



# PARISH PLAN

for Upper Marshwood Vale

Bettiscombe

Stoke Abbott

Pilsdon

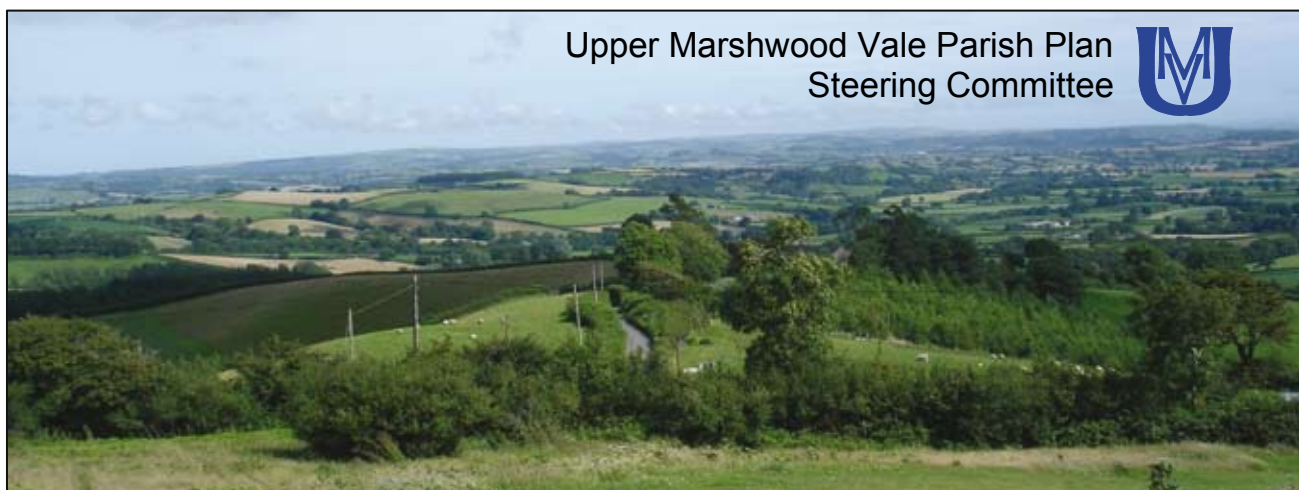
Marshwood



## INDEX

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INTRODUCTORY LETTER FROM THE STEERING COMMITTEE	1
PROFILE OF OUR PARISH	2
PARISH PLAN:	
OUR OBJECTIVES	3
THE PROCESS	4
OUR HEALTH AND WELFARE:	
THE ELDERLY	5
THE AGE CONUNDRUM	6
OUR HOUSING	7
OUR ENVIRONMENT AS WE EXPERIENCE IT	8
PUBLIC TRANSPORT	9
CONDITIONS OF OUR ROADS	10
SAFETY ON OUR ROADS	11
SAFETY AND SECURITY FOR PEOPLE AND PROPERTY	12
COMMUNICATIONS	13
OUR VALE AND OUR FUTURE	
APPENDECES	15
APPENDIX 1	WHAT YOU TOLD US - SURVEY RESULTS SUMARISED
	16
APPENDIX 2	YOUR WIDER VIEWS OF OUR VALE
	22
APPENDIX 3	ABOUT RESIDENTS, THEIR HOMES AND JOBS
	24
APPENDIX 4	YOUR STEERING COMMITTEE
	YOUR PARISH COUNCIL
	INSIDE BACK COVER
	INSIDE BACK COVER
APPENDIX 5	YOUR CONTACTS
	OUTSIDE BACK COVER



Dear Resident,

Here is your Parish Plan.

After a brief background to Upper Marshwood Vale, we set out how we created the Plan at the heart of which are reports on nine areas of our life in our vale. These are based on what you told us in the survey and for each we propose actions to improve matters or take us forward. Some will need action by your Parish Council, others will need your co-operation, however this Plan tells us all what we want for the future and, we hope, how we can achieve the improvements we all seek.

We have taken our time.

This means your concerns have been carefully researched, wishes surveyed in depth and outlook painstakingly compiled to reflect the wishes of residents the Upper Marshwood Vale and what we think we need.

It is from these problems, concerns and ideas that we have tried to draw up 19 specific recommendations that now have the approval of our Parish Council who have just endorsed the Plan.

Finally there are summaries of the survey results question by question along with your answers on quality and feelings as well as dislikes and concerns. These should provide real evidence for our council officials to appreciate exactly what we who live in the Upper Marshwood Vale really want.

Our timing has been most fortunate; this Parish Plan is a prime example of the 'collaborative democracy' that the new government is starting to enact. So now your Parish Plan has far more influence than we could have imagined when we started since county and district councils now give as much, if not more, weight to our expressed wishes as to guidelines and policy.

Even so, the real success of this Plan is now in your hands. Please join in to push for things you feel need to happen.

Your Parish Plan Steering Committee



## PROFILE OF OUR PARISH

### A BEAUTIFUL UNSPOILED VALLEY IN THE HEART OF WEST DORSET, THE PARISH OF UPPER MARSHWOOD VALE INCLUDES THE CHURCH PARISHES OF BETTISCOMBE, STOKE ABBOTT, PILSDON AND MARSHWOOD

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Dorset's geology is amongst the most remarkable in the British Isles and the Upper Marshwood Vale is no exception. The upland ridges of Pilsdon and Lewesdon Hill are the glorious result of mounded layers of greensand while the basin or vale is the result of wearing away the original deposits of Jurassic rocks, a mixture of blue lias clay, sand and limestone deposited on the floor of what once was a shallow sea, the scoured groove forming a valley we call the Vale

This is a designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty; a soft and enfolding landscape of rounded hills, hidden hamlets with cider orchards, ancient tiny lanes banked in spring with wild flowers - daffodils, primroses and bluebells, farms patterned with ancient field systems, woods and rows of hedgerow oaks. Buzzards, falcons and ravens dominate the air and badgers, deer and foxes criss-cross the hills below.

An area larger than Exmoor and more sparsely populated, the remoteness of the vale is less evident than in the past but the roads are still narrow and it retains its tranquillity, which is highly prized by residents.

Settlements have existed here over many centuries - the evidence is all around us. On the western edge is Lambert's Castle, an Iron age settlement now protected by The National Trust and once the site of a country fairs and horse races. Evidence of Roman occupation can be found in a small fort at Waddon Hill, just above Stoke Abbott, whilst Iron age earthworks on Pilsdon Pen, are said to have been used for rituals concerning the passage of the dead to the next world from what is the highest point in Dorset at 909 feet above sea level. It was at times occupied as a settlement and later in Mediaeval times became useful as a rabbit farm or burrows.

The remains of Marshwood Castle, built in the 13<sup>th</sup> century as a hunting lodge by William de Mandeville still stand guard to the south of the parish. But Marshwood then was not a quiet backwater; so important were both the family and the hunting that the 'Honour of Marshwood' was deemed the most important in all Dorset.

Pilsdon Manor, now a sanctuary and religious community, dates from the Tudor period. Occupied by a Royalist family during the Civil war, it was ransacked by parliamentarians looking for Charles who eventually became King Charles II.

On the valley floor below Pilsdon, Shave Cross has been the location of an inn for 700 years. The inn, which still stands, has an ancient bowling alley and is named as the stopping place where pilgrims on their way to the shrine of St Whyte in Whitchurch Canonorum paused to smarten up and get their heads shaved.

In the 1800s, the area was home to many prisoners of the Napoleonic wars, who were used to plant all the hedges many of which still thrive today.

The village church at Bettiscombe was known as a smugglers haunt while Bettiscombe Manor was the home to the Pinney family who made their fortune as traders and plantation owners in the island of Nevis in the West Indies. The house in its beautiful setting below Pilsdon along with the whole farming community of Bettiscombe is supplied with water from an abundant natural spring said to have been sacred to the druids.

The airspace above the vale was used for military training of pilots in the 1940s, a practice that continues today to the alarm of flocks of sheep and prize dairy cows on the hills below.

## PARISH PLAN: OUR OBJECTIVES

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The aim of the Plan is to put forward the concerns, issues and recommendations raised by the residents of the Upper Marshwood Vale Parish to the local authorities.

Thus our Plan will be taken into account by West Dorset District Council in the preparation of their Community Plan.

Our Plan should also bring together people who have a common interest in a particular issue or subject.

The results of the survey will enable any requests for funding for any particular project to be supported by the evidence of the responses.

