

Yarnscombe Community Appraisal - April 1998

Acknowledgement

We would like to thank Tony Woollacott for allowing us to use his excellent drawing of Yarnscombe's Alphabet Plaque to illustrate the front cover of this survey

FOREWORD BY JANE FLOOD CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council decided that it would be of great benefit to both the present and future Parish Councils and to local organisations, if it took the opportunity of conducting a Parish Appraisal. The results being used to help develop and improve the lives of those living in Yarnscombe over the years ahead, by systematically addressing the issues that are most important.

A Public Meeting was held in April 1997. Those present were asked to jot down various local issues of concern to them. These issues formed the basis for the questionnaire. An Appraisal Steering Group was formed. Following the groups' approval of the final draft, the questionnaires were produced and distributed to every household in the parish. We would like to thank everyone who took the time and trouble to express their opinions. If this report is to amount to more than simply a survey of what has been found, it must establish a framework for future action. Accordingly we have attempted to summarise the principal findings of the survey, whilst integrating those findings with specific recommendations for what happens next.

If the appraisal is to be of real value it can only happen if you and organisations in Yarnscombe take sufficient interest to do something about your issues of concern. The Steering Group has arranged a meeting on MONDAY 27TH APRIL at 7.30PM in the VILLAGE HALL.

This is your opportunity to ask questions, agree the action plan and most importantly get involved, either as an individual or through your local organisations, in starting to initiate a few developments in the parish.

Members of the Steering Group were:

Cllr. Mrs J Flood	Mrs Hammond (Clerk to YPC)
Cllr. Mrs S Harrington	Mr W Moore (Hon Rights of Way Warden)
Cllr. Mrs M Woollacott	Mrs A Prowse
Cllr. G Thomas	Mrs A Houghton-Berry

I would like to thank the other members of the Parish Council for their support, and the members of the Steering Group for their efforts over the last year, without which none of this would have been possible. My thanks also to Mr Mike Knight of the Community Council of Devon for his help in guiding the group. Special thanks to Tony Woollacott whose splendid artwork appears on the covers of the questionnaires and the final report.

INTRODUCTION

The completed questionnaires involved 92 households, a return of 71 which was excellent. The replies represented



247 people of which 234 were in the 11+ category and therefore had the opportunity to respond to the questions.
 (Copies of the full statistics are available to anyone who wishes to read them).

HOUSEHOLD SECTION

Age breakdown of residents in households which replied

	0-4	5-10	11-16	17-21	22-39	40-59	60-64	65-74	75+
Males	6	7	9	10	19	47	5	12	10
Females	9	14	5	3	17	46	7	11	10

Breakdown of respondents aged 11+

Male	107	52.7%
Female	96	47.3%

Location of responding households

Village Centre	33	35.9%
Outside Village Centre	59	64.1%

Vehicles

A total of 152 cars and 11 motorbikes were used by the 92 households responding reflecting the rural nature of the area.

HOUSING

Need for accommodation in the Parish

"A balance must be met so as not to spoil with overdevelopment of high priced properties which drives young people away"

There are four people in need of alternative accommodation i.e. starter homes, mostly in the next 4-10 years.

Five households said that members of the household had moved out of the parish during the last five years because of the lack of suitable housing. Most of them needed starter homes.

"The future of Yarnscombe is dependent on 'outward facing' : A shop/post office would be a distinct advantage and small housing development would bring in people and needs for activities "

Type of housing required

A need for housing for local people is the opinion of 63 (32%) of respondents and 52 (27%) think that it is needed for young people. This would be in line with the need for starter homes.

Sixty three percent of those giving an opinion think that not enough is being done to house young people in Yarnscombe.

62 respondents (32%) thought that no housing is needed and 48 (25%) had no opinion.

"Development should be kept to a minimum because access roads are mainly single lane, (with no prospect of upgrading) and can barely cope with current traffic"

"We decided to buy a cottage in Yarnscombe because of the nature of the village as it was. We feel that too much development ie new housing, expanding use of village hall will be detrimental"

Recommendations

1. Parish Council have taken on board the need for housing for local young people. Planning issues need to be looked into.

