

Great & Little Gidding Parish Plan 2004

results & action plan



From Rt Hon Sir Brian Mawhinney PhD MP

RT HON SIR BRIAN MAWHINNEY PhD MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

13 May 2004
Ref: bm/kh

Ms Sue Jarvis
37 Chapel Road
Great Gidding
Huntingdon
PE28 5NP

Dear Ms. Jarvis,

"I should like to congratulate the Great and Little Gidding Parish Council and its Parish Plan Steering Committee for producing this Parish Plan. In itself it is a significant achievement. Equally importantly the Plan can then become the basis of partnership with other Local Authorities and Agencies to help develop the area in a sensible and sustainable way which meets local needs and aspirations as well as providing a better future for the villagers and the local area.

I warmly congratulate all the local people who contributed and look forward to assisting, in whatever way is appropriate, in the development of the proposals."

*Yours sincerely,
Brian Mawhinney*

Great & Little Gidding Parish Plan 2004

Steering Committee

Dear Parishioner

Sue Jarvis
T: 01832 293271

It seems a very long time since I first went to a meeting about the importance of Parish Plans. In fact it was 2 years ago now, which may seem a long time to produce the following document about Great and Little Gidding Parish, but anyone who has any dealings with Parish Plans (or Great and Little Gidding!) will not be surprised.

Peter Comeau
T: 01832 293236

Julie Trolove
T: 01832 293598

I was grateful to my fellow Parish Councillors for listening to the feedback from the meeting, and for taking the idea on board so quickly once they had realised its purpose. The result is that we, as parishioners, now have an opportunity to take our community forward, as we have not only identified local needs but also provided solutions through an Action Plan.

Ian Stapleton
T: 01832 293463

Lois Jordan
T: 01832 293178

We often hear the phrase 'no community spirit' these days, particularly in rural areas, and no doubt people are right to feel anxious about the changes that are taking place. However, I think the questionnaire answers have highlighted just how much people in the parish of Great and Little Gidding do care about the countryside and their community. The really hard part comes with the Action Plan which is a way for us as parishioners to be involved in many projects and to support and be informed about actions of our representatives, the Parish Council.

I would like to thank the members of the Parish Council for their support in this project, to Stan Rees from ACRE, the Countryside Agency, and to every member of the Steering Committee who has provided their precious time and their own form of expertise to produce the following document. Their support and commitment (not to mention the essential quality of good humour) have been invaluable.

Finally, a big thank you to every parishioner for your participation which I'm sure will be ongoing. Yes, after two years, I'm still an optimist.

Sue Jarvis

Chairperson Great and Little Gidding Parish Plan Steering Committee

results
& action plan

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Great Gidding - a working rural village

From the Chairman of the Parish Council 2003/4

Dear Parishioners

The Parish Council has been pleased to be involved in the national initiative of Parish Plans by promoting a local Plan for Great and Little Gidding.

Parish Plans are a way of finding out what people really think about the present and the future of their community, and the results of the Plan will be used to influence the work of the District and County Councils. It is a real asset to the Parish Council to be able to quote real statistics when asked to comment on a specific issue. By filling in the questionnaire you have also given us, your Parish Council, accurate pointers for the work we can do in the community.

Steve Blyton

Chairman of the Council 2003/4

Key statistics

Information about the parish and its key features/statistics. Where the village is, its population, history, key people, recent changes.

Demographic details

The total number of respondents to this survey from the parish of Great and Little Gidding was 250, which we believe is about 85% of the total population. This high percentage would seem to indicate a lively interest in what goes on in our community.

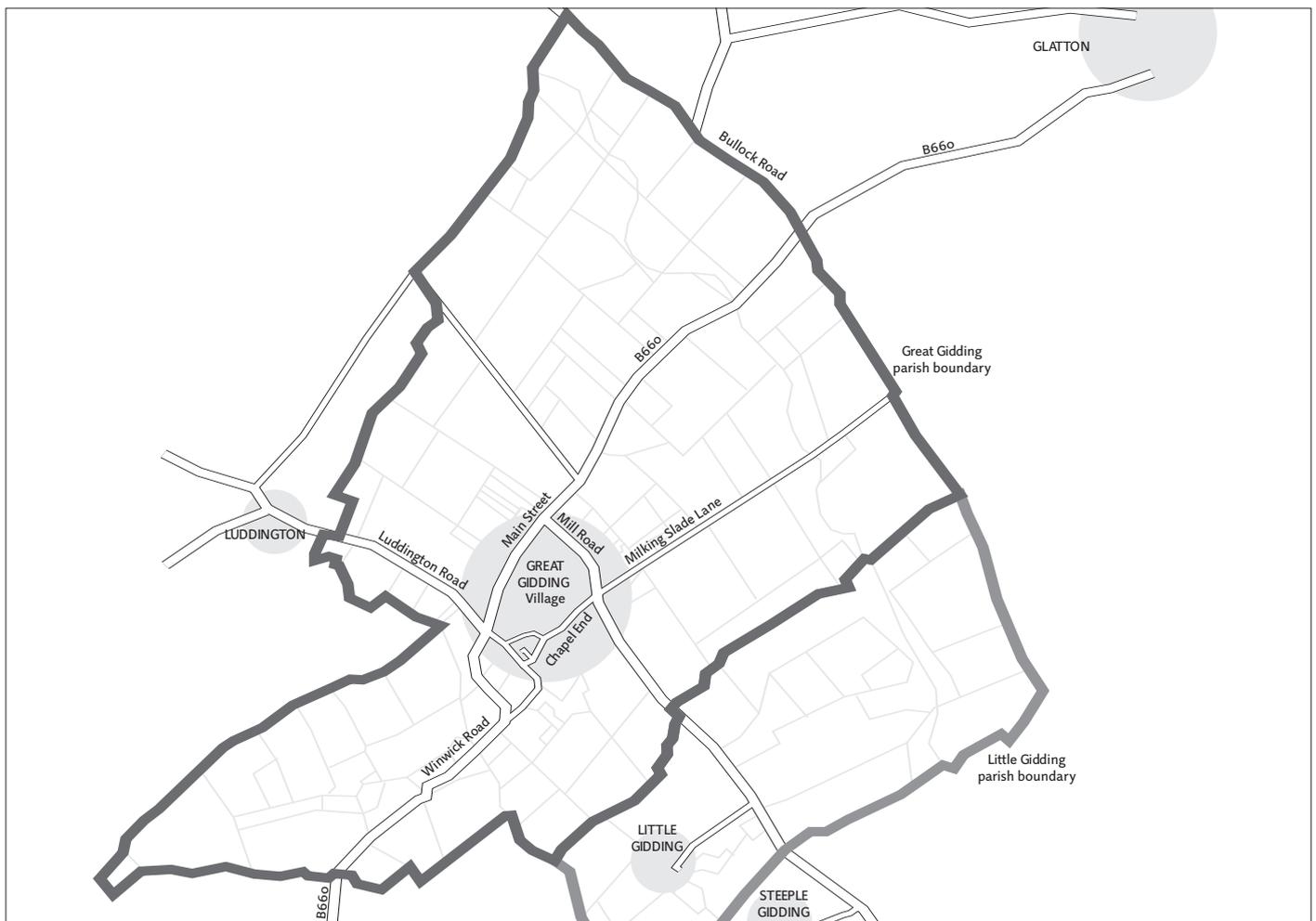
48% of respondents are aged between 25 and 59, 21% are minors, and 25% over 60. These figures roughly correspond to the national average, though there is a slight excess of older people as against the national average of 22%. Only 6% are between 18 and 24.

The ratio between the sexes is roughly 50:50 with a slight preponderance of male over female at the age extremes and female over male in the 25 to 59 group.

Great and Little Gidding

Formerly in the old county of Huntingdonshire, Great Gidding has been a parish in the County of Cambridgeshire since the 1980s. Little Gidding lies approximately one mile south of Great Gidding and was originally formed from the existing settlement of Great Gidding. Oundle,

our nearest small town, is 8 miles to the west in neighbouring Northamptonshire, with Huntingdon about 12 miles to the south and the ever expanding city of Peterborough approximately 14 miles to the north. There are approximately 300 residents in the parish.



Map of parish of Great and Little Gidding

To the east of the parish lies the A1, and on the north eastern border is the Bullock Road which was used as a droving road to move livestock from the north of England to London. There are indications that the Romans used it originally as an alternative route to Ermine St., between Alconbury and Castor, as many Roman artifacts have been found in the adjacent parish of Steeple Gidding.

