

BRAILES & WINDERTON

PARISH COUNCIL ACTION PLAN

Building our Future together

Moving on...

A survey of our community wishes for the future

This Plan follows on from the 2005 Parish Plan and its predecessors Village Design Statement 1998 and Village Appraisal 1993. A new survey was undertaken on behalf of the Parish Council in October 2011. A most encouraging 83% of households responded. Their responses provide the data for this plan.

We are very grateful to all who have contributed time and professional expertise to the production of this plan. Above all, we thank all our fellow residents for their responses and ideas.

Parish Councillors – May 2012

Nick Drury (Chairman), Tony De Maillet (Vice-Chairman),
Chris Righton, Richard Cheney, Lisa Bryan, Tony Jervis
and Duncan Bailey.

The Plan Steering Committee

Duncan Bailey (Chairman), Peter Jordan, Nick Drury,
Chris Cox, George Warner, Tim Rimell, Victor Lee, Sylvia Lester,
John Critchlow, Steve Bryan, Pat Myers.

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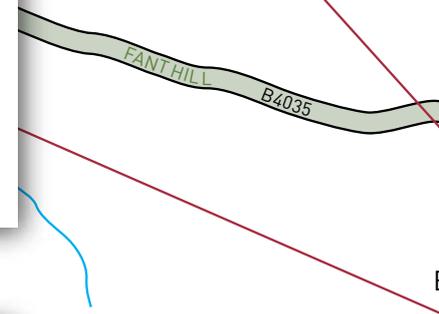
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Our Parish

Winderton

Winderton Church

Castle Hill

Upper Brailes

The Gate Inn

High Street

Brailes C of E Primary School

St George's Church

The Institute

High Street

The George

Catholic Chapel of St Peter & St Paul

Lower Brailes

HOLLOWAY HILL B4035

SUTTON LANE

Mine Hill

Our Parish

Brailes and Winderton lie within the Cotswold area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in South Warwickshire. The Parish borders onto Oxfordshire and the nearest town is Shipston on Stour some 4 miles to the west.

We are a close and friendly rural community with about 900 residents, supporting churches, shops, a hairdresser, garage, public houses, a primary school and a wide variety of businesses. Our proximity to the Cotswolds and historic Stratford upon Avon and Warwick encourages tourists to the village. An abundance of public footpaths, kept and supported by our local Footpath group, brings many walkers here. The Three Hills Walk on the first Monday in May attracts up

to 2000 walkers. There are regular caravan rallies, and a lively schedule of events at the local pubs. The Village Hall and Pavilion are ideal venues for the many local activities and clubs. The playing field has a play area for the children, and is the venue for the Brailes Show, held annually since 1943, which attracts some 2000 to 3000 visitors.

Most people who live here do so because they enjoy the country life and neighbourly atmosphere of a village.

What we did

In 2011 the Parish Council reviewed the issues highlighted in the 2005 Plan, noted developments and improvements achieved, and decided that the plan should be updated. At an open village meeting in the Village Hall, a group of residents volunteered to form a committee to develop the new plan and take the process forward.

We were aware that the impending Localism Act, which became law late in 2011, and changes in Local Government structures and responsibilities, were 'giving decision making back to the people...'. So it was important that the new plan reflects the views of the whole community to back up future requests for support and funding from Councils, Local Forums, Charities and Grant Agencies for the benefit of our community.

We decided to produce a paper based questionnaire, although consideration was given to an online version. The 2005 topics and questions were revisited and modified to reflect the current needs and situations.

The survey was distributed by volunteers to each household in the parish together with a short Business questionnaire, a Children's survey and a Volunteering form. The Business questionnaire was also given to businesses in the Parish that had no obvious household connection.

A magnificent return of 83%, with a further 7% refusing/leaving blank, was achieved and a great deal of thanks must go to the volunteers for their efforts. The data was input using a database and the contents and findings used to compile this report.

The data highlighted the good and the not so good aspects of village life. The production of the 2012 Action Plan is our commitment to "moving on ..." and maintaining and improving our community for the future.

What you said

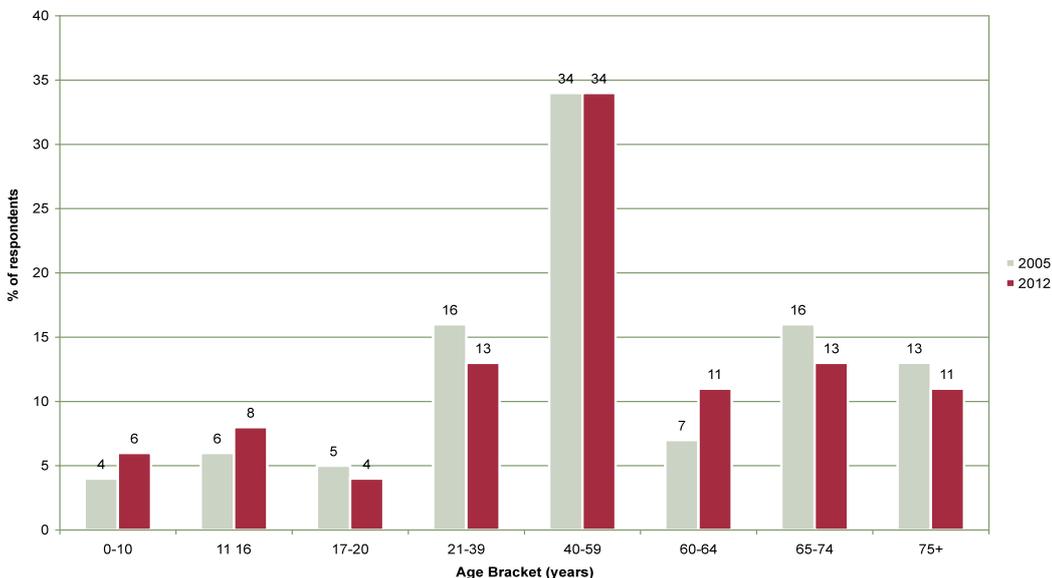
The information contained in the Parish Action Plan 2012 is based solely on the data extracted from the responses given by the residents when completing their questionnaires. Not every aspect or comment is included within the final

document but all comments and responses have been recorded. When an answer box was left blank, for the purposes of analysis either No opinion or Never was entered.

