

# NAPTON ON THE HILL



2007



Aerial Views of parts of the village



## INDEX

INTRODUCTION	3
BRIEF HISTORY OF NAPTON	4
INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION	6
ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE	7
VIEWS FROM THE NEXT GENERATION	12
TRANSPORT AND PARKING	14
TOURISM, RECREATION AND THE CANAL	16
POPULATION	19
HOUSING	20
EDUCATION	23
RELIGION AND SPIRITUAL LIFE	25
NAPTON VILLAGE HALL	26
BUSINESS AND EMPLOYMENT	28
ACTION PLAN	33
APPENDIX	42

\*Panoramic View of the south-side of the Village from St Lawrence Church Bell Tower\*  
\*November 2006\*



## INTRODUCTION

May I welcome you to this the second Parish Plan that I have been personally involved with as a Councillor for Napton. Having been born and educated in the village and served for a number of years on the Council I have come to recognise the importance of this document to the District Council. I feel that the Plan is vitally important to the residents of the Parish in that their thoughts and ideas can be registered with the District Council and taken notice of.

The Parish Plan is a result of much hard and diligent work by the Parish Plan Steering Group on behalf of the Parish Council. It is the product of wide consultation via the parish plan questionnaire of 2005 as well as public meetings and surveys of other interest groups. This ensures that the views of the community are taken into account in any future developments within the Parish.

It will help us to protect what we believe is important in our daily lives and will assist us in informing the District Council Planning Committee of the views of the community when they are considering future planning matters. Not only does it help us to understand the current and future housing needs of the community but it also identifies aspects of the village heritage and culture that need to be protected for future years.

The Parish Plan considers the views of all the community on such diverse subjects as traffic management, highways, footpaths, drainage and other matters relating to the village. It can help activity groups to understand the current needs of the community so enabling them to better provide facilities and opportunities in the future.

Andy Bean  
Chairman of Napton-on-the-Hill Parish Council



## A BRIEF HISTORY OF NAPTON

Napton - the settlement on the hill, sometimes called Neptone or Eptone in the Domesday book, had a population of 150 in 1086. No houses are recorded during this period, as the dwellings would have been rough hovels, flimsy and shared with any animals kept by the families.

The land was lightly wooded, feldon, and supported mainly grazing. Land for eight ploughs was recorded. Villagers were able to grow food for themselves in addition to the crops produced for the landowners. The ridge and furrow still in evidence today, made the most of the strips of land individually owned but initially farmed in common. This system continued until the end of the eighteenth century. Aerial views today reveal that the early village was situated around the present Manor Farm, sited opposite the Vicarage, with a hamlet in Chapel Green.

In 1352 Napton was granted a charter to hold a weekly market and a yearly Fair, but we have no indication of the number living in the village at that time.



*Napton's 2005 Best Kept Village award*

By 1543 there were two windmills in operation and there were one hundred houses in four manors so obviously Napton was expanding. In the sixteenth century stone houses were built, probably for the yeoman farmers. Several still stand, one with a date stone of 1650.

The Tower windmill built about 1725 is the landmark so well known today. Surrounded by allotments it ground the corn for local landowners

and villagers alike. Also on top of Napton hill the church of St. Lawrence, built in the early English style and incorporating earlier Norman beginnings, had to wait until 1731 to install the bells we hear today.

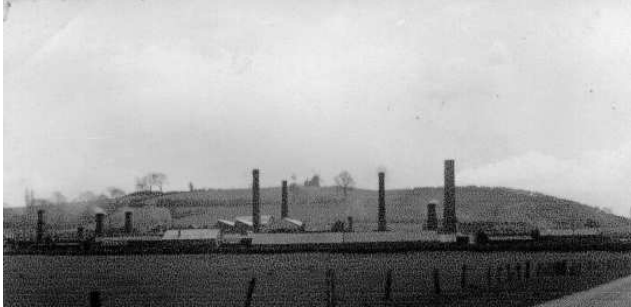
During the eighteenth century it was impossible to travel in winter when the horse drawn wagons and carriages were marooned in mud. At this time it was decided to dig a canal from the Midlands coal fields to the river Thames in Oxford to supply London with coal. Napton hill was no obstacle to James Brindley, the builder of contour canals. After the completion of the Oxford canal in 1770 many Napton workers were employed by the Canal Company and local inns and shops benefited from the trade brought by passing boaters. In Napton there was a reliable system of coping with the ice in winter. A crew of eight or nine men rocked a specially designed horse drawn icebreaker boat from side to side to create open water ahead of a workboat.

After the Private Enclosure Acts were passed by Parliament in the eighteenth century, agriculture improved. Napton's Enclosure was enacted in 1779. Holdings previously held as strips in the open fields were exchanged for the field system we are familiar with. Landowners enclosed their holdings and built houses and barns. Hedges, ditches and paths which we see today are the mature boundaries of that era of over 200 years ago, remains of the old feudal strip system are still in evidence in both Napton and Shuckburgh. By the year 1811 there were 205 houses and 787 inhabitants in Napton.

The Census of 1851 reveals a thriving village which was able to support 2 bakers, 2 blacksmiths, 17 farmers and 20 graziers, 4 grocers, 4 shopkeepers and 5 shoemakers. Also included were 5 inns and taverns.

Logbooks deposited in the Record Office in Warwick depict the development of education in Napton. A National School was erected in 1821 followed by a school for girls in 1843 and an Infants school in 1849. During the next century there were several changes in the status of the schools in Napton but the latest event gave the children a new school which opened in 1996 to much acclaim.

A major development in Napton was the founding of the brickyards by Mr Charles Watson in 1879. The clay deposits adjacent to the Oxford Canal provided an ideal location for the making of bricks and tiles. Much hard labour was involved in this industry, especially in the early days when picks and shovels and wheelbarrows were the order of the day.



*The Brickyard works (before demolition)*

At one time over 100 men earned their living on the site. Most were from Napton and local villages but workers also came from the mining industry. The site was eventually closed around 1976 and Napton residents are waiting to see what will become of the abandoned area.

The first census in the 21<sup>st</sup> century revealed a population of 1058 inhabitants living in 430 houses and the village has certainly grown since then. There is little local industry and most villagers commute to work.

The Parish Plan has provided the village with the opportunity to air many views on the way Napton should proceed into the future. The present community is very different from the villagers depicted in this brief history but views expressed in the survey and at public meetings reveal the sense of pride and care present in Napton at the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

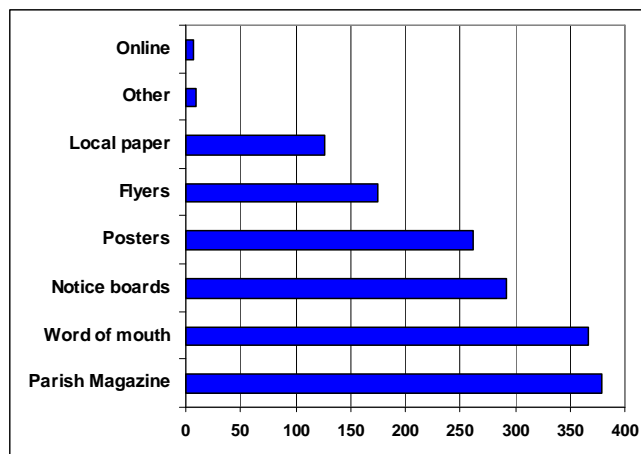
## INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION

The parish magazine is the most important source of information about the village. Out of 440 respondents who completed this part of the parish plan questionnaire, 353 (80%) receive the magazine by regular subscription.



*parish magazine front cover*

As a source of information about Napton news and activities, 379 (86%) use the magazine, 369 (84%) get information by word of mouth, 292 (66%) look at the village notice boards, 262 (60%) look at posters and 175 (40%) read flyers. The local papers are another source for 127 (29%) respondents. Only 7 (1 ½ %) respondents reported using the internet for village information, but this facility appears to be growing in usage. By the time of going to print, the Napton website [www.napton-on-the-hill.co.uk](http://www.napton-on-the-hill.co.uk) had received an increasing amount of traffic. Additionally, in 2005 and 2006 the Napton Cycle Ride committee compiled a Napton Handbook, which is full of useful information for villagers.



*“How do you find out what is going on in Napton?”*

### Computers and the Internet

374 (82%) out of the 457 respondents who completed this part of the questionnaire have access to a computer at home.

220 (48%) are linked to the Internet via broadband and 115 (25%) have access via a dial-up connection. Again, this situation is changing quickly and it is likely that many more villagers, at the time of going to print, have internet access. This compares with the rest of the UK, where on average an estimated 6 out of 10 households have broadband connection to the internet.

### Mobile and Pager Coverage

Napton’s situation on a hill has made mobile and pager coverage more of a problem than in most areas. Most respondents who use mobile phones are not satisfied with the coverage. 173 (40%) said they were satisfied, 252 (59%) said they were not. For pager coverage, 133 (75%) said they were satisfied, 44 (25%) said they were not.

## ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE

The village of Napton on the Hill has a unique identity, due to its geographical topology, being based on a significant hill and surrounded by open valley and plains. Both the Grand Union and Oxford canals join at Napton, hence its famous narrow boat heritage. These aspects are emphasised by the steep brick paths and lanes leading first to the ancient St Lawrence Church and ultimately to the Windmill which has in recent years been converted into a luxury home. From the summit of the hill it is possible to look down on the abandoned site of the famous Napton Brickworks, originally opened in Victorian times to capitalise on the freely available clay resources and the canal network for transportation. Many of the established families in the village have relatives who relied on this valuable employment opportunity. The site is now earmarked for mixed-use development and was recently the subject of a public enquiry.



