



Village Plan

2002

Ediston Village Plan
2002

Sponsored by

Rural East Suffolk RPA

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Easton

A village appraisal

Introduction

In December 2001 a village meeting was called to discuss the desirability and value of carrying out a village appraisal. John Kerr, the Chairman of the Parish Council explained that already 60 village plans had been produced in Suffolk and that "The Plan is an opportunity to raise issues that could affect the future of the village and is also a passport to influencing District and County Planners" Not only would an appraisal enable future plans to be based on some known facts and on the wishes of the inhabitants, it opened up the possibility of obtaining Government funding for various projects.

As a result of this meeting a Steering Committee offered them selves to undertake the survey, using a questionnaire which had been originally devised by the Cheltenham and Gloucester College of Higher education, Countryside and Community Research Unit. Within certain constraints, it was capable of being altered to fit our requirements. Throughout the preliminary period, we were advised by **Louise Wilby** and later by **Annette Gray** of **Suffolk Acre**. Also present at the December meeting had been **Bernard Orme**, Chairman of the **Wenhaston Appraisal Group**, who gave us the benefit of his experience. One of the points they made was that the number of questions needed to be limited to under 100. The steering committee undertook to choose questions which they thought were relevant and to alter others to suit Easton. A trial run was then carried out on a random sample of 14 households (1/10th of the village)

Following the trial sample, the questionnaire was reduced in size and amended before the final printing and distribution to all the remaining households in Easton.

Finance for the project came as a grant from Rural East Suffolk RPA for which we are most grateful.

Steering Committee

The committee consisted of the following people:-

Anne Parkinson and Jane Pollock (Joint Chairman)

Bernadette Eklid (Minute Secretary)

Alan Eklid (Liaison with the Parish Magazine)

Ali Green

Matt Green

Derek Hunt

Colin Haysom (i/c finance)

Roger Jones

Kirsty Logan

Steve Parkinson

Nigel Wright

The computer program was edited and revised by Matt Green and Derek Hunt and all the printing and collating of material was done by Derek Hunt.

The Steering committee members were responsible for delivering and collecting questionnaires from a specified area of the village. All completed questionnaires were placed in plain envelopes in view of a member of the household and sealed. The back page, on which names and offers for voluntary help were written, was first removed. The anonymity of the questionnaire was further preserved because all questionnaires were put in a pile, shuffled and numbered by Derek Hunt. Members of the committee, with access to computers, received copies of the program that enabled them to key in the results of the questionnaires. These figures were then sent back to Derek Hunt for final collation and printing out.

A subcommittee of Matt Green, Derek Hunt and Jane Pollock undertook some more detailed analysis of the figures and wrote a preliminary report of the results together with Alan Eklid. Every household in Easton received a copy of this first report.

Second Village Meeting in February 2003

The entire village were invited to the Village hall on Friday 7th February to discuss the actions that should be taken in the light of the results from the survey. A free glass of wine and refreshments were offered after the main business was completed. Approximately 60 people attended this meeting. They were obviously those who are particularly interested in the care and development of Easton, but were not necessarily representative of those who answered the questionnaire. Several decisions were made at the meeting, which did not support the findings of the questionnaire. The Parish Council and those who are asked to implement the actions decided at the meeting should take this into account.

It was not possible to cover all the issues raised in the questionnaire in one meeting. It was decided to divide the topics into two groups. Firstly; those that could be addressed fairly readily for example, through the Parish Council and secondly; those that required input from District or County planners, highways and other authorities. The following topics in the first category selected by the steering committee were :-

- Village notice board
- Dog-mess bins
- Parish magazine
- Recycling of waste

In the second category, the following were discussed:-

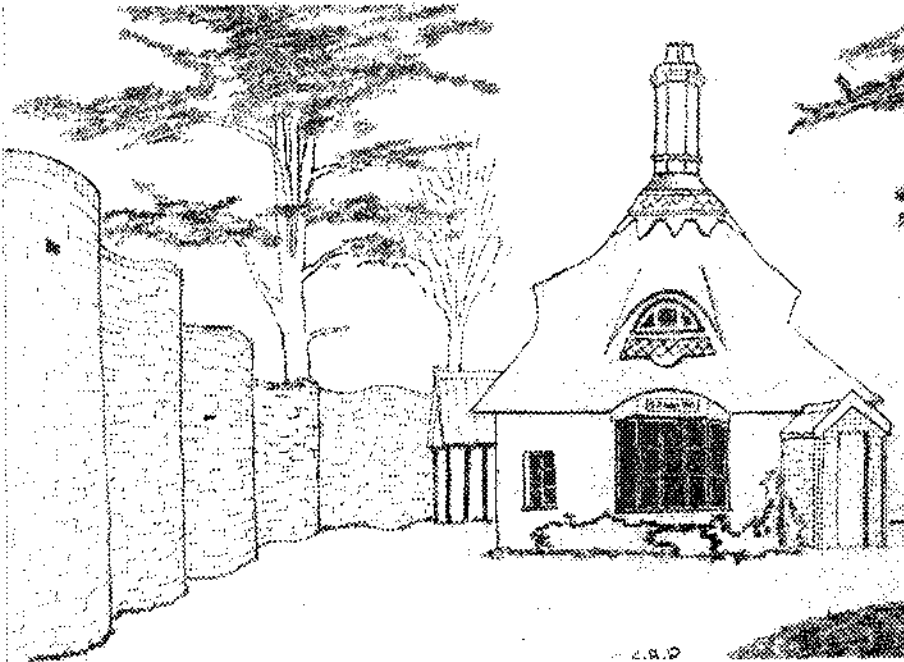
- Housing
- Parking and traffic problems
- Village Hall
- Pavements
- Street Lighting
- Playground/picnic site/ football field.

The present report contains both the results of the questionnaire and in italics the discussion that took place at the meeting on Feb. 7th. The report is a fuller version of that which was received by the residents of Easton and is intended for: residents, who wish to read it; the Parish Councillors and for those outside Easton e.g. County and District Councils, Suffolk Acre, Rural East Suffolk RPA etc. It highlights those issues about which the people of Easton feel strongly and which may be incorporated into future plans.

Background to Easton

History and Geography of Easton.

Easton lies in the gentle valley of the river Deben some two and a half miles from Wickham Market to the southeast and five miles from Framlingham to the north. The river marks the boundary between Letheringham to the southwest and Easton. The main Street of the village lies north of the river which bends in a loop quite close to the centre of the village and then away again. There are acres of water meadows on either side of the river, which often flood. This is privately owned land and the willow trees there on are harvested from time to time. To the north east of the village, the land rises to a plateau where the Cricket Club, Bowls Club and Cemetery are located.



Historically the village is mentioned in Domesday and was linked to the manor of Martley until 1627 when Sir Arthur Wingfield made the 150 acre estate, his home. In 1688, Easton was purchased by the Prince of Orange for the Earl of Rochford. The fifth Earl made many improvements before he died in 1830. These included surrounding the Easton Estate and house with its famous "crinkle-crankle wall". On his death the estate went to the Duke of Hamilton, who rarely lived there and left the affairs in the hands of an Agent who lived in the 17 Century Agent's house next to the White Horse Inn. (The latter is the only Inn still existing in Easton). Lady Hamilton was

responsible for the gothic windows in many of the Easton properties; for the Victorian dairy and other buildings at the Easton Farm Park, besides the school, the Village Hall and many other features such as the round houses. The centre of the village around the green, the church and the Pub is a conservation area and the village is enhanced by an open space more or less opposite the Pub, part of which is used as a car park. The remaining space belongs to Pub Masters and so far no planning applications have been granted because the area is seen as a natural green feature of the village.

The Estate house was pulled down fairly early in the 1920s and many estate buildings converted into dwellings. A new group of houses was built in the 1960s in Harriers Walk. The village consists of houses of varying ages from half-timbered to modern and has a large village church as befitting the Earls of Rochford and the Hamiltons. The Village is also home to the Easton Harriers pack of hounds, which hunt in the region and have their final meet of the season on the village green and partake of good cheer at the White Horse Inn.

