



Arne Parish Council

Report on the Arne Parish Survey in 2010-2011

Proposals For Future Actions By Arne Parish Council 2011.

Arne Parish Council

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Summary

The survey in Autumn 2010 provided 335 responses and gave interesting comparisons with the previous survey in 2002. People tended to live in similar households but were older, reflecting a low turnover population that mostly (93%) settled in Arne Parish during work or retirement. High computer literacy (75%) and participation in higher education (35%) was associated with a high proportion (27%) employed in local government or other public services.

Use of cars to reach work had declined from 80% to 60%, associated with an increase from 9% to 24% in working at home and a corresponding decline in working outside Purbeck. However, there were still 1.6 cars per household. The main problems reported on the roads continued to be speed and the volume of tourist traffic, especially on Corfe Road; Nutcrack Lane, with Arne, New and Furzebrook Roads, were also mentioned frequently.

Although only 6% of respondents were actively seeking to move (mostly to change size or value of their homes), 71% had family members who had moved out of the Parish because they could not afford accommodation. This could explain why, although only 17 people (5% of respondents) favour large scale development in Arne Parish, those favouring small-scale building has risen from 31% of respondents in 2002 to 59% in 2010. The most mentioned sites were in the vicinity of Stoborough Green, including Scott Close.

Satisfaction with health, emergency and council services was higher than for police services. However, policing was deemed to have improved, and there was less concern about crime and measures against crime than

in 2002, but there was strong support for action against littering. Favoured actions were more bins, with better surveillance and enforcement.

Only 1% of respondents were not recycling waste and 94% were prepared to separate more items if collection facilities were provided; Stoborough Village Hall was a strongly favoured site for further bins. There was strong satisfaction with Wareham market, independent shops and home deliveries, whilst Wareham supermarkets scored poorly on range of goods; farm shops scored best for range and quality but worst for price.

People were more satisfied with leisure facilities than in 2002 but still considered them poor for those under 25. The requirement for more open spaces was down from 43% to 25%. People were more satisfied with village halls too but still sought more information on activities.

Respondents had high appreciation of benefits from nature and a low perception of costs unless there was damage to crops or property. Most people took exercise in the countryside, tended gardens and fed birds, 60% made excursions to watch wildlife and 35% gathered wildflowers and foods (e.g. blackberries and fungi). More than 40% of respondents gave data on deer. This was a much greater volume than in 10 surveys completed by a wildlife biologist. The mapping of deer habitats by a team of Scouts was acknowledged to be as good as that done by the professional.

Overall, 83% of respondents who commented on life in Arne Parish were positive, but 45% noted aspects that could be improved. The most mentioned topics were traffic and deer.

- HOUSING.** Small scale developments are requested to assist those with incomes below £30,000 (suggested locations included sites around Stoborough Green); whilst large developments and the possibilities of urbanisation of the rural parish were to be resisted.
Action – Parish Council and District Council to take regard of this preference, retain development within the bypass and to continue to push for affordable housing around Stoborough Green.
- TRAFFIC.** Speeding and congestion was reported on all roads around Stoborough and Ridge.
Action – Parish Council to continue to report incidents to Police.
- SERVICES.** A “satisfaction” score was developed for the quality of services from fire, health, police and coastguard services, and also (new for 2010) for the work of local doctors and the Parish, District and County Councils
Action – Copy of the Review to be sent all services for their information.
- LITTERING.** Support was expressed for practical steps to reduce littering and fly tipping in the Parish. The most popular single remedy was the provision of more bins. In addition more surveillance and enforcement options with better access to council facilities for more substantial waste were suggested, all of which would be appropriate deterrents to fly-tipping.
Action – Parish Council and District Council to discuss methods of preventing fly-tipping and residents/ Parish Council to report fly-tipping incidents to District Council. Provision of more sites and bins that are appropriate to be considered.
- RECYCLING.** Willingness to separate more items for recycling from their household waste was reported and a need for more bins in additional locations and for recycling sites was expressed. Popular suggested sites included the Village Hall and Kings Arms or the Lookout Stores.
Action – District and Parish Councils to investigate possibilities for extra recycling and provision of bins, also to consult on sites and to encourage further categories for recycling including plastics.
- LEISURE.** Facilities were deemed relatively unsatisfactory for those younger than 25 years old.
Action – Parish Council to research more appropriate ways of interacting with local young people with a view to providing preferred facilities. On-line communications could be a more appropriate way to communicate with this age group and up-dating of the Parish web site with an interactive facility might be helpful. Better broadband for all, along with communal computer facilities might be considered. Facilities at the Hayricks remain a focus for on-going improvements for all age groups.
- VILLAGE HALLS.** The worst problem perceived was the lack of information about facilities and a diary of events at both Stoborough and Furzebrook Village Halls.
Action – Both Village Hall Committees to be asked to consider this issue in an effort to resolve it. Events might be made more visible if updated on the Parish web site and the Parish Council should facilitate any means to make the events in the halls more accessible.
- ENVIRONMENT.** There was some suggestion that access to heathland could be improved, not just for people but also for wildlife. This could be achieved if some fences were removed and cattle grids installed (as at Hartland but using less noisy grids as in parts of the New Forest) to keep animals on what were previously large common areas. This could also be used to calm traffic.
Action – Send copy of Review to Natural England for information.



Foreword

This is the second survey to inform our Arne Parish Plan, after the longer and trailblazing one in 2002. Although the response was not quite as good as in the first year, the pattern of results was similar and is therefore likely, according to our representatives in Bournemouth University, to be within 5% of the figures likely from a complete response. So we can make interesting comparisons with the 2002 survey, and differences much greater than 5% are likely to reflect genuine trends.

The recent enthusiasm for localisation, including a parliamentary paper proposing to framework localism in legislation, has created a need to take an up to date measure of the views of local residents. The results are important and reflect the views of all Arne Parish residents and, as such are here made available for local Councillors (of all tiers of local government), for the Officers who advise and support them, for our Member of Parliament and last but not least for the Member of the European Parliament, where much interest is shown in the natural habitats found in Arne.

Indeed, Arne Parish was an international example at the biggest conservation conference in the International Year of Biodiversity. A project funded by the European Commission, in local communities across 10 countries from Estonia to Turkey, cooperated closely with Arne Parish Council and residents for our 2010 survey. In October 2010, due to our especially good survey results on deer, "citizen science" in Arne Parish was centre stage at the 10th anniversary Conference of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Japan.

Our survey of Arne reveals a very special, rural environment. Few people wish to leave it and for many it is the pinnacle of achievement to live here in retirement. We can rejoice that most find life here "very enjoyable". But for others, residence here is a birthright that has become unaffordable. It is our duty to respond with small scale developments of affordable housing, avoiding the environmentally destructive estates that are an anathema to the rurality of Arne.

Much of the economy of Arne centres on tourism. Some issues complained about in the survey are not just a nuisance to local residents but also destructive of tourist enjoyment; for example, traffic that is too fast, lorries too large for rural roads and unattractive litter. Deer too have their place in our economy and our hearts but their super-abundance is a problem that needs attention. Although we have an ageing population, increasingly experienced in working from home, our young people need special attention, for entertainment as well as housing. Our new facilities at the Hayricks should have gone some way to help this, and probably also contributed to a reduced demand for new open recreation spaces.

Arne Parish Council is our lowest tier of government. It aspires to true democracy by being available for direct consultation at a monthly meeting in Stoborough Village Hall. Its spending money is its precept via the District Council, with a little top-up available by application to various funding bodies, so there are limits to its power and achievement. But we are the eyes and ears of all the higher authorities and will continue to exercise our right to at least some self determination. The support and involvement of all sectors of the Parish will greatly assist us in our aspirations on your behalf. A comment in the survey was that deer management needs to be "intelligently and sympathetically overseen by those who are best placed to enact the appropriate strategy, and they are resident." This sentiment is applicable to all sectors of our life here in Arne.

Bridget Kenward, Arne Parish Council Vice-Chair

Members of the Parish Plan Committee

- Jon Barnes (Co-Chair, Parish Councillor)
- Robert Kenward (Co-Chair)
- Steve Calver (Bournemouth University)
- Johnny O'Brien (Deer Management)
- Michael Frenchman (Ridge Residents Association)
- Steve Widmer (Stoborough Meadow Residents Association)
- Trevor Heritage (Parish Council Chair)
- Bridget Kenward (Parish Council Vice Chair)
- Debbie Weller (Secretary/Treasurer)
- Caroline Macleod (original Parish Plan member, Parish Councillor).

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Arne Parish Council, UK.

About the respondents

There were 335 respondents to the parish survey conducted during August and September 2010. Their geographic distribution was similar to the records for the previous survey, in 2002 (Figure 1). Average household size was 2.6, similar to the 2.5 recorded in 2002.

