

South Lenches Parish Council
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South Lenches Parish Questionnaire

July 2015

Ab Lench

Atch Lench

Church Lench

Sheriffs Lench

Foreword

In 2013 the South Lenches Parish Council asked the community to identify the issues which they felt were most important to them as residents of the Parish. The intention was first and foremost to obtain first hand feedback as the basis for a more detailed questionnaire. The results of that questionnaire were to be incorporated into a new Parish Plan setting out the kind of things the Parish Council could investigate and act upon in the years ahead.

The South Lenches Parish Plan Steering Group was formed from members of the Parish Council and residents from the villages who then created a detailed questionnaire covering each of the issues mentioned. The completed questionnaire was circulated to all residents of the Parish. We received an excellent return of 207 completed forms from all 4 of our villages (Church Lench, Atch Lench, Ab Lench, Sheriffs Lench). Thank you to all who contributed.

The analysis of your responses has been a complex process, but we are pleased to confirm that the answers you provided have finally been collated here.

The full analysis runs to some 73 pages, so we have prepared a shorter and more digestible version of nearly half that size, provided here. The complete unabridged version is available on-line at www.thelenches.org.uk/parish-council.html. Any comments or questions you have can be addressed to southlenchespc@gmail.com.

Since setting out along this route, the Government has introduced a piece of legislation called the Localism Act which transfers some powers from local government to the people themselves, and that is particularly aimed at giving people a stronger voice regarding planning matters in their areas. This now provides for a more robust type of Parish Plan to be available called a Neighbourhood Plan. This can be produced as a legal document written into the South Worcestershire Development Plan and carrying significant weight with the Planning Department when considering local planning proposals.

One of the fundamental requirements for producing such a Plan is obtaining the views of the local community, which makes this questionnaire a very timely and important piece of research, especially in the light of recent unwelcome large scale planning proposals in the Parish area. Your Parish Council are, therefore, very much in favour of pursuing the much more powerful Neighbourhood Plan route rather than just the simple old fashioned Parish Plan which carries no weight at all.

If you support this proposal, please email southlenchespc@gmail.com by 31st July 2015 please and tell us. We cannot proceed without your support.

Melvyn Shore

Chairman, South Lenches Parish Council

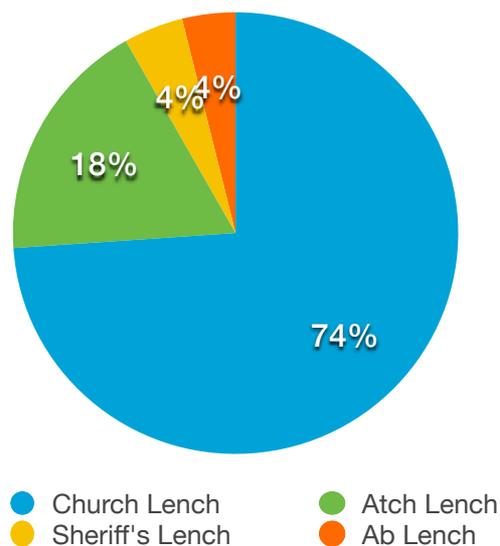
The Questionnaire - What you told us.

The Villages Represented

The questionnaires were distributed to every house in the South Lenches Parish. Each questionnaire, while anonymous, was marked so that it identified which Lench the respondent lived in. Church Lench, being the largest village, has yielded the largest number of responses, but Atch Lench, Ab Lench and Sheriff's Lench are all well represented. Responses were received from 207 people resident in the Parish.

Lench	Number	Percentage
Church	153	74%
Atch	37	18%
Sherrifs	9	4%
Ab	8	4%
Total	207	

Geographical Distribution of Responses



General information: Parishioners Surveyed

Gender

The gender split of the Parishioners who completed and returned the questionnaire is more or less balanced.

Gender	Number	Percentage
Male	101	49%
Female	104	51%
Total	205	

The sharp-eyed among you will notice that the total number of males and females (205) does not match the total number of Parishioners in the previous table (207). This is because two people did not tell us whether they were male or female.

The Age of Those Who Replied

The age split of the Parishioners responses demonstrates a leaning towards an older population. It should be noted that this age split represents the age of the people answering and returning the Parish Plan Questionnaire, and does not necessarily represent the age demographic across all four villages.

Age	Total	Percentage
Under 11	5	2
12-18	17	8
19-24	5	2
25-44	23	11
45-65	66	32
65+	88	43
Total	204	

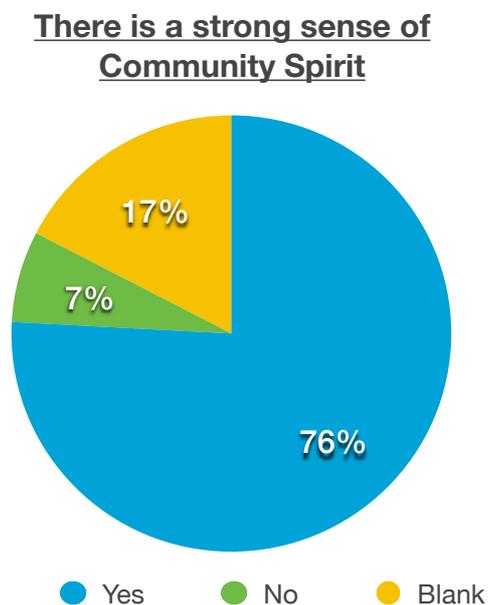
Again, there is a difference in the total because three people did not supply information regarding age.

The Questionnaire was divided into several discrete sections:

Section 1: Community and Social - asking about how people perceive the Parish community, and its assets (Church, Social Club, Village Hall, Sports Club), and in particular touching on what people value, what concerns they have, and what improvements they would like to see.

For example:

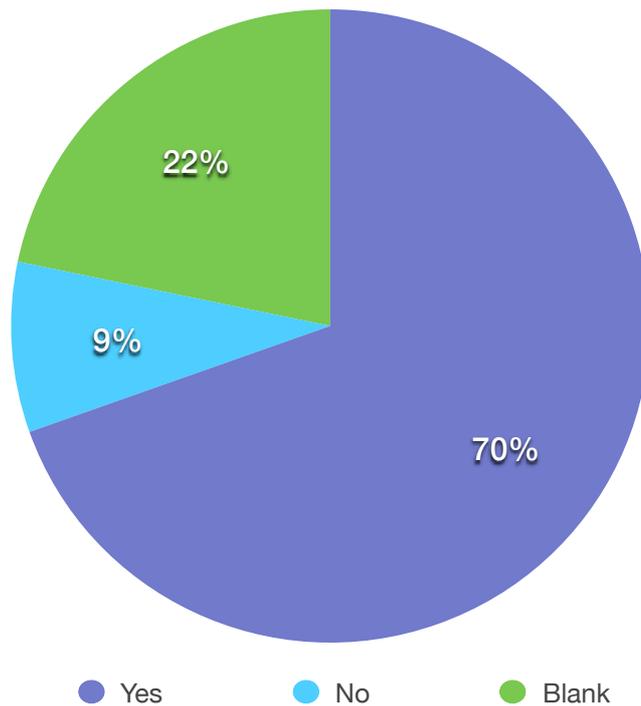
1.1 Which of the following statements describes how you feel about the Parish?



Most people feel that there is a recognisable focal point in the Parish, but opinion is divided on whether it is the Church, the School, the Social Club or the Sports Club.

There is nothing to be gained from assessing which has the stronger response. Rather, it is good to note that all four assets are valued and used, and that the broad consensus is that their combined location forms the Parish focal point.

There is a Good Selection of Clubs, Organised Groups and Activities



Generally there is agreement that there is a lot going on in the Parish. However, if asked whether there are enough facilities for children, or for the elderly, or for teenagers, the results are less conclusive. (too many “blank” responses)

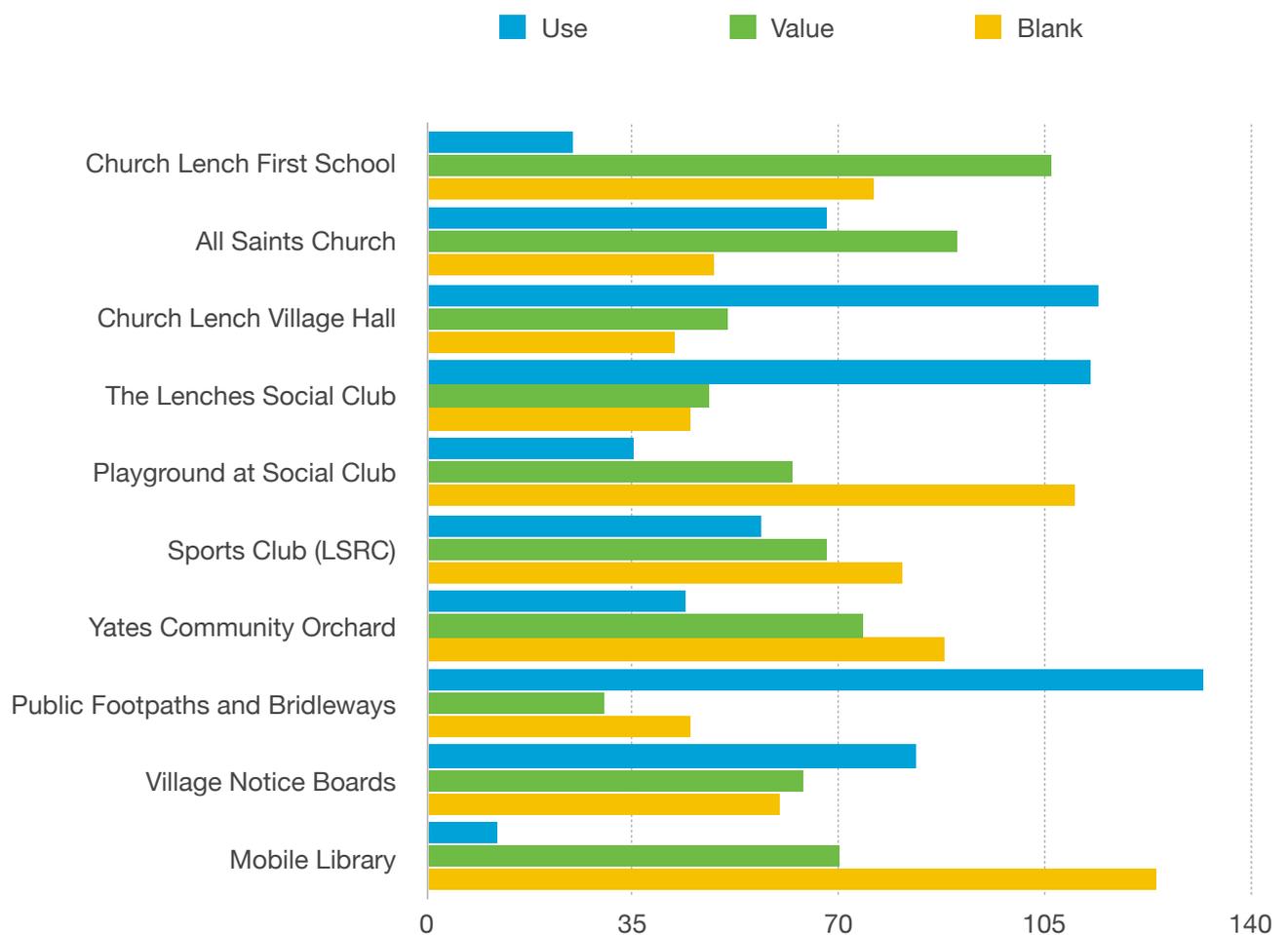
There are freeform statements made under “Any Other Comments”. Some are complimentary, while others have some interesting observations to make:

- Also the Lenches Club and the Lenches Sports and Recreation Club
- There are plenty of organised activities if you are keen on sport.
- Meals on wheels? Perhaps the school could be involved, but I don't really know if there is a need for this.
- We feel that Church Lench has four focal points. Church, Village Hall, Lenches Club, Sports Club.
- Would be good for club, village hall, tennis club to work together. I sense they "compete" which is not really appropriate.
- Club
- Lenches Club and Village Hall = fantastic amenities.

- It always seems to be the select few who organise or know about events in the village. They are not well enough advertised and even if you attend an event you are made to feel an outsider.
- More general activities would be good.
- The main focal point in the parish is the village hall. The village hall committee are excellent at arranging many social events. The local residents are very friendly and helpful when people are sick or in need of transport etc. We were sad to see the demise of the village shop and post office. The sports facilities are excellent.
- Lenches social club Village Hall
- We have left the last two comments blank because we believe in our own childcare and I don't know of any vulnerable persons around the area.
- I worry about when my wife and I perhaps are unable to drive.

One of the factors affecting community involvement in community matters is communication, and this is a thread that permeates all aspects of this Questionnaire.

1.2 Which of the Following Community Assets do You Use or Value?



Some people may use an asset, in which case they are assumed to value it.

Some people may value an asset, but not use it regularly.

