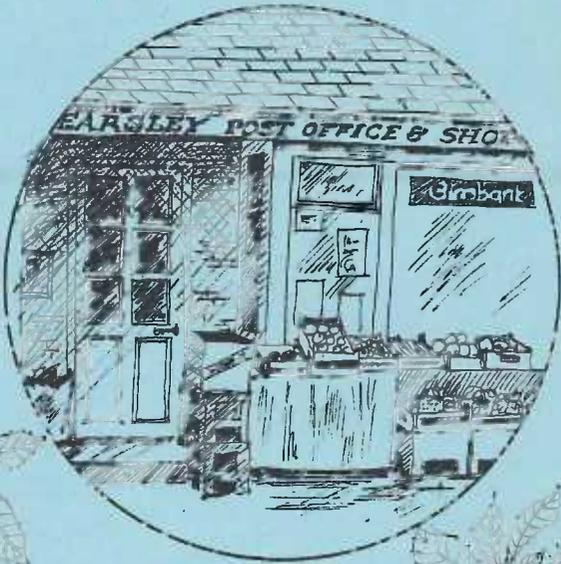
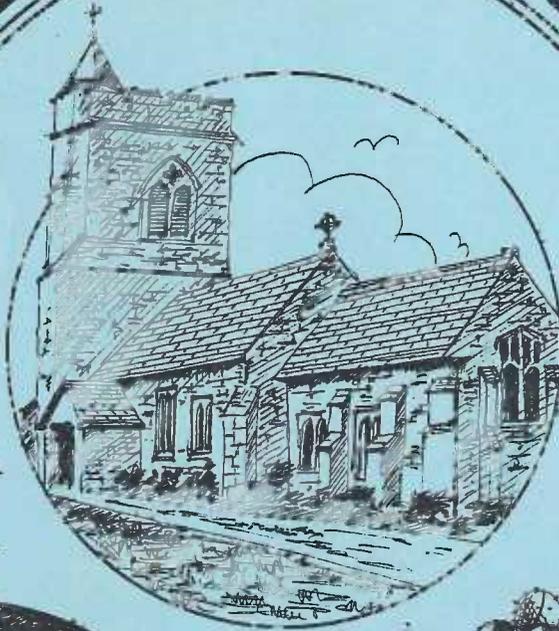
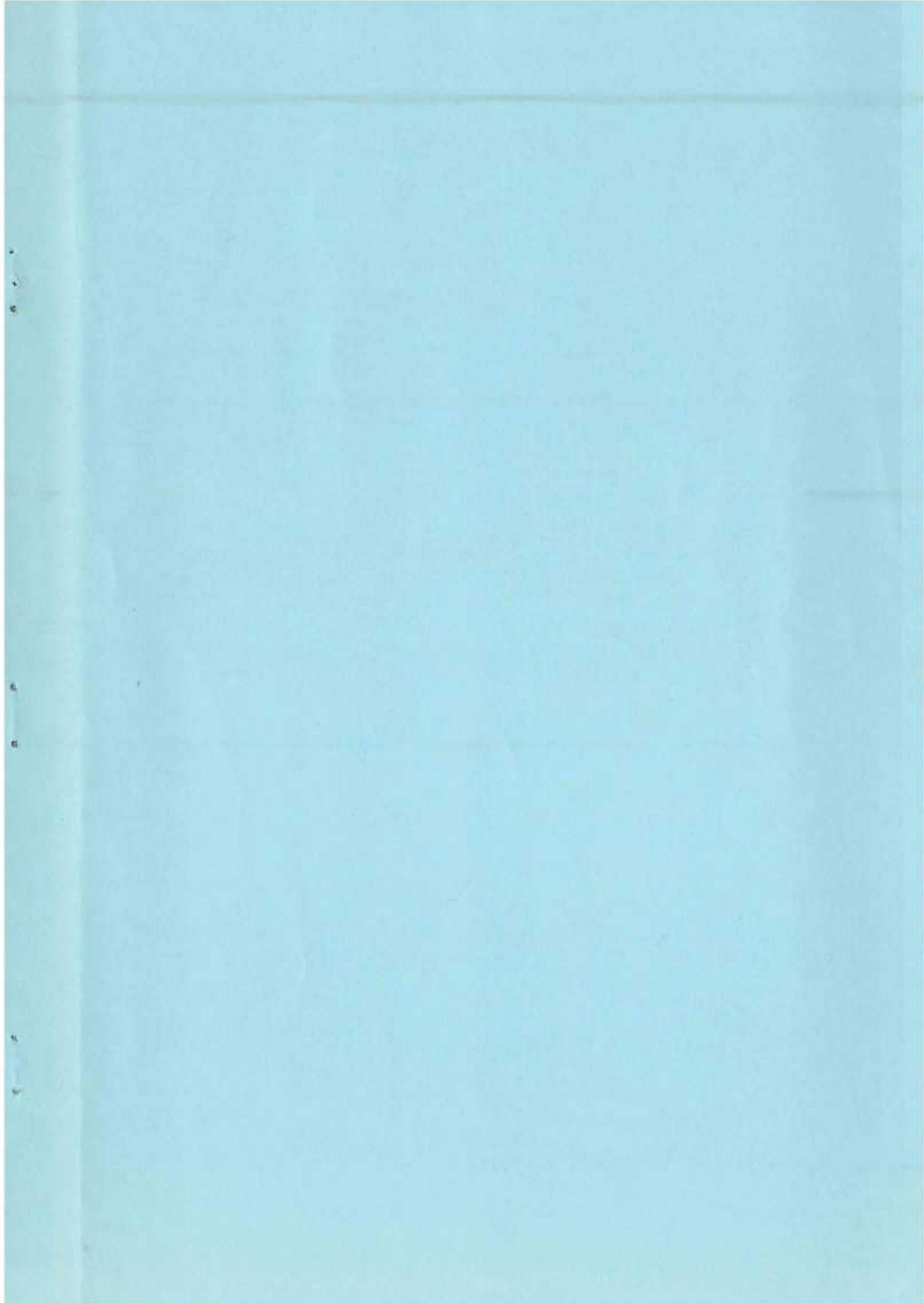


Joy Payne

# CHEARSLEY



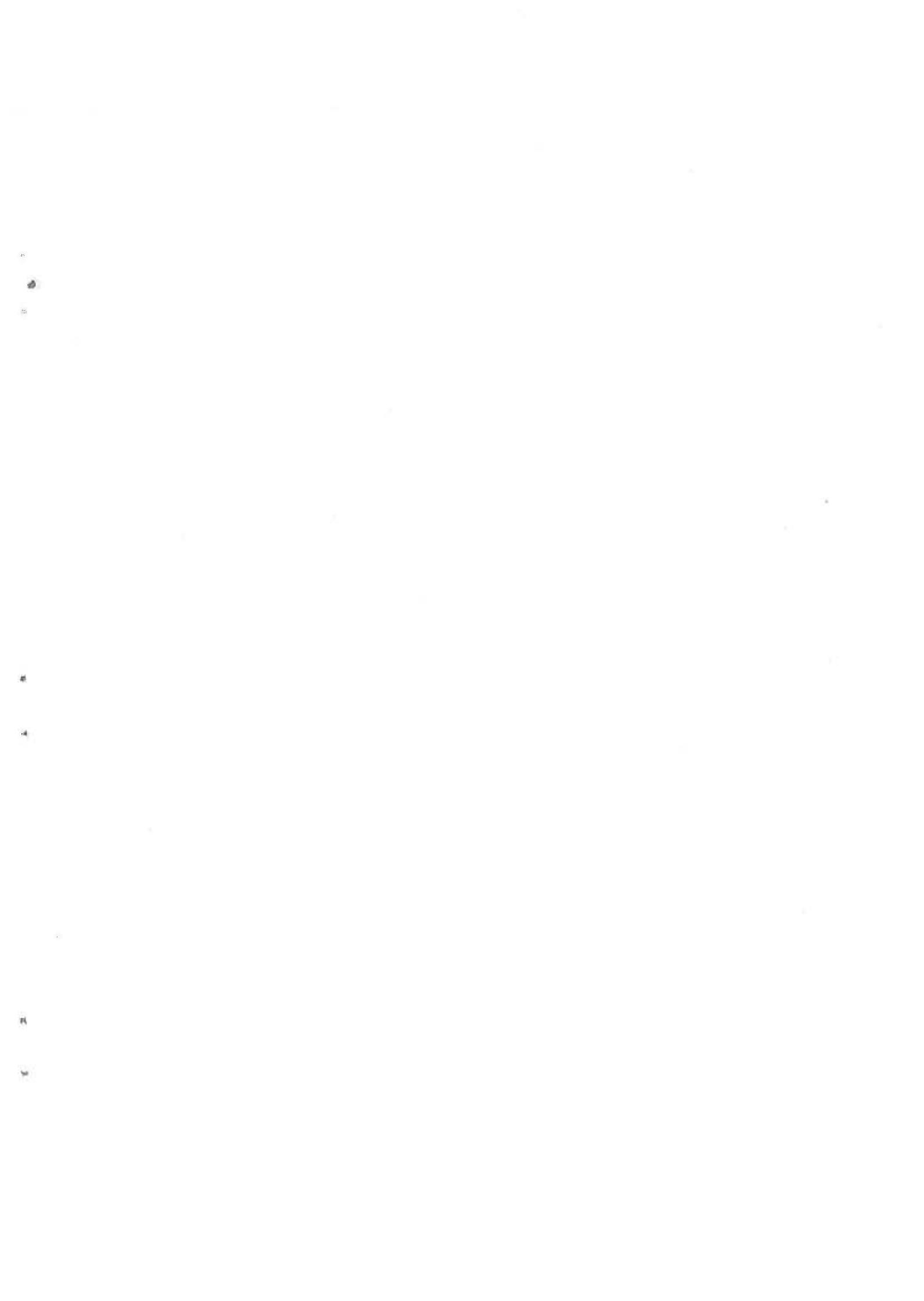
**VILLAGE APPRAISAL  
FULL REPORT**





VILLAGE  
APPRAISAL  
1986 ~ 1988

**FULL REPORT**



## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This document has been produced by the Appraisal Committee: Chairman - Peter Peters; Members - Harry Ashworth, Ted Hooton, John Miles, Jenny Watkins, and Annie Willens. Special thanks are due to Ted for many hours spent in applying his professional analytical skills and authorship. The total time devoted to this project add up to almost 1,000 of unpaid and voluntary working hours by all the above, and by various other people.

We wish to recognise the early efforts of Ray Stollery in getting the project started, and Don Wallis for his early chairmanship. We are indebted to Michael Head for his willingness to provide objective summaries from a detached viewpoint. We extend our thanks to the following: Bill Keech and Bill Slatter for their early participation; Laura Heybrook and John King for their advice on compilation of the Junior Questionnaire and general assistance.

Thanks are due to the villagers who participated in the pilot study, and to those who gave additional help in distribution of the questionnaires.

The Committee has received welcome encouragement and advice from Anne Stobart and Sarah Jackson of the Buckinghamshire Council for Voluntary Services.







# CHEARSLEY VILLAGE APPRAISAL

1986 - 1988

## INTRODUCTION

The Appraisal is an attempt to make a statement about the village and its inhabitants, their views on its development, and their hopes for the future. It is also intended as a document to provide facts and figures for the Parish Council and others, so that future decisions can be based on known data and quantified opinion, instead of estimates and suppositions.

The main feature of the Appraisal was a Questionnaire which was distributed to all inhabitants over the age of eight, asking their opinion on many things, from hobbies to housing policy, from transportation to trees.

A small committee started designing the Questionnaire in April 1986. However, later that year, a battle to save our School began, and took all the spare time of some key committee members for many months. Work on the Questionnaire resumed in the Spring of 1987, the document being printed and distributed in the late Autumn. After collection of the completed forms, the analysis of the Adult questionnaires was finished by the early Spring of 1988, with the Juniors being completed by the Autumn.

## THE VILLAGE

Chearsley is situated in the Vale of Aylesbury, with the older part of the village on the side of a hill below the Aylesbury-Cuddington-Long Crendon road. The parish is just over 940 acres in size and is mostly farmland of arable and pasture, with some water-meadows alongside the River Thame. Most now belongs to farmers in neighbouring villages, but Manor Farm of 233 acres is still an integral part of Chearsley.

The community has a Church, with an active congregation and, until losing the fight for its existence in the summer of 1988, had a "First" School with over 30 pupils. There is a Shop/Post Office, and "The Bell" public house. The Village Hall is used by a pre-school Playgroup, a newly-started youth club, as well as by others.

Parts of the village lie within a Conservation Area and, in addition to the Church and Pub, twenty-three of the dwellings are listed buildings. Perhaps it cannot be described as a beautiful village, but it has character, enhanced by its old winding sunken lanes. In recent years estate agents have come to describe it as "a much sought after village" and this may have contributed to house prices reaching astronomical levels.

## HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

It seems that the village began about the year 800. An expert has described the shape of the village and its sunken lanes as "an unusual arrangement, and one not expected in deepest Buckinghamshire....and which has not been changed later". As time passed, dwellings developed around seven farms, and between two large "Greens": Lower Green by the river; and Upper Green, now considerably smaller and known as The Green.

The Church is very old, parts dating back to at least the time of the Normans. Apart from the Black Death in the 14th century, and local skirmishes in the Civil War (17th century), little would have disturbed the life here. Fourteen existing houses in the village were built around the time of the Civil War. The farms kept their basic identities until the late 18th century when the population had reached 200 souls. We did not have a resident Lord of the Manor, and this undoubtedly affected the character of the village and the attitude of its inhabitants.