EDUCATION & TRAINING

Opinion as to standard of adult education in Parish

Of those people giving an opinion **91%** (**33** people) think that provision for adult learning is 'poor'. **Seventy two** people say there is 'no provision' for adult learning.

Need for vocational training

Sixty five people are interested in Vocational Training - mainly new technology/computing (**37** people), skilled/craft related (22 people) and rural/agricultural skills (15 people). Over **80%** of respondents could get to the training centres of Barnstaple and Torrington.

Recommendations

1. Many courses are available at main centres ie. Torrington/Barnstaple/Bideford/South Molton. It would therefore seem further work needs to be done to pinpoint exactly what the specific deficiencies in training provision/public awareness/accessibility are.
2. Parish Council should forward the results of the survey to Torrington Adult Education at the Eric Palmer Centre, Torrington and ask for their help in seeking ways to address the issue.



EMERGENCY, ENVIRONMENTAL & OTHER SERVICES

Do you think Yarnscombe needs to provide a public toilet?

Sixty eight percent of respondents said no public toilet was needed.



"Flowers at the signs for Yarnscombe or in tubs in the village centre would improve the look of the village. Also a hand crafted sign for the village'.

Of those who thought it was needed, siting at the village hall was the most popular.

Suggested sites:

Village Hall	(5.5)
Church	(4.5)
Centre of village	(1)

Recommendations

1. The Parish Council will be asked if this is a practical proposition.

HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES

Standard of Health and Social Services available

"Lack of NHS facilities. Now having to travel further as most dentists going private".

Generally all services received good ratings with the exception of :

NHS Dentist: 28% of users considered this service to be poor

Chiropody Service: 15% of users considered this to be poor

Difficulty in getting to available services

This seems to be an area for some concern. Over twenty people experience difficulty getting to the hospital, doctor, chemist and NHS dentist.

Forty three percent (72 people) think Yarnscombe needs a doctors surgery. Over **40** people think a NHS dentist and chiropody service is needed.



Recommendations

1. Since the questionnaire (Oct'97) there is now an NHS dentist in Torrington and also one in Bideford, which goes some way to alleviating the problem. Parish Council to contact Health Dept to enquire if a chiropody service could come on a regular basis.

2. Investigate the possibility of community transport.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SCHEME

One hundred and twenty five people think Yarnscombe should have a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. **Eighty six** people would join.



Recommendations

1. Parish Council will contact the Community Policeman with the statistics. A separate meeting will be held with him, and will also include the Crime Prevention Officer for the area. The date will be notified in the Eagle.

RETAIL SERVICES AND OTHER FACILITIES

Need for retail outlet in Parish

Ninety two percent of respondents (**153** people) feel that Yarnscombe needs a Post Office. **Sixty** people are in favour of starting a Community Shop with 25 people interested in a part share.

