

**REPORT ON THE FINDINGS OF  
CHAPPEL AND WAKES COLNE  
VILLAGE APPRAISAL  
HOUSEHOLDERS' QUESTIONNAIRE 2006**



*'We feel lucky to live here. People should be asking "What can I do for the village?" not "What can the village do for me?".'*

**Chappel and Wakes Colne Village Appraisal Steering Group**

**CHAPPEL AND WAKES COLNE  
VILLAGE APPRAISAL STEERING GROUP**

The group was comprised of volunteers from the villages, plus a representative from each Parish Council:

Chris Alexander (*Secretary since November 2006*)  
Kate Baker (*Secretary, resigned November 2006; Chappel Parish Council Representative*)  
Sandra Blunden  
Maggie Bowden  
Alan Cochram  
Hilda Cresswell (*Wakes Colne Parish Council Representative*)  
Stella Hounslow (*Treasurer; subsequently appointed to Wakes Colne Parish Council*)  
Philip Moseley  
Bernard Sibthorp (*Chairman*)  
Monica Taylor

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**Questionnaire Processing:** Sandra Blunden, Maggie Bowden, Alan Cochram, Stella Hounslow, Philip Moseley, Paul Stocker, Monica Taylor

**Questionnaire Analysis:** Maggie Bowden, Monica Taylor

**Report Writing:** Monica Taylor, Maggie Bowden

**KEY**

1. % may not add up to 100 as rounded up if .5+ and rounded down if .5 -
2. C&WC = Chappel and Wakes Colne
3. Total no. of households in C&WC = 405
4. Total no. of returned questionnaires with at least some responses 229
5. NB: N of respondents varied for each question between 24 and 227.
6. Areas:
  1. Swan St/Oak Road/Popes Lane/Bacon's Lane
  2. Colchester Road (C )
  3. The Street, Swan Grove, Chappel Hill
  4. Middle Green/Inworth Lane/Parkhurst Green Road
  5. Station Road/Bures Road
  6. Lane Road/Lower Green
  7. Crepping Hall Road/Vernon's Road (WC/ Mount Bures Road
  8. Spring Gardens Road/ Vernon's Road (C )
  9. Colchester Road (WC)
  10. Lamberts Lane

## CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION

The process began with a joint approach by both Chappel and Wakes Colne Parish councils to the Rural Community Council for Essex (RCCE) to organise a Village Appraisal. The sequence of events since then has been:

*September 2004.* An open meeting at the Railway Museum for all residents to learn about the process and to indicate areas they felt should be covered.

*October 2004.* An open meeting of those willing to help. This was held under the auspices of the RCCE, whose Field Officer outlined the process.

*November 2004.* A meeting of the volunteers to elect the Steering Group.

*January - June 2005.* The Questionnaire Design Group produced the Household Questionnaire, the Business Questionnaire, a Volunteer Response Form and an Information Sheet.

*Summer - Autumn 2005.* The project was suspended as the agreed funding to cover printing and distribution costs was not forthcoming.

*December 2005.* Funding received and immediate instructions given for printing.

*February 2006.* First AGM - no change in composition of the Steering Group.

*January - March 2006.* Distribution and collection of the Questionnaires. According to the RCCE, the 57% response rate was remarkably good.

*April - November 2006.* The Questionnaire Processing Group processed the forms and the data was subsequently analysed and the report written.

At my request, Louise Frank undertook an analysis of the Volunteer Response Forms. All who completed the form were invited to a meeting to consider next steps.

As a result of considerable interest in Neighbourhood Watch schemes, the Steering Group arranged a presentation by the area Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator. Ian Farquharson has agreed to re-vitalise the local scheme.

A successful barn dance, organised by the Fun Factory, was held in November. Further social events are planned.

*December 2006.* Individual invitations to a public meeting were delivered to every residential and commercial property. The presentation of results was attended by approximately 60 residents and local councillors.

*The Future.* Elections for the Development Group will take place at the next AGM on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2007. With the advice of the RCCE Field Officer this Group will work towards the process of compiling the Village Action Plan/ Design Statement.

**THANK YOU TO ALL WHO RESPONDED TO THE QUESTIONNAIRE**

## **A. VILLAGE PROFILE**

### **A1. How many people normally live in your house?**

*N=212 (93% of households responding to the questionnaire; 52% of all households in C&WC)*

- Almost half the households answering (45%) were comprised of two people.
- There is little difference in the percentage of households answering between those with one (14%), three (16%) or four (17%) people.
- Few of the households answering comprised more than four people (5 people 6%; 6 people 2%).

### **A2. What age group and gender are they?**

*N=221 (97% of households responding to the questionnaire; 55% of all households in C&WC)*

- The population of the households responding was gender balanced, 299 males (51%) and 281 female (48%).
- More than half (58%) of the people living in the households responding were aged 41+. In this group there were few age-related gender differences. Some 24% of the population of the households answering were over 60.
- In the responding households (20%) are children and young people of school age. There are more boys than girls in the age range 0-16 (boys 60%; girls 40%).
- 7% in the responding households are aged 17-25, slightly more females than males.
- 15% in the responding households are aged 26-40, an equal number of men and women, though there are more women than men in the 31-40 age range.

### **A3. How long have you and / or your family lived in Chappel &Wakes Colne?**

*N=221 (97% of households responding to the questionnaire; 55% of all households in C&WC)*

- The responses from these households suggest a relatively stable population in C&WC. Over 60% of respondents have lived in C&WC for at least 11 years.
- 44% have lived in the village for over 20 years. 55% of Area 1 have lived in the village for more than 20 years.
- 23 % of households responding have lived in the village for over 30 years. As many as 42% of respondents living in Area 8 have lived in the village for over 30 years.

#### **A4. Why do you and your family live here?**

*N=223 (97% of households responding to the questionnaire; 55% of all households in C&WC)*

Respondents were offered 10 reasons for living in C&WC and asked to tick all applicable.

The following accounted for around 75% of all options made by respondents:

- Liking village life was by far the most popular reason for living here (62% of households).
- Convenience of location was a factor for some (35% households), as were working in the local area (30% households) and being close to relatives and friends (21% households).

In addition:

- 9% households retired here; 5% returned here; 7% liked local schools.
- Among the 20 'other' reasons offered by respondents the most popular were 'like the area' (6), 'our house', 'peace and quiet' and 'rural' (3 each).

#### **A5. How long do you intend to stay in the village?**

*N=222 (97% of households responding to the questionnaire; 55% of all households in C&WC)*

*As many as 83% of the households responding said they intended to stay in the village for the foreseeable future. This again indicates population stability.*

#### **A6. Did you move here? If so – why?**

*N=197 (86% of households responding to the questionnaire; 49 % of all households in C&WC)*

Respondents were offered 7 reasons for moving to C&WC and asked to tick all applicable.

