

HUSBANDS BOSWORTH

Parish Plan REPORT

Spring 2006



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A BRIEF HISTORY of HUSBANDS BOSWORTH

HUSBANDS Bosworth is a township and extensive parish, in the southern division of the County of Leicestershire, within the Gartree Hundred, Market Harborough Union and County District, rural deanery of Gartree, archdeaconry of Leicester, diocese of Peterborough, 6½ miles east of Lutterworth, 14 miles south from Leicester, and 95½ miles from London.

Thus is the village of Husbands Bosworth described in Kelly's Postal Directory of Leicestershire 1875.

"The village is large and well-built, situate at the junction of the roads from Leicester to Northampton, and from Lutterworth to Market Harborough, bounded on the south-east by the river Welland, which here divides the county from Northamptonshire, on the south-west by the river Avon, and on the west by the Grand Union canal, which here is conducted through a tunnel of nearly a mile in length."

"The parish church of All Saints is an old building in the Early English style, consisting of chancel, nave, aisles, north and south porches, square embattled tower, surmounted by pinnacles at the angles, and crowned by a lofty octagonal spire with 5 bells. There are 6 stained memorial windows. The church was restored in 1867 at a cost of £3000. The register dates from 1500."

The Directory describes the soil as:....."gravelly; subsoil clay",and the cropping as: "...wheat, barley, oats and roots, and partly grazing." The area of the parish is given as 3409 acres, and the population in 1871 was 934.

The casual visitor to Husbands Bosworth today would have little argument with Kelly's description of 130 years ago. Whilst new housing developments have extended the curtilage of the village, the core of the community remains as a recognisable and prosperous commercial and residential centre within an essentially rural parish.

The area around Husbands Bosworth was probably first settled soon after the departure of the Romans in 450AD when the whole of the country was in a state of flux. The Saxons invaded Britain from northern Germany and pushed far inland. This area would have been viewed as prime agricultural land with its rich, loamy, free-draining soil, gently rolling countryside and plentiful water supplies. The word *worth* derives from the Saxon word for farm or clearing, and *Baresworde*, the earliest recorded name for the settlement possibly denotes Bar's farm or settlement.



The settlement was well-established at the time the Normans invaded and over-ran the country in 1066. William the Conqueror divided his new territory up into easily controlled estates by giving lands to his faithful knights. We know from Bosworth's entry in the Domesday survey, commissioned by William in 1086, that manors or fees in Bosworth, along with lands in other areas were allocated to four of William's trusted knights.

By 1130 much of the Bosworth lands had passed to one Robert Fitz Ansketil, a Norman lord, who had established a holding big enough to justify living on-site! With the permanency afforded to the settlement at this time came the building of the first church. By 1220 the village had expanded to such a degree that it could afford to build and support a stone church, and parts of the present church date back to this time. The body of the church was altered and rebuilt in the 1300's and the existing church tower dates from this time.

There is evidence in field marks and earthworks to suggest that the original settlement, or possibly a parallel settlement, existed to the west of the present village to the north of the Kilworth Road. That there are no solid remains apart from the undulations in the pasture would suggest that this settlement was abandoned at a time before substantial buildings were being constructed. The site may have been superseded by a better plot, amalgamated by marriage or ownership, or abandoned as unclean after the Plague in the mid 1300's.

By 1531 parts of Bosworth had passed into the hands of the Dixie family who also owned land in another place called Bosworth some 30 miles to the west. It was possibly at this time that the need arose to differentiate between the two places. The larger market town became known as *Market* Bosworth while the smaller farming village became *Husbandmen's* Bosworth; the farmer's Bosworth.

INTRODUCTION

THE Parish Council hosted an open meeting in the Village Hall in September 2003 to discuss the benefits of carrying out a review of the village.

At the meeting a Community Development officer from the Leicestershire and Rutland Rural Community Council explained the Parish Plan process which, at the time, was a Countryside Agency funded initiative.

Following a decision to proceed with the project volunteers were sought to form a steering group. A committee of 13 people was formed as a subgroup of the Parish Council. The group has collectively worked hard and enthusiastically to carry this project through to its conclusion.

The principal objectives of the exercise were agreed as being:

- To identify and address local problems and opportunities in the Parish, thus presenting a vision of how residents want their community to develop in the future.
- To involve the community as a whole to ensure that local concerns, characteristics and needs are properly considered before decisions are taken.
- To prepare an action plan that would provide a framework for the actioning bodies to achieve the needs identified, giving a clear indication of what, why, how and who.
- To provide information on local needs and opportunities.
- To establish a route for obtaining grants for local initiatives.

QUESTIONNAIRE

In December 2004 every home in the parish was issued with a questionnaire for each member of the household to complete. A total of 801 were issued, of which 382 were returned. This was regarded as a first-rate return and we felt that the responses represented well over half of all the households of the parish. Whilst collecting the returns it was noted that, geographically, all sections of the parish were represented.

In addition 52 young people's questionnaires were distributed, from which a creditable total of 31 responses were received.

Thank you to all of you who took the time to fill in the questionnaires.

REPORT

The purpose of this report is to provide a simple summary of the results obtained in the exercise. It shows a picture of the needs, problems and opportunities within the parish.

An Action List of recommendations has been prepared and representations have been, or will shortly be made to the bodies or groups responsible for considering these. In some cases action has already been taken as part of the Parish Council's or other agencies' on-going process of community administration, during the preparation of this report. Examples are the recent provision of more dog bins, and the introduction of Broadband internet and digital TV capability in the village.

It is hoped, also, that this whole exercise will help to nurture a sense of community spirit within the parish and encourage increased participation in village affairs in the future.

BUSINESS

IT IS surprising that the survey suggests one in ten villagers runs his or her own business. It is also interesting that, although agriculture features less as a primary occupation nationally, of the 38 who said that they run businesses in Husbands Bosworth, almost a quarter of these are connected either directly or indirectly with farming or agriculturally-related industries.

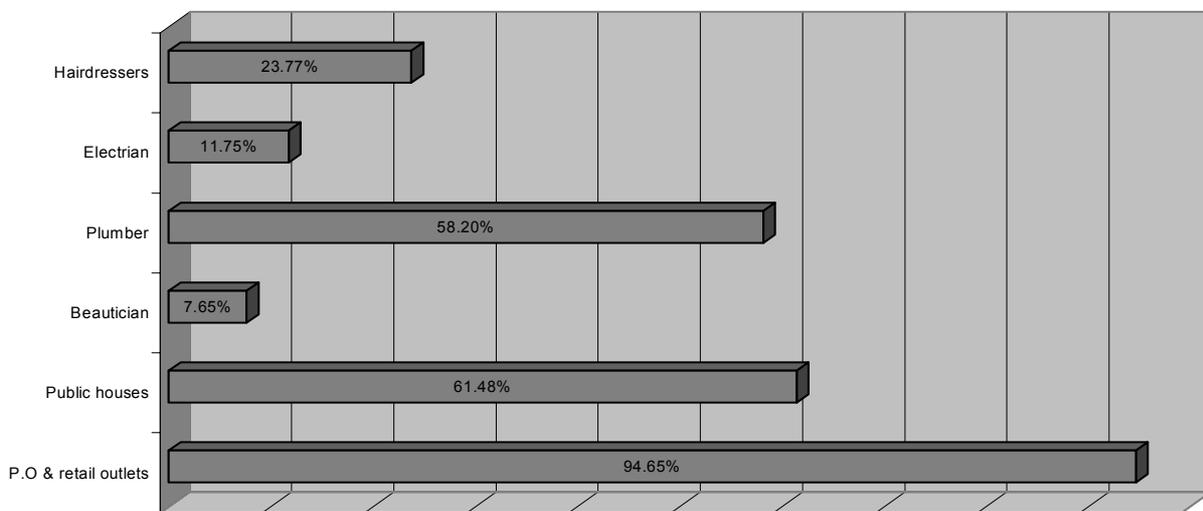
Businesses generally noted that secretarial and office facilities, mobile-phone coverage and the reliability of a Broadband Internet service were all important considerations, which could improve business viability in the village.

60% felt that there are already sufficient businesses within the village and some did not wish to see any further business development which would be to the detriment of the community.

ADVERTISING

Whilst word-of-mouth figured as the most important aspect of business advertising over 70% of those who responded found business contacts and trade in the *Bosworth Bugle* community newsletter or the *Swift Flash* free-press advertising journal. Only a quarter of villagers responded to advertising flyers.

Which local businesses do you use?



LOCAL BUSINESS

Local businesses fared well in the responses with over 94% of respondents regularly using the post office or retail outlets. The parish is also well serviced by the two public houses, The Bell Inn and The Wharf Inn, which cater for the needs of over 60% of the population on a regular basis. Villagers don't go far afield when looking for a plumber, with almost 60% of respondents happy to use local tradesmen, although less than 12% found a local electrician. Indeed a large number of people specifically noted a lack of electrician in their responses, which seems to indicate a gap in the market locally for that particular trade.

A large number of residents would like to see a café or takeaway facility in the village and many bemoan the lack of a petrol filling station, garage and vehicle servicing facilities locally. However, overall, more than



ACTION POINTS for BUSINESS ISSUES

- Lack of local electrician and secretarial services noted
- Opportunity for garage noted

COMMUNICATION

OVER three-quarters of respondents have access to a home computer, and the majority of these people use the Internet. Internet usage is mainly for information purposes (84%) with 64% using it for pleasure and 42% for business purposes. Only 44 people who do not have access to a home computer would be likely to use a central facility. Two-thirds of respondents would use *Freeview* digital television whereas only one-third would be interested in subscribing to cable television if it was available.