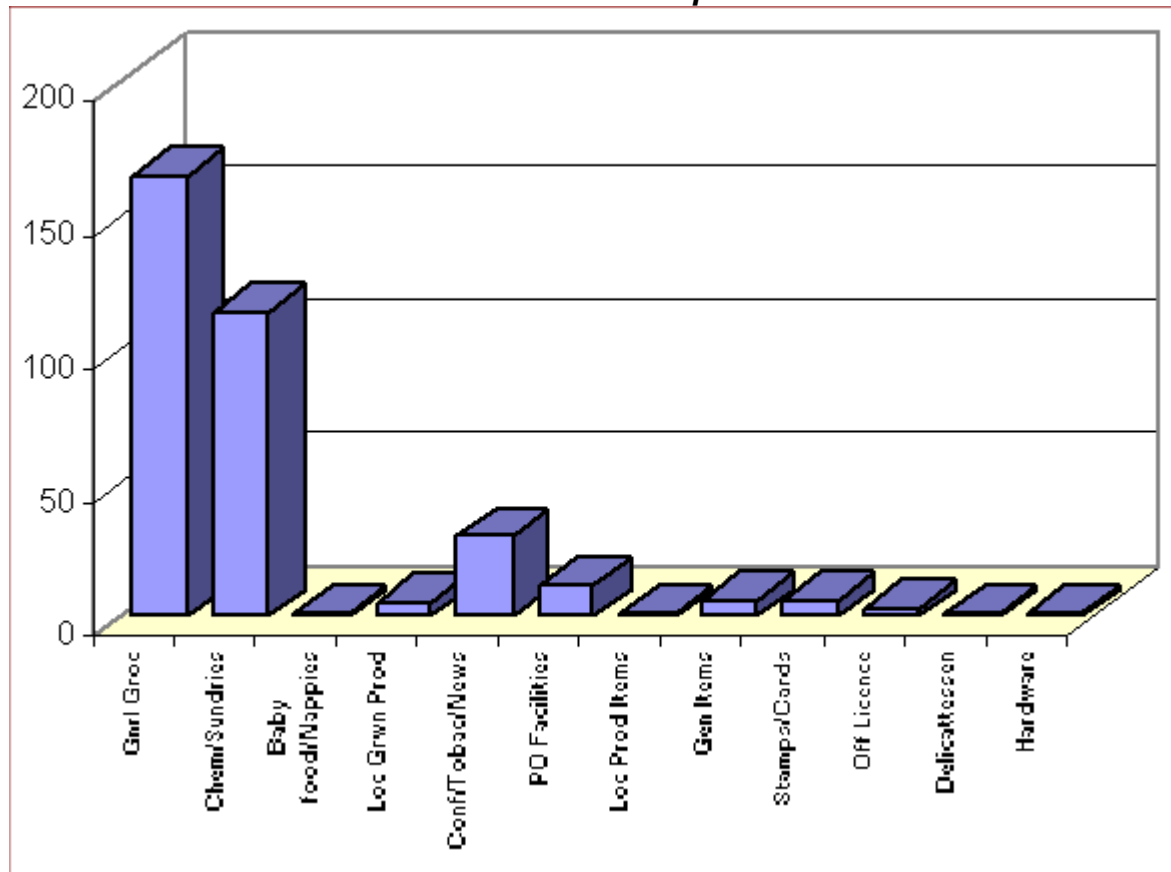


Twenty six people would use the shop often and **133** occasionally.

Difficulty in getting to shops

Twenty one people said they had difficulty in getting to local shops.

What should the shop sell?



Recommendations

1. *Post Office* - A feasibility study was carried out recently and this was found to Not to be viable.

Parish Council to contact Health Dept to enquire if a chiropody service could come on a regular basis.

2. *Community Shop* - Those respondents who said they would help in the community shop are invited to the OPEN MEETING on MONDAY 27th APRIL with a view to further discussions..

