



Stelling Minnis

**VILLAGE APPRAISAL
REPORT AND ACTION PLAN
2008**

Sponsored by Stelling Minnis Parish Council

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A map of the area does appear on the stelling minnis web site home page

at

www.stelling-minnis.co.uk

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SECTION 1 – STELLING MINNIS APPRAISAL REPORT

FOREWORD

In the autumn of 2006 Stelling Minnis Parish Council decided to undertake a Village Appraisal and formulate a Parish Plan. An Appraisal had taken place in 1990 but in the intervening years changes have taken place in many rural communities and it was felt that this document needed to be updated. Also, the guidelines for such exercises have been revised and more emphasis has been placed on the need for the community to plan for the future.

The Appraisal Group was set up with members from the Parish Council and other volunteers. This group has worked very hard for the past eighteen months to produce this document. There are many proposed actions which will constitute a considerable work load for the Parish Council and other bodies in the coming years. The implementation will take some time and there are significant financial implications.

This report is not an end in itself. It is a first step in providing the community with enhanced facilities to improve the quality of life of those who live here, and those who will come to live in this village. At the same time it recognises that nothing should be done which will spoil the unique nature of the Minnis and this beautiful countryside. The report can only be implemented with your active participation and I would urge you support and take part in the next stage which is seeing the proposals through to a successful conclusion.

Finally I would like to thank all the members of the Stelling Minnis Appraisal Group (or SMAG as we became known) for their many and varied contributions, and support throughout this project.

David Stuart

Chairman

HISTORY OF THE PARISH

The 1990 Village Appraisal included an interesting summary of the history of Stelling Minnis. It was felt that it should be repeated in this slightly updated form.

According to Alan Everitt in his book "Continuity and Colonization", the first recording of the name Stelling was in 1086 in the Domesday Book, although Palmstead which lies within the parish boundary is recorded in a charter dated 767 AD.

The parish church of St. Mary's was built in the 13th and 14th centuries as a daughter church of the parish church in Upper Hardres. Its position near the parish boundary is not unusual in the county of Kent and this eccentric siting away from the centre of the village can also be seen at Upper Hardres as well as elsewhere.

The small areas of fields which were cleared from the downland forest were gradually expanded and Everitt believes that settlement in the "minnis" originated in the late medieval age and developed from a squatter's community at a time of rising population.

During the period from 1560 to 1800, the estimated population of Stelling Minnis fluctuated a number of times between 200 and 400 people (as derived from the baptism records in the Parish Registers), numbers which are not that different to the present day. The explanations for the rises and falls are not always obvious but in general they followed the national pattern; rising during periods of prosperity, falling during times of war and plague. As advances were made in medical science and agricultural practices, the population grew through a decrease in infant mortality and an increased life expectancy.

Towards the end of this period, the school, which forms a very important part of the social fabric of village life, was built in 1784.

Following the end of the Napoleonic wars, in the 1830's the numbers of agricultural workers were swelled by the influx of discharged soldiers, (the earliest census returns for the village record the very high percentage of the population who were concerned with farming). The "Swing Riots" which had their origins in our Parish and those adjoining our boundaries arose from the sudden increase in the rural population and the fear of unemployment brought about by the increased mechanisation of the agricultural processes.

The Tithe map of the early 1800's indicates a large proportion of the parish under cultivation with a considerable number of hop gardens as well as pasture and woodland and until the last forty years or so, agriculture has been the mainstay of the village through the ages.

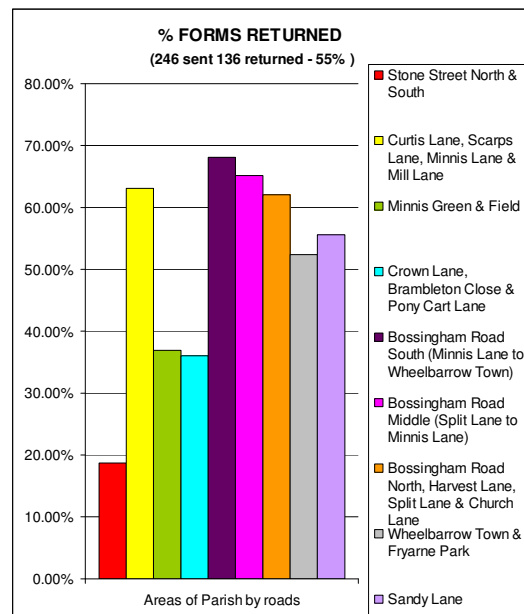
Other national sociological changes have eventually shown up in Stelling Minnis such as the Methodist Movement. The industrial revolution showed itself in the steam driven traction engine and the coming of the railway in the nearby villages of Elham and Lyminge; the windmill which remains was also mechanised in the 1920's to provide reserve power for when the wind did not blow.

With the growth and wide availability of personal transport and the gradual decline in the numbers employed in agriculture and related businesses the village underwent changes with people finding employment elsewhere whilst continuing to live in the village. More recently there has been a trend for people to move into the area and commute to work in the nearby towns or simply to retire to the beautiful countryside. There was a surge in house building in the sixties and just over 50% of the building in the parish have been built post-war. The village has become a desirable area much removed from the description of Stelling Minnis in the 18th century by Hasted **"A barren dreary country covered with flints and enveloped among woods!" "The inhabitants of Stelling Minnis are as wild as the country they live"**.

INTRODUCTION

In July/August 2007 246 questionnaires were hand delivered to all residential addresses in Stelling Minnis Parish, with the exception of Stone Street where they were posted and a stamped, return addressed envelope provided. By 15th September, 136 forms had been returned (55.28%) and the following report is compiled from the information returned.

Replies were a little disappointing from 3 areas, Stone Street, Minnis Green & Field, and Crown Lane. The % forms returned in each location within the Parish are shown in the chart. However, overall a 55% response is acceptable and we are satisfied that it represents a fair summary of the views of the community.



Two forms were returned after the cut off date and have not been included in the results.

Not all respondents answered every question, hence the total responses for individual questions may vary and percentages & figures within the report reflect this. One respondent refused to answer any questions.

SUBJECTS NOT INCLUDED IN THE SURVEY

The Appraisal Group is aware that there are topics which residents may have expected to see in the survey but were not included. Some of these are matters which are the responsibility of Shepway District Council or Kent County Council. The group are of the opinion that, in the main, the survey should address local issues and not become an assessment of services provided by these Authorities. The time scale in producing

this report was such that decisions on other subjects would have had to be taken before publication.

This section of the report is intended to deal with some of these topics.

Speed limits on Stone Street:

The speed of vehicles and the accident rate on Stone Street has long been a matter of concern. In 2004 when the survey of opinions on speed limits was carried out many residents expressed concern at this problem. In 2006 the Government, in response to pressure for a national review of speed limits, passed the subject to County Councils. As a result KCC are carrying out a review of speed limits on all the county's roads. Until this survey is completed it has been decided that there will be no changes to the speed limits on Kent's roads. When the new policy is published the Parish Council could lobby for some controls on this dangerous stretch of road.

Speed limits in the village:

The 30 mph limits were finally introduced in September. In fact they were the last in Kent before the limitations referred to above were brought into force. The Group is aware that some residents are still concerned about the possible need for 40mph limits in Wheelbarrow Town and maybe across the Minnis. However it was felt that the new arrangements should be given time to become established before pressing for any extensions. It is possible that the Parish Council may wish to seek local opinions when KCC's new guidelines are published.

The Windmill and the Windmill museum:

During the summer a number of problems concerning the Mill itself and the arrangements for the Sunday afternoon opening to the public were identified. A number of residents who responded to the questionnaire raised questions about these matters. They were not included in the survey simply because they had to be dealt with at the time, and could not wait for the publication of this report. The Windmill Committee has been re-formed as a sub-committee of the Parish Council and in the autumn will consider the arrangements for opening the Mill in 2008 and plans for an extension to the museum building, including any improvements which may be needed.

It should be noted that matters concerning the Windmill can always be raised at the Annual Parish Meeting which is held in April every year, and at which the Windmill accounts are published.

Refuse Collection:

The Group is aware that the present arrangements, including the shortage of bins for garden cuttings and the fortnightly collection of food waste are matters of concern. However the Shepway DC are currently reviewing this service because a new contract is about to be negotiated to start 2008. It is expected that invitations to tender, including details of the service required will have been sent to contractors before this

report is published. The Parish Council is aware of local opinion on this subject and hence there was no reason to include it in the questionnaire.

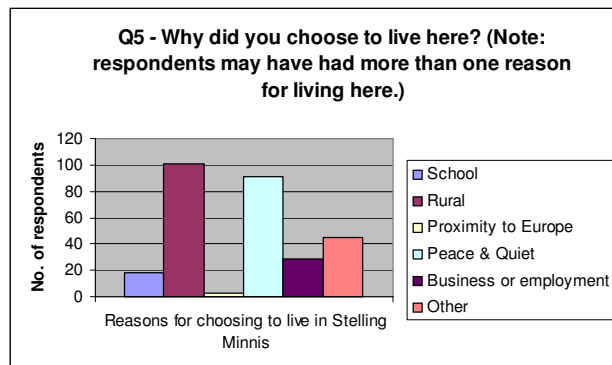
FINDINGS

GENERAL INFORMATION Q's 1 - 5

Of the 136 respondents, 132 were residents and 2 were not permanent residents. 2 respondents did not answer this question. 125 of the respondents' properties did not include holiday lets and 6 did. 4 respondents did not answer this question. This indicates that we are still very much a "lived-in" village with only a few weekenders and holiday homes, a balance most people would probably prefer.

130 respondents indicated how long they had lived in Stelling Minnis. A crude data analysis shows that based on their answers the average stay in Stelling Minnis is 21.2 years.