The Upper Marshwood Vale Parish Council has approved the Plan permitting action on the recommendations made.

This will enable the plan to be regularly reviewed and for liaison with the various authorities and services provided to take place.

By adopting the plan the Parish Council recognises the concerns of their residents and make representations to the District or County Councils and the Bridport Local Area Partnership.

Some of the issues raised can be addressed by the residents of the parish and means should be encouraged to co-ordinate those activities.



Sea frets reach Bettiscombe

## PARISH PLAN: THE PROCESS

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As a result of a presentation to Upper Marshwood Vale Parish Council by Dorset Community Action it was decided to initiate the procedures to prepare a Parish Plan.

A public meeting was held at Bettiscombe Village Hall in November 2008 to determine the interest of the residents. At this meeting various issues and concerns were raised that could be included in the Plan. A steering group was formed comprising of 11 volunteers and 2 parish councillors.

With guidance from Dorset Community Action, funding for the production of the plan has been obtained from West Dorset District Council with a grant of £2,335 and the Parish Council with a grant of £150.

It was agreed that maximum awareness of the Plan was important and a single page news sheet was produced to advise residents that a questionnaire would be distributed and to seek subjects of concern to residents.

This was delivered to every household in the Parish. A website was designed and put on line as <http://www.umvparishplan.org.uk/> to further explain what was being done and to seek comments and views.

A wide-ranging questionnaire was prepared to determine the demographics of the Parish and to cover as many likely issues and views as possible.

It was agreed that all the information received from the questionnaire should be anonymous. Only those volunteering help or seeking to partake in a project should be put in touch with like-minded residents.

A draft plan was sent to the Parish Council for additions and amendments when the plan was finally approved ready for printing and distribution to every household in the Upper Marshwood Vale. The Parish Plan will also be presented to residents at a public meeting, details to be advised.

The number of properties in the Vale detailed by the West Dorset District Council was 305. Our survey was hand delivered by the team to each household. In the course of these deliveries it was determined that at least 44 properties were second homes or holiday lets where the survey would be irrelevant, leaving 261 homes. The same team collected 215 completed survey.

## ADDENDUM – MARSHWOOD STORES

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When this plan was adopted, councillors added a small number of relatively minor concerns that have been incorporated in the plan in the appropriate reports.

However one point made was much more important – support of the Marshwood Stores, the facility that 80% of residents consider the most important to retain.

Originally your committee felt that the shop, which is closely linked to the Marshwood Garage, was a family business so should not be part of the Plan. Now both the survey and Parish Council tells us that it is so important that it must not be ignored.

Proprietor, John Walther has sacrificed his retirement to keep the Post Office open, milk and papers delivered and the stores running. But in our small community, all of these are under threat.

Loss of the shop as at Thorncombe would be a disaster for our community. Yet that situation also shows, there are positive long-term possibilities.

To avoid getting to that situation more people need to use the shop and other services more widely.

As John himself comments: “Use us or lose us.”

## OUR HEALTH AND WELFARE: 1 - THE ELDERLY



The age profile in the South West is changing. Our rural and coastal areas are attractive to people retiring. As a result, the over 50s account for almost all the population growth in the ten years up to 2004.

Over the next five years it is estimated that this age group will represent over 40% of the population.

The results of the survey showed that, of the residents that indicated their age group, some 89 were in the 41-65 age group, and that 95 were over 66. Continuing deterioration of this profile is a substantial issue crucial to the healthcare and wellbeing of our residents.

Not everything is negative, some of the incomers have professional or life skills that become of benefit to a wider community.

Due to the geography of the Parish, it is necessary for residents to travel to medical services at a number of locations outside the parish. To reach your doctors surgery or to get to the dentist may require travelling between 7 – 12 miles.

The road network within the Vale means that in too many circumstances the Ambulance service would be unable to respond to an emergency within the 8 minutes target time. This is important in the event of a cardiac arrest where there can be an 85% chance of survival if medical attention can be provided within the first few minutes.

The Air Ambulance service provides essential back-up but this cannot be relied on outside of daylight hours.

Recognition of this situation has brought about the formation of the First Responders scheme. Operated by volunteers who have received training in first aid, they attend designated emergency calls made to the Ambulance Service where they can reach the incident before an ambulance.

A responder vehicle operates out of Broadwindsor and will cover the parts of the Parish that can be reached from where the duty responder is based within the 8-minute target. But even this team needs more volunteers to come forward, emphasising the urgent need for more residents from all parts of the parish to train up and help.

The South-Western Ambulance Team is willing to support the training of volunteers from Bettiscombe and Marshwood who wish to serve as First Responders to administer first aid before the arrival of medical personnel.

Dorset Partnership for Older People's Project (POPP) is a government backed scheme funded by Dorset and Dorset NHS. Within this scheme is the Wayfinder project managed by Age Concern. This aims to help older people to remain in their own homes for as long as they wish and provides a support and guidance at a local level

It makes the link between older people, over 50, who need help or information, and the agencies and services that provide them. This can range from information on welfare and pension matters to advice on social activities, transport or carer issues, through to help with problems that might arise with home maintenance.

The purpose of the scheme is to endeavour to prevent people becoming isolated and insecure and to encourage social integration.

The activities and points of contact of POPP need to be published as broadly as possible throughout the Parish





Marshwood School

With the largest age group over 65 and about 10% of adults under 40, our community is a victim of Upper Marshwood Vale's success in attracting those who are able to move home to a more desirable area.

Factors that new residents find attractive about the Vale are as many and varied as the incomers themselves and has been set out elsewhere in the Plan. But for many reasons it is older people who make up most of these incomers.

Reasonable limitations of country and village life such as the limited supply of houses at a price that growing families can afford tend to price out young people and families.

Fewer job opportunities exist in rural West Dorset.

Overall, the young can no longer afford to live and thrive in West Dorset today leaving far fewer families and worse, many less children in our communities, even amongst families who have lived in the Vale for many generations.

Historically, farming needed workers, but for over a century technology has steadily reduced the need for a substantial workforce, further contributing to the flight to the city.

Once this made available the old cottage accommodation, often to be snapped up by the recently retired, but nowadays this is no longer the case. An imbalance between the young and old, once started is hard to slow.

Yet Marshwood has a school that draws pupils from a wide catchment, but still pioneers new ideas such as the use of the local church for school assembly during the week, returning the nave to more traditional form for the congregation at weekends. Both school and church benefit from this arrangement.

Just a village school, yet it has set a standard that will be hard to sustain in the future without the support from us all that it deserves. Falling numbers of pupils is a cause for even greater concern for Parish Council and residents alike.

But beyond the schools, the nett downside for youngsters and teenagers – lack of leisure facilities, difficult work opportunities and the need to travel to the towns – is discouraging.

To rebalance our communities is not easy as there is no single or simple solution.

It is essential for the long term good of all small villages that the old policies be replaced by those across-the-board ideas that encourage a 'balanced' village. These ideas do exist but are too few, too far between and for many country-raised youngsters, too late.

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- ACTION**
- 1 **The Parish Council** to increase their support for a First Responders Team for Bettiscombe and Marshwood.
  - 2 **Interested parties** or **potential First Responders** should make themselves known to the contact shown on the back page.
  - 3 Dorset Partnership for Older People's Project (POPP) to be publicised in a proposed **future parish newsletter**.
  - 4 **The Parish Council** to identify projects and ideas to encourage the young to remain in the Upper Marshwood Vale.



## OUR HOUSING



Surveys often produce contradictions and in the area of housing our figures are, in detail, less than clear-cut. Fortunately, our wishes are clear as we accept the need for changes to our villages and affordable homes for the young are a clear preference.

But who are these young people we support –  
Young with families?  
Key workers?  
People bought up in the area?  
First homers?

Well most concerned are in several of these categories. But the high cost of houses in the Parish makes it very difficult for many in these groups to buy houses locally, forcing them to move to lower-cost areas outside the Parish.

Yet we agree that they are the future of the village. Well over half of all residents want new homes to be helpful to these groups with 88% of us considering these young people to be important to the future of the village. It is in the detail of how this is to be bought about that we are less clear.

Although West Dorset District Council take seriously the concept of affordable housing there are a number of bureaucratic concerns - Defined Development Boundaries, Centres for Growth, Sustainable Communities which

requires a shop, a school and a bus service - daily not weekly.

