

Agenda Item 5

Development Control Committee

2 June 2009

FW



Musbury Parish Plan

Summary

A Parish Plan has been produced by a Steering Group (including a Parish Council representative and five others) for the Parish of Musbury. This report explains the position with regard to this Community Planning Initiative and recommends that it be formally endorsed by the District Council.

Recommendation

1. That the Musbury Parish Plan be endorsed and used to inform decision making in the District and the production of the Local Development Framework.
2. That the Musbury Parish Plan Steering Group be congratulated on their work.

a) Reasons for Recommendation

To ensure that the views of the Musbury community are taken into account in decision making.

b) Alternative Options

That the Musbury Parish Plan be not endorsed.

c) Risk Considerations

If the District Council does not endorse the Parish Plan, decisions will be taken at District Council level without the benefit of the extensive public consultation which has been undertaken. The local community will feel disenfranchised and are unlikely to want to work in partnership with the District Council on future initiatives.

d) Policy and Budgetary Considerations

None

e) Date for Review of Decision

Not applicable, although the Parish Plan may be updated in accordance with the Local Development Framework timetable.

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- 1.1 The Musbury Steering Board have produced a Parish Plan setting out the views and aspirations of the Parish. Succinct Action Plans are set out alongside reviews of various topics such as Housing and Development, Countryside and the Environment, and Travel and Transport. Partner bodies such as this Council and the Community Council of Devon are listed, together with generalised timescales.
 - 1.2 The Parish Plan provides a very useful insight into the community's views, resulting from an extensive impartial public consultation, which resulted in a good response rate of 60%, including 59% of young people (12-17 years old) and 59% of children (7-11 years old). This will ensure that decisions taken by the District Council will take these views into

account and will assist in prioritisation and working in partnership with the Parish Council and other local bodies.

2 Consultation and Distribution

- 2.1 The first information evening between the Community Council for Devon, Musbury Parish Council and local residents was held in October 2006, followed by an open meeting for residents, organised by the Parish Council, in March 2007. After another open meeting, a feedback document was produced in October 2007, highlighting the main areas of interest to residents and the Steering Group first met the following month. A successful bid for funding (£1885) was made to the Community Council of Devon and the Parish Council also contributed. The Steering Group met regularly in January 2008 to produce questionnaires, which were finalised in February and distributed in March.
- 2.2 A separate questionnaire was sent to every individual of 7 years old plus in the Parish, with different questions for different age bands. 503 questionnaires were distributed to 457 adults (17+ years), 29 young people (12-17) and 17 children (7-11). A prize cash draw was included as an incentive. An overall response rate of 60% was achieved and analysis of the returns was completed in August 2008. Copies of the resultant Parish Plan were sent to every household in Musbury, as well as others, including this Council.
- 2.3 Apart from one or two minor points (e.g. the District Council cannot act as a partnership agent in respect of highway matters, over which it has no jurisdiction), the Plan was considered to be suitable for presentation to this Committee.
- 2.4 The Parish Plan will be available to be downloaded free of charge once it has been endorsed, and paper copies will be available via the Steering Group.

3 Implementation

- 3.1 Once endorsed, the Plan will be taken into account when making decisions and considering allocation of resources.

Legal Implications

There are no legal implications to report.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications.

Background Papers

The file containing all documents, Parish Plans, Village Design Statements and previous correspondence.

Frank Woolston Ext 2282
Senior Planning Policy Officer
10 March 2009

Development Control Committee

A Parish Plan is an opportunity for a community to have a say in how their local area and services are managed.

People living and working in Musbury have a unique appreciation and understanding of their local community and this Parish Plan is based on their views.

This document, compiled and produced by the Musbury community, identifies what residents think about a range of issues. It sets out what needs doing, why, when and by whom.

The Parish Council and the Steering Group believe that this plan offers a constructive opportunity for residents to become involved in the future of our community and to influence the way in which decisions are taken.

The Parish Plan Steering Group:

John Warren, Chairman
Janet Albano, representing the Parish Council
Joe Anscombe
Jane Bishop
Lesley McGowan Lock
David Sarll

Key to abbreviations used throughout

CCD	Community Council of Devon
DACL	Devon Adult Community Learning
DAPC	Devon Association of Parish Councils
DISC	Devon Information Services for Children
EDDC	East Devon District Council
MPC	Musbury Parish Council
PP	Parish Plan
SG	Steering Group

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FOREWORD

Musbury is a small village in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. We are fortunate to retain a village shop and Post Office, a church and a chapel, a pub, a school, a garage and a village hall. People help their neighbours and enjoy a regular programme of activities. Most residents are very happy here and feel privileged and proud to be living in this caring and active community.

Why do we need a Parish Plan? This was a question asked by many residents when the idea of producing a plan was first raised. "If it ain't broke, don't fix it" was a common response. The debate was vigorous but in the end, because people want the best of Musbury to endure, we decided to go ahead. We took this opportunity to put on record what matters to Musbury, what is important to keep, and what changes would be welcomed.

The results from the survey have not thrown up any major surprises but they have confirmed that the key issues brought to Parish Council Meetings by a relatively small number of residents do matter to the wider community. This is encouraging and further strengthens the Council's resolve to make faster progress towards a solution for the drainage, road safety and housing issues already in train. We also particularly note the need for improved communication, from the Parish Council and others, and the desire of residents to attract more young people to Musbury.

The responses have helped establish a set of objectives and a number of tasks designed to meet them. Some of these will be the responsibility of the Parish Council to carry out, either

alone or working with outside agencies; other recommended tasks will be down to members of the Community to get going.

I would like to thank all the people who have been involved in the planning, preparation, analysis and writing of this plan. In particular I owe thanks to the volunteer members of the Steering Group who have worked long and hard to produce the Plan. I also want to say a big thank you to everyone who took the time and trouble to give their responses to the survey and to all those who helped in the distribution and collection of questionnaires, especially Musbury Stores and Post Office for their role as Co-ordination Centre.

Musbury Parish Council commissioned the Parish Plan in late 2007. Since the survey was conducted the Boundary Commission has been looking into the structure of local government in Devon. Changes are likely but we now have a record of the views of Musbury. Whatever the future holds, this Plan aims to make sure we are heard.

Colin Corbett
Chair, Musbury Parish Council

INTRODUCTION

The Parish of Musbury lies south of Axminster in an area bounded by the main A35 trunk route and the A3052 coast road. The greater part of the parish is designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). The main centre of population is the village of Musbury which lies equidistant between the towns of Axminster and Seaton, themselves some 6 miles apart. The centre of the village is a designated Conservation Area.

Musbury was mentioned in the Domesday Book, as Musberia. The Parish includes a number of listed buildings and sites of historical interest.

Ashe House, the reputed birthplace of John Churchill who was created Duke of Marlborough after the Battle of Blenheim, was in the ownership of the Drake family from the 15th to the 18th century. A unique 17th century tomb in St Michael's Parish Church marks the final resting place of members of the Drake family.

Musbury Castle, an Iron Age fort, rises above the village and is part of a chain of hill forts that formed a frontier line of defence against invading tribes. Describing the view from the top of Musbury Castle in The Book of the Axe (1875) George Pulman wrote: "*The panoramic view of the Valley of the Axe is one of the best*

throughout its extent, and the eye ranges far beyond that lovely tract – over hill and dale, with water, timber and all other accessories for a perfect English landscape".

Those standing in the same spot today would agree.

