

# **Feckenham Parish Plan**

## **2006**

## Introduction / Foreword

Welcome to this, the first Parish Plan for Feckenham. We trust that this celebrates all that is good about the Parish now, and yet sets out how the community sees itself developing over the next few years, identifying the broad actions required to achieve this.

You will not be surprised to know there was a general positive feeling about life in the Parish, and the issues raised were largely predictable. We must now make sure these are on everybody's agenda for actions.

The Feckenham Parish Plan Steering Committee was set up in November 2004, on behalf of Feckenham Parish Council, to produce a plan that reflects the needs and desires of members of the Parish. Through a process of rigorous and objective consultation, survey, research and community participation, the Committee has gathered feedback from a broad cross-section of the Parish ... and hopefully had a little fun along the way. The Committee's role from the outset has been to capture and represent the views of the Parish in order to help the Parish, Borough and County Councils with the planning processes for the Community.

The Plan has considered all aspects of the Parish under broad headings that reflect the key issues being debated by modern society in general, i.e. Health & Wellbeing, Safety & Security, Environment, Local Economy/Business & Education/Skills, Children & Young People, Community & Services, and Culture & Recreation.

Through regular communication with key stakeholders, both within and outside the Parish, it is clear that Parish Plans will play an increasingly important role in local government. Indeed, issues around new 'localism' and the devolution of power and decision-making to local level have taken on a new impetus in government circles.

In the May 2005 elections, the Labour Party manifesto contained a pledge:

*To offer neighbourhoods a range of powers from which they can choose, including:*

- *new powers for parish councils to deal with anti-social behaviour*
- *powers for local people to trigger action in response to persistent local problems*
- *community funds for local neighbourhoods to spend on local priorities*
- *new opportunities for communities to assume greater responsibility or even ownership of community assets like village halls, community centres, libraries and recreation facilities*

Once the Parish Council has formally adopted the Parish Plan, they will work with local groups and other bodies, including the local authorities, to further explore and define detailed actions to address the issues raised, supporting its vision for the future of the Parish.

We are indebted to the residents and businesses of the Parish of Feckenham, without whom this whole process would not have been possible, and whose quotes are sprinkled throughout the document. We would like to thank everyone who has provided feedback and made contributions and in particular those members of the Parish Plan Steering Committee who have given of their time and efforts to bring the Plan through to fruition. We would also like to thank the many people who gave their time to support the fund raising activities and the Joint Lottery Grants Programme 'Awards for All' for their contribution which has helped to fund this process.

We trust that you will find the Parish Plan a satisfactory expression of your opinions and aspirations for the future, remembering that this is not a 'one-off' but an evolving process.

We are now at the exciting stage – translating the Plan into action and establishing key priorities. We hope that you will continue to provide your support over the next months and years to make our shared vision a reality.



**Doug Hickman**  
Chair, Feckenham Parish Council



**Andrew Henson**  
Chair, Feckenham Parish Plan Steering Committee

## Contents

	Page No.
1. The Process of developing a Parish Plan	5
2. The Parish of Feckenham – Background and History	9
3. About Feckenham	11
4. The Parish Survey	13
5. Key Themes	16
5.1. Health and Wellbeing	16
5.2. Safety and Security	16
5.3. Environment	18
5.4. Local Economy / Business	20
5.5. Education and Skills	21
5.6. Community and Services	22
5.7. Culture and Recreation	24
5.8. Children and Young People	24
6. Key Messages from Text Comments	25
7. <b>The Parish Plan</b> – Issues and Solutions	27
8. Next Steps	41
9. Acknowledgements	
10. Appendices	43
10.1. The Parish Survey	
10.2. Parish Survey Results	
10.3. Budget Summary	
10.4. Events and Communication	
10.5. Feckenham News	
10.6. Media Clips	

## **The Process**

From the outset in late 2004, the Feckenham Parish Plan Steering Committee placed emphasis upon communication with the whole Parish to ensure that everyone was aware of its purpose and goals.

Focus groups, individual interviews and leaflet drops sought to inform the Parish by setting out what a Parish Plan is and what it hopes to achieve.

### **What is a Parish Plan?**

An action plan produced by and for our local community, providing a shared vision for the Parish of Feckenham for the next 10 or so years.

A good quality Parish Plan should exhibit a number of characteristics:

- Comprehensive, considering social, economic and environmental issues of concern to the community
- Reflects the views of the whole community, with everyone having the opportunity to have their say
- Based on information provided through community participation

### **Why do we need a Parish Plan?**

It is a celebration of life in the Parish, emphasising the things we value & wish to keep, promoting a sustainable community whilst at the same time:

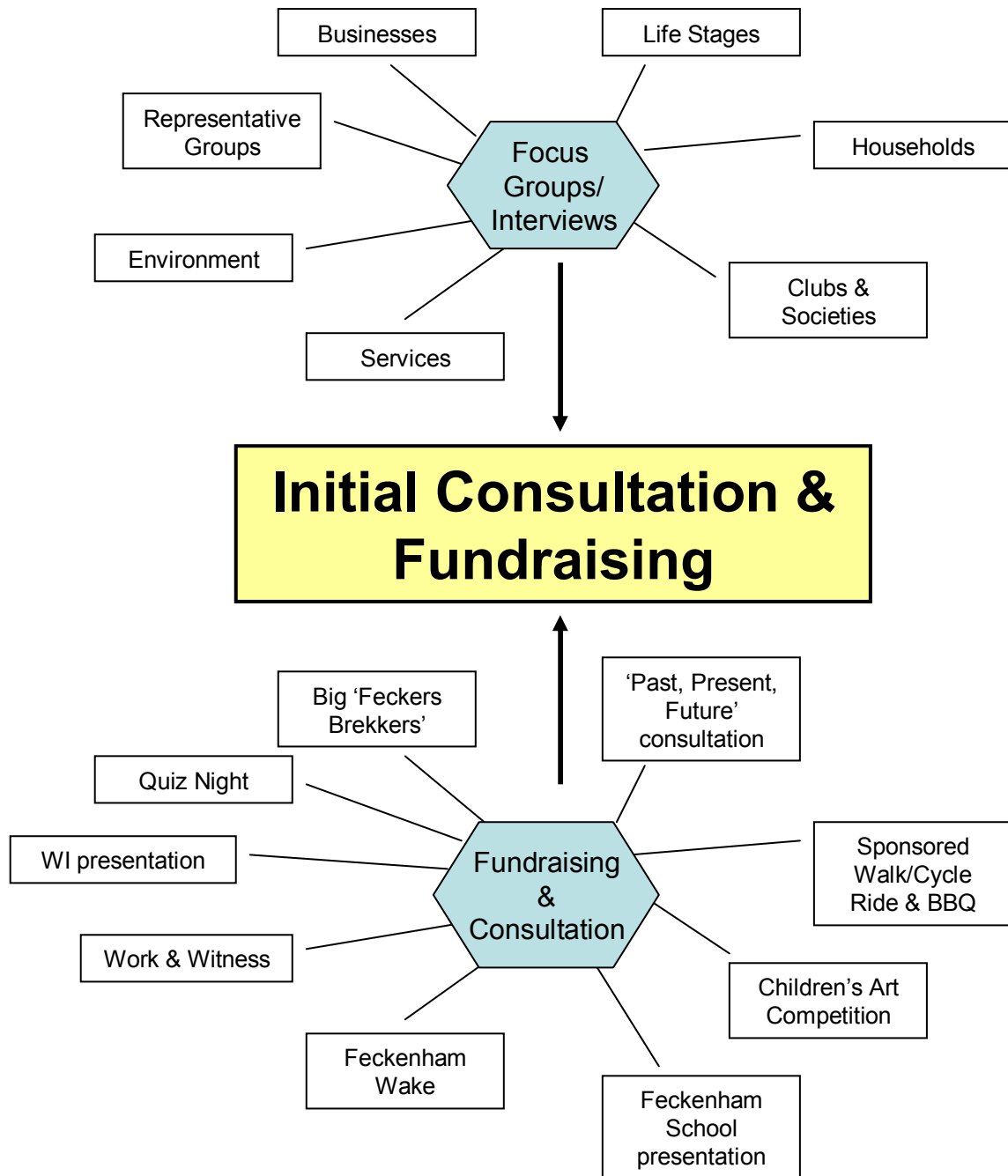
- Guiding community actions to meet our local needs
- Providing information to help influence the policies, decisions and actions of others, such as planners, social services and emergency services
- Providing a vehicle to influence decisions that affect our community

Further information can be found at the following website:

[www.defra.gov.uk/rural/communities/parish-planning.htm](http://www.defra.gov.uk/rural/communities/parish-planning.htm)