What this boils down to is that a small, village-scale development aimed at local young families with employment within the Parish could be possible in the largest of our villages.

Councils are rightly careful over the long-term prospects of such developments not reverting to increasingly expensive private ownership, so housing trusts are an important part of the answer.

To get a small affordable housing development in Marshwood or Stoke Abbott it would be necessary to demonstrate a need - people wanting to live in the village, sustainability - local employment, compatibility - the houses suit the rest of the village, and most of all, low cost land.

But the priority placed on affordable housing has lead to the appointment of a facilitator to ease projects through the bureaucracy. As a result, there are draft plans from Hastoe Housing Association for a possible small 6-house development in Marshwood. These are early days and much needs to be agreed, but the allocation priority would be for applicants who already live in the Parish. Moreover, all involved want the wholehearted co-operation of residents to ensure that we get what we want.

This has to reflect the new and welcome concept 'collaborative democracy' that our new government has promised to enact and means that we have as much a say in what happens to our village as the developer or the planner.

At the core of the proposals is that the 'bottom up' wishes - such as those expressed in this Plan - are now more important than the 'top down' approach that planners used to impose.

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**ACTION 5 Residents** to be encouraged to form an independent local working party to liaise with developers, planners, facilitators, Parish Council, etc., in order to get new homes which have popular approval.



We really like living here and appreciate the beauty and peace of our surroundings - this is very clear from the survey responses. We like the traditional nature of our way of life and we want it to continue. But 64% of 170 do feel that the traditional way of life and rural character of the Upper Marshwood Vale is under threat, and do not want things to change.

One of the main complaints is about careless drivers on our narrow roads, speeding cars, caravans, large lorries and oversized farm machinery. We have no pavements in our villages and our country roads, although pretty and lined with wild flowers, are narrow; however only a very few would like to see them widened. But we would like drivers to drive more carefully, and would also like to keep large lorries and caravans out of the lanes.

We almost all have at least one car, and we need these to get about, about half of us are concerned about bad driving conditions, particularly in winter, when the roads are icy, badly pot-holed or covered in mud.

Many feel that noisy low flying military aircraft are intrusive and also a cause of some worries about safety, particularly at night when they fly low over the ridge on which Marshwood village is built.

We are also concerned about protecting the beauty, character and especially the views of the Vale. We want to keep the hedgerows and oaks that give the countryside its diversity of wild life and its special character.

There is no doubt that our oaks are important to us and over 80% of the 171 who answered are worried about losing them. Similarly 69% of 144 who answered are worried about the decrease in numbers of birds, animals and insects and of plant species in the Vale.

We want more support for our farmers, especially traditional farmers and we would appreciate fewer chemicals being used. 68% out of 149 who answered are concerned about the run-off of agricultural chemicals (including hormones) into our water-sources. However 80% of 168 who answered are worried or concerned that farm machinery is getting too big.

Walking is the most popular pastime by far as residents and tourists alike enjoy our own vale but the state of footpaths, in particular the 'pixie' style signposts and lack of markers cause more disquiet than blocking by mud, livestock or deliberate action. We expect council officials and walkers organisations to play the major part in maintaining and improving these paths

Light pollution is not major concern, but it disturbs some people and most people do not want to add to it with street lighting in villages.

Another significant concern is the number of second homes, which can stay empty for long periods. We do not like living beside empty properties. It is more acceptable if the owners take an interest in local activities and try to integrate with a close-knit community.

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- ACTION**
- 6 **The Parish Council** should demand 'Not suitable for heavy vehicles' signs in the lanes.
  - 7 **Residents** to create a working group to initiate a programme of oak tree planting in the Vale.

## PUBLIC TRANSPORT



Nick takes his 42 bus through Stoke Abbott

Until recently only one daily bus serviced the Upper Marshwood Vale: the 42 (from Mike Halford Mini Coaches) still runs three times a day from Drimpton to Bridport. Some days it diverts to and stops at Stoke Abbott. Now the first bus of an existing daily service to Chard from Thorncombe, the 14 (Stagecoach), is to be extended on schooldays only to include Marshwood. This will suit some residents but Chard is not a favoured destination.

Two more buses run a single weekly service: on Thursdays the 206 stops in Marshwood and will leave you in Axminster for about 2 hours before returning (Seward) and Saturdays-only, a 690 (Stagecoach), leaves Axminster and loops through Marshwood, Thorncombe, Bettiscombe and on to Bridport and West Bay.

Initially dial-a-ride or 'demand responsive' services concentrated on the physically handicapped passenger, before expanding their passenger lists to include the rest of us.

Axe Valley & West Dorset Ring and Ride Service actually serves all four parishes – Marshwood & Bettiscombe (zone 5) on Wednesdays and Pilsdon and Stoke Abbott (zone 3) on Thursdays. Destinations vary each week but reach as far as Dorchester, Honiton and Sidmouth, however demand is light with just one Marshwood resident regularly using their minibus service.

This is strange as 17% of Marshwood villagers told us they would like a dial-up service and 34% wanted to get on a scheduled bus. Yet overall the villages just 12% of us actually use a bus and lack of service means 69% have problems or worse.

It isn't as though buses are not available; every morning and every afternoon two minibuses call at Bettiscombe for schoolchildren only. As these buses and their drivers already operate for about an hour in the morning and again at the end of the afternoon, a useful public bus service can be fitted in between these times as many bus services elsewhere have found to everyone's benefit.

Having a bus service would make life different for a number of car drivers; several of the 65+ persuasion pointed out that having a bus service would allow them to give up their car.

You have told us where you want to get on a local bus and where you want it to go. We now know how often and at what times we want it to run. We have even been told how many want to use the service. This shows there is the need, now it is for the bus operators to work out the best routes.

Other neighbouring parishes have a choice of bus and dial-a-ride services to get their residents to the towns and back home again. All other parts of Dorset get subsidised services - only our rare 690 is subsidised - and Dorchester has a Transport Plan. Our limited bus service is in part due to our own lack of awareness of what is already available but where is the publicity in the villages themselves?

We need a bus service - we therefore suggest that those concerned join a special-interest group to carry this forward. They could try to persuade another independent minibus operator to run a route including Bettiscombe and Marshwood or work with other parish councils on a Vale-net microbus service. Perhaps a part scheduled, part dial up service a more effective way of providing a service.

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**ACTION** 8 **The Parish Council** to set up an action group to expand the number and frequency of routes.

9 To get into town, **residents** unable to use any of the rare scheduled buses should call Axe Valley and West Dorset Ring & Ride on 01404 46520 and make arrangements.



## CONDITIONS OF OUR ROADS

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**Pretty difficult**

The survey of residents' opinions revealed that over half of us regard the peace and beauty of the vale as its most pleasing aspect and the condition of the roads as its least desirable.

Nearly three-quarters of us are unhappy with the levels of 'traffic and noise', some feel that safety is threatened by vehicles 'speeding' through our villages. The 'size and speed of agricultural vehicles' give rise to concern although it is acknowledged that they are essential tools for the farming industry and that little can be changed.

There is highly unfavourable comment about the state of the 'lanes and verges', although there are signs of encouragement following the news from Dorset Highways that it is utilising a speedier process for remedial repairs to potholes. Additionally, by identifying clusters of potholes, the department will now resurface a stretch of roadway to increase the effectiveness of the repair.

Snow and flooding affect our lanes and a high proportion regard the response by the local authorities as being poor. Alternatively, local farmers should be contracted to add to the snow clearing in the minor roads such as our lanes.

The cleaning of drains is a particular issue which should be constantly addressed. The two prime locations for the risk of flooding are in Stoke Abbott and the road between Shave Cross and Broadoak.

For too long the lanes themselves have been used as part of the drainage system, a situation exacerbated by council restrictions. As a result verges are eroded leading to the collapse of the road edge and potholes and even greater expense.

The Parish Council's Adverse Weather Plan has identified a need for more grit to be supplied by West Dorset District Council, the bins to be placed strategically within the Parish.

Our Council has employed the part-time services of a lengthsman whose work will be directed by the Council. It is intended that one of the responsibilities of the lengthsman will be to identify and report on road and drainage conditions that require attention.

We need to reach the drivers who use our Vale both routinely and on holidays. With Marshwood a clear-cut danger hot-spot, drivers need to 'think village' and drive more appropriately. One suggestion is that we positively identify the start and end of the village with marker such as an open gate or a decorated stone plinth carrying a 'Welcome to Marshwood' sign.

