



# Shottisham Village Plan

## Results from the 2007 Questionnaire

Issued: May 2012

Welcome to the Shottisham Parish Plan. A Parish Plan gives everybody in the village the opportunity to state their views and thereby influence future developments in our local area. Using a survey of residents' views, it can lead to a vision for the future and identify what actions are needed to achieve that vision.

This Plan is based on the results of a questionnaire carried out here in 2007, when every household was given a copy and asked to respond. The information in this Plan summarises the responses received, and the issues that were highlighted as important at that time by those respondents. In view of the time that has elapsed, we have omitted issues that are now out of date or have been overtaken by events.

There will be a new short questionnaire soon so you can all give your current views. A revised plan will then be issued before the end of 2012.

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*Please note that we have used Italics for background information and commentary, and **bold** to summarise issues and actions arising.*

## Introduction

Welcome to the Shottisham Parish Plan. This plan is based on the results of a questionnaire carried out here in 2007, when every household was given a copy and asked to respond. A total of 151 questionnaires were returned, that is 87% of the number distributed! A presentation event was held in the Trust Hall in February 2010 where additional feedback and comments were received. The information in this plan summarises the responses received, and the issues that were highlighted as important then by those respondents.

Alongside information about the make-up of the village, the results of the survey have been divided into sections for ease of reading and reference. You can see the list of the sections in the contents page. *Italics* have been used for background information and **bold** to summarise issues arising.

Given the lapse in time since the survey was carried out, you will soon receive a new questionnaire for you to complete. Much of this is based on items highlighted as important by the responses from 2007, and your views are needed in order to bring the plan up to date. Since 2007 a number of changes have occurred within the village, with people having moved on and moved in, so needs and opinions may well have changed. Please do take the time to complete the new questionnaire when you receive it. When this new questionnaire's responses have been received and analysed, a revised Plan which includes a revised Action Plan will be produced so that everybody can see what people think needs to be done, by whom, and how. The revised Plan and Action Plan will be distributed to each household in the village and copies will also be given to the Planners at Suffolk Coastal District Council, the Police, Fire Brigade, Ambulance Service, local GPs as well as a variety of voluntary organisations (e.g. Age UK Ipswich, English Heritage). The vision contained in the revised plan can then be used to help achieve what is wanted for the village: for example, it can back up future requests for funding for facilities, and/or help in making planning decisions regarding potential developments in the village. Your voice can be heard and make a real difference to the future of our village.



## **Objectives of the Plan**

The objectives of the Parish Plan are as follows:

- To enable each member of the community to have the opportunity to influence the future of the village
- To build on the existing sense of community and to stimulate discussion and ideas about what we want, what we can realistically achieve, and how we might go about it
- To encourage all in the community to participate in activities that enrich our lives, individually and as a group
- To strengthen the relationship between the Parish Council and residents, and enable the Parish Councillors to make informed decisions about what residents want for the village
- To improve the quality of life of everyone living in Shottisham
- To highlight areas that may need improvement
- To involve as many residents as possible
- To agree what sort and levels of development might be acceptable to all, and where they might go
- To preserve and enhance the environment of the village
- To preserve and/or improve the level and quality of local services

## **History of Shottisham**

### **A very brief overview to whet your appetite!**

Shottisham, in the Hundred of Wilford, is mentioned several times in the Domesday Book. We know that Shottisham existed in 1086 and that there was a church preceding the present one. The early village appears to have developed around the springs rising about Church Lane and along the stream.

A map of 1631 (by William Hayward) shows the main features we know today: the church, a rectory and barn, the mill and dwellings along Church Lane and others. Some no longer exist. The feudal open-field system is much in evidence. Each strip of land would have been about an acre.

Fifth century artefacts, including late Roman belt equipment and early continental brooches, have been found at Shottisham.

Census figures show that the population of a much smaller number of buildings peaked around 1851 when there were 372 people living in the village. By 1960 this had shrunk to 166. Today it stands at 179 people.

There is so much history which could be included here, but the items below will hopefully give a taste of our rich heritage.

## **St Margaret's Church**

At the time of the Doomsday Book there was a Saxon Church in Shottisham thought to have been dedicated to St Mary the Virgin.



The present church, dedicated to St Margaret of Antioch, was built in 1313 by the monks of Butley Abbey under the direction of Richard de Glanville.

There is evidence of changes to the building in the 16th century. Before 1867, the church consisted of a chancel, nave and tower.

In 1867, major changes were made by the architect G.C. Hakewell. He added the north aisle, installed new seating and lowered the roof of the nave by some six feet. When the roof was lowered, the sacristy window, which previously had a view from within the tower to the high altar, was above roof level. The window was filled in, but its outline remains inside the tower. A new east window was also installed in 1867, but was replaced for some reason in 1880.

Various materials may be found in the present building, such as: stone thought to have come from Butley Abbey; Roman tile; flint; and septaria, a form of fossilised mud found along the banks of the rivers Deben and Orwell and other places locally.

The list of vicars starts in 1313. The earliest recognisable memorial (and the most interesting) is a brass at the chancel steps dated 1313, dedicated to Rose Glover, wife of sometime incumbent the Revd John Glover. Other survivals of the early church are a trefoil piscina (shallow basin for washing communion vessels) and near it a sedilia (stone seat for the officiating priest).

## **The Water Mill**

There has been a mill in Shottisham since the 16th century; it is clearly shown on Hayward's map of 1631. The picture overleaf looks as though it was taken early in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, (around 1920?).

The millpond, fed from springs rising near Church Lane and others to the north, is now much reduced in size. When milling stopped in the 1950s, it was completely filled in; then partly re-dug in the 1980s.

During the later period of operation, water power was supplemented by steam power.

The mill was last used commercially in 1944, and the engine is now in the Museum of East Anglian Life in Stowmarket.

The last miller was Mr Hillen, who lived at Cliff House. His wife was the village schoolmistress. Mr Sayer, who lived at Mill Cottage, was responsible for maintaining the engine and other equipment. A coal yard was set up at the mill to serve the village, though it was mainly for feeding the steam unit.

In 1981, Alan McBurnie acquired the derelict mill and surrounding land. He had a smaller pond dug out, and restored the Mill and Mill Cottage to what we see today.

Water still flows under the mill, as it did when it drove the overshot wheel. None of the mill machinery remains.

### **The Trust Hall**

The Trust Hall is owned by the Women's Institute, having been given to them in 1962 by Sir Anthony Quilter and his mother, Lady Marjorie, who believed that the WI rated as an important aspect of village life.



Shottisham Institute was formed in 1924, and membership met at Wood Hall, but in 1928, Sir Cuthbert Quilter offered a block of three cottages, known as Thatched Cottages, Ford Hill, at a peppercorn rent of one shilling per year, and members accepted gratefully. It was Sir Cuthbert's grandson, Sir 'Anthony', who finally gave the building plus an adjoining piece of land to the Institute, since which time it has done yeoman service in the

life of the village. The architecture is typical of an East Anglian 16th century cottage design. While there has of necessity had to be many changes, particularly to the interior, the Hall still retains much of the atmosphere of the

period. The thatch has alas been replaced by tiles, but the splendid timbers have been well preserved. There are some original photographs on display in the Hall.

## The Sorrel Horse

The Sorrel Horse Inn may be even older than the church, as it was allegedly built prior to the church to house the workers until its completion. The oldest part is timber framed and very old indeed, but sadly little is known about its history.

Today the Sorrel Horse is the quintessential English country pub with tap drawn cask ales, a thatched roof, tiled floors and an original bar billiards table.

*In August 2011 there was community support for the purchase of the pub. Led by local residents a newly established Limited Company was set up to secure the future of this village asset. At the beginning of April 2012 the company had 180 shareholders, some of whom were local residents.*



This picture shows members of the team who examined Sutton Hoo in the late 1960s and made the Sorrel Horse their local. The picture shows them relaxing with the Landlord 'Tich' Markwell (far right with cap). There was also a juke box in the pub which would only play "The Carnival is Over".

Thanks to the Sutton Hoo Society for the picture.

## More Recent History

There have been many changes in the village over the years!

Many of the businesses which existed in the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century no longer exist. The School at St Margaret's House closed in 1932; the Post Office Stores in the 1990s.

In 2003 all that remained were the Sorrel Horse, A.V. Nichols & Son, builder and engineer, Beeton and Lennard, builder, and St Margaret's touring campsite.

Between 1925 and 2003, 26 additional dwellings were erected, and a number of smaller terraced houses were amalgamated into single premises. So by 2003 there were 87 dwellings, of which 18 were holiday homes. The Electoral Roll gave the population as 149, plus 20 children under voting age.

## Respondents to the Questionnaire (2007)

The survey was completed by 151 individuals. However not everyone answered every question, so some of the numbers do not add up to 151. Of those who responded, 72 were male and 75 female. This represents a very high proportion of our residents (approximately 85%). Below we show the distribution of the groups who responded, in order to check that the views of all groups are properly represented.

The 148 who responded were located as follows:

*The Street* 62  
*Church Lane / Villa Hill* 23  
*Heath Drive* 27  
*The Square / Cinder Alley* 14  
*Rural* 22

So we have a good distribution of responses for where people live.

The ages of the 138 who responded were distributed as follows:

16 – 21 - 6  
22 – 30 - 6  
31 – 59 - 69  
60 – 75 - 39  
75 + - 19

This shows that at the time, the majority of those who responded were over 30. This accurately reflected the age distribution in the village in 2007.

The time respondents had lived in the village was distributed as follows:

< 1 yr - 8  
1 – 10 yrs - 57  
11 – 20 yrs - 33  
21 – 50 yrs - 41  
51+ yrs - 2  
*Whole life* - 3

144 answered this question. This shows that in 2007 the majority of respondents had lived here over 10 years.