- The 'local environment' was the most popular reason (56% households).
- Work-related reasons were also important: 'work within 6-15 miles' (27% households) and 'easy commuting to London' (19% households).
- Some people moved here 'to be near friends and/or relatives' (23% households).
- House, school, transport featured among the 'other' reasons mentioned by respondents (20 households).

**A7. Why would you move away from the village?**

*N=195 (85% of households responding to the questionnaire; 48 % of all households in C&WC)*

Respondents were offered 10 options and asked to tick all that applied.

- 40% of households responding said that they would move away if the village were over developed.
- 33% of households said ‘increase in traffic’ would make them move.
- 29% of households would move if their house/garden became too big.
- 15% of households might have to move for work-related reasons.
- ‘Other’ reasons (10% householders) included ‘financial’, ‘no longer able to drive’ and ‘lack of mobility/age’.

**A8a. Why do you like living here?**

*N =220 (96% of households responding to the questionnaire; 54 % of all households in C&WC)*

Respondents were offered 6 options for liking living in C&WC and asked to tick all applicable.

Two options proved most popular:

- the countryside (90% households) and householders’ houses and gardens (86% households);
- the village environment (65% households) and convenient location (54% households).

**A8b. If you do not like living in Chappel and Wakes Colne – why not?**

*N=24 (10% households responding to the questionnaire; 6% of all households in C&WC)*

Respondents were offered 7 options for disliking living in C&WC and asked to tick all applicable.

The low response to this question confirms that the majority of householders answering the questionnaire like living in C&WC. Of those responding to the options offered, 8 disliked ‘suburbanisation’ and 4 ‘poor transport’. Among the 9 who nominated ‘Other’ reasons, 6 were social (‘petty bickering’, ‘hostile environment’, ‘not good neighbours’, ‘too much interference’) and 3 referred to ‘increase in traffic’.

**A9. When was your house originally built?**

*N=227 (99% of households responding to the questionnaire; 56% of households in C&WC)*

Of the householders responding, 35% live in houses built before 1900, 27% live in houses built between 1900 -1960 and 37% live in houses built after 1961.

**A10. Is your house listed?**

*N=195 (85% of households responding to the questionnaire; 48% of households in C&WC)*

18% (36) respondents said their house is a 'listed' building.

**A11. Your employment. Are you and residents in your home ...**

*N=223 (97% of households responding to the questionnaire; 55% of all households in C&WC)*

Respondents were offered 10 options for employment or education and asked to tick all applicable for the residents in the household. It was possible to tick more than one option per person.

- 52 % of members of these households are engaged in some form of work: 29% in full-time work; 10% in part-time work; 13% are self-employed (full- and part-time).
- unemployment in these households is almost non-existent.
- 23% of members of these households are retired.
- very few people were identified as 'homemaker' (6%).
- 16% of household members were in full-time education.

**A12. If you work, where do you usually work?**

*N=166 (72% households responding to the questionnaire; 41 % of all households in C&WC)*

Respondents were offered 9 options for employment or education and asked to tick all applicable for the residents in the household. It was possible to tick more than one option per person.

- Most employed people in the responding households work away from C&WC (74%).
- 32% of employed people from these households work within 10 miles of home.
- 42% travel over 11 miles to work, with 12 % working in London or further afield.
- 25% of those in the households responding work in C&WC, with the majority of these (17%) working from home.

### **A13. How do you travel to work?**

*N=157 (69% households responding to the questionnaire; 39% of all households in C&WC).*

Respondents were offered 7 travel to work options and asked to tick all applicable for each family member in the household.

- Clearly travel to work by car was most popular, 69% people in employment outside the home using this means of transport. There were few car shares in operation. This will account for some of the traffic on local roads at peak periods.
- 16% of people in the responding households travel to work by train. Of these just less than half travel from Marks Tey and one-third use C&WC station.
- Bus, motorbike, bicycle and other forms of locomotion (walk, van, tractor) form only around 10% of the travel to work options.

### **A14a. The village shop. Do you use the village shop?**

*N=189 (82% households responding to the questionnaire; 47% of households in C&WC)*

The overwhelming majority of households responding (97 %) said that they use the village shop.

### **A14b. If Yes – how often and for what?**

*N= 196 (86% households responding to the questionnaire; 48% of all households in C&WC)*

The main patterns of usage were as follows: Post Office – 20% of respondents two or three times a week, 35% weekly; papers – 31% of respondents daily, 30% weekly; bread and milk – 9% two or three times a week, 11% weekly, all respondents occasionally; most groceries – 26% of respondents occasionally.

### **A 15. Where did you shop in the last month?**

*N=208 (91% households responding to the questionnaire; 51% of all households in C&WC)*

Respondents were asked to indicate, from a choice of 9 locations, where they shopped for their occasional and weekly needs and major items.

In the month prior to the questionnaire most respondents had shopped for occasional needs in the village (62%), then in Earls Colne (38%). Three other locations were also used for occasional shopping needs: Sudbury (27% respondents), Halstead (25%) and Colchester (23%). All nine suggested locations were used for occasional shopping and 17% of respondents nominated 14 other locations, including the Internet.

With respect to weekly shopping half the respondents reported shopping in Stanway and almost one in three in Colchester in the previous month. As well as the village, Sudbury, Halstead and Earls Colne were also weekly shopping places for a few respondents.

As might be expected, in the month prior to the questionnaire about half the respondents had shopped for major items in Colchester and one-quarter in Stanway.

#### **A16. How do you travel to do your shopping?**

*N=223 (97% households responding to the questionnaire; 55 % of all households in C&WC)*

Respondents were asked to indicate which of 5 means of locomotion they used for shopping for occasional and weekly needs, major items and village shop items.

Responses show the prevalent use of the car, and apart from walking, relatively few respondents reported use of bus, train, cycle or car sharing. For occasional needs the majority of respondents used cars (60%), and 25% walked. For weekly needs 84% of respondents used cars, as did 74% for major items. For village shop items respondents walked (40%) or used cars (37%), as many households in the villages are not within easy walking distance of the village shop.

#### **A 17. Where do you and your family use leisure facilities?**

*N=192 (84% households responding to the questionnaire; 47 % of all households in C&WC)*

Respondents were offered 8 leisure location options and asked to tick all applicable for the family in the household.

- 35% of households responding use leisure facilities in Colchester.
- Leisure facilities in the village were used by 14% of households, with similar proportions using Earls Colne (12%), Halstead (11 %) and Sudbury (10%).
- Fewer than 10% of households use leisure facilities in London.
- 18 other locations in which leisure facilities are used were cited by respondents, ranging from as far as Epping in the south, to Cambridge in the west, Ipswich to the north and Southend to the south. Of these ‘other’ locations, use of leisure facilities at Braintree was most commonly mentioned (3%).

### **B. DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING**

#### **B1. What is worth preserving in Chappel & Wakes Colne?**

*N=223 (97% households responding to the questionnaire; 55 % of all households in C&WC)*

Respondents were offered 7 preservation options and asked to tick all applicable.

