

Isle Abbots Parish Plan

2005 Questionnaire Results

In November 2005 a questionnaire was delivered to every household in Isle Abbots Parish (80 homes). The response was excellent and we received 68 completed surveys. That is 85% or 6 out of 7 households.

The figures shown are not percentages; they are the exact number of households or, in part 2, the number of individuals, who responded to a question in a particular way. Percentages will require further calculations!

All relevant additional comments have been included verbatim, however if two comments were very similar, then they have been grouped together and the number of similar comments shown thus: [3]. When reading the comments, take care that you read them together with the reply statistics. To read the comments on their own, will in some cases, appear to conflict with the majority opinion as shown by the tick boxes.

Part 1 About our households

In Part 1, one person answered on behalf of the household.

A1 How many people including children, usually live in your household?

1	17
2	21
3	8
4	11
5	8
6+	1
No response	2

A 2. Is your home?

Owned by you	58
Council/Housing Association rented	5
Privately rented	2
Other	2
NO RESPONSE	1

A3. How long have you lived in your home?

0-1 year	5
1-5 years	22
6-10 years	10
11-15 years	8
15 years +	10

A4. What are the main reasons you came to live in Isle Abbots?

Always lived here	11
To be near family	6
Local/area employment	9
Attractive/convenient location	25
Retirement	13

Quality of life/child safety	29
No reply	1

A5. How many cars do you have in your household?

1	22
2	27
3	8
4	11
5	8
6+	1
No reply	1

A6. What is the main source of heating in your home?

Solid Fuel	6
Oil	57
Electric	10
LPG	4
Solar	0

A7. Which mains services do you currently have?

	Already have	Would like	No reply
Electricity	67		1
Mains Gas	0	28	40
Mains water	64		4
Mains drainage	49	6	13
Telephone	66		2

A8. Would you be interested in a bulk purchase scheme for oil?

Yes	35
Already participate	3
No not interested	19
Don't know	6
No response	5

A9. Does your home suffer from flooding?

Regularly (outside)	1
Occasionally	2
Never	59
No response	6

A10. Do you have Internet access at home?

Yes	48
No	17
No response	3

A11. Do you have an email address?

Yes	48
No	17
No response	3

A12. Are you aware that Broadband is now available in the village?

Yes	49
No	16
No response	3

A13. Do you have Broadband?

Yes	27
No	16
No response	3

A14. In which years will your pre-school children start school?

2006	3 children
2007	0
2008	1
2009	1

- Isle Abbots is a safe environment for children to grow up and learn to be themselves. The playgroup is excellent

Part 2 – About You

In part 2, up to six people in the household answered the questions.

Section B: Leisure & Amenities

B1. Do you feel that you have access to adequate sports and leisure facilities in Isle Abbots?

Yes	39
No	58
No opinion	44
No response	17

B2 Do you participate in any of the following activities, which already take place locally?

Bell ringing	8
Reading group/book club	7
Singing group	16
Church	25
Village hall	39
Keep fit	12
Other	12
No opinion	3
No response	81

B3 If you do not participate in a leisure/sport activity, is it because:

You don't want to	20
Times are unsuitable	12
Access is a problem	1
Lack of facilities	12
No transport	0
Poor publicity/don't know	1
Lack of baby sitters	1

The activities don't appeal	45
Other reasons	35
No response	43

- Too busy doing other things

B4 Are there any activities that you would like to see arranged locally?

- Instrumental band
- Badminton Club [3]
- Excursions to theatre, towns, cities etc
- Occasional trips to beach, cinema, theatre, London, etc.
- Sports clubs [2]
- Keep fit for 70+
- Photographic club
- Sewing classes
- Sunday School
- Gardening club
- Tennis [3]
- Walking group
- Yoga, pilates, salsa
- Rural crafts
- Languages (conversation)
- Ballroom dancing [3]
- More frequent keep fit
- Squash [2]
- Golf
- More sports facilities for the young
- Historical Society [2]
- Youth club [5]
- Quiz nights [2]
- Theatre trips [2]

B5 Do you think the Village Hall is adequate for the needs of the community in Isle Abbots?