We also asked how many had a second home:

*Main residence elsewhere* - 21 (14%)  
*Holiday home elsewhere* - 7 (4.6%)  
*At University* - 1

So of the 151 respondents, 21 used their Shottisham residence as a second home. We are therefore confident that the vast majority of respondents live here.

## Changes since 2007

*Since the original questionnaire was completed 13 properties have changed hands, several rented properties have changed occupants, many more young people have moved into the village, and regrettably some former residents are no longer with us. A key issue for the forthcoming new survey will be to capture the views of our newer residents and younger people.*

## What is Important to Shottisham

We asked what was important to you about Shottisham. This question was answered by 140 respondents. The vast majority selected the fact that Shottisham was a quiet and peaceful village in beautiful surrounding countryside with the River Deben nearby.

The other possible choices for this section were the community, close to Woodbridge and low crime rate.

118 respondents chose the fact that the village was quiet and peaceful, with 117 indicating that the surrounding countryside and nearby river were important. 82 people selected the low crime rate as being important, with slightly fewer individuals choosing the proximity to Woodbridge and the community. A couple of respondents added the village pub as being important.

The position of the village on the Wilford Peninsula in a quiet location is clearly very important to our residents.

When asked to compare their quality of life then with when they had first moved to the village (143 respondents) almost half said that it was the same, with 38% selecting that it was better. 12% of respondents claimed their quality of life was worse and 9% had no opinion.

Clearly, the majority are satisfied with their quality of life in the village, which is very pleasing.

**No actions are therefore proposed.**

## Housing Needs

*Shottisham currently comprises a mix of old and fairly recent houses and cottages – from before the 18<sup>th</sup> Century through to the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, mainly average sized, with two to four bedrooms. Figures from Suffolk Coastal indicate a total of 89 houses in Shottisham. There has been no change in this number since 2007.*

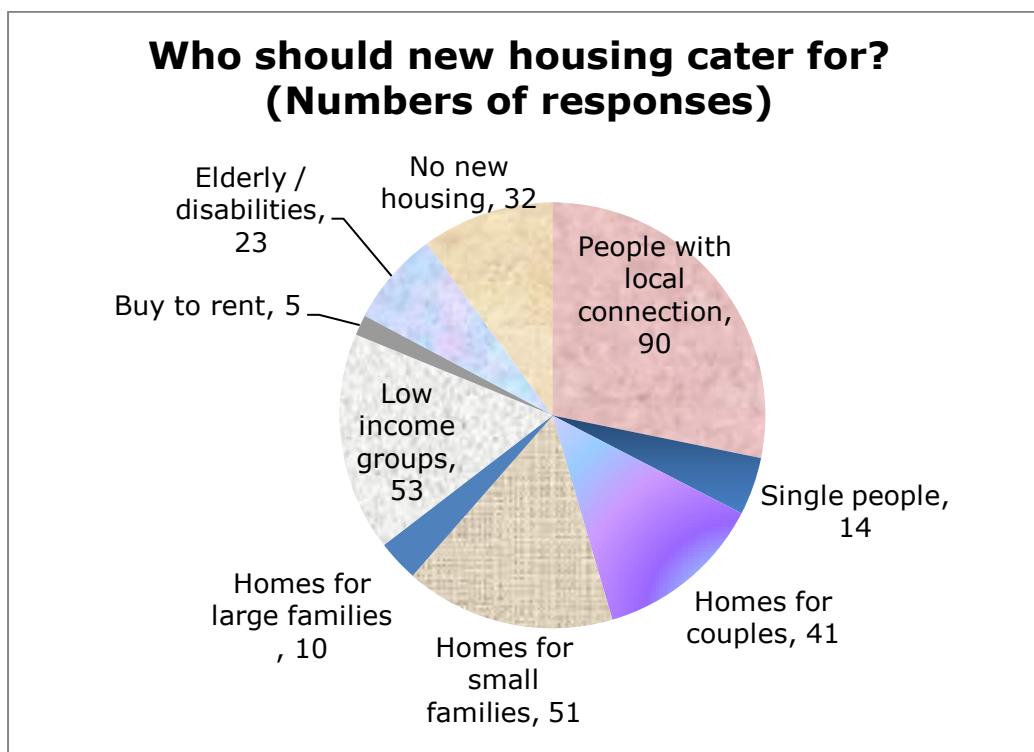
With regard to any need for alternative accommodation, the vast majority (84%) said this was not applicable to them, 22 respondents stated that they would require other accommodation within the next 10 years, and two respondents were actively seeking to relocate.

There were only 23 responses about the type of accommodation that would be required, with almost a third (seven) of those respondents wanting starter homes to buy, the same number desiring family homes to buy, two people

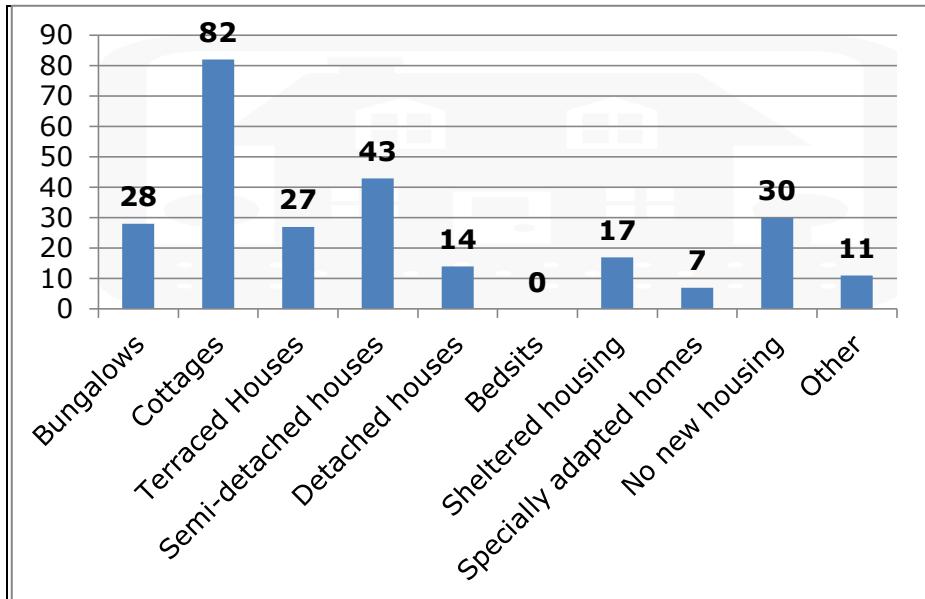
wanting family homes to rent, two wishing for bungalows to rent and five requiring sheltered housing.

There were 139 respondents to the question "If new housing were built in Shottisham who do you think it should cater for", with 90 people indicating it should be for people with a local connection, 53 for people on low incomes, 51 for small family houses with 2-3 bedrooms, 41 for homes for couples (1 - 2 bedrooms), 23 for homes for elderly people or those with disabilities, 14 for homes for single people, 10 for large family homes (4+ bedrooms) and 5 for buy to rent homes. In addition, 32 people ticked the option for no new housing in Shottisham. (These figures add up to more than 139 because people could tick more than one option).

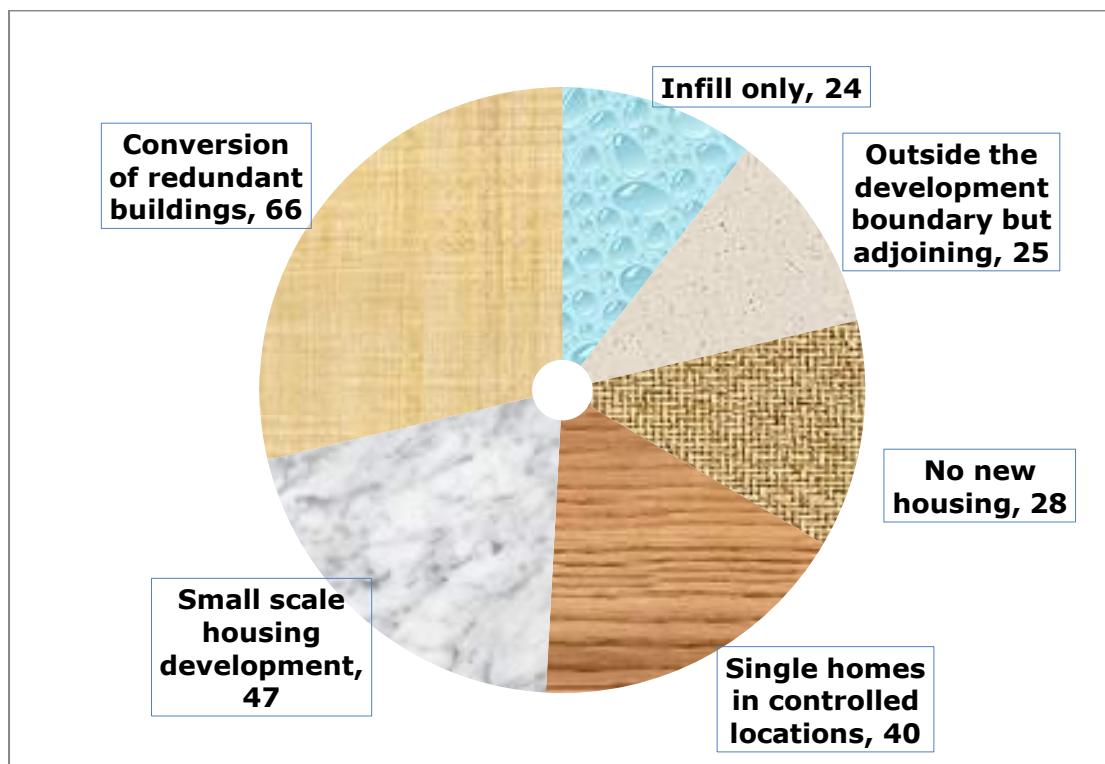
These results are shown below as a pie chart.