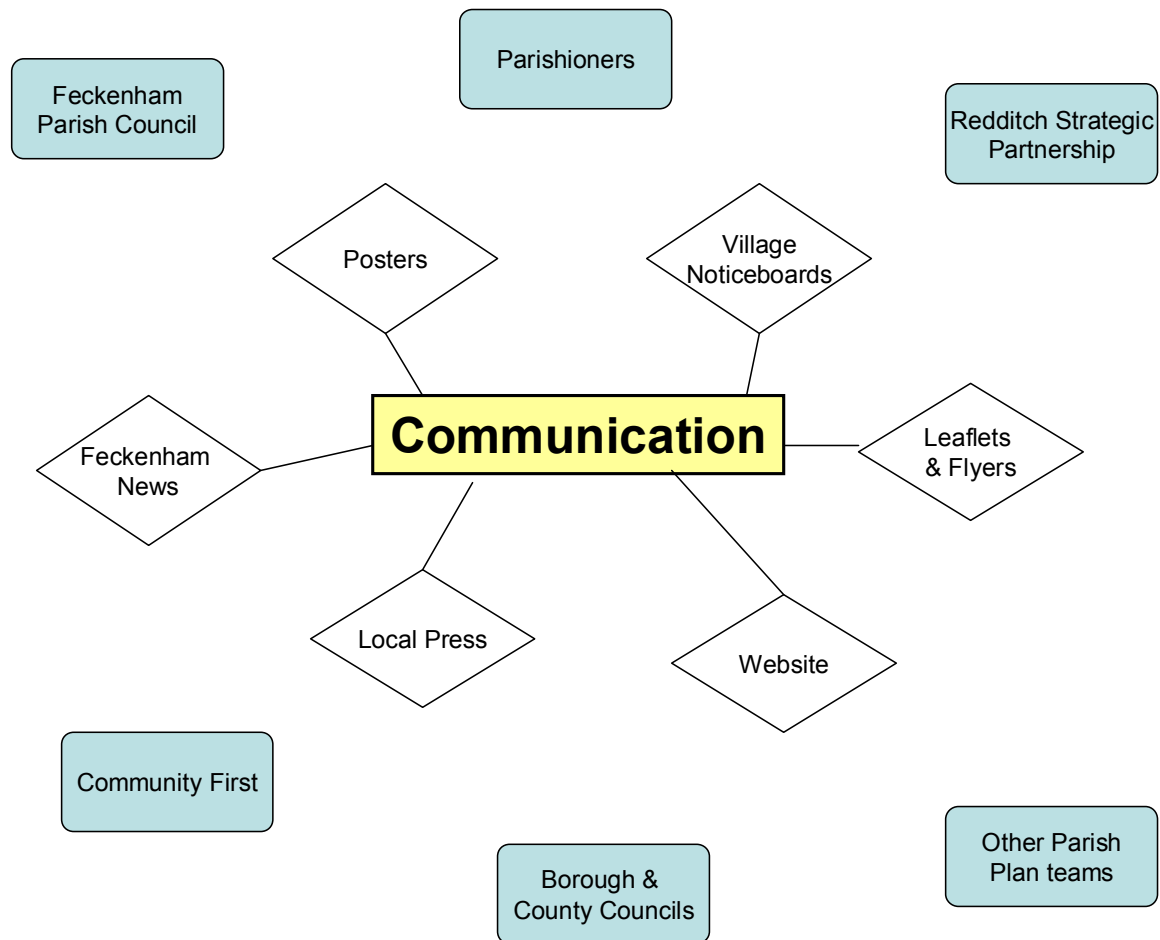
Attention was also focused upon fundraising. The Parish Council kindly provided an initial donation, but the Committee soon realised that more substantial funds would be required (a budget summary can be found in the Appendix). A number of activities were therefore arranged to combine the raising of funds with opportunities for parishioners to put forward their views on the benefits and issues/challenges of Parish life – both now and in the future!

The diagram overleaf depicts the range of activities arranged.



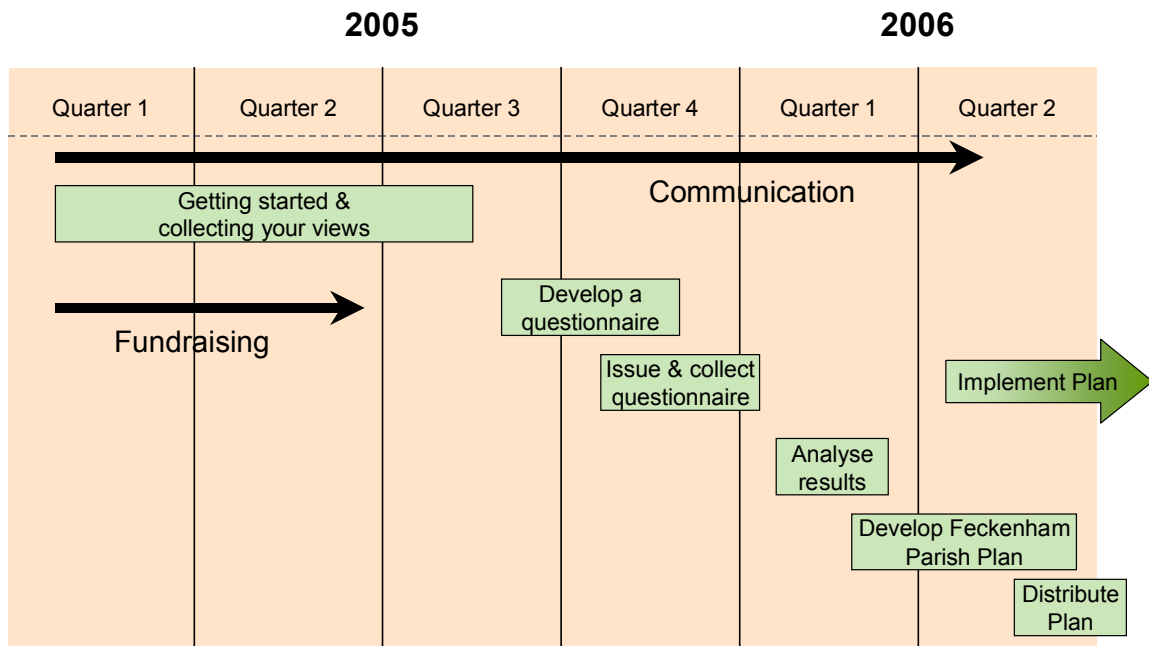
Communication has been a key theme throughout the process. Various stakeholders were identified early in the process and a number of communications media established (see diagram below).

At an early stage it was agreed that a website would assist this process and [www.feckenham.com](http://www.feckenham.com) was established in early 2005. Parish Plan matters only occupy part of the site – it is primarily an information centre for the whole Parish, and it is hoped that ownership of this site will pass across to the Parish in due course.



## Timeline

Commencing in late 2004 / early 2005, the broad timetable outlined below has been maintained. Delays have largely been due to summer holidays and Christmas / New Year festivities.



## **Background**

### **The Parish of Feckenham**

The English Parish as an administrative unit probably dates back to the period of Saxon settlement and conversion; its boundaries often coincided with those of an earlier pagan land grant. The Parish, ecclesiastically speaking, 'is that circuit of ground which is committed to the charge of one person or vicar'. Civilly, a parish was in olden times 'that place for which a separate poor rate could be raised'. Sometimes but not always, the civil and ecclesiastical parish covered the same ground. Some historians believe that the boundaries of the parish were originally determined by those of the manor or manors. With the spread of Christianity the Lords of the Manor began to build churches on their own desmesne (land), but when these parishes began it is difficult to say, as it seems in England at any rate, the parochial system was developed in its essentials before the Norman Conquest.

The Parish was developed as a unit of local secular government by the Crown in the sixteenth century; its most important role was that of relief of the poor, before the welfare state. The parish was a conveniently autonomous, self governing community.

At the centre of parochial administration was the vestry - the 'parish parliament'. The vestries audited the accounts of the parish officials including the churchwardens and the overseers of the highway, sanctioned rates of various kinds, granted charity to those they thought deserving and many other matters. The civil successors of the parish vestries were the parish councils originating in an Act of 1894, obligatory for every parish of 300 or more inhabitants.

FECKENHAM was already organised as a parochial unit at the time of the Domesday Survey, which lists Feckenham as having a Reeve and a Beadle as well as a Miller and a Smith. The tithes of the manor and the church with the priest were given by Earl William to the Abbey of Lyra. The Reeve was strictly speaking a deputy, who was elected by his fellow villeins to organise the daily business of the manor. The Beadle was a parish officer with various duties, such as town crier, messenger or even a constable, although not necessarily the same in each locality. In 1591 there were still a Reeve and a Beadle, who with the constable and other officers were elected by the tenants of the manor, and a bailiff, chosen by the lord from among the tenants and freeholders.

At some time -after the manor was sold by the crown in 1629 and subsequently bought by Thomas Lord Coventry in 1632 - the churchwardens looked after the day to day running of the parish, while the manorial courts continued, the last one being held in 1935 at the Rose and Crown, although by this time the manor courts were only ceremonial.

In 1894 as a result of the Local Government Act, Feckenham was divided into Feckenham Rural and Feckenham Urban; Feckenham Urban (Headless Cross, Crabbs Cross) became part of Redditch Urban District Council. Although originally the same, the boundaries of the civil and ecclesiastical parishes changed over time. As a result of the growth in population in the

nineteenth century, other churches were built, which changed the boundaries of the ecclesiastical parish, while in the civil parish, the parish council duties were increasingly taken over by the state.

The modern parish council is given powers by central government and it is up to the local council what they implement. Parish Councils are the only councils which are not capped. They are responsible for maintaining the grass verges and appoint their own Footpaths Officers. Although they do not have the power to reject or accept planning applications they do have the opportunity to make comment on the advisability or otherwise of plans. They are the first line of reference for the local community over any local issues.