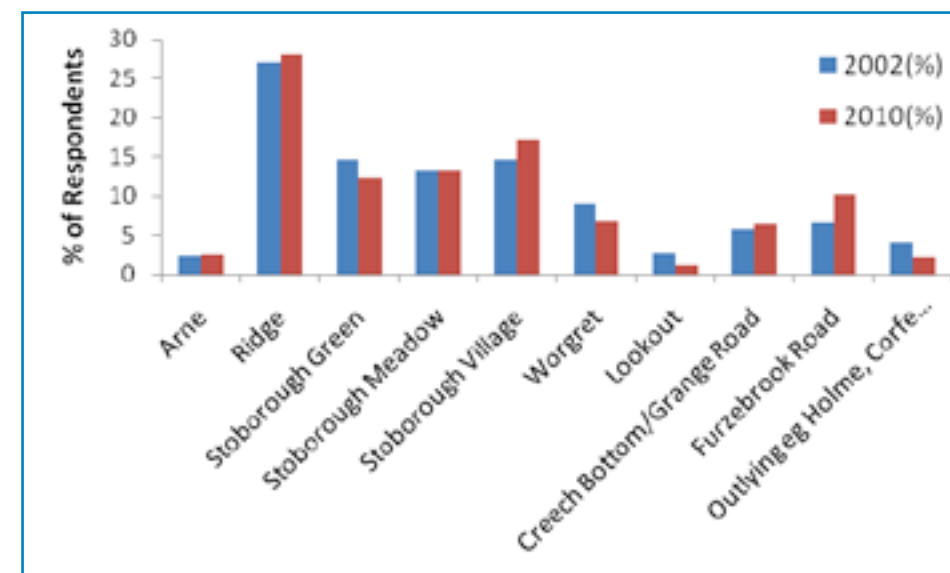


Figure 1. Whereabouts in Arne Parish do you live?

However, the age of respondents tended to be somewhat greater than in the previous survey (Figure 2). This will to an appreciable extent have been because Arne Parish residents have a long residency. Among the respondents 62% had been resident more than 10 years and 93% more than 5 years, so most were present for the previous survey too. Moreover, only 7% of residents had arrived in the Parish before leaving school, and only 5% at birth (Figure 3), although about twice that number had been born or schooled in Purbeck.

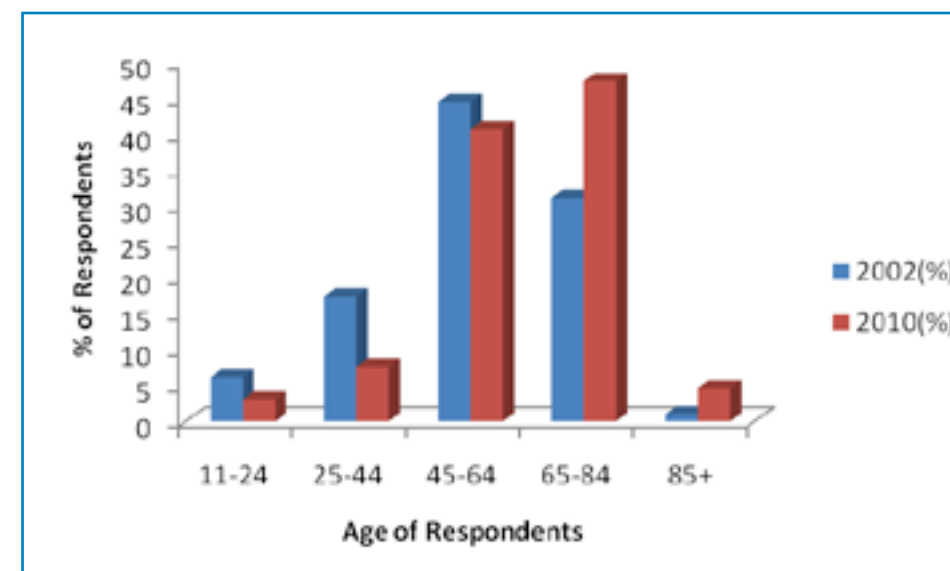


Figure 2. Please indicate your age.

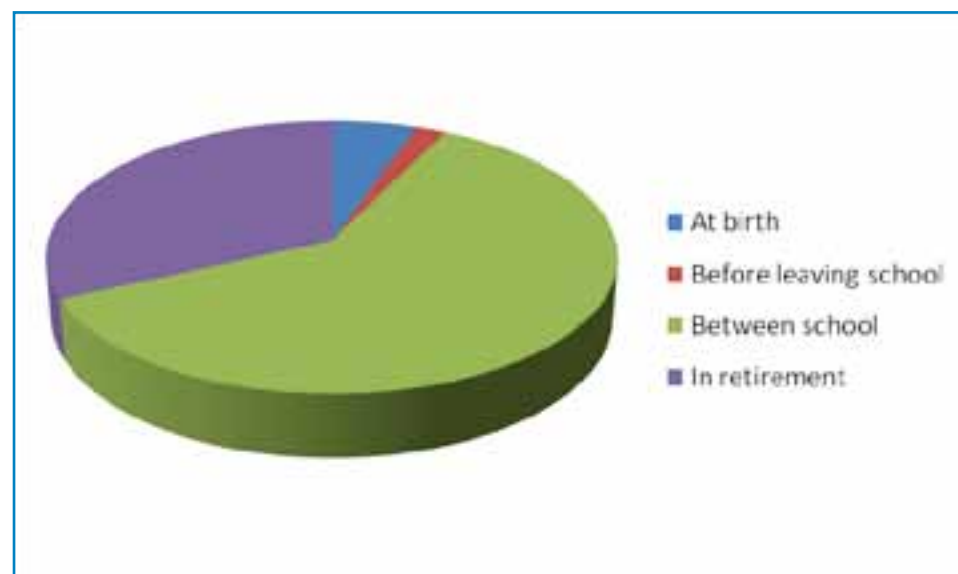


Figure 3. When did you become resident in Arne Parish?

The majority of respondents (61%) had come to Arne Parish during their working lives, though a high proportion (32%) arrived in retirement. The vast majority (98%) were living in houses or bungalows, although about 1% were in mobile homes. As in the previous survey, 88% of respondents were owners of their property and 7-8% were renting, with an increase in the proportion of the remainder (from 1% to 4%) who were sharing ownership of their property.

The survey respondents in Arne Parish tended to be well qualified and computer-literate. Almost 40% recorded a degree or higher degree (Figure 4); with nearly 60% registered as retired, this is much closer to the percentage of young people at university now than the 10-15% when most respondents left school. Retirement explained why rather few respondents used computers at work, although 76% used them overall and 75% for the internet (Figure 4).



Many local children start education at Stoborough school

High qualifications and computer literacy reflected the current or past employment of the respondents, which was very similar to that in the 2002 survey. The largest employment class of Arne Parish residents has been local government or other public services (Figure 5).

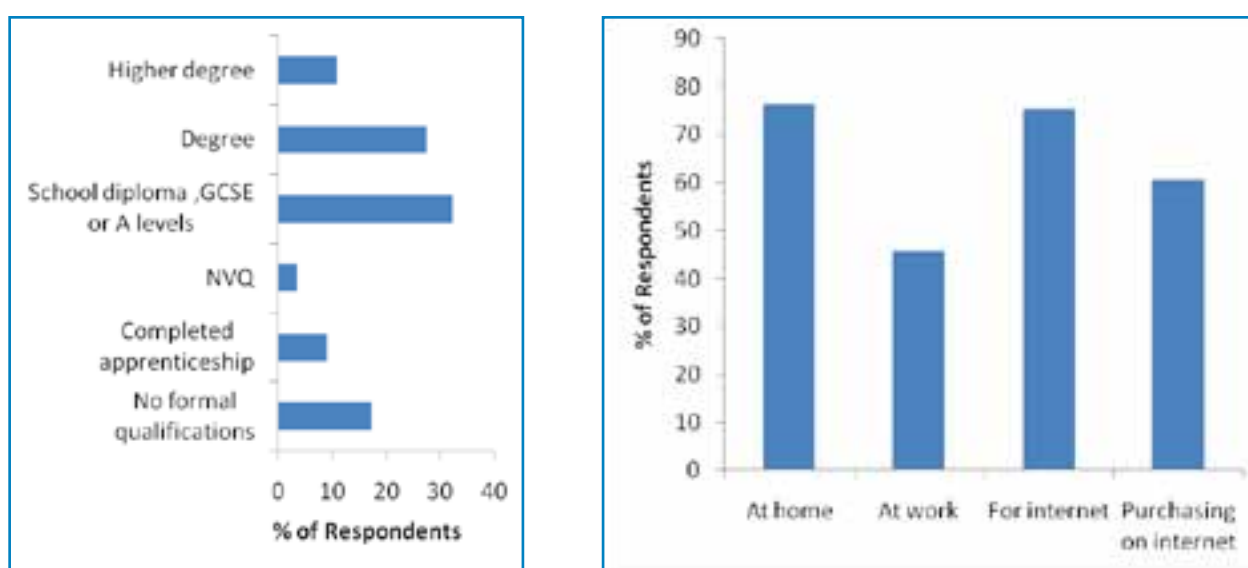


Figure 4. What is your highest qualification (left) and do you use computers (right)?