For all our villages, we should add 'part of the Upper Marshwood Vale' to the name on their sign. But each village has its own unique identity so this too could be used to promote both 'villageness' and its nature with a short description.

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- ACTION**
- 10 **The Parish Council** should continue to urge the highways authorities to eradicate completely the regular flooding at Stoke Abbott and near Shave Cross.
  - 11 **Residents** should report problems they experience with roads or road conditions to the Highways Office - 01305 221020.
  - 12 **The Parish Council** to investigate the provision of boundary marker gates and signs, initially for Marshwood.

## SAFETY ON OUR ROADS



The two specific issues highlighted in the survey were speed of vehicles in the vicinity of Marshwood and the overburdened lanes when the A35 is blocked anywhere between Axminster and Bridport.

The B3165 connects traffic moving from the A35 towards Crewkerne and the A303. It runs through Marshwood as a two-lane road with dwellings on both sides.

There is no footway.

At one end of this stretch is a school where the stone playground wall was breached by a car which was out of control. At the other end it narrows to one and a half lanes at Eastcliff. This stretch of road was identified as being ten times more dangerous than any other in the Vale.

Many solutions have been suggested and one - the imposition of a 30 mph speed limit - has been agreed and should be in place before this Plan is published.

Other suggestions that have considerable popular support include:

- a) a paved footpath between the shop and the school

- b) speed humps at the school and narrow points
- c) chicanes
- d) permanent speed cameras
- e) flashing speed reminder lights

There was a general feeling that Marshwood was not receiving the same safety treatment from the Highways officials as other Dorset villages.

When the A35 is closed anywhere between Raymonds Hill and Miles Cross, multitudes of motorists who are unfamiliar with the area seek an alternative route through the lanes which lie to the north of the A35

Congestion is exacerbated because passing places become blocked and apart from frustrating delay, the verges are damaged by drivers unfamiliar with the location.

The survey produced several solutions, which together or separately, would assist.

These included:

- a) using diversion signs within the Vale
- b) a speedy response to removing the obstruction and re-opening the A35

The most popular solution, which would supplement the activity at the scene of the accident, was the use of electronically controlled flashing diversion displays with the information "A35 closed ahead".

A sign able to display such a message is already sited on the A30 at Honiton and addresses the eastbound traffic towards the A303. Another to be placed on the A35 at Dorchester would direct the westbound traffic onto the A37 through Yeovil and thence to the A303.

**ACTION 13 The Parish Council** should press for more stringent speed restrictions for Marshwood.

**14 The Parish Council** should approach the Highways Agency so that the potential and effectiveness of A35 signs can be properly assessed.

**15 The Parish Council** to insist that the highways authorities take further steps to introduce stronger safety measures in Marshwood.



What a load of rubbish

According to the survey of residents opinions, most of us feel safe in our homes and villages. This feeling is further evidenced by the point that only a few respondents want more street lighting. However, we feel less safe visiting local town centres after dusk.

The principal threats to property are regarded as thefts from farm buildings garages and vehicles. Well over half of those who responded to the survey do not view litter as a problem, but more than half are concerned about fly tipping.

Our opinion of the services that respond to emergencies is favourable. More than half of us agree that ambulance, fire and police services are good or reasonable, although a

fifth of older residents regard the police performance as poor.

Dorset is a safe place to live with one of the lowest crime rates in the country and Dorset Police are committed to attend an emergency within 20 minutes.

We have two Safer Neighbourhood Teams one in Beaminster and the other in Bridport. Each team comprises a constable and a support officer who respond to information received through local Farm and Homewatch schemes and those triggered by the Dorset Police community messaging service system called Ringmaster.

The Police support the creation of formal Watch Schemes that build upon the informal watch and warn arrangements between residents that have existed for generations.

The Schemes were set up using the facilities of PACT - Partners and Communities Together. The suggestion of a formal Watch Scheme has not been taken up by the Parish Council, even though Stoke Abbott and many of the neighbouring parishes have a Watch Scheme.

Nearly three-quarters of residents in the Parish would support such a scheme.

**ACTION 16** **The Parish Council** should re-consider whether setting up a Watch Scheme under the auspices of the Partners and Communities Together and the Dorset Police would benefit the community.



Marshwood village



## COMMUNICATIONS

High definition TV  
from Stockland Hill



Communications with Upper Marshwood Vale depend where precisely you live. Some get good TV reception as demonstrated by reception of Freeview High Definition transmissions from Stockland Hill. Others a short distance away cannot receive useable digital TV pictures and have to use satellite transmissions.

Similarly some of us cannot receive broadband at all even though neighbours can and do.

The unfortunate are being left behind as service seems to be patchy. But whereas if you get a TV signal, picture quality is good and most of us get the full range of channels, yet the best of our broadband signals are slow by national standards. For many slow broadband is acceptable, but for some this is a serious handicap affecting lifestyle and business prospects.

More traditional forms of community communications have come to the fore with word of mouth being both user-friendly and free. The most popular magazines and newspapers were the church newsletters reflecting perhaps their very local coverage of events.

It would seem that we like local news best, a point recognised by the Bridport News appointing village correspondents once again. But by and large the local papers cover too wide an area to be of direct interest to residents.

Add to this strong criticism of communications from all our councils and the lack of any information from our Parish Council and there

would seem to be an overwhelming case for a regular newsletter carrying village news as well as telling us what the Council is doing. For internet users this newsletter could be echoed onto a village website.

To make both media effective we should combine news, events, reportage and readers contributions with routine local information from bus times to pub menus.

Indeed, whilst there can be no one physical centre for all the four villages, a website could well become a virtual 'village shop' - a single point of reference for all kinds of local information.

Throughout the compilation of this plan it has become clear that our far-flung parish does not communicate well, if at all, with ourselves - except of course by word of mouth. Our Parish Council is one prime source of news and we need to hear what our representatives think on all the subjects of interest highlighted by our Plan - and what they are going to do about it. For their residents, other nearby parish councils put out a regular village news letters.

But the survey appears to show that the various newspapers and publications put out by District and County Councils are not well received by the ratepayers so our newsletter should be about Upper Marshwood Vale and not just information from the Parish Council.

We envisage a bi-monthly periodical and website sponsored by but run independently of the Parish Council and under the control of a editorial group representing residents.

Such a newsletter would help create a single united image for Upper Marshwood Vale rather than the four individual villages we now have.

By publicising all events in all our villages we would move outside our existing boundaries in much the same way as events at Bettiscombe Village Hall attract many from Marshwood, Pilsdon and beyond.

**ACTION 17 Interested parties** to form a working party to create and operate a basic newsletter.

**18 The Parish Council** to initiate and support the development of the web-site.

## OUR VALE AND OUR FUTURE



**Lesson to be learned from school**

Our survey had a few questions to find out what you thought on some longer-term ideas for the parish - ideas that could have happened **to** us but just might be better to be run **for** us instead.

In consulting you about windpower and other energy issues, the survey indicated that 78% of

us believe that we live in a good place for clean, local and renewable sources of power.

Many of you might have been influenced by the small wind turbine erected at Marshwood School as up to 71% of us would like our own wind turbine.

But your caution on such a complex subject was made clear by the number of residents that wanted to know more before making up their minds.

Reflecting this, your steering committee feels that this is a long term, albeit an important issue, so is unable to make specific immediate proposals other than recommending a working group to monitor the situation and report back through the proposed newsletter.

**ACTION 19 Residents** who are interested in these areas to form a special interest group (see contact on back page)

## NEXT

To start the next stage of getting an idea turned into reality or a need being fulfilled, where we make recommendations someone has to follow them through. Often this will be your parish council, sometimes it is for other interested parties to carry through so contact names have been given on the outside back cover for you to phone, write to or e-mail.

Please do so and help us to help our Vale.



**Bettiscombe village hall and church**

# APPENDICES

## APPENDIX 1

LISTS THE SURVEY QUESTIONS AND THE MOST POPULAR ANSWERS YOU GAVE US.  
IT IS A FAIR GUIDE TO WHAT OUR COMMUNITY THINKS WITHOUT GETTING  
DEEPLY INTO THE STATISTICS!

WHERE APPROPRIATE AND IN PARTICULAR WHEN THE SURVEY ASKED GENERAL  
QUESTIONS OF A QUALITATIVE NATURE, WE SET OUT YOUR ANSWERS SO THIS  
APPENDIX REPRESENTS YOUR OWN IDEAS, THOUGHTS AND COMMENTS.  
SET IN ITALICS, THESE ARE SHOWN AS YOU TOLD US ALTHOUGH GROUPED  
TOGETHER WHEN EXPRESSING SIMILAR COMMENTS. WE HAVE ONLY  
ABBREVIATED OR SIMPLIFIED WHERE NECESSARY.

