

Stinsford Parish Plan



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Introduction

Parish Plans are being drawn up across the county as a means of giving people in rural areas more say in their future and an opportunity to express concerns or aspirations within the community.

The aim is to:

- Help small rural communities to take stock of the parish
- Identify what they need to revitalise their community
- Ensure local people have a voice in their future
- Provide support to enable each community to make its own decisions
- Implement some of the improvements needed locally

The Dorset Strategic Partnership has provided the funding for the plan. The Parish Plan Committee is made up of local people who have volunteered their services together with a Parish Councillor and the Parish Clerk. Although initiated by the Parish Council the committee has been working independently with a remit to consult on a wide basis and seek information from a range of sources.

It is intended that the plan should form part of an ongoing process and seek to improve the lives of residents.

The main element is the "Action Plan" which identifies activities, ownership and timescales for addressing issues identified within this document. The Parish Council and the West Dorset Partnership will provide updates to the plan.

The Plan is a project for the benefit of the parish. We have tried to be objective and unbiased. It will be given to our Parish Council, West Dorset District Council and Dorset County Council and will, we hope, influence the future of this area.

The plan reveals the data collected from the questionnaire and comments made directly to members of the steering committee. Businesses together with Student and Church Councils have added their voices to this document.

A Brief Parish Profile

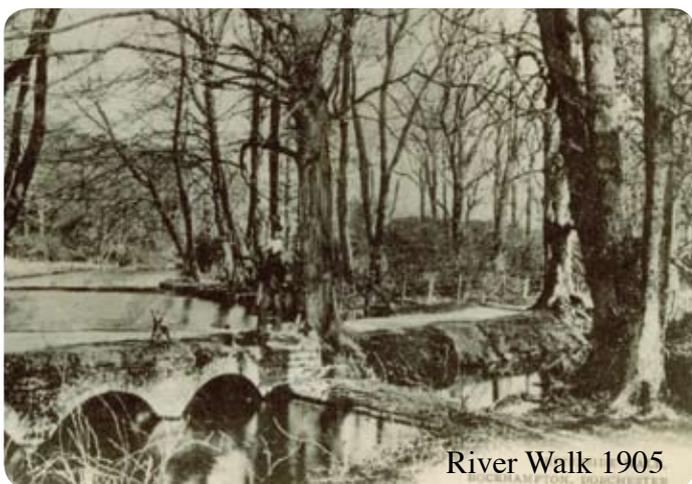
Today the rural parish of Stinsford occupies a large area of land to the North and East of Dorchester, with the River Frome creating the parish's southern boundary. It covers 1352 hectares and in 2004 the population was estimated at 380 living in 147 dwellings. The parish consists of agricultural land, woodland and a small portion of Puddletown Heath. Within its boundaries are the settlements and hamlets of Frome Whitfield, Cokers Frome, Waterston Ridge, Bhompston, Higher Kingston, Kingston Maurward, Higher and Lower Bockhampton, and Stinsford. The Parish boasts five grand houses, The Elizabethan Old Manor, Stinsford House, recently renovated and now made up of ten maisonettes, Kingston Maurward House, the centre of a thriving land-based further education college, together with the Victorian gentlemen's residences of Birkin House and Frome House. The area within Lower Bockhampton, Kingston Maurward College, Stinsford and Higher Kingston is established as a conservation area. The River Frome water meadows are a site of special scientific interest.

The land based college of Kingston Maurward, Dorset's College of the Countryside, is surrounded by some 750 acres and with 600 Full Time Students, some of which are residential,

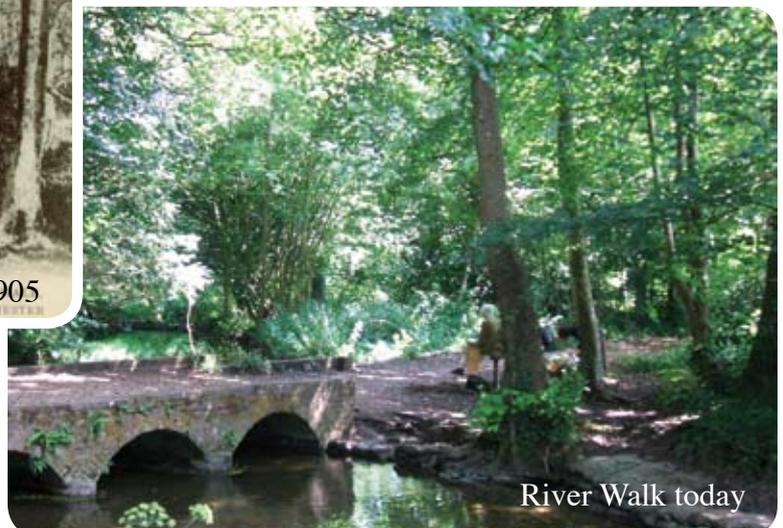
and up to 4000 part time students covering a vast range of horticultural, agricultural and animal based courses together with business related programmes it is a vibrant and bustling organisation employing more than 10% of the working population of the parish. The gardens provide a place of interest for the amateur and experienced horticulturalist and hold national plant collections. Children can enjoy the animal park and a farm shop is soon to open. In addition the house provides a spectacular venue for weddings and conferences and the perfect backdrop for a musical evening.

