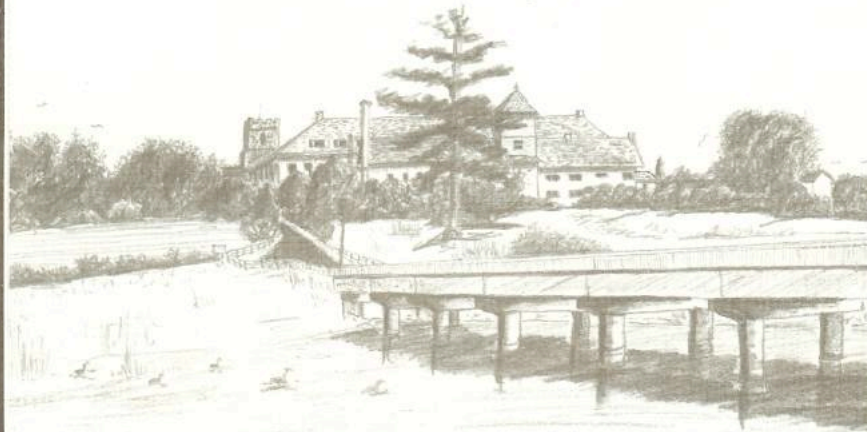


Tattingstone Parish Plan

Final Report January 2006

Your Village



your say

Supported by



Suffolk County Council



FOREWORDS



"I congratulate everyone who has contributed to this Parish Plan. It is an excellent initiative and helps to point the way forward for Tattingsstone. I hope that the village continues to flourish and to provide a healthy, lively and attractive environment for all the people and families who live here." Tim Yeo MP

"I would like to congratulate Rodney Chadburn and his team for the production of the Tattingsstone Village Plan. The publishing of this plan has been made possible by a lot of hard work over the past few months by his team. This, however, should be just the start. The village as a whole have been involved in giving their views about how they wish to see their village evolve over the next few years.

By working in partnership with the County & District Council and other agencies many of the targets identified within this plan will be brought to fruition. This plan will be an extremely useful tool in obtaining funding to enable the Parish Council and other organisations to complete a great many of the projects." Dave Wood



"I am pleased to be Chairman of Tattingsstone Parish Council at this time when our Parish Plan has been drawn up. I would like to thank Rodney Chadburn and the other members of the working group for completing this demanding project. The Parish Council will work with other village organisations with a view to prioritising and implementing the actions recommended in the report." Brandon Plumbly

INDEX

	Page
1. Tattingstone - Recent Changes	p 1
2. Objectives – The Parish Plan in Context	p 3
3. Membership of Parish Plan Steering Group	p 4
4. Methodology and Calendar of Actions	p 4
5. Research Findings:	p 6
o People and Households	p 6
o Employment and Business	p 8
o Transport	p 11
o Health and Social Services	p 15
o Emergency Services	p 17
o Retail Facilities	p 20
o Social Facilities	p 21
o St Mary’s Church	p 25
o Education	p 26
o Information and Communications	p 28
o Local Government	p 29
o Local Environment	p 31
6. Youth Survey	p 32
7. Free Comments from Questionnaires	p 34
8. Summary of Key Issues	p 35
9. What Next?	p 36
10. The Action Plan	pp 37,38
11. Useful Contacts	p 39

Original artwork for the cover kindly provided by Maurice Dowe

TATTINGSTONE – OUR VILLAGE AND RECENT CHANGES

It is not certain how long people have lived at Tattingstone but the name suggests that there certainly was a settlement in Saxon times. Our village is recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086 when then, as now, it comprised three separate manorial areas located at: the White Horse; The Heath; and the vicinity of where St Mary's Church now is.

The village has seen many changes over the years but there are several notable buildings that have survived the passage of time. Not surprisingly perhaps, St Mary's Church is the oldest building in Tattingstone and the oldest sections of it date from the 14th century. Some other significant buildings in the village are The Place; The Old Rectory (now used as a holiday-let, having been a retirement home for a period); the Methodist Chapel, dating from 1800 – now converted to residential accommodation; Chedworth Place, formerly a workhouse and also converted to private dwellings; and the Tattingstone Wonder which is a nationally-known folly.

Tattingstone Place was built during the first half of 18th century by one Thomas White and since then has seen many changes of ownership. During the 1970's it was purchased by the Anglian Water Authority and was vacant for a period. Upon completion of the reservoir it reverted to private ownership. The present owners are currently engaged in extensive refurbishment of the house and gardens. Legend has it that a previous occupant of the Place commissioned the construction of the Tattingstone Wonder with a false tower to provide his bedridden mother with a view of a 'church' from her bedroom.



Chedworth Place was built between 1764 and 1766 as a workhouse to provide accommodation and employment for the poor of not only Tattingstone but other surrounding parishes as well. The site was purchased by the NHS and it became St Mary's Hospital for the elderly until restructuring of Health Authorities brought about its closure. The site remained unoccupied for many years and the buildings were in some danger of falling into dereliction until its redevelopment and conversion to private dwellings commenced at the end of the 1990's. Across the road from the former workhouse is the paupers' graveyard for the residents who died on the premises. All bar one are anonymous with simple iron markers bearing just a number. The graveyard is now a wooded nature reserve owned and managed by an enthusiastic consortium of local residents.

Other buildings that are important to the social life of the village are the Primary School and the Village Hall. The Primary School dates from 1841 and went through a lean period during the 1980's when it became threatened with closure due to falling numbers of students. Now, however, it is in robust health with 78 pupils - although only a about a third of them actually reside within the parish.

The Village Hall is the venue for many of the social activities in Tattingstone and

performs a key role in this regard. The Village Hall Committee, however, faces the constant challenge of the upkeep of a structure that is essentially a modified World War I military hut.

Then there are the two remaining village hostelrys – the Wheatsheaf and the White Horse. The changing structure of the hospitality industry and brewing consortia in recent years, plus the disincentive to people who wish to visit country pubs presented by tightening drink-drive legislation, meant that both establishments have faced rising costs and a drop-off in patronage. The licensees of both pubs are meeting these challenges in imaginative ways and it is to be hoped that villagers will support these efforts. The village recently lost Waterloo House - a small pub but with a big reputation and locally known as the Orange Box. When the Orange Box closed the village simultaneously lost its Post Office and general store as well. To offset these losses to some extent we have seen the appearance of three farm shops all of which seem to be flourishing. Another recent loss was the last village garage that had been run as a family business for many years.



We are fortunate to have a fine playing field situated off Green Lane. This provides facilities for football, cricket and tennis. The pavilion offers changing rooms and showers and limited hospitality facilities. In the past it also was useful for other activities such as village fêtes – sadly discontinued some years ago. There is also a small playground area for younger children but some of the equipment is now in poor condition.

There has not been a great deal of new house building activity in Tattingstone over the past 30 years or so. During the 1970's 20 houses were built in The Close and the last significant expansion was due to the conversion of St Mary's Hospital into Chedworth Place which provided a further 32 dwellings. The present population is around 520. With the loss of certain key infrastructure facilities it would seem unlikely that there could be a significant expansion of new housing in the village in the near future. However, as with other Suffolk villages, the prices of rural properties has risen considerably and this has placed most properties in Tattingstone beyond the reach of young people who grew up in the village and wish to remain here to raise their own families. The new houses recently built on the site of the former garage are unlikely to help to fill this need.

Tattingstone is situated in a rural setting at the base of the Shotley Peninsula bounded by the rivers Orwell and Stour. There are many footpaths, bridleways and cycle routes giving good access to the surrounding countryside and there are many opportunities to enjoy the varied local flora and fauna. The Alton Reservoir was developed some 25 years ago and this provides conservation areas, bird-watching, angling and a water sports centre situated in the neighbouring village of Stutton. These, plus the perimeter cycle track, mean that Alton Water is now a significant tourist attraction and many visitors now pass through Tattingstone, particularly during summer months.

Apart from the several family-run farms in the parish and the waste tip operated by Collins Waste Management there are few employment opportunities in Tattingstone

itself. The majority of people who are working are employed in Ipswich although there are several self-employed people who work from home. Some of the new residents at Chedworth Place and others in the village commute to London daily. Retired people constitute a significant proportion of the population.

We are fortunate to live in a village in beautiful Suffolk countryside. But changes have taken place over the last several years and will continue to do so. In order that Tattingsstone will continue to be an attractive village for all residents we have undertaken to produce this Village Plan to ascertain what is good; what, in the opinion of all residents, needs improvement; and to produce an Action Plan in order to ensure that the Parish Council and other appropriate bodies will carry them out.

OBJECTIVES – THE PARISH PLAN IN CONTEXT

In November 2000 the Government produced a White Paper entitled ‘Our Countryside: The Future’ in which it was suggested that rural communities should play a bigger part in managing their own affairs. To encourage this a sum of £5m was made available to the Countryside Agency for allocation to communities who wished to become involved in order to assist them to draw up their own village plans. Nevertheless, it was envisaged that the majority of the work involved would be voluntary. In this way parishes would be able to consult their residents; ascertain their wishes and views on issues affecting quality of life; and then draw up reports and action plans to present to their Parish Councils and other bodies for implementation.

“A parish council and the local community can contribute to wider planning policies in development plans or proposals during the process of preparing the planning components of a Parish Plan”

Parish Plans and the Planning System – published by the Countryside Agency

For us there are three tiers of local government: Tattingsstone Parish Council, Babergh District Council and Suffolk County Council. Each of these bodies has responsibility for providing infrastructure services and executing policies to protect the environment of the areas under their authority. In order to set out their policies and objectives Babergh DC has produced its Local Plan - a statutory document that interprets the Suffolk CC Structure Plan (dating from 2001) for implementation. However, both these Plans have a limited future – in the next year or so Babergh will draw up a new Local Development Framework (LDF), which will replace the Local Plan, and the county tier of planning activity will be replaced by a Regional one, covering several counties.

This Parish Plan will deliver to the Parish Council the views of the village residents as to the quality of life in Tattingsstone and a list of actions required to bring about desired improvements to our village environment. In preparing this Plan there have been consultations with Babergh DC, Suffolk CC, the local Primary Care Trust and Business Link in order to consolidate our communications with infrastructure service providers and the other tiers of local government and so prepare the way for Tattingsstone’s wishes to be incorporated into the Babergh LDF where relevant.

MEMBERSHIP OF PARISH PLAN STEERING GROUP

The Tattingsstone Parish Plan Steering Group came into being at an inaugural meeting held on 5 June 2004. The committee and elected officers were:

Chair	Rodney Chadburn
Treasurer	Judy Sexton
Secretary	Rosi Nye
Committee	Christine Dancey*
	Ben Connor*
	Lorraine Plumbly
	Peter Ward
	Susan Hemmings
	Alan Horne
	Annette Kilworth
	Josephine Stanger



* Parish Council representative

During the life of the Parish Plan process Christine Dancey resigned from the Parish Council but remained on the Working Group and Alan Horne moved house forcing his withdrawal from our activities. The Group as a whole drew strength from a diverse range of experience and expertise in a variety of areas. It helped that several of our members also sat on the committees of other village organisations.

The purpose of the Steering Group was to obtain, by appropriate methods, a demographic profile of our village in 2005; ascertain the views of Tattingsstone people as to the perceived good points and problem areas in the village; to draw up a report of our findings for general distribution to all households; and, from the findings, to present the Parish Council with an Action Plan.

METHODOLOGY AND CALENDAR OF ACTIONS

From the outset it was decided that the principal method for obtaining demographic data and people's opinions would be by means of a Questionnaire to be sent to every household in the village. This would give all adults the opportunity to let us know their views. In addition we felt it important to let young people have a say on issues important to them specifically and so a separate Youth Questionnaire was sent to all young persons aged 9 to 15. At the other end of the age spectrum we announced our activities and invited views and comments at the annual pensioners' Christmas Lunch and discussed village matters informally at the weekly 'Drop-in' at the Village Hall.

In order to gain information on the policies of the bodies who provide infrastructure services we held discussions with officers of Babergh District Council, the local Primary Healthcare Trust, Suffolk County Council, local bus companies, Business Link and Suffolk Acre.

We also obtained input from John Lynch the Head of Tattingstone Primary School; Rob Sherington the newly appointed head of Holbrook High School; the Reverend Chris Wingfield, Rector of St Mary's Church; and with representatives of clubs and organisations in the village.