Our Households

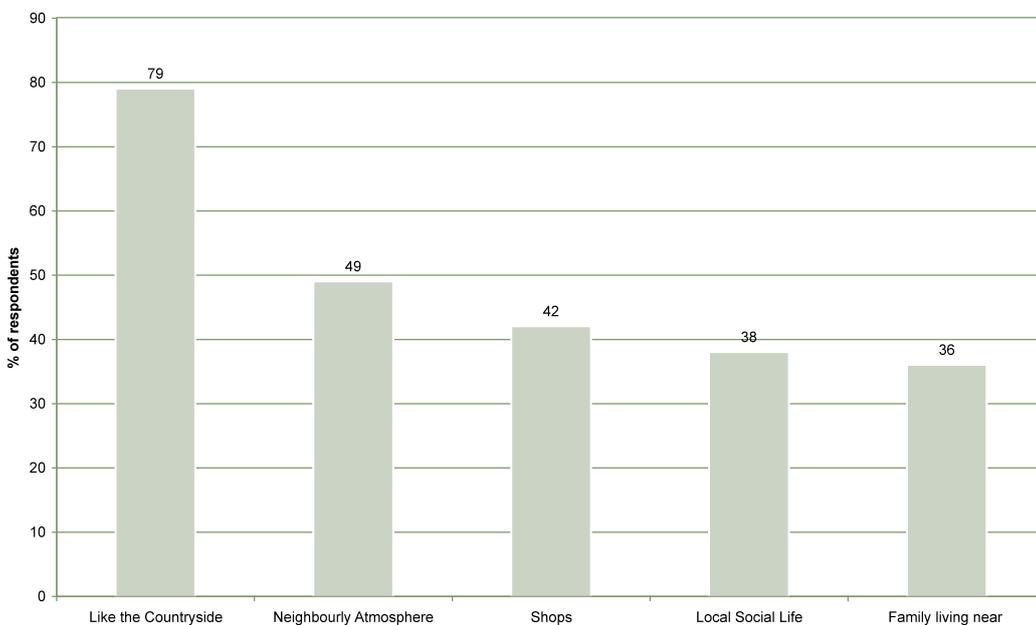
As in 2005, most of us live in Lower Brailes (60%) and Upper Brailes (30%). 4% live in Winderton and 5% in country properties lying outside the main village areas.

Most households (47%) contain 2 people, and 71 properties (17%) have 4 or more occupants. As in 2005, 100 households (25%) are occupied by single people. 69% of respondents are over the age of 40; and once again the most represented age group is 40 – 59.



Why we like living here

There are lots of reasons why people like living in the parish. The top 5 are:



Other reasons for living here: a sense of history, convenience for work and churches.

Parish Facilities and Services

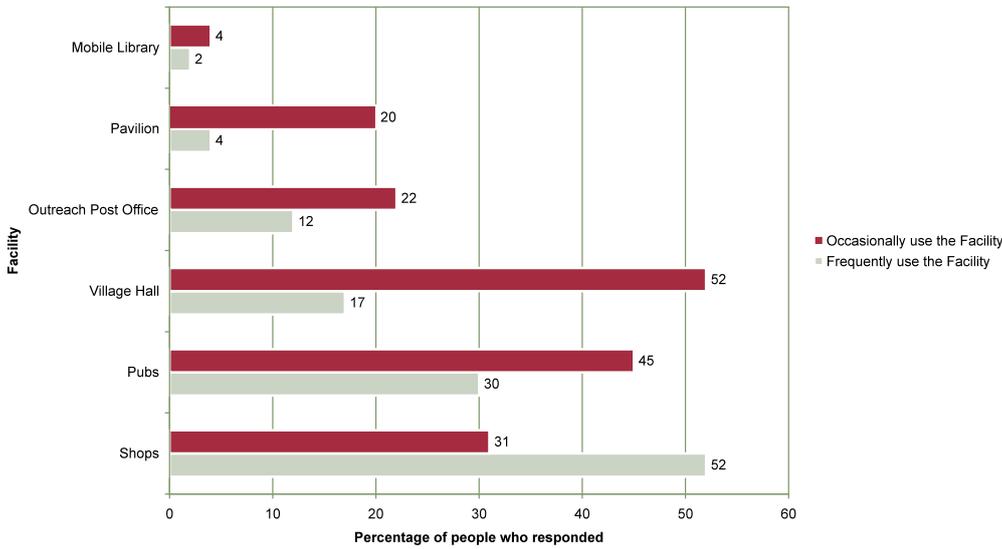
We analysed some of the facilities and identified how often they are used.