Yes	86
No	38
No opinion	25
No response	9

- Too busy working to enjoy village activities
- Consider extending the Hall using the gravelled area at the front with a pitch (not flat) roof to create a rectangle [2]
- Too small; irregular shape; outgrown it; needs updating [2]
- Building very small, children's recreational area too small
- As a meeting place, adequate; but inadequate for say, a youth club.
- Chicken & egg situation. Would more people use the village hall if larger and more attractive?
- Should be bigger to allow more village functions [3]
- Shape of room does not lend itself to ease of use. Should be sold to fund new hall.
- Too small and needs a good lick of paint
- If Fivehead can have a fine new Village Hall, why not us?
- Adequate for most activities although an extension on the side would be useful. No new hall needed.
- Very adequate for the size of the village; the cost of maintenance has to be considered
- Please make more use of door with slope access

B6 Do you use the Village Hall to attend activities or for your own events?

Yes	105
No events of interest	17
Too expensive	0

Don't know who to contact	1
Hall not suitable	2
Other	13
No response	20

- The only time I have entered the hall is to vote on election day
- Mainly Village Hall activities and functions, also Parish Council meetings
- Village Hall events are enjoyable
- Working hours provide insufficient time to participate in activities

B7 Do you feel the Church is important to the community?

Yes, very important	40
Yes, quite important	18
Not important	5
No views either way	26
Not involved with the Church, but think it is important	61
No response	8

- I think the church is a focus for village life and community welfare [2]
- Focal point in the Village, Regular services = community feel. [2]
- Services are dull and too similar with nothing to engage younger people, especially at Christmas
- Would like to see a closer relationship between the Church and the Chapel
- Don't forget the Chapel!
- Whatever happens in life, you always have your faith
- Important historic monument which is worth preserving
- Historically, morally, culturally, traditionally & aesthetically important.
- Brings community together, socially important [2]
- Keeps alive an ancient English Tradition, and comforts those who believe, although we see no evidence of a "personal god"
- Old fashioned – out of touch with modern life
- Because there are no social amenities in the village, i.e. post office, shop, pub; then the Church and Village Hall become the focus of village life
- It is the heart of Isle Abbots whether you attend services or go for quiet prayer. The bells have added another dimension.
- Focal point for a range of activities, including vital fund-raising
- Important because of it's historic value and beauty

B8 Assuming that the necessary grants (from non-village sources) can be obtained, would you be in favour of restoring and upgrading the Jubilee Hall, to include refreshment facility, toilet & disabled access?

Yes, in favour	86
No	23
No views either way	34
No response	15

- Not sure whether anyone would ever choose to use it instead of the village hall
- Already enough buildings and venues to support. The cost of restoring would not be recovered- sell it.
- Village Hall seems adequate [6]
- In favour of restoring the fabric, but cannot see the need in view of other facilities available. [6]
- It should be made available to the village for private and other functions
- Would not want to see the Jubilee Room become another Village Hall and would want to see its use controlled (vicinity opinion)
- Fund raising activities should be targeted at Church restoration
- How would it be used and who would run it?

B9 Do you use the mobile library service?

Yes	14
No	137
No response	7

B10 Give your reasons if you do not use the mobile library service

Did not know about it	15
Inconvenient time	33
Use other library	39
Do not use libraries	34
Other reasons	22
No response	26

- Have enough books of my own [3]
- Because I'm at University
- An important service, libraries need support [2]
- Would be better if it could be tied in with Playgroup finishing time
- Don't read books as much as I should owing to time
- Will use it when I am too old to drive [3]
- Vital for those without transport
- If available Saturday, we would use it!
- No access for the disabled

Section C: Communication in Isle Abbots

C1 How well informed do you feel about what is going on in Isle Abbots?

Well-informed	58
Reasonably well-informed	70
Poorly informed	5
No opinion	18
No response	7

- We do not always get flyers delivered re village events.
- A central notice board for all village news and activities would be helpful
- People on periphery do not see the notice board or hear until the last minute [3]
- Reasonable communication via Church and Village Hall committees
- There is a lack of information for people who live on the edge/outskirts of the village or who do not indulge in village gossip,

C2 Where do you usually get information about what is going on in Isle Abbots? [Select ALL that apply]

Parish notice board	66
Parish magazine	69
Village Hall notice board	76
Other notice boards	64
Word of Mouth	102
Other please give details	12
I don't know what is going on	10
No response	9