When asked "why did you choose to live here?", the overriding majority of respondents indicated because the area was "rural" (101) and for "peace and quiet" (91). A relatively low number (18) said that it was for the school. There were 29 indications that their reason for living here was for business or employment. The number of respondents indicating closeness to Europe as a reason was very small (3). There were 45 "other" reasons quoted but most reflected the rural nature of the area except 6 which referred to family connections with the area.

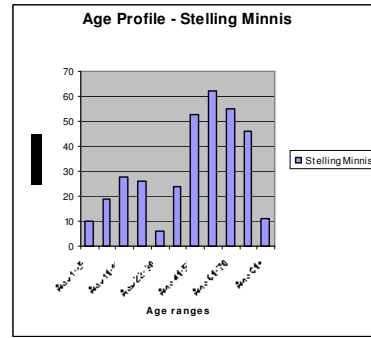


Many respondents gave 2 or more reasons for living in Stelling Minnis. The fact that the majority of respondents indicated that their reason for choosing to live here was because of the rural nature of the area and for the peace and quiet offered should be borne in mind when the Parish Council is considering, for example, planning applications and other social amenities.

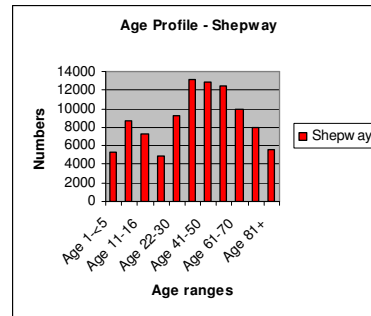
INDIVIDUAL QUESTIONS Q's 6 - 9

Q6 - age profile:

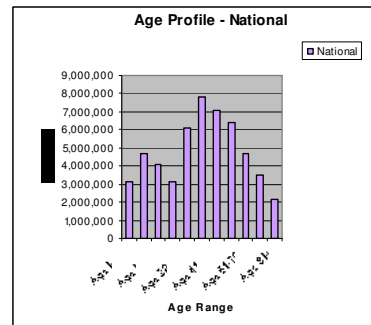
The age profile of respondents living in Stelling Minnis is almost the same as indicated in the 2001 National census for Shepway and Nationally, but about 10 years older in each case. Part of that could be because the 2001 Census was 6 years ago, but part could be because the area is more attractive to the older generations.



The average number of people per household is 2.5 and this, together with the age profiles confirms what we all know, the community has an above average elderly population. This fact needs to be allowed for in the provision of services and perhaps when considering affordable housing for younger families.



KCC's Public Health Strategy 2007 reports that life expectancy in Stelling Minnis is 84.1 years compared with 73.6 years in Folkestone, one of the highest in Kent. This is consistent with the age profile in this survey.



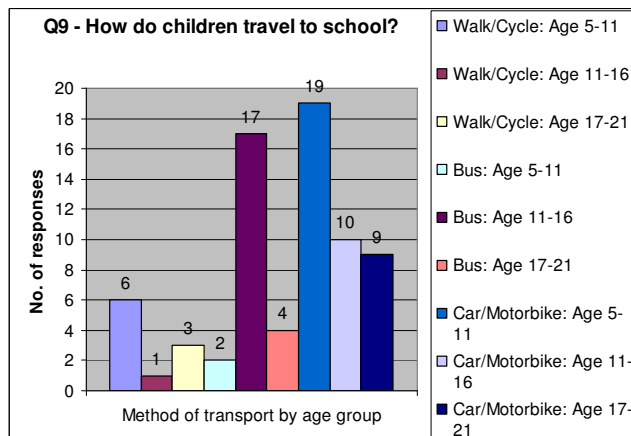
Q's 7 - 9 Children and schooling:

The results show that the majority of children up to age 16 attend school within 12 miles of their home.

Q7 Children attending school within 12 miles			Q8 Children attending school 12+ miles		
Age 5-11	Age 11-16	Age 17-21	Age 5-11	Age 11-16	Age 17-21
20	24	9	0	3	7

Their method of transport to school (some indicated 2 alternative methods) are shown in the chart.

It is disappointing to note that the majority of children of primary school age (5-11) travel to school by car or motorbike and only 6 walk or cycle. However it is accepted that the majority of

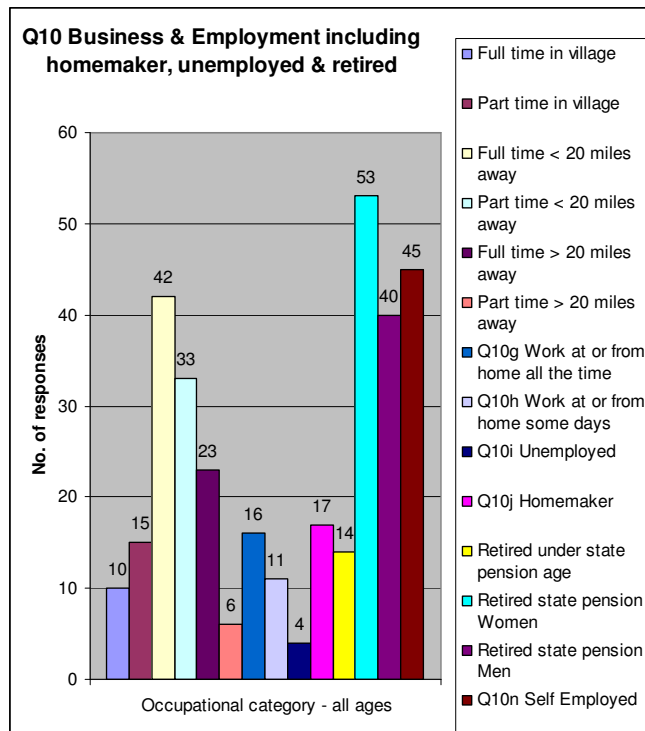


children would have to travel either along Bossingham Road or walk over the Minnis to get to school. Until a safe cycle/walking route is established there may be no other viable alternative. The Parish Council may wish to provide support to Stelling Minnis Primary School in any schemes that they have to devise safe routes across The Minnis or along Bossingham Road; to provide a minibus to pick children up; and to promote the use of car sharing.

BUSINESS and EMPLOYMENT Q's 10 - 12

Where people work Q10:

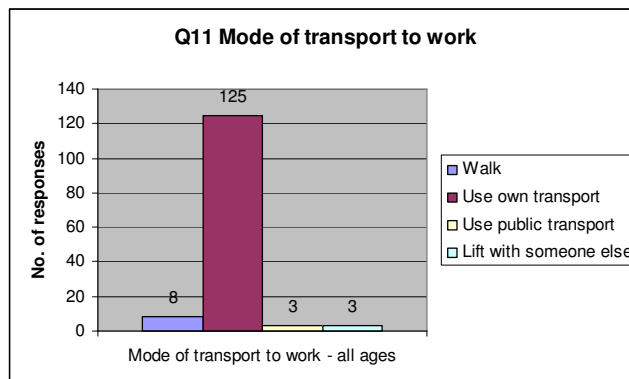
The data shows that 340 people were included in the responses. 63 of these are children attending school, leaving some 277 adults. Because some people fell into more than one category, 392 people were shown as attending school, working full or part time at home or away, retired, being a homemaker, unemployed, pensioner or self employed. A small number of children at school or college, possibly 4, have part time occupations in the village or less than 20 miles away. The breakdown of employment categories is shown in the chart. 20 people over the age of 60 are in some form of employment.



It is pleasing to note that only a minority commute more than 20 miles to work, 29 compared with 75 working full or part time within that distance. The unemployment level within the community is low (4 out of 340 - 1%). 25 people work in the village.

How people get to work Q11:

The figures show that the vast majority of respondents use their own transport to get to work. Only 3 people use the bus service, which clearly indicates that the bus does not run at times or to a destination that most people would want it to.

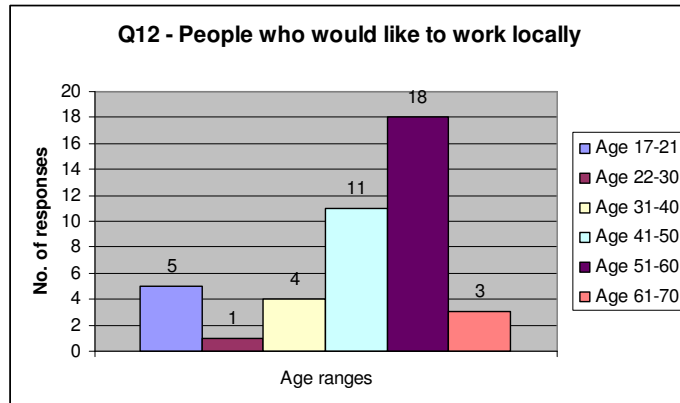


In conjunction with the results of Q13-17, the Parish Council should open negotiations with other villages and Kent County Council to see if the bus service

could be revised or supplemented to better suit the needs of the residents who could use it.

Working locally Q12:

42 respondents indicated that they or members of their families would like to work locally. The majority of these being in the age range 41- 60.

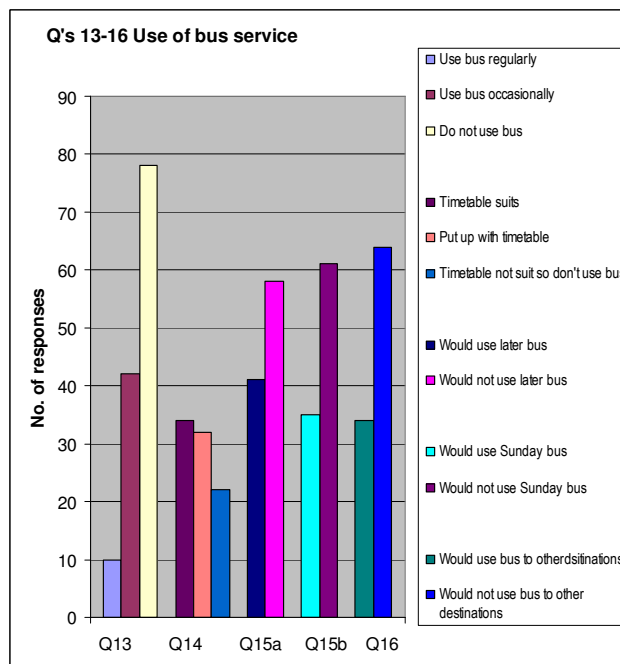


The Parish Council should support organisations and potential employers in any bid to create jobs local to the village. Liaison with neighbouring Parish Councils would be a vital part of this exercise. However the views expressed in Q's 23-32 on planning would also need to be taken into account in supporting any new commercial developments.