The response against the Mobile Library would indicate that most people don't know it exists, or that it visits the Lenches. Indeed this is backed up by the freeform statements under "Additional Comments" outlined below:

- Lenches Club is an asset to the Community.
- The Lenches Wives Club
- Vale Golf and Country Club is nothing to do with the Lenches ... it's Bishampton!!!!
- What is Yates' Community Orchard and where is it?
- Improve play equipment for older children. Remove seesaw and replace with more exciting equipment.
- Have never seen the mobile library - where does it go in the village and where is it advertised?
- Mobile library was regularly used when it visited after school - now comes in middle of day when at school/work.
- Shooting club

1.3 Are there any other Facilities or Services that you would like to see in the Parish?

A local shop/post office	152
Transport - school, public, other (eg. car share)	47
Health Facilities	68
Mother and Toddler groups or other childcare facilities	17
Allotments	50
Youth Centre or other Youth facilities	59

As the table shows, there is a demand for a local shop/post office. There is not likely to be a huge demand within the Parish for mother/toddler groups, and there is already an active pre-school facility available.

The response regarding better Youth facilities is one that recurs throughout the questionnaire. Note the comment below about Guides/Scouts and the offer to help.

“Other Comments”

- Now a pensioner, we have helped with Guides, Youth Club etc, in the past, but they have all folded. Any desire for them to re-open?
- Local shop - ok at present as long as shop at Harvington.
- Health facilities would be nice in an ideal world.
- Luncheon club once a week at the Lenches Club. Short walking group, 1-3 miles.
- Shop to include Newsagents
- Bakery
- Even though I am elderly it is good to think what others might find beneficial in such a lovely village.
- Realistically the village is too small to support a shop.
- Yoga and pilates
- Skate park Mountain bike trail
- Additional social housing for young lenches families.
- Additional astronomy club
- I'd like to see the playground updated and expanded to include things suitable for older children and teenagers
- A community shop could be organised in a similar way to the one at Elmlea Castle. How about an open-air market at the club, or village hall car park?
- It would be great if a shop could include a cafe, giving the community a place to pause and socialise. Or, a cycle path linking the Lenches.
- Local bus service should not disappear.
- Subsidised sports facilities, especially for young people ie. tennis club.

1.4 Would you be prepared to help with any of the following?

Errands, eg Shopping or collecting prescriptions	80
Help with administration, eg. letter writing, filling in forms	53
Neighbourhood visiting, companionship, etc.	52

Within the community there is a lot of willingness to help others, but finding out who needs help might be a little tricky. Comments as follows:

- Encouraging people to join in village activities.
- Helping at the school
- As a retail specialist of 40 year experience I feel I could help to look at possibilities of providing some local retail coverage.
- The local medical practice already have a delivery service for patients and their medication.
- Already do these three things.
- If we had a shop/post office, this would be a focal point for the village and enable people to arrange various collections on behalf of residents less able. Note: there are people who live in the village who do not know more than 1 dozen others.
- Helping people who visit hospitals and don't drive
- I already do this.
- I don't drive, so shopping is out.
- Organisation of website for communication
- Dog walking
- Ad hoc errands organised by Village co-ordinator
- Starting/continuing school meals for local elderly
- Due to work plus hobby commitments we couldn't commit to any dependent regular duties, but are more than happy to be an emergency contact especially in the winter months.

1.5 How do you find out what is going on in the Parish?

Evesham Journal	112	54%
ARCH Messenger	180	87%
Notice Boards	132	64%
Posters	126	61%
Web Sites	58	28%
Parish Council Meetings	26	13%
Word of Mouth	177	86%

There are quite a lot of comments throughout the questionnaire about communication issues. Your Parish Council is examining ways in which to improve communication with all residents of the Parish. For example, this document is being posted to all addresses on the electoral register. This is obviously neither practical nor affordable for regular communication, but was deemed the best way to ensure maximum contact with parishioners, given the importance of this document.

Additional comments:

- Encouraging people to join in village activities.
- Helping at the school
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- Dog walking

- Ad hoc errands organised by Village co-ordinator
- Starting/continuing school meals for local elderly
- Due to work plus hobby commitments we couldn't commit to any dependent regular duties, but are more than happy to be an emergency contact especially in the winter months.

This section concerns Questions from Church Lench First School to the Community

1.6 Do you think the school hot meal service should be extended to include community members who may benefit?

The response to this question was a resounding “yes”. Since the questionnaire was distributed and returned this service has been introduced at the school. Recent feedback (February 2015) indicates that the meals are being well received. The service was initially introduced at a frequency of once a month. This has been oversubscribed and consequently increased frequency has been introduced.

The school sees this as a valuable means for increasing cohesion between the school and the local community. A side benefit to the school is that several of the “customers” have been prevailed upon to help with reading to the little ones. This is a perfect example of community in action, yielding benefits to both parties.

- Yes, elderly.
- Yes, but who? do we know the residents that may benefit?
- Might be useful for elderly/infirm.
- Good idea, but don't know who could benefit. Neighbours? Doctors? - tell
- Yes, the elderly and infirm.
- Yes - for the elderly.
- Yes, any elderly or housebound. Yes, anybody disabled, or special needs.
- No.
- It would be a good idea. The elderly and infirm could benefit - could eat with the children at the school.
- Yes. Elderly / ill
- Yes, especially to the elderly who may not be able to get out.
- Yes Elderly people living on their own.
- Yes. Elderly or infirm.
- Yes, anyone who lived alone.
- Yes - people who have difficulty catering for themselves - eg. age, infirmity, disability. Perhaps could be delivered/collected for others where necessary.
- Yes - elderly/home alone

- Yes - persons alone and infirm - meals could be taken to them from school by a villager.
- Yes, elderly and house bound due to ill health.
- Yes - retired single people.
- No. Administratively difficult and expensive.
- Yes to any member of community wanting to use it.
- No
- Yes. Elderly and infirm, people living alone.
- yes
- Yes, for the elderly, or those who are unable to go out, or just been discharged from hospital.
- Yes. Elderly and ill people who cannot provide their own hot meals.
- Yes. Elderly, infirm, lonely. Interaction with children, staff and a hot meal.
Community interaction
- Yes - Housebound/elderly.
- Yes, it's a wonderful idea that could help provide companionship for so many elderly people.
- No need. however, could serve as meals on wheels service to those confined to the village or in need.
- Possibly, but identification of who might benefit would need to be handled sensitively.
- Yes. The elderly.
- Yes. Perhaps it would benefit the elderly who live alone.
- Possibly for older people.
- Yes. Local elderly/single people/sick - either being transported to and from the school to eat there and be social or having a meal delivered.
- Yes The Elderly In school, if room
- Yes - once a week for community to share?
- Yes
- Yes - lots of local people.

- Yes. Would be useful for older people to get a hot meal and interact with others especially in the winter.
- Yes for elderly residents, especially those living alone.
- Yes to definition of "members who may benefit" would need to be provided for final agreement.
- Yes. Benefit elderly by encouraging socialisation. Could also mean that school hot meal service would be more economic to run.
- Yes. Disabled Elderly
- Yes, could be of use for the elderly. The Lent lunches are always well supported. Yes, lovely for us to be able to eat lunch with the children there. Booking in advance would be helpful obviously.
- Yes for OAPs and disabled.

1.7 How could the School Encourage Wider Community Involvement in its running or Activities?

As with the previous question, the responses were resoundingly positive and there were a wide range of suggestions, some of which are outlined below:

- Occasional tea party/coffee morning in school for retired people in village to befriend the children and talk about their working life and experiences.
- Have an open day to show us what you do in modern schools today.
- It needs to go both ways with the schoolchildren also getting involved in village activities.
- An open afternoon when villagers could visit the school and talk to teachers and children.
- Notices in the village. Via parent/Teacher association. Articles in ARCH Messenger. Leaflets to houses in the village.
- Bring a Granny (or friend) to tea/lunch. Ask people with skills personally. Cooking, sewing, knitting, etc.
- Further advertising, events at weekends.
- Better web information on main village web site
- Messages "we're open" and notice of events.
- Open day

- Maybe residents with special skills could be introduced into the school to either help, or talk to the children.
- Have a representative on community clubs. Activities Encourage host community meetings Roast dinner day - invite the community
- Perhaps ask for volunteer experts who could help in certain parts of the curriculum - we already have that with Imagineering.
- Invitation to school events/concerts other than parents?
- Answer their emails. More engagement with lenches.org website
- Use as a venue
- Information in ARCH Messenger
- Through social media
- School could be used for village activities in the evenings/weekends. School could ask local people to be guest speakers etc.
- By people willing to join the PTA or by giving any spare time to help with clubs, etc.
- As above.
- Open days for the community. As a Church school it could have greater involvement with the church.
- Advertise for volunteers. Approach people not already involved.
- Work in conjunction with other groups rather than in competition, ie. WI.

1.8 The Children have asked: What can we do as children to help the community?

A large number of responses here suggested litter picking. This should not present a problem, provided there is ample supervision. Wychavon District Council provide both adult and children's kits for litter picking. Given the climate of health and safety awareness, if children are involved, the South Lenches Parish Council has always submitted their own risk assessment which covers children along with the WDC one to the organisation that is carrying out the Litter Pick.

- Nothing - enjoy your childhood
- Litter Pick
- Visiting. Companionship (older children)
- Helping to keep tidy. Visiting and entertaining the elderly and infirm.

- Get involved with Village Hall and Church Activities. Be happy, learn hard, be positive about life.
- Maybe invite residents to Christmas shows etc ... help with fundraising for specific charities.
- Visit selected houses with Christmas cards or invites to special events.
- Teach some of us adults how to use computers, ipads, tablets, internet and text messages, for you are all so good at it.
- Encourage parents to leave cars at Lenches Club instead of all down Main Street and Evesham Road, and half on pavement, when dropping off at school.
- Litter pick
- Visiting the elderly
- Be encouraged to pick up litter
- Walk to school Pick up litter.
- Bob-a-job Put on concerts for the community in the Church or Village Hall - could be used for fundraising
- By looking after the community facilities, that are offered to them, and to remember that any elderly person might like small errands done, ie. gardening, dog walking, etc.
- Help keep the village free of litter.
- Litter picks organised become responsible for village areas and plant flowers Weed communal area.
- Be tidy and polite and kind . Laugh a lot.
- Litter pick organised, weed communal areas, and plant flowers.
- Greater involvement with the community eg. as some schools do as part of mini enterprise - making cakes, serving tea, raising money for school or good causes.
- Plant a garden in Yates Orchard with help from local amateur gardeners.
- Litter pick.
- Perhaps the older ones could do some weeding for elderly villagers or dog walking?
- Hold open days
- Talk to your neighbours. Report to parents and teachers anything that worries or upsets you about things/people around.

- Visit the elderly?
- Litter pick?
- Keep it litter free. If you see it, pick it up.

1.9 The Children have asked: We would like to start a gardening club as we would like to grow our own vegetables and need some keen gardeners to help us. Can anyone help? If yes, please give details.

This has already been started and is well under way during the warmer months. It might be something for the school to advertise with a view to involving community members. Indeed there was a degree of interest shown in the responses to this question, although only one person provided contact details. Comments included:

- Would be able to help at weekends. Happy to support with holiday/weekend care - watering, etc. Would be happy to donate some seeds, plants, to start.
- I enjoy gardening. Not sure if I have sufficient knowledge to teach but happy to help.
- Could offer some advice on particular vegetables and raised beds.
- Use a patch in the Yates Orchard.
- No green fingers here - we could do with advice ourselves
- 16 The Croft Church Lench WR11 4UD
- We have a large garden and grow vegetables and fruit. There is a perception that growing your own is cheap. It isn't, but is very healthy and satisfying. A gardening club would enable cheaper bulk purchase of seeds and compost, etc. I would support a gardening club.
- Yes, could help with digging etc.
- I can help with seed sowing but not any heavy manual work.

This section concerns Questions from the Lenches Club

1.10 Does the Club fulfil what you need and expect?

The Lenches Social Club provides a much appreciated focal point for the surrounding villages, both as a venue for special events, and also as a regular watering hole for more stalwart supporters. Comments, however, are mixed, and include:

- Yes - almost
- Yes. Much better with food on offer most nights. Veggie food required please!
- Social meeting place.
- Yes, the Club is widely used from within and beyond the Lenches. It does need a bit of a makeover.
- No, because it could be the heart of the community.
- Good place to meet.
- The Club is a very good meeting place for a great variety of activities.
- The food on Friday night is not good enough. Otherwise, yes.
- Have never been to the club so cannot comment.
- Mostly
- Yes, it suits the whole family.
- It's a meeting place
- For me, yes, but could the games room be used more by teenagers as a youth club perhaps, one evening a week?
- No
- More for older residents.
- yes
- Don't know what it offers.
- Broadly yes.
- Yes!
- We do not know that much about the Lenches Club. We arrived in the Lenches 8 years ago and have no idea what it costs or how we become members, etc. Maybe an explanation letter to residents?

- don't use the club
- Mainly
- There seemed to be more activities for us when we moved here. If we didn't buy our ticket for the monthly dances early, we didn't get one! What has happened to the Jazz nights? We also had barn dances, scottish dances, dance lessons.
- Yes. Partly.
- Yes, excellent activities.
- Yes it is a vital part of the community
- Yes
- Not really. It hasn't got a great deal of atmosphere and though various clubs may find it useful as a venue, we do not find it a very convivial place to go for a drink.
- More or less.
- No. Food availability is very hit and miss. Does not engage that well with Community. Does not appear friendly and inviting.
- Yes Yes, except the staff! I go most nights, but Merv and Becky need to be more welcoming and less depressing! Food options are unreliable a lot of the time not there.
- Yes although some improvement in decor would help.
- The Sports Bar is very tired.
- Yes.

As with previous sections, we again have comments that illustrate a failure to communicate with our community. The Parish Council is taking steps to correct this, as is hopefully evidenced here.