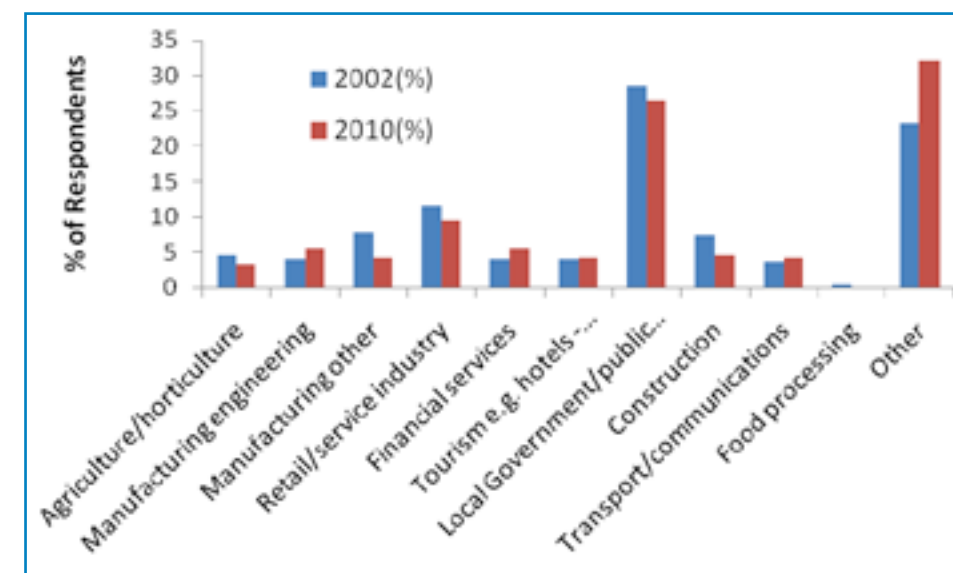


Figure 5. If you are or were in waged employment, what is or was the business?



Transport

Employment is a major reason for people to require transport, in order to travel to work. An especially interesting finding of this survey was that, for people in employment, substantially fewer than in 2002 were using cars to get to work, with a corresponding increase in the proportion of people in the “non-applicable” category (Figure 6).



Visitors and residents use Corfe Road as their access from Wareham

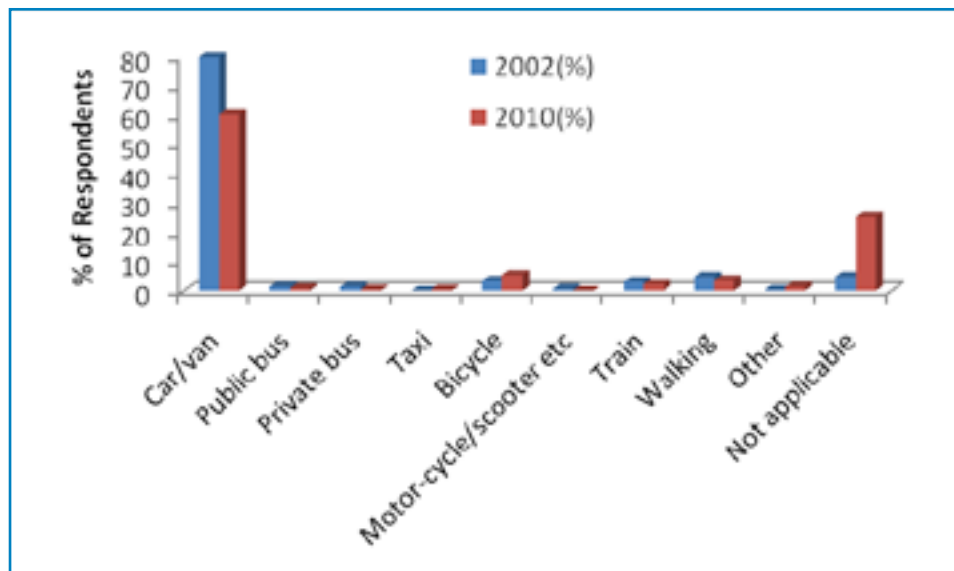


Figure 6. What is, or would be your main means of transport to work, training or study?

The explanation for 20% fewer using cars to reach work can mostly be found in the work location of the respondents. There has been a 15% increase in the proportion of people working at home, and a corresponding decline in the number working outside Purbeck (Figure 7). It would be interesting in future to discover what is the main work being done at home, as it is probably reflected in the 10% increase in unclassified work (“other”) in Figure 5.

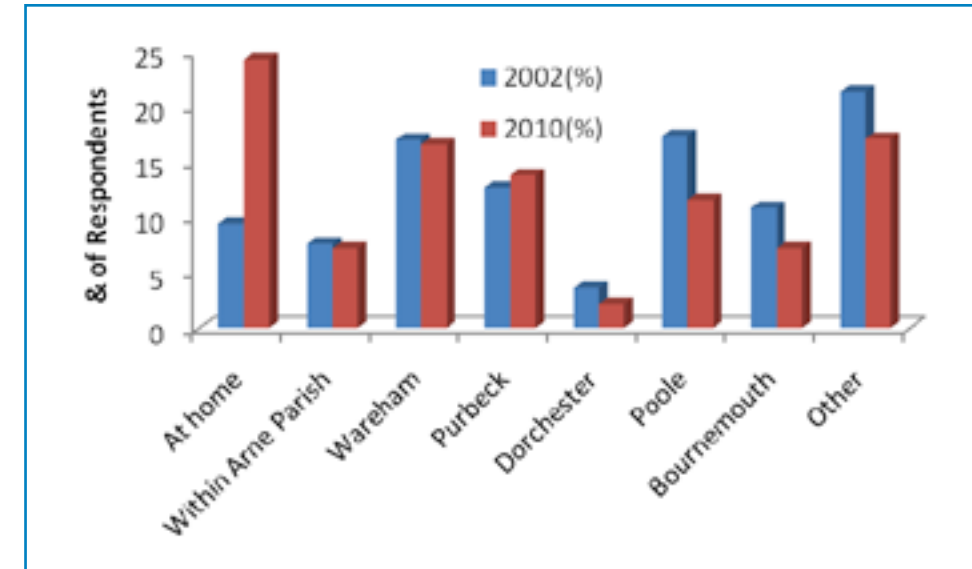


Figure 7. Where is your main place of work?

The proportion of vehicles per household has changed little since 2002, expect perhaps for a decline in bicycles (Figure 8, left). There was also no substantial change in number of vehicles per household, at an average of 1.6 cars and 2.2 bicycles for each household that possessed them (Figure 8, right). Two households that completed the survey had hybrid or electric cars.

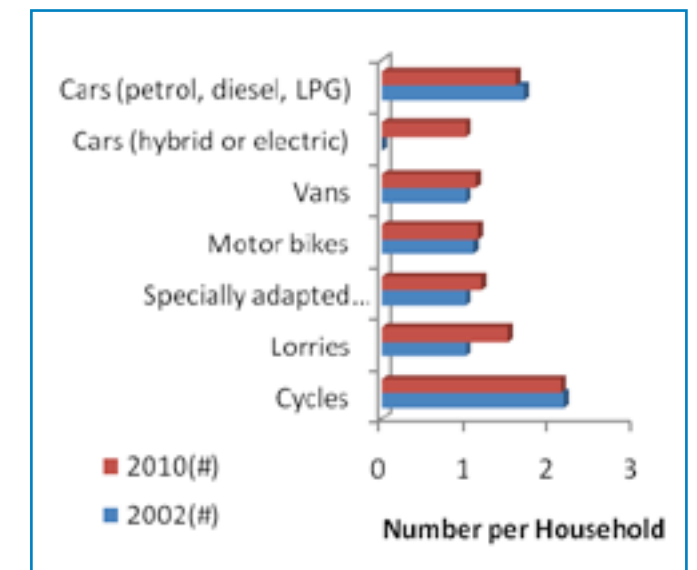
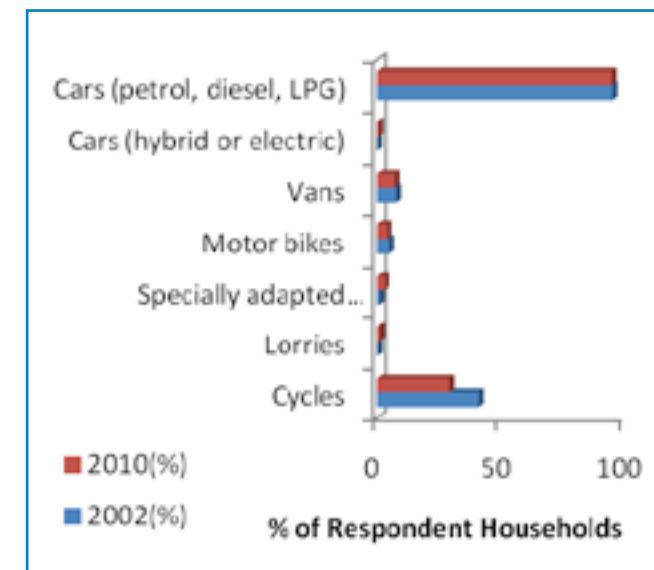


Figure 8. How many roadworthy vehicles are kept by your household?



Housing requirements

Of the 335 respondents, 11% reported being in need of alternative accommodation in Arne Parish, although only 18 (6% of the respondents) reported actively looking for housing in a subsequent question. Family reasons were the reason why 23% wanted to move, while 69% wanted to change size or value of their homes, whereas in 2002 only 23% wanted to improve housing and 65% had given family reasons (mainly marriage). Half were looking for single or 2 bedroom accommodation, and half wanted a bungalow, flat or special care provisions. The income to support purchase or rent was less than £30,000 in 71% of the cases.

However, a very high proportion of respondents (71%) reported that members of their family had moved out of the Parish because they could not afford to buy accommodation (68%) or rent locally (3%). Moreover, 52% reported that if suitable accommodation were available, members of their close family not at present living in the Parish would wish to return. Of those who gave an income of those interested in accommodation, 50% was below £30,000.