The principal means of keeping the village informed of our activities was through the medium of the village monthly newsletter – the Tattingstone News. We also purchased a portable display board that was moved to various locations around the village in order to widen publicity. The display panel was used to display information relating to support services that are available and it had a 'suggestions box' attached which produced some useful information in the early days of the project.

CALENDAR OF KEY ACTIVITIES

14 May 2004	Open Meeting in Village Hall
5 June 2004	Inaugural Meeting of Steering Group Officers elected Decision to apply for funding
May/June 2004	Prepare application to Countryside Agency for funding
25 June 2004	Application for funding submitted
2 August 2004	Funding of £2,586.05 approved by Countryside Agency
August/Sept. 2004	Stakeholder and Focus groups identified Village issues identified and ranked in importance Preparation of Questionnaire commences Display board purchased and art work prepared
Oct '04 – March '05	Main Questionnaire drawn up, edited and printed Youth Questionnaire prepared and printed
16 April 2005	Questionnaires distributed
1 May 2005	Questionnaires collected
May – Aug 2005	Analysis of responses to Questionnaires
6 June 2005	Babergh DC consulted regarding format of Report
September 2005	Preparation of Report and Action Plan starts
October 2005	Editorial sub-committee starts to meet weekly
November 2005	Draft sent to Suffolk Acre, Babergh DC and Parish Council
December 2005	Proof sent to printer
January 2005	Copies of Report distributed to all village households

RESEARCH FINDINGS

A note on the analysis and results of the Questionnaires

We issued Main Questionnaires to 225 homes in Tattingstone and succeeded in collecting 195 – an 87% recovery rate. Completed questionnaires were collected in sealed envelopes to preserve confidentiality. Of those returned, some 17 were either left blank or were unusable for other reasons but the net response rate is still 79% and we believe this to be sufficient for us to have confidence that the views expressed are representative of the village as a whole. Even then some respondents did not answer every question so that the analysis of each question is based on the numbers of ‘valid’ responses.

A further point to be taken into account is that our village is divided into three geographically distinct parts so that certain issues may be very important to those living at, say, The Heath but less so to those at the White Horse area. Consequently, a question on an issue that elicits a majority agreement from a specific area or group of people might be worthy for a recommended action even if the overall response was low. For example, a question regarding ‘affordable housing’ may not affect all households but it is a critical issue for those whose children and young adults wish to live in the village where they grew up. In other words, some judgement has to be exercised in analysing responses and selecting the entries for the Action Plan.

“Congratulations on these excellently produced questionnaires” A parishioner

The results have been entered into a statistical programme* which permitted detailed analysis by age and location for all questions. Space does not allow the presentation of such comprehensive analysis in this report. However, we will lodge the full results with the Parish Council so that when a specific issue in the Action Plan is addressed a more detailed examination of the strength of opinions can be undertaken if required.

Since we wished the young people of our village to have a voice we issued a separate Youth Questionnaire and succeeded in obtaining 37 returns.

*SPSS – Statistical Package for the Social Sciences

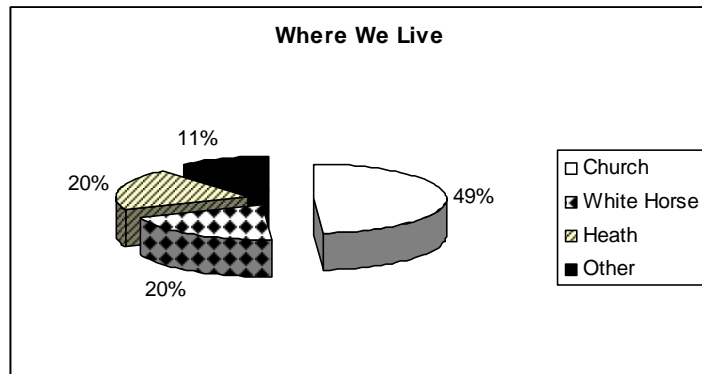
PEOPLE AND HOUSEHOLDS

The numbers of people responding to the 13 questions ranged from 173 to 178

The first section of our Questionnaire was aimed at obtaining a ‘snapshot’ of the types of housing in our village and a profile of the people living in them.

In 2005 there were 225 households in Tattingstone and the average number of persons per household was 2.6 – leading to an estimated total population of around 520 including children under the age of 16. There is little ‘gender bias’ since the male/female split is virtually 50/50.

Nearly half (49%) of our village households are in the Church/Chedworth Place area with the Heath and the White Horse areas each having 20% and the remainder being at Tattingstone Park/The Place or in more isolated individual locations.



The large majority (nearly 80%) of houses are owner-occupied and 16% are rented from a private landlord. Only some 4% are rented from the Local Authority or a Housing Association. This may give an indication of the challenges faced by young people who grow up in the village but have to move away due to the lack of affordable housing in Tattingstone (see below). Indeed, some 10% of people said

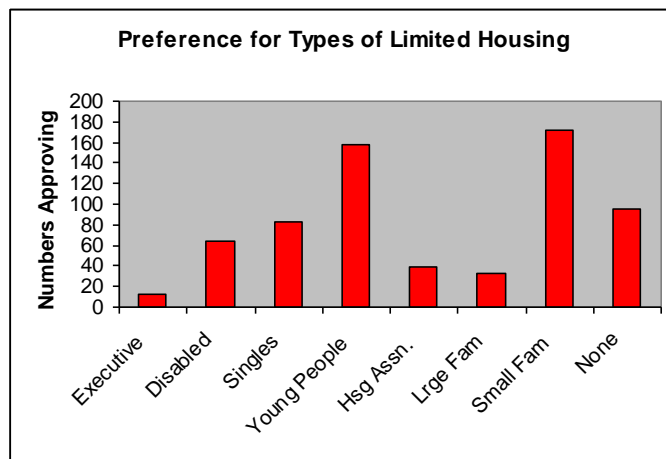
*“Thank you for asking for our opinions, it’s very important”
A parishoner*

that they or a member of their family had experienced difficulty in obtaining suitable accommodation in Tattingstone. Whilst, perhaps not surprisingly, this is only a small proportion of

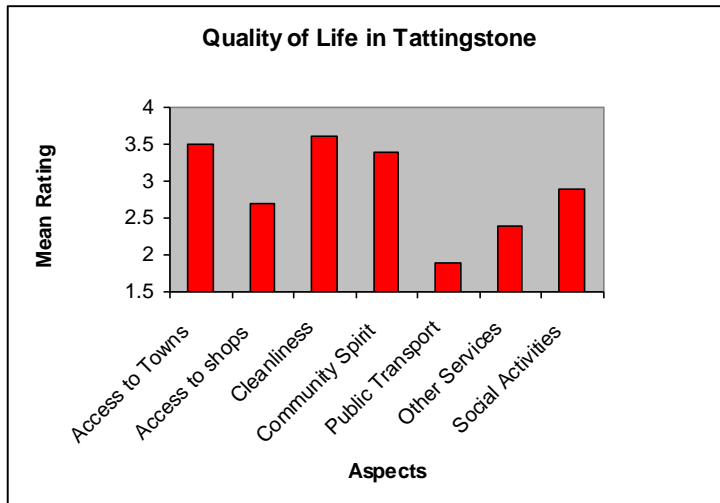
the population it is of great significance to those who are faced with the problem and the matter should be further investigated.

106 households (61%) have 2 or less persons living in them - 20% are single- person households. There are only 31 households with one or more children who attend a school, nursery school or playgroup.

The majority of residents (some 55%) lie in the age range 25-60 but a significant 35% of us are 60 or older and only 10% fall in the band 16-24. This suggests that the average age of the population - given the difficulty of retaining our young people – could well rise in the future.



We also asked what types of further limited housing development would be acceptable to existing residents and about a quarter of us do not wish to see further building of any sort. However, nearly half of the villagers who sent back questionnaires believe that there should be additional small family homes and/or housing for young people. Advice on how to approach the task of providing affordable housing can be obtained from Louise Wilby, the Rural Housing Enabler at Babergh District Council.



Nearly one third of villagers have lived in Tattingstone for less than five years – and the relatively recent arrivals in Chedworth Place account for a large proportion of those. However, it seems that once they move to the village people tend to stay for the long term since some 45% of us have stayed for 15 or more years. This is

undoubtedly due to the attractions of rural living since the two most compelling reasons for moving to Tattingstone, as expressed by some 40% of us, were the preferences for ‘village life’ and ‘country life’. We also enquired as to how people rated the quality of certain aspects of life and the services in the village. The relative ‘approval’ ratings show that we value Tattingstone’s community spirit, cleanliness, social life and the ease of access to nearby towns. There is less endorsement for ease of access to local shops and for public transport – and we have looked at this in more detail later.

It would appear that, given the current concerns with rising fuel prices, householders do take energy saving seriously since some 80% of dwellings have double or secondary glazing, loft insulation and a lagged hot water tank. Around a half also have cavity wall insulation and thermostatic radiator valves with low-energy lighting coming in at a commendable 40%. However, water-saving devices and solar panels are virtually unknown in Tattingstone.

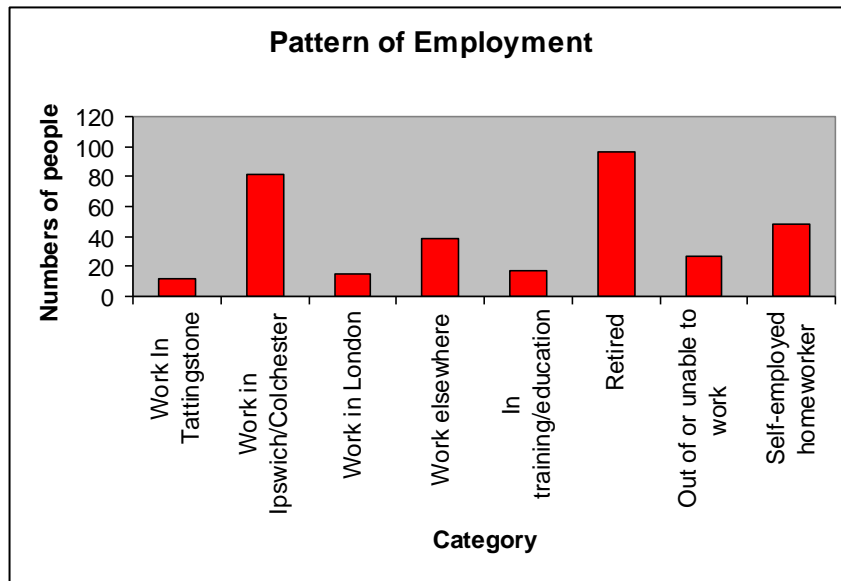
RECOMMENDATIONS
Given the strength of support for the provision of affordable housing for young people and/or small family homes we recommend that the Parish Council liaise with Babergh DC to investigate how this might be achieved.

EMPLOYMENT AND BUSINESS

335 people answered these questions

Here we wished to ascertain the pattern of employment amongst parishioners: those who are employees and where they work; how many of us are retired; the number of people who are seeking work and what barriers they face; and what can be done to

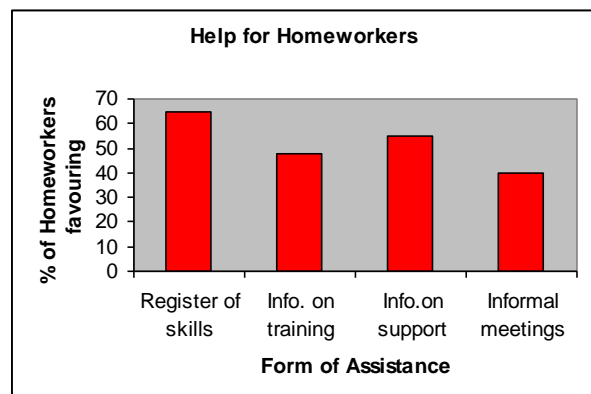
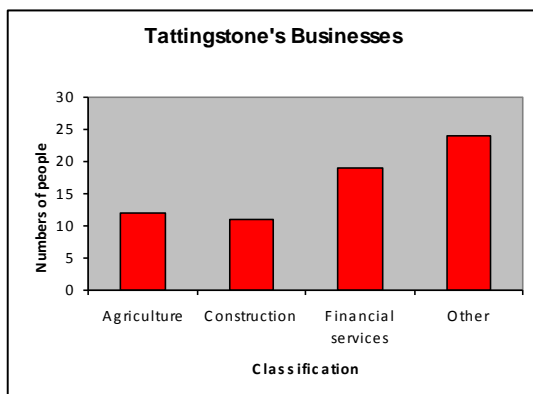
help jobseekers or anyone who might wish to work from home or to set up a local business.