TRANSPORT Q's 13 - 22

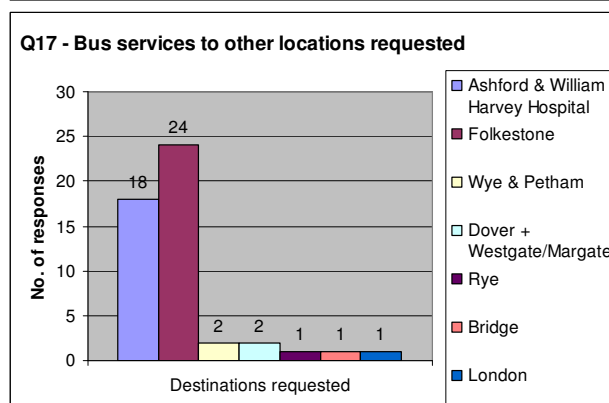
The bus service Q's 13 - 17:

40% of respondents said that they use the bus either regularly or occasionally. 22 said that they do not use the bus because the timetable does not suit and a further 32 said that although the timetable does not suit them they still use the bus service.



41% of respondents said that they would use a later bus service but only 36% said that they would use a Sunday bus service.

35% of respondents said that they would use a bus if it went to other destinations and 49 people specified destinations which are shown in the chart to the right. Historically the bus service ran between Canterbury and Folkestone and was subsequently cut back to Hythe. A Sunday bus service was trialled for a few years and found not to be used enough to be economically viable.



The Parish Council should hold discussions with Action with Communities in Rural Kent's (ACRK) specialist transport officer, the bus companies, KCC (who subsidise the service), and other parishes which are served by the route. The object should be to explore ways in which the service might be revised or supplemented to increase the numbers of residents using it to access employment. These discussions would also need to include other matters which are dealt with in Q's 13 - 17.

The Parish Council should consider instigating discussions with all the parties involved with the bus service (see Q11) with a view to extending the existing service from Canterbury to Folkestone together with providing an additional service to Ashford and William Harvey Hospital. In this way residents would not only be more able to access the three large local towns and shopping centres of Ashford, Canterbury and Folkestone but also access three of the four major hospital and health centres at Kent & Canterbury Hospital, William Harvey Hospital at Ashford and Queen Victoria Hospital at Folkestone together with the high speed rail link to London. A fast coach service to London operates from Canterbury, Folkestone and Ashford. Provision of bus services to the other destinations may not be practical, however these could be accessed if regular reliable buses ran to Canterbury, Folkestone and Ashford and tied up with routes to those destinations.

Another topic for these discussions would be the need for a later bus service at times so that residents attending clubs, cinemas and theatre could use the bus home – this is especially important for teenagers who's social activities are restricted by the infrequency and times of the bus service.

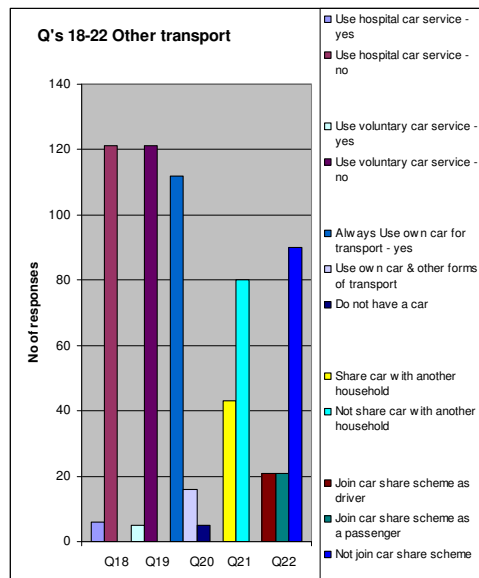
The timing of a late service and a possibly limited demand may ultimately rule out a scheduled bus service as uneconomic. However, the alternative of a community minibus is an option which should be explored with ACRK, other parishes, and KCC. Such a facility has been referred to under travel to school and could also enhance facilities for clubs and churches. There have been successful schemes of this kind in other parts of the county and perhaps it should be considered as an option for this area.

The Parish Council may wish to open further debate with the community as to their needs in respect of bus frequency and times before seeking discussion with ACRK.

Other transport Q's 18 - 22:

We asked for some information on how residents used other means of transport apart from the bus service. The vast majority of people use their own car and do not use either the hospital car service or voluntary car service, although 5-6 people do (about 5%). The Parish Council should promote the existing voluntary car service.

About 5% of the respondents do not have a car.

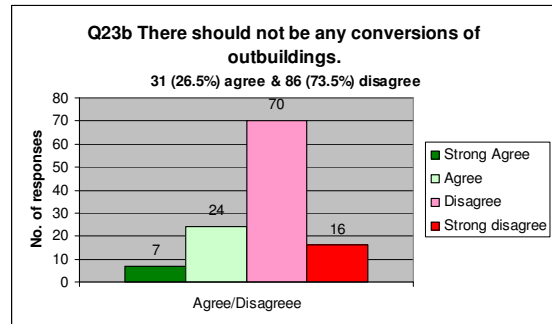
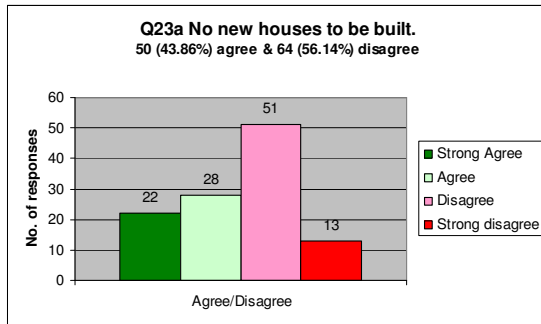


35% of respondents share their car with someone from another household. This is something which the Parish Council may wish to encourage. The suggestion of some form of official car sharing scheme would be one way of promoting such sharing. However when asked, only 26% said that they would, at the time, be prepared to join such a scheme.

HOUSING and PLANNING Q's 23 - 32

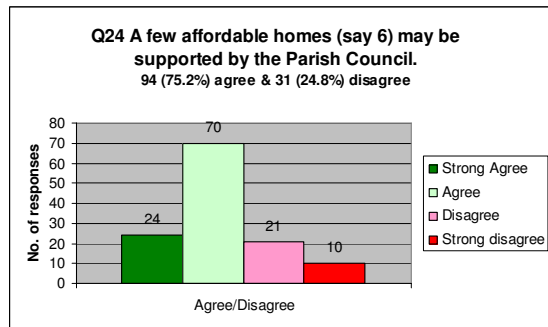
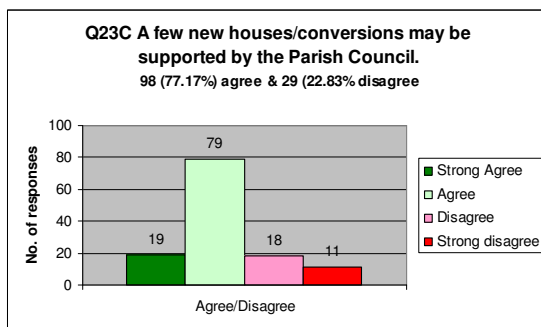
The objective of these questions was to provide the Parish Council with a more accurate and less subjective view of the community's attitude on planning issues.

New Houses Q's 23 - 24:



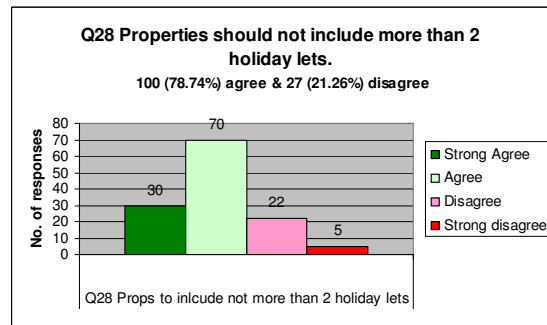
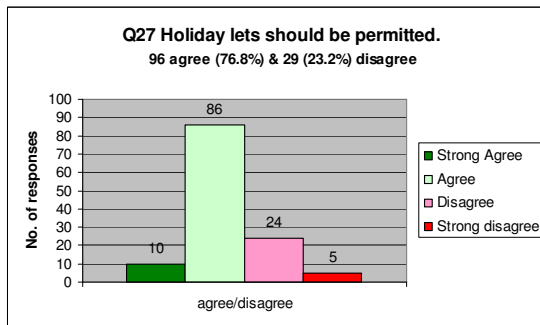
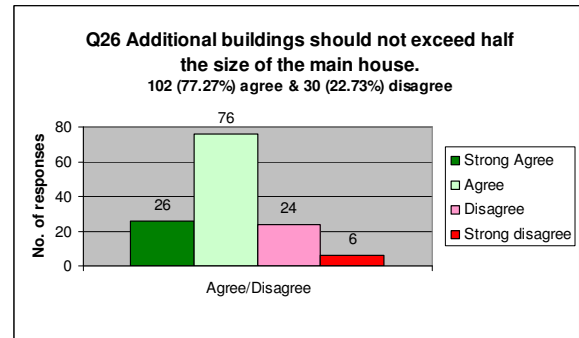
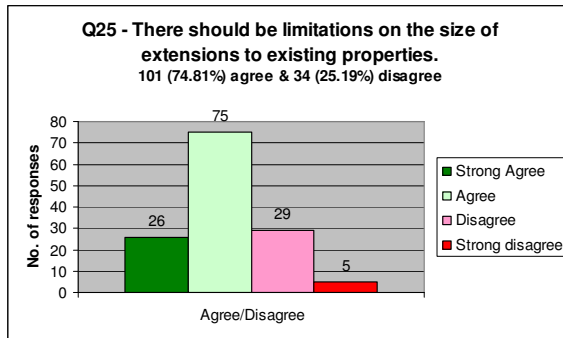
More than half of the responses to this question would not rule out any new houses and three quarters would be prepared to accept the conversion of existing buildings. However this was qualified by the fact that 77% indicated that there should only be a few new houses/conversions. There was strong support for 6 more “affordable” houses similar to those in Brambleton Close.