The overwhelming majority of households responding considered there are aspects of C&WC worth preserving.

- The open countryside is most valued (96% households).

- This was closely followed by views down /across the valley (91% households) and the railway line/ viaduct (91 % households) and village character and listed buildings (84% households).
- ‘Other’ aspects (16% households) included the pub, school, play equipment and footpaths.
- The very few additional comments were divided between those who considered there to be no village character and those who saw it as ‘a pocket of England that must be preserved’ and ‘unique and must be treasured’.

**B2a. Should more new houses be permitted in Chappel & Wakes Colne?**

*N=209 (91% of questionnaire respondents; 52 % of households in C&WC)*

*59% answered ‘yes’ and 41% ‘no’. This clearly indicates a division of opinion amongst residents about whether or not more new houses should be built in the village.*

**B2b. If yes, on what scale?**

*N=101 (44% of households responding to the questionnaire; 25% of households in C&WC)*

NB: Slightly fewer households than those responding affirmatively to Q B2b. answered more precisely as to the scale of development which should be permitted.

Of the households which would like to see more houses in C&WC

- 44% of households would sanction 2 new houses per year.
- 31% of households would sanction 5 new houses per year.
- Very few households (9%) would like 10 new houses per year.
- Of the other suggestions made by 17% of respondents, a very few wanted low-cost or affordable homes (4) or infill (3) only. These ‘other’ comments recognised the difficulty of prescribing what should be allowed, depending on location and frequency.

**B2c. Should larger developments (8 or more properties on a single plot) be allowed?**

*N=199 (87% of households answering the questionnaire; 49 % of households in C&WC)*

- *Of these households (80%) were against larger developments of 8 or more properties.*
- Only 38 households (20%) responding were in favour of housing developments of this size. Two households said ‘it depends’.

*Some 74 households offered additional comments (32% of households answering the questionnaire; 18% of all households in C&WC).*

Of the 32 comments classified as positive, the majority (14) were in favour of housing which met community needs, especially affordable housing, and particularly for young people with village connections. Another cluster of responses (9) were concerned about the location of

any development which should be agreed as appropriate and sensitively landscaped. Another group of responses (7) were concerned that the size of the houses should be small or single units, suitable for the young or elderly.

Of the 28 comments classified as negative, a majority (18) were concerned that large developments would be inappropriate and detract from the village character. Another cluster of responses suggested that there should be no large developments because of the lack of infrastructure, especially for traffic, and local resources (9).

Of the 14 comments classified as neutral, the majority expressed concerns about finding suitable and accessible sites; one respondent suggested a joint parish council committee to survey potential sites.

*Taken together with responses to Q B2b it is clear that a large majority of households responding do not want large housing developments in the village. However, many respondents would sanction between two to five houses per year, especially if they met community needs, such as for affordable homes and, importantly, in appropriate locations and sensitively designed.*

**B3. The Colchester Borough Council Plan states new developments should be a mix of housing, 25% affordable/ &5% private.**

**B3a. Should this target be applicable here IF an area is identified for development?**

*N=181 (79% of households responding to the questionnaire; 45% of households in C&WC).*

*Respondents were almost equally divided as to whether or not they agreed with the housing mix (25% affordable, 75% private) policy of Colchester Borough Plan: 48 % in agreement, 51% against.*

**B3b. If No, what should the housing mix be?**

*N=90 (39% of households responding to the questionnaire; 22% of all households in C&WC).*

Almost all of the respondents disagreeing with the 25% affordable/75% private mix also answered this question. Some respondents made more than one choice of the 4 options offered (101 in total).

- 33% of responses to this question said that if an area is identified for development in the village it should all be for affordable housing.
- 49% of responses to this question wanted the housing to be private (24% preferring 3+ bedrooms; 25% 3- bedrooms).
- 19% of responses to this question made 'other' suggestions: of these 12% suggested that the housing mix should be 50% affordable/ 50% private.

**B4. Should more industrial development be permitted in Chappel & Wakes Colne? Why?**

*N=191 (83% of households responding to the questionnaire; 47 % of all households in C&WC)*

*Of those responding, 81% households were against further industrial development in the village. A minority of 18% households were in favour of further industrial development.*

A total of 117 reasons were given; 80 were classified as against further industrial development, 32 in favour and 5 which could be seen as neutral.

The reasons against industrial development were equally concerned with potential loss of the village character and the additional traffic on unsuitable roads this would generate. Another cluster of responses suggested there was already enough industrial development.

Almost half the reasons in favour of further industrial development (14) were because it would provide employment. But some respondents wanted to limit any industrial development to small businesses only, possibly making use of now derelict buildings.

The neutral responses were concerned as to what kind of industry might be permitted, as they did not want heavy or manufacturing industry, and where it would be sited.

**C. THE ENVIRONMENT**

**C1. Are you adversely affected by the following, and if so, how often ....?**

*N=223 (97% of households responding to the questionnaire; 55% of all households in C&WC)*

Respondents were asked about 22 issues affecting the quality of the local environment, including flooding and drainage, traffic volume and speeding, noise, lighting, litter, festivals and special occasions.

Together these households identified a total of 1052 environmental hazards or issues affecting quality of life living in C&WC, ie an average of almost 5 per household. Almost all responses indicated that households are most affected on a daily or occasional basis, depending on the issue.

**The effects of traffic are clearly the main environmental concern to householders in C&WC, evidently affecting the quality of life of residents.** This occurs in several ways:

- *The most significant issue is **speeding traffic**: 60% of households responding are affected by speeding traffic, 48% on a daily basis. More than half of households responding in each of the village's ten areas (except the more outlying localities of Area 4, 7 & 10) claimed they are adversely affected by speeding traffic. A higher proportion of households are affected by speeding traffic in Area 5 (80%), Area 2(74%) and Area 3 (64%).*

- *40% households responding are affected by **heavy goods vehicles**, 27% daily. A higher proportion of households responding in Area 2 (71%) are adversely affected by HGVs; and half the households responding in Area 5 and Area 1.*
- *47% of households responding are affected by the regular **destruction of verges, banks and drains by traffic**. More than half of households responding in each of the ten areas (except the more outlying localities of Area 7 & 10) claimed they are adversely affected by destruction of verges, banks and drains by traffic. A higher proportion of households in Area 6 (75%) and Area 1 and 5 (60% each) are affected by roadside destruction caused by traffic.*
- *32% households responding are affected by the **volume of traffic**, 27% on a daily basis. A much higher proportion of households in Area 9 and 2 (just over 60% each) are affected by volume of traffic along the A1124.*
- *40% of households responding are affected by **lack of pavements**. A higher proportion of households in Area 5 (65%), Area 9 (63%) and Area 2 (61%) are adversely affected by the lack of pavements.*
- 20% of households responding are affected by farm machinery traffic and traffic congestion; both these problems are more likely to occur occasionally than daily. A higher proportion of households in Area 7 (36%), Area 5 (32%) and Area 6 (30%) are affected.

