



# ***VISION4WELLESBOURNE***

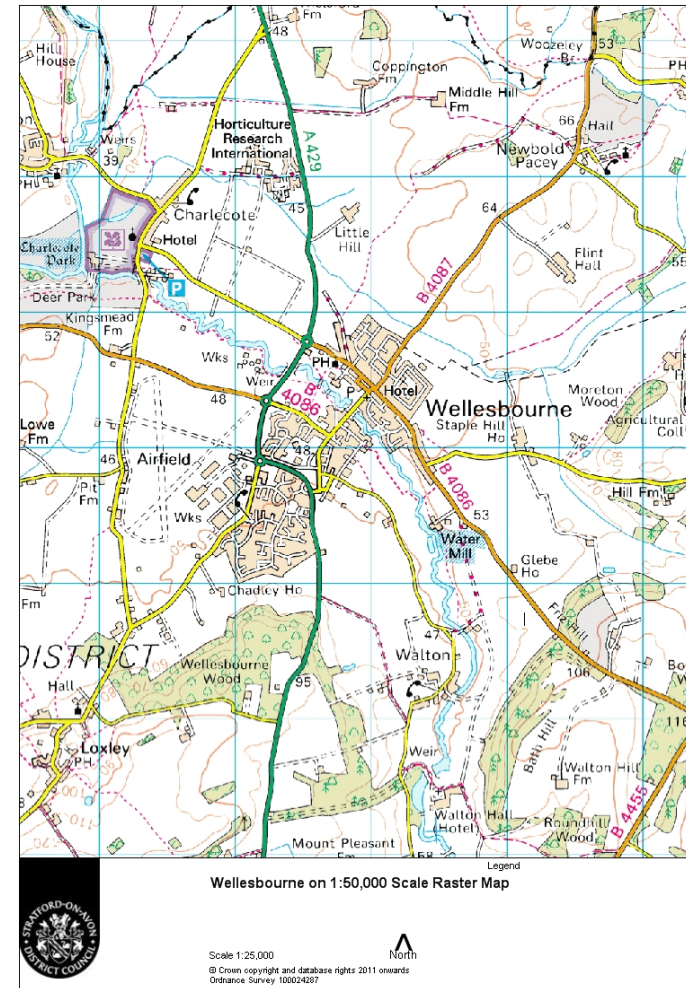
The Wellesbourne and Walton Parish Plan 2011

## Wellesbourne 2011

This Parish Plan identifies the key actions resulting from the *Your Vision 4 Wellesbourne* Project that took place during 2010.

The Plan covers the Actions and Information Gathering as well as reviewing the issues of concern.

In the Quality of Life report produced by the Warwickshire Observatory/Warwickshire County Council in 2009, Wellesbourne scored nearly 90% on "Satisfaction with your neighbourhood". Local people clearly value Wellesbourne and want to see this continue into the future.



## Highlights and Introduction

Wellesbourne and Walton combine to make up one of the larger Main Rural Settlements in the district being comparable in size to Southam, Alcester and Studley and larger than Shipston, Bidford and Kineton. It has grown more rapidly than the average for its peer group, but it lacks the community infrastructure. This problem is not new, and the Parish Council has made attempts to remedy the imbalance over a number of years. In particular, they have opposed the idea of any housing growth until we have the community facilities appropriate to a settlement of this size.

Despite the shortcomings of community facilities – which we will consider in the following sections – the residents of Wellesbourne and Walton are an active community and strongly appreciate the unusual combination of a village atmosphere but good shops and services. Our consultation process showed positive views on many things, but also made very clear what we lack.

Now, our already inadequate community facilities are under threat. It will therefore come as no surprise that these are the main focus of this document.

This plan has been developed during 2010-2011 by means of 2 on-line surveys (one preliminary and one more detailed as the final information gathering exercise, including a paper version as well on-line) and public events at the School and Village Hall.



A mix of styles and sizes characterises the houses



## *The Highest Priorities: Two Key Issues facing Wellesbourne*

The Sports Club is boarded up; and the future of the Village Hall with its meeting rooms and associated car park, and the adjacent Youth Club building are all uncertain.

Long before these recent problems arose, it was widely recognised that Wellesbourne had poor community and recreational facilities. In comparison with other major settlements, Wellesbourne is under-provided and under-funded. This was acknowledged in the recent Draft Core Strategy analysis by SDC, and had been recognised at an earlier point in the past decade when the Dene Valley Leisure Centre was tantalisingly close to getting the go-ahead before funding was withdrawn.

**It is of paramount importance that the Parish Plan addresses these issues first. Our survey data supports this view.**

The intended actions, partners etc are summarised later, along with the rest of our hopes and aspirations, but because of the importance, the complexity, and interconnected nature of the Hall/Car Park/Sports Club issues, we think a brief background to each of these problem is essential.



Above: the Sports Club Below: The Village Hall



## *Sports and Community Building*

### *THE SPORTS CLUB/COMMUNITY BUILDING*

The Football Club went into receivership at the end of 2009 owing money mainly to Marston's brewery. The club building, which is on Parish land, has now been bought by WPC from the receiver, but the building remains boarded up awaiting a funded renovation plan together with a viable business strategy to ensure a secure and healthy future.

In the interim, there are no changing facilities or showers for football teams. Soccer players have a sharing arrangement with the nearby Cricket Club, but the Rugby players have temporarily decamped to Tiddington. It is important that all the soccer and rugby clubs get their facilities back as soon as possible. Realistically this could be for the 2012/13 season.

Development possibilities supported by the survey include having a fitness centre, and this probably offers the best chance of a stable income stream to subsidise youth facilities and community spaces (both seen as important). Moving the youth club to this site was widely seen as a good idea – not least because it could free up parking space in the centre of the village.

As well as new changing rooms, showers, multi-use space, and perhaps a cafe/occasional bar in the existing building, there was enthusiasm for an all-weather training pitch/multi use games area, tennis and badminton courts. The youth of the village have lobbied strongly for a skate board park.



Capital funding possibilities favoured in the survey include seeking a contribution from the developer of land to the East of Ettington Road (the Redhill Nursery site - see page 52), and SDC who are in talks with the Parish Council about reimbursing around £200K of expenses incurred on the Dene Valley project. Further funding possibilities include the Lottery (we have an expert advisor), and the building has a very large south facing roof which might well be suitable for renewable electricity funding.

Our survey showed that the community wanted the Parish to retain ownership, and would prefer to see it run on a not-for-profit basis. However we think it would be wrong to rule out leasing the building to a commercial fitness centre operator with conditions about the community facilities and benefits they would have to provide. This has the very obvious advantages of not requiring either capital or management expertise from WPC, and might be quicker.

## *Village Hall, Youth Club and Car Park*

The Village Hall (the Victorian school building), the Youth Club (temporary building) and the Car Park are on a single site in the heart of the village and belong to the Walton Estate. The Hall was leased at a peppercorn rent to the Village Hall Trust and is run by a volunteer management committee. The Youth Club building was leased to WCC. Both leases have expired.

The Car Park adjacent to these buildings is used by shoppers visiting the precinct (also the property of the Walton Estate), the library (now including a Sure Start centre), the doctors' surgery, as well as the bank, the chemist and other shops on the Kineton Road. This parking area is central to the economy of the village. Indeed, losing the car park would be a much bigger threat to the vitality of village life than losing the building.

The Hall itself is used for a range of activities including amateur dramatics, dance exercise, pre-school, children's parties, club/society meetings, and flower shows. It is one of several venues in the village, but there is no surplus capacity at peak times - to the extent that the Art Club and Pilates use the fire station and some University of the Third Age (U3A) meetings take place in neighbouring villages or in members' houses, with their main monthly meeting being held in the church.

The Parish Council has had preliminary conversations with the Walton Estate about buying the freehold to secure the Village Hall and car park (extended by demolishing the youth club building) for the future. Negotiations continue.



Pictured from top to bottom, The Village Hall, The Youth Centre and the car park between them.