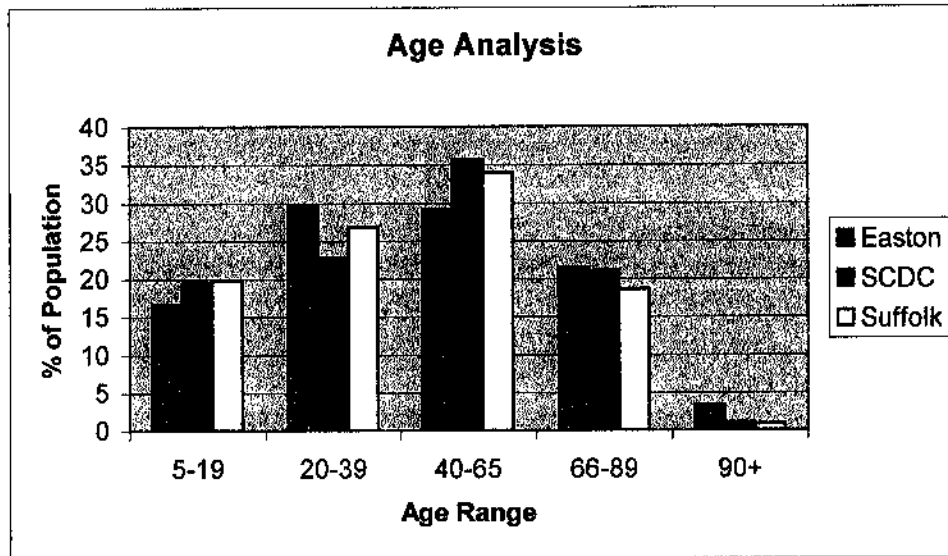
The village has a primary school, one of the few remaining in the area, and preschool / nursery groups are run in the Village hall. There is no longer a post-office /village store. This closed at the end of the 1980's.

Analysis

The People of Easton

There are 291 people in Easton of which 50 are under the age of 16. The adult population of 241 is made up of 49% males and 51% females

The age analysis shows that we have a higher proportion than is general in Suffolk, of people aged 66 years and over also there are several 90 year olds.



Nearly 75% of the people have lived in Easton for more than 6 years, but only 4 have lived there for more than 50 years. The village is a mix of indigenous families and incomers, many of whom have chosen Easton as a retirement base. The reasons for choosing to live in Easton are its environment (46%) and location (41%) though at least 45 people (20%) said the community was a factor.

Housing [Q3, 4, and 5]

82% of Easton people own their houses and 15% are rented. Out of the 141 houses in the village, 134 were occupied during the survey. There were temporary occupiers of some rented houses and there are 4 holiday homes. These categories did not receive questionnaires. Thus out of the occupied houses, 119 households returned completed questionnaires (89%). This is a high return and indicates that Easton residents have a good sense of community and an interest in the welfare of the village and its future development.

Of the households taking part in the survey 40 lived in detached houses, 36 in semi detached, 30 in bungalows, 8 terraced and 5 other. As mentioned above, the houses of Easton vary greatly in age, many being Victorian or older. Energy saving was not a concern when they were built with single brick walls. Only 37% of houses in Easton have cavity wall insulation, 81% have loft insulation, 89% have lagged hot water tanks and 60% have secondary or double glazing.

Moving House [Q10]

Some 28 people are seeking to move house for reasons of: down-sizing 8; setting up own home 4; moving to smaller or larger property 10, moving for reasons of employment or education 6; and 6 for other reasons not specified. It was noted that a number of elderly people are living alone in the village.

Age group	65-74	75-84	85+
Nos. of people	3	8	5

Views on building new houses in Easton. [Q28 and 29]

The cost of property in Easton is high and it is realised that for many young family members, buying a house and continuing to live in Easton may not be a possibility.

The community is aware of this dilemma and 53% of respondents were in favour of starter homes to meet this situation. 28% were in favour of small family homes, 20% of homes for single people, 18% wanted more rental properties. However one third of the residents felt no further homes were needed and 33% would find further building unacceptable. There is a fear that the essence of the village could be spoilt by expansion. Single dwellings in controlled locations would be acceptable to 45%, or small groups of fewer than 10 houses (28%) preferably on the edge of Easton (20%).

Discussion.

The consensus was that young families are valued and wanted in Easton to maintain links with the school, bring in new blood and balance the older population. Starter homes were approved, providing they are part of a controlled scheme, which prevents the houses being sold on at prices above the reach of new starter families. Some partial equity scheme with a housing agency was suggested.

Houses for the elderly and the disabled were requested. There was concern that without public transport and a village shop, elderly or disabled people would find it difficult to live in Easton. It was pointed out that, as shown above, there are several elderly people living alone in Easton who manage with the use of Internet shopping and with help from kind friends and neighbours.

It was agreed that small clusters of a few houses was the way forward if a suitable site could be found. Even low cost housing can be made attractive these days and made to blend in with existing architecture

Action :

Parish council to take action on this.

A Project group could be set up to search for suitable land and housing schemes.

Employment [Q12]

There are few opportunities in Easton for employment within the village apart from gardening and domestic help. The White Horse pub offers some employment and so does the Easton Farm Park. There are businesses such as welding, fencing, tree surgery and a new Stud, all of which employ a small number of people. Of the 32 self-employed people some 8 work from home, but the majority have to travel to neighbouring towns. Of the 88 employed people [Q12] the main sources of employment are: Retail service industry (15%), Local Government/public sector (14%), Education (18%) and other (25%).

As expected from a population with 35% aged 60 plus, a third of the villagers are retired. 18 are unwaged housewife/husbands. Only 4 are unemployed and 3 permanently sick or disabled. 14 are in full time education/training.

52% work within 10 miles of Easton, that could include, Wickham Market, Framlingham and Woodbridge. 27% travel between 10 and 20 miles from Easton. This could include British Telecom at Martlesham and also the town of Ipswich. Some 16 people travel further and work beyond 20 miles from Easton.

Increasing employment opportunities in Easton. [Q15]

Residents were asked whether they were in favour of small business developments in Easton, further tourism, or possibly small scale industrial workshops. Whilst 37% of people felt there should be more jobs available in Easton. Between 14 and 33% were definitely against such developments. Age analysis showed that it was mainly the over 60s who were against such changes.

Tourism attractions and overnight tourism was not particularly favoured. Easton Farm Park has over 30,000 visitors a year. Although the Park is on the very edge of the village some half a mile from the centre, much traffic to the Park comes through the village. There is one bed and breakfast establishment in the village. The most favoured idea for creating more jobs was in small business development 27% of respondents would be fairly positive and a further 22% would accept such development. However 36% would have strong reservations or be against the idea.

Transport [Q16, 17, 18 and 19]

The geographical position of Easton, its lack of a shop and opportunities for employment, mean that residents have to be mobile. Since there was, until recently, only one bus service per week and that on a Sunday, people living in Easton expect to own and drive a car. We did not ascertain how many cars there were per household, but from observation we know that many households own more than one car.

There are now buses, not only on Sundays, (Aldeburgh to Ipswich via several villages including Easton), but in the last few weeks a new service has started. This is a twice weekly "hail and ride" loop service from Wickham Market through 3 adjacent villages to Easton and back to Wickham Market. It allows nearly two hours in Wickham Market for shopping etc. and runs once a day. This scheme is planned to operate until the autumn of 2003 when it will be reviewed. To all intents and purposes, public transport is absent. The nearest train station is at Campsea Ashe about four miles from Easton. The southbound train goes through Woodbridge to Ipswich for connections with London (Liverpool Street) and northbound goes to Lowestoft via Beccles.

[Q16] Some 47 people experience difficulty in getting out of Easton occasionally, and age analysis showed these to be mostly youngsters or the elderly, who perhaps do not own a car or who no longer drive. 18 people had regular difficulties with travel. The remaining 157 people experienced no difficulty, presumably, because they were car owners.

Over 90% of car owners use their vehicles for shopping and leisure. 48% use them to get to work and 35% for business journeys. Some 19% use them for transporting children to school/college.

Is there a need for more buses?

