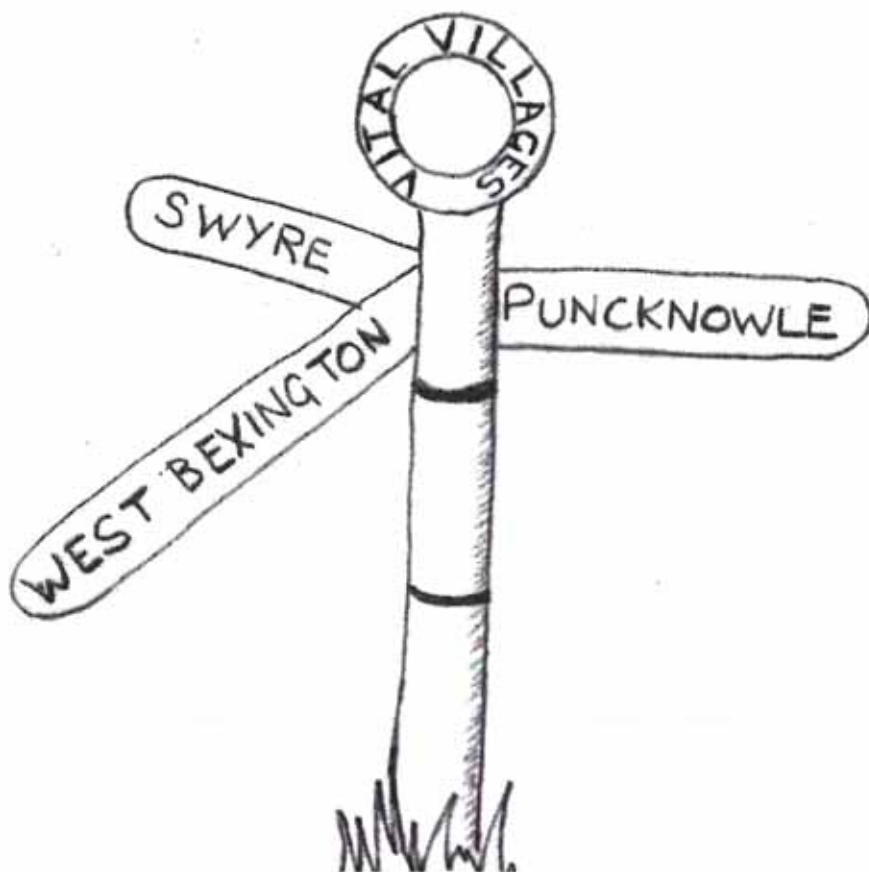


VITAL VILLAGES



SWYRE

PUNCKNOWLE

WEST BEXINGTON

REPORT

Vital Villages – an initiative of:-





VITAL VILLAGES Report

Background - The Vital Villages scheme is run by the Countryside Agency to provide funding for projects proposed by villagers. Grants have already been given to 1400 village-based schemes across England. Any project for which there is popular demand can be supported – these may include starting a new club, improving the transport infrastructure or providing information on what is already available. The needs of each village are different, and the scheme is flexible to reflect this. Under the scheme, a residents' questionnaire is sent out to discover whether there is a need for any projects to be organised.

This Report outlines the results of the Vital Villages Questionnaire posted to all residents of Puncknowle, Swyre and West Bexington during July 2003.

The process - The Vital Villages Questionnaire idea was taken up in the villages of Puncknowle, Swyre and West Bexington by an informal steering group which first asked villagers for their opinions at public meetings on Wednesday 15th January 2003 in The Bull Inn Swyre and in the Church Hall Puncknowle. About 60 people took part in the meetings, all airing their views as to whether there was any need for more services/organisations/clubs in the three villages. The Vital Villages Steering Group would like to thank all those who attended and made it such a success, and also Dorset Community Action for their valuable advice.

The suggestions from the meetings helped us to draw up the questionnaire. Some of the questions were influenced by issues raised both at Parish Council meetings and at the time the questionnaire was being drawn up. For example, the Parish Council was particularly interested in questions on planning, which could be then fed into decisions being made on planning issues. Some issues were not considered as they were not raised as concerns during the initial public meeting. These included crime, health services, pollution, farming and the church.

The Steering Group at present consists of the following: Ken Martin, Madeline Marshall and Anna Lovell (Swyre), Peter Postance and Adam Simon (West Bexington), and Marion Hurley, Penny Pither, Debbie Legge and Nick Tait (Puncknowle).

The questionnaire - The Vital Villages Questionnaire was not designed to ascertain perceptions, but to explore whether there were any needs for any more services / organisations / clubs in the parish. The questionnaire was confidential and there were separate sections for young people. A separate sheet was included for anyone who wanted to get involved in any schemes that emerged, although this was not a necessary condition of filling out the questionnaire.

What next? - The results of the Questionnaire can be used to negotiate with outside bodies, e.g. the local planning department, the Post Office or local and regional government. Some issues may well need Parish Council involvement, such as the future of the Church Hall, Parish Council owned land; planning decisions and transport issues. But other issues, such as any new clubs / groups, are for anyone in the Parish with the time and inclination to take part in, set up and run.

THE RESULTS

General - A total of 190 questionnaires were returned from Puncknowle (105) Swyre (37) and West Bexington (48). Two more were received late, and their views have only been incorporated into the VVQ in relation to any comments they have made. In relation to the Young Persons Questionnaire, 22 were received-Swyre (7), West Bexington (4) and Puncknowle (11). The results correspond to the 2001 Census (see www.neighbourhood-statistics.gov.uk).

	Puncknowle	Swyre	West Bexington	Total
Questionnaires given	146	47	78	271
Questionnaires returned	105	37	48	190
Suggested empty or holiday homes (approx)	16	1	6	23
Refusal	5	1	0	6
Late Return	2	0	0	2
Non return	18	8	24	52
Returns/given	72%	79%	62%	70%
Returns/(given-empty homes)	81%	80%	67%	77%
People mentioned	200	78	96	374
People per household	1.90	2.11	2.00	1.97

Household details - There are 187 people aged from 18-60 in the Parish (50%) while those over 61 years of age number 128 (34%). There are 59 under-18 in the Parish, which represents 16% of the population.

	Age	0-4	5-10	11-17	18-25	26-40	41-60	61-75	75+	Total
Puncknowle	Male	4	9	3	5	15	30	23	12	101
	Female	2	6	6	1	16	31	21	16	99
	Total	6	15	9	6	31	61	44	28	200
		3%	8%	5%	3%	16%	31%	22%	14%	
Swyre	Male	2	1	5	4	4	14	9	1	40
	Female		2	3	2	3	16	11	1	38
	Total	2	3	8	6	7	30	20	2	78
		3%	4%	10%	8%	9%	38%	26%	3%	
West Bexington	Male	3	2	2	2		19	9	7	44
	Female		2	7	1	3	21	11	7	52
	Total	3	4	9	3	3	40	20	14	96
		3%	4%	9%	3%	3%	42%	21%	15%	
Total	Male	9	12	10	11	19	63	41	20	185
	Female	2	10	16	4	22	68	43	24	189
	Total	11	22	26	15	41	131	84	44	374
		3%	6%	7%	4%	11%	35%	22%	12%	

The next question examined the length of time members of each household had been in the Parish. No reference was made to historical family backgrounds, only those living here today. The average length of residence was 16.9 years. This suggests that there is a significant long-term population in the Parish.

