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and not least, the community of Winkleigh Parish for their endeavour, considerable assistance and unfailing good humour in creating this Parish Plan.

Preface

- The Parish Plan is a two-part document. **Part One**, is divided into five sections, and provides a conceptual view, background and debate, so that various issues can be highlighted as needing either improvement or solutions. This document constitutes Part One in its entirety. **Part Two**, although a sister document, is a separate publication, and will take the form of an action *aide memoire*.
- In essence, the intent is quite straightforward; in the 21st Century we have to rationalise our views in relation to rural living and protect and improve what we consider to be important. Financially, it is unlikely that we will be able to achieve everything. Therefore, it is imperative that we consider and decide what the important issues are, give them a priority and with assistance solve them. Without such rationale, we will not achieve that nor gain much sympathy.
- **Part One. The Concept:**

This is the process leading to the identification of issues. The initial section outlines the background, the purpose and concludes with an overview which provides the main theme flowing through the whole part. The remaining four sections, examine in turn; the environment in its widest parish sense, areas which are of concern to people generally, the facilities which are used in the parish and finally in the short fifth section how we communicate. These sections follow a common path, containing paragraphs of comment and a discussion portion which lead to the identification of issues and priorities for future action. These evolving issues reflect the questionnaire analysis wherever possible and have not been diluted to favour any particular opinion.

One of the penalties of this technique is the eradication of WINBEG as a debating subject. The questionnaire contained no direct question on this subject. Therefore, although the subject is mentioned specifically in paragraph 2.17 of this plan and considerable adverse comment was volunteered in the 'free speech' questionnaire boxes, it receives no in-depth analysis here. It is important however as a major subject to the parish's future well-being and enduring morale. The solution adopted, therefore, was within Paragraph 1.3 to assume it would not receive planning permission and thus not be built!
- **Part Two. The Action plan:**

As stated above, this part will be issued separately but for information will consist of:

 1. A priority list of issues, including minor but important ones and selected contentious issues needing further thought before decision and continuing inclusion.
 2. Options, solutions, milestones, achievements, partnerships, financial support and other resources.

This part will be a long term document and will constantly evolve as solutions are found and achieved.
- **Conclusion**

Within this document some 21 different subjects have been addressed, with approximately 70 issues identified as in need of examination and resolution.

SECTION ONE

Introduction and Background

1.0 This Winkleigh Parish Plan has been some two years in the making, although as far back as 1996 a parish appraisal was conducted so that parishioners could express their views on how the village should develop and what actions were required to fulfil that need. As in 1996, a 'Steering Group' was formed from a cross-section of the community and initially functioned under the chairmanship of Simon Hodgson before passing to Peter Stutt in November 2004. The Group is eleven strong and meets on a periodic basis. Their primary role is to bring the plan to fruition by overseeing and agreeing each stage of the process until final publication and distribution is accomplished.

1.1 A questionnaire was produced and sent out to 606 households in the middle of 2003 with 309 replies returned along with 14 blank forms. The questionnaire contained both numerical and free comment boxes. The answers contained in them have now been extensively analysed, discussed and displayed. Although there was an Open Day in November 2003, this latter action was finally achieved at a Parish Plan Exhibition Day held in the Community Centre on 2nd February 2005. The day was very well attended with over 250 people viewing the various stands. Once again, people were asked to comment and confirm their thoughts about our parish and how we live and work in it. The sum of these processes has given a 'heartbeat' to the creation of an overall plan. The plan will be about the parish, the way we live and how in the future we wish to live. It is **our** plan.

Purpose and Definition

1.2 The purpose of the plan is as follows:

To produce a document which will identify the common needs and issues concerning the parish, and display those issues that need resolution and further action.

1.3 Limitations and Assumptions

- The parish remains 'broadly' similar to now and that the Government does not radically or adversely alter rural ways and livelihoods any further **(Design)**
- This Plan is supported in the round by Torridge District Council (TDC) and Devon County Council (DCC) and is adopted as part of the Local Development Framework(LDF) process now in train **(Support)**
- The agreement by the community that this plan becomes an acceptable way forward **(Acceptance)**
- A commitment that a voluntary effort is made to continue the plan's implementation requirements possibly over a number of years **(Continuity)**
- The old airfield site is NOT host to a large commercial BIOMASS scheme **(Need)**

1.4 The overall plan document is divided into two parts:

- **Part 1.** A conceptual examination of our needs, desires, 'shape' and the direction we wish to take, concluding with a list of identified issues
- **Part 2.** An action plan showing the identified issues from Part 1, illustrating the potential solutions and displaying how they can be achieved. Wherever possible a timeframe, the people involved and any funding requirement will also be shown

1.5 Part 2 should be seen as a 'living' document or a continual draft; ideas and actions can be changed, upgraded, improved or even discarded as necessary. This part can or will go on for as long as it is perceived that any particular issue needs resolution. Although such a timeframe could be lengthy, this must not be an excuse for inaction or this portion of the plan just 'gathering dust'. Therefore it is important that progress can be sustainable and issues not considered in isolation. Integrated thinking is being adopted at all levels of government and this plan will feed into the Torridge Community Action Plan and their local strategic planning process in due course.

1.6 The document will never be 'all things to all people'. There will always be some disagreement about what is the best or correct way forward. What it does provide is a democratically acceptable baseline and framework within which the parish can prosper, and safeguard what it feels is important. We hope it will encourage Devon County Council, Torridge District Council and many others to assist in our endeavours with funding, advice and encouragement. In contrast, without this plan such support is unlikely to be forthcoming to the detriment of our parish and community.

The Parish

1.7 Winkleigh lies in the southern part of Torridge District and borders or is close to three other districts. Its parliamentary constituency is Torrington and West Devon.

Geography

1.8 Winkleigh parish covers some 9100 acres with the main centre of population being Winkleigh village. The village itself, where five roads converge, sits on a hill-top astride the 160-170m contour line, on an east-west ridgeline between the rivers Taw and Torridge.

1.9 The parish divides into three distinct areas. Firstly, small centres of settlement as well as Winkleigh village, then the general area of the old airfield and finally the predominately rural portion consisting of tiny hamlets and individual farms and houses.

The Landscape

1.10 The overall impression is one of pastoral farmland, with some arable fields, deciduous woodlands and conifer plantations. The high culm measures of the parish also influence our land heritage. Minor valleys dissect it to create an undulating topography. Its

geology is historically one of well watered but poorly drained soil which, in its turn, influences vegetation and usage.