## APPENDIX 2

GENERAL QUESTIONS ABOUT OUR LIKES, DISLIKES, CONCERNS AND WISHES, THAT  
ASKED YOU TO TELL US WHAT YOU THINK, WANT, WILL DO, OR WORRY ABOUT.

## APPENDIX 3

A FEW MORE QUESTIONS ABOUT RESIDENTS THEIR HOMES AND JOBS.

## APPENDIX 4

LISTS THE STEERING COMMITTEE RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS PLAN  
AND THE PARISH COUNCIL THAT COMMISSIONED IT.

## APPENDIX 5

IS FOR THOSE WHO WANT TO FOLLOW UP IDEAS OR PROJECTS AND LISTS BOTH  
INITIAL AND USEFUL CONTACTS FOR EACH SUBJECT.

IF YOU GET IN TOUCH WITH THESE INITIAL CONTACTS, YOU WILL BE TO GET  
INVOLVED WITH OTHERS WHO SHARE - OR DISAGREE - WITH YOUR INTERESTS.  
THIS WILL HAPPEN ALONGSIDE THOSE WHO HAVE ALREADY GIVEN US THEIR  
DETAILS IN THE RETURNED SURVEYS.



## WHAT YOU TOLD US - SURVEY RESULTS SUMARISED

### What sort of home do you live in?

#### What kind of housing is needed in your community?

48% of us live in a detached house, with 18% in a bungalow, 13% in semi-detached houses and 12% in a cottage.

But in our villages, the homes we just prefer are 'Local Authority/Housing Association rented' rather than 'rented' homes with 'restricted sale to local people' third. 'Owner occupied' and 'private' houses are close but the differences are very small.

### How important is the provision of low cost or subsidised housing to the future of my parish?

Most of us agree this precept by rating it as 'essential to parish' or 'important'.

### If affordable or subsidised homes become available locally, who should have priority access?

Overall 'People brought up in the area' lead 'young families'; 'key workers' & 'first homers' 'other locals' all get similar scores save for Marshwood which rates first homers as 2<sup>nd</sup> equal.

### If too many second or holiday homes change a village, councils should be able to:

Councils should 'allow sale to locals only', or 'restrict as a change of use' equally with the concession of 'permit up to an agreed limit' next in popularity. More disagree with such actions, find them irrelevant, or have no opinion.

### In which leisure activities do members of your household regularly participate and where do these take place?

Walking locally and around Bridport or Lyme tops this list, with cinema or theatre-going in Bridport, Lyme & Yeovil next, then attending parish or Bridport-based clubs or groups. Others: *Swimming - 6, Sailing, - 4, Yoga - 2, Tai Kwon Do, Spiritual development, Choral Soc, Pubs, Golf, Dancing, WI, Wildlife & Church functions.*

### What new clubs, sports or recreational facilities would you use if they were available in the community?

Adult Education is more popular than Local History with Theatre/drama club ahead of Bingo and other games for our approval. Others: *Kitchen garden club, Bridge club, Latin Dancing, Children's entertainer & Business financial advice.*

### If local employment is important for a balanced community, should we encourage:

Reflecting our support for the countryside, you have rated 'Training to replace lost rural skills' just behind 'Rural-based activities' but well ahead of 'Home-based work opportunities'.

### What practical measures could our councils adopt to improve the prospects of local business?

Similarly support of 'traditional country skills' was just topped by the provision of 'grants for rural and home-based' jobs. The domination of the supermarkets pushed 'curbs to their power' into 3<sup>rd</sup> place, while 'lower business rates' and 'Reduce red tape' are the next most popular.

### Should tourism be encouraged, if so how can this be achieved?

We think that to 'Keep the rural quality, character & environment' is most important, with 'Keeping NT & other open spaces attractive to both people and dogs' the next priority, ahead of 'Better road & lane cleaning'.

Other ideas proposed: *Roads better repaired - 3, Pursue fly tippers, Safe places to ride, Clear ditches, Divert Bridport's funds to UMW, Fewer dog walkers at Lamberts.*

### Would you support a meat or vegetable box scheme?

A poor response, but vegetable boxes are preferred to meat and fortnightly is twice as popular as weekly but delivery and preferred collection is unclear.

**As a local consumer would you buy from a Upper Marshwood Vale Farmers Market?**

**Are you a local producer and looking for an outlet?**

Residents replied with overwhelming support for our farmers market. A small majority wanted fortnightly market over a monthly market. Popular produce would seem to include *bread, honey, jam, cakes, pickles, dairy products, cheese, vegetables, fish, meat, eggs & poultry, cakes, fruit, dry goods, plants, flowers, local craft*. Producers from the vale indicate they would like a fortnightly event and their products would also include craft items such as pictures and cards.

**Are you a landowner with land available for use by the community?**

A small number of landowners indicated they might lease land for, in order of preference, orchards, allotments, community smallholders and small-scale meat production

**As a resident of a rural area where agriculture is the primary industry, is there anything you would like to see farmers do differently?**

Suggestions included: *Clean roads after use - 8, Cut & maintain hedges - 6, Keep paths open - 6, Direct sales from farms - 5, Organic principles for animals & crops - 5, Tractors driven more considerately - 4, More information on farming - 3, Less mud on lanes - 3, Not block footpaths - 3, Leave bigger field margins - 3, Ban hunting on land - 3, Non-intensive farming - 3, Smaller tractors/machinery - 2, Maintain drains - 2, Keep trees, Let farmers do job, they know best - 2, More grass, less maize - 2, Diversify, Produce food - not set-aside, Fewer chemicals, Reduce tractors in lanes, No stewardship, Reduce tractors in lanes, Sell locally not to large outlets, Road tax on agricultural vehicles on road, Hedge & ditch annually, Contractors to drive more considerately, Sign & gate animals on rights of way, Maintain wildflower meadows and ponds, Clear up old machinery, Hard-core field gateways, Weed-kill ragwort, Collect litter, More information on farming, Control flooding, Pay attention to paths, Improve livestock welfare, Be allowed to make a living.*

Other suggested ideas may have been tongue-in-cheek: *Bigger more industrial tractors, Covered haystacks, Hold down house prices, Think before working all hours, Plough when soil doesn't run into road, Local slaughtering, arrange event!*

**Would you have use for a community allotment?**

No.

**How concerned are you about the following?**

Traffic & noise - 70% of us are 'not happy', with nearly 30% 'seriously concerned'.

With a narrow 'lowfly' zone across the vale, aircraft noise is particularly contentious for those 43% affected mostly by the large military transports that practice low level flying. These are less noisy than some helicopters or commercial aircraft, light or leisure aircraft which only perturb a minority of residents; as does late night flying as well as light and air pollution.

'Loss of hedgerows and old field patterns' concerns 57% of us, similar to the 'number of holiday homes', 'size of farm machinery', 'chemical run off' & 'loss of oaks'. Climate change - flooding', 'welfare of farm animals', drying of water sources', 'and 'the traditional character of the vale' raise slightly fewer although still substantial concerns.

Other problems: *Military aircraft crash concern, Cat's eyes noise in Marshwood, Lay hedges, No arable land, Keep some trees, Run-off from fields, Allow homes for locals & too many buy-to-let homes, Spraying of fields, Sustainability of vale, Leave it all to farmers, Hot air balloons, Noisy quad bike and clay pigeon shoot.*



Pilsdon

**What present facilities are most important to retain?**

**What extra facilities would improve?**

Marshwood Store is by far the most wanted facility followed by Marshwood school and church. Nearby Bettiscombe hall and church draws support from both its neighbouring villages.

Applying a correction to allow for the size of each village by measuring individual need only exaggerates the shared facilities, though support for Stoke Abbott's bus service, village hall and church from other villages is less marked.

None of the 3 pubs showed the popularity that was expected with one closed at the time of the survey but subsequently re-opened.

Public transport, in the form of improvements to bus services, are close to all residents wishes with Marshwood residents dominating.

Similarly affordable housing is the next on our want list, followed by demand responsive transport such as dial-a-ride and community orchards.