*Napton Windmill*

Many homes are clustered around the four Village Greens and even more are cut into the hillside itself, offering envied panoramic views of the surrounding countryside. It is said that on a clear day five counties are visible from vantage points. The Beacon at Burton Dassett, some ten miles away to

the south west, acts as a ‘sister’ to the Napton Windmill, ensuring that each is clearly identifiable looking to or from the villages. Napton’s housing stock is mixed in age and design, ranging from ancient stone and thatch cottages, red brick Georgian grandeur, 1960s contemporary design statements and, more latterly, a range of modern yet traditional constructions.



*Comptone's Place*



*The Old Chapel*



*Highover Cottage*



## Views Around Napton

The people of Napton are both proud and protective of their views and have identified some of particular note for preservation.

The first is the view from the south side of the Brickworks Quarry, looking down onto the canal locks at the Folly (formerly the Bull and Butcher) canal side inn. This view also takes in the Lock Keeper's Cottage and is often found pictured in national boating journals:



*Folly Locks and the Lock Keeper's cottage*

There is a fine view from the Folly Locks looking back towards the village and the hillside, with the Windmill breaking the skyline. It is this view in abstract form that is used as the Village logo:



*View of the Windmill from Folly Locks*

Another notable view is the scene looking across the valley from Vicarage Road towards Priors Marston. In recent years three fishing lakes have been excavated which have added to the environment and the radio mast tower breaks the skyline at the village of Hellidon some five miles to the south east:



*View towards Priors Marston*

The views from the churchyard looking South and South-West are greatly valued:



*View from the churchyard*



*View from the churchyard*

The view from Butt Hill looking down towards the locks and reservoir is very popular:



*View from Butt Hill*

It is noticeable that views on the North side of the hill are less valued, which seems to have a somewhat bleak feeling, though there are some exceptional sunsets.

The centre of the village is clearly defined by the main Village Green and Crown Green, featuring the Crown Public house, The old Bakery (Comptone's Place) and Church Hill cottage. The view from the top of the Crescent has changed little in the 100 years or more since photography first became popular. An exception is the centrepiece Horse Chestnut tree which was planted to commemorate the Coronation of King George V. This timeless scene has been earmarked for consideration as a village 'Conservation Area' and in the questionnaire, 74% of residents supported this proposal.

The view back to the village from the top of 'Dannels Hill' at the junction with the gated Shuckburgh Rd is arguably the best depiction of the village of Napton.

*Napton from "Dannels Hill" (below)*



*Crown Green's horse chestnut tree*



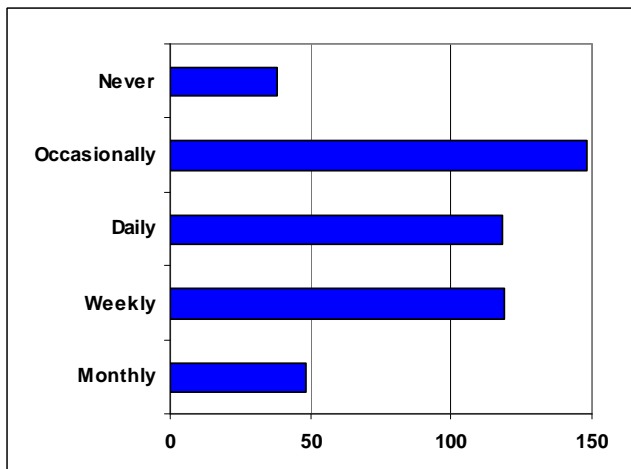
*Napton High Street (19<sup>th</sup> century)*



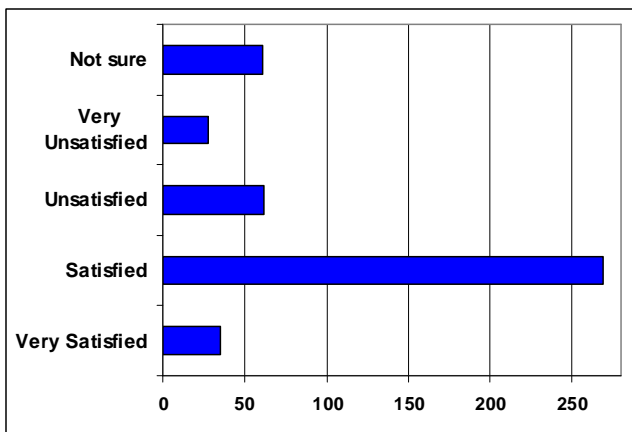
*Napton High Street (21<sup>st</sup> century)*

The questionnaire also reveals that 97% of villagers value the Village Greens and 95% acknowledge that they are adequately maintained, a factor no doubt recognised by the village's success in winning the Best Kept Village competition in 2005.

A remarkable 90% of residents claim to use the footpaths (excluding pavements) which weave around the village. 25% claim to use them daily, 67% say that they are happy with maintenance and 77.5% agree that they are 'generally satisfied'. Napton is a firm favourite with rambblers visiting the village for recreation and 'Rambling' was a close second to 'Gardening' as a favoured pursuit in the questionnaire.



*“How often do you use the village footpaths? (Not pavements)”*



*“How satisfied are you with the maintenance and signage of footpaths?”*

Napton supports a wide variety of wildlife such as badgers, foxes, bats and muntjac deer. 97% of those completing the questionnaire claimed to have some interest in wildlife. Trees and woodland are somewhat lacking in the exposed landscape, though the Parish Council do own a small Nature Reserve called ‘New Zealand Spinney’ at Tomlow. There has also been a successful planting campaign over the past six years of specimen trees in prominent sites and more general planting on the site surrounding the Sports Field. There are few Tree Protection Orders (TPO) in force in the village and respondents were equally split on whether to support or reject this form of conservation. Napton is widely known by ornithologists as being a highly significant site for migratory birds, being a chosen resting roost. The village sustains a multitude of different varieties of bird and is a popular haven for green woodpeckers, barn owls and goldfinches. Wildfowl are catered for on the lakes, ponds and reservoir.

There was a general support to preserve the traditional features of the village. The series of ‘Pumps and Taps’, ‘Wells’, Chapel Green Village Pond (formerly Langley’s Pit), the red GPO telephone box and Pillory Green ‘ducking pond’ all rated at 20% each for restoration or replacement. Other suggestions for preservation include the war memorials and mottoes on the wall of the Old School, the Site Manager’s office at the former Brickyard, and the Kissing Gates at the top of the Church Road. St Lawrence Church speaks for itself.



*St Lawrence Church*

Regrettably the former and magnificent Rectory in Vicarage Road is remembered only by photographic record, having been demolished to make way for housing in the 1970s.



*The Old Rectory*



*Brickyard Site Managers Building (built 1904)*



*Langley's Pit ( 1899)*

Designated Cycle Ways were supported by two thirds of the questionnaire respondents and there is a substantial network of Bridleways in the surrounding countryside.



*The old Brickyard Quarry  
(Site of Special Scientific Interest)*



*The Women's Institute Hackwell well dressing*

## VIEWS FROM THE NEXT GENERATION

An overall return of 68% was achieved on the Youth Questionnaire. Young people between the ages of 12 to 18 were given their own questionnaire, with members of the Steering Committee visiting St Lawrence School to target children of ages 9 to 11.

The Parish Plan Committee identified some 85 young people within the village from ages 11 to 18. These individuals were sent the youth questionnaire and make up the respondents.

### Overall Support:

There was a vast response in terms of support for an Art club (29 individuals).

### What they wanted:

A youth club was a top priority (now operational for over 2 years)

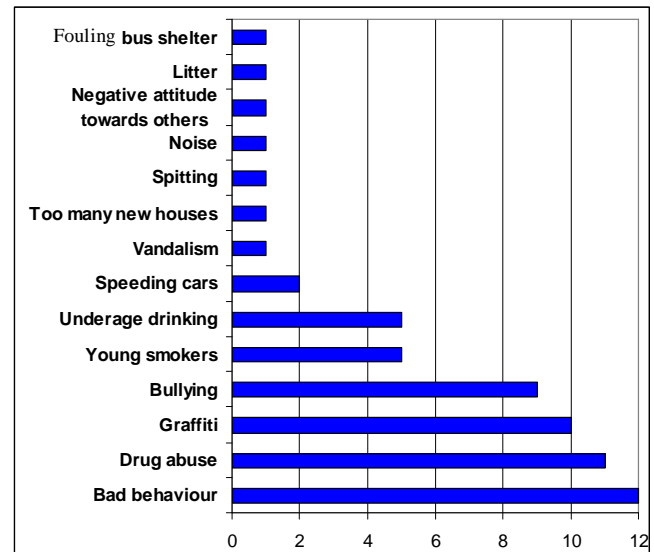
Answers tended to focus around the growing/adding of the current skate park in terms of facilities and events; a skate competition had major support.

### What they want now:

A shelter at the Sports Field is the next priority as well as a big slide for the Granton Playing field both of which are currently being looked into by the Parish Council and 'Sport For Napton'. Some of the more obscure wants included a village swimming pool, crazy golf and ice skating ring!

### Surprises?

The youth results also provided some very interesting village event suggestions, from snail racing to soapbox derby, egg rolling racing to a carnival.

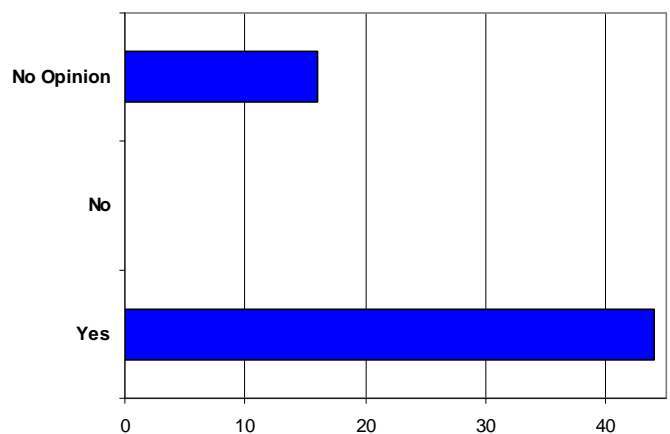


*“Do you think there is a problem with any of the following in Napton?”*

What they value within the village and what they want it to become:

74% of young people want to live in a village when they are older.