When asked what sort of houses would be desirable, were new housing to be built in Shottisham, 140 people responded. The majority (82 people) wanted cottages, and 43 specified semi-detached houses; 27 ticked the option for terraced houses and 14 for detached houses. Twenty eight people favoured bungalows, 17 wanted sheltered housing and 7 specially adapted homes. No new housing was the choice of 30 people who answered this question. Eleven people ticked the "Other" option and three of these indicated that the housing should fit the need, one thought it should be "infill", two people stated that there should be homes of architectural value (more Grand Designs, less Suffolk vernacular) and five favoured Eco homes. Again, these figures add up to more than 139 because people ticked more than one option.



With regard to the type of housing *development* that would be acceptable in Shottisham, the most popular response was conversion of redundant buildings, followed by small scale housing development and single homes in controlled locations. Some people opted for development outside the village boundary, and some for infill only. Twenty eight people specified no new housing for Shottisham in response to this question. The full breakdown of numbers of responses for each option is shown below: 139 people answered this question (and as previously, some ticked more than one option).



This shows that the majority view of the village is that development, if it happens, should be on a small scale, utilising redundant buildings or possibly filling gaps, or just single homes in controlled locations or outside the village boundary (though adjoining).

Although just under a third of respondents thought that new housing and an increase in population would spoil the environment, more popularly people thought this would enrich the community and improve the environment (almost half of responses). In addition, just under a quarter of responses thought it would bring no change to the environment, had no opinion or didn't know what the effect would be.

The situation therefore seems to be that the vast majority of people in the village are not in need of alternative accommodation, though a few do have requirements. If new housing were to be provided, the most popular options would be to provide housing for people with a local connection, cottages that were not part of a large development, intended for small families and those on low incomes. Just under half of respondents felt that more housing would enrich the community though just over half thought that it would either spoil the environment or didn't know what effect it would have.

#### **Issues for the Action Plan:**

**Actions that may be required are to note the wishes of the respondents. It would seem that a larger development may be acceptable if it were sited outside the village boundary. Any new housing within the village should be individual, possibly infill, and should be aimed at people on low incomes. Starter homes should be considered. Cottages with two to three bedrooms would be acceptable to many, especially if those were accessible to people with a local connection. In addition, property with some individual character and eco-friendly would be welcome.**



## **Education Needs**

*Hollesley Primary School is the catchment area primary school and free transport is provided. Some families choose to send their children to Bawdsey CEVCP School or Woodbridge Primary and independent schools. Farlingaye High School is the catchment area secondary school and free transport is provided from years 7 to 11. Some families sent their children to independent schools or secondary schools in Ipswich. We do not know if this was because places were not available at Farlingaye or simply family preferences.*

We asked how important Hollesley Primary School is to the local community. The majority of respondents rated this important or very important.

A series of questions was asked about the need to use facilities at Hollesley Primary School. The vast majority of respondents felt there was a need for the community use of computers and training, and for the school to be a venue for evening classes. The majority of respondents felt there was a need for the school to be a venue for an after school club and for holiday play schemes.

*The governing body operates a breakfast and after school club which operates in term time. Few respondents felt there was a need for the playing field to be used or that there was a need for a fitness class. Fitness and yoga classes are now held regularly at Hollesley Village Hall.*

A further series of questions was asked about the need for various groups in Shottisham. The majority of respondents felt there was a need for a mother and toddler group and a summer play scheme. The need for a playgroup and an under 5s and parents' club was a popular proposal and a small number of respondents felt there was a need for a babysitting circle.

The number of children in the village varies considerably over time, and some of the questions are probably not as relevant in 2012 as in 2007. We currently have around 16 teenagers (13+) and 8 aged between 3 and 12 years.

### **Issues for Action Plan & Questionnaire:**

- 1. Explore the possibility of using local school facilities for e.g. computer classes, language classes, etc.**
- 2. Better advertisement in the village of adult groups already running.**
- 3. Explore the current need and possibility of creating a mother and toddler group, summer play scheme, parent's club, etc.**

## Our Environment

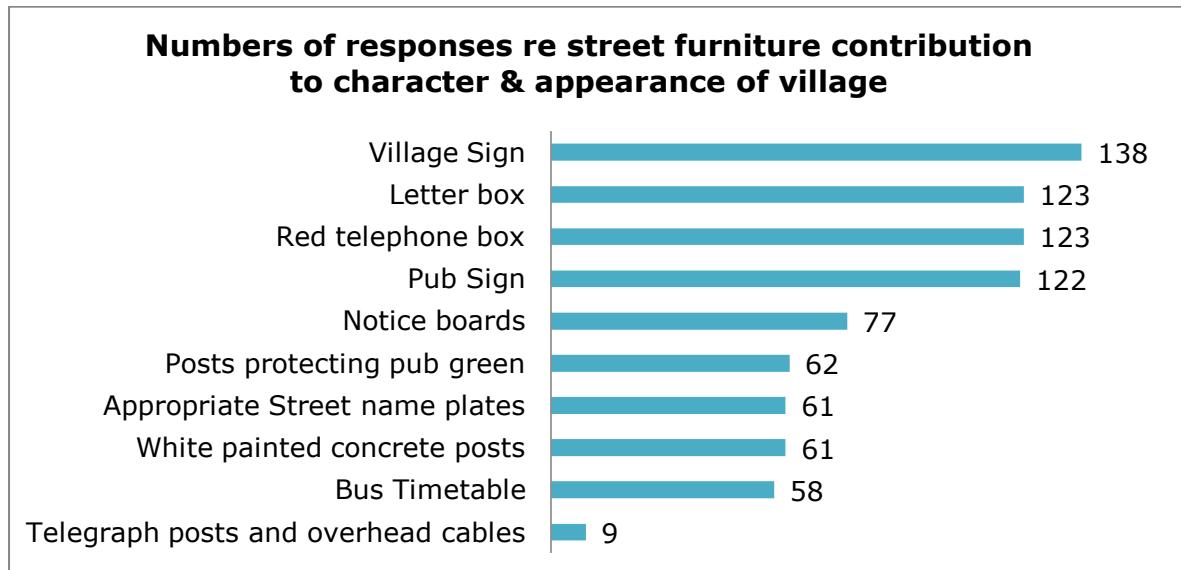
*As was seen at the beginning of this Plan, living in a quiet and peaceful village amid beautiful countryside is very important to the vast majority of those who live in Shottisham. We are situated within the Suffolk Coast and Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, which means that the area is protected because of its quality and importance. The environment in which we live impacts on the quality of our lives and it is important to keep it in good condition. Bordered by the Sutton Heath and Hollesley Commons, we are in the Suffolk Sandlings – classified as lowland heaths which are the rarest of habitats across England and North West Europe. Various environmental agencies are involved in the upkeep of these areas and the Suffolk Wildlife Trust along with the Suffolk Coastal Environmental team work in partnership with local volunteers to ensure their sustainability. We are also able to walk, cycle or trek direct from the village over many miles of footpaths and bridleways, crossing agricultural land as well as heaths and woodland, down to the River Deben or to beaches at Shingle Street, and Bawdsey.*

From the 2007 questionnaire, the first item about the environment asked who the respondents thought should keep Shottisham clean and tidy. The most popular answer (91% of responses) was in favour of maintaining weekly refuse collections. *This item was superseded because Suffolk Coastal District Council introduced alternate week recycling and bin collections in 2006, and this does seem to function reasonably well.* In addition, the majority of respondents thought that everyone should be responsible for their own rubbish, and about half wanted litter bins to be provided in communal areas. A quarter of respondents would like Shottisham to enter the “Best Kept Village” competition.

Comments accompanying these responses included requests for a litter warden and recycling facilities. *Since 2007, some of these items have already been addressed, with the introduction of alternate week recycling and compost collections, the glass recycling area at the back of the Sorrel Horse being made available for village use, and the installation of dog waste and litter bins at various locations.*



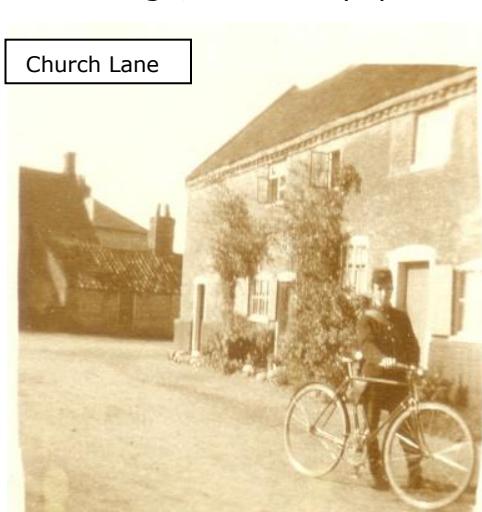
One question asked whether particular items of street furniture contribute to the character and appearance of Shottisham's street scene. The most important item was the village sign, followed by the telephone kiosk, the red letter box and the pub sign. Least important were the telegraph poles and overhead cables. The full responses are shown in the chart below.



*The pub sign referred to has since been changed to a more modern version. The telephone kiosk has been listed as locally important by English Heritage and will therefore remain. Other locally listed buildings are: St Margaret's Church, the Post Office and House, Shottisham Hall, the Sorrel Horse Inn, Tower Cottage and the WI Trust Hall (all Grade II).*

When asked about environmentally friendly measures that might be introduced to the village, the most popular item was a recycling point, chosen by two thirds

of respondents (95 people), with 42% wanting to improve public transport, a third who would like to promote energy saving homes and the same number wanting to promote renewable energy for homes. About a quarter of respondents thought more local employment would be good, and eight people (6%) wanted to promote car sharing. Comments accompanying the responses to this question included two people wanting mains drainage and gas and two asking for recycling points (*this latter has been addressed in the interim*).