Years	0-1	1-5	6-15	16-25	26-50	51+	Mean time
Puncknowle	8	21	29	20	23	4	18.1
	8%	20%	28%	19%	22%	4%	
Swyre	1	11	11	8	4	2	15.8
	3%	30%	30%	22%	11%	5%	
West Bexington	3	11	15	12	6	1	15.1
	6%	23%	31%	25%	13%	2%	
Total	12	43	55	40	33	7	16.9
	6%	23%	29%	21%	17%	4%	



Housing and development

The majority of householders live in owner-occupied accommodation (86%). Two percent live in Housing Association houses and shared equity accommodation, all of which are in Puncknowle and Swyre. Five percent of dwellings are occupied by virtue of employment and four percent are privately rented. One percent is 'other'.

A number of questions were asked to ascertain what type of housing need there was, or might be in the future, in the Parishes. The answers indicated that there was some need for accommodation for offspring. Thirteen respondents stated it may be required -five each in Puncknowle and Swyre, and three in West Bexington. There were two people who required accommodation for themselves, one in Swyre and one in West Bexington.

Respondents reported that eleven people had moved away from the Parish in the last five years due to accommodation needs. However, it is not just the issue of housing that is leading people to leave the Parish - there are also transport and employment issues. In fact, three people left as a result of the lack of adequate transport and five due to the lack of employment opportunities. One person left Puncknowle because they needed to move to an elderly person's home. Asked whether anybody may leave in the next five years, ten stated they may do so because of accommodation needs, six due to the lack of adequate transport and nineteen due to the lack of employment opportunities. Three would leave to go to University, one would leave due to change of circumstances, one due to lack of sheltered accommodation, and one may move to a place with better public transport.

The final question asked: "given the opportunity of affordable housing would any member of your family return?" eighteen respondents stated they would and thirty-one said no.

This led onto the next question: "what type of accommodation is needed and why?"

This question was intended only to be answered by people who indicated that members of their household required alternative accommodation soon in question 3.4. In fact it was answered by twice as many people, who used it to comment on all the questions in this section. The main concern was the need for low-cost housing, particularly for affordable starter homes. This was also seen as important for other reasons, with the following comments:

- *Accommodation for young couples / families (with children); therefore more children to feed into Bride Valley Play group and school.*
- *Affordable accommodation vital for younger buyers otherwise village becomes dormant and there is no change. More houses will become second homes.*
- *Low-cost housing for purchase and rent by people who wish to live work or retire in the area, and who have long-standing family connections.*

There were also concerns that previously-built social housing had later been sold. This was illustrated by the following comment:

- *Low-cost housing in the village would only become holiday accommodation quite rapidly. In Devon I believe they place restrictions on occupancy sometimes- unless that is feasible it's pointless to trying to provide low-cost housing.*

There were a number of ideas for the type of low-cost housing that could be provided, including shared equity and self build.

Some people thought that this was important, although they had not wanted the development boundaries changed:

- *Within the next five years both of our children will have left education and hopefully will have employment within the local area. Our families live locally and they will need affordable accommodation, initially to rent, and in future to be able to afford a mortgage even if through a housing scheme. How can young people on the low incomes paid in this area afford to stay in the area? How can we create affordable housing?*

Although others realised that this may be needed:

- *I have not ticked 1, 2 or 3 because I feel more building is essential to provide affordable housing (sale or rent) for young people. There is a danger that as current house prices are only within the range of retired professionals or affluent weekenders the village will become dominated by the elderly and the occasional visitor. This is certainly undesirable from several points of view.*

There was also a concern about the impact of second / holiday homes. Comments were made such as:

- *Restriction on second / holiday homes.*
- *We currently rent our house, and very much enjoy living in this area. We would be in a position to buy a home of our own, but cannot afford the local inflated prices, particularly raised by second home owners. For example, a number of properties are only rented out as holiday homes, within the village.*
- *No more second homes / holiday homes - people should live here and do something useful.*

Other types of housing that were suggested included:

- *Small bungalows.*
- *Private rented accommodation.*
- *Nursing home / care home for elderly / retirement home / sheltered housing for the elderly.*
- *Low-cost flat for students / school leavers*
- *Independent accommodation required when financially viable.*

Development - This led onto the question of how such a need can be met in the Parishes. In particular, do people in the Parishes want more development?

Comments made in relation to development included:

- *Poundbury should be able to absorb all the new housing requirements in West Dorset for the foreseeable future; otherwise it does not justify its existence (which is to be regretted in any case!). Its only saving grace is to relieve pressure for development in surrounding villages.*
- *Boundaries are meaningless: when I first came to the village, there was a boundary on the east side of the AONB (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty), so designated. When they wanted to build new houses (Springfield), the council moved the boundary!*
- *I would like to see the planning committee return to completed buildings to see the planning applications they have approved and maybe learn some lessons for future decisions.*
- *Future village development should depend on natural stone facing being used.*

The next few questions went on to explore what, if any, development people may want to see. The majority of people wanted affordable owner-occupier homes (124), then medium and expensive owner-occupier homes (32), housing association accommodation (31) and finally private rented accommodation (22). A few wanted a mix of all to diversify the villages, and a few wanted limited or no development. This was reflected in the number of homes people wanted to see built. Despite quite strong support for particular forms of development, this did not translate into a wish for many more homes.

Number of Dwellings	Puncknowle		Swyre		West Bexington	
0	27	26%	4	11%	25	52%
1-5	15	14%	10	27%	12	25%
6-10	24	23%	5	14%	5	10%
11+	10	10%	2	5%	2	4%
Unanswered	29	28%	16	43%	4	8%

This question was unusual, in that it asked villagers to answer the question about only their own village. A number of people suggested significantly larger developments in Puncknowle.

There were also concerns about this question with one person stating:

I don't like the loading in this question with respect to the village.

Another commented:

Depends upon what need is. The key issue here is to meet any need whilst respecting the character of the village and without harming its landscape / setting in the AONB (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty). Have you carried out proper housing needs assessment to inform such decision-making?

In relation to where any development should take place, if there was a proven need, people preferred small sites around their village:

Type of Dwellings	Puncknowle		Swyre		West Bexington		Total	
Small infill sites scattered within the village	61	58%	26	70%	24	50%	111	58%
Larger developments	8	8%	0	0%	1	2%	9	5%
None of the above	24	23%	9	24%	17	35%	50	26%
Unanswered	12	11%	2	5%	6	13%	20	11%

Employment and education

Employment - The lack of employment opportunities was stated by some respondents as a reason why some members of their household had left (5) and may leave the parish (16). A majority of people in the Parish are over retirement age. 41% of people state that they are retired, although some of those that have 'retired' are in fact occupied, full- or part-time, some in voluntary or caring work. There are 33% of people in employment, and 18% are self-employed. Three young people are in part-time employment.