Other issues which affect a noteworthy proportion of households are:

- 28% of households responding are affected by litter. A higher proportion of households responding in Area 9 (63%), Area 8 (37%) and Area 2 (35%) are affected by litter.
- 24% of households responding are affected occasionally by poor field drainage (Area 6, 50%; Area 9, 45%; Area 7, 35%). Some 9% of households responding are affected occasionally by flooding, a much higher proportion in Area 3 (24%).
- 23% (51) of households responding are affected by motor bike scrambling and occasionally this proportion rises to 36% (80 households). The most affected areas are Area 1 (40%), Area 9 (36%) and Area 4 (33%).
- 22% of households responding are affected by inadequate street lighting on a daily basis (Area 9, 45%; Area 5, 30%). Some 17% are affected by inappropriate street lighting (Area 5, 30%; Area 7, 26%).
- 19% of households responding are affected occasionally by fireworks (Area 5, 30%; Area 2, 25%).
- 17% of households responding are affected by lack of parking. A higher proportion of households responding in Area 8 (37%) and Area 3 (32%) are affected by lack of available parking.

These effects are not just experienced by individual households which completed the questionnaire, they can be said to be experienced by residents in the area in general. Some environmental issues can be seen to affect the quality of life significantly.

## **C2. Flooding**

### **C2a. Has the road adjacent to your home or garden been affected by flooding resulting in ....**

*N=207 (90% of households responding; 51% of all households in C&WC)*

*NB: slightly more respondents reported being affected occasionally by river flooding and by motor-bike scrambling than reported being affected in C1.*

Respondents were asked about 5 types of damage adjacent to homes which might have occurred due to flooding. A total of 89 incidents of damage were reported (timescale unspecified). As might be expected, the incidents of damage due to flooding were mostly occasional, except for damage to verges, which could be on a daily basis.

- *53% of the damage incidents reported were to verges (corroborating C1). Damage to verges by flooding occurred in all areas of the village, but was especially mentioned by householders responding in Area 9 (55%) and Area 8 (43%).*
- *22% of the damage mentioned was to property, but Area 9 reported a higher level of damage to property (50%) due to flooding.*
- *15% of the incidents reported were road accidents. Area 9 reported by far the highest proportion of road accidents due to flooding (55%).*
- *There were six reported incidents of damage to individuals as a result of flooding.*

### **C2b. What caused this flooding?**

*N=93 (41% of households responding to the questionnaire; 23% of all households in C&WC)*

Respondents were given 5 options and asked to tick all appropriate.

- *Surface water was seen as responsible for flooding across most areas of the village, especially by householders responding in Area 2 (90%) Area 1 (83%) and Area 7 (75%).*
- *Ineffective ditches and broken or blocked drains were also seen as causes of flooding. Householders responding in Area 7 (75%), and Area 1 (67%) were more likely to attribute flooding to ineffective ditches, whereas householders responding in Area 1 and 3 (67% each) and Area 9 (60%) were more likely to attribute flooding to broken or blocked drains.*
- *Rising river levels following periods of heavy rain were reported by respondents in Area 3 (50%).*

### **C2c. Are road side ditches effective?**

*N=112 (49% of households responding to the questionnaire; 28% of all households in C&WC).*

Respondents were evenly divided as to whether or not road side ditches are effective. Respondents in Area 9 and Area 3 were more likely to respond negatively.

### **When was your nearest drainage ditch last cleared?**

*N=180 (79% of all households responding to the questionnaire; 44% of households in C&WC)*

59% did not know the precise answer. 22% of respondents thought their nearest drainage ditch was last cleared less than 2 years previously, 6% 2-4 years ago and 14% over 5 years ago.

### **C2d. Who cleared the ditches?**

*N=114 (50% of all households responding to the questionnaire; 28% of all households in C&WC)*

- One –quarter did not know the answer.
- One-quarter of households said the council had cleared the ditches.
- *One-quarter of respondents claimed to have cleared ditches themselves. This was more likely to have occurred in Area 5 (77% of those answering) and Area 1 (60%).*

### **C2e. Please specify areas where ditches have not been cleared.**

*N=46 (20% households responding to the questionnaire; 11% all households in C&WC)*

53 sites where ditches need cleaning were nominated. Most received several nominations.

- The sites, most frequently mentioned were: Spring Gardens Road (7); Station Road/Bures Road, Swan Street, and Vernons Road (6); Chappel Church/The Street/The Green, and Lower/Middle Green (5); Swan Street/Oak Road, Colchester Road (WC) (4); Lane Road to A1124 (3), West of Inworth Lane and ‘every road’ (2); and Village Hall and opposite Vernon’s Cottages (1).

## **C3. Traffic**

### **C3a. Is your household affected by traffic?**

*N=212 (93% of households answering the questionnaire; 52% of households in C&WC)*

56% of the households responding said that they are affected by traffic (confirming responses to C1).

Households commented on about 20 ways in which they are affected by traffic.

- *Of these, the overwhelming concern, specifically mentioned by 61 households, is speeding traffic. This was mentioned across all areas of the village but was drawn attention to most prominently by 25 households in Area 5.*
- Other traffic-related concerns were damage to verges (10), HGVs (9) and noise (8).

**C3b. Has the traffic in your road/area increased during the last 5 years?**

*N=206 (90% of households answering the questionnaire; 51% of households in C&WC)*

- *Of the households responding 73% said that the traffic in their road/area has increased during the last 5 years. Indeed, as many as 90% of those responding in Area 9, Area 3 and Area 5 considered that the traffic in their roads has increased in the last 5 years.*

**C3c. Does this occur at specific times (i.e. commuting, schools, trains, pubs closing)?**

*N=187 (82% of households answering the questionnaire; 46% of households in C&WC)*

Of the households responding, 55% said that the traffic had increased at specific times such as commuting, schools, trains, pubs closing.

**C3d. If you suffer from traffic noise when does this mainly occur?**

*N=111 (48% of households answering the questionnaire, 27% of households in C&WC)*

Respondents were offered 6 options, but as they were also asked to tick all applicable they could choose more than one.

- *42% of the households responding said traffic noise mainly occurred between 7-9 am.*
- *41% also said it occurred throughout the day.*
- *34% said traffic noise mainly occurred between 4.30-7pm.*
- *This pattern was prevalent for the four areas of the village on the main traffic routes (Area 2 & 9 and 5& 3)*
- Other figures indicated that traffic noise is also experienced at weekends (19%), before 7am (14%) and after 11pm (11%).

**C3e. What type of traffic causes most impact?**

*N=161 (70% of households answering the questionnaire; 40% of households in C&WC)*

Respondents were offered 8 options, and could choose more than one.

- 73% of the households responding reported that speeding traffic had the most impact. This proportion was common across the village areas but was higher for households responding in Area 9 (91%) and Area 2 (78%).
- 55% said that HGVs had the most impact; householders responding in Area 2 (85%), Area 1 (77%) and Area 9 (72%) were most affected.
- 42% of households responding said that large volumes of through traffic had the most impact; Area 9 and Area 2 were most affected – over 70%.
- Commuters (21%), motor cycles (19%), farm traffic (16%), delivery vans (21%) and recreational events (11%) are seen by households as having most impact.

