

# Sevenhampton Parish



A

## *Village Appraisal*

1996

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# Foreword

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**T**his is the first appraisal of Sevenhampton Parish.

The concept behind the appraisal was to find out how local people wanted to see the parish develop - or not develop - so that we are all in a better position to influence the changes in rural life which will inevitably face us over the next decade.

The clear and overwhelming conclusion is that residents want to see the parish remain essentially as it is - a working and retirement community in which village spirit and environment are the most highly valued features of daily life.

As chairman, I would like to thank all the members of the appraisal group for their tremendous dedication and effort throughout what has been a lengthy, but hopefully interesting and rewarding project. On their behalf, I would also like to record our grateful thanks to:

- Sevenhampton Parish Council for sponsoring the project and making a donation towards the cost.
- The Gloucestershire Rural Community Council - particularly to Ros Leigh and Sally Bex for their help and advice.
- Gloucestershire Rural Action for their grant which has largely funded the project.

Above all, I would like to thank all the residents of Sevenhampton Parish who completed the questionnaire and thereby made the project worthwhile.

I hope you will find this report interesting and informative. The text has deliberately been kept simple and relatively free of statistical data but the full analysis of the completed questionnaires is included as an appendix.

A significant amount of work has been done, but the main point of the exercise is to identify areas for action where action is clearly seen to be for the benefit of the parish. The next step is to hold a further parish meeting to discuss the recommendations in this report and, hopefully, to establish a consensus and develop a commitment to pursue the new community initiatives we have identified.

I hope that you will attend this meeting and give your support to these initiatives.

Leslie Agius  
Chairman  
Sevenhampton Parish Appraisal Group  
December 1996



# The Parish

*"... the most important aspect of the parish is the excellent community spirit.."*

## Background

The Parish of Sevenhampton is situated some seven miles east of Cheltenham in Gloucestershire. Access is from the A436 Bourton - Andoversford road via Quarry Hill or via Syreford, which can be approached from the A40 at Whittington. Another route is from Winchcombe via Cotehay or Roel Gate. The parish is within the administrative area of Cotswold District Council.

The parish boundary extends from Salperton and Hampen to beyond Whitehall and encloses the villages of Sevenhampton and Brockhampton which lie in a valley created by the River Coln. In turn, the villages are divided into areas known as Upper and Lower Sevenhampton, and in Brockhampton, Quarry Hill, Brockhampton Park and Cotehay. Cotehay and part of Brockhampton Park area is outside the parish and falls within the administrative area of Tewkesbury Borough Council.

A sketch-map of the parish is shown on page 27 of this report. The overall population of the parish in August 1993 was 369.



*Brockhampton Park circa 1835-1840*

In Brockhampton much of the development, particularly this century, took place due to the presence of Brockhampton Park, an estate complete with deer park, lodge properties and a lake created by damming the river. Houses were built for estate staff and the estate remained intact until disposals in 1934. The development of Sevenhampton was similarly influenced by the presence of the Whittington Estate.

Until recent times the parish enjoyed the usual facilities associated with a typical village including a school, a church and a vicarage located at Sevenhampton. Brockhampton had the Rhodes Memorial Hall and former Reading Room, the chapel, the Craven Arms public house and the post office and shop in Quarry Hill. However, the vicarage, the school and the chapel have all been lost to the community together with the recreation field at Brockhampton and the nursery garden at Brockhampton Park. Brockhampton Park itself is now residential, with outbuildings converted into housing, and the deer have long disappeared from the deer park.

Farming remains important, whilst at the edge of the parish, quarrying is undertaken and garden stoneware from reconstituted stone is produced in the former Woodside Garage on the A436. Other enterprises exist in various forms including horses at livery, building and construction, stone walling, consultancy and office work.

In a number of instances, old agricultural buildings have been converted into dwellings. Some new building has been undertaken in the traditional style but some has been more contemporary.

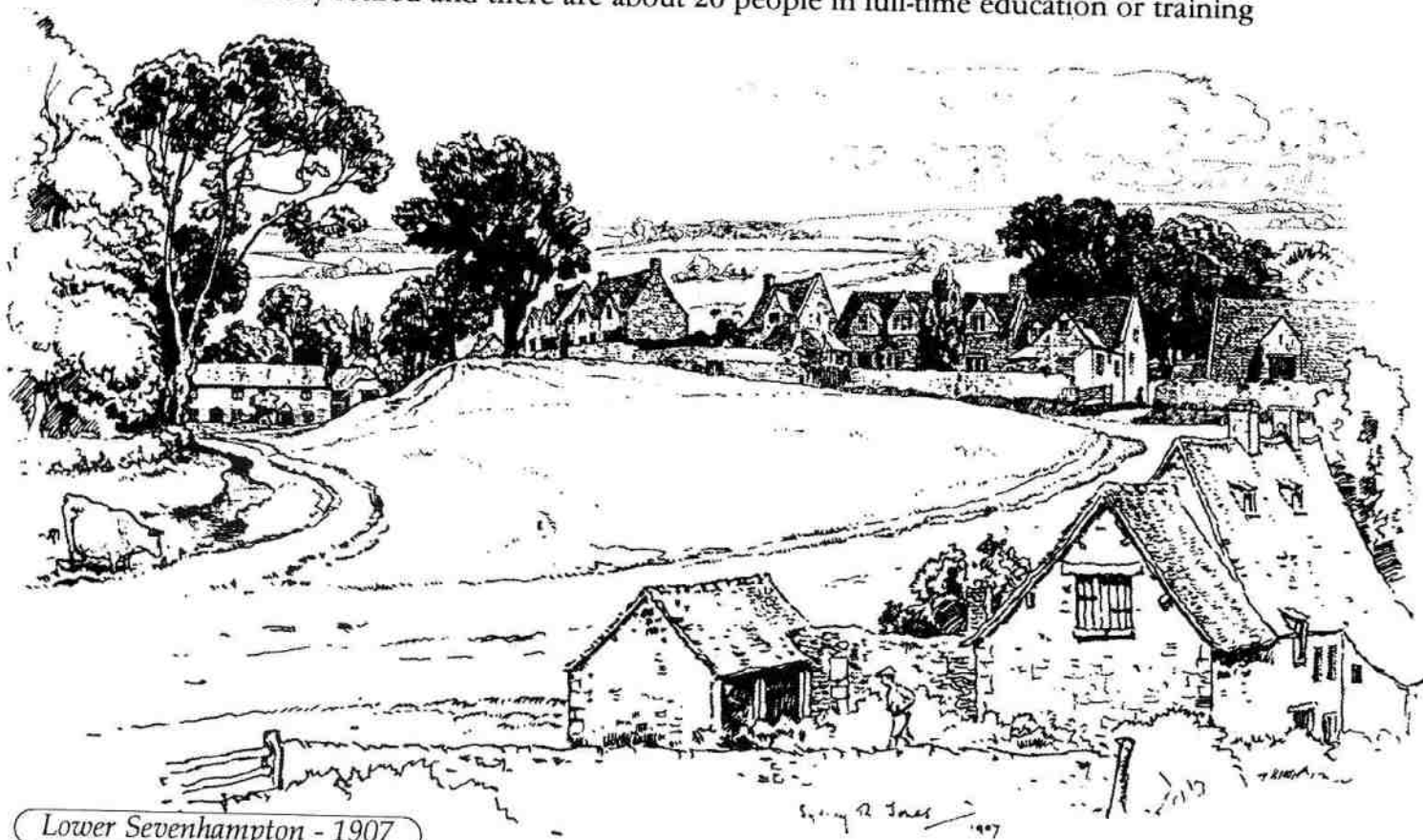
Within the parish there is a pleasant mix of gentle sloping fields with dry stone walling, small woodlands and newer plantings. There are many large trees of a specimen nature as well as managed shelter belts alongside the lanes. Such varied scenery is served by parish footpaths and bridleways enjoyed by visiting walkers and local residents alike.

