

Parish Plan for Arne



**Prepared by the
Parish Plan Steering Group
September 2003**

VISION

Our vision is to make Arne Parish a better place in which to live, work and play.

CONTENTS

<u>Topic</u>	<u>Page No</u>
• Introduction	3
Foreword	3
Acknowledgements	3
Background	4
Context	4
Steering Group Objective	5
Methodology and Chronology	5-7
List of Members of the Steering Group	8
• History of the Parish	9-12
• The Parish Now	13
• The Survey Results	14-31
• Summary of Goals	32
• Action Plan	33-36

INTRODUCTION

Foreword by Malcolm Macleod, OBE

It was a privilege to be asked to chair the Steering Group who prepared this Plan and I thank the members most warmly for their commitment and time.

I also add my personal thanks to the Group's acknowledgements below, in particular to the residents of the Parish of Arne who came to the public meetings and events and who responded to the comprehensive survey.

It's been a challenging process at a time of many changes in the approach to planning, most notably the government's desire that people should shape the development of their communities. Part of the challenge has been to avoid raising false expectations that what we want now can be provided tomorrow, or even in some cases at all.

The evidence-based results are in harmony with recent reports and strategies in Dorset, strengthening the case for including them in District and County Community Strategies so that the Parish of Arne develops in the way the residents want.

On behalf of the Steering Group, I commend this plan to you.



Acknowledgements. We are very grateful to the following for their valuable contribution to this Plan:

- ◆ The Countryside Agency, for essential funding.
- ◆ Hastoe Housing Association, for essential funding.
- ◆ Purbeck District Council, especially Ros Cartwright.
- ◆ Arne Parish Council, for instigation and support.
- ◆ Dorset Community Action, especially Simon Thompson for his support and encouragement.
- ◆ Bournemouth University Market Research Group, especially Stephen Calver for his team's analysis and presentations of the findings of the survey.
- ◆ Most importantly, we are indebted to the residents of Arne Parish for making their opinions known and participating in open consultations.

Background.

In June 2001, Arne Parish Council decided that a Parish Plan would help the community to plan for the future. To aid the process, the Parish Council requested inclusion into Purbeck District Council's application for Investors in the Community accreditation. A decision to include Arne was advised on 22nd March 2002.



At the Annual Parish Meeting of Arne on 18th April 2002, a presentation was made by Mr Simon Thompson of Dorset Community Action to explain the advantages and process of completing a Parish Plan.

It was decided to establish a Steering Group to manage the process with an independent chairman and the Parish Clerk as secretary.



Context.

From the outset the Steering Group was determined not to raise false hopes and expectations. Thus, we believe it is important that everyone should understand the context in which the Group's work was set.



The government decided that communities should have a greater say in their future development. The planning

system is in a process of change to development planning at local and regional levels. In the meantime, though, the existing framework of Structure and Local Plans remains, and it is Purbeck District Council's current Local Plan that determines what happens in Arne Parish. There are, of course, separate plans for health, policing, fire & emergency, education, highways and social services, some in Dorset County Council's Structure Plan and some outside the local government organisation.



In parallel, all local government authorities now have a statutory duty to prepare a Community Strategy for their area, which will allow local communities to establish their needs and priorities and ensure that services are better co-ordinated and responsive to them.

Community Strategies are being prepared by Local Strategic Partnerships comprising local authority elected members and service providers, other local service providers such as health, police, learning and skills, business, voluntary and community organisations. Their goals are more integration of services and better co-ordination between service providers, with a view to wider use of existing and future funding.

Insofar as Arne Parish Plan is concerned, therefore, the Steering Group recognises that our Parish Plan has an important role in shaping the future development of the Parish.



The Parish Plan fits into the Community Strategy of the Purbeck Local Strategic Partnership, which in turn fits into the Community Strategy of the Dorset Strategic Partnership. Purbeck and Dorset have each written protocols to guide this procedure.



The Steering Group is aware of the consultations from which the Dorset and Purbeck Agenda 21 Strategies were derived between 1998-2000; and of the MORI Residents' Survey on Living in Dorset conducted across Dorset last year on behalf of DCC, which is being used, *inter alia*, to inform the Community Strategy process. We are aware of the Regional Economic Strategy; the emerging Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Management Plan for Dorset; the Dorset Biodiversity Strategy; the Rural Renaissance Plan for Dorset produced by the Bournemouth Dorset and Poole Economic Partnership; and the aforementioned health, policing and other service plans; all of which are also informing the Community Strategy process.



In summary, therefore, there is a lot going on outside the Parish that will bear upon our future development. We are

confident that our Parish Plan fits into the overall scheme of things in rural Dorset and that systems are evolving both to enable it to be dovetailed into existing and emerging processes, and for it to be possible (if not immediately, then in due course) to deliver the actions.

Steering Group objective.



Against that background, the Steering Group decided to produce a Plan for the Parish of Arne in which the community, through consultations, established its needs over the next 5 years in relation to Employment; Planning & Development including Housing; Transport and Parking; Education and Lifelong Learning; Health; Emergency Services and Policing; Environmental Services; Shopping; Postal and Telephone Services; Leisure, Village Hall; Countryside of Arne Parish and Our Future Community. Individual members of the Steering Group volunteered to lead on single or groups of topics.

Methodology and Chronology.



The Steering Group decided to oversee the whole process and report regularly to the Parish Council. There would be a number of routine meetings of the Group, augmented by Working Groups

when required for specific issues; at least one Public Meeting; one Open Day; a Youth Event; and a Residents' Survey, which would be analysed professionally. These would be advertised in the local press and communicated directly to households. Minutes and all other records would be retained as evidence for both the Plan and Investors in the Community processes, which would run together. The Plan would be completed by August/September 2003.



It must be emphasized that there has been no cost to the Parish (beyond £375 to enable grant aid) or to individuals (beyond the notional value of their voluntary contributions). Successful applications were made to the Countryside Agency for essential funding of the process (£4,625), and to Hastoe Housing Association for funding of the related Investors in the Community accreditation (£1,000).



In addition to reporting regularly to the Parish Council, we maintained links with the District Council and District level service providers, and with those at County level.

With respect to neighbouring Parishes and Wareham Town, we noted that Town and Parish plans were either not yet in train or in different stages of development. We would invite comment on shared services as appropriate, and liaise at the right time.