This rural community, although close to the large urbanisation of Peterborough (and getting ever closer with the increase in sprawling suburbs to the south of the city) has always revolved around farming. However, with the advent of improved communications/technology, many of the inhabitants now either run their businesses from home, or commute to their places of work which inevitably includes the train ride to London, using the main line service from Peterborough or Huntingdon to Kings Cross.

History

Great and Little Gidding were one parish at the time of the Domesday Survey in 1086. The area was owned mostly by William Engaine and Eustace the Sheriff, with about 300 acres being part of the estates of the Abbots of Ramsey.

Some 700 acres of the Engaine portion were separated off in the twelfth century, being known at one time as Gidding Engaine before it became Little Gidding. The remainder of the parish continued to be owned by three different Lords of the Manor until the time of Elizabeth I. The dissolution of the monasteries and



Nicholas Ferrar window at Clare Chapel, Cambridge

Elizabeth I's purge of the Catholics resulted in the whole parish coming under the ownership of the heir to Gidding Moyne. This was the Watson family of Rockingham Castle, Near Corby, in Northamptonshire. For exactly 240 years, from 1587 to 1827, the Watsons and their descendants were Lords of the Manor of Great Gidding.

Although Little Gidding lies just over a mile from the village of Great Gidding, its history shows a distinctive path which many have followed, even though they have had no personal or historical links with the Giddings.

The story starts with Nicholas Ferrar, born in 1593, who was the founder of a religious community that lasted from 1626 to 1646. After Nicholas had been ordained as a deacon, he and his family and a few friends retired to Little Gidding to devote themselves to a life of prayer and charity. Nicholas and his family discovered and bought the manor of Little Gidding, a village which had been deserted either for economic reasons or because of the Black Death (a major outburst of bubonic plague in the 14th century). This was probably recommended by John Williams, Bishop of Lincoln, whose palace was at the nearby village of Buckden.



St John's Church, Little Gidding

They cleared the tiny church, which was being used as a barn, and restored it for worship. They also taught the neighbourhood children and looked after the health and well-being of the people of the district.

Nicholas died in 1637 aged 43. King Charles 1st visited the manor 3 times, the last visit being on the 2nd May 1646 whilst on his way to join the Scots army. In the following November parliamentary soldiers of Cromwell's army sacked the house. They did return however, in July 1647 and remained until a few years after the restoration. The house probably fell into ruin after they left, part of it is said to have been taken down early in the 18th century and the remainder in 1798. The site of the Manor House can still be seen between the existing Ferrar House and the Church.

The memory of the community survived to inspire and influence later undertakings in Christian communal living, and one of T.S. Eliot's FOUR QUARTETS is called "Little Gidding."

The Friends of Little Gidding, founded in 1947 by Alan Maycock, have organised for over thirty years an annual pilgrimage and raised funds for the maintenance of the church at Little Gidding. One of the original members was T.S. Eliot, whose poem entitled 'Little Gidding' helped to renew interest in the place and its history. Alan Maycock looked forward to community life being restored to Little Gidding and when this occurred in the late 1970s the Friends decided to attach themselves to the Society of Christ the Sower. The Community disbanded in 1998.

There are many signs still remaining in Great and Little Gidding that provide links with the past. The furrows for example, which are echoes of the open field (ridge and furrow) system which came to an end in this parish in 1869, making it one of the last parishes in the country, and certainly the last one in Huntingdonshire, to lose its open field system. Before reliable census figures became available in the nineteenth century, it is difficult to know what the population of the village was. However, it was probably remarkably stable, as the method of farming hardly changed, with the same number of people being required to farm the land and provide the necessary manual labour and support trades for



Ridge and furrow field

the farmers. It has been estimated that there were about 250 people at the time of Domesday and this probably did not vary much until the late eighteenth century.

Facilities

The community is served by an excellent local shop and Post Office in Great Gidding, whose many services include the delivery of shopping for those who require it, dry cleaning and photo processing, as well as a pick up point for prescriptions from the local surgery in Sawtry. The shop also provides access to a computer and free lessons for those of us in need of a little help in updating or even starting our knowledge of IT skills, and has applied for a licence to sell lottery tickets as well as road vehicle tax.

We are one of the few communities who have retained a recreational field, providing a play area with swings and slides for the younger members of the community



As it was, the Fox and Hounds, Main Street, Great Gidding

Map of Great Gidding village



as well as a wide open space for sports. This area doubles up as a football pitch for our local primary school, a cricket pitch for the enthusiastic local cricket team (comprising all ages and abilities) and in recent years has become the venue for the church fete and village sports day when old and young meet together to share the fun.

The earliest Inn recorded in Great Gidding was the Bull and Boar, first mentioned in 1754. This changed its name to the Fox and Hounds before 1839, perhaps soon after the Fitzwilliams became Lords of the Manor in 1827. Two other pubs, The Crown and the White Hart, were also open throughout the 1800s, but by the early 1930s the Fox and Hounds was the only surviving hostelry. The pub, which has a comfortable lounge bar and small but cosy public bar, also has a large beer

garden at the rear, and Bed and Breakfast is provided throughout the year.

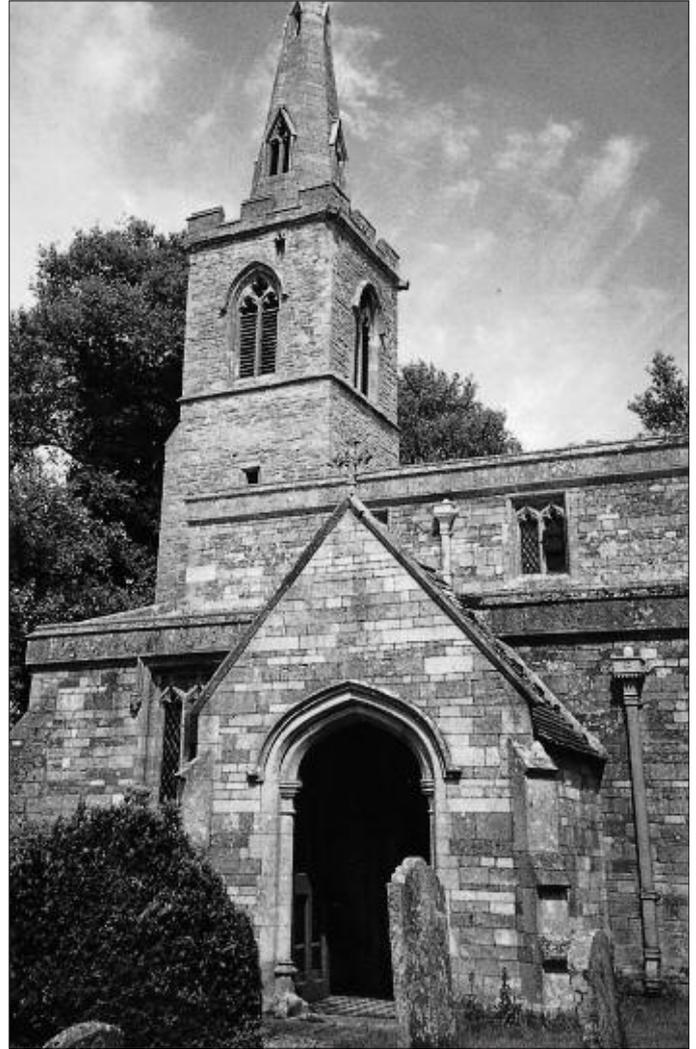
To the north east of the church in Great Gidding is a successful voluntary controlled church primary school. Built in 1846, this lovely old building has gone through many stages of fortune, nearly closing in the 1970s due to lack of pupils. However, due to a great deal of effort and lobbying by the local community, especially the Parish Priest Rev. Ostler, this threat was not carried out, and we are now rather ironically faced with the reality that the school building no longer meets the needs of the modern curriculum and legislation, particularly with regards to the Disability Discrimination Act. This means that we are now awaiting the decision from the Local Education Authority regarding the site of the new school building within Great Gidding.



Great Gidding Baptist Chapel

The Great Gidding Baptist Chapel was built in 1790, towards which 43 people contributed £33. In 1862 the Manse was built from the subscription of £250 from 250 residents. Some records exist, but are incomplete. The autobiography of early pastor Joseph Norris is contained in the Huntingdon Record office's archives.

