

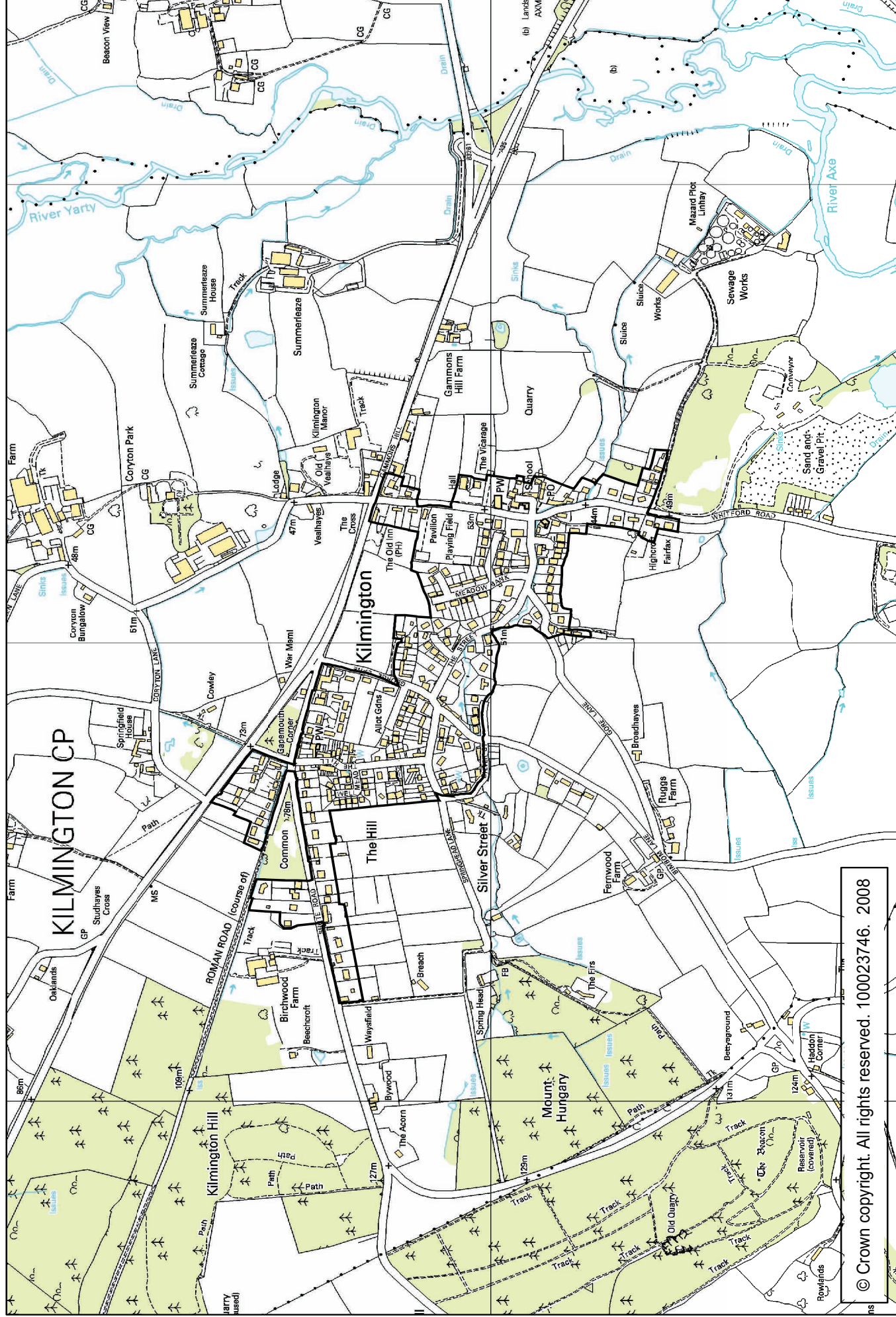
KILMINGTON



Parish Plan



Kilmington, Showing Local Plan Built Up Area Boundary





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Community Council of Devon
Kilmington Parish Council
The Blackdown Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Grateful thanks are extended to over 60 people who helped in a variety of ways to enable the questionnaire and Parish Plan to be produced. Without all these willing helpers giving freely of their time and energy this project would not have been possible.

Thanks also go to all Kilmington residents (90% of the population) who took time and trouble to complete and return the questionnaire. Without this co-operation the undertaking of the project would have been pointless and it would not have been possible to produce, on behalf of Kilmington residents, a true picture of their wishes, needs and ideas for the future.