Until early Victorian times, all the houses were below the top road, hardly visible to travellers, except for "The Bell" Inn. Then, a new Smithy appeared on the north side of The Green, followed by more houses, up to the turn of that century. In some ways that must have been the heyday of the village, being a self-sufficient community. There were some five Inns and beershops, and many trades: bootmakers, carpenters, baker, laundress, and so on. Many of the women and young girls made pillow lace, until that craft died out after the First World War.

Two world wars, and mechanization on the farms, accelerated the exodus from the land. The first council houses appeared in 1925, followed by more on a small estate. Another group of them came after World War II, together with a new Village Hall, to establish a sizeable part of the village above the top road. From 1950 the village began to grow very quickly and, with the exception of Manor Farm, all the farmland gradually transferred to owners outside the village. Little shops died out, and the Smithy closed. The former Baptist Chapel and old barns were converted into houses. The era of the "executive home" had arrived. Families that had originally rented the old cottages moved out to the council houses and smaller bungalows, and watched their former homes transformed with modern interiors and extensions. By 1986, only two inhabitants remained in farming as a full-time occupation, and Chearsley was firmly in the 20th century.

## SOME FACTS AND FIGURES

### POPULATION

|                 |            |     |                              |
|-----------------|------------|-----|------------------------------|
| 1986 estimate:  |            |     |                              |
| Senior Citizens | 80         | 16% | (Men over 65, women over 60) |
| Under 18 years  | 122        | 25% |                              |
| Remainder       | 293        | 59% |                              |
| Total =         | <u>495</u> |     |                              |

1988 Electoral Roll: 362

### HOUSING

In 1986 there were 182 dwellings. It was estimated that 21% of them were in the "executive class". Between 1800 and 1955, the total number of dwellings doubled from 47 to 91. In the next thirty years up to 1986, the number of dwellings doubled again, giving an average building rate of 2.7 dwellings per year.

In 1976 the District Council defined the village Conservation Areas and published the Conservation Document. It was an early type of appraisal, and contained two key statements: "Further infilling (of housing) will be severely restricted"; and: "The village will be confined to its present limits". By 1986, it appeared that the statement about infilling had little effect because, in the previous ten years, houses had been built where, previously, planning permission was denied. Also, due to decisions by the Department of the Environment, other houses appeared outside the village limits. Today, planning applications for new houses show no sign of slackening. By the year 2001, we might have about two hundred and twenty dwellings with a population of 600 people.

## CONCLUSIONS

The answers to the questionnaires confirm that Chearsley is indeed a collection of individuals, many with very positive and varied opinions on all sorts of subjects. In particular, the following issues raise strong feelings: further building - how much, and where it should be (the latter issue not really resolved by the survey); the appearance of the village (overhead lines and keeping our sunken lanes); car parking and speeding. On six issues there are clear majorities of opinion:

- YES, a craft centre would be acceptable
- YES, a village housing policy would be welcomed
- NO to extra street lights
- YES, a part-time Roadman would be appreciated
- MORE rubbish bins and salt containers needed
- YES, the Parish Council could raise the village rate if a worthwhile project came up which would benefit all.

The Shop/Post Office is probably the most appreciated amenity (now that the school has gone), and the least appreciated service is that of the Police.

There are very many useful comments amongst the many minority opinions expressed in the Questionnaire, and it is to be hoped that local organizations (Parish and County Council, bus companies, etc) will pick up many of them from the "Full Report" - such things as bus times, old peoples' bungalows with two bedrooms, comments on the school buses, getting to and from local clinics.

Chearsley seems to emerge from the survey as being mainly a younger middle-aged community with a relatively high turnover. The main requirement is for the village to be a small, attractive and quiet place to live in, but not to be the sole centre of recreation. Amongst young and old there is a lot of agreement that it is a friendly village, and the most popular course of action would seem to be to keep it as pleasant, restful place to come home to, and to live in.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. A copy of the full Appraisal Report should be kept by the Clerk to the Parish Council, so that it is always available at council meetings to provide reference information for councillors. Progress made in implementing the recommendations should be monitored, with an annual review and updating.
2. The full Appraisal Report should be made available to all interested people: perhaps Parish Councillors could lend out their copies if asked. Other copies should be placed in the reference sections of all local libraries - Long Crendon, Haddenham, Aylesbury and Thame. The Womens' Institute and Thursday Club should be offered a free copy each.
3. The Parish Council should extend a sympathetic ear to any practical suggestions or planning applications for a craft centre - should one ever be proposed for the village.
4. The Parish Council should explore with AVDC Planning Department possible ways to produce a Village Housing Policy Document which would reflect the views of the village (on issues where there is a clear majority), and which would be of value to all those concerned

in planning matters. In other words, to see if a useful document can be made which would not simply be a cosmetic exercise. Attention should be given to trying to maintain a mix of housing (with some priority for young buyers), together with a slower rate of growth than experienced in recent years.

5. The village and BCC Education department should be made aware of the fact that there may be enough interested people to begin evening classes here (on a language and crafts), that there is a site (the village hall), and potential instructors within the village. It is to be hoped that one or two interested and energetic villagers could follow this up.
6. The governors of Cuddington, Haddenham and Aylesbury schools should be made aware of the village concern over poor transportation of the pupils to those schools. Appropriate pressure should also be maintained on the BCC Education Department.
7. The Parish Council should explore ways to keep the pressure on the local bus company to provide a link with BR Haddenham, and a better bus service in the evenings for the young people of the village. This is an issue which the Womens' Institute might take up.
8. The Parish Council should invite the Womens' Institute, Thursday Club, or one or two villagers to explore the possibility of setting up a voluntary car service, as it appears there are enough users and potential providers to make a worthwhile service.
9. The Parish Council should keep a close eye on parking problems in the village, especially around the area of the school and the Pub. The police should be invited to make occasional spot checks on these two areas to ensure that parked cars do not present a danger, and that emergency vehicles have proper access.
10. With the results of Part 8 (Roads, etc) of the questionnaire in front of them, the Parish Council should debate (and possibly call a public meeting) to consider the questions of:
  - a) Sunken lanes, and the methods suggested for their preservation
  - b) Speeding, and methods of prevention (eg. speed limit, mini-roundabout)
11. The Parish Council should note the majority in favour of supporting true village projects (of benefit to all and funded from the village rate) and, in particular, make all efforts to employ a part-time "roadman".
12. Particular note should be taken of the majority opinions concerned with siting of salt bins, and provision of more, larger, and frequently serviced rubbish bins.
13. The attention of the Chief Constable should be drawn to the comments expressed by villagers in Part 9 (and other parts with respect to parking and speeding) of the questionnaire, and he should be asked to respond.

## ADVICE TO OTHER APPRAISAL COMMITTEES

As new appraisals are started in other villages, committees often look at previous efforts by others, and try to use their experience and formats. We have the following advice to others who follow us:

1. Keep your committee as small as possible, but with a broad cross-section of the inhabitants. You need some members who are capable of coping with lots of detail, objective analysis, and who have good, simple, writing abilities. Extensive knowledge of the village and inhabitants is obviously highly desirable on the part of some members, but be prepared for the fact that village knowledge and experience is often found amongst inhabitants who may dislike committees.
2. Decide on your basic Questionnaire format (Section Headings) early on, and make those Sections the basis for your regular meetings. There is no need to keep committee minutes, provided that at least one person is responsible for the detailed creation of the Questionnaire, section by section, incorporating the members' ideas and suggestions as you go along. A computer word-processor is invaluable in the inevitable process of constant re-writing here.
3. Our final Questionnaire was too large. Half the size would have been much better, with the majority of questions being multiple-choice only. Our "technique" of general questions, and inviting comments on nearly every question, made for horrendous problems when it came to analysing the results! Our invitation for comments should have been rationed to one, or two at the most, for each section.
4. When formulating the Questionnaire there is a tendency to want to put in questions which would make it a census more than a sampling of village opinion, eg. number of cars in the household, number of children at school, etc. Avoid such things and, when formulating questions, apply the following criteria to each one: "Why should the village want to know this?" ...and... "Will the village benefit from knowing the answers - ie., is there a good possibility that the answers may provide really useful information so that something can actually be done as a result?"
5. We did a trial run of our Questionnaire before the main distribution. On balance, we feel it was an unnecessary exercise.
6. The committee was quite independent of the Parish Council, and that was a good idea. We had one councillor and an ex-councillor, but it was not a Parish Council sub-committee, and we came to value our independence.
7. As already mentioned, we found the word-processing capabilities of a computer/printer very useful indeed (in both the preparatory and analysis stages), but never found the need for a computer for data processing or analysis. However, with a larger village population and more multiple choice questions, computer data processing/analysis might prove useful.



## CHEARSLEY VILLAGE APPRAISAL

### ADULT QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS

#### EXPLANATION OF THE ANALYSIS TECHNIQUE

In listing peoples' **Comments** it is inevitable that many answers (or parts of answers) were very similar, and these have been grouped together wherever possible, to avoid huge lists of almost identical comments. For example, in Part 2, Question 1, there were 51 answers that mentioned the small size of the village, and the fact that it is a quiet rural community. Some people simply left it at that, but others put additional reasons such as access, or house price. These then made additional groups of answers. Therefore, if you add up all the numbers of answers (in brackets) under Question 1 you will find they come to more than 175, which is the total number of Questionnaires that were analysed. So we cannot really say that x% of people thought "this" and y% of people thought "that" - there were many individual comments, and they are simply listed and graded in order of number of replies.

Sometimes, within a group, certain people would add an additional comment. For example, in Part 2, Question 1, out of the 51 replies some referred to the village being small, and of the right size. In such cases, we have indicated that not all the 51 replies mentioned the "right size" by putting that comment in brackets. However, in the fifth comment down, 22 replies mentioned availability of some village amenity and, obviously not all 22 mentioned all the amenities listed here. However, they do form a group, and because the school was the most favoured amenity, this has been indicated by underlining. In answers to Part 4, certain people felt strongly about something and underlined parts of their comments, and this has been kept here, to indicate strength of feeling.

In Part 4, people were asked specific questions, with multiple choice, and here we have used percentages to indicate the groups of replies, because the number of replies is simply the number of people answering - even if they indicated "Don't Know" by not circling or ticking anything. Also, in the analysis of Part 4, we have listed any comments that people added by putting them under the respective headings included in the multiple choice. But here again, the comments are listed in order of number of replies, not percentages.

Most people took the Questionnaire very seriously, and a surprising number of people added all sorts of comments. However, there were one or two rude or very stupid replies which would have offended some people, so these were removed. However, under the subject of "what do you like about the village" there were two replies of "Not Much". These were obviously perfectly valid, and were left in.

In addition, any comments that were made about any specific Planning Application in the village, currently under consideration, were eliminated whether for, or against. It was felt that the Appraisal was not a proper forum for comments of that nature.

## PART 1 - PERSONAL AND EMPLOYMENT etc.

### INTRODUCTION

A total of 383 Adult Questionnaires were distributed throughout the village. These were returned as follows (Male/Female being determined from Question 1):

|         |    |
|---------|----|
| Male    | 81 |
| Female  | 89 |
| Unknown | 6  |
| Others  | 17 |
| -----   |    |

TOTAL 193 Representing 50% of those distributed.

However, of the "Unknown" batch, one was disqualified (it was obviously completed by three different hands, two of whom had clearly filled in their own separate questionnaires, and it was obviously deemed unfair that those two people should have more than one chance each). The "Other" batch, above, comprised 10 totally blank forms and, in addition, 7 blank forms marked as indicating that the recipients considered the Appraisal as a waste of time.

Therefore, of the 193 returned forms, 175 were useable for the analysis. This represents 46% of the adult population of the village.

For the purposes of the questionnaires, "Adult" defined those aged 16 or over. The analysis of the adult age groups might suggest that a low proportion of the 16-20 and 21-29 age group returned their questionnaires. Therefore, the real proportion of older villagers (those aged 30 and above) returning their forms was almost certainly higher than 46%.

### THE QUESTIONS

Question 2 asked for the age group, and the analysis shows:

| 16-20 | 21-29 | 30-39 | 40-49 | 50-64 | 65 or over |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------------|
| 4%    | 7%    | 17%   | 30%   | 23%   | 19%        |

Question 3. Were you born here?

|     |     |
|-----|-----|
| Yes | 6%  |
| No  | 94% |

...and how many years have you lived in the village?

| Less than 5 | 5-24 | 25-49 | 50 or more |
|-------------|------|-------|------------|
| 32%         | 52%  | 11%   | 5%         |

Question 4. Do you personally pay or share in paying Rates?

|     |     |
|-----|-----|
| Yes | 90% |
| No  | 10% |

Questions 5, 6 and 7 concerned occupations and where people worked or wanted to work. There is quite a obvious difference between Men and Women in this group of questions and answers, so they will be dealt with separately.

## Question 5:

## OCCUPATIONS

|                      | Men |                            | Women |
|----------------------|-----|----------------------------|-------|
|                      |     | Housewife                  | 34%   |
|                      |     | Housewife and Partime Work | 19%   |
|                      |     | Partime Work               | 16%   |
| Full-time employment | 67% | Full-time employment       | 14%   |
| Retired              | 24% | Retired                    | 13%   |
| Self-employed *      | 4%  | Full-time education        | 2%    |
| Unemployed           | 3%  | Self-employed *            | 1%    |
| Full-time education  | 2%  | Unemployed                 | 1%    |

\* It is suspected that the actual percentages for self-employed people in the village is higher than shown because this was not made a separate category, and the figures above appeared in the "Other" category. It is known that at least one man who is self-employed filled in the "full-time employment" category.

Also, with respect to the women, it is probably true to say that most are, in fact Housewives, but the figures above are directly from the replies and, therefore, it might be fair to assume that 47% are exclusively Housewives (adding 34% to the 13% "retired").