Clearly the Parish Council will need to consider planning applications for new houses or conversions very carefully but not rule them out automatically. They should investigate the possibility of providing 6 more houses with the Rural Housing Trust if a suitable site could be identified.

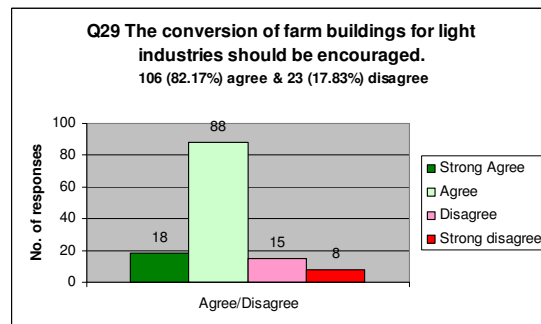


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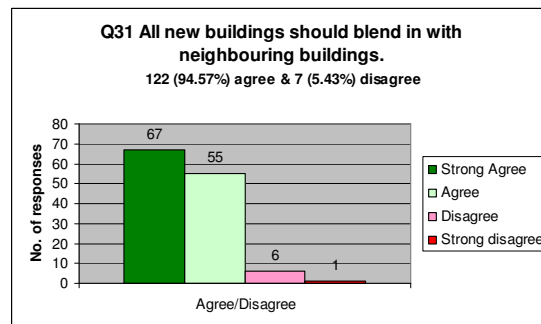
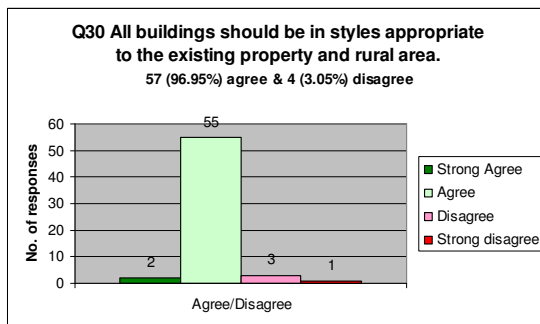
Extensions Q's 25 - 29:



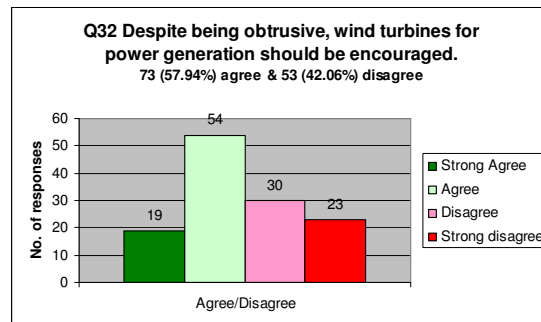
There was a fair measure of agreement that extensions should be permitted up to a maximum of 50% of the existing footprint of the original house. Also, holiday lets appear to be acceptable but limited to no more than 2 units on one property. There is broad support for the conversion of redundant buildings for industrial use.



Style issues Q's 30 - 32:



There was overwhelming support for the idea that a new house or extension should blend with existing and neighbouring properties. The jury is still out on wind turbines with a small majority in favour.



General Comments:

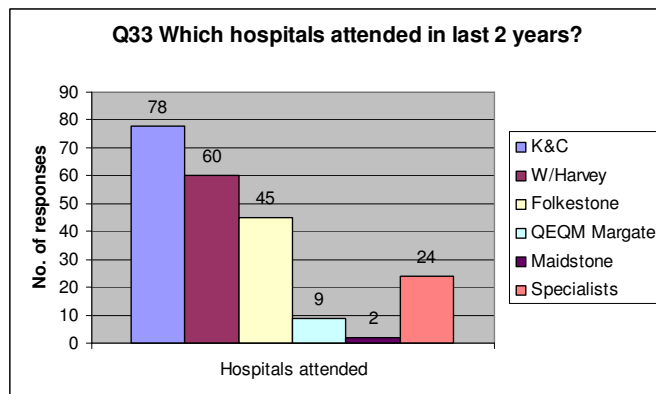
In the final section of replies to the questionnaire some respondents commented on Housing and Planning Issues. The remarks tended to confirm the results reported in this section although, often, they expanded on, or sought to fine tune the conclusions. They did serve to illustrate the point that the Parish Council need to treat these results as guidelines, not rules.

HEALTH AND RELATED ISSUES Q'S 33 - 45

With an ageing population the survey set out to find which Hospitals, Doctors and Medical care centres where used and importantly how residents travelled to these very important appointments.

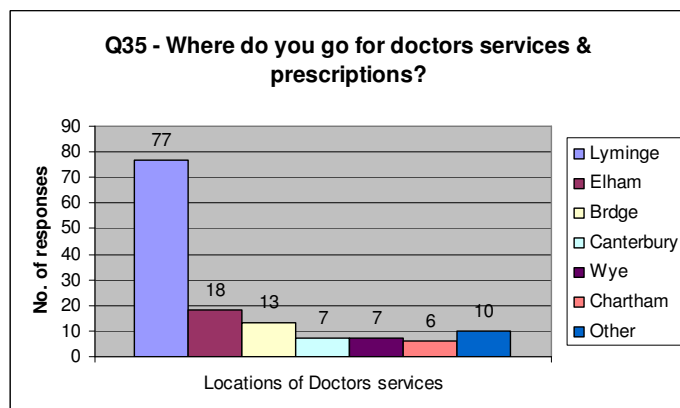
Which Hospitals have you attended and how did you get there Q's 33 – 34:

Unsurprisingly, the majority of respondents said that they had attended the Kent & Canterbury Hospital followed by William Harvey then Folkestone. This may alter following the changes being made in health service provision. Most people (118 - 72%) said that they attended hospital using their own car whereas 23 relied on a friend or neighbour and only 8 used public transport. In conjunction with the public transport review suggested under Q's 13-17 the Parish Council should open discussions to review the availability of public transport availability so that reliance on private cars to attend hospitals can be reduced. The Parish Council should promote the existing voluntary car service.



Doctors & Prescriptions Q's 33 - 35:

56% of respondents attended Lyminge for doctor's services and prescriptions whilst 37% attended surgeries in Elham, Canterbury, Wye, Bridge and Chatham. 10 people (7%) indicated that they attended surgeries at other locations including Hawkinge, Herne Bay and London.

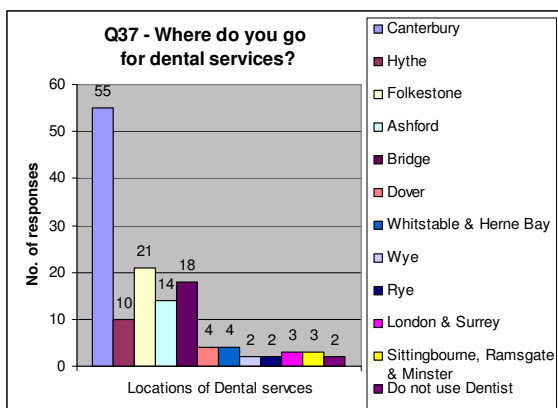


Would you use a local Nurse or Doctor Q 36:

When asked if they would use a local nurse, prescription collection or doctors services in the Village 98 out of 129 (76%) said “yes”. The Parish Council should enter into discussion with local doctor’s services with a view to once again providing these services from Stelling Minnis Village Hall. It is likely that only the two doctor’s services in Lyminge would consider such a service to be viable option.

Dental Services Q’s 37 - 38:

When asked “where do you go for Dental Services?”, 55 (40%) of respondents (who said they used a dentist) went to Canterbury. The remainder went to dental practices in locations as diverse as London, Surrey and Minster. The reasons for the diversity could be that people tend to stay with a dentist they are comfortable with or that the availability of dental practices is so restricted that people have to travel far and wide. The Parish Council should bring this diversity to the attention of the Primary Care Trust as they may wish to further investigate the availability of dental services to residents.



The vast majority of respondents said that they travelled to their doctors or dentists by private car with only 8 using the bus service. Again the Parish Council should investigate increasing the frequency of the bus service, at least to and from Canterbury and Lyminge, to improve the viability of residents using the bus to visit their doctor and dentist.

Health & Related issues Q’s 39 - 42:

We asked about residents’ experiences of using the Ambulance Service; about those who are house bound or were visited by a District Nurse.

18 people had called an Ambulance over the past two years with an average wait time of 53 minutes. The longest wait was 1hr 20mins whilst the shortest was 20 minutes.

4 people were house bound and 2 received visits from a district nurse. These figures may actually be higher, given the number of elderly people living here, but were are being helped by neighbours.