1.11 There are extensive areas of species-rich grassland and the broad ridges of the high ground are exposed to the vagaries of the weather and display this through windswept and sometimes solitary trees. These ridgelines show old historic routes across the high ground with green narrow lanes falling away from them towards the two more enclosed and warmer valley floors. Commanding and beautiful views are available in all directions.

A Brief History

1.12 Winkleigh is mentioned in the 'Domesday Book' as owned by the wife of William the Conqueror and also that it provided a park of (for) beasts belonging to the King. It was held under Saxon dominance (the first Saxon Earl of Gloucester) prior to Norman seizure and very reasonable evidence exists that it was a settlement in the Bronze Age and possibly earlier in prehistory. (Neolithic or even Mesolithic)

1.13 Winkleigh is the only village in Devon with the remains of two castle mounds which were owned by opposed and powerful families in the 13th Century. The 'Black Death' took a terrible toll of the parish community in the first part of the 14th Century. However, by the 1600s Winkleigh was involved in matters of national importance with the village being created into a fortress during the English civil war causing Cromwell's armies to by-pass it and march on Torrington to face and defeat the King's royalist forces.

1.14 Winkleigh continued to grow and prosper over the next two hundred years with the population enlarging as a consequence. The population by 1851 numbered 1554 souls. Farming was most important with many innovations in animal husbandry, crop growing and, not least, machinery to aid this latter activity. Agriculture became predominant from this time and still remains the largest employer in the parish today.

1.15 In World War Two (WW2), the need for extra airfields embraced Winkleigh and RAF Winkleigh came into being in 1943. Its role and personnel changed constantly. The airfield's use was discontinued and returned to 'green field' use in 1948, although it was briefly reincarnated as an airfield for the Suez crisis in 1956. It has now been designated for light industrial and renewable energy use under the District's Local Plan (to be renamed Local Development Framework). It is probably safe to say that the airfield has had the largest impact, certainly within the 20th Century, on our way of life in the parish. This looks set to continue into the 21st!

Heritage

1.16 Although the parish's earliest beginnings were possibly as old as Mesolithic, there is confirmed evidence of Bronze Age settlement. A sword from the period was found in the late 19th Century and remains the most important find to date. Ancient ridgeway routes improved by the Romans are still in evidence although mostly under tarmacadam.

1.17 Field names, strip-field systems, the Domesday Book itself and certain named physical features give further evidence of early settlement.

1.18 Both castles Court and Croft are scheduled monuments. Neither have escaped alteration with the latter being partially destroyed (and subject to considerable furore) to make way for the Village Hall built in 1936. Hollocombe Barton was given a 'grant of free warren and fortification of the manor' by Edward the Third in 1361.

1.19 All Saints Church in Winkleigh was first recorded in 1176 although the building that now stands dates from the 13-14th Centuries. The Chapel in Castle Street dates from 1883.

1.20 Not least, mention should be made of the Pump in Winkleigh village square which was built to commemorate the Great Reform Bill of 1832 and renovated in 1994.

1.21 A more modern era (WW2) has produced a scheduled monument in the form of the Control Tower on the east side of Winkleigh airfield.

1.22 Finally mention should be made of Winkleigh and Hollocombe Fairs. A charter in 1262 granted a weekly market and three annual fairs. The only one to survive is the Winkleigh July Fair which runs for a week.

1.23 We can as a parish make continuing efforts to enhance a general awareness of our heritage. Exploration, the acquisition of knowledge and its recording is already carried out by various heritage groups. This is mainly achieved, but not exclusively by:

- The House Scouts
- History writers and compilers
- The Winkleigh Society
- The ACE Archaeology Club
- The West of England Transport Collection
- Organised walks in and around Winkleigh

1.24 Winkleigh has a substantial heritage to offer to both residents and visitors alike. It has not been fully exploited in the past and is perhaps undervalued as a parish asset.



'A Strategic View'

General

1.25 It is important at the beginning of this plan to set down the fundamentals on which the remainder of this document is based in order to reach informed and logical conclusions.

Community

1.26 The community in the parish has a distinctive character. This probably results not only from a relatively isolated location, but also from a population of only 1060 people in 1991 (1991 census). This number has remained relatively stable until the late 1990s. This 'distinctiveness' has several aspects:

- The community is predominantly friendly and welcoming. This derives from a sense of security and a confidence that 'we know what sort of place Winkleigh is'; because the community has, until recently, been small enough for individuals to know or at least recognise most people (other than visitors)
- Crime levels are low and well below the national average
- Because people know each other, there is a good deal of 'good neighbourliness', and it is usually known when people need help
- Many people contribute to community activities

1.27 The size and stability of the community have been critical factors in creating this character. The increase in the population of the parish between the years 1998 and 2001 to 1401 inhabitants (2001 Registrar General Population Estimates), as a result of two major housing developments, within Winkleigh village itself, could arguably put this character at risk.

1.28 The importance of this quality for the community is clearly recognised in the responses to the parish questionnaire. When asked about the size of Winkleigh, an overwhelming majority wanted it to remain small, peaceful and rural in nature; while at the same time, creating the conditions that will enable a proportion of young people and families to stay in Winkleigh to support the continuity of future generations.

Land

1.29 One of the most important resources for any community is the land it occupies. While individuals or organisations own the land in the first instance, it has long been a principle of law that the wider community exercises an influence over the use of that land. This is to ensure a balance between the individual's enjoyment of that land and the greater good of the community as a whole. The planning authority (in our case, Torridge District Council) is the agent/guardian of that balancing process. It should be noted that the phrase 'Local Plan' has become the 'Local Development Framework'. The next level is the Regional Assembly whose aim is a coordinated approach throughout the region. The formulation of a strategy for the period 2006-2026 is underway.

Appropriate Land Development for Employment & Business

1.30 In Winkleigh's case, there is far more 'under-employment' than actual unemployment. It is evident that many people have at least the potential and often the training to do more highly skilled work. Many people in Winkleigh are 'multi-skilled', partly out of necessity, enabling them to adapt to small volumes of work in a given occupation and changes in availability. At the same time, there is and will always be a need for a balance across the skill range to accommodate all abilities.

1.31 While it is neither realistic nor practical to expect the land in the parish to provide, through various businesses, employment for all, a primary objective should be to create the conditions for a good proportion of parishioners to be employed locally. (In April 2002 a Business Open Day was held in Winkleigh. It was very successful and indicated that small businesses need, particularly, marketing and financial assistance advice above all else).