- Flyers [9]
- Duck house door [7] (i.e. the barn door in Church St)
- There is always information available if people choose to see it, and always excuses if they don't!
- Notice boards need to be kept tidy and up-to-date

C3 Which of these communication methods do you find most useful? Select only one answer [however, some people gave more than one answer]

Parish notice board	13
Parish Magazine	22
Village Hall notice board	32
Other notice boards	31
Word of mouth	57
Other – give details	9

- Flyers [6]
- Don't get enough personal contact – phone or email would be good
- There ought to be one central notice board, probably the village hall
- Flyers don't get distributed to outlying houses
- The new notice board if kept up to date.
- Village Hall events used to have someone calling round to sell tickets or put leaflets through doors. This no longer happens.

C4 Would you like to have an Isle Abbots Website?

Yes	68
No	19
No opinion	55
No response	16

- What would its purpose be?

C5 Would you like to be made aware of local events by e-mail?

Yes	68
No	41
No opinion	30
No response	19

C6 Do you subscribe to the Parish Magazine?

Yes	91
No	53
No response	14

C7 Would you like all households to receive the Parish Magazine or local newsletter?

Yes	103
No	30
No response	25

[If no, would this change to yes if it were free? Yes 6, No 2]

C8 What improvements could be made to the Parish Magazine?

- Improve the dreary front cover [2]
- More info about other activities [2]
- More news about the village
- Publication/delivery could sometimes be a little earlier – sometimes events have already happened
- More on local businesses in the area
- Children participating
- Could be more eye-catching and less “dense”
- Children's fun page
- Should be more specific to this parish
- Dates (& agenda) of Parish Council meetings
- Needs to advertise more future events

- Could use non-church news and comment to widen interest for all

C9 Do you know whom the members of your Parish Council are?

Yes	90
No	60
No response	8

- Only one

C10 Do you know when the Parish Council meetings are held?

Yes	62
No	87
No response	9

C11 Have you ever attended a Parish Council meeting?

Yes	44
No	106
No response	8

C12 If yes, did you think your concerns were dealt with adequately?

Yes	35
No	8
No response	115

- Parish Council has no power!

Section D: Community Safety

D1 Do any of the following raise concerns for you in Isle Abbots?

Theft	97
Vandalism	17
Traffic Speed	61
Drunkenness	8
Car crime	19
Harassment	4
Mugging	4
Other	11
No response	42

- Minor theft is a problem in the village, especially from outbuildings [2]
- Helicopters flying too low and activities on Merryfield during summer holiday
- H G V traffic [2]
- Very fast traffic through Badbury area. Speed bumps would be good.
- After an event in the Village Hall we have had bottles and cans thrown into our field
- HGV's and stray motorists regularly stranded at the end of Church Street, thinking they can get to Isle Brewers. We need to stop them entering in the first place.
- Fly tipping
- Dogs should be on leads; not all dogs are friendly, and not everyone likes dogs!

D2 Are there any areas where you feel unsafe in Isle Abbots?

Yes	12
No	131
No response	15

- Outside my gate – traffic passes far too fast

D3 Would you like to see street lighting introduced? If yes, where?

Yes	20
No	117
No response	21

- Absolutely not [3]
- In the Main Street [2]
- In the vicinity of the Village Hall – dangerous for pedestrians at night [2]
- At road junctions and other important meeting points in the village
- By Village Hall, Coxes Pitt and beginning of Church Street
- Light pollution is a terrible problem as it is, without adding to it – lack of light is one reason I like this village [8]
- All through the main street of the village, down to Manor Farm
- By Village hall, by bus stop, by Jubilee Room
- Church Street and all surrounding areas
- Perhaps one light at Cox's Pit, but appreciate the annoyance for close residents and enjoyment of night-sky uninfluenced by artificial light.
- Why make it easier for thieves to see where they are going?
- Go and live in a town if you want to spoil our night skies
- Church Floodlighting is adequate
- Too much light already – use a torch.

D4 Is your home in a neighbourhood watch scheme?

Yes	86
No	12
Don't know	46
No response	14

D5 Would you be interested in joining a neighbourhood watch scheme?

Yes	48
Would you be a co-ordinator?	3
No	23
Already belong to one	51
No response	36

D6 In the last three years have you been a victim of crime in Isle Abbots?