Such is the appeal of the countryside and environment that much of it has been designated as a conservation area. Because of the natural topography which has dictated the positioning of the settlements, the parish does not have what is regarded as a typical village layout but has rather more scattered focal points of housing and development. Nonetheless, these very much come together and integrate as one community in which the parish identity and village spirit are very strong.

## Profile

123 households completed the questionnaire, representing nearly 300 people. The parish profile which emerges from these questionnaires is as follows:

- the parish has almost the same number of males (143) and females (153)
- about 50% of households are in Brockhampton, 25% in Sevenhampton and the remainder in outlying areas
- about 50% of the population are aged between 22 and 60
- there are about 50 children aged 16 or under
- there are about 80 people aged over 60 and of these 21 are over 75
- about 72% of families have lived in the parish for over five years
- for nearly 90% of the population, their home in the parish is their only residence
- 54% are employed or self-employed and unemployment is significantly below the county average
- 22% are wholly retired and there are about 20 people in full-time education or training



Lower Sevenhampton - 1907

# Background to the Appraisal

## **Why undertake an appraisal?**

The concept of parish or village appraisals is not new and about 60 parishes in Gloucestershire have already undertaken such a project.

A parish appraisal is an opinion survey which seeks the views of villagers on the village and village life. At a time when there are many forces for change affecting rural communities, including pressures from legislation, central government, commercial practice and environmental lobby, a parish appraisal provides an opportunity to take the pulse of village life.

Even since the project started a year or so ago, the parish has experienced change. There has been pastoral reorganisation, the sale of the vicarage, the induction of a priest-in-charge responsible for eight parishes, the demise of our local church magazine and a change in the location and management of the community post office.

An appraisal helps to establish the perceived values and priorities of local people with an eye to influencing the future direction of this inevitable process of change.

## **What can an appraisal achieve?**

The potential benefits are significant but the actual benefits will depend very much on the action taken to implement the recommendations which emerge from the appraisal.

### **Appraisals**

- encourage discussion of the parish by the parish
- provide an opportunity for the 'silent majority' to express their views
- establish a better understanding of local needs, attitudes and concerns
- become a basis for policy and action by the parish council and other community organisations

## **How was the Sevenhampton Parish appraisal organised?**

The parish council agreed to sponsor an appraisal and the concept was then put to a parish meeting held in the village hall in November 1995. This meeting positively endorsed the proposal and an appraisal group was formed to take responsibility for the project.

It was decided that this group should

- be representative of a good cross-section of the community, particularly in terms of area, sex, age and period of residence in the parish
- be seen to be independent of the parish council but include representation from it
- include representation from each of the principal village organisations

As a result, the following people have been working on the project for just over 12 months and have met on about 25 occasions.

Leslie Agius     *representatives*  
Cherrie Handy     *of the*  
Colin Rosser     *parish council*

Lesley Ball  
John Bashford  
Bob Chandler  
James Corris

Lynne Jackson  
Mildred Jarman  
Georgina Oldham  
John Swain

Keith Gregory was also a member of this group but, due to illness, he was unable to continue.

One of the first tasks of the appraisal group was to establish clear aims and objectives for the project and these are shown below.

The group then had to design the questionnaire and organise its distribution and subsequent collection and return (see page 6). The data from the completed questionnaires was then input to a computer analysis program from which conclusions were drawn to form the basis of this report.

### **This report**

The main recommendations of the appraisal group are shown on page 7. These seek to capture the key conclusions and to highlight the fact that the whole focus of the exercise was to establish areas for action.

The main body of the report is contained on pages 8 to 19 and represents a summary and an interpretation of the overall responses received. The full analysis of the completed questionnaires is included as an appendix so those who are interested can study the fine detail.

### **The next steps**

The intention is to issue this report to every household within the parish. Copies will also be sent to the parish, district and county councils and to several external agencies for their information.

It will then be for the community to consider the conclusions and recommendations and to determine what new initiatives should be actioned and who will be responsible for them.

A further parish meeting will be held in March 1997 for this purpose.



*Over to Upper Sevenhampton on Gassons Lane*

## **The Aims of the Appraisal**

**T**he aims of the appraisal group were to

- carry out a survey of the views of all villagers to ascertain their needs, concerns and aspirations about the future development of the villages and village life
- provide the parish council and other community groups and organisations with an authoritative village mandate and a framework of policy and action to undertake initiatives which will be of general benefit to the community

# The Questionnaire

The appraisal is based upon the results of a questionnaire which was issued to every household within the parish during July 1996.

This questionnaire was developed using a computer program produced in 1991 by the Gloucestershire Rural Community Council specifically for village appraisals. Whilst the majority of the questions were prescribed in standard format by this program, the appraisal group was able to add a limited number of additional questions aimed specifically at local issues.

The questionnaire was in two parts:

## **Section 1 - The Household Section**

This was designed to be completed by one adult on behalf of the whole household and sought statistical information about that household.

## **Section 2 - The Personal Section**

This section invited information and opinions on a number of topics from each resident in the household over the age of 11.

## **Distribution and response**

The questionnaire was delivered personally to each household within the parish by a member of the appraisal group. A blank envelope was provided for the return of the questionnaire so that responses would be anonymous.

The parish was divided into six areas and the distribution and response was as follows:

	Issued	Returned
The Quarry	30	30
Brockhampton centre	44	35
The Park	20	16
Upper Sevenhampton	18	14
Lower Sevenhampton	20	17
Outlying areas	17	7
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	149	119

Having regard to the fact that there were four empty properties, the maximum possible number of completed questionnaires was 145. The 119 completed questionnaires received represents 82% of that figure and is an excellent response from the community.

The appraisal group considered that the residents of that part of Brockhampton which is just outside the parish boundary are nonetheless very much part of the village. Therefore, nine further questionnaires were issued in this area, of which four were completed, and this increased the number of completed questionnaires to the total of 123 on which this report is based.

## **Reading the report**

When studying the information and comments in the report, it should be noted that:

- whilst an 82% response represents a very good cross-section of opinion, inevitably the views expressed do not represent the views of the total parish population
- unless stated otherwise, percentages refer to the percentage of respondents actually answering the question
- not all the 296 people represented by the 123 completed questionnaires answered every question
- some questions were in multiple-choice format and allowed for more than one answer

# Main Recommendations for Action

**The parish should stay essentially as it is but should**

- **develop leisure activities for the under 16s**
- **arrange evening classes and new social activity groups in the village hall**
- **retain the post office and promote its use**
- **acquire a recreation field as a project for the millennium**
- **organise a major annual charity event within the parish**
- **acquire a car park near the village hall**
- **publish a regular village magazine**
- **establish a good neighbour and voluntary car scheme**
- **request the parish council to provide more information about its activities, decisions and local planning applications**



# Housing

**T**he parish has a stable population with 72% of families having lived here for over five years. Very few people are seeking alternative accommodation and there is no evidence of a major housing need.

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## **D**o we need development?

*"... a need for some housing for the elderly but danger of development for development's sake .."*

*"... a need for more affordable housing .."*

About 20% see no need for new housing in the parish and do not regard any development as acceptable.