		Employed	Part time	Self employed	Retired	Un-employed	Student	Other	Total
Puncknowle	Male	31	1	18	37	3	2		92
	Female	35	2	7	45	4	1		94
	Total	66	3	25	82	7	3		186
		35%	2%	13%	44%	4%	2%	0%	
Swyre	Male	13		11	10	1	1		36
	Female	11		6	13	1	2	2	35
	Total	24	0	17	23	2	3	2	71
		34%	0%	24%	32%	3%	4%	3%	
West Bexington	Male	14		10	16		2	1	43
	Female	12	1	9	22	1	1	2	48
	Total	26	1	19	38	1	3	3	91
		29%	1%	21%	42%	1%	3%	3%	
Total	Male	58	1	39	63	4	5	1	171
	Female	58	3	22	80	6	4	4	177
	Total	116	4	61	143	10	9	5	348
		33%	1%	18%	41%	3%	3%	1%	

One idea for providing employment opportunities was the possible provision of small workspaces for cottage industries - 92 thought that this was a good idea, with 58 against it. There was slightly more support for this in Puncknowle and Swyre.

	Puncknowle		Swyre		West Bexington	
Yes	53	50%	21	57%	18	38%
No	29	28%	10	27%	20	42%

Some caveats were put on such development such as:

- *Nothing noisy or ugly.*
- *Depends on what.*
- *I think Swyre would be most unsuitable for further development for housing, although I do approve of converting outbuildings or barns for small workspaces etc, and which would not change the character of the building unduly.*
- *Any reasonable size development to include a purpose built village shop unit and parking. No brown window frames please.*
- *Workspaces should only be for small cottage industries i.e. arts and crafts etc and not for larger / noisier industries such as mechanical / engineering etc. Also not those attracting large lorries for deliveries.*

Education - The majority of young people attend school: Thirty stated that they were in full time education, with one in a nursery. The largest proportion attends Thorners Primary School (thirteen), while two are at Burton Bradstock. The majority of secondary school aged children attend Colfox (ten), with four at Thomas Hardye. As regards post-sixteen education, one youngster is studying at Weymouth College, one at Kingston Maurward and another at Bournemouth University. Other schools attended include: Thornlow Prep Weymouth, Branston (two) St Swithin Winchester, Port Regis and Woodruffe.



Environment

We live in beautiful Parishes, on a World Heritage coastline, in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

- The main issue that was raised in relation to the environment was that of kerbside recycling. 61% of households wanted this introduced. There was more support for this in Puncknowle (66%) and West Bexington (63%) than Swyre (46%). Bottle / paper banks were also mentioned.
- The next issue of concern was the enforcement of speed limits (51%) This was of more concern to those in Swyre (59%) and West Bexington (56%) than Puncknowle (46%).
- 47% of households stated they did not want radio masts in their village.
- Another proposal that received some support was to ask the Parish Council to declare the Parish a GM-free zone; this was supported by 45% of people, with slightly higher support in West Bexington (54%). However, one person did state that they wanted the Parish to be designated for GM.
- The final issues, that received some support, were the issue of planting of more trees (42%). This was supported more by Swyre residents (51%).

The other issues were:

- 'Poop-scoop' bins (32%), with less support in Swyre (22%). Other suggestions included: dog wardens and fines or prosecution for dog fouling.
- The installation of a mains gas supply (32%) with a slightly higher figure in Puncknowle (40%) as against 22% and 21% in Swyre and West Bexington respectively. One person was worried about "the impact" of installing mains gas.
- Seating around the villages (28%), with more support in West Bexington (38%).
- Litter bins (26%) - there was very little support for this in Swyre (8%). The importance of regular emptying of litter bins and poop-scoop bins was mentioned.
- Provision for allotments (13%).

The following were all suggested in the 'other' section:

- *Encourage residents to look after their own patch in terms of tidiness.*
- *Environmental group.*
- *Flood control (suggested twice).*
- *Grass verges by Church and Manor (Puncknowle) need much more regular attention as in years gone by.*
- *Make a feature of the stocks in Church Street.*
- *More efficient street cleaning.*
- *No street lights.*
- *Plant up area where the seat and tree are located i.e. small garden (Swyre).*
- *Regular clearance of litter on West Bexington beach.*
- *Removal of overhead high-voltage cables in village areas.*
- *Removal of the metal pipe at the top of Hoopers Lane Puncknowle.*
- *Removal, re-landscaping or painting of caravan parks - the most significant visual blight on the area.*
- *Restoration of stone walls.*
- *Sculptures at focal points.*
- *The provision of a skip every few months was a great idea that perhaps could be re-started.*
- *There is an unroadworthy blue van parked off Clay Lane which seems an unnecessary eyesore.*

Footpaths - Two questions were asked about footpaths. The first was: "Has anyone in your household walked a footpath in the last month?" The vast majority of people do use the footpath network, with 84% of households having walked a footpath in the last month. The second was: "Are you satisfied with the condition of the footpath?" 78% were and 22% were not. The level of satisfaction was slightly lower in Puncknowle (72%) than in Swyre (91%) and West Bexington (80%).

Some comments were made in relation to specific footpaths such as:

- *I think I use most of the area's footpaths on a very regular basis. Most round Swyre are well kept and accessible. However, the lane down to Berwick farm is not!*
- *I was not able to walk footpath number 3 recently due to a maize crop with no path cleared across the field. It was impossible to walk around the edge of the field due to high vegetation (footpath starts at bottom of Hoopers Lane and exits on Litton Lane).*
- *Most footpaths are in good condition, although some need identifying through crops or strimming back e.g. Knackers Hole, the Drovers - from Hoopers Lane to Litton.*

The final question was: "Are you satisfied with the condition of the footpaths in general?" 86% were and 14% said no. The similarity of these two questions reduced the value of the second. The response was very similar with slightly fewer people bothering to answer the second. However, one comment stated:

- *In general the condition of the footpaths is good. However, recently they have become very overgrown and nettles and brambles have blocked the paths".*

Transport

Most households own their own car. Generally, 1-2 people in each household drive a vehicle and there is on average a similar number of cars. There is little support for car sharing, other than in West Bexington (19 respondents). There is some occasional sharing of cars for leisure (28 respondents), shopping (25) and taking children to school (10). There was also some support for the dial-a-bus-ride service. Sixteen people, or 15%, would use it immediately were it available, but 60% can imagine using it at some point in the future, with a peak in West Bexington (78%). The same applies to the Dorset County Car service (137 did not use it at all, and only 4 occasionally).

However, there is some support for a mini bus service to Poole for shopping (33 respondents), Weymouth in the evening (26) and Bridport leisure centre (18). Other suggestions included Lyme Regis, Dorchester market, Bridport in the evening and for shopping, Shaftesbury, Salisbury, Yeovil and Dorchester in the evening.

Bike use (55 households) is mainly occasional, for leisure (55 respondents), business / transport to work (14) and shopping (12). The majority of households though do not use a bike (107).

As regards 'pedestrian-friendly' improvements in the Parish, there is little support for expansion of the pavement network (109 residents said they did not want any new ones, while 28 did).

Buses are very rarely used. The main reason for this is their infrequency - for all of the services this was stated to be poor. Access for the disabled was also an issue for all but the X53. This was reflected in some of the comments from five disabled / elderly respondents: "I am no longer well enough to walk all the way down to Puncknowle Bottom to catch the bus and back up the hill again to my house".