The countryside around Musbury is mainly given over to cattle and dairy farming although some farmers are now diversifying into leisure interests. There is a network of footpaths throughout the parish enjoyed by visitors and locals. Musbury is part of the Newbridges ward of East Devon and has some 274 dwellings housing over 500 residents. In common with other villages in East Devon, Musbury has a large retired population and a small number of young families. In addition the village has two care homes for adults with learning difficulties.

While many people have lived in the village all their lives, increasing numbers of residents are 'incomers' from other parts of the country.

Developing the Parish Plan

Most of the work for this Plan has been carried out by the Steering Group, set up by the Parish Council to help the community express its views. We used feedback from Open Meetings to develop questions for the surveys distributed in Spring 2008.

These questions concentrated on Travel and Transport, Housing and Development, the Countryside and the Environment, Education, Community, Health, Safety and the Emergency Services, Communication and Employment.

Surveys were targeted at 3 groups. This report and action plan is based on the community's responses to those surveys. We have taken account of proposed developments in the region since the questions were answered.

Looking West towards Musbury & Whitford



Milestones in Setting up the Plan

2006

3 October CCD Parish Plan Information evening, Honiton; Musbury Parish Councillors and residents attend

2007

28 March Open Meeting for Musbury residents, organised by MPC. Paul Edwards, CCD, in attendance

27 June Councillors attend EDDC Annual Meeting of Parish Councils. MPC commissions PP

20 October 2nd Open Meeting for Musbury residents, organised by MPC
Greg Davies, CCD in attendance
Volunteers found

30 October Feedback document produced, highlighting main areas of interest to residents

29 November Meeting organised by MPC for volunteers. Steering Group appointed

10 December First meeting of Steering Group

17 December

Bid for funding made to CCD by Steering Group

2008

19 January

Funding Application successful. Award of £1885 received; MPC contributes £140

January

Steering Group meets regularly to produce questionnaires

23 February

Fund-raising Race Night with Musbury Castle Challenge- £490 contributed to the Parish Plan

February

Questionnaire finalised

March

Questionnaire distributed following Steering Group briefings to distributors in the Village Hall

30 April

Deadline for responses

2 June

Prize draw

31 August

Data entry completed

Sept - November

Report and Action Plan produced

15 December

Draft to MPC

2009

5 January

Meeting with MPC.

Conduct of the Survey

We were provided with a list of households by EDDC Electoral Services. Our aim was to capture the opinions of everyone living in Musbury, particularly those of young people, who are in the minority. We therefore decided to send a questionnaire to each individual living in the Parish, and to develop separate questionnaires for three age bands. Volunteers visited each home in the parish to try to establish the number of people in each band at that address.

From this research we distributed a total of 503 questionnaires:

- 457 to adults 17-80+ years
- 29 to young people 12-17 years
- 17 to children 7-11 years.

We set a target of 50% returns as we felt that any figure below this would not produce a worthwhile and representative report.

As an incentive, while maintaining anonymity, separate slips returned with completed questionnaires were included in a Prize Cash draw.

An overall response rate of 60% was achieved, 10% above the target. Although this means that 40% did not respond, either due to apathy or, perhaps, because they were happy with their lot, we are confident that the response provides an adequate sample.

Analysis of the returns was finally completed in mid-August. Consideration of the findings was a lengthy process, with the final report going to the printers in March 2009.

A copy of this document was sent to every household in Musbury, together with other recipients listed on page 44.

The raw data, results of the analysis and all comments have been stored electronically and the completed survey forms boxed. Both electronic and paper records will be kept by MPC with a view to future archiving with the Devon Record Office.

Responses

Replies were received from 279 adults (61%), 17 young people (59%) and 10 children (59%).
7% respondents declared themselves disabled.

20 % adult respondents were between the ages of 17-49 years, and 80% were over 50. 54% of all respondents were over 60. This last figure is higher than that for Newbridges (38%), East Devon (33%), South West (24%) and England (20%), and indicates either that Musbury has a population with a high average age, or that its younger residents formed a high proportion of the 40% who did not return a completed survey form.

Overview of What We Found

From the questionnaire answers and all the comments, we identified a number of core values shared by residents:— Peace and Tranquility, Neighbourliness, Rurality and Tradition. These underpin the residents’ vision of what they want for Musbury. Much is already there for Musbury to try to keep. In other areas, where there are gaps between the vision and the reality, changes need to happen.

	The Vision for Musbury- Residents want	What needs to happen
Travel and Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A convenient local public transport system that enables them to travel easily at different times of the day, weekends and evenings included • To be and feel safe while driving, cycling and walking to their destinations • Good roads that will not cause damage to their vehicle or themselves 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve availability of bus and taxi services • Improve the connectivity between bus and rail services • Improve safety on the A358 • Improve use of community transport and investigate self-help car pool • Reduce parking problems in the village at key times • Improve road surfaces, particularly minor roads
Housing and Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Locals to have the best possible choice of housing for rent and purchase at prices that they can afford • To stay an active 21st century village • Planners to permit only small -scale developments that are in keeping with the best design standards and sympathetic to a village environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarify the need for affordable housing • Improve the rental allocation to local residents • Encourage residents to attend council meetings to discuss applications • Ensure that new developments are appropriate to a village location

Housing and Development <i>continued</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To have confidence that the infrastructure of drains and the like will not cause flooding • To feel they have a voice in the development of Musbury 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the drainage system
Countryside and the Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The beauty of the surrounding countryside to be protected for the future and enjoyed now • To take opportunities to reduce their impact on the environment • The parish to look attractive and to be clean and free from pollution 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain the integrity of the AONB • Extend recycling to cover cardboard and garden waste • Reduce the rook and seagull populations • Reduce dog fouling
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To have opportunities for Life- Long Learning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep the primary school • Publicise activities in the nearby areas and ensure transport is available • Set up new classes
Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To keep all the current facilities at the heart of village life, particularly the PO • To introduce thriving new facilities, particularly for young people, that are in keeping with village life • To make sure that Musbury builds an enduring community that has a strong future • To enjoy their life in the village - with things to do for all age groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage use of all the local facilities particularly the under-utilised mobile library, and the playing field • Support local businesses especially the PO, Pub and Garage • Improve what's on offer for under 18s • Attract families to Musbury • Start new leisure activities

Community <i>continued</i>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support events at the Village Hall
Health, Safety and the Emergency Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be confident about getting medical help easily when they need it • To be confident about their safety at home and in the village 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve access to an NHS dentist • Revive Neighbourhood Watch schemes • See Police more regularly in the village
Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To know what is going on so that they can make informed choices • A Parish Council whose members are known to, and representative of, the community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve publicity • Welcome new arrivals • Encourage attendance at Parish Council meetings
Employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More opportunities for local employment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage local opportunities.

Musbury Post Office and Stores



Musbury Garage



Structure of the Report

The report describes briefly the current position in Musbury Parish for each key area addressed by the survey. It then outlines the findings from the survey, highlighting the areas where residents would like improvements as well as those where the community has said no change is required. The resultant tasks are the basis for the **Action Plan**.

In the findings, **the percentages given are of the number of respondents who answered the question**. General comments are indicated as such.

There was a high level of response to the full questionnaires. With the exception of questions about affordable housing (3e-3f), which were completed by 63% of adults returning questionnaires, all the other sections showed little variance with respondents completing 82%-96% of the questions asked. Young people showed a similarly high completion rate of their questionnaires.

The body of the report does not detail every response to every question, as our aim is to produce a compact document highlighting the salient points. Quantified results for each question in the survey, together with the many comments, are given in the **Full Summary**. This can be borrowed from Musbury Stores or from Jane Bishop, the Parish Clerk.