LOCAL NEWS

The most widely read local newspapers are the *Harborough Mail* and the *Leicester Mercury* and over

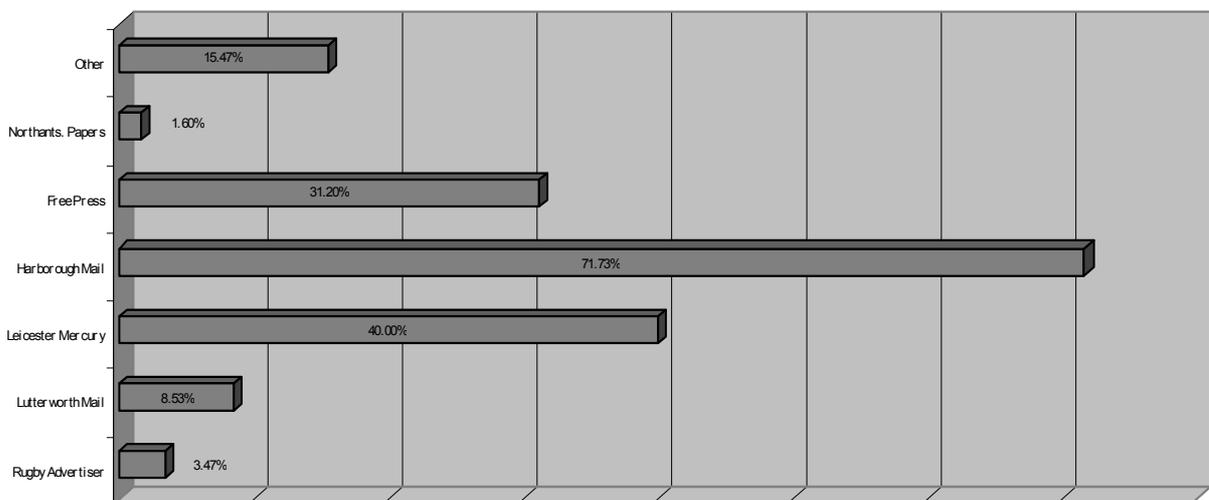
the *Bugle*. It was also felt that clubs and societies could do more to encourage involvement, perhaps with an annual Open Evening for all groups to publicise their activities.

Only 35% of respondents receive *The Hexagon* benefice magazine but, again, this is well received although more coverage of Husbands Bosworth events would be welcomed.

TAKING NOTICE...

The majority of respondents (79%) were satisfied with the standard, location and number of notice

Newspaper readership



81% were satisfied with the level of coverage given to local events by these papers. However, there were a number of suggestions as to how coverage could be improved. A village reporter or correspondent, the inclusion of a "Husbands Bosworth column" in the papers or the invitation of press to major events within the village were amongst suggestions made.

Almost all respondents read the *Bosworth Bugle* on a regular basis and this is, in the main, very well received. The reporting of local news and publicity for forthcoming events in the *Bugle* were seen as particularly strong points whereas the "For Sale/To Buy" was seen as only average, with a separate column suggested to encourage advertisers.

Most people believe that local events, clubs and societies are satisfactorily publicised within the village. However, suggestions to improve publicity were numerous and included door dropping of leaflets/flyers, more notice boards and greater coverage in

boards within the village, but suggestions were made for boards at the Market Harborough end of the village, on The Old Green, on High Street and the reinstatement of the notice board at the end of Berridges Lane. It was also suggested that notices were placed at bus shelters in the village.



ACTION POINTS for LOCAL INFORMATION ISSUES

- Local media coverage issues
- Consider extra notice boards
- Open Evening for village groups

EDUCATION

OF THE replies received for this section of the questionnaire, almost half, (184) said that the reputation of the local schools and education structure had significantly influenced their decision to move to Husbands Bosworth. Over 80% of those whose children attend Husbands Bosworth Primary School rate the school performance as excellent or good. In general, ratings given to the local schools were all average to good, with both Lutterworth High School and Lutterworth Grammar rated as good or excellent by almost 70% of respondents.



PRE-SCHOOL AND PRIMARY

From those who responded, 14 children attend the village nursery school, whilst 11 attend pre-school elsewhere. Of the primary age pupils noted in the responses, 42 attend Husbands Bosworth Primary School, with 8 attending other state primary schools. Five attend religious foundation schools and 6 attend private primary schools.

A major criticism of Husbands Bosworth Primary School is a lack of sporting activities and after-school facilities. One parent had in fact chosen North Kilworth Primary School for this reason.

SECONDARY SCHOOL

In the secondary school age bracket 43 families with 62 children responded. Of these 17 attend Lutterworth High School and 32 go to Lutterworth Grammar School. However, a considerable number of people feel that Lutterworth High and Grammar Schools are both too big, resulting in insufficient individual attention, poor parent relationships and lack of discipline.

Two attend other state secondary schools, 8 attend private schools and 3 attend religious foundation schools.

FURTHER EDUCATION

Thirteen families have children in the 16 to 18 year age group, attending further education.

Concerning the question of adult education, 49 already attend classes but a further 128 indicated that they might take advantage of any facilities provided within the village.

By far the most sought after subject was computer training followed by languages.



ACTION POINTS for EDUCATION ISSUES

- Consult with village school regarding sports provision
- Discuss the provision of adult education facilities
- Investigate provision of other interests and activities

EMERGENCY SERVICES

ALTHOUGH many see anti-social behaviour as a common part of modern community life the results of our survey indicate that only one in ten villagers have felt the need to report local incidents in the past 5 years. Similarly, only a small percentage of residents were affected by criminal damage, a facet of criminal activity often linked directly to antisocial behaviour.

CRIMEWATCH

Five respondents reported being the victims of street robbery, but we feel that this question was a little ambiguous and that these incidents probably occurred to respondents whilst away from Husbands Bosworth as we have no recollection of any street robbery incidents in the village. A higher percentage of properties were the subject of break-ins according to our findings, with 46 respondents noting incidents, although 6 felt the action did not warrant reporting to the police.



Car crime figured somewhat higher, with 59 (almost 18% of respondents), reporting incidents, possibly a reflection of the more accessible nature of car crime as opposed to house or personal crime.

The response of the police to reports of criminal activity was somewhat disappointing with only 44% noting good or excellent response, although a further 26% reported average, and presumably adequate response. However these statistics leave a third of respondents unhappy with police response.

The 121 villagers who had requested non-emergency police contact rated the response as mainly good or average. However, villagers felt that local contact with the police was hit-and-miss, with only a quarter of villagers knowing how to contact the local beat officer. This point is perhaps reflected

in the very positive response to the possibility of a regular police surgery in the village with 253 villagers feeling that this would be a helpful contact point. In addition, almost two-thirds of people would like to see a Neighbourhood Watch scheme active once more in the village.

EMERGENCY ACTION

Ambulance service response was rated slightly better with almost 68% of respondents happy with the service provided, but almost 18% felt the service could have been better.

The Fire and Rescue service fared best of all in our survey with a resounding 92% of those questioned reporting good or excellent service although it should be noted that, thankfully only 27 villagers of the 384 who returned questionnaires had cause to use the service.

Almost 200 of our 384 respondents had needed urgent healthcare during the past 5 years and the response was rated pleasingly high with 92% happy with the service.



ACTION POINTS for EMERGENCY SERVICE ISSUES

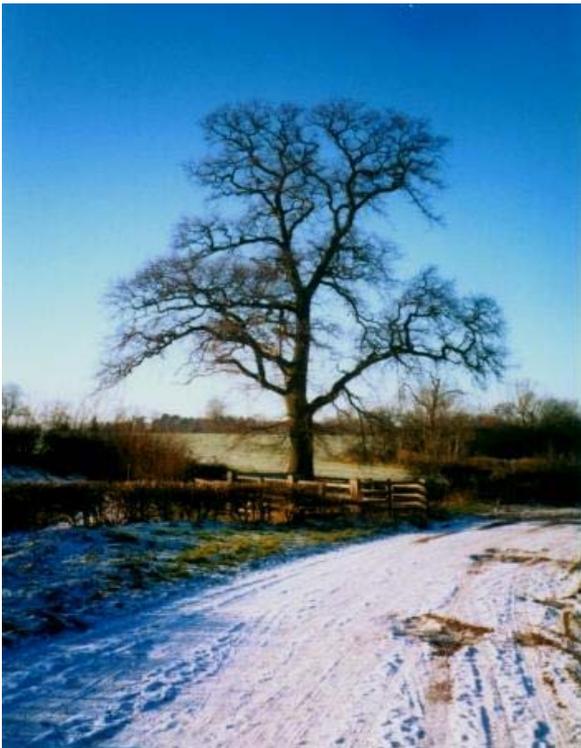
- **Improve information about criminal activity**
- **Consult on poor perception of police activity locally**
- **Improve accessibility and profile of local beat officer**
- **Suggest regular police surgery in village**
- **Reactivate Neighbourhood Watch scheme**

ENVIRONMENT

MOST respondents see Husbands Bosworth as a place with a number of valued elements, which might be found in a small village. Clearly important facilities are the doctors' surgery, the Post Office and shops, closely followed by the school, old buildings, churches and trees, shrubs and planters. Less favourably noted in our survey were the mixture of buildings, the range of amenities and, last of all, recent buildings. A "sense of place" featured on many responses.