## **Feckenham Forest**

Feckenham was once a significant site situated on the ancient Saltway between Alcester and Droitwich (now the B4090). Listed in the Domesday Book as 'fecceham', (Old English meaning Fecca's Ham - a clearing by a stream, or an enclosure or homestead), Feckenham was the centre for lawsuits connected with forests south of the Trent, during the early part of the history of the forest. The courthouse has now disappeared but the site still exists as a moated site near the church.

Feckenham stood in the middle of the forest that bears its name. Around the middle of the twelfth century the forest covered most of Worcestershire - including Bromsgrove, Redditch, Evesham and Pershore. In one direction the forest spread all the way to the city gate (the fore gate) in Worcester and to the north as far as The Lickeys.

After 1300 the forest was reduced in size, until by the sixteenth century it had become little more than a park about thirty four square miles in extent. Around 1608 the crown surveyed all its royal forests and decided to 'disafforest' the Forest of Feckenham. Twenty one years after this decision, Feckenham ceased to be a royal forest and reverted to common land. The crown sold the manor (land) in 1632 to Lord Coventry and the people living in the forest were to be compensated for the loss of their rights under forest law.

Elizabeth Atkins

## About Feckenham – Location and Geography

### Size & Demographics

The picturesque Parish of Feckenham located just south of Birmingham, is the sort of traditional English countryside village that you'll find in a picture book.

Part of the Borough of Redditch, the Parish covers an area of almost 6 square miles, it's boundary measuring around 14 miles. The Parish houses around 700 people in circa 350 dwellings and the population has a wide age range (a bar graph of age distribution can be seen on page 15). Although primarily agricultural in focus, there are many diverse businesses across the Parish.

The Village itself is focused around a village square, and has two busy family-run pubs and two active parish churches. The village has its own First School, a local Middle school a short distance away in Astwood Bank and Secondary schools are located in Callow Hill and Redditch. At the northern tip of the Parish is a third hostelry.

### Recreation

The recently refurbished Village Hall hosts a wide variety of social and community events and is in constant use by the parishioners.

The local community is very active and has a lively calendar of social and sports events, including an annual summer fair (*Feckenham Wake*) and cricket matches most weekends in the summer and football during the autumn, winter and spring months.

The surrounding countryside is an idyllic place to ramble and recharge the batteries. There is even a nature reserve at nearby Wylde Moor, where you can see a glorious selection of wild flowers, insects and birds.

*'It's a tolerant, sociable and cohesive community. It buzzes with activities which are inclusive...'*

### Location

Redditch town centre is seven miles away, providing a wide selection of indoor and outdoor leisure activities including, theatres, pubs, restaurants and an excellent selection of local shopping.

Within easy reach of the Parish are the following villages and towns: Alcester, Astwood Bank, Bradley Green, Bromsgrove, Droitwich, Hanbury, Redditch, Sambourne, Studley and many more.

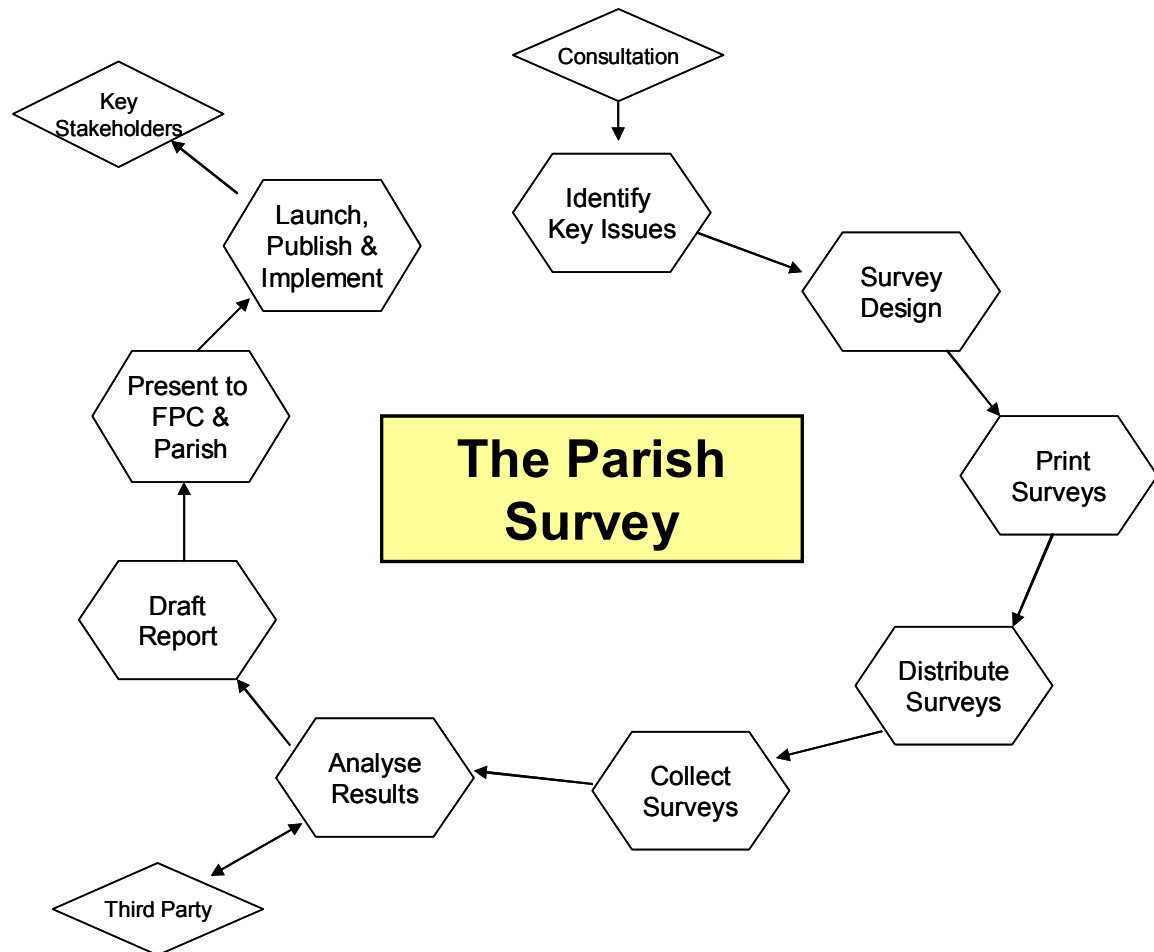
There is easy access to both the M5 and M42, both around 10 miles away.



## Summary of Parish Survey – 2005/06

Following the initial phase of consultation and fundraising a Parish-wide Survey was planned, to ensure that everyone had had an opportunity to put forward their comments and, hopefully, to identify some potential solutions to the issues/challenges raised.

The process involved is shown diagrammatically below, with Surveys being completed in December 2005 / January 2006:



The Survey statistics indicated a high percentage of returns:

- 353 surveys distributed, but 16 properties were identified as empty/ unoccupied or outside of the Parish  
**Net distribution was 337**
- **241 surveys returned**
- **72% return rate**

Of the 564 respondents, 51% were male and 49% Female.  
98 of the 564 were under 15 years old.

Responses to the 118, largely 'tick box' questions were supported by over **1800 text comments**.

The results of the whole consultation process, with particular emphasis upon the output of the Parish Survey, have been consolidated under a series of **Key Themes** that help to structure the required actions going forwards. These key themes are closely linked to the Redditch Community Strategy, 20:20 Vision.

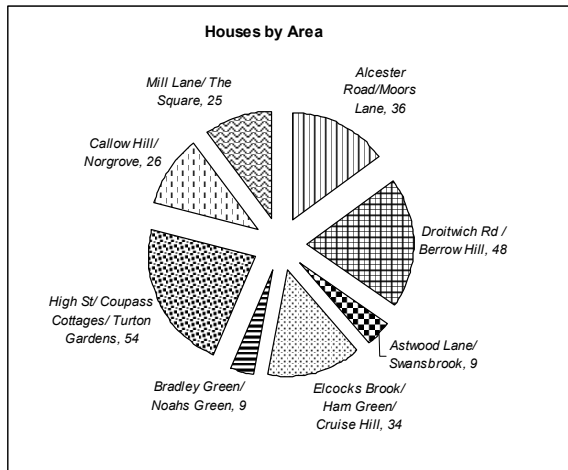
These themes are:

- Health and Wellbeing
- Safety and Security
- Environment
- Local Economy / Business
- Education and Skills
- Community and Services
- Culture and Recreation
- Children and Young People