1.11 What Could the Club Provide that it does not at Present?

This is the opportunity for our community members to talk about what they would like to see improved in the service provided by the Social Club. Many of the comments were, as expected, focused on decor, seating, beverages and refreshments available to the customers, but there were also several unexpected suggestions. Responses included:

- Yes - almost
- Yes. Much better with food on offer most nights. Veggie food required please!
- Social meeting place.

- Yes, the Club is widely used from within and beyond the Lenches. It does need a bit of a makeover.
- No, because it could be the heart of the community.
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- We do not know that much about the Lenches Club. We arrived in the Lenches 8 years ago and have no idea what it costs or how we become members, etc. Maybe an explanation letter to residents?
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- Not really. It hasn't got a great deal of atmosphere and though various clubs may find it useful as a venue, we do not find it a very convivial place to go for a drink.
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- Yes Yes, except the staff! I go most nights, but Merv and Becky need to be more welcoming and less depressing! Food options are unreliable a lot of the time not there.
- Yes although some improvement in decor would help.
- The Sports Bar is very tired.
- Yes.

1.12 How do you Envisage the Future of the Club? What changes would you like to see?

In many ways this question follows on from the previous one, with the added component of taking a longer view about how the Social Club should develop. Many comments elaborate on what was said in 1.11, and repeat the desire of Club members for improvements to decor, seating, food, drink and the patio area. There were many and numerous comments, far too many to list here, but suffice to say that opinion is strongly felt on the following representative statements:

- Incorporation of a shop?
- Promote family friendliness.
- Modernisation of interior and general refurbishment
- The games room needs a re-vamp. The stage is terrible for productions, etc.
- None. It has a good happy atmosphere.
- Maybe a bigger outdoor seating area for the warm weather.
- New people behind the bar which are welcoming!!
- See above.
- Carry on - improve facilities where possible. Kitchen cooking smells make playing Bridge difficult.
- Redecorating.
- ?

- Refurbishment of bar room
- Improve decoration, furniture and a prettier patio, but I think that is in hand.
- Better communication with residents, ie. introduction pack to newcomers and existing.
- Refurbishment generally.
- It is looking increasingly shabby - perhaps members could help with fundraising so that refurbishment could take place?
- Must go on. The new food service needs to stay but may be the food should be suitable for microwave prep from frozen - but still all home made. Special occasion meals are good. Does Becky do catering outside the club?
- I would like to see the Club used as a Village Hall, Sports Pavilion and Community Centre. Less expensive all under one roof. could be extended and modernised.
- Become more like a pub.
- None - it is a village club after all. Review legal structure - if solely unincorporated, is the personal liability of the committee sufficiently protected. Other structures, eg. community interest company could be considered.
- Refurbishment
- I do hope Beck's kitchen works well, but the games room, where we are banished with our five year old grandson is really dire!
- Good. Apart from redecorating, nothing.
- Decorate/update.
- The function room made more inviting.
- The obtrusive shelf at knee level on the existing tables is an uncomfortable hindrance particularly when eating. Some means should be found to replace them.
- More outside space and better decor.
- More like a pub - sitting outside in a lovely garden and maybe food.
- Positive future. Updating decoration and comfort.
- The same as it has been for years. Break down this closed shop atmosphere.
- Needs refurb, but not too modern, country pub feel. Toilets and exterior are particularly poor
- Outside seating in summer (larger area) Fresh decoration.

- More modern feel.
- As the only fully licensed premises in the Village, it is a vital facility for the community. It is situated at the heart of the village and holds great views. It is, unfortunately perceived as an older persons club. More should be done to encourage facility (Jen can't read this word) involvement otherwise it might fail.
- Updating of decor.
- Use it more during days for retired lunches? Promote it more eg. blossom trail coaches - cakes/tea, etc. Make more of the view. Link in more with Sports Club so not to compete with each other.
- Improvements/Renovation funded by the Parish Precept Along the lines of Bishamptons shop and pub. Yes, but we have a bigger site so think bigger, shop/ cafe, gym.
- It needs to grow by attracting younger people and particularly families.
- A refurbishment of the lounge to bring it more up to date. If funding is an issue, maybe locals could volunteer to redecorate and offer other skills?
- Needs a more modern feel / look and running to encourage a sophisticated adult environment.
- Modernisation is the key topic, and better use of ample space
- To encourage more people to go.
- Looking very scruffy - needs paint externally and new seating in "sports" bar. Village project?
- Extension of patio area. Internal refurbishment - it's looking very dated and tired.
- Don't use the club

This Section concerns Questions from the Village Hall Committee

1.13 How often do you visit the Village Hall?

	Number	Percentage
Once a week	19	9%
Once a month	43	21%
A few times a year, but not regularly	114	55%
Never	19	9%
Total	195	

As can be seen from the table of responses above, the majority of people visit the Village Hall a few times a year, but not regularly. It would be interesting to determine why this is, in order to look at ways of increasing Community use of the Hall.

The freeform comments indicate that the majority of people see the Village Hall as a significant asset, but there are indications that communication is again an issue, and that perhaps it could be used for a wider range of activities. On the whole there is heartfelt appreciation for the volunteers who are responsible for running this facility for our community.

- A very important Community builder.
- We support 90% of the functions organised by the Village Hall Committee.
- A terrific asset to the Parish - mainly because of the people who run it.
- I think the Village Hall is a white elephant.
- Need to encourage younger members of the community to take more interest in the running of the Hall.
- Need better information about the Hall.
- On practically every occasion when there is a social function
- Events need to be published in the wider community and tickets available freely not from committee members only. Events during day make workers feel excluded.
- When there is a function on, would like to see more entertainment not just meals!!
Vis-a-vis Rous Lench!!
- Not every year.
- Also visit for meetings, Christmas Fayre, Events
- Most if not all Village Hall functions

- The Village Hall Committee run many very good social events, suppers etc. greatly enjoyed by a good many parish members.
- The events we have been to have been very good.
- Committee members are excellent
- An excellent venue and we support it wholeheartedly
- We have attended the big breakfast - shame they are not held throughout the year.
- We try to attend all the organised functions, ie. pantos, plays, dinners etc.
- We think the Village Hall is first class and the people running it do a splendid job. However, I believe more support from village residents may help.
- It does not provide suitable activities for young adults and at suitable times for those who work.
- A wonderful facility

1.14 For What Purpose do you Visit the Village Hall?

There are a wide range of activities taking place throughout the year, some of which are seasonal, and others that are regularly held. For example, the Lenches Pre-school, the Women's Institute, and the Parish Council are all regular users of Village Hall facilities, throughout the year. In addition, there are many other functions and events that are organised by members of the community. The number of freeform comments received totalled over 120, and indicate that most people visit the Village Hall for all or some of the following:

- community activities. Meals Music. Plays. Larger family/friends gatherings Funeral/Wakes
- Organising events (on management committee) Attending events.
- Christmas Fayre Dance classes and zumba, when they were on.
- WI meetings Meals Drinks.
- Attending Village Hall events and PC meetings
- WI Lenches Ladies Church events Events organised by the Committee Committee meetings.
- Ad hoc events
- Yoga Summer School Parties Fundraising events
- Meetings and the occasional event (eg. Christmas Fayre, Harvest Lunch, etc.)

- Golden Wedding Celebration
- For WI and village events.
- See 1.13 above.
- The tennis dinner. Cooked breakfasts. Fete Functions
- Functions and sometimes WI meetings
- WI Fetes/Fayres Parish Council Meal events
- for meetings and for social events.
- Meetings Some functions.
- WI Christmas Fayre any exhibition.
- Supporting/participating in functions/events.
- Meetings. Village Hall "events"
- Social events
- Social purposes.
- Social events.
- Pre-school
- Flower Festival Toddler group Christmas Fayre.
- Parties or events that are taking place.
- Thai Boxing
- WI Meetings
- Village events and meetings.
- See comments in 1.13
- WI. Big Breakfast. Organised functions.
- Attending wake after funeral. Christmas fayre
- Attend Christmas Fair
- Social events, special teas, WI meetings, Big Breakfasts.
- Voting
- For WI, the odd Parish Council meeting, and one or two special events.

- Village Hall events Church-linked events (eg. Flower Festival weekend) Christmas Fayre Private functions (party)
- Entertainment Functions Christmas Fayre
- Produce Show Christmas Fayre.
- Social and Committee meetings.
- Events Christmas Fayre Breakfasts Theatre evenings.
- Only when informed of relevant meetings
- WI afternoon teas for coach parties (pre-booked) Glads presentations Christmas Fayre
- Lovely venue - social - love the breakfasts.
- Attend events.
- Drama Group - Glads
- WI and social functions organised by the Hall, and Tennis Club, etc.
- Functions and meetings.
- Overseeing building a potential problem.
- Family parties. Events eg. Christmas Fayre.
- Yoga, WI Any function the Village Hall Committee offer
- Lenches Breakfast
- Social events Children's parties
- Various - Parish Council Meetings - Entertainment evenings - Parties.
- Voting.
- Big Breakfast and other organised events.
- Mainly pre-school. Big Breakfast. Pantomimes etc.
- Voting. Christmas Fayre.
- Village shows.
- Dinners Village events Concerts. Attend all events.
- Attending or organising events. Dinner or Glads.
- Voting Christmas Fayre occasional entertainment and social evenings.

- Only if invited to a private function.
- WI. Village Events. Harvest Lunch.
- To attend any functions.
- Fetes
- Jubilee Celebrations. Teas. Christmas Fayre, etc.
- Social functions.
- Yoga once a week.
- Events/functions, etc.
- yoga classes. Also to visit Christmas Fayre and events.
- WI, Village meals, Big Breakfast, Village events.
- Meetings. Fundraising events. Family party. Wedding reception Pre-school
- Attendance at WI meetings.
- WI Ladies occasionally Village Hall events Some church events
- Attend events. Christmas fetes.
- Evening talks and voting.
- Various.
- Voting Parties Windfarm related activity
- Events
- Social occasions.
- Entertainment. Big Breakfast. To meet other villagers.
- Social gatherings
- Events/dinners etc. Hired it myself.
- To attend social events run by the Village Hall, Sports Club and Christmas and Summer Fayres.

1.15 Which of the Following would you like to take...

There is some interest in expanding the events on offer at the Village Hall, so the opportunity was taken to ask community members what they would most like to see added to the current range of activities. The graph below illustrates the responses

	Number	Percentage
Youth Club	61	29%
Gardening Club	40	19%
Keep Fit	49	24%
Pilates	39	19%
Badminton	33	16%
Art Club	26	13%
Scrabble Club	17	8%
Dance Club	22	11%
Cookery Club	27	13%
Photography Club	31	15%
Local History Club	40	19%
Computer Classes	40	19%
Weekly Coffee Morning	32	15%
Monthly Lunch Club	34	16%
Other	2	1%

Other comments included:

- Could any of the local swimming pool owners be persuaded to rent out their pools to locals?
- None of these.
- A monthly coffee morning rather than a weekly one.
- Already plenty to do.
- Visitor Centre to promote walks and blossom trail. Link with local area like Bidford/ Stratford to include stops/shows of motoring clubs. Art exhibitions / literary involvement connected to Cheltenham literary week.
- More live events through Shindig.

1.16 What Other Facilities or Events would you like to See in the Parish?

This is another opportunity, following on from question 1.15, for community members to air their opinions on what facilities/events are needed to improve the things on offer to the community. Suggestions include the following:

- Small village shop for milk etc.
- Village show or carnival (Grander than School Fete). Perhaps linked with the Flower Festival, Scarecrow competition, and gardens open to the public, or something that might be supported by Lenchwood Christian Centre. FRAME is excellent.
- Shop
- A village green. Suggest on land next to village hall, behind the church. Picnic benches. Squash court
- Anything for young adults.
- Public toilets for visitors and ramblers, etc.
- Mobile fish and chip van
- bible study classes
- I think there are enough events. Wouldn't want anything that brought lots of traffic or noise.
- Monthly lunch club for OAPs or disabled people, eg. Inkberrow run this every month.
- We would like to see a Committee set up to discuss / consider / recommend - actions for the development of our village - expansion maybe in a way that maintains the character and values of a village that has history and continue in a traditional way.
- pavement or a surfaced footpath suitable for pedestrians, prams or mobility scooters between Atch lench and Church Lench.
- Indoor bowls Any fitness classes
- Informal singing group? Music practices for youngsters?
- Something like a Lenches Festival, for example like Cropthorne's walkabout and festival.
- A gardening club would be good. Plant and produce sales / swaps / occasional garden visits / village garden projects.
- A village shop With a cafe Gym. Cycle lane connecting all the Lenches, and thus bringing the communities together.

- Generally well serviced. Maybe equestrian/fun rides
- Further education classes - eg. Art appreciation.
- Brownies, Guides, Scouts groups.
- Puppy dog training
- Indoor bowling Any fitness classes
- Craft club / centre Scouts and / or Cubs or similar
- Showing of films.

As with previous sections, there is a shortage of facilities and events aimed at teenage and young adult age groups.