OUR VILLAGE

The village location met with approval: "set in a lovely part of South Leicestershire", it has proximity to the countryside, the bridleways and footpaths providing access to natural habitats and, of course, the canal and its towpath. A sense of community and friendliness was often mentioned and the existence of both village and church halls, recreation ground, pavilion and sports grounds and a village pub, all within easy reach, was much appreciated.



COUNCIL SERVICES

The questions concerning the improvement of the village and the local environment produced a wide range of responses. There was great discontent amongst respondents with the performance of the street cleaning service: "You cannot comment on something which does not exist".

Many respondents singled out specific areas, such as Dag Lane and High Street. Generally, street cleaning and walkway maintenance were considered of a low standard. Only one in five rated this service as 'above average'; fewer than half felt that the service was 'average' while a third thought the service was 'poor, or very poor'.

In addition there were adverse observations of the effect of rubbish and dirt distributed by passing



traffic on the High Street: "barren, treeless and ugly, cluttered with street furniture, filthy from traffic. Impressive buildings are hidden by grime and squalor".

There were a significant number of appeals for better pavements within the village and the pathways towards Welford and Theddingworth. The existing accessibility and marking of bridleways and footpaths attracted a marginal approval rating while the prospect of more communication masts was clearly unpopular. Also thought to be important were woodland preservation, tree planting and the cleaning up of the hedgerows.

The unresolved issue of the development of the garage and joinery sites also caused concern; These should be replaced by *“not out of place”* building and have a *“visually pleasant appearance”*. Paying *“attention to vernacular traditions”* was also mentioned, as was the desirability of advice from *“a specialist in village housing”* for all future new and replacement buildings. There were also strong pleas for affordable social housing for both the younger and the older generations.



UTILITIES

Comments about service provision in the village produced a very high number of responses - nearly one third of the respondents having a gripe. The mains water supply to the village had a tangible ‘excellent’ rating with ‘good’ to ‘average’ from over 75% of the respondents. However, nearly 20% rated the supply as ‘poor’. For a few, water quality and water pressure were suspect. Electricity supply was also criticised: *“still too many cuts”*.

On the issue of street lighting some parts of the village were noted as being overly lit whilst others needed more lighting, with eight out of ten responses falling in the ‘average to good’ range; the small remainder either ‘excellent’ or ‘poor or very poor’.

POLLUTION

Environmental issues didn’t figure highly in the responses. Most respondents did not find bonfires or light pollution particular problems. This was not true of dog fouling, which over two-thirds of respondents saw as a real concern. Many respondents took this opportunity to identify other pollution issues, adding *“farm and horse fouling”* to dog fouling, particularly at the lower end of Mowsley Road.

Nearly two-thirds of those answering found traffic

to be a major factor in pollution while the noise itself was less so - but still tangible.

Bell Lane and Berridges Lane were cited as being heavily used both in the number and the size of the vehicles, with vibration and noise pollution noted by many.

“Noise from the heavy traffic...” and *“...congestion in Butt Lane”*, was noted by many. The problem in Butt Lane being caused by nuisance parking making it difficult to drive through, particularly for larger vehicles, farm traffic and delivery vehicles. *“Noise would also be a problem if our double glazing did not muffle the worst of it”*. Speeding cars and motorbikes were mentioned by some.

Litter pollution figured yet again; litter from bus stops and shops in the High Street generally, but also from wrappers, flyers and free newspapers found in gardens and garden fences, lanes, trees and hedgerows.



ACTION POINTS for ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

- Consult with service provider concerning fluctuating electricity supply
- Consult with HDC regarding street cleaning/waste collection issues
- Consult with HDC and LCC regarding footpath issues
- Consult with LCC on traffic calming measures
- Consult with Parish Council regarding provision of benches, bins, etc.

HEALTH

OVER 90% of respondents know how to contact the doctor, surgery nurse, hospital, optician and pharmacy and half know how to contact district nurses, health visitors, chiropractors, physiotherapists and NHS dentists. Less easily found are contacts for alternative therapists, wheelchair services and occupational therapists. The low percentage may be due to the low number of people in the village who use these services, particularly social care services.

VILLAGE SURGERY & DISPENSARY

Many people expressed a high level of satisfaction with the village surgery. Commonly noted was the fact that the village is lucky to have a surgery and dispensary. Concerns were raised however about how the growth of the village will affect the surgery, and a large number of people expressed the opinion that a third doctor is needed.

"A third doctor is essential when the new developments are lived in"

"I believe the doctors are grossly over worked and an additional partner should be at the surgery"

Concerns were also voiced about out-of-hours service:
"A trek to the cottage hospital to see a doctor out of hours can prove traumatic and painful"

"Disappointed that the Primary Care Trust has taken over evenings and weekends ."

"...it is impossible for some elderly people to make their own way to Market Harborough hospital."

The main problem regarding the surgery was about waiting times for appointments.

"Happy with the surgery, but waiting times are shocking"

"Very difficult to get an appointment with only two doctors who look after such a wide catchment area."

In general, over half of respondents expressed the opinion that they are happy with health and social care provision locally.

The provision of other social services showed a large number of positive responses. Half of the 311 respondents answering this question felt they would use a Citizens' Advice service and over three-quarters would use a health screening service. Many would use a dietary or exercise service, whilst recreation or study classes would be supported, as would support groups for specific medical conditions, fitness classes for Senior Citizens and a gardening or home improvement service .

Over half of respondents felt that local maternity care,

school nurses, health visitor, opticians and doctors were generally good or average.

CARING FOR THE LESS ABLE

Nineteen people, representing 6% of respondents, described themselves as registered disabled; four people being registered blind and four partially sighted.

Most people felt that the needs of the disabled and elderly in our community are met, although problems included access to buildings and facilities, and the need for wider and better-maintained footpaths.

"Better access to shops and other amenities, wider pavements and dropped kerbs"

"Someone from Highways should try pushing a wheelchair around the village - assuming that the paths are not obstructed by cars"



It was suggested that a day centre or community activities centre would provide an interest for anyone unable to otherwise socialise. *"Could do with an outings group, rambles, etc."*

Other suggestions, specifically for the elderly or infirm, included more benches for resting.

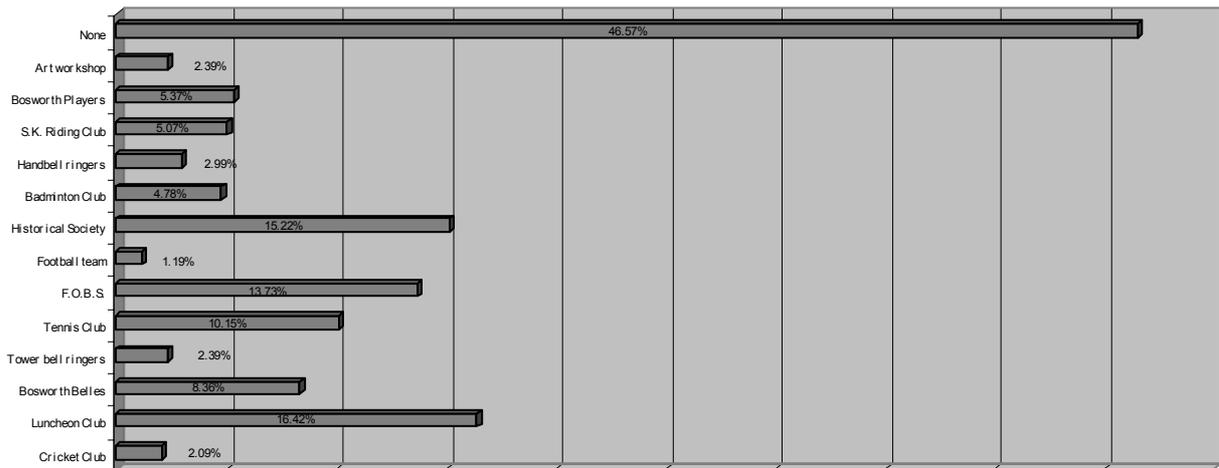
ACTION POINTS for HEALTH & SOCIAL ISSUES

- Consult regarding surgery waiting times
- Consult regarding local health screening services
- Consult regarding disabled access issues

LOCAL AMENITIES

SURPRISINGLY, considering the number and variety of groups active in the village nearly half of respondents do not participate in any activities. Of the groups that were represented the Luncheon Club, the Historical Society, the Tennis Club and Bosworth Belles ladies social group were the best supported. A number of respondents noted the unfortunate omission of the local branch of the Royal British Legion from the questionnaire. A wide and varied selection of possible suggestions for new groups was put forward. Whilst 147 respondents, representing almost 40% of villagers do travel outside the village for leisure activities, the main venues are Market Harborough and Lutterworth leisure centres for swimming and gymnasium facilities, or out-of-parish locations for golf.

Use of local activities



SHOPPING

Although Husbands Bosworth is equally 6 miles from both Market Harborough and Lutterworth most villagers by far prefer to shop in Market Harborough. Presumably this is because of the available facilities and the bigger named stores there compared with Lutterworth. Rugby fares well, presumably as an easy-to-get-to destination. Leicester wasn't well supported possibly because it is relatively difficult to get to from Husbands Bosworth, difficult to park or just too big for everyday shopping. A welcome number shop in the village.



Where do you shop?