76% of these younger respondents liked traditional style housing within the village and when asked to name an example nearly all featured period/historical features such as thatching or traditional stonework.



*“Is village life and community spirit important to you?”*

**General Statistics:**

71% of young people do not use the bus service with a staggering 92% relying on their parents for transport.

An action list has been drafted which will enable the Parish Council to use the data gathered and plan a future strategy for selected projects.



*Napton skate park (above and below)*



**Describe Napton ....**

The following phrases were mentioned by more than 4 separate individuals.

- |                      |                         |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Quiet                | Friendly                |
| Peaceful             | Safe                    |
| Boring               | Home                    |
| Hills                | Fun/lively/cheerful     |
| Pretty               | Like the people         |
| Good friends         | Everyone knows everyone |
| Big fields           | Canals                  |
| Nice                 | Active                  |
| Friendly             | Rural                   |
| Attractive/beautiful | Small                   |
| Inviting/welcome     | Happy community         |

## TRANSPORT AND PARKING

### Transport

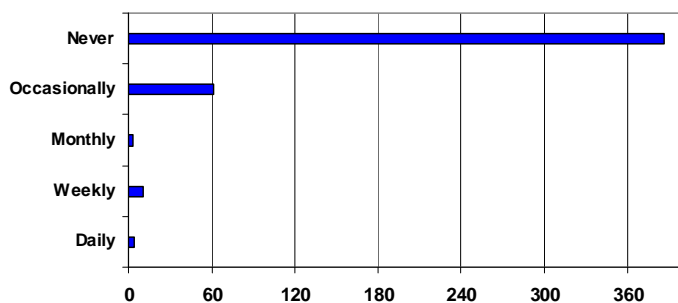
There is little enthusiasm amongst parishioners for a bus service as currently constituted.

Of the 464 people who responded to the question about the bus service only four use it on a daily basis and 386 never use it. Analysis of the reasons given and comments made at the public meetings show a large gap between what is wanted and what is provided.

In today's world of instant action and multi-tasking the concept of the village bus wending its way round the rural leafy lanes carrying contented shoppers to the local market is an anachronism.

In the public meetings and in the survey interviews it was apparent that there is a desire for public transport service which meet the needs of present day life styles. In other words a service which picks up passengers at a time to suit them, takes them directly to their destination and provides a similar return journey. If such a service could be reliably provided the ownership of cars in the village would be reduced thus helping alleviate one of the biggest problems, parking. In addition such a service would be of benefit to an ageing population who have no desire to continue driving or standing at cold and inhospitable bus stops.

To achieve these goals the service would need to be regular, reliable and convenient.



*"Do you use the bus service?"*

### Taxis

Such a service is of course a taxi service and there is strong support for a project which would investigate the possibility of establishing a private taxi rank in the village to replace the current bus service.

The Parish Survey did not address the question of a taxi service directly and so no hard data is available to support the anecdotal information we have. At the public meetings and in subsequent discussions around the village there appears strong support for a move to encourage a taxi service based in Napton.

The service should be made attractive to as many people as possible and aimed at achieving high usage levels to make it financial viable.



*Fells Lane*

### Green Travel Plan

The concept of a Green Travel Plan, which has been developed by the school, has been widely accepted. It is felt this should be extended to cover other routes within the village.

Fells Lane has been improved to form a major walking route from the Hill down to the school. This road, which for many years has been impassable, has been improved to make it walkable, to provide a pedestrian access to the sports field and a safe route for children walking to school.

The Parish Council must do all they can to discourage vehicles of any kind from using this lane.

It was also felt that other routes should be developed which encourage walking and the Parish Council should continue with efforts to provide a continuous pavement throughout the village.

## Cycle Ways

There is solid support for provision of cycle ways, both for recreational use and as a means of transport.

Twice as many people currently use a bicycle to go to work as travel on the bus. If a safe cycle way were made from Napton to Southam many more people would cycle. If this route were to be extended into the village either via Brickyards Lane or Butt Hill an even greater use would be made of the route. Such a route would also make Southam available to the ever-increasing band of Boaters who use the canals.

There is also a need to protect local green roads and towpaths to make them more cyclist friendly.

## Car Parking

In common with all villages which were laid out before motorised transport became universally available, Napton suffers from parking blight. The problem, although a constant headache, is not as severe as in some other villages. At the present time parking is no more than an irritation but the problem gets worse as time goes by.

Most people recognise the almost insoluble problem but in the public meetings it was made clear three aspects should not be compromised. First, no parking should be tolerated on pavements within the village. If a driver considers it too dangerous to park on the road they should assume that a pedestrian would find it equally dangerous to step out into the road to walk round their parked car, particularly when pushing a pram. Second, no parking should be tolerated on the Village Greens. The ambiance of the village depends on the retention of these areas. Third, all new housing development should only be given planning permission if adequate off-road parking is included in the design.

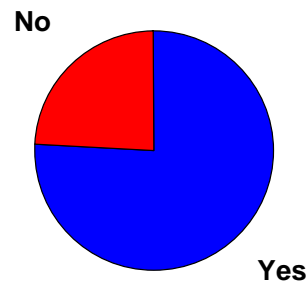
It was felt that public parking should be provided in areas where walkers can leave their cars when visiting the various attractions in the surrounding countryside.

There is also a need for more parking areas within the village for the use of visitors to residences.



*Coxs Lane*

## Speed Limits



*“Would you support a 20 mph speed limit within the central area of the village?”*

One of the benefits of the parking congestion is that speed in some parts of the village is constrained by the sheer difficulty of manoeuvre. This is not a satisfactory form of speed control since it tends to act as a challenge rather than a constraint to some drivers. 80% of people answering the question in the survey prefer the speed limit to be reduced by law to 20 mph in the areas where parking congestion, lack of pavements and narrowness of the road made higher speeds dangerous.

There was also a great concern expressed at the sometimes chaotic traffic management around the school at the beginning and end of each day. It was felt that a speed restriction should be imposed in the area of the school and parking restrictions should also be imposed at pick up and drop times to encourage parents to use the Victory Club car park.



## TOURISM, RECREATION AND THE CANAL



*Oxford Canal*

Almost without our realising it, Napton is already known as a tourist attraction by people from many countries. A great many visitors have passed quietly through and admired the windmill as they navigate the Oxford canal. With caravanning, camping, walkers and casual visitors, our population is often doubled. With four local marinas and our location at the junction of the Oxford and Grand Union canals, Napton is at the centre of the busiest waterways system in the country. Approximately 8000 holiday craft travel through Napton every year, carrying at least 24 000 passengers.

Many holidaymakers stop off to dine or shop, and many walk to the Church to admire both the building and the view. From the Church walkers can join the “Napton Nature Trail” (leaflets for sale at the shop and the church). For the more serious walker there is also a web of footpaths – and the Oxford canal towpath leads to Oxford for the very ambitious. All walks offer the opportunity to view the abundant wildlife. We remind walkers to always respect the countryside code.



There are many opportunities to fish in and around the village including the canal, fishing lakes and Napton Reservoir, via Coventry and District Angling club and all requiring a licence and/or permit.

Holt Farm touring caravan park is close to the canal and also offers fishing on site. It is also set to be the site of the second Napton Festival in September.

Cycling clubs regularly pass through the village, but nothing compares to Napton’s annual charity cycle ride, an 18 mile tour through three counties with an abundance of pubs en route.



*Holt Farm caravan park*

Many tourists enjoy our village whilst caravanning or camping, all adding to our village economy. Tourist accommodation could be the abundant creation of holiday lets in the area, but in practice Napton is too distant from Stratford-on-Avon and Warwick, leaving properties difficult to let. B&B accommodation locally is quite scarce; perhaps this is a niche that could be filled.

In response to the question “*Do you think visitors need more information about the village?*”

264 (60%) people said ‘Yes’ and 173 (40%) said ‘No’.

“*Should the village actively promote and attract more tourism?*” had respondents evenly divided with 212 (48%) saying ‘Yes’ and 224 (52%) saying ‘No’.

Support for Potential Village Clubs

From the Parish plan survey, shown below, it is apparent that many would like to see a range of new clubs organised within the village. We hope to facilitate at least some of them.

<b>Suggested Club / Society</b>	<b>Number of Persons</b>
Gardening Club	103
Rambling Club	95
Older people's / Senior citizens Leisure Club	92
Music Society	55
Photography Club	40
Bridge Club	30

*“Would you like to see any of the following clubs/societies set up?”*

Sport

Situated on a hill, with little level ground, Napton has waited longer than many other villages to find a suitable site to locate a new sports field. Footballers formerly used the site now occupied by St Lawrence Primary School. It was a major feat to terrace and level fields on the eastern side of the village. This has however, allowed the construction of the sports field, used for football and cricket, a car park, an all-weather pitch for five-a-side football and two multi-purpose courts which are used for tennis and netball. A sports pavilion is now under construction.

The Skate park at the bottom of the Sports field was constructed in 2004 and is well used by young people from the village and further afield.

A new football club started in 2002. There are five teams including a girls’ team and an adults’ team. Over fifty youngsters come to weekly training sessions.

Netball training for both adults and juniors started in autumn 2005. The adult team plays in a league and the juniors play in friendly matches.

Tennis club sessions for adults take place twice a week and there is organised training for adults and juniors. There are club matches and a tennis ladder has started.



*Napton tennis court*

Napton Cricket Club has played at a variety of local places over many years and has used the new home ground since 2003. It has a full fixtures list and the team is going on tour again in 2007.