This Section concerns Questions from All Saints Church

1.17 In What Ways Could the Church be used for the Wider Community Benefit?

There is some indication that people would like to see greater integration with the Lenches Social Club, Village Hall and Sports Club. There is equal indication that people are happy with things as they currently are. Overall, the responses can be summarised as:

- Monthly coffee mornings.
- Music concerts. Events
- Concerts
- Sunday school for children.
- Meetings maybe.
- Meetings.
- Closer association with both the Lenches Club and the Village Hall
- Integration with social club and village hall
- Coffee mornings. Church fundraising activities.
- Lectures
- The church funds the ARCH Messenger and uses volunteers to deliver to every household in the Lenches. I think that's pretty good.
- Coffee mornings
- Sunday school for children
- Social events concerts, classical and choral music
- I would like it to be used much more widely for community events so that it becomes a more integral part of the villages, although I realise that we have a variety of buildings to choose from.
- I don't think it needs to be used for anything other than what is already used for, as it could get spoilt.
- Many churches are a) a shop b) a post office c) a coffee shop d) a local police station etc. etc.
- Already does this - peace and quiet for reflection and "time out".

- We only have one Church in Church Lench so I think it should embrace folk of other faiths and share time together, not just at fundraising times.

1.18 As well as keeping the Church open, in what ways could the Church be used to offer a sacred place to the Community?

Responses indicate that people are largely happy with what the Church provides for the villages. However, some comments reiterate the opinions of the previous question, that musical events could be expanded, with some suggestions as follows:

- A place for young people to play and learn music.
- Songs of praise events, not services, to "attract" people.
- Meet together to sing old hymns or maybe learn new, as both play a part in modern worship. Bible study.
- Open to and representing other faiths
- We are satisfied with what the Church provides for the Villagers.
- A 20 minute service for busy people

1.19 In what ways could the Church community provide more of a pastoral supportive role within the Parish?

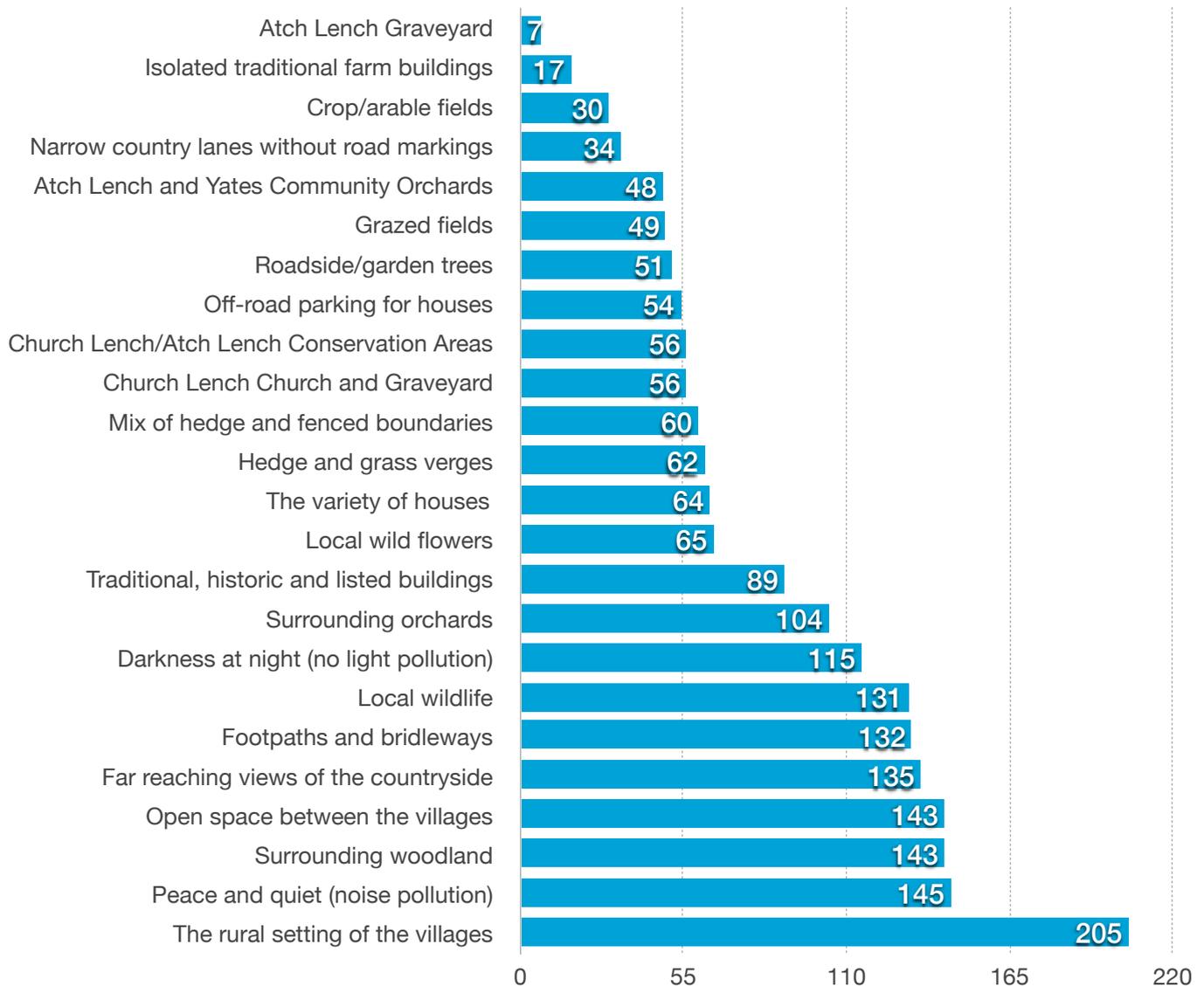
- Get to know people in the Parish, as church-going folk are very insular, but church is not just for Sundays, it is a way of life.
- Ensuring vulnerable persons are ok Co-ordinating assistance provide emotional support and friendship
- Have it's own vicar.
- Bereavement meetings.
- Think it does a good job already.
- Visiting lonely people/disabled.
- Form a pastoral support team

- I think it does very well at present.
- As 1.17, again, when we moved here in 1973 the Rector was always pottering around the village, knocking on doors, visiting in the Club in evenings, being around about and seen!!
- Be more aware of the isolation felt by so many within the community.
- Make "All Saints Day" a celebration all encompassing for the village.
- Organising a list of those "in need"
- The pastoral role within the parish is very supportive when required.
- Offer companionship to aged, infirm and vulnerable people.

2 - Environment

Covers environmental matters - the things that Parishioners value, the things that are of concern, the things that people would like to see or not with regard to the wider environmental amenity.

2.1 Which of the Following Features In and Around the Parish are Important to you?

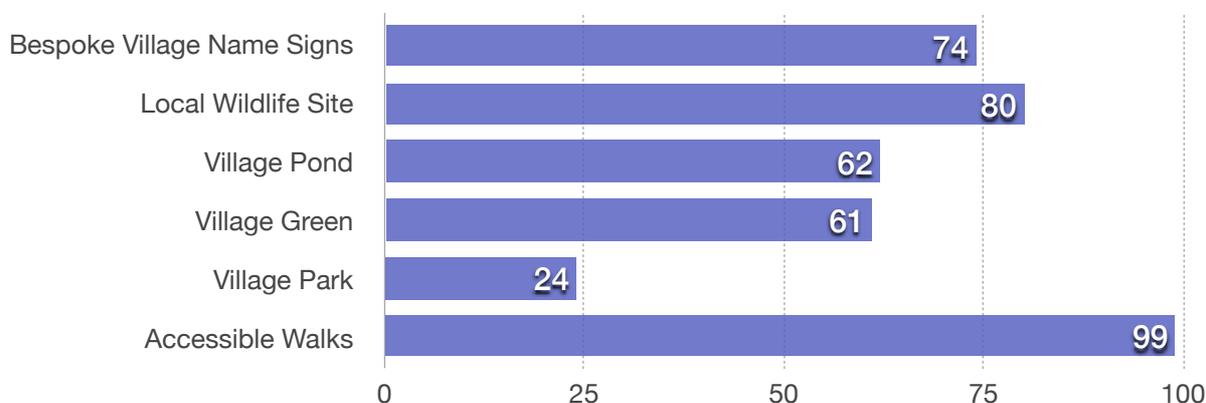


People were asked to select their top 10 choices from the list shown in the graph above. However, a number of people selected more than 10. In those cases, a random selection of 10 of their choices was entered. The freeform comment section echoes this, with a number of people stating that 10 is not enough and that, to quote one person, "Sorry, all are important to us".

The chart clearly summarises the things that Parishioners value, but it needs to be taken in conjunction with the freeform comments, summarised here below:

- Sorry, all are important to us.
- Encourage traffic calming initiatives, ie. sleeping policemen in Evesham Road.
- War Memorial. It's a pity we seem to no longer be surrounded by Orchards. Instead yellow oil seed rape is becoming ubiquitous and smelly.
- We choose to live within this beautiful area and all of the above are important to us.
- The Lenches are a group of unique villages. They are very well situated in a beautiful rural setting which could be designated I think as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. I feel we are very lucky to live here. They are very unspoilt by development and long may it last!
- The Lenches are a very special group of villages and must not be ruined through excessive development. Please, no development of new houses which will spoil these extremely special villages. The rural setting is what makes the villages.
- The open land between Lenches and Handgate to prevent ribbon development and maintain the principle of the Lenches.
- All features are important
- 10 is not enough for me, as the environment is my most important aspect of living here. have ticked the 10 most important, but others are important too! I am concerned about the loss of our wildflower meadows due to the overgrazing by too many horses and the unsightliness of all their sheds and electric fences. Would not wish to see inappropriate domestic or industrial development.
- No street lighting is a definite plus.
- Is the whole of Church Lench a conservation area?
- We don't know where either Atch Lench or Church Lench conservation areas are.
- Did not know there was a Conservation Area in either Church Lench or Atch Lench
- Footpath warden needed to look after paths, repair gates, etc.
- Graveyards are great places to find peace, nature and local history of local life. We do not know the location of Yates' Community Orchard. It is a pity, we could not tick more than 10.
- Anyone who has driven in Southern Ireland will be aware that it is difficult, except in the more remote places, to find stretches of open country. Houses, mainly bungalows, stretch along every road. It would be disastrous if anything like that, the result of lax planning laws, were to happen here. We value our lovely countryside.

2.2 Are there any Village or Countryside Features that you would like to see in the Parish?



As can be seen here, there is a strong indication of a demand for accessible walks, and this will tie in with later figures and responses with regard to local gating and stiles. The bespoke signage is something that can be addressed with relative ease.

Further comments received are summarised as follows:

- Designed name signs and gates, but not a priority.
- Clearer bridleway signage plus more access to off-road riding
- Reinstate the Village Pond
- Improved "Welcome to Village" signs Litter pick-up schemes
- The protected orchards offer wildlife sites already to a high degree. Where would one put a pond or Green without destroying a useful car park.
- I think a village green would be a real asset to the village and give a feeling of space. We could also resite the war memorial there.
- Village pond would be a local point but you had one and filled it in!!
- Church Lench has a large grass verge at the junction of Low Road and Atch Lench Road which is very unkept. This could be planted as a focal point.
- Car park for residents who park on roads
- Increase in public rights of way More footpaths and bridleways Village Green in Church Lench Woodland on brow between Atch Lench and Church Lench to be designated wildlife site and secured for village use.

- We used to have a village pond and it was filled in by popular vote. This should not be changed.
- A village green provides a real focus. Why is our village pond a car park. Now that we have extra parking at the Lenches club, and LSRC, should we make the effort to re-route the pond.
- See below re. replacing stiles. We had a village pond, once. It was filled in in 1977 as a Jubilee project! Now known as "town pool" and is just a parking area and notice board.
- Car park for residents who park on roads.
- Rous Lench, Harvington, have lovely white painted gate-style Village name signs. Why not Church Lench?
- More accessible walks in woodland and round lakes.
- Negotiated restricted walks around the Lakes.
- all of the above is great if there is money, but there is not, so spend it on the roads . POTHOLES
- Wildlife Warden.
- Orchards serve as many of the above.
- Pond would be good, but where? Plenty of walks already here. I would think that they are already accessible. Village signs would be nice, but not a priority.

2.3 What do you think should be done to protect and enhance the environment?

FEATURE	RESPONSES	%
Improve the appearance of Church Lench Conservation Area	56	27%
Improve the appearance of Atch Lench Conservation Area	34	16%
Protect and enhance the history/traditional buildings	97	47%
Improved street lighting	17	8%
Maintenance of public footpaths and bridleways	158	76%
Replace stiles with accessible access, eg. kissing gates	107	52%
More dog waste bins	109	53%

There is a wealth of responses to this question. Very apparent is the strength of opinion with regard to public footpaths and bridleways, in conjunction with the need

to improve accessibility by replacing stiles with kissing gates. Samples of responses are:

- Prevent highway engineering of roads and retain rural roads. No curbs, no lighting, no additional signage or road markings. Wildlife and flower planting on existing verges. Prevent hard tall fencing on roadside, ie retain hedges and soft planting. Increase tree planting where feasible
- The darker the better. Footpaths where viable would reduce the need to get in the car for properties located on the outskirts of the village.
- No need to spend money on building for conservation areas. NO street lighting is VERY good. WE HATE STREET LIGHTS!!
- Some people would not use dog bins if there were more.
- Clearing ditches so no flooding over the road.
- Encourage various householders to improve their gardens. Run a Lenches Best Garden/Best Kept Village competition.
- Dog waste bins are only good if people actually use them! There should be one on each road as we leave the village please. I am sorry but I am not aware of either a Church Lench or Atch Lench Conservation Area. Where are they??
- The rural setting makes the villages. No need for street lighting. Stop houses being built.
- I don't want more street lighting. In fact I object to some of the bright security outside lights. Reinstate some of the fields as meadows and orchards - would encourage the return of butterflies.
- Improved signage for footpaths to encourage visitors.
- No further development
- Definitely DO NOT want street lighting in Sheriff's Lench
- Properly maintained roads - too many potholes.
- Dog waste bin needed in Atch Lench
- Wish people would use these and not allow dogs to foul pavements and walkways.
- Very important to replace stiles with easier access eg. kissing gates. I do a lot of walking, and there are several walks that are blocked for me because I can't get over the stiles.
- Not aware of Conservation areas.

