

# LEIGH ON MENDIP

## PARISH PLAN

### 2006



Rural Landscape: James Davidson from Leigh on Mendip, captured this view of the village and surrounding hills - published Frome & Somerset Standard, October 19, 2006

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# LEIGH ON MENDIP PARISH PLAN

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

This report contains the result of the development of the Parish Plan for Leigh on Mendip undertaken from February to December 2006. It contains the following sections:

- the history of the parish and development to its current status – what the parish is like now
- a review of the process by which the Parish Plan was developed
- an outline of the key results
- statistical data and an assessment of how the Parish Plan fits the short-term and long-term aims of the Mendip Strategic Partnership
- the process for taking forward the recommended actions
- the Action Plan (Short-term Actions and Longer term aims).
- Appendix 1 - Tabulated details of the results

Please note that we have used the village name “Leigh on Mendip” (pronounced “Lie”) throughout the Parish Plan, but we are aware that some sources use “Leigh upon Mendip”.

## **1.1 Abbreviations used within the plan**

DEFRA	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
LEA	Local Education Authority
MDC	Mendip District Council
MSP	Mendip Strategic Partnership
PC	Parish Council
PCSO	Police Community Support Officer
SCC	Somerset County Council
SRCC	Somerset Rural Community Council
SUSTRANS	The UK leading sustainable transport charity

29 November 2006

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## 2.0 HISTORICAL VILLAGE TO THE CURRENT DAY

### 2.1 History

The Parish of Leigh on Mendip lies on the north facing slopes of the Mendip Hills approximately half way between the market towns of Frome and Shepton Mallet. The actual village of Leigh on Mendip is a linear settlement running east to west on a plateau of carboniferous limestone called the Mendip Plateau.

There is evidence of human activity dating back to pre-Roman times. Prior to the expansion of Halecombe quarry, there were signs of flint working in the area but, with the obliteration of the evidence, it is not known whether the material being worked was a small, localised, igneous intrusion (as at Moonshill quarry, Stoke St. Michael) or material imported to the site. Pottery shards have also been discovered in the area.



First mention of the area of land we now know as Leigh on Mendip is in a record from Glastonbury Abbey dated 681 AD chronicling the gift of land by Hedda, Bishop of Winchester to the Abbey. The parish is referred to as Luntocae – in fact a very Roman sounding name – and probably the source of the pronunciation of the name “Leigh” to this day.

As far as documentary evidence is concerned using the modern name, the earliest document to mention Leigh on Mendip is a charter by King Edmund dated 942 AD granting land to Glastonbury Abbey. The Parish of Leigh on Mendip was part of that land and remained so until the dissolution of the monasteries in the 1530’s.

At that time, Glastonbury Abbey was the most powerful and wealthy religious institution in England. Much of that wealth came from the woollen industry, developing in the



heavily wooded hills to the north east of the Abbey proper. Although the hills had a relatively low human population, gradual deforestation was opening up what had previously been unproductive land. Certainly from the beginning of the 16<sup>th</sup> century, the processing of wool was the most important industry in the parish of Leigh on Mendip.

On the dissolution of the monasteries, the three parishes, which were to be known as the Mells Estate, were sold by the King to Thomas and John Horner for the sum of £1,802. The parishes were Leigh on Mendip (spelt Lye in the original document), Mells (Melles) and Nunney (Nonney). The estate was to remain in the Horner family until 1922 when the whole estate was sold off after the death of the last remaining Horner during the Great War.

The Mells estate is thought to be the inspiration for “The Plum” in the children’s nursery rhyme “Little Jack Horner”.

The parish church of Leigh on Mendip dates from Norman times, although much was added in the 15<sup>th</sup> century, including the bell tower. In his series “The Kings England”, Arthur Mee described it as “The jewel of the Mendips”. A tad fanciful, perhaps, but it remains a striking and important building dominating the surrounding countryside. It is dedicated to St. Giles, the patron saint of cripples and mendicants. There is an interesting link in that the village was on the pilgrim route to Glastonbury and several of the houses close to the Church were actually used as pilgrim accommodation.

Until the middle of the 18<sup>th</sup> century the economy of the parish was, almost entirely, agricultural. Three large farms dominated and still exist to this day. They were Manor Farm, Great House Farm and Sparks Farm. Smaller farms that are still in existence include Grove Shute Farm, Soho Farm and Whitehall (Whitehole) Farm.



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There still remained, however, a large amount of timber in the ancient woodlands not removed for the purposes of sheep rearing. This was to become economically significant when, in 1791, James Fussell – described as an “edged tool maker” – set up an iron forge in Mells. As the forge grew in size, a sawmill was established in Leigh on Mendip to produce wooden handles for the iron tools being produced by Fussell. Over the next century, small metal working concerns would spring up all along the banks of the stream marking the northern parish boundary.

In the 19<sup>th</sup> century the work of the sawmills expanded to include the production of wooden pit props for the developing North Somerset Coal Field. It has only recently ceased operation but its importance to the parish economy is still remembered, with the

renovation of the chimney of the boiler house and the naming of a small 1990’s development after it.



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Mineral extraction, within the parish, was traditionally limited to cut stone required for local building projects. From the air, there are the remains of, literally, dozens of small disused quarries. The desperate need for building materials during, and immediately after, the Second World War fuelled a massive expansion in quarrying aggregate in the whole of the Mendips. Leigh on Mendip

was not left untouched by that expansion. Halecombe quarry is now the biggest single employer in the parish but (to put things into perspective) employs a very small minority of inhabitants of the parish. The majority of people in employment in the parish, however, work outside the parish boundaries.

## 2.2 Present Day

The present day village of **Leigh on Mendip** (population 501 at the 2001 census) lies, like an open bracelet across part of the Mendip hills with the central jewel being the beautiful church of St. Giles. The village, which is situated approximately half way between the towns of **Frome** and **Shepton Mallet** and to the north of the A361, has magnificent views with many adornments, that when added together make up a thriving community which is the envy of many other villages.



It also 'hosts' a strong **Equestrian** activity with public footpaths covering the surrounding area giving rise to the healthy and active recreation of riding and walking.

There is a **Bus service** to other parts of the county plus **Free buses** to nearby supermarkets. **Police Community Support Officers** and **Neighbourhood Watch** operate within the village.



**Leigh on Mendip First School** at present educating 42 children, gathers together fresh young minds and guides them on the path of useful, happy and responsible citizenship. Education for children over nine years old is provided in Frome, which is 6 miles away, at Oakfield Middle School and Frome Community College. **Owl Babies' Pre-School**, on the same site as the school, provides an excellent start for younger children.

**Various Businesses** contribute to the overall productivity and stability of the community. **Farming**, arable and dairy, is carried out in various locations. There is a very busy **Vehicle Workshop** established in 1946 by the present owner's father. General repairs are carried out with MOTs in nearby Holcombe.

There is also a popular **Fabrics Supplier**. In addition to these, there are a good many self-employed people who have made the village their home.





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There is a **Stonemasons** with a wide circle of customers and a well-stocked yard.



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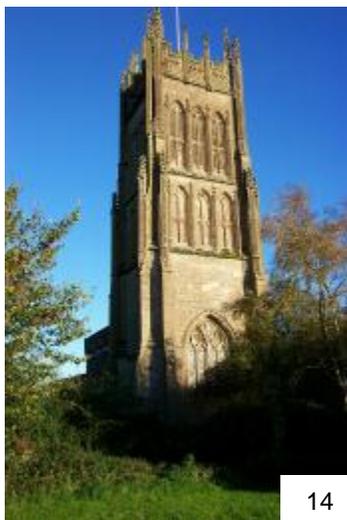
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**Quarrying** – Halecombe quarry was re-opened in 1984, owned by Hobbs Holdings and operated by Tarmac Ltd. and extracts limestone for road construction and as a basis for cement. It employs on a day to day basis about 80 people including sub-contractors, as well as generously supporting the annual Leigh on Mendip Country Fair.

**The Bell Inn** provides relaxation, entertainment and excellent food after the labours and frustrations of the busy working day and acts as a focal point for the community as a whole. Facilities include a restaurant, skittle alley and a pool table for the youth of the village. It is a popular venue for visitors from across Somerset.



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**St. Giles' Church** provides for both the spiritual and physical needs of the community and the sense of peace and tranquillity felt upon entering this House of God has to be experienced to be believed.



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a “sell out”. It also provides the venue for the **Women’s Institute**, members of which enjoy monthly meetings and social functions together with group and county events. The photograph shows the carved stone Millennium Bench to the left of the hall.

The **Recreation Field** committee support more energetic activities such as regular football and cricket matches, as well as providing a children’s play area and basketball net. The field provides a substantial open space within the village for play, quiet relaxation or sitting on one of the many benches.



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The annual **Country Fair and Dog Show**, based on this field, with its many stalls, games, static displays and musical offerings attracts visitors and dog enthusiasts from far and wide.

It is organised by a separate committee of volunteers. The Fair donates the profits made to the village organisations that have taken part.