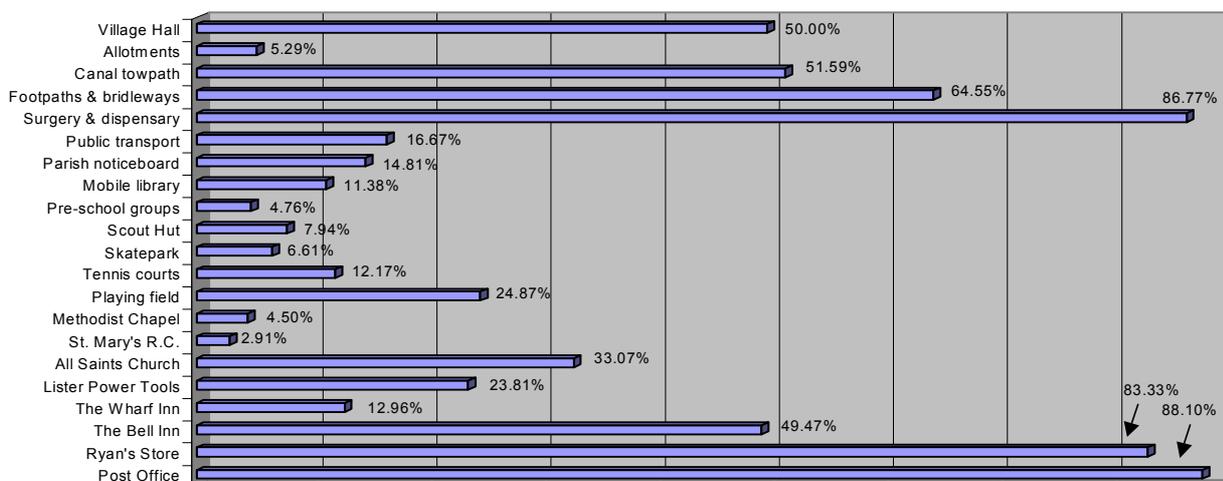


Respondents were evenly divided as to the provision of litter bins, which we assume means that generally residents are happy with those provided, although several people suggested alternative sites for further bins. Almost 60% of respondents would like more dog poop bins provided and suggested sites for these. Generally villagers appreciated the provision of public benches around the village but just over half those who responded would like to see more provided. Three-quarters of residents felt that the provision of planters around the village was a worthwhile enhancement and were happy to see more installed.

MEETING PLACES

Over 80% of residents use the Village Hall, either regularly or occasionally. However, most respondents felt that the hall's facilities could be improved, with better heating required and the outside of the building and car park area needing smartening up. Similarly, although half of respondents use the Community Church Hall at times it was felt that the building and facilities needed updating.

Use of Local amenities



A surprising 86% felt that the village needed more bus shelters despite two of the four bus stops on the main road, one in each direction, being already provided with shelters.

RECYCLING

The success of the recent district council recycling initiatives was reflected in the response to questions about recycling, with almost 95% of villagers recycling glass, 97% recycling paper and 87% recycling cans. Disappointingly, a few prefer not to recycle at all, citing the inconvenience of the system as the main objection. However, an encouraging 36% recycle plastics despite the lack of dedicated plastics facility locally, which suggests that those doing so must be travelling to one of the council's 'bring sites'.

A significant number of residents said that they would support a plastics collection service in the village. The recycling service did have some critics: "The box crew are appalling" and, "Collecting your own wheelie bin and boxes can be fun!".

ACTION POINTS for LOCAL AMENITIES

- Provision of more dog poop bins, litter bins and planters
- Better plastic recycling provision
- Better publicity for mobile library service
- Improvements to Village Hall
- Improvements to Church Hall
- Better publicity for local activity groups and clubs
- Invite suggestions for new groups or clubs

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

THE FUTURE development and planning of our village is an important issue with most residents. The general feeling seems to be that it should remain much as it is now with some cosmetic improvements and limited development so that the size and character of our village is maintained.

BUILDING CONTROL

Our questionnaire results showed that most of our respondents (88%) feel further housing should be restricted. Only 15 people wanted the village bigger. Low cost housing, smaller houses for first-time buyers, and more accommodation for rent was an important point that featured in many responses. Rather than push new-build developments, some felt that local planners could do more to encourage the conversion and extension of existing homes. The provision of sheltered accommodation for elderly and disabled villagers should be considered.

New high-density development, spoiling the character of the village, was not popular amongst respondents. There were many comments about the new housing on the Fernie Lodge site. A few people considered the development as acceptable, but over half felt it was inappropriate in the village setting, whilst almost a quarter said it could have been better designed. *“Planners should consider village life and the impact of development on people living there.”*

Generally it was felt that developments should be more carefully considered, with the inclusion of sufficient car parking for residents. Planners should also be aware of listed buildings and the impact from any new construction, especially taking into account the appropriate siting of fuel tanks, rubbish bins, etc. It was felt that comments from the Parish Council should be taken more seriously and that the guidelines for Conservation Area status should be more strictly adhered to.

Existing trees should be kept where possible and new trees planted with any new development. Trees are environmentally sound, and encourage wildlife. Small groups of smaller species could be planted around the village. Some felt that we should emphasise that Husbands Bosworth is a village, not a town and open space is fundamental to the character of a village. Preserving the existing open spaces is very important to many villagers. Nearly 97% of respondents were positive about this. Comments made included the need for safe areas

for children to play, open space for village events and meeting places.

However, limited building for light industry and retail would be acceptable to many, as well as agricultural and stabling which is judged to be part of rural village life.

PRESSURE ON SERVICES

With the extra housing, concerns were expressed about the increased use of amenities such as the doctors’ surgery and the school.



Some housing development is probably inevitable as the government sets guidelines for housing but if these observations are taken into account perhaps the village can keep its rural status and remain a pleasant place in which to live.

ACTION POINTS for PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT ISSUES

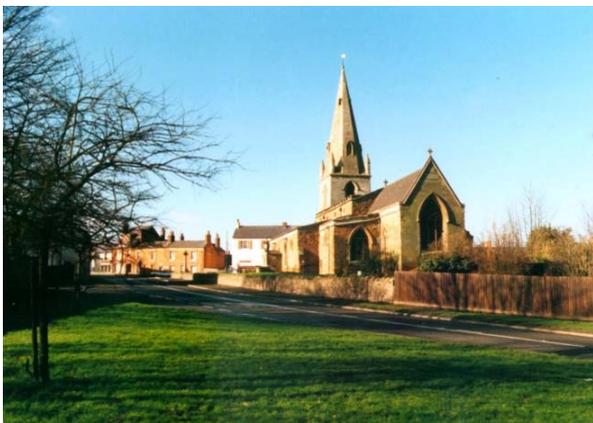
- Consult with decision makers regarding development issues
- Need for low-cost and sheltered housing
- Ensure adequate parking incorporated in new developments
- Encourage planting of new trees and shrubs in new developments
- Encourage more public participation in planning process

RELIGION

SEVENTY percent of respondents were prepared to state their religion. Of those expressing their religion as a denomination of Christianity, the majority said Church of England but other denominations included Anglican, Methodist, Baptist, Catholic, Evangelical, Spiritualist, Presbyterian, Quaker and Salvation Army! A couple of people described themselves as Christian but said labels are “unimportant” or “divisive”. Other religions represented in the village include Sikhism and a “non-practicing Pagan.” Others said they had no religious affiliations.

Although most respondents said they did not attend church at all, of those who do go to church, nearly half said that they attend the Parish Church of All Saints. Others attend the Methodist Chapel and St. Mary’s Roman Catholic Church, whilst a fifth of respondents said they attend a place of worship outside of the village, including Leicester Sikh Temple, Wigston Community Church and Harborough Evangelical Church.

The highest proportion of those who do attend church say they do so for weddings and funerals. Half of all respondents said they attended church for special occasions, particularly Christmas. Only 24% said that they attended Sunday services.



Three quarters of respondents felt that the main value of churches was for special family events such as weddings and baptisms. Almost the same amount felt the churches were of historic and aesthetic value. Sixty-three percent felt the churches are places for the community to come together and half of the respondents felt that the value in the churches was in their support of the

village. A third said the value is in religious leadership. Three people felt that the churches are of no value.



A large number of respondents thought that our churches should be used for religious uses only but nearly everyone thought that interdenominational and multi-cultural worship could be encouraged more within our existing churches. Surprisingly, just over half of the respondents said they would not attend outdoor services, interdenominational services or services with a visiting minister.

There was nearly full approval for the use of the churches for the Christmas Tree Festival and similar events with many happy to see the churches used for plays, classical concerts, school events, music concerts and daytime community events.

Many simply felt that anything that would make the churches better focus points for the community would be beneficial.

“As long as they are not in conflict with Christian principles and the Bible”

Some felt that the churches should be open to the public more during the week. *“...to encourage people to come in and possibly be spiritually challenged”*

A large proportion of respondents (86%) said that they would like their children to attend Sunday school or holiday clubs at our churches.

Of the three hundred and forty two people who responded to the question of whether the loss of our churches would concern them, an overwhelming 303 said they would regret the loss of any of the churches in the village.

Most respondents said that they felt comfortable using the churches. However, 13% said that they felt uncomfortable. Twenty-seven people made

comments about this subject.

“Attend too infrequently to be comfortable”

“Feel a bit of a stranger”

“It feels like only an elite group are welcome”

“Unless you are at the front, difficult to hear”

A few respondents said that they were not religious but felt that the churches and religion in general are important for making a community.

CHURCH EVENTS

The most popular events with respondents were shown to be seasonal events such as the Christmas Tree Festival, fetes, Open Gardens and craft fairs.