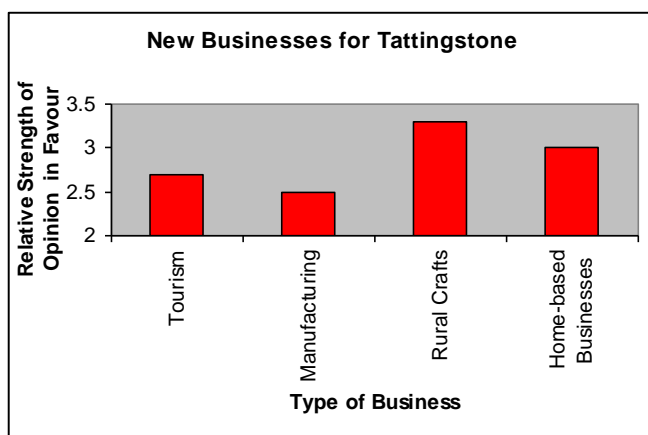
What comes across strikingly is that we are a village with a maturing population since more of us are retired (nearly 30%) than in any other single category. Of those who are in employment, 81 (22%) work locally in Ipswich or Colchester (but only 12 are actually employed in Tattingsstone) and 39 'elsewhere'. Nearly 50 of us are self-employed and working from home; 17 are in full-time education or training; and 27 are not presently employed or unable to do so due to illness or disability.

Although the unemployment rate is encouragingly low, it is a matter of greatest importance to those who are in that situation and who are seeking work.

We identified 68 people living in Tattingsstone who run their own businesses. The commonest category is Financial Services followed by those in Agriculture and the Construction sector although a quarter of those responding operate 'other' unidentified categories of business. Few are engaged in manufacturing, tourism transport or the retail trades.



We also sought to identify measures that might be taken to help existing home-workers and businesses that, on a small scale, might be created in the village and offer local employment opportunities. Of our 40 or so ‘homeworkers’ nearly 60% thought that the compilation of a Tattingstone skills register would be useful and the provision of information regarding training an business support systems appealed to nearly half of those answering. Arranging informal ‘business’ meetings evoked a less positive response. As far as creating limited new businesses is concerned, there was a very positive response. Over half of us see



rural crafts workshops as appropriate new businesses for Tattingstone and there was also significant support for more tourism-based activities and more home-based businesses.

For those who have not yet used their services, Business Link for Suffolk can provide an impartial range of support and advice for small businesses in rural areas. The areas where they can provide assistance to businesses include: business start-ups; business planning and finance; and e-commerce and IT matters. Anyone running a business in Tattingstone or someone wishing to start one will find practical support here.

“ We are a one stop shop offering impartial, subsidised and proven business support through our Business and Workforce Advisers ”

Business Link

A business that registers with Business Link for Suffolk can take advantage of a ‘supplier–matching’ service and the Business Directory. Businesses can register their details onto the databases free of charge. The database is used to identify people with appropriate skills in response to business enquiries when they are received from other members or from outside sources. They also issue regularly a series of useful newsletters and information sheets: NewsLink with Suffolk business news, grants and updates; PeopleLink which is concerned with training and workforce development; SureLink that provides information for agricultural and rural businesses; LawLink keeps people abreast of changing legislation; and EventsLink which advertises events which will be of interest to local businessmen and bring them together. Business Link has offices in Felaw Maltings Ipswich and more information can be found on their website at www.bls.org.uk or by telephone on 08457 254254.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- ***Draw up a Skills Register***
- ***Homeworkers to consider getting together to share experience***
- ***PC to seek advice from Business Link about possibilities for setting up small craft industries and/or expanding homeworking***

TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

The numbers of people responding to 3 of these 4 questions ranged from 313 to 332 and when asked to volunteer for car sharing schemes 26 to 54 people volunteered

General

We held discussions with officers from Babergh District and Suffolk County Council regarding roads and transport issues.

Management and maintenance of all 'A' roads, minor roads, pavements and public footpaths in Tattingstone are the responsibility of Suffolk County Council. This responsibility embraces safety issues; the erection and maintenance of signs and other street furniture on roadways; and clearing footpaths. Although Suffolk CC carry out mowing of the roadside verges, Babergh DC are responsible for removing litter from them. Cycle routes are a shared responsibility between the two Councils. Tattingstone Parish Council is responsible for our streetlights.

*"To live successfully and happily in
Tattingstone you need a car"
A parishioner*

Footpaths and cycle routes.

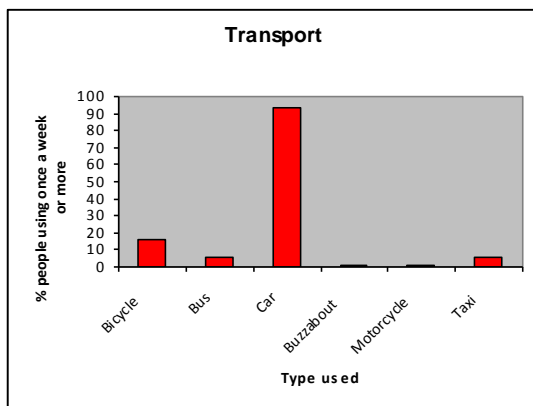
Tattingstone has a good selection of footpaths, bridleways and cycle routes. These connect parts of the village and to neighbouring villages. They are in most part clearly marked and kept in a reasonable state of accessibility. Many of the paths have been in existence for many years. There is an eight-mile path and cycle track around Alton Water Reservoir that is well used. The District Council will consider cycleway and footpath improvements, bearing in mind budget constraints, where this will protect rural communities from the effects of large volumes of traffic.

Transport – Objectives

"The County Council's key transport priorities are to significantly improve the condition of roads and pavements across the county, develop a modern efficient and convenient passenger transport network and to achieve an ambitious target to further reduce road casualties."

**Suffolk Provisional Local
Transport Plan 2006-2011**





Walking, like cycling, can make a valuable contribution to a sustainable transport strategy and has clear advantages for health. This is recognised in government guidance, and national and regional policy. However, it is probable the majority of us who use bicycles do so for leisure purposes rather than as a regular means of transport. Our survey identified, not surprisingly, that the very large majority (80%) use cars daily and

a further 12% at least weekly. Conversely, over three-quarters of us rarely or never use a bus.

Roads and Hazards

The Objectives of this LTP are to:

- improve public transport, walking and cycling.....
- minimise the impact of traffic and transport infrastructure in villages and tourism honeypots to protect the county's environment
- maintain Suffolk's transport network to support businesses and communities

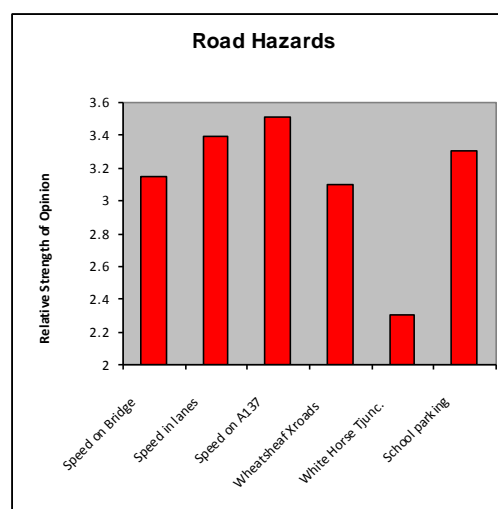
Suffolk CC Provisional LTP 2006-2011

Action needs to be taken to rectify these problems. The hazards caused by parking outside the primary School are almost of equal concern but the White Horse junction, where the old main road goes down the hill to a cul-de-sac, registers much lower down the scale.

Speeding is regarded as a problem on all village roads but particularly so on the A137. Over recent months Suffolk CC has operated a mobile speeding indicator device in the village. This both acts as a speeding deterrent and records traffic speeds. The results showed that 15% of traffic

Tattingstone's roads are all maintained to the local Council standards but there are several sections of the lanes where the surface is cracking and repairs are necessary. Extensive re-surfacing was carried out on Church Road relatively recently.

We asked which aspects of our roads or driving habits were considered to be dangerous. Responses to these questions did depend, not surprisingly, on where the respondents lived. Junctions that give rise to concern are the crossroads at the Wheatsheaf where vehicles pull out onto the A137, with particularly poor visibility for vehicles emerging from Bentley Lane.



on the A137 travels in excess of 39mph northbound and 38mph southbound. Also, 15% of traffic travels in excess of 36mph on Church Road. SCC ranks these figures to sites across Suffolk, taking into account traffic volumes, and will be using SID more frequently on the A137. It has also promised to look at the sufficiency of the speed limit repeater signs along Church Road.

The Parish Council is in touch with the local Police Force regarding traffic speed and calming measures throughout the village with particular attention to the Heath (A137). The main concern generally is the speeding of vehicles in the 30mph limits throughout the entire village but particularly along the A137. Some appropriate action needs to be taken.

Public Transport - Buses.

There is a relatively infrequent bus service through Tattingstone with the majority of parishioners opting to use their cars. One or two residents with teenage children have suggested a late evening bus from Ipswich at the weekend and/or during the week might be helpful, but it is difficult to see how much demand there would be for this service.

*"The bus service is unacceptable
.....young people are left with no choice
but to learn to drive."
".....the 5.15 bus needs to be around 5.45
so that people who work until 5.30 can use
the service."
Comments from parishioners*

The Buzzabout minibus service is used by only a few villagers. This is disappointing given that this initiative does seem to offer the potential for a flexible means of transport available when people need it. Anecdotal evidence suggests that some people have found the service to be unreliable and the administration left wanting so the reasons for this should be investigated.



There are several villagers who would be prepared to take part in a car-sharing scheme to the doctor's surgeries, Ipswich and Manningtree stations and the supermarkets. 54 villagers would be willing to take part in a car-sharing scheme to the doctors' surgeries, 40 to Ipswich, 26 to Manningtree Station and 36 to the supermarkets. Several have provided their names so that we can

look to them to be active in helping to establish such schemes – but it will need someone to get them started.

The District Council will encourage the co-ordination and improvement of transport services in the district and the establishment of 'self-help' schemes in rural areas. Also, Suffolk CC is currently working on school travel plans. So, it would seem that the best approach here would be for the Parish Council to liaise with other parish councils located on the bus routes and to approach the bus companies and transport planners in order to try to arrive at an improved transport service for the local area as a whole. This should consider not only the identified needs of the various user groups but also recognise the commercial requirements of the transport providers.

Implementation of Safety Measures in Tattingstone

We asked for views on a range of possible measures to improve traffic safety in the village. There was a wide range of views of the importance of the items, with approximately half the villagers either having no opinion or thinking these measures were not important, and the other half believing they were important. Again, the home location of the respondents will influence the relative importance of different possible measures. This was the case, for example, for proposals to provide pavements from the Church to the Wheatsheaf and from the Heath to Rookery Farm; for providing double yellow lines outside the school; for extending cycle routes; for more dropped pavements and for traffic calming measures - including automatic flashing vehicle speed indicators.