The need for family accommodation probably explains why, although only 17 people (5% of respondents) favour large scale development in Arne Parish, the proportion favouring some small-scale building has risen from 31% in 2002 to 59% of respondents in the 2010 survey. This is reflected in the figures for types of housing required, with the emphasis clearly on smaller houses (Figure 9). Among 48 respondents who proposed sites for small-scale development within the parish, by far the most popular area was the vicinity of Stoborough Green (and Scott Close), with 23 mentions compared with 1-6 mentions for alternatives.

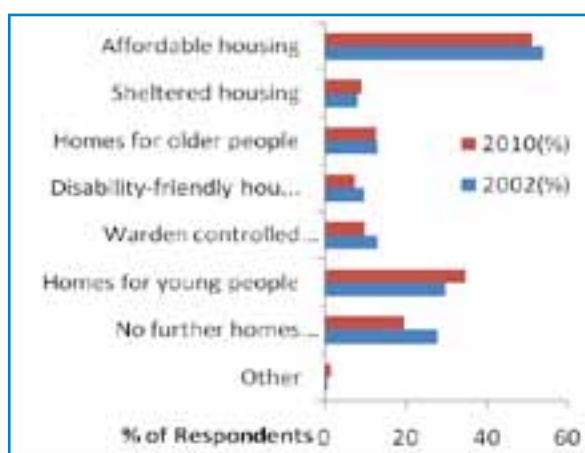
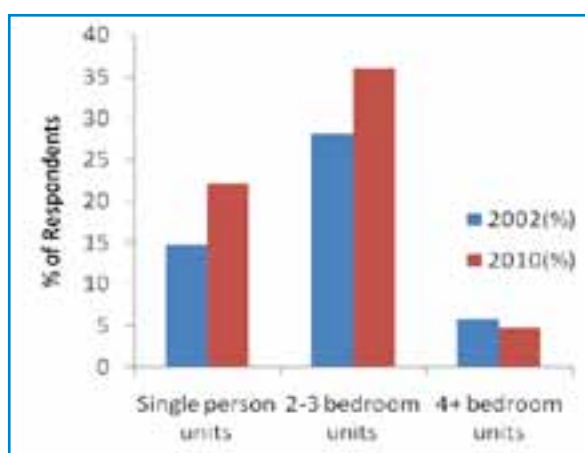


Figure 9. What kind of accommodation do you think Arne Parish needs?

Traffic

Perceptions of traffic problems are much as in 2002, with traffic speed and tourist traffic remaining major concerns (Figure 10, note that there are 3 new categories added).

Traffic issues on Corfe Rd and the causeway had 104 mentions, with frequent reports also for Nutcrack Lane (48), with Arne Rd (35), New Rd (24) and Furzebrook Rd (20). Reports for congestion and speeding also included the school (22), bypass (16) and Grange Rd (10).

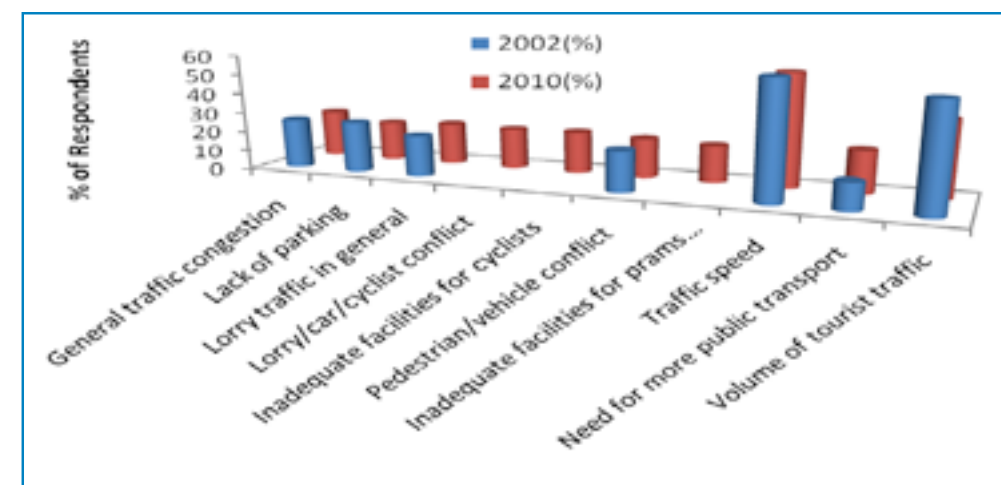


Figure 10. Do you think that problems on our roads arise from any of the following?

Health, police and emergency services

A "satisfaction" score was developed for the quality of services from fire, health, police and coastguard services, and also (new for 2010) for the work of local doctors and the Parish, District and County Councils. The score was the proportion of respondents rating the service "excellent", "good" or "reasonable", as opposed to "poor" or "very poor". Although ratings for police services were lowest, they had improved appreciably since 2002 (Figure 11).

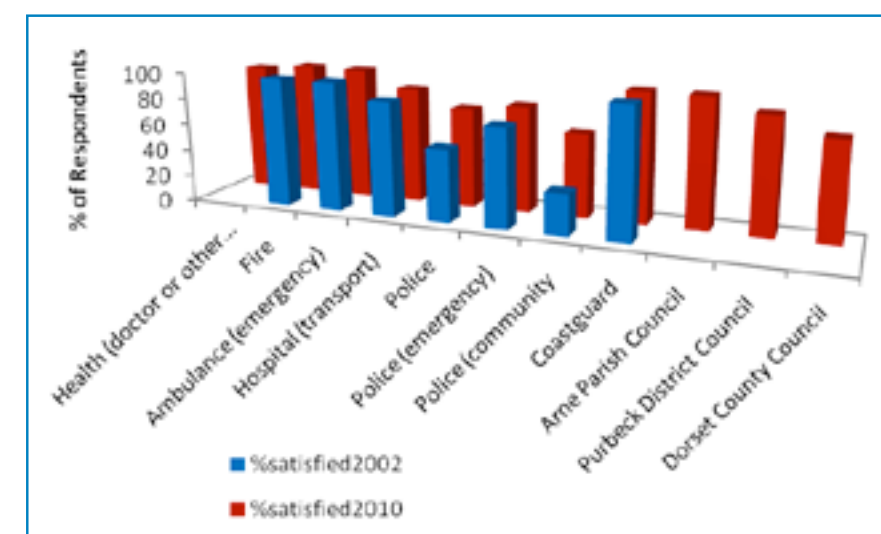


Figure 11. What are your views on the standard of services for Arne Parish?



The improved perception of police services was also reflected in reduced concern about most issues that are dealt with by the police (Figure 12), and less need for new measures (Figure 13), although the new category of “littering” is clearly a major issue. In this context, 91% of the respondents would support practical steps to reduce littering or fly tipping in the Parish.

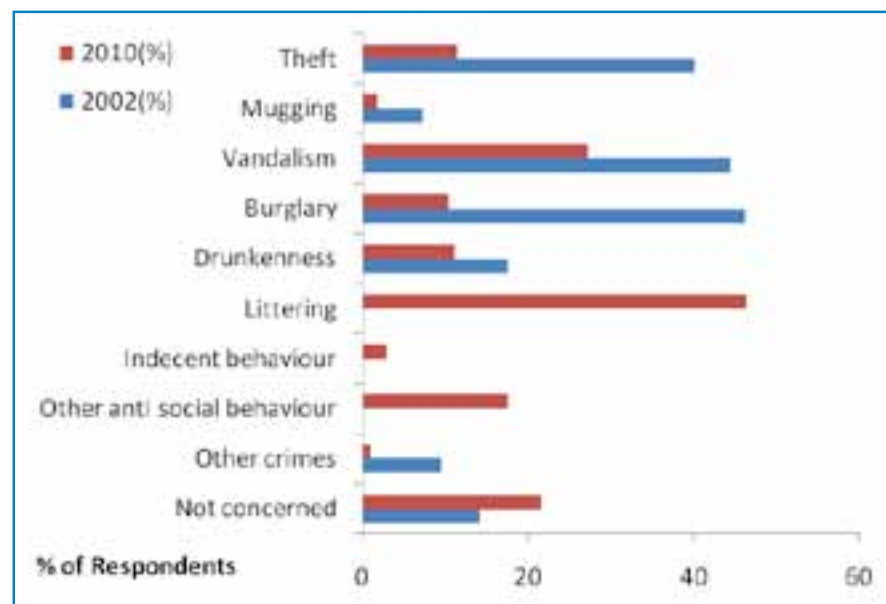


Figure 12. Which if any of the following concern you in Arne Parish?