Age Concern and Meals on Wheels Q’s 43 - 45:

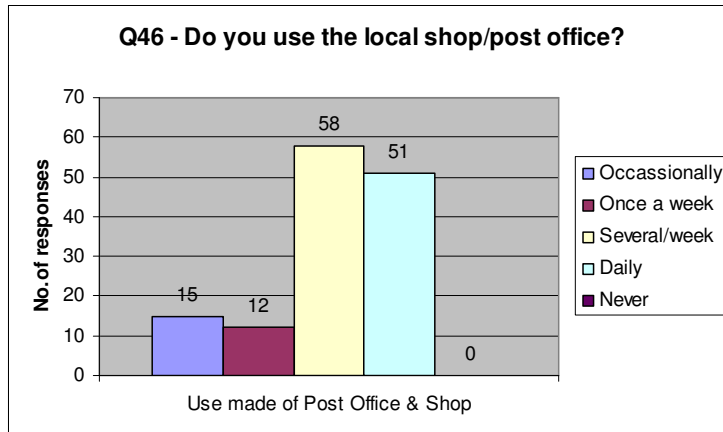
Only 3 respondents said that they used the Age Concern service at Lyminge. Age Concern themselves said that 5 people from Stelling Minnis use their service and given that the survey response was 55%, then the reported figure is about right. 5 respondents (7%) said that they would use a “Meals on Wheels” service. However, in response to Q106, several respondents mention the existing Apetito service, which is

not strictly a “Meals on Wheels” service. The Stelling Minnis Parish Council, in conjunction with neighbouring Parish Councils, may wish to explore the viability of a true “Meals on Wheels” service.

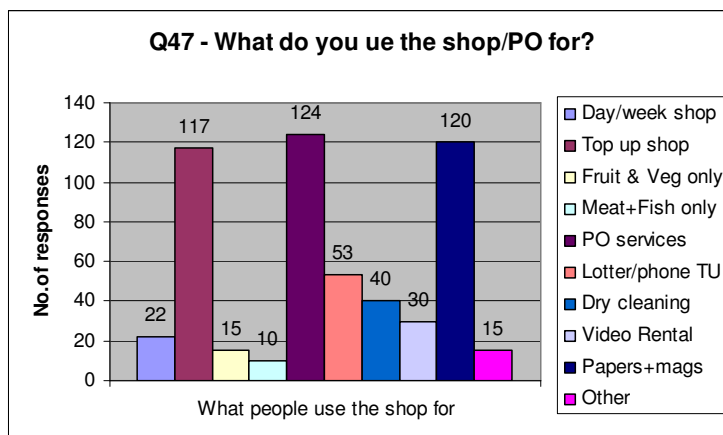
PUBLIC UTILITIES, POLICE AND OTHER SERVICES Q’s 46-58 & 72-78

Local shop & Post Office Q’s 46 - 48:

It is pleasing to note that 88% of all respondents indicated that they used the village shop & Post Office, with some 38% of those using the shop/P.O. doing so daily. The chart gives the breakdown of regularity of use. No one said that they never used the shop or Post Office.



Some 90% of the users were using the shop/P.O. to specifically visit the P.O., which is very pleasing. Other reasons for using the village shop were the whole range of the services provided by the shop. It is interesting to see that 48% of respondents wanted increased services from the P.O., including Road



Fund & TV Licence renewal. The Parish Council should open discussions with the shop and Post Office to explore how existing services could be enhanced.

It is vital that residents increase their use of the Post Office to its maximum potential to ensure its viability.

Cesspool services, mains drainage and gas Q’s 49 - 51:

In regard to cesspools, 78% were satisfied with current, available facilities and 20% were not. In order to do away with the need to have cesspools, the village would have to be connected to the mains drainage system. 63% said that they were not prepared to pay anything, 20% up to £5,000.00, 15% up to £10K and only 2% over £10K. No mains gas is served to the village; 43% would like it to be and 57% wouldn't.

Street lighting, kerbs, pavement, litter bins & maps Q's 52 - 58:

A clear majority (64% of the replies to the question), made it clear that they did not want street lighting although 32% were in favour of a few lights at strategic locations. There was no support for general lighting. This is consistent with views widely expressed in the final section, Q106, where many residents stressed the need to maintain the quiet, natural surroundings of the Minnis.

A similar response, 68%, was against kerbing and pavements with one notable exception. A pavement along the stretch of Bossingham Road from the School to the Minnis (Locks Garage) was supported by 65% of those responding to this question.

Similarly 65% believed that litter bins were needed, although the preferred number and locations were much less certain. Taking into account the general comments from Q106 it is probably fair to state that most people would only favour one or two bins in the centre of the village at well used access points to the Minnis, with perhaps dog waste bins attached. However, the general comments make it clear that arrangements for emptying such bins need to be agreed before any are introduced.

Many respondents, 78%, agreed that it would be useful to have a map of the village on display. However in the general comments a significant number expressed concern at the prospect of having the name and location of their house on public display. The design of such a map needs to be carefully considered.

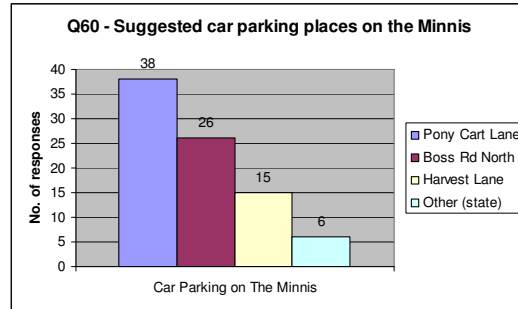
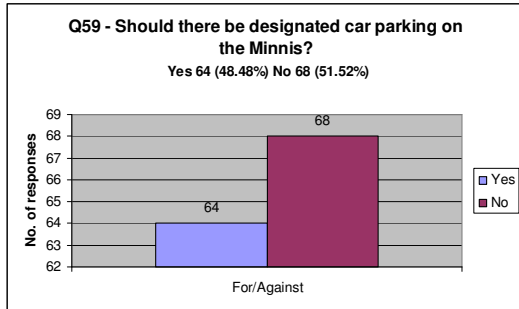
Police & fire service Q's 72 - 78:

26% of those who replied said that they had called the police within the last 5 years, for a variety of reasons. Most surprising of all, 25% of those were for Anti - Social behaviour! 80% were disappointed with the response time and this is an issue between the Parish Council and Kent Police. In the same period, only four households had the need to call the Fire Brigade.

THE MINNIS and THE ENVIRONMENT Q's 59 - 71

Although "The Minnis" is privately owned common land, the way in which it is used has a major impact on the day to day life of the local community. It was for this reason that these questions were asked, although there was no intention to revisit the 2006 Management Plan which had been thoroughly debated. In response to the final question (Q106) there were many varying and opposing views expressed on the Minnis and its management. It is proposed to provide the Minnis Managers with a complete set of these comments.

Car Parking Q's 59 - 60:

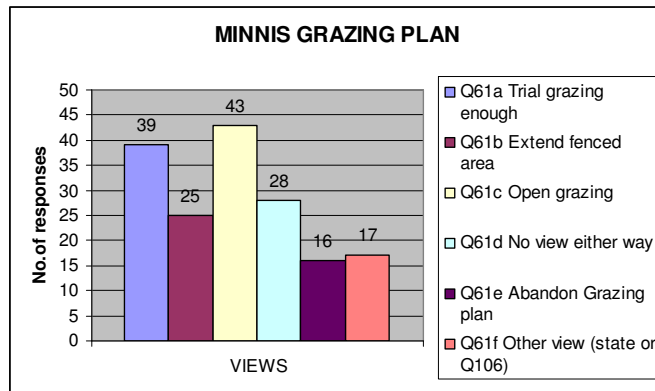


Almost half the responses favoured some form of designated parking area on the Minnis. The replies on possible locations were more varied. Perhaps more consultation is needed if this issue is to be taken further.

Respondents were asked to indicate which of the suggested parking places they would prefer, based on where people already tend to park. *Pony Cart Lane* near to the Rose & Crown (44%); just off *Bossingham Road* North of the Minnis (31%); at the north end south of *Harvest Lane* (17%); and *others* (7%). In the responses to the invitation in Q106 to make general comments a number of residents commented on the extent of parking in the road and on the verges at the Rose & Crown and the state of the road in that area. Clearly this is an issue which needs to be addressed when the subject of parking is considered.

Grazing Q 61:

The responses suggest that at present there is no clear consensus and opinions vary widely on this subject. Perhaps it may have been complicated by the fact that at the time the questionnaire was circulated the introduction of fencing was at an early stage. Clearly this is a subject that should be



revisited when the present plan has had time to develop. There were 12 comments on this topic which only served to confirm the wide range of opinions.

Use of the Minnis Q's 62 - 65:

Half of the respondents owned dogs and the great majority of residents (85%) walked on the Minnis. Only a small number ride horses (11%). However these replies only refer to local residents and do not include those who come from outside the village. 21% said that they avoided the Minnis, at least for part of the year, and the main reasons given were mud in winter and visitors in summer.

Rules and Regulations Q's 66 - 68:

The responses were:

	No.	%		No.	%
No Camping or Caravans	130	96	No horses in winter	43	32
No Fires	128	95	Dogs to be kept on leads	29	21
Driving for access to properties	105	79	Visitors to pay for parking	17	13
Driving for access to parking	55	40	Others (Mainly no off road driving)	16	12

There was a great deal of support for rules to be displayed (75%) and 49% would like there to be local by-laws. There was very little support for the idea of wardens (18%) and only 12 people were prepared to act in this role.

Other Footpaths and Bridleways Q69 - 71:

Many of the respondents use other footpaths and bridleways (77%). However replies about signposting and maintenance was less clear as most just stated “some”. This is a topic that the Parish Council could return to and ask the regular walkers to produce a more detailed survey.

The overall view of the Appraisal Group is that these responses could form the basis of worthwhile discussions between the Parish Council and the Minnis Managers. Car Parking needs to be considered given the number of visitors in summer and walkers all the year round. It is possible that the Rules and Regulations might have more impact if they were published jointly.