## *The Priorities: Two Major Issues at Once*

It is unfortunate that these two big issues have come up at the same time, and that it is when money is tight to say the least. But neither of them can be avoided, or Wellesbourne risks becoming nothing more than a commuter dormitory.

The Parish needs to secure the future of the Car Park and the Village Hall.

And it needs a revitalised Sports and Community Centre with a reliable income stream. Youth facilities would move from the centre of the village to this revitalised facility.

In terms of timing, there is no impediment to getting on with the Sports and Community project immediately, and a plan should be agreed in the next few months.

It is important that concurrent with the renovation of the existing building, we plan how it should be used and managed in the short term, and how the site as a whole can be developed in the longer term as a leisure centre with sports hall, and perhaps a swimming pool. The Parish Council need to consider this as a matter of urgency.

Timing of the possible acquisition of the Car Park and Village Hall (whether by the Parish Council or a Social Enterprise/Trust) is outside our control, but as a community we need to be prepared to find ways of funding both projects in close succession.

These recommendations are fully in accordance with the wishes of the majority of respondents in our recent consultation process and surveys.



Above: the main sports field by the Clubhouse. Below the Dovehouse playing field



## What we think about Wellesbourne

### KEY POINTS FROM THE CONSULTATIONS

WHAT'S GOOD, WHAT WE VALUE	WHAT CONCERNS US
<p><b>Village atmosphere</b> Not a town but all day-to-day needs can be met locally</p> <p><b>Services available locally</b> Doctor, dentist, chemist, bank, Post Office, library, vet.</p> <p><b>Diversity of local independent shops</b> Butcher, baker, hardware, electrical, pet shop Convenience stores Large Co-op</p> <p><b>Sense of community and activities (for most age groups)</b></p> <p><b>Pre-school and primary education</b> Well regarded primary school Diversity of pre-school provision</p> <p><b>Natural environment</b> Green spaces Walks by the river Walks through the village</p>	<p><b>Too much development - becoming a town</b></p> <p><b>Lack of community rooms/halls for meetings/activities</b> Threat to future of Village Hall</p> <p><b>Lack of sports/fitness/leisure facilities</b> Future of Sports Club building</p> <p><b>Parking in the heart of the village</b> Uncertain future of Village Hall car park Uncertain future of precinct Parking problems at Bridge St and Newbold Rd.</p> <p><b>Nothing for young people/teenagers</b> Threat to already limited Youth Service Threat to Youth Club building</p> <p><b>Danger of flooding</b> Failure to maintain improved protection</p> <p><b>HGVs coming through the village</b></p>



## THE TOP PRIORITIES

TOPIC	OBJECTIVE	STRATEGY/MEANS	PARTNERS	POSSIBLE FUNDING	TIMING
<b>SPORTS CLUB/ COMMUNITY BUILDING</b>	Refurbish and relaunch on financially viable basis Possibly as sports, fitness and community centre including youth facilities.	Draft business plan with help from experts in public and private sector Seek capital funding	Community Enterprise Co./WPC, SDC Developer/Local businesses	SDC (ex Dene Valley) Lottery Precept Developer/s 106 Local businesses	Plan by Oct '11 Start Phase 1 April '12 Start Phase 2 April '14
<b>VILLAGE HALL &amp; CAR PARK</b>	Secure future of Village Hall and car park. Latter is vital to future of local shops/ services in heart of village	Maintain aspiration to buy from current owner. Provide youth facilities at Sports Club and demolish youth club to improve parking	WPC/Village Hall Trust	Grant/PWLB loan Possible future developer via s.106	Uncertain
<b>YOUTH FACILITIES</b>	Deal with shortage of spaces/ activities for teenagers.  Overcome the added problem of WCC cuts to youth service	Provide space/youth cafe in Sports/Community building and outdoor activities including skatepark	Club building etc as above Youth work volunteers.  Possibility of youth worker shared with other villages	As above  Charity/Housing Ass. Precept	Plan by Oct '11 Start April '12
<b>FLOOD PROTECTION</b>	<b><u>Newbold Rd brook -</u></b> Avoid flooding of 118 houses at North end of village	Ensure proposed work on two culverts is carried out this year. Agree future maintenance plan	Landowners/SDC/WCC WCC Flood Prevention Officer	Landowners/SDC/WCC	2011 Ongoing
	<b><u>River Dene</u></b> Avoid prolonged flooding of 70 houses to depths of up to 1metre. Ensure new defences are not allowed to deteriorate	Obtain full specification of recently completed works including monitoring plan. Appoint local observers to liaise with WPC/EA	Environment Agency/WPC	None in short term EA in medium term	Spec by Mar '11  Ongoing

## PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT, SUSTAINABILITY, ECOLOGY

TOPIC	OBJECTIVE	STRATEGY/MEANS	PARTNERS	FUNDING	TIMING	PRIORITY
<b>FLOOD PROTECTION</b>		<b>SEE TOP PRIORITY PAGE</b>				<b>TOP</b>
Housing and built environment	Retain village character	Updated Village Design Statement accompanies this plan. Liaise with SDC on Housing Needs	WPC/SDC	n/a	Now	High
	Consider accepting some development provided it includes affordable housing, and brings significant community benefits - eg Sports Club	Survey PC to engage with SDC re s.106 agreements	SDC	None	Now	High
			Developers/SDC	None	Now	High
Natural environment	Keep Dog Close green	Part of Design Statement	SDC Planning	None	Ongoing	High
	Retain green corridor on both sides of river Dene (see map)	Resist all building near river	SDC Planning	None	Ongoing	High
	Improve riverside walks		WPC			
	Clarify Rights of Way Promote usage of footpaths	Resolve SD311 path question Monitor condition & signage Work with adjacent parishes	WCC/Open Spaces Society/ Wag walkers/U3A walkers/ Sustainability West Mids	None None	Ongoing Ongoing	
Allotments	1. Secure future of existing 2. Seek additional plots to reduce 5 year waiting list	WPC to secure by using appropriate means	Allotment Association, Diocese of Coventry WPC	Precept/ Grants	2012	High
Sustainability	Carbon footprint reduction	Encourage walking/cycling to school/shops	School/WCC	None	Ongoing	
		Work with agencies on energy saving for houses Photovoltaics on sports club roof, Chedham's Yard and others Continue tree planting	SDC Planning Orbit Tree wardens/WiB/WCC	None to Parish		Ongoing
Cleanliness	Reduce dog fouling	Monitor effect of new signs Fence play area if necessary	SDC/dog warden WPC		Ongoing	High
	Esp. In child play areas and footways near shops	Audit locations of bins, relocate for max coverage	WPC SDC	Precept	2012 2011	High
Pollution in r. Dene	Permanent solution to an unpleasant problem made worse by recent EA works	Locate source of pollution and fix (Concurrent with drain repairs in Bridge Street)	Environment Agency, WCC Severn Trent	None to parish	Now	High