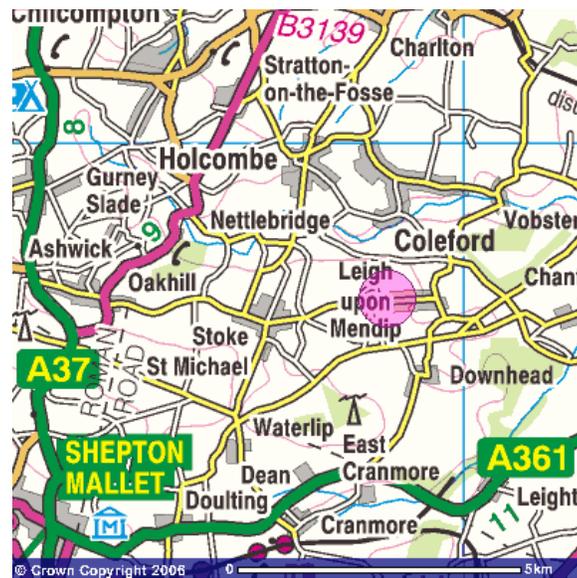


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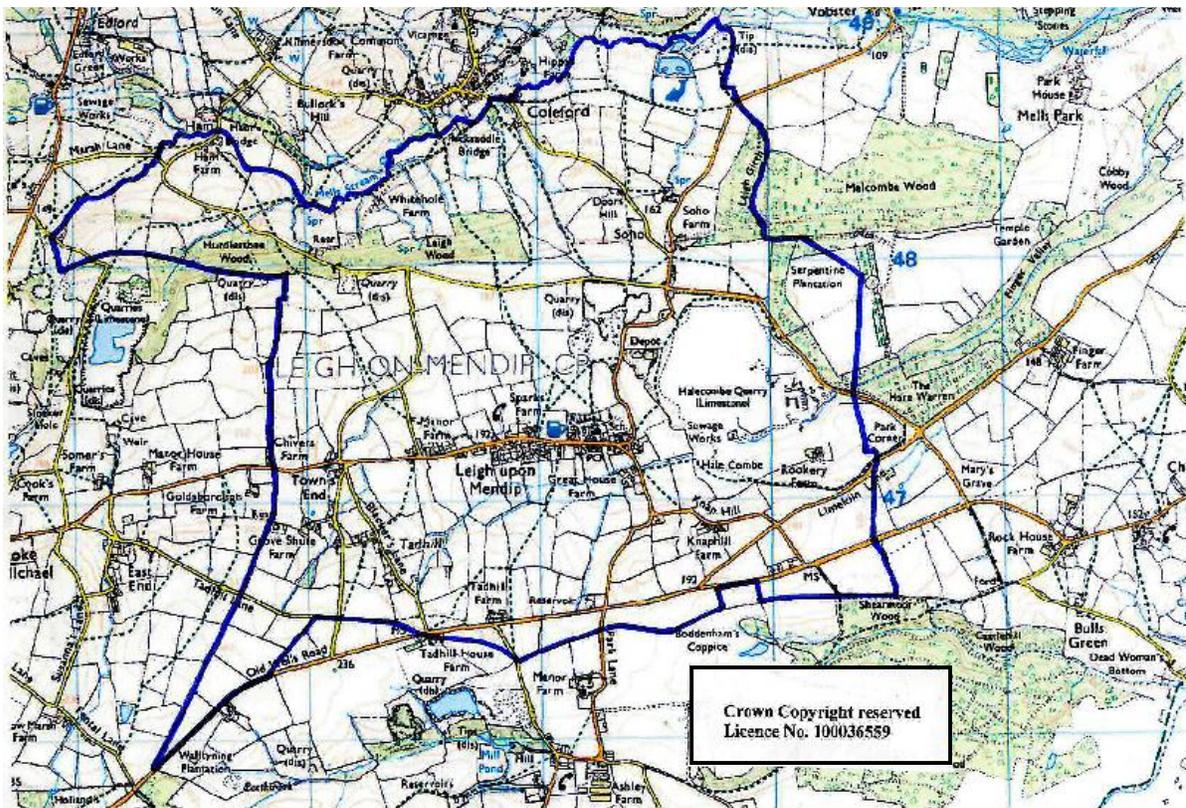
**Leigh on Mendip is a dynamic, living, thriving village.** The vast majority of activities are provided by the considerable efforts of volunteers, whose purpose is to help foster the community spirit and bring about a better and more satisfying lifestyle for all concerned.

*The Steering Group members hope this Parish Plan will further these efforts and enable Leigh on Mendip to thrive in the long-term as a sustainable and vibrant village within the Mendip community.*

## 2.3 Location Maps



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Map showing the extent of Leigh on Mendip parish boundary in blue

### 3.0 REVIEW OF PLAN PROCESS

Leigh on Mendip Parish Council initiated the concept of asking parishioners what they wanted when they undertook a detailed questionnaire in 1993. This recorded the response to a wide range of questions on the fabric of life in the village, covering the subjects of Housing, Services, the Parish Church, Emergency Services, Health and Social Care, Environment, Landscape and Appearance, Footpaths, Environmental Services, Information and Communication and Social, Sport and Entertainment as well as General Matters. 100 forms were returned and the results published by the Parish Council in 1994. Over the coming years this was used to inform and develop village activities and services.

In 1998 the next stage in the process of determining how the village and surrounding area should develop was documented in the Village Design Statement. This detailed document described the village as it was then and set out the vision for future development of buildings and boundaries (walls and hedges). The Village Design Statement was adopted by Mendip District Council in 1998.

In autumn 2005, the idea of creating a formal Parish Plan was formulated and circulars were distributed throughout the village asking for help. In December 2005, under the auspices of the Parish Council, a successful bid was made for a grant to undertake the Plan with funding from DEFRA and SCC working through the Somerset Rural Community Council, based in Taunton. The bid provided money, primarily for the promotional stages and printing of the plan, with the work to be undertaken by volunteers from the parish. A Steering Group was formed and whilst the membership changed over the lifetime of the project, a considerable amount of time was devoted to develop and complete the Parish Plan. Work on the Plan began in earnest in February 2006, with information provided to the parish through circulars and information in the parish Village Connections magazine.



The Plan was conducted in two main stages – a **Call for Ideas** – circulated in early March, which produced a response from around 20% of the parish. These ideas were then reviewed, collated into a number of themes and presented at an Open Day in the Memorial Hall on 12 May 2006 prior to the start of the second stage of the plan – **the Main Questionnaire**.

The second stage involved a detailed questionnaire of 18 pages, which was drawn entirely from the ideas put forward by the village in the first stage. The Parish Plan Steering Group's main task at this point was to act as a facilitator and to structure the main questionnaire around the topics and ideas suggested. After several meetings, the final questionnaire was printed. It was made available to anyone attending the 12 May Open Day and then distributed to every

other parish household, through a personal visit from a member of the Steering Group and whenever asked, help was given in filling in the form. As part of this process, individual clubs in the village were offered a presentation and a display was set up at the Country Fair in June.

In addition, a “cheesy chip” evening was held in The Bell Inn, supported by SCC Youth Service, to seek the thoughts and needs of the youth of the village. The Headteacher at Leigh on Mendip First School discussed the plan with Eagle class and produced a summary response from this group (age 7-9 years).

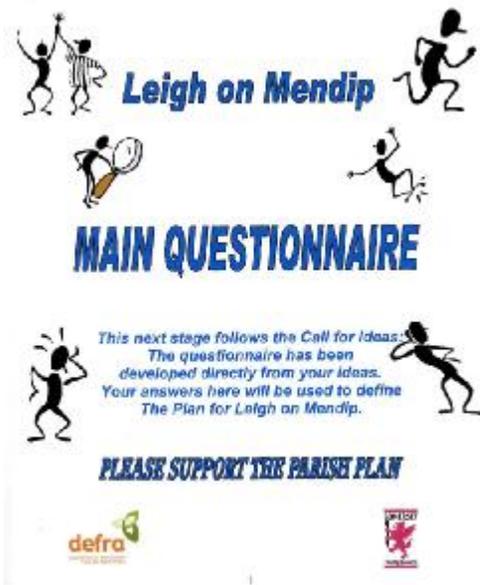
Over the period July to early September we had the task of collecting the completed questionnaires. Every effort was made to collect as many of the completed forms as possible, so if there was no answer on the first call, further visits were made; generally up to three calls were made over several days and more at some properties. Even then unfortunately no answer was obtained from some households and a note put in the parish Village Connections magazine advised how further returns could be made.

There was an excellent response from all corners of the parish – 138 forms were collected, representing the interests and wishes of 339 parishioners (68%), with 66% of the parish households completing the questionnaire. Additional responses were received from Leigh on Mendip First School and a number of businesses. It was interesting to note that many villagers did not realise the extent of Leigh on Mendip parish. It actually includes a property in Ham, properties part way down the hill to Vobster, up on the Old Wells Road and eastwards to Knaphill (see map on page 9). Lots of leather was used by the collectors over the summer!

All the questionnaires returned were entered into a database over summer 2006. This produced a six page spreadsheet report for each, which amounted to over 800 pages of detailed data! An assessment of errors arising from entering the data was undertaken over three long summer evenings. Some 25% of the returned forms were checked against the data entered – the error was less than 1% and any errors observed were corrected, thus reducing the magnitude of the error. In addition three completed questionnaires were further checked with the named person to clarify some of their answers and any corrections noted were undertaken. The final database was ready in early September for the next stage of the detailed analysis.

The analysed results were presented to the full Steering Group with a detailed presentation in mid-September. These gave a full understanding of the issues in the village, where there was consensus and where no clear agreement emerged. The results were prioritised over the following weeks to identify the key areas where recommendations should be made – thus forming the basis for the Action Plan.

The next stage was consultation with the external bodies that had supported the development of the plan and/or provided resources. These included Gloria Cawood - Somerset County Councillor, Mendip Strategic Partnership, Somerset County Council Youth Service and the Somerset Rural Community Council. The results of these consultations were built into the Action Plan. The draft results were presented to the Parish Council meeting on 20 November and the final Plan to the parish on Saturday 16 December at a second Open Day in the Memorial Hall.



**Table 1 – Parish Plan events and tasks**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Task</b>	<b>Objective</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Timetable</b>
<b>1</b>	Grant decision – liaise with Somerset RCC	Agree process for Parish Plan (PP) and confirm milestones.	To be in position to start plan	10 February 2006
<b>2</b>	Inception meeting of PP Steering Group Meeting (1)	Establish plan process and prepare pre-questionnaire and publicity note on PP procedure. Involve support from Somerset RCC, County Councillor and PCSO in process.	To form basis for questionnaire	Memorial Hall 7.30pm Friday 24 February 2006
<b>3</b>	Print (local printing) and circulate publicity note and initial questionnaire based on core topics to be considered in the PP	To act as an update to the topics examined in the 1993 Village survey and thus identify current key topics/issues to be developed in the PP.	All parishioners and businesses	Distribute by 8 March 2006, collect by early April 2006
<b>4</b>	PP Steering Group Meeting (2) Also meeting with Somerset RCC (25 April)	Assess pre-questionnaire results Decide post July meeting dates.	Determine issues for evaluation.	Memorial Hall 7.00 pm Friday 21 April 2006
<b>5</b>	Prepare main questionnaire – three sections: Main section plus Youth and Business sub-sections	This questionnaire will be used to identify the main issues in the parish	To distribute to all parishioners, youth and businesses	By E-mail and correspondence and sub-meetings by 28 April 2006
<b>6</b>	PP Steering Group Meeting (3)	Refine Main questionnaire and arrange local printing to be completed by 11 May		7.00 pm Wed 3 May 2006 Memorial Hall
<b>7</b>	Sub-meeting with Youth	To develop their interest in the plan and identify needs (in conjunction with Somerset Youth service)	Target youth addresses	Evening 8 May The Bell Inn
<b>7a</b>	Open meeting + PP Steering Group	To appraise parishioners of Plan process. Distribute Plan Questionnaire to attendees (note addresses)	Invite all parishioners	From 1.00 pm Friday 12 May 2006 Memorial Hall
<b>7b</b>	Sub-meetings with businesses	To appraise businesses of Plan process	Businesses	By 19 May 2006 Daytime
<b>7c</b>	Sub-meeting with school	To identify particular needs	School and children	By 19 May 2006 Daytime
<b>7d</b>	Sub-meetings with youth (in education and post education)	To identify particular needs and encourage interaction	Youth	By 19 May 2006 Various venues
<b>7e</b>	Sub-meeting with elderly	To identify particular needs and encourage interaction	Elderly	By 19 May 2006 Link to Coffee Morning on 15 May