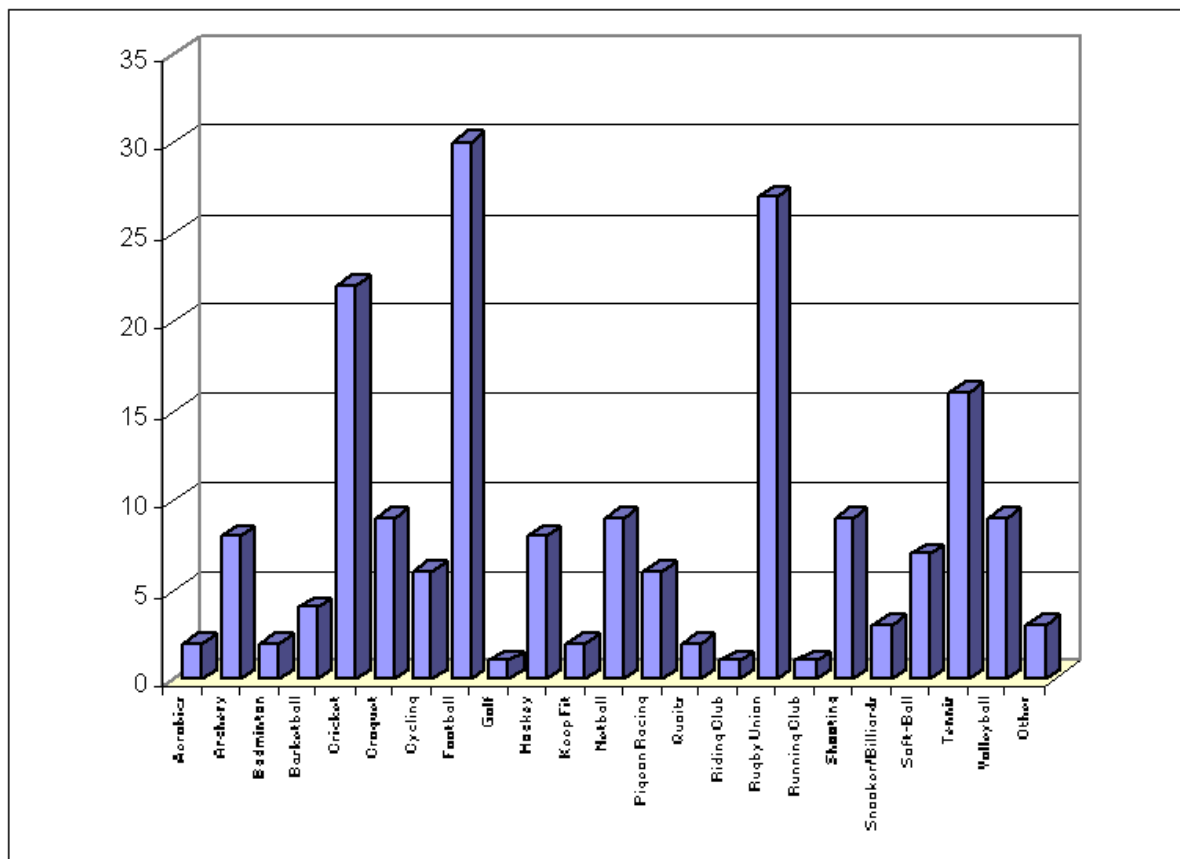
SPORTS SOCIAL & ENTERTAINMENT

Need for playing field

"It seems imperative to keep the increasing number of children off the roads in to the village, and within it i.e. the necessity for a playing field is of the utmost urgency"

There was overwhelming support for a playing field for outdoor sports and recreation (121 people).

Requested sports



"We would like to see more daytime activities in the village hall for leisure and educational pursuits"