The church of St. Michael consists of a chancel, nave, north aisle, south aisle, west tower and spire and a south porch. The walls are rubble with stone dressings and the roofs are covered with slates and lead. Although the church is not mentioned in the Domesday survey of 1086, there was a stone church here before the middle of the 13th century, the date of the present south doorway; and the late 13th century chancel is, undoubtedly, a rebuilding of part of that early church. A western tower was added to it in the first half of the 14th century, but the belfry was not built until about 1370. The nave and the chancel arch were rebuilt around 1400, and some 60 years later the two aisles, the clearstory and the porch were rebuilt. The parapets of the tower and spire were not built until the early years of the 16th century. The church was restored in 1870 when the walls of the chancel were raised, a new roof put on and the porch rebuilt again. The tower and the chancel arch were restored in 1925.



St Michael's Church, Great Gidding

We would like to acknowledge that some of the information was taken from the excellent 'Millennium History of Great Gidding' by Patrick Ellis & David Shepherd; and from the website of Little Gidding Church.

For clarity the responses are given in percentage terms, based on the total number of answers given to each question (N). Please note that many questions were phrased to accept multiple answers, therefore the percentages may add to more than 100.

Housing

The choice of why people came to live in the Giddings centred around a love of country life (39%) and a love of village life (32%) with a similar number having work in the area. Surprisingly, for a rural village, only a small number (11%) were born here, 11% have relatives nearby and 10% came with family.

A large response to the question regarding the kind of accommodation needed in the parish centred around significant support for two choices. 46% felt that homes for young people must be a priority, and 45% favoured more small family homes. However, a significant 25% thought that no further development is necessary, 15% wanted larger family homes, while 12% wanted more homes for single people. There was 8% support for homes for people with disabilities, and 7% support for sheltered homes.

In terms of the type of housing development that would be acceptable, 52% of respondents opted for conversion of redundant buildings, 42% favoured single dwellings and 28% small groups of less than 10 houses. Expansion at the edge of the village was the choice of 18%, while 19% wanted no development at all.

Locations for these homes attracted a smaller number of respondents, 77. The highest percentage (23%) preferred locations in Main Street or infill throughout the village (21%). Mill Lane and Chapel End were picked by 17% each, 7% favoured barn conversions and 12% picked other locations.

Services

Regarding crime and anti-social behaviour, the main cause for concern is theft (80% of respondents), followed by vandalism (46%). Mugging, drunkenness and other forms of anti-social behaviour drew little attention in the questionnaire.

As a result of this concern there was significant support (49%) for a Neighbourhood Watch scheme and greater Police presence in the parish (43%), with 30% requesting improved consultation between Police and locals. 35% felt that the provision for activities for young people was important, presumably to avoid the link with vandalism, a major cause of concern. 13% requested improved street lighting.

On the question of whether the parish needs a public toilet, the outstanding vote was No (72%).

Each household was asked whether, if the following services were provided, they would like to be connected. 76% answered that they would select to be connected to mains gas, 49% to Broadband and 34% to cable TV. Clearly such a strong request for mains gas should not be ignored, whilst the percentages for Broadband and cable services can be passed to the relevant service suppliers.



Neighbourhood Watch

A high priority was given to refuse collection and recycling, with 65% requesting bulky item collection, a similar number requiring the bottle and newspaper banks. A skip for garden waste also found considerable favour (56%), indicating the environmental concern, and was definitely preferred to a public bulk refuse tip (17%). Respondents clearly favour the idea of “Wheely Bins” (58%), which may be a more convenient method of collecting refuse than the current methods. A can bank and clothing bank were requested by 48% and 42% of respondents respectively.

The local shop is used weekly by 43% of respondents, 34% using it daily. 36% use the Post Office weekly and 21% use it monthly. Clearly the shop and Post Office are considered an important part of the community. Daily milk delivery is used by 10%, 2% use the mobile library monthly and 7% less frequently.

When asked what they used the Post Office for, 93% answered for the postal service, 38% for payment of TV licence and other bills (there has been a recent petition for Vehicle Licence issue and renewal). 13% collected pension payments and the same number used the banking facilities. 20% found the Post Office a source of information.



The local shop and Post Office is an important amenity

Transport

Transport covers many different, closely linked, subjects. One issue often has an effect on a number of other situations around the parish. The roads around the parish are very busy and are often used as a through route for large vehicles from the A1 to A14. There are also a large number of farm vehicles on the roads.

Vehicle use

Cars form an essential part of everyday life for a large majority of people within the parish. Only 9 people out of 189 responses said they did not have access to a vehicle. Of the other 180 responses that do have access or own a vehicle, the main uses were as follows.

30% for business journeys, 53% for transport to work, 83% for shopping, 82% for leisure, 12% for transporting children to school/college. 12% for other.

Generally it appears that, other than within a family unit, most people do not share transport on a regular basis and would not be prepared to share. 59.5% said they do not share transport. When asked if they were prepared to share transport very few people said they would consider doing it often. Sharing the ‘school run’ seems the most popular with only 10 responses (6.6%).

Some people would ‘occasionally’ share for shopping 32%, or social/leisure 34.9%.

More than half of the respondents said they would never share transport for shopping (55.9%), school (56.6%), and work (59.2%). 45.4% of those that answered said they would not share for social occasions.

These figures are most likely due to the fact that the Giddings are small and do not have any large facilities, therefore people have to travel some distance and will choose from one of many towns to travel to. This makes the logistics of organising lifts very awkward.

Parking

A large number of people work outside of the Giddings and therefore use cars/vans for this purpose (159 people). We can surmise from this that the vast majority of these vehicles are out of the parish during the day.

In total only 12 people stated they park their cars on the street. Yet 65% of those who answered said they considered street parking in the parish to be a problem. These figures indicate clearly that a large majority of this problem is due to 'visiting' vehicles. When asked about 'danger spots' on our roads, 60% highlighted street parking outside the school. Interestingly, 23 people from the parish use cars for the school run. Some will be from Little Gidding, some going to other schools, however some are only going to Great Gidding school. This is an area that could be looked into further to try to alleviate the parking problem.

Disabled parking does appear to be a concern for some in the community. 28% said there are not enough spaces for disabled persons to park.

Public Transport

People in the parish generally do not use the bus service. 85.6% said they never use the service and a further 8.6% rarely use it. This is for obvious reasons. The existing service consists of three routes (Wednesday to Peterborough, Thursday to Oundle and Friday to Huntingdon). These are run only once on each of the days and this is during the day when people are at work. There is no reason to expect that it would be viable to expand this daytime service. If public service buses were to be expanded to cover the Giddings it would be worth considering at what times people would use it. If an alternative were provided people might be persuaded to rely less on their cars.

Speed control

Most people seem to feel strongly about the need to do something to try to slow the traffic down. 186 people responded to this question and many would like to see more than one method of control introduced.

The control measures are listed in order of the number of responses.

- Speed sensor warning signs 55%
- Introduce a speed limit 38%
- Traffic calming 36%
- Children at play signs 35%
- More road warning signs 33%

- Extension of the speed limit 29%

Only 7.5% said that they did not wish to see any speed control measures introduced.

Since this survey the introduction of a 30mph limit on the B660 and extension of the limit area in Great Gidding has dealt with one of the issues that concerned people.

Street Lighting

The majority of those who answered believe that the street lighting in Great Gidding to be good or reasonable (82.5%). Only (11%) said that in their opinion it was poor.



Street lighting on Main Street, Great Gidding

Pavements

The pavements in Great Gidding are not felt to be user friendly. Only 9.1% said they were good. 56 people (30.1%) said they were reasonable and 70 people (37.6%) said they felt that the pavements were poor.

Individual responses on transport problems

People were asked to identify areas that they were concerned about. The list below shows, in order of concern, their views on trouble spots around the parish.

- School parking (48%)
- Parking on outside of Village Hall bend (19%)
- Post Office/Shop parking (12%)
- Cross roads (11%)

Vehicle access to the Village Hall is hazardous, as is crossing with children to and from the playgroup, largely due to the lack of visibility around the bend.

Health & education

School

The present Great Gidding school was built in 1846 when funding was provided by Lord William, Earl Fitzwilliam. Built in the north east corner of the churchyard, it currently provides primary educational facilities for over seventy children from the local area.