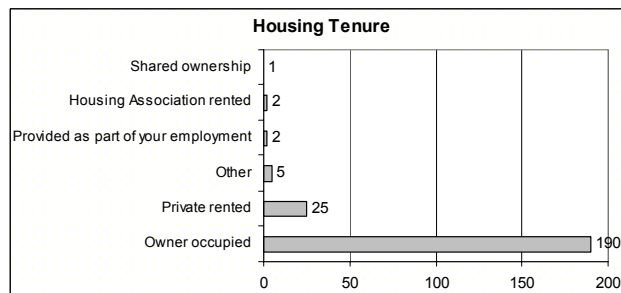
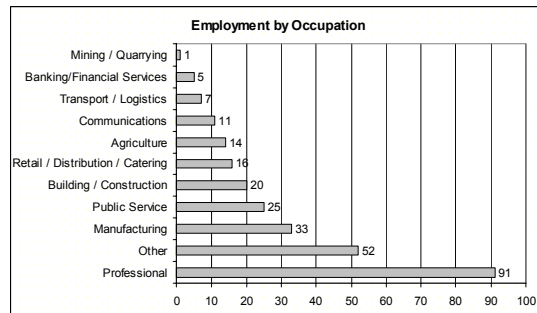
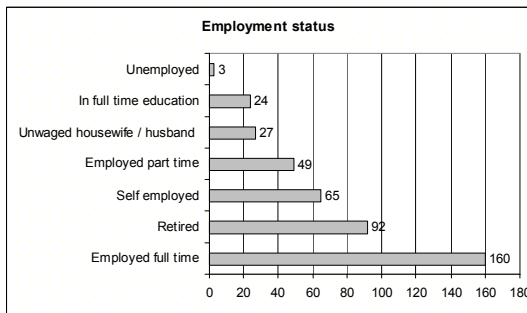
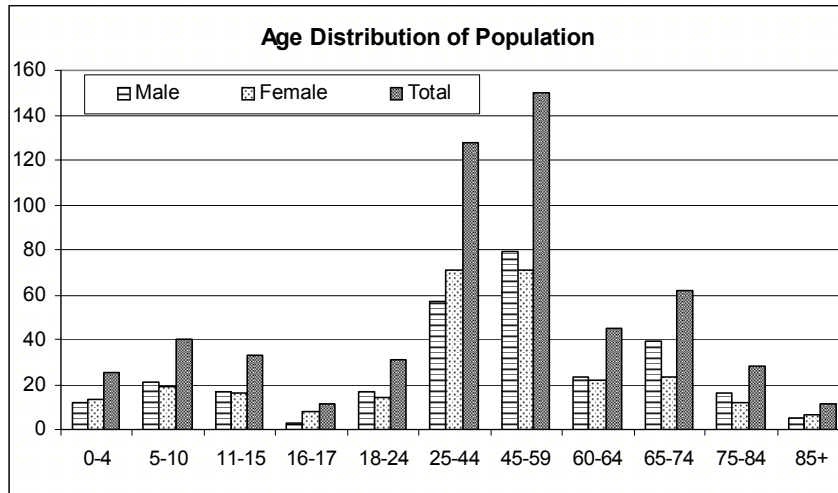
It is hoped that the fit of these themes with existing initiatives at Parish, Borough and County level will assist with the ongoing communication of Feckenham's aims and objectives.

*'I applaud the thoroughness and hard work of those involved with such an important document'*

# Analysis of Survey Respondents



*'Thanks should go to those who have given freely of their time and skills to do this survey, and small groups in the village, who are active and willing volunteers in all the other groups/activities'*



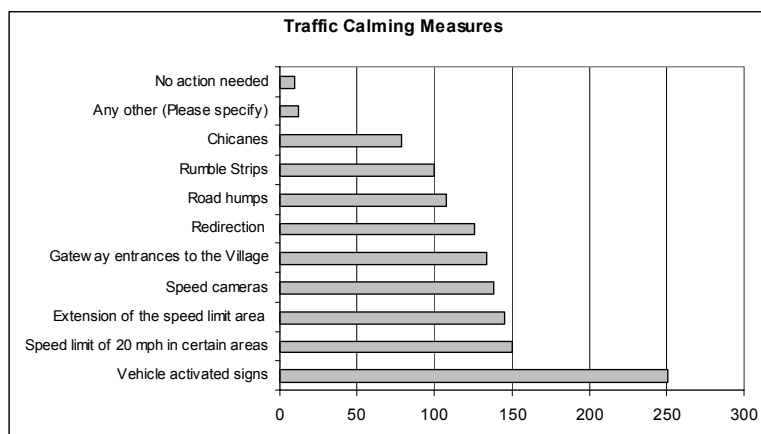
## Key Themes

### Health and Wellbeing

- Age profile shows fairly even spread (see page 14)
- Health facilities appear to meet the needs of the population
  - Usual GP surgeries: Ridgeway (43%), Feckenham (29%), Other (28%)
  - 62% selecting Ridgeway also use Feckenham
  - Satisfaction levels high on all measures – on average >90%
- Participation in physical activities within the Parish is generally low
  - Of just under 300 responses, 68 use the children's play area, 60 cycle and 24 enjoy horse riding

### Safety and Security

- Speeding traffic is a major concern throughout the Parish. 365 respondents (65%) registered a concern:
  - Droitwich Road (85%), Alcester Road (78%), Astwood Lane (59%), High St (54%)
  - Preferred solution is vehicle-activated signage



- Street parking is unsatisfactory and not safe, there are insufficient parking facilities in the village
- There is a problem with HGVs in the village
- Crime & anti-social behaviour is a minor issue
  - of 378 respondents, 14% have some concerns and 28% claim it is a minor issue, however, 41% have no concerns
- Village (Neighbourhood) Watch Scheme fairly low profile
  - 47% of the 401 respondents claim not to be aware of it
  - 70% of those expressing an opinion suggest development

*'The traffic through the Village is horrendous -- surely it's time to stop -- it has become unsafe to walk on Droitwich Road - we risk life and limb.'*

*'Roads in and out of Feckenham are narrow and too busy to take more traffic'*

*'There should be no further development in the Village; which would add t traffic volumes and roadside parking'*

*'Pavements on Droitwich Road are a disgrace. Although it is unsafe for pedestrians anyway because of the HGV's and fast traffic on the B4090'*

*'Traffic speed has been a constant problem for years, the only way to stop speed on the Alcester and Droitwich Road is a speed camera'*

*'We feel that the speeding traffic on the B4090 and the thoughtless driving through the Village is creating a dangerous situation. It is surprising that accidents have not already happened'*

*'The de-restriction sign on the Droitwich side of the B0490 should be moved to well beyond Berrow Hill Junction. The crown of the hill on which it is currently placed causes a completely blind exit, very dangerous when traffic is waiting to turn right into Berrow Hill Lane'*

*'Too much traffic is permitted through the Village- High Street in particular. Most homes are directly on the pavement and front doors open straight onto the road. The volume and speed of the traffic is a major hazard and vehicles are constantly damaged by cars trying to squeeze through. Block the Village at the square so you can't actually drive right through. Would have to bypass via the sub-station'*

*'High Street junction of Alcester Rd/ Droitwich Rd , traffic speeds into and out of the Village'*

*'Traffic - the Village is used as a constant cut-through route. (High Street)'*

*'We've lived in Elcocks Brook for 26 years, and feel the marked increase in traffic volume and speed in recent years has been extremely detrimental to the Parish'*

*'Hanbury to Redditch Road - through Elcocks Hill and Callow Hill. Increased traffic over the last 20 years speeds along this Lane. Accidents often at Flying Horse Lane, Sillins Lane'*

*'Drivers speeding along Sillins Lane. Danger points are: where road narrows, entering from side roads. Norgrove and Bentley. Speed limit area to include Elcocks Brook'*

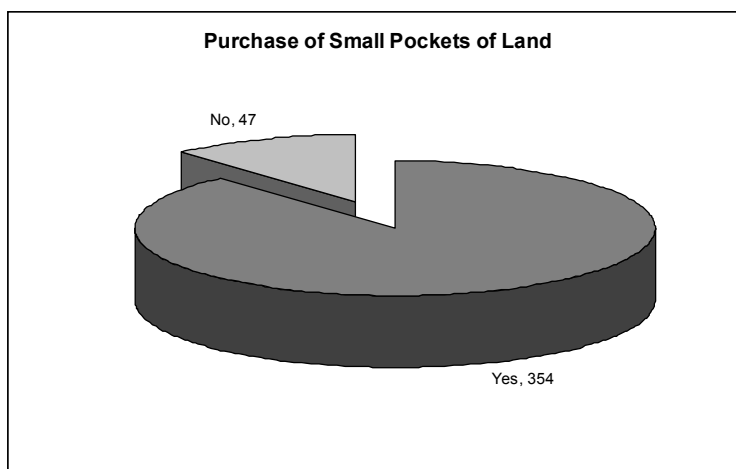
*'We live in Green Lane by Morton Stanley Park. Joggers, horse riding, dog walking takes place but it's a national speed limit Lane. Our entrance is a concealed drive yet we are refused permission to erect a convex mirror for our and others safety. We worry an accident will happen one of these days'*