Yes	36
Did you report it?	33
No	98
No response	24

- Shed broken into & trailer stolen
- Garden tools from barn at rear
- Had car broken into in Curry Rivel which is too close for comfort
- Our car was vandalised
- Theft from car parked outside my house.

D7 What do you think of the police coverage in Isle Abbots?

Good	0
Reasonable	26
Poor	77
Don't know/no opinion	36
No response	19

- Only time I have seen Police is when they are called to a crime
- Have only seen a police car 4 times in 6 years

- Have never seen a Policeman in Isle Abbots [5]
- I didn't know the Police came to the village. [4]
- Rarely see any police presence in the village [8]
- I reported a break in – the only response by police was to give a reference for insurance claim [3]
- Police were not interested when my car was broken into in Curry Rivel
- What Police? [2]
- Poor is an understatement of police coverage. The community charge contribution for policing should be withheld until we start getting police support.
- They are more active than you think, but a beat officer or similar would be good news

Section E: Health, Social Needs, Access to Services

E1 Do you have a health problem or disability that affects your day-to-day living?

Yes	17
No	132
Are you registered disabled?	3
No response	9

E2 Do you have any difficulty in accessing the following services? [Select all that apply with regard to personal or local transport]

Doctor	1
Hospital	1
Chemist	1
Chiropodist	1
Optician	1
Dentist	4
District Nurse	1
Personal care	1
Domestic help	3
No problems	112
Most	3
No response	37

- All the above would be difficult if we were old, infirm disabled or unable to drive
- One hour per week domestic help was taken away by Social Services (regd. Disabled)

E3 If you have any mobility problems, do you use any of the following?

Wheelchair	4
Walking frame	1
Walking stick[s]	10
No response	145

E4 If access was improved, would you use of the following increase?

Village Hall	5
Church	0
Countryside	9
Other, give details	1
No response	147

- We like it as it is
- It would be nice to have a map of the public footpaths in the area

E5 Are there any changes that could be made to your local services that would improve your access and participation?

Yes	4
No	53
No response	101
• A “watering hole”	
• Improve the village hall	

E6 Are you an informal carer for someone with disability or ill health?

Yes	4
No	92
No response	62

E7 Do you feel you have enough support in your role as a carer?

Yes	1
No	4
N/a	67
No response	86
• More information needed on facilities and support	

E8 Is there a need for a good neighbour scheme in Isle Abbots?

Yes	22
No	19
Already in a scheme	2
Don’t know what it is	23
No opinion	34
Would like more information	24
No response	34
• We feel it already exists	
• Most people are good neighbours anyway [2]	
• A need to “look out” for elderly neighbours	
• Neighbours already care for each other in this village. No need for an official scheme	

Section F: Public Transport

F1 What is your main mode of transport?

Private car	143
Volunteer car service	2
Taxi	2
Bus	4
Bicycle	8
Motorbike	1
Walking	2
No response	4

F2 How often do you use the bus to and from Isle Abbots?

Daily	0
Weekly	1
Monthly	0
Occasionally	5
Never	145
Didn’t know there was one	2

No response 5

F3 How do you rate the bus service?

Good	0
Reasonable	6
Poor	21
Don't use the bus	122
No response	15

F4 How do you rate the frequency of the buses?

Good	0
Reasonable	3
Poor	38
Don't use the bus	115
No response	11

- We don't use the bus because it is infrequent and doesn't go to anywhere for long enough
- We are unable to use the bus as the times do not fit in with working/college hours

F5 How do you rate the cost of the bus service?

Good value	1
About right	4
Too expensive	7
Don't use the bus	133

F6 How do you rate the accessibility of the buses provided (for disabled, elderly and carers, mothers with babies/young children?)

Good	0
Reasonable	2
Poor	10
Don't use the bus	128

F7 If you have transport difficulties, which places are a problem to get to?

Ilminster	6
Curry Rivel	4
Langport	4
Yeovil	6
Taunton	9
Street	5
North Curry	6
No problems	69
Other [please state]	1
No response	70

- There is difficulty in getting anywhere on a regular basis by public transport directly from the village. A regular Taunton bus service at 8.00 would be great!
- Everywhere is difficult without a car
- If there wasn't a bus I wouldn't be able to get out
- Pity not more people use the bus – if they don't it will finish
- I'm now too old to drive, and all places are a problem to get to
- I would like to use the bus to Taunton or Ilminster if there was a better service

Section G: Cars and Traffic

G1 What do you think of the condition of roads in Isle Abbots?