A sizeable proportion of villagers wish to see better pavements: from Chedworth Place to the Whitehorse PH (36%); Church to Wheatsheaf (47%); Wheatsheaf to Rookery Farm (48%); and even from the Heath to Brantham (34%). Some 38% of us would like to see measures for discouraging overnight parking on verges. The provision of more street lighting was less popular (29%). A significant majority of villagers (59%) would like to see an improved layout of the crossroads at the Wheatsheaf PH, so this is clearly a general concern.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- ***Investigate the feasibility of providing more footways or pavements***
- ***Improve the layout of the Wheatsheaf crossroads***
- ***Discourage parking outside the Primary School***
- ***Develop car-sharing schemes***
- ***Investigate effective and acceptable methods for controlling speeding vehicles***
- ***Improve safety for cyclists on roads***

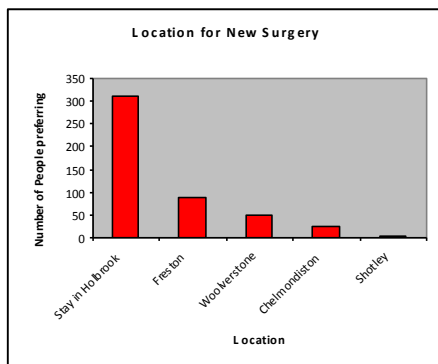
Note A booklet is available called Cycling around the Shotley Peninsula that gives two options: Option A that includes Tattingstone is 36 miles long and approximately four hours cycling time; Option B is 22 miles long and approximately three hours cycling time, taking in the Shotley area. Both routes start from the Information Centre at Alton Water in Stutton. The booklet is obtainable from Suffolk Coast and Heaths Project, Dock Lane, Melton, Woodbridge, IP12 IPE. It costs £1.50p plus 75 pence (postage and packaging). Tel. 01394 384948. Babergh DC Footpaths telephone number for Tattingstone is 01473 825799.

HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

The numbers of people responding to the 4 questions ranged from 274 to 321

In Suffolk East all of the NHS organisations work together to provide the health system. This is made up of Suffolk East Primary Care Trusts (PCT), The Ipswich Hospital Trust and Suffolk Mental Health Partnership Trust. We are now in a period of change, partly because there is a huge financial deficit of £47.9million, which the Trusts must resolve by mid-2006. There will be some closures. It is proposed to close the Hayward Day Hospital at Ipswich Hospital, which may affect some older residents. Local people using mental health services may be affected by the closure of The Hollies, located at St Clements. Most of us are likely to be affected by the development of new ways of managing our healthcare. For example, fewer of us will be treated in hospitals – much more treatment will be given in our homes, or in other community settings, by teams of professionals who are trained to do so. Hospital beds will be used at a higher threshold. We will notice these changes beginning with the development of community health centres, where intermediate care can develop. Intermediate care will provide all the services people need to promote faster recovery from illness, prevent unnecessary acute hospital admissions, support timely discharge and maximise independent living. Social Services will continue to plan services in tandem with Health and thus participate in intermediate care.

In terms of our immediate locality, the Trust has been carrying out research into what

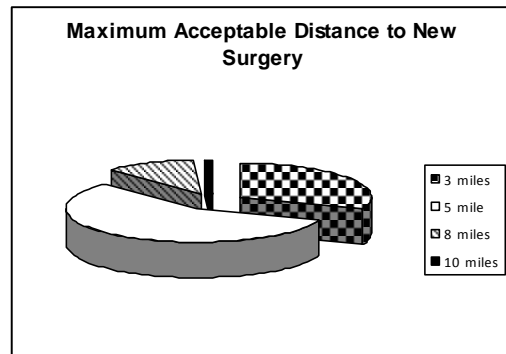


people in our area would prefer if the Holbrook Surgery has to be re-located. It is already too small for the demands placed on its services and increasing pressure will come from the progressive shift towards community-based care. In general, people who currently use the Holbrook surgery are saying that they would be prepared to travel up to 5 miles - which gives a fair amount of scope for where it might be re-sited. Most people in Tattingstone, according to our survey, want the surgery to stay where it is. However, since the 'status quo' is most unlikely a most of us think the

next best options would put Freston and Woolverstone as the frontrunners for the new location.



The new site has not yet been identified. Because approval has now been given to build more houses at Ganges, the developer will be required to contribute towards the funding of the new healthcare facility. Thus, the present financial deficit may not affect the money for the new surgery. We do not know how much funding the PCTs will receive in 2006-7 (the earliest any development could happen) and any proposals for a new practice will need to be prioritised alongside other competing claims from GP premises that will also be seeking to develop across the three PCTs at that time within the context of the kind of strategies outlined above.



We asked if people are currently experiencing difficulty in getting to healthcare services such as chiropodists, dentists, opticians, Ipswich Hospital and the present doctors' surgery in Holbrook. Thankfully, few people are having problems for the moment but this may well be due to the good graces of people who are prepared to offer lifts and to collect prescriptions for example. However, the situation might change in the future when the GP's surgery re-locates and if the cost of travelling using private cars continues to rise.



So we also enquired if people would be prepared to participate in a Good Neighbours Scheme (GNS). Such a scheme builds on voluntary work already carried out in a village by individuals and organisations with the aim of helping vulnerable people. This embraces

extending lifts and car sharing, carrying out minor household repairs and helping at times of stress. People felt that the most important aspects of a GNS would be the continuation and extension of a prescription collection service; visiting neighbours; and assisting with their small household jobs. Co-ordination of lifts to Ipswich and Manningtree rated lower but this is probably applicable mainly to those who work in Ipswich or commute to London (see also the Transport section above). Advice on how to set up a Good Neighbour Scheme can be obtained from Gavin Hodge at Babergh District Council.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- ***Parish Council to liaise with Suffolk PCT and advise them of the views of Tattingstone regarding re-location of the surgery.***
- ***Keep parishioners advised of further developments in changes to healthcare***
- ***Set up a Good Neighbour Scheme to extend car sharing etc.***

EMERGENCY AND OTHER LOCAL SERVICES

The numbers of people responding to the 5 questions ranged from 311 to 333

Here we asked for views on: police coverage and Neighbourhood Watch schemes; concerns about a range of anti-social behaviours and measures that might improve the situation; and opinions on the performance of infrastructure utilities and other services.

Background to Policing

It has been announced recently that police forces throughout the country will be re-organised. There will be a move away from county-based forces towards wider regional structures. The objective is to make it easier for police forces to co-operate with each other when certain types of organised crimes extend beyond county boundaries.

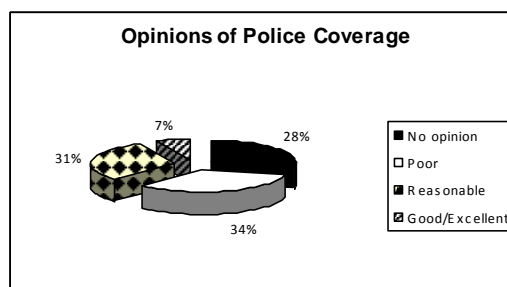
“Putting people at the heart of policing services and giving them a real say in how they are policed is at the heart of the reform programme.”

To achieve the objectives of the reforms, policing services need to be designed and delivered with the citizen and user in mind. Involving our local communities in all aspects of police training, learning and development from design, through delivery and, ultimately, in evaluation is essential to securing policing services which are responsible to the needs of all our diverse communities.

Neighbourhood Policing

By 2008 every area in England and Wales will benefit from dedicated, visible, accessible and responsive neighbourhood policing teams – led by police officers but involving special constables, community support officers, volunteers neighbourhood wardens and others too. You will know your local police officers and how to contact them, you will have a real say in local policing issues and setting local priorities and you will know how well your police are doing locally in tackling crime and anti-social behaviour.

In general villagers do not rate the present police coverage highly. A majority of 62% thought coverage to be ‘poor’ or just ‘reasonable’ with a meagre 7% rating it as ‘good’ or ‘excellent’. We are aware that police resources are limited and that crime rates in our area are encouragingly low but these views should be put to the relevant authorities.



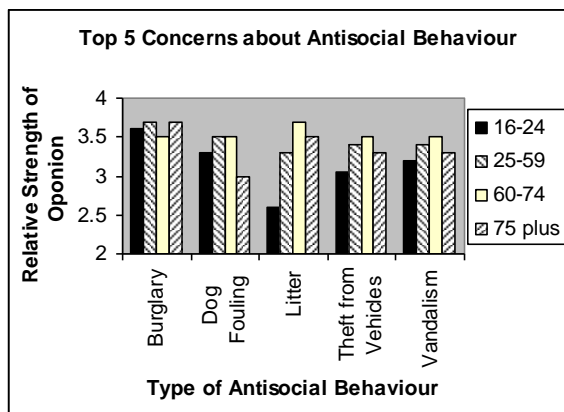
There are Neighbourhood Watch schemes covering the Church/Chedworth Place area and the White Horse. There is no coverage of the Heath. However, it is apparent that some people are unaware that a neighbourhood watch scheme operates in their area. For instance: in some areas roughly equal numbers of people claim there is no NWS (26 in the Church area; 11 people in the Whitehorse area) to

those who say there is a NWS (34 people in Church area; 19 in the Whitehorse area). In other areas, a majority believe there to be no NWS (Chedworth area and the Heath) whilst a minority hold the opposite view. The organisers should hold a 'booster' campaign to publicise what they are doing and to see where the coverage might be extended.

The majority of people who say they do not have a neighbourhood watch scheme believe that it is important to have one (69%). This figure is almost identical to the percentage of people who say that they do have a scheme (70%).

We also wished to identify what types of anti-social behaviour were of most concern to parishioners. This question consisted of 12 different anti-social behaviours in Tattlingstone.

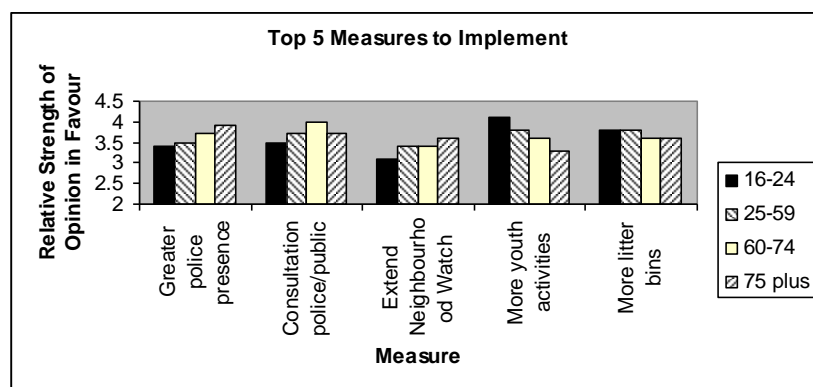
Relatively small numbers of people were concerned about drunkenness (16%); foul language (23%); intimidation (21%) mugging (25%); substance abuse (23%) and violence (20%). Of more concern to villagers are burglary (68%); dog fouling (59%);



litter (58%) vandalism (55%) and theft from vehicles (54%). Priorities were slightly different according to the age of respondents - foul language and drunkenness (not graphed) are of more concern to older people. The youngest age group is strikingly less concerned about litter than the others.

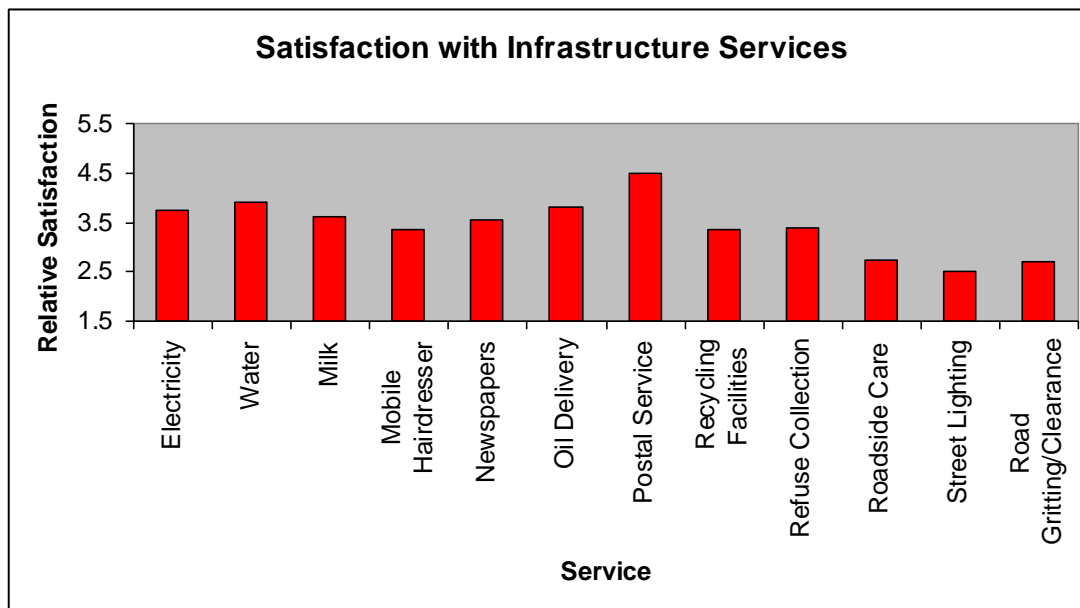
Advice regarding measures we can all take to improve household security can be obtained from our local Community Police Officer.