### **C3f. Does this traffic result in any damage to ...?**

*N=136 (59% of households answering the questionnaire; 34% of all households in C&WC)*

Respondents were offered 5 options and could choose more than one.

- 82% of households responding reported damage to verges, hedges and drains. This occurred in virtually all areas of the village, but especially Area 1 and Area 7 (100% of respondents), closely followed by Area 6 (92%), Area 5 (90%) and Area 4 (88%).
- 45% of households reported damage to roads, especially Area 1 (69% households responding) and Area 3 (64%).
- damage was also reported to homes and gardens (13% households answering), structural damage (10%) and trees and shrubs (7%).

### **C3g. Has traffic had a major impact on you or your property? If yes, please say how.**

*N=52 (24% of households answering the questionnaire; 14% of households in C&WC)*

This indicates that for one-quarter of respondents traffic is seen by them as having a major impact on them or on their property. They gave 55 classifiable answers, mostly covering issues already raised, especially speed, structural damage, verge erosion, noise, but some responses (8) indicated difficulty of access to property during local festivals or events.

## **C4. Services**

### **C4a. Does your household experience problems with any of the following?**

*N= 212 (93% of households responding to the questionnaire; 52% of households in C&WC)*

Respondents were invited to indicate whether they experienced problems with 9 services (mains water, electricity, refuse collection, roadside maintenance, TV/radio reception, broadband, pavement maintenance, sewage, recycling) never, occasionally, often, always, and if they were not available but wanted.

The main concerns about service provision were:

- 68% of households responding have problems with the *electricity supply*, though for the great majority (90%) this is only occasional.
- 45% of households responding have problems with *roadside maintenance*; whilst this is only an occasional problem for most (65%), *for 26% of households responding this is always or often a problem.*
- *38% of households responding have problems with TV/radio and also broadband reception. TV/radio reception is only problematic occasionally for most (69%), but for 30 % it is always or often problematic. Broadband reception has a different profile: it is occasionally problematic for 36%, often or always problematic for 25% and is not available but wanted by 39% households responding.*
- the weekly domestic refuse collection is occasionally problematic for 35% households responding.
- pavement maintenance is problematic for 31% households responding, for some (38%) only occasionally, for others (22%) often or always; but *40% respondents indicated pavements or pavement maintenance was not available but wanted (almost half of these households were in Area 5).*
- 25% of households responding have occasional problems with recyclable waste.
- 17% of households responding have occasional problems with sewage /main drains.

**C4b. Would a regular skip be useful?**

*N=208 (91% of householders answering the questionnaire; 51% of households in C&WC)*

*A clear majority (80%) wanted regular access to a skip.*

**C4c. What type of rubbish is deposited in your area?**

*N=168 (73% of households answering the questionnaire; 41% of households in C&WC)*

Respondents were offered 6 options and could choose more than one.

- fast food boxes and cartons were the main rubbish items reported by 73% households responding, fairly consistently across all areas, but especially in Area 9 (100%).
- 43% of households responding reported dropped waste collection items in most areas.
- fly tipping was reported by 21% of households answering this question and 16% mentioned dog mess.
- 5% of households answering this question, almost all in Area 9, reported a range of other items of rubbish, including bottles and cans, car parts, nappies, mud and stones on the road.

**C5. Footpaths and bridle-ways. Are you aware of any footpaths and bridle-ways that should be reinstated?**

*N=202 (88% of households answering the questionnaire; 50% of all households in C&WC)*

Only 10% respondents provided any suggestions regarding footpaths and bridle-ways. A few noted that some footpaths are overgrown and stiles are in need of repair. Specific paths/bridle-ways in need of attention were given as: Spring Gardens – railway – Colchester Road, Footpaths 3 and 5, Inworth Lane to Lower Green, Hammonds Farm to Wormingford Airfield, Spring Gardens to Crepping Hall, Whitegates to Parish Field, Oak Road to Chalkney Woods.

#### **C6. Festivals and other special occasions. Should these events happen ...?**

*N=178 (77% of households responding to the questionnaire, 44% of households in C&WC)*

Respondents were asked whether 5 events (steam days, beer/cider festivals, Millennium Green events, fireworks and motor-bike scrambling) should happen more or less often, and why? Respondents influenced the questionnaire by creating a third category ‘the same’. This may affect the validity of these responses.

- steam days: the majority of those responding to this question (51%) wanted the frequency to stay the same.
- beer/cider festivals: the majority of those responding to this question (56%) wanted the frequency to stay the same.
- Millennium Green events: the majority of those responding to this question (50%) wanted more frequent events, especially respondents in Area 2 (82%).
- fireworks: the majority of those responding to this question (43%) wanted fewer.
- motor-bike scrambling: the majority of those responding to this question (46%) wanted fewer.

Some respondents gave reasons for their choices: on the one hand, some thought some events were good for the community and ‘village spirit’; on the other it was recognised that special events brought more traffic to the village and sometimes brought, or increased, congestion and speeding. Some events, especially scrambling, fireworks and steam days, were seen by some as bringing more noise, and, in particular, some respondents were concerned about the effect of noisy fireworks on animals. Some questioned the benefit to the village from these events.

#### **D. CHAPPEL VILLAGE GREEN**

The matter of illegal parking on the village green, adjacent to the school, where there is a need for car parking, was explained. Villagers were asked:

##### **D1. How do you suggest this problem is resolved?**

*N=86 (38% households responding to the questionnaire, 21% of all households in C&WC).*

Of the 86 suggestions for resolving the parking problem, ten per cent said that it was not a problem in practice and the situation should be left as it is. Another ten per cent said they did not know how to resolve this matter. A further ten per cent said there should be a defined

parking area. The remaining responses made a range of suggestions, which were more or less creative or practical and which could not be neatly classified.

**D2. Should vehicle traffic across the Village Green footpath be restricted to Village Green residents only?**

*N=147 (64% of households responding, 36% of all households in C&WC)*

The majority (56%) of those responding thought that traffic across the Village Green should be restricted to Village Green residents only. However, 46% did not agree with such a restriction and a few comments suggested that access to the Millennium Green is legal.

**E. CHAPPEL PARISH FIELD**

The position of Chappel Parish Field was described. Apart from allotments much of the ground currently has no formal use.

**E1a. If it were possible (*subject to planning regulations*) should the use of this land be changed?**

*N=148 (65% of households responding, 36% of all households in C&WC)*

*Two-thirds of respondents (66%) said that the use of the land should be changed.*

**E1b. If Yes – and subject to funding – what would you prefer?**

NB more respondents answered this question than answered E1a, and more than answered Yes to E1a.