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However, there is support for housing for

- young people
- the elderly

About 45% see a need for housing for local people and for rented accommodation.

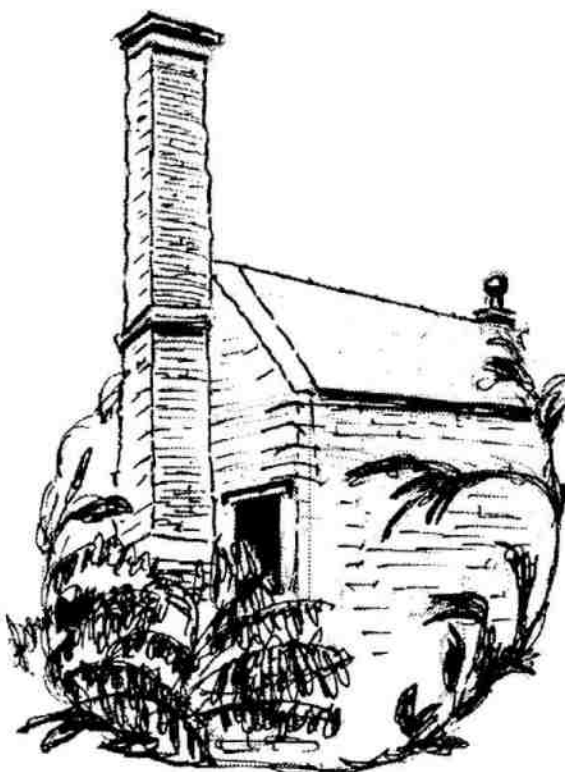
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## **W**hat type of development?

The most acceptable local development is the conversion of redundant buildings and infilling, but there is some support for extensions to smaller properties.

## Recommendation

The parish council should:  
ADVISE COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL  
OF THESE CONCLUSIONS AND TAKE ACCOUNT  
OF THEM IN DECIDING LOCAL HOUSING PRIORITIES



*The Old Brewery, Brockhampton*

# Employment

## The current profile

54% are employed or self employed and unemployment is below the county average of 4.8% (October 1996).

About 35 people work from home or from elsewhere in the parish and a further 65 people or so work within 10 miles of the villages.

- about 50 people are wholly retired
- about 20 people are in full-time education or training
- about 30 people are unwaged housepersons.



## What about the future?

*"...the village should continue to blend as a working and retirement and caring community.."*

Nearly 40 people are likely to be seeking work within the next five years and about half of these want work in the service industries.

- most of those seeking work wish to be employed locally and require information on local job vacancies
- there are about 20 employers within the parish and they expect their workforce to remain at present levels or marginally increase over the next five years

## Recommendation

LOCAL JOB VACANCIES SHOULD BE DISPLAYED ON A NOTICE BOARD  
IN THE POST OFFICE

# Education

As there is no school within the parish, the focus of the questionnaire was on adult education and evening classes.

- nearly 140 people expressed interest in attending evening classes if these were organised in the parish
- on average, each individual indicated an interest in two activities and there was a significant response for:
  - crafts
  - languages
  - arts
  - information technology
  - sports

Other interests include keep fit and music.

## Recommendation

The village hall management committee should:  
CONSIDER ARRANGING EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITY  
GROUPS IN THE VILLAGE HALL

# Local Countryside and Environment

## Footpaths and Bridleways

89% are able to follow local footpaths and bridleways without much difficulty, but there were comments that

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- there is a need for more signs on Cleeve Common and between Charlton Abbots and Brockhampton
- some stiles are difficult for the elderly and gates would be an improvement

## Disturbance

Over 40% are concerned by the disturbance or nuisance caused by

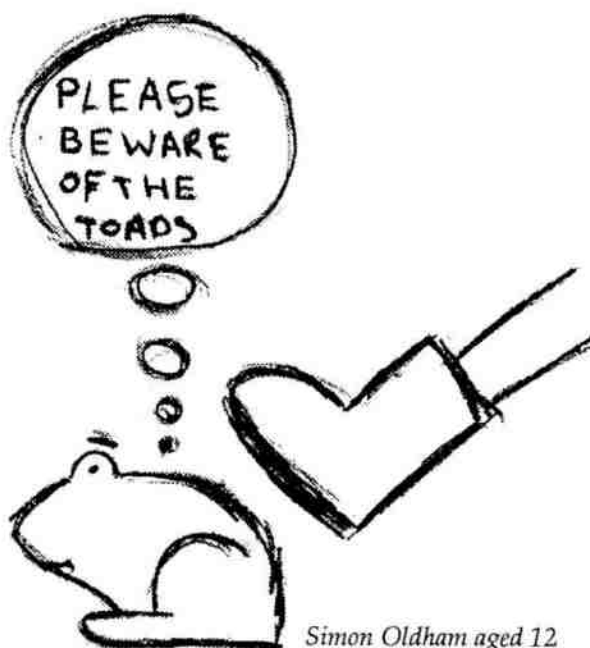
- low-flying aircraft
- heavy traffic
- dog fouling

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Approximately 30 people expressed concern about hunting and about litter



Tap Recess in Brockhampton



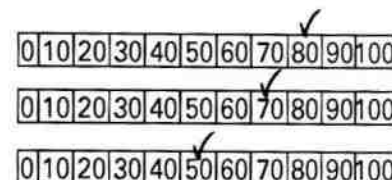
Simon Oldham aged 12

## The Landscape

*"The village is unique and rather special in many ways - it is a fragile balance and care should be taken not to spoil what is excellent in pursuit of the modern...."*

There is very strong support to protect a number of existing features of the parish

- over 80% highlighted the church and the village hall
- over 70% highlighted Sevenhampton splash, the Walks, Gassons Lane, the village greens and the telephones
- over 50% highlighted the Craven Arms and Campden Lane.



Mention was also made of the Old Brewery chimney, the Arrow Shed, the Deer Park, the tap recesses and Cotswold stone walling throughout the parish.

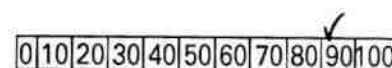
When asked which areas of the parish could be improved visually

- 35 people cited the rickyard and the Arrow Shed in Brockhampton
- several people mentioned the footpaths and banks of the River Coln at Donneywell and Sevenhampton

*"...it is important to appreciate and conserve our environment.."*

## Refuse Collection

221 people (92%) are prepared to support a segregated refuse recycling scheme



## Recommendation

The parish council should:

- NOTIFY THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE OF THE CONCERN ABOUT LOW FLYING AIRCRAFT
- ADVISE THE DOG WARDEN AT THE DISTRICT COUNCIL OF THE PROBLEM OF DOG FOULING
- INCLUDE THE FOOTPATHS AND BANKS OF THE RIVER COLN AT SEVENHAMPTON AND DONEYWELL IN THEIR PROGRAMME OF SUMMER GRASS CUTTING

# Health and Social Services

## **I**s there difficulty in accessing medical services?

Over 52% are registered with a doctor in Charlton Kings. Practices in Northleach and Winchcombe are also used.

About 90% say they never have difficulty in getting to the hospital, doctor, dentist, chemist, or optician but

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- a small number often have a problem with all the services
- about 15 or so occasionally experience a problem getting to the hospital, the doctor or the chemist

140 people think it necessary to have a weekly doctor's surgery in the parish and these reflect most age groups. On the other hand, about 70 people think such a surgery is unnecessary.

No special health needs were identified which could be catered for in the parish.