We also asked what positive measures might be taken to reduce anti-social behaviour in the village. CCTV cameras would be favoured by only 13% of us and just over a quarter felt that there should be more street



lighting. A greater police presence and better consultation between police and local people; Neighbourhood Watch schemes to be extended; more activities for young people; and more litter bins were endorsed by a majority of people. However, the extent to which villagers would support particular measures depended, again, on age. However, the 'Top 5' priorities got broadly similar support from all age groups.

Provision of other Infrastructure Services



A majority of people appear to be happy with most of the infrastructure services provided in Tattingstone. The graph above shows the relative satisfaction rating we

*“We moved here because we wanted to live in a rural location and we don’t want to see the pollution of street lighting”
A parishoner*

accord to these services and an average rating of 2 or more (see bar chart) indicates at least ‘reasonable’ satisfaction’.

The suppliers of water, electricity and oil can draw comfort from their ratings and there is a particular accolade for postal deliveries. Roadside care, street lighting and winter weather services are rated lower – but still satisfactory.

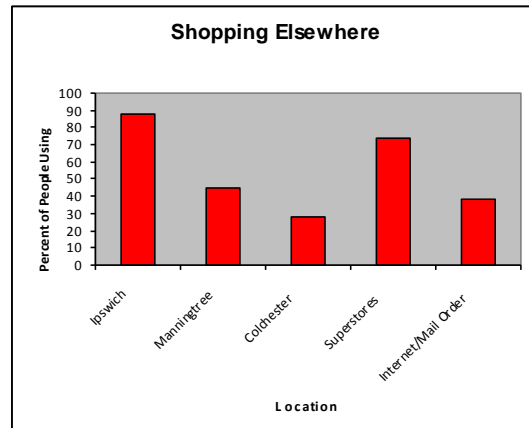
RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Report the number of people who perceive police coverage to be poor to the Community Police Officer for appropriate action.**
- **Work with Community Police officer, NWS co-ordinators and Parish Council to ensure publicity for NWS, and to set up NWS to cover the whole of Tattingstone.**
- **Parish Council to consider provision of more litter bins around Tattingstone**
- **Arrange for our Community Policeman to hold public meetings regarding household and vehicle security**
- **Tackle dog fouling – more notices regarding dog fouling and more doggy bins**

RETAIL SERVICES AND OTHER FACILITIES

The numbers of people responding to the 4 questions ranged from 318 to 333

During the period of the preparation of this report both the Bentley and Stutton Village shops and post offices closed. The mobile fish and chip van and the fresh fish van stopped their weekly visits to Tattingsstone. However, another fresh fish van now comes to the Rookery Farm Shop and a small post office has re-opened to the rear of The Case Is Altered pub in Bentley.



We tried to identify peoples' shopping habits and the extent to which we use our local facilities. Encouragingly, it seems that some 55% of us use one of our three farm shops once a month or more frequently. Holbrook Co-op and the Holbrook pharmacy are also well used. Around a quarter of us use the Co-op and a third visit the Holbrook pharmacy regularly. The chart shows only those facilities which are used by at least 20% of us once a month or more frequently. Other shopping facilities where the use falls below these criteria are Holbrook Post Office and Internet Shopping for non-food goods which are used by some 16% of us; and, sadly, the local nursery, the mobile library and the mobile fresh fish van attract fewer than 10% of us.

Few people seem to use a Post Office for pensions and allowances, savings, other bill payments or TV licences. When we do visit a local Post Office by far the greatest use is for Postal Services and Vehicle Tax.

When it comes to shopping outside the village it is rather surprising that more of us shop in Ipswich than at out of town superstores. However, it may be that this is reflecting the significant proportion of the population who are retired and some of whom may not possess private vehicles.

Shopping – Objectives

“4. To support the retention of existing shopping facilities in rural area and local centres and to encourage the provision of new facilities where this is consistent with Local Plan policies.”

Babergh Local Plan

Transport difficulties when going to the shops most affected 16-24 olds and those aged 75 plus. Transport difficulties were very much less when patronising the local Farm Shops.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- ***This section sought mainly to identify patterns of shopping habits. The difficulties some people have in reaching 'out of village' shops and possibly improving pedestrian access to Rookery Farm shop fall into recommendations in other parts of this report.***
- ***We still lack a 'general store' and several youngsters said in the Youth Questionnaire that they would welcome a small shop - as did some people in the 'free comments' section. An action group should form to investigate the feasibility of setting up a Community Shop.***
- ***The Parish Council should note the importance of the pharmacy to many in the village and to keep abreast of the situation when the issue of change of ownership arises again.***

SPORT, SOCIAL AND ENTERTAINMENT FACILITIES

The numbers of people responding to the 5 questions ranged from 305 to 318

Tattingstone is fortunate in possessing a centrally located Village Hall and a Playing Field with a pavilion, cricket and soccer pitches and tennis courts. Traditionally a village hall is the focus for social activities but it now has to compete with home entertainments and, for the future, there will be new facilities available at Holbrook High School which may appeal to people thinking of setting up new clubs and societies. Moreover, although the building is presently well maintained and there have been recent extensions and upgrades a large part of the structure is of considerable age and its long-term future will have to be considered carefully.

The Parish Council is the custodian trustee of the Village Hall that is controlled under a charitable trust by a Committee of Management. The Committee consists of five elected members and a number of members who represent various clubs and village organisations including a representative of the Parish Council. The objective of the Committee is to manage the Village Hall so as to provide a facility in which to hold meetings and recreational activities to the benefit of village inhabitants. The Parish Council is also sole trustee for the Playing Field that is managed by a Playing Field Committee. However, in practice the two committees are merged into one although, for financial purposes, the Playing Field accounts are kept separate from those of the Village Hall.

For an institution that has a pivotal role in village life it is perhaps unfortunate that Village Hall Committee meetings are closed to the public. From a communications point of view it would be helpful if the committee would review this position. If there is, indeed, some legal or constitutional disbarment to making proceedings more open then occasional use of the Tattingstone News or the web site to enable villagers to keep abreast of the VH Committee's core activities (as opposed to the regular reports of individual clubs) would probably be welcomed.

Cricket

Tattingstone Cricket Club merged with another club in 2003 to form Ipswich Cricket club in order to aspire to higher-grade cricket and the principal teams no longer play

at the Tattingstone playing field. For the future, our playing field is likely to be used only by the junior section of the club, ladies' teams and for occasional friendly matches. The alternative of upgrading the facilities at Green Lane was investigated but it was unlikely to attract National Lottery funds due to problems over such issues as disabled access and the requirement that there should be a minimum of five sports offered at the field in order to qualify for grants.

Contact: Graham Denny 01473 603707

Tennis

The Tennis Club presently has some 20 - 25 members and enjoys the use of two courts at the Playing Field. One court has recently been re-surfaced so that players can look forward to better playing conditions for the 2006 season. The facilities are available for casual hire by visitors to Tattingstone. New members would be welcomed both as players and as committee members to help with organisational matters.

Contact: Club Secretary Anne Pearce Tel. 01473 328466

Football

Tattingstone Football Club can trace its history back to 1919 and it has had a team playing in the Suffolk and Ipswich Leagues since 1965 - the current team is in Division 4. There has not been a junior team for many years and at the moment only one village resident is on the players list. There is no official training night but the club would welcome and speak to any youngsters who could attend a match on a Saturday

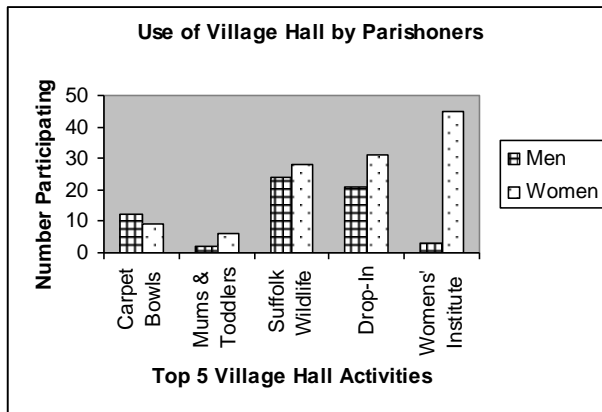
Contact: David Edivane Tel 01473 310692

The Village Hall

Tattingstone Village Hall hosts a variety of regular social activities catering for sporty types as well as the more traditional and social members of the community. It seems that for men the most popular form of activity based here is the Carpet Bowls Club, whilst women, particularly in the older age groups, are most likely to turn out for the weekly Thursday Drop-In Group or the monthly meeting of the WI. What the survey does highlight however is that whilst a staggering 80% of respondents never attend a regular activity at the Village Hall, there is considerable interest in the formation of new groups and activities. Young people showed an interest in Badminton, for example, whilst the development of a Community Cinema came out top in the section showing the activity most people would be likely to attend.

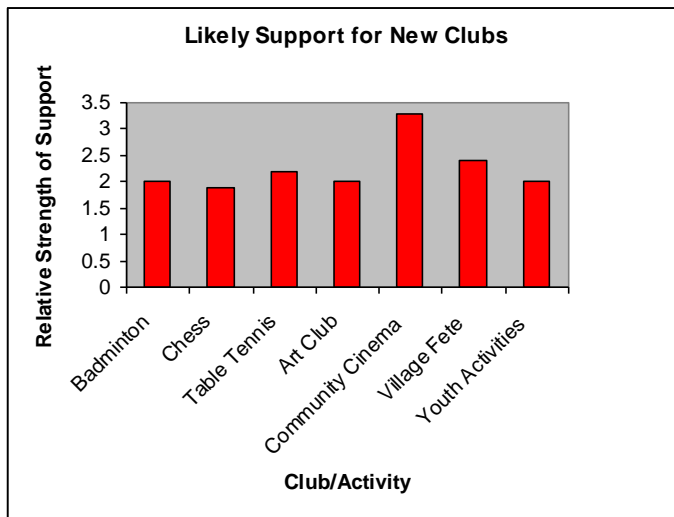
We sought views as to how the long-term future of the Village Hall building should be secured – by continuing to maintain/upgrade the existing structure or to rebuild on the present site or elsewhere. Almost a half of respondents (42%) were in favour of upgrading the present building but slightly more in total (44%) would favour rebuilding either on the present site or on the Playing Field. To complicate matters, those favouring rebuild were almost equally divided between the Playing Field (25%) and the present site (19%) as the preferred location.

Carpet bowls is the most popular regular sports activity at the Village Hall for both men and women and attracts a total of some 20 players each week. On the social front, the Thursday Drop-in and Suffolk Wildlife Trust are both well patronised by both sexes and the WI is, not surprisingly, almost a women-only activity.



62 people in total (34% of the respondents) use the Thursday Drop-in. 52 people (32%) use the Suffolk Wildlife Trust. 38 people (23%) attend WI. Since the Thursday Drop-in is a weekly event it has to be seen as having an important social function, particularly for older residents. The Mother and Toddler group attracts 15 adults and children. Other clubs such as judo, karate, Village Link and Anglo-Scottish

Dancing also make regular use of the hall but these attract very few villagers. We asked what other activities, not presently available, would appeal to people if someone would be prepared to organise them. It would appear that there is the possibility of creating a number of viable new clubs provided that enthusiastic individuals are prepared to come forward to organise them. If this were the case then it could help to increase the bookings and revenue for the Village Hall Perhaps the VH Committee should be more proactive in encouraging the formation of new clubs.



From the accompanying chart it can be seen that, head and shoulders above the rest, there is significant support for a Community Cinema. In fact, during the gestation period of this report a group has actually formed to organise the cinema and we are pleased that the Parish Plan process has had an influence in bringing this about.

Table tennis and badminton would be popular indoor sports but there might be a problem in organising these activities in the hall due to low ceiling height and the structural integrity of the floor. However, there is a call for organising general activities for young people. The young people themselves support this as shown in their responses to their own questionnaire (see Youth Survey below).