## Question 6.

## IF EMPLOYED, WHERE DO YOU WORK?

|                          | Men |                          | Women |
|--------------------------|-----|--------------------------|-------|
| Not locally              | 48% | Locally, within 10 miles | 65%   |
| Locally, within 10 miles | 38% | In Chearsley             | 19%   |
| In Chearsley             | 10% | Not locally              | 14%   |
| Local and Chearsley      | 4%  | Local and Chearsley      | 2%    |

## Question 7.

## IF YOU DO NOT WORK IN CHEARSLEY, WOULD YOU LIKE TO?

|     | Men |  | Women |
|-----|-----|--|-------|
| Yes | 30% |  | 18%   |
| No  | 70% |  | 82%   |

Question 8 was preceded by the following statement: "We have almost no employment within the village or parish any more. Some people may think this is a change for the worse. However, regardless of your job situation, or whether you are retired, would you:"

|  |                       |     |
|--|-----------------------|-----|
| Like to see a little light industry?                       | No                    | 58% |
|  | Yes                   | 23% |
|  | No comment/Don't know | 19% |
| Some small craft workshops<br>in, or close to the village? | Yes                   | 67% |
|  | No                    | 22% |
|  | No comment/Don't know | 11% |

Question 9 asked for a qualifying comments as follows: "If you have answered Yes to either of the above questions, what type of work would you like to see here? Please describe:"

Where people answered "Yes" to Light Industry, there were 4 comments as follows:

Blacksmith.  
Petrol pump.  
Village isn't too big for a large factory.  
Small amount of light industry employing locals would give village some life during the day.

Where people answered "Yes" to craft workshops, there were 119 comments as follows:

- (29) Any country/rural/traditional crafts
- (26) Carpentry, light woodcraft, furniture.
- (15) Art, Pottery, glass.
- (11) Needlecrafts, spinning, weaving, lacemaking, knitwear
- (9) Blacksmith/forge/ornamental iron work
- (3) Priority to provide work and services for villagers - home catering, window cleaning, odd-jobbing, etc. Residential atmosphere must be protected - no heavy traffic, noise, unsightliness.
- (2) Bakery
- (2) Riding School, stables.
- (2) Timber Yard.
- (2) Small specialist craft retail shops.
- (2) Nursery gardens/horticulture
- (2) Consultancy, computers, office work from home.
- (2) Nothing to pollute the environment or attract heavy lorries.  
Farm Shop (Produce, flowers)  
Turkey/Chicken Farm  
Odd-Jobber.  
Hair Dressers.  
Saddle/harness making.  
Design studios.  
Similar to existing crafts already here: woodwork, horticulture, etc  
Base for services: office/domestic help  
"Roadside" retail outlet selling home-made goods and some "brought-in", on a village cooperative basis.  
Cottage industry, but not light industry as it would detract from nature of village.  
If young people want to work in village, should be encouraged to set up a workshop, and given assistance in planning same.  
Location must be right.

Where people answered "Yes" to both industry and crafts, there were 22 comments as follows:

- (6) Any clean and quiet light crafts or industry, nothing to pollute.
- (2) Light car mechanic/maintenance.
- (2) Light engineering.
- (2) Pharmaceuticals
- (2) Not manufacturing. Light assembly or packaging workshop, and craft workshop ideal with, possibly, small retail outlet.
- (2) We need somewhere to give part-time work for women (flexible hours).
- (2) Any industry to train people (especially youngsters leaving school) with modern useful skills.  
Electronics.  
Any light industry.  
Garden Centre/Nursery  
Industry/crafts very acceptable, do not have to be little or small.  
We had opportunity for packaging "convenience" meals, but Parish Council voted it down.

But how do Parish Councillors propose to ever get this, when they seem to restrict everything, or any ideas, that come up?  
Not in the village. Any smallish concern not creating heavy traffic or noise or smell - pottery, small restaurant, garden centre, no steel mills or pigs.  
Immaterial as to what, providing it gives local employment and involvement - but no heavy lorries.  
Small workshop/storage for self-employed tradesmen, carefully sited.  
One small-scale light industrial employer - up to 6 jobs.

#### OTHER COMMENTS:

In the Questionnaire, people were invited at the end of the Employment Section to add comments if they wished. Thirty people felt strongly enough to make additional statements, and they fall into three main categories:

The following 10 comments fall into the very conservative or "leave our village alone" group:

- (2) Unrealistic to think there could not be much more employment, and light industry would ruin the rural atmosphere.
- (2) Surrounding farming should be encouraged.  
ANY small industry or craft workshop is difficult to stop spreading (eg craft workshop on Aston Hill, Stokenchurch - now light industry)  
Give encouragement to home working for outside employers - will avoid commuting and need for second cars, help shop and pub, and increase personal commitment to village.  
Industrial workers tend to want to live away from their workplace, so light industry in village usually employs more outsiders.  
Large scale industrial development should not be encouraged - sufficient in surrounding areas.  
Village should retain its residential character.  
This village is a quiet place for people to live and relax in after working in industry in noisy towns. Employment here, however small would erode village life.

The following 14 comments fall into the "we need employment, but let's go very carefully" group:

- (3) Nothing too noisy (with respect to craft workshops), no juggernauts.
- (2) Must think about parking for customers or visitors with any crafts outlet/shop - limit type of trade from point of view of access.
- (2) Small amount of employment here would benefit shop and pub as well. I do not wish Chearsley to become industrial like Thame and some nearby villages, but some craft workshops would be nice.  
Any business requiring delivery/pickup vehicles must be outside the narrow lane complex - to avoid safety and parking problems.  
Maybe more "self-employment" should be encouraged.  
Some small light industry to keep village alive, but not noisy or vehicles blocking roads. Unsure if enough areas left, unless "tucked away" with tree planting, eg. other side of Church Lane.  
Cannot give firm "Yes" to questions, but occupations like blacksmith or cottage industries would benefit village. But sited where?  
Any business to be carefully chosen to meet wishes of villagers.  
Any business in Chearsley should employ a fixed percentage of village people if at all possible.

The following 6 comments fall into the "We need employment with few strings attached" group:

I have no car - there is no transport to get work outside village, so we need work in village.  
There is danger in saying: no more buildings, no cars, no change.  
Must think of employment so that village does not become a dormitory.  
Tremendous need for workshops in area, more premises needed for small businessmen to start up - bring rents down to sensible levels.  
Whatever is necessary to give employment for villagers especially with no transport, with due respect to immediate neighbours.  
Do not want a decaying dormitory village, so local employment related to countryside planning or creation of beauty seems the only remedy.  
Had an opportunity for new employment when chicken farm closed, but Parish Council did not support it, so we got a housing development.

## QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS, PART 2 - THE VILLAGE

Question 1. Why did you choose to come and live in the village?

- (51) Small (but right size), quiet/rural community/village.
- (35) Location/environment/countryside attractive, picturesque.
- (33) Right sort of house.
- (28) To live with or near, family/husband (not always from choice).
- (22) Availability of school/playgroup/shop/church, pub, bus route.
- (18) No comment.
- (17) Near to, or convenient for work/employment.
- (13) Get away from, or preferable to city/urban life.
- (11) Near to Thame, Aylesbury, Oxford, High Wycombe.
- (9) Access to London/Birmingham, etc (for commuting or business).
- (8) Cheaper housing at the time (compared with others nearby).
- (7) Family ties, born or grew up here, no desire to go elsewhere.
- (4) Retirement.
- (3) By accident - saw house ad - lucky chance.
- (2) Good first impression (eg. Church and churchyard showed it is caring place).

Question 2. What do you like about the village, and why?

- (63) Friendly people, helpful, sense of community feeling but not nosy or domineering, good neighbours, togetherness when needed.
- (47) Atmosphere: peace and quiet, and open space.
- (44) Size (small, "right" size), and rural.
- (27) No comment.
- (17) Accessibility of surrounding countryside (walks).
- (15) Picturesque/views/character/old houses, well cared for.
- (13) Shape and character of village ("wholeness, compact, safe feeling, no through road, self-contained").
- (10) Good cross-section of ages, social groups, interests, activities.
- (9) Proximity to places, eg. Haddenham, Thame, Oxford, London, M40.
- (9) Good range of amenities for its size: school/shop/pub/church.
- (8) Remains mostly unspoiled/attractive village, not over-developed.
- (6) Mixture of individual houses, no housing estates - not yet ruined.
- (6) The narrow quiet sunken lanes.
- (6) No main roads, few cars.
- (3) Privacy when wanted.
- (2) Lovely church and churchyard.
- (2) It's Chearsley, my roots are here.
- (2) Not much.
  - Good place for children.
  - Always something going on (fete, jumble sales, etc).
  - The Chestnut Tree.
  - Excellent shop.
  - The lack of urban amenities.
  - Friendly Pub.
  - On bus route.
  - Well organised.
  - Reasonable size garden.
  - Little crime.

Question 3. What do you dislike about the village, and why?

- (67) No comment/No dislikes.
- (25) Development: too many unsympathetic expensive new houses, infilling changing village to suburban commuter dormitory, upsetting village spirit and/or appearance.
- (24) Volume, speed and noise of traffic (top roads, the Green, and in lanes) - no speed limit, bad behaviour of some drivers.
- (7) Lack of parking facilities, cars parked anyhow and everywhere.
- (6) "Neurotic little groups", set attitudes of some, and cliques.
- (6) Erosion of verges, and overgrown.
- (5) Losing school.
- (4) The Pub, unfriendly, no food, no asset to village.
- (4) Poor Village Hall (ugly, or bad location).
- (4) Not enough for young people to do.
- (4) Litter.
- (4) Some rude and noisy children (older boys), on bikes, rowdy games and radios on village green and bus shelters.
- (4) Lack of street lighting.
- (3) "Them and Us" attitude - village is divided.
- (3) No playing field - lack of proper play area for children.
- (3) It's a bit out of the way, isolated, "too sleepy"!
- (3) Poor infrequent bus service (especially to railway stations).
- (3) Few village functions, need more social aspects.
- (2) Lack of shops and facilities.
- (2) Heavy lorries delivering/collecting (bottom part of village).
- (2) A lot of people won't volunteer for anything.
- (2) No entertainment or activities for older people.
- (2) Lack of central (communication) point.
- (2) Lack of smaller, cheaper homes for young families.
- (2) Newcomers who think they can run the locals and turn us into suburbia.
- (2) Newcomers who walk past without speaking: "once I knew everybody, now I feel like a stranger in my own village".
- (2) Newcomers who treat the fields like parks.
- (2) Untidy hedgerows.
- (2) Lack of piped Gas.  
Piecemeal development.  
Old houses sometimes spoiled with modernisation.  
Children have to leave when older - nowhere to live here.  
Newcomers who have a house here, but don't "live" here.  
Getting too big.  
Not enough progress for amenities to survive in the future.  
Village is cramped down the hill.  
Driving along narrow lanes - needs a one-way system.  
Some people leave dogs free all day - cause mess, accidents.  
Too much noise, work and activity near my house at night.  
Lack of local (village) employment.  
Bus Stop rail (tatty).  
More trees and hedges needed.  
Chainsaws in gardens.  
Vandalism.  
Loud pop music from some houses.  
Poor winter road conditions.  
Bucks/Aylesbury Tory politics - they only think of cash - and are insensitive to village needs.

### QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS, PART 3 - ENVIRONMENT

This section began with a statement: "The appearance of the village affects us all. Parts of Chearsley are within Conservation Areas containing the older buildings, and features of special interest. This means that, within and around these Areas, new houses must be designed and situated with care, and views are protected."

Question 1. The Conservation Areas are shown shaded on the map. Do you think the Conservation Areas should be different? If so, please mark on the Map where you think they should be changed, or make any comments here:

- (27) No, keep them same as now, seems adequate.
- (7) Village small enough, (with many fine 20th C. buildings) for all to be designated conservation area, so why have small pockets? This would allow proper control of all development and preserve trees etc.
- (4) No, but new houses should be designed and sited (not crammed in) with care throughout village, not just conservation area.  
No, but review them every, say, 5 years  
As much as possible should be conserved, provided there is not a population boom.  
Sunken Lanes cannot take more traffic, so development in adjacent land must be restricted.  
Any major building project could alter village character, so fields outside boundaries must be used to prevent untidy sprawl,  
Number and type of houses within cons. areas should be controlled.  
Cons. areas should, at least be maintained, if not extended.  
All village areas south of Crendon-Aylesbury road to be included.  
Should be extended to ensure views of countryside are maintained.  
Seem OK, but things go wrong when new residents start extending and desecrating old buildings.

See also Figure 1 for suggested additions to Conservation Area.

Question 2. Do you think the village boundaries (trees, hedges, walls, fences) should be protected?

|                        |     |
|------------------------|-----|
| Yes                    | 86% |
| No                     | 2%  |
| Don't know, no comment | 12% |

Where people answered "Yes", there were the following comments:

- (9) In general, but not to the exclusion of common sense, within reason ("age" doesn't necessarily mean "good" - some things might be removed to improve rather than protect, maintenance must be considered)
- (4) Seems difficult - builders destroy hedges "by accident" with no fear - must be curbed: stop orders, high fines?
- (3) Village character should be preserved in this way (part of history).
- (3) Particularly old walls and trees - take too long to replace - (important characteristic of any rural community).  
Loss of village hedges has led to decrease in wildlife in gardens.  
Boundaries soon vanish if not cared for.  
Irregular boundary should be retained.  
Loss of identity if single rows of houses built outside boundaries.  
Advice and encouragement to owners to improve boundaries tastefully.  
Include road verges.  
Particularly trees and hedges.  
Also, keep in better repair.  
Except for unsightly fences.  
Am bit worried about what P C might do to Church Lane hedge.