*'Swansbrook Lane and Astwood Lane unacceptable flooding'*

*'Bad upkeep of hedgerows blocking vision at junctions of oncoming traffic'*

## Environment

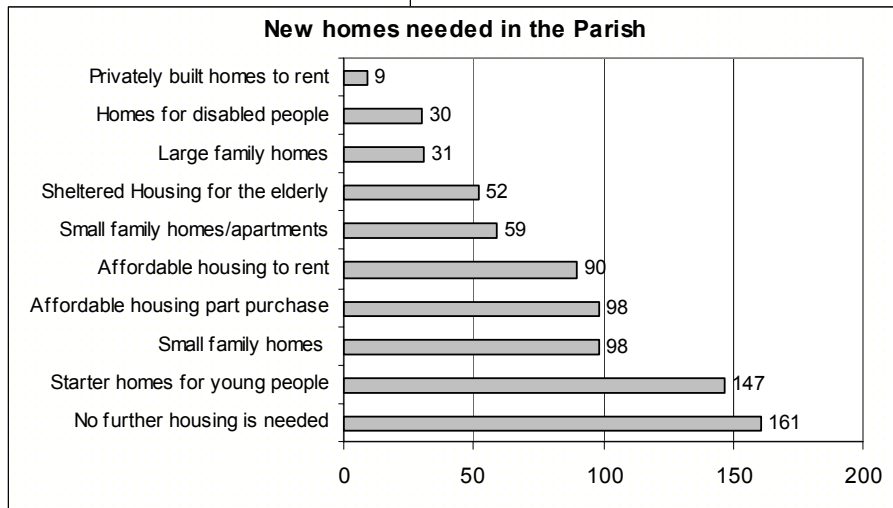
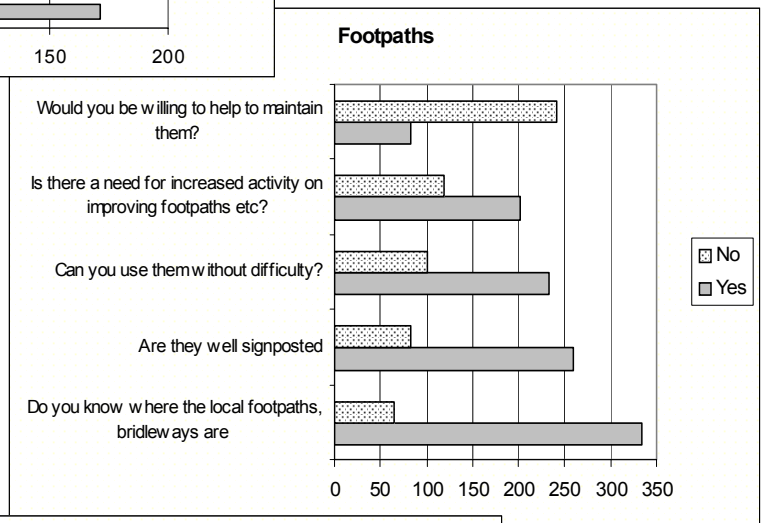
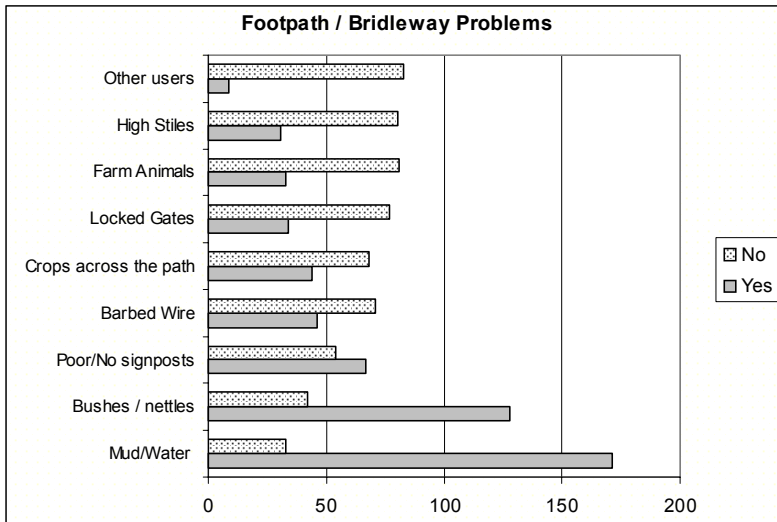
- We like living in the Parish, primarily for its rural environment, followed by its location
- All features of the surrounding countryside are important, especially the fields and hedgerows
- 80% of the Parish are aware of the nature reserve at Moors Lane – a high proportion (140) would be interested in attending events and 35 would be prepared to help with conservation work
- The community and historical buildings are very important
- Purchase of small pockets of land in order to safeguard them for the Parish



- Housing – generally no further building is wanted (64%), however, a similar proportion would support starter homes for young people; there is also some support for small family homes & affordable housing to part purchase or rent

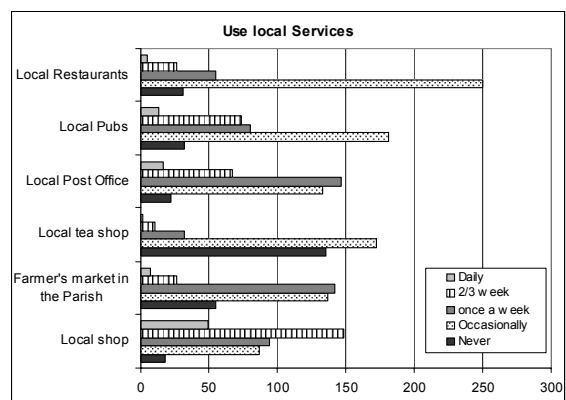
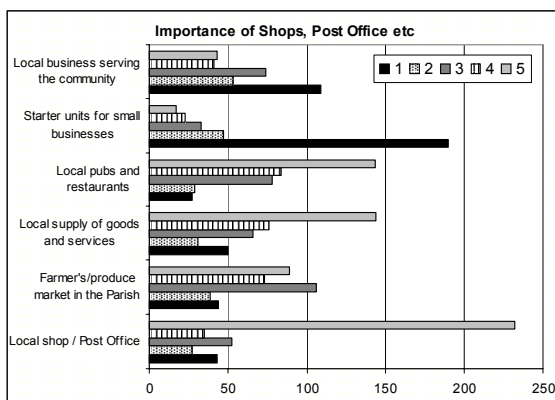
*'One of the most important things about the Village is its current size. So many villages have been spoiled by planners allowing inappropriate developments, increasing numbers of people, cars, traffic, etc when there is not the necessary infrastructure to support them. In addition Feckenham is in a conservation area so any future development would need to be carefully planned to ensure it 'fitted in'. Obviously if it can be demonstrated clearly that there is a need for affordable housing for existing residents, then a sympathetic and properly sized development may be considered ..... but only if there is a need. Why spoil a perfectly good piece of countryside with more houses if they are not needed by the people of Feckenham??'*

- Footpaths and Bridleways
  - The majority of respondents know the location of local footpaths and bridleways – they are well signposted and can be used without difficulty
  - Those that have difficulties raised issue with flooding and overgrown bushes / nettles
- Noise from traffic, sporting activities, aircraft is identified as a problem
- Dog fouling is an issue
- Flood prevention service is seen as 'poor'



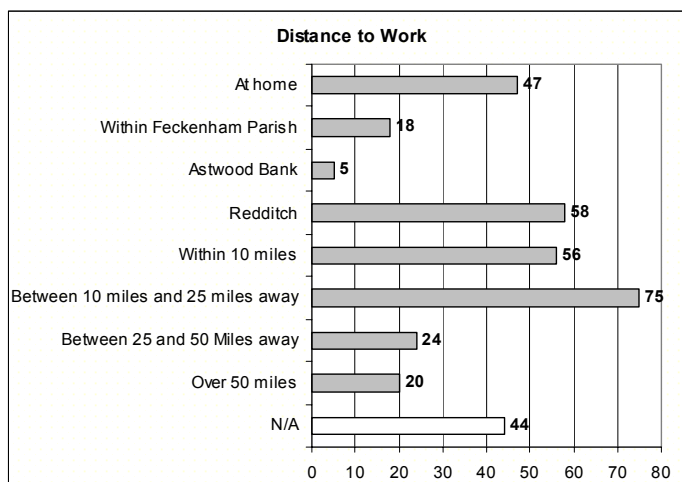
## Local Economy / Business

- Unemployment is low within the Parish
- Most travel at least 10 miles to work
- 14% of those that responded work from home
- Around 50% of residents would encourage farm shops / a farmer's market and craft workshops within the Parish – these received the greatest support
- A local shop and Post Office is seen as being important for the community (~ 60% rated as very important)
- Local shop would be used by ~ 40% of residents at least twice a week
- Local pubs, restaurants as well as the supply of local services such as milk and newspapers are the next priority
- Starter units for small businesses are not supported



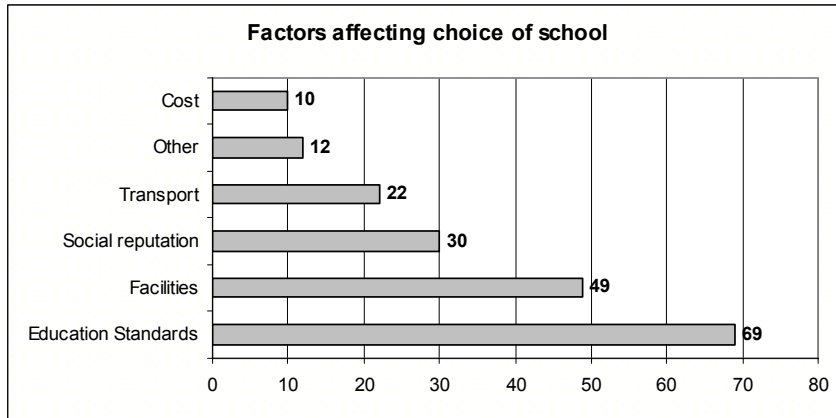
Key: 1 – Least Important; 5 – Most Important

