety reasons.

A number of suggestions (16) were made for a mud-free footpath from the church to Crookham Stores and The Travellers Friend, via the Village Hall and the top of Hyde End Lane. The last section however falls outside the parish boundary.

Other ideas include a path/cycleway to the canal towpath (7) providing a link to both Thatcham and Midgham stations and on to the A4. A pathway to Aldermaston, a cycle path through the village, a path from Enborne Way through to the church also received mention. Clearly this is a topic which needs to be investigated further.

Concerns

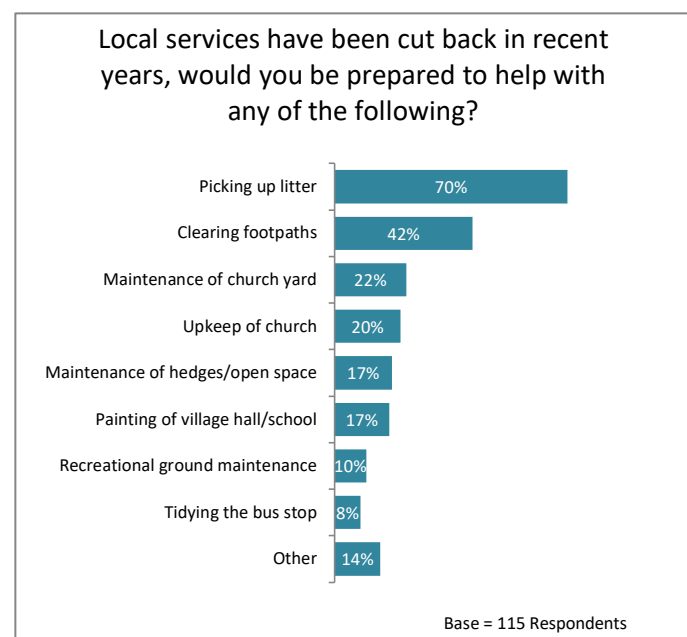


Many of us have concerns about what happens in the parish and these will most probably depend on where we live. Nevertheless there are concerns which affect us all.

As can be seen from the above chart, gravel extraction attracted a powerful response (76%). This is not surprising as the parish has endured ten years so far, of gravel extraction at Kennetholme Farm. The residents of Brimpton are against further quarries being established and the consequential effects on the community and the environment. Of the 74 free text responses, 45 related to gravel extraction with such comments as:

- *“This is area of outstanding natural beauty and is a rare retreat for walkers and horse riders to enjoy. Recent proposals for gravel extraction/solar farms put the future of this in grave danger. I hope I never see it destroyed”.*
- *“The proposed gravel extraction will be disastrous for the village”.*
- *“The proposed two sites in the village for gravel extraction is the single largest issue to affect the safety, health and well-being of the parish”*

Fly-tipping is another major concern (61%), followed by noise (27%), loss of biodiversity (21%), the solar farm (20%), water pollution (19%), flooding and light pollution but to a lesser extent. Much of the concern about noise relates to traffic, but also to dogs barking and motorbike scrambling.



It is gratifying to see that 70% of the 115 residents who responded would be prepared to pick up litter and others willing to be involved in clearing footpaths, maintenance of the churchyard, upkeep of the church, maintenance of hedgerows, painting village facilities, maintenance of the recreation ground and tidying the bus stop. This volunteer 'workforce' will need to be encouraged and organised as it was with the last litter picking day.

The final question as to whether there was interest in acquiring an allotment if they were available in the parish attracted 19 respondents who would like to do so.

Separate School and Youth Surveys

School Survey

40 out of the 54 children attending the school responded to the separate School survey in November 2018.

60% of those who responded were male and 40% female, evenly spread across the ages 4 to 11. A quarter of the pupils who responded, live in Brimpton.



The children were asked what they like most about Brimpton, 32 responded. This was a free text question but the responses provided some clear results. 34% of pupils mentioned the school, 22% the Church, 16% the small friendly village, a further 16% mentioned the wildlife and outside, including the playing field. 9% of the pupils specifically mentioned Mrs Brims' house. One pupil with a sense of humour said "Home time!"

They were then asked what they liked least about Brimpton, only 22 pupils answered this question but almost half (46%) spontaneously mentioned the dangerous road outside the school. Two of the pupils specifically mentioned the lack of a lollipop lady and another pupil mentioned the rubbish outside the school.

Out of the 40 pupils who responded, 90% travel to school by car and the other 10% walk to school.