The Parish offers a range of visitor accommodation; there is a surprising 60 bed-nights available, in addition there is a 17 unit self-catering complex at Higher Bockhampton.

In recent years two business parks have evolved at Higher Bockhampton from what were former battery chicken farms. Mellstock Farm, with 12 units, provides premises for craftsmen alongside small to medium enterprises. Hampton Farm looks to larger, high tech organisations, which do not need a town/city location. Both have close access to the main A35 trunk road.



River Walk 1905



River Walk today

The Questionnaire

The questionnaire was derived from a software package, designed for the purpose, which provided a toolkit of some 200 questions. The initial members of the steering group combed through these to select 90 questions, which were considered relevant to our community. A limited number of textual questions could be added.

The key topics were:

- The environment and environmental activity
- Local services
- Housing
- Crime and safety
- The Community, social interaction and leisure
- Transport and road safety
- Health and health services
- Education and learning
- Employment opportunities
- Tourism
- Local Government

Parish Plan 'Awareness Raising' Activities:

- A marquee at the 2006 Stinsford Fete (Material from the wealth of information accumulated by the Stinsford and Bockhampton Village History Group was much appreciated.
- An invitation to 'beat the bounds' in September 2006.
- An open meeting at Kingston Maurward to view and discuss the preliminary survey findings.
- A business forum in December 2006.
- Liaison with Kingston Maurward College resident students in January 2007.
- Coverage in 'The Pilot' during preparation of the plan.

Working Party's Summary

The scattered distribution of Stinsford's population reflects the diverse wishes for our Parish. One overwhelming area of consensus is safer parish roads. Many residents would like to see more speed restrictions and traffic calming measures.

The issue of future development prompted varying views however the majority of returned surveys supported affordable housing on an appropriate scale and which reflected the needs of the parish.

A number of survey responses expressed disappointment at Kingston Maurward College's stance on access to College grounds and the College's relationship with its neighbours due to its commercial activities. Alternatively there was support for the provision of education and employment it makes. Many would like the opportunity to use the College facilities for general interest clubs and a community shop.

Survey responses lamented the lack of a community-meeting place but accepted that finding funding and an appropriate site is not very likely. Many wished to see St Michael's church as a venue for concerts and other parish events.

The Parish Plan is a wish list for Stinsford. There were doubting faces when the development of the plan was introduced, there were bemused faces when we handed out the surveys "do I live in Stinsford?" There were Parish Councillors who said it will be just another document to gather dust on the shelf. There is also no escaping the fact that very few parishioners volunteered to become involved with the plan's development. But for all that a plan has been completed and we sincerely thank all those participated.

Many action points have emerged from the analysis of the surveys. The Parish Plan Group hope that as a community we can work together and make sure it is indeed an Action Plan.

The Parish Plan Outcomes

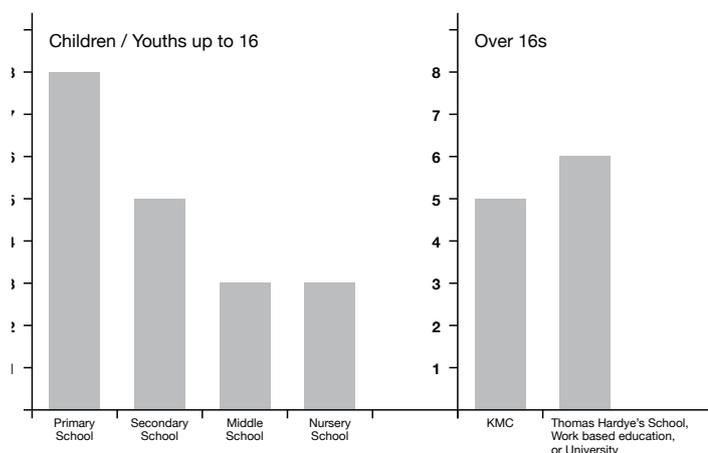
- The clear majority (85.5%) were in favour of receiving the results of the Parish Plan as an information sheet through every door.
- 62% indicated that fundraising should be the means of raising money to implement any actions.