Taking it Forward


The Action Plan distinguishes between Actions and Recommendations:

Actions are tasks that fall within the remit of Musbury Parish Council or in areas where the Parish Council can work to influence other named external agencies to implement them. It is expected that the Parish Council will delegate some of the tasks to Action Teams, made up wholly or partially from members of the community.

Recommendations cover tasks in areas outside the remit of the Parish Council, but which have their support. Usually it will be down to the community to take the initiative. Recommendations are shown with shaded backgrounds on the Action Plan.

Priority: Each task has been assigned a priority level, indicating its importance to the community:

H - High; M - Medium; L – Low

Tasks already in hand at the time of printing are flagged .

Timescales: All actions are expected to be underway by mid-2009.

Completion dates will be determined in most cases by external partners. MPC will push for these to be the earliest possible.

Review: It is expected that progress on this report will be reviewed in January 2010 and annually thereafter.

RESULTS FROM THE ADULT SURVEY

TRAVEL AND TRANSPORT

The Parish is served by a network of single-lane roads which link the outlying properties to the village and main roads. The A358 is a busy thoroughfare and is the primary link between the A35 Dorchester to Honiton trunk route and the A3052 coast road linking Lyme Regis, Seaton, Beer, Sidmouth and eventually Exeter. Heavy traffic passes through Musbury Village because of weight restrictions in Lyme Regis and flow restrictions at Trinity Hill (A35) onto the minor roads.

The public bus service from Axminster to Seaton operates via a circuitous route on Monday – Saturday at approximately hourly intervals. The last services from Musbury are to Axminster at 18.28 and to Seaton at 18.49. To travel by road after this time it is necessary to use a local taxi or drive oneself. Taxis in the local area tend to be heavily used in the evenings and pre-booking is advisable. Some firms, particularly in Axminster, are not contactable on Sundays.

There is a comprehensive school bus service for normal school hours, and a number of community bus services cover Musbury.

The Parish is also served by the Exeter – London Rail Network from Axminster. This service runs at 2-hourly intervals and takes just under 3 hours to Waterloo and about 35 minutes to Exeter. There are plans to provide a ‘passing loop’ east of Axminster to allow trains to pass and thus increase the frequency of service. There is also an excellent system of long distance buses operating through Axminster and Seaton. Unfortunately, connectivity between these long distance train and bus services is poor.

The survey showed that 83% of households own one or more cars, and that most people rely on their own transport. 70 people used their own transport to get to work with most driving an average of 10 miles from Musbury, although journey lengths of 70 and 125 miles were recorded. Other journeys to local destinations were mainly for shopping with bank and medical visits also figuring significantly. There is no local public transport after 7pm, and for evening travel 67% of people relied on their own transport, 15% on lifts and 3% on taxis; 16% of people did not go out at night.

Traffic Calming

The subjects of speeding traffic and parking within the village generated considerable comment. It was noted that there is virtually no enforcement of the present speed limits. 39% felt that traffic calming was needed whereas 43% were satisfied. The options preferred were lower speed limits (26%), electronic speed signs (22%), speed bumps and village gateway (17%) and speed cameras (13%). The preferred place for siting calming measures was the main A358 at either end of the village. Only 5% wanted a Pelican crossing.

Since the survey was conducted we understand that there will be significant supermarket and housing development in Seaton. In the shorter-term this is expected to result in up to 40 lorries a day bringing in filling material to raise the level of the flood plain for building and, to a lesser degree, the actual building materials. We can also anticipate an increase in delivery traffic to keep them stocked. It is likely that the bulk of this additional traffic will pass through Musbury. It is imperative that these developments are borne in mind when reviewing traffic calming methods. We believe it is better to pre-empt the situation and introduce measures in anticipation rather than as a reaction. The call for improvements in road safety certainly came through very strongly. **ACTION 1**

54% of people were in favour of a roundabout at Boshill Cross. This crossroads is just to the South of the Parish

and falls within Axmouth parish. It is a dangerous offset junction and was the scene of three officially recorded accidents in 2007. It is also the location for long delays of traffic in the summer months when visitors unfamiliar with the roads are turning different ways into fast-moving traffic. Safety at this junction needs to be improved and it is suggested that we take this forward with our neighbouring parish. **ACTION 2**

Parking

80% used private off-road parking with 11% parking on the public highway. Parking facilities were considered adequate by 46% against 32% who found it a problem. In common with most other schools in the area tensions have arisen as a result of increased traffic and inconsiderate parking both outside the school and in adjoining roads during the school run. Although cars are only parked for brief periods, 40% of respondents considered the school run traffic to be a problem. The Golden Hind has offered the use of its car park as a starting point for a “walking bus” and some parents do use it and walk to school. Unfortunately, there are no pavements on this stretch and cars are often parked close to the walls. Despite the efforts of the Devon County Council Road Safety Officer, Police Community Support Officers and the Headteacher, the required numbers of parents have yet to volunteer for a “walking bus” rota.

Respondents also highlighted various causes of occasional hold-ups including parking in narrow lanes,

chaotic parking around the garage encroaching into Marlborough Close, unnecessary parking on roads by residents with off-road parking, pub visitors not using its car park — but there was little support for any of the suggested measures. 17% would like to see residents' parking permits (close to the numbers without private off-road parking), 12% would like yellow lines in some areas and 3% went for “pay & display”. All would require enforcement to be introduced.

Overall Musbury does not have major parking problems but those who are regularly inconvenienced, feel strongly. More consideration from those parking would help ease the situation considerably. **ACTION 3**

We would also like to ensure that any future developments in the village, whether commercial or domestic, large or small, have their own off-road parking areas. **ACTION 4**

Public Transport

The lack of local Public Transport has been a recurring theme throughout the survey. In addition to its impact on social activities it impinges on employment, adult education, extra-curricular school activities and medical services; it also has a marked effect on the activities available to young people in the evenings unless they rely on friends or relations for transport.

Bus Services

The existing bus service fails to meet the requirements of the village. Several people (30%) considered the service inadequate and fewer (20%) were satisfied; similarly 31% thought connections to other services were poor and only 14% found them adequate. The lack of buses on Sundays and in the evenings, the lack of connection with train services/long distance buses and the irregular schedules came in for particular comment. There is a need for improved connectivity, availability and frequency. **ACTION 5**

Taxis

In the general comments it was stated that some local taxis (particularly in Axminster) did not operate at weekends unless pre-booked. Taxi Office telephones often went unanswered especially at weekends.

RECOMMENDATION 6

Community Transport

The community schemes for transport were not well known and only 2% ever used them. 33% were unaware of the Axe Vale Ring and Ride, 51% of Axminster Community Services, 67% of TRIP and 67% of the Axe Valley Charabanc. More awareness is definitely needed.

RECOMMENDATION 7

21% felt that a car pool system should be run within the Parish from its own resources. The nearby town of Colyton has a well established and successful

community transport scheme, Colyton Link. Musbury could gain valuable advice and information by liaising with its organisers. Such a scheme could be of potential benefit not only to the elderly but also to the young. A Musbury minibus would be useful for taking several people to the same destination; all car drivers could play a part. There is also scope for more formalised car-sharing.

RECOMMENDATION 7

Local Roads

60% of people felt that the local roads and lanes were poorly maintained. It is recognised that there are limited resources available but the current DCC policy of filling only those potholes of a certain size within a cluster should be reviewed.

ACTION 1

Parking in narrow street



There is a close relationship between good drainage and good roads.