If more buses were laid on, would people use them and if so how often? It must be borne in mind that when a community have had no bus and people are accustomed to using their own car, the prospect of bus travel is a notional one and the figures may not reflect the true picture. The questionnaire asked "if bus routes were available, which ones would you use and how often". [Q17]. The most popular destinations were Framlingham (14 people daily) and Ipswich (9 people daily) Possibly these respondents wished to use the bus as a commuter service to and from work. About 50% of respondents said they would use any of the bus routes to local towns occasionally i.e. less often than weekly.

Action

Parish Council to regularly advertise the current bus service, perhaps in the Parish Magazine.

Traffic and roads [Q 25 and 26]

Easton has double track roads, which carry a considerable amount of commuter traffic as people further west use it as a through route to and from the A12. The village also has to contend with traffic dropping off children and collecting them from school in the main street and the roads carry a burden of agricultural vehicles some of which are extremely large. Negotiation in the centre of the village requires considerable care when there are vehicles parked in the road.

There is a 30 mph limit for the central part, which includes the school, village hall and much of the residential area, which is not always observed. This causes some residents much concern (160 people consider that speeding is a problem against 62, who do not agree). Once outside the 30mph, traffic immediately speeds up and this can cause problems on the Wickham Market road where there are some bends and hills. It is here that meeting an oversized vehicle is somewhat daunting. Therefore 51 people would like to see extensions to the area covered by the speed limit.

Danger spots [Q27]

There are danger spots in Easton for example: people driving towards Wickham Market, who want to turn to Letheringham and Hoo, have to do so on a blind bend caused by the curve around the crinkle-crankle wall (mentioned specifically by 16 respondents). Another danger spot identified by several drivers (14 comments on this point) is the junction where the road from Kettleburgh joins the Framlingham road. When coming out of the Kettleburgh road, because of the layout and the hedges, it is not easy to see approaching traffic without encroaching onto the Framlingham road. Also some drivers seem to assume that the Kettleburgh road has the right of way in spite of a sign to the contrary.

Discussion:

The owner of the property adjacent to the junction of the Kettleburgh and Framlingham road has recently taken up residence and the hedge has now been cut back improving visibility.

No solutions were offered for the Pound corner problem when turning onto the Hoo /Letheringham road Though not within the Parish Boundary, a number of people mentioned the potentially dangerous exit from the Easton Road (Tank Road) that links the Hacheston road with the Wickham Market to Easton Road. Visibility in both directions is poor. This is the main entrance to the Easton area from the A12.

Action

The Parish Council should notify Highways Dept .of our concerns.

Pavements. [Comments]

For pedestrians, walking on the road is a hazard. Not all the residential area has pavements. People living in Harrier's Walk for example, have to walk in the Framlingham road as they approach the village.

Discussion

It was agreed that a pavement should be made between Harrier's Walk and the village centre. A plea was acknowledged for investigating the possibility of a pavement along the Wickham Market road from the Glevering House area to the village centre.

Action

Parish Council to discuss both paths / pavements with Highways and the District Council.

Parking [Q20, 21, and 27]

Although 192 (90%) respondents felt that Easton school was an important part of the community, nevertheless 133 commented on the traffic congestion and parking problems caused by parents at drop off and pick up times. The Headmistress of Easton School indicated that only 6 children from Easton attend the Primary School at the present time. A high proportion come from outside catchment and are not eligible for school transport by bus.

There is a village car park some 50 yards from the White Horse pub, but that is about 300 yards from the school. Parents on their way to work in the mornings seem disinclined to take the time to park there and walk their children to school. There is at present no parking provision at the school except for staff. The school is on a bend in the road and cars are parked for a hundred yards towards the centre of the village, and in the other direction for 40 yards or so. Here the road is narrower and has no pavement on the school side. A severe bottleneck is created for any drivers trying to get through at these times of the day. It does slow traffic down which has a safety factor, on the other hand some parents let their children out from the car on the traffic side, causing further hazards for drivers and children. It is not only at the school that there are problems, the playgroup/nursery school meets in the Village hall on 4 days of the week. Parents bringing their children, park on a bend outside the Village Hall and may remain in the Hall for sometime with their toddlers. This is another area of congestion and can cause problems for large lorries etc. 51 people complained of this situation. (There is further discussion on this issue below.)

Most car owners have off-street parking facilities only 2 have nowhere to park. 17 people complained of sometimes being blocked in by cars parked in the road and a further 19 experienced some difficulty due to parked cars.

Village car Park [Q24, 76 and 79]

This is in the centre of the village and will accommodate 15 cars. There are plans to tarmac more of the surrounding space so that it will hold 25. One or two residents use it as a permanent base for their vehicles, but there is usually space for several visitors. Unfortunately, although it is close to the Pub, many of the Pub's customers ignore the car park and park on the Village Green ruining the turf. At weekends when there are a lot of people eating lunch at the Pub, the village car park is inadequate at present (85 people in the survey felt that way). At the same time as enlarging the car park, the Parish Council has plans to improve the space around the Village Green and protect it from cars.

Measures to reduce traffic problems. [Q26 and 76]

Various ideas were put forward [Q26]. Many of which would be hard to implement e.g. reducing agricultural traffic and large lorries (70 respondents considered them to be the cause of many problems.) At the same time 35 people considered that public transport might reduce the problem. Decreasing the speed limit was suggested by 40 respondents. Putting in traffic calming measures was supported by 98 residents. A number of people (87) would like to see more warning signs whereas 51 residents are happy to leave the roads and situation as it is.

Discussion

1) School parking.

Everyone agreed that it was a difficult problem to solve because of the position of the school on a bend, a slight hill and a narrow road. The Headmistress and the school Governors have written to parents, but this has had little effect.

It was suggested that when the central car park is enlarged parents should be encouraged to park their and walk the 300 yards to the school. Or the school should employ a lollipop person to walk all the children down if parents have not the time to do so. It was pointed out that obtaining part time helpers was very difficult. (Children come at different times and the early ones could be waiting in the rain for late comers)

The acquisition of land near the school and the making of a proper car park was suggested. This idea will be discussed below under Village Hall.

2) Traffic speed and calming measures.

Restricting the width of the entrance to each end of the village with bollards, as at Peasenhall, was discounted. It was felt that the road was too narrow to permit this in view of the large agricultural vehicles that pass through. Constant damage to the bollards would be likely.

Reducing the speed limit all the time to 20 mph, did not find favour. Slow moving vehicles lead to greater pollution.

Flashing lights warning people that they are exceeding the speed limit have some merit and do seem to reduce speed for a time. A complex light of this kind should be investigated. i.e. one that shows a speed limit near the school of 20 m.p.h. during drop-off and pick-up times and then reverts to a flashing 30 m.p.h. monitor for the rest of the time.

Action:

Investigate the possibility of some timed variable flashing light especially for the area around the school.

Health and Social Services.

Medical facilities.[Q30]

The two health centres most commonly used are at Wickham Market and at Framlingham. The nearest hospital with emergency capability is Ipswich (13 miles away). There is a chiropodist and also an optometrist in Framlingham. Other medical services are found at Woodbridge and there is a dentist in both Wickham Market and Framlingham. Without public transport, there are, inevitably, some people who have difficulty in getting to medical services. Analysis showed these were mostly in the 16-24 age group and the elderly. Out of 204 respondents 170 had no difficulty in getting to a doctor, 14 sometimes experienced difficulty and 5 often had transport problems. Other medical facilities were less easy to reach.

A major area of concern for at least 13 people was the existing method for obtaining repeat prescriptions. Patients have to hand in their form on one day and then return 48 hours later to pick up the medicines from the Health Centre. This would seem to be where some community good-neighbour scheme would be useful. On the final page of the questionnaire, several people have offered to help when they are needed.

There is a volunteer Service in Framlingham, which can organise car transport for people in Easton to take them shopping or to the doctor etc. for a small payment. It might be possible with enough volunteers to organise a "Good-neighbour" scheme for Easton.[Q32], 122 out of 224 respondents thought such a scheme would be a good idea, but 20 people felt there was no need and one commented, "We don't feel a formalised 'good-neighbour' scheme is necessary. It works well with folk helping out those in need on a totally voluntary and friendly basis". When asked [Q33] if they could help weekly with a good-neighbour scheme only 18 respondents said "yes" and 125 said they could help less frequently.