*N= 163 (71% of households responding, 40% of all households in C&WC)*

Respondents were given 7 options and could choose more than one. Of those responding, 43% wanted the Parish Field to be an open space, 40% wanted sports facilities on it, 29% wanted a children's play area on it, 23% wanted low cost housing, 21% wanted it to be left as it is and 17% wanted a new village hall there. Some 12% of respondents made other suggestions as to use of the Parish Field: woodland and allotments each received one-quarter of these nominations. A few respondents commented that access is a problem.

**F. COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES, AMENITIES, ISSUES**

***The Village Reporter***

**F1a. Contributing to/receiving the magazine**

*N= 205 (90% of households responding and 51% of all households in C&WC)*

- Most households responding (83%) said that they usually received *The Village Reporter*, though a few claimed not, or only sometimes, to receive it.
- 12% of respondents said they would be willing to deliver the magazine at least sometimes.
- 13% of respondents said they would sometimes be willing to write for *The Village Reporter* and 3% said they did write for it.

**F1b. How do you value the content of *The Village Reporter*?**

Respondents were asked to rate the content of *The Village Reporter*, classified into 8 types (Parish Council news, local activities, school news, sports news, church news, garden tips, archive corner, local advertising) according to a five-point scale (1=poor, 5=good).

*N= 163 (71% of households responding and 40% of all households in C&WC)*

A large majority of respondents (from 73- 91%) rated each of the types of content 3 or above.

**F1c. Should *The Village Reporter* include:**

*N=187 (82 % of households responding, 46 % of all households in C&WC)*

Respondents were given 4 options and asked for further suggestions.

- Most respondents wanted contact names and details for village clubs and activities (89%), for parish, borough and county councillors (81%), for local government bodies (70%) and bus and train timetables (78%).
- Some 25 respondents made other suggestions and comments. These included: children's activities, details of parish council meetings, information on the police van visits, local planning applications, calendar of events, railway museum events, more village history and natural history, footpath details, a births, deaths and marriages column, who's who in the village.
- Criticisms of *The Reporter* included the need for more neutral reporting and improved spelling.

**F2. Doctor's Surgery**

**F2a. Do you and your family find access to your doctor's surgery difficult?**

*N=198 (86 % of households responding to the questionnaire, 49% of all households in C&WC)*

- *A significant minority of respondents (17%) reported difficulty in getting access to their doctor's surgery.*

**F2b. If possible, would you like:**

*N=172 (75% of households responding to the questionnaire, 42% of all households in C&WC)*

- *Half the respondents would like a regular GP surgery in the village, for example weekly.*
- *30% respondents would like organised transport with volunteer drivers to reach their doctor's surgery.*
- *11 respondents volunteered to be drivers.*

**F3. Events**

**F3a. Would you or your family members attend any of the following events ?**

*N= 203 (89% of households responding to the questionnaire, 50% of all households in C&WC)*

Respondents were offered 7 options and could choose more than one.

- *The most popular events were fêtes (81%) and fireworks (64%) (NB cf. response to C6.)*
- *Half the respondents said they would attend car boot sales.*
- *A minority of respondents said they or their family members would attend the following: quiz nights (40%), dances (26%), children's Xmas party (24%) and bingo (14%).*

**F3b. Suggestions for other events**

*16 respondents suggested other possible events and activities: pet/dog shows (2), sports competitions/displays (2), barn dances, fundraising, films, army activities, farmers' market, concerts, poker, arts and crafts, school litter pick, rounders, folk/jazz festival, whist drive.*

**F4. Crime**

**F4a. Do you consider our community generally to be a safe place to live?**

*N= 223 (98% of households responding to the questionnaire, 54% of all households in C&WC)*

*The overwhelming majority of respondents (97%) considered Chappel and Wakes Colne to be a safe place to live.*

**F4b. Have you been affected within the last year by:**

*N= 79 (34% of households responding to the questionnaire, 20 % of all households in C&WC)*

Respondents were offered 7 options and could choose more than one.

- Almost half the respondents (49%) claimed to have been affected by fly-tipping/litter; this was more likely to be mentioned by residents of Area 2, 5 and 8.
- Similar proportions of respondents had been affected by personal intimidation (19%), anti-social behaviour (16%), theft or burglary (15%), trespassing (14%), though vandalism was not reported widely (5%).
- There were a few adverse comments about unruly dogs and gypsies near the Millennium Green.

Though respondents to the questionnaire may see the village as 'safe' the above claims suggest it is not always a pleasant place to live.

**F4c. The mobile police van visits frequently**

*N=187 (82% of households responding to the questionnaire, 46% of all households in C&WC)*

- Over half the respondents (56%) thought that the mobile police van visits were adequate.
- In fact 11% of respondents said they were not aware of the visits of the mobile police van.
- Only 10% of respondents claimed they had visited the police van to make comments; these included to report speeding (4), and to get advice on security, to report theft, vandalism and illegal parking, and on account of Neighbourhood Watch.

**F4d. The Neighbourhood Watch Scheme works with the police to make communities safer**

*N=209 (91% of households responding to the questionnaire, 52 % of all households in C&WC)*

- The majority of respondents (64%) were aware of the local Neighbourhood Watch Scheme, but a significant minority were not.
- 33% of respondents were interested in knowing more and/or helping; proportionately more respondents in Area 4, 5 and 9 said this.

**F5. Chappel & Wakes Colne Parish Councils**

**Should Chappel & Wakes Colne Parish Councils amalgamate?**

Respondents were asked to state their view and reasons.

*N=169 (74% of households responding to the questionnaire, 42% of all households in C&WC)*

- *There was a clear majority (75%) of all those responding to this question who wanted Chappel & Wakes Colne Parish Councils to amalgamate. 20% of respondents did not want the parish councils to amalgamate and 6 % said they did not know.*
- *When the respondents were divided into residents of Chappel (N=84, 50% of respondents to this question, Area 1, 2, 3 & 8) and Wakes Colne (N= 85, 50% Area 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10) the majority of the respondents to this question from each village was in favour of amalgamating the parish councils.*
- *However, there was some variation in the proportion of those who responded in favour of amalgamation between the two villages: 81% of the residents of Chappel who responded to this question were in favour of the amalgamation of the parish councils, compared with 68% of the residents of Wakes Colne who responded to this question.*
- *108 comments which supported amalgamation of the parish councils were made by respondents. These included: ‘geographically one village with shared facilities’ (29), it would be ‘more cost effective’ (16), it would ‘increase effectiveness’ (13), it would be ‘more logical/practical’, ‘if the parish councils work together’ (10 each), and there could be ‘better co-ordination’ (8).*
- *27 comments which were against amalgamation of the parish councils were made by respondents. These included: ‘they are two separate villages’ (8), ‘there will be more trouble if one parish council’ (3), there are two separate council taxes, ‘change for change sake’, ‘if bigger there will be less concern for the individual’, ‘they will never agree’, ‘not compatible’ (2 each).*
- *There was a sense among respondents that any potential merger would need to be approached and undertaken with care and to ensure equal representation of both Chappel and Wakes Colne.*

## **G. SOCIAL AND LEISURE FACILITIES**

### **G1. Are you or your family involved in these activities in the village?**

*N=81(35% of households responding to the questionnaire, 20% of all households in C&WC)*

Respondents were given 12 options and asked to indicate all that applied.