With regard to problems in the village environment, 40% of respondents said they had no problem with the items listed below, but 60% did – these were

- Wide/heavy loads damaging banks and verges
- Dog fouling
- Off road vehicles & motor bikes
- Traffic noise
- Noise pollution
- Low flying aircraft
- Litter
- Light pollution

The main problem was with the first option, wide or heavy loads damaging banks and verges, which 53 people highlighted (39%). The other items were ticked by between 4 and 19 people, so were not major problems.

**Issue for Action Plan: Need to identify at risk banks and verges, and if anything can be done to ameliorate.**

## Natural environment

In answer to what people thought could be done to improve the countryside and wildlife in Shottisham, the vast majority thought we should maintain the existing hedges and trees (82%), and 40% thought we should look after the woodland. About a third thought we should plant more hedges and a quarter that we should plant more trees. Twenty people (14%) agreed with the option to form a conservation volunteer group, and sixteen people had no opinion. From the comments accompanying this question, two people suggested employing a person to maintain the meadow, the playground and the Church grass areas. One person suggested we should ensure the footpaths and bridleways remain open.

An open question (i.e. no tick box choices) asked whether there were any derelict, unsightly or under-used areas of land that could be transformed, and 33 people responded to this item (representing 22% of all respondents). The main area highlighted (by 13 respondents) was the meadow between the Mill and New Houses, which could be better kept: four thought it should be mown and/or used as a village green, one suggested building houses there, and another suggested a shop or pub. *Since that time, it has been established that the land is owned by the Adeane Estate and is not available for the village to acquire*

Other areas noted included the playing field behind the Church, with suggestions that more play equipment would be good (*this has since been achieved by the Parish council via a grant from the Big Lottery*), two people mentioned the field

opposite the pub and two mentioned the builder's yard. There were other individual comments regarding several private properties which will be referred to the Parish Council for their consideration.

In conclusion, there were no major problems environmentally, although a minority have suggested that the meadow opposite the old Beeton & Lennards yard could be better maintained. Although this is not owned by anybody within

the village, it may be worth pursuing communication with the current owners about how best to look after this area for the village. People would like the current hedges and trees maintained, perhaps more planted, and there is some backing for a volunteer conservation group, though this would need to be checked out further.



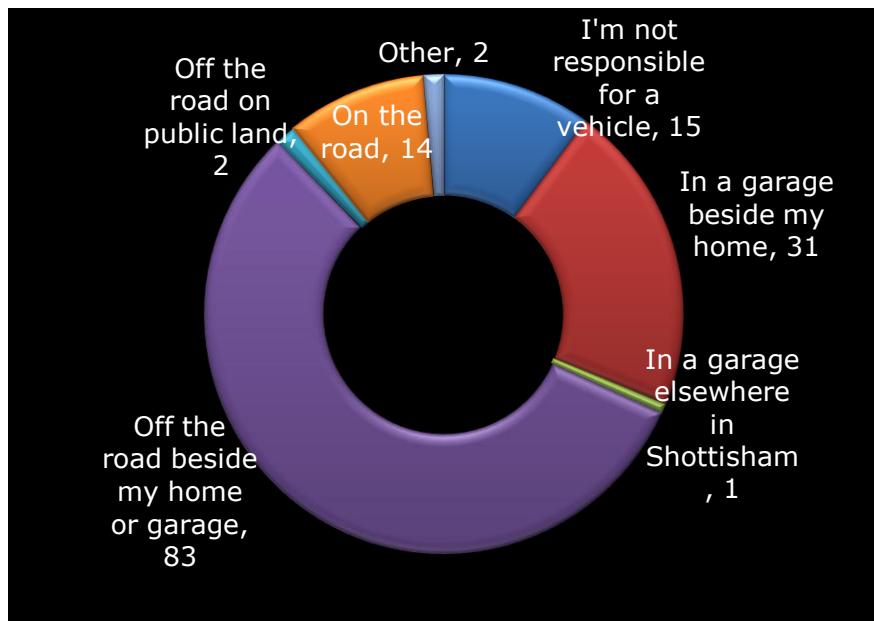
#### **Issues for Action Plan & Questionnaire:**

- 1. To enquire whether the meadow could be better maintained**
- 2. Determine how to better look after our hedges & trees**
- 3. Determine whether there is enough support for a volunteer conservation group.**

## Traffic and Highways



There were 135 respondents to the question "If you're responsible for a vehicle, where do you usually park it?" and the majority of people (68%) indicated they park off the road beside their home or garage, with almost another quarter of people parking in a garage beside their home. Fourteen people parked on the road (10%) and two parked off-road on public land. Fifteen people indicated they were not responsible for a vehicle. The following chart shows the numbers of responses for each answer:



This seems to show only a minority of people have to park on the road in the village. The questionnaire went on to ask whether people were experiencing any specific problems , and in response 25 people (19%) had problems with vehicles partially blocking the road, nine (7%) stated that vehicles were parking in "their" space, eight people (6%) thought there were limited places to park, and three people had problems with vehicles blocking their entrance. Three quarters of respondents were not experiencing any of these problems. (*However traffic has increased since 2007 and we need to find out in the new questionnaire if there is a problem now.*)

Written comments accompanying these responses included a note that it had been observed that users of the pub who come by car often park in the street even if there are spaces available in the pub car park, and that the landlord needs to have an adequate sign in place that is visible to drivers. In exploring the issue of parking further, people were asked whether they would like to have some form of parking control in Shottisham. Half of the respondents felt there was no need for parking controls, and a quarter had no opinion or didn't know. About a third of people thought there should be a separate car park, 10% opted for resident only parking areas, 8% chose discreet yellow lines and six people favoured other restrictions.



When asked whether people thought that traffic problems in Shottisham were related to particular issues, the main responses were traffic speed (40%) and lack of parking (29%). Other items chosen by between 10 and 20% of

respondents were road danger spots, lack of pavements, lorries, agricultural lorries, pedestrian/vehicle conflict and volume of traffic. Additionally, 39% replied that there is not a problem. Comments alongside these replies mainly highlighted the dangerous area on the Hollesley Road going up the hill past the Sorrel Horse pub (15 comments), along with the bridge at Ford Hill (five comments) and the bend by Beeton and Lennards (three comments). Others noted the junction into Ford Hill, the way that people park in the village, and people having to walk out into the road. Several comments noted the lack of speed restrictions at the above locations. Exploring this issue further, the questionnaire asked whether Shottisham needs any of the following traffic speed control measures (with the numbers of responses noted) in the chart below:



With regard to paths and public rights of way, from 134 respondents there was much support for a map of local footpaths (58%), as well as better maintenance of footpaths (42%), a circular walk leaflet for Shottisham (39%) and better signposts on existing footpaths (34%). Extended off-road access to other villages was supported by 13% and guided walks of the area by 11%. Twenty two people (16%) said they would not want to see any of these options.

#### **Issues for Action Plan & Questionnaire:**

- **Explore where further car parking provision could be made**
- **Provide better signs for the pub car park**
- **Campaign for a lower speed limit**
- **Ask for help from road safety in light of local knowledge regarding danger spots**
- **Production of a local footpath map and guided walks**

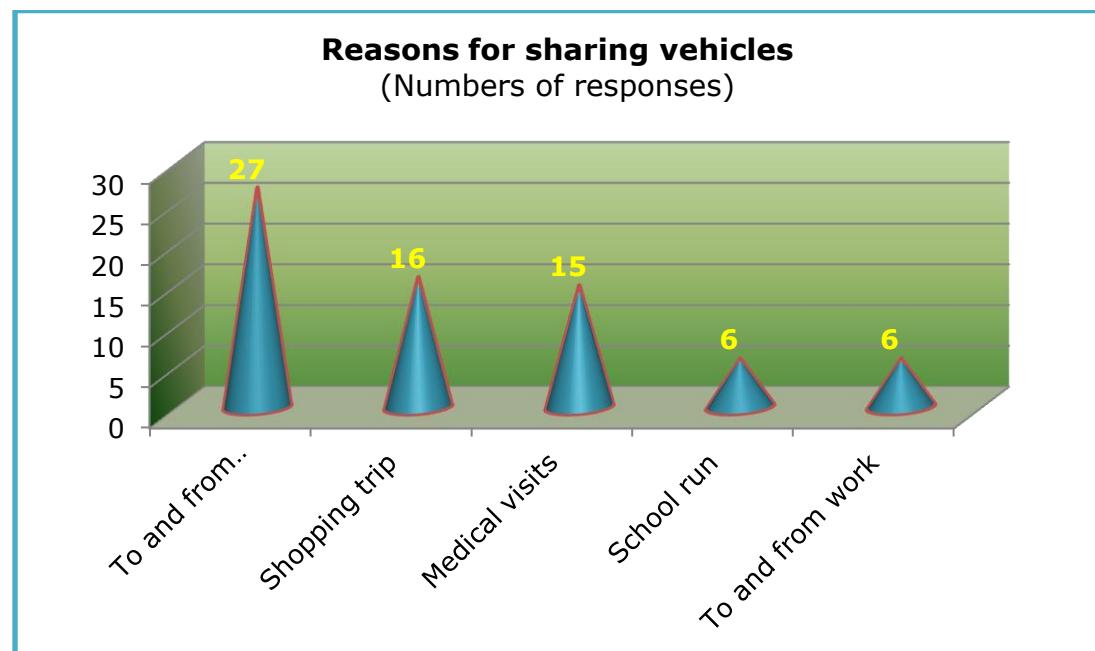
#### **How to ensure good maintenance of footpaths / signposts**

## Transport

The vast majority of respondents to the 2007 questionnaire used a car as their major means of transport (121 of 143 respondents, which is 85%), with 7 people (5%) stating that they walk, four (3%) car sharing, two (1.5%) using the bus and seven (5%) specifying "other". When asked whether they experienced transport difficulties in travelling from Shottisham to other places over half of respondents said never, over a third said occasionally, seven people (5%) said weekly and one person said they experienced difficulties daily. Just over a half of respondents stated that they would be likely to use public transport occasionally if a better bus service could be provided, though a quarter thought they would never use it. Twenty four people (17%) said they would use it weekly and 5% daily.