## **S**hould there be a formalised good neighbour scheme?

*"... village life should be slower, quieter, more friendly and caring because people have time to meet and chat.."*

*"... be more venturesome and innovative and ... be more caring for the elderly .."*

Over 50 people are prepared to become involved at least once a month in the operation of a good neighbour scheme (for example, shopping or car transport) and a further 90 say they would be prepared to help occasionally.

## Recommendation

The parish council should :

EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY OF A WEEKLY DOCTOR'S SURGERY IN THE VILLAGE HALL

The Sevenhampton and District Women's Institute (or other group) should:

CONSIDER ORGANISING A FORMALISED GOOD NEIGHBOUR AND VOLUNTARY CAR SCHEME

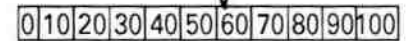


Lower Sevenhampton from Church Field

# Policing and Security

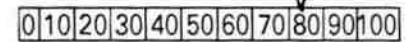
Nearly 50% did not have an opinion on the service provided by the local police officer. Of those who did express an opinion

- over 60% consider the service to be poor
- and only 5% think it is good



## Neighbourhood Watch

There is very strong support (82%) for the continuation of the existing Neighbourhood Watch scheme and some 70 people are prepared to take a more active part in the operation of the scheme.



## Recommendation

The neighbourhood watch scheme organisers should:  
**HOLD A PARISH MEETING TO CAPTURE NEW INTEREST**

# Retail Services and Other Facilities

## How often is the post office used?

*"... retain the post office .."*

About 150 people use the Brockhampton post office at least once a month and 50 or so at least once a week, but another 90 never use it at all.

- the majority use is for postal services, the collection of pensions and allowances and the payment of TV licences and other bills
- those who do not use it appear to use Andoversford or another main post office facility

\* The Post office has now been relocated to the Rhodes Memorial Hall

## What is the view about doorstep deliveries?

There is very strong support for these existing doorstep deliveries to continue

- milkman (90%)
- daily papers (85%)
- baker (60%)



There is also significant support for the fishmonger and for a butcher (17%) but there is no significant demand for other new services.

## Recommendation

The parish council should:  
**SUPPORT THE RETENTION OF THE POST OFFICE IN THE PARISH  
AND PROMOTE ITS SERVICES**

# Sport, Social and Entertainment

## What are the existing activities and facilities?

There is a perception that some of the existing leisure activities are not sufficiently publicised.

## Do we need a playing field?

*"... we desperately need a plot of land where youngsters can kick a football in security .."*

*"... I would like to see in the very near future some kind of play area for the children ..Brockhampton is a beautiful village to me but I wish my children didn't feel the need to leave the village to have some fun.."*

144 people (60%) consider the parish needs a recreation field and of these 120 are adults.

0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100

*"... it would be excellent to have a project associated with the millennium .."*

## How good are facilities for younger age groups?

*"...young people are the future of the village .. need to organise events so that they become part of village life.."*

Existing leisure facilities for the under 16s are generally considered to be poor (56%) and the same view is expressed about existing facilities for the 17 to 25 age group (46%).

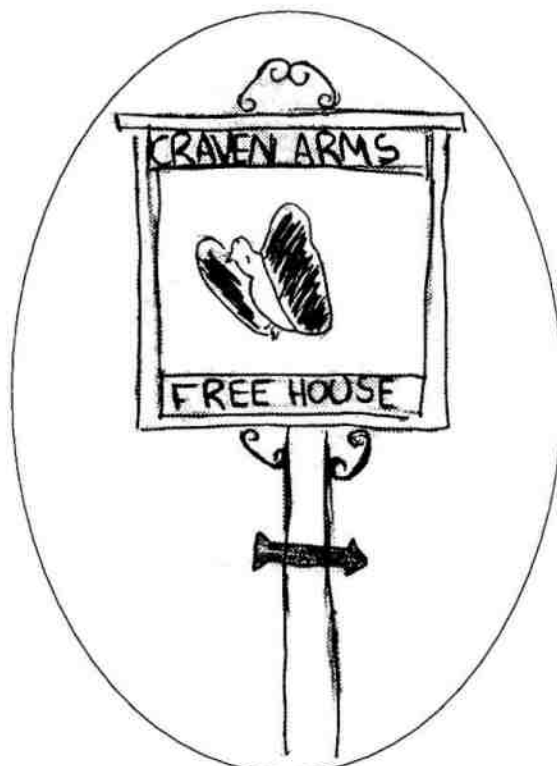
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This contrasts with the view that existing leisure facilities for the over 25s and over 65s are either good or reasonable (60%).

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*The Rhodes Memorial Hall, Brockhampton*



Simon Oldham aged 12

### Is there support for new activities in the village?

There is significant support for new social activity groups to be formed.

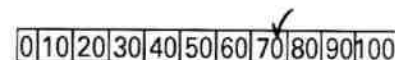
- about 40 would like to see the formation of a gardeners society, a rambling club, a youth club and a painting and drawing group
- groups such as a music or choral society, a photography group, a table tennis club and a literature group would each attract the support of between 25 and 30 people
- mention was also made of whist drives

Over 40 people say they would be prepared to organise some of these activities.

### The village hall

65 people say that they use the village hall at least once a month and about another 120 use it less frequently.

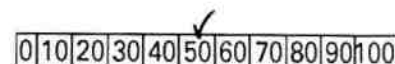
Over 75% think that the village hall is adequate for the needs of the parish.



Where improvements were suggested, they included more accommodation, more storage, better kitchen facilities and the provision of a car park.

### Should the parish hold an annual charity event?

115 people (56%) think that the village should organise a major annual charity event but 44% are not in favour.



## Recommendation

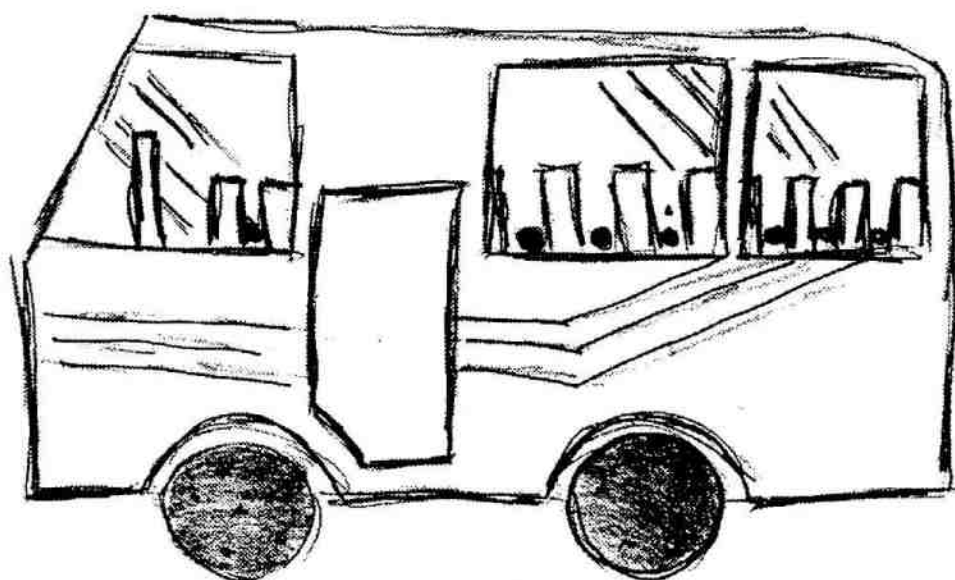
The parish council should:

INVESTIGATE THE ACQUISITION AND DEVELOPMENT OF A RECREATION FIELD  
AS A MILLENNIUM PROJECT

The village hall management committee should consider establishing a leisure committee to:

- DEVELOP LEISURE ACTIVITIES FOR THE UNDER 16s
- ARRANGE NEW SOCIAL ACTIVITY GROUPS IN THE HALL
- EXPLORE THE IDEA OF A MAJOR ANNUAL CHARITY EVENT

# Transport and Highways



*The School Bus*

*Simon Oldham aged 12*

## **I**s there a problem getting in or out of the parish?

75 % have no transport difficulty getting in or out of the parish but about 60 people do have a problem on occasions.