See ACTION 14


59% were in favour of cycle paths, particularly on the A358, with many comments supporting their creation together with facilities for pedestrians. More people are interested in reducing their reliance on cars and the current footpaths do not offer suitable routes to the main neighbouring towns. The speed of the traffic makes many people worry about their safety while walking and cycling along the A358. An increase in heavy goods traffic from the proposed supermarket development in Seaton will only make this worse.

ACTION 1

Diversity of traffic in Musbury



Action	Objectives	Tasks	Priority	Agencies	Measure of achievement	Comment
1.	Improve road safety in Musbury Parish for all classes of road user	a) Approach Highways Authority to conduct a survey on usage of the A358 (levels and speeds), taking into account future increases in traffic volume	H <i>RB</i>	MPC DCC Highways EDDC AONB	Lower speed limit introduced Electronic Speed Signs Road crossing or central refuge Double white lines on A358 in restricted area Cycle paths Footpaths and pavements	It is important that Highways takes account of the significant increase in the numbers and size of future traffic. The A358 is fast becoming a “NO GO” area for cyclists and pedestrians and we need to act now! The Managing Strategy of AONB includes traffic volumes for 1990 and 2000
		b) Include a review of policies on drainage and road repair for all roads/lanes	H		Improved road surfaces and drainage	
2.	Improve road safety and traffic flow at Boshill Cross	Liaise with Axmouth Parish Council to formulate a plan	H	MPC Axmouth Parish Council EDCC DCC Highways	Reduced number of accidents Better traffic flow at peak periods	It is important that any improvements are in place before the usage increases if possible.

3.	Effect better parking and reduce inconvenience to residents	a) Ask Musbury Primary School to continue to draw attention to the problems of School parking	H 	MPC	Better access for emergency vehicles	The School is aware of the problem, has cooperated with other agencies and regularly draws the problem to the attention of parents. Nevertheless, the problem remains ongoing and must be readdressed frequently.
		b) Discourage inconsiderate on road parking; ask residents to use own parking areas and promote the use of existing car park facilities		DCC Road Safety Office	Fewer cars parked on roads	
		c) Ask Police Community Support Officers to mount random checks and offer advice		Musbury Primary School	Fewer complaints	
4.	Reduce future parking problems	Ensure any future development has sufficient parking space planned	H	MPC EDDC		Consider Section 106 for funds
5.	Improve Public Transport	Approach Axe Valley Bus Co and seek discussions on bus timetables	M	MPC Axe Valley Bus Co MP for East Devon	Co-ordinate train and long distance bus services Introduce Sunday and late evening local bus services	Additional services would need passenger support to be viable, or central government subsidy. There is no point having a free bus pass if there is no bus!

6.	Improve taxi services	Liaise with taxi firms to provide more flexible coverage	L	SG Local Taxi Firms	Better weekend and evening coverage	Perhaps a rota system like pharmacies to provide out-of-hours cover. Ansafone
7.	Improve awareness and take-up of local community transport services	a) Re-list Community Transport schemes in Parish Magazine	M	Parochial Church Council	Increased use of community transport services	Include in Welcome to Musbury
		b) Establish Car Pool/Share Scheme for local residents if the demand is there	M	Volunteer Group		Likely users would be the elderly, disabled and young people on recognised youth activities.

Farm traffic using A358 Marlborough Road



Traffic using the A358



HOUSING AND DEVELOPMENT

Planning System

40% thought they have enough say in the planning procedures and 20% thought that they have no say.

This section generated a plethora of comments most relating to lack of information and feedback on planning decisions.

ACTION 8

The general perception was that planners at EDDC have a scant awareness of local knowledge and tend to disregard the comments and opinions submitted by parishioners and the Parish Council. EDDC has recently introduced experimental changes to the planning system to improve satisfaction levels and we understand that they will be looking to see whether this has produced the required improvements in early 2009.

Present House Occupation

Although 33% of respondents have lived in Musbury for more than 20 years, 26% have been resident for less than 5 years, mirroring the inward migration into Devon as a whole.

Despite high house prices, 79% of properties were owner-occupied, 14% social housing and 7% privately rented. Social housing accounts for about 15% of Musbury's housing stock. Of the 38 properties owned by EDDC, most are on the steep Northfields site which has 22 bungalows for the over 60s and six flats.

The majority of family accommodation previously available for rent from EDDC is now in private ownership. In addition, the village has 12 starter homes administered by a Housing Association. These were built in 1994 on the understanding that they would be available to rent by young people living in, or with connections to, the Parish. However, despite initial assurances that the Parish Council would have an input into the allocation of these dwellings, this is no longer the case. A survey of social housing carried out by Musbury Parish Council in 2004 showed that, at that time, all the Housing Association houses in the Newbridges Ward were in Musbury.

According to the last census 9.2% of Musbury's housing stock is second homes or holiday lets but there are restrictions on the use of some of these as full-time dwellings. In this survey no questions were asked about second homes. However, comments indicated that respondents wanted restrictions on second home ownership. They saw them as adversely affecting the opportunities for local people to buy property. 52 tenants responded when asked if they would like to become home owners. 26 said they would like to own their own homes with 11 wanting to stay in Musbury. It is not clear how many dwellings this represents as the numbers recorded may include responses from individuals living

in multiple occupation who wish to continue to do so.

New Development

55% were against the building of more homes. Many thought that the village has reached optimum size and is not suitable for or able to sustain, any substantial development. Respondents commented that significant development would destroy Musbury's rural character and suggested that the problem of empty and underutilised buildings should be addressed more vigorously. **ACTION 9**

The majority of comments about new developments voiced concerns regarding the increased risk of flooding to existing properties as a result of increased surface run-off of storm water and the inadequacy of the current drainage system. *See ACTION 14*

27% respondents were in favour of building up to 10 new homes, 13% of building between 10 and 20 and 5% more than 20. Whether this represents a personal housing need, a view that Musbury would benefit from expansion or a development opportunity is not clear.

140 of the 177 who responded were of the opinion that any new homes should be affordable to rent or buy and 118 of 164 respondents thought that homes should be restricted to local people or those with a connection to the area.



There was a strong feeling expressed in the comments that local people were unhappy that they were not given 'first refusal' on available housing.

The concept of affordable homes for local people was embraced by Musbury some years ago, when 12 homes were built at Yonder Mount, but many commented that the original intention has not matched the current actuality. Scrutiny of data held by EDDC relating to requests for housing in Musbury, is needed before commissioning a Housing Need Survey. **ACTION 10**

A review of the policy for local allocation would also be welcomed. **ACTION 11**

Flooding in Musbury 2009



Action	Objectives	Tasks	Priority	Agencies	Measure of achievement	Comment
8.	Increase awareness of planning decision/ outcomes	a) Publicise posting of information regarding planning decisions on village notice board	H 	MPC	More informed population	Mention again in Parish News?
		b) Display reminders of EDDC website and information that may be viewed on the planning section				Planning applications may be viewed online at http://planning.eastdevon.gov.uk/PublicAccess/ Also via the Clerk and at the Guildhall Axminster
9.	Repair and renovate buildings in disrepair	Continue dialogue and press for resolution	M 	MPC EDDC	Renovation/ redevelopment	
10.	Clarify housing need in Musbury	Check current requests on the Register	H	MPC EDDC CCD	Clarification of housing need.	Requests can be checked without compromising confidentiality MPC was invited to participate in a Housing Need Survey but would like clarification of the current official picture before considering whether to proceed
11.	Improve local allocation of housing	Seek review of policy for social housing	H	MPC EDDC		

COUNTRYSIDE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

The parish is crossed by a network of public footpaths, mostly across farmland, and offers a variety of walks ranging from a gentle stroll to the more challenging hike (Ordinance Survey Explorer 116). Paths are extensively used and enjoyed by parishioners and walkers from other areas; the most popular route leads to Musbury Castle for the stunning panoramic view. As a member of the Parish Paths Partnership (P3), Musbury Parish Council takes responsibility for monitoring the footpath system and, in co-operation with landowners, organises repairs to gates and stiles and access improvements. Problems relating to the footpaths are reported by parishioners at Parish Council meetings or to the P3 co-ordinator. 75% of responses agreed that the footpaths were well maintained and 69% that gates and stiles were easy to use. Some commented that stiles could be more ‘dog friendly’, others were concerned by the mud stirred up by cattle. The formation of a Musbury walking group was suggested.