<b>7f</b>	Sub-meetings with other village groups	To appraise of Plan Process and encourage interaction	Target WI, Rec. Field, Memorial Hall, short-mat bowls, table tennis, mothers & toddlers and other groups	By 26 May 2006 Their meeting dates
<b>8</b>	Circulate Main questionnaire	To seek consultation and identify needs	All target groups	To complete to all by 26 May 2006
	<b>REPORT TO SOMERSET RCC</b>			<b>2 June 2006</b>
<b>9</b>	PP Steering Group Meeting (4)	Review progress		7.00pm Thursday 6 July 2006 Rec. Field
<b>10</b>	Collect questionnaires – personal calling to seek to reach a 50% return target. Initiate collation of results.	To develop information and statistics required	Aim to complete collection by end August	June/July/August 2006 Three data entry check sub-meetings in August 2006.
	<b>REPORT TO SOMERSET RCC</b>			<b>1 September 2006</b>
<b>11</b>	Collate results	First draft of results		10 September 2006
<b>12</b>	PP Steering Group Meeting (5)	Review progress		Thursday 14 September 2006 Rec. Field
<b>13</b>	Report preparation/sub Steering group meetings	Prepare draft report		October 2006
<b>14</b>	Meetings with Somerset RCC, Mendip Strategic Partnership, Gloria Cawood and Somerset County Youth Service	Review draft report and initiate action plan		Early November 2006
<b>15</b>	Steering Group action	Update draft and identify key action tables		Early November 2006
<b>16a</b>	PP Steering Group Meeting (6a).	Agree Draft report		Wednesday 8 November 2006 Memorial Hall
<b>16b</b>	PP Steering Group – interim meeting (6b)			Tuesday 21 November 2006 Rec. Field
<b>17</b>	PP Steering Group Meeting (7)	Agree Final Report and print		Wednesday 29 November 2006 Memorial Hall
	<b>REPORT TO SOMERSET RCC</b>			<b>1 December 2006</b>
<b>18</b>	Disseminate PP Report	To all parishioners and businesses	Promote Plan	16 December 2006 Open Meeting Memorial Hall
<b>19</b>	Submit report to Parish Council		Adoption of Plan	Monday 18 December 2006
	<b>FINAL REPORT TO SOMERSET RCC</b>		<b>Completion of project</b>	<b>By 2 March 2007</b>

## 4.0 OUTLINE OF THE KEY RESULTS (data presented are given on the number of respondents, rather than percentage of the parish)

The questionnaire considered the future parish needs against eight topic areas.

- Village appearance
- Security and safety
- Village Hall, Recreation Field/Social Club, Youth Club
- Parish Information services
- Affordable Housing/Further Housing
- Environmental Improvements
- Employment activities
- Transport

A series of questions about the village clubs and activities, and the household returning the form were also asked to provide background information.

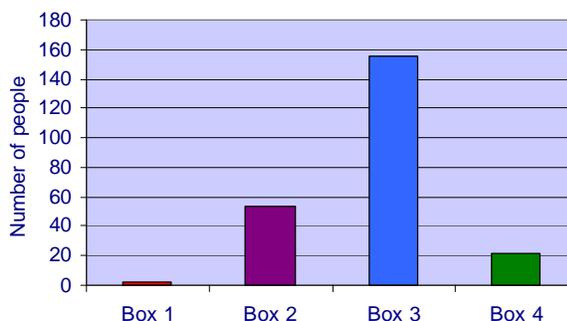
Those responding were asked to ring the answers they wanted. In the questionnaire Box 1 represented negative, of lowest importance, poor, not good, not appreciated, not wanted. At the other end of the scale Box 4 was positive, of highest importance, very good, well appreciated, most wanted.

So for the question on what was thought about village appearance Box 1 would be used if the appearance of Leigh on Mendip was considered to be very poor whereas Box 4 was ringed if the appearance was considered to be very good.

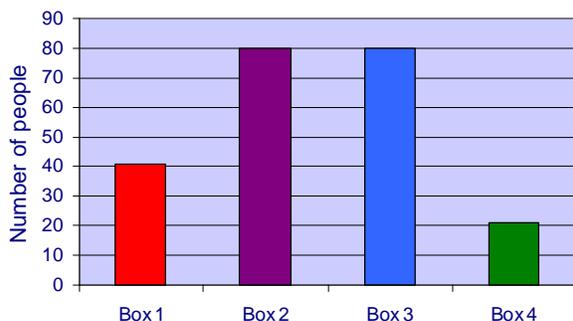
### 4.1 Village Appearance

Most people rated the village appearance towards good (Box 3). The main dissatisfaction was caused by the number of parked cars, properties being worked on and fly tipping on the back roads.

Appearance of village



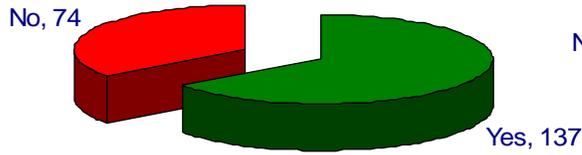
Village signage



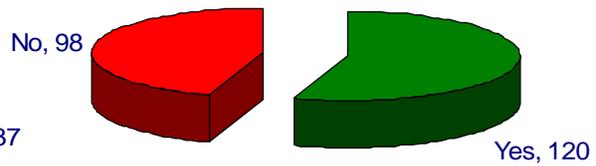
Generally village signage was rated as average, however, there was support for further improvements. This included better finger posts and a slight preference for additional signs e.g. welcome signs.

However, arguments were raised both for and against these. Typically ‘a village sign was a wonderful idea’ and also that outlying areas such as Tadhil could do with inclusive signs (see Action J) and ‘there were too many signs already’, ‘they would clutter’ and that ‘welcome signage was not in keeping with a Mendip village’.

### Finger posts



### Welcome signs



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Maintenance of finger posts can be very effective – painted 2006

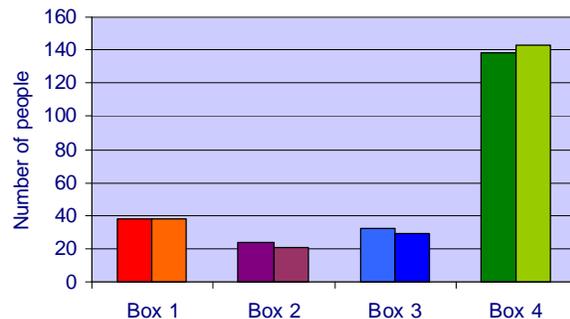


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**Recycling:** There was very strong support for both a plastic and cardboard recycling facility. Some of the reasons against included that this should be Mendip District Council responsibility (i.e. taxes should pay for this), that a facility already existed at Coleford and that recycling facilities could be messy or untidy. However, it should be considered that if everyone takes their recycling to Coleford, say once a month, then a substantial mileage is done, and the elderly mostly do not have this option (See Action 1).

A range of suggestions were made as to where the recycling could be located – the main suggestions were the Recreation Field area and the Memorial Hall car park. Some suggested further outside the village such as the quarry area – however, it should be noted that the working and disused quarries are privately owned.

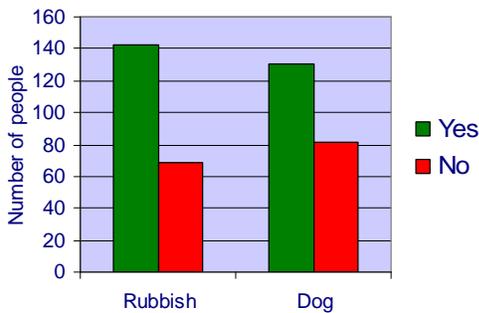
### Plastic and cardboard recycling



**Litter:** Litter featured quite strongly in responses. Whilst some did not see a litter problem, others thought there was an issue and that those who dropped it should be educated to change their ways. There was not a strong support for more regular litter collections (other than the annual one organised by the WI), however, quite a number felt that litter was sufficiently an issue that they volunteered to help in the future (See Action 2).



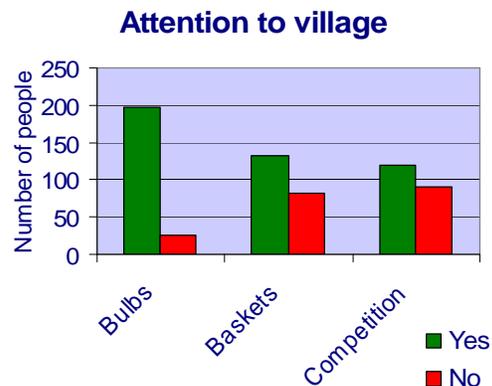
### Litter bins



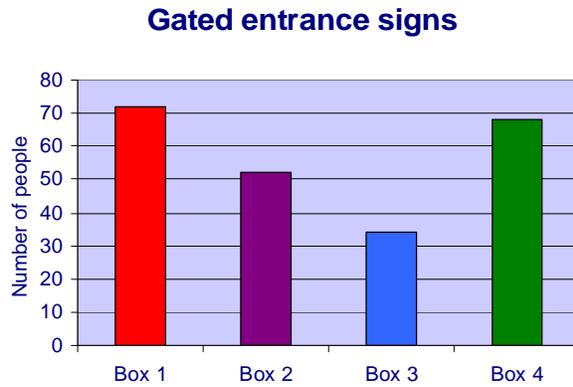
More wanted extra general litter and dog bins than did not. The support for litter bins was higher than for dog bins although arguments against included that bins can create more mess and must be emptied regularly. There was a wide range of suggestions as to where to put them – these included ‘where people drop the litter’ to the car parks, Recreation Field, bus stops or equidistant up the main street.