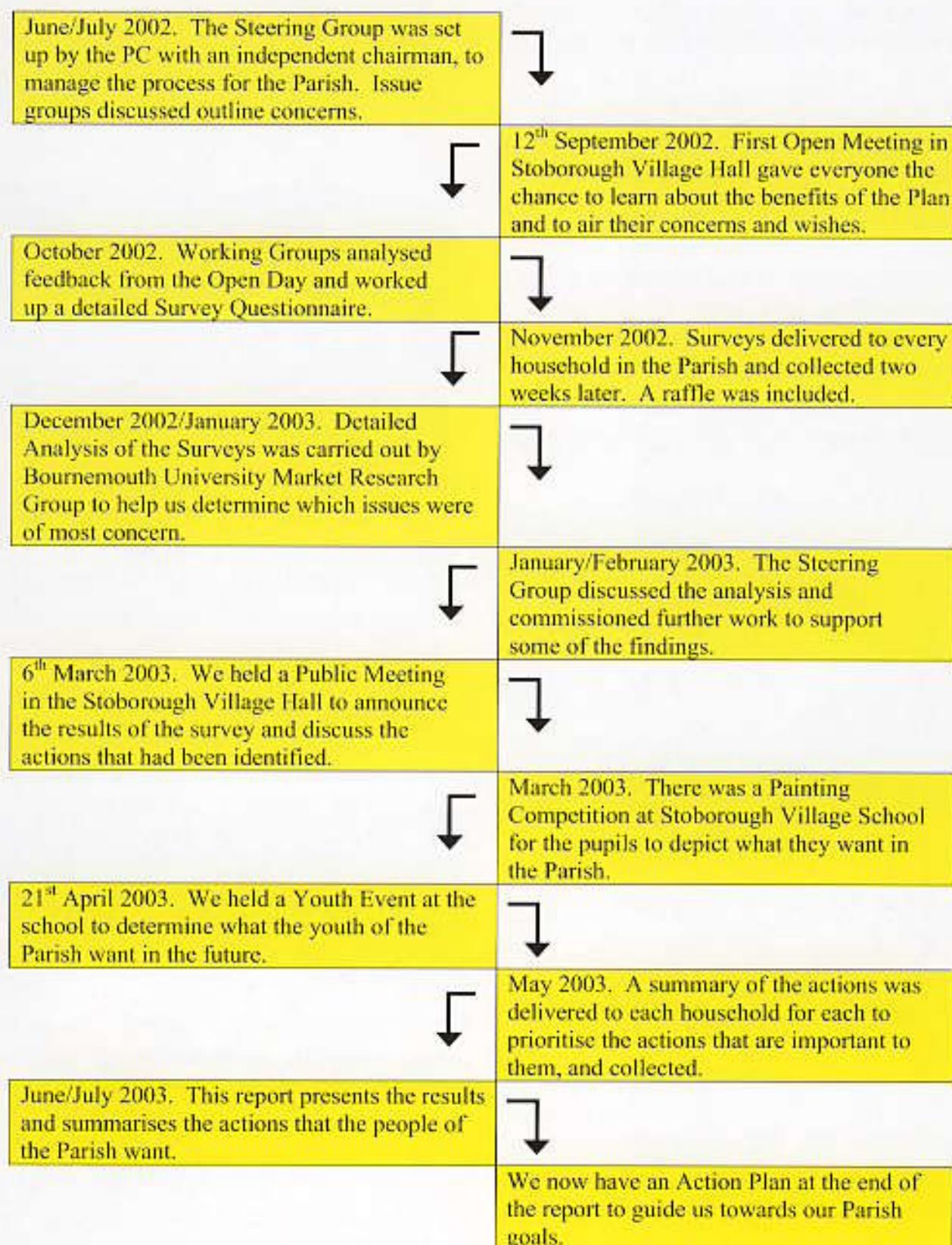


For example different members have attended launch events at Corfe Castle and Wareham Town, and the secretary has kept her colleagues informed of our progress.

Apart from the area of Worgret north of the A352 the entire Parish is within the Dorset AONB. Further, 43% of the Parish is within the Wareham and Stoborough Conservation Area, either National Nature Reserve run by English Nature, or Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) nature reserve, or National Trust land (Middlebere) governed by national and European nature conservation designations.

We decided because of this that we would liaise closely with the nature conservation bodies and the Environment Agency over their plans for this precious area, and again individual members of the Steering Group have done so.

Chronology



Members of the Steering Group.

The following volunteered their services to the Group:

MALCOLM MACLEOD (Chairman);
DEBBIE WELLER (Secretary, Arne Parish Clerk);
MIRANDA COOKSON (Stoborough Meadow resident);
PETER GOULD (Stoborough resident, Arne Parish Councillor);
MIKE & DEE GRACE (Ridge residents);
NICK JACOBS (New Road resident);
BRIDGET KENWARD (Grange Road resident, Chairman Arne Parish Council);
CAROLINE MACLEOD (Worgret resident, Arne Parish Councillor);
ELAINE RANDALL-SMITH (Grange Road resident);
PAUL WILLIAMS (Ridge resident, Arne Parish Councillor, Chairman Wareham Transport Action Group).

In addition, we are grateful for the support of:
TIM BRODIE-JAMES (English Nature);
STEPHEN CALVER (Bournemouth University Market Research Group);
ROS CARTWRIGHT (Purbeck District Council);
NEIL GARTSHORE (RSPB);
ANNE HORSFALL and PETER GOULD (for history notes);
ROBERT KENWARD; (Centre of Ecology and Hydrology)
SIMON THOMPSON (Dorset Community Action);
TONY TROTT (Hastoe Housing Association).

We also thank Daler Rowney, Anthony Felstead, Hall & Woodhouse, Des Smith Stoborough VC CE First School and everyone who generously provided donations for and facilitated our events.

What now?

This Plan has been simultaneously distributed to:

- All household in the Parish;
- Arne Parish Council;
- Countryside Agency;
- Dorset Community Action
- Dorset County Council;
- Dorset offices of the Environment Agency, English Nature, the National Trust and RSPB;
- Dorset Police and Fire Authorities;
- Dorset and Somerset Regional Health Authority and the South and East Dorset Primary Care Trust;
- Dorset Strategic Partnership;
- Government Office of the South West;
- Hastoe Housing Association;
- Neighbouring Parishes and Wareham Town;
- Purbeck District Council;
- Purbeck Partnership;
- Utility Companies;

All the authorities will now be aware of the wishes of the residents of Arne Parish when plans that affect the Parish are being developed.

When the Parish Plan reaches Purbeck District Council, Purbeck Partnership, Dorset County Council and Dorset Strategic Partnership it will be subject to their protocols, thus ensuring that our objectives will be considered appropriately.

There will be a review process, too, described in the last section of the Plan.

HISTORY OF THE PARISH

There have been many influences on the Parish. It was settled during the Bronze Age with clearance of tree cover creating increasing heathland and impoverishment of already infertile soils



There is a round barrow on the hill at Arne that was later used as a Beacon Hill. A burial site at King Barrow, Stoborough, was uncovered when the turnpike, Grange Road, was constructed in 1767, and another barrow was discovered nearby in 1835.

Evidence of pottery and kilns dates from Roman and Romano-British times, when clay was first dug in the Arne area.



The present Parish was in the north part of the Saxon administrative area of Hasler, with the rest of Purbeck being in the Rowbarrow Hundred. Stoborough derives from the Saxon name for a stone hill. In the Domesday Book it is one of the many land holdings of the Count of Mortain, with a mill with _ hide and three smallholdings

valued at 40 shillings. Hugh Fitz Grip, Sheriff of Dorset, is remembered on Grip Heath near Arne.

In medieval times the entire Parish south of the river was part of the Forest of Purbeck, a hunting area under forest law. The Saxon manorial system of land tenure operated until comparatively recent times – see Barbara Kerr's "Bound to the Soil" for the social history of the Manor of Arne. The Parish from Arne to Stoborough was a part of the Parish of Holy Trinity within the borough of Wareham until probably after 1762.



St Nicholas Church at Arne was originally a chancelry of Holy Trinity, and dates from the early 13th century.

Agriculture was an important influence. Water meadows, pastures and some arable land supported cattle, turnips, wheat, barley and oats. But there was relatively little suitable soil east of Stoborough until the moors between Ridge and Arne were reclaimed.

There were improvements in the 18th century comprising drainage ditches or

lakes, but it was always an endless struggle with heather, furze and reed. Efforts were made to improve the heathland with burnbake of heath soils and chalk from the Purbeck Hills, but to little effect. There were 31 small arable fields at Arne and elsewhere unimproved heath was used for fuel, bedding and fodder. Heathland areas were unable to produce sufficient food, hence the importance of other employment. For example, in Arne village in 1841, only 17 of the 80 male residents worked the land. Nowadays there are a few farms, but 80% of the Parish is under nature conservation.



Industry played its part, too. Salterns Wood, the site of medieval saltings, is now overgrown. There was plenty of oak in the area for tannin, and it is likely that there was a medieval tannery in Stoborough. There has been a long history of extracting clay for pottery and china clay pipes, with the attendant supporting industries. Pits were often hand dug near Poole Harbour for ease of transport from, in the 18th century, Russell Quay, Hyde Quay and Middlebere Quay that are now relics of past activity. One large pit remains on the Arne peninsula today.

There has always been a clay industry in the area, from Roman times with kilns at Redcliffe and Stoborough, to the present day with open cast mines and some underground mines still being worked by Imery Minerals. Tokens of the past are Old Kiln Road (Ridge) named after the kilns located there in the Thomas Powell Cement Works built in 1900, and the Pumphouse



that was built in 1903 by Mr Pike of Pike Brothers Clay Mining who put a pump in.

The main work in the area from 1900 to the 1950s was in the Thomas Powell Cement Works at Ridge, Fayle Clay Works at Norden, Pike Brothers Clay Works at Furzebrook, farming and local builders. Now there is farming, oil extraction, tourism and Imery Minerals.

Pike Brothers could have developed to the same size as the London Brick Company. They had the right type of clay and employed brick burners from Burnley. But with strained relations between them and the local men, the burners decided to return to Burnley and Pike Brothers stopped making bricks.

Their company was amalgamated with Fayle Clay Works and named Pike Bros & Fayle Company. This was later taken over

by ECC Limited, which was sold to Imery Minerals Limited a few years ago.

Pike brothers were very forward thinking in their business compared with Fayle Clay Works. They built their own railway to transport clay to Ridge, whilst Fayle continued to use two horses pulling five trucks. Barges came up the river to collect the clay from Ridge. One, named The Cabby, came all the way from London and then sailed to Belgium to offload. The River Frome became an important deep water channel for the lighter clay barges, which went from Ridge to Poole to crossload the clay into larger vessels that were too deep draught to get over the sandbar in Poole Harbour before it was dredged. The river now plays an important part in the tourism industry, there being around 500 pleasure craft moored along the Parish boundary.