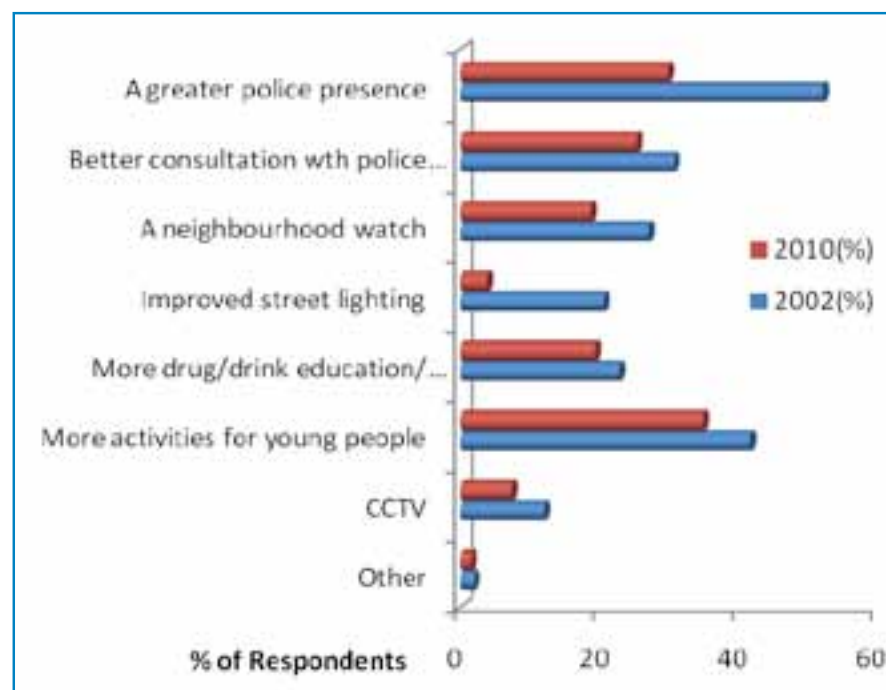


Figure 13. Do you think that any of the following measures are needed?

Parishioners were asked to suggest their own remedies for problems with litter. From 66 responses, the most popular single remedy was the provision of more bins (Figure 14). However, more surveillance and enforcement options were also popular, with suggestions for better access to council facilities for more substantial waste, all of which would be appropriate actions against fly-tipping.

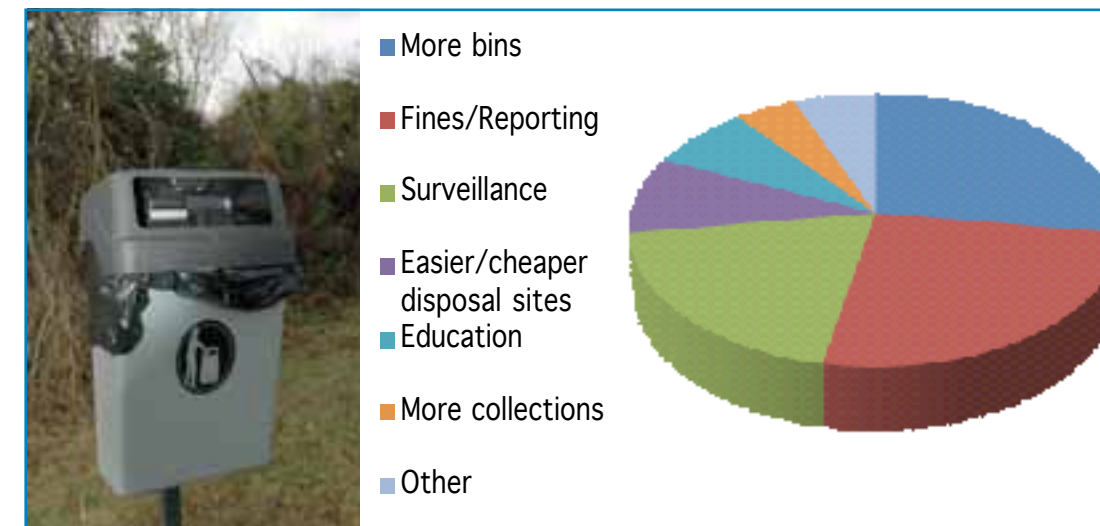


Figure 14. Remedies proposed by parishioners for littering and fly-tipping.

Environmental Services

Recycling is now the rule among survey respondents, with 99% keeping certain items separate from their refuse for recycling. Moreover, for waste collected at the kerbside, such as bottles and paper, visits to separate recycling bins have gone down, while for items not so collected, such as clothing, garden waste and plastic, recycling has gone up (Figure 15). Some 94% would be prepared to separate more items from their waste for recycling, and 34% felt there should be more bins provided (with 28% prepared to suggest possible sites).

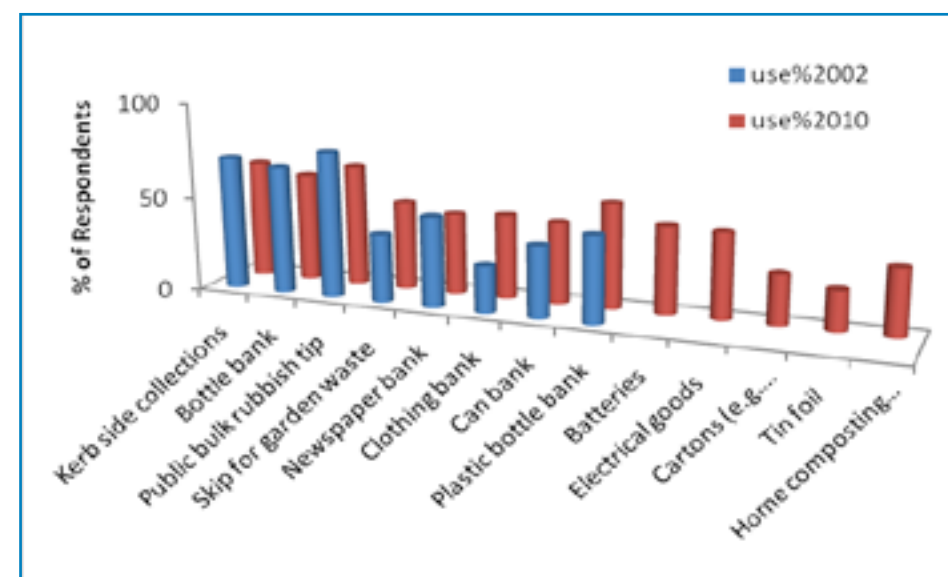


Figure 15. Do you use the facilities provided for different types of waste?

In view of the suggestion for more bins to combat littering (Figure 14) and the readiness of parishioners to recycle more materials, new sites for recycling bins are desirable. Half the 64 respondents who suggested sites within the parish recommended placement at the Village Hall, some three times as many as for any alternative site (Figure 16).

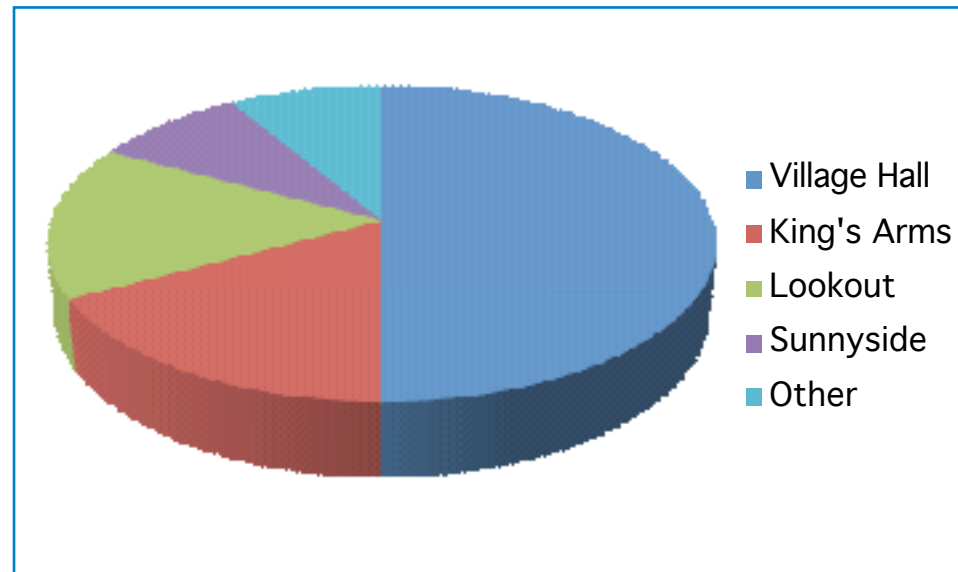


Figure 16. Can you suggest sites for additional recycling bins?

In view of the good cooperation established with Environment Agency during the last few years, it is pleasing that problems with flooding were recorded at fewer properties (Figure 17).

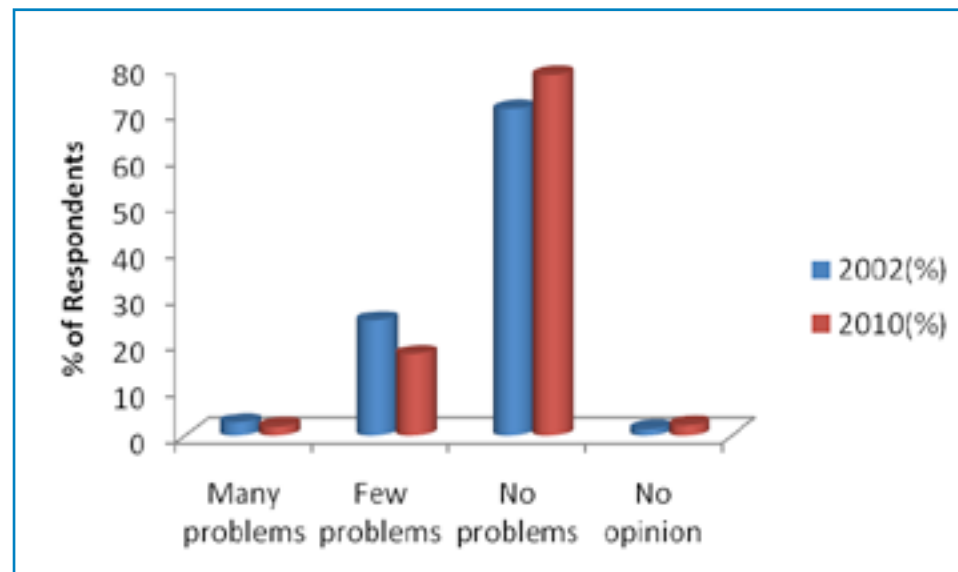


Figure 17. Do you have flooding problems at your current address?