The question about ways in which the church could better support the community encouraged a number of people to respond with suggestions.

“Be more available, more realistic about modern life and values.”

“More involvement by the ministers in village life and with local people”

“St. Mary’s open more. A 9am Mass on Sunday morning”

“Sunday school would be nice”

“The community should support the churches”

“This is a two way avenue and the community should also support the churches”

“Have communion at home for those who cannot get to church.”

ACTION POINTS FOR RELIGIOUS ISSUES

- Consult with church leaders about church and religious issues raised
- Improve Church Hall facilities

TOURISM

TWO-THIRDS of respondents felt that tourism should be encouraged. Most felt that tourism could be an important issue in helping to stimulate the local economy. *“Local amenities used by tourists promote retention of facilities and their expansion.”* And, *“Bring revenue into the community.”* Perhaps, an understated aspect of attracting tourists to the area is that it would *“...encourage inhabitants to value and look after the village and its environment.”*

WHAT IS THERE TO SEE?

Negative comments centred around the lack of tourism infrastructure, lack of places of interest and possibility of bringing more traffic, parking problems and litter into the village: *“What is there for tourists to see or do?”*

“Considerable amenity developments needed first.”

“No amenities...tearoom/cafe/restaurant or hotel.”

“Already too much traffic.”

Some felt that more could be done to promote the village to visitors. *“Information about the history of the village.”*

A number of respondents noted the lack of facilities for boaters on the canal, such as moorings and signs



directing visitors to the village. *“It’s good to see visitors coming up from the canal - we should do more to welcome them to our facilities.”* But several noted the poor access to the village from Honeypot Bridge by the footpath to Dag Lane or along the often badly farm-soiled and poorly surfaced lower Mowsley Road.

Of the respondents, two-thirds felt that the village shops and public houses offered ‘good’ value to visitors and helped to attract visitors to the area, although some noted that what we have could be better presented: *“More inviting pub. Better information leaflets and boards.”*

Most respondents rated the limekiln excavation at



Welford Wharf highly as a tourist attraction and noted the internationally recognised Soaring Centre as an important local feature encouraging visitors to the area.

Walks and footpaths and the local countryside in general were well favoured by over half of the respondents who felt that they provided good opportunities for visitors to access the area.

Half of the respondents felt that better local information and signage, better marking of footpaths, better maintenance of footpaths and the environment generally would encourage tourists to the area. Over three-quarters of respondents felt that a tea-shop and places to sit would be well received both by visitors and residents. *“Somewhere to eat and drink in comfortable surroundings.”* Some noted lack of public toilets and suggested that more public parking may encourage visitors to dwell longer in the area.

A huge number (95%) of people felt the most important thing to accommodate less able or disabled visitors would be to provide well-maintained footpaths. Half of the respondents felt that access to public buildings should be improved. Nearly 30% felt that information should be provided in large print or Braille.

ACTION LIST FOR TOURISM ISSUES

- **Improve access from the canal**
- **Improve moorings for boaters**
- **Improve local tourist information**

TRAFFIC & TRANSPORT

WHILST most respondents reported no problems with driving conditions within the village, some did identify specific problems. Six out of ten respondents cited speeding as the main issue, whilst over half complained about the volume of traffic. Vehicles parking on footpaths regularly inconvenienced many who replied. The most common complaints referred to the High Street and Mowsley Road junction being dangerous due to parked cars outside Country Properties. Suggestions to resolve this included double yellow lines, making Mowsley Road one way and double yellow lines outside Ryan's along High Street to deter illegal parking.



SPEEDING TRAFFIC

Problems at the Honey Pot Lane junction with the main road were noted by some, compounded generally by the speed of traffic approaching the junction. Flashing 'Slow Down' signs or traffic calming measures were suggested here. The feeling in most responses was that traffic entering and leaving the village is doing so far too fast.

Problems with exiting from Berridges Lane onto High Street were noted by a number of respondents, with serious traffic delays at peak times. It was suggested that traffic lights would improve this junction. Inconsiderate parking in Bell

Lane, especially the lower end where the road narrows, prompted some to suggest that yellow lines down one side might encourage those with access to off-road parking to use it.



Generally, in all areas, inconsiderate parking across private driveways, or residents being unable to park outside their own property were common complaints. Suggestions from residents included parking restrictions along some roads or the provision of a car-parking area for residents-only use. As noted before, many respondents felt that the local council ought to consider parking provision more carefully when new developments are considered.

Many noted that vehicles are regularly being driven the wrong way in the one-way system, which suggests that signs should be more prominent. The Hunters Close/Highcroft junctions and private properties on lower Berridges Lane posed a particular problem with traffic approaching from the north. Extended cross hatching, making exiting vehicles more obvious to oncoming traffic was suggested.



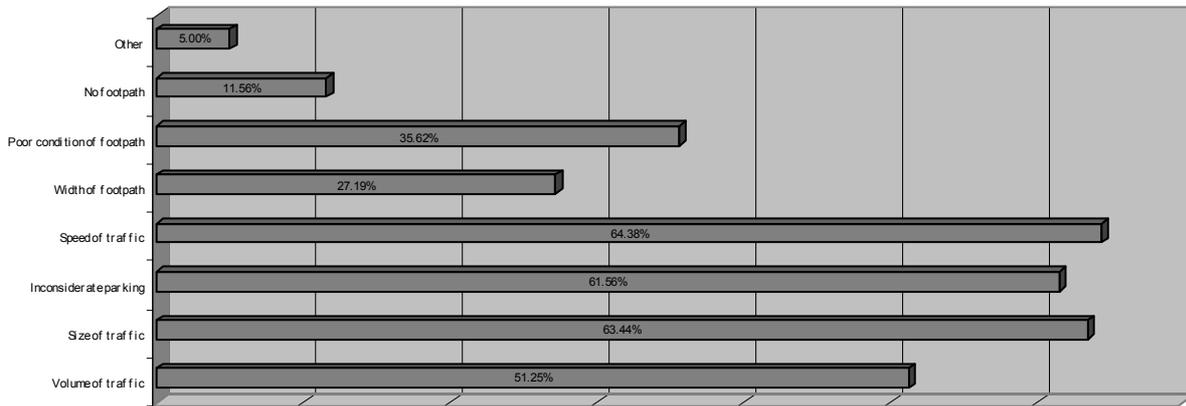
PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC

Pedestrians were also concerned about traffic issues. Many also noted the problem of vehicles parked on the path, the poor condition of paths, the usable width of paths and the lack of footways at all in some places, especially on parts of Welford Road and Mowsley Road.

ROAD TRAFFIC

The questionnaire highlighted that traffic, especially speeding traffic, in the village is felt to be a major problem. The most effective way to slow the traffic down, suggested by over three-quarters of respondents, was the installation of flashing ‘Slow Down’ signs, whilst 63% thought stricter enforcement of the 30mph speed limit would do the trick.

Pedestrian problems

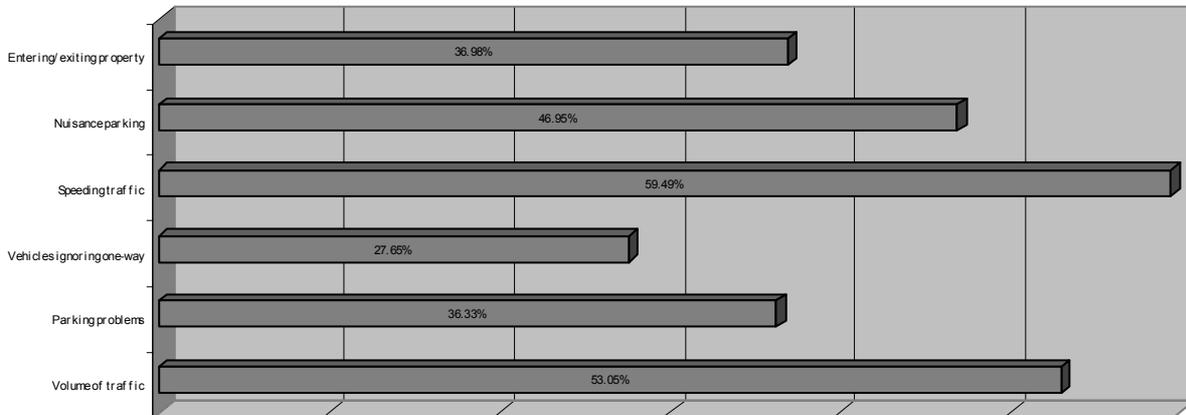


Forty-seven respondents made comments on other pedestrian-related issues, including problems of crossing the High Street, especially at the Church Street/Butt Lane end of the village and by the doctors’ surgery. The most common complaint, cited by 64% of respondents, was about the speed and volume of traffic, which was seen as especially problematic for those with young children and wheelchair users where the footpaths are extremely narrow or non-existent. Additional problems were noted where pedestrians have to walk on the road due to vehicles parked on footpaths or wheelie bins being left out. Also problems of inconsiderate parking on Welford Road/School Lane at school times were voiced.