Good	7
Reasonable	61
Poor	47
Bad	21
No response	22

- Poor on lane to Ilminster, hedges too high for safe visibility
- Poor resurfacing; filling of potholes very poor.
- Very poor road drainage making roads dirty and wet [3]
- Too many potholes and not enough maintenance [3]
- Church Street badly in need of resurfacing
- Potholes, and the roads are never swept.
- For country roads, they are fine!
- Blind Lane does not drain when it rains, and never gets any attention from the council.
- They will get worse as the budget has been cut yet again.

G2 Where do you usually park your vehicles? [Some gave multiple replies]

Own drive/garage	110
On the road	14
Don't have a vehicle	9
No response	25

G3 Do you have a parking problem?

Never	108
Occasionally	12
Frequently	1
Don't have a vehicle	10
No response	26

- Never a problem at home, but a big problem outside Village Hall and Church
- Problems when Village Hall and Chapel are used
- Parked cars don't take account of wide farm machinery
- Concern with the state of verges – cars treating them as roadway [4]

G4 Do you think Isle Abbots could be improved by any of the following?

30mph speed limit	71
New road markings	24
Road narrowing	3
More off-road parking	43
Weight restrictions on certain roads	36
Speed bumps	19
Others – give details	7
No response	55

- 20 mph speed limit [8]
- It would be great not to have lost lorries coming through
- More frequent road repairs [2]
- The above might help reduce speed, but won't do much for the look of the village. Road widening.
- Stop heavy vehicles coming through
- Traffic, especially motor bikes, do not slow down entering the village
- Notice on outskirts "no village access" or better road signs to stop HGV's entering in error [3]
- More facilities for parking at Village Hall, especially in daytime
- Road markings need repainting
- Less parking on roads
- It's fine as it is [2]

- Sort out the way cars are parked at the Old Bakehouse
- Install speed bumps outside Village Hall and Two Steps
- Slow up traffic on southern approach to Isle Abbots with speed bumps
- Need to improve junction at Stemalong and “main” road – visibility splays needed [5]
- There should be a 30mph limit between Two Bridges to beyond Badbury
- Lack of parking for Church goers [2]
- No through road signs on entering village [4]
- Speed bumps outside Two Bridges Farm

Section H: Housing

H1 What is your opinion on new housing in Isle Abbots? - I favour:

Infill development	35
Limited development	50
Larger scale development	3
No development	41
No opinion	14
No response	25

- Limited development would enhance the village [2]
- If you put more houses in, it won't be a village
- Only where it makes some sense – road sizes are a limitation
- If it gets too big people will want to change its uniqueness and charm [4]
- Any new build must be affordable for young locals and be in keeping in natural stone. Two bedroom starter homes would be appropriate
- I think starter homes or elderly accommodation would be good
- The infrastructure does not currently support further development
- May be a case in special circumstances
- Villages either develop or die through lack of new blood coming in. Infill development would enhance village without undue strain on services.
- Previously allowed infill not particularly well thought out. Sympathetic housing should be allowed.
- No new build on Greenfield sites, limited development of agricultural buildings no longer in use. [3]
- Isle Abbots has recently had 4 new homes. I think this is enough for the moment.
- New housing should be sympathetic in design
- We need limited development and increase in population to justify any improvement in existing services and introduction of new services [2]

H2 Would you support new houses being built for sale or rent at affordable prices for parishioners of Isle Abbots and the immediate area?