The Local shops are the most used facility with 83% of the respondents using them on some occasion. The 2005 survey indicated that the pavilion was underused; use has now increased. It is disappointing, but not unexpected, that

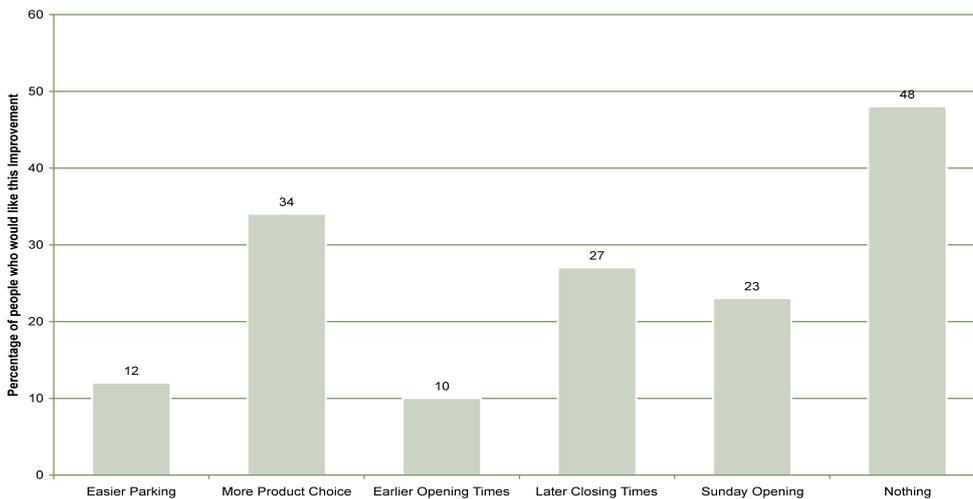
following the closure of the Village Post Office Counter and the installation of an outreach service, use of Post Office services has fallen from 86% in 2005 to 34% in 2011.

We still enjoy the visit of a Mobile Library on a regular basis but figures indicate that only 6% of parishioners use this service.

Frequency of Facility Use



Even though the shops are well supported, we surveyed whether anything could encourage more occasional shoppers to become frequent users. The responses were:

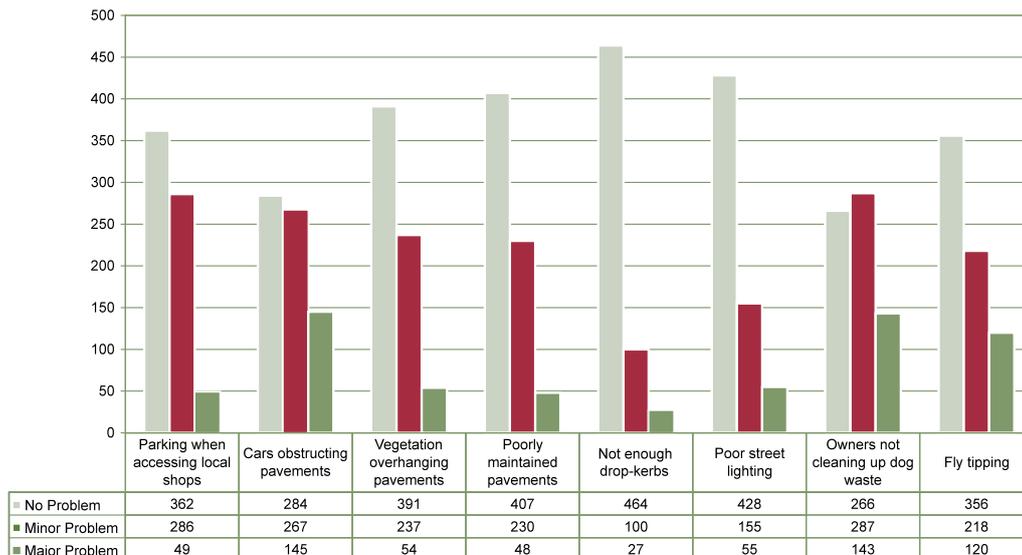


Respondents were offered the opportunity to suggest what additional amenities they would like to see in the village. Reinstatement of a permanent Post Office figured highly. Medical facilities such as a Doctor's surgery and/or Dentist were popular. The provision of

recreational facilities such as tennis courts, swimming pool, cricket and football, coupled with more facilities for the younger residents, was widely mooted.

There were aspects that people felt were a nuisance and need addressing

Number of people experiencing problems



Parking at the local shops, cars obstructing the pavement, owners not cleaning up dog mess and fly-tipping featured the most .

It was reassuring to discover that the majority of respondents had no problems with Local Services. The four main areas of concern were:

	Major	Minor
- Hospital	17	31
- Doctor	11	39
- Collecting Prescriptions	6	32
- Dentist	0	21

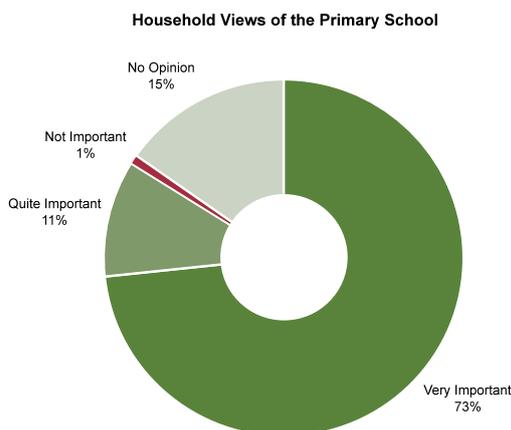
Many of these incidents have been a consequence of transportation difficulties.

School

Brailes Parish continues to have its Primary School. 296 households (73%) think that it is very important to maintain this provision in the village.

The survey indicates that there are currently 30 children hoping to attend Brailes Primary School in the next few years, and 14 for whom parents are looking for Nursery/Preschool.

In response to the question 'what do you think can be done to keep school facilities in the village', the following suggestions were made from 173 replies.