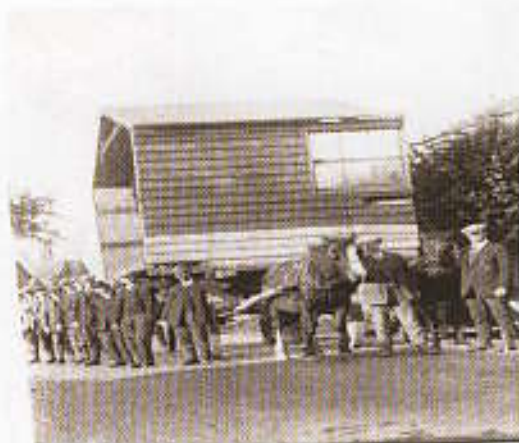


Arne village belonged to Shaftesbury Abbey during Richard II's reign and was first documented in 1285, but St Nicholas Church was built around 1200 so the village must have existed then. A census listed the school, built by Lord Eldon of Encombe to educate the children of his estate workers, in 1841, which did not close until 1922.



The Stoborough Village School was founded in 1872 when the Arne School became too small for the Parish children. There were two classrooms for children aged 5-12, and by 1972 it had grown to four classrooms for 135 children.

Stoborough developed along the road towards Corfe Castle and its public houses date back to Cromwellian times. Like Arne, many of the houses were owned by Lord Eldon and the Encombe Estate, and rented to the estate workers.



In about 1920 the first Stoborough Village Hall, a timber hut, was brought in from Bovington by horse and cart in 6 sections and put up on the village green. The Hall was used for social events and practice evenings for St John's Ambulance groups, but it was closed from April to August as

the men were working such long hours on the land that they could not go to the clubs.

Arne Parish extends round Wareham Town to the west and covers part of the Worgret area. This area is on high ground where gravel and oil is extracted. The original Worgret village, originally known as Wargate, had a reservoir serving the local residents, which was in sight of the gallows in earlier days. There was a village hall for all community events, built in about 1937 by Dr Lis, who lived and practiced in Bournemouth. There were 65 members and the hall was furnished with a chair and a cup and saucer for each member. It was built like a church and existed until the 1960s. In its heyday it provided a youth club for Wareham area. Dances, skittles, darts and table-tennis were popular and the hall was let for parties and weddings.

The Parish also played an important part in

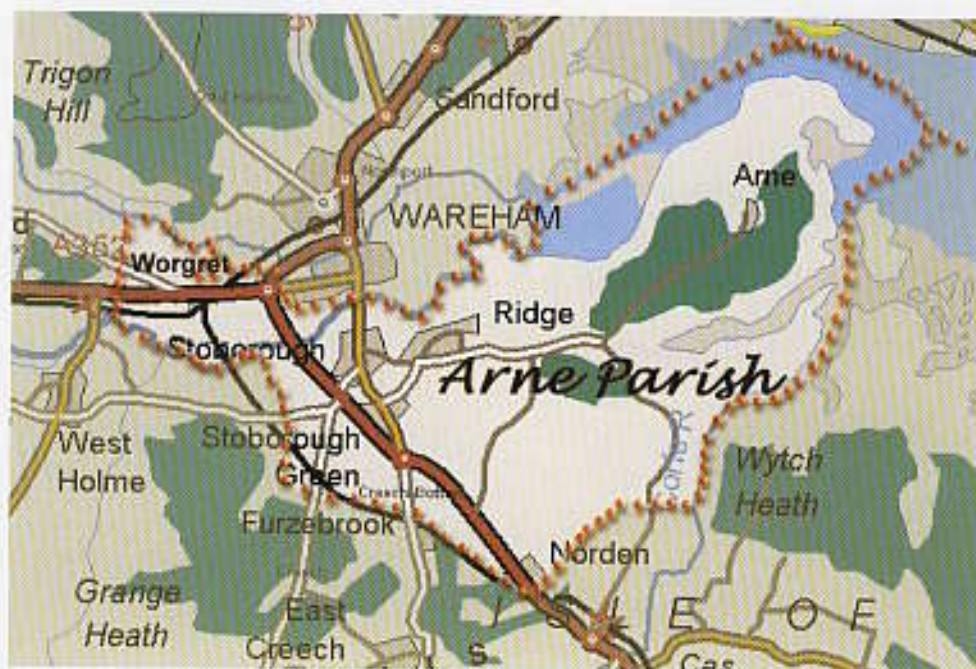
World War II, for example, with Arne Heath acting as a decoy for the Royal Naval Cordite Factory at Holton Heath.

Today the picture has changed a great deal. Residents commute to Wareham, Poole, Bournemouth, Swanage and further afield for work; many homes are holiday or second homes; the original industries of farming and building are much reduced; the clay industry continues but uses road transport instead of the river; and tourism has brought new opportunities and challenges to the area.

What is important is the continuation of a community spirit; of residents making decisions on how their environment should develop. The Parish Plan seeks to fulfill those aspirations by charting changes that will benefit present and future generations living in the Parish of Arne.



THE PARISH NOW



The Parish of Arne borders Wareham Town, a market town, and the Parishes of Corfe Castle, Church Knowle, East Holme, East Stoke and Wareham St Martin. Each has unique features. Wareham has its Saxon Walls, and Corfe's castle withstood Cromwellian troops during the ransack of the churches. But Arne, set in an AONB and within the Wareham and Stoborough Conservation Area, has arguably the most land under designated conservation management than any of the Parishes in the District. It is the most botanically diverse area in the country, with the Heritage Coast bordering the Parish's sea boundary. It covers 2,483 hectares with an electorate of 1,128 in 2001.

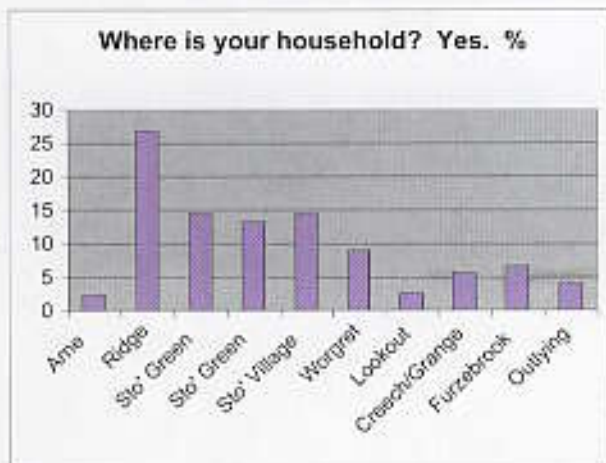
The Parish has six scattered settlements, with outlying ribbon developments: Arne to the east, Ridge, Stoborough Village, Stoborough Green, Stoborough Meadow, and Worgret to the west.

Stoborough Village has a pub, garage, first school, village hall, post office and general stores that are actively supported by local residents and visiting tourists. There are yachting facilities at Ridge; a caravan park and Lookout Stores to the south of Stoborough; the Halfway Inn on the A351 to Swanage; the Springfield Hotel on Grange Road; and the Worgret Manor Hotel on the A352 to Wool. Most of the residents go to the larger towns for employment (Poole and Bournemouth approximately 15 and 25 miles away) whilst local employment in Wareham and Swanage is mainly based upon shops, tourism, small trading estates and the public sector.

The Parish of Arne has employment in tourism, conservation, farming, clay mining, electronics and hotels. Transport, public library and health services are situated in Wareham.

THE SURVEY RESULTS

This section describes how we arrived at the prioritised list of actions that the Parish wants.



Briefly, we conducted a household survey that was analysed by the Market Research Group at Bournemouth University. The results were discussed with the Steering Group, and we asked for further analysis in some areas.

After that, a painting competition was held at the school to gauge what youngsters wanted, and a Youth Event on Easter Bank Holiday Monday for the same purpose.



We then circulated a full list of actions to all households asking for them to be placed in order of importance, resulting in the prioritised list.

General results of the Survey.

"Look forward to seeing the results of the survey and implementation of the findings."



We were then able to derive a number of potential actions from the analysis report, which we presented and discussed at a Public Meeting on 6th March.

The Arne Parish Survey was conducted during the Autumn of 2002. The questionnaire was distributed to all households in the Parish and by the closing date 357 households had returned completed forms representing approximately half of the households in Arne Parish. There were several responses per household thus the survey represented the views of 610 people.