## TRANSPORT, TRAFFIC, PARKING, CYCLING, WALKING

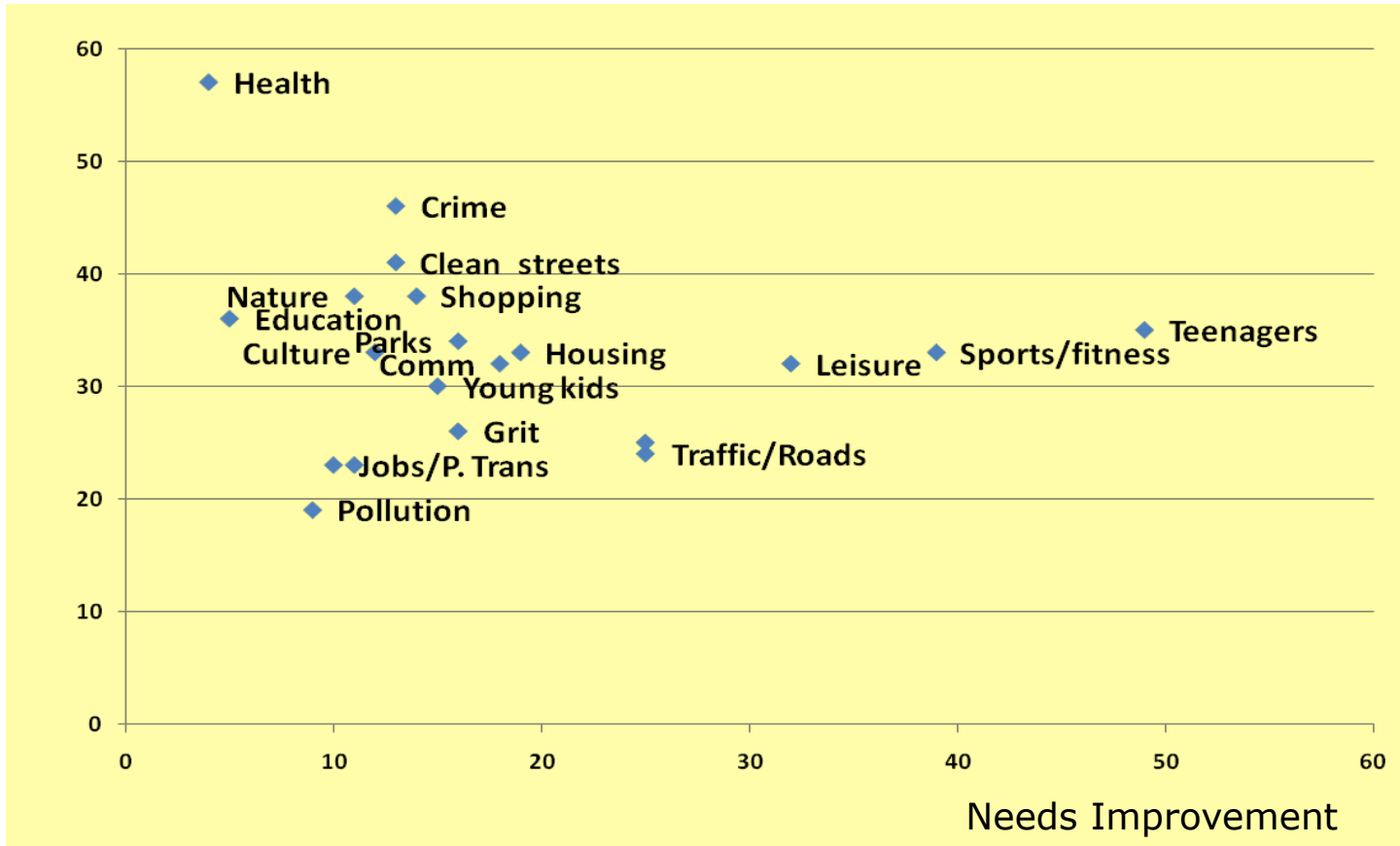
TOPIC	OBJECTIVE	STRATEGY/MEANS	PARTNERS	FUNDING	TIMING	PRIORITY
PARKING FOR SHOPS/BANK/ LIBRARY/DOCTORS' etc	SEE TOP PRIORITY PAGE					TOP
Speeding traffic	Reinforce message of the recent calming measures	Continued deployment of "our" speed gun	Police/PCSOs Volunteers	None	Ongoing	High
HGVs on Newbold Rd Kineton Rd, Warwick Rd	Reduce/eliminate	Change signage from M40 to Distribution Park	WCC/Highways Agency			High
HGVs on Loxley Rd/ Dovehouse Drive	Eliminate	Improve signs at roundabout Get mapping/satnav correction	WCC/Workman LLP		2011	High
HGVs delivering to shops	Reduce double parking dangers	Timed deliveries	OneStop/Logistics Cos	None	2011	
Traffic using Walton Rd instead of Jubilee Dr.	Reduce no. of cars Eliminate coaches/HGVs	New sign at top of Walton Rd Brown signs for Watermill to be changed to Hotel	WCC/Walton Hall Hotel WCC/Walton Hall Hotel		2011 2011	
Winter gritting- Walton Rd	Safety	Get onto grit schedule for 2011/12	WCC			High
Parking near shops in Warwick Rd/Bridge St/ Newbold Rd	Improve short stay availability for Post Office and shops	Consider voluntary short stay notices	WPC	£100s	2012	
Mountford Close - school traffic and parking	Improve safety, reduce level of resident complaints	Continue active PCSO presence School Travel Plan	Police/WPC/WCC	None	Ongoing	High
Footpaths in the village eg Salmon's to Church, Kineton Rd to Jubilee Drive	Encourage walking to school/shops/services	Improve maintenance/clearance of weeds etc	WCC/WPC/Volunteers	Minimal	Ongoing	
Buses	Carbon/congestion saving	Help improve local communication of routes and times	WPC/websites/library WCC/Stagecoach	Minimal	Ongoing	
Market traffic	Avoid gridlock on busy days	Police/PCSOs on busiest days Improved signage Consider yellow hatching on roundabouts	Police,WCC, Platts  WCC	Minimal  Modest	Active & ongoing	High
Cycling to school/shops etc	Encourage	School travel plan, Website	School,WPC	None	Ongoing	

## PARISH COUNCIL, COMMUNITY, PARTICIPATION/VOLUNTEERING, PARTNERING

TOPIC	OBJECTIVE	STRATEGY/MEANS	PARTNERS	FUNDING	TIMING	PRIORITY
YOUTH FACILITIES	RADICAL IMPROVEMENT	SEE TOP PRIORITY PAGE				TOP
SPORTS CLUB	TOTAL REVAMP	SEE TOP PRIORITY PAGE				TOP
VILLAGE HALL	SECURE FUTURE	SEE TOP PRIORITY PAGE				TOP
Localism Bill/ agenda	Maximising benefits to the local community	Watching brief for now	WPC/SDC	None	Ongoing	High
WPC communications	More/better two way communication between PC and public. Stimulate dialogue	For discussion: email, print Professional website Recruit volunteers to distribute occasional newsletters	WPC	Minimal £2K?  £ 500pa	2011 2011	High High
Intra community communications	Better communications between (eg) clubs and the Public. Central venue booking?	Explore village e-discussion boards, e notice boards, e-Index of shops etc e-register of bookings Possible role for library or PC office	WPC/Clubs  Library	Minimal	2011/12	Medium
Volunteering	Get people involved Get things done at low cost New Parish Cllrs	Better communications to invite involvement	WPC/Charities Clubs/Business	None	Start 2011	Medium
Businesses/employers	Build relationships	Annual invitation to meeting with WPC	WPC/Business	Minimal	Ongoing from now	Low
Young people	More involvement in community	Volunteers for eg bulb/tree planting litter-picking etc	WiB	None	Ongoing	Medium
Library	Defend against cuts	Encourage use of services by all ages Widen appeal and range of activities	WPC/WCC	None	Urgent	Medium