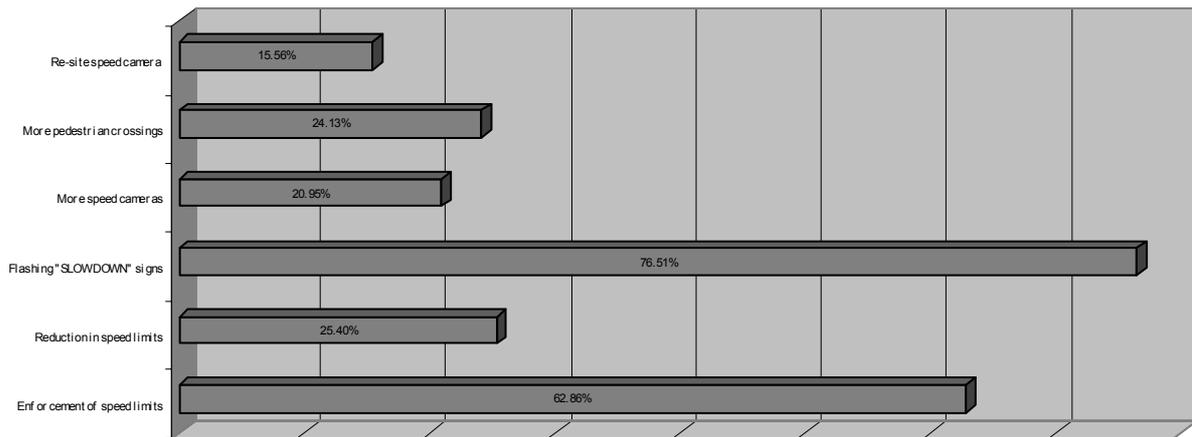
PARKING PROBLEMS

Parking issues featured in many responses. Insufficient parking areas for shopping at both Ryan’s and the Post Office, leading to illegal parking and overspill into nearby roads were noted by many. Properties without off-road parking, especially in the Bell Lane/Berridges Lane area where the size of vehicles passing through, forced people to park partially on the footpaths. Some suggested that the High Street bus stop no-waiting zone should be reinstated so that buses didn’t have to stop in the main road. It would also make exiting from Cherry Tree Close safer. Inconsiderate parking near junctions was highlighted, especially for well-

Traffic Problems



Suggestions for resolving traffic issues



attended functions at the Church and Village Halls. There were 126 replies received suggesting ways to alleviate parking problems, which included previously mentioned public car-parking, double yellow lines in problem areas, more use of the Village Hall car park at school times and better enforcement of illegal parking. Tighter planning restrictions should also be considered, to provide sufficient parking for new developments and bollards placed where vehicles currently drive along pavements and grass verges.



PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Use of the limited bus services was an issue for many. The majority said that they did not use it, but about a quarter of residents do, although a number felt the services could be improved. Many would like to see a direct service to Market Harborough railway station, a through service to Wigston and Leicester and the reinstatement of the routes to Northampton and Rugby, with possible links to South Kilworth. Increased frequency of the bus services to Harborough and Lutterworth at peak times, and making the buses more wheelchair-friendly were other comments.

A taxi service, based in the village, would find favour with some for leisure or social purposes, especially to Market Harborough and Leicester in the evenings and weekends. Affordable taxis would be especially useful for station and airport runs, shopping and for entertainment and social venues. Affordability and availability were the key issues raised. The general view was that if the buses were cheaper and more frequent and taxis more affordable, they would be used.

ACTION POINTS for TRAFFIC & TRANSPORT ISSUES

- Consult with LCC Highways regarding traffic calming
- Consult with MH Police regarding nuisance parking issues
- Consult with HDC regarding parking restrictions
- Consult with HDC and LCC regarding public transport provision and routes
- School-time parking issues
- Car parking provision in new developments
- Reduce extraneous signing

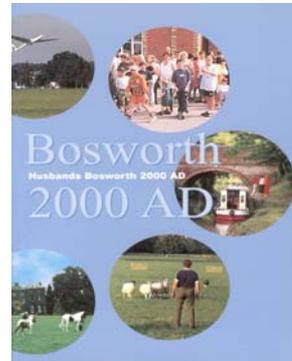
TELL US ABOUT YOU

THIS SECTION covered all the relevant data about yourselves and statistics on gender, age, how long you have been a resident, employment status, how far you travel to work and Parish Council spending. A total of 384 residents filled out the questionnaire, of that number 161 were male and 209 were female.

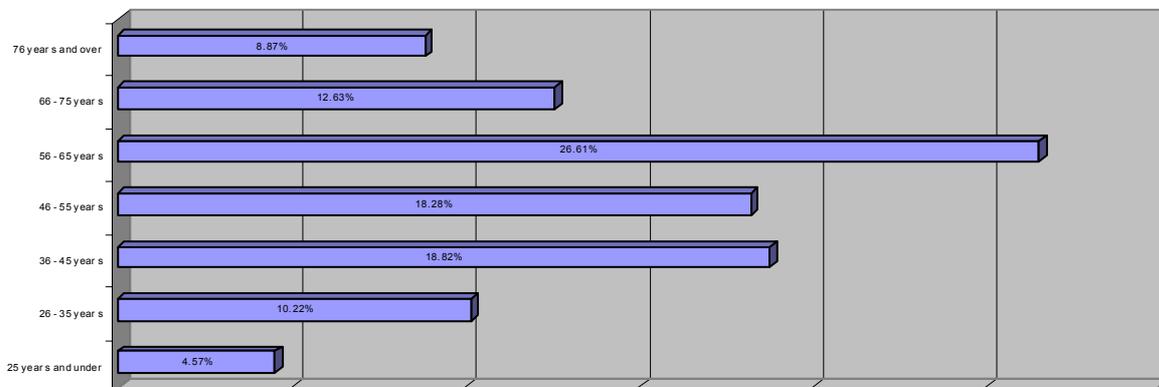
How long have you lived in the village? From the replies of the 367 who responded we can say that some have lived here for less than a year and others more than 72 years! Some simply said that they had lived here all of their lives!

Most of those who have moved here came because of the location or work. Frequently quoted were "Quiet surroundings," and "Rural situation".

"A village environment and sense of space" was noted by some, whilst others noted: "Affordable housing, well placed for travelling around."



How old are you?

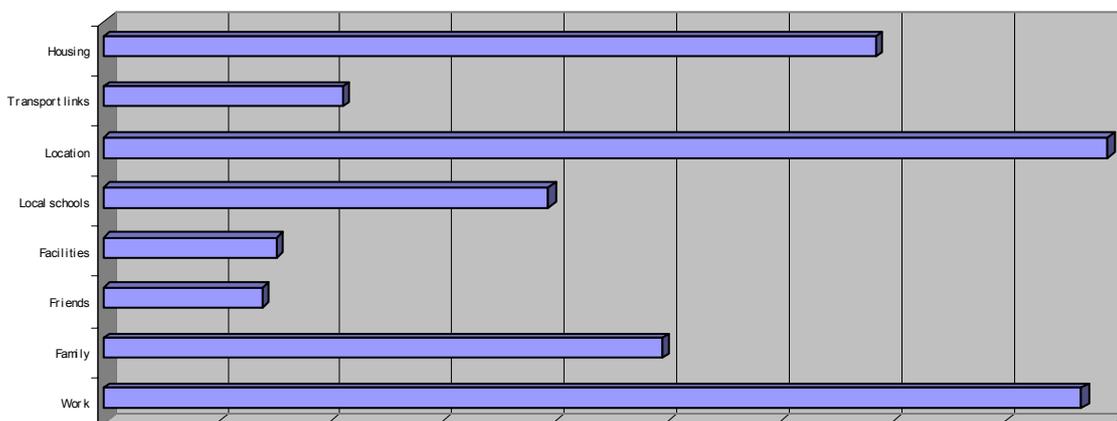


Not many moved to the village for the amenities, facilities or friends, although some mentioned the village school's catchment area.

Many were born here or moved here when they married, and some when they retired, to be near relatives. Most felt that the village was "welcoming, with a sense of community." The country aspect attracted some: "...wanted to give the children the advantage of growing up in the countryside."

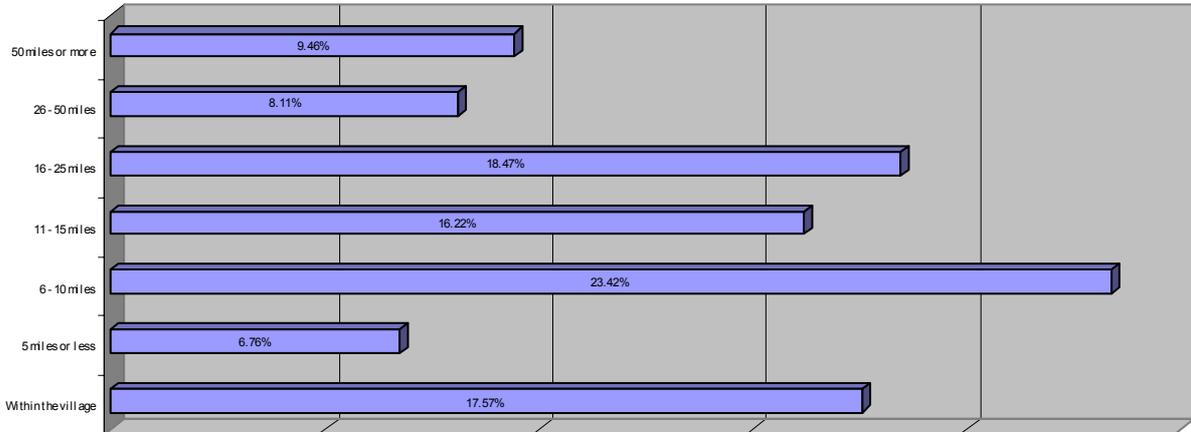


Why did you move to Husbands Bosworth?