There were also problems with the 110 and 210, in relation to the route the bus takes, particularly for those in West Bexington. This is considered inconvenient by 6 people. Comments included: "Very long walk with two small children and bags of shopping from main road into West Bexington, also not very safe road, very narrow in places and cars drive too fast. It is quicker and easier with young children to use the car". Also: "A long walk from main road to Springfield otherwise an £18 taxi fare. Not convenient as I mile from bus stop. Are buses designed for carrying shopping? Twenty-one people particularly commented on the poor service, "never going and coming back at required times". 18 respondents considered it "not efficient enough". Comments were made such as: "Too infrequent - do not go to where I want to go", and one person said "Why should we?"

It is therefore easier for people to use their car (64 people), particularly where this is required for work. The flexibility of car use was mentioned by six respondents: "My wife and I use the car so we can do things when we want to". All this led to low levels of bus use:

	Puncknowle		Swyre		West Bexington		Total	
X53	7	7%	7	19%	9	19%	23	12%
210	19	18%	6	16%	2	4%	27	14%
31	5	5%	1	3%	4	8%	10	5%
110	16	15%	2	5%	6	13%	24	13%
None	63	60%	22	59%	28	58%	113	59%

This is reflected in the difficulty of getting to various towns, with 13 people finding it difficult to get to Bridport, 11 to Dorchester and Weymouth and 1 to Lyme Regis.

Other comments were made about the bus routes:

- *210 - It would be very helpful if this bus could include the other half of the village i.e. continue from bus shelter at Puncknowle bottom through to the old post office stop on Litton Close and either turn round or continue up Clay Lane to the coast road, turning right to Bridport, also possibly stopping at Safeway.*
- *210 - I suggested about 4 months ago to the transport manager at Dorset County Council that as passengers who use this service lived either in Napier or Springfield Close (except for one or two who board the bus at Swyre), the route could be changed on the return journey. The route could be changed without any loss to the bus company regarding passengers. We can accept we could walk down to the bus shelter to board the bus to take us to Bridport but the return journey could be slightly altered for the benefit of passengers i.e. 210 bus from Burton Bradstock should stay on the coast road at Swyre and drop off Swyre and West Bexington passengers, then continue on the coast road to Clay Lane then left then carry on down to Napier Close, Puncknowle, where passengers can leave the bus for Springfield as well and we haven't had to carry shopping back up the long drag from the bus shelter. It makes sense, so will somebody please set the wheels in motion?*
- *We are not happy to lose the late X53 service from Weymouth. since the new timetable started.*
- *A return bus from Bridport to West Bexington would be useful, perhaps on the day(s) the 110 comes.*
- *Bus shelter for school children and all village residents. (suggested twice for West Bexington)*

Young Persons' transport - It is clear that parents provide the majority of transport for young people. Seventeen stated that they travel to the clubs they attend by car (eight by shared car), whilst only one walked and one went by taxi. Twenty-seven go by car to see friends, seven by shared car, but eight use their bikes and twelve walk. Eleven use the bus and six use the school bus.

When travelling to school the importance of the school bus is highlighted as thirteen use it, while eleven are taken by car, seven by bus, three by shared car and two walk. The majority seem to be able to stay for after-school activities ('yes' -twenty two, 'no'-three). However one person stated: *"If there was better access to Weymouth / Portland, I could do more water sports and ten pin bowling. As there is no longer a late night bus from Weymouth to Bridport, I can no longer go to an evening film or bowling.*



Amenities

Social events - The main social events in the Parish are: the Village Fete, attended by 120 households, followed by the Crown Puncknowle fundraisers' functions (77 households). Social evenings in the Church Hall were also well used (46).

However, other activities - needing fewer attendees to be viable - were also well supported: Art Club (7), Dart team (3), Gardening Club (32), Fledglings (12), Harvest supper (22), Ladybirds (2), Mothers Union (8), Quiz teams (13), Skittles (14). It is to be hoped that these will continue to be well supported - if you did not know about them, well you do now!

It was particularly useful to know that 30 households used the mobile book library: this can be used to influence decision-makers in any rationalisation of services.

Young persons' Clubs - Some of these take place in the Valley. These include: Beavers (3 respondents) / Brownies (2) / Cubs (2) / Woodcraft Folk (2) / Guides / Scouts (4) / Litton youth club (7) / Young Farmers (3).

Others take place outside. These include: Bridport Barracudas Swimming / Natterjacks swimming lessons / West Dorset Warners Swim Club (3) / Bridport Youth Centre / Christian Fellowship Church Club / Vampire game club / Maiden Newton / Dorchester Athletics Club (3) / Dorchester Football club (4) / Zest.

(Where no figure is given, only one respondent mentioned the club or society)

Comments regarding other hobbies included the following: *"In my spare time I like to meet with my friends, go shopping. I'm quite creative so enjoy art and writing. I also like reading. / art / music / dog agility training / visiting playing field / park / climbing frame / writing / keyboard lessons / drama"*.

Future clubs - In relation to any possible groups / events that may be added to the above, craft fairs had most support (54 respondents), with film shows (50) and keep-fit classes (43) also popular. The latter could perhaps incorporate exercise for older people (24). Or could it be combined with Yoga (34)? The other popular classes were computer training (43) and language classes (32). Other viable groups include a history / family history group (31) and a natural history society (32). The Christmas party group (29) may increase in size towards the festive season, and finally a book club (28). The other groups may well depend upon numbers - these are: Dancing classes (17), Music classes (12), Pantomime (23), Pet show (14), Table tennis (14), Whist drives (11), and a Women's Institute (13).

Many of these ideas may help to increase use of the Church Hall - its use as a venue for private parties is also supported (37 respondents). The majority of the respondents wanted a management committee for the Church Hall representing the users of the Hall (123). It should be noted that a change in the management structure will not affect the ownership of the Hall. It was felt that this would lead to increased use of the Hall (103). There were some concerns about the expense of this, and a feeling that costs should be covered by the users of the Hall. Two replies stated that we need a new Hall or that the existing Hall needed to be totally modernised.

Outdoor events - There is also some support for outdoor events: 51 people said they would take part in hikes / rambles, 38 in a treasure hunt and 22 for tennis. However only 12 people gave support for a sports day, which makes this seem unlikely.

Shopping -

The following table shows the variety of outlets and support for local foods.

	Puncknowle		Swyre		West Bexington		Total	
Abbotsbury Butchers	26	25%	9	24%	14	29%	49	26%
Gorselands caravan site shop	5	5%	9	24%	6	13%	20	11%
Linda's café at West Bexington	31	30%	11	30%	26	54%	68	36%
Milk deliveries	52	50%	13	35%	22	46%	87	46%
Modbury Farm shop	69	66%	26	70%	19	40%	114	60%
Paper deliveries	57	54%	21	57%	27	56%	105	55%
Tamarisk Farm	9	9%	6	16%	20	42%	35	18%
The Fish Wife van	12	11%	5	14%	7	15%	24	13%
Vurlands eggs	40	38%	20	54%	18	38%	78	41%

Other sources of local food and services include:

- Ashley Chase Cheese / Bryan Myrtle (veg deliveries) / Jarvis Dairy products / Long Horn Beef from Little Bredy
- Burton Bradstock Post Office / Burton Bradstock shop / Hive café
- Clive the Sweep / Coal Man / Oil Delivery
- Crown Inn / Manor Hotel / The Bull
- Grass and hedge cutting

A significant number of respondents supported the idea of a Post Office and there was backing for a general store. Comments included that it would be dependent upon the availability of an appropriate venue and its long-term economic viability, but that there are examples of communities running such amenities that could be used as a model. That it would need to be well-stocked and open late, but could perhaps be combined with the Post Office in one of the pubs in the Parish. 32% of people supported the introduction of a cash machine, comments included: this would again be dependent upon the availability of an appropriate venue, and concerns were expressed about the charges levied for using it and its security.