- ~ 30% of residents believe that no further development for visitors is required
- ~ 25% of respondents would like to attract more tourists
- 45% of respondents believe visitors need more information about the Parish

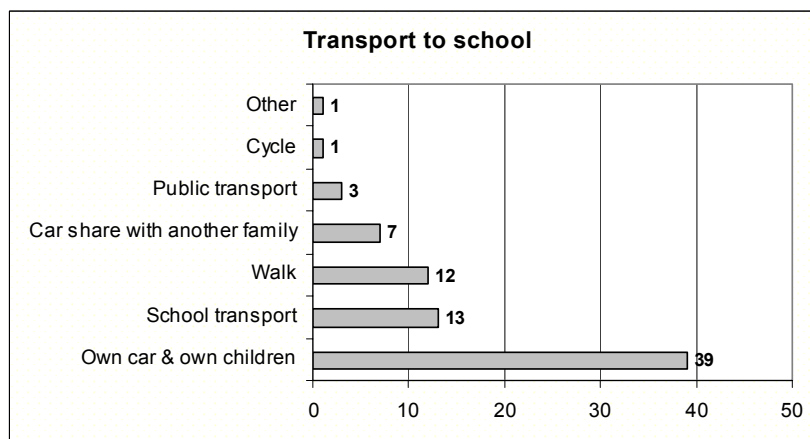


## Education and Skills

- Important factors when making a choice of school
  - Education standards
  - Facilities
- Almost 90% of families were able to attend the school of their choice

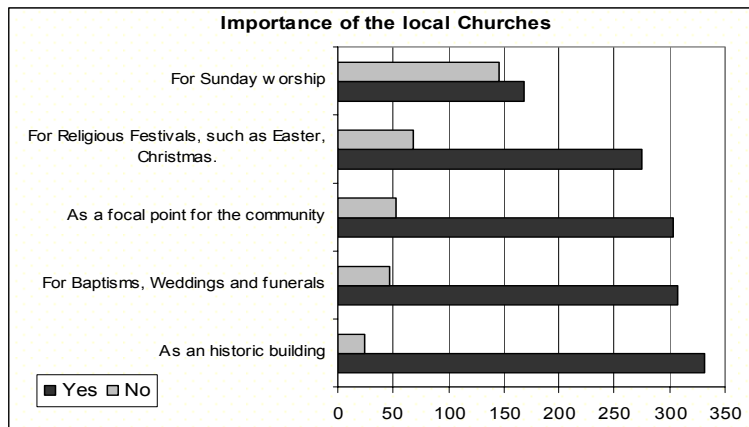


- Transport to school (76 respondents)
  - Over 50% of children travel to school in their family car
  - A further 9% of children share transport with another family
  - 20% of children travel to school using school or public transport
- Only 25 residents expressed opinion on childcare, evenings are the most difficult to find childcare facilities, 13 would be interested in joining a baby / child sitting circle

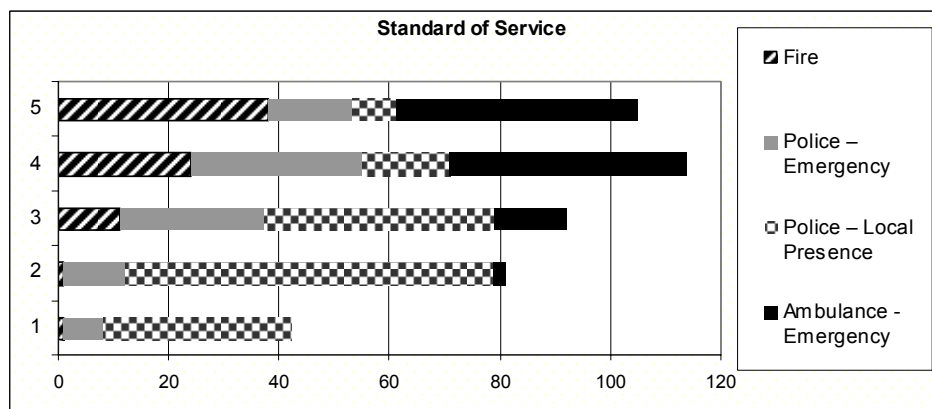


## Community and Services

- Parish Council's awareness of concerns & feelings, and communication of its activities & decisions, is satisfactory
- Level of satisfaction less for Borough & County Councils
- Most respondents who provided an opinion on how the Parish Council spends its money are satisfied
- Communication in the Parish
  - ~ 60 respondents do not receive the Feckenham News
  - ~ 150 respondents do not receive the Standard or Advertiser
  - Feckenham News is read by more than Advertiser or Standard
  - Most respondents have access to the internet, either at home and/or at work
  - About 70% of respondents use the Village notice boards (only 20% frequently)
  - [www.feckenham.com](http://www.feckenham.com) is used by around 30% of respondents, awareness is growing
- Local churches are very important to the Parish

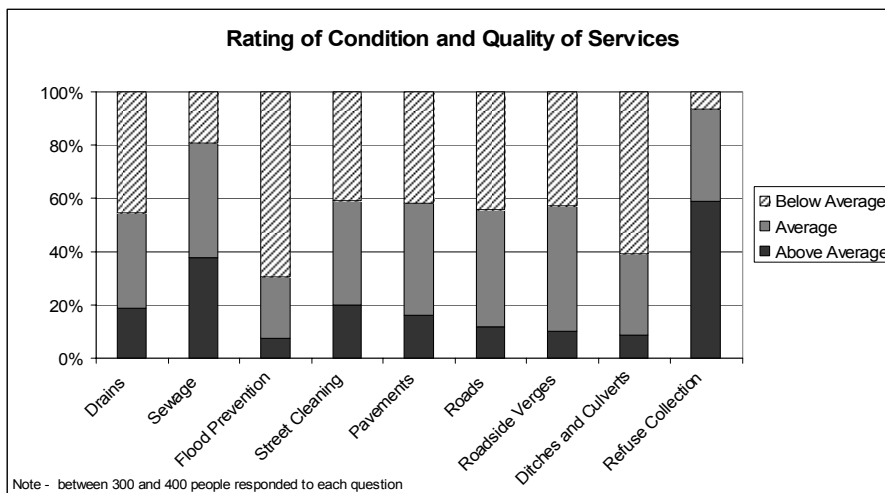
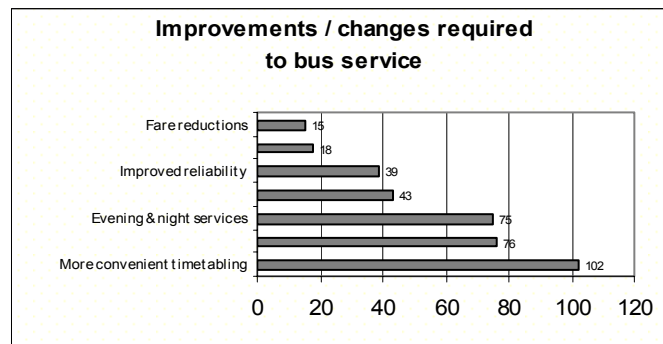
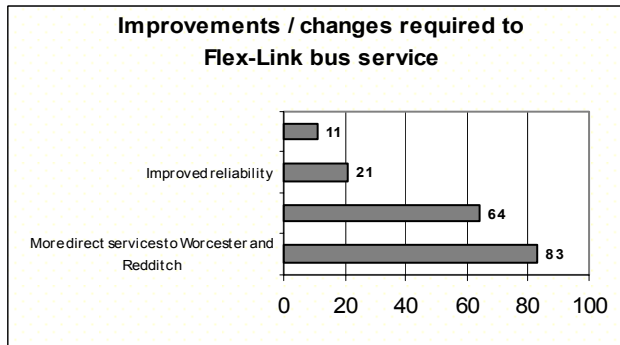


- ~84% of respondents think a Welcome Information Pack (map, societies, key contact numbers, events, etc) should be offered to new residents
- Fire & Emergency Ambulance services rate highly
- Concerns expressed over lack of local Police presence
- Emergency police services are viewed as average



1 = Unacceptable    2 = Below Average    3 = Average    4 = Good    5 = Excellent

- Refuse collection and recycling viewed as satisfactory
  - Desire extension to other areas; addition of plastics
- The public bus service is not used by the majority of residents
  - 90%+ never use the bus service
  - 70% never use flexi-link; 25% not aware of it (discontinued early 2006)



- Mobile library - 72% aware; 9% use

## Culture and Recreation

- Parish Events
  - Awareness of Events  
65% (253) aware, 16% (63) irregular awareness
  - Involvement - 23 people lead and organise, 55 are on a committee, 190 help & support on day
- Playing Fields
  - Over half of the respondents would like to see the management of the Playing Fields within the Parish
  - 11% (33) are happy to get involved
- ~150 respondents would like facilities for other sporting activities to be played in the area