Standard emergency Services [Q 34, and 36]

These include: Fire, Ambulance (emergency); Hospital transport: Police (both emergency and the 'Bobby on the beat'). Three quarters of the respondents had had no call to use these services. Of the 28 that had used the fire service 92% thought they were good to reasonable. Similarly of the 52, who had call to use the emergency Ambulance 88% said they were good or reasonable and fewer than 3% said they were poor

The emergency police were needed by 40 respondents and of these 75% felt that the service was good to reasonable and only 2% thought they were poor. When it comes to the 'Bobby on the beat' although 148 (70%) of the respondents had no reason to need him/her, of those that did 59% said that the service was poor.

In spite of the fact that so few of the residents had reason to use the 'Bobby on the beat' nevertheless 35% of residents felt that we need a greater police presence in Easton, and 17 people want more consultation between the police and the local people [Q36].

Personal Safety around Easton [Q35, 36 and 37]

Although petty theft and some vandalism occur, the level of crime in Easton is low. When asked to comment on their feelings of safety around Easton [Q35], most people took it to be a further question about traffic and the roads etc. For example the absence of pavements on the Wickham Market road. Seven respondents wanted to see more street lighting and two wanted the car park to be better lit. When asked about street lighting [Q36], out of 220 respondents, 42% would like to see improved street lighting. Conversely 48% of those responding to 'street lighting' in [Q37] find the lighting adequate. Comments suggested that several persons appear to be content to walk around with the light of a torch. Many are happy to enjoy a low level of light pollution.

Comments showed that a few people are fearful at night, one always feels unsafe and another even in his/her own home, is afraid of drunks passing by late at night.

On the question of measures to improve safety [Q36] some focussed on the young. 111 of the 183 respondents felt that more activities were needed for young people and 26 thought more drug/drink education or prevention was wanted. Age and sex analysis showed that the latter was supported by all age groups, but more so by women than men.

Neighbourhood watch [Q36]

Although there has been a Neighbourhood watch in Easton for some years, a large number of people 37% remain unaware of the fact. 55% of the 244 respondents thought it was a good idea. Until now the dissemination of information has not been easy.

Discussion.

1, Neighbourhood watch

The Co-ordinator for Easton, Mr Stan Smith, explained that now so many more people had computers, he would be able to send messages to individuals who had registered their e-mail addresses with him. He could send general information for the area, but felt that he should select what he saw as relevant to Easton. So far only a few people have registered their e-mail address.

2, Street lighting

The chairman explained that putting in street lighting would be both costly, and go against the District Council's wishes to keep light pollution to a minimum.

It was the consensus of the gathering, that although navigating some pavements was tricky in the dark, most people had torches and we should not put in street lighting.

Action;

- 1) Remind people through the Parish magazine again and by word of mouth, to send their e-mail address to Stan Smith.
- 2) Once the car park is extended, see if another light is necessary towards the back of the car park.

Other Public utilities and environmental services [Q37]

Question 37 was answered by 220 people. Of those, the majority were satisfied with the Mains water supply, Mains electricity (the latter before the storm in November) and the standard of refuse collection and Mains sewerage 21, 10, 9 and 21 respondents respectively disagreed and thought they were poor. Roadside cleaning and snow clearance received less acclaim, a third of respondents saying they were poor.

Indifferent Radio reception and TV reception cause problems for 42 and 64 respondents respectively. Certain channels (channel 5) and wavelengths e.g. Classic FM have poor reception in some places.

Recycling and refuse. [Q37 and 42]

The collection of refuse is good on the whole, but people are aware that more recycling could be done. In fact 213 of the 224 respondents would be prepared to separate out items for recycling.

At least 96% would use a bottle bank. 209 responded on recycling [Q42] and of those 85% would use a newspaper bank, 78% a can bank, 65% a skip for garden waste and 65% a clothing bank. Very few people have bonfires and the nearest public dump for garden waste is at Foxhall some 12 miles away. In the village we have: a bottle bank, a can bank and a paper bank, but 114 residents do not know where they are and feel that they are inadequately publicised.

The paper bank is in the staff car park at the school and the money raised from the paper goes to the school. The bottle bank and can bank are situated in the little road that goes down to the sewage works. Money from the recycling of bottles goes to the Church.

Discussion.

Until such time as the refuse Collecting Company can collect separated-out items, people should be encouraged to use the existing "Banks". Their whereabouts need to be better advertised and it was thought preferable to move the paper bank down, so as to keep all the recycling banks in one place. A site further from houses should be sought. Some people cause a nuisance, by throwing bottles into the bank during the night and awaken all the neighbours.

The idea of a garden-waste skip brought in from time to time did not find favour although 142 people answering the questionnaire thought it would be a good idea. It was pointed out that, ensuring metal and plastic were not thrown into the skip would be difficult. It was suggested that people be encouraged to make compost.

Action

Look for a better site for the recycling banks and move the paper bank down. Apportioning the revenue between various village causes should be left to the Parish Council.

Other public utilities.

Mains Gas [Q39] Numbers were fairly equally divided. Out of 220 respondents 129 said they would like to be connected and 91 said "no".

Shopping [Q44, and 45] and Postal Services [Q46, 47 and 48]

A surprisingly large number of people (around 40%) shop in 'Ipswich or other', (possibly at Martlesham which has a large a Tesco) for their groceries; fresh fruit and vegetables; meat and fish. There are Co-ops supplying all such items in both Wickham Market and Framlingham. Fewer than 20% shop regularly at the former and between 20% and 32% at the latter. [Q44]. There are no Banks in Wickham Market, which does now have two cash dispensers and has a butcher. Framlingham now has no butcher, but does have delicatessen outlets. Both have excellent hardware/garden shops with a range of domestic goods.

Mail order is used by many for books/tapes. CDs videos etc by 19% of the 208 respondents, otherwise the majority purchase these in Ipswich/other. Likewise, clothes tend to be bought by 74% in Ipswich/other and 9% by mail order. Electrical goods are mainly bought in Ipswich/other, but some people buy them in Framlingham. Fewer than 11% buy their goods from Woodbridge although it has quite a good range of shops and is only 10 miles away compared with Ipswich 14 miles.

Correlation between place of employment and most regular location of shopping.

From analysis of the results it was found that people of all ages, whether working or retired do their main shopping at Ipswich/other. It is not really dependent on place of work. Analysis shows that; shopping is not closely related to whether or not the persons concerned work between 10 and 20 miles from home i.e. possibly in the Ipswich area.

Grocery and fishmonger vans call (weekly) to customers in Easton, but are used only by a few people regularly. The answers to Q45 are probably hypothetical. Nearly half the population say they would never use them. A mobile Bank and a grocer might get 20% of respondents' custom. Only 13 people use a weekly library service.

Community shop in Easton [Q49 and 50]

Nearly 50 of the 218 respondents said they would use such a shop weekly. About the same number would either never use it or only occasionally. It would only be viable if it were run on a voluntary basis, and not as a business. However out of the 188 who answered [Q50] only a handful would volunteer to help run it. Most retired people said they could not help and as it would be they, and the few unwaged mothers/fathers, who would have to provide the manpower. At present it looks like a non-starter.

Postal Services [Q46, 47 and 48]

The majority thought these were good to reasonable. 24% felt the openings and sizes of the boxes were too small for large envelopes. 10% said the location of the boxes was poor and the number of deliveries was criticised by the same percentage. 20% thought there should be more boxes. People from Harrier's Walk have a longish trek to either of the two Post boxes. A case could be made out for an extra box, on the Framlingham road near the junction with Harrier's walk, with a capacity for larger envelopes.

Easton residents have a choice of Post offices. There is a small one at Kettleburgh village shop about the same distance away as Wickham Market, which also has a Post Office as does Framlingham. People use the Post Offices for a variety of reasons, [Q 47 & 48] it is to be hoped that there are no plans to do away with them.

Discussion

A brief discussion was had about another post-box. People in the Framlingham road area, near Harrier's Walk, said they would like another post box in that part of the village.

Action

Parish Council to investigate this further.

Sports and leisure activities [Q 51– 60]

Apart from the Cricket Club and the Bowls Club, there are no sports facilities in Easton. A field was lent to the youngsters for a football field and some parents provided two sets of goal posts. Unfortunately the field was very rough and subject to frequent flooding and is therefore not much used.