**If Adult Education classes were organised in the Parish, in what would any member of your household be interested?**

**If so, where do you think would be appropriate to hold them?**

Very different subjects vied for top place before 'computer classes' beat 'cider making' with 'arts & crafts' & 'history' both equal 3<sup>rd</sup>. 'Growing vegetables', 'digital photography', 'fitness classes' and 'family tree' followed.

Language classes were requested for: *French - 9, Spanish - 5, Italian - 5, German - 2 & Latin*. *Sports in demand: Bowls - 2 & Table tennis*. Other activities: *Beekeeping - 2, Bridge, Blues music, Salsa & Drama*. Bettiscombe's village hall leads Marshwood school as the preferred venue.



Pilsdon Pen

**Where do you get information about events in your local community?**

Good old-fashioned 'word of mouth', led, by a single point, the church magazines. Being free, the Marshwood Vale magazine held off the Bridport News. Surprisingly, next came the village notice boards and the post office.

**How well do the local councils publicise their decisions and activities?**

West Dorset District Council's glossy missives came in first but with only a quarter of us appreciating their efforts. Our County Council was even less effective while our Parish Council receives 82% disapproval for their efforts.

**With advances in technology, how do you feel about masts and pylons near or in our area?**

Most of us, many reluctantly, accept the need for TV/radio, mobile phones and the TETRA emergency service masts. But for pylons, even though carrying our power, 59% of us want them replaced by underground cables (44%) or otherwise 'reduced in impact' (15%) - as has been done elsewhere.

**What are your views on the following environmental services in the 4 parishes?**

'Mains water' and 'electricity' are considered good by up to 60% of us and 'refuse collection' is rated even better; but the recycling teams have to try a bit harder. 'Road care & cleaning' is considered to be poor or non-existent by 44% of us. Winter 'floods' and 'snow service' are as poor in general but seem place-specific, worse off being Marshwood and parts of Stoke Abbott. As is the reception of new digital-only 'TV, and radio' services. Marshwood, high on its ridge facing gets OK reception although even here DAB radio is far from evenly received. Many of the rest of us seem to be reasonably happy with TV with satellite to fill gaps, but not with radio. 'Broadband': less than one in ten get a good service and half of us rate their service as poor or non-existent. 'Phone service' is reasonable or better for almost all of us but 'mobile services' are poor or worse for half the vale.



### How should these be improved?

*Faster broadband - 9, Drain cleaning - 6, Not aware of council recycling - 3, Complete new system - 3, Grit major routes, not just main roads - 3, Clean clear and repair roads more often - 2, Power supply unreliable - 2, Electricity at Stoke Abbott flickers, More recycling please, Provide wheely bins, Improve range of products recycled, Fibre Optic broadband, Better BT repair service, too many mistakes, Need cable and mobile broadband, Broadband essential for business, Upgrade exchange for faster broadband, Kids will leave home without broadband, We are a disadvantaged community, Phone mast on church please, No more phone masts, Dislike masts, More action less talk, DAB signal strength boosted, FM signal strength boost, Better reception, Mains water over-chlorinated, Dedicated team for roadside repairs, Poor roads, Snow clearing in lanes, Improve taste of water especially Stoke Abbott, Landslide at Norway Lane, Elbow Corner impassable after rain.*

### Do our lanes need better care?

Most important is 'better hedge & verge cutting', then 'longer passing places', 'need widening for large machinery' equal with 'removal of rubbish & animal bodies'.

### Good footpaths are a tourist attraction as well as a popular local pursuit; in general do you find footpaths are?

We found that more paths were 'inconsistently/partially signed' than were 'left to nature' & 'obstructed by mud'; 25% of us 'didn't walk them regularly'.

### Who should be responsible for:

We believe that the District Council should take the lead for maintaining and upgrading footpaths, stiles and gates but with the County Council providing new rights of way & access for the disabled.

Realistically, far more of us want walkers organizations to be responsible than farmers or indeed, than the parish council.

### Would a Skills Swap be of interest to you?

Twice as many turned down the offer even though the skills offered included: *Reading to the blind, Writing, Animal help, Dog walking & Baby sitting, Healing therapy & Reiki, Accountancy, Computing, Photography, French & Italian translation, Music teaching, DIY, Shopping, Horse-riding, Publicity, Ad copy & marketing, Butcher, Farmer, Paint & Decorate, Gardening, Engineering, Education, Woodwork, Walling, Fencing, Dressmaking, Business Management, Housework, Cooking, Paperwork, Legal Advice, Van removals/delivery, Cooking, and even a chef.*

### Would local youth facilities be of interest to you/your family?

With very few children in UMV, few residents asked for a youth club.

### What are your views on the standard of the following services?

As these services are parish wide, we analyzed these by age group rather than village. 'Fire services' were rated as better by the middle age group than the more elderly, but they agreed that the 'Police' provided an inferior service.

No doubts about 'ambulance' and 'air ambulanc'e provision, nor 'Paramedics' and 'NHS Direct', all of which got our approval.

'Dentists' received our approval, surprising after poor publicity for dental services.

We are more equivocal about our 'GPs', a few delivering a 'poor' rating, while for the out of hours service, the poor rating was even larger. In all these case the middle age residents were least satisfied. Many had not used 'Hospital Transport', which was as true for all the other categories so making statistics unreliable.

### Home care – if relevant to you

#### If a car service to get to your healthcare appointments was set up

Too few replied to give a realistic picture, but there are volunteers and users for a car service.

**How affected are you by?**

Good news for pedestrians, cyclists, horses & (just) motor cycles who give few problems, unlike caravans; but the speed and volume of traffic as well as narrowing lanes and few passing places generates problems for too many of us. Worse for some of us are the 'heavy lorries' and 'tractors with trailers' as they use the lanes. Some problems and even difficulties arise from flooding and slippery or icy lanes. Lack of public transport annoys 69% of us. Lack of verges, footpaths & pavements are generally lesser problems for us.

**Where do you consider the most dangerous hot spots in the Parish to be?****How dangerous do you rate these?**

You told us that six most dangerous places in UMV are next to each other within two miles of the B3165 through Marshwood. Worse, the Birdsmoorgate narrows (East Cliff) received a conservative danger rating of 111 which makes it almost ten times as dangerous as any other part of our vale. Many considered a non-specific stretch of road to be dangerous - B3164, B3162. Others specified danger spots well outside the parish - Dottery, Raymonds Hill/A35 - over which we can have little influence so these have been excluded. Not surprisingly, besides the Marshwood miles, you chose a wide variety of danger spots throughout the 4 parishes with the Stoke Abbott to Beaminster road giving flooding and other concerns.

**Do you share transport?****How many vehicles are registered at your address?**

Barely a quarter of us share transport, mostly for social or leisure reasons. 417 vehicles and 215 replies, means just under 2 vehicles per resident. However several registered many cars at their address.

**At home where do you park?****Is street parking a safety risk in your area?**

Mostly on a drive, in a garage and then 'off the road'. 62% of us consider parking to be safe in our area.

**Which of the following public transport services do you use?**

Amongst users, the train is more than twice as popular than the bus followed closely by a taxi: however by far the largest group is for non-users.

**Where would the most useful dial-a-ride service run from?**

With most residents Marshwood then Stoke Abbott, Bettiscombe and Pilsdon are the preferred starts. However, adjusting for population to indicate individual need, each Bettiscombe resident needs the service more than those from Pilsdon then Stoke Abbott before Marshwood folk.

Destinations in order of preference: Bridport, Axminster, Beaminster, Yeovil, Crewkerne & Lyme Regis.

**Where would the most useful bus service run from?**

The results are similar to the dial-a-ride question only more so: Marshwood, Stoke Abbott, Bettiscombe and Pilsdon. However with the allowance for population the needs show Bettiscombe villagers before Pilsdon, then Stoke Abbott, with Marshwood residents last.

Bridport then Axminster head the preferred destinations, Beaminster leads Lyme, now more popular than Crewkerne or Yeovil. We want a daily service leaving before 10am returning at 4pm.

**When the A35 is blocked by an accident, the police should?**

All suggestions would be welcomed by residents. Nearly three quarters of us wanting 'an effective one way route' with 'diverted traffic limited to such a route' and most of all for the 'diverted traffic to be supervised'. But more than 9 residents out of 10 want a signed long-range diversion to be set up immediately to stop the diverted traffic from flooding into Marshwood Vale.