Yes	67
No	47
Other views [comment]	11
No response	33

- I don't want to turn this village into a city
- Only if they matched the style of existing houses
- Depends on scale/number/placement.
- We already have a number of local authority houses in the village
- What is meant by “immediate area”
- Get rid of chicken farm and use site for affordable housing
- Case by case consideration – no mass building development
- A good idea – but could become a huge problem on resale to find someone to fit the criteria
- Is there a demand? [2]
- Helicopter noise may be a menace, but the alternative of 5000 houses on Merryfield is far worse!
- Delicate situation. I do not want to be considered a NIMBY, but there are repercussions on roads, Village Hall, etc. A much wider debate required.
- There are schemes underway in Somerset to help young people stay in the area they were brought up in, and we should support this type of scheme. [2]
- We all need housing at some stage of our lives

- Where?
- No easy way has yet been found to achieve affordable housing. Curry Mallet is having difficulty with its project.
- Just a few [2]

Section I: Environment and Countryside

11 How often do you use the footpaths round Isle Abbots?

Daily	30
Weekly	28
Monthly	14
Occasionally	31
Hardly ever	36
No response	19

- Half the footpaths are gone
- Not sure where they are

12 In relation to footpaths, would you like to see any of the following? [Select all that apply]

Path maps / local walks booklets available	72
Better signposting	54
Better maintenance	40
Gates that can be easily used (rather than stiles)	38
Paths suitable for people with disabilities	26
Other [give details]	3
No response	53

- Just leave them be – don't turn them into roads [2]
- Some stiles are difficult to climb although recent improvements have been made.
- A good guide to all the footpaths around would be great.
- Dog-friendly gates on styles
- *Sensitive* improvements would be good
- Fine as they are
- We like the fact that they are somewhat overgrown and truly rural – we don't want to walk in a park!
- Footpaths are in a poor overgrown condition, not way marked, footpaths ploughed up
- Clear path markers which are visible across fields to ensure walkers are able to follow footpaths with minimal deviation
- None of the above – I really appreciate local farmers who have to look after footpaths. [2]
- Some styles are dilapidated

13 What could be done to encourage you to recycle more and reduce waste to landfill?

More frequent refuse collections	21
Own village bottle/paper/glass/clothing banks	72
Better recycling advertising	9
Other (please comment)	27
No response	50

- Plastics collection/bank [6]
- Discourage over-packaging of goods at source, in supermarkets, etc. [2]
- Cardboard and plastic re-cycling also needed. [13]
- Bigger bins
- System is good as it is, now we have assorted bins and boxes [4]
- Anything we can do, we must!
- Education in value of recycling, in particular cardboard re-cycling
- Council not responsive to request for missing food bin
- Outrageous that collection is now only fortnightly and limited to one small wheelie-bin.

- I recycle everything and appreciate the new system.
- I have always recycled everything and council tips are not far away.

14 Should more be done about any of the following issues?

Fly-tipping	56
Litter	25
Noise & Disturbance	17
Helicopter noise/flying times/flight paths	70
Dog fouling	27
Smell Pollution	34
Overhead cables (placing them underground)	49
Other (give details)	4
No response	26

- Stop night flying
- Provide bins for dog waste
- Street pollution by refuse bins that get left in the road
- Smell pollution from Chicken Farm
- Helicopter noise is dreadful – should be curtailed with representation by Parish Council to RN
- Make Isle Abbots a no-fly area [3]
- Object to Merryfield being used for noisy *non-charitable* events [3]
- Helicopter noise/flying times/flight paths should not be allowed to escalate [2]
- Perceived/actual gypsy threat [2]
- Normal farm smells are to be expected in an agricultural area. We cannot criticise the practices that sustain the economy of our village.
- At times I find the smell from the Chicken Farm nauseating, but believe this is minimised as much as possible. Similarly with helicopter noise, that's life!
- Despite official denials, helicopters are flying directly over the church too low and too often, and it is worse than previously.
- Stop bonfires during daylight hours
- There should be a dog-poo bin
- Once fly tipping has been reported to the council, it shouldn't be left for weeks on end.

15 In relation to drainage and flooding, which of the following do you think should be improved?

Village access via Two Bridges (raise road)	70
Annual ditch clearance	96
Improve drains	82
Better road surfacing and treatment of pot holes	78
Better notification of flood risk	24
Other (give details)	2