60 –70% of the respondents do not take part in sports. Those, that do so [Q51], go elsewhere except for Cricket and Bowls. These two Clubs are well supported by players from towns and villages in the surrounding area. Generally speaking, Easton lacks the critical mass needed to have its own shop, and all the sports facilities that people might like. (The Cricket Club obtained a Lottery Fund grant for its splendid new clubhouse and improved grounds).

A great variety of suggestions [Q52 & 53] were made about what sports clubs/activities appropriate to the size of the village people might attend if they were provided. (Figures for 7 to 16 year olds are given later) 13 wanted tennis, 7 football whilst Keep fit; yoga, and a gym would be supported by 8,5 and 5 respectively. Indoor swimming was the most popular facility desired by 15. Someone suggested that a school pool could be shared with the village.

Children's playground and village picnic site.

A playground for the children with swings etc. would seem to have strong support by 93% of the respondents. Only 7% saying "no".

Comments written also lend support to this idea. It has been mooted for some time in the village, but finding a suitable site is one of the problems. The Pub has some swings etc, which youngsters, whose parents are visiting the pub can use. Some children play on the village green and kick a ball against the Crinkle-Crankle wall until stopped by an adult. Others cycle and do wheelies in the car park. It would seem that for older children, some joint facilities with school would be welcome.

Village picnic site [Q 73]. Out of the 196 who responded, 152 were in favour of an open area, where people could sit and where children could play. Many of the villagers in conversation have said they would like access to the riverbank and somewhere to sit and watch the river go by.

Whether or not this could or should be the same site as the children's playground has to be discussed. As mentioned above, the river runs through low lying meadows/ woodland which is privately owned by several owners, and liable to flooding.

Discussion

To some extent these issues will be covered by the Village Hall/ playground topic. (see below) However it has to be said, sitting by the river away from children playing would please some people.

Leisure activities

A high proportion (92%) of the respondents take part in social activities of some sort. 72% take part in sports, 22% go to evening classes and 16 % take part in musical activities. Those who do not partake of what is on offer in towns and villages around Easton were asked why not?

[Q56] Of the 98 who replied, 60% were disinterested in what was on offer. 33% complained of unsuitable times, 2 had transport problems, 12 access problems for physical reasons and 21% could not afford to do so.

Action

At the meeting on 7th Feb. Lists of activities were available for people to sign. People, who expressed an interest in wine-tasting evenings, gardening club etc should be encouraged to get such groups started. In the short term, the existing Steering Committee, who have lists of names, could perhaps help like-minded people to get in touch with one another.

The village pub [Q 59]

The White Horse is frequented regularly by 47 out of 210 respondents, less regularly by 106 and never by 51 respondents.

[Q57] Asked for suggestions of clubs and activities they would like to see in Easton if they were provided. The most popular were wine tasting 26 and gardening club 23, music club 12. All of these could be run if any one volunteered to do so.

At the meeting on 7th Feb. Lists of names were collected of people who wanted to form a Gardeners Club, Wine Tasting Group, and Keep fit. etc.

Quality of social facilities.[Q 58]

It is realised by people of all ages that social facilities for the young are poor (60%). Likewise 40% think they are poor for 17-25 year olds and 29% think they are poor for the remainder i.e.26-80+ age groups.

Discussion

Most people were in agreement that a playground for the younger inhabitants was a good idea. The site must be suitable and one that is not subject to flooding. The discussion about a playground/picnic site came after the discussion on the Village Hall and is linked with it (see below). It should preferably be a dog-free area.

The Village Hall [Q59, and 60]

The village hall deserves a section to itself because it is seen as an important part of village life, though not by everyone. 91 out of 210 respondents never go there! It is used frequently by 11 people and less than 5 times per month by 89 people. It is an old building with very little land around it and no parking space for cars.

At present the Hall is used 4 mornings per week by privately run playgroup/ nursery school. This is the main source of income for the upkeep of the Hall. The building has a kitchen, toilet facilities, but not yet for the disabled. There is a Village Hall Committee that looks after repairs, usage etc. and a caretaker, who does the bookings when the hall is hired and keeps the key. There are no paid cleaners. The Hall is mainly used for Council meetings, some entertaining by the Parochial Church Council e.g. Bishop's visits, Jumble sales, village meetings and occasional private functions. It is not large enough for sports such as badminton and the ceiling is fairly low.

The flat roof over the storerooms and toilets has just been repaired. A plan to change it to a pitched roof was prevented by the presence of two yew trees carrying preservation orders. A small parking area for two or three cars might be created if the trees were not there.

Recent consultations with experts have suggested that the cost of building and maintaining a new village hall might be prohibitive and that Easton could not realistically afford to maintain it. There are several new halls in this region of Suffolk, all competing for custom.

Because of its size and lack of parking space, the Hall as it stands, is unlikely to attract much more use than it does at present. Local groups, such as a Gardeners Club could of course be accommodated. It was interesting in the cross tabulation to find that 57 out of the 89 people who do use the Village Hall think it is adequate as do 42 people, who never actually use it. Presumably this group of people have no interest in what might take place there. On the other hand there are 29 people, who do not use it and feel that it is inadequate. Maybe they would use the Village hall if it could provide them with whatever activities/ facilities they would enjoy.

Discussion.

There was much discussion on this issue. For example: a) If a new hall were built would it be properly utilised? b) Could we afford to run and maintain it. The costs of maintaining the present Hall are high. Essential roof repairs are about to cost £10,000,. In addition, the present Hall is not well insulated thus increasing heating costs. c) Costs of a new Hall might be around £300,000 and grants were hard to come by. Some people refuted this. d) We could not expect much for the sale of the old Hall building, It has no land. On the other hand, it could be converted into two starter homes or maybe retirement cottages.

(For comparison, the new cricket pavilion cost around £165,000 three years ago)

Possible way forward.

Could a new hall be built on land near the school and be shared by the school? There are schools in Suffolk, which are purpose- built so that the School becomes a community centre after school hours. The surrounding car park would serve both the parents at drop-off and pick-up times and users of the Hall. Swings and a playground area could be incorporated into the plan. Possibly an area with seats could be designed for people to sit while their children play etc. The hall even if modest in size, should be large enough for functions, such as wedding receptions and various sports activities.

Action

The Steering Committee should try to set up a Projects Group. This should be a group of people with vision and energy to look at the feasibility of such a project. They could also help in other projects such as finding land for new housing, for recycling bins etc.

The Environment [Q70 71, 72, 74,75,77, 78, and 79]

Some topics relating to the environment have already been covered, such as recycling rubbish, pavements, roads, picnic areas etc. There is no doubt that the rural environment is very important to a large number of people (46%) [Q9] and was given as the reason why these people chose to live in Easton. Questions in this section ranged from 'green' issues such as: the reduction of traffic through car sharing and greater use of public transport; reduction of bonfires and alternative disposal of garden waste in a skip; keeping the village clean.

Dog mess bins.

At present, there are three bins, one towards the 30mph sign on the Framlingham road at the junction to Harriers Walk, one near the cemetery up Cemetery lane and one near the village car park opposite the Pub. There is an open rubbish bin near the telephone box, which dog owners also use because there is no alternative. 103 (approximately 50 % of total respondents) answered [Q75] of which 80 % would like a dog-mess bin near the telephone box. Other sites, such as the extremities of the 30mph limits on the Wickham Market road and the Letheringham road, received 66 and 53 votes respectively. There were comments about thoughtless and uncaring dog owners not clearing up after their dogs, both in the village and particularly the footpath by the kennels.

Rubbish bins.

More rubbish bins were requested in the comments. There is one by the Church and thus fairly close to the pub, but bottles still just get dropped around the area of the White Horse, which the landlord then clears up.

Discussion

The question of putting up more dog-mess bins requested by more than 50 % of those who responded to the questionnaire was turned down. The bins were seen as ugly, dirty and often over-full. It was felt by some, that even if more bins were provided, many dog-owners still would not clear up after their pets and would not use the bins. The people, who actually own dogs, present at the meeting, and who would like to have more bins available at strategic points, were out voted by the other villagers.