Other requested activities

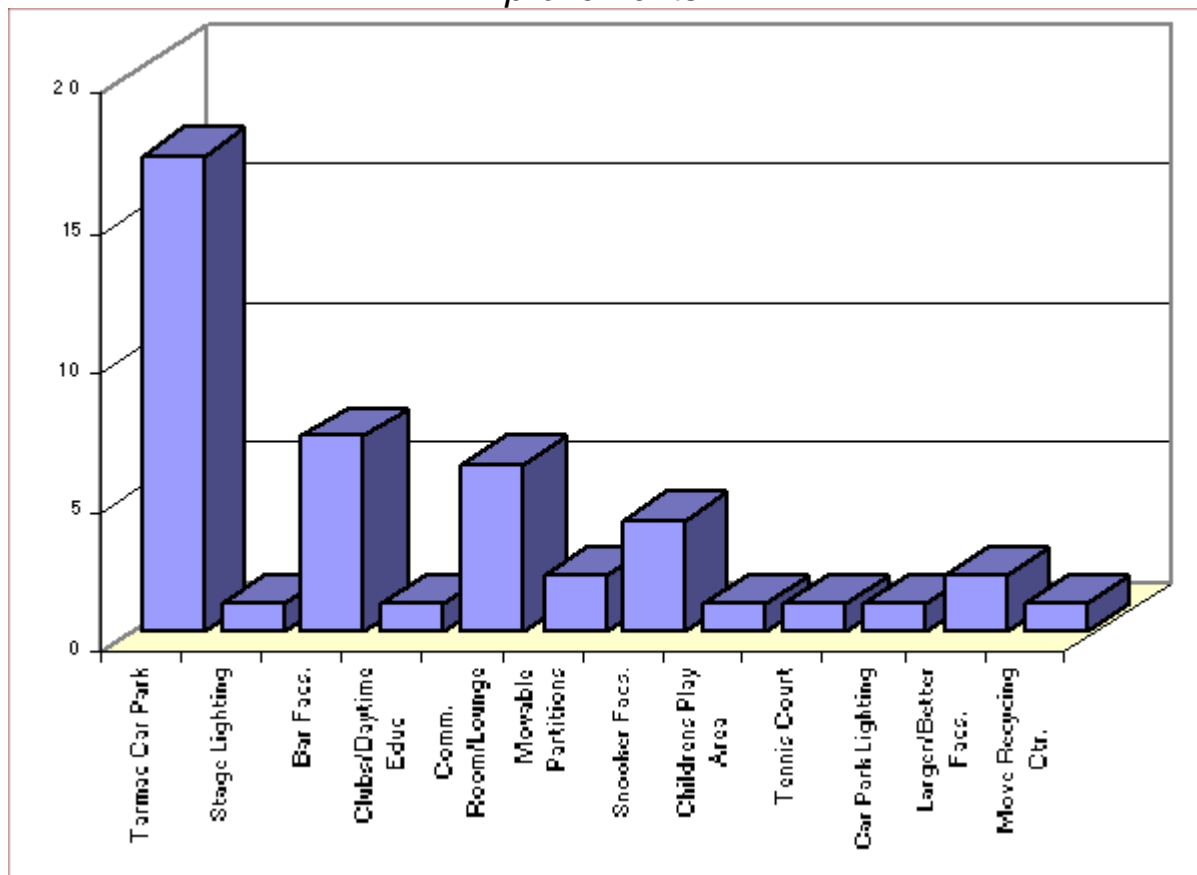
Cinema/Film Club (1)

Spiritual Development and Discussion/Meditation Group (1)

Adequacy of Village Hall

Perhaps not too surprisingly, as our hall is just 2 years old **79% (157 people)** think it is adequate. Tarmacing the car park is the improvement with most support.

Improvements



1. Parish Council is addressing the obvious concern for a playing field and hope to acquire a suitable site in the near future.
2. Ask the Village Hall Committee whether they can implement any of the above improvements.
3. Parish Council to enquire into possibility of acquiring grants towards tarmacing car park.

TRANSPORT & HIGHWAYS

Difficulty in getting out of Yarnscombe

Fifteen people experience transport problems getting out of Yarnscombe. Quite a number (**37**) do so occasionally.

"Farms which use the roads to move animals or to transport muddy farm vehicles should be persuaded to hose the roads to prevent them from being dangerously slippery"

Car Sharing

Thirty four people would be willing to take part in a scheme to share private vehicles.

Bus Service

If there was a bus service to Great Torrington **69** people say they would use it. The usage, however, would only be occasional.

"Regular public transport from villages to neighbouring towns (preferably Torrington) on a daily basis is essential to alleviate pollution caused by the motor car-and save costs"

The need for a bus shelter

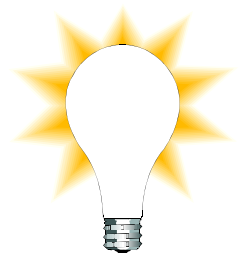
Seventy three people think the parish needs a bus shelter.