- *Almost half of those responding to this question (38) said they or their family participated in church (32) or chapel (6) activities.*
- *Almost half of those responding to this question (37) said they or their family participated in outdoor sports or exercise: cricket (19), walking (10), football (8).*
- *Some participated in activities of the Women’s Institute (12) or British Legion (9) and a few in Sunday school (4).*

- Some (7) respondents nominated other indoor activities, including carpet bowls, majorettes, toddlers group and local history.
- Some (5) respondents nominated other outdoor activities, including the railway museum, shooting and fishing.

**G2a. Which clubs or activities would you or any member of your family attend if they were available in the village?**

*N= 147 (64% of households responding to the questionnaire, 36% of all households in C&WC)*

Respondents were given 17 options and were able to choose more than one.

- 43% respondents said they or a member of their family would attend local history activities, 38% evening classes and 27% natural history activities and/or a gardening club.
- 24% respondents would join in quiz activities, 20% a film club, and 15% wanted a publicly available computer room.
- More activities for children and young people would be attended: 16% would like a youth club for the holidays, 13% a youth club during term time, 14% would like scouts, 12% guides.
- 11% of respondents said they would attend a senior citizens club.
- Respondents indicated several other sporting activities would be supported: tennis (18%), bowling (14%), and others indicated they would like to participate in a range of indoor games and fitness or sporting activities.

**G2b. Would you be prepared to organise/help run any of these activities?**

*N=159 (69% of households responding to the questionnaire, 39% of all households in C&WC)*

22 respondents (14%) were willing to organise or help run a club.

**G3a Is the provision of social activities adequate for the following age groups in the village?**

*N=112 (49% of households responding to the questionnaire, 28% of all households in C&WC)*

Respondents were asked to indicate if provision was enough, not enough or not needed for 9 age groups.

- 42% of respondents felt there was inadequate provision of social activities for those aged 12-16 (NB Q A2. indicates low numbers of this age group).
- 29% wanted more social activities for children aged 5-11.
- 27% thought there should be more provision for pre-school children and young adults aged 17-25.

- Similar proportions of respondents felt there should be more social activities for those over 70 (21%) and those aged 61-70 (20%).
- Fewer respondents (15% or less) felt that there was need for provision of social activities for those aged 26-60.

### **G3b. Any suggestions?**

*N=27 (12% of households responding to the questionnaire, 7% of all households in C&WC)*

Suggestions largely echoed previous options and responses: a professionally run youth club, an after-school club, monthly coffee and a speaker, each receiving more than one nomination.

### **G4. Village Hall**

#### **Do you use Chappel and Wakes Colne Village Hall?**

*N=208 (91% of households responding to the questionnaire, 51% of all households in C&WC)*

*Fewer than half the respondents (43%) said that they used the Village Hall. This suggests better use could be made of it by villagers.*

#### **G4a. If Yes, for what purpose?**

*N=85 (37% of households responding to the questionnaire, 21% of all households in C&WC)*

Respondents were given 4 options.

Of the respondents to this question, 64% used the Village Hall for community occasions, 58% for private hire, 49% to attend meetings and only 16% for clubs.

#### **G4b. If possible what facilities would you like added?**

*N=19 (8% of households responding to the questionnaire, 5% of all households in C&WC)*

A wide range of facilities was suggested: a larger car park (6), improved heating (4), a computer club/ internet café (3), games/music for a youth club (2) and toilets with access for the disabled, telephone, comfortable seating, better road access, changing room, drop in centre, keep fit, evening classes, doctor's surgery (1 each).

**G4c. Does the Village hall need to be upgraded or re-sited, subject to planning and funding?**

*N=168 (73% of households responding to the questionnaire, 41% of all households in C&WC)*

A majority of respondents (64%) did not consider that the Village Hall needs to be upgraded or re-sited.

**G5. The School**

**Do you have children of primary school age?**

*N=196 (86% of households responding to the questionnaire, 48% of all households in C&WC)*

Of those responding, 45 households (30%) said they had children of primary school age.

**G5a. If Yes – how many?**

*N=38 (17% of households responding to the questionnaire, 9% of all households in C&WC)*

Of those responding, 27 households had one child of primary school age, 10 had two children of that age and one household had three children aged 5-11.

**G5b. If Yes – do they attend Chappel village school?**

*N=14 (6% of households responding to the questionnaire, 3% of all households in C&WC)*

These 14 respondents had between them 17 children attending Chappel village school.

**G5c. If they do not attend the village school which school(s) do they attend?**

*N=19 (8% of households responding to the questionnaire, 5% of all households in C&WC)*

These 19 respondents who did not send their child(ren) to Chappel school, indicated that their children (22 in total) attended several state and private schools. Some 13 children attended five local state primary schools, mostly at Earls Colne and Great Tey. The private schools attended by 9 children were spread over a wide geographical area, extending beyond local boundaries and nearby villages and towns, as far as Cambridge, Chelmsford and Frinton.

**G6. The Playfield**

**Is there a need for play equipment?**

*N=191 (83% of households responding to the questionnaire, 47% of all households in C&WC)*

*Of those responding 65% considered there was a need for play equipment, 28 % said they were unsure and 7% thought there was no need for play equipment.*

Some respondents commented on the cost mentioned in the background information given to the question, that the equipment did not need replacing and that, in any case, Chappel Parish Council had a legal obligation to provide play equipment.

**G6a. If yes, is this the right site for children’s play equipment?**

*N=131 (57% of households responding to the questionnaire, 32% of all households in C&WC)*

Of those responding, a large majority (80%) considered that the Playfield is the right site for children’s play equipment. But 20% were concerned that it was not the right site, that it was ‘invisible and insecure’.

**G6b. If no – where else would you suggest?**

*N=38 (17% of households responding to the questionnaire, 9% of all households in C&WC)*  
Three options were suggested to respondents.

Of those responding, half (19) suggested that the Village Green would be a better location for the children’s play equipment, and almost as many (16) preferred the Parish Field. The remaining few were divided about the respective merits of these two locations.

**G6c. Do you have children that could use the play equipment?**

*N=177 (77% of households responding to the questionnaire, 44% of all households in C&WC)*

Of those responding 39% households (69) had children (some specified grandchildren) who were of a suitable age to use the play equipment.

**G6d. If Yes - what ages are they?**

*N=67 (29% of households responding to the questionnaire, 16% of all households in C&WC)*

A total of 112 children (and grandchildren) were indicated as: 32 of pre-school age (-1 – 4), 63 aged 5-11 and 17 aged 12-14.