## Quality of Life : Improve versus Importance

Importance Rating

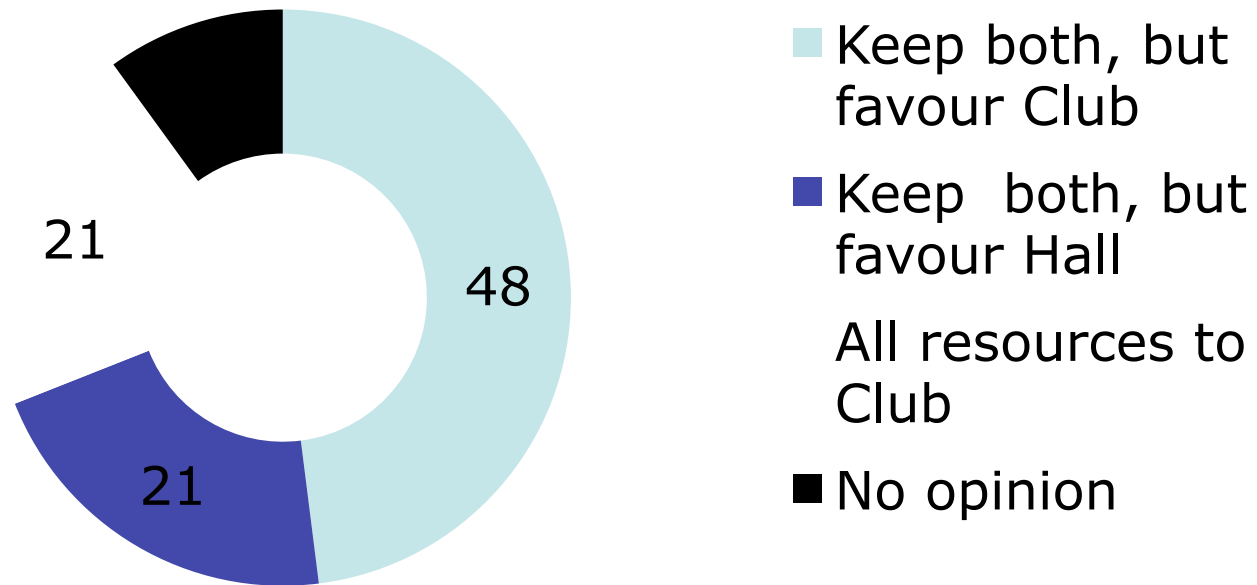


Examples from the Survey in 2010

**Notes**

Comm=Communications  
 P.Trans= Public Transport  
 Grit = Gritting

## Keep the Hall and the Club - 69%



# The Conservation Area

The Conservation Area in the Village centre highlights many of the points made in the survey about the village atmosphere



**Wellesbourne Conservation Area**

green open spaces within the village, which help to make the structure of the village clear and without which it would lose its rural character.

The village is divided into two parts by the river and each has an important core. Chestnut Square forms the heart of Wellesbourne Mountford. It is surrounded by some of the finest houses in the village. The attractive area centred on the Church of St. Peter forms the historic nucleus of Wellesbourne Hastings.

The Conservation Area was originally designated in 1969 and was expanded, with minor alterations, in 1993.

Wellesbourne is a fine settlement, displaying some exceptional townscape qualities. Although the village has expanded a great deal, especially this century, it is fortunate that the historic centre has retained much of its character. Meadows flank the course of the River Dene through the heart of the conservation area. They are important

Warm and brick is the dominant building material, with brick detailing to some of the Victorian properties.

There are many fine trees within the conservation area.

Chestnut Square is surrounded by some of the finest houses in the village.

Meadows flank the course of the River Dene through the heart of the conservation area.

The one-way system around Church and Wooded Streets, and the associated highway clutter, spoils the quality of this area.

the retention of old brick and stone boundary walls, iron encased eadings and picket fences enhances the character of the conservation area.

Where property boundaries define the limits of the Conservation Area, all features forming the boundary (gib walls, bridges, trees etc.) are assumed to be wholly within the Conservation Area.

Structures deemed listed by virtue of standing within the curtilage of Listed Buildings, and extensions to Listed Buildings, are not shown in red on the Conservation Area Plan. However, they are subject to Listed Building legislation and may have significance within the Conservation Area.

Designated Conservation Area Boundary

Listed Building

Not to Scale

STOUR TEAM Tel: 01789 260346

## Traffic Issues

Traffic to the Market on sunny Bank Holidays creates significant hold-ups on the A429 and delays all through traffic movements.

The recent upgrading of the Longbridge Island (J15 of the M40 plus the A46/A429) seems to have increased North-South through traffic on the A429.

The pictures show conditions on the A429 near the Market entrance during the morning of the May 2<sup>nd</sup> Bank Holiday 2011.

There are three roundabouts on the by-pass : these can help to hold down traffic speed, but increase the risk of queuing on peak market days.





## Traffic, Speeding and Parking

The main issues with traffic are:

- the presence of heavy lorries on the Kineton and Newbold Roads (which are in effect “rat-running” from the M40 or East-West)
- the traffic for the Market which, while generally better managed, can at Bank Holidays cause congestion on the A429 which backs up to J15 of the M40 and also blocks most local roads
- the speed of some road users which is being addressed by a speed chicane on Newbold Road (right, upper picture) and other automatic warning signs (right, lower picture near Constance Harris Close).

There are also particular “pinch points” with school traffic in Newbold Road/Mountford Close and with delivery vehicles at certain shops, where double parking can occur in order to effect deliveries which results in temporary disruption.

The parking in the village centre is limited and has not increased while the housing stock has. There is no provision for disabled spaces and these are certainly required. The survey investigated options for improving parking – the Youth Club site was approved by 67% (assuming the Youth Club relocates) and 57% were in favour of having short stay spaces (without pay and display).



## Flooding: 1998 and 2007

During July 2007, 155 mm of rain fell on Wellesbourne (3 times the long term average) causing the River Dene to rise rapidly to record levels on the 20<sup>th</sup> and resulting in damaging flooding around Chestnut Square, Church Walk and Chapel Street, as well as around Willow Drive and Mordaunt Road and the Newbold Road Brook area.

Severe flooding had also taken place at Easter in 1998. The flood defences built in response to that event were overwhelmed by the record levels of 2007.

The close proximity of such serious events naturally leads to the concerns highlighted in the survey and the importance of maintenance of the defences and close monitoring of levels for flood warning.

As some of the flooding was the result of excess surface water, the survey also underlines the concerns that any new developments must include provision for dealing with water run-off.

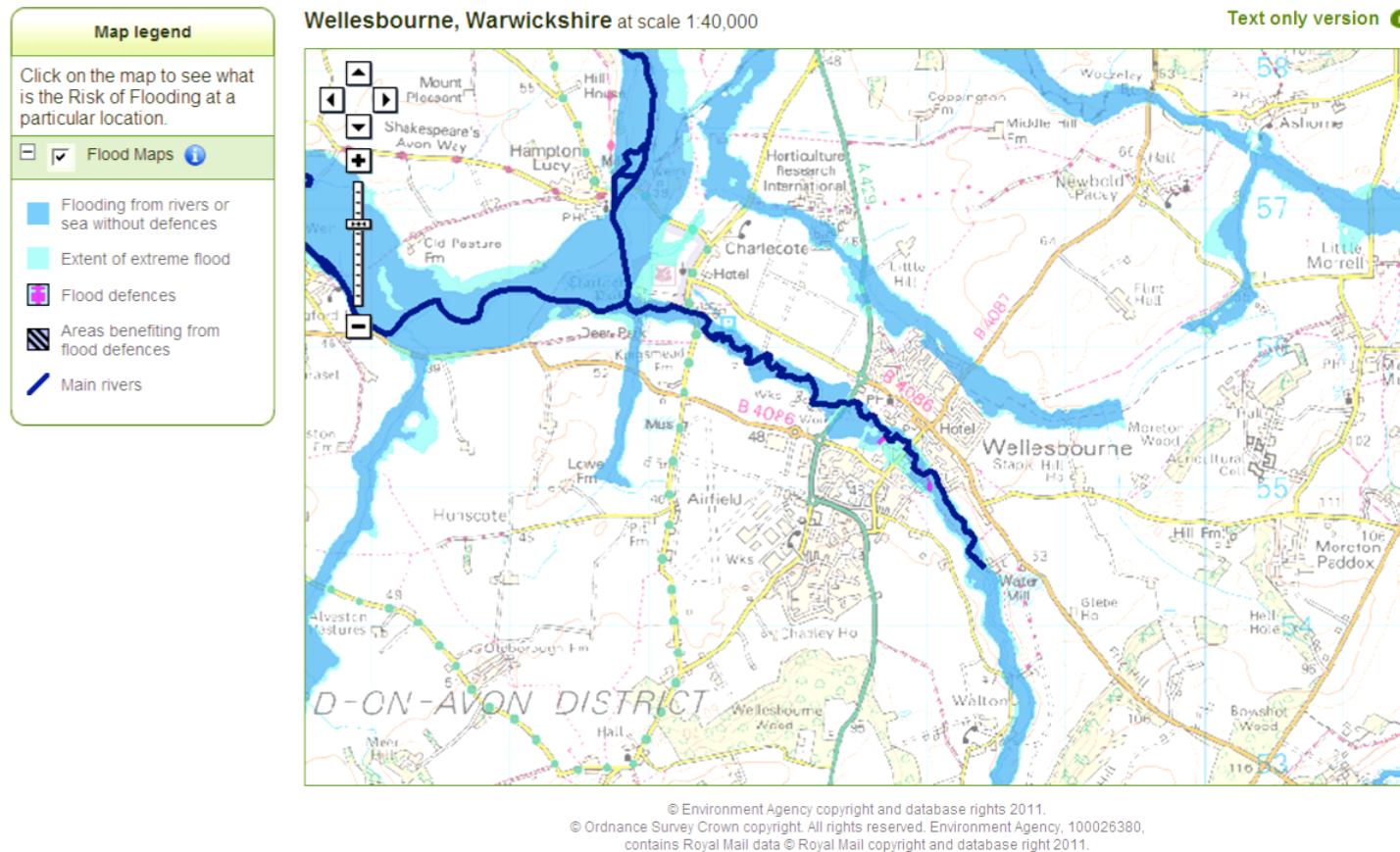


Above, Top: Chestnut Square

Above, Middle: the "tide mark" is still visible some 3 years later

Far left: the village is in effect split into two by flood water at Bridge Street