Introduction

In order to establish how the people of Kilmington would like to see the parish develop a questionnaire was circulated to all households. Following the distribution and collection of the questionnaire to gather the information to prepare the Kilmington Parish Plan, 400 dwellings were identified in Kilmington with an estimated resident population of 800. Over 90% of the questionnaires were returned - a very high response rate. Parishioners overwhelmingly think that Kilmington is a friendly, peaceful, rural, community orientated village. Kilmington residents also care about their village; the questionnaire demonstrates a desire by residents for a common sense approach to maintaining the village environment whilst responding to the needs of a rapidly changing world.

The main message coming from the returned questionnaire is that residents wish to preserve the rural character of the parish but not so that it becomes locked in a time warp. This entails the following propositions:

- The village should not be allowed to grow too large through over development and priority should be given to affordable and sheltered housing
- Where new development is allowed, there should be much better control over planning consent, ensuring that any new building is sympathetic to its neighbours
- Some services, especially those for the young, need to be expanded
- Traffic problems need to be addressed, especially the speed limit on the A35 and heavy vehicles in the village
- Efforts must be made to preserve the Post Office and village store
- Greater use of public transport should be encouraged
- Ensure that those features that are most admired and characterise the village are maintained.

The statistics collected are summarised in this report and will be used by various agencies, including the Parish and District Councils, to guide future decisions about the parish. This plan is comprised of a number of sections, each relevant to an important but different aspect of the parish. Each section provides context, a summary of the survey results and a number of key recommendations based on the survey results. The report lists actions which will be required to implement some of the findings. The Parish Council is responsible for many of these and will report regularly on their progress. Additionally, they will update the Parish Plan on a biennial basis.



Village Profile



Kilmington is situated on the western side of the Axe Valley, some two miles from the market town of Axminster. The northern part of the parish lies within the Blackdown Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and most of the rest within the East Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

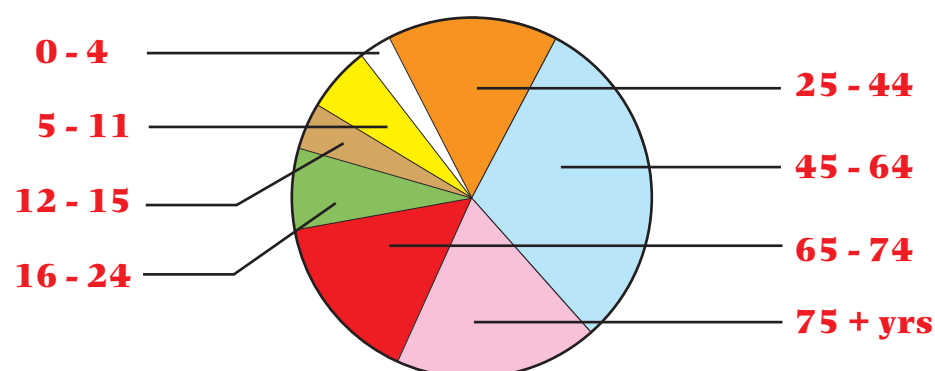
Kilmington is a village with a strong sense of community, witnessed by the many thriving groups and activities taking place. We have been award winners in recent years in competitions such as the Best Kept Village competition and the Calor Gas Village of the Year. In 2007 the judges opened their report with this remark;

"First impressions of Kilmington were of an active community with a strong sense of 'pride of place'. It is fortunate in having a focal point of the village hall and car park, church and playing field, identified with the attractive village sign surrounded by flowers."

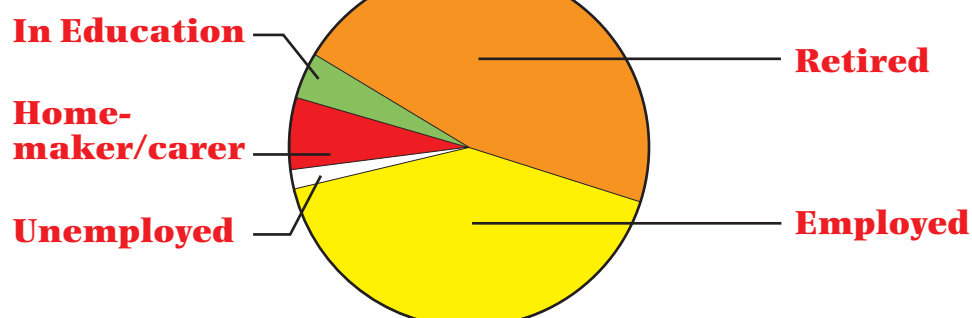


The village website www.kilmingtonvillage.com gives a good flavour of contemporary village life.