## What measures would improve road safety on the B3165?

Most of these ideas received a better than 80% approval, chicanes to slow traffic only being wanted by 72% and speed humps relatively unpopular at 69% of users. We demanded that the road be treated as other such villages (86%), for a 30mph limit (85%), pavements (86%), and speed cameras (80%). A speed limit has been announced, but implementation has been delayed.

Other ideas proposed: *Repeater speed signs - 3, Lollypop lady, Parking area for school, Zebra crossing at school, Change drivers behaviour, More/stronger signs, Volunteers with speed gun, Widen road, Street lighting, Police speed cameras in rush hours, Police patrols.*

Not all residents agree: *Park to slow down traffic (is this legal?), Get all cars off the road, Speed cameras make drivers concentrate on their speed, 30mph too slow.*

## Do you feel....?

Our feeling of safety decreased at night and as we get further away from our homes but not to a marked degree especially if compared with surveys of other areas and in cities. Only 'garden/garage thefts' and 'threatened by fly-tipping' crept into the 'concerned' rating as all others threats, lead by 'vehicle crime' and 'litter' generated little more than 'some worries'.

## I would support:

Neighbourhood watch continues to draw our support, but regular police patrols are much (80%) more popular. About two thirds of us oppose street lighting and CCTV in public spaces.

## Wind power for the whole vale:

Residents seem to be quite happy to look ahead for our energy requirements. We think Marshwood is a good site for wind power (60%), which could reduce our bills (56%), that power from the wind at Marshwood should be distributed through the 4 parishes (41%). Half of us would like our own wind turbine. But prudently, many wanted to know more about the subject.

If these neighbours voted in the same ratios, the figures become even more clear cut: Marshwood, a good site 78%, wind would reduce my bills 76%, Marshwood power throughout the Parish 56%, and 71% would like their own turbine.

## Combined heat and power:

CHP gets 53% approval and 38% live in a village that could benefit. A fair proportion of us would like further information before deciding. Allowing for these people to make up their minds in the same ratios, approval leaps to 83% and benefiting to 68%.

## Locally grown Biofuels:

This is not clear-cut with more of us wanting to know more than decided either way, while the next largest group did not use diesel.

## Community Orchards

The idea is welcomed (69%), many want to know more but a significant number (58%) would partake.

## How fast do you rate your present broadband?

### How reliable? What problems?

As many internet users in UMV get slow (250K -1mb/s) broadband as get medium speeds (1-2mb/s) with a few getting medium speeds of 1-3mb/s, all very slow by national standards. In addition a number of residents ruled themselves out as unable to get broadband, too often with serious social or business effects.

However most of us who get broadband find it is usually satisfactory but more get an inferior service than a superior one. In such a rural area poor and slow service seem to be area related.

We mainly seem to accept the problems with how poorly most services work, but speed hungry applications such as TV and film downloads are difficult or impossible.

## APPENDIX 2

### WE ASKED YOU FOR YOUR WIDER VIEWS OF OUR VALE.

#### What do you like most about living here?

*Peace & Quiet - 62, Beauty of vale - 62, Friendly people - 31, Community spirit - 15, Unspoilt environment - 8, No neighbours, not many people - 7, Countryside - 7, Nice place - 7, Abundant wildlife - 6, Healthier living - 6, Close to beautiful coast - 5, Rural - 4, Safe environment - 4, Plenty of space - 4, Clean fresh air - 4, Country life - 3, No light pollution - 3, Good access - 3, Low crime rate - 3, Near everywhere but in countryside - 2, Location - 2, Near to family - 2, Good place to bring up children, Low population & no large towns, Privacy, Footpaths, Traditional village values, National Trust land, Used to Marshwood, Farming/agriculture, Natural History, Friendly neighbours, Close to school & church, Restaurants, Independence, Open Space, Not annoyed by surveys.*

#### What do you like least about living here?

*Condition of roads/lanes - 22, Lack of public transport - 16, Main road, Marshwood - 12, Traffic speed - 9, Too many 2nd homes - 9, Need to drive for everything - 7, Incomers who want changes - 7, Low flying aircraft - 7, Large Farm equipment - 6, Local council officials - 5, Mud & floods - 5, Poor Broadband - 4, Technological disadvantages - 3, Poor facilities - 3, Rural Crime - 3, Monoculturalism - 3, Too many new buildings & people - 3, Tractors - 3, Local councils - 3, Lack of mains gas - 2, Parking - 2, Speed of farm vehicles - 2, Isolation in winter - 2, Lack of security - 2, Caravans - 2, Incomers from SE England - 2, Road drains - 2, Emergency response times - 2, Power cuts - 2, Excessive signposting of footpaths - 2, Incomers ought to be involved in village - 2, Nosy ramblers peering in window, Lack of mains drainage, Elderly who don't welcome young families, Narrow lanes untended verges, Difficult to get emergency help, Neighbours who steal your land, My neighbour (past), Low cloud, Pub because it is a restaurant, Unemployment, Heavy clay, Some older men, Litter, Increasing population, Dampness, Incomer cliques, Silage collection, Son can't afford to live here, Walking & cycling dangerous, No pub to walk to, No bus service, No local store/Post Office, Changing values, Lack of housing, The rats.*

#### What needs protecting the most?

*Environment - 20, Way of life - 16, Countryside - 14, Habitat, wildlife & buzzards - 13, Shop - 9, Post Office - 8, Community diversity - 8, Peace & quiet - 7, Beauty of the vale - 7, Hedgerows - 6, Landscape - 6, The village - 5, School - 5, Trees - 5, Friendly people - 5, Rural life - 5, Farming as a business & a community - 4, Privacy - 4, Pace of life - 3, Birds - 3, Church - 3, Keep as it is - 3, Working village values - 3, Elderly people - 3, ANOB - 3, Work & housing - 3, Children - 2, Local services - 2, Old buildings - 2, Biodiversity - 2, Bottle Inn, Local industry, Keeping young in area, The Sick, The Disabled, Activities, Heritage, Mobile library, Greenfield sites, The planet.*

#### Should you write a wish list, what facilities would you like to see in your village?

*PO & shop - 16, Modern village hall & parking - 15, Bus service - 13, Pub reopening, 12, Speed limits - 7, Organic shop - 6, Farm shop - 6, Community pub - 4, Red phone by pub in Stoke Abbott - 4, Community shop - 4, Improved transport - 4, Better council services - 4, Pavements - 3, Youth services - 3, More owner occupiers - 3, Reduce speed through Marshwood - 2, Playground in Marshwood - 2, Daily bus service - 2, Lamberts Castle horse race & fair - 2, First responders - 2, A business association, Mobile library, Fewer lights at night, Decent pub & landlord in Pilsdon, Classes, Clean countryside, Organic vegetable growing, Pick up litter, Community allotments, Restaurants, Maintained roads, Community spirit, Parking, Fewer holiday cottages, Bus link to station, Fitness classes, Adult education, Faster broadband, Homes near to school, Improve shop, Vicarage club.*



**What steps are you prepared to undertake personally to preserve or improve your village or Vale?**

*Volunteer - 9, Help build a playground - 2, Help elderly - 2, Community Orchard - 2, Neighbourhood projects - 2, Keep wild areas - 2, Keep pub open - 2, Look after place & people, Provide land for lay-by at Marshwood narrows, Join working party/ committee, Protect wildlife, Support wind turbine, Pay taxes, Volunteer for community shop, Planning issues & community, , Wildlife, tree & hedgerow survey, First responders, Give time, Campaign to restrict buy to let homes, Campaign to reduce speed limits, Dances for youngsters, Look out for others, Support hall, Support local businesses, Stop Stoke changes.*

**I am most concerned about:**

*Traffic speed in Marshwood - 17, Traffic speed other roads & lanes - 13, Road conditions - 12, Too many 2<sup>nd</sup> homes - 8, Apathy - 6, Public transport - 6, Aircraft low & noisy - 5, Flooding - 4, Protecting AONB - 3, Diversion A35 - 3, Lack of low cost homes - 3, Traffic Accidents - 3, Helping farmers stay in business - 3. Digital reception - 2,*

*Internet access - 2, Road conditions - 2, Loss of pub - 2, Speeding tractors - 2, Developments - 2, Loss of rural ways - 2, Soil erosion - 2, Too few young people - 2, Speeding tourists who kill my cats, Aging population, Light pollution, Petty theft, Farms not up to AONB standards, Young squeezed out by incomers, Overdependence on cars, Theft of tractors, New Inn, Possible noise from the Bottle, The Bottle, Weekenders, Empty houses, Poor driving (lanes), Council tax, Restrictions on improved property, Lack of pavements, Local builders, Dental hospital services, Maintaining roads, Stopping greenfield development, Litter, Loss of local skills, Play space for children, Blocked footpaths, Monoculturalism, Anti field sports, Large vehicles, Large lorries, Lack of parish communication, Change of demographics, Crime, Being on ones own, Change, Anti field sports, Loss of peace & quiet, Lack of innovation from all 3 councils, Incompetent government - national & local.*



Stoke Abbott

## APPENDIX 3

### MORE ABOUT RESIDENTS THEIR HOMES AND JOBS

#### What are your children's age groups?

0 to 4	– 12,
5 to 11	– 8,
12 to 17	– 10.