*A game of cricket at Napton sport field*



*Napton sports field*

Via the questionnaire, a great many people offered to help with training, sporting events, administration and construction. Over 100 people wanted a running track. 179 wanted a picnic area and 205 wanted a sports pavilion; work on these two projects is underway. Over 250 wanted

seating benches and there are now several benches for walkers and spectators.

Napton Badminton club has been active since 1962 and meets weekly in the village hall.

Napton Short Mat Bowls club also meets weekly in the village hall.

There are several Darts teams with busy fixtures lists and the village also has active pool and skittles teams.

### Allotments

Over the years there have been a number of allotments around the village, mostly privately owned. The only remaining ones however are those at the top of Howcombe Lane, which have always been owned by the parish. Part of this site was sold for development and is now known as Howcombe Gardens. The current allotments are well used and there is scope for provision to provide additional plots, to the north side of the site, should demand increase.



*Howcombe Lane allotments*

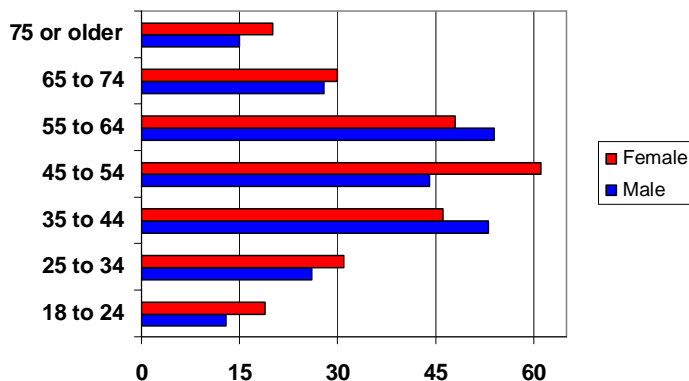
## POPULATION

There were 762 adults recorded on Napton's December 2005 electoral roll. At the time of our survey there were around 420 households and replies were received from 269 (64%) of these.  
:

Household with:	Number of Households
1 resident	80
2 resident	165
3 resident	19
4 resident	4
5 resident	1

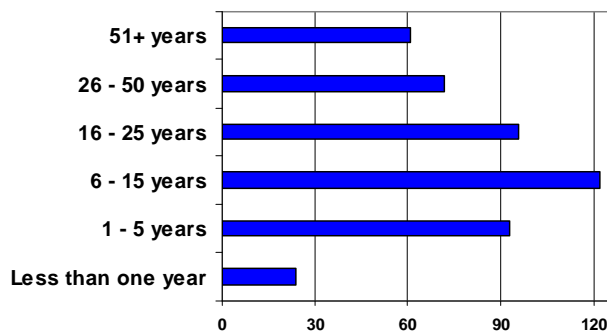
488 residents aged 18 and above live in these households as shown below:

The age and gender of these people is also as shown below:



“What gender are you?” & “How old are you?”

Some have lived in Napton for a very long time whilst others are relative newcomers:



“How long have you lived in the Parish?”

And people live in Napton for different reasons:

Reason	Number of Persons
Born in the Parish	81
Work in area	84
Relatives nearby	26
Love of village life	77
Love of county life	44
Availability of housing	29
Retired to Parish	11
Marriage	44
Came with family	50
Other	20

“How did you come to live in this Parish?”

## HOUSING

There is a complete range of styles and types of housing in Napton and the surrounding countryside. No particular style dominates and, in some areas, the planning policy has failed to be implemented in any coherent way. There are certainly some fine examples of houses and cottages that have survived the passage of time as well as some very recent ones which are sympathetic in the choices of material, design and construction.



*Designed & built in the last 5 years*



*Designed & built in the 1700s (formerly known as the Plough and Harrow public house)*

In the questionnaires there was good support for planning control on the style and types of houses with traditional design being preferred (over 85% of respondents).

As to the need for additional houses being provided in the village, a small majority supported a modest increase:

Increase in the number of houses	Number of Persons
0 to 10	57
11 to 20	102
21 to 50	62
51 to 100	6

*“Would you like to see the housing stock in the village increased?” “If yes, by how many?”*

Support for additional houses in the village centred around an additional 20 - 30 houses (for local people).

The current mix shows some 80% of the current housing stock is owner occupied. When asked in the questionnaire whether or not more housing should be made available for rent, the following result was achieved:

Answer	Number of Persons
Yes	193
No	228

*“The current housing mix is 79 - 80% (census data) owner occupied. Do you feel that more housing should be made available for rent?”*

Which shows an even split (i.e., we need more houses to rent in the community). The housing market is also influenced by potential purchasers from outside the village.

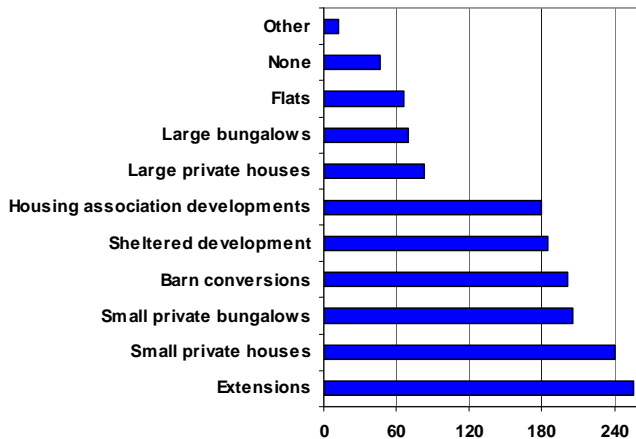
When asked whether or not all new houses should be built with a parking space, overwhelming support for a suitable provision was noted:

Answer	Number of Persons
Yes	420
No	12

*“Do you think all new houses should be built with a parking space?”*

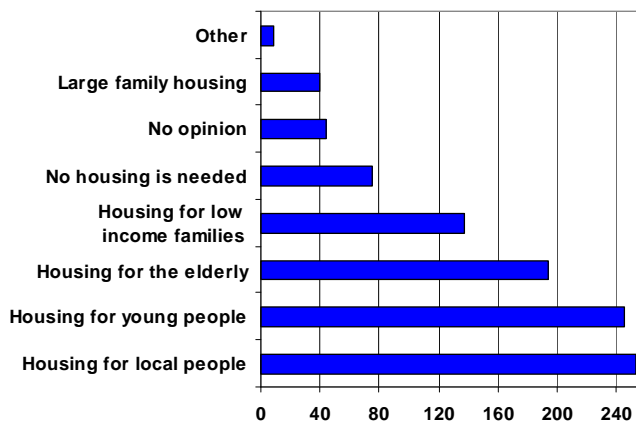
The overall spread of types of houses considered to be needed in the village and support for different types of development is represented by the following tables:

Support For Types Of Developments Within The Village



*“Would you support the following developments in Napton?”*

Support For Kinds Of Houses Within The Village



*“What kind of housing do you think the village / parish needs?”*

From these tables the following observations can be made:

- There appears to be a strong need for houses to buy on the open market.
- There appears to be a strong need for bungalows to buy on the open market.
- There appears to be a strong need for houses, bungalows and flats to rent from a housing association.

- There appears to be a strong need for houses, bungalows and flats for shared ownership from a housing association.
- In respect of the last two observations above, the need for social rented and shared ownership accommodation has already been demonstrated through the 2004 Affordable Housing Needs Survey.
- There is no available means to verify whether those households that specified a need to buy on the open market can afford to do so. Typically this is verified by comparing capital assets combined with mortgage capability against house prices in the area. This information was not requested in the Parish Plan Questionnaire. Experience shows that households often over-estimate their capital assets and the amount they would be able to borrow, and so have an unrealistic view of the value of property they could purchase.

There is no available means to verify whether those households that specified a need for ‘affordable’ housing (rented from a housing association or shared ownership) would qualify for ‘affordable’ housing. This is usually verified by comparing household income (and mortgage capability in the case of shared ownership) against social housing rents and the likely share value of any shared ownership home.

- Some households may have specified shared ownership as a preference, but may not be able to afford this in reality. Without financial data relating to the households concerned there is no means of verification.
- Some households may have been looking a considerable distance into the future when specifying a housing need. Experience suggests that very few households can accurately predict their housing needs more than 2 or 3 years into the future.



*Jacksons Lane*

There is some value in comparing the housing needs through the table shown below:

Reason for need	Number of households
Leaving home	26
Downsizing	34
Upsizing	10
Special needs	9

Some 60 (76%) out of the 79 households identified above demonstrate a need of alternative accommodation for reasons of leaving home or wishing to downsize, suggests that these households require housing at the smaller end of the range:

- 2 bedroom houses
- 2 bedroom bungalows

And to a lesser extent:

- 3 bedroom houses
- 3 bedroom bungalows

The fact that 10 (12%) out of the 79 households were in need of alternative accommodation for reasons of ‘upsizing’ suggests that a very limited number of larger homes are required.

The fact that 9 (11%) out of the 79 households were in need of accommodation because of ‘special needs’ suggests that a limited number of homes with special adaptations are required.

The 2004 Affordable Housing Needs Survey indicated a need for 15 homes available to rent from a Housing Association or for shared ownership (compare this to the results of this survey which shows a need for 31 homes to rent or for shared ownership, indicating a large discrepancy may be present). Aspiration and long-term thinking on the part of some households can perhaps explain the discrepancy to an extent. Crucially, the 2004 Survey verifies the needs identified by looking at respondents’ financial standing and in some cases converting aspiration into actual need. Although the 2004 Survey is undoubtedly a more accurate reflection of the affordable housing needs in the parish, the results of this survey and the possibility that some households in need may have been missed by the

2004 survey suggests that more than 15 affordable housing needs are actually present in the parish.