The argument against dog bins in the village was the cost of emptying them. It was also suggested that ‘dog owners people should be educated to use poop scoops’. Suggestions on where to put them were near the school (a problem area, particularly identified by the children at Leigh on Mendip First School), the Recreation Field and near gates on walks.

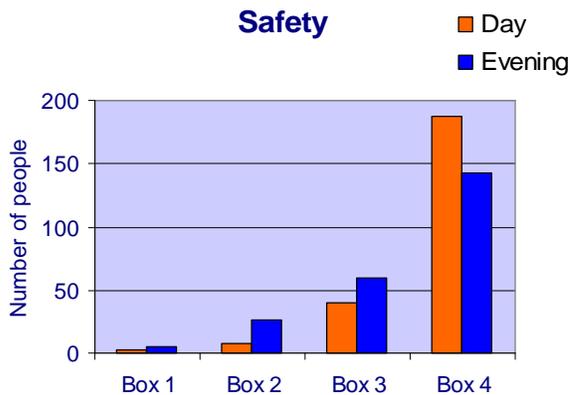
**Attention to the village:** There was good support for each of the three areas suggested to improve the village appearance. More spring bulbs had the highest priority, particularly snowdrops (to complement those planted within the Millennium project) or bluebells, but not large daffodils, see short-term Action K. A kind offer to pay towards the cost of the bulbs was also received. Flower baskets received support with offers to help, but the comment ‘not in keeping with a Mendip village’ was again made. Entry to a competition received some adverse comment but overall more supported than did not.



**Gated entrance signs:** These had been suggested as a feature on the verge (one either side of the road) which could include a 'Welcome to Leigh sign' and might in some locations, e.g. Townsend, act as a method to slow down the traffic approaching the narrow section. Slightly more people supported the idea of a 'Welcome to Leigh' sign than did not but there was a mixed response to the idea of the gated entrance. Whilst we received a generous offer to design and pay for one set of gates, arguments again included the now familiar 'not in keeping with a Mendip village', a 'stupid' idea, 'would not slow traffic down' and that 30mph limits or flashing lights were needed. However, in contrast, an almost equal number thought it was a good idea, and comments included 'great idea, all for it', with suggestions 'to go for it' and a sign saying we 'welcome careful drivers'.



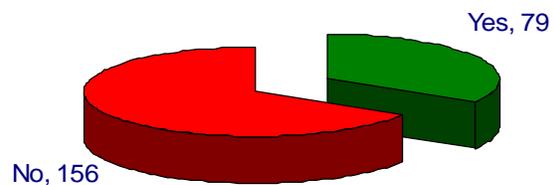
## 4.2 Security and Safety



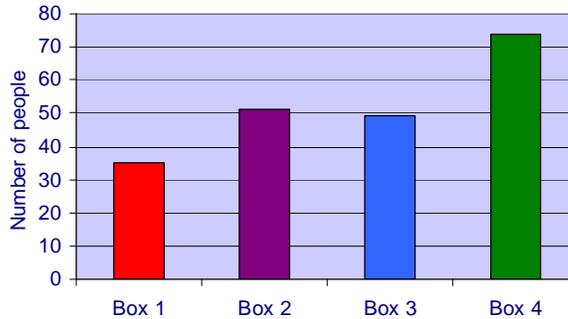
**Safety:** In response to the question how safe do you feel in the daytime/evening, most parishioners indicated that they felt safe in Leigh on Mendip. Views expressed against mostly related to what were described as 'numbers of youth who congregated within the village', which some found intimidating, although a few examples were given of more serious issues in both the daytime and at night.

Of importance was that many parishioners did not know how to contact the PCSO (Police Community Support Officer). In fact some stated they did not know we had one, others had never seen him. (See short-term Action B). However, there was very strong support for the PCSO whilst the responses to the other safety issues – Support for Neighbourhood Watch (short-term Action I) and the Police were more variable.

### PCSO - know how to contact



### What support was there for PCSO?

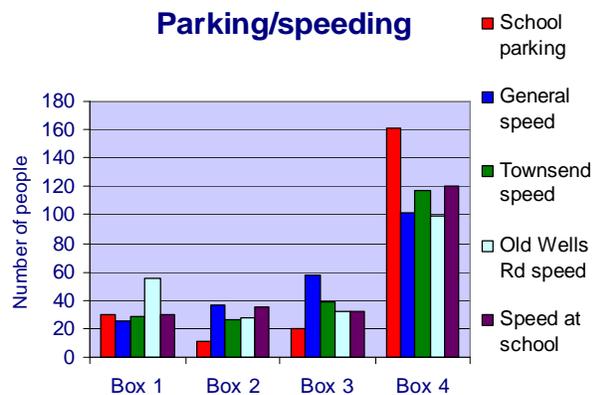


The Neighbourhood Watch response was however, geographically based – some areas were good and no change was recommended but in other areas people were almost unaware of having a representative and wanted change. There was support for a greater police presence but comments were varied (for and against) such as ‘no good riding through the village at 50mph!’

Collectively the responses on security and safety indicated that although the village had a secure feeling, there was room for improvement in this area.

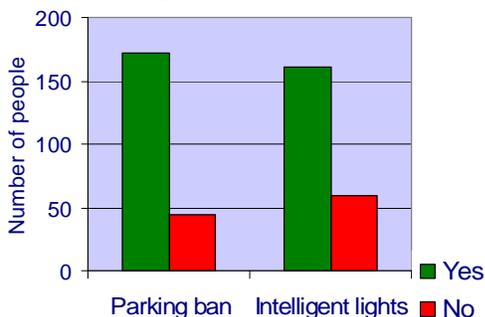
**Car parking and traffic issues:** The issue of car parking and traffic/traffic speed in the village was generally an emotive area with some very strong feelings about the parking issue, in particular near the school and speeding traffic, particular at Townsend. A number of parishioners emphasised that the parked cars in the village, particular in Leigh Street, although appearing to be a problem, actually acted as a restraint to speed and that this should be considered in any change process.

### Parking/speeding



There were many suggestions on how to control speed – mostly well tried and tested methods used in other villages such as sleeping policemen, chicanes, bumps, speed cameras and flashing lights (See Action 3).

### Parking ban/Intelligent lights at school

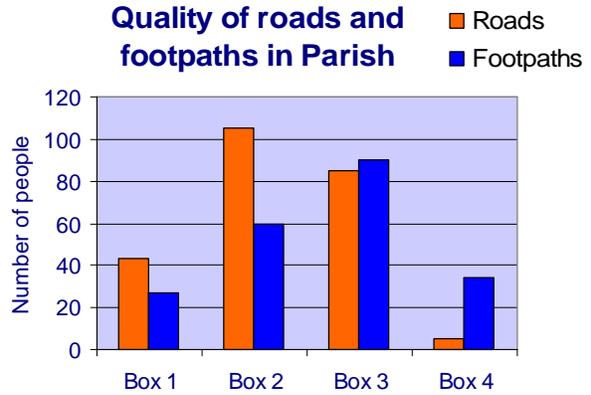


There was strong support for both a parking ban and flashing lights in the lower village near the school. However, in respect of the parking ban, arguments included – ‘how are mothers and toddlers expect to manage with a ban’, ‘should ban all parking on pavements’, ‘parking should be provided elsewhere’ (suggestions included the Memorial Hall in the day and on waste ground(?) in the village). There was support for moving the garage-related cars and whereas some felt that the whole of this area of the village had a car park problem, those who lived closest to the school were very strongly against a parking ban (See Action 4).

**Quality of roads/footpaths in parish:**

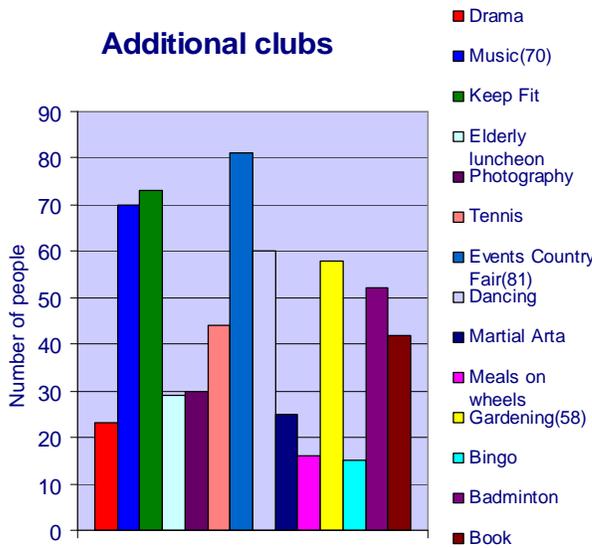
There were mixed views on the quality of the parish roads and footpaths with comments about overgrown pavements, potholes and mud. Few rated the roads as good (Box 4), although it was commented that roads in poor condition helped slow traffic down!

**Quality of roads and footpaths in Parish**



**4.3 Village Hall, Recreation Field and Clubs**

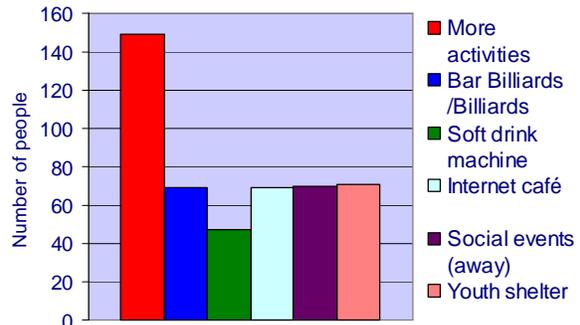
**Additional clubs**



There was very strong support for additional recreational facilities in the village. Interest was greatest from those already active in community life and a wide range of potential new clubs received support with the highest support for ‘activities’ such as keep fit, events linked to the Country Fair, dancing, gardening and badminton with lower support for drama, photography, meals on wheels and bingo.

More activities/facilities for young people were strongly supported with 148 parishioners in favour and 16 against, see Action 5. Some who voted against argued that the village does not want billiards as there is pool already in the Bell Inn, soft drinks were not healthy and they did not want a youth shelter – ‘where would you put it’ / ‘it would not be used’.