RECOMMENDATION 12

There was general appreciation of the open, natural environment and the need for continued good relationships and respect for the farmers who care for it. Musbury appreciates its countryside; 82% said they enjoy the countryside for leisure activities, and want it maintained just the way it is.

Conservation Area

Although 85% considered the conservation area to be important, many comments were expressed regarding unoccupied properties falling into disrepair. There was particular concern regarding Mountfield House, once the most prized residence of the village centre, but now in decline.

See ACTION 9

East Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Musbury Parish lies within an AONB. This has obvious benefits in retaining the rural nature of our Parish and ensuring that the pleasures of the countryside are there for everyone’s enjoyment. It does not, however, come without a cost. To maintain these surroundings parishioners are subject to more stringent planning rules, particularly regarding garden sheds, summerhouses and other outbuildings in order to “retain the nature of the countryside”. We are keen to maintain the integrity of the AONB and in this context it is of note that 95% of respondents did not support the provision of a Travellers’ Site in the Parish.

ACTION 13

Drainage

51% considered local drainage to be inadequate (24% expressed no opinion) and many commented that the current problem of drainage of storm water needs to be addressed. Problems occur when storm water from the hill above the village overwhelms a drainage system

designed to cope with surface water from a much smaller housing settlement. The expansion of housing development over the last 50 years, particularly on higher ground above the village, has not been matched by investment in drainage infrastructure. To date, flooding from surface water has been localised, but the increasing frequency of sudden heavy downpours combined with changes in farming husbandry has exacerbated the problem. In time, it is probable that other parts of the village will be affected.

The only existing drainage plans for Musbury date from the 1950s when a combined system for surface water and sewage was installed. A comprehensive Land Drainage Survey and documentation of the entire system, as recommended in the 2008 Pitt Report, is now a high priority. **ACTION 14**

Green Issues

Musbury is well aware of the importance of the need to conserve energy and natural resources: 60% of respondents had a water meter, 67% a water butt, and 76% some form of home insulation.

60% were for energy generation from alternative sources but would prefer solutions based on water, geothermal, solar or biological technologies rather than wind power. Residents were enthusiastic regarding recycling initiatives. 80% were in favour of plastics and cardboard recycling and 85% of collection of garden waste for community recycling. Since the survey EDDC has

introduced more recycling but there is still a restriction on which plastics can be recycled. **ACTION 15**

Pest Birds

54% of respondents agreed that the increasing numbers of pest birds such as rooks and seagulls that have encroached into residential areas were a problem and that numbers need to be reduced and stabilised. Although this may reflect the location of the respondents' homes there was only 28% support for leaving pest species unchecked. Measures to prevent nesting and to discourage these birds are an option. Any action taken must be in accord with the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (schedule 2) which states that pest species, currently listed by DEFRA, may be culled in order to preserve public health and safety. **ACTION 16**

Street Cleaning/Furniture/Lighting

55% agreed that street cleaning was adequate, 49% that the village was well supplied with litter bins and 58% that bins for dog waste are needed. **ACTION 17**

Following a village referendum carried out in 1995 minimal street lighting was installed. In this survey 55% were satisfied with the current level of street lighting but there were requests for more lighting in specific areas. In the current energy-conscious climate, with many local authorities reducing the level of street lighting, expansion of the Musbury system may be unrealistic.

Action	Objectives	Tasks	Priority	Agencies	Measure of achievement	Comment
12.	Set up village walking group	Call for interest	L-M	Volunteers	Group established	Via Parish News Noticeboards
13.	Maintain integrity of AONB	Liaise with planning authorities on all planning applications affecting the AONB	H	MPC EDDC DCC	Countryside remains unspoilt	
14.	Improve drainage system in Musbury	a) Conduct survey of village drainage by qualified land drainage engineer	H	MPC Land Drainage Authority	Comprehensive map of village drainage system.	This is urgent. The situation is getting worse
		b) Carry out essential ongoing repairs and interim improvements	H <i>RB</i>	Highways	Measures to reduce/control storm water from higher points of the village	
15.	Maximise recycling	Ask EDDC about garden waste options and potential for community recycling skips for plastics and cardboard	H <i>RB</i>	MPC Streetscene	Increased range of materials recycled	Community compost?
16.	Control Pest Birds	a) Install anti-nesting/roosting materials on authority owned properties, particularly Northfields		EDDC	Numbers reduced Streets and cars cleaner	

	Control pest birds continued	b) Repeat analysis of rook droppings		MPC		To establish any evidence of disease
		c) Reinforce the 'don't feed the birds' message		MPC Parish Magazine		
17.	Reduce dog fouling	a) Assess feasibility of providing dog waste bins		MPC EDDC	Cleaner streets and residents' driveways	Siting may be controversial Frequency of collection? Costs of set-up and collection to be factored
		b) Reinstate visits by dog warden				

Start of the Parish Walk



A narrow country lane



EDUCATION

Musbury has a popular State Community Primary School for 5-11 year olds consisting of three classes. It is a small school with a typical total roll of between 60 & 70 pupils. In 2008 13% of the pupils came from Musbury itself, the rest from surrounding areas. The school regularly takes part in such village activities as the Flower Show, Open Garden Weekend and Street Markets. It also invites everyone in the village to its own functions including Open Days, Carol Services and Christmas Entertainment in the Village Hall. The Head Teacher regularly contributes a school news report to the Parish Magazine. The school is very well supported by the Village Community as was evident when it appealed for donations to build a school hall in 2007/8. £20,000 was raised within 6 weeks from parents, former pupils and even those with no direct connection to the school.

The position of the school leads to traffic congestion at the beginning and end of the school day which is a problem for neighbours. *See ACTION 3*

Musbury School supports a number of After-School Clubs for primary age children. It now has the facilities to enable use for adult and junior classes under the Extended School Services.

There is no playgroup or nursery school in Musbury. 27% of parents with young children sent them to a

playgroup in Axmouth. A smaller percentage of parents, (16%), used an informal childcare/babysitting circle. Nevertheless the majority were satisfied with existing arrangements. There is one registered Child Minder in the Village. Information on the availability of childcare can be obtained through Musbury School Extended Services and Devon Information Services for Children.

Just over half of the adults who responded sent their children to Musbury Primary School while the remainder sent them to primary schools in Shute and Axminster.

Older children have access to excellent Secondary Education. Equally popular are the Axe Valley Community College in Axminster and Woodroffe School in Lyme Regis. Musbury is in the catchment area of Axe Valley Community College. Pupils attending the school have free school bus travel. There is a school bus service to Woodroffe School but this has to be paid for by the parents as Musbury is outside its catchment area. The schools provide wide ranges of extra-curricular activities, usually at lunchtimes. They provide transport to after-school activities, mainly sport, but afterwards pupils must make their own way home from the school either by local buses, if available, or private transport. Colyton Grammar School is available to those who pass its entrance exam. There is also a free school bus

service to this school. Again clubs and activities are carried out at lunchtime and those attending them after school must find their own way home. Most of the young people in the survey said they would go on to higher education and all parents who responded said that they feel their children have the opportunity to do so.