We asked about your employment. Where you worked and how far you travelled to your place of work.

Commuting distance



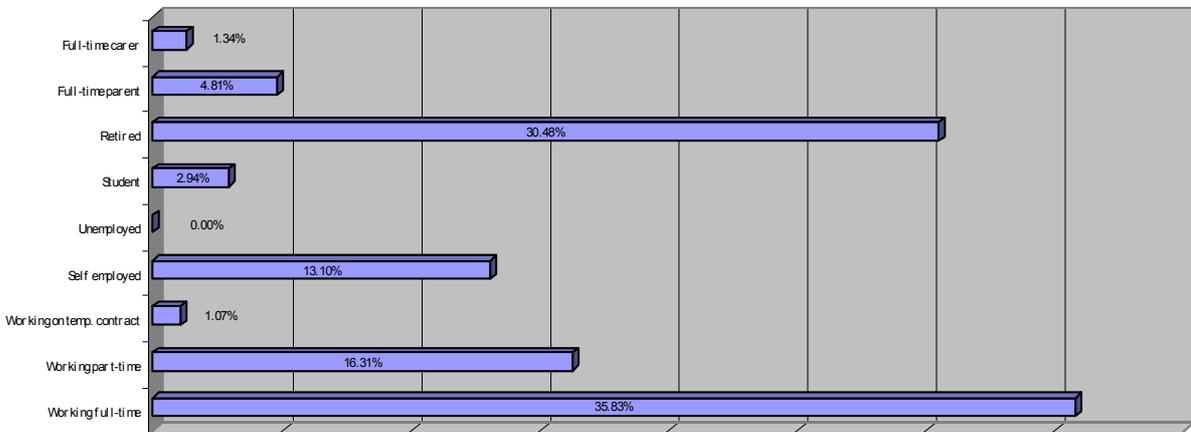
COMMUTING TO WORK

From our survey we find that a surprising number of people work within the village. Also surprising is that fewer people work close to home (within five miles commuting distance) than work further away, with almost half commuting over 10 miles and one in ten people travelling more than 50.

EMPLOYMENT

This question revealed some interesting statistics about the population of Husbands Bosworth. An unusually high percentage of people living in the parish are retired; almost as many as are in full-time employment and only a small number consider themselves full-time parents. Nobody admitted to being unemployed!

Your Employment



WHAT DO WE GET FROM THIS INFORMATION?

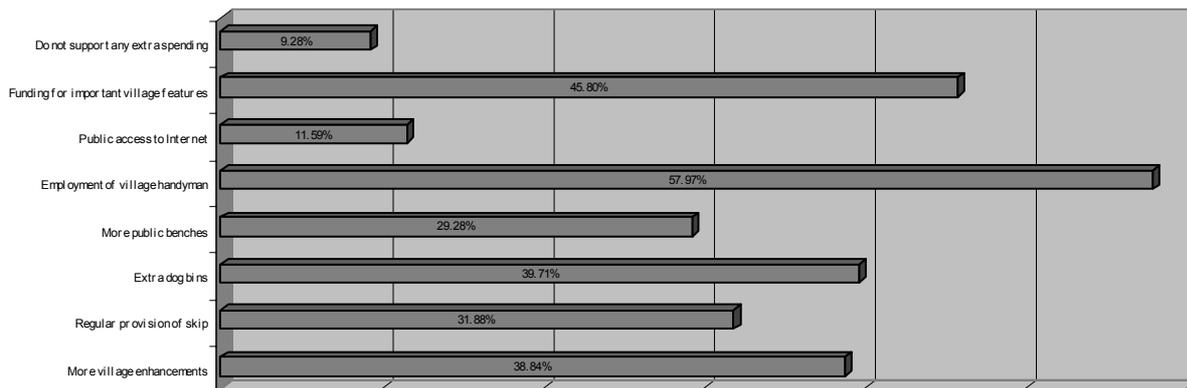
That Husbands Bosworth is a friendly, welcoming village, with good links to major road networks and that the lack of facilities is not seen by residents as a big issue. A large proportion of the population are retired, which seems to indicate that the area is viewed as a suitable place to settle in retirement, with the right type of housing and adequate facilities for care and recreation.

LOCAL SPENDING

We asked you about the Council Tax money the Parish Council spends on maintaining local public facilities, and on what you would support extra spending. Almost everyone responded to this question with only 32 respondents unhappy about supporting further community spending.



Parish Council expenditure



At the end of the questionnaire you were asked to list any comments that you felt had been overlooked. This question brought replies that capture, in a nutshell, the feelings and hopes of residents. We had a resounding 129 responses to this; some a page long, others just one or two lines!

Here are some of the comments that you made:

- *A village is about people taking responsibility for their own actions ...looking after themselves and others. We should not expect the Parish Council to do everything.*
- *A happy community feel to the village; neighbour helping neighbour.*
- *...a summer concert to bring the community together.*
- *Restrict development, or spoil the rural feel.*
- *Slow vehicles down entering and leaving the village.*
- *Planters presently ugly, too big and wrongly sited.*
- *Sort out the village green; awash with signs and very untidy, extend flowerbed.*



- *Get rid of horrible red brick entrance walls to the village, they look like public urinals, install gates instead.*
 - *Co-operation between village groups for special fund raising events to fund village projects.*
 - *Post box in north end of the village would be ideal.*
 - **Village does not need a Village Plan.**
- But...**
- **Well done to all who organised this!**

YOUNG PEOPLE'S ISSUES

MANY thanks for taking the time to complete this questionnaire. We had an excellent response with a total of 31 returned from the 52 young people's questionnaires that we sent out. So what did we find out? For a start, surprisingly, more boys answered the questionnaire than girls! Replies were received from twenty-one boys and only ten girls, with ages ranging from 6 to 18 years.

We asked what you like about living in Husbands Bosworth.

*"All my friends live here."
"Good skatepark."
"Clean, good village spirit."
"I like the countryside."
"It's quiet."
"The Park."
"Tennis Club."
"Football pitch and shops."
"My school is in the village."
"Young community."
"Friendly village."
"I like everything about living in Husbands Bosworth."*

LEISURE ACTIVITIES for YOUNG PEOPLE

Twenty-seven of you were satisfied and four were not satisfied with the sports and leisure facilities available in Husbands Bosworth. Only two of you were prevented from taking part in activities because of transport problems and age. Thirteen of you have no problems and seven don't have the activity you are interested in provided here.

We wanted to know how often you use the facilities provided, such as the park/play area, skatepark, walking and cycling in the countryside, the football and basketball areas. Most of you use these only occasionally, but these figures vary depending on what the facility is.

The football pitches and the basketball area are poorly used, but the other facilities are popular.



We asked if there were any other interests or suggestions for improving what facilities we already have.

*"Bigger skatepark with bigger jumps."
"Cover skatepark for all-weather use."
"Skate competitions."
"Dance classes, singing, football, rounders."
"Yoga for under 16s."
"Shops selling wider range of products."
"Village Fair on the playing field."*



A number of youngsters would help to run new activities for young people in the village.

MEETING FRIENDS

As would be expected, most youngsters meet with their friends at home, but some do meet regularly in the streets. A number travel outside the village to meet. Unfortunately there was little support for raising funds for a meeting place to be set up in the village.

GETTING ABOUT

Most of those who answered used family transport to get about to activities, with the bus service coming next. When going to school most of you catch the school bus. Walking was another popular way to get about the village, from seeing friends to social activities. Most of you are satisfied with the current bus service but a few of you would like to see more buses and more destinations offered. Sixteen of you were interested in a community bus service that would be available for all residents.

GETTING LOCAL INFORMATION

So where do you get your information from about local activities? Parents are your main source of information, with friends a close second.

School and the *Bosworth Bugle* cover some of your requirements but the library does not seem to be helpful for you and is not very well utilised by youngsters from the village. Out of 28 responses only 2 of you use this facility. Some of you said that you were unsure when the mobile library visits and where it stops.

Only a few were interested in a central internet site within the village. From the 30 of you who answered this question only eight of you were interested.

So, where else do you get village information? The *Bosworth Bugle* mainly, with notices in the Post Office next and some finding information from the village web site. Not many got any information from the Church notice board. There were no suggestions about where local information could be better advertised.



PERSONAL ADVICE

Talking to your parents or close friends, a family member or advice from school seemed to be the most popular means of getting information about bullying, dietary needs and personal problems. Some of you are informed on how to get advice on alcohol, contraception and drug problems, with others either too young to know, or not sure who to ask about these things.



WHAT DO BOSWORTH YOUNGSTERS WANT?

It seems that you would like a junior football club and possibly a youth rounders team. A badminton coaching group for younger people might prove popular.

You would like the facilities in the skatepark upgrading with better and more challenging equipment and better provision for roller-blading. Another idea which found favour with many was to have regular film shows in the Village Hall or Church Hall, with hired portable equipment. Also noted was some enthusiasm for the resumption of music nights or discos for young people.