Our Community

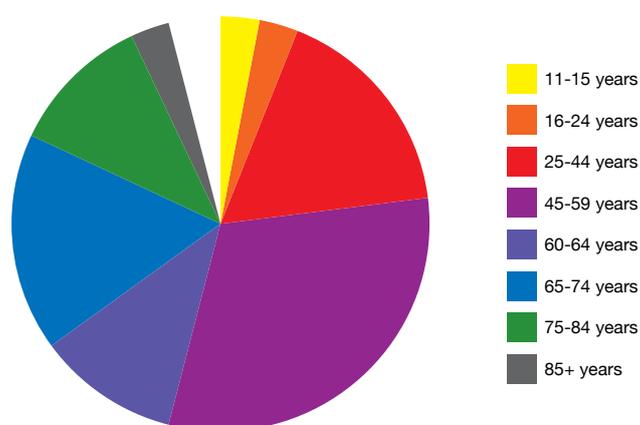
Population of the Parish

As the response rate was about 60% it seemed important to include population data from the 2001 census alongside the results from the questionnaire to counter any bias. The total population for Stinsford in 2001 was 346.

Age Range	Questionnaire	2001 Census for Stinsford	2001 Census for W Dorset	2001 Census for Dorset
0-15	14%	27%	18%	18%
16-64	57%	68%	58%	59%
65+	28%	15%	24%	23%



Young people's Education (representing 16% of the "number in a household") Children/youths up to 16



To add to the population profile 54% of responders hold a Degree, diploma or other professional qualification.

Place

It was pleasing to note that all areas within the parish returned questionnaires therefore providing cross-parish views on what was important to them.

Predictably most people live in Higher and Lower Bockhampton and Stinsford, 37.3% and 26% respectively. 10.4% of respondents live on the Kingston Maurward Estate. All respondents were living in their main residence although the 2001 census showed 13.5% living in second homes. The Working Party was aware that properties were empty at the time of distribution.

Only 15% came to the parish solely to retire. The largest group 47% chose Stinsford as an attractive area, followed by 28% who came for employment in the area and 13% for family connections.

Taking Part

News and Information

The Pilot, a joint benefice publication for both Charminster and Stinsford, has a 100% circulation within the parish and appears a well read document.

Respondents were keen to see items on local events, leisure, the arts, sports, education and training. The Editor is willing to provide more space for Stinsford news.

There was interest in the provision of a newsletter just for Stinsford (2 issues a year), and interest for a parish website.

Parish Notice Boards are well read. The Parish Council have plans to add a future notice board in the upper church car park.



Action Points

- Investigate website initiative
- Investigate Newsletter
- A broader base of news and information



Local Government & Elected Representatives

The response indicated that whilst the Parish Council is thought to be aware of local concerns and feelings the District Council were less so and the County Council even less.

More than half of the respondents felt that the parish council publicised its activities and decisions reasonably, or very well.

Surprisingly 65% of respondents have attended a meeting of the parish council and 75% have attended the Annual Parish meeting.

Action Points

- Provide better communication between Council and Parishioners
- Investigate need for further notice boards – Frome Whitfield and Higher Kingston?

St. Michael's Church

Our Church seats approximately 150 people using both chancel and nave. It is well maintained and administered with the support of people within and outside the parish.

Looking through past parish registers it can be seen that in the last ten years regular Sunday worshippers have remained similar in number and that the main Christian festivals are well at-

tended. It is pleasing to note the recent increase in weddings and baptisms taking place in the church.

Equally the vast majority of respondents felt the church was important as an historic building and a focal point for the community with 63% wishing to see concerts and further alternative events during the course of a year.

Action Points

- Discuss with Parochial Church Council broader use of the church
- Create small group of like minded people to organise events for the parish

Residents' written responses

- More non religious events eg harvest suppers



Care & the Community

Community and Public Services

The questions considered whether residents' needs were being fulfilled by the postal and medical services, and the levels of care available to those with a need for assistance. Policing and an active Neighbourhood Watch Scheme were considered along with the College's offer of a range of alternative facilities.