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There are 40 volunteers with cars who are prepared to help provide a voluntary transport service and this is consistent with the response to a good neighbour scheme.

About 60 people would use a locally-based car service at least occasionally.

The strong preference is for a locally based taxi service

## **I**s there a car parking problem?

About 140 people say that they sometimes have a car parking problem near to where they live. Of these, 40 or so often have this problem and they identify the main trouble spots as

- the area near the village hall
- the road to the Craven Arms
- near the church
- Quarry Hill

Opinion is closely divided as to whether the parish needs a car park but

- 109 people (the majority ) are in favour
- over 100 people consider that an area near the village hall is the best place to site it
- about 40 people think it should be sited near the church

## **H**ow important is the bus service?

Most people do not use the bus service.

However, of those who expressed an opinion, 66% (85 people) view it as either important or essential.

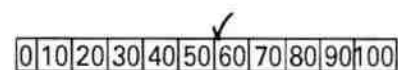
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There were few adverse comments about either cost or reliability but

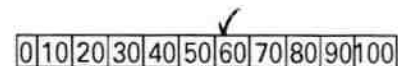
- 50 or so people would like to see improvements to the timetable
- 20 or so people would like to see improvements to the route

## Road safety

60% think that the maintenance of local road surfaces, hedges and verges is either good or reasonable in terms of road safety, but there is significant criticism of the road surfaces near Palmerstone Quarry.

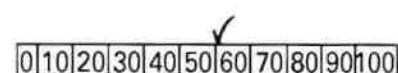


64% think that there are some major danger spots within the parish and the following were particularly mentioned



- Quarry Hill
- Brockhampton Park crossroads
- access to and from Gassons Lane
- the junctions of Church Lane and Webbs Lane with the Winchcombe road

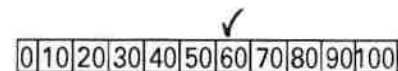
Road signs in the parish are generally considered adequate for safety (60%) but there are some suggestions for improvement which include



- more 'Slow' and 'Narrow Road' signs
- 'Access Only' to Gassons Lane.

## Does the parish need street lighting?

150 people (65%) are strongly opposed to street lighting anywhere in the parish but there is significant support (70 people) for this to be introduced in a few strategic areas such as



- the area between the village green and the village hall in Brockhampton
- the road to the Craven Arms

## Recommendation

The parish council should:

- PURSUE THE ACQUISITION OF A CAR PARK AREA NEAR THE VILLAGE HALL
- CONSIDER THE INSTALLATION OF LIMITED STREET LIGHTING IN BROCKHAMPTON
- ADVISE THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT OF CONCERN ABOUT 'DANGER SPOTS' IN THE PARISH



The village, Brockhampton

# Information and Communication

## Library Services

There is only 22% support for a permanent library service, but

- 50 or so people use the existing fortnightly mobile service on occasions and of these, 30 or so use it on nearly every visit
- those who do use this service generally consider the siting of the stops is good

0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100

## Information about what is going on in the parish

80% consider that the information is at least reasonable and 25% think that it is good

Nearly 90% look at a notice board at least once a month

0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100

0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100

## Do we need a regular parish magazine?

*"... a regular newsletter or magazine would be useful in outlying areas especially.."*

Over 200 people read the 'Foursome' and the village hall 'Newsletter' and most of these read them regularly.

- 62% think the parish requires a regular newsletter or magazine
- 50 or so people say that they are prepared to help with such a publication

0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100

## Are the telephone kiosks important?

Withdrawal of the telephone kiosks would create a problem for about 90 people.

## Recommendation

The village hall management committee should:

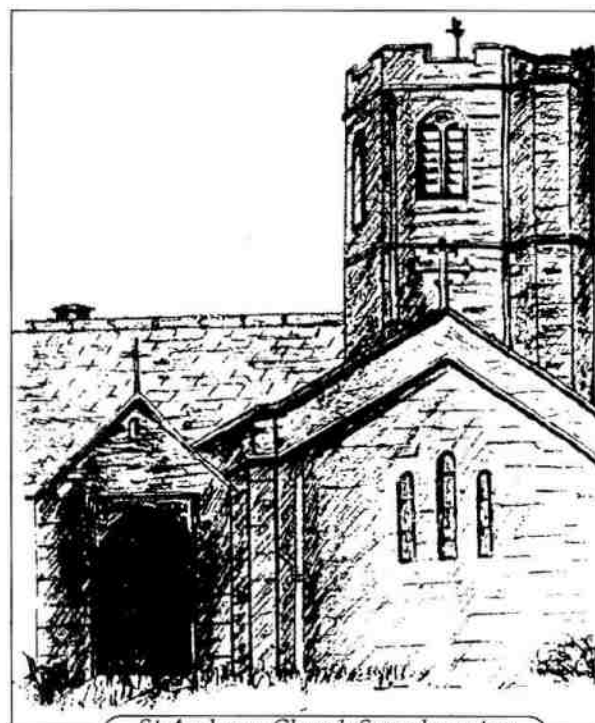
CONSIDER DEVELOPING THE CURRENT NEWSLETTER INTO A REGULAR PARISH MAGAZINE

# Religion

The overwhelming view is that the church is important to the parish.

It is valued as an historic building and as a focal point for village life as well as for worship and prayer.

There might be additional support for Sunday worship and family services if these were held at different times or in a different format.

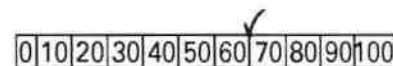
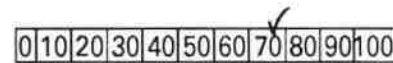
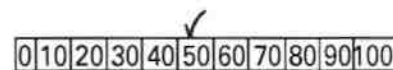


St Andrews Church, Sevenhampton

# Local Government

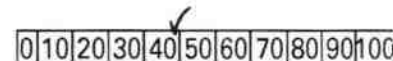
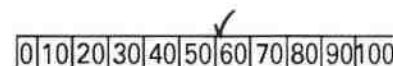
## The Parish Council

- 50% say that the parish council is poor in the way in which it publicises its decisions and activities
- 75% would like more information about the activities of the parish council
- 70% think that the parish council satisfies their needs and expectations either very well or reasonably well



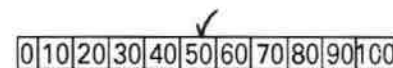
## The District and County Councils

- 60% think that the district council performs at least reasonably well and
- 46% have the same view about the county council



## The community charge

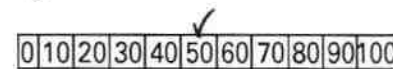
Of those who expressed an opinion, the majority (56%) say that they would be prepared to pay a slightly higher parish community charge to meet some of the needs identified by this appraisal.



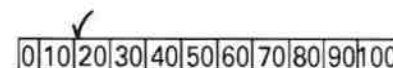
## Local planning control

*"... very important that the characteristics of a Cotswold village should be the primary consideration in all development and planning.."*

54% think that insufficient publicity is given to planning applications affecting the parish.