No building should go beyond village boundaries.  
 More trees and hedges should be planted.  
 Hedges should be uniformly cut.  
 P C should encourage residents to care for features adjacent to them.

Where people answered "No", there were comments as follows:

Except for some trees.  
 Not just for the sake of it, alternative replacements may be acceptable.  
 Not necessarily all boundaries, but certain important trees to be protected. Hedges instead of wooden fences.  
 But extend boundaries to all Chearsley signs on the main roads.  
 Some trees and walls should be protected as at present.

Question 3. Is there anything else within the parish that you think should be protected - a view, group of trees, sunken lane, building, etc? Please comment, or mark on the map.

- (32) All sunken lanes (restrict damage by curtailing planning permission large articulated lorries should not be allowed at building sites).
- (10) The Chestnut tree.
- (10) The views
- (7) All trees.
- (7) No, nothing in particular.
- (6) All of it.
- (5) Trees opposite "The Bell", on the green.
- (5) Want village to remain as is, change as little as possible.
- (3) When school closes, must be protected, any modifications to building should blend in.
- (2) Duckpond should stay as is.
- (2) Church surroundings.
- (2) Protect verges against erosion.  
 All witchert walls.  
 Too many controls already.  
 Sunken lanes, but not so as people cannot create an access for their vehicles.  
 Any new lanes or roads should fit in with village character.  
 Small areas of flat verges and "islands". Stop adjoining occupiers annexing them - they are really common land.  
 Stop some footpaths being annexed by adjacent occupiers.  
 Trees behind Chearsley Hill House in fields.  
 Ash tree between Cedar Cottage and Lower Green Lane.  
 Trees along Chilton Road up to Hill House.

Summary (number of times specific items were mentioned):

|                                |    |
|--------------------------------|----|
| Lanes, footpaths, verges       | 38 |
| Trees                          | 25 |
| All of village, as is          | 11 |
| Views                          | 10 |
| Nothing special                | 7  |
| Others (buildings, walls, etc) | 9  |

Question 4. Is there any eyesore which you would like to see removed or cleaned-up - empty sites, a building, barn or shed, dead trees, rubbish?

- (25) No, or not aware of any.

- (7) Parking area in Church Lane alongside Manor Farm barn - is a mess.
- (6) Eroded verges need restoring, and keeping in good order and weeded.
- (5) The Village Hall.
- (5) Village Hall and area could be made much smarter and more pleasant.
- (4) The hedgerows need trimming.
- (3) Replacement Bus Shelters - character of originals completely missing, perhaps plant bushes or climbers round them.
- (3) Site of old cottages behind Pub needs cleaning up - bank overgrown.
- (3) Need large rubbish bin by bus stop, and more frequent emptying.
- (3) Remove bushes on bank in School Lane.
- (3) Make School Lane less exposed and urban with more tree planting.
- (2) Outside the school (old sawpit), around bus-stop, Lower Green Lane.
- (2) Lot of litter around village.
- (2) Cedar Cottage, bottom Dark Lane, is a continual rubbish tip, and drain blocked by debris.
- (2) Entrance to Lammas Path (School Lane) always filled with rubble/sand.
- (2) Hedges/ditches down Church Lane could be improved. Overhang duckpond.
- (2) Allotment should be cleaned up and used properly - not storage area. Dislike people throwing garden rubbish into hedgerows and ditches. Can the Green be kept better, clear of rubbish? Clean up The Baulk.
- Corrugated iron shed at very end of Church Lane - remove or screen.
- Plastic corrugated roof on school extension.
- Remove barn beyond Chearsley Hill House.
- The new houses along Lammas path
- The new house right at bottom of Lower Green Lane.
- Tatty entrance paving to properties.
- Duckpond could be made more attractive.
- Moves should be made to reduce street parking.
- Some of huts and sheds on Watts Green Farm (Lower Green Fm? - Ed)
- Fields to back of Aylesbury Rd should be kept cut and tidy.
- Litter and untidy verges - householders could do much to remedy.
- There could be a general clear-up.
- Railing by bus shelter.
- Path across Green overgrown with moss - slippery and too narrow.
- Truck that is parked at top of School Lane.
- One person's eyesore is another's beauty!

Summary (number of times specific items were mentioned):

|                         |    |
|-------------------------|----|
| Nothing in particular   | 25 |
| Litter, untidyness, etc | 18 |
| Village Hall            | 10 |
| Church Lane             | 10 |
| School Lane             | 6  |
| Verges                  | 6  |
| Miscellaneous           | 23 |

Question 5. Street "furniture" - signposts, salt bins, electric/telephone poles, etc. Do you think there is need for changes or improvements?

|                        |     |
|------------------------|-----|
| Yes                    | 42% |
| No                     | 34% |
| Don't know, no comment | 24% |

Comments were as follows:

- (36) All electric/telephone cables should be underground (would this be an expensive luxury - perhaps in conservation area only?)
- (5) More salt bins required (preferably wooden, not bright).

- (4) More or better signposts, or renew to reduce accidents. Waddesdon sign causes endless confusion, cars screech to a stop, back-up.
- (4) More litter bins required, particularly near pub and shop.
- (4) Salt bins needed at bottom of steep hills and at village boundaries, eg., bottom Dark Lane, by Old Vicarage, etc.
- (4) New salt bin required near shop, and not painted yellow.
- (3) Salt bins need redesign, access from below. Need cover, salt froze last winter.
- (3) Litter bin at bus-stop is not large enough and not emptied enough.
- (2) Street Map on Green/by shop - help visitors/tradesmen find addresses.
- (2) Electric/telephone posts/wires could be more attractive.
- (2) Do not like salt-heaps - should be in bins.
- Salt bin at end of Bernards Close.
- Unightly bins opposite School and at corner Chilton Road.
- Move salt bin from near shop to near Turnip Close and redesign, and replace with large mesh litter-bin.
- Require new no-through-road sign on village green.
- Villages don't need street furniture!
- Electric Mains cables too near to some houses for modern safety standards.
- Remove old disused signpost (now without sign) attached to "The Old Farmhouse".
- Village committees should discuss any proposed changes with those whose properties are most affected.
- Yellow street lighting should definitely not be introduced.
- All above are eyesores
- New additions should be kept in rural style.
- Hopefully no more signs anywhere in village.
- "Cheersley Welcomes Careful Drivers" signs at boundary verges.

Summary (number of times specific items were mentioned):

|                           |    |
|---------------------------|----|
| Telephone/Electric cables | 39 |
| Salt Bins                 | 20 |
| Signs                     | 8  |
| Litter Bins               | 7  |
| Miscellaneous             | 7  |

ADD ANY OTHER COMMENTS BELOW THAT YOU WISH TO MAKE ON VILLAGE ENVIRONMENT:

- (2) Fear too much "cleaning-up" and "manicuring". Rubbish is one thing, but overgrown hedges and derelict areas could be left alone. Wild verges should not be replaced by garden plants.
- People make a village, and I wish some would not try to make ours like Gerrards Cross.
- Summer bonfires at Sunday lunchtimes are anti-social.
- Want less dog-mess in private gardens.
- Please put pressure on AVDC (Thames Water?) to clean up river water.
- Boundaries could be expanded.
- Parish Council should have an Environment Committee with a budget.
- Flower beds within The Green would enhance the picture.
- It lacks mature trees (Dutch Elm disease is beyond our control - Ed), and approach roads are rather bleak.
- Houses along Lammas Path in Conservation Area - allegedly "protected area". To say they were designed with care and views protected is a joke. They are the first thing visible of village from Aylesbury Rd.

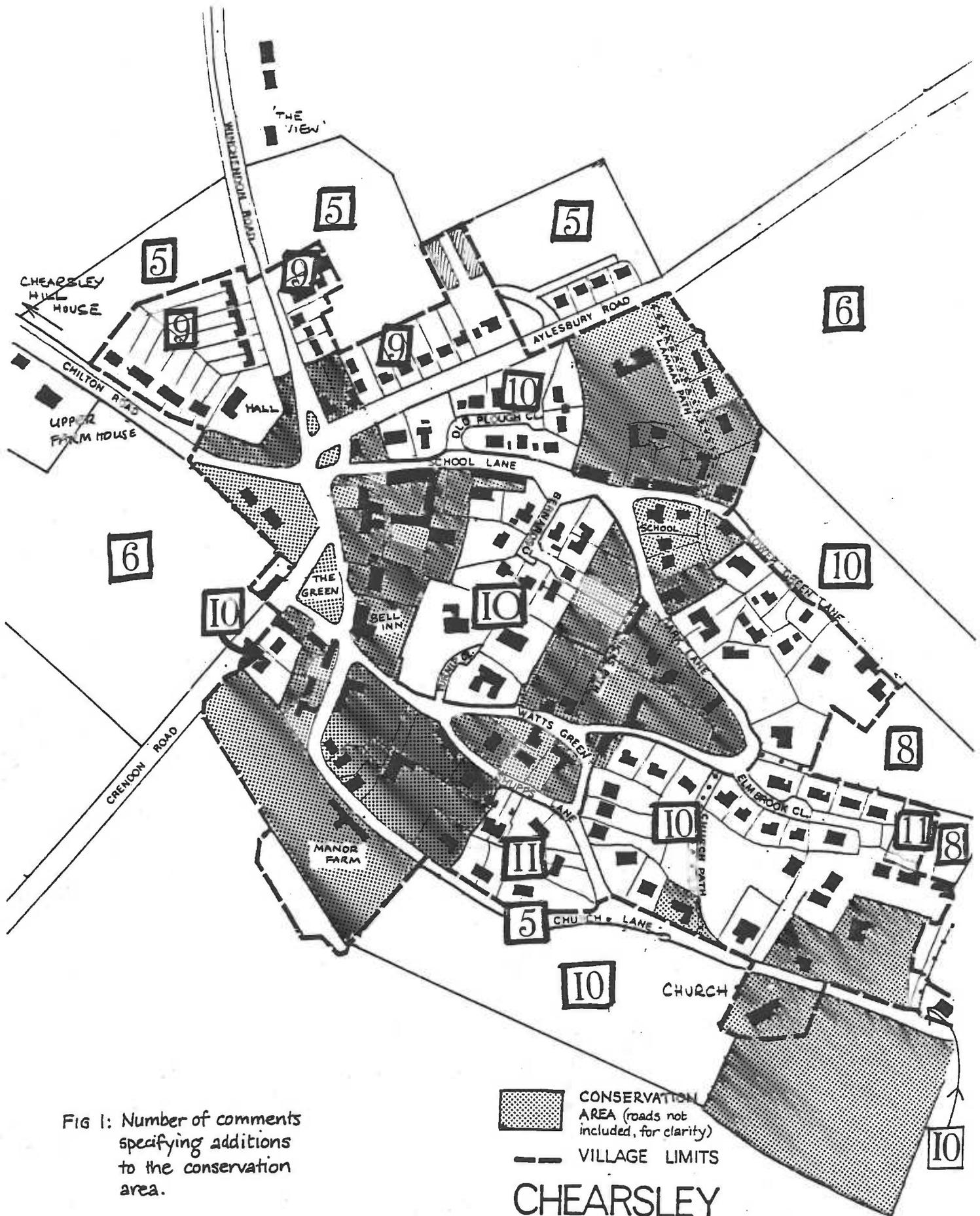


FIG 1: Number of comments specifying additions to the conservation area.

CHEARSLEY  
VILLAGE LIMITS  
CONSERVATION AREA

## QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS, PART 4 - HOUSING

The Questionnaire said: "In the last 30 years the number of houses has doubled, with an average building rate of just under 3 houses per year. At this rate, it is possible that by the year 2000 there will be no room left within the village limits for any more houses."

### Question 1

|  |            |     |
|--|------------|-----|
| Do you think that we, as a village, should   | YES        | 82% |
| have a policy about what we would like to    | NO         | 6%  |
| see, in the future, with respect to housing? | DON'T KNOW | 12% |

Where people answered "Yes" above, and made comments, they were as follows:

- (26) To strictly limit, control, or stop building to avoid losing village environment, retain shape, and gardens, and limit size of any new houses and the village itself, to avoid overcrowding (leads to aggression), lanes cannot cope.
- (12) Many local villages have been spoiled (by lack of policy), let's not spoil ours, retain rural atmosphere with small houses, no estates at all. Don't want another Haddenham or Chinnor.
- (10) Individuals/developers/builders/planners cannot be given responsibility for maintaining integrity of village. It's our village, our lives, our views should have influence. Village policy needs to be heard.
- (9) Better to plan it than let it just happen, responsibility for future. Lack of control creates chaos and present shambles of haphazard building.
- (6) Appearance and style (materials, design) and siting of recent houses has been bad (eg. Lammas Path), should be strictly controlled in future.
- (4) New building needed, but control it for appropriate housing and to preserve village character (and modern houses are better than 1960s)
- (4) Policy needed to accept the inevitable increased pressure for housing development, but control it (with respect to size and numbers).
- (3) Land must be made available - village must grow, so that essential services are not eroded - so that school, church and shop(s) can survive.
- (3) Decisions at District and County level are too remote, must have policy to influence them (they can spoil the village very quickly).
- (3) To allow gradual and continuing growth; need young people moving in to maintain a balanced community and enliven things (not like Winchendon).
- (2) Limited land has already been squandered on "executive" homes beyond means of local young couples, must not repeat mistake.
- (2) Landowners ought to be restricted to a yearly quota for building - control a slow expansion.
- (2) Greedy infilling makes for untidy development, allow careful infilling to preserve character of village.
- (2) To assist Parish Council in commenting on (and exercising control of) planning applications.
- (2) To achieve low-cost housing for more sections of community (including youngsters) to live here.  
Starter homes needed, must be able to specify where.  
More private houses need to be built with less haggling.  
To avoid becoming a dormitory for Aylesbury.  
We owe it to the elderly people who have lived here all their lives, not to ruin the village.  
The policy should be decided by long-term residents

Where people answered "No" above, and made comments, they were as follows:

- (3) No point, AVDC would take little notice anyway, they make all decisions.