The figure of 33 homes needed to buy on the open market is almost certainly influenced by aspiration and long term thinking on the part of some households. Ascertaining the level of influence of these factors on the final figure with a view to discounting some of these is however impossible.

There are a number of key messages to come out of these results:

1. There is a strong need for 2 bedroom houses, 2 bedroom bungalows and 3 bedroom houses for local people to buy on the open market. However, the exact number of units cannot be determined at this stage.
2. There is a limited need for special needs accommodation for local people.
3. There is a (very) limited need for larger family homes, i.e. 3, 4 and 5 bedroom houses for local people to buy on the open market. Again, the exact number and size of units cannot be determined at this stage.
4. Although the results of the 2004 housing needs survey continue to be valid, the number of affordable units required to satisfy the local need is probably more than the 15 identified through the 2004 Survey.
5. It is recommended that a survey of local open market housing needs should be undertaken via the Action Plan.



*School Hill*

## EDUCATION

### St Lawrence School

St Lawrence Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School opened in autumn 1996. It is a purpose built primary school for up to 180 pupils aged four to eleven years and serves the priority area of Napton, Priors Marston, Stoneton, Priors Hardwick, Upper Shuckburgh and Lower Shuckburgh. There are around 160 pupils on the roll. It is funded by the Diocese of Coventry but largely maintained by the Local Authority.

In 1993 a review of schools and educational needs within the county threatened to close the original small school on Butt Hill and transport children to Long Itchington Primary. The community and the Parish Council were galvanised into action and were successful in their campaign not only to keep a school in the village but to build a new one. The school has gone from strength to strength and represents a magnificent achievement by the community.

Year 6 pupils took part in the Parish Plan process through a classroom activity and brief questionnaire. The results of this early survey prompted the launch of the Youth Club in September 2004.



*St. Lawrence Primary School*

It received an excellent OFSTED report at the last inspection in summer 2004.

The school maintains strong links with St Lawrence Church.

It has an active before-and-after school club, called Larks and Owls, which opened in 1999. The school is also available for hire outside school hours.

There are a number of after-school clubs at the school. In 2006 the list included Little Lighthouse club, drama, dance and French. In addition, the teachers organise a variety of after-school sports. The pupils compete with other Warwickshire schools in netball, cross-country, football and athletics.

### Napton Pre-school



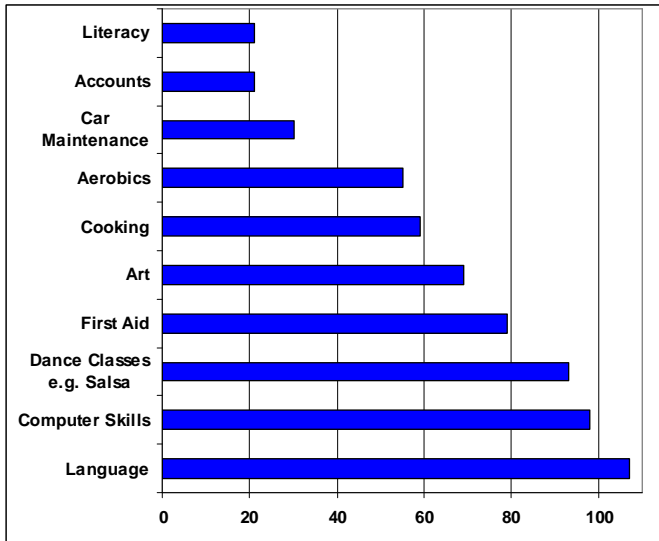
Napton pre-school has been active for many years. It is held five mornings a week and accepts children from ages three to five years. It is OFSTED registered. The ethos is child-centred and the emphasis is on learning through play. Volunteers from the village with expertise in French, music and gym come regularly to share their skills with the children.



## Adult Education

Although the village has had a number of adult education classes until recently, there are none at present. There are plans to introduce new classes in school, such as language and computing.

The survey showed a large demand for new classes.



*” If there were an opportunity for evening classes which topics would you like to see?”*

## RELIGION AND SPIRITUAL LIFE

The main place of worship in Napton is the beautiful, old Parish Church of St. Lawrence on top of the hill. The vicar has three parishes, Lower Shuckburgh, Napton and Stockton, but lives in Napton. The curate lives in Southam. St Lawrence Church runs several organisations to help build up the spiritual life of the village.

There is a Christadelphian Hall in Napton and the Christadelphian congregation sometimes uses the Village Hall.

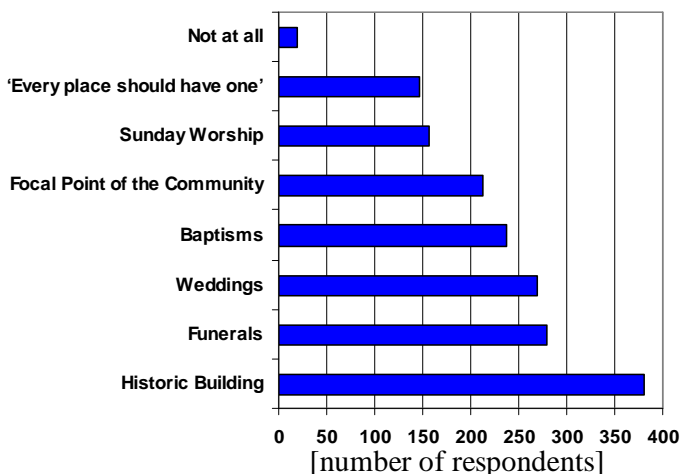
Methodists in Napton worship with the congregation of St Lawrence and there are links with a Methodist Minister from the Leamington Circuit who sometimes takes services in St Lawrence Church.

Roman Catholics and members of the United Reformed Church go to Southam for their services. Members of other denominations and faiths would need to go to Leamington, Rugby or Coventry to worship.

Approximately 90% of responders were aware that there are various religious organisations active in the village and approximately 75% knew whom to contact about these.

Most questions about the religious life of the village concentrated on St Lawrence Church and a majority of responders were aware of the organisations run by the Church and felt that they contribute to the life of the village.

It can be seen from the table below that the Church (as a building) is important to a large majority of responders for various reasons.



Not surprisingly therefore over 60% of respondents thought that the whole community should contribute towards the upkeep of the Church building and the churchyard. There was a great deal of support among responders for toilets, kitchen facilities and disabled access at the church. Some of these projects have been completed and others are in progress. There were suggestions from many respondents regarding a wider range of services the Church could offer to the village such as home visits to the elderly. All the data about the Church has been made available to the vicar.



*St. Lawrence Church*



*Christadelphian Chapel*

## NAPTON VILLAGE HALL

The hall was built on the current site in the 1960s and extended in 1977 when the Jubilee Room was added. It has served the village well over the years and has hosted many local and varied activities. It is a vital resource used to bring villagers together on numerous occasions each year for social, educational, sporting, organisational and entertainment events. These include Brownies, Live & Local drama and music events, Napton Pantomime and wedding receptions. It is also used by the pre-school on a daily basis. The grounds associated with the hall are considered to be a valuable asset in their own right and a range of outdoor activities are held on the grass each year.



*Napton Village Hall: Pantomime performance (2005)*

Additionally, the hall is let to outside organisations for their own activities on a commercial basis which supplements the operating costs of running the hall.



*Napton Village Hall*

However, over the last decade, the hall's condition and usability has increasingly been considered to be lacking in a number of aspects and a project to

either carry out a major refurbishment or even a complete building replacement is underway. The main aims of the project are to improve the accommodation to meet current and future needs. It should be a building which is energy efficient, requires less maintenance and complies with 21st century building requirements and incorporates Access for All. The ability to open up or subdivide areas within the hall for different types of activities is essential.

Responses to the questionnaire confirmed that some 78% of respondents agreed that a modern Village Hall was 'very important', that some 38% of respondents used the current hall either frequently or occasionally with only 10% saying that they never use it. Over 80% of respondents agreed that the Parish Council should consider providing additional funds from its Capital Reserves for a new or refurbished Village Hall. A small number of respondents commented on the importance of considering the current hall's location and whether or not a better location can be found in the village. Some 28% of respondents expressed a willingness to help with fund raising and some 10% considered they had the appropriate professional skills to assist with the project.

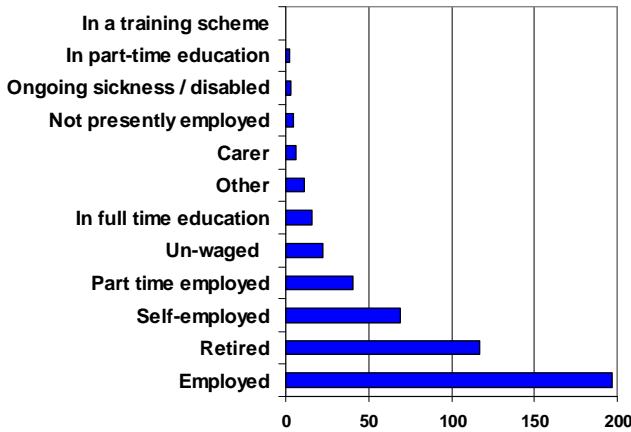
The questions on the Village Hall generated well over 50 comments, many very detailed. These will have to be carefully considered by the Village Hall committee before any decision is reached on refurbishment or replacement.



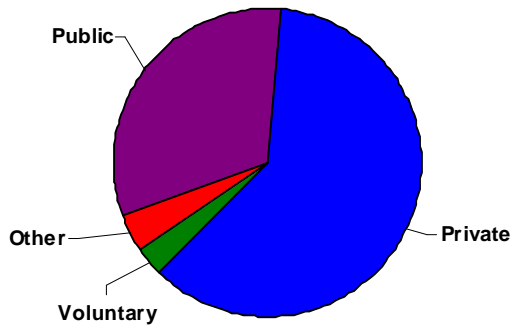
*Napton Village Hall: New Year's Eve Millennium Celebrations*

# BUSINESS AND EMPLOYMENT

This chapter considers the range of businesses present in the Parish, together with information about the employment it has created. Information has been taken from the general questionnaire and a specific questionnaire that was circulated to a number of the established businesses at the time.