72% of the 192 people who answered the question regarding the importance of the school to the parish said it was 'very important' and another 29 people (15%) said it was 'important'. 14 people (7.3%) felt that it was 'not very important'. Responses to this question were one of the highest in number.

Adult Education

Educational facilities for adult members of the community are non-existent at present within the parish apart from individual tuition on the computer at Gt. Gidding Shop and Post Office. Sessions are available on Tuesdays and Fridays, and the tuition given covers a wide range of skill levels, from total beginner to those who are already familiar with a range of applications. Tuition is provided free of charge by Huntingdon District Council and bookings can be made through the shop.

51.9% of the 131 people who responded to the question regarding the need for further educational facilities, thought the parish needed adult education evening classes. The subsequent question to which 107 people responded, identified interest in computing, languages and crafts (with positive responses from 51:48:40% respectively).

Educational Facilities

Of the 131 people answering the original question regarding educational facilities, 48% identified a need for after school clubs, 47% for holiday play scheme, 42% for a playgroup and 30% for a nursery school. A number of these (after school club, and playgroup) already exist in the parish, and are based at Great Gidding village hall. A smaller number, 18%, identified a need for more registered child minders.

Individual comments made by parishioners highlighted a strong concern about the dangers of road parking outside the school, and parents using the crossroads at the bottom of the village as a roundabout in order to turn their cars around. Access to the village hall where the playgroup and toddlers groups are held was also mentioned as a 'major danger spot'. This issue is dealt with in more depth under the Transport section of the plan.

Health

In terms of access to health facilities, less than 10% of the 174 people who answered the relevant question often have difficulty in getting to see a 'health professional'. The highest proportion (6.3%) related to access to hospital and the dentist. Of more concern however, is that over 90% of those people stated that they occasionally have difficulty getting to their doctor, chemist or hospital. Getting to their dentist, chiropodist and optician was only marginally less difficult at times, with percentages ranging from 82.2 – 88.5%. This data is difficult to interpret accurately as the term 'occasionally' was not qualified, and may refer to those who visited occasionally and always had difficulty or conversely visited frequently but only experienced difficulty on some of those occasions.

The positive response of over 90% of the 179 people who answered the question regarding access to prescriptions is likely to be a reflection of the excellent service provided by the owners of Gt. Gidding Post Office and shop, where prescriptions from Sawtry surgery can be collected every Friday.

Individual comments on Education and Health

The lack of off road parking for the school and inevitable danger spot caused by cars parking outside the school is a great anxiety for many people. (See *Transport section*)

The need for a family centred community with appropriate amenities for all ages and abilities was requested.

Specific health issues were not mentioned in the individual responses.

Activities

At present, the village hall and the recreation field are the two main facilities for clubs and activities. Recent information regarding the possible re-siting of the school has raised awareness that alternative facilities could be included in the design plan of a new school, but this information was not available at the time of the questionnaire.

In answer to the sports club/activity which parishioners would most like to attend, 44% of the 129 who responded voted for badminton, 44% for tennis, closely followed by 36% for a keep fit class. At present the village hall cannot be used for badminton due to the low ceiling and, although the recreation field has room for a tennis court, the present uneven grass surface would not be suitable for playing on.

Between 20–22% showed an interest in pool, bowls, yoga, and youth football with judo and squash between 9 and 10%.

There was a broad interest shown in the question regarding types of new clubs that people would be interested in attending. Out of the 106 people who answered the question, 29% would like a gardening club, closely followed by 28% for a rambling club, 25% for an art club, 16% for a drama group, 13% for a choir, 12% for a creative arts group for children and 10% for both a music society and senior citizens group. Whist drives and U3A came in at 8%, with 5% hoping for a band (type of music not specified).

Out of the 181 of the respondents to the question regarding the facilities in the playground 41% felt they were reasonable with 15% stating they were poor. 68 people (38%) gave 'no opinion' and did not establish a reason for this.

As to the village hall, 75% felt that it is adequate for the needs of the parish, 11% said it isn't, with 14% having no opinion. 185 people answered this question in total. Unfortunately only 56 people answered the question regarding gaining access to the village hall, but 75% of that total do not attend any activities there, with 7% stating no wheelchair access as a difficulty and 4% stating that they had no one to go with. 2% stated that



Village Fete and Sports Day 2004

both transport and costs of attending were difficulties but no one had any difficulty with parking.

A general question was asked with reference to the contribution of religious groups towards community life and, out of the 184 respondents, 55% answered that they thought they did contribute, with 30% having no opinion and 15% saying no.

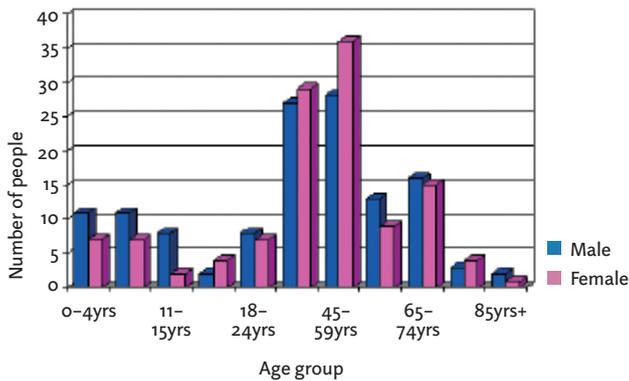
There was very little response to the question regarding views on local social facilities with only 27 answers. Roughly twice as many think the facilities are poor compared to those who think they are good, and this applies across all age ranges.

Continued on page 19

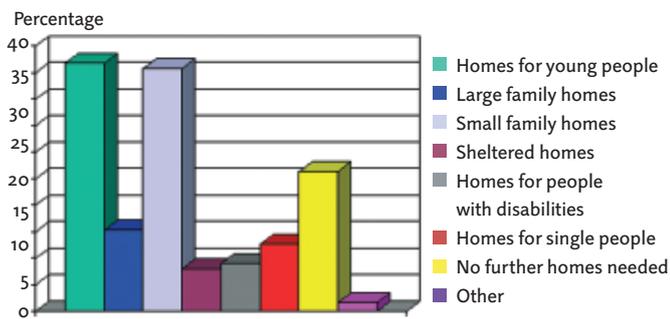
These pages show a representation of the results.

The Parish Clerk, June Miller, can be contacted on tel: 01733 241 633 or by e-mail: jemiller@onetel.com for anyone wishing to see the complete set of graphs and charts.

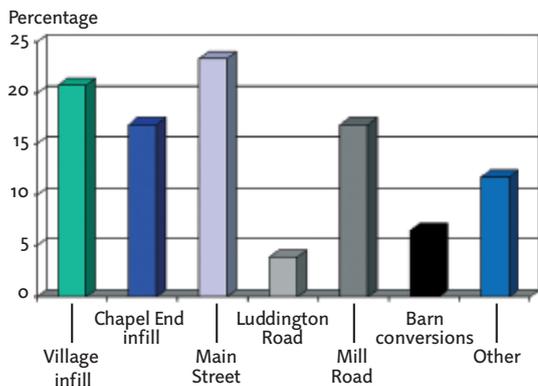
Housing



Number of people in each household in each age group

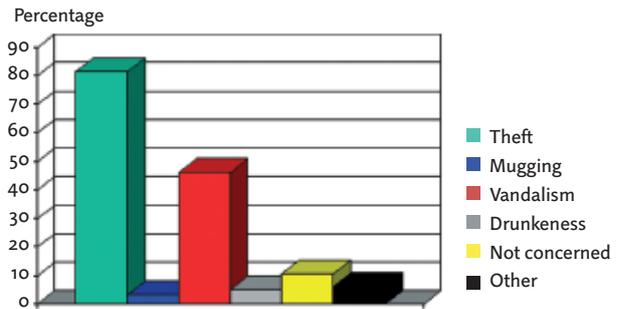


What kind of accommodation do you think the parish needs? (N=190)

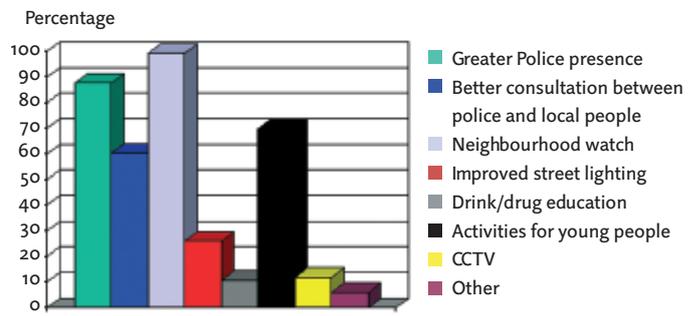


In your opinion what locations would be suitable for new homes? (N=77)