Although they did not make the 'Top 7' there would also be significant support for a gardening club (75 people), a rambling club (64), an art club (58) and chess. So, where are you enthusiasts? There are opportunities here.

Space does not permit a more detailed analysis here (the responses have been broken down according to age groups and is available to interested parties) but support for the more sporting activities would attract more support, not surprisingly,

from younger people whereas the more sedentary interests would appeal to a more mature audience.

The Village Fete lapsed some years ago but 127 people indicated that they would welcome its return. Again, it would seem that this would be a popular annual activity to revive. As with the Community Cinema a fete would be broadly supported across the major age bands.



The statistics for our use (or lack of use) of the sports facilities at Playing Field are startling. Only 5 people (one female) admit to playing cricket more often than once a month or so and the figures are identical for our football players. The tennis club fares slightly better and seems to attract 10 regular players, of whom 7 are women, but there are a further 31 'occasionals'. It seems, therefore, that the field provides recreational and sporting facilities principally for people from outside the village.

We also asked for opinions as to the quality of the equipment at the childrens' play area and, of the 318 people who responded only 2 deemed them to be good, 42 rated them reasonable but a resounding 137 condemned them as 'poor'. Something needs to be done here.

Tattingstone's two Pubs are also important venues for local social, sports and interest groups, hosting the Football, Classic Cars, Darts, Folk, Crib and Christmas Clubs at the White Horse and Cricket Club events at the Wheatsheaf. These hostelrys are also significant supporters of the community and host fetes, parties and traditional festivities throughout the year. Events such as the annual Paper Boat Race, Bonfire Night and even 4th July Celebrations can be enjoyed, as well as regular live music, Karioke and quiz and theme nights.

A list of some useful village contacts is shown on page 39

RECOMMENDATIONS

- ***The Village Hall Committee to take advantage of the demand for new activities and try to attract new clubs to use the hall.***
- ***The Village Hall Committee to publicise its core activities on a more frequent basis***
- ***Enthusiastic individuals to put themselves forward with a view to starting new activities.***
- ***The Cricket and Football clubs to try to encourage more young people who live in the village to take an active part in their sports. To this end the clubs should liaise with our local schools.***

SAINT MARY'S CHURCH

The numbers of people responding to the 3 questions ranged from 307 to 324

A note from the Reverend Chris Wingfield:



"Three things come to mind when I visit a Church: community, mystery and history. And St Mary's embraces all three - a place where the community can come and explore the mystery of God, as they have done throughout history. It is a place where individually, or in the company of others, a warm welcome awaits and peace enfolds. That's why St Mary's church is for you.

As a place of Community: St Mary's is open everyday for those who want to use it as a place for peace and rest, for worship and prayer, for joy and tears, for fellowship or solitude. But in addition it's also a place for debate and discussion, for views and opinions, for meditation and learning as in our monthly "St Mary's Invites you to....". We've had evenings on Auschwitz, Islam, a BBC style Question Time, NHS, Christianity, Meditation... with more planned. We run a Christmas lunch for the over 60's, day trips to France, support local charities and a host of local care that gives worth to those that need it most. Yes, we are a community church.

As a place of Mystery: St Mary's embodies the spiritual presence that is in each of us, and enables those who want to explore that sense of 'otherness', within a Christian

setting. Whether it is through a modern Sunday service of Communion, a traditional sung evensong, quiet days of refection, or a small, intimate contemplative evening of Chi Rho, St Mary's offers the opportunity to stand back from the pressures of life and just sit and be. Yes, we are a church of Mystery.

"Churches are the oldest surviving buildings that are still used for the purpose they were built for"

As a place of History: St Mary's has stood in it's present form for centuries, and acts as a reminder of the continuum of life. Men, women and children from each century have walked, sat, knelt, sung, worshipped within it's stone walls - walls that are soaked in the prayers of thousands. If only it's walls could speak, what stories they would tell of everyday Tatingstone folk, living everyday lives. It is a monument to the past, and a real presence today. With the 'Friends of St Mary's' helping to keep this church building alive, St Mary's will also be a hope for the future. Yes, we are a church for history.

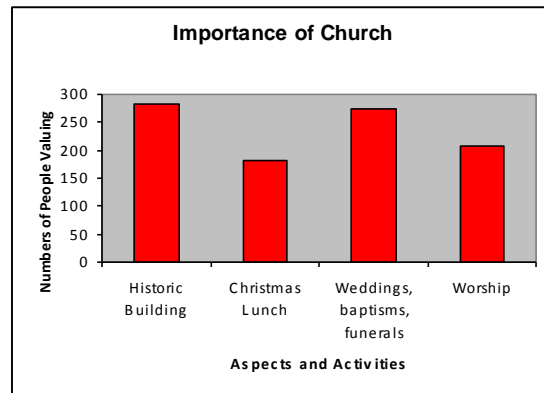
But essentially St Mary's is a place for you now. Support it and use it - please - so that it can be a place for future too."

From the results of our Questionnaire, most people appreciate the church in various ways. Nearly 90% of those responding do value it as an historic building and for baptisms, weddings and funerals; more than 200 people value it for worship and the Over 60's Christmas Lunch is appreciated by 209 of us – which is almost twice the number of our over-60's! But this does show that the efforts of the organisers are

widely recognised.

Around a quarter of parishioners seem to be satisfied with the variety and timing of the church services and with the provision of pastoral care. Fewer people appreciated visits to the homebound by the Rector – but this is almost certainly due to the relatively small number of people who require such support.

We also asked if St Mary's should be used as an alternative venue for events other than the usual religious services and the result was a resounding 'yes' from 66% of respondents. As he says above, Chris Wingfield, has already started to organise a variety of secular events and this ringing endorsement should encourage him to continue with such activities.



RECOMMENDATIONS

The Rector to continue to develop new activities in the Church

EDUCATION

We did not ask questions about education in our Questionnaire since we understood, by word of mouth from families with children of school age, that parents are generally satisfied with both Tattingstone Primary and Holbrook High School. However, we include here some observations regarding the present situation and future plans of both schools from information provided by their head teachers.

Primary School – contribution from Headmaster

"The school currently has 78 pupils on roll. This is the largest the school has ever been. Our catchment area is Tattingstone and Wherstead. At this moment in time the break down of where pupils are coming from is split roughly into three equal parts: Tattingstone, Wherstead and out of catchment. As a small village school, we have always relied on the latter group in order to keep our numbers up - pupil numbers has a direct impact upon funding.



The school is thriving with an experienced and enthusiastic Governing Body, a large and dynamic PTA and an excellent teaching staff always looking towards raising standards and maintaining the good reputation of the school. Recently we have added a new art studio to our buildings and this is in line with further developing the School's reputation across the County for excellence in the Arts.

The school is a core user of other resources and community focal points in the village-the village hall is used around the year for PE, Christmas lunch, parties, school plays and dance rehearsals. St. Mary's Church and Wherstead Church are used for celebrating Christian festivals and as part of the school's RE curriculum. We also use the playing fields for PE and after school clubs.

There are regular community events that are run by the school but are open to the village as a whole. In recent years we have put on a matinee performance of our school play for local people and of course there is the annual barbecue.

We are always interested in extending are links and support of the local community."

Holbrook High School – contribution from Headmaster

"Holbrook High is applying for funding, under the Government's Specialist School Programme, to develop the school with a particular focus in History and Languages. The potential funding is in two parts: a grant (up to £100,000) for capital projects; plus ongoing support in the form of £129 per student per annum for four years. But the school must, in addition, raise £50,000 unconditional sponsorship. A key feature of the scheme is that, as well as providing better facilities for its pupils, the school must work with other schools and outside groups in the community to provide a wider social benefit. Up to a third of the ongoing funding should be devoted to these wider aspects.

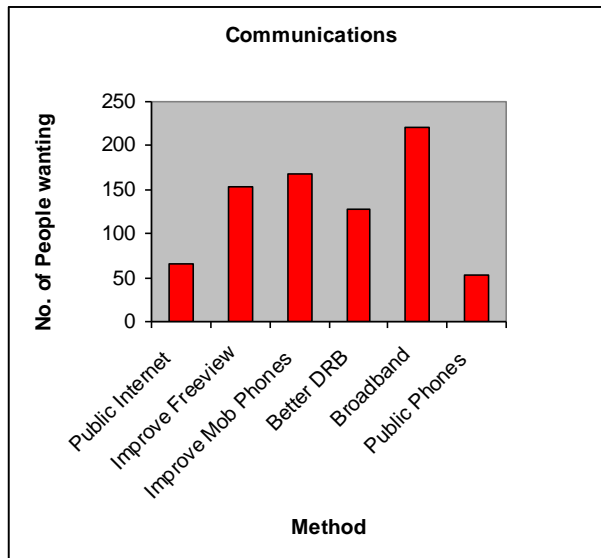
The school intends to use its grant monies to build an enhanced Learning Resources Centre, linked to the new Sports Centre, and this will cater for the needs of a range of age groups. This will help to place the school at the hub of the community – not just Holbrook, but the neighbouring parishes as well. Consequently the Headteacher, Rob Sherington, wishes to identify groups who will be able to benefit from the proposed new facilities. These may be local historians, people interested in setting up a cyber café, anyone interested in language-related topics, including conversational classes."

There is the potential here to take advantage of facilities that are not presently available In Tattingstone village.



INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS

The numbers of people responding to the 2 questions ranged from 311 to 313



We are all living in a rapidly changing world. The nature of business generally is shifting from manufacturing towards service industries. Travelling to work is becoming more costly due to the recent increases in oil prices and congestion is making the daily journey longer more frustrating. However, computers and the internet increasingly offer the potential for people to work from home and communicate with their offices electronically. For the future, good radio and electronic communications systems 'with the outside world' will become more important and this will be

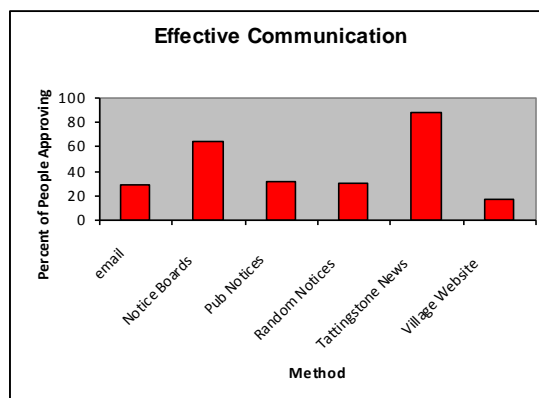
particularly so for small communities such as Tattingstone.

Across most age groups, not surprisingly, Broadband Internet connection came out as the service considered most important to maintain modern communications, with mobile phone and Freeview television reception also being prioritised.

The 'Tattingstone News' was also given the thumbs up and, perhaps heartening for traditionalists, good old 'word of mouth' and village notice boards also held their own in the communication ratings. The survey also showed that, whilst valuing their own private systems, Tattingstone residents still recognise the benefits of shared community facilities such as telephone boxes and public Internet terminals. Although only 53 people wanted more 'phone boxes this is an indication that they are important to those who do not have a home phone or a mobile. Any future attempt to remove our existing telephone boxes must be resisted. Moreover, nearly 70 people would like a public internet facility such as an internet café so that there is a signal here for local enthusiasts to investigate the feasibility of setting one up.

BT broadband is becoming available in parts of the village but there are still areas, such as around the White Horse, where an adequate service cannot yet be provided. There is, however, an alternative system based on radio links from the Red Moon ISP. This came into being as a result of the efforts of our local enthusiast Ned Cartwright who was successful in winning an open competition for funding from Suffolk County Council. Details of these services can be obtained from the website <http://www.redmoon.uk.com>.

The editor of The Tattingstone News is to be congratulated in providing what nearly 90% of us consider to be the most effective way of circulating information around the village – keep it up! The public notice boards also have an important role to play in spreading news. Email is, as yet, confined to those who have their own computers and, similarly, this will account for the low rating for the new village website. However, if the website is promoted more strongly it will have an increasingly important role to play in circulating information. Perhaps chat rooms could be set up to enable people to air their views on important issues – such as this Village Plan!!



These results also suggest that an internet café - or, perhaps, providing basic computer training for those who want it - could be helpful to a significant number of people.