1.32 Business and associated job satisfaction can contribute to the well-being of the community but there may also be a price to pay in terms of impact on the environment and quality of life. Increased traffic and pollution are among the obvious ones. In providing land in order to create jobs, encouragement to those businesses which offer high-skill work but make the least demands on our infrastructure, environment and quality of life would be a reasonable approach. Whether such paragons of virtue exist will require more research.

Land for housing and recreational use

1.33 Land for housing and recreation will place considerable demands on availability and acceptability too. The need for affordable housing and new building for whatever use should also aspire to traditional design and fit into the general environment whenever possible. Previous development has raised considerable adverse comment in this respect. These conflicting priorities will need careful and wise counsel before decision and action can be accomplished.

1.34 Lastly, two areas of land use which will also require continuing thought and oversight. Land for recreational purposes and general enjoyment is still perceived as inadequate, particularly by the younger inhabitants of the parish. In parallel, it should not be ignored that any increase in population, housing and use of facilities will strain our existing infrastructure in regard to utilities, roads and local services considerably. The consequence is likely to be further pressure on land availability.

1.35 As a parish, we are probably at a crossroads. Modern life makes substantial and varied demands on most people. The requirement to make balanced and acceptable decisions has probably never been more difficult or more needed.

'The shock of the new sits uncomfortably with the traditional view of Xanadu'.

SECTION TWO

Environment

Roads and Traffic

General

2.0 Due to its geography, Winkleigh is an old route centre with five roads leading into and away from it. In common with many other communities, the parish is suffering from an increasing traffic volume, substantially more HGV traffic and vehicles of all types speeding excessively on occasions. Large vehicle access although possible in most places is not without its problems and dangers. The only roads of major size are the A3124 running north-south and the Exeter road, the B3220. The remainder almost without exception are narrow and winding with occasional passing places.

2.1 The majority of perceived traffic problems (areas) not surprisingly are in Winkleigh village and its close environs. Little or no critical comment has been apparent in relation to highways by type or overall condition although considerable pot-hole damage is apparent on many roads.



Discussion

2.2 A Traffic Planning Group (TPG) was formed in 2004 comprising seven members. They have now reported and although their analysis is on-going, some relevant results are used below.

2.3 The TPG have conducted five separate roadside surveys in 2004, each of 12 hours on weekdays, identifying traffic volumes in and out of the parish on various roads which 'flow' towards or pass close to Winkleigh. In parallel, the Group has conducted and analysed an 'affected street' survey within the village itself in late 2004.

2.4 The roadside survey in the round shows a traffic increase of some 45% by volume compared to the previous year (2003). Between 15-16% was HGV. On one C graded road, lorry traffic had increased by 147% in a year. A more detailed survey report is held in the parish archive, but the main traffic conclusion is that a considerable increase in HGV traffic is apparent in relation to other vehicles. It should be not overlooked at this juncture, that should the assumption in relation to the BIOMASS scheme (see Purpose and Definition, paragraph 1.3) be wrong, then these increases would become much larger and correspondingly abhorrent.

Nationally, HGVs represent 1.5% of all traffic; Winkleigh averages between 12-18%

2.5 The street survey identified sixteen separate locations within the parish which were considered potentially hazardous. Many of these identified 'dangers' are confirmed from the parish questionnaire results. Written comments collected at the Open Day (November 2003) and the Exhibition Day (Feb 2004) provides yet further ammunition. The primary reason for such concern is anxiety, in relation to speeding vehicles of all types. This speeding combined with the use of 'rat-runs', often where there are no pavements, road passage is narrow, and where adults and children need to cross the road adds to the general fear.

Issues

2.6 The two main issues in regard to traffic are:

- How to control the flow of HGVs
- What can be done in reducing general vehicle speed

2.7 The TPG has forwarded various ideas for consideration to the Parish Council in regard to both problems:

- Sign changes, for indicating routes, their actual position and rationale
- Slower speed limits, for example, 20 mph on certain roads
- Enforce access restrictions and 'no entry' decrees
- Traffic calming measures e.g. islands, bollards, roundabouts, 'narrowing'
- Changes in priorities
- Pedestrian only routes, walkways and crossings
- Traffic lights and speed cameras and identification devices (to be used very selectively)
- Lighting and improving visibility

Note

No full survey has been achieved in relation to the general aspect and condition of roads within the parish. As indicated above little or no comment has been received before the preparation of this plan although the general state in many areas is regarded as poor. Therefore it is not discussed here but it should not be dismissed as a potential topic in later planning considerations.

Priorities for Action

1. Consider the TPG's comments and findings in regard to both issues listed at paragraph 2.6
2. Consult further with DCC and Police
3. Implement 'street survey' recommendations and 'offered' solutions when agreement is reached
4. Determine practical ways of limiting HGV traffic to certain specific routes

Note

1. Some discretion/allowance will be needed over village-only large vehicle deliveries.
2. Car parking (in Winkleigh village) is addressed within this portion of the plan as a separate issue under 'Parish Improvements'.

Environment

Houses and Housing

General

2.8 The national demand and not least the future forecast of house building (ODPM and the new Land Bill adopted in 2004), perforce, place this subject high on the parish's agenda.

2.9 There is considerable concern among parishioners (and the Parish Council) that the ambience of the parish and particularly Winkleigh village itself could be spoilt by more housing developments (see 'A Strategic View'). The parish questionnaire's 'most liked' themes in regard to the parish substantiate that a large majority like the present size, its peaceful nature and natural beauty. They do not like too many new houses, or piecemeal development, some of which is not in keeping with its surroundings or general village style.



2.10 The two distinct views are:

The village is large enough already

There is a definite need for 'affordable' housing

A less distinct, but nevertheless strongly held view was the construction of any new houses should be in keeping architecturally and use locally sourced materials wherever possible. The most favoured expansion in quantity terms was the building of single dwellings or groups of no more than 10 houses in any one particular portion of the parish. The production of traditional and energy saving houses in tune with their surroundings proved a constant *cri de coeur*.

Discussion

2.11 The present Winkleigh parish housing stock stands at some 625 houses. In addressing the overall concern of the containment of village size and its boundaries, the problem is likely to be immediately exacerbated by the proposed development at WINK4 in the SE corner of the village adjoining the A3124. This is an issue on its own! A second more strategic dilemma in regard to numbers of dwellings is what is wanted at Parish Council level (and probably most of the community) is not exclusively controllable by that body without the support of the District Council who constitute the planning authority. The identification therefore of how many more (if any) houses can be sustained within Winkleigh village is the primary issue. Allied to this equation is the quality and capacity of the present supporting infrastructure e.g. sewage, schools, electricity supply

and retail outlets. The need for agreement, coordination and teamwork between the Parish and District Councils has arguably never been of greater importance. The determination of future housing stocks and what control measures are to be adopted within the Local Development Framework are an imperative.