**Youth facilities**

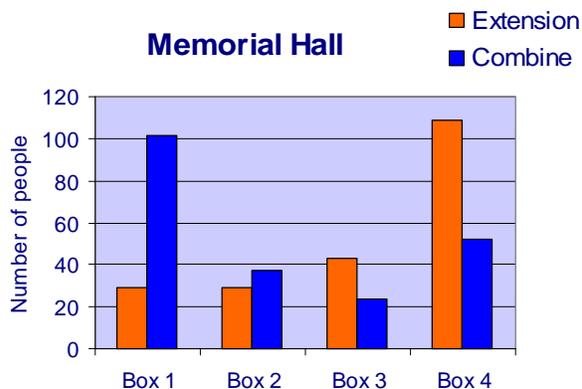


The strong support for more for the youth to do was echoed by the youth themselves at the cheesy chip evening, attended by 14 young people in the age range 10-17 years. They indicated that there was nothing to do in the village and that they would like to

have a youth club rather than hang out in the park, or around the benches and in the Bell Inn. A wide range of activities were suggested by those attending (for full details see Table 3) which included a youth shelter and cyber café, as well as more active sports, like a BMX type facility as well as football / rugby. Visits / social events were also suggested.

There was strong support for better play equipment for the recreation field (144 in favour with 22 against). Most who supported gave positive suggestions which covered all age groups but particularly included facilities for older youth – skate / cycle park, climbing frame, climbing wall, adventure area, plus more youth sport teams. Those who were critical of the current facilities suggested that the current play area did not suit toddlers, the slide was not slippery enough and there was not enough variation.

**Village facility improvements:** In the early stages of the Parish Plan it was identified that the current Memorial Hall was heavily used in the evenings and its location meant that there was only limited room for any extension. Also the Village Design Statement suggests that any building here should not obscure the view of St Giles’ Church. At the same time the Recreation Field ‘hall’ was under utilised and in fairly urgent need of attention due to the poor state of the building. The suggestion was made in the ‘Call for Ideas’ by a number of parishioners that one solution to the limited facilities available to the village was to combine both halls into one purpose built building on the Recreation Field, where space was less limited. It was suggested in the ‘Call for Ideas’ that if this was done then the Memorial Hall land might have other uses. The options in the questionnaire arose from these ideas.



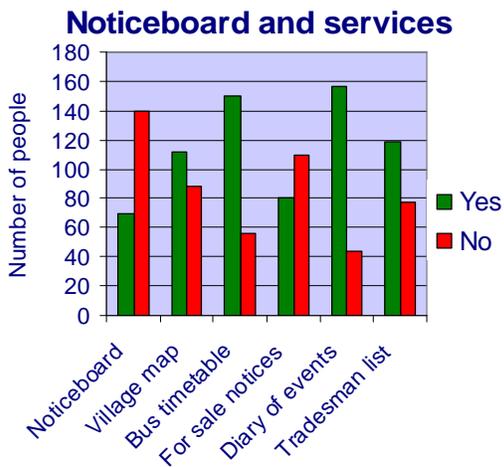
The suggestion to combine the Memorial Hall and the Recreation Field building produced the most emotive response to the questionnaire. There was very strong feeling against a combined new facility which would have meant the loss of the Memorial Hall and its significance in respect of the remembrance of those in the parish who had died in the two World Wars. Although the main memorial plaque is in St. Giles’ Church, the hall was dedicated to the remembrance, and has

a small plaque near the kitchen area. Objections to the potential loss of the Memorial Hall came not just from the more elderly parishioners, who remembered the fund raising, building and dedication of the hall. Where there was support for building a new facility on the Recreation Field, then there were positive offers of help with the work (36 parishioners), and others said they would have supported the idea of a new building on the Recreation Field had it not been for the emotive issue around the Memorial Hall. Support for a small extension to the Memorial Hall was high, whilst some expressed views that any loss of parking in this area would be bad for the village and for the Bell Inn. To overcome these issues the recommendation from the plan is to provide immediate support to the proposed small Memorial Hall extension (Action 6) and to encourage the Recreation Field committee to investigate the options for a substantial refurbishment of the Recreation Field building to meet the wider needs of the plan (Action 12).

## 4.4 Parish Information/Services

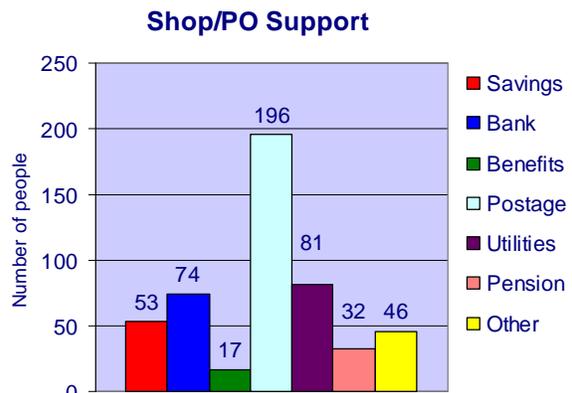
**Village Information:** There was strong support (148) in favour of a village information pack every two years with 66 against. However, the distribution of the current pack was clearly geographically based with many indicating that they had not received one when they moved to the village. Approximately 90% of the village receive the Village Connections magazine (current charge, 2006, £3 p.a.) and whilst there were clear indications for improvements, most felt that it was a very useful magazine and did not want a different magazine (180 against, 36 for). Improvements with more information on village events (a monthly diary produced through a co-ordinator), other useful parish information and Parish Council minutes were all seen as desirable (See short-term Actions E and F).

The overall response to the questions on the Leigh on Mendip web site was confusing and it was not possible to fully analyse the data. Whereas 192 parishioners indicated that they knew about the website, and just 31 indicated they did not, usage appeared to be generally low with 90 indicating that they never access it or could not. Advertising the web site address in the Village Connections magazine was seen as useful. Quite a number thought the website was out of date and never changed, in contrast an equal number thought the web site was very informative, up to date and regularly changed! In a recent Somerset parish competition, the Leigh on Mendip web site was runner-up in Mendip, losing to the village that won the overall Somerset competition!



There was no support for a new parish notice board although various areas of additional information were requested – this could logically be added to the Village Information Pack or Village Connections magazine. Loan equipment to raise funds, village support to the school and better liaison with Mendip District Council and the Village Design statement were all supported, although some indicated that they answered ‘no’ to better liaison with MDC, because they thought that no notice was taken anyway. Neither twinning nor CAB visits received strong support.

**Shop/Post Office:** There was very strong support for a subsidised shop / post office facility in the village. 177 were in favour compared to just 40 against, with just one response objecting to the idea that the facility would be subsidised. However, in reality most village shops are not subsidised as such, but are run as a community not-for-profit venture, managed by volunteers, such that they can be viable in a competitive market place. Further analysis suggested that the main post office facilities wanted were postage stamps and utility support (See Action 7).



## 4.5 Affordable Housing

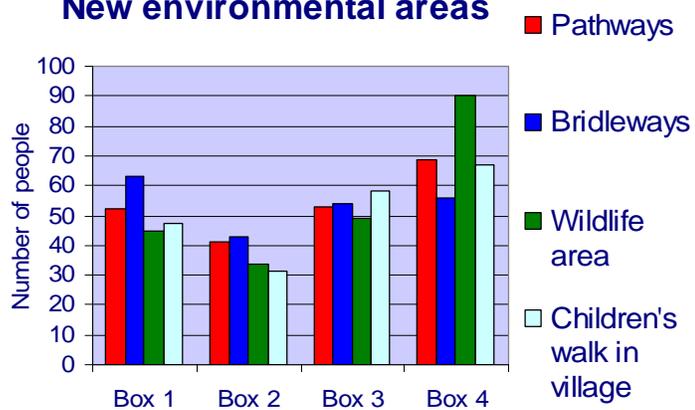
More affordable housing, renting to locals: this produced consistent strong support in all the categories suggested. Rent/buy produced the highest response with 150 in favour and just 58 parishioners against. Location for any new development was less clear with little difference between the three areas suggested – lower, middle and upper village – the middle part of the village was just the most popular. See Action 9 – this recommends further discussion on the issue of further housing in the parish.

Strict controls on new building were, however, strongly supported (171 for, 43 against) with a very positive response to include environmental measures in any new build (90% in favour).

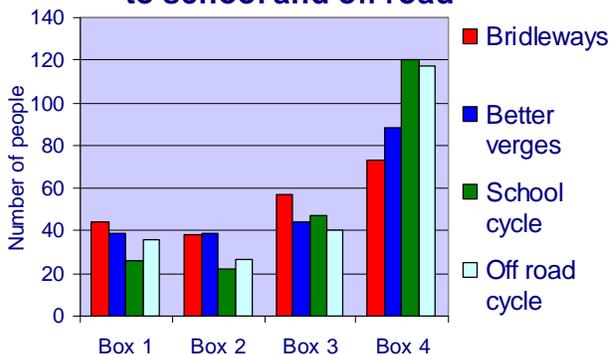
## 4.6 Environmental Improvements

There was generally positive support for the creation of new environmental areas – pathways, a wildlife area and children’s walk in the village all received support although the creation of bridleways on their own was less strongly supported (106 against, 110 in favour). When asked if areas such as verges should be improved for bridleways there was more support in favour, and the combination of bridleways and new cycles ways should be considered(see Action 10).

**New environmental areas**



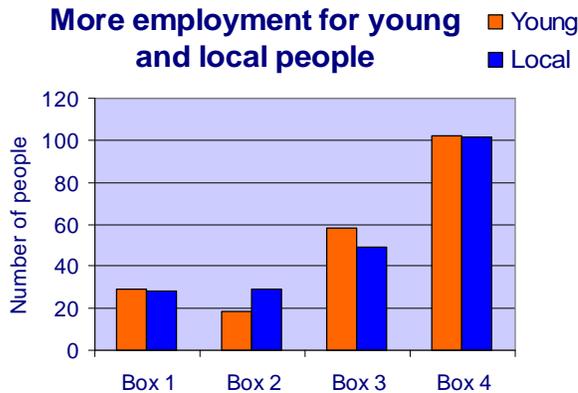
**Bridleways (more areas including verges), Cycle routes to school and off road**



Other environmental areas such as a youth adventure area received strong support (139 in favour with 71 against) and 43 parishioners indicated that they would wish to join an environmental group as part of the creation of a wildlife area (see Action 11), also strongly supported was cutting back overgrown paths (200 in support, 27 against) and continuing to improve stiles. Replacement of stiles with kissing gates received a number of favourable comments following the recent addition of kissing gates as part of the Village Access Walk.