Create affordable and low cost housing to bring in youngsters and families	53
Maintain highest possible teaching standards	33
Better communication and advertising in and out of catchment	22
Pre school and Nursery	19
Provide Breakfast and Afterschool clubs for working families	16
Fundraising	6
Encourage pupils to come from oversubscribed areas	6
Increase contact between the community and the school	4

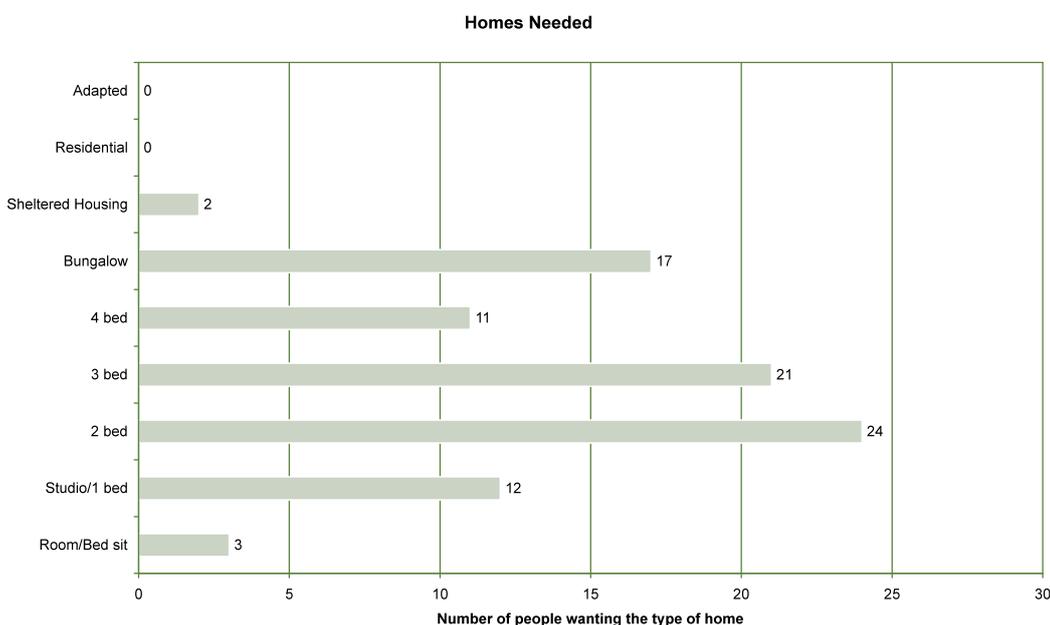
Other suggestions included: look at private investment, look at why other local schools have greater numbers, involve more parents who have additional skills which could be given voluntarily.

Housing

As in 2005, availability of suitable housing for people living in the Parish seems generally to be good.

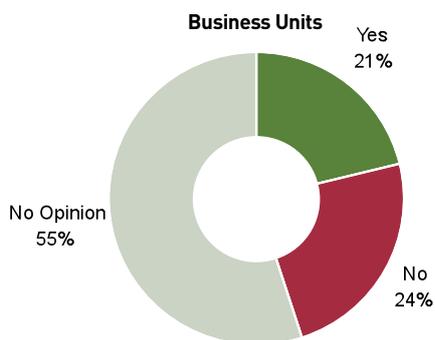
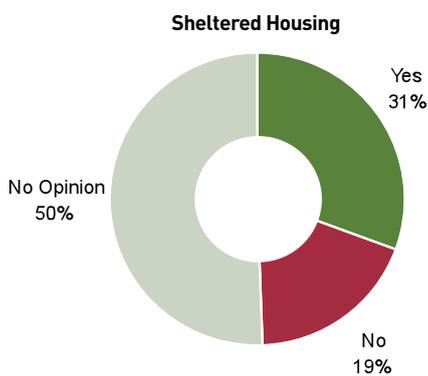
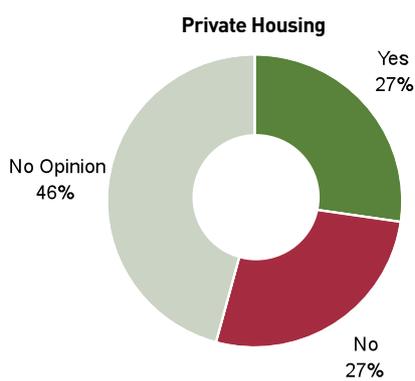
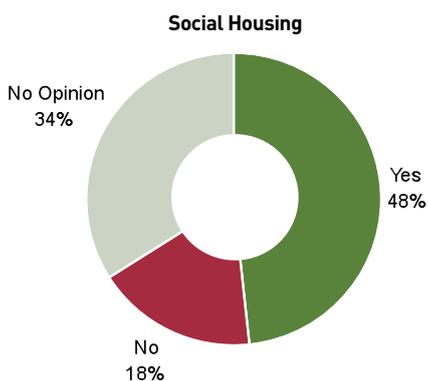
However, in the last 5 years 45 people had moved away because they could not find affordable housing.

The village is currently in the process of completing the building of 8 properties for shared equity/affordable purpose. At the time of the questionnaire, 49 parishioners are currently finding it difficult to find suitable local housing; 29 are looking to rent and 32 to buy.



In light of the Localism Act 2011 the decision making process on Planning and Building Development/Projects is changing. Stratford District Council is also currently finalising its

Core Strategy Plan 2012-28. It has therefore been necessary to seek the views of residents on the possibilities for further building development within the parish.



Details contained within this document will help in the future preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan. This will be a more detailed look at the

specific issues of Local Development within the guidelines of Stratford District Council.