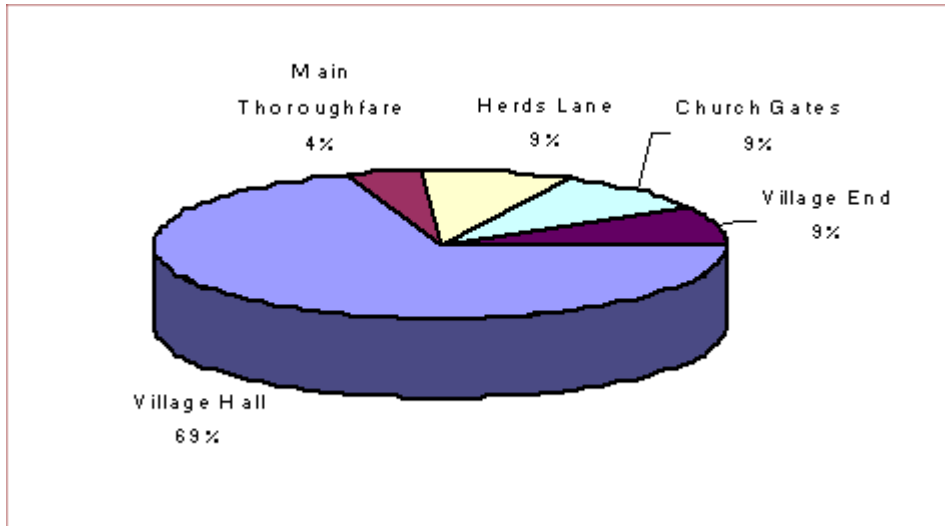
Are you satisfied with the general state of the roads?

Ninety three people (**48.2%**) said that they were **not satisfied** with the state of the roads. By far the biggest concern expressed here were the problems caused by mud and farmyard manure. The safety aspect being paramount.

Lighting

Seventy five people would like to see more street lighting.





Recommendations

1. Bus Shelter

No suitable site can be found at the present.

2. Car Sharing

We recommend that there should be a meeting of those willing to car share. Further enquiries to any of those members whose phone numbers are on the back page, to help co-ordinate this meeting.

3. Bus Service

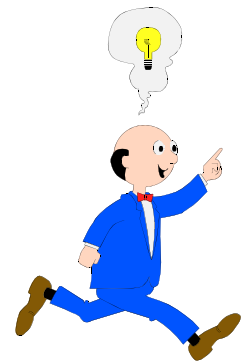
On the basis of the above figures a Community Transport Service might well be viable. The possibility of running such a service should be explored.

4. State of the Roads

The concern of the state of the roads has been noted. The Parish Council to request that when "mud" is particularly hazardous, farmer/s should be asked to scrape the road.