## 4.7 Employment Activities

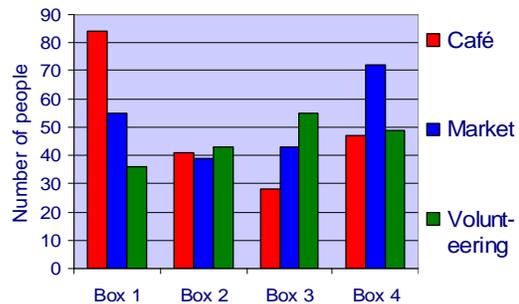
More employment for young people and action to encourage new businesses employing local people were both strongly supported although questions were asked as to what was envisaged. Whilst at the parish level it must be appreciated that it is not really possible to influence employers' choice of location, it is important to know how the parish feels on this issue to inform the Parish Council in respect of assessments, when planning applications are submitted that could offer job opportunities. Action 8 addresses this and was given Medium priority to reflect the level of support and the



limited opportunities. At the local level, volunteering opportunities, for experience, are easier to create and this area of the questionnaire received 104 in favour and 79 against. As an example, several parishioners who joined the Parish Plan Steering Group had had limited involvement in parish activities previously and no experience of being on a committee – the group worked together well and useful experience through volunteering was gained by all those involved.

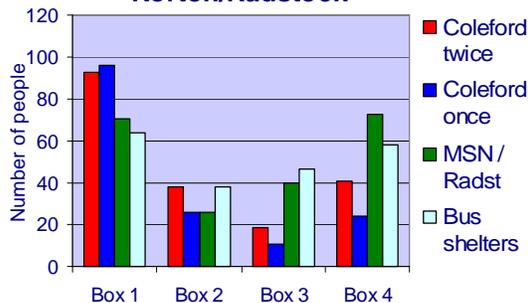
Opportunities for a village market (fortnightly) and the creation of an internet café were marginally supported and rejected respectively. Note: the youth of the parish separately supported the idea of a cyber café.

### Create internet café, village market, volunteering



## 4.8 Transport

### Buses (weekly to Coleford), service to Midsomer Norton/Radstock



There is a regular bus service from Frome to Wells via Shepton Mallet and therefore the questions on public transport were directed to the areas that currently have no service. It was considered that the response on transport availability was strongly influenced by the number of households in the parish who had access to a car and regularly used their own transport. For those without access to a car, the presence of bus services was much more important, however, as a result of limited requirement at present from

much of the parish, the response rates were lower than for other areas of the Parish Plan. Whilst we have not recommended a specific action as a result of the responses received, it is recommended that further consideration is given to this area in the future.

## 4.9 Responses from Younger People

Responses from the younger people in the village were gained from the completion of the Parish Plan questionnaire by all 21 of Eagle class at Leigh on Mendip First School and from discussions with the 14 young people from the parish who attended the cheesy chip evening. Their combined suggestions have been considered in the light of the overall response and built into the forward actions in the plan.

**Table 2 Activities that received support (Eagle class, 7-9 years)**

<b>Response to the Parish Plan</b>
Generally thought the village was fairly tidy
Recycling facilities: cardboard 7 yes, 3 no; plastic 9 yes, 1 no
Strong support for more signage and gated entrance – they very much liked the new signs by the school
Very good support for further measures on village appearance – bulbs, flower basket and competition
The children generally felt safe in the village with the exception of traffic (see below)
Safety – the children do not feel safe walking past Ivy Cottage (to east of school) because the cars are going too fast. Scary! They also do not want big lorries in the village
The children gave the same answers as the adults in respect of their wish to see the PCSO, Neighbourhood Watch and Police strengthened
The children expressed considerable concern about the problem of speeding traffic generally and poor parking near the school
There was strong support for more activities for children and youth – they supported the idea of a greater range of clubs and activities except Meals on wheels and an Elderly luncheon club! They liked the idea of more challenging climbing frames
There was strong support for better facilities to be provided through the Memorial Hall and Recreation Field



The summary response from the Young People's cheesy chips meeting on 8 May 2006 is given in Table 3 below.

**Table 3 Activities that received support (10 - 17 years)**

<b>General response</b>
Arranged visits to Frome / Radstock for a specific purpose i.e. skate boarding. Arranged days out / trips / visits and would be prepared to help arrange these. They would use a bus service to other places.
Social events / places they would like to go – Ten Pin bowling, ice skating, cinema, go-karting, paint balling, Alton Towers.
Sports activities, including football and rugby
Live music events and music practice.
Shop / facility in the village.
Broadband Cyber Café
Ideas were to have flood lights, a push bike track / BMX. A concrete skate park or possibly portable ramps
<b>Response to the Parish Plan</b>
50% supported and 50% did not support an internet café
Billiards was not supported as pool was available in the Bell Inn
A youth shelter and a soft drinks machine were supported

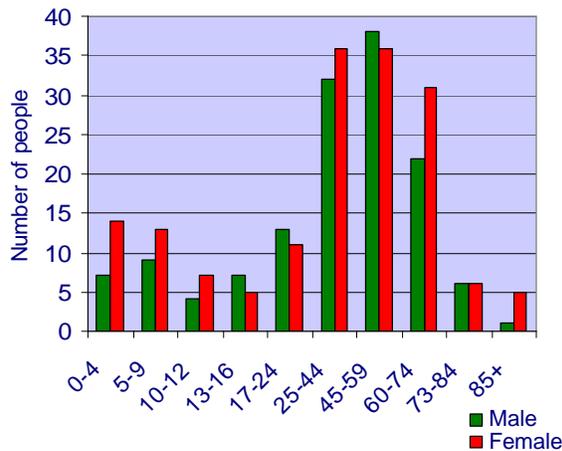
Note: The young people recognised that adults would need to be involved in running many of the activities.

## 5.0 STATISTICAL DATA

The population of the village was taken to be 501 (2001 census); although there are 4 new households present it is unlikely that the total number has changed much since 2001.

The response to the questionnaire represented at least 339 residents (adults and children) equivalent to 67.6% of the parish – the percentage will actually be slightly higher as 10% of forms returned gave no details of household numbers and these were generally counted as a single person return. Of the estimated 208 occupied private households in the parish, the return represented 66.3%.

**Age distribution (data covers 297 out of 336 respondents)**



Males (all ages) represented 46% of the return and females (all ages) 54% of the return. This compared to the 2001 census head count for which the distribution was 47% male and 53% female – all age groups. In the adult population (counted as 17 years and upwards) the questionnaire return was 47% male and 53% female.

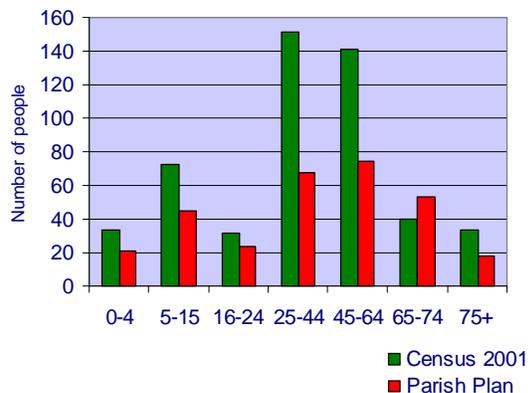
These data showed that the distribution of gender in the Parish Plan response was reassuringly representative of the parish population as a whole. It was not possible to directly compare the age ranges in the Parish Plan with those in

the census (2001) as there was a slight variation in the categories that were adopted after discussion within the Steering Group. The main difference was that we wanted more information on the population ages relevant to local schooling and split this class as 0-4, 5-9, 10-12 and 13-16 years whereas the national census split the ages as 0-4 and 5-15 years (see Table 4) with those aged 16 being included in the 16-24 year category. The second area where the Parish Plan differed from the census was at age 60 years and the Parish Plan grouped people in the 60-74 years range together, rather than the census which split the data at 65-74 years.

Census age range	Plan age range
0-4	0-4
5-15	5-16
16-24	17-24
25-44	25-44
45-64	45-59
65-74	60-74
>75	>75

**Table 4**

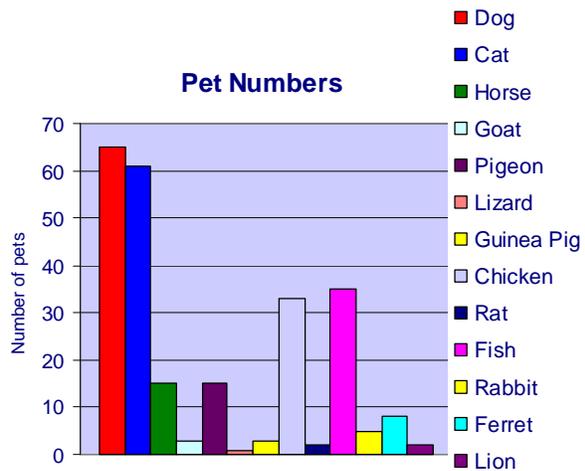
**Plan and Census data**



The comparison between the Parish Plan distribution and the census 2001 data is given here. This showed that when the problem of the different age categories chosen around the 60 years of age point was taken into account, there was also a good similarity between age groups represented in the Parish Plan and the distribution in the census (2001).

Other data from the Parish Plan on types of residence, date built and number of years' residency are presented in aggregated format in Appendix I. The numbers completing these sections were unfortunately too low to provide a meaningful comparison with the census distribution.

The Parish Plan included a question about pet types. This was included in particular to identify the number of dog and horse owners in the parish, as there were questions that particularly related to these areas. In order to ensure that no data could be related to the person returning the data, certain categories have not been included in Appendix 1 or this chart.



*The Steering Group did, however, wonder whether the anonymous household that recorded that they had two lions were aware that a DEFRA licence is required for keeping these animals!*

## 6.0 SUSTAINABILITY ISSUES

All of the five short-term aims of the Mendip Strategic Partnership (MSP) Community Strategy for Mendip (2006) are to some extent directly supported by the Parish Plan response or could be easily incorporated into future projects to make Leigh on Mendip more sustainable in the long term.