Question 2

|                              |                         |     |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|-----|
| Do you think we should state | Don't know, can't say   | 26% |
| a future building rate of:   | UNDER 3 houses per year | 23% |
|                              | No more at all          | 20% |
|                              | About 3 houses per year | 20% |
|                              | OVER 3 houses per year  | 11% |

Peoples' comments fell into the following groupings:

People who indicated Don't know, or answered none of above, commented thus:

- (2) Only infilling inside village limits, then stop.
- (2) Should depend on the development policy.
- (2) We have no power to determine or control development rate.  
Whatever conforms to a good visual effect for the village.  
No rate, just quality control.  
Limit building, and control style to preserve character.  
No rate should be set, development allowed to meet demand.  
Depends on circumstances.  
I am not qualified to say.

Under 3 houses per year. One person agreeing with that rate said:

But not ad infinitum!

No more at all. One person agreeing with that said:

Or at most, one house per year

About 3 houses per year. People agreeing with that rate said:

Subject to acceptable density.  
So place doesn't always look like a building site.

Over 3 houses per year. People agreeing with that rate said:

- (2) More houses = more services and public transport.  
If building sites available will allow it  
3 to 5 per year.  
Only within new fixed limits, and only if it means extra facilities - play and football area, etc.  
Needs to be sorted out as soon as possible - no good burying our heads in sand - need more families or school will close.

The Questionnaire said: "In accordance with the Village Conservation Document, new housing development has been mainly kept within the village limits. The village limits are marked on the enclosed map."

Question 3

If more houses appear, where  
should they be built?

|                           |     |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Inside village limits     | 35% |
| Don't know/no comment     | 24% |
| Both (inside and outside) | 23% |
| Outside village limits    | 18% |

See also Appendix 1  
and Figure 2.

Peoples' comments fell into the following groupings:

People who indicated Inside village limits, commented as follows:

- (5) Must prevent uncontrolled sprawl - not another Haddenham.
- (4) Only way to exercise control - essential to protect rural aspect and character.
- (2) If outside, it would not stop - eventually merge with Cuddington, lose unique village character.  
But only for sites with existing outline planning permission.  
Keep numbers low and avoid being close together  
Must retain a small village.  
Limits must be protected.  
Countryside and its views must be protected.  
Village should not be unbalanced. If more outside, wouldn't be village.  
But perhaps compromise by rounding out indentations in village limits.  
Only go outside limits when inside is full.

People who indicated Don't know, or answered none of above, commented thus:

- (5) Nowhere, no more building.
- (2) It all depends on whether we keep the school.  
No more, but if we must, then within village limits.  
Agricultural land should not be used for housing.  
Present density almost too high, few spaces left, and any new homes should have reasonable space within the village.  
If we are to remain a village there must be limits  
Ribbon development must be avoided at all costs.  
Limits are helpful, but keep flexible, not rigid.  
Each house should be judged on its own merits.  
Build in Church Piece.  
Some built outside limits already and not well planned or sited, but there are other reasonable sites outside which could be considered.

People who indicated Both (Inside and outside village limits), commented as follows:

- (3) Existing limits almost full, we must look beyond (alongside Winchendon, Chilton, Aylesbury Roads, Church and Lower Green Lanes with tree-lined boundaries). Get on with it now, it will happen anyway.
- (2) Generally, mostly within limits, but some outside (but close to limits)
- (2) Develop north of main road (one suggested area: north of Aylesbury road), maintain character south of road
- (2) Expand the limits a little - better than everyone building on their gardens.
- (2) Trees needed - sites not to be eyesore when approaching village.
- (2) But with great caution, strict supervision, no estates.  
No ribbon development, round off village limits  
But only where there was once a building of some sort before.  
But only within reason.  
Minimize traffic growth in narrow lanes

If present sites with planning permission inside limits are taken up, it will result in too dense housing.  
 Planned expansion of limits should be permitted

People who indicated Outside village limits, commented as follows:

- (6) Cannot keep adding houses within present limits (it is full) - already we have traffic and parking problems, lose peacefulness, open spaces.
- (3) Only above the village hall/main road, top of village.  
 No more infilling in bottom part of village.  
 Preferably none at all.  
 But not alongside - site new houses to the north of main road and at far limits of parish boundary  
 Only a little outside, not inside - no more room.  
 Only on previously designated sites.  
 Has already happened, could be continued to a certain extent.  
 Now is a good time to establish new limits, and build within that limit.  
 More houses = more people = more public services  
 Definitely more houses needed.

Question 4

If more houses are built, what sort would you like to see?

|                                    |     |
|------------------------------------|-----|
| Homes for young first-time buyers  | 28% |
| Old peoples' bungalows             | 13% |
| Council Houses                     | 10% |
| Sheltered accomodation with warden | 4%  |
| Flats or maisonettes               | 2%  |
| Others                             | 43% |

Where people specified others or added comments, they were as follows:

- (11) Maintain mix of houses as now, balanced to community needs (age group balance), and rural location in appearance
- (7) Any new houses should be built in traditional style, in harmony with present older buildings and conservation areas (No more b----- bungalows, cottage type homes needed).
- (6) More Council-owned old peoples' bungalows (must have 2 bedrooms for guests), will release larger council houses for young families.
- (6) Family homes
- (6) None of the above, must avoid becoming mini-town.
- (5) Definitely not flats or maisonettes.
- (5) Encourage homes for first-time buyers (must not be too costly)
- (4) Village may be too remote and/or unsuitable for old people's bungalows or sheltered housing.
- (3) Encourage movement within council houses (including old-peoples bungalows) for Cheersley people by need, size of family, etc.
- (3) No more council houses, seem to have a large proportion already
- (3) Mixture to meet demand.
- (2) All of above, plus semis and detached for families to keep school open.
- (2) Homes for young families, eg. 3-bed semis.
- (2) Modest rented houses for the young, private or council built.
- (2) First-time buyer homes with character.
- (2) First-time buyers' homes needed to keep balance of "age and income" here.
- (2) We need homes for young families with children - prevent us becoming a retirement village, keep social organizations alive.

- (2) Low-cost starter homes and old peoples' homes outside village limits, to let people stay in village if and when circumstances change.
- (2) Only council bungalows for the elderly.
- (2) Lack of amenities and/or price of building land limits us to medium-sized houses for the comfortably-off.
- (2) Luxury, old-type ("character") houses with large gardens
- (2) Good-quality, private houses with 3 to 5 bedrooms
- (2) A few detached or semis within a strict limit.
- (2) High density dwellings should be avoided.
- (2) It all depends upon whether we keep the school.

No more large 4/5 bedroom mansions.

No weekenders - do nothing for community spirit.

Mixture, but higher proportion of first-time buyer homes

Especially sheltered accomodation to encourage older ones in large council houses to move out and make room for young families

Rented council homes for young couples.

Terraced houses (to encourage youngsters to live here) with garages make good use of ground area.

Provision for those born and bred here who cannot afford high local prices, and who want to stay.

Old peoples' bungalows must be for rent only - not to buy.

A balance between homes for sale and rent.

Sheltered accomodation to be built in field surrounding Upper Farm House.

We depend on developers' proposals, but they must fit rural scene.

Small cottages and bungalows in line with existing village character.

Quality homes - this is a commuter village

Very few, small, high-value homes.

Privately-owned houses look better, less stark.

Appropriate housing to fit each individual site.

No idea.

#### Question 5

|                                  |     |     |
|----------------------------------|-----|-----|
| Does anyone in your home require | YES | 5%  |
| separate accomodation?           | NO  | 83% |
| NO COMMENT                       |     | 12% |

Where people answered "Yes" above, some added the following comments:

- (2) Bungalow
- Granny Flat
- Sheltered accomodation.
- Any type under £25,000
- Cottage for young couple.

#### Question 6

Has the person applied to be put on the Housing Waiting List?

Result: Of those people who answered "Yes" to Question 5, 33% of them said "Yes" - the person concerned had applied to go on the Waiting List

Question 7

|                           |                    |     |
|---------------------------|--------------------|-----|
| Do you wish to move house | YES - to a smaller | 2%  |
| in the village?           | YES - to a larger  | 10% |
|                           | NO                 | 75% |
|                           | NO COMMENT         | 13% |

OTHER COMMENTS:

In the Questionnaire people were invited at the bottom of the page on Housing to add comments if they wished. Twenty-five people felt strongly enough to make additional statements, and they can be broken down into three main categories:

The following nine comments fall into the very conservative or "leave our village alone" group:

The view from this village is everything.  
It's hard to see how some past planning permission was granted in accordance with village limits shown on map.  
All attempts by outside speculators to exploit our situation should be resisted, particularly where greenfields outside village limits are concerned. If limits were moved, developers would fill spaces with maximum of executive homes to the acre - village would have to fight, to stop losing identity. With no local employment, and school closure, there is little reason for new housing - any felt necessary should be discrete.  
There has been too much infilling, density is too high now.  
I do not want to see a lot of building in the village, as it could become spoilt like so many of the other villages around, which are more like small towns now.  
Please don't let Chearsley become another Haddenham. It needs to keep its character.  
Hands off our village, we like it the way it is. We don't need another Haddenham.

The following ten comments appear to fall into a group which says "perhaps more houses are needed but, careful, let's think about what we are doing":

(2) New dwellings should cater for both ends of market, retain country character, cottages, bungalows, detached with gardens.  
Do we build houses for the sake of it? Must think about who they are for - present prices do nothing for children of established families.  
No more rows of executive-type houses (eg Aylesbury Road). You can fit two or three cottages on one executive site, without plundering the fields.  
Old people in village must have sheltered accommodation - takes pressure off families with children who will later want a peaceful retirement themselves.  
Houses should be built for young people of village - not executive types who do not mix, killing the village spirit.  
One-bedroomed old people's bungalows have created loneliness - cannot have relative or friend to stay or visit. New 2-bedroomed ones would tempt older people to leave their larger council houses and release them for younger families - but must give preference to village people.  
Environment of listed buildings should be protected for sake of enhancement of village scene.  
Improvement in design needed - particularly of bungalows. Several recent ones have no rural feel about them - like boxes with roofs on.  
Starter homes are not realistic here - due to asking price of outside builders.

The following six comments fall into the "Go" or "we need more houses" category:

More housing means more children - better case for speed limit on main road. Without new housing we will all grow older and village will become less lively and self-supporting.

Whether we like it or not, housing development will take place - we should recognize this and encourage Parish Council to work with AVDC to attain limited and suitable development.

Must have growth, but it's the people that will make or break the village. Since there is a housing shortage, even a small village should be prepared to build a reasonable quota for those who need homes.

Virtually no room left for houses within present village limits - it is obvious that limits must be extended.

House prices are governed by supply and demand, without more land made available Chearsley house prices will be higher.

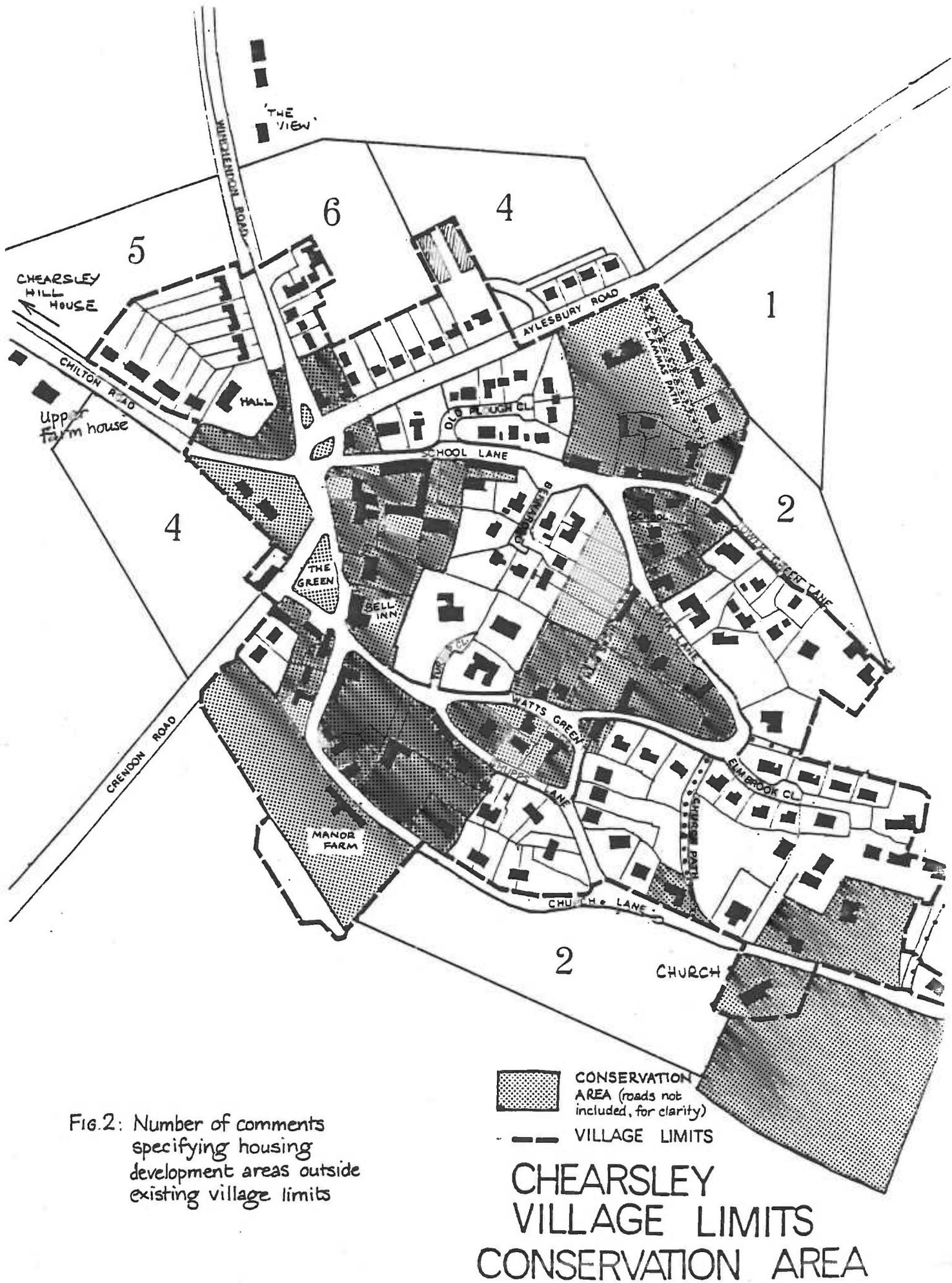


FIG.2: Number of comments specifying housing development areas outside existing village limits

## QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS, PART 5 - SCHOOL/EDUCATION

Question 1 set out to establish some additional facts on the participants by asking about parental status, and answers were as follows:

|                                      |     |
|--------------------------------------|-----|
| A parent, some children under 18     | 39% |
| A non-parent                         | 28% |
| Parent, all children aged 18 or over | 26% |
| Not given                            | 7%  |

Questions 2 to 5 inclusive asked questions on our own School, but since that has now been confirmed as closing, the replies to those questions will be left out.