The scope and range of returns gave confidence that the results are representative of the views and opinions of the residents of Arne Parish.



The survey provided a snapshot of community views and presented identified needs such as affordable housing and improved traffic conditions with the significant recognition that Arne is a special environment for those living in the area as well as visitors who are recognised as providing a major source of employment.

The profile of respondents as indicated by age, tenure and Parish area residence was broadly representative of the population of Arne Parish.

The survey results indicated a representative range of age groups in the data with the exception of 16-24 year olds (the views of whom were represented by older respondents in some cases, for instance with regard to housing). There was a good gender balance in the data (49% male, 51% female).

Employment results

"Seasonal unemployment a problem in Purbecks but not as bad as in Arne Parish."

Employment in Arne has always reflected the geographic and geological composition of the region. At a time of low population, agriculture was important, but the poor quality of the heathland soil prevented it becoming the pre-eminent industry. Instead, the

clay substrata assumed great importance, and its extraction and removal via the river system became an important source of economic development.

Nowadays, clay is transported by road to Poole Harbour.



As the clay industry declined, so the land has offered other employment. The outstanding natural beauty of the area has attracted green tourism and the industries associated with conservation. Visitors from all over the world come to enjoy the topography, and the area has become part of the world heritage coastal package for tourists.

This area's importance is illustrated by the high proportion of people (28.6%) working in the public and local government sectors.

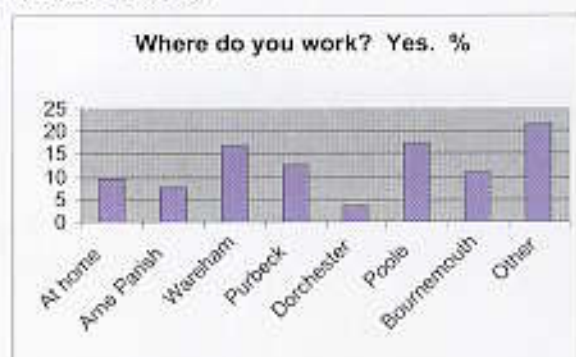


Tourism has traditionally paid low wages, and some sectors offer few training opportunities to young people. The pattern of low pay also prevents local people competing in a residential housing market in which affordable housing is scarce because of holiday and second homes (see the Planning and Development results below). Furthermore, green tourism increases the pressure on land and housing.

"More affordable housing to buy or rent a must; more opportunity for manufacturing jobs locally".

Respondents were largely willing to encourage careful expansion of both green tourism and small-scale industry. There was, though, resistance to theme parks as being less appropriate to the quiet area of Arne. The use of information technology allows discrete operation of high tech industry, providing both better training prospects and higher wages for the young people who wish to remain here. (The Henley Centre has shown that such industries deliver more economic benefit than other market sectors). The provision of such small scale industries, and the

ability to work from home, would also reduce traffic.



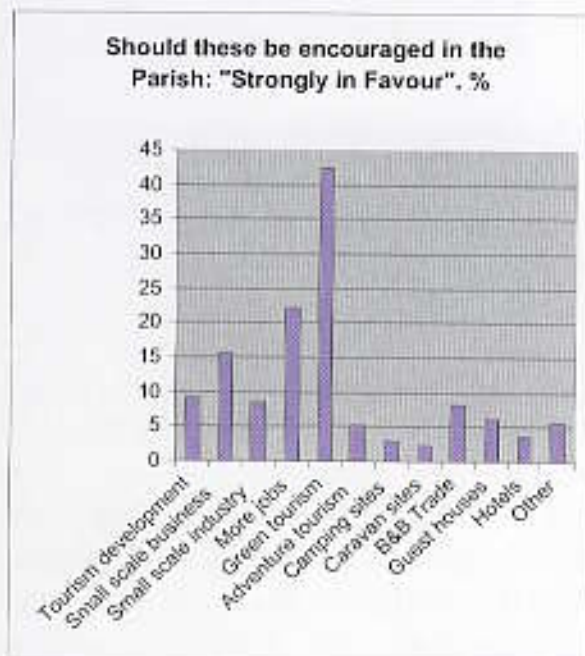
A high percentage of respondents (83%) work outside Arne (perhaps teleworking from home on one or two days a week?) whilst 29% are employed in Wareham or Purbeck.

"Work in London as no equivalent work in local area."

A small number of respondents were actively seeking work in Arne Parish. Responses elsewhere indicated that lack of public transport and childcare facilities contributed to their difficulties.

Employment in Arne includes shops, pubs, hotels, bed and breakfasts, caravan sites, self employed people, garages, farms, a post office, electronics manufacture, the conservation industry, a boat yard, a school, a wood turner and a plant hire business.





Future economic planning in Arne must seek a balance between conserving the landscape for the residents to enjoy; exploiting green tourism to maximize its economic potential; and creating access to affordable housing for young people who want to live and work locally.

The goal is to create sufficient work in the Parish to balance those who commute.

Objectives arising:

- EM1 Encourage local employment.**
- EM2 Encourage childcare amenities.**
- EM3 Encourage small-scale industrial workshops.**
- EM4 Encourage Green Tourism.**
- EM5 Develop small local businesses.**
- EM6 Encourage Green employment**

Planning and Development results



The AONB and Conservation constraints have an impact on planning and development control in the area.

Housing needs.

"Arne is a nature Parish – not the place for building more houses; will damage the environment".

Over the past six years house prices in Dorset have increased by 97% as against the national increase of 83.3%. By contrast average earnings in Dorset have increased by just 23% in the same period.

Although 45% of respondents felt that the number of houses built in Arne Parish was about right, 40% indicated that they were too expensive and 19.3% felt that too many had been built during the past ten years.

However, 71% would not have any objection to small (1-3 homes) development in the area and 54% indicated a need for affordable housing.

"Desperately need affordable housing for young people – how can they stay in the Parish re prices".

There was also a requirement for small family homes as alternative accommodation for household members and homes for young people. These issues are significant for a small community like Arne, highlighting the paucity of the type of accommodation needed – small houses, bungalows and flats for owner occupation.

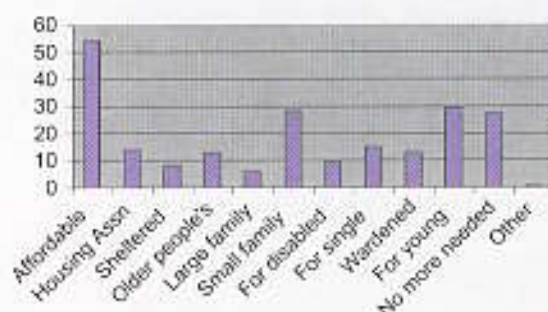


Over a quarter of households moving out of the Parish did so because they could not find affordable housing, and 48.6% of households with members seeking accommodation stated that family members would move back if housing were available. Analysis revealed this as an ongoing situation. The difficulty posed by high house prices and low average gross income was illustrated by 61% of individuals seeking accommodation having a gross income below £15,000. Affordable housing between £80,000 - £100,000 at current market prices is needed.

"Have been renting and have to move as owner is retiring. Don't know where I can find anywhere to go. Purbeck doesn't require further development but young members of local families must be looked after."

Respondents also perceived second homes as a problem, as they do not contribute to local shops, local councils or rates. The government is seriously considering decreasing the rate of relief of Council Tax on second homes, which may improve the situation slightly. The very strong feeling from the survey, though, was that affordable houses should be available for local families and they should remain at affordable prices.

What kind of housing is needed? Yes%

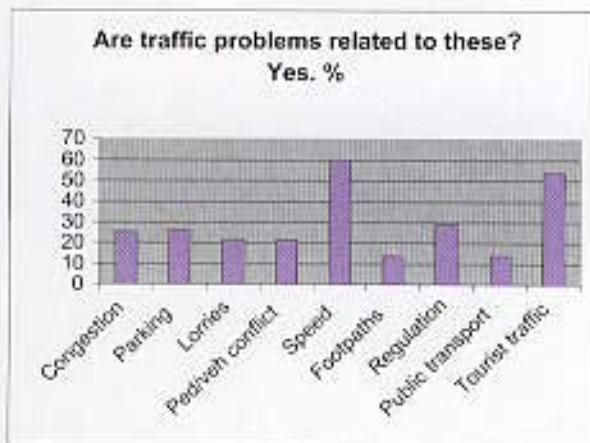


The goal is to meet the housing needs of local people, particularly the young, in an area of high house prices and low wages.