RECREATIONAL and SOCIAL FACILITIES Q's 79 - 92

It should be noted that Stelling Minnis and the surrounding parishes are all quite small and often are just not big enough to support purely village based activities. Virtually all clubs, societies and courses which prosper depend on additional support from neighbouring communities. It follows that, even when the local demand appears to be limited, it could still be worthwhile promoting an activity which will enhance village life, although it may need outside support if it is to be viable.

Stelling Minnis Village Hall Q's 79, 80, 83 - 85:

The village has an excellent well maintained village hall. About half of those responding (48%) had attended a function or club at the hall in the past year and the average attendance was just over 9 occasions in that period.

The response to the question asking about possible subjects for courses at the village hall was disappointing. There were only 39 replies (29%) and the most popular subjects were Computing and French.

Subjects of interest – responses	
Computing	11
French	11
Other languages	4
Yoga	8
Keep fit/dance	8
Pilates	5
Local history	3
Others	13

Weekly Club/Social Sessions - demand	
Day times	26
Evenings	20
Weekend	8
No	55

The Appraisal Group believes that it would be good to see a greater use of this excellent facility. They are mindful of the observations at the introduction of this section of the report but believe that a combination of local initiatives and cooperation with organisations such as Adult Education or the Workers Education Association could lead to more facilities for the community.

Clubs, Play and Sports Facilities Q's 81, 82, 86 - 92:

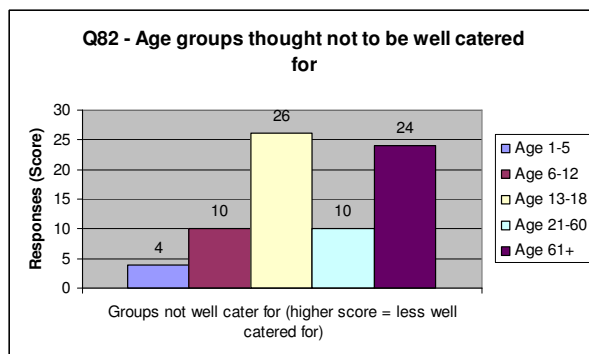
It is pleasing to note that the average support for clubs and other activities (Q81) was one per household. Of course this is made up of several from one and none from others but nevertheless indicates a good level of participation.

Groups not catered for:

Appendix B gives the responses from some of the clubs and societies.

We asked which groups were not catered for and the two with the greatest needs were teenagers and the elderly.

A need for a play area was recognised by half those replying (49) but only 19 households indicated that they would use it if it were to be provided.



Suggested locations for such a facility were:

- Green opposite the shop 14
- Near SM village hall 7
- Near Bossingham village hall 8
- On the Minnis 3
- Others 4

There was a strong demand for more sports facilities – for young people - 54 (56%) and adults - 46 (47%). There was a very long list of sporting facilities suggested (91),

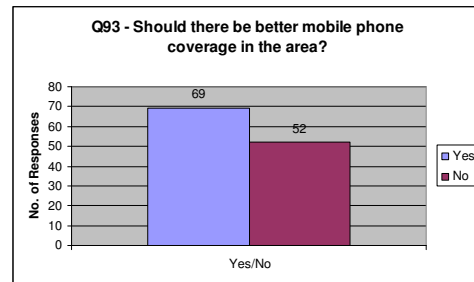
of which the greatest single demand was for tennis courts. Some of the suggestions were:

- Tennis courts 31
- Indoor sports (Badminton, Basket ball, Netball, Aerobics, Gym, multiplay) 28
- Football 9
- Swimming Pool 5
- Cricket (inc nets) 3
- and many others

The Appraisal Group is of the opinion that there is a clear demand for more sporting facilities and perhaps a play area for the under sevens. However, many of these suggestions would need an expensive project or projects which, if undertaken, would need to be viable on an ongoing basis. It is suggested that the Parish Council joins with Upper Hardres Parish Council, and even possibly other local Councils, to investigate and plan for the introduction of improved or new facilities. If there is a decision to proceed with any kind of a scheme it will be necessary to involve Shepway DC and Canterbury CC.

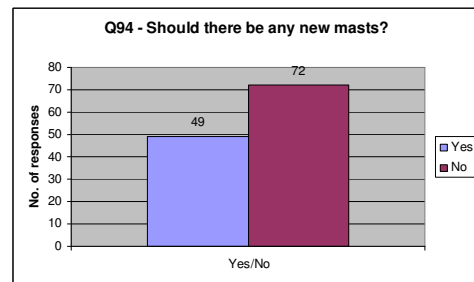
COMMUNICATIONS Qs 93 - 102

The purposes of this section were to find out information relating to selected channels and methods of communication used both within the village and beyond; and, to determine possible future demand as regards mobile phone network coverage and for any 'communications centre/internet café'. This information could be valuable in guiding the Parish Council and other village based groups in their communications and also in determining future policies and initiatives.



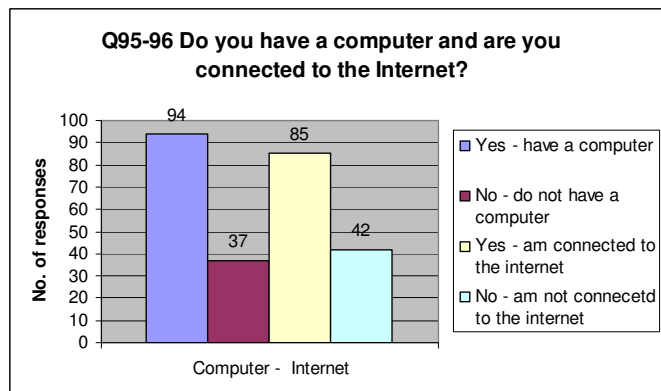
Mobile phone networks Qs 93 - 94:

Whilst there was a small majority of respondents in favour of improved mobile phone network coverage, there was a significant majority against additional masts being erected.



Computer, internet use and fax/copier facilities Qs 95, 96 and 98:

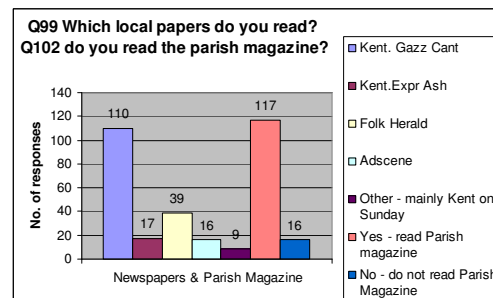
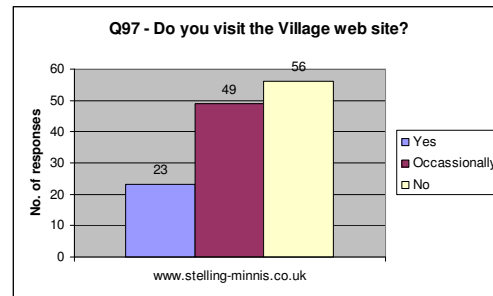
There was a significant majority of households which both possess a computer and have internet access. There was very little demand for an internet café and fax facilities. There was greater demand for a photocopying facility and the



village shop currently provides for this, however perhaps there is a need for an upgraded service.

Communication channels within the village and locality Qs 97, 99 - 102:

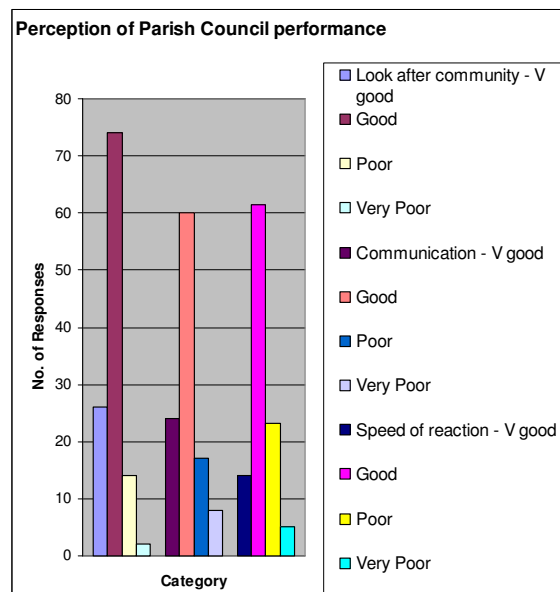
Whilst a small majority of respondents do visit the village website, relatively few do so regularly. This would indicate that this is not yet a primary medium for finding information about village matters. Almost 9 out of 10 respondents read village notice boards but less than half do so most weeks. Almost all respondents read notices displayed at the village shop with a majority doing so most weeks. The vast majority of respondents read the monthly parish magazine. There is a variety of local newspapers read by respondents with the Kentish Gazette (Canterbury) being by far the most popular. There is a dilemma in this response as information about Shepway District Council is considerably diminished.



PARISH COUNCIL PERFORMANCE Q's 103 - 105

Respondents were asked to indicate the Parish Councils performance in 3 areas – The manner in which the Parish Council looks after the needs of the community; their communication with the community; and speed of reaction to changes in the community.

In all three areas the Parish Council scored highly in the “good” perception and well in the “very good” perception. However there were a significant number of respondents whose perception of the Parish Council was “poor” with a small number in “very poor”.



With regard to “the manner in which the Parish Council looks after the community”, there may be some confusion by respondents as to the boundaries of the Parish Council’s responsibilities compared to those of Shepway District Council, Kent County Council and the Managers and Trustees of Stelling Minnis Common. In this respect, the Parish Council may wish to consider ways of better communicating their roles and responsibilities with the community.