For those 22 respondents with either health problems or a disability restricting their lifestyle, in eleven cases, help was gained from friends or family and we would hope all get some help, where needed, from the social services.

50 respondents felt there was a need for a good neighbour scheme with a further 38 willing to help, if the need was proven. Neighbours do help each other within their hamlets whether it be shopping or cleaning or keeping an eye on neighbouring houses, but we need to ensure that nobody is forgotten.

Of 121 respondents only 54 considered Police coverage good to reasonable. Against that background 69% considered a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme necessary. Policing within our area is under review with the introduction of a Safer Neighbourhood Team consisting of one Community Beat Officer and a Police Community Support Officer. Leaflets will be distributed to all households.

117 respondents expressed concern about crime or anti social behaviour within the parish with speeding and fly tipping being major issues.

A range of measures was supported most popular being a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme, and also better consultation with the police and improved activities for young people.

May we applaud the four residents who indicated their willingness to volunteer as Special Constables and would they please contact Inspector Les Fry for further information.

The vast majority of all respondents considered the postal service, whether it was delivery or collection, good to reasonable. The largest area of concern was the inability of post boxes to take large envelopes.

Parishioners still feel there is a need for a Village/Community Hall.

Action Points

- Broaden use of Good Neighbour Scheme throughout parish
- Broaden Neighbourhood Watch Scheme throughout parish
- Create better liaison with police
- Consider and report to parishioners on the prospects of re-creating a parish hall



Care & the Community

The Community and Kingston Maurward College

A range of questions were asked on various topics surrounding facilities or services that could be provided by the College for the benefit of residents throughout the parish.

The option to have a community shop and assistance with its operation was proffered and of the 123 respondents 101 indicated a range of levels of interest and some offering regular assistance over a range of roles, filling shelves, serving customers and general fetching and carrying. The option of a shop formed part of the question on other facilities that could be made available to the parish by the College, and the café was the most popular choice followed closely by the library, shop and bar.

81 respondents would take advantage of a range of sporting activities if provided with Keep Fit classes and the use of a fitness centre taking a very strong lead.

The community composting proposal at the College has been covered within the Environmental Section of this document.

Within the written questions an opportunity was provided for parishioners to express an opinion on “what is most important about Kingston Maurward College to the local community”. 67 households made 91 responses to this question and we have stated some of the comments in no particular order. KMC is considered very important to the community and generally held in high esteem. Important aspects are a focus for the community, community relationship, historically and environmentally. It was considered a potentially valuable asset for the community. However parishioners living near to the campus voiced strong concern at traffic nuisance, noise from events and poor communication.

Residents written responses

- Free or Subsidised Access
- Provides local employment
- Provides activities for locals and visitors
- Creates a focus for the community
- That its important parkland is maintained and protected
- It is of historic and environmental importance.
- It is central to the identity and cohesiveness of the parish.
- It prevents creeping development
- It could provide a safe quiet area to walk.
- Noise from events a problem
- Ability to operate as a major enterprise whilst having virtually no adverse effect on the local community

Action Points

- Improve communication between the College and the Community.
- Community should be supported to better understand needs of a land-based college.
- Examine the feasibility of developing a ‘Friends’ of Kingston Maurward College. ie. to give freely time and effort within the house or grounds.
- Involve Kingston Maurward College in all community activities. e.g. Parish Spring Clean - this was a great success this year.
- Look into possible support from the Horticultural Department and Parish activities. e.g. ‘Best Kept Village’ campaign.

The Environment

This topic considered respondent's actions and attitude to their surrounding environment. The parish covers a vast area where agriculture forms a key part of the economy; the continued use of rural land is key to both its economy and the environment within which parishioners live. It is fundamentally important that a structure plan for both housing and commercial premises is created, taking into consideration both the heritage and culture of the surroundings and residents. Certainly there is acceptance of the developments that have taken place over the last 10 years with support from 63% of respondents whilst some expressed concerns as to prices. Fears were expressed concerning future development, but alternatively there was support for meeting local needs.

Sustainable Living

When considering energy use in the home the majority of residents had completed the standard methods like lagged roofs and tanks together with double or secondary glazing but there does appear to be the potential to change heating systems to lower carbon methods subject always to cost or the availability of grants. Cavity wall insulation, where residents have cavity walls, may be considered as a further step toward improving efficient energy usage.