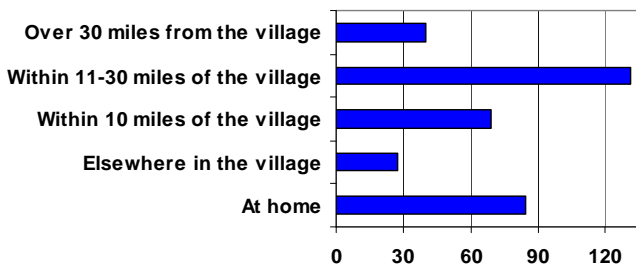


“Are you currently employed?”

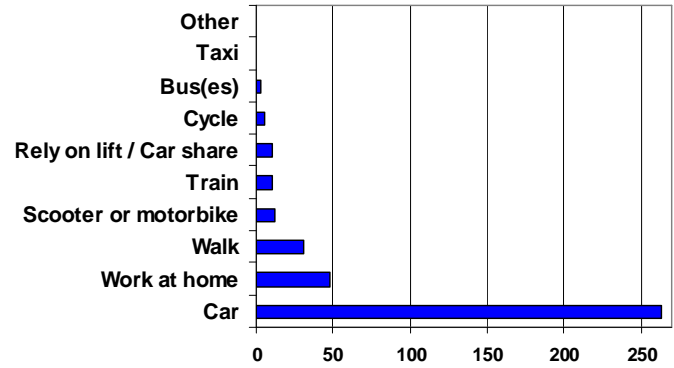


“Which sector do you work in?”

The charts above show the range of employment activities within the Parish. One particular statistic to note is that the ‘not presently employed’ figure of 5 represents only some 1.5% of the population, which is a good sign of an active employment economy.



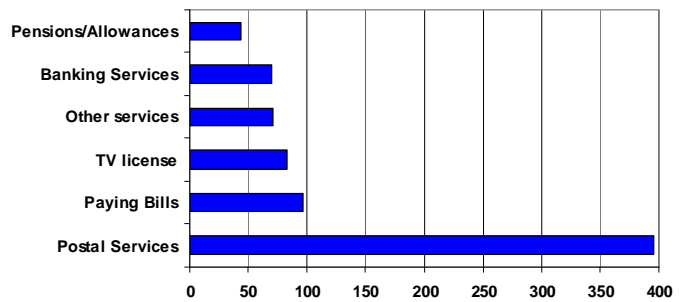
“Where is your main place of work or study?”



“How do you get to work?”

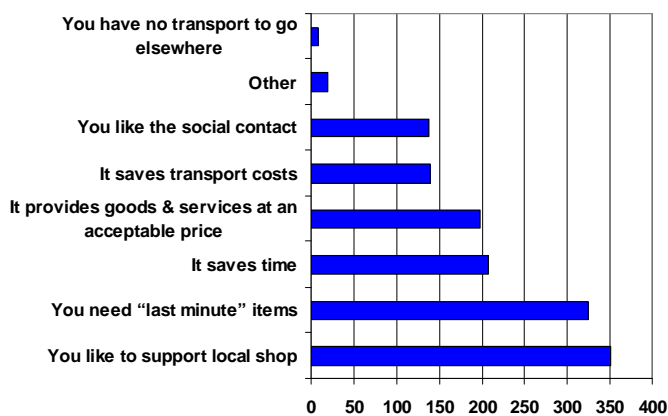
The first chart indicates the location of employment showing that the majority of people work or study in the 11 – 30 miles radius in the surrounding towns such as Rugby, Leamington, Warwick and Banbury. The second chart shows that the majority of people use their car to get to their place of work.

It is important not to underestimate the relevance of a healthy employment environment in any small community, such as Napton. The ability of people to find jobs in and around (for the majority) where they live is vital, if the community is to prosper. The local economy can be kept alive by money being circulated by the community’s inhabitants through local businesses (in particular the shop/Post Office, public houses, etc) and, in some cases the very survival of these long established businesses is totally dependent on this happening.



“What do you use the post office for?”

This chart shows a healthy use of the Post Office – however, other data collected showed very strong support (over 90% of those polled) for vehicle license transactions, if it could be made available.

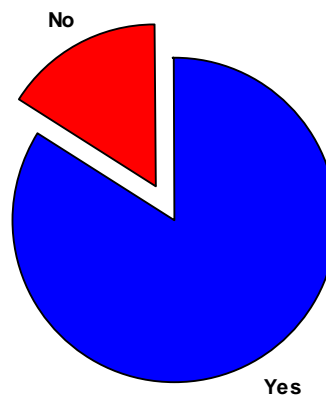


*“If you usually shop in the village, it is because?”*

This chart shows a range of reasons for supporting the shop in the village. It is believed that this information can be usefully considered in helping to develop the services presently offered to match the expectations of the community over the next few years.

The business questionnaire data shows that a number of businesses within the Parish are thriving, provide employment for local people and expect to expand over the next 5 years or so. A number of them have been established for a long time (25 years or more). Also, new companies are setting up in the village all of the time (some are high tech businesses) and more and more people work at home as ‘home workers’ or are self-employed. Napton has a series of industrial premises in Folly Lane and along Brickyard Road. A number of the businesses that responded gave comments which indicated that they felt under valued and poorly recognised for the benefits that they provide for the local economy. Some businesses expressed criticisms on parking and some of the Utility Services saying that more could be done to help them develop and prosper (in particular, the disposal of waste that could easily be recycled).

Most of the businesses expressed a view that they would be interested in offering employment/training to young people in the village, if some form of subsidised scheme could be developed to help pay the initial costs involved.



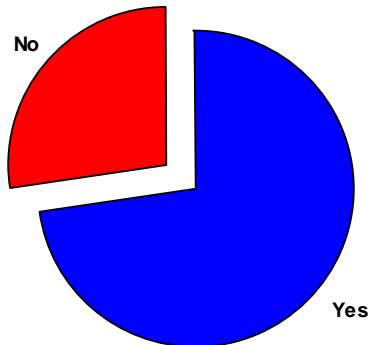
*“Do you support services that are based within the village?”*

This chart shows a high level of support for local businesses.

Some useful comments and suggestions were made by a number of the businesses responding to the questionnaire, as follows:

- “Improvements to be made to the bus service to enable young people to increase their mobility to find local employment”
- “Provide additional affordable housing (for local needs) to enable villagers to compete in the housing market (both Housing Association managed and low cost, private sector)”
- “The Brickyard would have been ideal if it was developed as industrial, but I understand it is going to be residential”
- “We will be relocating by the end of the year. This is only due to expansion and the lack of available sites in Napton”
- “Car parking for visitors to the canals”
- “‘Signed’ tourist walking route(s) to encourage use of the facilities”
- “More visitor moorings on the canals”
- “Bus stop close to premises”
- “Local small businesses to advertise each other – maybe some form of standard leaflet holder in each business/shop with leaflets of other local business/shops on display”
- “A reliable time of postal delivery would be appreciated. It varies between 9.00 am and 12.30 pm (it has been known to be later)”
- “The local Councils to be in favour and much more supportive in welcoming visitors”

- “Give me a chance to grow the business here instead of having to move out. We like Napton and want to stay. We only thrive if we can grow”
- “Give us proper water, electricity & gas supplies that do not fail every winter”



“Would you like to see a local job vacancies facility in the village?”

### Farming

Napton is situated in a relatively isolated, rural environment and is surrounded by around thirty working farms. These farms are predominantly livestock (cattle, sheep and some horses) with a number successfully diversifying (water buffalo, camping & caravanning and canal support activities among others). A small percentage of land is arable and some has been put to horticultural use. Set-aside has reduced in recent years.



*Halls Barn Farm*

It is important to recognise the contribution that agricultural activities continue to make to the economy of the Parish as well as its social life. Farmers continue to have the important role of being custodians of a large amount of land surrounding the community and ensuring that it is kept in good condition as well as allowing public

access to footpaths. In particular, employment (mainly indirect) of local trades and service suppliers helps to keep other businesses active in the Parish.



*Lambing at Manor Farm*

### Village Shop

The shop is regarded as an essential part of village life especially for the daily and weekend newspapers. As to the main reason why people use the shop, over 25% of villagers responding said it was to support a local shop, with a further 23% saying it was mainly to get “last minute items” as this saves time and transport costs. 14% of responders use the shop principally because it provides goods and services at an acceptable price. The Post Office is used by 50% of villagers for Postal Services. 30% of responders use the pensions and banking services. The facility to pay bills is also appreciated.



*Napton Village Shop and Post Office*

There is a tie-up with tourism and the village shop and the Post Office.

Due to the proximity of the Oxford canal, crews from the many boats passing through make use of the shop and Post Office amenities as there are no other villages close enough to the canal to provide these services. In the boating season, a shop at the Folly Locks sells souvenirs and provisions to tourists.

### Public Houses

In 1850 records show five public houses in the parish, The Kings Head, The Crown, The New Inn, The Navigation and The Bull & Butcher. Some time later a further establishment was The Plough and Harrow (also known as The Plough) at the top of the village green, but since the 1960s this has been a private residence. The Navigation no longer stands but was located at “The Wide”, the junction of the Oxford canal and the Grand Union, to quench the thirst of those who worked the canal system. The Bull & Butcher is another canal side premises which in the flux of the economy closed in 1947. It became a farm until it was purchased and refurbished by a local family, and reopened as The Folly in 1990.

The Kings Head had a dual role until the late 1930s and vehicle fuel could be purchased from a hand pump in what is now the car park.