Looking at “communication with the community”, the Parish Council chairman writes every month in the Parish Magazine (Hardres-Stelling News), makes extensive use of

the Stelling Minnis Web site (www.stelling-minnis.co.uk), displays the agenda and minutes of Council meetings on the notice board opposite Stelling Minnis stores and provides information to the local newspapers' village correspondents for their weekly/bi-weekly columns. Analysis of the data on this question (Q104) shows that of the 25 respondents perceiving poor or very poor communication, only 6 of them said that they do not read the Parish Magazine and 18 of them do. 1 respondent did not answer the question relating the reading the Parish Magazine. The Parish Council may need to review the content of their communication with the community and seek additional means of communication to cater for those residents who do not read the Parish Magazine nor have access to the Village Web site. Alternative communication methods will impact on other organisations within the community who also need to communicate with residents.

“Speed of reaction to changes in the community” is often out of the Parish Council's control. An example would be the introduction of speed limits. The Parish Council quickly instigated a local referendum on the introduction of speed limits in 2005, following a fatal accident in Bossingham Road, yet it took Kent County Council almost 2 years to agree that speed limits were relevant, consult with the relevant authorities and introduce them. The Parish Council only meets every other month and in most instances has to rely on other organisations (Shepway DC, KCC etc) to instigate the changes. The Parish Council may need to consider clarifying their communication with the community about progress on changes.

GENERAL COMMENTS Q 106

The final question, as might have been expected, produced many varied comments and opinions. They ran to 12 closely typed pages and are too numerous to reproduce. Where possible they have been included in the notes on particular questions earlier in this report.

The strong underlying theme was the wish to oppose urbanisation of the village. The quiet unspoilt nature of the village was the most important reason why people live here.

As reported elsewhere there were many comments on the Minnis itself which went beyond the specific questions. It has been made clear that this questionnaire was not intended to reopen the debate on the Management Plan. No doubt in due course there will be an assessment of the first stages of the Plan and that will be the time to debate these issues. However it is felt that it would be worthwhile to pass the complete comments to the Minnis Managers for their consideration.

Other areas of comment were: - the state of the bus shelters; strong views on notice boards; litter and litter bins; and car parking in general. Where possible they have been referred to elsewhere.

Four households expressed a range of very strong opinions at some length but it is just not possible to deal with such individual problems in an exercise of this kind.

----- End -----

SECTION 2 - STELLING MINNIS APPRAISAL AND PARISH PLAN

The Appraisal Group has considered the responses to the questionnaire which are summarised in Section 1 of this report. Conclusions have been drawn and a list of proposed actions is presented in this section. The actions are complemented by brief details outlining:

- ❖ Which Organisation or committees may be involved in the implementation;
- ❖ The first steps when considering the Actions;
- ❖ Cost Factors;
- ❖ “Green” considerations;
- ❖ Priorities.

Implementation of the Action Plan:

It will be seen that the Parish Council features many times as the lead organisation involved in, or even solely responsible for many actions. With only seven members this will place a significant load on the Council. It is suggested that a possible way to make progress would be for the Council to set up several sub-committees to plan and develop groups of actions. The membership could consist of some councillors complemented by volunteers drawn from the community, ideally with relevant expertise, and the other listed clubs or organisations.

Time Scales:

The proposed Actions constitute a programme which will take several years to implement. Indeed, some may prove too impossible to achieve in the form suggested. In some plans of other Parishes, each item has been accompanied by a time scale or even a specific target date. The Appraisal Group is not certain that this is realistic. The suggested alternative is to review progress after two years and again after five years after the adoption of this report. It is quite possible that after these reviews some objectives may be modified in the light of experience. It is also expected that a brief annual update would form part of the report to the community at the Annual Parish Meeting.

Stelling Minnis Village Appraisal Report and Action Plan - 2008

Action Plan:

Abbreviations used:-

SMPC = Stelling Minnis Parish Council

UHPC = Upper Hardres Parish Council

SDC = Shepway District Council

KCC = Kent County Council

PROW = Public Rights of Way

SMVH = Stelling Minnis Village Hall

ACRK = Action with Communities in Rural Kent

Issue	Who	Action/First Step	Cost Implications	Green Factor	Priority	Comments
<p><u>1 Speed limits in the Village:</u> a) Continue to press for improvements to safety on Stone Street. b) Monitor effect of 30mph limit and consider need for 40mph limit elsewhere.</p>	SMPC	<p>Keep records of all incidents and problems.</p> <p>Investigate speed watch.</p> <p>Decide timescale.</p>	<p>a) For KCC highways to consider.</p> <p>b) Medium if speed watch equipment has to be acquired.</p>	Medium – reduced speeds lead to less fuel use.	Stone Street – V High. Village – medium.	Give 30mph limit time to see if it has any effect.
<p><u>2 Windmill and Museum:</u> a) Arrangements for opening in 2008. b) Museum extension.</p>	<p>a) SMPC Windmill sub committee b) SMPC Windmill committee + Windmill Fete committee.</p>	b) Assess the requirements and finance availability leading to the design stage.	b) Medium – limited by funds in Windmill and fete accounts + any other grants.		<p>1) High.</p> <p>2) Medium to high.</p>	1) Resolution of safety, health and hygiene issue to be the highest priority.

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Issue	Who	Action/First Step	Cost Implications	Green Factor	Priority	Comments
<u>3 Refuse collection:</u> Garden waste recycling bins and fortnightly household refuse collections.	SDC + SMPC.	Assess impact of changes SDC make to arrangements when new contracts are agreed in 2008.	Medium - funded by SDC.	Depends on impact of SDC refuse changes to the system in 2008.	High.	Liaise with SDC Ward Councillor.
<u>4 Children and schooling:</u> Provision of safe route and/or transport to school.	SMPC, Stelling Minnis School Governors, Friends of Stelling Minnis School, The Minnis Managers, KCC and KCC PROW team (for a).	a) Prepare proposals for a safe route to school. b) Determine viability of a minibus scheme. c) Promote car sharing.	a) Medium to high. b) Medium to high. c) Low.	High as all would reduce vehicle traffic to and from school.	High.	The school has a policy on safe routes to school.
<u>5 Work locally:</u> Job creation.	SMPC + SDC.	Support any schemes to create local jobs. Seek advice from ACRK & SDC.	Low.	High.	Medium.	Liaise with other adjacent PC's, ACRK & employers.

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Issue	Who	Action/First Step	Cost Implications	Green Factor	Priority	Comments
<u>6 Bus Service:</u> a) Frequency & destinations. b) Late bus. c) Sunday bus service. d) Investigate community transport schemes.	SMPC + ACRK & KCC.	Assess need for changes. Liaise with KCC and be advised by ACRK.	High but funded by KCC who have budget limitations.	High - would reduce reliance on private car.	Medium.	Liaise with other PC's on the route or proposed routes, including access to hospitals.
<u>7 Hospital car service & car share schemes:</u>	SMPC.	Assess demand and availability. Give existing schemes a higher profile. Promote and publicise use of both.	Low.	Car share – medium. Would reduce individual car journeys.	Medium (both).	Determine ways to promote both.
<u>8 Low cost housing:</u>	SMPC, Rural Housing Trust and others.	Assess demand and, identify suitable site. Consider alternative methods of provision. Investigate provision of 6 more houses.			High.	Note: Perhaps there is a need to review policy of houses only for those with local connections to attract more young families to the village.

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Issue	Who	Action/First Step	Cost Implications	Green Factor	Priority	Comments
<u>9 Provision of local health services:</u>	SMPC + Lyminge Doctors medical services + SMVH.	Assess demand and enter in discussion with both Doctors services in Lyminge – possibly Primary Care Trust.	Low.	High – reduce individual car journeys.	High.	Possibly involve UHPC and other Doctors services.
<u>10 Meals services:</u>	SMPC, SMVH.	Assess demand. Explore opportunities with Age Concern. Explore viability of provision of meals on wheels services + lunch club.	Medium.		Low.	Apetito provide a service in the area. Needs volunteers.
<u>11 Shop & PO services:</u>	SMPC, Village Shop & Post Office.	Hold discussions to explore opportunities to increase services.	Medium.	Medium.	High.	PO & shop viability dependent on continuing use.
<u>12 Mains drainage:</u>	SMPC.	Continue to investigate the feasibility of a local scheme.	High, but grants may be available.	High.	Low.	
<u>13 Minnis Management:</u>	SMPC.	Give Minnis Managers a copy of all responses relating to Stelling Minnis Common.			High.	

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Issue	Who	Action/First Step	Cost Implications	Green Factor	Priority	Comments
<u>14 Bins & map:</u> Plan for provision of:- a) Litter bins. b) Dog waste bins. c) Map.	SMPC, SDC & Minnis Managers.	a/b) Open discussions with SDC and possibly Minnis Managers c) Explore design & provision of a village map and its siting.	a) Medium. b) Medium. c) Medium.	a) Medium. b) Medium. c) Low.	a) Medium. b) Medium. c) Medium.	Issue of emptying bins to be resolved.
<u>15 Car Parking:</u> a)Provision of car parking for Minnis visitors. b)Expansion of car park at Rose & Crown.	SMPC, Minnis Managers & PubMaster.	a) Open discussions with Minnis Managers. b) Open discussions with PubMaster.	a) Medium. b) Medium.	a) Low. b) Low.	a) Low. b) High.	May involve KCC Highways.
<u>16 Village Hall:</u> Provision of community services.	SMPC + SM Village Hall Management.	Explore expansion and methods of provision of more services.	Medium, but funding may be available as grants.	Low.	High.	May involve voluntary sector and other communities.
<u>17 Play area:</u> Provide a play area for 2-7 year olds.	SMPC + possible input from Play Group, School PTA and SDC.	1) Re-assess the demand. 2) Meet with UHPC to consider joint venture.	High, but funding may be available from SDC, CCC and other sources.	Medium.	Low.	More work needed on possible location. Given the likely use, one facility for the two villages may be the answer.