Shopping

A "satisfaction" rating similar to that for services was applied to local shopping facilities, in terms of range, quality and price of products, and convenience compared with distant supermarkets. Satisfaction was least with the Wareham supermarkets, in particular because of their poor product range (Figure 18). Farm shops score highly on range and quality, but poorly on price and convenience, while the Saturday Market, independent shops and home deliveries were generally viewed fairly favourably.

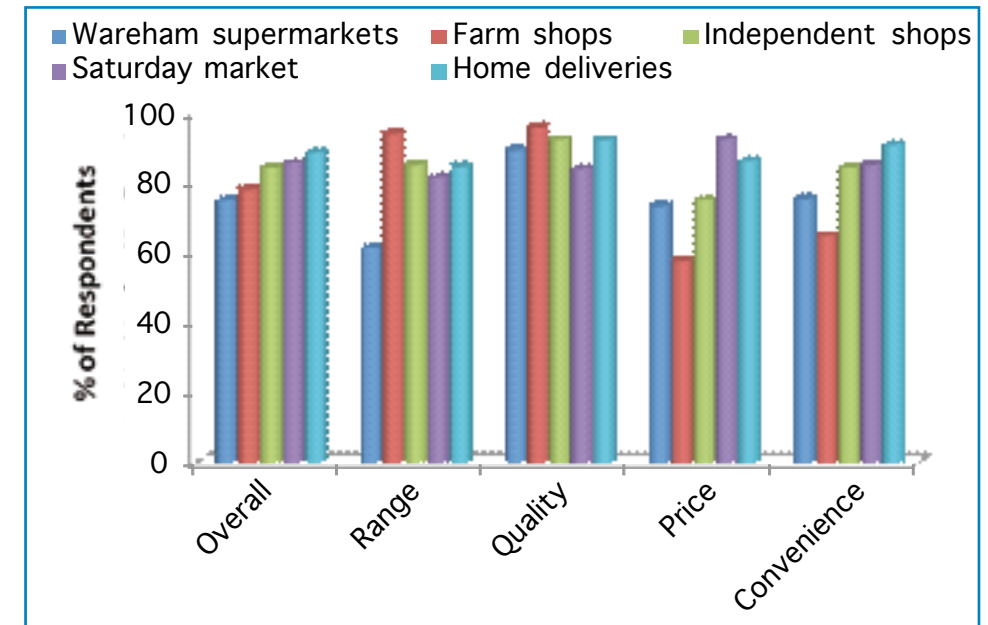


Figure 18. How do you rate these shopping facilities?

However, despite poor satisfaction with them, Wareham supermarkets were still used more frequently than the other shops (Figure 19).

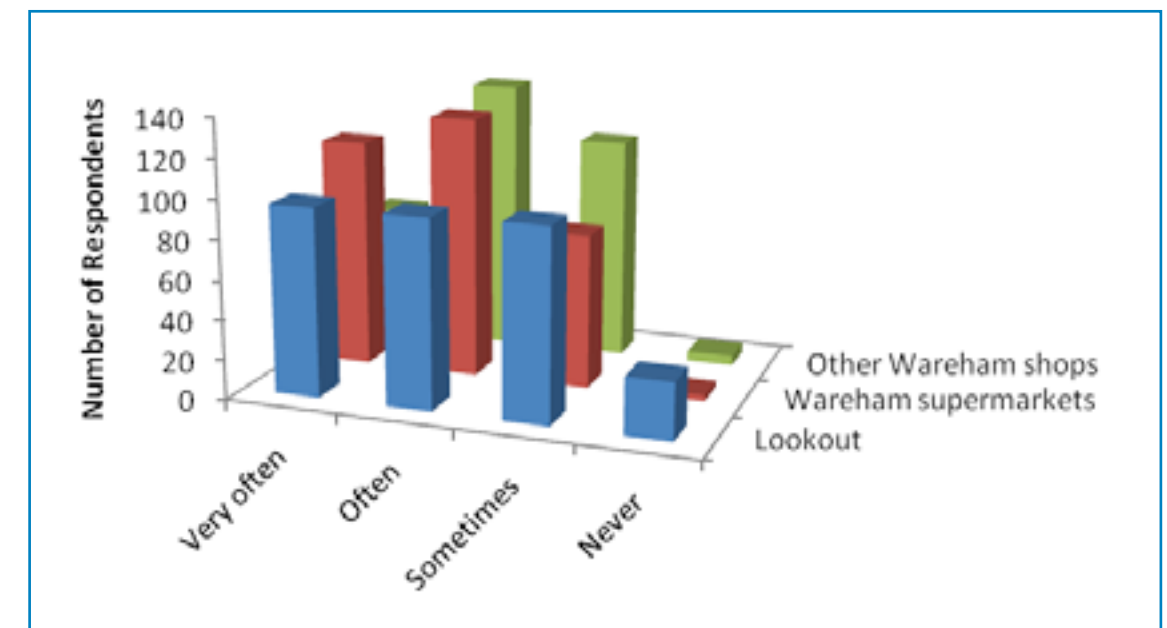


Figure 19. How often do you use the following shops?



Leisure

The level of satisfaction with leisure facilities available locally was generally higher than in 2002 (Figure 20). However, facilities were still deemed relatively unsatisfactory for those younger than 25 years old.

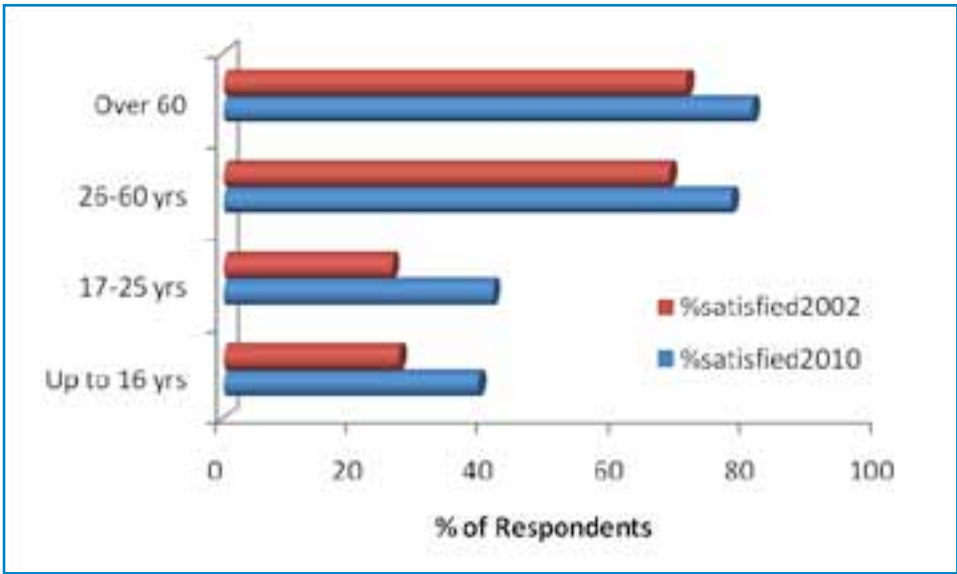


Figure 20. How do you rate the local social facilities for these age groups?

In terms of facilities for outdoor recreation, the proportion requiring more open spaces in the Parish for local people to enjoy had reduced from 43% in 2002 to 25% in the 2010 survey. This may have reflected satisfaction with improvements to the Hayricks recreation area.



Figure 21. Difficulties reported for using Stoborough and Furzebrook Village Halls.

The survey also followed up on comments received in 2002 on difficulties with access to the Stoborough Village Hall. Similar questions were addressed also for Furzebrook Village Hall as this is also used by Stoborough residents. The worst problems were lack of information about facilities and events at both Stoborough and Furzebrook Village Halls (Figure 21). However, respondents cited fewer problems using Stoborough Village Hall than in 2002. There was felt to be slightly better information for Furzebrook Village Hall, but more difficulty getting there.

(Below) The new Flying Fox at the Hayricks has proved popular with all ages





Countryside and Wildlife

The survey in 2002 had shown very strong appreciation of wildlife, with 76-79% of respondents considering wild birds, other animals and flowers very important to them, and 71-79% having visited the nature reserves at Hartland, Stoborough and Arne. Few problems were reported in 2002 with use of local footpaths, apart from relatively unavoidable ones with mud (reported by 44% of respondents) and occasional overgrown vegetation (29%); although 19% reported signposting to be unsatisfactory, this has now been improved.



Most questions on countryside and wildlife in the 2010 were part of a survey being conducted in local communities of 10 countries across Europe. However, one question for Arne Parish concerned a suggestion that access to heathland could be improved, not just for people but also for wildlife, if some fences were removed and cattle grids installed (as at Hartland but using less noisy grids as in parts of the New Forest) to keep animals on what were previously large common areas. This could also be used to calm traffic, as in the New Forest. Although such steps are not planned at present, the 50% “yes” to this question, compared with 33% “no” and 17% “don’t know” makes it worth consideration and review at the next survey. Respondents had a generally low perception of costs from wild species and habitats, with possible problems from fire, flood and disease hazards considered negligible by the majority of people despite occasional heath fires, flooding and tick-borne Lyme Disease. However, an appreciable number of people perceived costs to be considerable or greater in the case of damage to property and especially to cultivation (Figure 22). Benefits from wildlife were deemed generally to be great (Figure 23).