The Crown and The Bridge (formerly the New Inn) have recently changed ownership. All four premises currently offer a range of facilities from bar meals and large screen T.V., to restaurants, live music, darts, canal boat excursions and a beer festival.



*The Crown public house*

### Victory Club

The Victory Club was built in 1921 for the brickyard workers and the agricultural workers of the area. The original building was a wooden Nissen hut. In 1956 this was replaced with a new brick building so the Club has just celebrated its 50th birthday. It is a social club which caters for all ages with activities ranging from pool, darts and dominoes to discos, bingo and live music.

### Other Services

A fishmonger visits Napton every Friday morning stopping at several convenient places where villagers gather to buy his fresh fish.

A hairdressing salon for both men and women is located in the heart of the village.

There is a garage situated at the crossroads on the A425. As well as selling fuel, it carries out MOTs, services and vehicle repairs.



*Cross Roads garage*

Warwickshire County Library Services provide a Mobile Library which visits different places in the village twice a month.

A range of other local businesses, including farms, supply goods and services to the community.

## PLANNING AND DESIGN

### 1. Type and Mix of Development

There are a number of clear messages from the public consultation that should form the basis of planning decisions:

1.1. Large-scale developments will not be supported. The limit on village expansion should not exceed between 20 to 50 houses over all sites. A mix of rental, and local market homes is acceptable. [ref. questions 46,51]

1.2. Small clusters of dwellings to meet identified local need would be supported. The mix of additional dwellings which might include some mid-sized houses, should be led by smaller properties and accessible homes for the elderly and less able. [46,49,50]

1.3. Recent developments of large dwellings, some of which are three storeys, represent adequate provision for the village and additional homes of this nature would not be supported, save in exceptional circumstances for local family need. Replacement of dwellings with much larger properties would also not be supported by the findings. [ref. comments on questions 45,c84]

1.4. There is a clear wish to prevent further erosion of the traditional Napton village design vernacular. A significant number of houses of 1960s and 1970s contemporary design have been erected and the community wishes to restore the balance by buildings echoing traditional design. There is also concern about development that has a visual impact on the environment and landscape. Development control decisions should therefore recognise the importance of the impact of external storage and external lighting on public views and finishes that blend in with the landscape. [53,c45]

1.5. There is currently no conservation zone in Napton, but there is considerable support for one, notably in the centre of the village, which is identified as a particularly sensitive area. Support from the Local Authorities is sought for the designation of a conservation zone centred around the village green. Meanwhile, development control issues in this location should therefore be carefully considered to ensure that the character of the central area of the village is not degraded. [36,c37]

### 2. The Stratford District Design Guide Applied In Napton

2.1. The findings are very supportive of the principles of the District Design Guide and this Parish Plan offers interpretation of the Guide in the specific topography and circumstances of Napton.

2.2. The District Design Guide Section 5 defines the Street Scene as a unit of character within a settlement. This has subsequently led to permission being granted for more houses of design incompatible with the overall village design vernacular, on the basis that there was no clear design theme in the street scene or that contemporary designs were nearby in the same road. Section 5.1.1 of Stratford District Design Guide uses “a road lined with plots on both sides” as the basis of the street scene, whilst acknowledging that this is a “common feature of virtually all settlements”. The peculiar layout of Napton does not conform to this basis of “Street Scene” – in fact only 7 out of 35 roads could be described in this way. In applying section 5 of the Stratford District Design Guide, this Parish Plan defines that for Napton, “Street Scene” should be interpreted in a much wider sense than merely adjacent properties and development proposals should reflect and conform with the design of the village as a whole. [53,c75]



2.3. Design features should reflect the heritage of the village and history of brickmaking and before that, stone extraction from local quarries. Buildings should therefore be predominately brick (red clay) or stone (Hornton), rather than render or timber faced. [53,c42,c78]

2.4. Parking is a significant problem and the lack of public transport makes the community overwhelmingly dependent on the car. No new dwellings should be permitted that do not provide off road car parking to the maximum permitted by policy. Similarly, alterations that eliminate parking with the property should not be permitted. Section 7.5.4 of the Design Guide seeks to avoid cars dominating the appearance of the community and this principle should be rigorously implemented in Napton. [87,47,c8,c16,c37]

### 3. Specific Areas

3.1. Canals and Napton junction itself are important features of the Parish. The value of the canal as an amenity should be recognised and corridors of the canal and the walking routes to the village should be protected against developments that would have an adverse impact upon these corridors. The Parish Plan raises concern about the number of moorings in the vicinity of Napton. There is already a far higher density of moorings round Napton Junction than anywhere else in the Midlands according to British Waterways figures. Commercial pressures to increase the number of moorings in the vicinity should be resisted. The creation of more large marinas is opposed. [c37,c43]

3.2. The Old School is seen as an important heritage building, with significant support for protection by listing or, by implication, other means. Bringing the building back into use and preserving local heritage is desired, with a community use of some sort as a favoured means. [62,63,64,c39]

3.3. The community wishes to see Canal based development of the derelict land of the former brickyard on a moderate scale. The desire that design should reflect the history of the area is particularly important here, as it would be development detached from the village in open countryside. These aspects were affirmed at a Public Inquiry in May 2006 when an planning appeal for an extensive development was dismissed by the Inspector. His conclusion supported many of the comments made by local people in the consultation exercise. [c39,c43]

3.4. Mobile phone and TV coverage is considered to be poor, but comments suggests that some are prepared to accept this inconvenience as the price of avoiding the visual intrusion that a mast might represent. Thus the provision of visible transmitter masts would generally not be supported by the community. [20,c20]

3.5. The community identified important views which should not be degraded.  
See pages 7 and 8 for further details [c 38]

In addition, given that the views are a key part of the character of Napton, the community would like all planning decisions to take account of the impact on village views. [c38]

*Source question numbers shown thus [n]. If prefaced by c, drawn from comments*

## Parish Plan - ACTION LIST

**SECTION 1 – Actions to be considered by Napton Parish Council**

**SECTION 2 – Actions to be considered by Steering Group**

## SECTION 1 – Actions to be considered by Napton Parish Council

Question Number(s)	Category	Comments	Proposed Action/lead	Priority [1=highest 5=lowest]
20	Utility Services	Most Services received a “good” response [75%+]. However, Television coverage [51% “Yes”] and Mobile Phone coverage [41% “Yes”] both indicate an improvement is required	Letters to be prepared on behalf of the Parish Council to be sent to the appropriate Authorities involved pointing out the deficiencies and asking for their improvement plan, if any, to achieve better coverage	2
3,4,5,6,7,8	Parking	Growing problem – will become increasingly important over time. No ‘quick fix’, but will need positive action in the medium term	Parish Council to nominate one Councillor/sub-committee to take lead on liaising with the appropriate Authorities to monitor cause and effect and to consider options	3
9,10	Street lighting + individual household contribution to low level lighting	Majority agree “satisfactory” – (70%). However, 24% believe inadequate and 27% willing to contribute to low level lighting	Parish Council to nominate one Councillor/sub-committee to review as identified by geographic data in the questionnaire returns	3
11	20mph Speed limit	Strong support for 20mph limit [74%]	Parish Council to nominate one Councillor/sub-committee to take lead on liaising with the appropriate Authorities to develop an appropriate strategy	1
12	Pedestrian crossing on main road	Strong support for the provision of a pedestrian crossing on main road [74%]	Parish Council to nominate one Councillor/sub-committee to take lead on liaising with the appropriate Authorities.	1
13	Recycling	Majority satisfied [66%] with current recycling services	Parish Council to continue to monitor feedback in usual way	4
23	Community Police Beat Officer	Significant Support [95%] for such a scheme to be established	Parish Council to open up discussions with the appropriate Authority to consider options available	2
15, 16	Standard of street pavements + Routes for additional paved areas	Minority [9%] agree “good”, majority [65%] agree “reasonable”, 26% state “poor”	Parish Council to nominate one Councillor/sub-committee to review the “poor areas” as identified by geographic data in the questionnaire returns	3

<b>Question Number(s)</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Proposed Action/lead</b>	<b>Priority [1=highest 5=lowest]</b>
17,18,19	Environmental Services, drains + specific problem locations	In all specific areas, the majority are satisfied. However, in some cases (street drain cleaning), just in the majority. Also, there is significant dissatisfaction [89%] with the actual provision of street drains	Parish Council to nominate one Councillor/sub-committee to consider improvements that can be made: in particular street drain cleaning, provision of street drains, litter picking and street cleaning, all of which are outsourced services	2
22	Emergency Services	Out of the relatively low level of response [total of 136], 74% reported "satisfied" but 26% reported "not satisfied". More data will be required to provide meaningful feedback to the appropriate Authorities involved	Parish Council to : 1. Consider if any practical system can be set up to gather retrospective, detailed information 2. Consider setting up a real time reporting system through the Parish Clerk for future "dissatisfaction" for use for feedback as appropriate	2
26	Designated Cycle Routes	Good support [66%] for the establishment of 'designated cycle routes'	Parish Council to nominate one Councillor/sub-committee to consider options	3
21	Crime	All of the specific headings received low "problem" levels of response	Letter(s) to be prepared on behalf of the Parish Council to be sent to the appropriate Authorities involved to include the relevant data and asking for their reaction	2
30	Village "Gateway"	Good support [68%] for the establishment of "village gateways"	Parish Council to nominate one Councillor/sub-committee to take lead on liaising with the appropriate Authorities to develop an appropriate strategy	3
31	Open Spaces	Significant support for the "value" of the village greens [88%]	Parish Council to take note and to ensure that all necessary legal measures have been taken to ensure that the areas involved are protected in perpetuity	3
24	Anti-Social Behaviour	In all headings covered, the majority reported "not a problem". Drug Abuse was the highest 150 "yes", 243 "no"	Letter(s) to be prepared on behalf of the Parish Council to be sent to the appropriate Authorities involved to include the relevant data and asking for their reaction	2