2.12 Affordable housing is an issue which although easily labelled is less easily defined, or categorised. What does affordable mean? £50k was indicative as an acceptable capital amount, while in rental terms, a span of £40-80 a week attracted considerable support (46%) as a reasonable charge within the 2004 questionnaire responses. How can it be adopted within a village context? Who would qualify for it? How are the qualifiers measured or selected? How will the scheme be kept 'local'? How will the scheme be maintained in perpetuity?

2.13 Developing housing projects which are traditional in character, sympathetic to their surroundings is a laudable aim but modern building regulations, available construction skills and energy efficiency are likely to lead to cost escalation. Paradoxically, this situation is further complicated by the strong desire to see affordable housing made available within the overall housing context by the general community. How this seeming conflict is mitigated will require considerable wisdom.

Issues

1. Determine the acceptable numbers of future housing developments in the parish and where they would be located
2. In regard to Winkleigh village specifically, decide on the acceptable extent of 'spread' to accommodate desirable extra housing
3. Identify houses which are 'redundant', either unoccupied or in a poor state of repair for possible future use
4. 'Approve' the type of allowable development
5. Determine what additional infrastructure (or improvements) is essential if faced with additional housing edicts
6. Research and develop a realistic 'affordable' housing programme based on the factors of land ownership, equity percentages, acceptable and affordable capital growth, profitability equations and what are the perpetuity options

Priorities for Action

- Publish and publicise any decisions on the above issues in Part Two of the Parish Plan
- Agree and confirm control measures with TDC in relation to housing policy
- Create a Parish Housing Strategy for the 21st Century which can be adopted at planning authority level into their community and development documents

Environment

Land use

General

2.14 It should be one of the key aims of any Parish Plan to identify the general land use implications and land for specific projects. A Parish Council Working Group is at present engaged in a detailed examination of this subject with the objective of producing a considered land use strategy for the parish.

The Old Airfield: A Specific Issue

2.15 For the past two years, the Parish Council has been engaged with matters arising from the land use designation associated with this area. The area has been designated in past Local Plans for small business development. This fitted well with the modest infrastructure and limitations of local roads; it would also contribute to the volume and the type of employment available to balance that of agriculture. However, in the last local plan this was revised when the planning authority decided to narrow the designation to agriculture (and related activities) and renewable energy. It is not clear whether the then Parish Council was informed or consulted, when these changes were made.

2.16 For one section of the airfield in particular, there is doubt as to whether an earlier outline permission for small business development has been properly extinguished or not, while several local businessmen have been unsuccessful in attempts to obtain planning permission for proposals which appear to fit the designations (whether the earlier broad one or the more recent restricted one). This an unacceptable situation which needs urgent resolution and clear designation in the forthcoming Local Development Framework.

2.17 The purchase by the South West Regional Development Agency (SWRDA) of land in the centre of the airfield in support of a development proposal for a large biomass power station (WINBEG) and related chemical businesses has further increased uncertainty for other potential developers of small businesses interested in adjacent sites. The planning authority has yet to determine this WINBEG application as at July 2005. The developer's planning application and supporting documentation which has proved both inaccurate and flawed in many ways, does not enjoy the support of the local community. Concerns over roads and heavy traffic volumes, the 'industrial' nature of the plant, its appearance, scale and potential operation, give rise to grave concerns about the future of our environment. It is quite simply inappropriate to our parish and the surrounding countryside.

2.18 Apart from the airfield, there is very little land available for potential employment or business use; a very limited amount is available at Seckington and on the Hatherleigh Road. This dearth makes a much more flexible approach to sensible and *in scale* land use at the airfield a necessity for our future well-being.

Environment

The Winkleigh Project

Introduction

2.19 As many are aware this project has been initiated in response to an overwhelming local 'NO' vote regarding the BIOMASS scheme proposed for the airfield. As mentioned previously, this site is an important and critical parish asset which needs an acceptable form of development which parishioners can readily support. The Winkleigh project which is outlined below will be 'in scale' with its surroundings and begin to address the considerable amount of effort that will be required to rejuvenate the overall old airfield site. It will fit comfortably with the Local Development Framework concept advocated at District level. Similarly it will not preclude others from developing acceptable businesses.

The Purpose and Objectives

2.20 The purpose of The Winkleigh Project is to create a community owned and managed training organisation which will benefit the people, economy and environment of the parish. It will respond to particularly:

- a declared need for skills training in the community leading to increased employment potential (parish questionnaire responses)
- the growing recognition of a need for clean and renewable energy production and energy conservation (national and international policy)
- an increased interest in sustainable architecture (national planning policy).
- utilising practical skills after training within the parish

Location

2.21 It is proposed that the training establishment would cover an area of approximately 15 hectares initially, situated on the old Winkleigh airfield directly to the west of the A3124. This land is currently owned by SWRDA.

Funding

2.22 While self-funding is the intention for the project, it is recognised that practical and financial assistance will be required to establish the scheme. This help will be sought from outside organisations, including various levels of government.

Ownership, structure and management

2.23 The exact ownership, structure and management of the Winkleigh Project still need to be identified. It is vital that the community find ways of acquiring and maintaining control of all aspects of the project. Some form of co-operative, or company in community ownership may be the most appropriate way forward, and the experience of similar projects need to be evaluated. A Community Property Trust or Development trust may prove to be a suitable vehicle for the project. Charitable, not-for-profit, status will also need consideration

Environment

Recycling and Re-use

General

2.24 There are central government targets to be met by District (TDC) and County (DCC) authorities for dealing with waste. The county strategy is for such refuse to be transported as short a distance as possible before disposal (the proximity principal). The preferred actions in disposal priority are: composting, recycling and lastly energy production before resorting to landfill. This latter option is becoming increasingly unpopular and may become unlawful within this decade. Winkleigh is the most distant destination for such operations in Torridge District and therefore requesting extra collections may prove expensive and unpopular.