## The Flood Zone at Risk



The map, taken from the Environment Agency website, indicates the risk areas of the village. As a result of the 2007 Flooding, the Environment Agency Board allocated Government Grant in Aid in 2009 to progress flood defences

## *Environment/Pollution*

Below left: A “Wellesbourne in Bloom” planter, delivered by an active local group.

Below centre: Dog bins are located at key points (here, next to a play area) but dog fouling is still regarded as a problem in some areas of the village.

Upper right: a persistent source of pollution is seen by the bridge, due to be investigated when drains are overhauled.

Below right: some of the Flood Defences upgraded after the 2007 flooding (the River Dene is just to the left of this picture)



## Sustainability

The Household Waste Site in the village means that recycling can be promoted (as per the lower picture) without excessive vehicle mileage for local people.



## *Play Facilities and Areas*

The main designated play areas are beside the main sportsfield, as illustrated, and also in the Dovehouse estate.

The facilities for young people include the open shelter and basketball hoop: the skateboard ramp that was also at this location was damaged and subsequently removed.



## Local Culture: Chedham's Yard

Chedham's Yard is a former wheelwright's yard that had been left undisturbed for several years; the site includes a wealth of tools and other artefacts from this traditional trade.

A plan to develop the Yard for history and education won the BBC's "Restoration Village" Competition in 2006, and a full scale project is now in progress, with a target opening date in 2012.

The Project includes a new Teaching Centre and car parking will use the existing lane beside the Sports Field.



Left: Chedham's Yard in restoration

Above: the Access lane (for pedestrians only, car parking will be elsewhere)

## *Local Culture: Airfield Museum*

The Wellesbourne Wartime Museum, located at the Airfield, commemorates the history of the Airfield during World War 2 and after.

In addition, the Airfield hosts an Avro Vulcan, XM655, which is maintained in taxiing condition, for display each year at a "Wings and Wheels" event, which draws the public from far and wide.





## Local Businesses and Local Facilities

The much-valued local Shops are centred around the Precinct but, as in many other areas during the low economic activity, there have been extended periods with sites empty .

The Survey showed how important the local facilities are – including a Health Centre, Vet, Bank and so on: this scale of activity reduces the need to travel to nearby towns.



Right, Centre : The Precinct  
Below, Centre: The newly-enlarged/  
rebuilt Library  
Below, Right: The Medical Centre



## The Airfield

The Airfield site includes the Distribution Park as well as flying schools and aircraft maintenance facilities.

The Market (Saturdays and Bank Holidays) also operates on the site.

There is also a small aviation museum (see page 24)



## Local Activities and Localism

### *Social*

Active Communities Team \_  
Berry Dance Studio  
Civil Service Retirement Fellowship  
Conservative Club  
Dene Valley U3A (University of the Third Age)\_  
Friends Around 50 \_  
Mothers' Union\_  
Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes  
Royal British Legion\_  
St Peter's Church Flower Arrangers\_  
Slimming World\_  
Stratford and District Branch of Samaritans  
Wednesday Club\_  
Wellesbourne Ladies' Club\_  
Wellesbourne Sports Assn (Wellesbourne Football Club 1997)  
Wellesbourne Village Society and History Group  
Women's Institute  
Women's Methodist Fellowship

There are numerous active local societies and groups. These are two examples of listings under the headings of "Social" and "Youth", but there are many more.

### *Youth*

Bridge Street Toddler Group  
Bumps and Daisies\_  
Guides Association (Brownies, Rainbow Guides, Guides)  
Rhythm Time\_  
St Peter's Noughts to Fives Toddler Group  
St Peter's Tiddlers Pre-School\_  
St Peter's Youth Group (11+)  
Sunday School (Anglican)  
Sunday School (Methodist)  
Wellesbourne Pre-School  
Wellesbourne Scout Group  
Wellesbourne Summer Playscheme (5-11)  
Young Firefighters  
Youth Club (12-19)

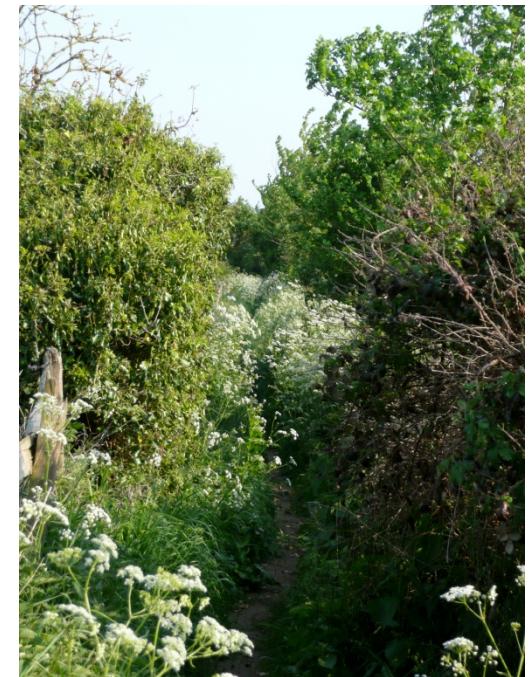
## The Countryside and Footpaths

The rural location is emphasised in these pictures – the dividing line between the two halves of the village (see Notes page) creates a natural “green” corridor.

Very few roads in the area have pavements, which can limit opportunities for walking. It is therefore important that footpaths are maintained and signed.