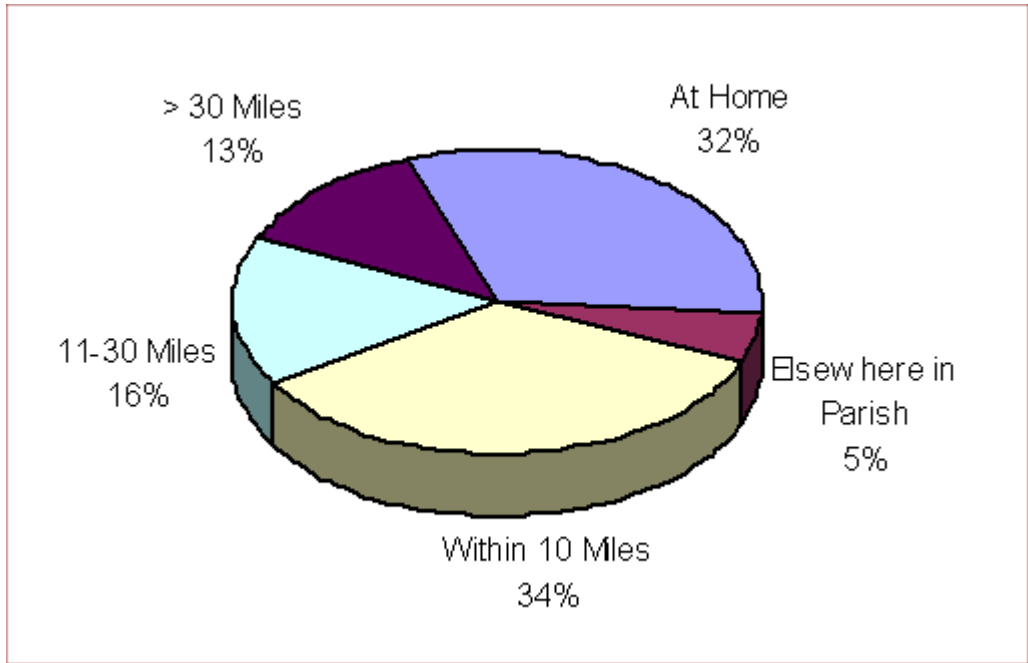
5. Lighting

Request to be made to the Village Hall Committee to provide lighting for the footpaths to the hall.



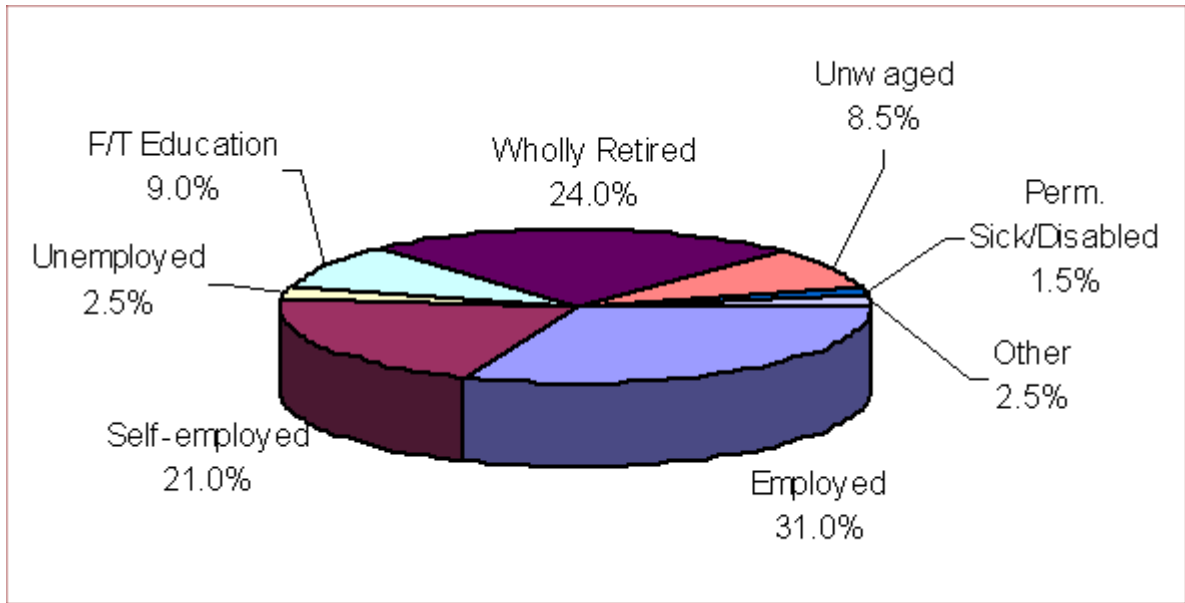
EMPLOYMENT

One hundred and twenty people replied to this question asking how far they travel to their main place of work. The results were:



One hundred and fifty two people replied to the question asking about their employment status.