Business

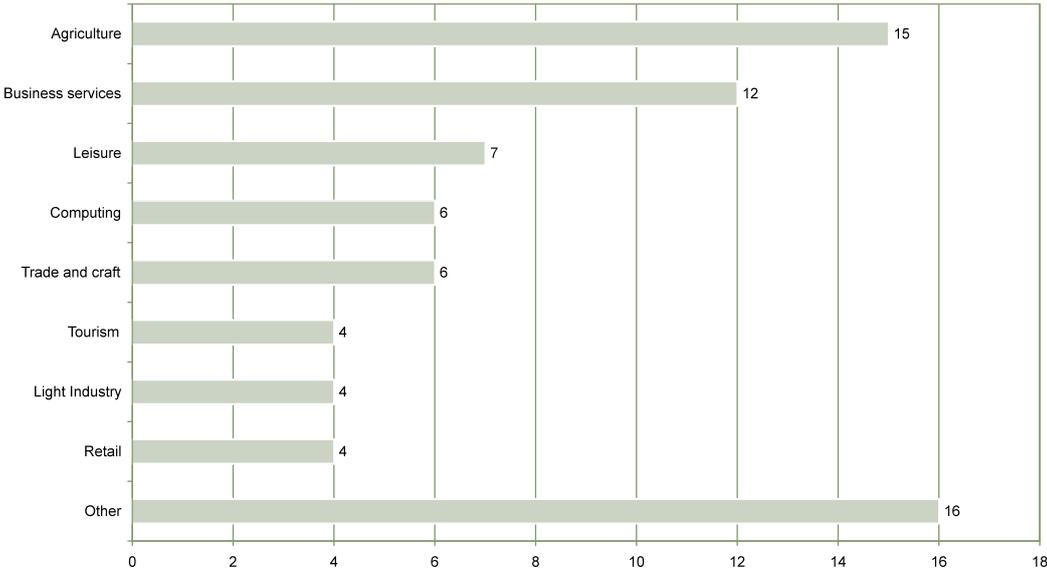
There are a large number of businesses operating within the parish and 67 responded to the Business Survey.

54 of these work from home and 19 have specific business premises. All who responded felt their premises were suitable or adequate. 12 indicated that they would be interested in new premises.

Being a rural community it is not surprising that 20% of businesses are connected with Agriculture or Horticulture.

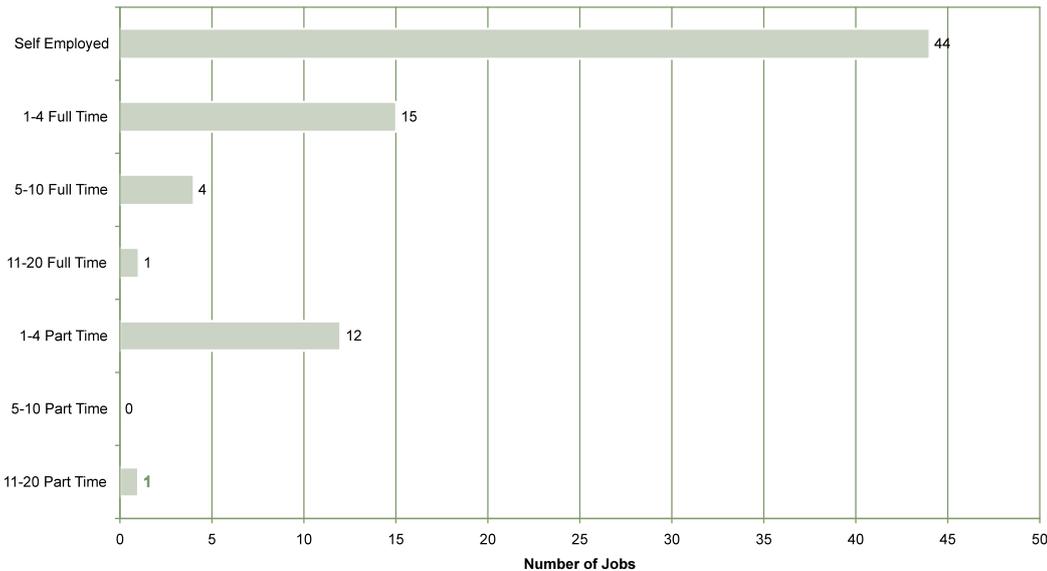
Since the creation of the Village website, a consequence of the 2005 Action Plan, it is disappointing that only 20% of the respondent businesses are listed on the website, but encouraging that a further 20 have indicated their desire to be listed.

Number of Businesses in each Category



The businesses tend to be small. Some businesses offer both full and part-time employment opportunities.

Distribution of Jobs



The major difficulties affecting local businesses:

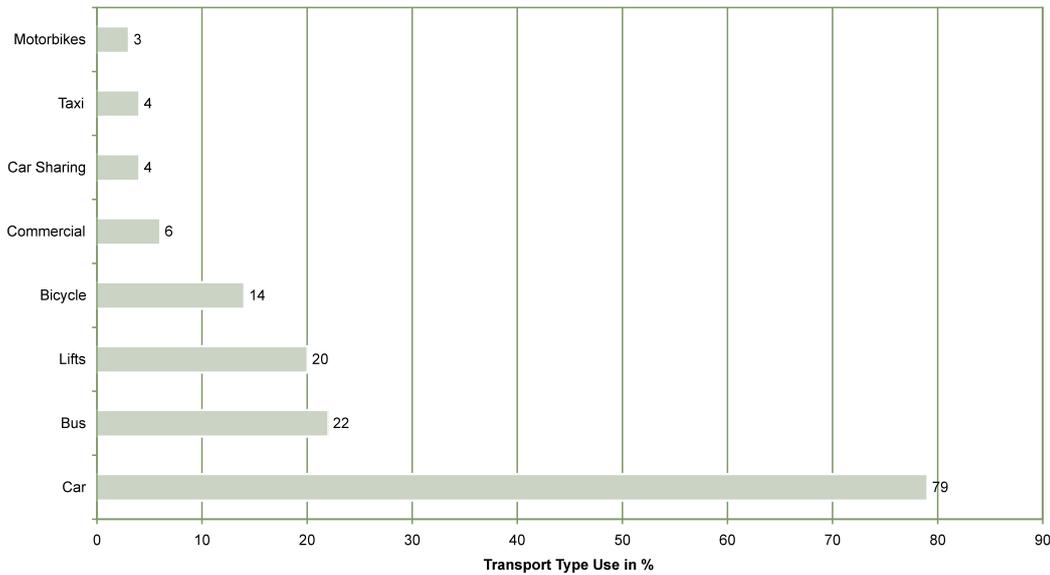
- Recruiting Trained/experienced Staff - 10
- Recruiting Trainees - 2
- Transportation issues - 4
- Lack of Childcare - 3

52% of businesses felt that they would benefit from a networking group.

Transportation and our roads

Living in a rural community we are heavily reliant on private cars for transportation.

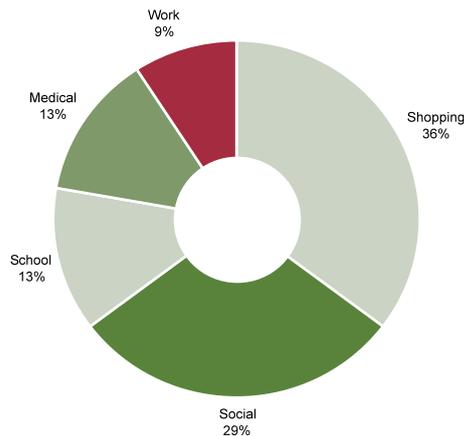
Types of transport people use



The village enjoys a regular daily bus service to Banbury and Stratford upon Avon via Shipston on Stour, although the timetable does not suit some of the travellers. Since the 2005 Plan, travelling on the buses has increased by 21% with the highest reason being shopping.

There were 147 respondents who said “yes” to the need for Bus Shelters. This represents 77% of those using the buses and 17% of the parish.

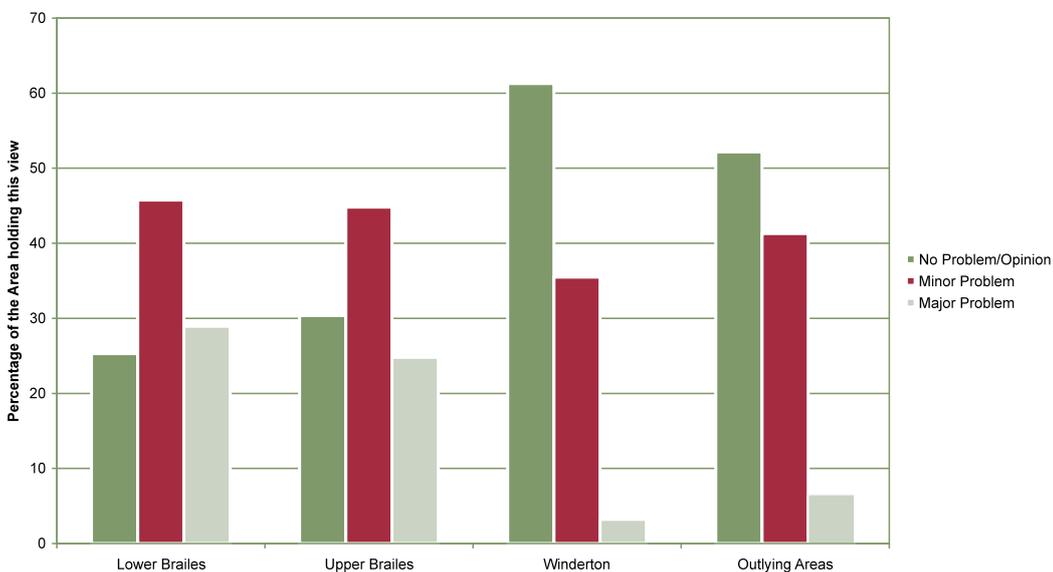
Why people use the Bus service



Little has changed in car ownership since 2005. 39 households have no vehicle. Over 50% of households in the parish have more than one vehicle. The vast majority of these are parked on our own premises or garaged, 11% of vehicles are parked on the road.

More effort needs to be made to identify safe parking areas and more care taken that, where cars do obstruct the road, safety is given priority.

Spread of Speed Problems



Traffic speed within the parish remains a concern, but is less so than in 2005. It is more of an issue within Lower and Upper Brailes than elsewhere.