The present refuse collection is a weekly dustbin one, followed by a similar recycling roadside lorry collection from TDC, who out-source to South Molton Recycling. The general view is that this latter service is good but insufficient in regard to the types of acceptable items or material. The present collection is for bottles and containers of glass or plastic. Tins, newsprint, magazines, silver foil, clothing and shoes are also acceptable. A static bottle recycling 'pavilion' is situated on the NE side of Winkleigh village (this is not used by over 85% of the community according to parish questionnaire analysis 2004).

Discussion

2.25 It is felt by the majority of parishioners that cardboard, green garden waste, other plastics and large difficult shaped items could also be included on a periodic collection basis. These items can be dealt with now but it involves a vehicle journey to Okehampton, South Molton or Crediton. A further alternative for large items is paying the local authority directly for such collection and disposal. Some rural homes (but not all) do not appear to have any recycling collection at all. What is suitable for recycling is determined by the market for it. As South Molton Recycling, or any other agent TDC may use, identify markets, then these materials could be included in weekly village collections.

Issues and Priorities for Action

1. Can the present system be enlarged without a Council Tax penalty?
2. Do we need a Winkleigh 'bottle bank' which is under used and a seeming duplication of weekly collections from TDC?
3. Can we do more at a local level by expansion (of 2. above) from the identification of a particularly beneficial recycling activity or the creation of an income stream for the parish?
4. Consider setting up a re-use centre or some form of 'junk cum swop' shop run on a regular monthly/quarterly basis

Environment

Composting

Discussion

2.26 This subject is of increasing interest throughout the parish and could become one of commercial benefit also. There is no particular reason why this activity should not also be included within the Winkleigh Project in due course.

2.27 Further research at District level has revealed that TDC may well start a 'green waste' collection in August 2005 in response to central government target setting with funds available from central government. Whether this is an experiment or a long term venture is not known.

2.28 Although this would seem to negate the need for a parish based compost system there may be a strong enough desire to create at local level a composting facility which would produce good quality and cheap compost. It is also thought that with the assistance of an available DCC wood chipping machine, mulch could also be made available on a local basis.

Issues and Priorities for action

1. Investigate the proposed TDC green waste initiative, its components and benefits.
Will compost be produced and will it be available for individual use
2. Once started review the scheme on a regular basis to ensure it meets parish needs
3. Investigate the chipping facility and identify a suitable location
4. Investigate the market for producing composting worms as a local activity

Note

A single subject survey within the parish (and further analysis) may be necessary once more facts have been obtained, before the above ideas can be pursued fully.

Environment

Parish Improvements

Water and Sewage

Discussion

2.29 Within the 'least liked' free comments in the parish questionnaire was the inadequate sewage system. On an individual house basis there have been a number of sewage 'incidents' due to pipe fracture, seepage, blockage or overflow.

2.30 A second concern is in relation to the village sewage treatment plant itself. The general perception (which is widely held) is that it is working at peak capacity now. Therefore any additional housing build will lead either to a sewage disposal crisis or the somewhat lunatic acceptance of completed houses that are not connected to the system and therefore cannot be occupied.

2.31 Various attempts by the Parish Council to influence and change the situation have met with limited success so far. An embargo on new connections is currently in force but not thought to necessarily be totally enforceable should it be challenged. The present anomaly of some village house building on-going, the distinct likelihood of considerably more being approved in 2005 all served by the present sewage system remains unchanged and of major concern.

Issues and Priorities for Action

1. General monitoring of future 'above ground' sewage/effluent leakages particularly within Winkleigh village boundaries
2. Rapid resolution to the sewage plant capacity and treatment problems

Note

Any solutions found for issue 2 should not be seen as an open invitation to build more houses.

Environment

Car Parking

General

2.32 This subject concerns Winkleigh village rather than the whole parish. Nevertheless as most parishioners use the village for a variety of reasons the subject is of more than passing interest.

Discussion

2.33 Currently no official car park exists in the village. Where people have no access to off-road parking, vehicles are left in the street outside houses or in an *ad hoc* manner where ground and gaps are available. Double and triple parking is not unusual in places. Street parking can constitute a hazard to other road users and pedestrians, particularly children. More particularly, the speed of emergency service's response may be hampered by large vehicles, such as school buses or refuse and delivery lorries, making passage more difficult. Conversely, parked vehicles can also act as a natural speed reduction method. Control of speeding vehicles should not be reliant on serried ranks of parked cars however and other means are available and discussed under the Traffic and Roads section of the plan.

2.34 Environmentally, it appears something of a dichotomy that Winkleigh has a picturesque village square which is given special protective status yet often it is full of cars. Pre-supposing safer roads the creation of a village car park would make sense and hopefully add to village harmony. In parallel, due consideration of allowable residential parking will need inclusion in any solution. Any car park would have to be of a reasonable size and situated as centrally as possible. A single site is not the only option.



Issues and Priorities for Action

1. Agree the car parking requirement (or not) and consider size/numbers
2. Explore potential sites for suitability and availability
3. Free and uncomplicated access, or pay and need a management system
4. Control measures for over-parking especially in the Square
5. Consider a residents and disabled parking priority system within the village
6. No yellow lines or excessive road markings

Environment

Miscellany of other environmentally related issues

General

2.35 In the returned questionnaires, there were a substantial number of comments on many unrelated topics. Although they are by no means vital to how the parish functions, in sum they portray concerns related to the general ambience of the parish and how it is viewed. This list is not exhaustive but is portrayed here more for awareness rather critical resolution of any given issue.

Concerns

- Overhead wires
- Street lighting
- Verges and grass-cutting
- Dog excrement and general street cleanliness

Discussion

2.36 The Winkleigh village square with its protected status already has most wiring concealed underground. The rest of the village (in places) particularly at some road junctions resembles 'a ball of wool after a cat attack'. An effort to rationalise this untidiness seems overdue.

2.37 Street lighting although effective and mainly welcomed, does light pollute and stays on during all hours of darkness. Is this latter situation necessary?

2.38 Grass cutting and the condition of verges were found on the whole satisfactory but not achieved frequently enough especially in summer.

2.39 Although overall street cleaning was deemed satisfactory, considerable ire was generated over dog bowel functions taking place where people walked on roads and pavements. Many dog owners acted conscientiously in this regard but some were careless and seemingly unaware of the offence caused. What can be done?