Adult Education

At present there are no Devon Adult Community Learning (DACL) education classes held in the Village in either the School or the Village Hall. 28% saw a need for adult education in the village but the majority had no opinion either way. It was commented that there are ample facilities in the area and that we are too small to support such classes, but it is important to have facilities accessible **from** the village, not necessarily **in** it.

Musbury Primary School



Of the 68 residents who commented, the greatest demand was for computer skills, followed, in order of preference, by languages, music, book group and drama. Other suggestions made were for classes in local geography, local flora/fauna, art, upholstery, dance, practical/DIY skills, painting and flower arranging. Similar responses, biased more towards outdoor activities, were noted from the Young People's Survey.

RECOMMENDATION 18

There is scope to work with existing providers to assess the feasibility of additional locations for their programmes. There are also many sources of funding particularly for computer skills training which should be investigated with appropriate partners.

RECOMMENDATION 18

New School Hall



Action	Objective	Tasks	Priority	Agencies	Measure of achievement	Comments
18.	Investigate possibilities for Adult Education Classes	<p>a) Individuals to assess interest, advertise and request or arrange classes</p> <p>b) Investigate funding for Adult education initiatives</p>	M	<p>MPC</p> <p>DACL:</p> <p>Musbury School Extended Services</p> <p>St Clares</p> <p>Volunteers</p>	<p>More local classes available</p> <p>More people attending classes</p>	Needs interested individuals to follow this up

Looking Northwest towards Musbury Chapel



COMMUNITY

Musbury retains all the essential elements for village life. It has the popular PO/Stores, spared from closure in the recent cutbacks, open six days a week and supplying a wide range of basic products and services. There is also a garage which has a small shop and offers newspapers on Sundays. St Michael's Church, part of the benefice of Colyton, and the Evangelical Chapel both hold regular services. Volunteers arrange flowers and clean the buildings whilst the bell-ringers keep that tradition alive in the Parish Church. The Golden Hind Public House on the main A358 attracts regulars, holidaymakers and passing trade. There is a lounge bar, serving bar meals and snacks, a public bar and beer garden. It supports darts, boules and cribbage teams and hosts regular social evenings such as quizzes and barbecues. The main venue for community social events is the Village Hall with its own car-park, caretakers and committee. This is regularly hired by many of the clubs and societies in the village – from Badminton to the WI – and increasingly by those outside the parish for regular and one-off events. All the allotment plots in Musbury are currently taken. They are largely tenanted by residents; vacancies are advertised on the Parish Council notice board and in the Parish News. The playing field has football nets and a children's playground. There is a long-established primary school and the mobile library visits every fortnight.

Many Musbury residents are involved in fund-raising either for specific projects such as the church tower or for charities. The recent move towards joint activities, with partners sharing the profits, is generally regarded as successful.

Current Facilities

The survey showed that all the facilities were very much appreciated. Nearly everyone regarded them as either very important or important: Post Office 99%, shop 99%, village hall 98% playing field 95%, playground 95%, garage 92%, church 90%, allotments 89%, pub 86%, mobile library 85%.

People were massively in favour of keeping what one respondent called "all the essential elements of village life" even those who seldom or never used them.

The most used were the PO (78% visiting at least once a week) the shop (82% in the same period) and the Garage (49%). 69% respondents went to the pub at least 2-3 times a year.

The PO/Stores attracted particular support for its role, way beyond a business service provider. For many people they are the heart of the community.

The least used were the Mobile Library and Playing Field (95% and 71% respectively never used).

It is important to find ways of encouraging more people, particularly the young, to use these (and all the other important resources) in order to ensure their continuance. Reminding people that they are there and improving what's on offer will be essential.

ACTION 19

See also ACTION 31

22 respondents expressed interest in taking on an allotment. Comments indicated that people generally wanted to keep the allotments and the playing field for the benefit of current and future residents. **ACTION 19**

Activities

About 42% people said they take part in a regular village activity with the Musbury Castle Challenge coming top of the list. Results indicate that many take part in more than one activity

54% had attended a social event in the last year. There was considerable appreciation for the efforts of everyone involved in organising all the regular fixtures.

Many people thought they were well catered for, particularly in the larger surrounding area, but others took the opportunity to suggest a range of other activities they would like to see here including a walking group, yoga and affordable events that bring people of all ages together. All have to be run by someone and this

will largely be down to the community to organise for itself.

There is a lot of talent in the village, some of it as yet untapped. A voluntary database for potential volunteers and their skills would be a useful resource.

RECOMMENDATION 20

Like the facilities, it is important that the efforts of organising events are met by the community's readiness to support them. This is the best route to make sure they continue.

Suggestions for extra recycling facilities received the most support, both from adults and young people.

See ACTION 15

A public toilet and an internet point attracted least support (51% and 46% were against).

New Facilities

The idea of a drop-in centre, perhaps at the village hall, had supporters (36%), most (46%) had no opinion and some were doubtful about the viability of such an enterprise. One respondent remarked that it would be more useful to have an improved bus service that would allow services to be reached in Axminster/ Seaton. Others thought the Church, pub and PO already adequately played this part. Local Councillor surgeries and chiropody, followed by tea and chat were the most frequently selected. **ACTION 20**

When asked about what else they would like to see in Musbury, something for the young (both the under 18s and the under 50s) was perhaps the most important, given other comments made about attracting and retaining families.

This is a challenge shared by all other villages with older populations. There is scope for partnership working, within the Newbridges umbrella, with neighbouring towns and with the local schools. Seeking appropriate funding is essential. **ACTION 21**

A Youth Club was supported by 50% adult residents. There were calls for more up-to-date facilities in the children's playground from both adults and juniors.

See ACTION 31

A recent request from local young people to set up a basic BMX style facility was supported by the local police but could not go ahead because of the impossibility of getting insurance cover at a realistic rate. While only 12% of the adults were in favour, 47% respondents over 11 were interested. **ACTION 21**


The community spirit, the neighbours and the friendly people were cited more often than anything else among the things the people liked about Musbury. It was felt that the provision of facilities was far less important than the willingness of people to help each other.

While it is recognised that not everyone wants to get involved, events and activities that bring the village together are crucial in breaking down any perceived barriers and cutting across separate established circles surrounding the church, pub and school.