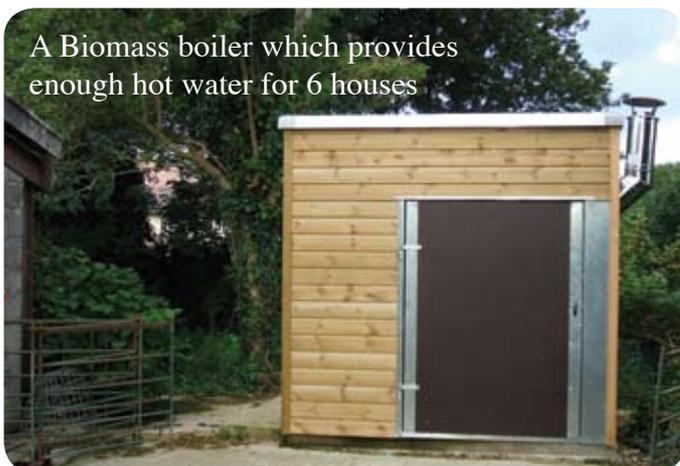
There should be the potential for a car sharing exercise particularly when it comes to those working in similar areas or the weekly shopping trip to the local supermarket.

A community composting facility at the College received 49% support and it will be for Kingston Maurward to determine whether it will take it forward.

Many considered how their local environment could be improved and trees and woodland preservation were at the top of the list. Tidy short hedges were preferred to allowing them to grow naturally.

56 residents, a third of all respondents, were willing to assist in a range of environment support roles such as protecting wildlife habitats and maintaining footpaths whilst 46% were willing to participate in some form of parish clean up event.

Noise pollution from low flying aircraft was considered worse in some parts of the parish than that of traffic i.e. 71% to 52% and two wheeled cycles whether motorised or not created a disturbance to some.



A Biomass boiler which provides enough hot water for 6 houses



An example of solar water heating



An opportunity to try 'hedge laying' at Kingston Maurward College

Action Points

- Car sharing exercise
- A 'local needs' House Plan for the parish
- Community Composting
- Make available parish footpath & bridleway maps
- Install dog litter bins at Bockhampton Bridge, Grey's Bridge, the church car park and Thorncombe Woods car park
- Encourage cut and laid hedges

Residents' Written Responses

Environmental relationship with Kingston Maurward College

- KMC parkland important
- KMC prevents creeping development
- Noise from KMC events a problem
- KMC to take lead in sustainable development of the area in association with local residents
- Prevent walkers and cyclists wandering off tracks
- Greater focus on wildlife preservation and wildlife habitats

Leisure and Learning

The number of respondents over sixteen is 134 with the under sixteens numbering 21. All have differing needs whether of a learning or leisure nature.

The survey showed there was interest in supporting a range of leisure activities or developing a particular interest. Some households in the parish find it difficult to allow their under 16 year olds to take part in after school activities predominantly due to lack of transport home or the distance between home and school. Finding something closer to home is vital for our young people.

There was demand for Yoga/Exercise and Art & Craft, whilst Countryside skills maintain an interest for those who pursue the outdoors.

31 respondents attended courses at Kingston Maurward College, the most popular being computing.

The majority of respondents showed an interest in sports clubs/activities in the College's Fitness Centre.

There was considerable interest in new clubs and activities in the parish, most popular being an Art Club, Rambling and a Gardening Club*. 14 respondents were willing to help in the running of these organisations.

* Bockhampton & District Horticulture Association is a thriving club. New members are welcome, details can be found in the Pilot.

Amongst the 115 respondents to the availability of mobile facilities, there was greatest interest in a mobile library with 66% stating that it would be used either weekly, monthly or occasionally.

105 parishioners offered views on Stinsford's visitor activities. There was enthusiasm to assist in the maintenance of wildlife habitats, footpaths and waterways plus surveying trees together with support for improved pictorial parish maps, a parish path leaflet and guided walks.

Bockhampton Playing Field

There was a lengthy wish list for additional facilities; 33 parishioners suggested the following: mini fitness trail, climbing frame, slide, roundabout, football nets, seesaw, paved area for hopscotch, wall for tennis practise, trampoline, a tennis court, swimming pool, basketball, pitch and putt, paddling pool

However most ideas are prohibited by the area of the playing field and lack of resources.