Views of paths and walks in the area: a footpath is shown in the picture, right



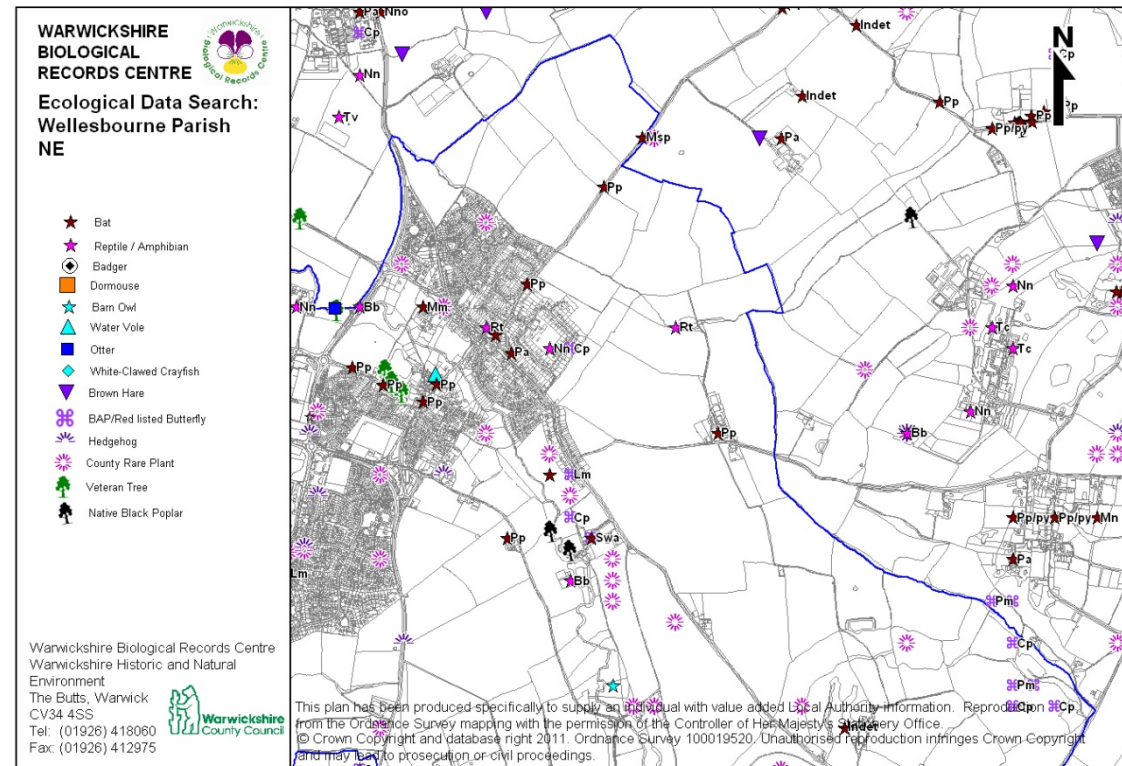
# Biodiversity

A number of sites (aprox 13-14) have been identified as potential Local Wildlife Sites (pLWS).

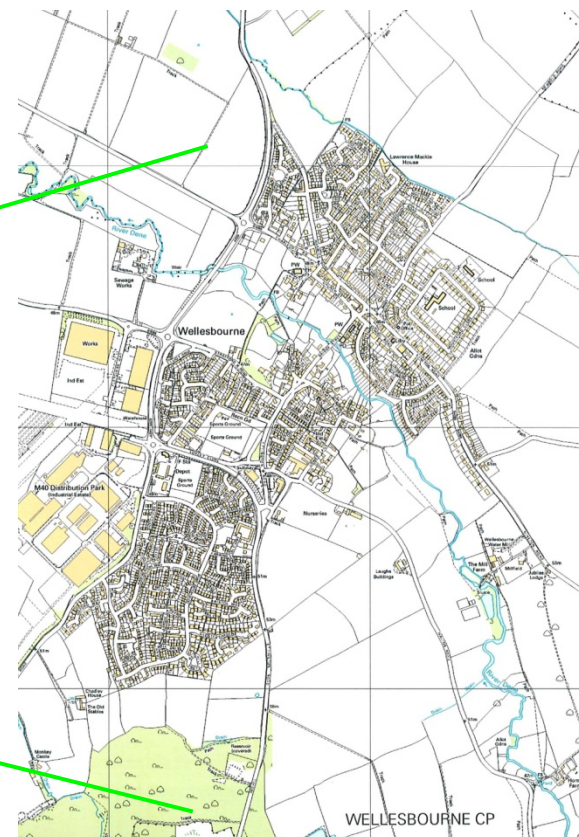
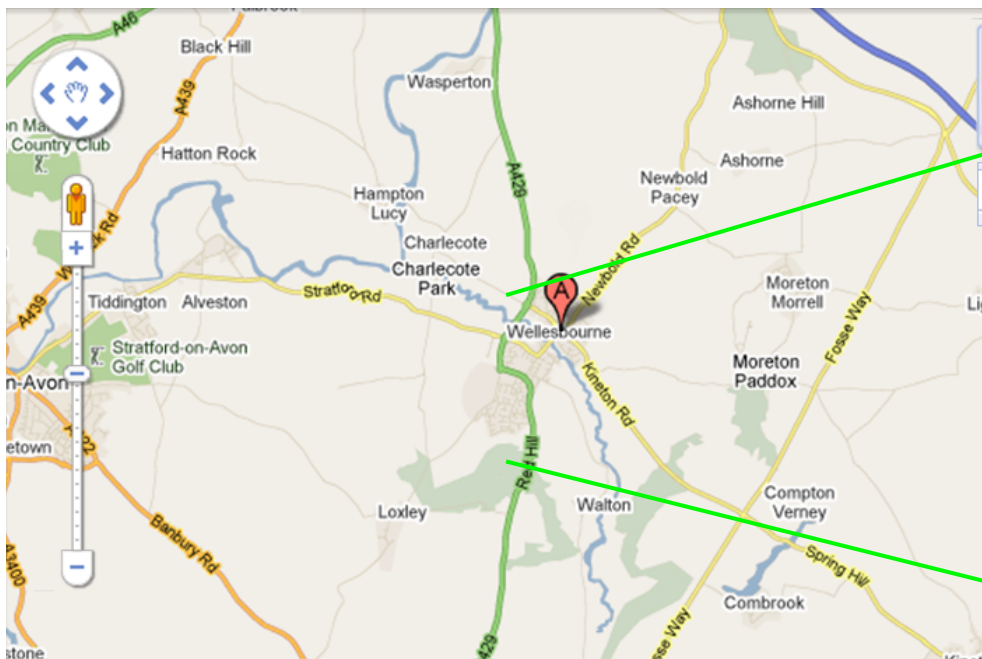
These include Wellesbourne Wood, Red Hill Wood, Charlecote Park, Walton Hall Grounds, Walton Wood, Bath Hill Wood, the River Dene.

The map is an example of the work done to identify species' (fauna and flora) locations.

Some of the sites are identified as likely remnants of the Arden Forest and so very long established (the Fosse Way being the Roman Road that marked the Eastern edge of the forest).



## Some Notes about Wellesbourne and Walton



Wellesbourne is a village substantial enough to qualify as a small town, with an estimated population of 6400. Historically comprising 2 separate communities<sup>[1]</sup> either side of the River Deane, the addition of the large Dovehouse Estate to the South in the early 1980's created in effect a third centre while new housing to the North along the Old Warwick Road has further stretched the area covered by the village to a length of over 2.5 miles. Such a distance tends to increase car usage within the village.

The village is by-passed by the A429 to the West with a series of 3 roundabouts providing local access. In recent years, there has been an expansion of light industrial and warehouse units to the West of the A429, and more recent housing development has tended to fill in space to the East of the A429.

<sup>[1]</sup> Wellesbourne Hastings and Wellesbourne Mountford

## *Some Notes cont'd*

The village features a Conservation Area centred on Chestnut Square (see right). Historical associations include the nearby Battle of Edgehill (1642), and in 1872 the work of local man Joseph Arch led to the foundation of what became the National Agricultural Labourers' Union (he spoke to an open-air meeting at this site, right, top)



The nearby hamlet of Walton also evolved from two communities, Walton d'Eiville and Walton Mauduit. The latter has been uninhabited for many years and is now covered by agricultural land.



## Methodology: How the Plan was Developed

In the Autumn of 2009, the Parish Council decided that a Parish Plan was a priority.

A notice in the *Wellesbourne and Walton News* in January 2010 asking for volunteers produced a disappointing response.

It was therefore decided to stimulate interest by conducting an online pilot survey using the SDC's Snap survey package. This was publicised by a flyer through every letterbox: there was a paper option for those without an online PC. The response was 605 completed questionnaires, and the results were presented at the Annual Parish Meeting in April 2010.

As well as asking questions about what we thought were the key issues facing the community, we asked people if they would like to be contacted again, and whether they would be willing to serve on a Parish Plan Task Force. Some 70 volunteers put their names forward, and were invited to a preliminary meeting. From this initial meeting, we selected a Steering Group of seven, divided the task into segments, and mapped out a programme of consultation. By this time, we had co-opted the help of David Morgan at VASA, who as the mentor and custodian of all SDC Parish Plans, was able to guide us in the right direction.



Gathering opinions at the School Fete, Summer 2010



## *Methodology: Learning what villagers want*

We used the pilot survey to inform and assist us we started up with unstructured drop in sessions and stalls at summer events. These were widely publicised with banners and billboards as well as announcements in the *Wellesbourne & Walton News*. We held a dedicated event in the Village Hall, another one in tandem with the Heart of England in Bloom judging, and stalls at the School Fete and the Walton Village Fete. These included an "Ideas raffle" where prizes could be won in exchange for suggestions on PostIt notes.