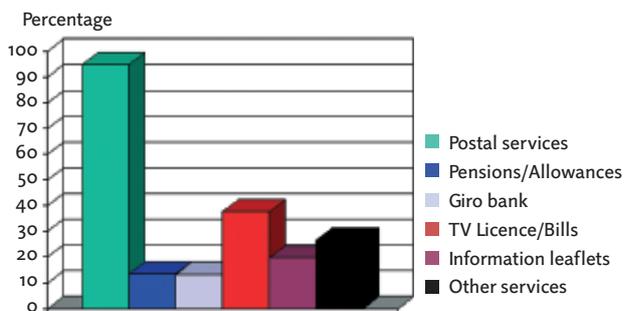
Services



Which, if any, of the following crimes and anti-social behaviour concern you in the parish? (N=177)

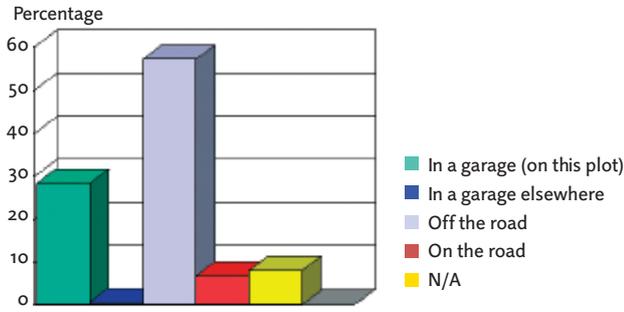


Do you think that any of the following measures are needed? (N=169)

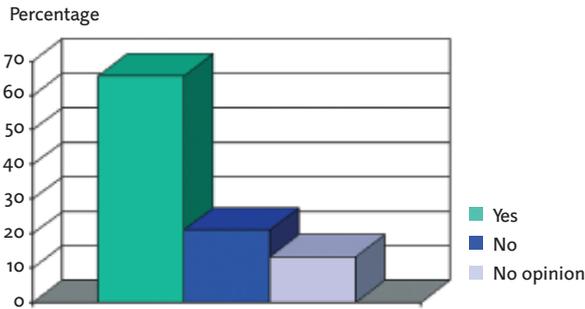


If you use the local Post Office, please say what for? (N=172)

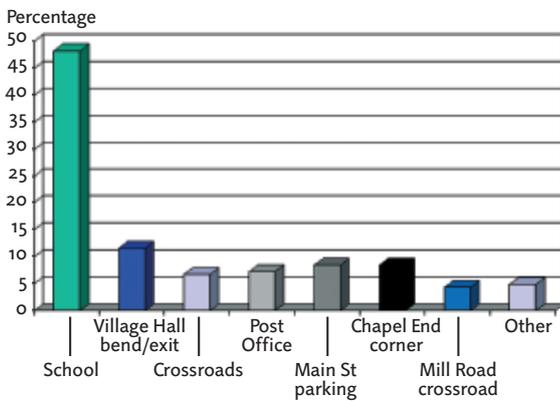
Transport



Where do you usually park your vehicle? (N=178)

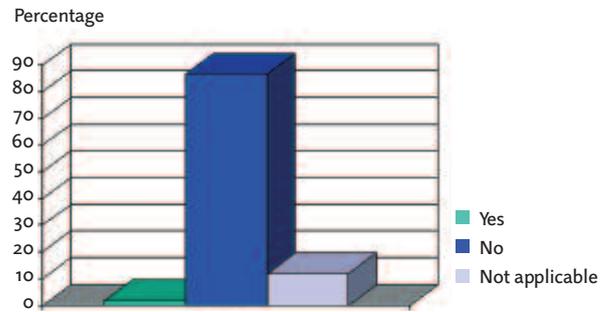


Is street parking a safety risk in the Giddings? (N=186)



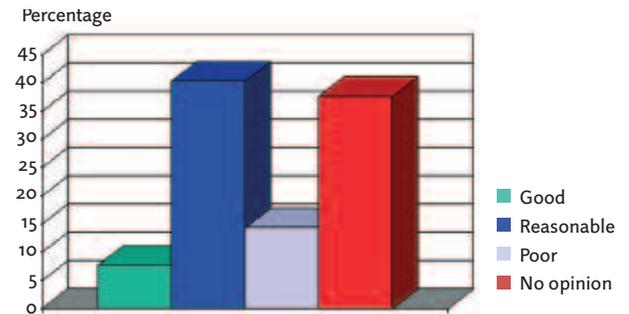
What are the major dangerspots on parish roads? (N=164)

Health and Education

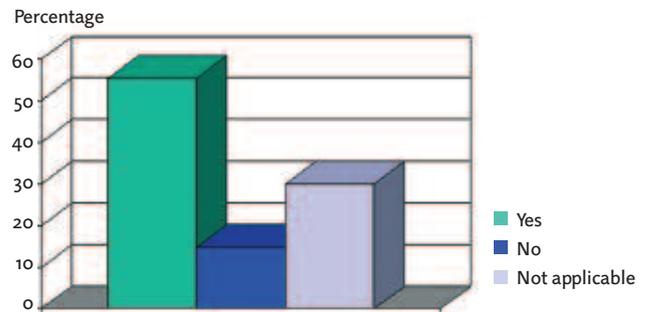


Do you have problems collecting prescriptions?

Activities

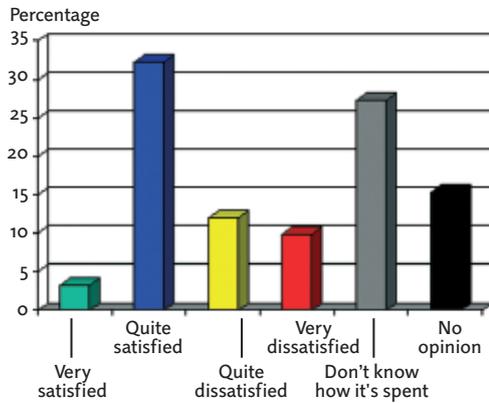


Are the facilities provided in the children's playground?

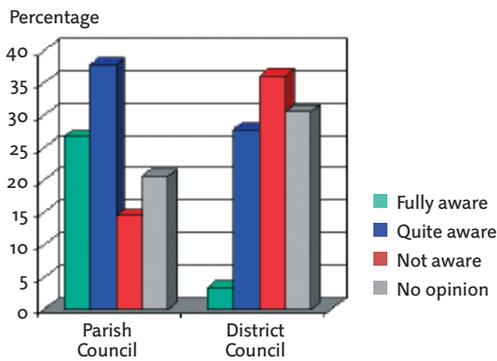


Do you think local religious groups contribute to community life?

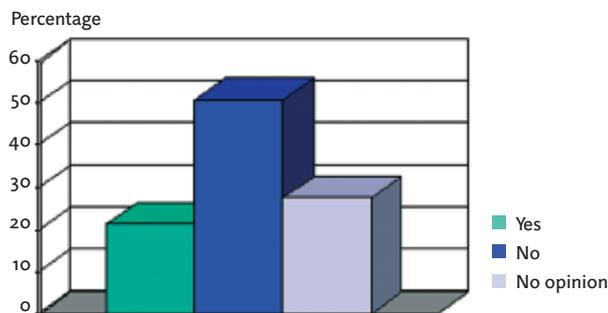
Information



Are you satisfied with the way the Local Council spends its money?

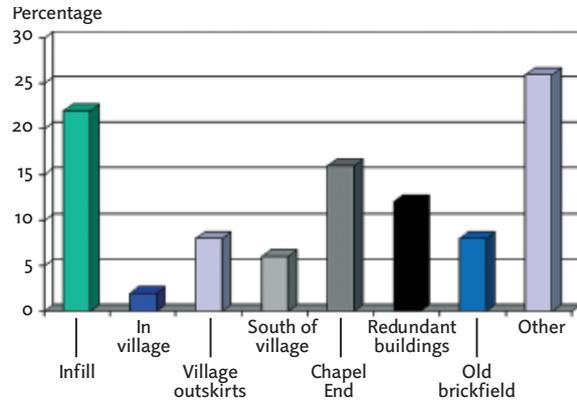


How aware are your elected representatives of your local concerns and feelings?