Question 6 asked "If you are a parent, is transport to the schools outside the village satisfactory?"

|            |     |
|------------|-----|
| Yes        | 32% |
| No         | 55% |
| No comment | 13% |

Comments were as follows:

- (13) School buses (Haddenham, Aylesbury) are often late (sometimes half to one hour) in either direction, (very often in winter).
- (5) 5-year children are too young to be unaccompanied on a bus age with others of up to 12 years.
- (2) No transport available to Long Crendon and Thame.  
 Bus to Aylesbury, the journey too long - visits all villages.  
 Pickup/setdown point is on the most dangerous part of the road.  
 Grammar Schools coaches are quite satisfactory.  
 Haddenham bus is dangerous without supervision - driver is deeply concerned but cannot control children and drive. Teachers are worried there may be serious injury soon.

Question 7 asked "Do you go to adult education or evening classes?"

|     |                  |   |
|-----|------------------|---|
| Yes | 16% at:          |   |
|     | Thame            | 8 |
|     | Haddenham        | 8 |
|     | Aylesbury        | 7 |
|     | Long Crendon     | 4 |
|     | Princes Risboro' | 4 |
|     | Chinnor          | 2 |
|     | Bicester         | 1 |
|     | Cuddington       | 1 |

|            |     |
|------------|-----|
| No         | 67% |
| No comment | 17% |

Question 8 - "Would you like evening classes in the village? If Yes, what subjects would interest you?":

Yes 37% (38 Women, 26 Men) said "Yes" in the following numbers (quite a few people gave two or three subjects each):

|                                |    |                            |   |
|--------------------------------|----|----------------------------|---|
| Languages                      | 21 | Judo                       | 2 |
| (Unspecified 12)               |    | Knitting                   | 2 |
| (French 8)                     |    | Computers                  | 2 |
| (Spanish 1)                    |    | Philosophy                 | 2 |
| Crafts, Hobbies                | 18 | Local Nat.Hist.            | 2 |
| Keep Fit/Sports                | 15 | Bridge                     | 2 |
| Local History                  | 8  | Welding                    | 2 |
| Yoga                           | 6  | Bricklaying                | 2 |
| Art                            | 6  | ...mentioned once each.... |   |
| Woodwork                       | 4  | Weaving/Spinning           |   |
| Dressmaking and<br>needlecraft | 4  | Typing                     |   |
| Literature                     | 4  | Self improvement           |   |
| Cookery                        | 4  | Badminton                  |   |
| Gardening                      | 4  | Tennis                     |   |
| Music                          | 3  | Golf                       |   |
| Car maintenance                | 3  | Hairdressing               |   |
|                                |    | Lacemaking                 |   |

No 34%  
No comment 29%

Question 9 - People were then asked if they would be prepared to help:

In Organization Yes: 8 Women and 4 Men would help....  
....and other people said they would be prepared to teach in the following subjects:

|                   |                       |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Women's Assertion | Bricklaying           |
| Computing         | Management            |
| Art               | Law                   |
| Lacemaking        | Machinery Maintenance |
| German            | Animal Husbandry      |
| French            | Horticulture          |
| Italian           | Music (3 people)      |
| Economics         |                       |

#### OTHER COMMENTS ON EDUCATIONAL MATTERS:

- (4) Adult education is plentiful within easy reach of Chearsley (if villagers desire facilities on doorstep, should live elsewhere).
- (4) Not enough people here to support many subjects (Education Authority require a minimum of 15).  
Learning self-defence is very important in this day and age.  
Want to go elsewhere for evening classes - meet different people.  
When school closes, expect it will be sold off for yet another private house.  
Cannot understand how we are supposed to have educational freedom of choice, and then our own school is closed.  
When school closes, I think there will be more vandalism in village.  
Could the school be run on a fee-paying basis?  
When school closes, convert site into a car park to avoid the present hazards for fire or ambulance vehicles trying to get down lanes.

## QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS, PART 6 - AMENITIES

Note carefully. For some answers, percentages % are given, but others are simply the number of comments that were noted. Also in some cases, the % or No. is divided into Women/Men, as shown here.

Questions 1, 2 and 3 were about Public Transport, as follows:

|                       |         |                   |         |
|-----------------------|---------|-------------------|---------|
| Do you use the buses? |         |                   |         |
| Daily                 | 3%/2%   | Once/twice a week | 9%/1%   |
| * Occasionally        | 42%/39% | Never             | 44%/54% |
| Not given             | 2%/4%   |                   |         |

\* Note: Many people added the words "very occasionally" or "rarely" here.

|                                |       |                   |      |
|--------------------------------|-------|-------------------|------|
| If you use the bus, what for?: |       | To and from work  | 4/3  |
| Shopping                       | 35/12 | Doctor            | 8/3  |
| Visiting friends               | 7/4   | Social/Recreation | 10/6 |
| Not given                      | 2/4   |                   |      |
| Other:                         |       |                   |      |

- (16) When car is not available, being serviced, or getting to/from garage
- (3) Getting to and from college/school
- Hospital in Aylesbury.
- Charity work.
- Getting to the Station.

Would you like to see any improvements to the buses? Please describe and, if necessary, list times and where you would like to go:

- (12) Timed connections with trains at Haddenham/Thame new BR station.
  - (11) From Aylesbury and Thame, L Crendon, evening buses needed.
  - (9) Smaller (Mini) buses, more frequent to Haddenham, Aylesbury, Thame.
  - (8) Car users would switch if there were hourly or very regular, punctual and reliable Thame-Aylesbury buses.
  - (4) Faster direct Aylesbury-Chearsley service (area "tour" makes me ill).
  - (3) More direct to/from Oxford (or less delay changing at Thame).
  - (3) Timed connections with London trains from Aylesbury.
  - (3) More.
  - (2) Existing service is not used.
- ...and the following were individual comments...
- Make Sunday service = present Saturday service, and increase latter.
  - Better Saturday service for shopping in Aylesbury.
  - More in mornings and evenings.
  - A dial-a-bus system.
  - Any practical improvement.
  - Better service, but depending upon passenger usage.
  - 8am to Thame, 5.30pm from Thame.
  - More regular service to Aylesbury in mornings.
  - To Aylesbury, between 8 - 8.45am, weekdays.
  - To Aylesbury, between 9.15 - 12.15am.
  - Clean them.
  - No, but would not want existing service reduced.
  - An increase is not a feasible proposition.
  - Cannot expect buses to run at a loss.

Question 4 began with a statement: "Some villages operate a voluntary car service - drivers (volunteers on a rota) charge only to cover their running costs, and could take people to doctors, shopping, etc. If we had such a service, would you:

Use it - Yes 28%/16% \*  
Volunteer - Yes 33%/26%

\* Note: Some people who used a car said they would use this service.

Comments were as follows:

(2) Should be on a neighbourly and voluntary basis (doesn't need organizing, has always happened as in prewar days)

...individual comments...

In some respects we have one - informally.

Volunteers should check their insurance, each policy varies.

Community car-sharing on a rota? Organize using shop notice-board; membership fee towards shop profits?

Question 5. Do you use a car? Yes 76%/85%  
a motor-bike/scooter? Yes 6%/2%  
a pedal-bike? Yes 9%/10%

Question 6. What do you use your vehicle for?

Work (inc Commuting) 31/54  
Social/Recreation 55/54  
Domestic -shopping, etc 63/57

Other uses:

(4) Everything

(2) Collecting children from school.

(2) Doctor, dentist, etc.

(2) Lifeline to the outside world, essential for living.

...individual replies...

Voluntary services and activities.

Children to evening classes, etc.

Occasional work

Bike used for family rides to Cuddington. Cross-country cycle track would be wonderful.

Holidays.

In Question 7 people were asked regardless of whether or not they owned, or even use a vehicle of any kind, to comment on any problems they had; eg, parking, obstruction, etc.:

(50) Obstruction due to parked cars. (Following locations mentioned):

Outside School and top of Lower Green Lane  
(very dangerous for fire/ambulance and pedestrians) 20  
Everywhere in narrow lanes 11  
Pub customers (both sides of road when carpark empty) 7  
School Lane near main road junction (one car) 4  
Watts Green 3  
Church Lane Council Houses 2  
Shupps Lane (lower part) 2  
"Hideaway" and "Cedar Cottage" (bottom Dark Lane) 1

(15) No problems.

(3) Parking, due to residents not using off-street parking they have.

- (2) Too many properties with no parking/garaging, is a growing problem. Police take no action on badly parked cars - regular offenders should be booked for obstruction.  
 Long-term deliveries - drivers should put out a warning sign at adjacent junctions to save long-distance reversing.  
 Have to park some distance from my home, but this is an accepted penalty of choosing cottage with no garage.  
 Visitor's cars parked near school have been vandalized.  
 I have parking problem.  
 Heavy lorries in narrow lanes.  
 Occasional cars dumped on layby in Church Lane.  
 Have to go to Thame or Haddenham for petrol.  
 Need marked parking bays outside school and Bernards Close to assist in more considerate parking.  
 School Lane is disfigured by cars parked there.  
 Poor visibility on to main road by shop side of Green.  
 Lack of parking in School Lane. Have referred to BCC - no success.  
 Cannot park in front of my house - neighbour always there. Lanes too narrow.

Question 8. Do you use the village shop?

|                    |         |
|--------------------|---------|
| Yes - regularly    | 61%/44% |
| Yes - occasionally | 37%/48% |
| Never              | 1%/5%   |
| Not stated         | 1%/3%   |

Comments as follows:

- (64) Excellent/super/great/friendly/much better service with new owners (100%/vast/great improvement, gets better and better, village asset)  
 (6) Well stocked, (and willing to order if not in stock).  
 (3) Essential facility, particularly for older people with no car.  
 (2) Very useful if it was an Off Licence as well.  
 (2) Everyone should support it (use it or lose it).  
 (2) Consecutive owners have not made a good living, wonder if it will close when school closes?  
 (2) Very competitively priced.  
 (2) Good hours.  
 Adequate for our needs.  
 It's alright.  
 I work late - would like it open later, more on Saturday and Sunday.  
 Too small, not able to provide enough range of goods.  
 Video increase might encourage more trade.  
 Hope it can stay.

Question 9. Do you use the Post Office here?

|                    |         |
|--------------------|---------|
| Yes regularly      | 68%/51% |
| Yes - occasionally | 28%/37% |
| Never              | 3%/9%   |
| Not stated         | 1%/3%   |

Comments as follows:

- (13) Extremely/very useful/good/helpful/efficient village service.  
 (11) It's a vital/amenity to maintain, encourage and support (particularly for young mums, old people, and those working at home).  
 (2) More facilities please, eg., car tax  
 (2) Improved service now.

- (2) Satisfactory.  
 Pay bills here, buy stamps - saves queuing in London.  
 Very wide selection of stamps.  
 No complaints.  
 Much quicker than queuing at Aylesbury or Thame, must be retained.  
 All villages should have one.

Question 10 also began with a statement: "Our Parish Church has many aspects: regular services, baptisms, weddings, funerals, Junior Church, Parish Magazine. Then there is the problem of church maintenance". People were then asked for any comments on the church and/or the service it provides:

65% of Women and 72% of Men using the questionnaires had no comments to give in this section. Of the remainder, there were many varied comments as follows:

- (12) Beautiful (warm), well run, well-tended. Part of village life. Worth all effort to maintain it (a credit to all those involved, all a village could wish for).  
 (6) Excellent service, first class, very good.  
 (5) Good village church; important link for wide cross-section of community; feeling of community; essential for community; stability.  
 (4) Very friendly (welcoming) congregation.  
 (4) Very satisfactory - good.  
 (4) Village/Parish/more people should attend and help to maintain/finance Church and/or churchyard (expect it to be there when they want it).  
 (4) Pity we don't have our own resident vicar (and vicarage - need to be vigilant in future on this matter).  
 (3) Children enjoy Junior Church (very much).  
 (3) Not a churchgoer, would (very happy to) contribute to maintenance as it's part of village  
 (2) Vital to have an active church within village, although I do not attend regularly.