In relation to planning control on development within the parish, there is no significant concern over new housing or conversions but 20% expressed concern over the design and location of agricultural buildings.



## Recommendation

The parish council should:  
**REVIEW AND IMPROVE THE WAY IT PUBLICISES ITS ACTIVITIES,  
 DECISIONS AND LOCAL PLANNING APPLICATIONS**



*Over the Coln, Church Lane, Sevenhampton*

# SEVENHAMPTON PARISH VILLAGE APPRAISAL

Number of households who answered questionnaire	123
Total number of people living in the above households	296
Number of people eligible to answer personal section	264

## SECTION 1

### HOUSING

Population distribution by age and sex

Age	0-4	5-10	11-16	17-21	22-39	40-59	60-64	65-74	75+	Total
Male	6	5	15	8	25	49	6	22	7	143
Female	9	12	3	10	27	50	14	14	14	153
Total	15	17	18	18	52	99	20	36	21	296

**B.1.** Where in the parish do you live?

	Total	%
The Quarry	30	24
Brockhampton Centre	35	29
The Park Area	16	13
Upper Sevenhampton	14	11
Lower Sevenhampton	17	14
Outlying Areas	11	9

Number of households who answered question: 123

**B.2.** Is the dwelling your household's only residence?

	Total	%
Yes	110	90
No	12	10

Number of households who answered question: 122

**B.3.** How long have you lived at this address?

	Total	%
Less than a year	3	2
1 - 5 years	30	25
6 - 15 years	30	25
16 - 25 years	30	25
26 - 50 years	22	19
51+ years	5	4

Number of households who answered question: 120

# SECTION 2

## PEOPLE

**A.1**

Sex

	Total	%
Male	124	50
Female	125	50

Number of people who answered question: 249

**A.2**

What age group do you belong to?

	Total	%
11 - 16	13	5
17 - 21	16	6
22 - 39	45	18
40 - 59	100	40
60 - 64	20	8
65 - 74	34	14
75+	21	9
Total	249	100

## HOUSING

**B.1** Are you currently looking for accommodation separate from other members of your household?

	Total	%
Yes	6	2
No	235	98

Number of people who answered question: 241

**B.2** If yes, where do you want to move?

	Total
Elsewhere within the Parish	3
Outside the Parish but within 10 miles	4
Over 10 miles from the Parish	1

Number of people who answered question: 8

**B.3** What kind of housing do you think the parish needs?

	Total	%
No housing is needed	52	22
Housing for young people	97	41
Large family housing	8	3
Housing for the elderly	83	35
Housing for local people	103	44
Housing for rental	49	21
No opinion	32	14

Number of people who answered question: 234

**B.4** What kind of local housing development would be acceptable in the parish?

	Total	%
None	49	21
Infilling with single buildings	89	39
Infilling with small groups of dwellings	55	24
Conversion of redundant buildings	148	64
Major extensions to smaller properties	30	13

Number of people who answered question: 230

## EMPLOYMENT

**C.1** Are you at present:

	Total	%
Employed	84	35
Self-employed	46	19
Unemployed	5	2
In a government training scheme	3	1
In full-time education	18	7
Wholly retired	53	22
Un-waged housewife/husband	29	12
Permanently sick/disabled	1	0
Other	2	1

Number of people who answered question: 241

**C.2** Where is your main place of work or study?

	Total	%
At home	55	30
Elsewhere in the parish	7	4
Outside the parish but within 10 miles	66	36
Within 11 - 30 miles	31	17
Over 30 miles	22	12

Number of people who answered question: 181

**C.3** Are you likely to be seeking work within the next 5 years?

	Total	%
Yes	37	20
No	150	80

Number of people who answered question: 187

**C.4** If yes, what type of work do you want?

	Total	%
Agriculture and Forestry	4	12
Horticulture	2	6
Manufacturing	4	12
Construction	1	3
Service Industries	12	36
Information Technology	6	18
Education	5	15
Other	11	33

Number of people who answered question: 33

**EMPLOYMENT - Continued**

**C.5** If you are looking for work or expect to be in the next 1-2 years where would you like this work to be?

	Total	%
At home	13	32
Elsewhere in the parish	12	30
Outside the parish but within 10 miles	10	25
Within 11-30 miles	7	17
Over 30 miles	1	2
Don't mind	13	32

Number of people who answered question: 40

**C.6** Do you require more information on local job vacancies?

	Total	%
Yes	26	18
No	122	82

Number of people who answered question: 148

**C.7** If you are an employer in the parish or within 5 miles of it, do you expect that during the next five years your work force will:

	Total
Substantially increase	1
Marginally increase	10
Reduce	0
Remain much at present levels	11

Number of people who answered question: 22

**C.8** If there were reliable daytime child care facilities within the parish, would these:

	Total
Make your existing work easier to do	9
Enable you to seek work	1

Number of people who answered question: 10

**EDUCATION**

**D.1** If adult education/evening classes were to be organised within the parish would you be interested in attending?

	Total	%
Yes	136	60
No	89	40

Number of people who answered question: 225

**D.2** If yes, what classes would you like to see organised?

	Total	%
Crafts	68	50
Sports	35	26
Languages	57	42
Information Technology	50	37
Arts	52	38
Other	16	12

Number of people who answered question: 136

**LOCAL COUNTRYSIDE AND ENVIRONMENT**

**E.1** Can you usually follow the footpaths and bridleways without much difficulty?

	Total	%
Yes	213	89
No	9	4
Don't know	18	7

Number of people who answered question: 240

**E.2** Within the parish do any of the following types of disturbance concern you?

	Total	%
Heavy Traffic	77	42
Pollution of water courses	25	14
Dog Fouling	77	42
Hunting	59	32
Low-flying aircraft	90	49
Shooting	23	13
Litter	51	28
Cycling rallies or races	24	13

Number of people who answered question: 184

**E.3** What features of the parish need to be protected?

	Total	%
The village greens	177	76
Campden Lane	133	57
Gassons Lane	169	73
The Walks to Charlton Abbots	164	71
Sevenhampton Splash	172	74
The church	194	84
The village hall	192	83
The public telephones	169	73
The Craven Arms	130	56
Other	43	19

Number of people who answered question: 232

**F.1** Is your doctor's surgery in:

	Total	%
Charlton Kings	126	52
Northleach	45	18
Winchcombe	31	13
Elsewhere	42	17

Number of people who answered question: 244

**F.5** Do you have any special health or social needs which could be catered for within the parish?

	Total	%
Yes	2	1
No	228	99

Number of people who answered question: 230

**F.2** Do you have any difficulty in getting to the following?

Code: 1=Often 2=Occasionally 3=Never

	1		2		3	
	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%
Hospital	6	3	15	7	184	90
Doctor	8	4	16	8	185	88
Chemist	7	3	16	8	181	89
Chiropodist	5	3	5	3	148	94
Optician	5	3	5	3	179	94
Dentist	6	3	9	5	184	92
Other medical facility	5	4	5	4	116	92

**F.3** How often would you be prepared to become involved in a good neighbour scheme? (e.g. shopping for senior citizens etc.)