Age Profile



Occupation Profile





History of Kilmington Village

The earliest written record of Kilmington village is in the Domesday Book, as the Manor of Chinemetona, part of the Hundred of Axminster. The village dates from about A.D. 925.

Coryton Park was the site of the first Manor House, from where the Lord of the Manor dispensed justice. Kate's Well in Shute Road was at some point in ancient history a holy well, dedicated to the patron saint St. Katherine. Its waters were supposed to have healing properties for eye ailments.



The parish church of St. Giles was first mentioned in 1266, when Sir Nicholas de Bonvill gave a house "to the paryshe of Kilmington to sell ale upon to the maytenance of the chapel". In the sixteenth century Kilmington consisted of a manor, 2 houses, 41 places, and 8 cottages. The present church dates from 1861/62, when it was rebuilt on the site of the previous one.

In the turbulent seventeenth century, the Baptist congregation was founded, and because of persecution, removed to Loughwood on the boundary with Dalwood parish, where the old meeting house still stands. There is evidence that some of the Baptist congregation took part in the Duke of Monmouth's rebellion in 1685.



In the 18th century a turnpike stood at the bottom of Gammons Hill to levy tolls in order to maintain the roads. The main road to Honiton, and thence through to Exeter, ran up Gammons Hill, along the Roman Road, and through Shute Woods. This was the route taken by an officer bearing news of the great naval victory at Trafalgar. It was a long pull uphill, and horses were provided at the bottom of Shute Road to refresh the team. The present A35 road was opened in the 1840s as a diversion around the Roman Road.

The population of Kilmington in 1801 was 444, and is now over 800. Until the last century most of the population was engaged in agriculture.



Housing

Of the respondents to the questionnaire, 83% own their homes and 11% live in rented accommodation. The average number of people residing in each dwelling is two.

From the current households a total of 52 people have left the parish in the last 10 years. Of these 25 would like to return to the parish if suitable accommodation were available. In addition 24 current residents are likely to need alternative accommodation in the parish within the next 5 years.

Regarding the types of housing needed in the future, 54% of respondents suggested the conversion of existing / redundant dwellings, 37% new single dwellings in specified locations, 36% the introduction of starter homes and 20% additional sheltered housing for the elderly. Where new dwellings are grouped together 31% said they should be limited to five.

Comments received said that if the village gets much larger it will be in danger of losing some of the qualities that make it such a good place to live.

"Affordable housing in Kilmington should fit in with the surroundings."

"The housing needs of local people should be a prime concern."

Aim:

In order to maintain the rural character of the parish by preventing overdevelopment, priority should be given to

- some development of affordable housing
- some sheltered homes for local people

Any new development should be sympathetic and in keeping with its surroundings

Action:

Encourage the Parish Council to liaise with EDDC. An Affordable Housing Action Group has been set up

Responsibility: Parish Council and District Council

Timescale: Immediate and ongoing



Housing

Aim: Encourage the unobtrusive and sensitive siting of oil and gas tanks, satellite dishes and external lighting

Action: Monitor planning applications carefully

Responsibility: Parishioners and Parish Council (where applicable)

Timescale: Long term

Housing is a very important part of the environment, as it can affect the rural character of the parish. It is felt that any new properties should harmonise with existing ones in the parish.

"The village must retain its character as a village and not be allowed to grow much bigger than at present as very soon it will have lost its charm and appeal."





Transport and Traffic



As might be expected, the questions in the Transport section of the questionnaire evoked a high level of response, with concerns expressed about safety issues on the A35, heavy traffic on Whitford Road, the location of the bus stops and parking.



The question of a reduction in the speed limit on the A35 evoked overwhelming support in the survey, with 564 out of 655 respondents in favour. In addition 282 people thought the creation of a safe crossing point was a good idea.

Speed limits were a clear concern, with 42.5% in favour of a 20mph limit within the village. In particular the heavy traffic on Whitford Road was a concern with two proposals receiving considerable support. Almost 52% of parishioners were in favour of a 20mph limit in the vicinity of the school and the same number in favour of building a new access road to the quarry from the bottom of Gammons Hill.