35% of the pupils "Always" (7.5%) or "Sometimes" (27.5%) use the Brimpton School morning club. 8% "Always" or "Sometimes" use the Hurst afternoon club. 61% (53% "Always" and 8% "Sometimes") use the extra-curricular clubs, such as multi-skills, dance, singing, football, karate, climbing etc.

32 of the pupils responded to the question "What do you do at school?". They ticked the various predefined options which gave the following results: 72% go to Church, 66% sing, 59% swim, 50% cook, 44% play a musical instrument, play tag rugby and/or art, 34% do climbing and 22% do drama. When asked "What do you do in your free time?", 53% ticked bowling, 50% ticked cinema, 47% play computer games, 44% go swimming, approximately 40% do art, cycling, cooking and 34% ticked crafts. When asked "What would you like to do?"; 30% ticked water sports, canoeing/kayaking, 25% cooking, 22% selected trampolining, climbing and horseriding.

Nothing really specific came out of the question: "Is there anything that you would like to suggest that might make your life in Brimpton or at the school easier or more interesting? A couple out of the 22 who responded said "Bowling", two mentioned a swimming pool at the

school, one said drama, learn about the history, more athlete visits to school, a “Unicorn!” and “a McDonalds!”

Youth Survey

Only 10 youths responded to the separate youth survey designed for 11 to 17 year olds. It was therefore difficult to quantify results. However the results have been summarised to provide some qualitative information. 7 of the youths were male and 3 were female, 8 were at school, one at college, one home educated. When asked what they do, 6 said play a musical instrument, 4 said art, cooking, cycling, 3 said cadet forces, canoeing/kayaking, cinema, computer games, cricket, horse riding, photography, rugby, swimming, and table tennis. When they were asked what they would like to do 3 said archery, climbing and water sports and 2 said table tennis, badminton, cycling, canoeing/kayaking, cinema and trampolining.

When asked how they get to school/college, 5 said by car, 2 by bus and 2 by train (some double counting here as one takes more than one form of transport). For transport to leisure activities, 9 said they went by car and 1 said they walked.

Six out of the ten 11 to 17 year olds who responded said they were aware of the Recreation Ground. Only 4 gave suggestions for its use which ranged from BMX, trampolining, clubs for younger children, cricket club, organised non-competitive sports.

Five out of the ten responded to the question about the village hall. 3 said they have attended parties and social events there, 2 said they would like to attend social events and 2 said they would like to attend exercise classes there.



When asked what they like most about living in Brimpton, 4 mentioned the peace and quiet and 7 mentioned the countryside.

When asked what they like least about living in Brimpton, they mentioned the difficulty in getting public transport to towns like Newbury and Reading, “not a lot to do in the village”, “no good park to meet with friends”, the

speed and noise of traffic, “rubbish on the roadsides”, “need to be driven around in order to see friends” and “lack of sense of community”.

Finally they were asked “Is there anything that you would like to suggest that might make your life in Brimpton more interesting?”; 7 responded and suggestions included:

- *“New bus routes/increased bus routes”*
- *“BMX track?, trampoline park?, climbing wall?, basketball court?”*
- *“Better social areas”*
- *“Being able to cycle more safely around the roads*
- *“More, maintained cycle paths (e.g. to Greenham Common or Thatcham station) without having to go on roads”*
- *“I would like more non-competitive organised sports for young people. I think a social media presence would work to engage young people in the community”*

Key Conclusions and Recommendations

Household and Personal Summary

Conclusions

- Brimpton parish has an ageing and stable population
- 41% have lived in Brimpton more than 26 years
- 16% of households have 4+ vehicles compared to 10% in 2002, 5% have 0 vehicles.
- Electricity is by far the most common way to cook and oil the most common fuel for heating and hot water. Very little alternative fuels being used such as solar, biomass or ground source/air source
- Two thirds of residents would like to be connected to mains gas. (Unfortunately this is not feasible. It has been investigated before by the Parish Council for the parish.)
- Residents who have oil would also be interested in bulk buying (61%)
- Mobile and Broadband are a big issue, especially in areas B and C
- Within the working population, far more people work at home now (29% at home plus an additional 4% in parish vs 13% plus 7% in 2002). Responses from 12 distinct businesses (21% of employed respondents run a business in the parish)
- Much higher percentage now retired 40% now vs 22% in 2002
- 90% feel fully or partially part of the community (60% fully, 30% partially)