Some bringing together of different groups has been achieved in recent years through joint fund raising ventures which have been very successful. Most people feel they are very well-served but younger people in particular report that there is 'nothing for them to do'. Including them in decisions about what is organised is the best way of ensuring that the range of activities and events on offer appeals. **RECOMMENDATION 22**

St Michael's Church in Musbury



Action	Objective	Tasks	Priority	Agencies	Measure of achievement	Comment
19.	Keep all key facilities	a) To ask the library services to consider finding out what would encourage adults and young people to use the service b) For them to promote the existing services	M	MPC DCC Library services	Increase in users	Scope for linking to local book group? Scope for events linked to reading?
		c) To investigate ways of using the playing field in innovative ways so that more people benefit	M	MPC Devon Playing Fields Assoc	More people using the field	Possible outdoor events- Village tug of war? Fete?
		d) Register allotment and playing field land	H 	Land Registry		
20.	Add new facilities	a) Call for volunteers via noticeboards and Parish News to take forward expressed interest in new groups	M	SG Volunteers	New groups set up	<i>See also Rec 18</i>

		b) Conduct a Skills audit within the parish	L-M	SG Volunteers		
		c) Set up a database for volunteers and their areas of expertise	L-M			Perhaps start with a paper-based list ; transferred later to the mooted website (See also ACTION 27)
		d) To alert local chiropodists, police and the district nurses to the potential for a drop-in service	L-M	MPC Police NHS-PCT Village Hall Com		
21.	Improve facilities for young people	a) To explore potential for grants to update facilities	H	MPC DCC Parents Musbury School Governors Sports Council	Clarification of projects requiring funding Grants secured	Consult Sports Council/DISC re funding, grants, sustainability
		b) Monitor position of insurance company on cover for BMX bike humps in playing field	H <i>R</i>	MPC Zurich DAPC		
22.	Include as many people as possible in the community's activities	For existing Committees to actively target groups that are under-represented in their membership	M	All village groups		

HEALTH, SAFETY AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

Crime is low in Musbury (there were 22 reported crimes in 2007/8) and anti-social behaviour is uncommon. Policing is from the Axminster base which has been short-staffed for some months. Additional manpower has now been drafted in and it is to be hoped that the full complement will be reached and maintained. Our Community Beat Manager has been replaced and either he or the Police Community Support Officer attends Parish Council meetings and gives the police report. Devon & Cornwall Constabulary has plans to free more police officers from desk work and “return them to the front line”.

Only 44% were satisfied with the level of policing in Musbury. The vast majority of residents (93%) stated they feel safe living in Musbury. However more visible policing would be appreciated. **ACTIONS 23-24**

Of the 90 who had called out the Police, 59% were satisfied with their response to crime and vandalism, 24% were dissatisfied while 17% had no opinion. Only 30 belonged to a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. The majority stated that they were unaware of any Scheme in Musbury but would be willing to take part. **ACTION 25**

Villagers have to travel outside Musbury for Doctor and Dental Services. 55% attend surgeries in Axminster, 26% in Seaton and 11% in Colyton. 73% were satisfied with the accessibility of NHS GP practices.

There was some demand expressed for improved chiropody services, together with some support for the idea of open sessions with district nurses and the police.
See ACTION 20

Happily the majority of respondents had not needed to call upon emergency services. Those who had required help were satisfied with Ambulance, Fire Service and GP responses to emergency calls (80%, 79%, 87% respectively).

NHS Dental Services fared less well. Only 35% were satisfied with the provision of regular NHS Dental Services in the area and only 48% respondents who had sought emergency help were satisfied with the response.
ACTION 26

Concern was expressed about difficult access for emergency vehicles to the centre of the village because of on-street parking and that school traffic could also present a problem of access for emergency vehicles at certain times of the day.
See ACTION 3

Action	Objective	Tasks	Priority	Agencies	Measure of achievement	Comments
23.	To achieve a visible level of policing in Musbury that people recognise	Agree a more visible police presence	M	MPC Devon and Cornwall Constabulary	Regular sightings of police on foot and car patrol	
24.	To highlight residents' views on policing to the Police Authority	Attend police liaison meetings	H <i>RP</i>	MPC		Invitations to meetings are placed on the Parish Notice board
25.	To revive Neighbourhood Watch schemes throughout the village	To hold meetings with Police with interested parties	H <i>RP</i>	MPC Community Police: Existing NW leaders.	NW revitalised	
26.	To improve the provision of accessible NHS dentistry	Contact PCT	H	Member of Parliament: MPC	More dentists	

COMMUNICATION

How do people know what's going on in Musbury? As well as the social hubs where people gather and talk, Musbury has several notice boards, promoting events and activities and providing key local information. In addition, there is a quarterly *Musbury Parish News*, reporting on what's happened and what is to come, which is delivered to all homes in the parish. The Parish Council meets 9 or 10 times each year. Agendas and minutes are posted on the Parish notice-board and everyone is welcome to attend the meetings and have their say.

The survey showed that people relied on several sources to keep them informed. The *Parish News* was the most important vehicle for delivering information to residents (193 respondents selected it). It was also very well-received although views were divided about its frequency. 30% respondents did not want an additional monthly publication, while 36.5% were in favour. If an editor can be found, it would be worth trialling a more frequent news-sheet.

Not all residents live in the central village area and some of those living across the A358 and in the more outlying areas felt 'out of the loop'; some reported not receiving the *Parish News*. A key aim will be to ensure they are kept briefed and given every opportunity to be part of "Musbury Life".

RECOMMENDATION 27

Village notice boards were also looked at by 182 residents, with at least one calling for additional boards, and a request for information boards at sites of interest (e.g. Musbury Castle). Some of the existing boards are not in good condition, and while the school and Parish Council each have their own dedicated board, the rationale for the number and siting of the other notice-boards is not clear.

ACTION 27

Various comments throughout the survey suggested that people felt they were not getting all the information they wanted. This was particularly true with reference to the planning system (page18) and community (page 28). There was also a lack of awareness about what is currently on offer, with respondents suggesting things that already exist. A key objective is to improve the channels of communication (press, signage, e-lists, display boards) to keep people involved and engaged, particularly those living in the outlying areas.

ACTION 27

A central point of information would be useful. 70% respondents have home internet access but only half of those were positively in favour of a website for Musbury. This would fit the bill for centralised and collated information on all aspects of life in Musbury.

It could also act as a resource to generate additional printed communications. However many respondents did not yet seem ready to take this route and would need persuading about its value. **ACTION 27**

The idea of Welcome to Musbury information for newcomers was well-received with over 70% in favour, only 3% were against the suggestion. **ACTION 28**

The Parish Council was acknowledged to be approachable (by 47%) and responsive (43%) but it did not escape criticism. Comments suggested that it needed to improve its profile and communication. **ACTION 29**

Another aspect to address is the perceived lack of voice expressed by the young and (from the Housing responses) those who do not own their own homes. It is obviously important for the Council to ensure it is as inclusive as possible, both in its membership and its audience at meetings. However, at the last election there were no new candidates for the Council, in spite of advertisements inviting people to stand. The numbers of people attending the meetings is growing steadily but there are still hundreds who never attend. **ACTION 29**


Villagers outside Musbury PO and Stores



The Golden Hind Public House



Action	Objectives	Tasks	Priority	Agencies	Measure / Outcome	Comment
27.	Improve residents awareness of what is happening	a) Trial a monthly sheet	M	Parish News Team	Better informed residents	(linked to website?) Current editor has house for sale Who will replace?
		b) Revise distribution list of Parish News to ensure all homes are included	H	Parish News Team		
		c) Publicise collection points				
		d) Review number and position of notice-boards throughout the parish	M	MPC		Include info boards at sites of interest
		e) Set-up email list for residents who want local info	M	MPC Clerks/ secs of all groups? Subsequently the web master		Particularly for those who do not visit the central area?
		f) Pilot a website and promote its value	H	MPC?		Although respondents did not support a website this would address many of the issues raised One resident has volunteered to help get this going

28.	Welcome new arrivals	Produce a new arrivals fact sheet to be made available in the PO	M	MPC to kick off Team of old and new-timers		Funded by the Parish Council
29.	Improve the profile and reach of the Parish Council	a) Place photos and profiles on the notice-board and in Welcome to Musbury fact-sheet	H 	MPC	More people engaged with the Parish Council	
		b) Canvass new blood to stand at the next election Target key individuals	H	MPC		
		c) Encourage wider audience at Council Meetings	M-H	MPC		Perhaps regular slots for young people, local businesses? Encourage press attendance?
		d) Hold annual partnership meeting – with reps of other key committees – church, school, village hall	M	MPC and all main groups PCC VHC School Govs		
		e) Parish Council to consider offering a regular private ‘clinic’ for parishioners	L	MPC		For more private queries?