At the same time, we initiated an online discussion forum, and a Facebook forum for young people in which we were greatly helped by the young people themselves who actively promoted the site.

We also wrote to all the shops, businesses, the doctor's surgery etc to invite their participation either one-to-one or in a focus group.

And we wrote to all the clubs and societies listed in the Village Index to invite their participation particularly on the subject of venues for meetings.

By the end of the Summer, we had a huge amount of opinion and suggestions to sift through with a view to creating the definitive survey questionnaire.

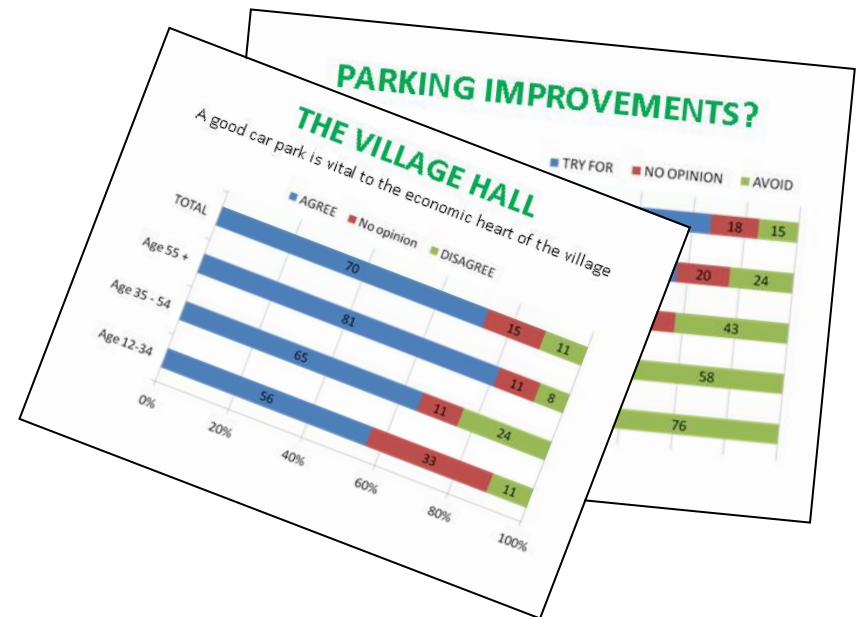
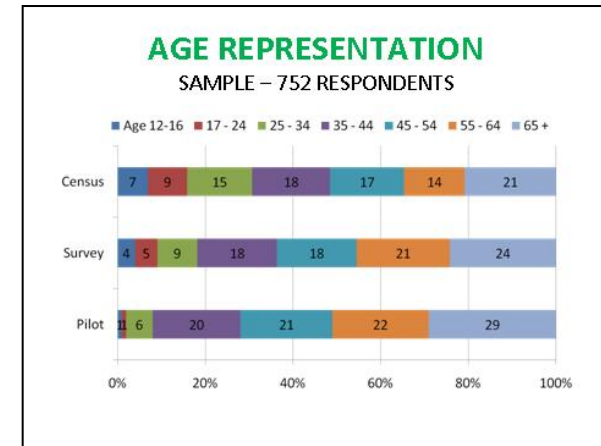


The Village Hall day-long event, Summer 2010

## The Main Survey Input and Results

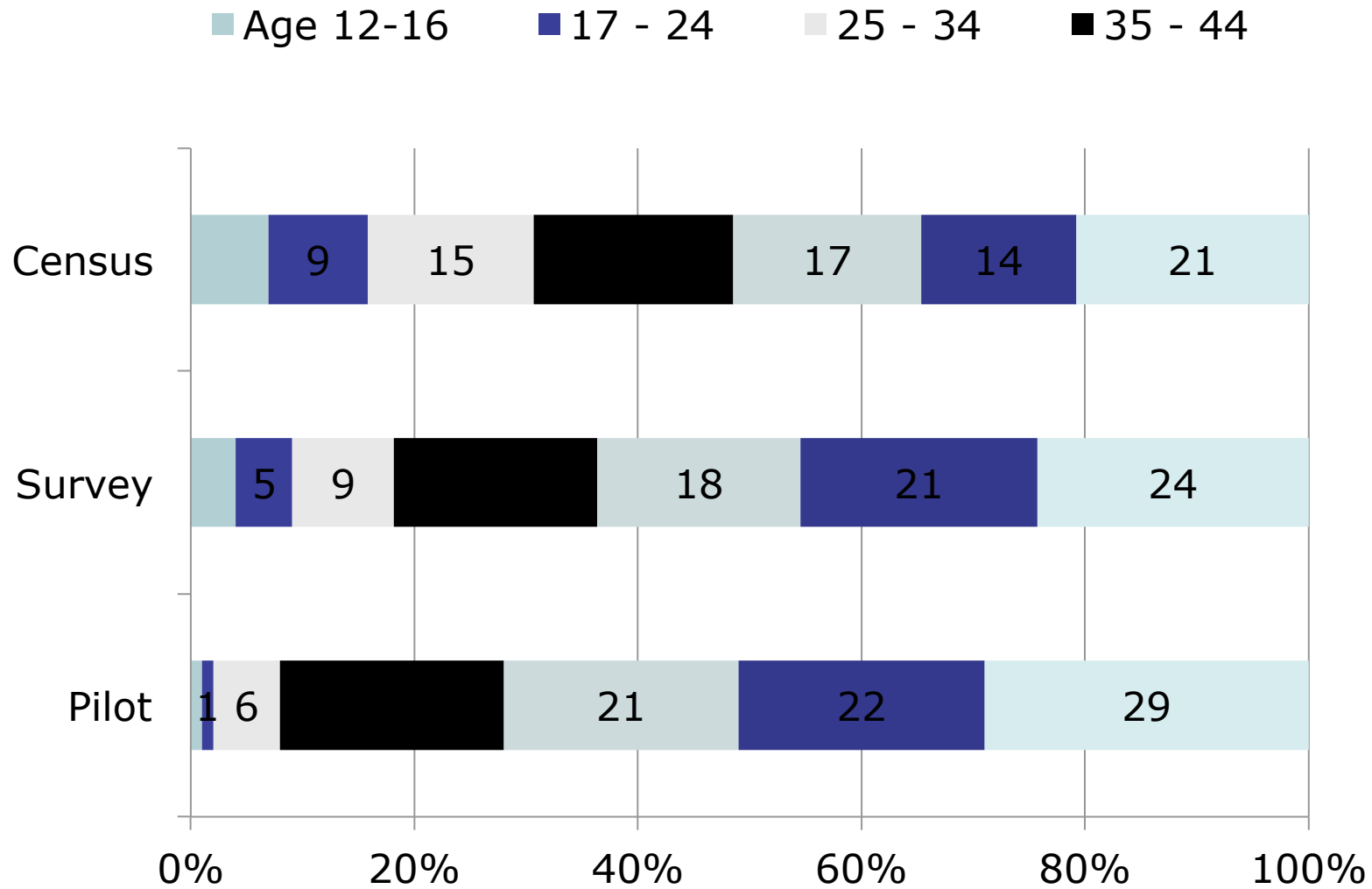
The main survey took place in October 2010. Again, it was mainly done online with a paper option for those who wanted it. There were banners, billboards, press announcements, and two leaflet drops a fortnight apart to every home. The latter stressed the need to hear from younger people because the pilot sample had been heavily skewed towards 50+. As a result of all this effort, we got a total of 752 respondents or about 16% of the adult population (10% is regarded as normal), and a much better representation of younger respondents (over double that of the pilot). The paper questionnaires were entered into the electronic database which was processed by the Survey Unit at SDC.

Examples from the survey are on the following pages.