	Total	%
Once a week	25	12
Once a month	30	14
Occasionally	92	44
Never	62	30

Number of people who answered question: 209

**F.4** Would you consider a weekly doctors surgery held within the parish to be:

	Total	%
Very necessary	22	10
Quite necessary	122	57
Quite unnecessary	50	23
Very unnecessary	21	10

Number of people who answered question: 215

## POLICING AND SECURITY

**G.1** Is the service provided by your community police officer:

	Total	%
Good	7	3
Reasonable	40	17
Poor	79	33
No opinion	110	47

Number of people who answered question: 236

**G.2** Is it important to continue with the existing neighbourhood watch scheme?

	Total	%
Yes	199	82
No	7	3
No opinion	36	15

Number of people who answered question: 242

**G.3** Would you be prepared to take a more active part in the scheme?

	Total	%
Yes	72	33
No	149	67

Number of people who answered question: 221

## REFUSE COLLECTION

**G.4** Would you be prepared to keep certain items separate from your refuse for recycling if a separate collection was made?

	Total	%
Yes	221	92
No	19	8

Number of people who answered question: 240

## RETAIL SERVICES AND OTHER FACILITIES

**H.1** How many times a month do you use the counter service at Brockhampton post office?

	Total	%
More than 10	13	5
Between 5 and 10	38	16
Less than 5	97	41
Never	90	38

Number of people who answered question: 238

**H.2** If you use Brockhampton post office, please state what for:

	Total	%
Postal Services	136	89
Pensions/Allowances	33	22
Giro Bank/Savings Certificates etc	16	10
TV Licence/Other bills	49	32
Information leaflets	22	14
Other services	59	39

Number of people who answered question: 153

**H.3** If you don't use Brockhampton post office, why not?

	Total	%
Work outside the village	46	47
Use Andoversford post office	45	46
Usually need main post office facilities	17	17

Number of people who answered question: 98

**H.4** Tick to indicate which doorstep retail deliveries you would like to see continued or introduced into the parish:

	Total	%
Milkman	202	89
Baker	139	61
Butcher	39	17
Newspapers	193	85
Other	11	5

Number of people who answered question: 227

## SPORT, SOCIAL AND ENTERTAINMENT

**I.1** Tick if you think the following leisure facilities are NOT sufficiently publicised

	Total	%
BADS (drama)	16	23
Women's Institute	17	25
Luncheon/Century Clubs	22	32
Playgroup	18	26
Young Farmers Club	31	45
Keep Fit Classes	31	45
Quilters	10	14
Scouts	17	25
Cubs and Brownies	22	32
Social Events	31	45

Number of people who answered question: 69

**I.2** Does the parish need a recreation field?

	Total	%
Yes	144	60
No	29	12
No opinion	67	28

Number of people who answered question: 240

**I.3** What is your opinion of existing leisure activities and facilities for the following:  
Code: 1=Good 2=Reasonable 3=poor  
4=No opinion

	1		2		3		4	
	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%
Children up to 16	1	1	11	6	107	56	72	37
Young people 17 - 25	1	1	28	15	87	45	75	39
People 26 - 65	20	10	97	49	29	15	51	26
Seniors over 65	50	24	69	33	16	8	72	35

**I.4** Which social activity groups would you like to see formed?

	Total	%
Whist Drive	15	10
Gardener's Society	52	35
Rambling Club	43	29
Painting and Drawing	38	26
Music/Choral Society	29	20
Youth Club	41	28
Photography	28	19
Table Tennis Club	27	18
Literature Group	25	17
Other	24	16

Number of people who answered question: 148

**I.5** Would you be prepared to help organise and run any of the above social activities?

	Total	%
Yes	42	22
No	151	78

Number of people who answered question: 193

**I.6** How many times a month do you use the village hall?

	Total	%
More than 10	3	1
Between 6 and 10	9	4
Between 1 and 5	52	22
Less frequently	116	48
Never	61	25

Number of people who answered question: 241

**I.7** Do you think the village hall is adequate for the needs of the parish?

	Total	%
Yes	184	76
No	18	8
No opinion	39	16

Number of people who answered question: 241

**I.8** If no, how do you think it could be improved?

	Total
More accommodation	6
More storage	6
Other	16

Number of people who answered question: 22

**I.9** Do you think the parish should organise a major annual charity event, eg arts or music festival, summer ball or sporting event?

	Total	%
Yes	115	56
No	90	44

Number of people who answered question: 205

## TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

**J.1** Do you experience transport difficulties getting in or out of the parish?

	Total	%
Often	11	5
Occasionally	48	21
Never	172	74

Number of people who answered question: 231

**J.2** Do you think there is a car parking problem in your area?

	Total	%
Often	42	18
Occasionally	96	41
Never	95	41

Number of people who answered question: 233

**J.3** If you have a car, would you be prepared to help provide a voluntary transport service?

	Total	%
Yes	40	21
No	151	79

Number of people who answered question: 191

**J.4** How important is the bus service to you?

	Total	%
Essential	22	9
Important	64	27
Not important	44	19
Do not use the bus	107	45

Number of people who answered question: 237

## TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS - Continued

**J.5** Would you like to see an improvement in the bus service with regard to:

	Total	%
Routes	22	37
Timetable	51	85
Reliability	7	12
Cost	5	8

Number of people who answered question: 60

**J.6** Does the parish need a car park?

	Total	%
Yes	109	46
No	96	41
No opinion	30	13

Number of people who answered question: 235

**J.7** If yes, where would be the best place to site it?

	Total	%
Near village hall	103	92
Near the church	42	38
Other	9	8

Number of people who answered question: 112

**J.8** Do you think the maintenance of local road surfaces, hedges and verges with regard to safety is:

	Total	%
Good	21	9
Reasonable	125	52
Poor	91	38
No opinion	2	1

Number of people who answered question: 239

**J.9** Do you think there are any major danger spots' on the roads in the parish?

	Total	%
Yes	141	64
No	69	31
No opinion	11	5

Number of people who answered question: 221

**J.10** Are the road sign warnings in the parish adequate for safety?

	Total	%
Yes	133	58
No	70	31
No opinion	26	11

Number of people who answered question: 229

**J.11** Would you like to see some street lighting in the parish?

	Total	%
Generally	12	5
Not at all	155	65
In a few strategic areas	70	30

Number of people who answered question: 237

**J.12** Would you use a locally based voluntary car service, locally based taxi or 'Dial a Ride'?

	Total	%
Often	4	2
Occasionally	55	30
Never	126	68

Number of people who answered question: 185

## INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION

**K.1** Would the parish benefit from a permanent library service?

	Total	%
Yes	50	22
No	93	42
No opinion	80	36

Number of people who answered question: 223

**K.2** Do you use the fortnightly mobile library service?

	Total	%
Every visit	27	11
Every 2 or 3 visits	7	3
Less frequently	24	10
Never	180	76

Number of people who answered question: 238

**K.3** Is the siting of the mobile library stops relevant to your needs?

	Total	%
Good	65	31
Reasonable	15	7
Poor	5	2
No opinion	127	60

Number of people who answered question: 212

**K.4** Do you think the amount of information available about what is going on in the parish is:

	Total	%
Good	63	27
Reasonable	132	56
Poor	20	8
No opinion	22	9

Number of people who answered question: 237

**K.5** Does the parish need a newsletter or magazine?

	Total	%
Yes	147	62
No	47	20
No opinion	42	18

Number of people who answered question: 236

**K.6** Would you be prepared to help with such a newsletter or magazine?

	Total	%
Yes	51	26
No	146	74

Number of people who answered question: 197

**K.7** If yes, state which areas:

	Total
Writing articles	10
Editing	6
Artwork	8
Typing	12
Publicity	4
Distribution	31
Advertising	9