ACTION POINTS for YOUNG PEOPLE'S ISSUES

- Consult regarding bus service provision
- Seek views on providing new activities in the village
- Improvements to skatepark
- Seek interest in providing a regular disco/music evening

ACTION PLAN

PROBLEM IDENTIFIED	ACTIONING AUTHORITY	REMARKS
BUSINESS		
Need for mobile secretarial facilities and electrician		Publicise locally
Need for vehicle repair shop, cafe and fast food outlet	Entrepreneurs required!	Plans afoot!
COMMUNICATIONS		
Poor mobile phone coverage with some providers	Service providers	Individuals to canvas
Lack of noticeboards (Old Green, east end of village)	Parish Council	Under consideration
Poor digital TV reception in places	Broadcasting authorities	Individuals to canvas
Consider an annual clubs/ groups Open Evening	Parish Plan Group	
EDUCATION		
Need for IT courses, especially for the elderly	Parish Plan Group	
Investigate support for other interests/crafts	Parish Plan Group	Publicise in <i>Bugle</i>
Poor after-school and sports provision in village school	HB Primary School	
EMERGENCY SERVICES		
Improve information on local criminal activity	MH Police	
Consult on poor perception of police activity locally	MH Police	
Improve accessibility and profile of Local Beat Officer	MH Police	
Investigate possibility of providing regular police surgery	MH Police / Parish Co.	
Reactivate Neighbourhood Watch Scheme	Parish Council	
ENVIRONMENT		
More dog bins and litter bins required	Parish Council	Seek views on siting
More benches needed or existing ones refurbished	Parish Council	Under review
Poor condition of roadside footpaths	Parish Council/ LCC	Some action taken
Poor visual aspect of footpaths, the village greens	Parish Council/LCC	
Some poor aspects of waste collection noted	HDC/Waste team	
Plastic recycling facilities needed	HDC/Waste team	
Poor perception of street cleaning	LCC Highways	

PROBLEM IDENTIFIED	ACTIONING AUTHORITY	REMARKS
HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE		
Third doctor needed; waiting time problems	Local Primary Care Trust	
Consult regarding provision of health screening	Local Primary Care Trust	
Need for a regular Citizens' Advice surgery	Citizens' Advice Bureau	
Concerns regarding access for less mobile and infirm	PC, HDC & LCC	Some work done
LOCAL AMENITIES		
Need for an 'outings' group	Parish Plan Group	Consult via <i>Bugle</i>
More planters, dog bins and litter bins suggested	Parish Council	
Improve profile of Mobile Library	Libraries Service	Publicise in <i>Bugle</i>
Improve facilities and appearance of Village Hall	Village Hall Committee	
Improve publicity of local clubs and groups	Parish Plan Group	Publicise in <i>Bugle</i>
New groups needed	Parish Plan Group	Invite suggestions
Need for plastics recycling facility noted	HDC/Waste team	
PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT		
Lack of smaller/low-cost housing noted	HDC Planners	
Consider more sheltered housing for disabled and elderly	HDC Planners	
New developments to reflect character of area	HDC Planners	Respect Cons. Area
Ensure adequate parking provision in new developments	HDC Planners	
Encourage village participation in planning decisions	Parish Council	Write and fight!
Need to enhance sites with new trees and shrubs	HDC Planners	
RELIGION		
Later Morning Mass times	St. Mary's Trustees	
Improve facilities of Church Hall	Parish Church Council	
TOURISM		
Improve canal facilities for boaters	British Waterways	
Improve access from the canal to the village	HDC/ LCC Highways	

PROBLEM IDENTIFIED	ACTIONING AUTHORITY	REMARKS
Improve local tourist information and services	Parish Council/HDC	
TRAFFIC & TRANSPORT		
Speeding traffic; traffic calming measures needed	LCC Highways	
Nuisance parking highlighted	MH Police	Publicity in <i>Bugle</i>
Parking restrictions needed in troublespots	LCC Highways	
Parking problems associated with residents' cars	Village residents	Use off-road parking
Improve 'one-way' signing	LCC Highways	
Poor footways; Mowsley Road and Welford Road	LCC Highways	
Problems crossing A4304, refuges required	LCC Highways	By surgery and church
Parking problems at school times highlighted	HB Primary School	More consideration
Parked cars ruining some grass verges	Parish Council	Contact car owners
Need for better bus service especially to Leicester	HDC/Bus operators	
Reduce sign-clutter esp. High Street and The Green	HDC	
ACTION PLAN for YOUTH ISSUES		
Consult regarding poor bus service provision	HDC/ Bus operators	
Seek interest in new sports, clubs or groups	Parish Plan Group	Seek views in <i>Bugle</i>
Seek interest in forming a cinema club	Parish Plan Group	Publicise in <i>Bugle</i>
Little interest from young people in library services	Libraries Service	Better publicity
Improvements and more equipment sought for skatepark	Parish Council	Write to the Council!
Interest shown in a community bus service	HDC/LCC	
Some interest shown for a regular disco in Village Hall	Village Hall Committee	Canvas interest in <i>Bugle</i>

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

THE Parish Plan Steering Group was made up of the following hard-working and enthusiastic members:

Steph Ashby
 Peter Fletcher
 Melvyn Forman
 Ralph Horton
 Beryl Jones
 Les Jones
 Wendy Hughes-Jones
 Dennis Pepperill
 Frances Smith
 Heather O'Connor (Chairperson)

The group first met under the guidance of Diana Cook of the Rural Community Council (Leicestershire and Rutland). Julie Nottingham, also of the RCC (L & R), undertook to compile and correlate the questionnaire and advise on layout and style, and latterly Victoria Bowers kept a watchful eye on proceedings!

Many thanks to Harborough District Council community services department for arranging the printing of the questionnaire document; a monumental feat!

Thanks also to Husbands Bosworth Parish Council for holding the funds granted to us for the project, and to the Parish Clerk, Jackie Fletcher for her guidance.

Special thanks to the Countryside Agency, the government agency that initially funded Parish Plans nationally, and, which under the initial direction of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, set the ball rolling.

Many others, both within the parish and as part of other agencies have helped in many ways, often anonymously, to bring this project to fruition. Our thanks go to them.

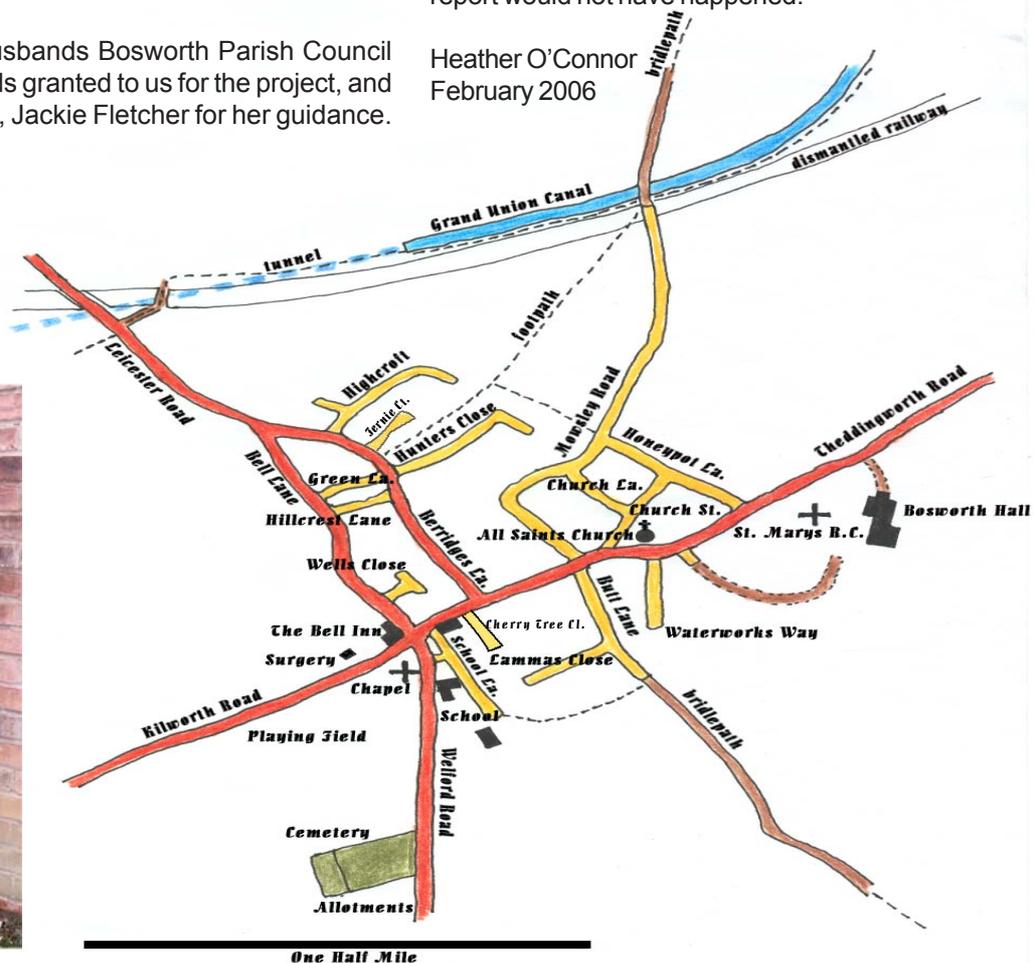
MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR...

As the elected Chairperson, I had the responsibility of maintaining some sort of control at the Parish Plan meetings! Religion was the most emotive subject, but joking aside, it was a pleasure to work with everyone. I know that at times we had our moments of doubt, but we always had one common goal: to contribute to the well-being of the village and to see some good come from this exercise.

My thanks go to you all for your support, guidance and conviction.

I would especially like to thank Parish Council Chairman, Melvyn Forman, our treasurer, Ralph Horton and Frances Smith for all the extra meetings, proof-reading and invaluable support, without which the report would not have happened.

Heather O'Connor
 February 2006





The Parish of HUSBANDS BOSWORTH 2000