**G6e. If Yes – how often do they use it?**

*N=73 (32% of households responding to the questionnaire, 18% of all households in C&WC)*

Six options were suggested.

- Most of the (grand)children do not use the play equipment frequently (daily or twice weekly).
- Most (grand)children use the play equipment weekly (20 respondents), once a month (20 respondents) or less than monthly (17 respondents).
- A few (5) respondents said that although they had (grand)children who could use the play equipment they never did.

**H. TOURISM**

**H1. Do you think the following activities take place ...**

*N=212 (93% of households responding to the questionnaire, 52% of all households in C&WC)*

Respondents were asked to rate 8 types of activities according to whether they took place too often, OK, or not enough.

- *A majority, mostly a large majority, of respondents considered that the frequency of each activity was 'OK': rambling (93%), fishing (87%), steam days and beer/cider festivals (84% each), fêtes (82%), moto-cross (81%), Millennium Green festivals (80%) and scrambling (69%).*
- 17% respondents wanted more fêtes, 16% more Millennium Green festivals, 12% more beer/cider festivals and 10% each more steam days and fishing.
- *On the other hand, 28% respondents to the question about scrambling thought this activity took place too often. Also 14% thought moto-cross activities were too frequent. 6% thought steam days took place too often.*

**H2a. Do you think that there are any tourist events that are detrimental to the villages?**

*N=182 (79% of households responding to the questionnaire, 45% of all households in C&WC)*

16% respondents thought that there were some tourist events detrimental to the village.

**H2b. If Yes, please state which and why**

*N=30 (13% of households responding to the questionnaire, 7% of all households in C&WC). 50 responses were given.*

Most comments focused on three main tourist events:

- *Almost half the comments (21) were made about scrambling and three-quarters of these (15) specifically referred to noise; also increased traffic and speed.*
- *Steam days also came in for comment (14 comments), half of which specifically referred to traffic; also litter, verge damage and mud on the road.*
- *Beer festivals received a few comments concerning noise and litter (6).*
- *There was comment that activities likely to attract tourism should not just be commercial but should also be of benefit to the village.*

### **H3. Are there any other tourist activities you would like to see?**

*N=111 (48% of households responding to the questionnaire, 27% of all households in C&WC).*

Respondents were offered 6 options and could choose more than one.

56% of respondents suggested nature walks, 41% historical tours, 31% archery, 25% clay pigeon shooting and 23% cycling. Other suggested tourist activities included: a dog club, riding club, horse cross-country, vintage rally and open gardens.

## I. OTHER COMMENTS

### **Respondents were invited to make any further back page comments.**

*A total of 66 respondents made comments (Area 1=6; Area 2=11; Area 3=9; Area 4=6; Area 5=12; Area 6= 6; Area 7= 4; Area 8= 9; Area 9=3).*

Some of the comments were extensive. Many repeated strong feelings over controversial issues covered by the questionnaire. Some of the comments were indicative of respondents' hopes for the quality of community life. A few comments made creative suggestions for the future of our village. Key points summarised the main findings and clustered around:

**Traffic Issues.** These unite the villages and are the most strongly expressed concern of most respondents. Use of the car is also widespread by villagers living modern lives. One concern is the *volume* of traffic, along the A1124 and at certain times the Bures to Marks Tey road 'which has become a heavy goods route', with damage to verges. The main concern relates to *speeding* and the need to introduce more effective speed restrictions. There is the related *danger to pedestrians*, especially in certain places without pavements. Respondents were looking to the parish councils to bring more pressure to bear on the relevant local authorities.

Some were also concerned about parking in certain areas and the need for a *car park*, especially with increasing tourism. Certain tourist attractions (especially scrambling, moto-cross and also steam days and beer festivals) generate more traffic and *noise*. The interests of villagers choosing to live in a village environment have to be balanced with commercial matters and there should be some benefit not detriment to the residents.

**Housing Development.** Concerns were expressed about village overdevelopment, whilst many respondents appreciated there might be some need (if properly assessed) for some 'affordable' housing.

**Facilities.** Whilst most respondents seemed to appreciate the *Millennium Green* as an asset and a public open space, others expressed concerns about using it for public events, the impact on wildlife, nearby residents, access and parking. *Play Area and Facilities for Young People:* there was general awareness of the need to provide and maintain quality equipment for children in a safe play area and that there is a lack of facilities and opportunities for young people.

**Local Democracy.** Many concerns were expressed about how the quality of life in the villages can be improved. It is clear that some people (e.g. new residents) need more information, but there are also concerns about lack of transparency in the way organisations work and an interest on the part of some to make changes. Some noted the need for 'a better political atmosphere and village democracy' and 'greater public consultation'. A clear majority of respondents were in favour of pursuing a merger of the Parish Councils with perceived cost and efficiency benefits and less divisiveness. 'Residents voices should be heard and acted upon.'

**Village Spirit.** Some respondents were concerned and upset about 'ill feeling' and 'infighting' in the villages. 'The village is split because of decisions made by personalities, not on the basis of issues. There is no hope for harmony until this ends.' Some concerns were also expressed about the need to resolve issues of land ownership and access.

**Questionnaire.** Whilst some respondents appreciated the questionnaire and being asked for their views on some controversial matters, there was some criticism that the questionnaire was ‘biased with loaded questions’, ‘too long and repetitive’. Some wanted more information about its cost, ‘the marks’ on the questionnaire. One commented on the issues not addressed: ‘The Village Appraisal has not addressed public transport, village development boundaries, housing capacity, land usage, the encroachment of the commercial /domestic onto agricultural land.’ Other respondents were concerned that the village appraisal focused too much on village matters and did not pay sufficient attention to external influences, such as the potential enlargement of Stansted, extension plans for the A12/ A120 and impact on village roads and volume of traffic, and changes in local council organisation.

**Development Plan.** One respondent commented, ‘There is a need for a coherent village plan, especially re resources and amenities’. Indeed, all comments and responses will be taken on board by the next phase of the project to produce a Development Plan for the village.

**Table 1: Village areas, household numbers and questionnaire responses**

<b>Area</b>	<b>Road Names</b>	<b>Questionnaires Delivered</b>	<b>Questionnaires Collected</b>	<b>% Return</b>
1	Swan St/ Oak Road/ Popes Lane/ Bacon’s Lane	40	28	70
2	Colchester Road, Chappel	63	32	51
3	The Street/ Swan Grove/ Chappel Hill	66	25	38
4	Middle Green/ Inworth Lane/ Parkhurst Green Road	46	27	59
5	Station Road/ Bures Road	56	41	73
6	Lane Road/ Lower Green	36	20	56
7	Crepping Hall Road/ Vernon’s Road Wakes Colne/ Mount Bures Road	23	16	70
8	Spring Gardens Road/ Vernon’s Road Chappel	46	28	60
9	Colchester Road, Wakes Colne	26	11	42
10	Lamberts Lane	3	1	33
<b>All</b>	<b>Chappel &amp; Wakes Colne</b>	<b>405</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>57</b>