- Plant more blossom trees between Atch Lench / Harvington, and along roads to enhance / improve blossom trail so area can benefit from the tourism this generates.
- How do I find out what the Conservation Area are.
- Sorry, did not know Church Lench or Atch Lench had a conservation area. and street lighting would spoil the village.
- More dog fouling penalty notices, especially where residents care for public areas by mowing.
- We need a new "footpath officer" - but please without all the interviews and bureaucracy. This is a volunteer post after all. We just need someone enthusiastic and who is a regular walker. The villages have a "walking group" so a volunteer from that would be ideal.
- Reduce the speed limit through church lench to 20 mph
- "Improved street lighting" NO NO NO NO NO NO.
- Anti-litter strategies for the verges
- Quite important to keep signage and street furniture to the minimum. Bins attract rubbish and overflow

It is also apparent from responses that there is a lack of awareness as to the local Conservation Areas, and their locations. In addition, there is a demand for more dog waste bins, although there is some scepticism as to whether these would be used. Street lighting is a subject that yielded some passionate statements, vehemently against the introduction of more lighting.

2.4 Which (if any) of the following in the Parish concern you?

This question also yielded a lot of response. The majority of Parishioners are clearly concerned about traffic and associated issues, with many comments about speed, and dangerous roads. Dog fouling and litter are also of concern to many within the Parish.

	<u>Responses</u>
The volume and speed of traffic	147
Dangerous roads/pavements for children	82
Litter	90
Vehicle damage to verges	84
Unnecessary signage	36
Overhead power and telephone cables	37
Motor traffic on bridleways	37
Dog fouling	89
Light pollution	40
Noise	56
Smells from fertiliser or other chemicals	36

Freeform comments include the following:

- In particular, speed. Get speed checks done.
- Increase in numbers and siting of inappropriate agricultural buildings.
- The speed limit between Church Lench and Handgate cross roads should be 40mph.
- Reference dangerous roads - would not wish to see more footpaths, but the danger to children - walking to/from buses due to traffic speed is a concern.
- Fly tipping, especially on Handgate Lane and Hipton Hill.
- Keep light pollution to a minimum.
- Fly tipping especially fridges. Dog fouling on gravel at Lenches Club Driver of village bus service and his dangerous driving.
- Poor condition of roads.
- Not sure there's a solution but can be excessive horse manure on roads where people have to walk, plus get sprayed by passing vehicles.

- The issue of traffic is speed, not volume.
- We live in a rural place. We can't expect pavements everywhere. Litter is thrown out of cars that pass through. The smells are a nuisance but only occasionally! Noise from inconsiderate people can be a problem in such a quiet village. Pavements are regularly obstructed by parked cars in our road. This is a traffic offence, but the law is never enforced by the police.
- Flies from the sewage spreading in summer
- Dog fouling .. the dog has to answer the call of nature, so it is the person at the other end of the lead, or with the dog, that is at fault. Come on. Wake up. Who dumps the rubbish. Polythene bags, coke cans, takeaway containers, used condoms and fag packets.
- Smell when they clear out the chicken sheds in Harvington - only happens once or twice a year, but it's grim for about 3 days then.
- People/neighbours who have dogs and who allow them to bark continually.
- I would like to see no parking on main road, where the Croft traffic has to emerge into. It is very dangerous when emerging as you have no sighting of traffic until you have pulled out.
- dangerous pavements for children AND the aged.
- The speed of traffic through Atch Lench can be really dangerous and a hazard to residents on foot or when driving. The traffic goes too fast for the layout of the road, which is winding with many blind corners.
- The speed and volume of traffic must be brought under control. A suitably signed half gate across the roads most notorious for speeding should be considered. Reflectors on dangerous corners reduced incidents significantly until they were broken by the hedge cutter. A modified version removable from sockets by the hedge cutter should be considered. Activated illuminated speed limit signs would contribute. Road "bumps" across the road, attached to the road surface as at the Stratford on Avon trading estate work well.
- do we really need electronic speed awareness signs?
- The smells from the chicken farm

Section 3 - Roads and Transport

Specific questions are asked in this section, which concentrate on what people use for transport, both public and private, and how easy it is to get around using footpaths and bridleways. In addition, this section assesses opinion on any areas of concern, such as dangerous road, footpaths, bridleways that are poorly maintained.

3.1 How do you travel around the villages and surrounding area?

As can be seen from the responses below, the vast majority of people either travel on foot, or have their own transport. A minority use other forms of transport, such as the village hopper (bus), bicycle, horseback, or car-sharing.

On foot	188	91%
Own transport, car, van, etc.	188	91%
Lift or car share with neighbour, friend or work colleague	26	13%
Bicycle	42	20%
Horseback or horse drawn carriage	11	5%
Village Hopper	31	15%
School bus from within the village	12	6%
School bus from outside the village	7	3%

Additional comments:

- The potholes and the condition of the pavements in Church Lench are an absolute disgrace. They are all just accidents waiting to happen.
- The village hopper is most useful
- Share lifts into town for collecting kids, as much as possible.
- on foot, to make full use of the wonderful walks.
- Disabled scooter.
- Stop them blighters doing 60mph past my house, which is well inside the 30mph limit. Cameras please!! I fear for my dogs and grandson of 5 as we step outside our front door.

3.2 Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

<u>Statement</u>	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>Blank</u>
The roads are maintained to a good condition	31	126	49
The roads are safe to use in normal weather	126	23	57
The roads are safe to use in wet, icy or snowy conditions	46	97	63
There are dangerous situations which could be improved	98	18	90
There are enough pavements and they are wide enough	53	68	85
The existing pavements are maintained in good condition	71	37	98
There is too much traffic travelling through the villages	85	32	88

The additional information provided by parishioners in the freeform comments tends to emphasise problems with potholes in the roads and pavements, general road maintenance but with specific reference to Badger's Hill where the road needs rebuilding. There is also considerable concern about speed of traffic, and some concern about volume of traffic, which has increased with the development of Sat Nav technology, allowing external traffic to short cut through the villages.

- Traffic speeds through the village are too high generally and in particular the speed should be restricted to 20 mph through the Main Street and parts of Evesham Road.
- Need to encourage less vehicles, less speed, but not with hard highways engineering or signage. Would not want formal pavements. If possible, tracks or greater public rights of ways to provide connectivity between villages.
- Evesham Road is hardly ever gritted.
- The council is very selective about which roads they grit during icy or snowy weather.
- As I walk a lot around the village of Church Lench and the surrounds, I witness at first hand the disgraceful driving and the speeds at which vehicles come along Low Road etc. We desperately need either cameras (to prosecute) or speed bumps.
- Church Lench is used as a short cut between Birmingham and Evesham/M5 and Gloucester. Since Sat Nav, the volume of traffic has increased significantly, including HGVs. The roads are no longer suitable for this volume and size of traffic. A review of traffic calming measures and speed limits is required.
- The dangerous situations are caused by potholes which cause people to take avoiding actions, and often drive in the middle of the road. Prevent obstruction of pavements by parked cars. The general condition of most road surfaces is poor, and is a national disgrace.

- Maintenance only poor in Winter.
- The corner out of Sheriffs Lench is very dangerous in icy conditions as is the corner out of Church Lench to Atch Lench.
- The road down Badger's Hill needs rebuilding. The road from Ab Lench to Rous Lench needs resurfacing.
- The pavements are good providing hedges and brambles do not grow out over them, and many cars are parked with two wheels on the pavement, even when people have drives.
- Not the volume of traffic that's the problem, but the speed they travel. In 30mph zones and between villages, drivers not expecting walkers or horse riders in road.
- Fill the potholes in.
- Village built on hill = problem with ice and snow.
- Control traffic speed.
- Hipton Hill / Low Road from Rous Lench are both very icy in the winter, caused by water running across / down the road and causes problems with school bus services and other road users.
- Atch Lench has some steep hills which are made treacherous in icy or snowy conditions.
- Too many potholes - when repaired, not done properly.
- Hipton Hill and Low Road are both very icy in the winter caused by water running across road; causing problems to road users, especially school buses.
- Some blind corners would benefit from a mirror and hedges cut back.
- I don't think there is too much traffic, but I would not like to see more.
- The pavements are ok, but lots of potholes in the roads, and in snowy conditions its tricky.

3.3 What traffic related measures would you like to see in the Parish?

There was a strong response to the subject of traffic related measures. Road maintenance and hedge encroachment are the top two issues that people would like to see addressed. Speed control ranks a close third, with restrictions on size and weight of vehicles following close behind.

Improved road maintenance	132	64%
Better speed control (please state how)	106	51%
Extending the area covered by the speed limits	61	29%
Reduce the speed limit to 20mph	73	35%
Better signage (more, or better placed)	33	16%
Cut back hedges that encroach onto pavements	132	64%
More parking restrictions (please state where below)	37	18%
More off road parking facilities	40	19%
Better street lighting	6	3%
Restrictions on the size and/or weight of vehicles	95	46%

Supplementary comments are:

- Traffic calming measures within the villages and reduce speed limits beyond the 30mph in line with habitation. Restricting size and or weight is difficult to enforce.
- At present the 30mph limit is not adhered to. Cameras. Where there are pavements in Main Street they always have cars parked on them.
- Speed control automatic sign at entrance to villages.
- Outside school - Main Street and Evesham Road at school opening and closing, or when event at Church more parking restrictions needed.
- The hedges OFTEN obscure vision at junctions.
- Too much traffic coming through heading for M5 motorway.
- People driving in middle of road and not moving over and not giving way.
- Police speed guns Parking on pavement in Atch Lench Road The sign "Church Lench" in Evesham Road should be to the top of Hipton Hill, where Church Lench starts.

- Malthouse Lane - certain people blocking other people's drives - emergency services would be unable to get to end of lane if a situation occurred.
- Through Atch Lench especially.
- The yellow no-parking signs round school are a nonsense: legally they don't prevent "10 minutes waiting time" , and their presence has caused confusion for people wishing to park outside Church at evenings/weekends/during school holidays. At school times they've simply pushed the problem round to the Evesham Road.
- sleeping policemen down Evesham Road.
- Speed control lights or sign at bottom of Evesham Road. Parking restrictions, especially at entry to Croft ... impossible to see to get out.
- 40mph speed limit on Evesham Road between 30mph zone and Handgate Crossroads.
- Better speed control desirable but difficult to enforce. Whatever you do, we definitely don't want/need speed bumps. They are dangerous and a pain in the arse.
- Some speed bumps or "chicanes" on Low Road - it is on this road that there is consistent speeding.
- Include localised build-out of grass verges so only single car passageway. Could be greened up to support rural appearance. No to street lighting.
- Speed control is a question of law enforcement and appropriate punishment. Reducing the speed limit is pointless otherwise. Pavements are often obstructed by parked cars. Many motorists exceed the speed limit. Both these issues should be enforced.
- Parking restrictions on entrance to Croft and School corner.
- Narrow lanes, eg. Malthouse Lane, Church Lench.
- Some people drive too fast in Low Road, Church Lench
- Temporary flashing lights with speed limits that can be moved or removed at intervals., plus speed bumps or road narrowing.
- "Quiet Lane" features to physically encourage reduced driving speeds.
- Leaving Atch Lench in the direction of Harvington at the beginning of the 30mph speed restriction cars park on the road side as the road curves. Oncoming traffic is obscured by these. There is a wide grass verge which could be converted for parking, leaving the road free.
- Flashing "slow down" signs on entering village - very effective.

- Enforcement of speed limits. Prosecute (police) signage to drive carefully, plus thanks for doing so.
- As above. The school time parking is a major issue. They should park in the Village Hall and Club car parks, and lets have a Lollipop operator for the children.
- Parents driving children to the school should be encouraged to park on the club or village hall car parks. Better still, if possible, walk them to school!
- Gritting
- The cars parked at school times are a great danger to other road users. This an accident waiting to happen. Extend double yellow lines.
- 30mph signs from Handgate crossroads to outside village.
- Reinforce parking restrictions around the school.
- Extend current speed signs to outskirts of village.
- Too many heavy vehicles come through the villages - delivery vans drive much too fast.
- Clip back hedges from road signs. Make sure all road signs are cleaned and readable. This applies all over the country.
- The roads in and around the Lenches are poor and are barely capable of managing the current level of traffic. If traffic volumes were to increase they would be totally unsuitable.
- Limits signage / flashing warnings
- No parking in Malt House Lane.
- Flashing speed signs.
- Parking restriction needed to entrance to Croft and on school corner
- Painted white gates on verges approaching villages.
- From School to the Croft From Phone box towards Atch Lench - on opposite side to phone box.
- Enforce speed limit Prevent parking on pavements.
- See comments above re 20mph Weight limit 7.5 ton gross should apply to all but local deliveries.
- Speed bumps on lane to VH car park.
- Reduced speed limit at school/church Speed bumps. The parking at school opening/closing is a danger, particularly on the corner.