<b>Question Number(s)</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Proposed Action/lead</b>	<b>Priority [1=highest 5=lowest]</b>
96	Local Jobs to be advertised in the Village	Strong support [73%] for such a facility	Parish Council to nominate one Councillor/ sub-committee to consider improvements that could be made to provide additional facilities	2
32	Village Green Maintenance	Strong support that the maintenance is adequate [95%]	Parish Council to take note and to pass the information on to its contractor(s) for information	2
27, 28	Maintenance, general condition & signage of footpaths	Significant majority [60% - 78%] "satisfied"	Letter to be prepared on behalf of the Parish Council to be sent to the appropriate Authority to include the relevant data and asking for their reaction	3
43,44,45, 46, 47,48,49, 50,51,52,53, 54,55	Housing & allied information	The housing data is complex in its range & depth. It has been separately analysed in conjunction with the WRCC Housing Enabler and separately reported on. The data reinforced the previous work that had identified the need for additional 'Social Housing' as well as providing new data for additional 'Local Needs Housing'	Parish Council to confirm the nomination of one Councillor/sub-committee to take the lead to move the business forward in conjunction with the Rural Housing Enabler, the District Councillor and SDC Officers	1
92	Willingness to provide e-mail address to Parish Council	66% 'no', 34% 'yes'	Parish Council to develop "opt in" e-mail lists for distribution of Parish Council information, [such as 'minutes of meetings'], to be offered through the Parish Magazine, etc	2
95	Finding out what goes on in the Village	Parish Magazine top at 24%, followed by 'word of mouth' at 23%	Parish Council to examine all of the data and discuss ways by which 'communications' may be improved in the future	2

## SECTION 2 – Actions to be considered by Steering Group

Question Number(s)	Category	Comments	Proposed Action/lead	Priority [1=highest 5=lowest]
25	Footpaths & Towpaths	basic data	Publish as, & when, appropriate	4
33	Rental of Allotments	Significant interest expressed in renting an allotment [47] compared with the handful currently rented	Allotment group to be encouraged to advertise the details of 'how to rent an allotment' to ensure everyone who indicated the interest is provided with the appropriate information	2
29	Tree planting : TPOs	Even split from respondents	Publish as, & when, appropriate	4
35	Initiatives for the provision of more natural wildlife habitats	Very strong support for the provision of more natural wildlife habitats [81%]	To be included in Q34 review	2
36	Village Conservation Area(s)	Strong support for the provision of Village Conservation Area(s) [74%]	To be included in Q34 review	2
37	Protection of landscape features	Very strong support for the protection of landscape features [81%]	To be included in Q34 review	2
38	Protected landscape 'views'		To be included in Q34 review	2
39	Preservation of historical features		To be included in Q34 review	2
40	Possible features to be restored	Good numerical support for virtually all features mentioned	To be included in Q34 review	2
41	Promotion of Tourism	Almost split 50 :50	Parish Council/District Councillor to keep under review for 'relevant' promotional activity	4
42	More information for visitors	Majority in favour [60%] to support this initiative	To be considered with Q41	4
56, 57	Clubs & Events + Evening Classes	Reasonable support for the setting up of several new recreational sports/club activities + new learning activities in the village	The data to be published/ advertised throughout the village asking for people to come forward to the Parish Council with ideas on how to set up appropriate organisations with an outline of support/accommodation that may be required	3

<b>Question Number(s)</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Proposed Action/lead</b>	<b>Priority [1=highest 5=lowest]</b>
58	Request for further information	Low level of need for further information on such activities as mobile library, neighbourhood watch & allotments	Data to be passed on to the appropriate 'activity owner' to assist them with future promotion	3
59, 60	New facilities in the multisport area + Support offered for maintenance	Good numerical support various improvements/new facilities in the multisport area, but low level of support offered for maintenance	Data to be passed on to 'Sport for Napton' to assist them with future developments	2
61	Preservation of the Old School Building	Good support [78%] in favour of preservation, if a financially viable proposition can be found	Data to be passed on to the Old School Trustees, district Councillor and the Parish Council for consideration in their future deliberations	2
62	Potential community projects in the Old School Building	A range of support in favour (and some against) various possible uses of the Old School Building, if a financially viable proposition can be found	Data to be passed on to the Old School Trustees, District Councillor and the Parish Council for consideration in their future deliberations	2
63	Change of use of Old School Building to office accommodation	Marginal support [52%] for this action, if possible	Data to be passed on to the Old School Trustees, District Councillor and the Parish Council for consideration in their future deliberations	2
64	'Listing' of the 'Girl's School' as part of the 'Old School Building'	Reasonable support for this to happen [65%]	Data to be passed on to the Old School Trustees, District Councillor and the Parish Council for consideration in their future deliberations	2
65	How did you come to live in the Parish?	basic data	Publish as, & when, appropriate	4
66	How long have you lived in the Parish?	basic data [may help with housing data analysis]	Publish as, & when, appropriate	4
67	Important factors about living in Napton?	[may help with housing data analysis]	Publish as, & when, appropriate	4
68	Location of doctor's surgery	No action required – basic data [may help transport arguments?]	Publish as, & when, appropriate	4

<b>Question Number(s)</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Proposed Action/lead</b>	<b>Priority [1=highest 5=lowest]</b>
69	Satisfaction with 'local health Services'	All Services scored a high satisfaction level except some 'problems' identified with the 'out of hours medical service'	Data to be made available to the appropriate local service providers for their consideration in future action to improve satisfaction levels	2
70	Local Health needs currently not addressed		Data to be made available to the appropriate local service providers for their consideration in future action to improve local provision	2
71	Registered blind, disabled or partially sighted	basic data	Data to be made available (if appropriate) to local service providers/planners for their consideration in future action to improve local provision	1
72, 73	Availability & potential improvements to childcare options	Very high support for increasing the level of provision in the area [97%]	Data to be made available (if appropriate) to local service providers & planners for their consideration for the future	1
74, 75, 76	Use of the Village Shop + Post Office + Vehicle Road License renewal at PO	Range of useful data which expresses good support for the facilities available	Data to be made available to the owners of the Village Shop, the District Councillor and the Parish Council for consideration for any future support required	1
77	Support for Local Business	Strong Support for Local Business expressed [84%]	Publicise this information to re-enforce the benefits of 'shopping local' when appropriate	2
78	Additional information on services & products	Majority of respondents [65%] replied 'no'	n/a	n/a
79, 80, 81, 82, 83	Bus Service	Significant percentage [84%] reported 'never use bus service'. 13% reported 'occasional use', etc	Data to be made available to local service providers & planners for their consideration for the future	1
84	Are you at present employed?	No action required – basic data	Data to be made available to District Council, Parish Council & any appropriate service providers & planners for their consideration for the future	1



<b>Question Number(s)</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Proposed Action/lead</b>	<b>Priority [1=highest 5=lowest]</b>
85	Where is your main place of work?	basic data	Data to be made available to District Council, Parish Council & any appropriate service providers	1
86, 87, 88	Employment	basic data	Data to be made available to District Council, Parish Council & any appropriate service providers & planners for their consideration for the future. [Also, relate to housing plans and parking challenges].	1
89, 90, 91	Home computers & the internet	Significant number recorded in homes [82%] basic data	n/a	n/a
93, 94	Parish Magazine	80% stated that they have a subscription	Data to be made available to Parish Magazine Editor	2
97, 98, 99	Religion	Very strong claim of awareness [91%]	Data to be made available to the Vicar (and any other appropriate group or individual)	2
100, 101, 102	St Lawrence Church (as a building) & its upkeep	Historical Building [23%] with a range of other responses downwards	Data to be made available to the Vicar (and any other appropriate group or individual) [Q97]	2
103, 104, 105, 106	Awareness of other organisations run by the Church in the Community	Good response indicating most respondents are aware of other activities	Data to be made available to the Vicar (and any other appropriate group or individual) [Q97]	2
107, 108	Local Government publicising its activity & accessibility	Parish – 20% - 85% District – 6% - 72% County – 5% - 42% Plus other information in between	Data to be made available to Parish Council, District Councillor & County Councillor for comment and a strategy for improving information dissemination	2
109	Importance of a modern Village Hall	Good support for having one [78%]	Data to be made available to Parish Council, District Councillor and Village Hall Management Committee	1
110	Usage of Village Hall	basic data	Data to be made available to Parish Council, District Councillor and Village Hall Management Committee [Q110]	1

<b>Question Number(s)</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Proposed Action/lead</b>	<b>Priority [1=highest 5=lowest]</b>
111	Parish Council to provide additional capital funding towards new Village Hall	Strong support for this initiative [81%]	Data to be made available to Parish Council, District Councillor and Village Hall Management Committee [Q110]	1
112	Willingness to help fund raising for a new Village Hall	Majority of respondents unwilling to help [72%]	Data to be made available to Parish Council, District Councillor and Village Hall Management Committee [Q110]	1
113	Availability of professional skills to help Village Hall Committee	Large majority not willing to offer to help [91%]	Data to be made available to Parish Council, District Councillor and Village Hall Management Committee [Q110]	1
114	Any other points to be taken into account concerning a new or refurbished Village Hall		Data to be made available to Parish Council, District Councillor and Village Hall Management Committee [Q110]	1
1, 2	Household/personal information	basic data	Publish as, & when, appropriate	4
14	Purchase of processed compost	Majority not interested [65%] in purchase option	However, 35% would be interested. DC to be asked to make further enquiries	3

## APPENDIX

With thanks to:

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David Barfield  
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Source data is available upon request. Please contact the Napton Parish Council clerk for further details.

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*Produced on behalf of Napton Parish Council  
March 2007*

An Aerial View of the centre of the village



The canal in days past!