Action

The Parish Council should look into the frequency with which the bins are emptied and make sure there is sufficient capacity

Natural features

Many of the questions relating to trees and woodlands, hedges, verges are difficult to interpret. The majority of respondents think it is important to look after the woodlands; only 5% thought it unnecessary and 70 of the respondents to "plant more trees" thought it worthwhile. When it came to individual trees in special places, 42% thought it was important to preserve them, whereas 15% would like to see certain trees cut down.

Hedges, verges and village green. [Q71]

23 % would like to see more hedges planted, 14% are indifferent and 21% say it is not necessary. On the question of cutting hedges or allowing them to grow naturally, opinions are divided. 31% think it is very important to keep hedges short and tidy, but another 33 % would like to see them growing naturally.

[Q79] in order to make the countryside look more attractive, 129 out of 202 people want the verges kept mown and tidy. Whereas 51 feel strongly that they should be left as havens for wildlife. The questionnaire did not distinguish between verges in the centre of the village i.e. outside people's houses and the verges along the fields and open spaces. The same is true, too, of the questions about hedges. Cross tabulation showed that the majority of those wanting to let hedges grow naturally were also the people wanting to let the verges form habitats for wildlife.

From [Q38], we know that 61% of respondents thought the verges were good to reasonable. There were comments though about large vehicles breaking down the verges and bringing mud onto the road. With the width of the roads, this is inevitable given the size of some agricultural machinery. The main point of contention on verges/grassed areas is the damage done by people parking on the village green to go to the Pub, (noted by 156 people). The Parish Council is already tackling this issue.

Footpaths. [Q77 and 78]

There are several footpaths in and around Easton. The most popular for dog-owners are the Four Bridges path towards Letheringham and the path by the Cricket field beside the crinkle-crankle wall. This latter forms a 3-4 mile circuit and is very popular with visiting Ramblers. Apart from the Four Bridges walk there are no other circuits of under two miles. 54% of residents would like to see more footpaths created, but 9% think it is very important to close some footpaths and a further 49 individuals might agree [Q79].

Not everyone knows where the footpaths are located 43 out of 202 do not know and 62 respondents think they are not well sign posted. Only 37 people would be prepared to help maintain the footpaths, which often become overgrown. A number of people (59%) expressed difficulties in using the footpaths [Q78] because of bushes and nettles and 25% because of crops falling across the path. Mud and water impeded 43% of users. On the other hand, 33% experienced no difficulties. 53% of 202 respondents feel that bridges, stiles and gates should be repaired. Certainly the surface of the bridge over the Deben is breaking up.

Disabled. [Q79]

Over half the respondents felt that paths should be made accessible to disabled people. Whether or not they meant pavement paths or field paths is not known. This figure corresponds with the number [Q43], who said facilities should be improved for, the visually impaired, push chairs and wheel chairs.

The river Deben.

60% of residents would like to see the river cleaned up and 68% see this as a duty of the local authorities.

Other comments on enhancing the environment or the attractiveness of the village.

Someone would like to see a marshland habitat created for wildlife. Others want a village "wildlife" group. Some people want more village working parties to improve the look of the village, e.g. the flowerbeds along the crinkle-crankle wall by the village green. One person complained that the flowerbeds spilled over the pavements in some places. There were two adverse comments about the Easton Harriers, one of which was about noise.

Other ideas were suggested such as: entering the "best kept village" competition, having open gardens, which already happens from time to time. Repairing and maintaining the crinkle-crankle wall was also mentioned. There were several comments that the village was fine as it is and we should not interfere too much. These respondents were unlikely to approve of the suggestion that we should set up a wind farm and solar generators for the village.

Action

Encourage the formation of a group of environmentally minded people to monitor some of the issues mentioned in the report. They should suggest ways of sympathetically enhancing both the residential and the surrounding areas and also, the prevention of further deterioration of the natural environment.

The Church [Q68, and 69] and Easton School [Q11]

The Church

Although most of the village do not attend church regularly if at all, a large number think it is an important feature of the village. 79% of the 189 respondents see it is an historic building, 61% feel it is a focal point in the community and 52% say it is important for funerals or weddings, rather fewer for baptisms. For 38% i.e. 72 of those responding, it is important for Sunday Worship, but for 135 residents: attending Church is not applicable. There were a few people and families that go elsewhere, because they are of a different denomination, or prefer the times and services at other places.

Easton School. [Q11]

The school is seen as important to the community by 92 % of 218 respondents. However only 6 Easton children attend the school at present . This means that the majority of parents whose children go to the school are not particularly interested or concerned about the village of Easton itself. As suggested above, facilities at school could be shared to some extent with the village.

Information and communication [Q61, 62, and 63]

Parish Magazine

It was very clear that the Parish magazine provides 166 people with information about local events. There are very few people who do not subscribe to the magazine. Some do not because it is essentially a church publication. Currently it is quite a restricted magazine and, a number of people would like to see it expanded to become a Village Newsletter. This could no doubt be combined with information from the Vicar about Church affairs. In order to pay for the increased size, villagers would have to pay a larger subscription or the magazine would have to be financed by advertisements (supported by 44% respondents).

114 out of 133 respondents would like more items on local events, 48 on arts, 45 on sports and 65 on leisure.

Second to the parish magazine, people receive news of events by word of mouth 143 out of 213 respondents, rather than from local papers.

Discussion

The idea of a secular newsletter containing Church news rather than continuing with the existing Parish Magazine provoked strong opposition at the meeting and was informed that this would deprive the Church of revenue. It was explained that the printer donated the cost of printing and paper and that the proceeds from subscriptions and Parish Council grant were given to the Church. As no one present wished to deprive the Church, it was felt that the existing arrangement should continue. The full facts have since come to light. Whilst it is true that at one time paper was donated, this is no longer so. Production has changed. When costed out as can be seen from the calculations, the amount of revenue for the church is small, but it pays something towards replacements costs of a printer.

The magazine consists of either three A4 sheets of folded paper giving 10 pages of printed matter or two sheets giving 6 pages of news. The Parish Council pays £100 each year in order to have one page for reporting Council matters. The 130 or so households pay a yearly subscription of £3. This makes a total of £490. It costs about £30 per month to produce the 145 copies depending on the size. That means around £360 per year is needed for production.

Many respondents to the questionnaire had wanted to see more reports or news on social activities, sports etc. It was pointed out that copy was rarely forthcoming. The editor had to keep reminding people to send in their contributions and there was often a dearth of material. On the other hand, some people complained that they had had articles refused by the editor. The editor pointed out, it was policy that only matters, which the editor saw as being directly related to the village, were included in the magazine. The Vicar sensibly forbade the inclusion of correspondence, which could be divisive, and nothing that was considered as at all contentious could be printed.

Those who wanted to advertise social happenings, dances, jumble sales etc. will now be able to do so on the new village notice board.

Action

Several people expressed an interest in helping with the Magazine/newsletter. The list of names will be given to the Parochial Church Council so that they can approach the volunteers to see in what manner they would like to be involved.

Village notice board.

The idea was suggested in [Q64] and supported by 57% of respondents. Such a board could be placed in the car park where one side could be viewed from the pavement and would carry advertisements of concerts etc and the other side could be viewed from the car park. Here a map of the village could be displayed showing footpaths and dog-mess bins and any other information for tourists and Ramblers.

Discussion.

The idea of a village notice board was accepted without any further discussion.

Councils [Q65,66,and 67]

Two thirds of the respondents have never attended a Parish council meeting. On average, people are satisfied with how the council tax funds are spent, although 40% do not know how it is spent. This is in spite of information on the parish notice board and regular reports of parish meetings, printed monthly in the Parish Magazine.

As would be expected, people think the higher the levels of Council, the less aware they are of local needs. Out of 201 respondents 60% think that the Parish council does know what is needed.

Report on 7-16 year olds.

In the families that responded, there are 46 children between the ages of 5 and 15 years. Not all the children between the ages of 7 and 16 years answered their questionnaire. Of the 23 that did so, 16 are aged 12 –15; 6 aged 9 –11 years and only 1 in the 7-8 year old category. (Figures are given at the end of the main questionnaire results). The majority of children over 11 years go to Thomas Mills High School in Framlingham and travel by school bus.

Future education.

Most of the children were hoping to go onto the sixth form or college. Only 3 were planning to leave school and go into work.