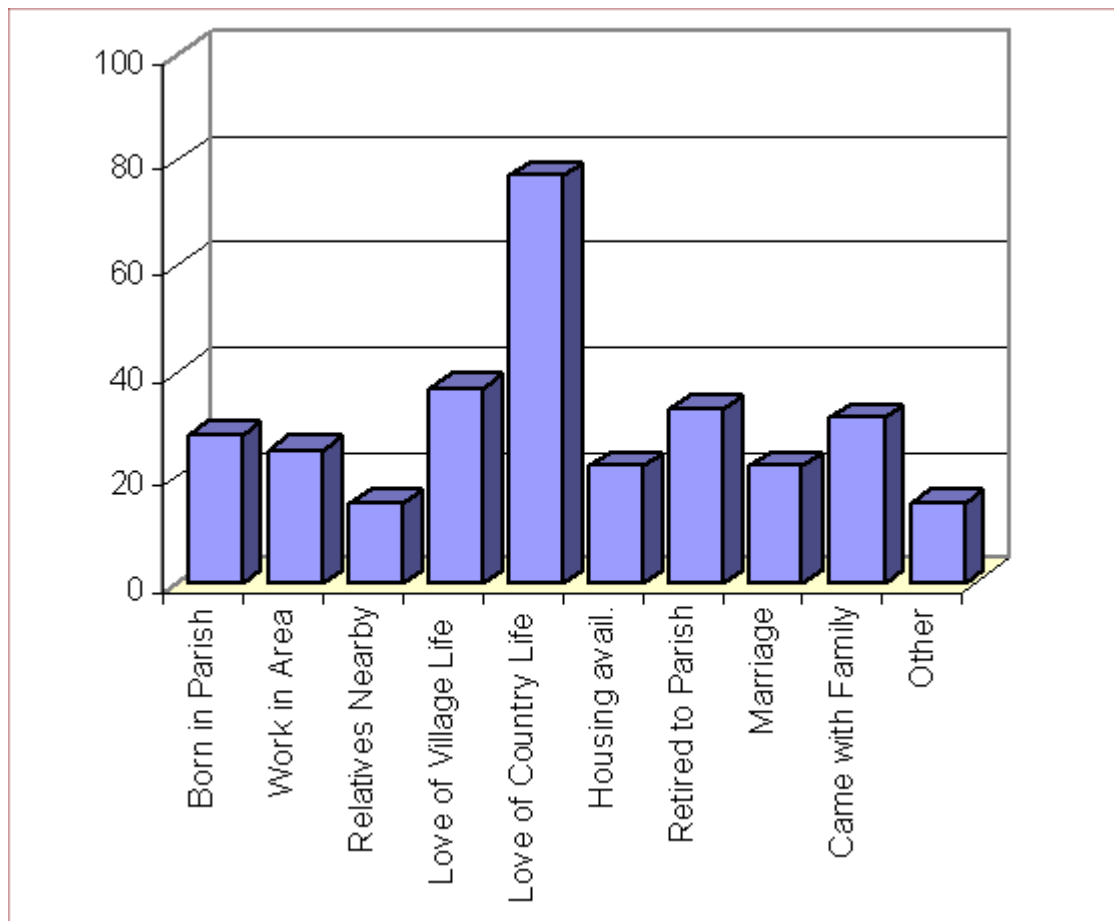
The results were:



The percentage of self-employed and the wholly retired is very high in the parish. **Fifty** people run a business. They employ **fifty five** people. Most of these are in agriculture. Five people intend becoming self-employed.

GENERAL

How did you come to live in Yarnscombe?



It would appear that relatively few people were born in the parish. Most respondents yearn for country life.

NB. Some respondents may have ticked more than one option.

"I feel to live in Yarnscombe is a privilege. We have many things here that cannot be found in towns and cities. We have a very talented community. There is a feeling of knowing that we are able to get help from our neighbours, we only have to ask. I really don't think Yarnscombe needs anything. To bring in too many more houses, we shall lose the closeness of village life as we know it"

We apologise to anyone who feels that we have failed to reflect a particular point that they made in the appraisal. We have done our best to include in the margin quotations which give a fair reflection of the various opinions that were expressed. However, to have included every comment and suggestion would have made this

report too unwieldy. We sincerely hope that in the near future the Eagle will provide an appropriate forum for everyone's thoughts and suggestions.

OFFERS OF HELP AND ENQUIRIES

Contact any of the following:

Pat Hammond	01769 560657
Jane Flood	01769 560431
Anne Houghton-Berry	01271 858263

or any member of the Steering Group.