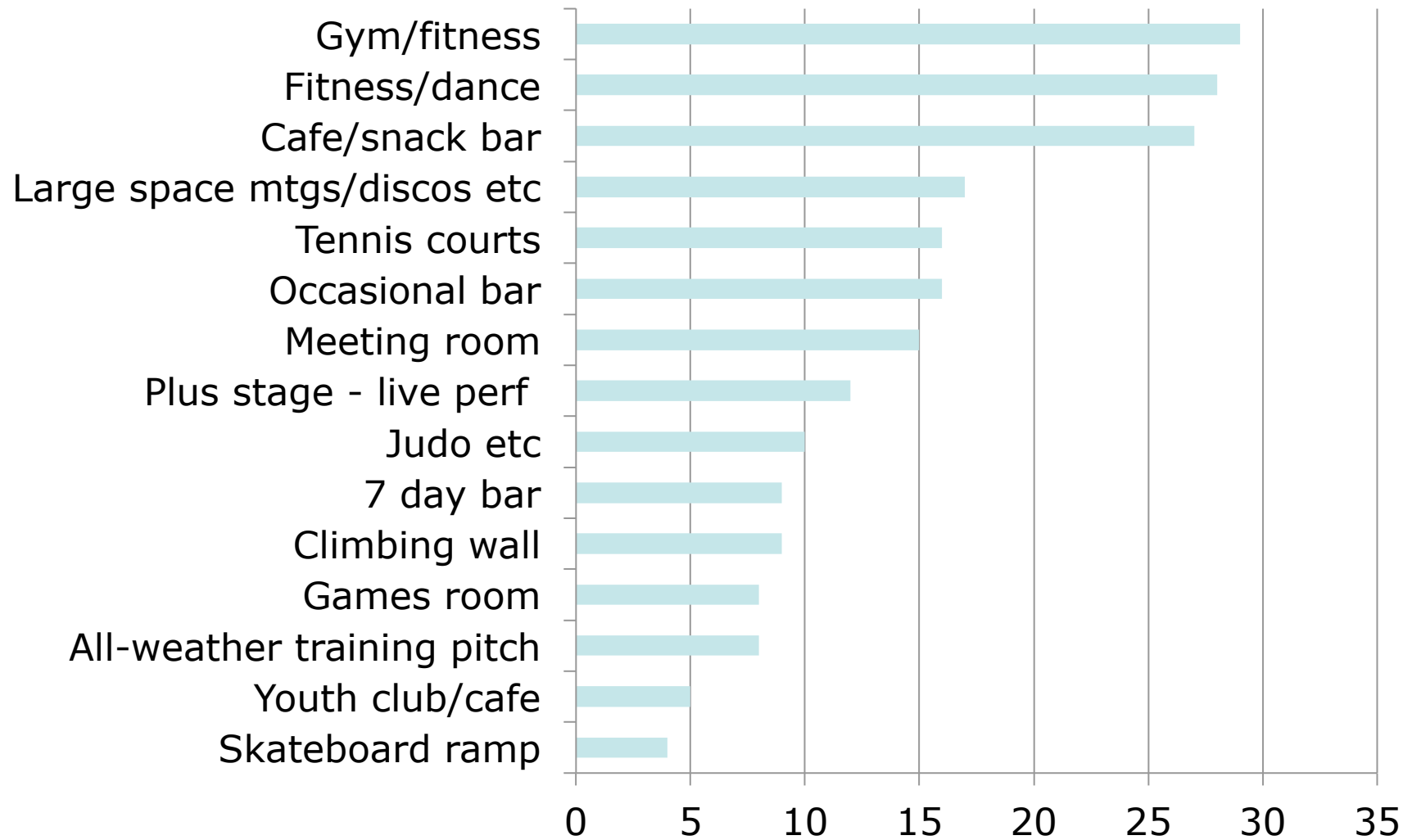


# Age Representation

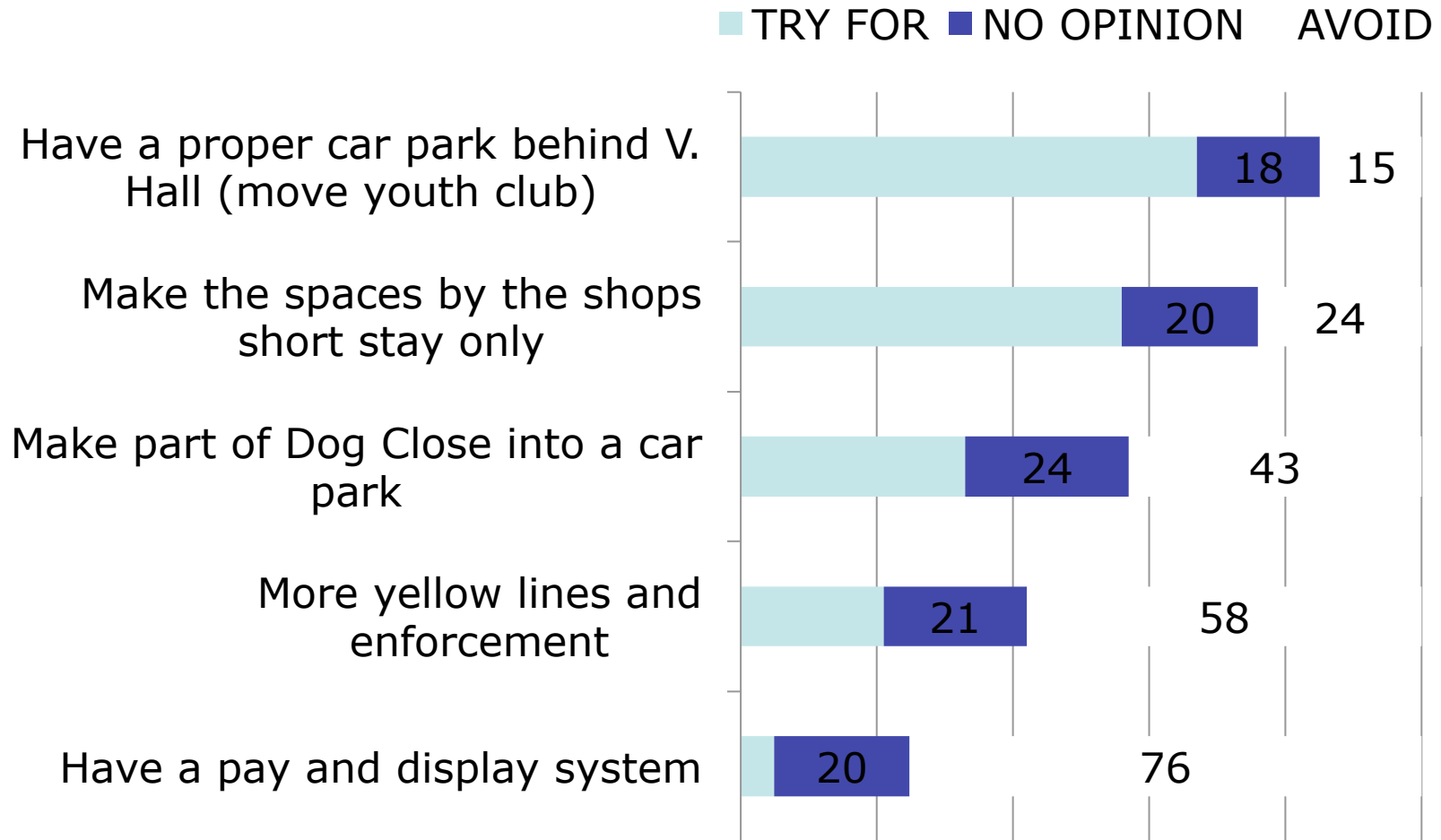
SAMPLE - 752 RESPONDENTS



*The Sports Club Building: What would You use?*



## Parking Improvements?



## The Team

Acknowledgements and thanks are due to:

### **The Parish Plan Steering Group:**

Tony Copeland, Andrew Palin, Anne Morton  
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### **The Parish Plan Task Force**

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### **And the people of Wellesbourne**



Some of the Team before the Open Day, Summer 2010

All copyrights for images and maps are acknowledged.



**Tony Copeland 1944 – 2011**

We would like to record our appreciation of the leadership, energy and drive of Wellesbourne Parish Councillor Tony Copeland who sadly died during the preparation of this document: this Plan is dedicated to his memory.

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