Recommendations

- Look at bulk buying oil schemes and communicate to parishioners
- Investigate various options to improve mobile signal in parish
- Ensure Gigaclear project is successfully completed.
- Investigate various options for making parishioners feel more part of the community (especially in Areas B and C). Some suggestions included: Local shop, coffee shop or meeting place, better access on foot or bike to different areas of the parish, more community events and update village pub

Church Summary

Conclusions

- 95% of parishioners feel the church is very important but only 15% claim to use it often and a further 33% occasionally
- Seen as a historic building primarily, followed by place of worship and focal point
- Car parking an issue and hampers use of church

Recommendations

- More social events in Church such as coffee mornings for all ages, singing groups, concerts to be publicised more widely via social media. This is currently being investigated by the PCC
- Investigate land for parking to encourage wider use of Church and provide additional parking for Village Hall and School.

Education Summary

Conclusions

- 96% of respondents say school is either “Very important” or “Important” to the parish, and 67% say it has a “Very good” or “Good” reputation
- Children come from all over, evenly spread between Baughurst, Tadley, Thatcham and Newbury, Midgham, Aldermaston and Burghfield Common. A third of children are from the village.
- Children do or did not attend because of size of school primarily, followed by choosing to go to independent school or quality of teaching (many said the latter referred to a while ago) or lack of after school clubs at the time
- Most children go/went onto Kennet (39%) or Independent (35%).
- Transport to Brimpton from secondary schools mentioned as an issue

Recommendations

- Continue to raise awareness of how good school is locally
- Increase school's involvement with the community and vice versa. This is already an action on the School's Development Plan. Also events such as the Village Fete, a joint venture between the Parish Council and School, will help.
- Investigate transport options to and from secondary schools?
- School to investigate feasibility of offering more after School clubs

Local Transport Summary

Conclusions

- Only 11% of respondents use the bus, and of those 59% use it occasionally, 19% weekly, and 22% use it daily. However many made more comments about the bus in the free text, saying they would use it if there were better routes and more frequent buses
- Most would like to see improvements to timetabling of buses (83% of respondents said this) and routes (44%)
- 83% of respondents use the train and most common stations used are Thatcham (36%), followed by Basingstoke (16%) and Midgham (15%).
- Biggest perceived threats to our safety as a road user are speeding, Brimpton being used as a rat run and heavy good vehicles. No pavements and overgrown hedges and verges were also seen as a threat.
- 76% felt there were major danger spots on the roads in the parish. And many free text comments were given on this. Speeding on road outside School and pulling out of Enborne Way mentioned a number of times. Also various junctions in village mentioned.
- Respondents felt the most effective way of creating safer roads was through greater speed enforcement or speed indicating devices.
- 31% felt parking could be improved versus 19% who said no, the remainder were unsure.
- Most people go to Tadley (62%), Newbury (59%) or Thatcham (55%) for their household shopping. 26% of respondents now do it online.

Recommendations

- Explore other transport options for parish. Bus share with Wasing/Bucklebury? Tokens instead of bus pass?
- Ask WBC to convene a meeting with all transport providers
- Carry out more in depth survey of speeding in parish. Discuss with WBC – request more frequent use of speed indicator devices (SID) and more permanent speed indicators.

- Keep hedges, verges, ditches and road surface in good order/state of repair
- Improve safety for pedestrians and cyclists by creating a better network of cycle paths and footpaths. (This might encourage more local workers or train commuters to use their bikes rather than drive).
- Review what can be done to make junctions safer and discuss with WBC
- Investigate installation of mirrors on private land to make exiting some junctions easier

Building and Housing Development Summary

Conclusions

- Two thirds of respondents feel that the number of houses in parish should increase in next 10 years
- Most said by less than 10 houses
- A number mentioned that this should be via process of infilling
- Majority want affordable housing, private dwellings, change to existing, or downsizing.
- 38% said settlement boundary should be reviewed vs 33% not (others unsure)
- 21% of people say planning rules are not properly enforced

Recommendations

- Build a few more smaller houses that are at a affordable price point for the younger generation and first time buyers wishing to purchase in Brimpton, and for the older generation wishing to downsize but stay in Brimpton. This will encourage new families to move into village (which in turn will support school) and will help retirement people, wishing to downsize, stay in Brimpton.
- Review settlement boundary
- Discuss with WBC to pay more attention to enforcing planning conditions

Health and Social Services Summary

Conclusions

- Majority of people attend GP surgeries in Hampshire, 57% of respondents registered with Holmwood or Morlands. Likewise most people attend North Hampshire Hospital (45%). 29% have used West Berkshire Community Hospital in past 5 years showing it is a useful addition since opening in 2004.
- Most people do not have problems attending services but for those that do, transport was main reason given. Others mentioned problems making appointments with GP.
- Quite a few people said they would like to benefit from “Good Neighbour” Scheme especially with regard to transport (13) and even higher number said they would like to help with transport (21) and with shopping (29)

Recommendations

- Explore “Good Neighbour” Scheme further as there seem to be quite a large pool of willing helpers. Also communicate informal schemes that are already in place.