Issues and Priorities for Action

1. A campaign to persuade SWEB and BT to tidy and improve wiring generally
2. Consideration is given to reducing the number of street-lighting hours, particularly in summer
3. Monitor grass cutting and verge repair more thoroughly
4. Publicise and enforce the recent parish ruling that owners are responsible for removing their dog's waste from public highways and authorised footpaths

SECTION THREE

People

Law & Order

General

3.0 The parish of Winkleigh is not a high crime area and what occurs is minor usually amounting to incidents of graffiti, occasional window breaking and creating litter. The causes are likely to be carelessness, boredom or misplaced high spirits rather than true criminal intent. More serious concern has been apparent recently over a series of incidents of wanton damage and intimidation of those reporting such behaviour.

Discussion

3.1 There is a police information post at the Community Centre/Village Hall which receives a weekly visit from the Devon & Cornwall Police. Liaison visits are made on specific occasions. Individual visits in the normal manner in regard to investigation and bureaucratic matters are achieved similarly.

3.2 Some perception of crime and the associated fear exists, but on the whole it is low and the parish 'looks upon itself as peaceful and friendly'. (Apart from the incident at the conclusion of paragraph 3.0 above)

3.3 The service given by the various emergency agencies as a whole is rated 'good' by the community but also considered remote. Reaction time to reach the parish is usually in excess of 25-30 minutes.

Issues and Priorities for Action

1. Encourage a more overt presence when the Police visit the community. Walk around do not necessarily drive
2. Encourage an improved information exchange and heighten public awareness of the forms of assistance which are available
3. Consider a practice turn-out to a simulated parish emergency and the activation of the relevant emergency services
4. Reinforce community responsibility to work with the Police and report incidents promptly

People

Health and Social Services

General

3.4 There is considerable awareness overall of the excellent service given by the Chulmleigh Group Practice staff at the Winkleigh surgery. It is equally well accepted that budgetary difficulties, a large diverse practice and not least, numbers of specific staff within a Group practice make for occasional imperfections. In general terms however, despite the expansion of Winkleigh's population since the early 1990s, surgery weekly hours have not increased particularly to compensate for this growth and modern needs.

Discussion

3.5 Nearly half the parish population is over the age of 60 (parish questionnaire 2004 returns) and comparable figures for a medical catchment area of over 1326 (2001 Registrar General Population Estimate) clients suggest that a 40-50% rise in surgery hours would not be inappropriate. A small number of people would of course be registered with practices other than Chulmleigh. Whether any increase in surgery hours worked would require an enhanced or new facility is not yet clear. The problem is exacerbated by many people being unable to travel easily to Chulmleigh itself, although this could be eased by transport provision (see transport at paragraph 3.15).



3.6 A number of complaints were espoused in the parish questionnaire over lack of individual doctor/patient continuity, difficulty over NHS dentist availability and a more frequent day care regime. There was considerable frustration over repeat prescriptions being slow in delivery to the user.

3.7 It would be prudent to accept that the constrictions placed on GPs by the NHS system make excellent practice on a constant basis difficult to maintain, before drawing too many radical conclusions as to its shortcomings.

Issues and Priorities for Action

1. It is suggested that a review/oversight meeting be arranged between a small selected parish team and the Chulmleigh Practice staff to determine the realities of the 'medical' problem vis a vis Winkleigh
2. From this process agree what improvements are genuinely possible, how can they be implemented and over what time period
3. In regard to NHS dentistry, endeavour to encourage a dentist to 'set up shop' in Winkleigh. The ramifications of such action will need further exploration before action. Lastly investigate a self-help health maintenance programme to promote 'prevention rather than cure' solutions

People

Education and Training

General

3.8 There is much agreement within the parish that education is not a major issue and what is provided now is to a very satisfactory standard. For balance, it should perhaps be mentioned that this happy state may be some reflection in purely percentage terms on the large number of parish questionnaire replies from older members of our society.

Discussion



3.9 In the parish questionnaire responses both the pre-school and the primary school were praised highly with the latter being seen as vital to the community. It should be noted that OFSTED similarly found the opportunity to praise the staff and the school ethos in recent visits and reports. Secondary level education was also perceived as improving although this facility functions outside our parish boundary.

3.10 There has been an expressed need for adult education facilities and classes to be held within the parish. Chulmleigh, North Tawton and Okehampton are the nearest at present. The problem again is one of travel and transport for many in getting to these outlying places; car sharing will always remain difficult to implement successfully. This difficulty will preclude many people from participating. A possible barrier to successful adult education classes in Winkleigh is likely to be the small numbers of people wishing to participate in any particular subject.

3.11 The community centre (see Facilities) is seen as a potential site for such education and a well of talent exists in the parish which could be tapped for instructors and teachers.

Issues and Priorities for Action

1. The issue of the pre-school moving to new premises at the primary school is still not resolved. The potential new 'integrated' centre is costed at £400K. No funding has yet been identified
2. Subject to a successful outcome in regard to the Community Centre ownership and keeping it as a village asset, review the actual need and consider starting a small programme as an experiment in the adult education field

People

Youth

General

3.12 Youth, as opposed to other age groups, is singled out within this plan for several reasons:

- They have a particular importance because they represent the future of the community
- Reliance on questionnaire responses from this section of the community can be less than satisfactory in gaining their views and aspirations
- There is current concern about persistent examples of 'anti social' behaviour and some examples of damage to public and private property
- The opportunities for social contact, an essential aspect of life for young people, are relatively limited in a rural community

Discussion

3.13 In 2001, there were 125 young people between the ages of 11 and 19 (Registrar General, Population Estimates) out of a parish population of some 1500 souls. The village of Winkleigh is perceived by the young as a place 'where a bit more is going on.'

3.14 The consequence of such an attraction means an in-flow of youth from outlying areas and other parishes. We are conducting studies (see below) involving young people to gain a better understanding of how they see the parish, the community and what will improve their lifestyle.