Objectives arising:

- H1 Encourage affordable housing.**
- H2 Build only small family units.**
- H3 No more large-scale housing developments.**

Transport and Parking results



Nearly two thirds of households in the sample kept at least two roadworthy cars. Nearly all households had access to at least one car. There is however a small minority of elderly and some younger families who did not have a roadworthy car and their need should not be underestimated even though they did not appear to any great extent in the survey data. The low gross income of some of those wishing to return to the Parish would also imply the need for improved public transport.

Nearly 15% of households also owned a van indicating an important level of commercial activity in the Parish.

From an analysis of age and transport it is apparent that there is the possibility that there will be even more growth in the level of car ownership in the Parish with many 17-24 year olds indicating current low levels of car ownership but high dissatisfaction with public transport.

Nearly 90% of respondents indicated that the car represented their major means of transport. Whilst nearly 70%

indicated that they did not have a problem parking in their area, one third did.

"Traffic too fast on Puddletown Road and Worgret Hill – dangerous to pedestrians, car entry onto road hazardous, no footpaths – lethal for pedestrians."

55% felt that Arne Parish did not need a car park. 30% felt that it did and the majority of those stated that it should be located in Stoborough Village.



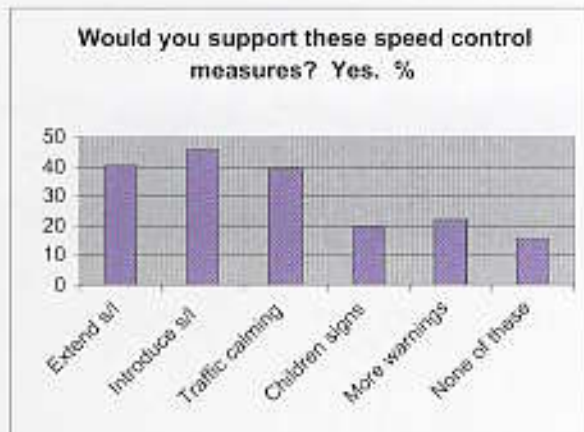
Despite the high proportion of car users recorded in the Parish nearly a quarter of respondents would like to see improvements in the routes, timetables and cost of bus services for Arne Parish.



Many respondents felt that the facilities for cyclists and pedestrians were poor.

*"Excess speed by motorists endangers pedestrians and cyclists."
"Speed restrictions and pavements would help."*

The survey indicated there was more need for traffic regulation.



The goal is to achieve safe and adequate access to services, work and leisure.

Objectives arising:

- T1 Deal with traffic speed in rural areas – Quiet Lane category.
- T2 Prevent damage to verges by large vehicles – passing bays.
- T3 Consider Nutcrack Lane and Ridge Crossroads for potential danger spots.
- T5 Increase bus services for youngsters and their leisure interests.
- T6 Dependence on cars v. public transport.
- T7 Staggered junction with West Lane and Grange Road on bypass – dangerous.

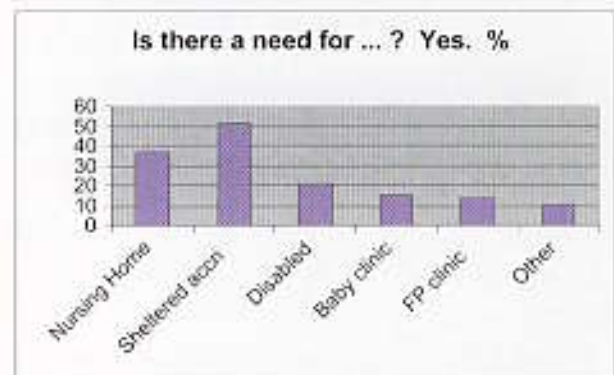
Health results

Few respondents experienced difficulties getting to the available medical services. Presumably this is due to the extensive access to car transport.

"No trouble to drive – but nightmare without a car."

There were 7% of respondents registered disabled but they too did not appear to have a problem in accessing the medical services. The figure represents about 15 households in the Parish.

"Day centre for people suffering from dementia and alzheimers – Wareham Day Centre unable to cope."



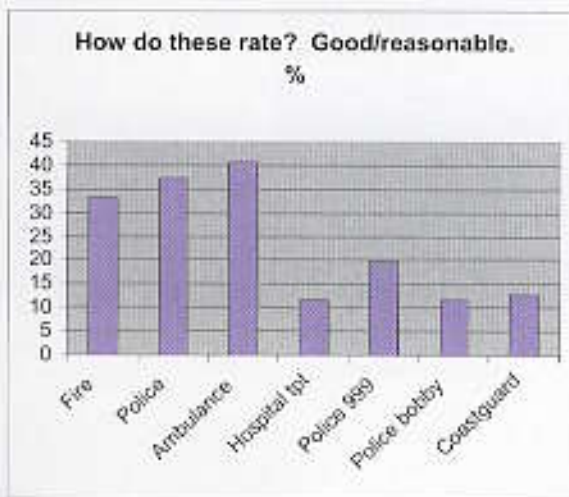
Interestingly there were calls for specific and significant needs

The goal is to provide access to public healthcare and care for younger and older people.

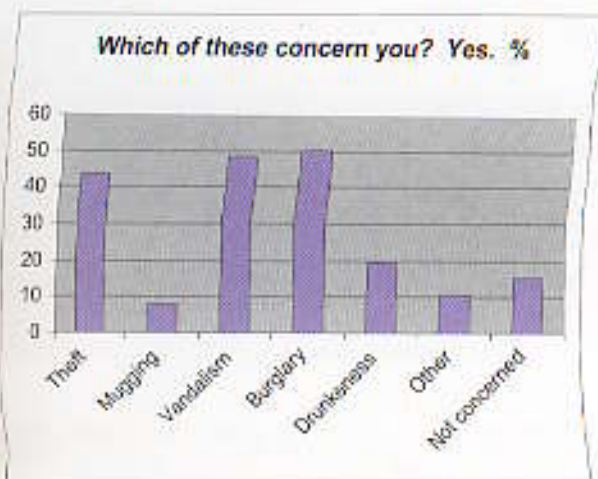
Objectives arising:

- H4 Local sheltered housing.
- H5 Nursing home for older people.

Emergency Services and Policing results



The emergency services were considered reasonable to good in their standards but the vast majority of respondents had not used them. Those who had, rated the services as good.



Criminal activity was a concern of which 50% related to burglary, 48% to vandalism and 44% to theft. There was an age variation in that theft worried younger people whilst mugging concerned the older generation.



Many comments indicated a preference for seeing the police more frequently as a deterrent to villains, drugs misuse, litter, speeding, drunkenness and the playing of loud music. It was felt by 38% that the opportunity of speaking to the police regularly in Arne Parish would be helpful.

"Police do a great job – it would be nice like old to have a local constable."

A greater police presence was required by 61% while 49% felt more activities for younger people would help to reduce crime.

"Much better to have policemen walking the streets."

"Police would end up arresting me!"

The goal is to reduce crime and the fear of crime in an area with a relatively elderly population

Objectives arising:

- S1** Encourage community police presence.
- S2** Provide access to drug and alcohol education.

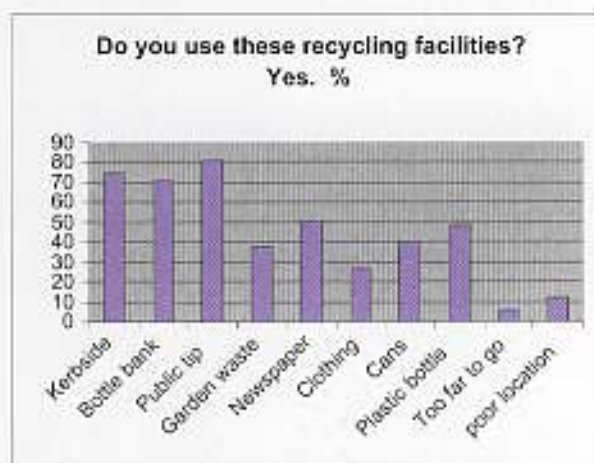
Environmental Services results

People generally considered that the environmental services were satisfactory, though they could be improved in some areas.

The main utilities (water, gas, electricity, refuse collection) were rated highly at or around 70%.



Recycling



"We are one of the few areas that does not have wheelie bins - to encourage recycling should give two bins."



Recycling is very important to residents as 86% separate items from normal refuse.

Much use is made of recycling services

"Disabled, so unable to go to tip - garden waste occasional collections would help."