*Since 2007, a new Demand Responsive Transport, **Suffolk Links**, has been introduced which provides connections to bus and train links in rural areas. The service will collect people from Shottisham and take them to Woodbridge or Orford (or other villages in between), see [http://www.suffolkonboard.com/timetables/leaflets/timetables\\_by\\_area/woodbridge\\_surrounding\\_area](http://www.suffolkonboard.com/timetables/leaflets/timetables_by_area/woodbridge_surrounding_area) for details.*

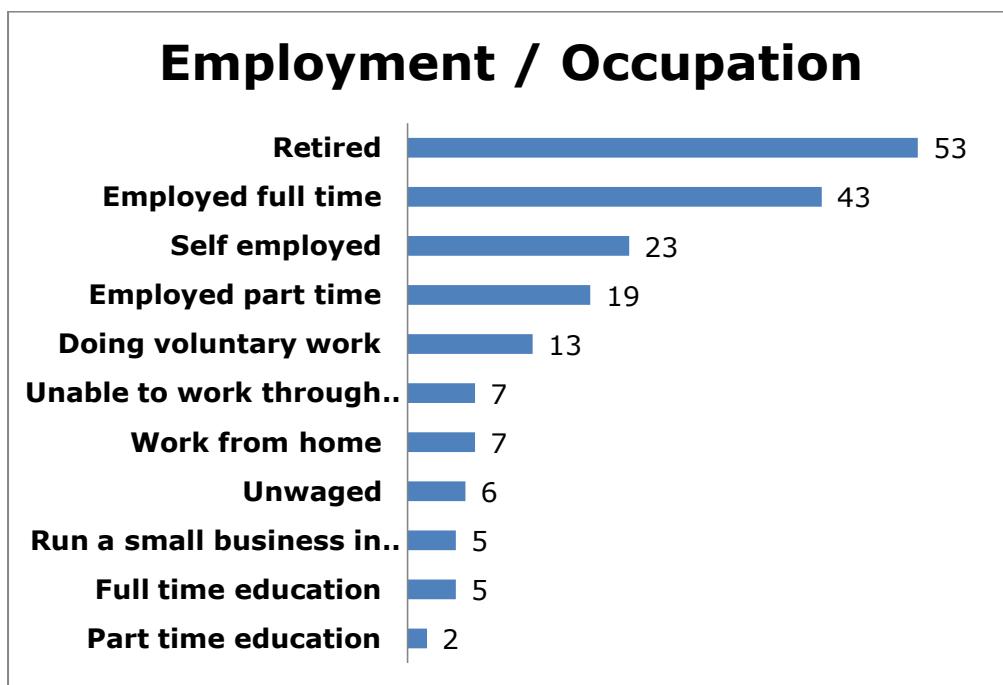
Forty six people responded to a question asking whether they would be interested in sharing private vehicles for any of a number of reasons. The numbers of responses for each reason is shown in the chart below: the most popular option was to travel to and from Woodbridge, followed by a shopping trip and medical visits.



**Given the low level of response no actions are proposed at this stage.**

## Occupations and Employment

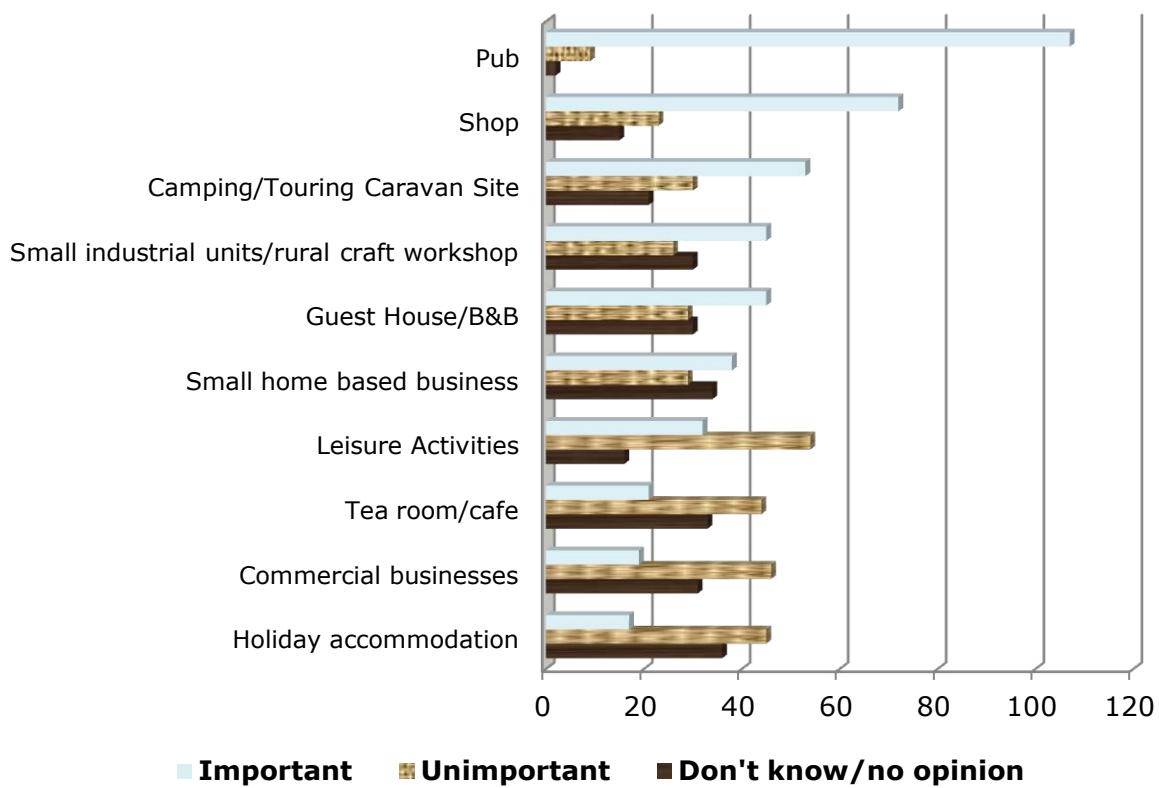
There were 183 responses detailing what best described people's situation with regard to employment and occupation in 2007 – from 145 respondents, so several people must have ticked more than one box. The largest group were those who were retired, which accounted for 37% of responses, and the second largest were those who described themselves as full time employed (30%). Seven people were working from home, five were running a small business in Shottisham – two of whom were associated with the Sorrel Horse Inn, one was a painter/decorator and one ran a bed & breakfast business. Seven described being unable to work through illness or disability, six were unwaged, and thirteen were doing voluntary work (it is not possible to distinguish where the overlapping items occur). The chart below gives the full details with associated numbers of responses.



When asked how far they travelled to their main place of study/work/occupation, 69 respondents (almost half) stated this was not applicable to them. The largest group travelled between 5 – 9 miles (21%), and six people (5%) travelled more than 25 miles (four of whom more than 45 miles).

One question asked about small scale businesses being encouraged in the village, mentioning specific options. From the 123 respondents, 91% thought the pub was important, 65% a shop, 51% the campsite. The following chart shows the breakdown of responses for each business choice, in order of indicated importance by the respondents.

### How important to encourage these businesses in Shottisham?



As the chart shows, the business seen as least important to encourage is one involving leisure activities, along with a tea room/cafe, commercial businesses and holiday accommodation.

#### *Current situation 2012:*

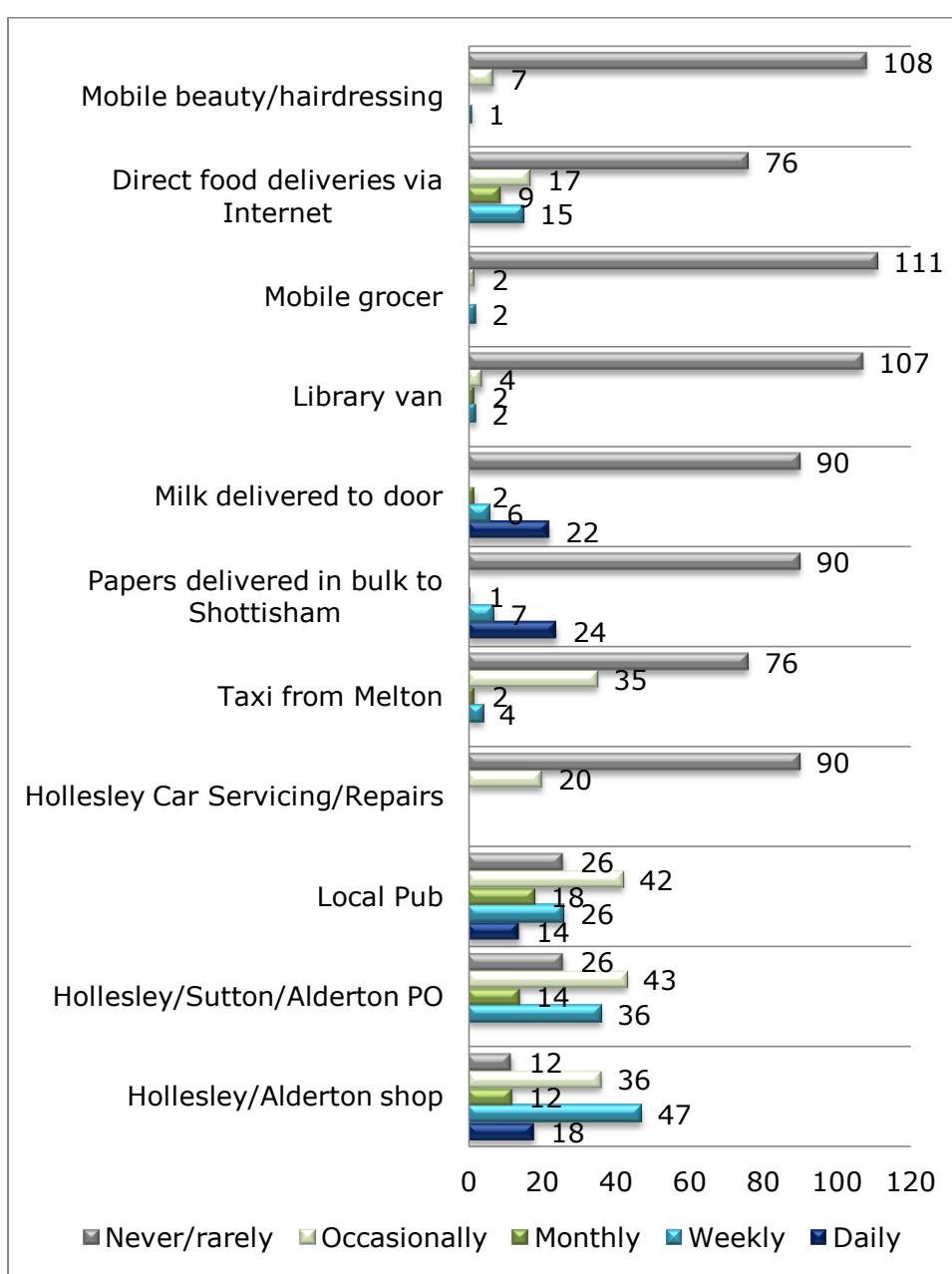
*With new arrivals in the village and others who have moved away since 2007, it is possible that there is now a different range of employment/occupation amongst our residents. The situation regarding businesses sited here has also changed – Beeton and Lennards has closed, the camp site is expanding and the pub is now owned by over 180 shareholders.*