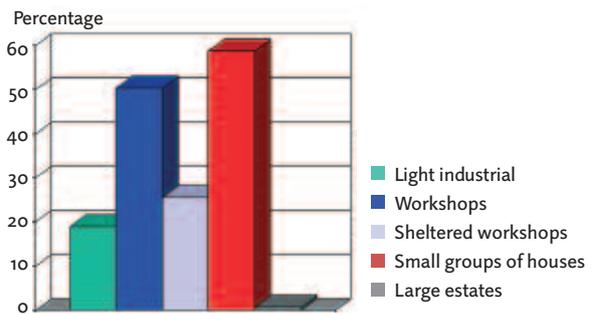


Do you think sufficient publicity is given to planning applications?

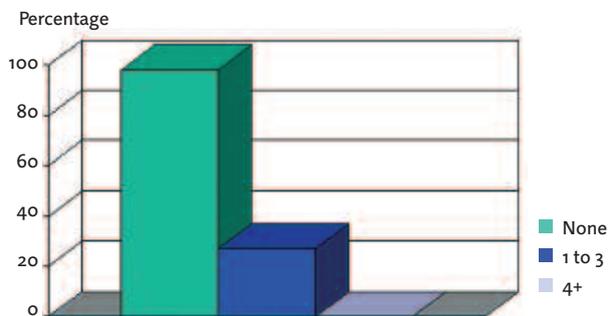
Environment



Which areas are suitable for development?



Which types of development would you support in the parish?



How many people in your household are employed in the parish?

2004 Childrens Art Competition prizewinners

Below are the winning entries from the summer fete art competition: **What do you like about the Giddings?**



Courtney Edwards (5)



Gemma Hollingdale (5)



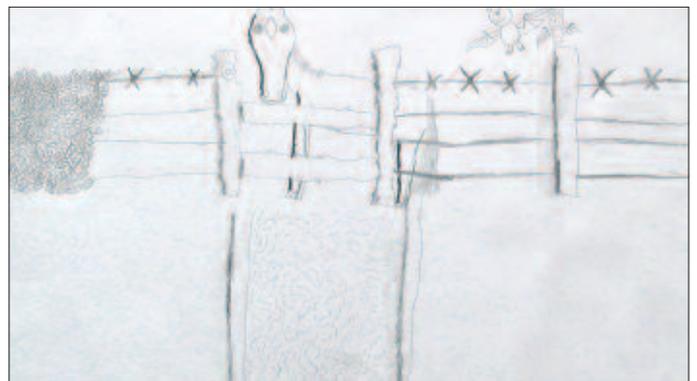
Jordan Smith (4)



Sam Read (11)



Jake Curtis (9)



Emily Read (9)



Robert Alexander (14)



Himesh Patel (13)

Continued from page 14

Information

With regard to getting information about village events 70% of the 175 people that answered the question use the parish magazine as their source, 55% heard by word of mouth and 52% answered that they used the Post Office. The village notice boards are used by 29% and the Giddings website by 25% leaving 8% who rely on the freepaper, 5% on the local paper and one person who uses the mobile library.

88 people responded to the question regarding items in the Parish News and on the website and 86% stated they would like more information on local events. More information on leisure was in second place with 49%, sports came third with 24% and arts a close fourth with 23%.



The Giddings website

Parish Council

As to publicising its decisions and activities, 14% felt that the Parish Council did so very well, 48% said reasonably well, 19% said 'badly', and 19% of the 182 people who answered the question had no opinion.

With regard to how the local council spends money it raises through the council tax, 3% of the 183 parishioners who responded are very satisfied, 10% very dissatisfied, with 32% quite satisfied, 12% quite dissatisfied and 27% not knowing how it is spent. 15% had 'no opinion'. This means that over a quarter of parishioners (who responded) don't know how the money is spent and over one third are dissatisfied with how it is spent.

With regard to whether the elected representatives in local government are sufficiently aware of local concerns and feelings, 27% of the 180 respondents did feel that their representatives were fully aware, 28% felt they were 'quite aware' and 14% felt they were 'not aware'. The District Council didn't fare so well with 36% of respondents saying their representatives there were 'Not aware' of local concerns, with 28% saying 'quite aware' and 3% saying fully aware.

The question of planning applications and their publicity provided responses from 173 parishioners, with 51% saying that not enough publicity is given to such matters, 28% having no opinion and 21% agreeing that sufficient publicity is given.

Environment

Rural Development

Great Gidding is a small, rural village which has developed, in recent years, into a desirable location to live resulting in a high value for housing. Traditionally the industrial basis for the community has been farming, and this has hardly changed over the centuries. Both of these factors can be said to have resulted in a movement out of the village by young people looking for employment or housing, and it is interesting to see how the current population views this trend.

One of the most important questions in the Parish Plan is how the respondents think the parish should be developed. The first question along these lines, 'Which types of development would you support in the parish?' gave a clear preference for 'Workshops' (50%) and 'Small groups of houses' (59%). The second related question 'How would you like the parish to develop?' also gave a majority preference for the inclusion of starter homes (18%), though the majority (19%) would prefer no change, or limited, slow growth (15%).



Starter homes in nearby villages

On this basis, the need for low cost housing or starter homes, built new as small groups rather than large estates, is seen as a good way of altering the present skew towards expensive housing.

In terms of opportunity for employment, the preference for workshops over light industrial does indicate a concern over any industrial development altering the face of the village. As only 27 households indicated that one of their members was employed in the parish, and 25 people answered that they had a business in the parish, they were clearly outnumbered by those who work outside the parish. The clear request for 'no change needed' among the largest percentage of respondents, even though this was only 20% of the answers, confirms this concern.

The preferential locations for development, whether for homes or workshops, were Chapel End (16%) together with some form of infill (23%) or use of redundant buildings (13%). By 'infill' the suggestions picked out were sites like the field south of the Village Hall or opposite the pub, though as the Village Hall bend was described in another question as dangerous for traffic, the former might not seem a sensible choice.

Natural Environs

It is no accident that a large number of respondents (180) elected to answer the questions on the natural environs of the village. Clearly, in a rural location, one could expect the population to be highly concerned about the surrounding countryside and its natural aspects.

When asked which visitor activities are suited to the Giddings, most respondents answered 'walking' (87%) closely followed by horse riding (72%) and nature trails (56%). The abundance of public footpaths and bridlepaths in the area must be viewed as a benefit for both pastimes, and it should also be noted that 'road cycling' came high on the list of preferred activities (57%).

With this in mind the desirability of maintaining small woods, hedges, meadows and green fields was rated most highly in the important features of the countryside

survey (69%). In comparison modern farm buildings were rated poorly (15%) compared to their traditional counterparts (38%). So, although we must remember that farming has the major part to play in the maintenance of hedges, meadows and green fields, respondents would prefer the more traditional use of stone and tiles in farm buildings.

Similarly trees and woodlands featured highly in the improvements that could be made to the parish environment. Looking after woodlands (58%), planting more trees (42%) and preserving single trees in special places (32%) were considered the most desirable; the maintenance of hedges and orchards following closely in importance (32%).

As walking is considered such an attractive pastime, there was a popular response to what could be done with local roads and lanes to make them more attractive. Removing litter (71%) is considered the most important aspect, with tidy road verges (56%) and avoidance of damage to the same from vehicles coming a close second (62%). Repairing stiles and footbridges (45%) and better signposting of paths and bridleways also rated highly in importance (40%).



Footpaths and bridleways are regularly used in the Giddings

There was considered little difficulty (49%) in using local footpaths and bridleways, with overgrown bushes and nettles (29%), together with mud and water (26%), being cited as the main impedance.

Removing litter was also chosen as one of the most important methods to protect wildlife in the parish (68%), alongside looking after the countryside (72%) and introducing local nature reserves (60%). Reducing pollution came a close fourth (53%), whilst the creation of new ponds captured 44% of the response.

In terms of nuisance, 136 respondents asked for dog mess bins to be located in the village, particularly in Main Street but also in Chapel End and the Gitty. Traffic noise was cited by far as the biggest disturbance in the parish (51%), with 31% of the respondents also picking on low flying aircraft. Some method of discouraging traffic from passing through the village could therefore be considered, whilst careful attention should be paid to planning of local airport development.