More litter bins strategically placed were requested, but the most comments made were in connection with dog waste bins.

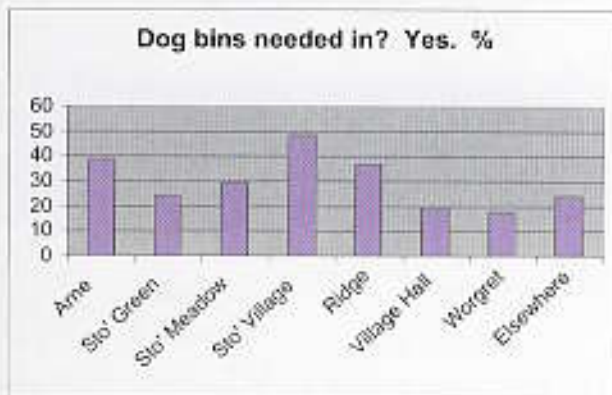
These are apparently needed throughout the Parish, near footpaths and play areas, but many echoed the following comment:



"Some dog owners need to be educated to use them."

Now the dog byelaws are in place throughout Purbeck, enforcement is possible. The problem of emptying bins was highlighted, and that it should be done on a regular basis.

Areas requiring dog waste bins are shown:



but the placing of these bins is also critical!

"Dog mess bins need to be lower down so the dogs can reach them."



The goal is to enable people to manage waste in a sustainable way.

Objectives arising:

- S3 Provide more recycling bins with local access.**
- S4 Provide more litter bins.**
- S5 Provide more dog waste bins.**

Shopping results



The survey indicated a regular daily/weekly use of the local shops with 35% of respondents shopping on a daily basis, and 47% weekly. The post office is used weekly by 51% , and 37% use the garage.

Very few respondents indicated that they had transport difficulties getting to the shops in Wareham and other local towns with only 2.5% often having difficulty in accessing them.

"Mobile service would put local shops in doubt. If mobile grocer sold local products, we would use it."

Small but significant proportions of the population indicated that they would like mobile services but the proximity of Wareham provides ready access to the library, banks and cinema.



There is very strong support for local shops and local products.

The goal is to retain adequate local shop and garage service.

Action arising:

S7 Support local shops, garage and post office.

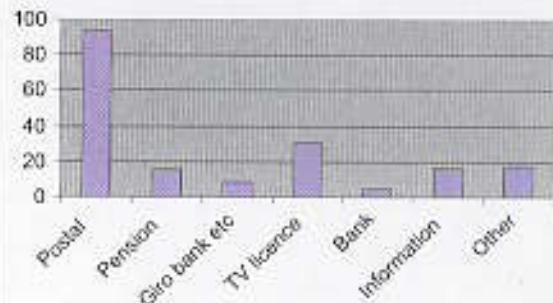
Postal and telephone services results

"Post Office is essential as point of contact for a community."



Not surprisingly 93.5% of respondents use the Post Office for postal services, but its other services are also well supported.

What do you use the Post Office for?
Yes. %



Despite the rapid increase in mobile phone ownership, telephone boxes are still required for emergency use by 58% and 35.5% would like one in their community.

"Box at Nutcrack Lane/New Road is well used and convenient."

"Should be one on Puddletown Road – nearest at East Stoke has been removed."



The goal is to retain adequate postal and telephone services.

Action arising:

S8 Support retention of local phone boxes and post boxes.

Education and Lifelong Learning linked with Leisure and Village Hall results

Approximately one third of household respondents had children engaged in education at some level between Playgroup and Secondary School. Nearly a third indicated that their children were unable to take part in school activities, the two main reasons given being lack of transport and distance between home and school.

The survey found that there are many children under five, suggesting a need for a Play Group or Nursery in the Parish.



Most heartening was the fact that 70% of respondents indicated that the school was "Very Important" in the local community, including even some households without children currently resident.

"Only lived here 15 months, hope to be more involved, new school hall will be great catalyst."

Lifelong Learning including adult education was mentioned but classes

were generally attended outside the Parish. Although there are several classes at the Village Hall, they were largely unknown to respondents.

The goal is to maintain our nursery and First School education.

Objectives arising:

- E1** *Encourage local nursery and/or school club.*
- E2** *Organise transport for children attending after school clubs.*

Leisure results

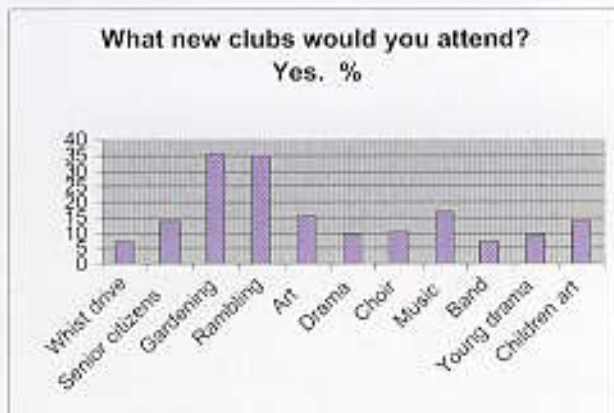
The survey indicated a wide range of activities undertaken in the Arne and Wareham area. Swimming, keep fit and boating are particularly popular.



However, 85% admitted to lack of interest, with transport difficulties and expense very low down as barriers.



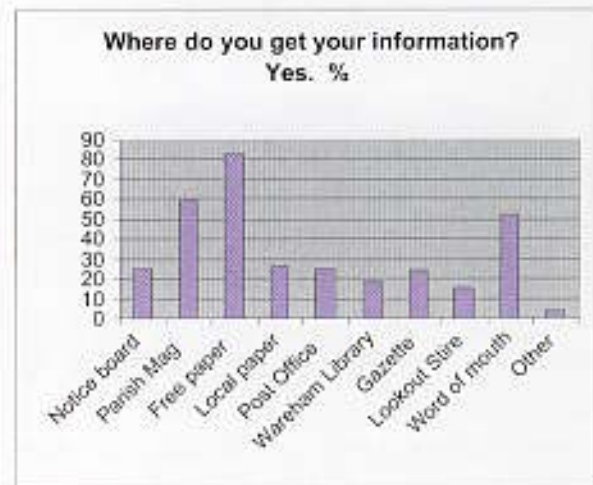
A further range of clubs was suggested:



Social facilities for ages up to 25 were felt to be poor by 40%, and reasonable for 26-60 years by 32.8%. 26.6% said facilities were reasonable for the over 60s. Nearly 45% of respondents had no opinion on the subject.

"No mention of facilities for playing cricket. Village needs a proper sports field for cricket and football."

Additional Open Spaces was supported, with 46% of respondents in favour and 35% with no opinion. Perhaps it is the use of these spaces in relation to leisure that is wanted rather than a visual amenity.



Information on activities in the Parish is normally gained from the free newspaper, which is available at the local shops., Parish Magazine or word of mouth



The goal is to improve local social and leisure facilities.

Objectives arising:

- E5** Encourage new interest clubs e.g. rambling, gardening, football.
- E6** Provision of social facilities for the under 25s of the Parish.
- E7** Provision of family social gatherings.

Village Hall results



"I think it is a valuable asset to the life of community."

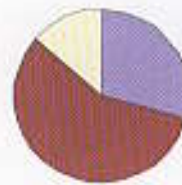
The survey indicated a wide patronage of the Village Hall by the community of Arne for an extensive range of leisure and educational activities.

"Unaware it provided any social activities. Thought it was a venue for meetings only."

43% of respondents indicated that they would like the facilities offered by the Village Hall to be more widely available. Nearly 50% did not have an opinion. However when the results were examined by area within Arne those respondents living in Stoborough Village, Ridge, Stoborough Green and Stoborough Meadow had a greater interest in the facilities being more widely available.

"Old hall has fallen behind that of many villages. Time to improve now the village is growing."

Are you aware of what's on offer at the Village Hall? Yes. %



■ Yes
■ No
■ Not interested

Twenty nine per cent (29%) of respondents indicated they did know what was on offer at the Village Hall, 57% did not know and 14% were not interested. Lack of information about what was on offer (27%) and lack of awareness of facilities (35%) were given as the principal difficulties for gaining access to the Village Hall, 61% indicated that they did not attend.



The goal is to widen accessibility and use of the Village Hall.