#### **Issues for the Action Plan & Questionnaire:**

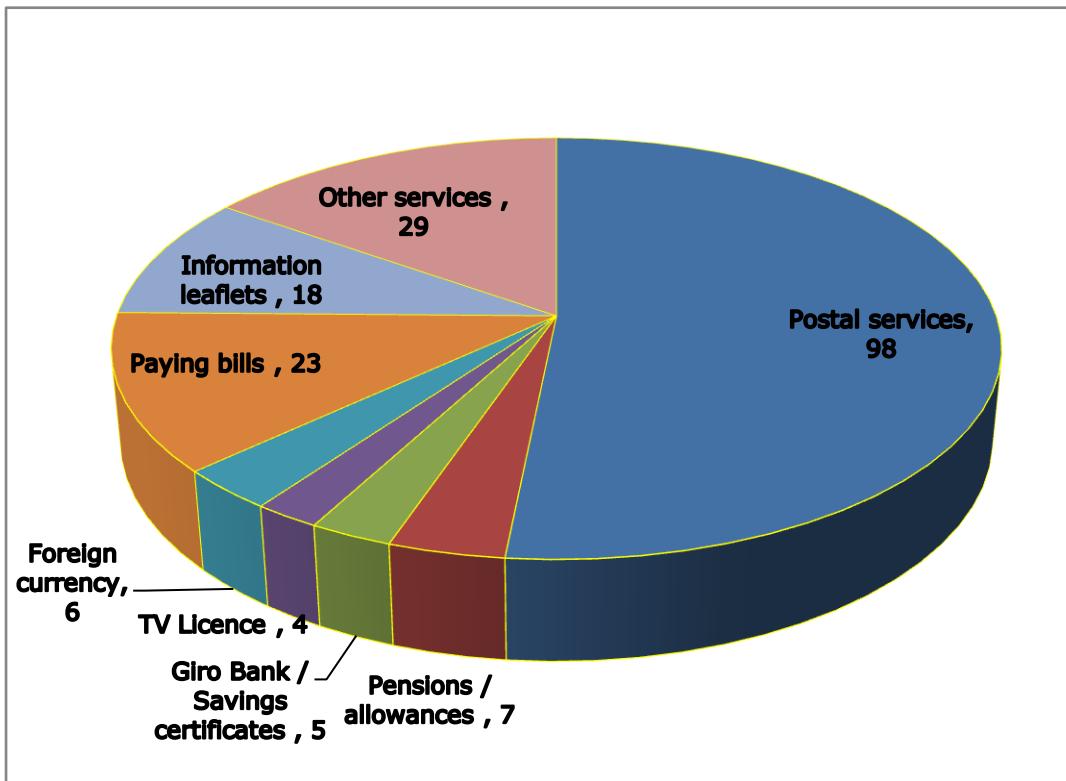
**Determine whether people have more ideas for how to encourage other businesses or to develop those that already exist.**

## Retail Services

In order to help us think further about retail services and particularly whether there is scope for a village shop, (65% above indicated they would want to encourage a shop in the village), it may be helpful to examine the information from 2007 regarding use of shop and retail facilities locally. When asked how often they used a variety of local shops and services, the most popularly used facility were the shops at Hollesley or Alderton, with over half of respondents using them at least weekly. The least used facilities were the mobile grocers, library and beauty/hairdressing services along with the Hollesley Car Servicing/Repairs business. The chart below shows the full range of responses for each service.



A further question about the reason for using the Hollesley, Sutton or Alderton Post Offices revealed that 98 respondents used their postal services, 23 pay their bills there and 29 use other services. The full list is shown in the chart below:



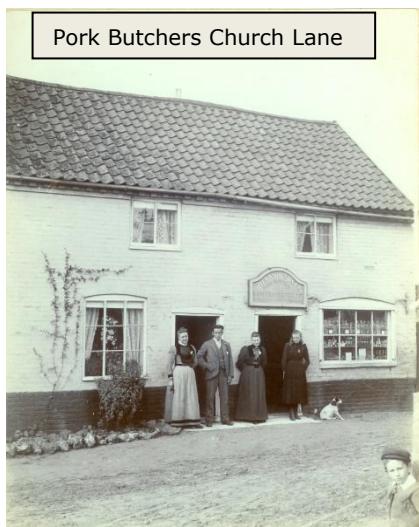
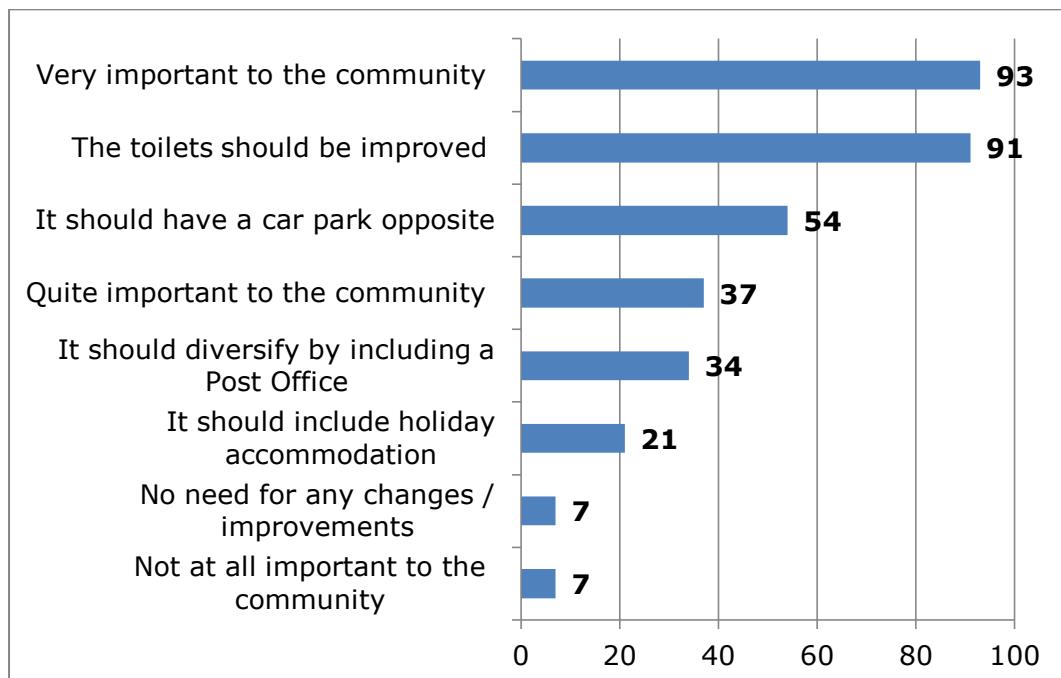
In response to the question of how often people were likely to use a community shop in Shottisham, almost a half of the 138 respondents thought they would use it either daily or weekly, and a quarter thought they would use it occasionally, whilst 11 (8%) indicated monthly use. Nine people thought they were unlikely to use it, and 15 were unsure or had no opinion about this item.

The 2007 questionnaire also asked for people's views on the Sorrel Horse pub (which at that time was owned by a PubCo company). The majority of responses said that it was very important to the community, and a similar number said the toilets should be improved (*which they now have been*).

Other points were that it should have a car park opposite, and that it could diversify by providing holiday accommodation or post office facilities.



## Views on the Sorrel Horse:



With the pub under a new management, there are perhaps more opportunities for diversifying its activities. Further consultation should be carried out to discover what people now believe is important to the village and the pub: for example, whether there is strong backing for a community shop or post office, and what practical choices exist for the field opposite the pub.

### **Issues for the questionnaire:**

**We should seek the current views in the new questionnaire on:**

- 1. Need for an (outreach) Post Office**
- 2. Need for a community shop**



## Emergency and other Services

### Emergency Services

One question was asked about the standard of the emergency services that cover the village; these services are the Fire Brigade, Ambulance, and Police. The question also covered Hospital Transport and the Community Police Officer which are considered to be non-emergency.

Respondents were asked to rate the services from 1-5 with 1 being very poor to 5 as very good.

Only 89 individuals completed this section which probably indicates to the fact that most of the respondents had not had any experience of having to call upon these services.

Of those that did respond the vast majority rated all of them as satisfactory but 33% of respondents considered the service from the Community Police as poor or very poor.