Crime Prevention Summary

Conclusions

- Half of respondents have been affected by crime or antisocial behaviour in the last 5 years, and the biggest culprits are noise, fly-tipping/litter and burglary/theft.
- A quarter of people are not aware of any neighbourhood watch scheme and would like to know more.

Recommendations

- Be more vigilant towards fly-tipping and litter dropping. Report fly-tipping to local authorities and give as much information as possible including the offenders' number plates etc
- Refuse collection – duty of care not to litter. Discuss with WBC about further training of refuse/recycling collectors.
- Campaign to make residents more mindful of noise
- Continue with the community litter picking events
- Advertise MOD Police Project Servator around village and on Parish Council website/Facebook page
- Pursue neighbourhood watch in Brimpton Village and Hyde End Lane

Facilities and Activities Summary

Conclusions

- By far the most important facilities/activities to parish life are the Village Hall, School, public rights of way and the Church. Followed by public houses, recreation ground and Crookham Stores
- However out of top four only public rights of way are the most commonly used

Recommendations

- Investigate feasibility of ideas for village hall (perhaps hold meeting with residents to discuss further)
- Review suggestions for recreation ground and explore options with trustees to see if any can be implemented for the benefit of the parish.
- Better advertising of events held at Village Hall

Information and Communication Summary

Conclusions

- 93% see information as good or reasonable now, compared to 62% in 2002
- Most common source of information is the parish magazine, read by 97% of parishioners, and the Parish Council update email

Recommendations

- Sign up for Parish Council update email on Parish Council website or Facebook page
- Make links to digital copy of parish magazine easier to find – link from Parish Council website page
- Try and improve awareness of Parish Council website and Facebook page, also include hyperlinks to these from parish magazine digital version.

Local Government Summary

Conclusions

- 95% respondents are aware they can attend Parish Council meetings on 1st Tuesday of month but only 35% have done so in the past year
- Respondents feel the Parish Council represents the interests of the parish, influences planning decisions and provides a forum for people to discuss local affairs
- Communication has improved – 56% of people say so.
- 45% of respondents do not know who the District Councillor is
- Only 14% feel WBC is sufficiently aware of local concerns and feelings
- Respondents feel the standard of services such as litter clearance, maintaining road verges and control of fly-tipping are poor
- Respondents feel the standard of “maintaining road services” has declined further – 68% now rate it as poor, compared to 57% in 2002.

Recommendations

- Provide short biographies of Parish Councillors and District Councillor on the Brimpton Parish Council website
- Encourage closer working relationship with District Councillor
- Discuss with WBC about the recycling of different types of plastic, tetrapaks etc, like in other counties such as Devon
- Improve road surfaces and verges
- Further training of refuse collection people to prevent unnecessary litter when they collect rubbish.

Landscape and Environment Summary

Conclusions

- Residents favourite views are across Enborne Valley, Church, Ancient Woodlands
- Public rights of way very important (96% say they are “Very important” or “Important”) and 95% of respondents use them
- They are used primarily for walking and dog walking
- 68% of respondents support the creation of new public rights of way. Suggestions include:
 - Paths to join up Brimpton Common with the village
 - Mud free footpath from Church to Crookham Stores
 - Cycle paths to stations and A4
- Gravel extraction and fly-tipping are by far the biggest concerns for the parish
- People said they would help with litter picking and clearing footpaths

Recommendations

- Organise a local workforce, perhaps through the parish magazine or sign up to it via Parish Council website. (AWE have offered 10 to 18 people to help with a one-off project, such as a conservation project)
- Volunteers to help with maintenance of churchyard
- Review public rights of way in the parish and look to expand network via discussions with local major landowners (as mentioned in local transport summary section)
- Publicise more widely the existing Mount Charity Permits which give access to “Permit Routes”, and provide an extension to the existing footpath network
- Publish footpaths in parish on Parish Council website
- Continue to oppose gravel extraction plan