Respondents were asked to suggest ideas on how we can better regulate the speed of vehicles in the village. Many want "Slow Down"

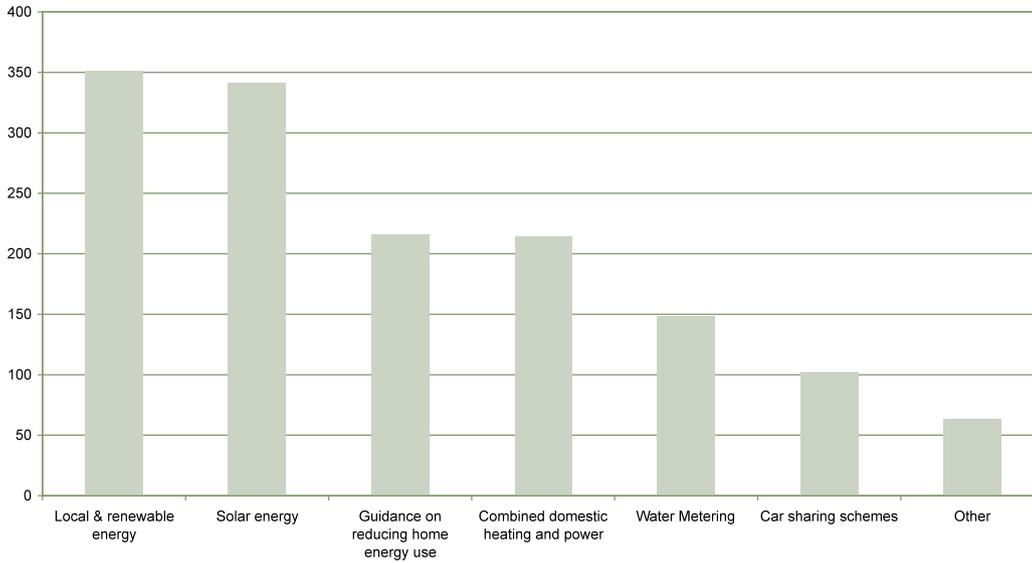
speed indicator signs installed, as already in many neighbouring villages. Chicanes and Speed Bumps were also suggested, as well as a Zebra Crossing outside the School, and 20mph restrictions between certain village points.

Going for a greener parish

There was positive feedback about further investigation of environmental issues that would make the village greener. Only 22 % would be prepared to pay extra.

We need to investigate these issues so that greater clarity is available to residents, to help towards informed decisions.

Number of people requesting further investigation



Children's Survey

We had 23 responses from the surveys aimed at children 10 and under and 75% came from children attending school in Brailes. Once again the Play Area in the Village playing field seemed the most popular place, but 79% of the respondents felt it could be made better.

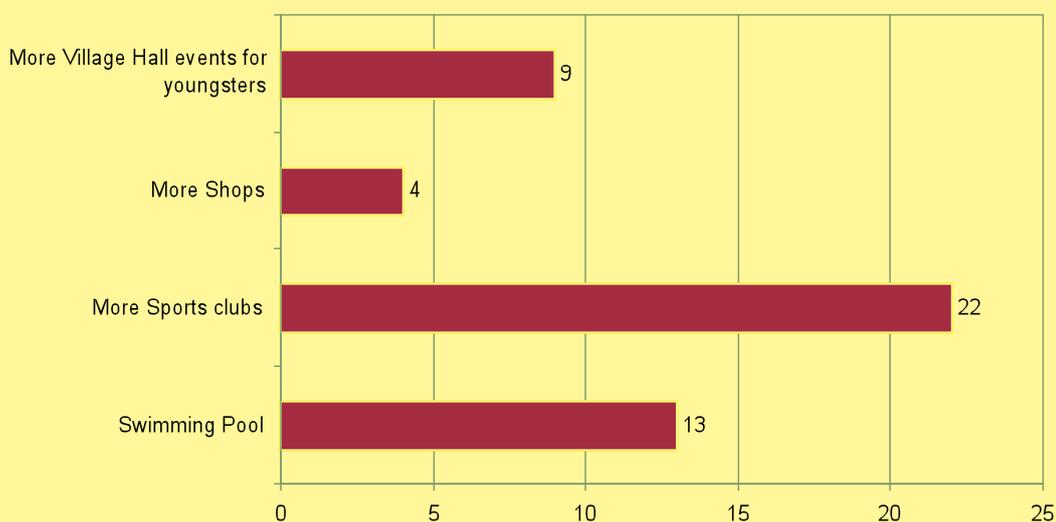
On "what would you like to see?" replies were:

- 40% Big Slide
- 26% Climbing Frame
- 17% Sandpit
- 9% Small Soccer pitch and goals
- 4% Rugby Posts

30% asked for more equipment and 4% a rain shelter.

40% responded to school holiday activities with Sports club, 17% Arts and Crafts and 9% Dancing.

What would make Brailes more exciting for the 10 and under?



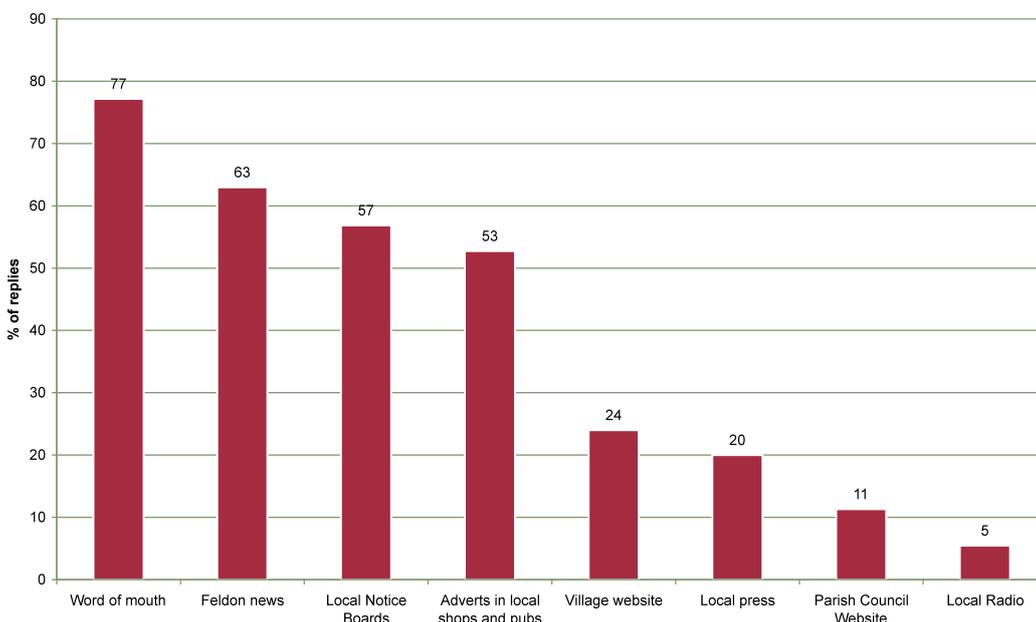
Some of the places that the children see as their favourite place in the village



Communications

If the views of the parish are to be represented and shared, it is important that the message can be communicated to as many residents as possible.