- Speed bumps
- Speed camera (permanent/ or just regular checks)
- There is no speed enforcement. Traffic comes along Evesham Road, too fast. Many drivers are around the speed limit, but a substantial minority are way over, including some buses, eg. Dudleys.
- Hedgerows often overflow onto road space, and are difficult to avoid, resulting in scratched paintwork.
- 20 mph in villages
- 20 mph limit
- Speed bumps. Traffic calming
- Speed control via lane narrowing
- More speed camera checks in villages - flashing signs? Too fast around Atch Lench Road corner (Metchley Cottage) where no pavement and too fast past bus stop on Main Street.
- Difficult to come out of Ab Lench Road when school cars are parked on the corner opposite - yellow lines should extend a bit further down Evesham Road to "the pond".
- Please NO street lighting.
- Rumblestrips on approach to village Extending restriction beyond existing 30mph sign
- Speed cameras Restrict road width with priority signs and around school.
- Outside the school.
- On bends in narrow roads, eg. approach to Church Lench from Evesham Road (reduce speed limit)
- Removing unnecessary street furniture has been shown to actually slow traffic more than adding extra signage. Parking restrictions along Evesham road, Church Lench, alongside the school playing field parents park on the pavement here!!

3.4 Public Transport

Although the table below seems to suggest that the village hopper doesn't serve the majority of local people, the supplementary comments are almost all extremely favourable and appreciative of a good and sufficient service that is well run. There are a couple of useful suggestions with regard to routing, but on the whole the service is more than satisfactory.

<u>Statement</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Blank</u>
Do you know the local bus times?	56	133	18
Would you use the village hopper if it was better publicised?	35	94	77
Would you use the village hopper if it reached more destinations?	42	86	79
Would you use the village hopper if it was more frequent?	52	75	80
Would you use the village hopper if it took a different route?	23	89	95
Would you use the village hopper if it had more stops?	17	91	99
Would you use the village hopper if the prices were reduced?	20	85	101

Additional comments:

- Teenage son uses village hopper - not good for shopping when you have a car.
- I value the village hopper very much as an elderly person who doesn't drive. The drivers are excellent and obliging, and there is no other means of public transport in the Lenches.
- Most of our local journeys (weather permitting) are by bicycle ie. Evesham, Pershore, Worcester.
- Bus services are already better than previously. Prices are also very reasonable.
- Bus into town late nights. Can have a drink and not worry about driving. or just to local pubs, eg. the Boot, Red Hart, Castle.
- Because of the walkability (blue badge holder) it suits present needs best to use my car. It may not be long however before I will be glad to use the hopper.
- Never heard of the village hopper. Does not serve Sheriff's Lench.
- Bus only used if cannot drive.
- One of the drivers drives particularly poorly.
- Would maybe use the village hopper if I was unable to drive. No idea when it runs, but I do know it takes 1 and a half hours into Pershore. What's the point of that!
- Answers to above "maybe"

- As a family we already use this service and find it much improved on the previous one. It is also very cheap. Would not like to see any increased services or more frequent - this would re-categorise village and open up to planners for development.
- I think this is an excellent service but the times mean you either have to spend 2 hours plus in Evesham, or about 10 minutes.
- As the bus does not stop in Atch Lench we don't use it. The occasional bus should be diverted through Atch Lench. This could also mean that there is greater support for the existing service.
- Harvington has a farm shop, village shop and post office. Also, buses (the number 28) to many destinations, so why not stop off at Harvington for folk to have more variety, plus a link with other places.
- We have always used the village hopper, sometimes up to 4 times a week.
- Prices do not apply to pensioners - we have bus passes.
- Although not a user, an occasional bus through Atch Lench could be useful for some residents.
- If it ran at 6pm people could use it to commute to Evesham.
- The bus is a lifeline for elderly and children "A vital means of transport"
- Tried it once - it never turned up!
- Consider it important that service maintained even though not a user.
- Can't answer, don't know route prices, don't use.
- I use the hopper and it's great.
- My understanding is the Hopper may be discontinued due to financing.
- I do use the village hopper, and am happy with it as it is.
- The problem with the hopper at present is the time it visits Church Lench.
- Plan to use it in the future if unable to drive.

3.5 If you own a car, which is more applicable to you?

As can be seen, the majority of people use cars to get out and about from the Lenches. In addition, most of those in employment commute out of the Lenches to work. A small percentage of car owners will consider car sharing .

Statement

I commute daily out of the Lenches, to work	60	29%
I use it regularly for leisure and shopping	165	80%
I use it regularly to take the children to school	15	7%
I use it only occasionally	11	5%
Would you consider a car share or car pool scheme?	9	4%

- Help with car lifts as and when it is found necessary.
- Don't own a car.
- We do use a car share when we can.
- Don't commute daily as work at home where possible.

3.6 Concerning Footpaths and Bridleways

This section received a good response rate, with the tone of the responses being largely critical of current maintenance, while recognising that it is difficult to provide a maintenance service when there is no Footpath Warden. Accessibility is again raised as an problem for some people, particularly those who have mobility issues to contend with.

Statement

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Blank</u>
Are there enough footpaths and bridleways in the Parish?	146	28	31
Are the footpaths and bridleways maintained in good condition?	73	79	53
Are sufficient footpaths and bridleways accessible?	83	51	70
If you have a footpath or bridleway crossing your land, does it cause you any problems? If yes, please provide details.	5	26	172

Supplementary freeform comments:

- Walking in places they should not walk.
- Needs some footpaths where it is unsafe, eg. dip between Church Lench and Atch Lench, and Evesham Road bend by Kay Badger's house.

- Always room for more footpaths, kissing gates to replace stiles.
- More footpaths would be desirable. The only ones we have are often overgrown or too muddy to be walked on in winter.
- Would like to see re-instatement of Maggity lane footpath - down side of Atch Lench Chapel to link up with Farm Only Lane (old Rous Lench Road on 1800s maps).
- Dog poo not cleared up.
- Styles, gates, constantly in need of repair. Footpaths generally ok, but poorly maintained.
- Need more kissing gates, not styles. Need to ensure rural feel of footpaths and protect routes Need to replace and repair signage.
- A mixture of good and poor maintenance.
- I understand that there is no footpath officer for the C.L. Parish at the moment, although there is a volunteer!
- Footpaths are good but not always kept in good condition.
- Plenty of footpaths in all directions.
- The Malt House Lane bridleway leading to the lakes is full of stagnant standing water for most of the winter and spring and needs to be addressed urgently.
- Most walkers are appreciative of our path mowed and kept tidy.
- We've put N in the two boxes purely because there are certain bits of the footpaths that need slight attention.
- Not all the footpaths and bridleways are maintained in good condition.
- There is no Parish footpath warden, so there is no maintenance on some of the lesser used footpaths.

Section 4 - Utilities and Services within the Parish

This section assesses how current services are used, and whether they are satisfactory/sufficient. It also tries to determine whether or not there is a demand for other services.

4.1 Would you, or do you, currently use any of the following services?

There is an apparent wish for a local shop or post office. However, this does have implications for opening the village up to developers. It would be reasonable to re-assess this in light of that, and perhaps at a meeting of the community residents.

<u>Statement</u>	<u>Do</u>	<u>Would</u>	<u>Blank</u>
Delivery by milkman	58	8	139
Delivery of newspaper	67	17	122
Mobile Fish Van	18	27	161
Mobile Library	18	16	172
Health Visitor	13	6	185
The shop in Harvington and/or Bishampton	134	18	55
A shop/post office in the Lenches (if one existed)	1	166	39

Comments:

- A post office inside the Church
- Why no Evesham Journal delivery in Atch Lench?
- Used the fish van for about 20 years but he stopped coming weekly over a year ago.
- We would support a village shop if it had regular hours and was stocked with useful items.
- vegetable van delivers
- Cafe / coffee shop would be used.
- A mobile fish van would be most welcome. I would use it every week, as I would do a shop/ post office.
- Did not know the mobile fish van existed. Have never seen it in Church Lench. We would love to use it.
- Milkman delivers in pm, though, and we work, so would be left out in sun. When does the mobile fish van come? Does it go to Sheriff's Lench?

- Our telephone box would make an ideal book exchange - information centre, as in Flyford Flavell
- Fish and chip van.
- Mobile chip van such as the one in Harvington at a reasonable time in the evening. A shop would improve the village immensely, could be run from already accessible building (eg. Village Hall) if a separate building was not available.
- Village shop, even if a community run one, would be very useful and is really necessary for village going forward and developing. It could run part time from village hall / club or Church if not a separate building. Mobile Chip Shop which visits Harvington could also visit village.
- Quite important to maintain the phone box if only for emergencies.
- Currently we are very happy to use the shop and post office in Harvington.

4.2 Other Utilities

<u>Statement</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Blank</u>
If you do not have mains gas available at the moment, but it became available in the future, would you want a connection?	45	22	140
Would you support "in principle" a community renewable energy project within the Parish?	75	57	74
Do you take part in a collective bulk oil buying scheme?	12	140	55
Have you had any problems with public water supply or drainage?	33	131	43
Is the bi-weekly refuse collection sufficient and satisfactory?	173	10	24
Do you think that the recycling facilities are adequate?	151	20	35

- In hot weather bins are smelly. Not frequent enough, causes vermin.
- Water occasionally unpalatable (over-chlorinated). No food waste collections now.
- Not sure about renewable energy project. Would need to learn more.
- Weekly refuse collection would be preferable
- I am sorry that WDC has stopped the use of small blue plastic bins for household food waste. I found it much more hygienic and practical than mixing it with unseparated waste in the black bin.
- By ringing around several companies I have been able to buy oil cheaper than the oil buying scheme.

- We had sewage problems - sorted by utility company.
- Garden waste collection should be provided as standard to help recycling and reduce multiple private trips to the landfill site which is less environmentally friendly. It shouldn't be a paid for service given the high council tax charge in the Lenches for minimal facilities.
- "in principle" support of a renewable energy project would depend entirely upon the type of project.
- We recycle less now than we did. The food waste collection has gone, and we used to be able to recycle foil and fabric. That is no longer the case.
- Would like to recycle all plastic and not just bottles
- Solar panels or silent renewable project would be acceptable in right location.
- I have had problems with water drainage in the past, but it seems to have been sorted.
- Disappointed that food waste is no longer collected (grey bins)
- I think Q2 is very insensitive in light of the proposed but rejected wind turbine development. The question needs to be more specific to elicit a response.
- Water sometimes has sediment
- Aware that bulk oil is available in the village, but often thefts from oil tanks. Am wary of bulk deliveries to a small area, so prefer to arrange our own separate delivery.
- We have had drainage problems in garden due to leakage from old pipes. Also, we understood that a recurring sewage problem beneath Ab Lench Road was going to be fixed, but it still smells.
- I would like food recycling bins brought back.
- What type of renewable energy project?
- In summer there could be a bin in the Village Hall car park. We could empty just food waste in that. Wychavon can collect on a regular basis. Then bi-weekly is fine.
- Water pressure low.

4.3 Communications

This section examines the quality of the broadband and mobile phone services provided locally. To summarise, at the time of responding, over 70% of residents voiced a high degree of dissatisfaction with regard to both services. However, in the interim (towards the end of 2014) broadband services have been greatly improved in Church Lench and Atch Lench, with the introduction of the Superfast Broadband service. Sheriff's Lench and Ab Lench are less well served unfortunately, and there is some doubt as to whether that will change.

Mobile phone services remain patchy and largely unsatisfactory.

Comments:

- Mobile signal is a disgrace. In this day and age all mobile networks should work here. But they don't.
- Both broadband and mobile are very poor.
- Could be better
- Broadband is a modern day requisite for most people as is good mobile phone signal for smart phone use. Schemes to help bring these quickly to the Lenches should be investigated as relying on BT or the phone companies (which are profit driven) will not do this. There is no definite date for fibre to the Harvington exchange and no plans at all for fibre to the cabinet/household.
- Mobile signal here is good, but impossible for half the village. Idea = mobile phone mast on top of Church tower.
- Broadband speed varies but never exceeds 4MB - all phones poor especially O2 and Vodaphone. Use boosters at home for work coverage.
- Broadband is shocking on Evesham road. If no plans for better lines should consider an approach to a satellite ADSL company where better rates could be sought through bulk sign-up
- Orange/EE very poor
- Some mobile signals are ok. Ours, which is TalkTalk, isn't.
- This is a major issue. This lack is a very big irritant
- The biggest future problem for the villages and eventual effect on house desirability and price will be the poor internet and mobile connection and speed.
- Mobile signal strength non-existent (O2)
- Have petitioned for faster broadband through Worcestershire and am very disappointed to see it only coming as far as Harvington.
- Broadband speed is NOT very good. The speed is constant battle.

- I have to use my mobile phone at the end of the garden.
- Poor vodaphone signal. Need faster broadband.
- No mobile signal.
- Fast broadband essential.
- Cannot receive mobile calls/ make calls at all. Can receive texts usually.
- The broadband speed is the biggest problem in trying to work from home in Sheriff's Lench. It also makes it impossible to access many television channels.
- Very variable. Sometimes no signal at all.
- both broadband and mobile coverage is absolutely appalling. For those trying to work from home it is a nightmare with no sign of it getting better.
- Broadband is the slowest in Christendom. We have NO mobile signal at home or anywhere on Low Road. It is terrible.
- Broadband is very slow.
- O2 adequate Vodaphone not.
- Can't get a mobile signal at home.
- Both of the above VERY frustrating.
- ITS TERRIBLE!!
- In case of emergencies, signal is not sufficient for phone calls.
- Both could be much better.
- The inadequacy of these two is the only disadvantage of living here!