### Crime

136 respondents completed the question asking about whether they had suffered a crime or anti-social behaviour in the previous three years which they may or may not have reported to the police.

The vast majority had not suffered a crime but some had been subjected to rowdy behaviour and very few had suffered from thefts from outbuildings, house or cars and minor vandalism.

In 2007 Shottisham suffered from very little crime and was generally considered a safe place to live. There was concern about the response rates of the emergency services and dissatisfaction about the cover given by the Community Police Officer who at that time was considering bringing the mobile Police Station to the village on a regular basis. *They now (2012) regularly attend the Parish Council meetings, and hold a morning each month in the village.*

### Issues for the Action Plan & Questionnaire:

- 1. Establish whether the published target response times of Emergency services (Fire, Police, and Ambulance) are being met.**
- 2. Establish if there is any need for a volunteer First Responder.**
- 3. Establish if there is any need for a Defibrillator in the village.**

## Other Services

*All households in the village are connected to the mains electricity and mains water supply. There is no mains gas.*

An overwhelming majority felt that the provision of these utilities was satisfactory or better even though the community did suffer from the occasional power cut which could last for some time.

*The Refuse collection is the responsibility of Suffolk Coastal District Council who provide each household with three wheelie bins and operate a weekly collection on a Friday. The recycling bin and compostable waste are collected one week and the bagged rubbish the following week.*

This system has superseded the refuse collections in 2007 and so the responses are no longer applicable.

Respondents were also asked to rate the provision of dog mess bins, postal service, street cleaning, standard TV reception, radio reception and internet broadband reception and in each case the majority felt that the service in the community was satisfactory or better.



Winter weather service (e.g. gritting) was also a concern for over 40% of respondents and these people mainly lived in Church Lane, Hollesley Road and Heath Drive. At the time the Parish Council had requested an extended service to cover Hollesley Road up to Heath Drive, but gritting in Church Lane and Heath Drive remains non-existent.

The maintenance of the roadside verges was also rated as poor or very poor by 40% of respondents. *Since then the Parish Council and some residents have themselves taken care of the section along The Street, but damage is often caused by large vehicles.*

Digital TV reception was satisfactory for some people but 50% of respondents rated this as poor or very poor. Reception was not good unless the household had a large aerial but was expected to improve once the digital switchover had take place. *We believe that the terrestrial digital reception is now satisfactory following the switchover. Also at that time broadband speeds were thought to be satisfactory, but it was then a relatively new service!*



The issue that caused overwhelming concern was the mobile phone reception which was poor or non-existent for the vast majority of the village. This affected both the residents and visitors to the village especially those staying at the campsite who did not have other means of communication.

When asked how respondents would feel if an application was made to erect a mobile phone mast within the parish boundary the majority (64%) would support it but most did not want it near housing or visible and 30% did not want a mast in Shottisham at all.

139 individuals responded to the question 'Is there a need for an Information and Advice Network for use in the event of a local emergency such as severe weather or utility strike / breakdown?'

42% felt that this would be a good idea but 18% did not and the remainder didn't know or had no opinion.

#### **Issues for the Action Plan & Questionnaire:**

- 1. Surface water drains – can these be improved?**
- 2. Maintenance of roadside verges – how to improve and prevent damage? –covered in Environment section above.**
- 3. Mobile phone reception – can we have better coverage?**
- 4. Winter weather service for Church Lane, Hollesley Road, Heath Drive?**
- 5. Establish Information and Advice network for severe weather?**
- 6. To identify current usage of mobile library, mobile grocer, newspapers, and recycling facilities at the pub.**



## Health Services

*In 2007 most of the Peninsula was covered by a three doctor practice based in Alderton. The surgery dispensed medication and patients could also buy pain killers and some medicines. Staff connected with the practice included a Practice Nurse, District Nurses, a Macmillan Nurse, Midwife and Health Visitor. The nearest hospital was (and still is) in Ipswich.*

Of the 136 respondents to this section 105 were registered in Alderton, 16 in Woodbridge and 15 were not registered at all. At the time the vast majority could always make an appointment to see the doctor at a convenient time with only 17% indicating that they could not which would reflect a very good service.

*Since the survey Framfield Medical Centre has been opened in Woodbridge and we would presume that some residents from Shottisham would now be registered there.*

There was also a section asking about the quality of service from some of the ancillary medical services that could be accessed through the surgery.

No one had used the family planning clinic, social worker, occupational therapist or meals on wheels and very few had accessed the maternity care, home help, chiropody, loan of medical equipment, physiotherapy, leg clinic, baby clinic or mobile screening facilities.

Those that had used these services had found them satisfactory or better except for the chiropody

(20% very poor = 5 people)

Of the 99 respondents, 88 individuals had seen the doctor within the past six months, 38 had seen the District Nurse and 12 the Health Visitor. Over 90% of respondents had found these services satisfactory or better which was very comforting.



When asked if there was a need for a weekly surgery in Shottisham 144 people replied with 63% answering in the negative, 12% felt there was a need and 25% didn't know indicating a general satisfaction with the out of village service provided at the time.

When asked how far people had to travel to see the Dentist (138 respondents) a third travelled less than 7 miles, just over a third more than 12 miles and the remainder were not registered at all.

The question 'Do you have a need for the following care / support services in Shottisham?' was answered by 72 individuals but 55 had no opinion or didn't know indicating an extremely low level of demand. The section covered pension collection, prescription collection, help with household repairs, assistance with shopping, help to attend social activities/events, adaptions to the home, help with personal tasks, someone to contact for assurance, transport to the day centre or transport to clinics. 9 people indicated they needed help with collection of prescriptions.

There appeared to be much satisfaction with the medical services offered to the village at the time of the original questionnaire.

*The Suffolk Link bus service*

*now provides transport to all the doctor's surgeries and Day care centres so everyone is able to access them even though they are located out of the village.*

*It is felt that there may be an increase in the number of elderly people choosing to remain in the village and live independently so it is possible that there will be a greater demand for the ancillary services.*



#### **Issues for the Action Plan & Questionnaire:**

- 1. Quality of chiropody service**
- 2. Need for village care group?**
- 3. Investigate current need re prescriptions**

## Social and Leisure Activities

*The community of Shottisham village has always been fortunate to benefit from a strong community spirit and low crime rate.*

84 respondents felt able to answer the question on community support and 50% of these felt there was a need for a neighbourhood watch scheme and a good neighbour scheme but very few saw the need for nominate a neighbour or community time swap.

*It is possible that views have changed in the past five years, especially with people preferring independent living as they get older and to stay in their homes for as long as possible which would necessitate increased support from neighbours and friends.*

128 people responded to the question about community events that occurred or could be established in the village. These included a Village Fete, Bonfire and Firework Event, Communal BBQ or similar on The Knoll, Children's Christmas Party and a Village History Exhibition.

There was much support for all these events and a few people also mentioned the bi-annual Open Gardens Event which is organised by St Margaret's Church.

Nov 5<sup>th</sup> 2011



Following this only 48 respondents indicated that they would be willing to help with voluntary groups that were currently running in the village.

Almost half of these (19 people) were willing to join the Friends of St Margaret's Church with slightly fewer offering general transport within the community, footpath maintenance and help with a local conservation group.

Very few respondents felt that they would be able to help with riding for the disabled, meals on wheels or at Hollesley School.

*Obviously, the views expressed five years ago may well have changed significantly and should be explored.*

### **Issue for the Questionnaire:**

- 1. Explore the need for a good neighbour scheme voluntary group**

## Village Facilities

*At the time of the 2007 questionnaire Shottisham Village had the Sorrel Horse pub, the Trust Hall, St Margaret's Church, a good sized recreation ground and the allotment area which were all available for use by the residents and some of these by visitors.*

When asked how often these amenities were used, 137 people responded and practically every one of these used the pub but only 28% visited weekly or more often, the remainder went monthly, rarely or never.

The Trust Hall was rarely or never used by the vast majority of responders (125) with only 8 people using it monthly or more often.

When asked if the Trust Hall was adequate for the needs of the village 144 people responded with 61% saying that it was, 7% thought that it was not and the remainder had no opinion or 'didn't know'.

St Margaret's Church was serving a core of around 21 people in 2007 who attended services monthly or more often. The vast majority of people (82%) rarely or never went to the church.

The playing field was also rarely or never used by the majority of respondents with only 17% taking their children there weekly or more often.

*There was no question about the allotment area.*

*In the past five years huge steps have been made to improve some of the village facilities.*

*The Sorrel Horse public house has changed hands twice.*

*The Trust Hall had always been owned by the Women's Institute who still hold their monthly meeting there, as do the Parish Council. The Hall is available to hire by anyone and is also used for the occasional social function.*



*The allotment area has been greatly increased in size and surrounded by high deer proof fencing which also keeps out the rabbits; a mains water tap has been installed for use by all the allotment holders.*



*New play equipment has been installed in the recreation ground into a dedicated fenced off area which includes a small football pitch. It is maintained by the Parish Council.*

111 people responded to the question 'Does Shottisham need any facilities for teenagers?

About one third of responders considered the village too small, one third that their needs were met elsewhere and the final third that play equipment was needed in the recreation ground (*since when it has been installed*).

The number of teenagers has varied over the years and it would be useful to establish if there was a current or anticipated requirement to provide for their needs within the village.

A relatively small number of people (62) expressed interest in establishing new clubs or activities in Shottisham.

These included a gardening club, rambling club, book club, drama club, art club, table games club, senior citizen's club, yoga, pilates, village history club and music club.