#### What is your own age group?

26 to 40	– 22,
41 to 65	– 89,
66+	– 95.

#### Where and how long have you lived here?

You told us you lived in:

Bettiscombe	– 27,
Marshwood	– 106,
Pilsdon	– 16,
Stoke Abbott	– 66,

and had lived here for:

0-1 years	– 16,
2-5 years	– 33,
6-10 years	– 42,
11-15 years	– 25,
16-20 years	– 22,
21-30 years	– 17,
30+ years	– 60.

#### Are you registered with an NHS doctor, dentist?

Just under half of us have a doctor within 6 miles of where we live, most of the rest within 12 miles. Slightly fewer find a dentist as close, with more traveling the extra distance than for their doctor. A significant number of us are not registered with a dentist.

#### Are you registered blind or disabled?

12 residents are disabled, just 2 are blind.

#### How do you heat your home?

Oil is the most popular with wood very close and more green.

Electricity, for all of us the only public power utility, is a poor 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Solid fuel leads LPG but solar heating has a long way to go.

#### Are you employed, self-employed or retired?

##### If so how would you describe your work?

Nearly half of us are retired, 1 in 5 are self-employed and the rest are employed, a housewife/husband or unemployed.

The work we do or did is\was mostly professional (35%); unsurprisingly in this rural area agricultural is next most popular with 24%.

Perhaps reflecting a different retired lifestyle, 16% are creative with craftsmen, office, manual, medical and educational work in that order.

#### Where is your work?

It seems we prefer to work at home or in the parish most of all; Bridport leads the local towns but, rather than a fixed place of work, a good number of us find their work takes them around locally or more distantly.



St Mary's and Stoke Abbott

## APPENDIX 4

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### YOUR PARISH PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE INCLUDED

Bettiscombe	Caroline Conran, Aviva Halter-Hurn, Ester Philips, Susan Jones, & Chris Rowe	
Marshwood	Ali Cameron & Pam Warner	
Pilsdon	David Corneloues	
Monkwood	John McClellan	
Shave Cross	Julie Young	
Stoke Abbott	Ingrid Hull, Jonathon Roberts & Christine Corson	
<b>OUR THANKS</b>	Simon Thompson	Dorset Community Action
	Rachelle Smith	Dorset Community Action

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### YOUR PARISH COUNCIL AS AT SEPTEMBER 2010

#### CHAIRMAN

Robert Wyatt                      Stoke Abbott    01308 868249  
Blackney Farm, Blackney, DT6 5PB

#### CLERK TO THE COUNCIL

John Vanderwolfe Chartered MCIPD    01297 34444  
Newenham, 5 Halletts Way, Axminster, EX13 5NB  
E-mail: johnvw@tiscali.co.uk

#### COUNCILLORS

Fred Bailey                      Marshwood    01308 868015  
Meadowrise, Bettiscombe, DT6 6HP

David Borradaile                  Stoke Abbott    01308 868424  
Lewesdon House, Stoke Abbott

Matthew Bowditch                Stoke Abbott    01308 862758  
Stokewater Farm, Stoke Abbott, DT8 3JL

Roland Bugler                    Bettiscombe    01308 867796  
Vale End, Lower House Farm, Bettiscombe, DT6 5NT

Ali Cameron                      Marshwood    01297 678546  
Blue Haze, Marshwood, DT6 5QB

John McClellan                  Pilsdon        01308 867410  
Hunts Holme, Monkwood, DT6 5PF

Christopher Rabbetts            Pilsdon        01308 867474  
Gerrards Farm, Pilsdon, DT6 5PA

Michael Rowe                    Bettiscombe    01308 868726  
Waterhouse Farm, Bettiscombe, DT6 5NT

John Walther                    Marshwood    01297 678243  
Marshwood Garage, Marshwood, DT6 5QD

Roy Warburton                  Marshwood    01308 868358  
Shave Cross Inn, Shave Cross, DT6 6HW

Julie Young                      Marshwood    01308 867177  
Penn View, Shave Cross, DT6 6HW

Parish Council website: [uppermarshwoodcouncil.org](http://uppermarshwoodcouncil.org)



## APPENDIX 5

### SERVICES, SUPPLIERS AND CONTACTS

DETAILS OF SUPPLIERS AND SERVICES MENTIONED IN INDIVIDUAL REPORTS AS WELL AS SOMEONE TO REGISTER YOUR INTEREST AS WELL AS KEEPING YOU IN TOUCH WITH PROGRESS AND ACTION ITEMS.

#### HEALTH AND WELFARE:

Dorchester Hospital Governor

Wendy Nightingale [wendy\\_nightingale@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:wendy_nightingale@hotmail.co.uk)

Wayfinders, Partnership for Older People's Project (POPP)

Rose Bird [wayfinderrose@btconnect.com](mailto:wayfinderrose@btconnect.com)

07971 338398

Carol Pearce [Wayfindercarol@btconnect.com](mailto:Wayfindercarol@btconnect.com)

07971 338622

#### HOUSING:

Initial contact: Cclr. Mike Robinson [cclrm.robinson@westdorset-dc.gov.uk](mailto:cclrm.robinson@westdorset-dc.gov.uk)

01308 868979

Rural Housing Officer Rob Aspray [R.Aspray@westdorset-dc.gov.uk](mailto:R.Aspray@westdorset-dc.gov.uk)

01305 252447

#### ENVIRONMENT:

Initial contact: Caroline Conran [c.conran@mac.com](mailto:c.conran@mac.com)

01308 868010

Flytipping, Gaffiti & Abandoned Cars (WDDC)

01305 251010

Dorset AONB [www.dorsetaonb.org.uk](http://www.dorsetaonb.org.uk)

01305 228239

#### PUBLIC TRANSPORT:

Bus services: Axe Valley & West Dorset Ring and Ride

01404 46520

Mike Halford MiniCoaches

01308 421106

Sewards Coaches

01404 881343

Stagecoach South West

01823 672247

Western Area Transport Action Group

Secretary: [joy.michaud@btinternet.com](mailto:joy.michaud@btinternet.com)

01308 897892

#### ROADS:

Highways Office [www.dorsetforyou.com/385168](http://www.dorsetforyou.com/385168)

01305 221020

Highways Agency [www.highways.gov.uk](http://www.highways.gov.uk)

01203 358300

#### SAFETY AND SECURITY:

Police Non Emergency [enquiries.bridport@dorset.pnn.police.uk](mailto:enquiries.bridport@dorset.pnn.police.uk)

01305 222222

Marshwood Vale Safer Neighbourhood Team [marshwoodvalesnt@dorset.pnn.police.uk](mailto:marshwoodvalesnt@dorset.pnn.police.uk)

01305 226912

First Responders Recruitment Hotline

01392 261559

Cclr. Jacqui Sewell [cclrJ.Sewell@westdorset-dc.gov.uk](mailto:cclrJ.Sewell@westdorset-dc.gov.uk)

01308 867760

#### COMMUNICATIONS:

Initial contact: Ali Cameron [ali.cameron@talktalk.net](mailto:ali.cameron@talktalk.net)

01297 678546

Hi-Speed Digital Dorset Helen Heanes [broadband@teamdorset.org.uk](mailto:broadband@teamdorset.org.uk)

01305 224677

#### OUR VALE AND OUR FUTURE:

Initial contact: Ali Cameron [ali.cameron@talktalk.net](mailto:ali.cameron@talktalk.net)

01297 678546

BREG - Bridport Renewable Energy Group [www.breg.org.uk](http://www.breg.org.uk)

#### OTHERS

Dorset County Council Switchboard [dorsetdirect@dorsetcc.gov.uk](mailto:dorsetdirect@dorsetcc.gov.uk)

01305 221000

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