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Issue	Who	Action/First Step	Cost Implications	Green Factor	Priority	Comments
<u>18 Sports Facilities:</u>	SMPC, possible input from School & Cricket Club, SDC.	In view of cost implications meet with UHPC with a view to promoting a joint venture. Plan for and introduce sports facilities for which there is a clear demand.	High, but funds & support may be available from many sources.	Medium. Reduce travel and contribute to a healthier population.	Medium.	May need participation of other parishes & SDC/CCC if it becomes a major project.
<u>19 Photocopying services:</u>	SMPC & Village Shop.	Encourage village shop to enhance existing facility.	Medium.		Medium.	May be part of shop/PO expansion opportunities. Note: in some villages service is available at Village Hall.
<u>20 Parish Council performance:</u>	SMPC.	Explore ways to review how the PC communicates with the community. Review communication with the community.	Low.		High.	Include communication of PC's responsibility and progress of projects affecting the community.

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APPENDIX A – WISH LIST

When the village appraisal was first envisaged an initial questionnaire was circulated from which a “wish list” was generated and presented at the public meeting in January 2007, as follows:-

Highways

- Speed limits in village. Make clearer between school and The Minnis, Wheelbarrow Town, on Stone Street. (Surprisingly few specifically). 15
- Improved road signs including Sandy Lane/redirect Jubilee Farm signs. 3
- Pavement from Minnis to School. 3
- Widen Curtis Lane.
- Reduce width of Curtis Lane, with passing places, to reduce speed of vehicles.
- Improve, possibly widen Bossingham Road.
- Reduce Heavy Vehicles on local roads.
- Improve road drainage/proper repairs to holes. 3
- At the School - speed bumps, proper parking and encourage walking bus.
- Remove debris from roads after hedge cutting to prevent punctures. 2
- Double yellow lines. both sides, at school to facilitate walking from BVH car park.
- Stop spread of tarmac at road edges onto the Minnis.
- Remove all "street furniture" and overhead lines from Minnis to emphasise its rural character

Utilities

- Mains drainage or subsidized cesspool service. 11
- Mains gas. 4. Water supply update & improve.
- A few street lights. 3 - (In reasons for liking life here, several replies stated lack of street lights).
- Tidying up the village - including litter bins, dog waste bins, repair bus shelter, improving Minnis. 2
- Green and removing edging stones. 6
- Village map showing houses, paths, and bridleways. 3
- Brown top bins for those without. 2.
- More obvious Police presence. 2

Recreation and other facilities

- Sports area including tennis, bowls and other facilities. 7
- Cricket ground. Bring back old time cricket match.
- An indoor swimming pool. 2
- Course at village hall including computing. 2

- Facilities for the elderly at the village hall. 3
- Nurses Clinic 4 and Doctors surgery for short consultations. 4
- Encourage more use of Shop/PO and plan to ensure that it stays open. 10
(Note the shop and the pub were reasons many people gave for liking Stelling Minnis).
- Broadband.

Public Transport

- More buses at different times (including evenings). 10
- Other destinations e.g. Folkestone and Ashford. 2
- Consider dial-a-bus.

Housing (surprisingly few responses)

- No new housing.
- Provide low cost housing.

The Minnis

- Provide proper parking on the Minnis (as in Lyminge Forest) and stop parking on verges (e.g. by the pub). 5
- Stop driving on the Minnis 4 and horses in wet weather.
- Dogs to be kept on leads and banned from certain areas in bird nesting season.
- Open grazing with strategic barriers. 3
- Grazing in limited small areas/ retention of open access.
- Encourage pride in the unique common and listed buildings/retain rural character. 2
- Restore no camping, caravans & fires signs.
- Sack the Managers.

Parish Council

- PC to be more proactive in encouraging civic engagement and supporting involved people when difficulties arise - do more to involve those on edge of the village.
- Encourage SDC and KCC to recognize local expertise of PC.
- Welcome pack for new residents (information on services etc) 2

End of list

APPENDIX B – RESPONSES FROM CLUBS & SOCIETIES

4 societies responded by e-mail (Brownies/Rainbows, Youth Challenge Group, Bossingham Youth Club and Methodist Church).

Section 1:

1) Bossingham Pre-school

Organiser: Debbie Tapley

Membership total: 24

Stelling Minnis 8; Bossingham & Upper Hardres 7; Others 9.

No waiting list for new members.

Additional equipment or enhanced facilities required – we would like to have an outside storage area which is secure to store our larger toys away from the elements and to tidy up the garden area and make it visually more attractive for other users of the hall. We also would appreciate an area that could be used in all weathers even if the grass was muddy i.e. a paved/concrete area to ride bicycles and play. We are trying to replace our old tired out toys, books and equipment and are also hoping to replace our very old computers and computer games. We would like to build up a small collection of educational computer games to provide a basic knowledge of computers for the children to assist when they move to school. We are always very grateful for any additional manpower when we hold our fundraising events

2) Bossingham Rainbows & Brownies:

Organiser: Maxine Blades:

Total: 38 (Combined total for both Units)

Stelling Minnis 14; Bossingham/Upper Hardres 14; Others (mostly Petham) 10

Waiting list for Brownies

Bossingham Village Hall could do with more storage and an update to facilities.

3) Challenge Youth Group

Organiser: Martin Jones

Address: Estovers, Curtis Lane, Stelling Minnis

E-mail: challengeyouthgroup@yahoo.co.uk

Membership Total: 45

Stelling Minnis 15; Bossingham/Upper Hardres 10; Others 20.

Is there a waiting list for new members? NO

No new equipment or facilities needed.

4) Bossingham Youth Club

Organiser: Claire Champion:

Membership Total: 26

Stelling Minnis 15; Bossingham 7; Others 4 (Petham including 3 Afghan Foster Children).

Is there a waiting list for new members? YES

New equipment or enhanced facilities: there appears to be a strong need for the youth club facility to be run more often and our members are desperate for a play area and multi-use sports court to play football, basket ball, tennis, etc.

5) Stelling Methodist Church

Organiser: Eunice Holliday

Membership total 20

Stelling Minnis 10; Bossingham/U.Hardres 6; Others 4.

Is there a waiting list for new members? NO

No new equipment or enhanced facilities needed. The Methodist community is very grateful for the use of the Village Hall and its facilities. The continued use of the building as a meeting place for the Methodist community is important to some of the members and the willing co-operation of the hall committee and secretary are appreciated very much.

6) St. Mary's Church Stelling

Priest in Charge Rev. Margi Walker

Membership total: 60 (including about 25 children

Stelling Minnis 30; Bossingham & Upper Hardres 10; Other 20.

Is there a waiting list for new members? /NO

Is there a need for enhanced facilities and/or new equipment: The church is a grade 1 listed building and requires some substantial work on renewing the beams under some box pews, electrical rewiring –as well as a number of other smaller repairs

The views of children and young people from these clubs and societies are:

What do you like about living in the Villages?

It's nice and quiet in the country – not many cars (2)

Lots of space to play

I like my school (SMPS)

I like the shop (2)

I wake up and hear the birds singing

There are nice things to do as it is not as dangerous as in the town

Lovely place

Lovely houses

Walking

Friends

Sledging

Gets cut off

Sheep

Rose and Crown

The village shop, country side/fresh air (not busy like town)

Long bike rides

Friendly helpful people.

What don't you like about living in the Villages?

Litter

Nothing in the wide open spaces

Parties in the pub keeping me awake (Hop Pocket)

Dead animals in the road

Dog poo on the Minnis

Mud

Nowhere to go

Old men in the pub

Being so far away from any facilities

No playground/field park.

APPENDIX C - ROLE OF THE PARISH COUNCIL WITH REFERENCE TO THE PARISH PLAN

It is important to clarify exactly what the Parish Council can and cannot do in relation to achieving the action plan contained in the Parish Plan. In this context, there are certain aspects of its role which are important:-

- ❖ Councillors are representatives of the people within the Parish with a responsibility to work for the good of the parishioners. They work on a purely voluntary basis.
- ❖ The Parish Council is the first 'port of call' for local queries from members of the Parish.
- ❖ The Parish Council has limited direct access to funding.
- ❖ Direct access to funding arises from the Council Tax. In the year 2008/9 this will amount to £3600 (approximately £14 per household in the Parish). Most of this is used for expenses such as the Clerk's salary, insurance payments, maintenance of the few Parish's assets and contributions to some charities and societies. The windmill and windmill museum are self supporting and are run from a separate account.
- ❖ It is a Statutory Consultee in local development control and is thus able to represent local opinion in planning issues.
- ❖ It has a lobbying/influencing role where it can take the lead in contacting other bodies, such as the District Council and the highways authority.

In practice implementation of the action plan will be achieved through various forms of grant funding accessible to councils and local organisations. There is a wide variety of such funds available and the Parish Council is aware of those relevant for community projects. However, considerable time and effort will be needed to access these funds and pursue the various aspects of the action plan. The Parish Council will take the lead in many of the working groups that will be involved but it will be important to include a broad range of volunteers from the local community.

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- ❖ Shepway District Council – for help in obtaining information and services;
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- ❖ The Assessors of the draft questionnaire – Gillian Baldwin, Shelagh Carter, Gillian Emans, Robbie Gambrill, Derry Lowe, Louise Trotter and Simon Warner;
- ❖ Nick Smith – for spending so much time processing the results and presenting it in a form that could be understood;
- ❖ The Appraisal Group: Ann Day, Johnathan Hurdwell, Margaret Leach, Nick Smith, David Stuart, Malcolm Trotter, John Worthy.
- ❖ Photographs: Front cover – Annie Wood
 - Back cover – Centre – Malcolm Trotter
 - Bottom right – Jacquie Smith
 - Rest – Annie Wood

The Appraisal Group would like to record the dedication and leadership shown by our Chairman, David Stuart, without whose determination the village appraisal and action plan just would not have existed.