Not surprisingly, the questionnaire demonstrated the high level of dependence on the car, with only 78 parishioners (in all age groups) using bus services. Interestingly that usage would more than double, to 175, if buses came from the main road into the village.

The 326 households responding own a total of 482 cars and vans of which 452 are kept on private land. The remaining 30, kept on the public highway, would seem insufficient to explain the level of concern about parking problems. The conclusion would appear to be that the problem is exacerbated by visitors and people using local facilities and services.

"The A35 speed limit is too fast for people, especially the young and the elderly trying to cross the road to the bus shelter. A lower speed limit would be of benefit to all in the village."

"A road from Gammons Hill to the sewage works needs to be built urgently. The HGVs on Whitford Rd combined with the primary school are an accident waiting to happen."



Transport and Traffic

Aim:	Improve safety on Whitford Road with a 20mph limit between the school signs
Action:	Education Authority with support from School Governors, Head Teacher and parents to press for this limit
Responsibility:	Highways Agency, Devon County Council, Parish Council
Timescale:	Immediate

Aim:	Improve safety and encourage greater use of local bus services
Action:	Parish Council to discuss with bus companies re-routing into the village to ensure safer stopping places
Responsibility:	Parish Council, bus companies
Timescale:	Immediate

Aim:	Provide an access road from Gammons Hill to the quarry
Action:	Parish Council to explore the possibility of such a road
Responsibility:	Parish Council
Timescale:	Immediate

Aim:	Improve safety on the A35
Action:	A35 Action Group to press for the introduction of a 40mph speed limit on the A35 between the Kilmington Parish signs
Responsibility:	Highways Agency, Connect-Honiton, Devon County Council, EDDC, Police, Parish Council, Local Councillors, MP
Timescale:	Immediate and ongoing until successful



Environmental Issues



"To maintain and improve the banks of streams (i.e. adjacent to Brookside Close and The Street) to further encourage its use as natural habitat."

"The beauty and tranquillity of Kilmington must be maintained."

There is a wide appreciation of parish features including Shute Woods, the Playing Fields, Common, the setting of St. Giles Church, the Green and Jubilee Green. 80% of all respondents wished to see the maintenance of Devon banks, stone walls, roadside borders and the banks of streams. They felt that traditional hedging should be encouraged. 60% of the respondents enjoy the use of public footpaths, bridleways and byways. More effort should be made to reduce dog fouling.

The majority of residents, (338), who responded to the questionnaire, were against the introduction of street lighting in the parish. 78.5% of respondents stated they would be happy to support a campaign for new water mains. Heavy lorries in the parish are a source of concern, 420 respondents felt that heavy lorries should be reduced to access only.

There was a positive response to the provision of renewable energy systems e.g. solar panels, photovoltaic slates and bio gas. Residents should be encouraged to implement these systems, subject to appropriate planning consent. Support for domestic wind turbines was very mixed. Of those responding to the question, 57.4% thought that placing cables and wires underground would improve the visual character of the parish.

In response to the question of extending the current conservation area 40% of the respondents were in favour with 30% against. Most respondents suggested the extension areas should be The Street and Silver Street.

Aim:	Preserve and enhance the rural character of the parish
Action:	Monitor planning applications carefully
Responsibility:	Parish Council
Timescale:	Ongoing



Environmental Issues

Aim: Get existing overhead power and telephone cables placed underground

Action: Liaise with Axe Vale and District Conservation Society

Responsibility: Parish Council, power and telephone line suppliers

Timescale: Long term

Aim: Replace outdated water mains

Action: Request South West Water replace water mains

Responsibility: Parish Council and residents

Timescale: Urgent and ongoing

Aim: Facilitate the use of existing footpaths, bridleways and byways. Ensure dog fouling is reduced on roads and paths

Action: Maintain in good order existing footpaths etc

Responsibility: Footpath Warden and Parish Council

Timescale: Ongoing

Aim: a) Encourage the installation of means of producing renewable energy in homes
b) Encourage the collection and use of rainwater

Responsibility: a) Parish Council and District Council
b) Kilmington residents

Timescale: a) Long term
b) Now and ongoing



Education and Youth



In Kilmington Parish 12.7% (90) of those who responded to the questionnaire were under the age of 16.