Out of school activities, meeting friends and transport problems.

Around half of the children are involved in after-school activities. 8 have no desire to do so, but 9 are prevented by lack of transport. The same lack of transport also prevents 9 children from meeting their friends. 22 of the children rely on parents or friends for transport when they travel anywhere outside Easton. Only 1 child uses a bicycle.

17 children said they would use a bus if one were available.

Spare time activities.

These were quite varied [Q11] and included Scouts/Cubs, Guides/Brownies 5; music and choir 7; Church activities 3; but the majority 15 were involved in sports. The question allowed them to tick several options so many will be involved in more than one activity.

A whole range of sports was mentioned. The most popular being swimming, badminton and football, followed by tennis, cycling and cricket.

What amenities would you like to see in Easton? [Q 15]

Some wanted swings etc. and a good playing field; others a better bus service, which they could afford. Others want a place to meet their friends and somewhere to buy food, magazines and so on. A few mentioned tennis and badminton courts.

Future development of Easton

The majority of Easton residents (66%) wish the village to remain essentially as it is [Q80] whilst 39% would like to see it become a working community. Only a small minority are in favour of it becoming either a tourist centre or a commuter centre or a retirement community.

It was not possible to cover all aspects of the questionnaire during the village discussion meeting on February 7th. Many areas may need attention, such as; keeping the village tidy; making it more attractive; making pavements easier for pushchairs etc.; catering for both social and sports needs of the inhabitants; looking at the possibilities of opening more footpaths and seeing that they are properly signposted. It is hoped that the village appraisal exercise will awaken peoples interest in the life and welfare of the community and bring forth further ideas and actions.

Improvements can be made to make life easier, more comfortable and safer whilst preserving those aspects, which we all treasure.

Most people would endorse the following comment made by one person who said :-

" I live here because it is not full of amenities, street lighting, leisure activities etc. Those who want town facilities should live in a town."

Action Plan

Issue	Action	By Whom
Housing	Starter homes Elderly/disabled homes	Parish and District Council, 'Project Group' Suffolk Acre, Housing Association
Traffic Calming	Flashing Light	Parish Council, Police
Parking – Village Centre	Already underway	Parish Council
School Parking	Combine with village hall	'Project Group', Parish and District Council
Village Hall	Investigate new hall	'Project Group'
Playground	Combine with village hall	'Project Group'
Recycle banks	Locate new site for all bins	Parish Council 'Project Group'
Dog mess Bins	Capacity and emptying	Parish Council
Neighbourhood Watch	Encourage registering by e-mail	Parish Council
Pavements	Framlingham rd.– required Wickham Mkt road – investigate	Parish Council
Notice Board	Make one for car park	Parish Council
Transport	Monitor Bus Service	Parish Council
Volunteer car service	Find a co-ordinator	Suffolk Acre for funds
Environmental action Group	Encourage a group to form	Steering committee
'Projects Group'	Set up group for major projects	Steering Committee

Questionnaire and Responses



Village Plan

Community Questionnaire 2002.

To help shape the future of Easton

This is the full and final report of the responses from the questionnaire distributed within Easton during 2002.

Each Question is clearly marked with the actual question asked, along with the number of respondents to each particular question, Where a list of response options were made available, these have been listed with the number of respondents to that option, these has also been shown as a percentage of the number of respondents to the question in brackets.

Eg

Question 0 Do you live in Easton ?

Number of respondents 50

Yes	30 (60.0)
No	20 (40.0)

This shows that 30 people answered Yes to this question, which calculates as 60% of responses

Where a comment question was asked, the responses have been summarised where possible, Similar answers have been grouped together and the number of respondents given.

Eg

Question 0 Comment Do you live in Easton

Only at Weekends	Response from 5
Yes	Response from 25
No	Response from 19
Where is Easton	Response from 1

This shows that 5 people had an answer similar to 'Only at Weekends'

The Main Questionnaire

HOUSEHOLD SECTION

Question : 1 How many people including children normally live in your household?

NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS : 119

291

Question : 2 Please enter the number of people in your household in each age group:

NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS : 119

	Male	Female
0-4	7	4
5-10	4	10
11-15	9	16
16-17	4	3
18-24	11	12
25-44	30	30
45-59	30	35
60-64	6	9
65-74	19	19
75-84	15	9
85+	4	5

Question : 3 What type of dwelling do you live in ? Tick one box only

NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS : 119

Detached house	40 (33.6)
Semi-detached house	36 (30.3)
Terraced house	8 (6.7)
Bungalow	30 (25.2)
Other	5 (4.2)

Question : 4 Is this dwelling?

NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS : 119

Rented	15 (12.6)
Owner occupied	98 (82.4)
Other	5 (4.2)

Question : 5 Does your dwelling have any of the following energy saving features?

NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS : 119

Lagged hot water tank	106 (89.1)
Loft insulation	97 (81.5)
Cavity wall insulation	43 (36.1)
Water-saving device	21 (17.6)
Low energy light bulbs	47 (39.5)
Secondary or Double glazing	72 (60.5)

PERSONAL SECTION

Question : 6 Sex

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION : 249

Male	121 (48.6)
Female	128 (51.4)

Question : 7 What age group do you belong to?

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION : 238

16-17	5 (2.1)
18-24	24 (10.1)
25-44	59 (24.8)
45-59	67 (28.2)
60-64	13 (5.5)
65-74	37 (15.5)
75-84	24 (10.1)
85+	9 (3.8)

Question : 8 How long have you lived in Easton ?

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION : 235

Less than a year	13 (5.5)
1-5 years	53 (22.6)
6-15 years	76 (32.3)
16-25 years	44 (18.7)
26-50 years	40 (17.0)
51 + years	4 (1.7)
Whole life	5 (2.1)

Question : 9 What is most important to you about Easton ?

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION : 222

The community	45 (20.3)
The environment	101 (45.5)
Location	91 (41.0)
Other	4 (1.8)
Not sure	9 (4.1)

Question : 10 If any members of the household are looking for alternative accommodation, why do they need to move ?

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION : 28

For Employment reasons	2 (7.1)
For Education	4 (14.3)
To meet the needs of an elderly or disabled relative	0 (0.0)
Setting up own home	4 (14.3)
For Family Reasons	0 (0.0)
To move to a cheaper property	2 (7.1)
To move to a smaller property	6 (21.4)
To move to a larger property	4 (14.3)
For medical reasons	0 (0.0)
Other	6 (21.4)

Question : 11 How important is Easton school to the local community?

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION : 218

Important	201 (92.2)
Not important	17 (7.8)

Question : 12 Are you at present?

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION : 232

An employee	88 (37.9)
Unemployed	4 (1.7)
Self employed	32 (13.8)
Unwaged housewife/husband	18 (7.8)
Retired	70 (30.2)
Permanently sick/disabled	3 (1.3)
Other	3 (1.3)
In fulltime education / Training	14 (6.0)

Question : 13 If you are in waged employment, what is the business of your major employer?

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION : 111

Agriculture/Horticulture	9 (8.1)
Manufacturing	7 (6.3)
Retail/Service industry	15 (13.5)
Tourism e.g. hotels - catering - B&B	10 (9.0)
Transport/Communications	3 (2.7)
Food Processing	1 (0.9)
Financial Services	2 (1.8)
Local Government/Public Sector	16 (14.4)
Construction	5 (4.5)
Education	18 (16.2)
Other	25 (22.5)

Question : 14 If you are employed, Where is your main place of work?

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION : 117

Within 10 Miles	61 (52.1)
Between 10 and 20 Miles	32 (27.4)
Outside 20 Miles	16 (13.7)
Work from home	8 (6.8)

Question : 15 Should the following be encouraged in and around Easton ?

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION : 208

	strongly In favour	in favour	no strong opinion	have reservation	definite Not
Tourism development/attractions	7 (3.4)	39 (18.8)	53 (25.5)	48 (23.1)	46 (22.1)
Small business development	27 (13.0)	50 (24.0)	45 (21.6)	37 (17.8)	30 (14.4)
Small scale industrial workshops	8 (3.8)	32 (15.4)	38 (18.3)	37 (17.8)	68 (32.7)
More Jobs in Easton	22 (10.6)	56 (26.9)	53 (25.5)	24 (11.5)	28 (13.5)
Overnight Tourism	12 (5.8)	40 (19.2)	64 (30.8)	17 (8.2)	46 (22.1)

Question : 16 Do you experience transport difficulties in getting out of Easton to other places?