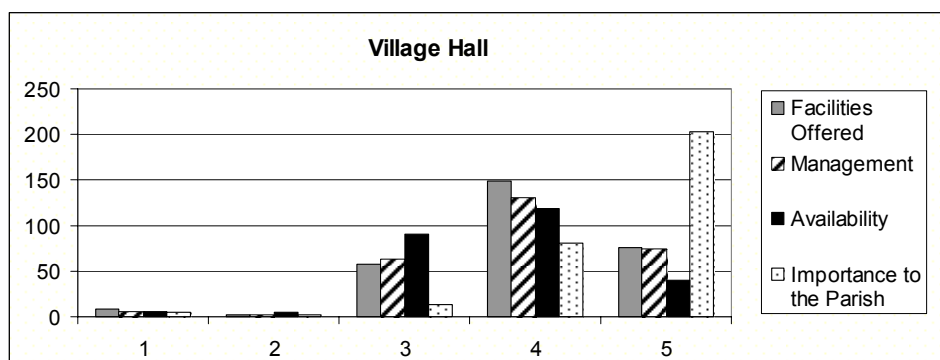
*'It would be nice for the Village to purchase the football field. It would be nice for the Villagers to use this land for Village activities'*

*'It would be great for the Village to own the playing field/football pitch'*

*'The Parish should try to purchase the playing field and the two fields beyond'*

*'I would like to see the playing field, and the series of fields subject to SSI's and adjacent to the playing field come under the control of a Village Management Group, and maintained as open countryside'*

- The Village Hall is thought to be an important local facility and is well managed
  - 27% (~100) people never use it and further 38% use it annually
  - Facilities, management, availability and importance to Parish marked at least reasonable and mostly very satisfied or excellent



1 = Unacceptable    2 = Below Average    3 = Average    4 = Good    5 = Excellent

## **Children and Young People**

- ~ 80 respondents – even split male / female
- Likes
  - Living in countryside
  - Local friends
  - Safety
- Dislikes
  - Distance from town and facilities
  - Travelling to see friends
  - Travel facilities & availability of local activities
- Future
  - 47% stay in/around the area
  - 45% don't know

## **Key Messages from Text Comments**

A complete record of all text comments can be found in the Appendices

- Planning matters and publicity for planning applications
- Opinions on housing and housing development
- Views on general appearance and environment of the Village, purchase of plots of land to preserve the environment
- Speeding traffic, traffic calming and danger spots
- Street lighting
- Wildlife changes
- Village (Neighbourhood) Watch
- Additional sporting activities

## How would you like to see Feckenham develop over the next 10 years?

A representative selection of quotes from the Parish Survey is summarised below. Full details of the Survey results are to be found in the Appendix.

*'The Village should be preserved, largely as it is'*

*'To stay near the same with some affordable housing and (one – ed.) way through traffic up the High Street, lower speed limits on the B4090 : I would like to see Feckenham maintain a mixed community with lower income families not kicked out of the housing market'*

*'Maintain the status as a small real country Village unspoiled by over development'*

*'Slowly and with attention and avoiding anything that makes it just the same as anywhere else'*

*'More help for young couples and families'*

*'Must remain a rural Village otherwise character lost. No major house buildings or industry'*

*'Retain Village feel, offer more community interaction. Assist the farmers and small businesses, preserve nature and historical buildings'*

*'A few select homes. Affordable for the younger generations of locals encouraging them to stay'*

*'Young people being able to stay in the Village'*

*'Stay as a traditional country Village with perhaps a local shop and facilities to buy local produce, no further development of houses'*

*'I'd like to see a local shop and farm shop'*

*'No more houses but a shop and post office'*

*'Would like it to remain as it is, apart from the addition of a shop'*

*'Little new development, a small general shop would be useful for community focus, and occasional supplies'*

*'Farmers Market in the Village'*

*'Perhaps we are old-fashioned - but we would not like to see it change too much - a shop and Post Office coming back would be nice'*

*'Look after what we have - and "if its not broke, don't try to fix it" !'*

# The Feckenham Parish Plan

## Health and Well Being (*Survey Questions 78-86*)

Topic	Positives	Issues	Solutions	Partners	Cost	Timescale
<b>Health Facilities</b>	<p>High levels of satisfaction with GP services</p> <p>Facilities generally appear to meet the needs of the population (Q82-86)</p> <p>(Feckenham surgery plays a particularly important role)</p> <p>See quote below</p>	None identified	<p>No specific action proposed</p> <p>None needed</p>	Local GP Surgeries	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
<b>Physical Activities</b>	Census statistics suggest general good health in the electoral ward	<p>May be a need for more local sporting facilities</p> <p>Participation in physical activities within the Parish is low</p>	<p>Further examination of local facilities and needs</p> <p>Further work required to decide whether this is an issue, may identify reasons why there is low participation</p>	Local Health Authority	Low	Medium

*'The 'Open Surgery' afternoons in Feckenham are a wonderful advantage, at least you are seen when required, even if it means a small wait. We are very lucky to have this facility made available to us'*

## Safety & Security (Survey Questions 51-54, 77, 87-92)

Topic	Positives	Issues	Solutions	Partners	Cost	Timescale
Crime	Most types of crime are viewed as being of minor issue (Q77)	Village Watch scheme has a low profile which should be raised (Q88)	Encourage Village Watch Group and increase interest	West Mercia Police	Low	Short
	Anti-social behaviour is viewed by the majority as a minor concern or of no concern at all (Q91)	The perception held by most people is that the local police presence ranges between below average and unacceptable	Investigate need for police presence and type of presence required	West Mercia Police	Low / Medium	Short / Medium

## Safety & Security (Survey Questions 51-54, 77, 87-92)

Topic	Positives	Issues	Solutions	Partners	Cost	Timescale
Traffic		Speeding is seen as a problem on all the major roads throughout the Parish (Q51 to Q54)	Identify and implement a range of solutions suitable to specific locations  Preferred solution is vehicle activated signage	West Mercia Police Redditch Borough Council Worcestershire County Council	Medium	Short / Medium
				<i>'Speeding is the most important issue'</i>		
		Street parking is not satisfactory and safe (Q53)  There are insufficient parking facilities in the village (Q53)	Investigate solutions which could also reduce traffic speed.	West Mercia Police Redditch Borough Council Worcestershire County Council	Medium	Short / Medium
		There is a problem with HGVs in the village (Q53)	Consider opportunities to instigate detours around the village for large vehicles	West Mercia Police Redditch Borough Council Worcestershire County Council	Medium / High	Medium / Long

## Environment (Survey Questions 19-27, 47, 66-77)

Topic	Positives	Issues	Solutions	Partners	Cost	Timescale
<b>General Environment</b>	All features of the surrounding countryside were considered by the majority of people as important or very important. (Q71)	Need to maintain the natural landscape and buildings	Constant vigilance of physical surroundings  Encouragement to maintain the fabric of the Parish, its natural landscape and its buildings	All Relevant Authorities	Not Applicable	Long
<b>Housing / Planning</b>	Very few (10) people have had to move out of the Parish because housing was unavailable or did not meet their requirements. (Q19)  If housing development was necessary, the following received most support: - Homes for young people - Small family homes - Affordable housing to part purchase or rent	The majority of people (64%) do not want an increase in homes (Q21)  A few people currently residing in Parish require separate accommodation within the Parish (Q20)  Concern was raised as to how affordable housing might be managed for the benefit of the Parish	Proposals for Affordable Housing under development	Redditch Borough Council  West Mercia Housing Association  Feckenham Parish Council	Not Applicable	Long
		Planning applications that affect Feckenham need more publicity	Increased opportunity to see planning applications.  Investigate other forms of publicity - internet <a href="http://www.feckenham.com">www.feckenham.com</a> and 'Feckenham News'	Website Management and Media Editors	Low	Short

## Environment (Survey Questions 19-27, 47, 66-77)

Topic	Positives	Issues	Solutions	Partners	Cost	Timescale
<b>Footpaths</b>	Majority of people know where they are  Most people can use them without difficulty and see them as well signposted	The availability of a map of the Parish footpaths was seen as a good idea	Consideration should be given to a local Footpaths Committee	Feckenham Parish Council	Low	Short
<b>Noise</b>		Noise in general is an issue particularly relating to traffic  Sporting activities are also worthy of mention (foul language) (Q77)	More information surrounding traffic noise needs to be produced before consideration given to solutions  Solutions to traffic noise issues need to complement speeding reduction initiatives  Investigate nature of noise pollution relating to sporting activities	Feckenham Parish Council  Redditch Borough Council  Individuals / Community Groups	Low / Medium	Short / Medium

**Environment (Survey Questions 19-27, 47, 66-77)**

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Positives</b>	<b>Issues</b>	<b>Solutions</b>	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Timescale</b>
<b>Dog Fouling</b>		Dog fouling is considered a problem (Q77)	Use local communications to highlight the risks and importance of cleaning up after your dog  Review facilities currently available	Redditch Borough Council  Feckenham Parish Council	Low	Short
<b>Flood Prevention</b>		Flood prevention measures are generally considered either unacceptable or below average (Q47)	Increase the prominence of the issue with the local authority with a view to securing regular maintenance of ditches and drains; construction of new as necessary	Redditch Borough Council  Worcester County Council  Severn Trent Water	Low / Medium	Short / Medium