	Puncknowle		Swyre		West Bexington		Total	
A general store	54	51%	16	43%	22	46%	92	48%
A local farmers' market	46	44%	12	32%	23	48%	81	43%
A mobile shop	25	24%	7	19%	16	33%	48	25%
A Post Office	86	82%	24	65%	35	73%	145	76%

The Bride Valley information leaflet (backed by 43% of respondents) could include a shoppers' guide, with contact details for all the above sources. A farmers' market (also supported by 43%) could perhaps be combined with the craft fair (see above) and designed to enable local residents to offload some of their surplus produce.

However, people do venture out of the valley: the main retail centre is Bridport, where 72 people do their shopping, followed by Dorchester (23) and Weymouth (9), with one person going to Yeovil.

The use of other shopping avenues is quite limited. Other places used included:

- Cash and Carry in Weymouth
- Local markets
- Makro in Poole

Computer facilities - A small majority of households in the Parish have access to a computer, with Swyre having the highest level of access.

	Puncknowle		Swyre		West Bexington		Total	
Yes	54	51%	25	68%	22	46%	101	53%
No	47	45%	12	32%	23	48%	82	43%
Unanswered	4	4%	0	0%	3	6%	7	4%

This led to 76 people stating that we did not need internet access in a public place, with 46 thinking it would be useful. Of those who had a computer, 70 would like access to broadband with 40 saying no. One person said that they already had a broadband connection.

Post boxes and telephone boxes - In total, throughout the Parish, 186 people use one or more local post boxes. The responses given regarding telephone box use demonstrated their importance as emergency facilities.



Playing fields - There was little support for a children's park / play area in West Bexington (20%). One person pointed out that the Manor already has one. The play area in Puncknowle was predictably used most by Puncknowle residents (39%) compared with Swyre (16%) and West Bexington (13%).

Improvements that were suggested for the playing field include:

- *Amenities for very young children.*
- *Big swings at other end near other equipment for easier supervision of young children in playgroup.*
- *Brighter and more welcoming play area (Burton Bradstock is a good example).*
- *Finish skateboard facilities- Trees / branches should be lopped above skateboard park- which needs a drain- for rain water? Won't big boys hit heads on branches? What about leaves dropping in Autumn onto slopes??*
- *If funding is going to be available, it would be great to construct an adventure play area for climbing etc.*
- *Mini football pitch / goals.*
- *More play equipment - e.g. a roundabout and climbing frame / Basket ball nets.*
- *More wild area and less formal facilities.*
- *Parking - real headache.*
- *Perhaps a small shed to store equipment (key to be held by nominated person).*
- *Play equipment could include tennis ball and bats, badminton sets, soft balls, removal goal posts nets etc.*
- *Regular grass cutting, re-siting of swings and slides from under trees. general tidying up.*

- *Remove old barrel- no child ever uses it.*
- *Remove skateboard area.*
- *Safety mat under roundabout.*
- *Seems a ridiculous site to us- should be in open area not under trees.*
- *Somewhere for parents to sit.*
- *Tennis court / basketball etc.*
- *The Slides get covered in bees when trees drip sap rendering it useless, also gets roasting hot- unusable / Slide under trees repaired and returned / Old slide back.*

Young persons' sports / games - The variety of sports and games reported by youngsters suggests that they manage to get to activities which are not provided in the Parish. The most popular by far was swimming (twenty-four), followed by cycling (sixteen), cricket (sixteen) and football (thirteen).

Some activities obviously take place in school such as athletics (fifteen), hockey (five), and netball (two). Others could take place at school or at other venues such as: badminton (nine), basketball (nine), handball (two), ten-pin bowling (one), ice skating (one), rounders (two), dance (one), ballet (two), gymnastics (one), tennis (ten), martial arts (one), table tennis (six), rugby (seven) and motorcycling (four). Others mentioned include: snooker / jumping and crawling / climbing / archery

Water sports were also covered, including: canoeing (six), windsurfing / surfing (four), sailing (five) and scuba diving (one).

Some activities are provided for within the Bride Valley - these include: skateboarding (eight) horse riding (seven) mountain boarding (six), fishing (three) and golf (three). Other activities included snooker, 'jumping and crawling', climbing and archery.

Thirdly, people wanted shorter more concise meetings.

- *Preparation by councillors. More focussed discussion.*
- *Shorter meetings / dull business at end.*
- *Sticking close to the agenda / better minutes / more focused chairing.*
- *The meetings are extremely boring and unnecessarily protracted.*

Fourthly, involvement could be encouraged through refreshments / friendlier atmosphere / less formality.

- *A raffle draw at the end of the meeting, fund shared between parish and winners, only people at meeting entitled to take part in draw.*
- *An informal get to know you evening / evenings.*
- *Bar / provide refreshments (tea, coffee, biscuits). Tea and cakes; beer, wine and sandwiches available.*
- *Occasionally include half an hour or so with light refreshments when people might mingle and meet the councillors.*

Finally, people wanted to feel that they could take part in the meetings.

- *Display boards: display information for discussion. A poster on the gate of the Hall with a clear agenda to grab interest.*
- *Encourage public interest by having a board up asking for requests for discussion at next meeting...*
- *Guest speakers*
- *Having open session at beginning of meeting. More opportunity for public participation.*
- *If there was an opportunity for public comment / debate; if new opinions were listened to politely; if there was more attempt generally to welcome villagers. If more involvement of the public was possible. If people thought matters they believe in would be discussed and considered.*
- *More communication between council and electors.*
- *Some new council members, who would bring some fresh ideas to an old-fashioned council.*
- *To have more people on the committee that represents the village.*

There was a recognition that perhaps people only attend when there is something controversial to be discussed:

- *Nothing- there are those that will go to meetings, but generally very few. In my view nothing has changed. If the local farmer put in for planning for 1000 houses the meetings would be very large I suspect!!*
- *Try putting overhead power lines underground / controversial plans / raise contentious issues.*

Perhaps this answer sums it all up:-

Maybe the most important message is to "develop a feeling of community - involvement therein". More community activities first which would encourage interest in what is happening within the village.

Miscellaneous subjects

These are responses made in the additional information section.