How we usually find out about things that are going on:



Useful links

Feldon News – Editor – Chris Cox – editor@feldon-news.fsnet.co.uk

Brailes Village Website – www.brailesvillage.co.uk

Brailes Parish Council Website – www.brailesparishcouncil.co.uk

‘If you had three wishes for Brailes and Winderton in the future what would they be?’

There were lots of comments about what people felt was generally important. Here are a few:

‘Is allowed to remain as a vibrant, picturesque and friendly village.’

‘More affordable housing to allow young people to remain in the village and keep the school going.’

‘Support local shops and businesses.’

‘Sustain a balance of varied businesses and residential accommodation.’

‘More sports on offer, cricket, football, tennis, hockey.’

Hopes and tasks present and future

There is:

- Strong support for the school
- Widespread desire to see development of the village in a sympathetic manner.

This will involve:

- Supporting efforts to maintain a thriving Primary School in Brailes
- Urgent exploration of possibilities for Nursery and pre-School provision
- Seeking to provide more affordable housing to enable our current young people to stay in the village and encourage younger families into it.
- Thinking more about suitable housing and care for the elderly.
- Encouraging local businesses in the hope of creating more employment.
- Exploring possibilities of greater recreational facilities for the young.
- Being constructively involved in the forthcoming Neighbourhood Plan, specifically local development, within Stratford District Council guidelines.
- Exploring the feasibility of bus shelters in the village, and of further measures to control speeding traffic.

The following Action Plan will help to address these issues.

This report was adopted by the Brailes & Winderton Parish Council on 25th June 2012 and will go before the Stratford District Council Adoption Committee on the 10th September 2012. Should any changes be requested at that meeting, an addendum to the report will be published then.

The Action Plan

Aspect	Action	Who could be involved
Action Plan		
The Plan	Keep the character of the parish and continue to develop it in a sympathetic way	Parish Council Local Government Neighbourhood Plan Committee
Communicating it	Communicate the findings and actions to the community	Action Plan Committee
Annual review	Review of progress or developments on the items in this action plan. This review to be communicated to parishioners	Parish Council
Parish Life		
Activities	Encourage new ventures which involve more community contacts, e.g. UNIT TEA	Parish Council
School		
Links	Strengthen any links with the school which may help it to continue to thrive	Parish Council
Pre-School/ Nursery	Offer to work with the school to renew efforts to establish this facility	Parish Council
Childcare	Explore with the school the feasibility of providing 'wrap around' care facilities	Parish Council L.E.A. School and Governors Free School Foundation
Parish Housing		
For young people	Seek to provide more affordable housing to enable our young people to stay in the village and encourage new younger families into it	Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan
For elderly people	Think more about suitable housing for the elderly	Parish Council
Social/Affordable Housing process	Maintain a point of contact within the Parish Council to act as a guide to potential interested parties and applicants	Parish Council/Website South Warwickshire Housing Local Councillors
Wider planning process	Engage constructively in the preparation of forthcoming Neighbourhood Plan	Parish Council District Council Neighbourhood Plan Committee
Business		
Business Development and Premises	Ensure new Businesses are welcomed into the community and introduced to existing resources e.g. Village Website. Liaise with businesses looking for more suitable premises.	Business community Village contacts and advertising media Parish Council Council for Business Development
Business Networking	Invite all respondents to meet to begin the process. Review what happens next.	Business Community Action Plan Committee Village Website Co-ordinator Parish Council

Aspect	Action	Who could be involved
Parish Facilities		
Playing Areas	Review existing facilities for younger children and for teenagers. Revisit 2005 Action Plan	Parish Council Village Hall and Pavilion
Sports clubs	Research interest levels and volunteers Identify what equipment is required, pitches etc. Tennis – explore the possibilities of any private courts within the village being available for public hire	Village Hall and Pavilion Parents Local Sports clubs outside the village, existing sports people within it
Holiday Activities	Investigate whether individuals and/or established organisations/enterprises could offer classes in sports, arts and dance during school holidays	Youth Club, School Friends of Brailes school Churches
Transportation and Roads		
Traffic calming	Investigate installation of Slow Down signage, speed bumps, chicanes and better road markings	Parish Council Warwickshire County Council
Community Transport	Improve awareness of community transport possibilities for those who rely on public transport	Parish Council Rural Transport for County Council
Bus Shelters	Explore possibilities of appropriate sites and costs	Parish Council
Going for Greener		
Environmental Issues	Channel the interest of the community in developing a greener parish. Investigate renewable energy issues and possibilities and how to provide guidance	Parish Council Energy Advice Centre Local environmental groups Local installers/experts within the existing community
Recycling	Continue the excellent efforts locally in achieving District Council Targets. Promote Waste Centre shop at Shipston and 'freecycle'	Parish Council District Council Feldon News and websites
Communications		
Improvement	Investigate the ways in which the community can be best notified on important issues, meetings and events taking place within the community	Parish Council



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