The five short-term priority heading are:

- Regenerating the Mendip economy
- Tackling climate change locally
- Affordable decent housing for all
- Strengthening the voluntary and community sector
- Investing in children and young people

The key long-term actions recommended in the Leigh on Mendip Parish Plan in Table 6 below, also accord very well with the longer-term priority actions of the MSP, which comprise the headings:

- Environment in Mendip
- A Place to Live
- Energy and Waste
- Food
- A Job to Do
- Ways to Learn
- Things to Do
- Getting Around
- Feeling Safe
- Staying Well
- A Sense of Community in Mendip

## 7.0 THE PROCESS FORWARD

The Steering Group identified from the results above that a number of the recommendations were for community action, some were primarily for Parish Council action and a number would involve input and development from the community, the Parish Council, and the Mendip and Somerset strategic groups and councils.

The Steering Group therefore prioritised the immediate short-term opportunities that could be taken on board relatively easily and separately prioritised the most important 12 longer-term actions which would involve a range of partners and generally also the community. These are presented in Tables 5 and 6. The Steering Group appreciates that further opportunities and actions may be identified when the results from the Parish Plan are fully assessed by the community, however, we felt it was important to prioritise those areas where there was greatest support and greatest need within the Plan analysis.

**Remember this is a Plan for the next ten years – many good areas, where action is needed, may have been identified but each needs commitment – both time and money to take forward and agreement on this may not be forthcoming. Not everything suggested may therefore be achieved in the next ten years, but it is a good start. Equally, some areas which received support from minority groups have not been put forward for priority action, but could be developed later if the commitment was there.**



## 8.0 THE ACTION PLAN

**Table 5 – Short-term action targets**

	Issue	Aim – possible way forward	Priority	Partners	Suggested Time scale	Resource implications
A	Communicating with Parishioners	Review of Parish magazine and how it is funded See below	High	Parish magazine organisers/ Parish Council (PC)	By April 2007	Possible implication on Parish Council budget
B	PCSO support and contact	Always in Parish magazine on Leigh contact page	High	PCSO/ Parish magazine organisers	ASAP	None
C	Taxi Link Service scheme	Always in Parish magazine on Leigh contact page	Medium	Parish Magazine organisers	ASAP	None
D	Web site address	Always in Parish magazine on Leigh contact page	Medium	Somerset County Council/ Parish magazine organisers	ASAP	None
E	Diary of events page in Parish magazine	Always in Parish magazine	High	Parish magazine organisers across 3 parishes/ Event organisers.	ASAP	None
F	Parish Council info	Always in Parish magazine	High	PC/ Parish magazine organisers	ASAP	Time to co-ordinate
G	Notice boards	Upgrade/ maintenance to include info detailed in the parish magazine	Medium	PC/ key holder	By April 2007	Nominal funding from PC
H	Village pack	Upgrade/update and identify new people to distribute	Medium	Volunteer organisers/ PC	By Sept 2007	Grant funding
I	Neighbourhood watch	Identify new people to distribute	High	PCSO/ existing active distributors	ASAP	None
J	More/better finger posts	Approach MDC re possible maintenance and additional signs on main roads	High	PC/ MDC possible small businesses sponsorship	On-going re maintenance	Cost to MDC
K	Spring bulbs	Approach PCC and Nurseries to sponsor	Medium	Nurseries/ Businesses	Sept 2007 for Spring 2008	Hopefully sponsored/ Community support
L	Better liaison with Planning	Approach MDC via PC	High	MDC/ PC	April and on going	None

Table 6 – Long- term key actions

Subject and priority	What should be done	Partners	Lead responsibility	Resource implications	Pros/Cons	Recommendations
<p><b>ACTION 1</b></p> <p>Plastic &amp; cardboard recycling</p> <p><b>High Priority</b></p>	Facility in village	MDC  Somerset Waste Partnership / Viridor Waste Management	Parish Council	Cost  Risk management & security  Keeping it tidy	<p>MDC responsibility</p> <p>Messy, untidy</p> <p>Facilities exist nearby</p> <p>Not everyone has transport</p>	Siting suggestions needed
<p><b>ACTION 2</b></p> <p>Litter</p> <p><b>High priority</b></p>	<p>Continued collection</p> <p>Extra litter bins</p> <p>New dog waste bins</p>	<p>Sub-committee of volunteers</p> <p>MDC sub contractor</p> <p>Parish Council</p>	<p>Sub-committee / Parish Council</p>	<p>Volunteers</p> <p>Cost of bins</p> <p>Management / emptying</p>	<p>Empty regularly</p> <p>Educate people not to drop litter</p> <p>Specialist service for dog waste</p>	<p>Siting of new bins important</p> <p>Suggestions – by school, near gates on walks, at bus stops</p> <p>Education not to drop litter</p>

Subject and priority	What should be done	Partners	Lead responsibility	Resource implications	Pros/Cons	Recommendation
<p><b>ACTION 3</b></p> <p>Speeding traffic</p> <p>Key Areas: Townsend School</p> <p><b>High Priority</b> and emotive</p>	<p>In the village, speed above 30mph breaks the law</p> <p>Outside this zone, speed above 60mph is breaking the law</p> <p>People want cars to travel at safe speeds in the area</p>	<p>Police</p> <p>Parish Council</p> <p>PCSO</p> <p>Community Safety Partnership</p> <p>Community volunteers</p>	<p>Police</p> <p>PCSO</p> <p>Community Safety Partnership</p>	<p>Risk Management</p> <p>Police time</p> <p>Speed traps</p> <p>Volunteer time</p>	<p>Cars parked in village reduces speed of cars passing through</p>	<p>Sub-committee with volunteer wardens PCSO and police</p>
<p><b>ACTION 4</b></p> <p>Parking around school</p> <p><b>High Priority</b> and emotive</p>	<p>Make area safer</p> <p>Ban parking on dangerous bend</p> <p>Introduce speed warning (intelligent) lights</p> <p>Move garage cars to yard</p>	<p>Parents</p> <p>LEA (school)</p> <p>Police</p> <p>Parish Council</p> <p>Volunteers</p>	<p>Highways</p> <p>Parish Council</p>	<p>Cost</p> <p>Roadway</p> <p>Lights</p> <p>Walking Bus</p> <p>Volunteer / parents time</p>	<p>Many suggestions See Section 4.2</p>	<p>Investigate options</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-alternative off road route behind church to school</li> <li>-walking bus</li> <li>-consider moving garage cars</li> <li>-consider double yellow lines in dangerous areas</li> </ul>

Subject and priority	What should be done	Partners	Lead responsibility	Resource implications	Pros/Cons	Recommendations
<p><b>ACTION 5</b></p> <p>Young people's activities</p> <p><b>High Priority</b></p>	<p>Increase in constructive activities and opportunities for young people</p>	<p>Local young people</p> <p>Connexions</p> <p>Youth workers</p> <p>School representative</p> <p>Local vicar</p> <p>Rec. Field committee</p> <p>Volunteers</p> <p>The Bell Inn</p>	<p>Parish Council</p> <p>Connexions</p> <p>Rec. Field committee</p>	<p>Not known</p> <p>Cost implications for equipment, resources &amp; sessional fees for youth workers</p> <p>Volunteer time</p> <p>Fundraising</p>	<p>Channelling youth positively</p> <p>Consulting young people</p> <p>Young people taking responsibility</p> <p>Less vandalism and anti-social behaviour</p>	<p>Consult Rec. Field committee about siting facilities there</p> <p>Volunteer sub-committee</p> <p>Any action planning to be done with youth</p>
<p><b>ACTION 6</b></p> <p>Extension to Memorial Hall</p> <p><b>High Priority</b></p>	<p>Extend Hall</p>	<p>Hall Committee</p> <p>Parish Council</p>	<p>Hall Committee</p>	<p>Cost of planning &amp; construction</p> <p>Volunteer time</p> <p>Fundraising</p> <p>Grant applications</p>	<p>Better facilities</p> <p>Reduced car parking area</p>	<p>Memorial Hall Committee</p>

Subject and priority	What should be done	Partners	Lead responsibility	Resource implications	Pros/Cons	Recommendations
<p><b>ACTION 7</b></p> <p>Shop and Post Office facility</p> <p>(Village sustainability)</p> <p><b>Medium Priority</b></p>	Feasibility / viability study	<p>Community Committee</p> <p>MDC</p> <p>Small business advisor</p>	Sub-committee	<p>Unknown</p> <p>Viability of a shop</p>	<p>People want a shop in the village</p> <p>Sustainability issues</p>	Down to interested parties
<p><b>ACTION 8</b></p> <p>Businesses and Jobs</p> <p><b>Medium Priority</b></p>	Encourage sustainable enterprise	<p>Parish Council</p> <p>Local existing and potential employers</p> <p>MDC</p> <p>Small business advisor</p>	Parish Council	<p>Cost to Employers</p> <p>Grants</p> <p>Work for locals / young people</p>	<p>More employment locally.</p> <p>Potential to re use local brown field sites (quarries)</p> <p>Potential loss of green field areas.</p> <p>Potential increase in traffic</p>	Explore with existing and potential employers

Subject and priority	What should be done	Partners	Lead responsibility	Resource implications	Pros/Cons	Recommendations
<p><b>ACTION 9</b></p> <p>Affordable Housing</p> <p><b>High Priority</b></p>	<p>Further assessment of need / demand</p>	<p>Parish Council</p> <p>Housing Associations</p> <p>Mendip Housing</p>	<p>Parish Council</p>	<p>Loss of green field site</p>	<p>Affordable housing for locals. Potential for downsizing. Extend / maintain our community.</p> <p>Strong feelings against extending village. Enough houses. Where to build next?</p>	<p>Link to MDC Local Development Framework document to be published 2007</p> <p>Review survey again to predict needs</p>
<p><b>ACTION 10</b></p> <p>Bridle, Cycle and Footpaths</p> <p><b>High Priority</b></p>	<p>Creation of new cycle ways and bridleways</p> <p>Maintenance of existing paths</p>	<p>Rider representatives</p> <p>Sustrans</p> <p>MDC</p> <p>Parish Council</p> <p>School</p> <p>Interested Parties</p>	<p>Sub-committee / Parish Council</p>	<p>Costs</p> <p>Set up and maintenance</p> <p>Stiles</p> <p>Manpower / volunteer time</p>	<p>A better environment</p>	<p>Set up sub-committee to work with Parish Council.</p> <p>Provide support to a Walking Bus</p>