Dog mess bins to be strategically placed

What do our younger residents like about the Giddings?

“On a day like this (Village Fete & Sports Day) we all get together to have fun”.

Robert Alexander (11)

“The artistic spirit”.

Himesh Patel (13)



“The church in Great Gidding”.

Elly (12)



“Cows, horses and donkeys”.

Jasmine Gore (2)



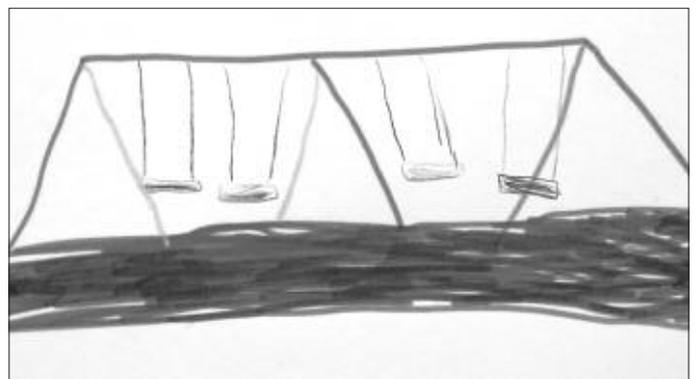
“The friendly atmosphere”.

Bethan Neale (12)



“I like the church because we have fun songs and we have fun weddings”.

Kieran Edwards (7)



“The swings ‘cause it’s a cool place to go when I’m bored”.

Ruth (11)

Review of the Action Plan

The purpose of the Parish Plan is to identify issues that are important to us as members of the parish, and the purpose of the Action Plan is to look at ways of ways in which we can change things that need to be changed. We need to ensure that we, as local people, have a voice in our future, and we can achieve this by working together with local government but, in many cases, we can implement the improvements locally.

There are many people in the parish who have provided their time, practical help and enthusiasm over the years, making the Giddings a special place to live and work in, and we now have an opportunity for this work to be recognised and added to, by working through local partnerships and providing clear and detailed proof of the wishes of the parish.

The Action Plan is precisely that – a plan for Action. If you have a particular interest in the parish e.g. planning issues, school, traffic, why not get involved with, or create, a group to see the actions implemented? It doesn't have to be all of them, but of course it can be if you want!

Action plan for Housing

Many parishioners stated they wanted appropriate and up to date information regarding planning issues within the parish. A Village Design Statement would ensure that the wishes of our community are heard by the District and County Council and provide a proactive rather than a reactive approach. It is hoped that an Action Plan Committee will be established from interested parishioners and representatives of the Parish Council.

Action	How it will be tackled	Priority	Participants	Time scale	Co-ordinator	Resources
Ensure wishes for future development of Great and Little Gidding's community are heard by District and County Council	Develop Village Design Statement	Medium	Action Plan Committee/Parish Council	Over the next 18 months 2004-2005	Action Plan Committee/ Parish Council	Parish Council/ individuals
Encourage the right balance of housing within the village envelope. Actively encourage development of affordable starter homes/infill	Liaison with planning dept. in Hunts. District Council	High	Parish Council/Hunts. District Council	Ongoing	Parish Council	Developers
Ensure any new development has adequate access and parking provision to alleviate traffic problems	Through village design statement and liaison with planning dept.	High	Parish Council/ Individuals	Ongoing	Parish Council	District/ County council
Ensure that there is good communication re community planning issues	Through Clarion Newsletter, website, notice boards and shop	High	Parish Council/ Hunts. District council/Developers/ Individuals	Ongoing	Parish Council	

Action plan for Services

A need for a Neighbourhood Watch scheme was highlighted, but in the past the volunteer warden has been unable to raise enough practical support for a scheme to make it viable. Could this be tackled again? Up to date information on Parish Council matters is seen as a high priority but needs to be in an interesting and readable format.

Action	How it will be tackled	Priority	Participants	Time scale	Co-ordinator	Resources
Visit by Local Police	Arrange open meeting for village to discuss crime, vandalism, etc	Medium	Parish Council Police	During 2004/5	Parish Clerk/ Action Plan Committee	Village hall
Neighbourhood Watch scheme	Meeting to assess Establish volunteer Warden	High	Parish Council/ villagers	2004/5	Action Plan Committee	Volunteers
Mains Gas Connection	Contact British Gas/Transco to establish the criteria for connection	Medium	Parish Council/ Transco	3 years	Parish Council/ Council Clerk	unknown
Broadband Connection	Await BT implementation (Dec 2004?)	High	Residents	2004/5	N/A	
Cable TV Connection		Low	Residents	5 years	Not known	
Signage Provision of Wheelie bins and recycling facilities	Liaise with Shanks McEwan Hunts District Council, Oxfam, Planet Aid etc	Medium	Parish Council	During 2004	Parish Clerk	Initial charge for provision
Inform residents of recycling facilities	Sign/Noticeboard with details or inform via website and parish mag	Medium	Parish Council	During 2004	Action Plan Committee	Cost of signs
Make more use of shop and Post office, library van, milk delivery	Advertise services on website and in Parish magazine	Medium	Jed and Aruna, Mobile library etc	During 2004	Parishioners	
Ongoing Youth Activities	Activities organised by all youth and children's organisations	High	Toddler Group, Playgroup, School, After School Club, Parish & District Council	Ongoing	Volunteers	Many and varied

Action plan for Transport

People are particularly concerned about the dangers of crossing the road at the Village Hall. It was considered a high priority to improve signage there, indicating the blind bend, and to contact Highways about the possibility of providing a pedestrian crossing there. Pavements were highlighted as needing a large scale overhaul and general improvement in surface quality.

Parking on the corner outside the shop/Post Office continues to give cause for concern. Double yellow lines are suggested as a solution to the poor visibility caused by vehicles not using the official parking area opposite the shop on the Luddington Road. Signage to indicate official parking for the shop on the Luddington Road is desperately required, as is the marking out of bays by white lines. Many people are unaware that this parking area is designated for the shop. School parking is an ongoing major concern within the village and residents have voiced strong concern that continued pressure should be brought to bear on the Education Authorities to provide adequate parking when the new school is built.

Action	How it will be tackled	Priority	Participants	Time scale	Co-ordinator	Resources
Encourage interested parties to vehicle share by advertising lifts	Ads placed in the Parish mag, Web site and Local shop to encourage offers of lifts	Low	Parishioners and advertising sites, Once scheme set up.	Could be set up immediately	Volunteer	
Parking a) School parking	Difficult to solve. Future development of the school on a new site will enable the Parish Council to participate in the planning stages	High	Parish Council, LEA and Planners of new school	Planning on-going. To be dealt with short term	Parish Council/ LEA	
Parking b) Shop parking bay, White lines	Contact District council, Highways to have lines painted	High	Parish Council, DC, Highways agency	Immediate	Parish Council/ Action Plan Committee	Some form of "match funding" may be required
Parking c) Parking at shop corner. Double yellow lines	Contact District council, Highways to have lines painted	High	Parish Council, DC, Highways agency	Immediate	Parish Council/ Action Plan Committee	Responsibility for funding uncertain
Reduce size of school bus	Contact school to ask if smaller bus could be provided	Very low	Parish Council, School, Bus company	Not urgent	Parish Council	Some form of "match funding" may be required

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Action	How it will be tackled	Priority	Participants	Time scale	Co-ordinator	Resources
Provide parking for disabled	Contact with community to ascertain which areas are in greatest need	Medium	Parish Council, Community	Medium	Parish Council/ Action Plan Committee	Query - District Council?
Speed Control Erection of signs etc	Contact DC and Highways with PP results indicating parishioners desire for safer roads and areas of concern	V High	Parish Council, Highways	Immediate	Parish Council/ Action Plan Committee	Query - District Council?
Safety a) Make crossing safer at Village Hall	Contact DC and Highways to provide Children Crossing/ Warning signs for blind bend. Possible pedestrian crossing	V High	Parish Council, Highways	Immediate	Parish Council/ Action Plan Committee	Query - District Council/ Highways?
Safety b) Move access to Village Hall Car Park	Move entrance of car park 'down hill' to other end of site to increase visibility	Low	Parish Council, Village Hall Committee, Highways.	Long term	Village Hall Committee/ Action Plan Committee	Funding would be required
Safety c) Improve pavements	Contact Highways for overhaul, rather than 'Slurry'	High	Parish Council, Highways	Immediate	Parish Council	Query - District Council/ Highways?