The beach -

- *Bigger 'dangerous for swimming' sign.*
- *Free car parking at West Bexington for Parish residents. Free passes for windscreen perhaps.*
- *I feel the amenity of the beach would be greatly improved for all if there was more rigid enforcement of the no fishing in front of the car park rule (recent use of tents and windbreaks to accommodate fishermen in this area causes much annoyance). Car park issues resolved. Definite exclusion zone for fishermen in front of car park as it is impossible to use beach with two young children - cannot get near sea for danger of flying hooks.*
- *Overnight camping on car park and beach should be stopped. Dorset County Council displays a notice on the village car park saying no sleeping. This appears to be unenforceable and impossible to police. Having monitored the situation I find that many sleeping-type vehicles creep in at midnight - I have counted eleven recently in one night. The occupants use the toilets and washing facilities and often have clothes-lines with washing hung out to dry. Very early mornings those people that have stayed overnight can be seen emptying slop buckets on the beach. Many of these visitors design a holiday around Bexington car park. They often stay for two weeks at a time knowing it will only cost £2 a day and night. This practice of visitors holidaying on the car park I consider unacceptable. These are my views and I trust something can be done to alleviate the problem. The signs regarding a) overnight sleeping and b) the area on the beach to be kept free from fishermen (so small as to be unreadable) should either be removed or the regulation enforced. An unenforced regulation is worse than no regulation at all. A warning sign for bathers needs to be prominently displayed on the car park. West Bexington requires a new car park and controls to stop overnight parking / camping.*
- *The once-a-year beach clean is not enough: it should be once a month.*

Car parking -

- *Could something be done about car parking? The main street is often full and cars are now parking in Looke Lane and Hoopers Lane. Visitors to Puncknowle often complain about the danger to their own cars passing through the village. It is getting worse by the week and not only in summer time.*
- *Double parking in Church Street at weekends makes walking and driving difficult and at times dangerous.*
- *Parking on one side of street only outside of Crown Inn, Puncknowle - very tight if cars parked both sides also farm vehicles. There is no alternative parking for Church Street or people who live in the street. In the evenings especially there are a large amount of cars parked in this main street which is quite picturesque.*
- *You must solve the problem of car parking in Church Street Puncknowle. Residents parking, double parking by visitors and the exceptional width of the latest farm machinery. We are only one inch away from car damage. This is now very urgent and must not be ignored.*

Farm traffic -

- *Cleaning up mud after tractors. Farmers should be made to clear mess from the roads when they are moving waste around the village.*
- *Our biggest worry and inconvenience in the village is the increasing use of the road by large farm tractors and equipment. They are so large that they plough into banks and verges when passing other traffic. Slurry and other solid matter, grass for silage and bulk feed is constantly passing our home. Also slurry causes unacceptable smells for days. As we get older and less alert we are in fear of going outside our property for days at a time. We enjoy seeing farming in the country, but with the large size of farm equipment does it not become essential that a private farm track is used instead?*
- *Persuade tractor drivers to drive slowly, as when transporting cows at all times.*
- *The relationship between parked cars and the ever-increasing width of farm machinery.*

Speed limits -

- *20mph speed limit in the village (Puncknowle). Road name signs should be installed ASAP. On the roads make more viewpoints and lay-bys for the visitors to use and mark them clearly, encourage them to use the feature. Hopefully this will clear the road a bit and make it easier for others to get from home to work etc. with a little less frustration. Farmers pull over when they hold up traffic so why can't tourists?*
- *A speed limit of 30mph is needed for the village (Puncknowle) due to the excess speed of cars and large farm machinery, particularly in Rectory Lane. However, too many signs spoil the appearance of a village. It would be better to put markings on the road stating the speed limit rather than lots of signs within the village. A road name sign is needed for Rectory Lane due to caravans and delivery vehicles getting lost and driving through Church Street in error when they do not see a name sign for Rectory Lane.*
- *Dangerous overtaking near Sea Fret occurs on the bend there.*
- *I would never like to see double yellow lines, speed restriction signs or pavements in Puncknowle - the absence of these keeps the village what it is.*
- *More frequent edging of road verges (of sufficient distance out from road) on coast road. Specifically near Clay Lane and coast road junction. Where the old road joins and between lay-bys further up to Abbotsbury. Many dangerous near misses occur near here. 50 mph speed limit is not adhered to.*
- *Positively no road humps for any reason whatsoever through West Bexington.*
- *Proper and regular maintenance of all road signs.*
- *The road which has become a racing course for huge tractors with slurry trailers and people chasing through with no thought for the permanent residents.*
- *Very doubtful about desirability of 30 mph speed limit on the main road - different issue entirely through Swyre village.*
- *We would like something to be done to improve the safety of drivers at the Swyre / Puncknowle corner, if only signs denoting sharp bend at either side.*
- *We would like to see a 30mph speed limit in the village (Swyre) with entry signs on posts and the rest of the roads marked instead of signs in between.*

Other issues -

- *A First Response medical team in the villages would allay some of the fears of our elderly neighbours.*
- *Confusion over where Clay Lane starts. 15 years ago two workmen appeared and installed the name board at the old school building. In fact Clay Lane always began at the Post Office (now closed). The PO was number 1, we were number 2 and our neighbour (on the east side) was number 3. Houses lower down had names and were in Church Street.*

Conclusion

Some people raised concerns about the usefulness and confidentiality of the questionnaire. A couple of people have indicated through their comments that they do not feel part of the community or are unable to take part due to exclusions such as age or illness or caring for elderly partners or relatives. Others felt that maybe such "improvements" would alter the character of the villages in the Parish for the worse. A comment was made that *"It is important that the results of the questionnaire does not lead to unattainable goals (largely on economic grounds) being sought"*. It is to be hoped that - despite such concerns - the questionnaire will stimulate discussion, and that a few of the projects / ideas indicated will come to fruition and hopefully will contribute to the community we live in.

We would like to thank all those who filled in the questionnaire and Samuel Simon for his help in providing the statistics.

This report can be found on the Puncknowle website

www.puncknowle.org.uk.

Appendix 1 - additional tables not used in the main report.

§1 Housing

1.4 Is your dwelling

	Puncknowle	Swyre	West Bexington	Total	
Housing Association rented	2			2	1%
Occupied by virtue of employment	6	1	2	9	5%
Owner-occupied	90	31	42	163	86%
Privately rented	3	4	1	8	4%
Shared equity		1		1	1%
Other	1		1	2	1%
Unanswered	3		2	5	3%

§2 Environment

2.1 Has anyone in your household walked a footpath in the last month?

	Yes	No	Response level
Puncknowle	80	18	93%
Swyre	33	3	97%
West Bexington	38	8	96%
Total	151	29	95%
	84%	16%	

2.2 Were you satisfied with the condition of the footpath?

	Yes	No
Puncknowle	58 (72%)	22
Swyre	30 (91%)	3
West Bexington	28 (80%)	7
Total	116	32
	78%	22%

2.3 Are you satisfied with the condition of the footpaths in general?

	Yes	No
Puncknowle	58	12
Swyre	27	2
West Bexington	28	5
Total	113	19
	86%	14%

The similarity of these two questions reduces the value of the second. The response was very similar with a few less people bothering to answer the second.

2.4 To improve our local environment which of the following initiatives would interest you?

	Puncknowle		Swyre		West Bexington		Total	
A GM Free Parish	43	41%	17	46%	26	54%	86	45%
A kerb side recycling scheme	69	66%	17	46%	30	63%	116	61%
Enforcement of speed limits	48	46%	22	59%	27	56%	97	51%
Installation of mains gas supply	42	40%	8	22%	10	21%	60	32%
Litter bins	35	33%	3	8%	11	23%	49	26%
Poop scoop bins	38	36%	8	22%	15	31%	61	32%
Provision for allotments	18	17%	5	14%	2	4%	25	13%
Radio mast free Parish	53	50%	17	46%	20	42%	90	47%
Seating around the villages	29	28%	6	16%	18	38%	53	28%
The planting of more trees	42	40%	19	51%	19	40%	80	42%

§3 Housing and development

3.1 Do you want to see the existing (Puncknowle) development boundary upheld?

Puncknowle		Swyre		West Bexington		Total	
89	94%	25	89%	30	94%	144	93%

3.2 West Bexington currently does not have a development boundary, would you like one?

Puncknowle		Swyre		West Bexington		Total	
36	86%	14	74%	31	79%	81	81%

3.3 Swyre currently does not have a development boundary, would you like one?

Puncknowle		Swyre		West Bexington		Total	
39	85%	26	81%	16	80%	81	83%

3.4 Will anyone in your household/ family require alternative accommodation in the village within five years?

	Puncknowle	Swyre	West Bexington	Total
Offspring	5	5	3	13
Parents	0	0	0	0
Myself	0	1	1	2

3.5. Please state what type of accommodation is needed and why?

This question was intended only to be answered by people who indicated that members of their household required alternative accommodation soon in question 3.4. In fact it was answered by twice as many people and used to comment on all the questions in this section.