Residents' Suggestions to Enhance Leisure Activities

45 respondents

- Parish Map to record its history and interests
- Defined walking and cycling tracks
- Methods to maximise public access to footpaths and bridleways
- Well maintained gardens
- Cycle path to Dorchester
- Information on services and public access
- Thorncombe Wood for walkers only
- Education of visitors

54 respondents gave their views on how they would like the Parish to develop, these include the following:

- A web site
- More local residents meetings
- Better relationship with College over access to footpaths
- Shop and pub for people to develop companionship
- Farm shop
- Adequate services for residents and visitors
- Preserve unique features
- Improved integration of College into the community
- More things going on so there is a community spirit
- Money spent on river path
- Tearooms required around Hardy's cottage
- Shop to be operated by the community,
- Students to participate in Spring Clean Day

Action Points

- The feasibility of clubs and courses to support special interest and visitor activities should be explored
- The production of trail leaflets for all to follow and be safely aware
- Improve network of public and permissive footpaths
- Encourage development of quality tourism services
- Improve access and facilities at Hardy's Cottage, Stinsford Church and Kingston Maurward College for visitors and residents to enjoy
- Maximise communication between the College and the Community
- Examine the feasibility of developing a 'Friends Group', volunteers to support Kingston Maurward College
- Improve the dissemination of information on Stinsford's leisure activities, educational activities and opportunities. Discuss with the Vicar and Editor of the Pilot
- Look into creating a website, twice yearly magazine or other means of communication
- Involve Kingston Maurward College in all community activities
- Look into development of local after school activities for the under 16's
- Look into the provision of recreational facilities for older groups
- Hold discussions with Parochial Church Council to broaden the use of the church. Look into celebrating all festivals such as Valentine's Day and other celebratory dates
- Consider a Community shop with local foods for sale
- Consider community meetings/association

Economic Activity

Those Working

Complying with the Age Discrimination Act and drawing upon the data provided by the responding households those over sixteen years were made up of 65 men and 68 women.

26% work in the area. The greater number is employed within Local Government, i.e. 44% with 16% in Tourism, Engineering and Transport and the remainder shared equally between Agriculture and Retail/Service Industries. Of those working 35% stated that they work in the Parish and 32% in Dorchester. Only 5% worked either in Weymouth or the Poole/Bournemouth conurbation. The remaining 18% either worked in rural Dorset or outside the county.



Bearing in mind the extensive area of the parish and its agricultural heritage, farming is paramount to the parish's economy and our farming families must be applauded for the standards they uphold within a very difficult market and the constant bureaucratic demands made by central government and the EU.

The questionnaire considered whether tourism or small businesses should be encouraged within the parish.

It is possible with careful selection of prospective business sites to create further business opportunities and employment. Vaughan Engineering at Yellowham falls into this category and exemplifies how it can work in the countryside. Examples of new business parks within the parish can be seen at Higher Bockhampton. These have replaced the former intensive chicken farms utilising and improving the old units or building purpose built premises. They and the premises at Yellowham have close access to the A35 and thus minimise any traffic pollution. Whilst continued economic growth appears appropriate, the challenge is to retain the identity of the parish and respect for the environment of the residents.



Job-seekers and those with an interest in becoming self-employed listed the following barriers:

Those Seeking Work

The lack of alternative care for an adult dependent, a personal disability or a lack of qualification/training.

Running Your Own Business

Thirteen respondents recorded the numbers of people they employed within their businesses

5 employing 1 – 3 people

4 self employed

2 employed in excess of 200 staff

(but it is safe to say not within our parish),

1 employed 6-10

1 employed 26-99



Obstacles to Self-employment

lack of: premises
start up finance
business skills
confidence
advice/information

Action Points

- Involve local businesses in the decision making process within the parish.
- Need to make people aware of the available support through training, grant aiding bodies or mentoring.
- Could be helpful to continue Business Forum meetings.
- Determine whether those running businesses, operate within the parish or could do so if appropriate premises could be provided.
- Parish Council to pinpoint ideal sites or premises that following development could offer employment within the parish.

Residents' Written Comments

- Tourism is the industry of the future; we have a world famous writer and we should make best use of this.
- I think we badly need a shop & pub where the local people could develop a sense of companionship.
- Pub, nothing more
- Farm Shop
- We require an upmarket leisure centre with swimming pool

Housing

The majority of respondents considered that the number of houses that have been built in our parish over the last 10 years was about right with the most significant number being built within the grounds of Stinsford House and the conversion of farm buildings at Bhompston.