Action plans for Health & Education

Information updates regarding the current position of the school rebuild is seen as a high priority, and it is hoped that all agencies involved, i.e. Local Education Authority and the Parish Council, will be actively involved in the provision of information to parishioners.

Action	How it will be tackled	Priority	Participants	Time scale	Co-ordinator	Resources
Research into what difficulties parishioners are having in gaining access to health facilities	Place a question in Clarion Newsletter and ask for a response. General meeting at village hall	Medium	Parish Council	By end of 2004- Spring 2005	Parish Council	
Provide information on services available to access health needs	Advertise in Parish Magazine/website/ shop/notice boards	Medium	Parish Council/ G.P. Surgeries/ Dial a ride	By end of 2004- Spring 2005	Parish Council	

Action	How it will be tackled	Priority	Participants	Time scale	Co-ordinator	Resources
Information updates re current position of school rebuild	Bulletins posted on Parish Boards/ Shop/ Clarion (parish newsletter). Leaflet drop to each household	High	Parish Council	Immediate	Parish Council/ Action Plan Committee	L.E.A. School Parish Council
Provision of information on grants available for adult evening classes	Reference numbers of appropriate agencies to be advertised	Low	Parish Council	Before Sept 2005	Parish Council/ Action Plan Committee	District Council/Local Education Authority/ Charities
Research into numbers of people interested in specific classes and availability of teachers	Postal drop to each household or advertise	Medium	Parish Council/ Parishioners	2004-2005	Interested individual parishioners/ Action committee	Individual's time
Highlight concerns about parking issue outside school	Letter to Local Education authorities highlighting concerns	High	Parish Council/ Individual Parishioners	Ongoing	Parish Council/ Action Plan Committee	

Action plan for Activities

There is a marked interest in the provision of educational activities such as evening classes, some of which were identified, and many residents thought that more groups would be started if the Village Hall could be booked using reduced rates for the first 4 weeks of classes to establish viability. Now that it has been established that there is 'general interest' in the village it should be up to committed individuals to form classes/activities/groups.

Action	How it will be tackled	Priority	Participants	Time scale	Co-ordinator	Resources
Advertise for tutors/ leaders to start groups/activities	Advertise in village shop, notice boards, website and parish magazine	Medium	Individuals/Leisure and Amenities Committee/Village Hall Committee	By end of 04	Interested individuals	
Request reduced rates for use of village hall for first 4 weeks of classes (to establish viability)	Written request to Village hall Committee	High	Village Hall Committee	By end of 04	Village Hall group	
Get more information on preferred facilities in Rec. Field	Specific questionnaire to be provided through Parish Mag, shop, website	Low	Rec Field Committee/ Website/Parish Mag/Shop/parish-ioners	By end of 2004-Spring 2005	Leisure and Amenities Committee	
Provide additional facilities in recreation field	Through fundraising and input of volunteers/individuals with practical help	Low	Rec Field Committee/ Individuals/ Parish Council	Ongoing 2004-2006	Leisure & Amenities Committee/ Volunteers	Grants/ fundraising
Upgrade village hall facilities	Through input of volunteers/purchase of new equipment	Low	Village Hall Committee/ Individuals	Ongoing 2004-2005	Village Hall Committee	Grants/Parish Council/Local Business
Provide wheelchair access to all village hall facilities	Through access provision as laid down in the Disability Discrimination Act including ramps/ toilets/markings out of parking spaces for the disabled	High	Village Hall Committee, Parish Council/individual volunteers	2004-5	Village Hall Committee	Grants/Parish Council/ Individuals/ Local Business

Action plan for Information

Easily accessible information on the process of hiring the village hall is considered a high priority, and a notice board has already been provided outside of the village hall which has a list of tariffs. Accessible information on regular and forthcoming events is considered a high priority. Not everyone has access to a computer or can easily get to the shop!

Action	How it will be tackled	Priority	Participants	Time scale	Co-ordinator	Resources
Provide contact information for hire of village hall. Provide list of events in village hall. Provide list of tariffs outside village hall	Provision of notice board outside of village hall with up to date information	High	Village Hall Committee	During 2004	Village Hall Committee	Finances gained through village hall fundraising
Publication of up to date information on Parish Council matters in interesting and readable format	Regular contribution to website and Parish magazine Clarion Newsletter notice boards/shop	High	Parish Council/ County and District Council	During 2004	Parish council	Website (web space financed by Parish Council)
Provide information on local forthcoming events in community	Details to be included in Parish Mag, village website, Clarion Newsletter Notice boards	Medium	Community All local groups/ individuals	During 2004	Individuals and group representatives	Volunteers time
Provide up to date information about on-going local issues in interesting and readable format	Request to representatives of all local groups to provide information on website, Parish magazine, notice boards, shop	Medium	Village Hall Committee/Leisure and Amenities Committee/Church/School/Chapel/Play group/After school Club/Toddlers Group/Parish Council/Individuals	During 2004		

Action plan for the Environment

Removal of litter from our paths and countryside in general is seen as a high priority. Parishioners already assist in an annual clean up of the parish but there is always room for more ideas.

Action	How it will be tackled	Priority	Participants	Time scale	Co-ordinator	Resources
Planning workshops	Selecting suitable buildings and/or sites	Medium	Local planning authority, Parish Council, Builders	Long term	Parish Council	Planning authority, promotional activity and advertising
Upkeep of footpaths and bridleways	Identifying problem areas and rectifying impedance to access	Medium	Parish Council/Action Plan Committee	Medium term	Parish Council	Local labour/ Volunteers/ Parish Path Partnership
Removal of litter from countryside and paths	Identifying problem areas and clearing. Posting warning signs	High	Parish Council, community members, local authority	Short term	Parish Council	Local authority
Upkeep of woods and hedges	Identifying problem areas, clearing, replanting and tidying	Medium	Parish Council, farming community	Long term	Parish Council	Farming community
Tree planting	Planning new wooded areas and replanting scrubby copses	Low	Parish council, environment agency/Action Plan Committee	Medium term	Parish Council	Volunteers
Nature reserves and ponds	Planning sites for nature reserves and ponds accessible to the public	Low	Parish council, environment agency, farming community	Long term	Parish Council	
Dog mess bins	Purchase and installation of dog mess bins and warning signs	High	Parish Council/ Action Plan Committee	Short term	Parish Council	

How can we help?

This Action Plan will only work if we drive it forward, so we need people to get involved with the goals laid out in the Action Plan.

Many people already belong to committees and groups and they can play an important role, but if you're not a committee person there are many other areas where you can help e.g. delivering leaflets, undertaking research for a particular cause, updating information for the website/Parish magazine or practical help in any way.

Are you interested in the character of the village?

A Design Statement is the next logical step in the Village Plan. This will review how the character of the village can be maintained as far as design is concerned e.g. building design, street furniture, etc. Can you provide some expertise in this field?

How much time will it take?

This is really up to you; any time and help you can give will be appreciated.

When do we start?

Straight away! If we could form several action groups, however small, we could then meet with the Parish Council to keep them fully informed of the progress and encourage a positive two way dialogue.

Who should I contact?

The main link between the Parish Plan and the Parish Council is Ian Stapleton, Tel 01832 293463. If you are willing to get involved, please talk to him or to any of your parish councillors, as many of the issues will be implemented through the Parish Council.

The Parish Clerk, June Miller, has a full set of the results of the Parish Plan and can be contacted by:

e-mail: jemiller@onetel.com

telephone: 01733 241633

Great & Little Gidding Parish Plan
2004

results & action plan

Questions?

Please remember that you can contact a Parish Councillor at any time if you have any concerns that you would like to discuss in detail.

- Robin Hayden (Parish Chairman): 01832 293360
- Andrew Alexander: 01832 293315
- Stewart Edwards: 01832 293555
- Henry Hill: 01832 293404
- Tina Joyce: 01832 293575
- Sue Marshall: 01832 293479
- Ian Stapleton: 01832 293463
- Adam Titmus: 01832 293302

This Parish Plan was made possible with the help of:

- Great and Little Gidding Parish Council



For latest action plan news visit:
www.thegiddings.org.uk

Design & artwork: Catalyst Design Partnership
www.catalyst-design.co.uk Tel: 01832 293 175

Print: Ink Design and Print Tel: 01733 371 216