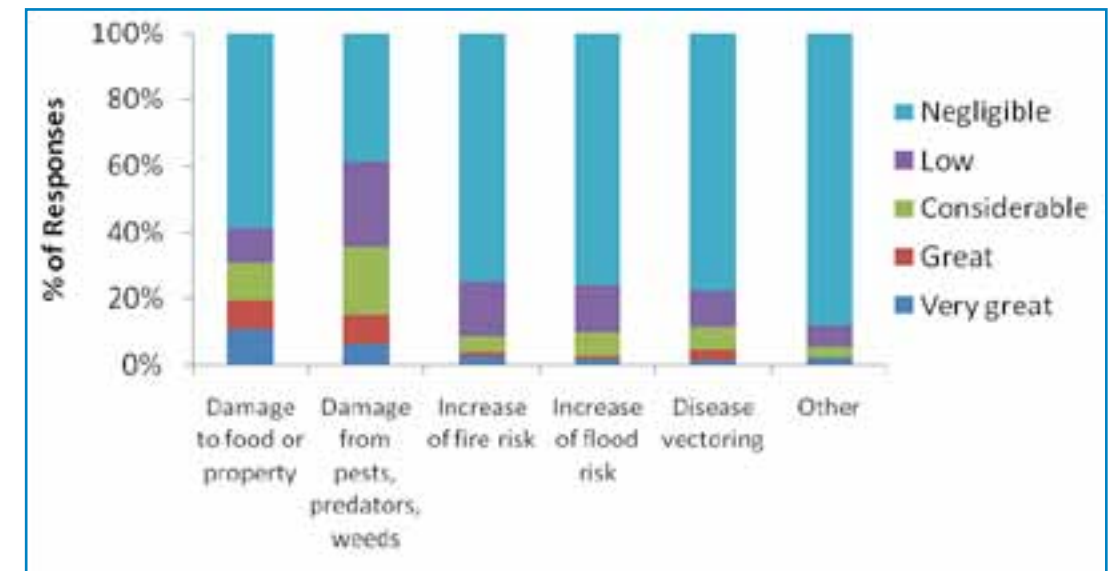


Figure 22. Please rate the extent to which you suffer costs in time and money in the following categories, from wildlife in your area.

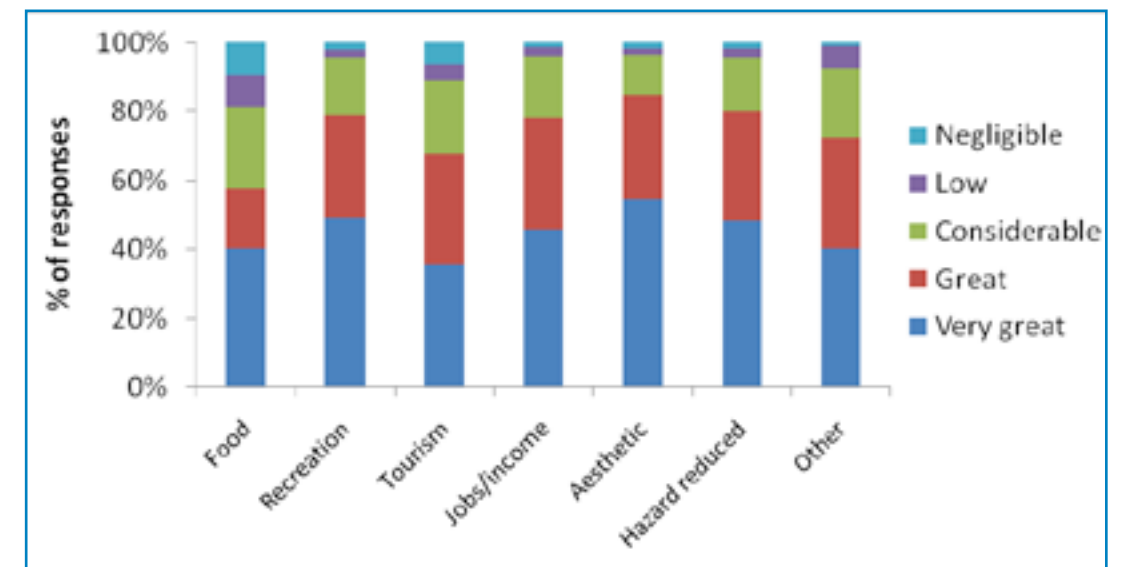


Figure 23. Please rate the importance of local wildlife and nature.

Overall, the balance of benefits over costs was high, measuring 0.48 on a scale of -1 to +1. This was high compared with most other communities in Europe, as was the engagement of Arne residents in nature-related activities. Most people had fed birds and tended gardens during the year, and a high proportion had also indulged in exercise activities in the countryside, while as high as 60% of respondents had made excursions to observe wildlife and 35% had gathered wild foods (probably mainly blackberries). Some 14% had gone fishing, 5% had shot or hunted in other ways and 5% had ridden horses, while only 3% were engaged in farming and 4% in forestry (Figure 24).

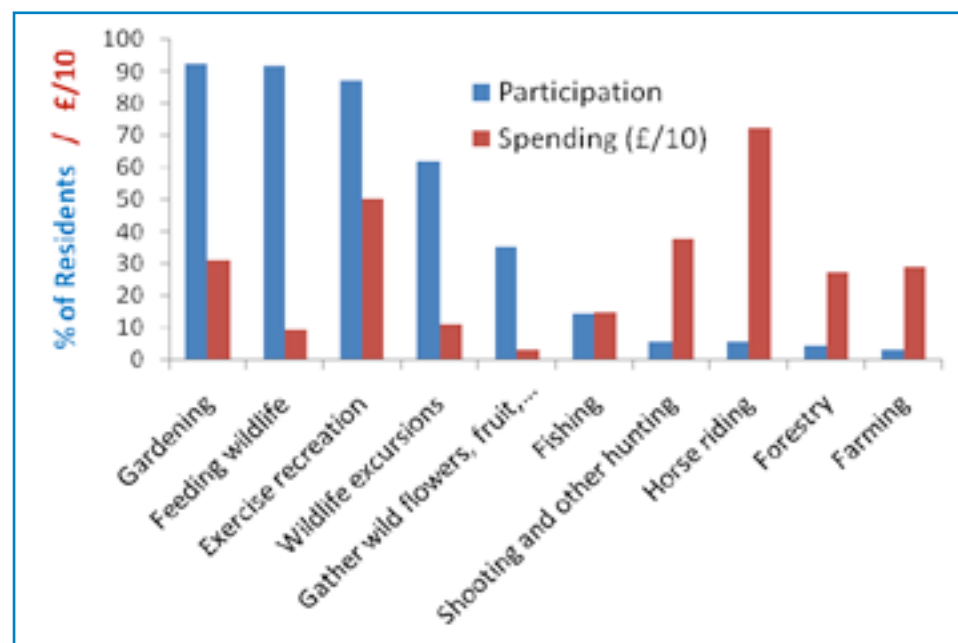


Figure 24. Do you engage in any of these activities? Approximately what was the total expenditure during the past 12 months, including fees, equipment, travel, lodging etc?

Average spending on hunting/shooting (£500) and fishing (£200) was relatively low compared with European averages of double those figures, perhaps because distant travel was not necessary in an area rich in wild resources. No high spending on farming and forestry was registered, which indicates that the participants were employees rather than landowners.

The perceived engagement in conservation of natural resources was lowest for people engaged in shooting, horse-riding and fishing, with those gathering other wild resources not viewed much more positively (Figure 25). High engagement in conservation was attributed to those feeding wildlife, but also those engaging in gardening and forestry.

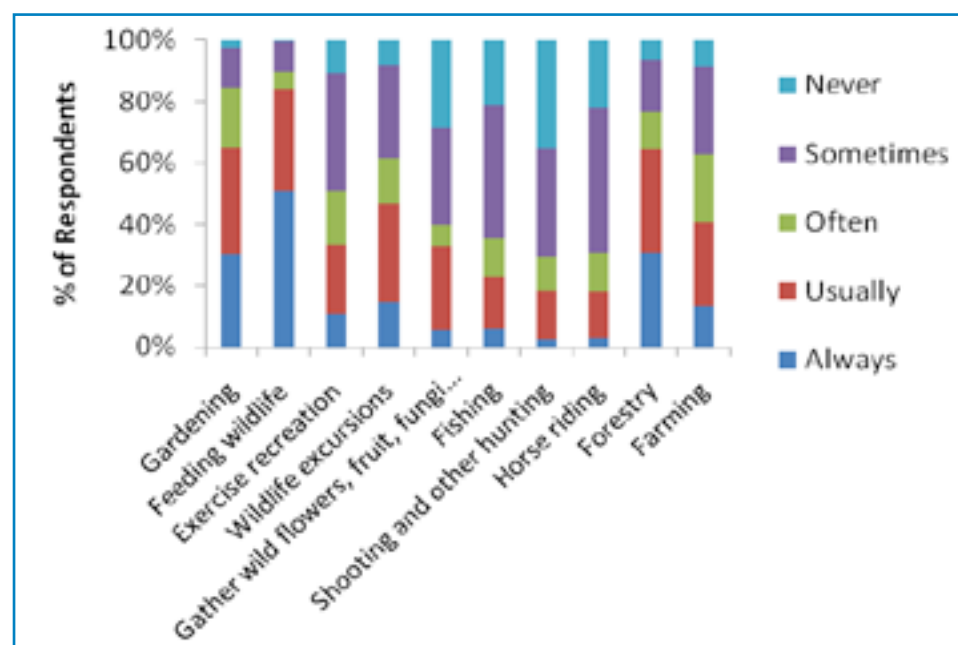


Figure 25. Do you consider that those engaged in these activities are also working to protect, maintain, or restore wild species and/or habitats?