Issues

- We know that the facilities for young people in a rural community like ours are often limited. There is a youth club run by enthusiastic and dedicated volunteers but this operates on only one evening a week; a varied range of activities have been organised and a determined effort made to engage the support of parents. There has been an important investment in musical instruments for the club; and with the help of the Winkleigh Society, two music workshops have been set up. Some, but not all, village clubs and societies encourage young members. For many, however the chance to socialise ('hang out') with others of the same age without having to 'do something' or be supervised is also seen as important
- There are two projects under way at present, initiated by the Fair Committee; firstly an endeavour to find somewhere other than the youth club to socialise and secondly to create a scheme which would involve young people in improving the appearance of the village
- Winkleigh by tradition is fairly orderly; however, for the past nine months, we have had repeated examples of anti-social and destructive behaviour (see Law & Order

paragraph 3.0). It is not clear whether such behaviour is a 'one-off' result of a particular 'year' group, a more enduring symptom of lack of more constructive opportunities or a combination of both

Priorities for Action

1. In conjunction with the active support of the Community Council of Devon convene an initial meeting to gain more information on how 'problems' and aspirations in regard to young people can be overcome and expectations raised
2. Engage the support of other agencies concerned with young people, to gain from their expertise, and enlist their direct collaboration as necessary
3. Encourage and assist the Fair Committee with their present initiatives
4. Examine within the whole, what recreational needs and the provision of selected pastimes can be introduced in a low key manner
5. While parents support the efforts of the adult volunteers, there is still considerable scope for extending this assistance in a more active way

People

Transport

General

3.15 Elements of this subject are mentioned in several other places in this document. It concerns parishioners of all ages and not just the more elderly although it should be acknowledged that the largest group requiring transport assistance is this latter one. The need is the provision of either public, subsidised, sub-contracted or privately owned and driven vehicles made available on an organised basis.

Discussion

3.16 Public transport already exists but may be outmoded in its use of routes, selection of routes and timings. Various community care schemes are provided at various levels throughout the county but again cater for specific needs only in a narrow demographic area.

3.17 Apart from *ad hoc* arrangements and personal kindness, there is no formally organised 'voluntary service' manned by the local community on a recognisable basis; although a notice to recruit such drivers is on display, for example, in the Winkleigh village surgery. The main requirements for general transportation appear to be as follows:

- Chulmleigh surgery and Eggesford station
- Okehampton, North Tawton and Hatherleigh market
- Further education venues in the evenings
- Late night needs (social)

Issues and Priorities for Action

1. Survey the transport request requirement in terms of locations, timings and reality
2. Identify the gaps in locations and timings that exist and compare with available public transport
3. Explore subsidies and voluntary solutions
4. Decide how any system is to be managed in the long-term

Note

1. Is internal parish transport required for various functions to assist people generally within a limited area?
2. Potential driver volunteers will face a certain amount of bureaucratic documentation before acceptance.

People

Recreation and Leisure

General

3.18 This subject heading excludes any specific comment on the use of facilities although there is an obvious relationship with them. The three major facilities used for recreational purposes in the parish are listed and their uses addressed in the plan section numbered four, which is entitled Facilities and Resources.

3.19 Some twelve recognised sports and recreational activities are catered for within Winkleigh village; a similar number of leisure pursuits are also apparent and well supported within the parish. (Pastimes and hobbies are not included in these figures)

3.20 In the round, recreational activity as a subject produces favourable and mainly supportive comment from the community. However, the latest parish questionnaire analysis reveals a number of alternative needs with the recent Exhibition Day reinforcing these requests.



3.21 The overwhelming 'missing' activity was swimming and the lack of a pool. This is a constant theme and also reflects the 1996 Parish Appraisal trend. Within the parish no swimming pool exists, apart from one at Four Seasons which is used mainly and not unnaturally by the residents, while any others are on private property. The majority desire a community owned pool of reasonable size. It could be indoors or out and be accessible to all sections of the community.

3.22 In terms of other 'most needed' pursuits there was a host of differing comment each attracting variable and minor support. Two did, however, shine through and they were an indoor gymnasium and a place to play cricket.

Discussion

3.23 The perceived need for a swimming pool which would bring pleasure to many and cater for virtually every age group as a sport and recreational facility remains a serious consideration. Over the last decade it has remained a 'must have' in many parishioners minds. No available pool is located within easy reach of Winkleigh. A pool here would need to be within reasonable walking distance to allay yet another transport need and therefore centred on Winkleigh village itself. There is no particular reason why an indoor gym could not be co-located in any pool complex also. This possible combination however should not become an argument for not proceeding with a pool. There are plenty of alternative sites and possibilities for a small gymnasium.

3.24 The provision of a cricket pitch presents a more difficult situation. It does require a considerable amount of land; a full size one covers some 4-5 acres. It would also need a team to sustain its use, and allied to the heavy maintenance requirement makes its provision somewhat marginal. However, one has existed before in Winkleigh village and therefore it should not stop further analysis and thought (even resurrection!) being given to the problem.

Issues and Priorities for Action

1. Swimming Pool. The need can initially be addressed by the formation of a small parish group on similar lines to CCOWS which fully explores the location alternatives, how any build can be funded and produces a financial analysis in regard to on-going expenditure. This assumes that potential usage of any finished facility is not a problem
2. An indoor gymnasium project could be investigated, in parallel, on similar lines. Initially, it may well be sensible to leave them as jointly considered subjects
3. The cricket pitch idea should be subjected initially to further and a more rigorous usage analysis before proceeding along expansive and possibly expensive paths
4. In a general sense, thought needs to be given to how participation in sports and pastimes can be further encouraged; particularly for the younger generation

People

Industry, Employment and Opportunity

General

3.25 All the surveys and questionnaire results over the last decade have strongly indicated that any future industrial development should be small scale, 'light' in classification, craft-based and non-polluting. In the 2004 questionnaire, some 70% of the responses reinforced these views.

3.26 Agriculture generally remains the biggest employer in the parish by a considerable margin followed by manufacturing and professional services. The 2004 questionnaire responses indicated that over 70% of all businesses within the parish fell into these three categories.

Discussion

3.27 The unemployment levels in the parish are lower than the national average at some 1.8%. Conversely salary levels, (in common with other areas of Devon) are viewed in the general sense as inferior to national pay scales. Businesses within the parish are stable in regard to personnel recruitment and less than 20% are likely to increase their work-force in the next twelve months. The most difficult vacancies to fill are the skilled manual category.

3.28 Some 18%, (2004 parish questionnaire responses) of residents perform voluntary work. It is not clear which age-groups provide this service or whether this is combined with salaried work. This willingness needs to be built upon, so that both individuals performing such work feel wanted and valued while the community benefits from such endeavour.

Issues and Priorities for action

1. Further study is needed to ensure employment figures are accurate and a realistic reflection of parish society
2. How can 'business' be encouraged to 'start up' and grow in Winkleigh and thrive in our parish?
3. The need for the Local Development Framework to support our parishioners' views that 'small, craft-based industry is an acceptable way forward for a rural community is important
4. What other initiatives, for example work-based apprenticeship schemes in plumbing and electrical work could be instituted for young people; the Winkleigh Project (see paragraph 2.19) could lead the way in this regard?
5. What extra support can be given to voluntary workers?