The numbers for each were very small except for gardening (18) yoga (17) and village history club (21)

*With the changes in population since 2007 there may well be more interest in establishing some of these groups. "Fit Villages" classes take place regularly at Hollesley Village Hall and Sutton Memorial Hall.*

#### **Issues for the Questionnaire:**

- 1. Explore the need for structured activities for young people**
- 2. Explore the interest in establishing new leisure activities especially a gardening club and village history group**

## Village Communications and Activities

*Although Shottisham is a relatively small village it is important that residents and visitors are kept in touch about events occurring locally and on the peninsula.*

*In 2007 there were two Parish notice boards, one located outside the Trust Hall and the other in a more prominent position on The Knoll outside the Sorrel Horse pub. There was also a Church notice board by its entrance. These are in the same places today.*

*Some people received The East Anglian Daily Times which was delivered locally, or The Ipswich Star was available from the shop in Hollesley. The Church magazine was published monthly under the name of the Shottisham Parish Newsletter and the Parish Council newsletter was delivered to residents on an irregular basis. Both of these were put together by volunteers.*

*Recently these have been replaced by the Village Newsletter which comprehensively reports on all village matters.*

*The Sorrel Horse pub would display information and notices of some local events and meetings as did St Margaret's Church.*

142 respondents answered the question about where they obtained information about events taking place in Shottisham. For the vast majority (102) this was by word of mouth.

The Parish notice boards, flyers posted through the door and the monthly church magazine provided information for approximately 50% of the respondents (some of these also received it by word of mouth). Notices on telegraph poles were seen by about 16% of people and very few relied on the library in Woodbridge, local radio, free papers or emails.

Less than a quarter of all respondents felt able to answer the question about the need to improve or alter the lines of communication. Of the 44 people who did answer this question the popular choice was to continue the village newsletter. There was virtually no support at all for the establishment of a village website, welcome leaflet for people moving into the village or a local information point.





*At the time of the original questionnaire the village had the use of a telephone box which was located outside the Old Post Office and which was rarely used by the vast majority of respondents. Soon after the survey BT decommissioned the telephone box but it has remained in place and is owned by the Parish Council.*

*residential dwelling since the 1990s but the village letterbox remains there in the wall of the building to be used by everyone. In 2007, 3% of respondents used it daily, 38% weekly, 46% posted items in it a few times a month or less and the remainder never used it at all.*

When asked if people knew how to contact various 'key' members in the village the vast majority indicated that they did for the Emergency electric service and one Parish Councillor.

Over 40% of respondents knew how to contact a District Councillor, The Elected MP, a Trust Hall representative, Local religious leaders, Church Wardens or the Emergency water service.

A minority felt that they would know how to make contact with the Parish Clerk or a County Councillor.

### **Issue for the Action Plan**

#### **1. Make contact numbers for 'key' members more available**



## **The Parish Council**

*The Council is made up of seven publicly elected members. The elections are held every four years and only occur if more than seven people wish to stand. The members of the Parish Council meet on a bi-monthly basis at the Trust Hall.*

*The PC deals with matters relating to Shottisham including the playing field, highways issues which may cause safety concerns for parishioners, commenting on planning applications, dog fouling, footpaths, etc, and the general wellbeing of the village.*

*Each year the Parish Council decide what money is needed to deliver local, village services. This amount, known as the 'precept', is then collected from local tax payers by Suffolk Coastal ( SCDC ) on behalf of the Parish. The money is limited and Councillors have to balance the village needs against the cost to the residents.*

Out of 116 respondents over 50% answered that they had never attended a Parish Council meeting in the past three years.

3% had attended to hear a discussion on a specific issue and a small minority for general interest or an extra-ordinary meeting.

When asked, 45% of the respondents felt that the Parish Council did a good job overall and that it was accessible and open, published planning applications and council meetings well. Slightly fewer people agreed that the Council publicised its activities and decisions well.

There was a significant number of the 'no opinion' option to this section with 60% also choosing this when asked if the Parish Council liaised well with the District or County Councilors.

When asked 'What improvements could be made to the statutory annual parish meeting to encourage more parishioners to attend?' 100 people responded with 80% indicating that they would prefer it to be publicised more widely beforehand. There was a small amount of interest shown for a topical speaker, a less formal approach, provision of homemade refreshments and the suggestion of making it more interactive.

*Since the survey was completed a number of long-standing projects have been brought to fruition by the Parish Council including playground improvements, allotments improvement, provision of a bench in the playing field, and the Council has made changes to the meetings as suggested.*

### **Issues for Action Plan**

- 1. Better publication and notification of PC AGM**
- 2. Better publication of PC activities and decisions**

## **The Church**

*St Margaret's Church is part of the St Edmundsbury and Ipswich Diocese and the Woodbridge Deanery. It is under the care of a Team Vicar who has taken up the post since the survey was conducted and who is also responsible for two other parishes (Bromeswell and Sutton) The building is loved and looked after ably by a willing group of people who arrange flowers, etc when required. There is a rota of people who play the organ for services.*

*To maintain the beautiful historic building needs constant fundraising which is led by the Parochial Church Council, a body of people who run the Church.*

*The Council has a Chairperson who is often the Incumbent but does not have to be, a Treasurer, a Secretary and a representative who goes to the next level of the hierarchy, the Deanery. That person can take information to that level, but also brings back information from the Diocese and in fact, from General Synod.*

*The church regularly gives to charities chosen by the PCC that are reviewed each year. However, at the present time the tower needs urgent attention for repair, and to pay for this help is needed from charities who give grants, from the people in the village and from organised events.*

131 respondents answered the question about whether places of faith were important to them. The majority of these saw the church's significance as that of an historic building with slightly fewer appreciating it as a place for ceremonies such as weddings, funerals and baptisms.

Only 39% went to church for regular or occasional worship with slightly more seeing the church as a focal point for the community.

When asked if they would like to see St Margaret's used as a meeting place for other activities 107 respondents answered.

There was considerable support (over 70%) for the use of the church for exhibitions and concerts, with fewer people seeing the possibility of it being used for meetings or plays.

There was also a question about how well the church and its religious leaders fulfilled the needs of parishioners in Shottisham.

This question covered topics such as times of services, variety of services, pastoral care, visiting the housebound, visiting the bereaved and visiting the sick.

*Since the survey was conducted the position of Vicar has changed and the results from this section are no longer relevant.*

## **No identified issues for the Action Plan**

## **Conclusions and Next Actions**

Although the original appraisal was carried out in 2007, events have conspired to delay the production of this plan until now. We have written up and interpreted the questionnaire results as originally intended, but have taken into account where situations have changed or been overtaken by events.

Although the production of this plan was delayed, your Parish Council has had access to the results and has been able to take on board some of the issues raised then.

It has become abundantly clear to the editorial team that many of the original findings need to be tested again in the light of the changes that have occurred nationally, locally, and not least, the people who now live in the village. We have all got older and may have new needs; there are many more teenagers and younger people who likewise may have new needs. As a result we have identified issues where we feel it appropriate to consult with you again. As a result, the new questionnaire will aim to give us up to date results which will be incorporated into a revised Plan and Action Plan, to be issued later this year.

We are currently preparing this questionnaire (which will be much shorter than the original) and this will be distributed during June for you to complete by July. We aim to publish the results to the village during October.

On the next page you will find a summary of the actions identified herein. This will be used to develop the Action Plan itself, which will be updated regularly as progress is made. However action plans do not produce results all on their own! We need your suggestions on how to carry these forward, and are looking for volunteers to either take responsibility for, or help with the actions. Similarly, we need your help in suggesting issues which you feel would be appropriate to include in the new questionnaire.

To help with this process, and to give you an opportunity to discuss any part of the Plan with the Parish Council or the Parish Plan Group, we will be holding an open event in the Trust Hall on 2<sup>nd</sup> June where you will be invited to drop in and let us know your views.

We suggest you have another look at the "Objectives of the Plan" section and ask yourselves how much has been achieved, and what more could be achieved.

Thanks for taking the time to read this Plan for Shottisham, and please come along to the event and let us know what you think of this Plan and suggestions for issues you would like to see addressed.

Thanks again

The Parish Plan Steering Group

## Draft Action Plan Summary

Below we summarise the actions identified in this Plan. A separate Action Plan will chart progress. This will be issued later.

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Proposed action</b>
1. <i>Housing:</i> To note wishes of residents	Inform all relevant parties
2. <i>Education:</i> Need for new classes	Identify current need in new questionnaire and is Hollesley school available
3. <i>Education:</i> Advertising current classes	To determine how to better advertise current classes
4. <i>Environment:</i> Need to identify at risk banks and verges, and if anything can be done to ameliorate.	Decide how to improve and prevent damage
5. <i>Environment:</i> The meadow is not well kept	To enquire whether the meadow could be better maintained
6. <i>Environment:</i> Tree & hedge maintenance	Determine how to better look after our hedges & trees
7. <i>Traffic:</i> Car Parking	Explore where further car parking provision could be made
8. <i>Traffic:</i> Provide better signs for the pub car park	Discuss with pub Board
9. <i>Traffic:</i> Speed through village	Campaign for a lower speed limit
10. <i>Traffic:</i> Danger spots	Ask for more help from road safety to deal with the danger spots
11. <i>Traffic:</i> Footpath map	Production of a local footpath map and walks
12. <i>Traffic:</i> Footpath signposts	Determine how to ensure good maintenance of footpaths / signposts
13. <i>Other Services:</i> Surface water drains	Determine how and if these be improved
14. <i>Other Services:</i> Mobile phone reception	Determine how we can have better coverage?
15. <i>Other Services:</i> Winter weather service for Church Lane, Hollesley Road, Heath Drive	Determine how to improve
16. <i>Communications:</i> Contact Numbers	Make contact numbers for "key" members more available
17. <i>Parish Council:</i> AGM	Need better publication and notification of PC AGM
18. <i>Parish Council:</i> PC Activities	Need better publication of PC activities and decisions

## Authors and Acknowledgements

This Parish plan has been produced by past and present members of the Parish Plan Steering Group, and many other contributors. We would like to thank all those who have given their time, those who have provided the excellent photos, and to the late County Councillor Rosie Clarke, Suffolk ACRE, and DEFRA who all provided funding and guidance.

We thank you all.