## Local Economy / Business (Survey Questions 36-46)

Topic	Positives	Issues	Solutions	Partners	Cost	Timescale
<b>Employment</b>	Unemployment is low within the Parish Although around 14% of Survey respondents work from home, the majority travel at least 10 miles to work	None identified	No action proposed	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
<b>Business Development</b>	Local pubs/restaurants, and local services (delivery of milk, newspapers) are seen as important and well-used	Lack of a local store / Post Office. 60% of respondents rated it as very important for the community	Identify potential options to provide such services, and investigate their viability	Local Businesses Feckenham Parish Council Rural Agencies Interested individuals / Co-operatives	Low / Medium	Medium
		Development / encouragement of businesses focused on the rural community (e.g. farm shops, farmers market, craft workshops) Starter units for new businesses not welcomed	Identify opportunities to develop and promote the Parish to such businesses	Feckenham Parish Council Local Businesses	Low	Medium

*'Would it be possible to have a Village shop selling local produce'*  
*'Post Office and Shop would be wonderful; but we had one and it wasn't used enough'*  
*'The Village needs a convenience shop and Post Office'*  
*(I'd like it to) 'Stay as a traditional country Village with perhaps a local shop and facilities to buy local produce'*

## Education & Skills (*Survey Questions 9-17*)

Topic	Positives	Issues	Solutions	Partners	Cost	Timescale
<b>Education</b>	General satisfaction with the range and standard of educational facilities in the Parish and surrounding area  Almost 90% of families were able to attend the school of their choice	None identified	No action proposed	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable

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## Community and Services (Survey Questions 28-35, 47-50, 103-114)

<u>Topic</u>	<u>Positives</u>	<u>Issues</u>	<u>Solutions</u>	<u>Partners</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Timescale</u>
<b>Religion</b>	Local churches are a very important focal point for the Parish	None identified	No action proposed	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
<b>Visitors &amp; New Residents</b>	Tourism facilities are regarded as adequate for the level of visitors, and there is no demand to increase awareness	Local information for new residents / businesses	Create a 'Welcome' Information Pack (supported by 80%+ Survey respondents)	Local Community Groups Feckenham Parish Council	Low	Short
<b>Local Services</b>	In general the emergency services – fire, ambulance and police – are rated highly	The local police presence is regarded as rather sporadic, and a concern for a large number of parishioners	Whilst recent efforts have focused on regular 'surgeries', further discussions should take place to consider raising local police profile	Community groups West Mercia Police	Low	Short / Medium
	Refuse collection and recycling services are good	Recycling, although relatively recently introduced, is not available across the whole Parish and is limited to certain products	Extend services and add other products, especially plastics	Redditch Borough Council Worcester County Council	Medium / High	Medium
	<i>'Neighbouring Parishes have engaged the services of a Parish Lengths (funded by the County Council) to undertake small, but effective, maintenance jobs within the Parish'</i>	Flood prevention remains a concern - <i>"We feel that most of the flooding in Feckenham is caused by lack of maintenance to drains and ditches ..."</i>	Continue dialogue with relevant Council bodies to establish regular maintenance	Redditch Borough Council Worcestershire County Council Severn Trent Water	Medium	Short / Medium

**Community and Services (Survey Questions 28-35, 47-50, 103-114)**

<u>Topic</u>	<u>Positives</u>	<u>Issues</u>	<u>Solutions</u>	<u>Partners</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Timescale</u>
<b>Information &amp; Communication</b>	There is a wide variety of communications media available across the Parish, and all are well used, i.e. local newspapers & flyers, Church magazine, noticeboards and internet	Further opportunities to extend the distribution of the 'Feckenham News' & local free newspapers	Discuss current distribution with relevant bodies  Consider online editions, as internet access is widespread	Media Editors Website Management	Low / Medium	Short
		Continued development and maintenance of the Parish website  Noticeboard management & maintenance	Identify resource requirements and agree future policy & plans	Existing Website Management  Local individuals / community groups	Low / Medium	Short / Medium
<b>Local Government</b>	The Parish Council's awareness of local concerns and feelings, and communication of it's activities and decisions, is satisfactory	Communication from Borough and County Councils could be improved	Communication of Feckenham Parish Plan to Borough and County Councils  Agree appropriate communications mechanisms going forward	Feckenham Parish Council  Redditch Borough Council  Redditch Strategic Partnership  Worcestershire County Council	Low	Short

*'I think the Feckenham News ... does a brilliant job of making the community aware'*

## Culture and Recreation (*Survey Questions 93-102*)

Topic	Positives	Issues	Solutions	Partners	Cost	Timescale
<b>Groups, Activities &amp; Events</b>	Wide variety of social groups and Parish events & activities for a broad range of ages  Awareness is high, and a large proportion of the Parish are keen to help and support	None identified	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
<b>Social &amp; Recreational Facilities</b>		Facilities for other sporting activities to be played in the area (over 50% Survey respondents supported this) – examples include tennis court, rounders pitch, 5-a-side football, all weather court	Canvass further opinion & investigate options	Redditch Borough Council  Worcestershire County Council  Local Community Groups  Private Companies	Medium / High	Medium / Long
		Management of the Playing Fields is a concern  Over 50% of respondents would like to see it reside in the Parish	Identify individuals keen to get involved  Negotiate with Redditch Borough Council over transfer	Feckenham Parish Council  Redditch Borough Council	Low	Short

**Culture and Recreation (Survey Questions 93-102)**

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Positives</b>	<b>Issues</b>	<b>Solutions</b>	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Timescale</b>
	Feckenham Village Hall is regarded as an important local facility and perceived to be well-managed	None identified	No action proposed	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
	The Village Square also rates highly in terms of appearance and usage	None identified	No action proposed	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable

## Children and Young People (*Separate Survey*)

Topic	Positives	Issues	Solutions	Partners	Cost	Timescale
<b>Location</b>	Feedback showed that respondents liked living in the countryside, surrounded by friends, and felt relatively safe and secure in the Parish	Requirement, and facilities, for travel to meet people, shop, etc	Further investigation to determine specific needs and current provision  Use facilities offered by Youth Services targeted towards the rural community	Worcestershire County Council Youth Services  Redditch Borough Council  Community First  Feckenham Parish Council	Low / Medium	Short / Medium
<b>Facilities</b>		Further activities required by the target age group	As above	Worcestershire County Council Youth Services  Redditch Borough Council  Community First  Feckenham Parish Council	Low / Medium	Short / Medium

*'Thank you for a thorough survey, you have given us much food for thought! As an ex-teacher and qualified athletes coach, perhaps I could offer some sports activity for local children during their summer holidays'*

*'It would be good to see more films for children'*

## Next Steps

Feckenham Parish Council has adopted this Parish Plan, and summarised versions will be distributed to all households across the Parish and placed on the website.

Copies of the full document, including Survey results, can be obtained via The Secretary of Feckenham Parish Council (a small charge may be made to cover printing/ administration) or downloaded from the [www.Feckenham.com](http://www.Feckenham.com) website.

Activities over the forthcoming weeks and months will be focused upon:

- Prioritising actions
- Identifying individuals / community groups prepared to drive forward these actions
- Sourcing required funding
- Monitoring, review and feedback to the Parish on progress
- Communication with other relevant bodies (Borough Council, County Council and Local Strategic Partnership amongst others)

## Acknowledgements

The Feckenham Parish Plan Steering Committee would like to extend its thanks to the following groups and individuals who have provided help and support, both financially and otherwise, throughout the development of this Parish Plan:

Feckenham Parish Council  
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Sally Roundell

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Community First  
Elizabeth Atkins  
Norman Neasom

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Steve Dalloway  
Sue Darby  
Keith French

Andrew Henson (Chair)  
Jeff Matthews  
Betty Power  
Catherine Roberts  
John Roundell  
Tim Smith

## Contacts

Please address any queries to The Clerk of Feckenham Parish Council or follow the links on the [www.feckenham.com](http://www.feckenham.com) website

## Have Your Say on the Key Priorities!

We have summarised the key issues and challenges that have emerged during the consultation process as we have been compiling this Parish Plan.

As you can imagine, however, resources and timescales are limited. So this is your opportunity to identify those areas that you believe should receive greatest focus.

In the table below, please rank the top 5 issues that you believe should get priority attention, which will include gathering the necessary resources (people, money, etc) to fulfil them. Please insert the number '1' for highest priority, down to number '5'. We have limited this to 5 for ease of gathering responses.

If you wish to be kept informed on progress with particular items, please tick and leave your contact details below:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel No: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please submit responses to The Clerk to Feckenham Parish Council in the enclosed stamped addressed envelope by 5<sup>th</sup> November 2006**

	Issue/Challenge	Priority (1 - 5)	Keep Informed (✓)
A	Local sporting facilities		
B	Options for shop, post office, etc		
C	Businesses for the rural community		
D	Housing/planning		
E	Footpaths		
F	Noise pollution		
G	Dog fouling		
H	Flood prevention		
I	Village Watch & police presence		
J	Speeding traffic		
K	Parking facilities		
L	HGVs		
M	Recycling		
N	Communications		
O	Management of playing fields		
P	Needs of children & young people		

## **Appendices**

To enhance understanding of the process undertaken, and as a source of reference for future activities, we have included the following as appendices:

1. The Parish Survey
2. Parish Survey Results
3. Budget Summary
4. Events and Communication
5. Feckenham News
6. Media Clips