Objectives arising:

- E3 Information board for Village Hall.**
- E4 Increase use by introducing new evening activities.**

The countryside of Arne Parish results

The countryside has been under man's influence since the Bronze Age settlers cleared trees and increased heathland. The Saxon manorial system of land tenure operated until relatively recent times. Agriculture developed during the 18th and 19th centuries but efforts to improve the heathland had little effect. Apart from traditional uses for fuel, bedding and fodder the heathland areas were unable to sustain farming. Other land uses provided local employment including saltings, a tannery and clay extraction.



*"Maintain agricultural activities and support them.
Maintain all open spaces.
Improve public transport."*

The legacy of all this is a Parish that is biologically one of the richest and most diverse in the country. Two national nature reserves, Hartland Moor and Stoborough Heath, are managed by English Nature (employing 24 people). And the RSPB manages the Arne Reserve (employing 7 staff). Middlebere belongs to the National Trust and the Environment Agency is responsible for the river and flooding. Together these cover over three-

quarters of the Parish and attract thousands of visitors each year.

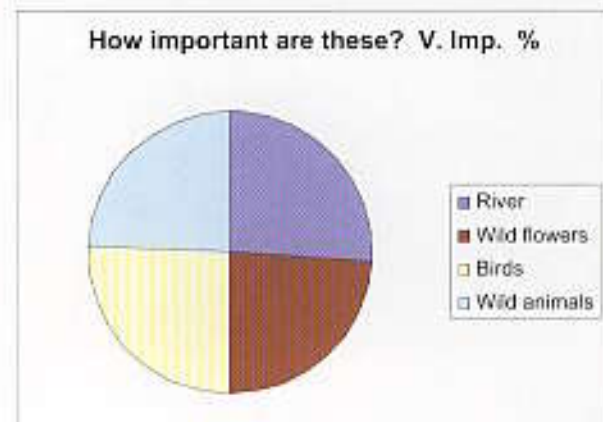


What could be done to protect the environment?

Reducing pollution was recognised as being very important by 85% of respondents, 60% indicated that the marshes, wetlands, rivers, woods and fields should be protected, 45% wanted the beach to be cleaner, 40% wanted to preserve trees in special places and 26% wanted to create more local nature reserves.

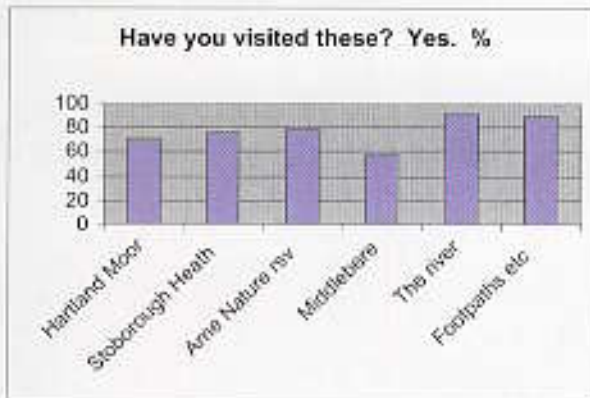
How important is the wildlife in the Parish.

A very high percentage rated the river, wild flowers, birds and animals very important.



"Lots of verges contain rare orchids etc – some remain in ancient hedgerows – which attract visitors!"

A very high percentage of respondents had visited local heathland, moorland and rivers



Around 60% voted equally, both for cutting hedgerows and leaving them to grow. A small proportion had experienced difficulties of a general nature with footpaths but many found paths overgrown and mud and/or water impeded 44%!

The most important factor in making the countryside more attractive for the majority of respondents was the reduction of traffic speed and volume. An equal number wanted to keep roadside verges mown as letting them grow.

"Create some new lakes or ponds for wildlife. Plant some prominent trees. Depending on need for visibility, some verges could be allowed to grow wild."

Twenty five percent of residents experience a few problems with flooding. 71% have 'No Problems'. The issue of flooding from groundwater or conduits (rivers) is a matter for consideration in the strategic plan especially since future forecasts of water levels and rainfall would appear to be set to increase.



The goal is to care for and make appropriate use of the countryside in Arne.

Objectives arising:

- EN1 Hedge mapping and management in the Parish.**
- EN2 Survey of accessibility of footpaths.**
- EN3 Support for conservation and environment management.**
- EN4 Access to nature reserves, seaside and river environments.**
- L1 Provision of access from South Bridge to the bypass along the river bank**

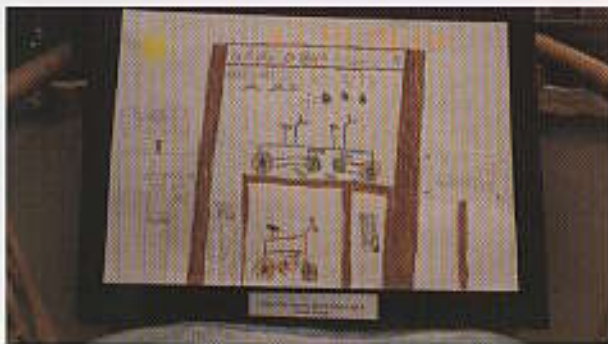
Youth and younger people results

Although the survey was designed to enable younger people to have their say, and from the responses it was apparent that a representative sample did, we felt it important to engage them separately as well.

"Improve the surface of Stoborough Meadow for football, i.e. mow, roll and cut grass."

"A football area at Stoborough Green."

We held a painting competition in Stoborough School. Children were asked to illustrate what they felt is needed in the Parish for them.



The overall winning entry illustrated a cycle maintenance facility, perhaps a hint to a budding entrepreneur wanting to start a small business in the Parish.

On Easter Monday we had a Youth Event, also at the school, with an Easter egg hunt, tug-o'-war, goal



kicking and wellie chucking competitions; and the police brought along their community policing van.

The goal is to meet the needs of young people so that they choose to stay, live and work in the Parish.

Objectives arising:

Y1 *Recreational facilities, e.g.:*

A place to hang out;

Swimming pool;

Park, with swings, slides etc;

Adventure park and maze.

Community playing field, with pavilion, for football and cricket.

Y2 *Nature amenities, e.g.:*

Footpaths, fairy walks;

No cruelty to animals.

Y3 *Transport issues, e.g.:*

Enforce speed limits;

Double yellow lines on corners for better view when cycling;

A crossing by the school.

Our Future community results

Distribution of results.

80% of respondents wanted the results distributed through the door, 37% by a public report and 20% by public meeting.

We compromised by having a public meeting to report and discuss the survey; we distributed the results "through the door"; and this plan is also being distributed to households.

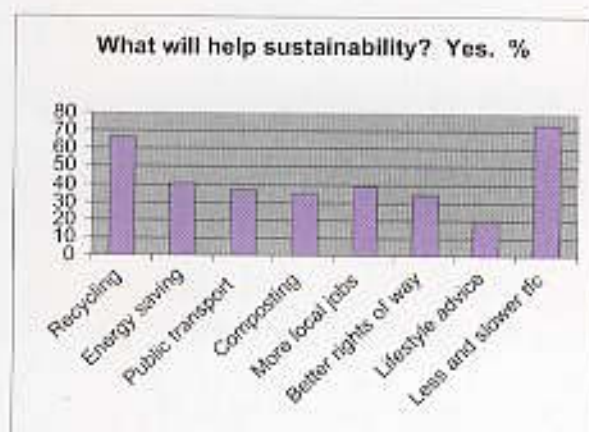
Money for implementation.

60% felt that the money for implementation should come from sponsorship, 56% from fundraising, 44% from moderate council tax rises and 28% from private contribution.

We invite the Parish and District Councils, and the Purbeck Partnership to note this.

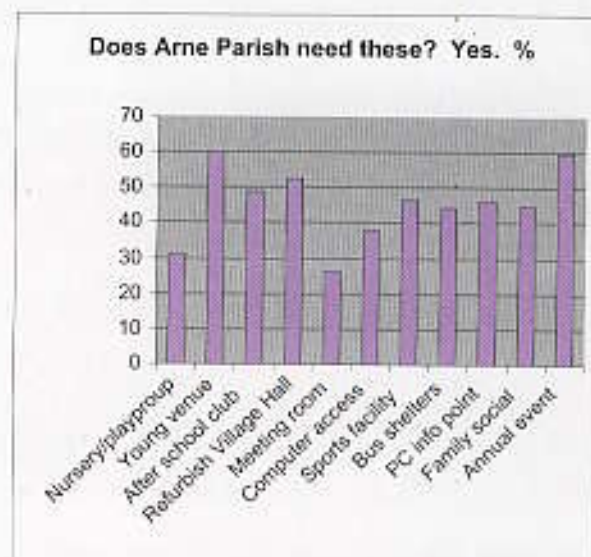
Helping sustainability.