Subject and priority	What should be done	Partners	Lead responsibility	Resource implications	Pros/Cons	Recommendations
<p><b>ACTION 11</b></p> <p>Environmental area</p> <p><b>High Priority</b></p>	<p>Create adventure / wildlife areas</p>	<p>Volunteers</p> <p>Somerset Wildlife Trust</p> <p>Environmental advisors</p> <p>Local land owners</p>	<p>Sub-committee with Parish Council</p>	<p>Funding</p> <p>Grants</p> <p>Volunteer time and effort</p>	<p>A nicer place to live</p> <p>Fostering community spirit</p> <p>Education and volunteering opportunity</p>	<p>Set up sub-committee</p> <p>Seek school and youth input</p>
<p><b>ACTION 12</b></p> <p>Community Activity Project providing basis for actions:</p> <p><b>High priority</b></p> <p>Covers long-term actions:</p> <p>1 High priority</p> <p>5 High priority</p> <p>7 Medium priority</p> <p><b>plus provision for additional new activity clubs + drop in centre, particularly for elderly</b></p>	<p>Feasibility and grant assessment</p> <p>Memorial Hall unsuitable</p> <p>Develop Rec. Field building options</p> <p>Include wide range of environmental measures plus IT / learning capability</p>	<p>Community Committee</p> <p>MDC, SCC, MSP</p> <p>Youth &amp; Education</p> <p>Energy Trust</p>	<p>Rec. Field committee</p>	<p>Estimated £300,000 capital build plus need to develop a Business Plan</p> <p>On-going enthusiastic committee needed</p>	<p>Need for extension to facilities highlighted in Plan</p> <p>Cost and grant implications</p>	<p>Further consultation with PC</p> <p>Start process towards planning permission</p>

## APPENDIX I DATA BASED ON 138 QUESTIONAIRES RETURNED

Response from 264 Adults in households with 75 children

Parish households represented – 66%; Parishioners represented 68%

QUESTIONNAIRE RETURNS		Yes	No	No/ Low				Yes/ High
		Box 1	2	3				Box 4
<b>A</b>	<b>VILLAGE APPEARANCE</b>							
1	Overall appearance/tidiness			2	53	156	21	
2a	Support for plastic recycling			38	24	32	138	
2b	Support for cardboard recycling			38	21	29	143	
3	Regular litter collection	91	112					
	Would you be prepared to help	57	48					
4	Rate village signage			41	80	80	21	
	Better finger posts	137	74					
	Welcome to Leigh signs	120	98					
	Gated entrance signs			72	52	34	68	
5	Attention to village							
	Spring bulbs	198	25					
	Flower baskets	133	81					
	Entry to competition	119	91					
6	More litter bins	142	69					
	More dog litter bins	131	81					
TOTAL		1128	679	191	230	331	391	
		<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Box 1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Box 4</b>	
<b>B</b>	<b>SECURITY AND SAFETY</b>							
1a	How safe do you feel in day			2	8	40	187	
1b	How safe do you feel in evening			5	26	60	143	
3	Know how to contact PCSO	79	156					
4	How strongly support PCSO			35	51	49	74	
5	Support concept of Neighbourhood Watch	206	9					
6	More active Neighbourhood Watch	140	55					
7	Want greater police presence	122	88					
8	Concerned about poor parking near school			30	11	20	161	
9	Traffic exceeding limit generally			25	36	57	102	
10	Traffic too fast at Townsend			29	26	39	117	
11	Very fast traffic Old Wells Road			55	28	32	99	
12	Exceed limit near school			30	35	32	120	
13	Support for parking ban if another area provided	172	45					
14	Support for Intelligent school lights	160	59					
15	Rate quality of parish roads			43	105	85	5	
16	Rate quality of parish footpaths			27	60	90	34	
TOTAL		879	412	281	386	504	1042	
		<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Box 1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Box 4</b>	
<b>C</b>	<b>VILLAGE HALL/CLUBS</b>							
1a	<i>Support for additional clubs etc.</i>							
	Amateur dramatics	23						
	Music events	70						

	Keep fit	73						
	Elderly luncheon club	29						
	Photography	30						
	Tennis	44						
	Events linked to Country Fair	81						
	Dancing	60						
	Martial Arts	25						
	Meals on wheels	16						
	Gardening club	58						
	More regular bingo	15						
	Badminton	52						
	Book club	42						
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>618</b>						
		<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>		<b>Box 1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Box 4</b>
1b	<i>More activities for young people</i>	149	16					
	Bar billiards/billiards	69	0					
	Soft drinks machine	47	7					
	Internet café	69	3					
	Evening social events (away Leigh)	70	0					
	Youth shelter	71	2					
2	Better play equipment – Rec	144	22					
3	More facilities by extension to Memorial hall				29	29	43	109
4	Combine Memorial/Rec halls with new building				101	37	24	52
5	Help with project committee	36	163					
6	Support idea of a single village committee	88	94					
7	Do you consider yourself disabled	17	204					
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>760</b>	<b>511</b>		<b>130</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>161</b>
		<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>		<b>Box 1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Box 4</b>
<b>D</b>	<b>PARISH INFORMATION SERVICES</b>							
1	Support at least one new notice board				101	39	35	34
	To include:							
	A village map				65	23	37	75
	Timetable for bus services				36	20	51	99
	For sale notices				62	48	26	54
	Village diary of events				19	25	48	108
	Tradesmen list for parish				46	31	38	80
	<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>329</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>450</b>
		<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>		<b>Box 1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Box 4</b>
2	Support for village pack update (every two years)				33	33	61	87
3	Different magazine (e.g. Leigh only)	36	180					
4	Do you know have village website	192	31					
5	<i>Do you visit website regularly</i>							
	More than once a week	6	2					
	More than once a month	61	3					
	Never	70	6					
	Unable to access	20	4					
	Other	18	0					

6	How strongly would you like changes or improvements				57	69	25	12
7	How strongly would you like to see a children's web page				41	52	50	33
8	How strongly would like PC info. every month in the mag.				27	22	41	108
9	Loan equipment to raise money				30	38	65	65
10	Village shop/post office				23	17	46	131
	<i>Post Office facilities – what would you use</i>							
	Savings	53						
	Bank	74						
	Benefits	17						
	Postage	196						
	Utilities	81						
	Pension	32						
	Other	46						
11	Would you like Village twinning				110	51	19	25
12	CAB representative in village occasionally				42	59	50	45
13	Village support to school				12	31	63	96
14	Better liaison MDC planning and Village Design Statement				12	17	32	143
	TOTAL	902	226		387	389	452	745
		<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>		<b>Box 1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Box 4</b>
<b>E</b>	<b>AFFORDABLE/OTHER HOUSING</b>							
1	Do you support more affordable rent - local only	140	67					
2	More small houses – downsize	140	65					
3	New build to concentrate	33	12					
	<i>Upper village</i>	46	33					
	<i>Middle village</i>	52	35					
	<i>Lower village</i>	40	40					
4	More affordable purchase - local only	144	65					
5	More affordable - rent/buy – local	152	58					
6	Strict controls to limit new building	171	43					
7	Planning applications to include environmentally friendly measures	186	21					
	TOTAL	1104	439					
		<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>		<b>Box 1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Box 4</b>
<b>F</b>	<b>ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS</b>							
1	Support to create new pathways				52	41	53	69
2	Create new bridleways				63	43	54	56
3	Create a wildlife area				45	34	49	90
4	Create a youth adventure area				40	31	52	87
5	Join an environmental group to help	43	149					
6	Support to create a children's walk around village				47	31	58	67
7	Cutting back of overgrown paths				13	14	51	149
8	Continue to improve stiles				15	15	57	133

9	More bridleways/improved conditions				44	38	57	73
10	Create better verges for horses				39	39	44	88
11	Cycle routes children to school				26	22	47	120
12	Cycle routes children - off road				36	27	40	117
TOTAL		43	149		420	335	562	1049
		Yes	No		Box 1	2	3	Box 4
<b>G EMPLOYMENT ACTIVITIES</b>								
1	Support more employment - young people				29	19	58	102
2	New business employing local people				28	29	49	101
3	Creation of internet pub/café				84	41	28	47
4	Village market - perhaps fortnightly				55	39	43	72
5	Volunteering - more opportunities				36	43	55	49
TOTAL					232	171	233	371
		Yes	No		Box 1	2	3	Box 4
<b>H TRANSPORT</b>								
1a	Support for Coleford transport – twice/week				93	38	19	41
1b	Coleford transport – once/week				96	26	11	24
2	Bus to Midsomer Norton/ Radstock				71	26	40	73
3	Proper bus shelters at all stops				64	38	47	58
TOTAL					324	128	117	196
		Yes	No		Box 1	2	3	Box 4

<b>HOUSEHOLD</b>		No.	No.	Total
Ages	Male (M)	Fem (F)		M + F
0-4	7	14		21
5-9	9	13		22
10-12	4	7		11
13-16	7	5		12
17-24	13	11		24
25-44	32	36		68
45-59	38	36		74
60-74	22	31		53
75-84	6	6		12
>85	1	5		6
TOTAL		139	164	303

<b>PETS</b>		Type	Dog	Cat	Horse	Goat	Pigeon	Lizard
Number			65	61	15	3	15	1
		Guine. pig	Chick.	Rat	Fish	Rabbit	Ferret	Lion
		3	33	2	35	5	8	2

<b>TYPE OF BUILDING</b>		Now	5 y
Caravan/mobile home		1	0
Flat/maisonette		3	3
Single storey building		6	8
Terraced		12	10
Semi-detached		24	11
Small detached (1-3 bedrooms)		12	10

	Large detached (4+ bedrooms)	38		29
	Other	2		1
	Number of years resident in Parish			
	All life	6		
	Over 25 years	10		
	15-24 years	25		
	5-14 years	35		
	3-4 years	12		
	1-2 years	6		
	< 1 year	4		

	Approximate date residence built	
	Pre-1800	26
	1801-1900	14
	1901-1940	6
	1941-1960	5
	1961-1980	14
	1981-2000	16
	2001+	4

## APPENDIX II ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Leigh on Mendip Parish Plan has taken 10 months to complete and during this time a great deal of effort has been put in by parishioners from Leigh on Mendip.

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Copyright is retained on all the photographs, which have been provided by kind permission of the following:

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Further copies of this plan can be downloaded from the website [www.leigh-on-mendip.org.uk](http://www.leigh-on-mendip.org.uk)