Village web site: <http://www.ukvillages.co.uk/ukvillages.nsf/villages/Tattingstone>

RECOMMENDATIONS

- ***Parish Council to support and promote the village website***
- ***If poor Freeview and mobile 'phone reception and broadband access persist then interested parties should form pressure groups to lobby the service providers***
- ***Set up public internet access at Village Hall***

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

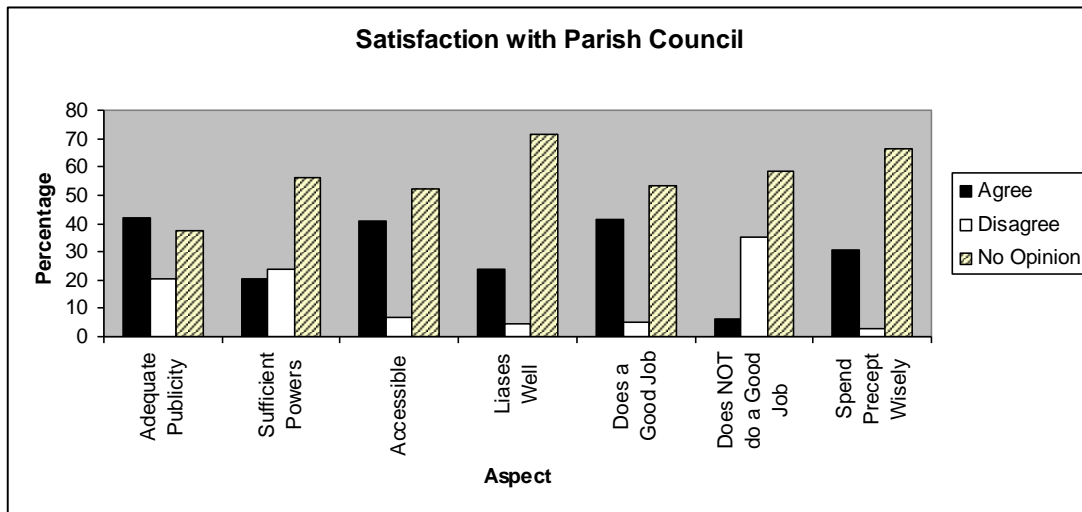
The numbers of people responding to the 4 questions ranged from 215 to 264

This section sought to ascertain peoples' knowledge of our elected representatives; obtain our opinions as to how sensitive various tiers of local government are to our concerns; test how satisfied we are with certain aspects of the Parish Council's performance; and to provide the Parish Council with an indication of the preferred methods for raising funds for capital projects which may stem from this report.

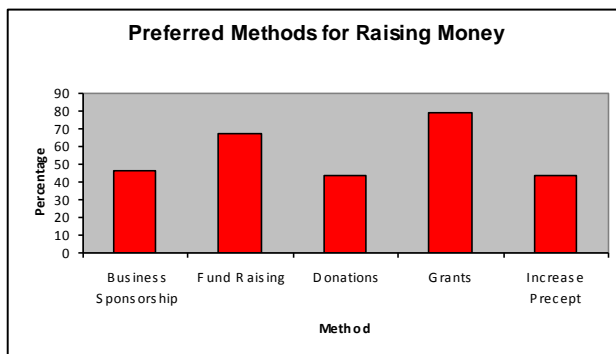
Nearly three-quarters of us know the name of at least one Parish Councillor but less than 60% know who represents us at Babergh DC and only 40% said they could identify their Suffolk County Councillor. In fact, at the time of publishing this report, our representative at Babergh and at the County Council is one and the same person – Dave Wood.

Half of us believe that Tattingstone PC is well aware of our local concerns whereas Babergh DC is so rated by only one third of us and this falls away to just over a quarter of us who think that Suffolk County Council is sensitive to our problems. This is, perhaps reflective of the relative 'remoteness' of each layer of local government – with Suffolk CC being mainly concerned with strategic issues over a wide

geographical area. The particular 'local' services for which Suffolk CC are responsible are highways, transport and policing and these are also influenced by national policies.



A degree of 'political apathy' is suggested by the fact that, on average, around a half of us offered no opinion when asked about various aspects of the performance of the parish Council. However, over 40% of us think that the Tattingstone Parish Council adequately publicises its activities – twice the number who don't. When enquired if people thought that the Parish Council 'has adequate powers', the opinion of those who did (20%) was matched by those who take the opposite view (24%). We do seem to think that our councillors do a good job (41% of us) and this is confirmed by the small proportion (only 6%) that think they do not. Almost a third of are satisfied with the ways in which the precept is spent on our behalf with a mere 3% expressing dissatisfaction.



We also enquired as to how villagers would prefer to see capital projects financed - some of which may arise as a result of this report. The clear message here is that 80% of us think that the Parish Council should take full advantage of any grant monies that may be available and augment this with fund raising. Rather less than half of

us would also like to see other potential sources, such as donations and business sponsorship, explored. However, councillors should not shrink from raising the precept, for appropriate major projects, since 44% of us would endorse such action – although 22% would actually oppose it and the remaining 36% of us seemingly indifferent. As to the additional financial burden that might be tolerated, 36% of us would be prepared to see their household pay an extra £5 to £10 per annum; 20%

would not complain at increases between £10 and £20 per annum; but, again, 20% of us would oppose any increase at all in the precept.

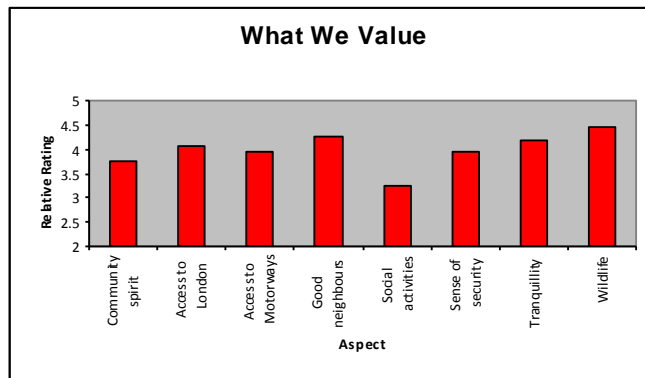
RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Parish Council to continue to publicise its activities via Tattingstone News and the village web site.**
- **PC to note that raising the precept to finance significant projects will, by and large, be endorsed provided that other sources of finance have been explored first.**

LOCAL ENVIRONMENT

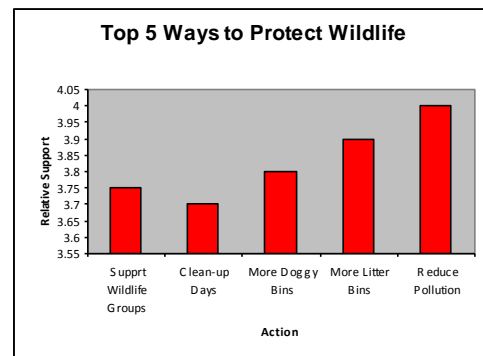
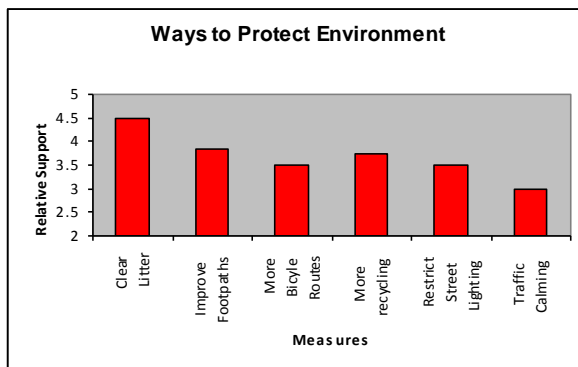
The numbers of people responding to the 8 questions ranged from 297 to 320

When we asked people to rate certain aspects of life in Tattingstone it seems that we value access to 'wildlife' most highly followed closely by our 'good neighbours' and 'tranquillity'. We also seem to feel 'secure' and enjoy a sense of 'community spirit'. Broadly, the same relative strengths of opinion applied over all age bands but



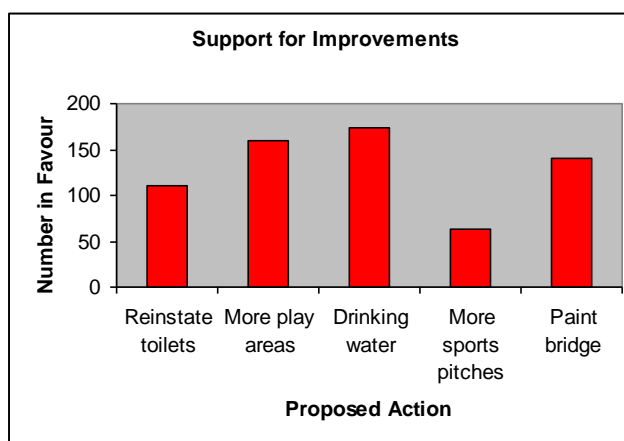
Younger people and commuters also value 'easy access to London and to motorways'. However, the available social activities are not so well rated and this overall view seems to be supported by the range of new clubs and activities that people would like to be started (see Sports, Social and Entertainment section above).

But there is always scope for improvement and in order to protect and enhance the environment 'clearing litter' and 'improving footpaths' were felt to be most important - although in the 25- 64 age groups (more than 60%) felt that there was a need for 'more cycle routes'. A wide range of measures to protect wildlife would also be supported with largely equal strength of opinion in favour of more litter bins; reducing pollution; provision of more doggy bins; support for local wildlife groups; and regular 'cleanup days'.



When it came to considering ways of actually implementing the desired improvements and making roads and footpaths more attractive, again, no one method stood out. Virtually the same numbers of people wanted a 'voluntary litter collection' system as wanted a 'funded litter collection' (i.e. a paid litter warden) while there was an almost equal split between those wanting 'mowing/tidying of verges' as those preferring 'letting roadside verges grow for wildlife'.

There was fairly general agreement that more (or perhaps improved) play areas were needed. Some 75% of those who expressed an opinion about the condition of the equipment at the playing field considered it to be poor. There was also a positive vote for providing drinking water taps for walkers and cyclists. As far as reinstating the toilets at Lemons Hill Bridge is concerned there were 111



people who would support this move although rather more (153) actually said that they do not regard this as an important matter.

We understand that the dispute between Anglia Water and Suffolk County Council as to who has the responsibility for painting the Lemons Hill bridge has yet to be resolved. Apparently the matter will have to be settled in court.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- ***PC to organise Litter Clean-up Days – consider paid Litter Warden***
- ***PC to provide more litter Bins (liaise with Anglia Water)***
- ***PC to liaise with Anglia Water to provide more Doggy Bins***
- ***Consider upgrading the equipment in the childrens' play area at the playing field***
- ***Consider improving pavements/footpaths to facilitate walking to school and farm shops – PC to liaise with Suffolk CC***
- ***Anglia Water to consider reinstating toilets at Lemons Hill car park and to provide drinking water taps for cyclists and walkers***
- ***PC to monitor dispute regarding painting of Lemons Hill bridge and advise parishoners***

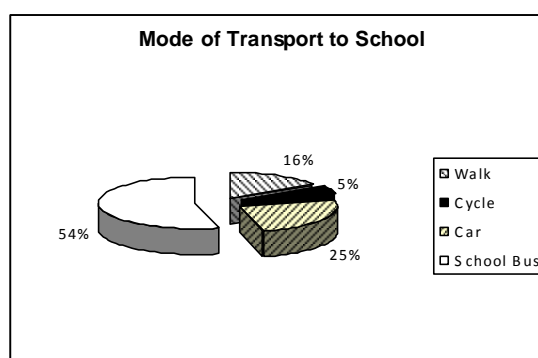
YOUTH SURVEY

37 young people answered the Youth Questionnaire

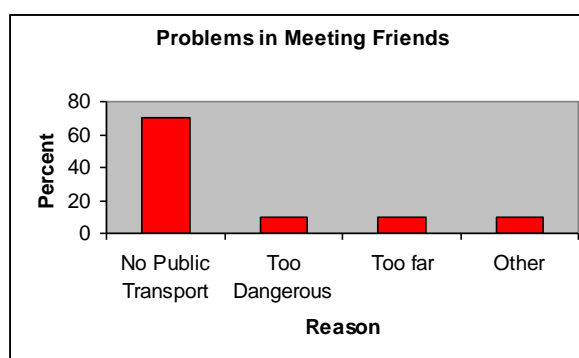
We felt it important to let our village youngsters have their own voice and so we sent out separate Youth Questionnaires to all households where we knew there to be young children – the target group was the age band 9- 15 years. An encouraging 37 completed questionnaires were returned: from 13 boys and 24 girls. The average age of the respondents was girls 12 years and the boys were slightly older at 13.