Question: Can the parish accommodate more new housing?	
Expressed concern	52%
Yes	29%
No opinion	19%
Question: Should homes be provided for local people?	
Would support small family homes and homes for young people	69%

Whilst mains water supply, electricity and refuse collection were considered good to reasonable, roadside care/cleaning, together with television and radio reception less so. 28 homes that responded stated that mains water did not apply to them and therefore these must fall into the private supply within the Bockhampton Area.

The numbers in favour of natural gas if it was provided was 54%.

Action Points

- Local company promoting water saving devices might find a market in an environmentally conscious neighbourhood.
- Review grants available for solar/wind assisted methods for low carbon energy systems.
- Parish Council to show some leadership by pinpointing possible sites, either directly or by parish consultation, for future development of affordable housing

Residents' Written Responses

- I think college should take a lead in sustainable development of the area in association with local residents
- Allow further development, the parish must not stagnate
- Slowly evolve as it is
- Does not need developing
- More affordable but tastefully designed houses



Stinsford House before renovation



Stinsford House restored to its former glory

Roads and Transport

Public Bus Service

Respondents when asked questions like “Do residents think they would use a bus service?” or “Do residents use the existing bus service?” only 49 of a maximum 155 commented and all were of a negative nature. There is little or no service within the parish other than that of the main service between Dorchester and Salisbury with dangerous stops at Stinsford and Higher Kingston when considering the speed of cars along this very busy trunk road.

The bus stops on the route going north on the Piddle Valley/Waterston Ridge are similarly considered dangerous for pedestrians. There is no service throughout the main residential areas of the parish and 32% of respondents stated that they would use it if it were made available.

The ‘what bus?’ contingent

29% said no service, non existent etc.

6% said “poor” & “hopelessly inadequate”

2% said no service for the elderly/disabled

2% said a car or taxi could meet resident’s needs, but not a bus.

5% said OK for those who can use it/some areas have no service

Offerings of more ‘constructive’ criticism

6% commented on the high cost

32% intimated that if a regular bus service was available they would use it to commute, ride into Dorchester etc.

6% would like more information about services that do exist

10% commented on the timetabling and the need for more frequent buses.

2% commented on the difficulty of crossing the A35 to the bus stop and the poor timetabling of that service.

When asked the broader question on improvements to a bus service the boxes ticked come as no surprise. with better routes 53%, improved timetable 42% and affordable prices 15%.

On paper there would seem to be a willingness to use a bus, if it ran to a helpful timetable. In the meantime 59% use their car as a means to get to work and pleasingly, 19% follow the green principle of either cycling or walking.

Method of transport to work

Car/van	58.9%
Walking	13.7%
Cycling	5.3%
Other (train, private bus, motor cycle)	6.3%

A relatively high percentage of ‘green’ commuters ie. walking and cycling but strong possibility they are KMC employees living on campus.



Higher Kingston

Roads and Transport cont.

Private Transport

Given the nature of the Parish i.e. No transport services within the parish, dwellings situated on rural, unlit roads without footways it is not surprising that the car is the residents' principal means of transport. When asked do you have access to a car 95% said 'yes'.

When asked how you use the car, shopping and leisure are significantly greater than that as a means to get to work but no doubt this reflects the fact that many who responded to the survey are retired.

Road Safety Issues

When asked whether there were any major 'danger-spots' on the roads in our Parish there came an over whelming 'yes'.

Yes	No	No answer given
90%	5%	5%



These are outlined below.

99 of those who responded had a view on Parish 'black spots'.

Roads/Locations Identified as Dangerous	
The 'Black Spot'	Number of Written Comments
Entering the Roundabout from Stinsford	23
Bockhampton Cross	15
KMC Entrance	10
<i>"Coming down from Maurward Close past KMC is very fast – could do with slow signs"</i>	
Tincton Road	9
<i>"Dark Hill and walking from Maurward Close to College" "some areas of deep shade"</i>	
Slyers Lane	8
<i>"20 times more traffic than 5 years ago" "where have weight limit signs gone?"</i>	
Piddle Valley Road & Waterston Ridge	7
Lower Bockhampton	4
<i>"20 Mile per hour speed limit needed"</i>	
KMC Exit	4
Higher Kingston	3
<i>"turning into Higher Kingston from the East"</i>	
Cuckoo Lane, Higher Bockhampton	3
<i>"Used as a rat run from the A35"</i>	
Greys Bridge to Stinsford Hill Roundabout	2
<i>"There have been a number of accidents, some life threatening"</i>	

Roads and Transport cont.