...and the following were individual comments...

Very pleased with church.  
 I enjoy the services I've attended.  
 Reasonably happy with the church and its functions.  
 Services OK.  
 Adequate.  
 Need support for Family Service.  
 Caters well for family worship.  
 I might get married in it.  
 Lovely church although I don't go except at Xmas and Easter.

Shame that more villagers do not come to services.  
 More effort should be made by regulars to encourage others to attend.  
 Many who do not worship regularly need its services on occasions.  
 I believe the church maintains the right profile for Chearsley.  
 Not my scene.  
 The bishop needs the church, so he should help maintain it.  
 Operates only for the few, like Closed Shop. Too many coffee mornings and collections. More aid to people (OAPs) from, not to Church.  
 Majority of public funds/effort go to church - only used by minority.  
 Village gives generously to maintenance, plus outside benefactors.  
 Regular door-to-door collection for maintenance would be acceptable.  
 Fund raising for roof currently underway.  
 Try to raise money for maintenance.

Provides another communal centre.  
Pity it's not used more during week for activities.  
Much under-used as focal point, some only use as social amenity and support and upkeep involves too small a proportion of inhabitants.  
When the school closes, church will become even more important at times of Harvest Festival, Christmas, Easter.  
Wish the vicar could give more visiting time here than at present.

Parish Magazine is excellent.  
If Parish Magazine arrived at the beginning of the month, perhaps more people would go?  
Parish magazine should include secular matters of interest, and editorial comment on them.

Would like to see church with bell ringing.  
I hate the plastic gutters and downspouts.  
Vital part of village. All new families are visited by a member and welcomed to the village.  
Church and churchyard are a haven of peace for any in need of a moment of tranquil reflection.

FINALLY, OTHER COMMENTS ON THE VILLAGE AMENITIES WERE INVITED:

- (2) Many people have problems burning their garden rubbish (due to thatched roofs, gas cylinders). Can we have a skip for this?  
Can we get double-yellow "no parking" lines outside the pub? Cars parked there are a danger to all.  
"Pick Your Own" facility much appreciated.

## QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS. PART 7 - RECREATION AND ENTERTAINMENT

Note: In the time between the appraisal questionnaires being prepared and when they were filled in, the Housewives' Register folded, but a new Youth Club started. Any requests relating to the latter have been deleted, for obvious reasons. Also, football posts have now been put up, and requests in the appraisal for these have not been recorded.

Part 7 produced a number of stupid, rude, personal and, sometimes, offensive comments. Where humanly possible, the rude and offensive replies have been used as valid opinions, but only in the sense of their meaning and not in their original language, and personal remarks have been toned down.

Question 1. Are you involved with, or do you regularly go to, any of the following in the village?:

|                      |           |
|----------------------|-----------|
| Womens' Institute    | 19 ladies |
| Thursday Club        | 16 ladies |
| Cricket Team         | 10        |
| Tug-of-War           | 8         |
| Bingo                | 4         |
| Fishing              | 1         |
| Housewives' Register | 0         |

Others:

- (3) Housewives' Register is now defunct, used to go - miss it
- (2) Cubs, scouts (not in village)
- (2) Fete sales
- Youth club
- Bonfire night
- Steam rally
- Defunct Cherry Bumpers
- Walking
- Parish Council Meetings
- Jumble sales
- Parochial Church Council
- I go to any function in village hall.

Have you any comments on these?

- (147) No, or no comment
- (4) All above should be maintained (good, pleased they flourish)
- (4) Should be more bingo!
- (2) Didn't know there was a cricket team - reintroduce.
- (2) I enjoy Thursday Club.
- (2) Thursday Club is flagging due to lack of support and active members.  
Need a playfield for the above sports.  
Need a cricket pitch.  
Tug of War and Cricket well-supported and provide much enjoyment.  
During Tug-of-War events, will organisers please provide loos? Am fed up with people knocking at my door for toilet.  
Not sufficient numbers of active people available for team sports.  
Lack of recreation for senior citizens.  
Want to see something for our elderly pople, especially at Christmas.  
I find the WI enjoyable.  
Inconvenient having to leave WI meeting before 3pm to pick up child.  
What is the Housewives' Register?  
Need events in the village hall.  
Where is the fishing? - it's for membership clubs only.  
All the above could contribute to the village fete.  
Extend fete area around hall to include around war memorial, and some verges on adjacent roads.  
I have no wish to be organized from cradle to Cheersley churchyard.

Question 2. What new facility, activity, sport, club or entertainment would you like in the village? Please describe:

- (124) None, or no comment
  - (15) Need a playingfield/sportsfield for children and others (kites)
  - (6) Indoor sports "facility"/gym (enlarge, rebuild village hall)
  - (4) Cricket team should be reborn - for seniors and juniors.
  - (4) Tennis courts/club
  - (3) Dance or disco once a month/occasional
  - (3) Football team/football pitch
  - (3) Judo lessons/self defence
  - (3) Keep fit
  - (2) An Arts Group.
  - (2) Badminton (in village hall)
  - (2) Bridge/Card Club
- Better Village Hall facilities, plays, sports, dances, entertainment.  
If school closes, some all-ages regular "activity".  
More use of village green in summer.  
Somewhere for youngsters.  
More activities for children.  
Disco for children.  
Place for snooker, badminton, swimming pool for everybody.  
With Church being so strong, surprised there is no Mothers' Union.  
Make more of the river - seats, and a carpark.  
Bowls Club.  
Cycling club (exercise adults, train children).  
Running club.  
Mobile gym.  
Roller-skating area.  
Yoga.  
Karate.  
"Pitch and Put".  
Golf.  
Tap or ballet dancing.  
Dancing class for children up to 7-8 year old.  
Cribbage Team.  
Photographic club.  
A film club.  
Jazz evenings.

Question 3. Would you be willing to help organize any new club, sport or activity?:

There were 29 (17%) "Yes" replies as follows:

- (9) None specified (said yes, but did not indicate interest)
  - (2) Dance/disco
  - (2) Tennis
  - (2) Indoor sports
  - (2) Various of above, when I am available.
  - (2) Bridge/Card Club
- Activities on village green.  
Cricket  
Various village hall activities  
Cycling club  
Bowls, cribbage  
"Pitch and Put", golf.  
Football for 8-year olds  
Dancing class for children  
Gym, keep fit, dancing.  
Crafts.

Question 4. Is there any activity in the village that you strongly object to?

- (154) None, or no comment
- (9) The hunt (and other bloodsports - beagling, etc., give offence to many, insult to the village). Should not be allowed here.
- (2) Don't object to hunting/beagles, but don't like the mess they make of the Green, churning it up and dogmess.
- (2) Dogs fouling lanes and banks.
- (2) Revving of motorcycles.
- Tug-of-War practices on village green are a pain - noise, drunkenness.
- Tug-of-War.
- Trick or Treat.
- The Playgroup - they dominate the village.
- Noise of clay pigeon shooting much too near housing.
- Car radios used by people working in their gardens.
- BMX bikes.
- Sunday bonfires.
- Use of diggers/excavators on Sundays - only day of peace and quiet.
- Strange prediliction of some youths to vandalise cars.

Question 5. What do you think of the Village Hall?:

- (53) No comment.

There were 62 complimentary comments as follows:

- (20) Good, OK, (committee try hard to provide decent facilities, best we can afford, considering limited use).
- (20) Quite/perfectly adequate, accessible, nice, serves its purpose well (for the size of the village)
- (11) Useful facility (asset to village, although rather basic amenities).
- (5) Greatly improved (in last 10 years, very good now).
- (5) Excellent/very good
- It's better than a lot of others.

There were 48 critical comments as follows:

- (12) Too small/limited space, (too long and narrow, wrong shape; extension with sliding partition between, could be longer).
- (10) Under-used.
- (7) Grounds are eyesore/unattractive. (Leave hedge high to hide it all, needs more trees, shrubs)
- (5) Unattractive/ugly/dreadful, but it serves its purpose, functional..
- (4) Location at the 5-road junction not ideal for children on their own.
- (3) Heating not effective in winter.
- (2) Fair, but could be improved.
- (2) Expensive, for what it is.
- (2) Limited facilities/basic.
- With grants and MSC teams available, must hall remain unattractive?

There were 33 highly critical comments as follows:

- (25) Not much, poor (dismal/dreary/ugly/uninviting/tatty/tacky, needs refurbishing, pull it down, does not do the village justice).
- (6) Rebuilding required, or build a new one in its place.
- (2) Area should have been used for houses to rent/council houses.

There were 18 other comments

- (3) I have never used it (except to vote).
- (2) Needs lighting outside.
- (2) Inadequate storage area for various organizations.
- After so much trouble to improve it, pity it is still vandalized.
- Not ideal, but built on shoestring in difficult times after last War.

Difficult access.  
 Could we have a piano?  
 Heaters too noisy when we have a speaker.  
 More hard-standing for parking?  
 Caretaker (retired person) to supervise maintenance and renting.  
 Signpost it, so people know where it is.  
 Not much atmosphere.  
 Cheap.  
 Better hall would be a better focus for village activity.

Question 6. Have you any ideas for further use of the Village Hall?:

- (137) No, or no comment, or already given in 2 above.
- (13) Ceidhls, folk-dancing, antique fairs, charity Xmas Card sale, BBONT talks, more fetes, jumbles, film shows, dances (once/month), sports activities, folk evenings, home-grown entertainment, 50/50 sales, private/commercial exhibitions, craft displays/sales, fashion shows.
- (7) Day/Evening classes/clubs/activities to generate income.
- (2) Fund-raising events (like old days, not rely on grants), concerts.
- (2) Social Centre/Once-a-month social evening. (Could provide what, in other villages, is provided by a Pub!)
- (2) Visiting doctors, dentists, chiropodists, etc (No private room, Ed)
- (2) Use school as new hall, sell off present hall for building land.
- (2) Sporting activities would be popular, (size rules it out?).  
 Light and heating should be including in hiring charge, not metered.  
 Talks should be encouraged - Like Ted Hooton's.  
 When new, was something every night, but organizers fell by the way.  
 Tennis court within grounds.  
 More use for senior citizens.  
 Management committee should be more involved in planning functions and fund-raising events.

Question 7. Do you use the pub? (% women/% men)

Yes 33%/54%      No 57%/41%      Not stated 10%/5%

What do you think of it?:

**The following comments about the Pub came from "Yes" replies:**

There were 34 general comments as follows:

- (13) Use occasionally/not often/very rarely.
- (10) OK/adequate/fair/ (but personnel changes would help encourage trade)
- (2) Needs a few special "silly evenings" or "happenings" outside in summer to get us all together more (wrestling, etc., all-comers).
- (2) Good pub, but wrong management, more commitment needed.  
 Has A1 potential, but has rather unfriendly atmosphere. Good in summer when you can sit outside. Glad it has a juke box.  
 Friendly, but room for improvement (Cuddington "Crown" excellent).  
 Recently improved, but not very welcoming.  
 Could be improved but at risk of spoiling traditional village pub.  
 Very quiet. Could do with some renovation.  
 Off licence would surely be popular in evenings.  
 A good brewery should do more maintenance outside, including carpark.

There were 31 critical comments as follows:

- (13) Could improve food/snacks/pub-grub, (especially lunchtime/early evening and in summer - encourage people to use it, not criticize it)
- (4) Has potential to be the social centre of the village (unimaginative, could do better, including attracting the ladies)
- (3) Could be better, nothing special (there's no competition).
- (2) Not lively/bad/unenjoyable atmosphere for young people - might use it more if improved (and outdated records on juke-box).
- (2) Expensive, no competition.  
Service leaves lot to be desired, personnel changes would be welcome.  
Pub seems to be meeting place for young, under-age drinking has been allowed. Must encourage the young elsewhere - to village hall?  
Too small.  
Poor standard, badly run, I usually go to Cuddington. Our pub should be a meeting point and centre of village activity.  
The beer is awful.  
Scruffy.  
Not much.

There were 28 complimentary comments as follows:

- (22) Good/fine/friendly/remarkable (proper basic village pub), like it very much (good atmosphere, immune to plastic modernization I hope, not tarted up for Hooray Henrys. Danny and Anne are welcoming/nice).
- (2) Provides a (good) meeting place.  
Very helpful when we moved here with village information, etc.  
It's better than a lot of others.  
Good beer, good source of village information.  
Nice to see log fire in cold evenings.

**The following comments about the Pub came from "No" replies:**

There were 33 critical comments as follows:

- (6) Not a lot, not much, poor.
- (5) Needs to serve good bar meals/snacks/ploughmans.
- (3) Very dull and unattractive, both inside and out.
- (3) Unfriendly, uninviting.
- (2) Dreadful/depressing.
- (2) Dirty and scruffy.
- (2) Not the place to sit and relax in (uncomfortable).
- (2) Very poor, dreadfully dull. For agreeable atmosphere with friends, have to go to Cuddington or Long Crendon.  
The welcome is not always welcome.  
Is it really the soulless fruit-mechanized place it appears to be from outside?  
Have tried. Below standard.  
It could do with a facelift.  
Prefer to drink at home or in Long Crendon!  
Boring, uninventive.  
Poor furnishing and atmosphere, machines very offputting, badly run.  
I like pubs - but not this one.

There were 6 complimentary comments as follows:

- (3) OK/quite nice.  
Beer and service excellent, but no flair. Brewer should invest more.  
Used to use it - quite pleasant.  
Enjoyable place for those who go there.