3.6. Has any member of your family moved from the village in the last 5 years due to:

	Puncknowle	Swyre	West Bexington	Total
Accommodation needs	6	3	2	11
Lack of adequate transport	3	0	0	3
Lack of employment opportunities	3	2	0	5

One person left Puncknowle because they needed to move to an elderly person's home.

3.7 Might any member of your family moved from the village in the last 5 years due to:

	Puncknowle	Swyre	West Bexington	Total
Accommodation needs	5	2	3	10
Lack of adequate transport	2	1	3	6
Lack of employment opportunities	7	5	7	19

3.8 Given the opportunity of affordable housing would any member of your family return?

	Puncknowle	Swyre	West Bexington	Total
Yes	9	3	6	18
No	13	7	11	31

3.9 In the coming years, if the need for further development is proven what type of housing would you like to see built?

	Puncknowle	Swyre	West Bexington	Total
Affordable owner/ occupier homes	71	27	26	124
Housing association accommodation	19	7	5	31
Medium and expensive owner/ occupier homes units	18	4	10	32
Private rented accommodation	15	6	1	22

§4 Transport

4.1 How many people in your household drive a vehicle?

Number	Puncknowle	Swyre	West Bexington	Total
0	5	1	2	8
1	40	10	13	63
2	53	21	26	100
3	4	4	4	12
4	0	1	1	2
Mean	1.55	1.84	1.76	1.66

4.2 How many cars does your household have use of?

Number	Puncknowle	Swyre	West Bexington	Total
0	3	1	1	5
1	55	18	16	89
2	34	31	22	87
3	5	4	4	13
4	1	1	0	2
Mean	1.45	1.75	1.67	1.58

4.3 Would you be prepared to take part in a scheme to share private cars ?

	Puncknowle	Swyre	West Bexington	Total
Yes	10	6	19	35
No	69	18	19	106

4.4 If Yes what for?

	Daily	Weekly	Occasionally
Leisure	0	4	22
Shopping	1	12	24
Transport to work	5	5	4

West Bexingtoners are significantly more interested in this

4.5a Do you share private vehicles with other people (non- household) for any of the following?

	Every day	Occasionally
Business	1	4
Leisure	1	28
Shopping	0	25
Taking children to school/college	5	10
Transport to work	3	5

4.5b Does any member of your household experience difficulties getting to the following towns. Please tick all that apply and tick where you do your main shopping.

	Difficulties getting there				Main shopping centre			
	Puncknowle	Swyre	West Bexington	Total	Puncknowle	Swyre	West Bexington	Total
Bridport	5	1	7	13	34	15	23	72
Weymouth	6	1	4	11	8	0	1	9
Dorchester	3	2	6	11	14	2	7	23
Yeovil	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Lyme Regis	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Unanswered	0	0	0	0	48	20	17	85

4.6 Do you use the 'Dorset Country Car' service?

	Puncknowle	Swyre	West Bexington	Total
Occasionally	2	0	2	4
Not at all	76	27	34	137
Unanswered	27	10	12	49

4.10 How do you rate the bus services for your village for?

A score of 100% indicates everybody answered 'good' and a score of -100% indicates everybody answered 'poor'.

X53	Puncknowle	Swyre	West Bexington	Total
Access for the disabled	50%	13%	0%	25%
Cost	45%	22%	0%	27%
Frequency	-17%	-20%	44%	0%
Reliability	33%	22%	50%	33%
Route	10%	38%	33%	25%

210	Puncknowle	Swyre	West Bexington	Total
Access for the disabled	-45%	-71%	0%	-56%
Cost	7%	29%	100%	17%
Frequency	-62%	-50%	-100%	-63%
Reliability	42%	14%	50%	33%
Route	24%	25%	-100%	18%

110	Puncknowle	Swyre	West Bexington	Total
Access for the disabled	-83%	-60%	-100%	-79%
Cost	23%	17%	40%	25%
Frequency	-64%	-33%	-40%	-50%
Reliability	40%	40%	20%	35%
Route	-25%	0%	-33%	-24%

31	Puncknowle	Swyre	West Bexington	Total
Access for the disabled	-45%	-71%	0%	-56%
Cost	7%	29%	100%	17%
Frequency	-62%	-50%	-100%	-63%
Reliability	42%	14%	50%	33%
Route	24%	25%	-100%	18%

4.11 Dial-a-Ride bus service is for those with mobility difficulties.

4.12 Would you use such a scheme if it were available?

Puncknowle	Swyre	West Bexington	Total
8 (13%)	4 (21%)	4 (17%)	16 (15%)

4.13 Would you use such a scheme in the future?

Puncknowle	Swyre	West Bexington	Total
9 (53%)	12 (55%)	221 (78%)	62 (60%)

4.14 Would you be interested if a mini bus could take you to

	Puncknowle	Swyre	West Bexington	Total
Bridport Leisure Centre	10	5	3	18
Broadwindsor Craft Centre	3	4	1	8
Poole for shopping	23	7	3	33
Weymouth in the evening	19	4	3	26

Other suggestions included Lyme Regis, Dorchester Market, and Bridport in the evening, Shaftesbury, Salisbury, Yeovil, Dorchester in the evening and Bridport for shopping.

4.17 Do you use a bike for any of the following?

	Puncknowle	Swyre	West Bexington	Total
Yes	31	10	14	55
No	54	24	29	107
Unanswered	20	3	5	28

4.18 If yes

	Every day	Occasionally
Business	3	2
Leisure	4	51
Shopping	1	11
Taking children to school/college	0	4
Transport to work	4	5

§5 Amenities

5.1 Do you think there should be a management committee representing the users of the Hall managed by a village committee?

	Puncknowle	Swyre	West Bexington	Total
Yes	72	25	26	123
No	7	4	4	15
Unanswered	26	8	18	52

It should be noted that a change in the management committee will not affect the ownership of the hall.