Number of people who answered question: 49

**K.8** How many times a month do you look at a parish notice board?

	Total	%
More than 10	22	9
Between 5 and 10	58	24
Less than 5	133	55
Never	29	12

Number of people who answered question: 242

## 26 INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION - Continued

**K.9** What problems would it cause you if the telephone kiosks were withdrawn?

	Total	%
Major problems	19	8
Minor problems	72	30
No problems	146	62

Number of people who answered question: 237

**K.10** Do you read the Foursome and the Village Hall Newsletter?

	Total	%
Usually	174	70
Sometimes	39	16
Seldom	16	6
Never	19	8

Number of people who answered question: 248

## RELIGION

**L.1** Is the parish church important to you?

	Total	%
For Sunday worship	88	39
For baptisms, weddings and funerals	143	63
As an historic building	185	82
As a focal point for village life	124	55
For other reasons	24	11

Number of people who answered question: 226

**L.2** Tick if you would attend the following if they were held at different times or in a different format or style:

	Total	%
Morning Prayer	28	56
Family Service	35	70
Sunday School	8	16

Number of people who answered question: 50

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT

**M.1** Would you be prepared to pay a slightly higher parish community charge to meet some of the needs identified by this questionnaire?

	Total	%
Yes	104	46
No	83	36
No opinion	41	18

Number of people who answered question: 228

**M.2** How well does the parish council publicise its decisions and activities?

	Total	%
Very well	4	2
Reasonably well	83	36
Poorly	116	50
No opinion	29	12

Number of people who answered question: 232

**M.3** Would you like more information about the activities of the parish council?

	Total	%
Yes	168	75
No	57	25

Number of people who answered question: 225

**M.4** To what extent do the following authorities satisfy your needs and expectations?

Code: 1=Very well 2=Reasonably  
3=Poorly 4=No opinion

	1		2		3		4	
	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%
Parish Council	24	11	127	58	29	13	39	18
District Council	14	6	114	53	41	19	48	22
County Council	10	5	86	41	51	24	62	30

**M.5** Do you think sufficient publicity is given to planning applications which affect the parish?

	Total	%
Yes	71	31
No	125	54
No opinion	34	15

Number of people who answered question: 230

**M.6** What do you think of the degree of planning control over the following types of development in the parish? Code: 1=Good 2=Reasonable 3=Poor 4=No opinion

	1		2		3		4	
	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%
Location of new housing	37	18	76	38	25	13	62	31
Design of new housing	26	13	78	39	30	15	66	33
Location of commercial buildings	15	9	35	21	21	12	99	58
Design of commercial buildings	14	8	30	18	22	13	102	61
Location of agricultural buildings	18	9	78	38	45	22	65	31
Design of agricultural buildings	16	8	75	38	43	22	64	32
Conversion of buildings	27	13	99	47	35	17	48	23
Design of converted buildings	27	13	102	50	26	13	50	24

## GENERAL

**N.1** What is most important to you about the parish?

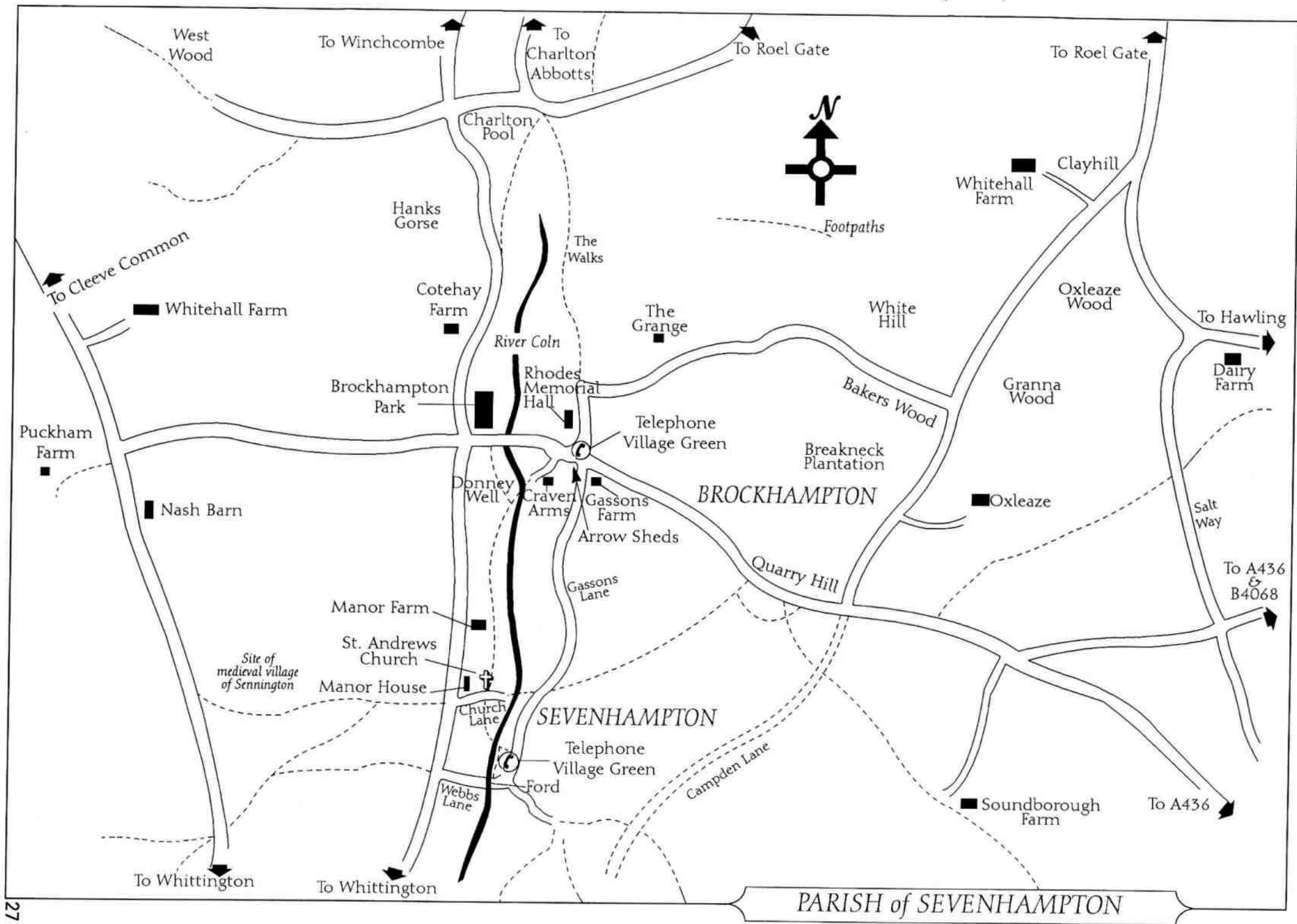
	Total	%
The community	109	47
The environment	134	58
Other	7	3

Number of people who answered question: 233

**N.2** How would you like the parish to develop?

	Total	%
As a working community	120	50
As a retirement community	22	9
As a commuter community	15	6
As a tourist centre	3	1
To stay as it is	177	74
Other	7	3

At the end of the questionnaire, visitors were asked to complete the following statement:



## Acknowledgements

A big thank you from the appraisal group to:

Sheila Agius  
Lynda Bashford  
Julia Chandler  
Colin Handy  
Emma Lanfear  
Liz Francis

...and to all those who contributed sketches

for their invaluable help.

Further acknowledgements are included  
in the foreword to this report



*Over the River Coln, Lower Sevenhampton*