Section 5 - Employment

Assessing local patterns of employment, and opinion on what is needed locally.

In practical terms we are unlikely to see a growth in local businesses. However, the issue of working from home is a key one, particularly given the recent upgrade in Broadband locally.

5.1 Which best describes your employment?

This demonstrates that out of the people responding, there is an even split between those who are employed and those who are retired. Most of those who are employed work more than 10 miles away.

Statement

Work from home - PC based	16	8%
Work from home - non-PC based	7	3%
Work in the Parish	2	1%
Work within 10 miles	28	14%
Work further than 10 miles	38	18%
Unemployed	1	0%
Available for part time work	6	3%
Available for full time work	0	0%
Housewife/Househusband/raising a family	6	3%
Full time carer	1	0%
Part time worker	10	5%
Retired	93	45%

Other comments:

- Occasionally work from home.
- No opportunity to declare voluntary work, which I do part-time.
- Retired schoolmaster still working occasionally.
- I work at home and in office/on site as required.
- Full time education working towards a degree. Working from home, and at college.

5.2 Concerning employment provision and opportunities

People were asked whether they agreed or disagreed with the following statements:

<u>Statement</u>	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>Blank</u>
There are sufficient local job opportunities	25	55	126
There should be more help in finding work locally	42	22	142
There should be more local provision for job related training	36	25	145
We should be encouraging more people to work from home	59	20	126
We should encourage the building of facilities locally for work	33	62	111

Unfortunately the definition of “local” in terms of work is not provided. I think this is a flawed question. Work opportunities are available in the community, but it is a small community so there aren’t many, and there isn’t much variety. This is to be expected in a small rural community. To contrive to bring in work opportunities will inflict a change on the community that is out of character. Manufacturing will necessitate a manufacturing structure, with machinery, transport, distribution and facilities for employees. Office-based work is easily conducted from home. However, if the desire is to invite companies to set up offices within easy reach of the community, that also brings with it a similar set of issues.

Rather, the question should be how we can obtain support for people to enable them to work in the Evesham/Wychavon area. This could involve things like improved bus times and routes to facilitate access to the wider community, or computer skills training to enable working from home.

Other Comments:

- **Businesses should be on industrial estates. They create noise and smell. There is more than enough noise from farm machinery and smell from sprays, cereal harvesting and rape.**
- **Being retired and relatively new to the area we have little knowledge of jobs and related training.**
- **People should be encouraged to pursue their trade or other activity within the village.**
- **Office facilities in the social club for home workers and village, ie. commercial/standard printer, laminator, etc.**
- **Wood like support for traditional crafts and rural industries.**
- **More people could work from home if broadband speed improved.**

- Local business premises not readily available.
- This relates to 4.3 broadband
- Suitably and sympathetically constructed.
- We have no knowledge of these facilities.
- Building to encourage work locally is not a solution.

5.3 Please describe any area of concern or interest to you relating to employment in the Parish.

- Any employment opportunities should be appropriate within a rural area and which maintain characteristics of the area.
- I didn't know there was any!
- No developments please of light industries or offices.
- Young people?
- Broadband often means I cannot work from home as too slow.

Section 6 - Education

6.1 Do any members of your household attend the following?

Statement

A registered childminder	1	0%
Pre-school / playgroup	1	0%
Infant / Junior school	6	3%
Middle school	10	5%
High school	13	6%
College	3	1%
University	4	2%
Taking a home study or correspondence course	2	1%
Evening classes	6	3%
Other form of education (please state below)	4	2%

Additional comments:

- Full time education
- University of the Third Age
- University of Third Age
- University of Third Age Groups.
- I have grandchildren at Lenches pre-school, infant school, and local child minder. I also look after them while their parents work.
- Yoga class

6.2 Where do you or your family members attend for education?

If any of the boxes in 6.1 were ticked, Parishioners were asked to indicate where they attend. Not surprisingly, the majority of people attend in Evesham.

Church Lench	9	4%
Harvington	1	0%
Evesham	22	11%
Other	18	9%

- Pershore Flyford Grafton
- Bromsgrove
- Stratford
- Alcester Grammar
- Lenchwick
- Pershore College
- Stratford upon Avon
- Masters at Newcastle
- Peopleton
- Stratford on Avon
- Rous Lench Child minder.
- Badsy
- Alcester

6.3 If you ticked a box in 6.1, how do you travel?

Cycle	0	0%
Bus	18	9%
Own car, or lift in car	23	11%

- Walk
- I also walk.
- On foot on good whether days By car if raining.
- Walk and motorbike.
- walk
- Walk (in Church Lench)
- or walk.

6.4 If you feel there is an education need that is not adequately covered locally, or have any other comments on education, then please give details below:

- The provision of a middle school in Evesham is necessary for children coming from a very small village school in preparation for the even larger high school. This is a very good education system as children would otherwise struggle to make the big change.
- Would like a local computer class.
- Evening classes in Village Hall, eg. beekeeping, table tennis, using skills available in village.
- For a rural area, education needs and transport are well serviced.
- No local provision for lifelong learning Limited provision for local teenagers
- Computer classes would be good provided they were low cost.

Section 7 - Crime and Policing

This section touches on safety, security, and behaviour within the Parish.

7.1 Which, if any, of the following have you experienced in the Parish, or which, if any, are of concern to you?

	<u>Experienced</u>	<u>Concerned</u>	<u>Blank</u>
Theft / Burglary	38	53	116
Vandalism	9	17	180
Speeding / Dangerous Driving	61	67	79
Noisy Neighbours	20	7	179
Verbal Abuse	9	5	190
Drunkenness	1	7	199
Inconsiderate Behaviour	16	9	179
Inconsiderate Parking	46	18	142
Dog Fouling	66	32	109

Other comments:

- Dog fouling at Lenches Club
- Dog continually barking
- Many drivers are inconsiderate to pedestrians/dog walkers. However there's not much you can do about it. They are just a bit thick.
- Someone leaves their dog to roam freely and it comes and fouls our driveway regularly.
- Vandalism at the Sports Club/Park
- Damage to verges by traffic is a nuisance.
- We strongly disagree with amplified music being played out doors especially at unsociable hours. The place for outdoor music is at the side of motorways.
- People drive very fast in Low Road, Church Lench, which is dangerous at night.
- Most dog owners here are fantastic compared with Evesham town.

- FLY TIPPING: There have been multiple instances in the past year including domestic appliances, garden waste and other rubbish / unwanted items.
- Criminal damage to my vehicle and property.
- Parking on footpaths

7.2 How do you feel about Security in the Villages?

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Blank</u>
Do you feel safe and secure in the Parish?	181	10	15
Do you think there is a sufficient police presence in the Parish	61	89	56
Would you like information on the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme?	62	50	92

Additional Comments:

- There is no police presence here
- A policeman is a very rare thing in the village! Since PC Woodbine worked after a problem in 1974, we have never seen one.
- Already involved in Neighbourhood Watch Scheme.
- I understand Neighbourhood Watch has been stopped due to lack of support.
- Already use Neighbourhood Watch Scheme.
- Is there a Neighbourhood Watch in Atch Lench?
- Advertise details of local police contact.
- The police have proved that neighbours and people do not care for one another or other people's property and they have discontinued the neighbourhood watch scheme.
- Already Neighbourhood Watch members
- Receiving Neighbourhood Watch emails.
- Belong to Neighbourhood Watch Scheme already. Feel fairly safe.

Overall the response indicates that people feel safe and secure. There is a mixed response as to whether or not a greater police presence is needed. There is also a mixed awareness of the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme and the work that it does. Perhaps something to address is to raise local awareness of the NWS. Perhaps most worrying is the disgruntled tone of one of the comments above.

Section 8 - Planning and Development

This section considers housing and building developments in the locality, with specific regard to local opinion, and the future.

8.1 Do you think that your village can accommodate more housing?

The comments speak for themselves:

- Maybe one or two but only infill
- Additional housing would help support more facilities and make some options such as shop/post office viable.
- At the moment the houses in Atch Lench follow the line of the main road. Back land development is to be avoided and open spaces between houses protected.
- Not many more, but perhaps up to 5.
- Residents are not informed of local planning, and have little or no control on proposed building applications.
- The "housing estate" applied for on Evesham Road was awful. I would have objected with planning if I had known earlier.
- Only low cost homes.
- NO
- At present there are applications in or being built for approx. 12 properties - that is too many in our view.
- Village? Parish? (4 villages) Not much scope for any more housing in Atch Lench, unless plots already refused are revisited.
- As long as within village boundary and appropriate.
- Undeveloped space between villages should be maintained.
- We both welcome the possibility of a greater mix of age and wealth in our village.
- A few semi-detached family houses with off-road parking as in-filling, but not out of village boundary.
- Construction of new housing needs to meet the different needs of people who wish to live here. Not just 4/5 bed houses. A plan is required for the village. Building now seems to be based on individual applications.
- This section is pointless. The Parish Council does not listen to villagers, only to central government to provide so many more new houses.
- The character of the area and lifestyle it offers should be maintained.

- Maybe one or two. ie. buildings that may enhance the village like a doctors or a shop.
- In Church Lench it depends on who you are, what you want and what you will get.
- We have plenty of space for additional housing in Church Lench and at long last some building is now happening along Low Road.
- Already developments occurring within the village outside the development area.
- Plenty of room for up to 40
- Any development in Atch Lench would encroach on countryside Need to ensure open undeveloped spaces between villages
- We live on an island with an over population of 60 million people. We cannot just keep saying no to all housing development. Youngsters find it impossible to get on the housing ladder so I support reasonable and sympathetic development.
- Definitely no development. Infill homes only which are preferably smaller and cheaper homes. We have more than enough half million pound homes here already.

8.2 Which of the following types of development would you wish to see in the Parish?

This question raised a lot of strong feeling. While people are open to the possibility of some development, most wish to see controlled development within existing boundaries, and maintaining the existing character of their villages. Small scale, subtle and sympathetic development that makes use of existing brownfield sites and conversions of existing buildings. The figures below are quite clear on the subject, and the subsequent freeform comments elaborate further.

	In favour	Against	No opinion
Flats & Apartments	9	147	48
Single homes within the village boundary	123	42	40
Single homes extending the village boundary	32	127	44
Redevelopment of existing vacant sites	125	34	44
Small scale housing development - less than 10 houses	44	116	44
Large scale housing development - more than 10 houses	6	170	28
Extensions and enlargement of existing buildings	103	27	73
Conversion of redundant barns and other buildings to housing	135	20	49
Conversion of redundant barns and other buildings to business use	67	85	55
New developments for business or commercial enterprise	21	127	57
Small scale sports and recreation facilities	71	36	96
Small scale wind energy development (single low height)	31	137	38
Solar energy on building roofs	108	46	51
Solar energy farms, ie. in fields	53	115	40
No development at all	37	66	96

Additional Comments:

- All this is Hogwash, as again who you are depends on what you want and get.
- It is essential for modest new building in the parish, particularly directed to affordable properties for young families to ensure support for the school and full use of the available club and recreational facilities.
- Modest small scale development in keeping with the nature of the villages and the conservation area.

- Minor infill only please.
- One of the worst things is properties being built and not completed - 2 examples: Large house on Evesham Road. Bunker, partridge + storage shed + games room at rear of property on Atch Lench Road - both look a dreadful mess
- No Wind Farms of Any Kind
- Conversion of redundant barns and other buildings to a business use if it suits the local community and doesn't encourage traffic volume.
- There is sufficient development in Church Lench occurring / being applied for currently - 12 houses at the moment.
- Note: total development should be limited and gradual.
- Possible case to extend village boundaries with care in some directions.
- Villages should be allowed to evolve BUT this should be strictly controlled in terms of scale and design and MUST retain rural character.
- New housing is progress. Many of existing houses would not be here without progress.
- National development is a mess. The Wychavon Local Plan expired in 2011, and the South Worcestershire Development Plan is yet to be adopted. The Government response is to issue guidelines ordering planning committees to grant applications on a "yes" presumption leaving a developers charter.
- No need for any more housing other than infill.
- An overall village development plan is needed.
- conversion of redundant buildings to business use - depends on nature of business.
- Low rise 2 bed flats or 2 bed bungalows for elderly.
- Additional development in the village will significantly impact everything that is good about the Lenches. No development please.
- Small scale only. A suitable scale to fit location only. Appropriate for the situation.
- No developers
- No major development should take place which would change the character of the Lenches. Very small addition of appropriately designed domestic housing could be considered.
- As state previously we have very good sports and recreational facilities. Conversion of redundant barns and other buildings for business use in the right

location, ie. on the outskirts so that there is no noise pollution and traffic problems, etc.

- Wind turbines a BIG NO-NO
- Affordable housing for younger people.
- We should be encouraging young families into village, especially those who grew up here.