EMPLOYMENT

Musbury is essentially a farming community. Of those who responded, the highest percentage, 48%, were retired. 16% were in full time employment, 15% self-employed, 12% part-time employed and 1% were unemployed. This latter figure is in line with those for Newbridges and East Devon, both of which are lower than for England as a whole (3.3%). Overall this employment pattern reflects the popularity of the South West as a retirement destination.

12% respondents currently ran their own business within the parish. It has already been noted that people without their own transport have difficulty working out of the village because of the restricted bus times.

The availability of local jobs and businesses was seen as important by a large majority of those who responded (91%).

45% felt that Musbury needs more local employment suggesting cottage industry/small craft units as suitable. It was commented that local jobs for local people, advertised locally, should be encouraged and that this would not add to traffic and parking problems. Planners need to be sympathetic to any applications for small workshops and office units in the context of a rural community.

ACTION 30

Action	Objectives	Tasks	Priority	Agencies	Measure of achievement	Comment
30.	Encourage local employment opportunities	Respond positively to applications with potential for local job creation	M	MPC DDC	More local jobs	None received in recent years

RESULTS FROM THE YOUNG PEOPLE'S SURVEYS

AGED 7-11 (10 replies)

Most attend Musbury Primary School. Outside school hours they attended After School Clubs in Musbury but for all other organised activities they had to travel 3-5 miles to Axminster, Seaton, Lyme Regis, Kilmington or Honiton. There are no clubs or activities for this age group other than those provided by the school in Musbury. 5 would like a Youth Club or a Saturday Club to be held here. **ACTION 31**

All thought the Shop and Post Office good and 8 thought the Village Hall good. Desire was expressed for sports and dance activities in the Village Hall and for more and better play equipment on the playing field. 7 rated the playground poor; only 3 spent time playing there. They met their friends either at school or in each others' homes; only one mentioned the park. **ACTION 31**

They were aware of a few problems living in Musbury: traffic moving too fast, dog mess and parking being the most frequent.

AGED 12-17 (17 replies)

The majority of this age group attended Axe Valley Community College or The Woodroffe School,

travelling there by school bus or car. 13 thought they will go on to higher education. All their leisure, sport and social activities were carried out either at school or in Axminster or Seaton for which they depended on lifts from parents (13) or friends (8). Only 4 cycled. They met up with their friends at home (8) or in the park/playing field in Musbury (6), and also in Axminster, Lyme Regis or Exeter.

The potential community transport scheme could be developed to take young people to neighbouring towns on a regular basis. **See ACTION 7**

An evening bus service would also give independence to the youth and enable their participation in wider leisure and sports activities. Their spare time activities included listening to music (12), playing a musical instrument (7), cycling (9), walking (8), internet surfing (8) and sports (6). We noted that although 9 individuals listed cycling among their spare-time pursuits; only 4 cycled to their destinations. This may be linked to road safety issues already addressed. **See ACTION 1**

Respondents stated that changes are needed to improve the present outdoor recreation facilities. They would like to see more facilities for youth including a better park for their age group so that they would actually use it. They also wanted more opportunities for outdoor activities in Musbury such as a skate park, cycle paths and bike jumps. Half would like to see a Youth Club in Musbury.

ACTION 31

All agreed the Shop and Post Office are important to Musbury, 15 thought the children's playground and school important, whilst 14 thought the Village Hall and Garage important. 7 did not think the Mobile Library important and while 6 did not know, one requested a Library Van. The Library visits Musbury fortnightly on a Friday stopping in two places between 11.50am and 12.45pm and so is not available to them in term time.

See ACTION 19

They considered the village has problems with litter (8), dog mess, and local job opportunities but expressed few concerns with traffic and none with crime and vandalism. They would like to see additional public spaces, tennis courts, skips for recycling plastic, cardboard and garden waste and a cash machine in the village. Generally they appreciated the facilities, friendliness, peace and countryside of Musbury. They liked living here but said it's boring with nothing to do. 7 said they do not want to stay in Musbury when they leave home, 7 did not know. 6 had difficulty in finding out what is going on and 8 would like to be involved in decision making about Musbury. ***ACTIONS 21 and 27***

Musbury Village Hall



Action	Objectives	Tasks	Priority	Agencies	Measure of achievement	Comment
31.	Improve facilities for the young	a) Explore setting up a Youth Club	H	MPC Iain Chubb Newbridges	Better used and more up to date facilities	www.devoncsd.info Consult with children and parents. Is there sufficient capacity here or is it better to improve access elsewhere? Investigate Mobile Youth Club Caravan
		b) Explore setting up a Saturday Club for U11s and teens		Musbury School Governors		
		c) Improve the playground area		Devon Children's Trust Parents Children		
		d) Improve the playing field facilities for older children (and adults)	H	MPC Sports Council DISC		Meeting place and suitable leisure/sports activities for older children set up

FINALLY

What Do People Like Most

Answers were many and varied but there was a clear consensus about a number of aspects: People enjoy living in unspoilt countryside in a peaceful rural area with a strong sense of community. They want to keep the best of what they have and are appreciative and protective of all the community's resources. They want to stay a village and certainly do not want "townies" ideas thrust upon them.

The overall impression of Musbury Parish is that for the greater part everyone is largely satisfied with their present situation. As one respondent commented "*we are very happy living in Musbury and would not wish it to change in any major way*".

What Would People Change

Several people said there was no reason to change anything. The parishioners of Musbury certainly do not want change for changes sake. Yellow lines, streetlights or a plethora of street furniture (signs etc) would be unwelcome as most people wish to retain the bucolic and rural nature of the Parish.

However the improvements others seek have been addressed in this report: public transport, parking, road safety and road surfaces all generated passionate pleas for improvement.

Drainage is a major issue for some, as is the availability of affordable housing for local people. Many stressed the importance of attracting and keeping young families

in the village for its longer-term survival. Improving leisure opportunities, particularly for the young, came through strongly as did the need for a local NHS dentist

Funding

People recognised that change comes at a price and most were willing to pay more to support local initiatives. While 27% were unwilling to pay more council tax, 73% of respondents indicated that they would pay more if the money remained within Musbury. 55% indicated a willingness to pay between £5-£20 more pa. Just over 4% would be willing to pay £40 plus pa more. This is something for the Parish Council to consider together with the availability of grants for some activities.

The Parish Council will take on many of the tasks but it will be down to the community to take forward the recommended projects.

As to the future? We leave it to two respondents for the final say:

"A Parish Plan will do nothing for the village and no-one will read it or pay any attention to what it recommends"

"Thank you for taking the trouble to progress this initiative. I hope that the end result of this parish plan will reflect the time, effort and money that has gone into it"

We wait to see who will be right.

Distribution:

All households in Musbury Parish

Devon County Council (5)

Community Council of Devon

Devon Association of Parish Councils

East Devon District Council (10)

East Devon AONB Group

Axminster, Colyton and Seaton Libraries (3)

Musbury Parish Clerk

Musbury Primary School

Devon and Cornwall Police Authority

Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Authority

Devon Ambulance Service

MP Hugo Swire

MEP Giles Chichester

Axminster, Colyton and Seaton Surgeries (5)