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION : 222

Often	18 (8.1)
Occasionally	47 (21.2)
Never	157 (70.7)

Question : 17 If available what Bus routes would you use and how often?

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION : 148

	Daily	Weekly	Less often
Framlingham	14 (9.5)	25 (16.9)	76 (51.4)
Ipswich	9 (6.1)	23 (15.5)	88 (59.5)
Wickham Market	8 (5.4)	26 (17.6)	70 (47.3)
Woodbridge	6 (4.1)	15 (10.1)	84 (56.8)
Wickham Market Station	3 (2.0)	3 (2.0)	98 (66.2)
Martlesham	5 (3.4)	8 (5.4)	79 (53.4)

Question : 18 What other bus routes are you likely to use ? comment

Framlingham	response from 2
Aldeburgh	response from 3
Norwich	response from 2
Cambridge	response from 1
bus to airport or major city/town	response from 1
Ipswich	response from 2
Night bus to Ipswich or Woodbridge	response from 1
Wickham to Ipswich	response from 2
this would depend on level of service	response from 1

Question : 19 If you have a motor vehicle, what do you use the vehicle for ?

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION : 210

Business journeys	74 (35.2)
Transport to work	102 (48.0)
Leisure	194 (92.0)
Shopping	190 (90.0)
Transport children to school/college	41 (19.5)
Other	66 (31.4)

Question : 20 If you experience parking problems at your home, is it because?

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION : 28

Nowhere to park	2 (7.1)
Cars blocking your entrance	17 (60.7)
Traffic blocking the road	19 (67.9)

Question : 21 Is street parking a safety risk in Easton ?

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION : 207

Yes	173 (83.0)
No	30 (14.5)
No opinion	4 (1.9)

Question : 22 If you have a car, would you be prepared to take part in a voluntary transport service?

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION : 192

Yes	30 (15.6)
No	162 (84.0)

Question : 23 Would you use a voluntary car service as a passenger?

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION : 190

Weekly	2 (1.1)
Monthly	0 (0.0)
Occasionally	39 (20.5)
Never	149 (78.0)

Question : 24 Are public parking facilities in Easton ?

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION : 205

Satisfactory	85 (41.5)
Unsatisfactory	120 (58.0)

Question : 25 Do you think speeding traffic is a problem in Easton ?

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION : 222

Yes	160 (72.0)
No	62 (27.9)

Question : 26 Would you support the following speed control measures in Easton ?

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION : 216

Extension of the speed limit	51 (23.6)
Introduce a lower speed limit	40 (18.5)
Traffic calming measures	98 (45.4)
More warning signs	87 (40.3)
None of the above	51 (23.6)

Question : 27 Where are the road danger spots in Easton? Comment

Parking - Outside school	response from 133
Parking - Outside Village Hall	response from 51
Parking - Outside White Horse -	response from 14
Parking - outside Church -	response from 2
Parking - Outside Kennels -	response from 2
Parking on bends or close to corners -	response from 2
Visibility - Kettleburgh turn -	response from 14
Visibility - Letheringham turn -	response from 12
Visibility - car park	response from 3
Visibility - Tank road junction -	response from 2
Visibility - Framlingham into sanctuary bridge road -	response from 1
Speeding - Glevring to Easton -	response from 10
Speeding - Farm Cottages corner -	response from 2
Speeding - Framlingham road to village green -	response from 6
Speeding - school lane to/from cricket club -	response from 3
Speeding by farm cottages -	response from 2
Speeding by Stud Farm -	response from 2
Lack of footpath - Harriers Walk towards village centre	response from 2
Lack of footpaths - outside school -	response from 1
mud on the road towards Letheringham	
very large agricultural vehicles without escort,	
Both ends of village have narrowed roads with sharp bends/poor visibility.	
The roads are narrow country lanes and unsuitable for some of the very large vehicles now in use.	
Narrow road at school and village hall.	
outside old shop,	
90 degree corners at pub and EPF	
Dark House Lane junction,	

Question : 28 What kind of accommodation do you think Easton needs?

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION : 211

Starter homes	112 (53.0)
Large family homes	9 (4.3)
Small family homes	60 (28.4)
Homes for people with disabilities	21 (10.0)
Homes for single people	40 (19.0)
Rented accommodation	39 (18.5)
Other	6 (2.8)
No further homes are needed	69 (32.7)

Question : 29 What type(s) of housing development would be acceptable in Easton ?

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION : 207

None	67 (32.4)
Single dwellings in controlled location	92 (44.4)
Small group(s) of less than 10	56 (27.1)
Carefully designed larger group(s)	4 (1.9)
Expansion of the edge of Easton	41 (19.8)

Question : 30 Do you have any difficulty in getting to the following?

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION : 204

	Often	occasionally	never
Hospital	3 (1.5)	17 (8.3)	166 (81.4)
Doctor	5 (2.5)	14 (6.9)	170 (83.3)
Chiropodist	2 (1.0)	6 (2.9)	128 (62.7)
Other medical facility	1 (0.5)	1 (0.5)	120 (58.8)

Question : 31 If you have problems ordering and/or collecting medicines on prescription? Comment

- "Unable to phone prescription repeat" response from 3
- "2 journeys involved, one to drop off and one to pick up. waste of petrol" response from 4
- "system could be better ;"
- "Not yet, could do if ill or car out of action" response from 2
- "yes , a person calls 25,miles away to take and call for my prescriptions"
- "rely on family to collect,-
- Yes As elderly somebody else has to get it"
- "Yes because I am aged 90 plus and have much trouble with my legs so I cannot walk far"
- "I'm not registered locally,"
- "I cannot collect my prescription, I cannot get an appointment, If there was an emergency I would be b*gg*r*d, I have a 4mth old baby and need a doctor quite often (How do I get there?),"

Question : 32 Is there a need for a 'good neighbour' type scheme in Easton ?

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION : 224

Yes	122 (54.5)
No	20 (8.9)
Don't know	82 (36.6)

Question : 33 How often would you be prepared to help a good neighbour scheme in Easton ?

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION : 192

Once a week	18 (9.4)
Once a month	22 (11.5)
Occasionally	103 (53.6)
Never	49 (25.5)

Question : 34 What are your views on the standard of the following services in Easton ?

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION : 212

	good	reasonable	poor	have not used
Fire	17 (8.0)	9 (4.2)	2 (0.9)	161 (75.9)
Ambulance (Emergency)	22 (10.4)	24 (11.3)	6 (2.8)	146 (68.9)
Hospital (Transport)	4 (1.9)	7 (3.3)	6 (2.8)	177 (83.5)
Police (Emergency)	13 (6.1)	17 (8.0)	10 (4.7)	157 (74.1)
Police (Bobby)	9 (4.2)	12 (5.7)	30 (14.2)	148 (69.8)

Question : 35 If there are areas in Easton in which you feel unsafe, where are they and Why? Comment

Junction School Lane and The Street -	response from 3
Car park opposite the Pub -Lighting -	response from 1
outside school at dropping off and picking up time, Parking -	response from 9
Harriers walk to ' Serpents Kiss' House No footpath -	response from 2
Outside the school - no footpath	response from 3
Outside the pub - parking -	response from 1
Through the village - Speeding Traffic -	response from 6
Through the village - Street lights	response from 7
Outside village hall - parking	response from 2
Towards wickham market no path / steep banks -	response from 1
Every where at night	response from 1
In my own home in emergencies	response from 1
At home when I hear drunken people walking past late at night	response from 1
NO - I have a good torch by my door,	response from 1

Question : 36 Do you think that any of the following measures are needed?

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS TO QUESTION : 183

A greater police presence	62 (33.9)
Better consultation between police and local people	17 (9.3)
A neighbourhood watch	65 (35.5)
Improved street lighting	76 (41.5)
More drug/drink education/prevention	26 (14.2)
More activities for young people	111 (60.7)