- It would be nice to get to the Village at all times
- Make sure field drainage goes into the ditches & not the roads
- Anything that can be done to improve access to the village via Two Bridges when it floods [3]
- Improvements round Badbury/Bromes Farm and bottom of Gravel Lane to give access to Ilton [3]
- Water/rain does not clear in Chapel Road
- Does not happen very often – we can always get out another way [2]
- Spend money on infrastructure not signposts
- We live on the Somerset Levels. Flooding is one of the features of life here – lets not change it!
- It would be ideal to have a central phone number to contact to see whether Two Bridges was flooded to avoid having to turn around and have a long deviation to get home from “the other side”
- There should be depth markers in Two Bridges area where it floods [4]
- Ensure development does not take place on the flood plains
- Ditch clearance above Two Bridges causes greater flooding – Fivehead River is restricted downstream

- Siren to sound when road at Two Bridges is flooded (not a serious suggestion)
- If you raise road at Two Bridges, this would cause further flooding of surrounding land. Totally unacceptable and impractical. [2]
- Flooding is half the fun/excitement of living here
- If the river was cleaned out more often, it would help

Section J: Young People

J1: Would you like to see more facilities for the following age groups?

0 – 5 years	5
6 – 10 years	21
11 – 16 years	33
No response	106

- Dance facility

J2 If you are under 16, do you attend any of the following in the area?

Brownies/guides	3
Cubs/Beavers	1
Music	3
Art	3
Football	6
Youth club	2
Others	4
I am over 16	27
No response	119

- After school activities (arranged by Curry Mallet School)
- Dance (North Curry)

J3 If you are 16 or under, would you use any of the following if they were provided?

Off road bike area	13
Skateboard area	9
Hard kick about area and basketball net	18
Table tennis	15
Internet/computer games facility	12
Other (give details)	3
I am over 16	27
No response	107

- More trees, less road, less fields
- Tennis court [4]
- We don't want our kids turning into urban robots
- We have fields
- Building rafts, tree houses, riding bikes, keeping animals.
- Sports field
- Several of these are now available at Fivehead Village Hall, which is now open.

J4 If land were available and funding could be found, would you be in favour of the establishment of a village recreational area?

Yes	92
No	20
No opinion	21
Other (comment)	1

No response 24

- Somewhere for children to play safely with their friends
- The small play area behind the village hall is so rarely used we cannot justify a large area!
- Play equipment for young children like the one at Fivehead village hall.
- All purpose hard court for tennis/football similar to Hatch Beauchamp would be of great benefit
- Why not team up with Fivehead?
- Somewhere to hold Village events and kick a ball. [3]
- Maybe – where?
- Could not justify capital cost and on-going maintenance; weekly safety inspections and annual independent inspections.
- After initial excitement use would be limited

Section K: Education and Life-Long Learning

K1 Is there sufficient playgroup provision in the area?

Yes 52

No 5

No children/not applicable 65

No response 36

K2 Do you feel there is need for adult education provision in the area?

Yes 30

No 43

No opinion 51

No response 34

- Lots of excellent facilities within easy reach
- Do you mean other than in Taunton, Ilminster, Huish, etc?

K3 What would be the best times for you to attend if appropriate classes could be provided?

Morning 11

Afternoon 11

Evening 44

Weekends 19

No response 95

K4 What are your areas of interest for further education?

- Computer skills [3]
- Gardening [2]
- Local history [11]
- Art, craft, etc [13]
- Cooking [4] (& for children)
- Dancing [4]
- Bridge
- Pottery [2]
- All
- Languages [2]
- Needlecraft
- Maths
- Floristry
- Photography
- Road Safety
- Local environment
- Genealogy [2]
- Antiques

General comments:

- We came to Isle Abbots for a quiet life. Apart from the helicopters, we are happy to just to live our lives the way we are, no pressure.
- Friendliness of Village disappearing due to influx of new people in the last 18 months.
- I think it would be a good idea to find out what events and activities happen at other village halls, and try and organise joint activities where there are not enough people interested in a particular activity in a single village – co-operation could make it worthwhile!
- All improvements are good providing community charge doesn't go any higher
- Residents should be encouraged not to leave bins and boxes out after collection day
- Parking of lorries/large vans outside properties should be discouraged
- We love Isle Abbots just the way it is. We don't want it to be made into another city suburb with amenities and streetlights. People who like urban living should return to their urban roots and not complain about our village and countryside.
- There is scope for small scale craft workshops
- It is the responsibility of the current generation of villagers to invest in the future of the village community.
- Isle Abbots is a very rural village, where most people living here have chosen to be. Why try to change it?

MCR 02/04/06