5.2 Do you think this will lead to increased use of the Hall?

	Puncknowle	Swyre	West Bexington	Total
Yes	59	22	22	103
No	11	5	3	19

5.3 Which of the following activities, within the villages, do you use?

	Puncknowle	Swyre	West Bexington	Total
Art club	5	0	2	7
Church Fete	74	24	22	120
Crown Puncknowle fundraisers	51	11	15	77
Dart team	3	0	0	3
Gardening club	18	8	6	32
Fledglings	7	1	1	9
Harvest supper	18	0	4	22
Ladybirds	0	2	0	2
Mobile book library	21	5	12	38
Mothers Union	7	1	0	8
Quiz teams	7	5	1	13
Skittles	7	6	1	14
Social evenings in Church Hall	28	6	12	46
Toy library	0	0	0	0

5.4 Which of the following additional activities would you use?

	Puncknowle	Swyre	West Bexington	Total
Book Club	16	6	6	28
Christmas party	13	6	10	29
Computer training classes	21	9	13	43
Craft Fair	28	8	15	51
Dancing classes	9	1	7	17
Exercise for older people	14	4	6	24
History/family history society	15	9	7	31
Keep fit classes	30	5	7	42
Language classes	15	9	7	31
Film Shows	30	9	11	50
Women's institute	7	4	2	13
Music classes	6	2	4	12
Natural history society	16	7	7	30
Private parties	26	6	5	37
Pantomime	12	4	7	23
Pet show	8	2	4	14
Table tennis	10	2	2	14
Whist Drives	7	1	3	11
Yoga classes	17	6	11	34

5.5 Which outdoor activities would you use?

	Puncknowle	Swyre	West Bexington	Total
Hikes/Rambles	29	7	15	51
Sports day	7	5	0	12
Tennis	12	8	2	22
Treasure Hunt	27	7	4	38

5.7 If you do, would you like access to broadband?

	Puncknowle	Swyre	West Bexington	Total
Yes	34	22	14	70
No	20	7	13	40

5.8 Do we need internet access in a public place?

	Puncknowle	Swyre	West Bexington	Total
Yes	22	10	14	46
No	39	21	16	76

§6 Other amenities

6.3 Do you use?

	Puncknowle		Swyre		West Bexington		Total	
Catalogue shopping	30	29%	15	41%	15	31%	60	32%
Internet shopping deliveries	13	12%	12	32%	5	10%	30	16%
Supermarket deliveries	11	10%	6	16%	2	4%	19	10%

6.4 Which of the following additional amenities would you support?

	Puncknowle		Swyre		West Bexington		Total	
Cash point	41	39%	8	22%	12	25%	61	32%
Bride Valley information directory/leaflet	48	46%	13	35%	20	42%	81	43%

6.8 Would you like a children's park/ play area in West Bexington?

	Puncknowle		Swyre		West Bexington		Total	
Yes	16	15%	8	22%	14	29%	38	20%
No	10	10%	12	32%	22	46%	44	23%

6.9 Does your family use the play area in Puncknowle?

	Puncknowle		Swyre		West Bexington		Total	
Yes	41	39%	6	16%	6	13%	53	28%
No	39	37%	20	54%	36	75%	95	50%

§7 Parish council

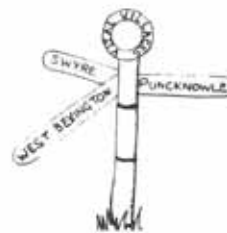
7.1 Do you attend the parish council meetings?

	Puncknowle		Swyre		West Bexington		Total	
Regularly	4	4%	2	5%	2	4%	8	4%
Occasionally	37	35%	5	14%	14	29%	56	29%
Never	59	56%	25	68%	28	58%	112	59%

7.2 If not, is this because

	Puncknowle		Swyre		West Bexington		Total	
You are satisfied with the work they do	29	28%	19	51%	16	33%	64	34%
You believe what they discuss does not affect you	3	3%	1	3%	2	4%	6	3%
You find the meetings too boring	11	10%	5	14%	6	13%	22	12%

Vital Villages



Summary

The Vital Villages scheme is run by the Countryside Agency to provide funding for projects proposed by villagers. Grants have already been given to 1400 village-based schemes across England. This summary outlines the results of the Vital Villages Questionnaire posted to all residents of Puncknowle, Swyre and West Bexington during July 2003. The VV Questionnaire was designed to explore whether there was any support for more services / organisations / clubs in the Parish. The return rate for the questionnaire was 81% in Puncknowle, 80% in Swyre and 67% in West Bexington. A more detailed Report can be found on the Puncknowle website www.puncknowle.org.uk and is available to read from parish councillors, the Bull and Crown and the mobile library and local shops. You will also be able to read it at the launch of the findings at the Church Hall 10.30-12.30am and 6-8.00pm on Saturday 18th October 2003. Come along and discuss what comes next, with refreshments provided.

Household details

- 16% are under 18.
- 50% of people are aged from 18-60.
- 34% are over 61.
- The average length of residence was 16.9 years.

Housing and development

- 86 of householders live in owner-occupied accommodation.
- 5% of dwellings are occupied by virtue of employment.
- 4% are privately rented.
- 2% live in Housing Association houses and shared equity accommodation.

There is a small, but obviously important, need for accommodation for offspring. The main concern was the need for low-cost housing, particularly for affordable starter homes, and this type of development was given most support. There were also concerns that previously-built social housing had later been sold, and about the impact of second / holiday homes.

However, when asked how many houses should be built in their village:-

- 52% said none and 25% said 1-5.

In relation to where any development should take place, if there was a proven need, people preferred small sites around their village (58%).

Employment

The lack of employment opportunities was stated by some respondents as a reason why some members of their household had left the villages.

- 41% state they are retired.
- 33% are employed.
- 18% are self employed.

Young person's sports / games - Our youngsters play a variety of sports. The most popular are:

- 24 - go swimming.
- 16 - cycle and play cricket.
- 13 - play football.
- 16 - do water sports.
- 15 - athletics.
- 10 - play tennis.
- 9 - play badminton and basketball.
- 8 - go skateboarding.
- 7 - play rugby and go horse riding.
- 6 - play table tennis and go mountain boarding.
- 5 - play hockey and 2 netball and hand ball and rounders.
- 3 - do dance / ballet and go fishing and play golf.

There were many suggestions for improvements to the playing field in Puncknowle.

Parish Council

- 59% of parishioners never attend Parish Council meetings.
- 29% do occasionally.
- 4% are regular attendees.
- 34% of respondents are satisfied with the work the Parish Council does.
- 12% find the meetings too boring.
- 3% of people believe that the matters discussed do not affect them.

What would make more people attend?

- The first set of comments suggested that this is a universal problem for all decision-making bodies.
- The second set follows on from above - people wanted to be more informed about the actual meetings themselves.
- Thirdly, people wanted shorter more concise meetings.
- Fourthly, involvement could be encouraged through refreshments / friendlier atmosphere / less formality.
- Finally, people wanted to feel that they could take part in the meetings.

But maybe the most important message is to "*develop a feeling of community - involvement therein*". More community activities first, which would encourage interest in what is happening within the village.

Miscellaneous subjects - A number of other issues were raised. These included:

- The beach- safety and overnight parking/ transport issues such as-car parking, farm traffic, speed limits/ First Response Medical Team

Conclusion - Some people raised concerns about the usefulness and confidentiality of the questionnaire. A couple of people have indicated through their comments that they do not feel part of the community or are unable to take part due to exclusions such as age or illness or caring for elderly partners or relatives. Others felt that maybe such "*improvements*" would alter the character of the villages in the Parish for the worse. A comment was made that "*It is important that the results of the questionnaire does not lead to unattainable goals (largely on economic grounds) being sought*". It is to be hoped that - despite such concerns - the questionnaire will stimulate discussion, and that a few of the projects / ideas indicated will come to fruition and hopefully will contribute to the community we live in.

Thank you for all those people who took the time to fill in the questionnaire.