Miscellaneous comments:

“A need for more speed limits on rural and narrow roads,”

“Walking on many of our roads is perilous”,

“Church Lane – Stinsford residents drive too fast”,

“Visibility poor in places because hedges and banks are not cut”

“Adequate control of the use of Slyers Lane”

Slyers Lane is often the name given to the road between

Stinsford Hill, Cokers Frome, Frome Whitfield and Higher Burton.

When asked what should be done to help protect and enhance the local environment of our Parish? The question prompted a variety of responses from the apparently contented – “If it’s not broken, don’t try to fix it!” to the wary “Be alert to unwelcome intrusion / change”. Eleven of those who responded felt that highway related action is needed to protect Stinsford’s environment:

- Reduce traffic and re-surface the bypass
- More flowers along the borders of the roads and hanging baskets
- Street lights and traffic calming
- Cycle path to Dorchester, slow traffic by the College
- Hedgerows in country lanes left longer to slow traffic
- Control amount and speed of traffic cutting through Cuckoo Lane/Bockhampton Lane when A35 is very busy
- Adequate control over the use of Slyers Lane
- Traffic bumps on Slyers Lane
- Speed limit on Slyers Lane

As a single lane road with passing places Cuckoo Lane does see significant volumes of traffic either due to congestion or a traffic accident on the A35. This prompted the following comments.

- Any traffic congestion on the A35 causes traffic to charge off the by-pass onto Higher Bockhampton turning.
- The volume and speed of cars in this instance is inappropriate for Cuckoo Lane.
- Suggest road signs, rumble strips, anything to slow traffic down.

And finally:

- Amazed, as a horse owner, at the speed local people drive past my horse. Locals should look at their own driving before they complain about others.



Roads and Transport cont.

Action Points

- Review potential public transport services with providers
- Parish Council to discuss shared services with KMC
- Parish Council to consider and support a system of car sharing
- Parish Council to discuss with Police better controls when diverting traffic onto Cuckoo Lane when an accident occurs. e.g. make the lane “one way” for faster diversion and police presence at Bockhampton Cross
- Parish Council to review traffic issues specifically resulting from businesses so as to improve relationships between business and residents.
- Parish Council to encourage the Highways Authority to review speed limits throughout the parish.



Business Forum

Stinsford's businesses were invited to have their say about their wishes for the future of commerce within the Parish. A forum took place in December 2006 at Kingston Maurward College. Farming, the hospitality trade, Kingston Maurward College and Hampton Business Park were represented.

Some interesting views emerged and there was a general consensus that the Parish can accommodate subtle growth of its business sector; minds should not be closed to the generation of new business.

- South and West Dorset villages rely on business to keep them alive – chocolate box villages (full of second homes) kill the community.
- Increased traffic is an issue for businesses and residents alike. The College has had to introduce and encourage alternative transport; all attendees were of the view that the Parish needs a bus service.
- The level of tourism and the hospitality trade is significant within Stinsford. The assumption that we are a 'sleepy parish' is not strictly true, with more activity than is realised.
- There was enthusiasm for a farm shop within the community – this could also benefit the hospitality trade.

Conclusion

This has been an opportunity for all parishioners to express a view on a range of topics within one paper. These have been on issues that would not normally be discussed by the whole constituency. Through the written responses many issues have been raised that would not otherwise have been heard.

Now the document is complete we have been asked to provide a further 30 copies to West Dorset Partnership who in turn pass them to all relevant departments. e.g. Health, Social Services, Police, the Fire Service etc who then are required to take note of your views and build them into their plans.

It is now for the Parish Council to review the action points, allow debate and initiate outcomes. The Chairman of the Parish Council, George Armstrong, has indicated that each area covered by the Plan will be brought forward to forthcoming Parish Council Meetings and these will be notified to parishioners through Notice Boards and the Pilot thus giving parishioners ample notice when to attend and make their contribution and concerns known.

There are many people to thank for the time and effort they have given freely and those who have provided resources/facilities free of charge.

Many thanks to all those who completed questionnaires and to those who will attend future Parish Council Meetings or make their written views known. The more future parishioner participation there is the more likely the action points will be achieved.

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