The perception by most respondents that all users of land and wildlife resources at least sometimes engage in conservation activities probably explains why the population was relatively pragmatic about the need for all interests (and not just protection) to engage in conservation. There were 62% favouring this concept compared with only 9% opposed.

There were 289 records of deer sightings from 143 residents in Arne, representing data from 43% of the survey respondents. Combined with estimated numbers of deer seen, the total "animal-sighted" records exceeded 8,000. This produced many more data than in 5 surveys at dawn and 5 at dusk by a biologist (Figure 26). This result impressed experts assembled in Japan for the 10th anniversary meeting of the Convention on Biological Diversity, putting Arne Parish squarely on the global stage during the International Year of Biodiversity. However, these data require more processing to assign probable species and total numbers than the more systematic surveys by a professional, so such citizen science also needs professional work and guidance if it is to be maximally effective.

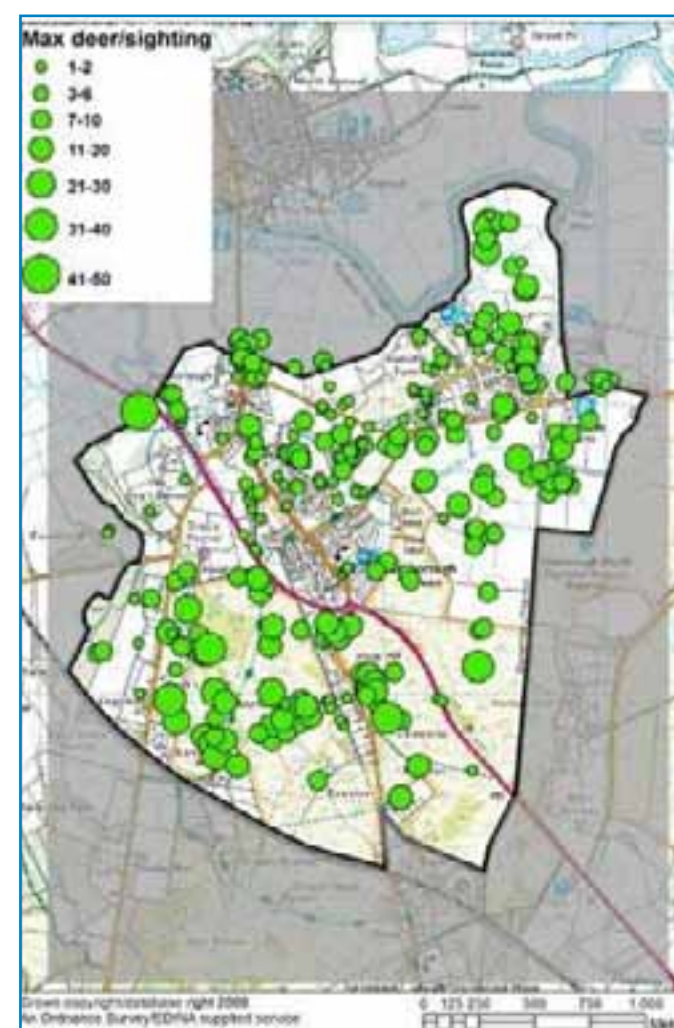
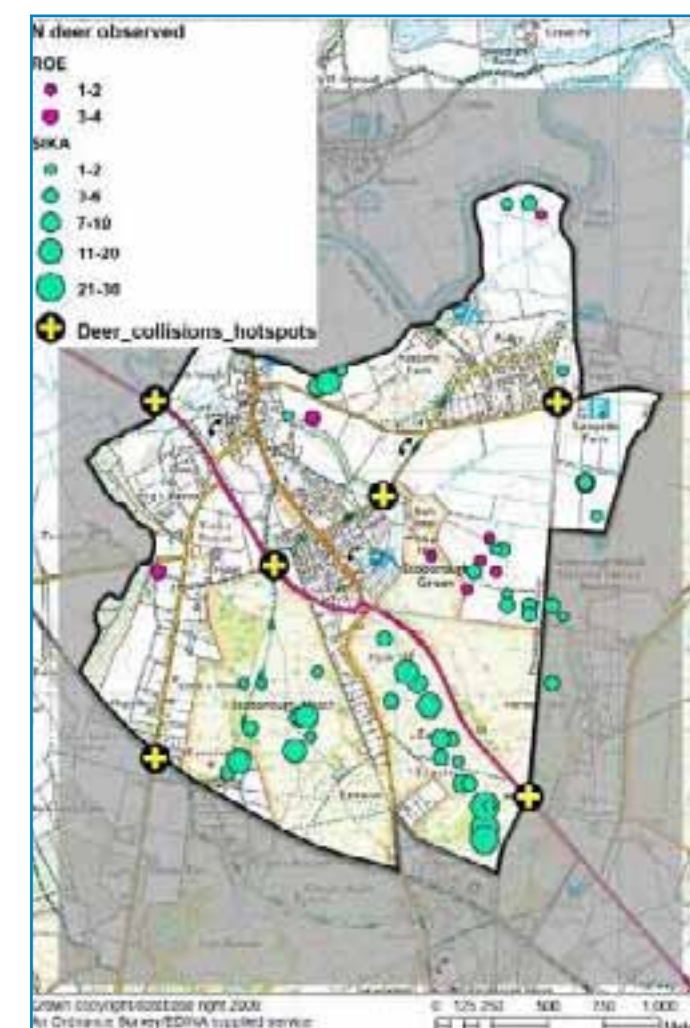


Figure 26. Mapping by 143 Parish Residents.



Mapping by post-doc Biologist

Although not part of the Survey, the local deer study also involved mapping deer habitats, in this case with a team of Adventure Scouts and their families. They used the same mapping software as the professional biologist to record deer habitats in a 4.6 km² area around Ridge and Stoborough; this land included about 90% of the human population of Arne Parish. Mapping by the party of Scouts and their supervisor was remarkably accurate in terms of registering the same habitat polygons as the trained biologist (Figure 27).



Arne Parish Council

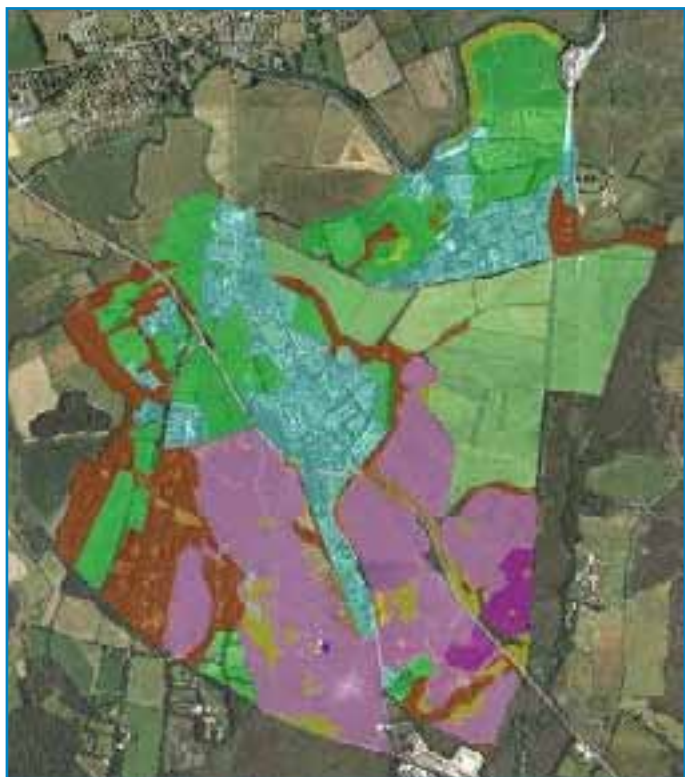


Figure 27. Mapping by Scout team. Mapping by post-doc Biologist

There was very good correspondence in the mapping, apart from classification of some gardens (pale blue) as predominantly artificial surfaced areas (blackish) by the biologist and as woodland (brown) by the scout team. The scout team, with expertise in local farming, were better than the biologist in classifying improved (green) and unimproved grassland (paler green), but failed to class some heather as post-management (grey) and did not recognise some of the dry heath (purple). The teams also differed in their digitising of shapes of (yellow) patches of gorse (*Ulex europaea*). The area of wet heath (mauve) shown in red on one map is a digitising error.

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Special thanks go also to all those who carefully completed survey forms, without whose efforts there would have been nothing to report. It is pleasing that 83% of the 77 who added a general comment were positive about life in Arne Parish, although 45% also thought it worth noting aspects that could be improved. They confirmed other survey data, by including a further 15 comments on traffic and 10 on deer, with no other issue attracting more than 4 comments.