The questionnaire sought information on the parish's activities and facilities which were currently used by the respondents, plus information on those activities used outside the village and those activities which parishioners would like to see within the village in the future.

The most popular activity outside the parish is swimming which is adequately catered for in the local towns. Responses to the questionnaire indicate that very few children participate in activities outside the parish, with no more than two children participating in any particular activity.

The results of the questionnaire show that the majority of children who live in the parish attend Kilmington Primary School (71%). The most important considerations influencing that decision are:

1. Class size
2. Distance from home
3. Views of other parents
4. Transport
5. Performance in National Tests
6. Friendliness of staff

"More activities for our young people, they are after all the life blood of this village and will be here long after the old brigade are gone!"

"More activities for young people."

"More play equipment for children in playing field. Cricket nets to be turned so balls don't come into the play area."

Aim:

There is a need to maintain and review/upgrade as necessary both the Playing Area and the Playing Field facilities

Action:

Support the existing Playing Field Trustees in the continued maintenance of these areas

Responsibility: Playing Field Trustees

Timescale: Immediate and ongoing



Education and Youth

Aim:	Maintain the current standards and intake levels of the village school
Action:	Ongoing support from parishioners and parents
Responsibility:	The Head Teacher, teaching staff, governors and parishioners
Timescale:	Ongoing

Aim:	Develop a wider range of activities for the under 16's
Action:	Ensure all activities available to the under 16's are well advertised e.g. on the village website, on the notice boards and in Post-script. Look into the possibility of setting up new group activities for this age
Responsibility:	Interested parishioners/existing organisations and the website editor
Timescale:	Immediate and ongoing





Health

Accessing an NHS dentist is the main concern of Kilmington residents but this is a national problem and parishioners are reflecting this. 15.7% of respondents had experienced difficulty.

Some parishioners have difficulties in accessing key health services: hospital (38), optician (27) and doctor (24).

Aim:	Improve access to an NHS dentist
Action:	Make representation to the Devon Primary Care Trust
Responsibility:	Parish Council and parishioners
Timescale:	Ongoing

Aim:	Raise the issue of problems of transport to all healthcare venues
Action:	Formalise "goodwill" transport, investigate Hospital Car Service and liaise with transport authorities regarding buses entering the village
Responsibility:	Parish Council
Timescale:	Ongoing





Sport and Leisure



There is a wide range of organised leisure activities in Kilmington from Badminton and Bridge to the WI and Yoga. The two most popular organised activities in the parish are KVPA (Kilmington Village Produce Association) and Moviola (monthly cinema in the village hall) with 145 and 141 participants respectively. 23% of respondents are involved in both these activities but this is significantly the older generation. There are, according to the questionnaire, 52 residents in the parish aged between 16 and 24, but none participates in the KVPA and only 2% in Moviola. This reflects general levels of participation in activities across the age ranges in the parish.



Engagement in sport is relatively low in the parish. 7% of respondents belong to the tennis club, 4% play cricket, 3% badminton, country dancing and table tennis and just 2% bowls and yoga.

Very few young people participate in organised activities and there were only 24 responses in total to the various activities on offer in the parish.

The most common reason for non-participation in leisure activities is cited as "time of day" by the working population. It would appear more consideration needs to be given to the youth and working population. 7.5% of respondents cited "disability" as their reason for not being able to participate.

"Allow for us that work"





Sport and Leisure

Aim:	Promote more evening and weekend activities to ensure participation is open to all where possible
Action:	Liaise with organising committees of various activities
Responsibility:	Local organisations
Timescale:	Ongoing

Aim:	Encourage young people's participation in parish activities
Action:	Develop a list of people who wish to run activities for young people
Responsibility:	Parish Council and individual volunteers
Timescale:	Ongoing

Aim:	Organisations to advertise more widely
Action:	Groups routinely to use Post-script/Village Website/notice boards
Responsibility:	Organisations, website editor, Parish Council
Timescale:	Ongoing

Aim:	Provide adult education classes
Action:	Contact providers
Responsibility:	Parish Council and parishioners
Timescale:	Ongoing



Local Business



The feedback from the Parish Plan questionnaire suggested that the majority of people thought that Kilmington was very well served by a number of local businesses from the larger organisations to the smaller ancillary services provided. Most people said that for a village of this size to be able to support a garage with shop, two busy public houses, village store, post office, and a thriving farm shop was a great achievement.