8.3 What, if any, new development do you think the Parish needs?

Type of Development

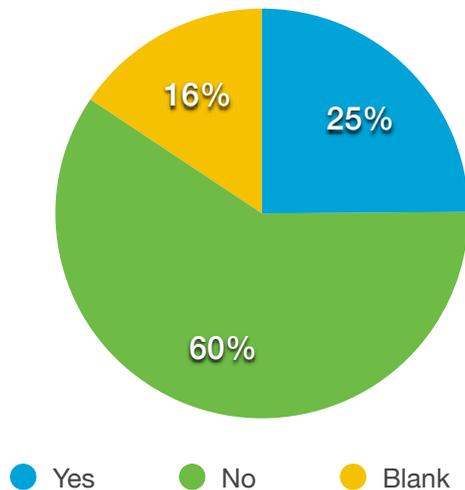
Homes for young people and first time buyers	85	41%
Homes for families (parents and children)	95	46%
Homes for single people or couples without families	44	21%
Homes for people with disabilities	35	17%
Homes for people who need nearby or residential care	25	12%
Homes reserved for local people	46	22%
Affordable and/or subsidised housing, ie. shared ownership	37	18%
Affordable and/or subsidised housing (social, rented)	19	9%
Hoes linked to local enterprise and/or employment	20	10%
None at all	45	22%

- single level accommodation for elderly with some garden facility.
- See comments at 8.2
- This is a village - it should not be made into a small town.
- Absolutely none at all. No development at all please.
- We haven't got the amenities or infrastructure.
- A rural village is not the place for social housing, which would require people to use buses/taxis, etc. Social housing should be in towns.
- Any housing reserved for local people must be protected from exploitation.

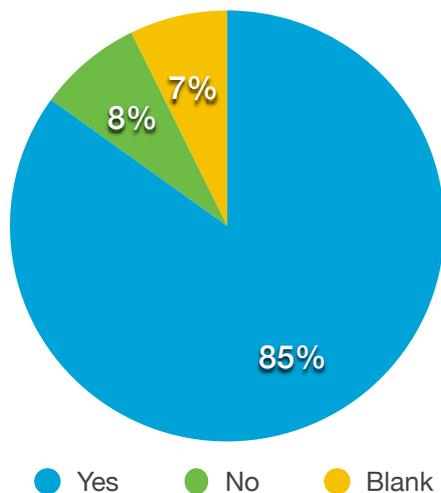
- Development should be in line as a defined Category 3 village, and be subject to local requirements.
- Only where existing buildings include unused and used barns could be utilised against new builds
- I cannot see the point of homes for people with disabilities or residential care as they will need support services, so it would mean more cars etc. to use these services, as we have none in Church Lench.
- We already have an appropriate mix of the above.
- New housing is progress. Many of existing houses would not be here without progress.
- There are sufficient developments in Church Lench occurring and being planned (12 houses).

8.4 Development restrictions - do you agree with the following?

The following statements and the associated responses illustrate the Parish opinion in crystal clarity, with regard to housing development.



Would you Vote for a Controlled Extension of the existing Planning Boundaries?



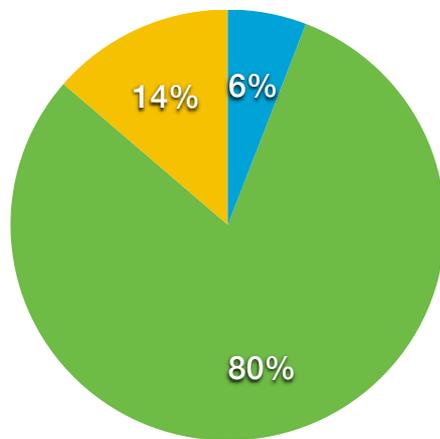
Do we need to prevent the spread of development into the Surrounding Countryside?

Additional comments:

- Development is essential for the longevity of the school . Need 3-4 bedroom homes, circa £300-350k
- Development has already been allowed outside the development area.
- No development.
- Controlled extension of boundaries can only be considered if scope of extensions is known.

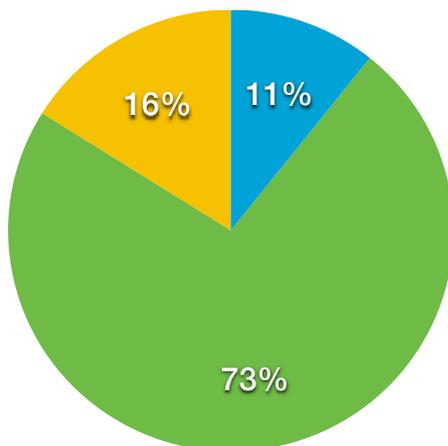
- We should not have any extensions of the existing planning boundaries controlled or not - we should keep our Lenches as they are and not make them into large villages like so many villages around Evesham.
- How far, and how fast?

The next two questions are both focussing on people who wish to move into the Parish. There has, throughout the questionnaire, been a repeating comment about people wishing to move back into the area, with suggestions that include building houses that should be reserved for local people. These two questions aim at determining what level of demand there is for movement into the area.



Are you looking to move to a new home in the Parish?

● Yes ● No ● Blank



Do you know of people with roots in the area who are looking to move to a new home in the Parish?

● Yes ● No ● Blank

9.1 Are you proud of the Lenches? Please state your reasons below:

This section yielded a lot of comments.

This section yielded a lot of comments, the majority of which held that the Parish has good community spirit, a unique and beautiful unspoilt rural setting, and is a wonderful place to live that the vast majority of residents are proud of. A selection of the comments are provided below.

- Yes - friendly community where most know each other.
- Yes. For the tranquility, beauty and friendliness of the people.
- Generally yes, but despair of litter obviously thrown from cars and vans.
- Yes, I came here many years ago, as it was a restful place, pretty and I chose the house, as I do not need to make it bigger or grander than it is. It was a village!
- I am proud of where I live. It is a pleasant village to live in.
- Yes. Beautiful peaceful English countryside
- Yes - I like the Lenches villages as they are.
- Yes. Peaceful country village. Plenty of village activity.
- Yes, beautiful countryside and views. Lovely villages. Excellent community spirit. Welcoming and friendly.
- I love where I live in the Lenches. We have our own little community and help each other when needed, in the Croft.
- Considerate residents. Beautiful location.
- I love the village and "most" of the people.
- Yes it is a beautiful community based area.
- Yes. I have lived here for 57 years. My husband has lived here ever since he was born in 1933. It is a wonderful place.
- It's quaint.
- We are very proud and happy to be part of Church Lench Village and community.
- Yes It is a very friendly village.
- Lived here all my life.
- Yes. The home I always dreamed of now realised! And the community within it is also what we were hoping for.

- It is a beautiful area but it has been allowed to slowly drift downhill. This needs to be remedied.
- Very proud of being part of such a lovely community. Such wonderful caring people.
- Yes - excellent community spirit, beautiful surroundings, an uplifting place to live.
- Yes. When we moved to the Lenches it was our first choice and we paid a premium for that choice. The views are wonderful and offer unlimited choice for walking. The lack of facilities are more than balanced by the plusses.
- Yes. It's a friendly and attractive place to live with a good community spirit.
- Yes ... beautiful villages and countryside. Good community spirit and facilities Very welcoming
- Yes. A welcoming beautiful area. A thriving and active community.
- Yes - typical village location, not ruined by new development. Great views and countryside. Yes - Very proud. Great rural setting and community atmosphere.
- The Lenches as previously stated are a unique collection of beautiful unspoilt rural villages and yes I am very proud of them and will protect them.
- No
- Yes. We are privileged to live in a beautiful, typically english environment.
- yes
- It is a beautiful quiet unspoilt area. True villages not just housing along a main road.
- Lived here all my life. When you hear of the trouble with neighbours, burglary, and vandalism in some areas, it makes you glad that there is only minimal trouble in the Lenches.
- Yes, beautiful place to live
- Yes beautiful villages and almost unique in there being no housing estates here.
- Yes, very. Wonderful sense of community. Beautiful environment. Large number of activities.
- Yes, very community oriented.
- Yes. Attractive villages in a central location with excellent community spirit.
- Yes. Perfect place to live with good facilities, low crime, great community. I live where people choose to holiday. How lucky am !!!

- Yes, very attractive villages, generally well maintained with beautiful views.
- yes. Community spirit, landscape and orchards.
- Yes. Friendly and attractive.
- Yes - community.
- Yes - a fusion of landscape and community.
- Yes. There is a good feeling of community and everybody respects the environment in which they live.
- Yes - open spaces, historic buildings, sense of community.
- Yes, as new residents it is a lovely place to live with a welcoming, thriving community.
- Beautiful area to live in and needs to be preserved.
- Yes - because its a very welcoming friendly village - a lot going on.
- Yes, love everything about them. Born and bred. Left, then came back to raise my family.
- Yes - they are lovely villages
- We are very happy to live in the Lenches.
- Yes, it is a lovely area, and a working rural area. The community is a happy, friendly and helpful one.
- It's beautiful. It's near towns, cities, the Cotswolds, major roads, It has the most amazing social life, caring people - it's heavenly.
- yes. attractive villages with excellent community spirit.
- Yes. Church Lench comprises the most concerned compassionate and caring community I have ever experienced in a long life. Not only this but amongst my neighbours, men and women possessed of and freely offering all the technical knowledge and skills needed to address almost any problem.
- Yes. Quiet local village with unique location.
- Yes, Beautiful area, Great Community
- Yes - beauty and facilities available. Friendly rural community
- Yes - the community spirit.
- Yes

- I think the Lenches are a great place to live. Rural environment with plenty of things going on. Good community.
- Yes Lovely area. Low crime rate.
- Yes, I think they provide a safe and friendly environment for everyone.
- Yes - friendly community, beautiful surroundings, peaceful.
- Yes. Good place to live. Many excellent friends. Many instances of helpful villagers.
- Yes, very. It is a very friendly, supportive community, where people are always ready to help each other.
- Yes - friendly, quiet, rural.
- Yes, extremely proud, great community spirit, lovely place to live.
- Yes. Community spirit and support for each other. This is quite the best place to live
- Yes.
- Yes - brilliant community spirit.
- Yes, nice quiet place to live
- Very proud. Lovely villages. Plenty to do and wonderful people to share it with.
- Yes. A typical English village.
- Yes - lovely area. Don't mind some development, but let's not ruin it!
- It is a beautiful, quiet, unspoiled area.
- Yes - community feel and rural.
- Yes. It is a lovely village and nice and quiet. I am proud when I see visiting walkers.
- At the moment. - If too much development occurs we would change our minds. The Lenches are a unique set of villages and as such should be kept as they are.
- Yes. Good community spirit and attractive surroundings.
- Yes, because it has a wonderful community spirit.

9.2 What one item or aspect of your Parish would you most like to see improved? Please state, giving your reasons, below:

This section yielded a high response rate also. There are too many comments to list here, but in summary most people were concerned about:

Roads, road conditions, and road safety; speeding, traffic calming and traffic volume; parking and parking control.

Activities for young adults/teenagers

Broadband, internet access speeds, mobile phone reception

Improved communication between local organisations and the local population. For example Parish Council to local people, Village Hall to local people, Social Club to local people, School to local people, and of course between those organisations also.

Refurbishment of the Social Club and an increase to the facilities on offer there.

- Hedges and verges trimmed - untidy and restrict traffic.
- A village functions with a heart. We do not have one in Church Lench, as we have no local point that can be EMBRACED BY ALL.
- Parking and driving.
- Traffic control.
- A footpath officer to "caretake our paths".
- Church attendance.
- Nothing.
- Make greater provision for eg. Blossom Trail/Tourists eg. more use of the Club views of Malverns. Communication between Village Hall, Club, Church etc.
- Activities/ facilities for young adults - a part of the community I feel is overlooked.
- Communication amongst villagers
- A village shop and post office.
- Refurbishment of social club.
- Food on Friday at the Club

9.3 Are there any other problems within the Parish that we should know about? Please state, giving your reasons below:

A fairly strong response rate here, with some of the concerns including the following:

- Fly tipping!
- People who are not retired and in work and young adults need to be catered for."
- Would like to have either a sign or white line to stop people parking in Malthouse Lane blocking mine and my neighbour's drive to prevent me having to suffer verbal abuse when politely asking them to move. This happens on a regular basis when they have visitors.
- Hedges overgrowing dangerous bend that children have to walk around. Why are councillors waiting for a serious accident?"
- "Very strong views that the Lenches is not the place for future developments. The Lenches should not have any development as it will spoil the area and villages.
- There are too many property developers jumped on the bandwagon due to the relaxed planning regulations.
- "Many footpaths poorly maintained. Gates and stiles ok. But actual pathways very wet, eg. end of Malt House Lane."
- Not really a problem, but I think that Church Lench has great sporting facilities but they seem to be under used. Might it be a case of use it or lose it in the future?
- Dog fouling at Lenches Club playground.
- The problem of waste goods being left on the road side. Fridges, tyres, settees, etc. just dumped on the road from Harvington to Atch Lench and Atch Lench to Sheriff's Lench.
- Broadband speed and mobile phone coverage are both abysmal.
- Fly tipping as it makes the area look untidy and it is just morally wrong to allow it to continue.

9.4 Are there any further significant issues which have not been included in this Questionnaire? Please state, giving your reasons below

Only a few significant issues came to light in this section. The responses are outlined below:

- Uncontrolled dogs.
- Periodically we used to have a Newsletter concerning the Sports Club. I suspect that with the internet the villages can keep in touch via web sites, etc., but not all homes have access to the internet. Only time they contact you is if they need some funds.
- No.
- None.
- Keeping the villages looking like we are proud of them, and want to live here: ie. verges cut, flowers.
- Parking, at the end of the Croft, onto Main Street, you cannot see out. Some people speed down. There will be an accident.
- Thank you for taking our views into consideration.
- Walking my dog I have picked up litter on numerous occasions that has been dropped on the roadside from Atch Lench to Harvington. Maybe a litter fine notice would be a good idea?