Most of our village children attend the local schools - Tattingstone Primary and then moving on to Holbrook High for their secondary education. A minority attend one of the several nearby schools in the private sector.

Some 54% use the bus to get to school, which is good for the future if public transport is to be encouraged, but 24% rely on being driven in by car. A small minority of the children, around 20%, cycle or walk. About two thirds of the pupils attend after school activities. When travelling outside the village they rely more heavily on parents and friends to get there with only 22% using the bus but most (61%) have to ask parents to drive them.



There was a fairly even split regarding what the young people would like to do when they leave school. Going on to 6th form was most popular at 32% and around 20% each would either aspire to go to college or to seek work directly after leaving school. Not surprisingly, given the average age of respondents, some 27% of the youngsters are as yet undecided regarding their future.



Most children (over 80%) said that their friends live outside Tattingstone and that there is a general problem in meeting up with them. They considered that transport available to them, presumably cycling or walking, to be dangerous on the local roads or the distances involved to be too far. More frequent public transport would be helpful – a very large majority quoted lack of public transport as a barrier to meeting friends. Perhaps greater use of the Buzzabout service through more co-ordinated bookings would help here.

We asked in what sports and recreational activities our young people presently participate and it would seem that most entertain themselves playing football, cycling, horse-riding or at home on the computer or playing in the garden. The list was very diverse, highlighting a wide range of interests, and equally so when we enquired as to what facilities they would like to be provided for them. Notably, however, 81% said that if there were a social club they would use it. Most (an overwhelming 91%) also said they would like other clubs or activities provided within the village: outdoor sports such as football, cricket and an improved playing area on the sports field; and indoor entertainments such as music and discos. It would seem that there is some as yet untapped potential for our football, tennis and cricket clubs and that we should investigate the feasibility of organising a social club for young people.

When asked what they liked about Tattingstone and what could be done to improve the village the answers were somewhat patchy with low response rates and tended to contradict earlier replies and opinions! Given that, our young people seem to value

the peace and quiet of Tattingstone and appreciate the surrounding scenery. On the downside, a sizeable 37% of our youngsters said that there is 'nothing to do' and over 20 % rued the lack of a shop. Encouragingly, however, about a third of all the children said that they would be prepared to help to improve our village and virtually all of the remainder at least said 'maybe' they would. It seems that there is the potential here to involve youngsters directly in communal activities that could lead to longer-term benefits.

Advice on how to tackle setting up a Community Shop can be obtained from Cynthia Shears at Babergh District council.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- ***Parents to co-ordinate transport-sharing arrangements for young people to enable them to meet friends and to reduce traffic and parking problems on the 'School Runs'***
- ***Start a 'social club' for young people***
- ***Consider setting up a Community Shop***
- ***Improve conditions for walkers and cyclists on village roads***
- ***Involve young people more in community activities***

'FREE COMMENTS' FROM QUESTIONNAIRE

We allowed space in the questionnaire for people to comment freely in order to amplify their answers or to raise issues that we had not covered. Some 70 people took the trouble to do this although the subjects mentioned were many and diverse.

Several people mentioned traffic and roads – speeding, dangers to cyclists and pedestrians and dangerous road junctions. People talked about the need for pavements or footways to connect the three parts of our

*"Why is no effort made to enforce the 30 mph speed limit in Tattingstone?"
A parishoner*

Village. Not mentioned in our original questionnaire were issues regarding the activities and proposed expansion of the landfill site at The Heath – this was spontaneously mentioned by several parishioners; fly tipping and dog fouling were also concerns, and again, although again

not mentioned in the original questionnaire, both adults and children mentioned they would like to see the return of a village general store.

This last issue was not covered at the time the Questionnaire was circulated but we have been receiving many verbal comments from people recently because the air traffic over us has increased noticeably during the course of 2005. Moreover, we understand that Stansted Airport authorities are applying for permission to increase over-flying substantially in the near future. This would be only be taking up 'spare capacity' in the existing runway and terminal facilities - which only operate at 60% around loading at present. The effect of a second runway would be a separate issue.

*"I believe that the village would benefit from a proper village shop."
A parishoner*

Nor did we ask for views in our Questionnaire regarding the safety of the access to the A137 at the White Horse end of the village. The reason for this is that the junction

lies outside our boundary in the parish of Wherstead. As well as traffic safety issues – recently there have been several accidents (some involving fatalities) – there have been problems in that vicinity with fly tipping and abandoned cars have been set on fire. This junction is used daily by many of our parishioners heading for Ipswich but much less frequently by people from Wherstead – most of whom will be unaware of the problems. We recommend, therefore, that our Parish Council approach their opposite numbers at Wherstead with a view to a co-operative approach to solving the problems here.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- ***Parish Council to monitor closely all applications for increased activities at the landfill site and keep residents at The Heath informed***
- ***Parish Council to monitor events with regard to increasing air traffic and to publicise proposed changes to village***
- ***Parish Council to liaise with Wherstead PC to consider improving A137 junction at White Horse end of the village***

Most of the other issues that call for action are dealt with in other sections

SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES

Our survey shows that, by and large, most people enjoy living in Tattingstone and that we would like to preserve our rural environment. But things will never remain static and the village will always face new challenges.

Presently, the common issue that seems to be of concern to a majority of people is the increase of traffic and the problems that this brings with it – speeding, parking and greater dangers to pedestrians and cyclists. This is coupled with views expressed about the inadequacy of public transport systems. The solutions are, however, not going to be simple because any traffic calming and other measures would need to be implemented in a sympathetic manner in order that we can retain the character of the village.

There does seem to be a significant demand for more social clubs and activities – particularly from young people. It would seem that the best way of bringing this about would be for interested individuals to grasp the nettle and to start up a club of their choice. Perhaps the last act of the Parish Plan Steering Group should be seek out volunteers to form a small informal committee whose aim would be to act as a catalyst to seek out such individuals and to monitor progress towards the implementation of the other recommendations in this report.

We hope that any new clubs that come into being will make use of the Village Hall. But, as we have indicated, there may be competition from other venues for sporting and social activities – notably the new facilities that will be provided at Holbrook High School. The long-term future of our Hall and Playing Field should be considered carefully by those responsible to ensure that they remain at the centre of village social life.

Litter and other forms of pollution are also significant concerns. It would seem that here we should be able to help ourselves to some extent through the support shown for voluntary clean-up days.

Longer-term issues, such as the creation of more footways to link the three parts of Tattingstone will require consultation and negotiations between the Parish Council and Suffolk County Council Highways Department. We would, no doubt, be competing here with other villages for a share of the County Council's limited budgets. Also, the possible revival of a village shop will need the creation of an enthusiastic action group.

We hope that this report will truly reflect the wishes of Tattingstone residents, that they will be implemented and that, as a result, our village will continue to offer an attractive environment in which we can live.

WHAT NEXT?

In presenting this report the Steering Group has completed its remit by identifying issues of concern to the village and, based on these, we have drawn up an outline action plan. However, in order to take things forward the action plan will have to be worked up in more detail and, where capital expenditure is involved, the resources quantified. To do this it will be necessary for village organisations to liaise with the other bodies concerned.

We strongly recommend, therefore, that the Parish Council, the Village Hall Committee and interested individuals co-operate to create a small Action Group who will flesh out the Action Plan, agree priorities, monitor progress towards implementation of the individual actions and report that progress to the village.

TATTINGSTONE PARISH PLAN

JANUARY 2006

ACTION PLAN – OUT COMES

Set up a Social Club for young people	Investigated further by various people; but not got off the ground to date. Is there still a need? We have a Karate Club on Tuesdays. Brantham football juniors using our Playing Field - Considered that perhaps no longer a requirement, but ask the question of the youngsters in Tatt News	Ongoing
Revive the Village Fete or hold a Village Day	Fete resurrected in 2007 and has been held annually since	Completed
Coordinate car sharing schemes for young people	Fulfilled as part of the Tattingstone Good Neighbour Scheme, which offers a comprehensive service just a phone call away	Completed
Provide better children's play equipment at the playing field	Parish Council leading this project. Phase1 & 2 completed; Phase 3 ongoing as funds available	Ongoing
Continue to develop secular activities in St Mary's Church	Awaiting new Vicar	Ongoing
Hold public meeting regarding household and vehicle security	Parish Council held a public meeting in 2007	Completed
Create an Action Group to look into setting up a community shop	One option looked into by the original Parish Plan Steering Group; but didn't flourish. Stutton community shop now open, which serves Tattingstone; plus the Good Neighbours Scheme available to all Tattingstone residents if anything specific required	Completed
Improve Freeview/Mobile phone reception and broadband access	Service over the village now much improved since Parish Plan was completed in 2006. Letters written to providers, but with little success.	Completed
Reinstate toilets at Lemons Hill car park	The meeting has been advised that the police would not support reinstatement of the toilets because of vandalism; however the Action Group to write to Anglia Water to ask	Ongoing
Provide drinking water taps for walkers and cyclists	Ongoing communications between Anglia Water & the Parish Council infer that this request is unlikely to be received favourably, however Action Group to write to Anglia Water to ask	Ongoing
Improve layout of Wheafsheaf crossroads	Suffolk County Council have already made improvements (roadway markings) and state that no further improvements are necessary at this time	Completed
Set up a public internet facility at the Village Hall	Considered that the requirement for this has now been superseded (everyone who may wish for internet access may now already have acquired their own connection/PC at home). However, Good Neighbours Scheme to offer Internet/email service going forward	Completed
Provide more doggy bins and notices re dog fouling	Parish Council have installed more bins and notices are now on the Playing Field	Completed
Provide more litter bins	Parish Council have installed more litter bins	Completed
Investigate feasibility of setting up small craft businesses	Requires individuals with wish to set up business/create their own business plan and skills dependent. Suggested that the Annual Village Fete had a section for local crafts, but there was no take up	Completed

Liaise with Wherstead PC to discuss safety of A137 junction	New road markings at Wherstead junction organised; for improved safety.	Completed
Discourage car parking outside Primary School	Tattingstone School now frequently remind parents of safe parking	Completed
Improve police coverage/keep village informed on structural change	Community Officer now in place and attends Parish Council meetings regularly	Completed
Consider if there would be a role for a Community Council	Considered that this Group (the Tattingstone Parish Plan Action Group) is it	Completed
Monitor events regarding relocation of surgery and pharmacy	The Parish Council are informed/aware of changes	Ongoing
Closely monitor developments at the landfill site	Parish Council monitor	Ongoing
Investigate possibility of provision of affordable housing	Parish Council ongoing	Ongoing
Investigate acceptable methods for reducing speeding vehicles	Personal responsibility – villagers need to be aware of their own speed and ensure they are driving within limits and safely. The SID (speed indicator device) is present on The Heath regularly. <i>Recent news April 2011</i> – solar powered speed indicator due to be installed on the Heath	Completed
Paint Lemons Hill Bridge	Parish Council in ongoing discussions with Anglian Water over the bridge – protracted disagreement over responsibility	Ongoing
Organise litter clean-up days	Many litter clean up days help; with more in future as/when required	completed
Develop car-sharing schemes	This service operates as part of the Good Neighbours Scheme	Completed
Extend Neighbourhood Watch to areas not presently covered	All areas of the village now covered, with exception of the White Horse-end, where new co-ordinator to be found.	Ongoing
Draw-up village Business Skills register/co-ordinate homeworkers	The 'need' is considered superseded by advertisements of local businesses in the Tatt News.	Completed
Set-up Good Neighbours schemes	Done – scheme set up and has been running for several years	Completed
Monitor increasing air traffic/developments at Stansted	Part of the Stour Valley association (Rodney Chadburn)	Completed
Promote use of Tattingstone Village website	Tattingstone website now up and running and fully operational	Completed
Provide more footways to improve pedestrian safety	Parish Council investigated many options. Those supported by Suffolk Highways have been laid (Lemons Hill).	Completed