The Post Office and Hurfords Stores was recognised as one of the most valuable assets within the parish. 232 respondents said that they used it regularly, the highest number of these coming from the oldest age group. The main reason for not using the shop was that the opening hours coincided with work commitments away from the parish. The overriding theme of the comments was "Use it or lose it!"

A significant number of people showed an interest in making use of small business units, if they were available.

"The Shop/post office fills a great social need and the village would be poorer without them."

"Small business units in the village as long as they are affordable."



Local Business

Aim:	Keep a Post Office and village store
Action:	Encourage all parishioners to use this valuable asset as often as possible, drawing attention to all the facilities it offers
Responsibility:	All parishioners, Parish Council
Timescale:	Immediate and ongoing

Aim:	The possibility of providing small business units
Action:	a) Further enquiries to be made of parishioners as to what type of facilities may be of benefit to them b) Enquiries to be made regarding possible locations and cost
Responsibility:	Parish Council, EDDC, possible private investment
Timescale:	Ongoing and long term





Parish Services



Generally residents felt that they received adequate information from the Parish notice boards, Post-script, the Parishes' Paper etc (269 people). 14.4% of respondents said that they did not have time to attend Parish Council meetings and nearly the same number were unaware they could attend.

Some of the arrangements for recycling in the parish were described as poor - especially plastic (52.1%), cardboard (48.5%) and green waste (33.7%). Suggestions for improving the present arrangements highlighted the need for the collection of these items. Currently 18% of households take part in the group oil purchase scheme which operates in the parish.

Regarding the Emergency Services, the highest percentages across all categories suggested the services were very good. 81% of respondents were aware of the Neighbourhood Watch scheme operating in the parish.

Spending on local projects

In response to the question "How would you spend £100 on local projects?" the results were ranked in the following order:

- Facilities for the young
- Traffic and parking initiatives
- Amenity and green space
- Sport and recreation
- The character and setting of the village
- Facilities for the elderly

"A Parish Notice Board at the west end of the village by the Common perhaps would be useful."

"Useful to have more parish/village notices in the farm shop."

"The Parish Council does a praiseworthy job, given the limitations of their powers."



Parish Services

Aim:	Increase involvement of residents in Parish Council meetings
Action:	Possible provision of another Parish notice board
Responsibility:	Parish Council
Timescale:	Immediate





Kilmington Primary School Ideas on Transport



Following a survey undertaken by pupils at Kilmington Primary School about the pros and cons of being part of the village community, the main concern that arose was the problem of traffic within the village and on the A35.

Subsequently a Travel Questionnaire was distributed and the results collated.

To enable children within the parish to walk to school regularly it was felt that the following concerns need to be addressed:

- Lack of pavements
- Blind spots when trying to cross some roads within the parish
- Lack of street lighting making walking to and from school on dark mornings and evenings difficult
- For the older children the above also applied to those who were able to cycle within the parish

The problems concerning the A35 focused on the speed at which vehicles are travelling which makes crossing the road dangerous. The children were also concerned about the dangers for cyclists and motorists, (parents transporting pupils to Kilmington from other areas) trying to turn into the village or onto the A35 from the village. This danger was felt to increase with the numbers of cars at the beginning and end of the school day.



Summary of Aims

- Give priority to some development of affordable housing and sheltered homes
- Encourage unobtrusive and sensitive siting of oil and gas tanks, satellite dishes and external lighting through careful monitoring of planning applications
- Improve safety on the A35
- Introduce a 20mph limit between the school signs to improve safety on Whitford Road
- Encourage greater use of local bus services
- Provide an access road from Gammons Hill to the quarry
- Get existing overhead power and telephone cables placed underground
- Replace outdated water mains
- Facilitate the use of existing footpaths, bridleways and byways and reduce dog fouling
- Encourage the installation of means of producing renewable energy in homes
- Encourage the collection and use of rainwater
- Preserve and enhance the rural character of the parish
- Maintain and review/upgrade the Playing Area and Playing Field facilities
- Maintain the current standards and intake levels of the village school
- Develop a wide range of activities for the under 16's
- Improve access to an NHS dentist
- Raise the issue of problems of transport to all healthcare venues
- Promote more evening and weekend activities
- Encourage young people's participation in parish activities
- Organisations to advertise more widely
- Provide adult education classes
- Keep a Post Office and village store
- Explore the possibility of providing small business units
- Increase involvement of residents in Parish Council meetings