"Increase/improve awareness of what sustainability means for the local community."



These have already been picked up as actions elsewhere in this section.

Needs of the Parish.



Development of the Parish.

64% wanted the Parish to stay as it is and 47% for the Parish to develop as a working community.

"A balance of all elements to make sure the community continues as a vibrant working place."

The goal is to improve existing facilities and introduce new ones without upsetting the rural character of the Parish.

Objective arising (apart from those already stated):

E8 Support annual festival/event.

SUMMARY OF GOALS.

In a varied and sometimes conflicting set of objectives, the preservation of the existing environment is most important.

- We need to generate sufficient work in the Parish to balance those who commute.
- We need to meet the housing needs of local people, particularly the young, in an area of high house prices and low wages, without any large-scale new development.
- We need to achieve safe and adequate access to services, work and leisure, catering for the needs of our road users with adequate parking, sufficient public transport and traffic calming measures, recognising that we depend upon tourists for much of our economy.
- We need to maintain our nursery and First School education.
- We need to provide access to public healthcare and care for older people.
- We need to reduce crime and the fear of crime in an area with a relatively elderly population.
- People need to be able to manage waste in a sustainable way.
- We need to retain adequate local shop and garage service.
- We need to retain adequate postal and telephone services.
- We need to improve existing local social and leisure facilities and introduce new ones without upsetting the rural character of the Parish.
- We need to widen accessibility and use of the Village Hall.
- We need to meet the needs of young people so that they choose to stay, live and work in the Parish, and to cater for older residents.
- And we need to care for and make appropriate use of the countryside at the same time as increasing access to those who want it.

In short, we want to move ahead without losing sight of the past.

THE ACTION PLAN

The last act in the preparation of this Plan was to circulate the list of actions and ask households to indicate the order of importance of those actions that are important to them in terms of now, soon or later. Inevitably, that wide and imprecise brief was going to produce a very raw and un-scientific answer. Furthermore, only 57 households (about 8%) responded, which is not representative of all the households. It was fortunate that all the actions rated a Now by 1% or more of the sample. The result does, though, provide a rough guide

Taking a holistic view of the needs of the Parish meant that many of the actions will be outside our control to deliver. Essentially there will be:

- ◆ Things we, through Arne Parish Council, can do for ourselves, e.g. footpath maps; annual events.
- ◆ Service delivery issues that service providers can help with, e.g. kerbside recycling, mobile screening vans. In other words, things that Purbeck District Council or the Purbeck Partnership can help with.
- ◆ Strategic issues that have strategic consequences, e.g. affordable housing, targeted services to tackle cross cutting issues such as social deprivation and retraining young people. In other words, things that Purbeck District or Partnership will refer to Dorset County Council or Dorset Strategic Partnership as being appropriate to the wider strategy of sustainable development of Dorset across the social, economic and environment spectrum.
- ◆ And some that fall between these.

We have attempted to categorise the results accordingly in the lists that follow. Clearly, not all of them fall neatly into one category or another. Equally, there may be some that move from one to another.

Review

Although this was the last act in preparing the Plan, it's only the starting point in achieving the objectives that the community has set. We need to keep on top of progress and re-plan when necessary. There will need to be a programme of reviews to monitor progress and maintain momentum, established by the Parish Council and carried out either by itself; or by re-commissioning the Steering Group if the skills-sets therein suit

that process; or by a new group. The first Review Session should be in 18 months time, along the following suggested lines:

- Background material will be needed evaluating the outcome of actions/initiatives and reviewing progress, including self-examination questions such as:
 - Was it a useful thing to do?
 - What did we achieve?
 - How could we have done better?
 - What happens next?
- ◆ All involved previously, and any who may wish to become involved, will be invited to a day-long session.
- ◆ The programme will be designed to review progress, evaluate earlier actions/initiatives and determine the next steps:
 - Arrive; refreshments; view display material, _ hour
 - Walkabout to observe progress on the ground, 1 _ hours
 - Reports by those undertaking actions/initiatives, 1 hour
 - Evaluation sessions as a group, _ hour
 - Lunch and special group evaluations if required, 1 _ hours
 - Next steps; list actions needed now and by whom, 1 _ hours
 - Refreshments and networking as needed
- ◆ Report written and circulated.

LIST OF OBJECTIVES

These actions were extracted from the survey, discussed at the public meeting on 6th March and added to after the Youth Event on 21st April. They represent what the people of the Parish want. They may not all be implemented or achievable in the near future. The priorities are a guide as only 57 people responded and this is not a fair sample.

Code	Objective	Lead authority	Priority Order
Employment			
EM1	<i>Encourage local employment.</i>	PDC	19 th
EM2	<i>Encourage childcare amenities.</i>	PDC/DCC	36 th
EM3	<i>Encourage small-scale industrial workshops.</i>	PDC	30 th
EM4	<i>Encourage Green Tourism.</i>	PDC	25 th
EM5	<i>Develop small local businesses.</i>	PDC	20 th
EM6	<i>Encourage Green employment.</i>	PDC	26 th
Planning and Development			
H1	<i>Encourage affordable housing.</i>	PDC/APC	22 nd
H2	<i>Build only small family units.</i>	PDC	29 th
H3	<i>No more large-scale housing developments.</i>	PDC	4 th
Transport and Parking			
T1	<i>Deal with traffic speed in rural areas – Quiet Lane category.</i>	DCC/APC	2 nd =
T2	<i>Prevent damage to verges by large vehicles – passing bays.</i>	DCC	6 th
T3	<i>Consider Nutcrack Lane and Ridge Crossroads for potential danger spots.</i>	DCC	9 th
T5	<i>Increase bus services for youngsters and their leisure interests.</i>	DCC/PDC	27 th
T6	<i>Dependence on cars v. public transport.</i>	Citizens	28 th
T7	<i>Staggered junction with West Lane and Grange Road on bypass – dangerous.</i>	DCC/APC	10 th
Health			
H4	<i>Local sheltered housing.</i>	PDC/HA	17 th
H5	<i>Nursing home for older people.</i>	PDC/HA	23 rd
Emergency Services and Policing			
S1	<i>Encourage community police presence.</i>	DCC/DPA	1 st
S2	<i>Provide access to drug and alcohol education .</i>	DCC/DPA	13 th

Environmental Services			
S3	<i>Provide more recycling bins with local access.</i>	PDC/APC	16 th
S4	<i>Provide more litter bins.</i>	PDC	24 th
S5	<i>Provide more dog waste bins.</i>	APC	21 st
Shopping			
S7	<i>Support local shops and post office.</i>	Citizens	5 th
Post and Telephone			
S8	<i>Support retention of local phone boxes and post boxes.</i>	APC/ Citizens	3 rd
Education and Lifelong Learning			
Leisure			
E1	<i>Encourage local nursery and/or school club.</i>	DCC	35 th
E2	<i>Organise transport for children attending after school clubs.</i>	DCC	39 th
E5	<i>Encourage new interest clubs e.g. rambling, gardening, football etc.</i>	Vol Orgs	37 th
E6	<i>Provision of social facilities for the under 25s of the Parish.</i>	DCC/Vol Orgs	38 th
E7	<i>Provision of family social gatherings.</i>	Vol Orgs	40 th
Village Hall			
E3	<i>Information board for Village Hall.</i>	VH Ctte	14 th
E4	<i>Increase use of Village Hall by introducing new evening activities.</i>	DCC/ Vol Orgs	34 th
Countryside			
EN1	<i>Hedge mapping and management in the Parish.</i>	DCC	11 th
EN2	<i>Survey of accessibility of footpaths.</i>	DCC/APC	8 th
EN3	<i>Support for conservation and environment management.</i>	Consvn Bodies	15 th
EN4	<i>Access to nature reserves, seaside and river environments.</i>	Consvn/ EA	7 th
L1	<i>Provision of access from South Bridge to the bypass along the river bank</i>	Riparian/ DCC	12 th
Youth			
Y1	<i>Recreational facilities.</i>	APC	31 st
Y2	<i>Nature amenities.</i>	APC/DCC	33 rd
Y3	<i>Transport issues.</i>	APC/DCC	2 nd =
Future			
E8	<i>Support annual festival/event.</i>	Citizens	32 nd

Key: APC – Arne Parish Council; PDC – Purbeck District Council; DCC – Dorset County Council; HA – Health Authority; EA – Environment Agency; Vol Orgs – Voluntary Organisations; VH Ctte – Village Hall Committee.