People

Retail and Commercial Services

3.29 The primary source of retail outlets within the parish is not unnaturally in Winkleigh village followed by the old airfield and a small industrial estate at Seckington. Winkleigh itself is fortunate in retaining a village shop and Post Office particularly, while enjoying amongst others, the services of two public houses, two garages, a bank, butcher and a veterinary surgery. The airfield is home to a combined multi-product retail store and café, and a number of companies ranging from commercial vehicle building and heating equipment through storage and leisure to training and a heritage vehicle collection.

Discussion

3.30 In the 2004 questionnaire, people were asked for ideas on further retail requirements. Some 26% saw the need for a chemist/pharmacy as a priority followed by a bakery and greengrocer.

3.31 To a degree, the desire for a chemist's shop is based on the perception that the prescription system (see Health & Social Services) does not work well enough. A further paradox reveals that the village shop as well as receiving high levels of praise (as did the Post Office) for friendly and efficient service already provides a bakery and greengrocery.

3.32 The basic problem with encouraging additional retailers and service providers is three-fold:

- They have to make a living and therefore competition, usage, costs and profitability factors either within a franchise or a totally self-employed business determine success or failure
- Even given an increasing population, the ability to access supermarkets for many residents will mean less spent locally, however well intentioned people are in endeavouring to support local enterprise
- The requirement for *niche* businesses to start and grow needs parish encouragement, support and publicity besides other business assistance



Issues and priorities for action

1. In acknowledging that market forces will drive the provision of retail outlets and other enterprises, what incentives (if any) can be offered to increase the diversity of shopping opportunity and assist in the long-term retention and sensible growth of businesses within the parish?
2. The success of the Business Support Day mentioned in the 'Strategic View' employment paragraph (1.30) indicates a re-run would be very useful

SECTION FOUR

Facilities and Resources

General

4.0 Although there numerous facilities in Winkleigh, the ones referred to in this section are those which are available to the community at large and are in essence 'owned' by the parish.

4.1 There are three in this category and all are located in Winkleigh village. They are as follows:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| • The Community Centre | Castle Street |
| • The Village Hall | Castle Street |
| • The Sports Club | On the bypass |

Discussion

4.2 All three facilities are well patronised with Community Centre and the Village Hall between them catering for in excess of thirty sports and pastimes as well as other social or business events in any given week.

4.3 The Sports Club operates chiefly on a membership basis. There is a community perception that it is elitist and somewhat narrow in design. The parish questionnaire responses contain considerable adverse comment in this regard.

4.4 Perversely, the most used and oldest facility (1876), the Community Centre, is facing the most problems. It transpires over the last eighteen months that the village probably does not actually own it, and due to its original use as a school, it was ceded to Devon County Council in the early part of the last century (1903). When the (new) primary school was built in 1973, the old (Board) school become the Community Centre.

4.5 The actual ownership has yet to be fully proven as deeds have been lost or destroyed but it appears to be under County control. Fortunately, for the parish, Devon County Council (DCC) intends to dispose of the property (providing it is theirs so to do) in the near future. The parish are being given an opportunity to forward a case to keep and run the Centre ourselves. This disposal decision happened in early 2004 and as a result after a public meeting, The Community Centre of Winkleigh Support Group (CCOWS) was born. Its aims are as follows:

- Representing the broader community in regard to the Centre's usage
- To undertake research to establish need, viability and practicalities of ownership transfer from DCC
- (Once owned) to provide a range of service to meet demand in a self-sustaining manner

4.6 A feasibility study and a business plan will be formulated over the next six months, to be ready in the autumn. In the meantime, liaison with local authorities and other agencies continues on a frequent basis.

4.7 The difficulty of retaining the Community Centre for parish use and managed by ourselves should not be underestimated; the task is further complicated in two ways:

- DCC would first of all offer the building to other governmental departments for their use, and if not taken up, then;
- Offer the site to the open market for private or commercial use (likely to be a change of use)

4.8 Although unknown, a substantial sum may be required to purchase the overall site, this money would then be reinvested by DCC (not necessarily in Winkleigh). A further ramification is the intended move (or not) of the pre-school. As stated under the education portion (Section Three) this move will involve expensive building work which is not funded. This situation, if not resolved and the children subsequently stay, will complicate the forward planning for taking over the facility and expanding its use.

4.9 The Village Hall by comparison has few problems, its 'battles' being waged at its conception in 1936. It is the only site (because of its high ceilings) which can cater satisfactorily for badminton. The site is less easily accessed than the others. It does possess a stage and can host films as well as small theatrical productions. Its storage and



catering facilities are judged less good than that of the Community Centre. Overall, both facilities offer excellent service to the community and the civil parish.

4.10 It is not the intention here to list the numerous clubs, societies and organisations which exist and prosper in the "Greater Winkleigh" They can be found in the Winkleigh Information Directory which is a free publication.

Issues and Priorities for Action

- The need to conduct a combined audit in regard to 'usage' of our three main facilities on a formal basis is important
- Consider an inclusive affirmation by the community and the Parish Council that all three facilities are important to community well-being and certainly we wish to retain them on a long- term basis
- Provision of assistance to CCOWS in determining ownership of the Community Centre as necessary
- Consider what further assistance will be required in regard to fund raising against the inevitable but as yet unspecified costs over the Community Centre

SECTION FIVE

Communication and Information

General

5.0 There are numerous methods by which communities communicate and disseminate information. Winkleigh is probably no different from any other parish in this respect. The following methods and sources are apparent but not necessarily exhaustive:

- Letters and 'flyers'
- 'Distinctly Winkleigh' and various parish publications
- At least a dozen notice boards
- Street signs and various telegraph poles
- Village web site(s)
- Email and Internet
- Parish Council meetings
- Societies and Group meeting minutes, information gathering and dissemination
- Emergency planning documentation
- Local media sources
- 'Word of mouth'



Discussion

5.1 Although the subject is not particularly contentious or problematical, there have been indications that the quality and reliability of the formal communication could be improved within the parish. Broadband is available and at least 53% of residents have email. Therefore should we examine these aspects more thoroughly? For example;

- Are we satisfied with the extent of facilities used now
- Do they have sufficient speed and reliability
- How well or effectively are they used now
- Are there gaps in either accessing required information or how we inform others
- How do we ascertain what information should be available to us
- How do we know whether the information we obtain is correct
- Do certain (acceptable) methods need to be more disciplined and or act as official sources of information

Issues

- Do we need to change how we communicate?
- If yes, how and what?
- Will funding be required and what sources are available?