There were 2 other comments as follows:

- Excellent building, deserves improved management.
- Could do with a new thatch.

OTHER GENERAL COMMENTS ON RECREATION OR ENTERTAINMENT:

There were 11 comments as follows:

- (3) Still need a childrens'/sports/playing field (in village hall area) - get them off the dangerous lanes where cars go racing. Would lead to more community spirit in sharing activities.  
You don't expect mass recreational/entertainment in a small village. Other villages do things to help Older People at Christmas to make sure they have a little something. Ours have to go to Cuddington or Long Crendon. Only Mrs Wallis does anything for them.  
Perhaps village-organized outings to theatres, zoos, stately homes, cross-channel shopping, etc.  
Bonfire night is a good evening for all the family.  
Will a man volunteer to help with the Youth Club, please?  
With new houses and commuters, village has moved up-market and leisure facilities should reflect this.  
Hope that the new Youth Club prospers.  
The school should take the place of the village hall.

## QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS. PART 8 - ROADS, LANES AND FOOTPATHS

Question 1. The sunken lanes are an unusual historical feature of the village. Their banks are easily damaged. What should be done to stop the damage? (For example: weight limits, road widening, one-way traffic, restricted house building):

59 people (34% of respondents) had no comments on how to preserve the sunken lanes. The remaining 66% gave the following comments:

- (51) One-way traffic in lower lanes (where practical)
- (50) Weight limits (restrictions on heavy vehicles/contractors vehicles - also as part of Planning consent; no cattle lorries).
- (38) Restrict (no more) house building (or extensions, eg Cedar Cottage) adjacent to narrow lanes. (Building/lorry access should be part of Planning Consent, PC has been negligent in this matter).
- (13) Lanes should not be widened.
- (13)\* Prohibit/eliminate/restrict parking, and more off-street parking required where possible. (Those with garages should use them for cars, not for storage. Vigilance - pester people who park in lanes).
- (4)\* Kerbs/granite sets - like around the Green (initially expensive).
- (4)\* Speed limit/restriction.
- (3) Proper repair, careful maintenance by BCC Highway Dept.
- (3) Signs warning HGV drivers of the problem - Drive With Care.
- (3) Road widening.
- (2) Their preservation is essential for safety of adjacent buildings - we need professional civil engineering advice.
- (2) Builders lorries do a lot of damage.
- (2) Bank vegetation/overhanging trees could be cut back - define edges.
- (2) Nothing can be done, (one-way system not practical for some lanes).  
Special posts to deny access to long/wide lorries.  
Repair damage immediately (on voluntary basis?)  
Anyone needing an abnormal load should rectify any damage done.  
When expecting deliveries, warn firms of narrow lanes, some may be able to use smaller vehicles.  
Do nothing which would spoil them in other ways.  
Sunken lanes as I first knew them have almost disappeared.  
Drivers to take more care, common sense must prevail.  
Oil delivery lorries do a lot of damage.  
Better drainage gullies would prevent further damage.  
On N side, widen Shupps Lane between Pub and Turnip Close to avoid dangerous reversing.  
Not one-way: increases speed, and penalises some in journey time.  
Village policy to improve their appearance would automatically ensure their preservation.
- \* New properties should be built with facilities for 3-4 car families.
- \* Ramps ("sleeping policemen"? - Ed)
- \* Kerb-stones set at intervals.
- \* Turf or sand-bags should be put along verges to prevent more erosion.

\* Comments marked thus are more exclusively applicable to the protection of edges/verges, rather than sunken lanes.

Question 2. Do you think speeding is a problem? If you think so, where do you think it happens, and what is your answer to the problem? (For example, stop signs, a mini-roundabout, other road signs?):

40 people (23% of respondents) had no comment or said that speeding is not a problem, or a major problem.

The remaining 77% of respondents indicated that it is a problem, and gave 142 specific or general locations as follows:

- 59: Crendon/Aylesbury Road/crossroads/top of village
- 17: all over the village, including main roads
- 14: in the lower lanes
- 9: Winchendon Rd
- 7: School Lane
- 7: Dark Lane.
- 7: In front of Pub
- 6: Coming up the Aylesbury Rd into village
- 6: Chilton Rd (from Chilton Club)
- 5: Shupps Lane
- 3: Church Lane
- 1: Past the shop.
- 1: Lower Green Lane.

In addition, there were 121 comments offering solutions to reduce speeding and increase general safety in the village, as follows:

- (43) 30mph limit through/in village (should be frequently monitored; limit would at least make drivers aware it is not a race-track; regardless of all previous reasons for us not being entitled to 30mph limit).
- (20) A mini-roundabout at multi-junction (design in keeping with Green).
- (16) Please Drive Slowly - Children/Pedestrians on Road/Chearsley welcomes 30 mph Drivers signs (to hell with BCC). (Also needed at top of both ends of Dark Lane).
- (10) "Sleeping policemen" in the lanes.
  - (4) Road signs, existing ones are no good (unspecified - Ed)
  - (4) Report culprits to police (publicize name and Tel.No of our bobby), two or three fines would sort out the rest.
  - (3) "Stop" signs (not specified where Ed)
  - (2) Put a "Stop" sign at Winchendon Rd (and Chilton Rd) junction ("Give Way" is presently ignored by drivers).
  - (2) One-way traffic in lower lanes where practical.
  - (2) 10mph limit in village lanes. Some drivers use them as a race track.
  - (2) Exit to main road by PO should be closed (or made entry only)
    - Road by Post Office should be one way.
    - Bad blind spot turning out of Chilton Road on to main road.
    - Change priorities at the junction.
    - Better signpost showing dangerous junction coming up Aylesbury Rd.
    - Make Winchendon Rd at main road a T-junction, "Keep Left" at chestnut tree. Would force a give-way with better visibility.
    - Warning sign for horse-riding on Winchendon Rd.
    - Keep bends and hazards to keep speeds in check.
    - Roundabout with shrubs on School Lane at Bernards Close.
    - One-way traffic around Dark Lane.
    - It's certain drivers, tactful rebuke is the only effective measure.
    - Regular appeals to villagers to slow down.
    - Why do pub-users not use carpark? A child could easily be killed.
    - More ducks in the village - drivers stop for ducks, not for people.
- ...and 13 general comments on speeding and safety, as follows:
  - (8) No obvious answer (to thoughtless stupidity), don't know, (radical cures like "sleeping policemen" would be unacceptable; would like severe speed limit, but how is it to be enforced; signs are ignored)
  - (2) Children are at risk because of speeding and blind bends.
    - Speeding itself not too bad - it's sudden unexpected or dangerous manoeuvre that cause the problems. Signs are largely ignored.
    - Have been nearly hit 3 times walking to my car from my gate.
    - People on foot are in danger on narrow lanes.

Question 3. Do you think the roads and lanes are reasonably well kept (surfaces, salt, gritting, sweeping, verge cutting, clearing drains)?

Yes 63% No 25% No answer 12%

There were the following comments (including many from people who marked "Yes"):

There were 27 comments on Verges and Hedges:

- (19) More verge cutting (minimal in 1987; we should get rate rebate).
- (2) Verge cuttings are not swept away.  
Verge cutting frequency seems to have improved in 1987.  
Let verges grow wild, retain rural scene, we are not South Bucks.  
Verge by council houses, Chilton Rd is never cut.  
More hedge cutting.  
People should cut their own verges and clear rubbish off.  
Banks in Church Lane badly need tending.

There were 25 comments on the Drains:

- (13) More drain clearing (top of School Lane constantly blocked; causes problems at bottom of village - Lower Green Lane and Dark Lane).
- (7) Drains are inadequate (Lower Green Lane is appalling; Dark Lane is bad - at bottom; surface water in village is hazard at times, eg Chilton Rd: water plus loose grit causes bad braking and near misses)
- (4) Drain cover grills need unclogging more often (builders clog them up - eg. bottom Dark Lane)  
The drains do not appear to have coped with the rains in 1987.

There were 24 comments on Surfaces:

- (12) Surfaces could be better (contractors' vehicles - lanes need weight limits; dreadful - Third World; cheap surface dressing doesn't last).
- (7) More sweeping necessary
- (3) Resurfacing dressing (loose grit) disgusting (more on verges than road, hazard to children on cycles).  
Pavement at junction of Elm Brook Close and Dark Lane badly damaged by contractors, and lorries turning, etc.  
A few bumps and holes slows the traffic.

There were 10 comments on Salting/gritting:

- (7) Salting and gritting very sparse - (School/Church/Lower Green Lanes I am the only one who does it - am a lady aged more than 50).  
No salting on Chilton Road in winter 1986/87.  
How well will School Lane be salted when School is closed?  
Salting is generally done in good time for morning rush to work.

...and 11 other comments on various topics:

- (2) Well maintained, reasonable.
- (2) Full-time roadman needed. Not as well kept as when we had one.  
More litter collection.  
Too much rubbish/leaves from overhanging hedges.  
Council workers do not do things properly - half-hearted.  
We are poorly served by BCC and AVDC. Road sweeper visits twice a year when rates are due. Gritting, salting, drain clearing, verge cutting are dilatory, to say the least.  
Slight widening of roads for HGVs where verges are being eroded.

...including two specific problems as follows:

- Widen entrance to School Lane and eliminate the verge "tongue" by side at entrance to the Barns. Dangerous - it prevents car entering if one is leaving, increasing collision risk at junction.
- Line markings (across roads), top of Church Lane hardly visible now.

Question 4. There are two village lights. Would you like to see more (bearing in mind that installing more would affect the rates)?

No 56%    Yes 31%    No answer 17%

Those that had answered "Yes" were then asked to specify where they would like the additional lights. There were 64 individual comments, taking up 35 lines of text. In view of the fact that the "Yes" Group were in a minority, and there was very little consistency in their requests (and many were very vague as to sites), the list of requests has been printed in Appendix 2 of this report.

Some who answered "No" had the following comments:

- More lights encourage burglary.
- Lights encourage youngsters to "hang about".
- There are enough on private houses.
- This is not suburbia.
- One of benefits of country life is to enjoy vista of night sky.
- Please, no! I love walking though village in the dark.

Question 5. Do you use the Footpaths in the Parish?

|                           |     |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Occasionally              | 55% |
| Often                     | 35% |
| No answer                 | 5%  |
| Never                     | 3%  |
| Don't know where they are | 2%  |

There were the following general comments or complaints:

- (9) Much improved, good job by MSC and PC Footpath Committee.
- (2) Plenty of footpaths - we are fortunate.
- (2) Paths cannot be perfect, it is countryside, paths should be kept to.
- (2) Access sometimes difficult with dog, lower fencing prevents dog getting through bottom, so have to go over.
- (2) Difficult to follow course of some, better marking needed.
- (2) Enforce no cycling where signposted.
- A fence has been put across a bridle way (where? - Ed)
- Not suitable for every-day walking without boots.
- Obstructions should be removed (not specified where - Ed)
- I never walk them in the dark, unless with group.
- Some stiles too high.
- More signposts needed, pointing outwards from village along FPs.
- Too often fouled by dogs. Fine their owners, some of whom are "pillars of society" - appear to have no social conscience.
- AVDC should make an annual inspection.

There were the following specific comments or complaints:

- (2) Signpost on Church Lane below church twisted round - wrong direction.
- (2) Bull in (a field near river; a field).
- (2) "Poached" by livestock in some fields, farmer feeds cattle on them - become mudpatches (field below church).
- Difficult to find one though jungle from stwby field to Long Crendon.
- Path down to churchyard needs to be accessible.
- Resiting of Farmyard alongside "White House" was extraordinary.
- Farmyard stile is awful.
- Finger Post needed at "Hobgoblins" - FP down to Furze from Winch. Rd.
- Past Furze, stiles are difficult to negotiate.
- Need path around the edge of the Green.

Question 6. Are the footpaths properly maintained?

Yes 39%    No answer 35%    No\* 26%

\* Some answered Yes and No, meaning some paths were maintained and others not. These were put into the "No" category.

There were the following general comments:

- (29) Weeds/nettles/hedges/overhang need cutting back more often (summer).
- (10) OK, adequately maintained for a small rural community (paths are for properly shod feet, not bikes and pushchairs; some get bit overgrown but it's usually cleared eventually; let 'em alone it's a rural area)
- (6) Twice-yearly maintenance (late spring, late summer), like litter day (rota of volunteers to clear them - especially Farmyard FP).
- (4) Ask adjacent owners to assist in keeping clear and hedges trimmed.
- (2) Crops are not always "sprayed out", or FPs re-established within 2 weeks of ploughing.
- (2) Some very muddy in winter, improve surfaces.  
Some too muddy to walk on because of horses.  
They should all be surfaced.  
Widen paths slightly.  
Some stiles need attention.  
Some signs seem to disappear at regular intervals.  
Some need little or no maintenance, those are best left alone.  
A footpath map would be nice.  
Maintenance of rights of way is BCC responsibility. Must get to it.  
Local farmers have a responsibility here.  
Parish Councillors should walk paths, and contact land owners when paths need clearing.  
Extend Churchyard or Green cutting contract to include path clearing.  
Some footpaths (pavements? -Ed) leading out of village - very uneven.  
Regular use is best form of maintenance.  
It's country, put on your wellies and thick trousers and off you go.

There were the following specific comments and complaints:

- (8) Farmyard Path should be kept clearer, especially nettles (and by side of "White House"; impassable at times)
- (2) Put hardcore on Farmyard, (presently only suitable for welly-wearers, but church-goers need to use it without wellies)
- (2) One on the village green is not well maintained, de-moss it.
- (2) Lammas path is for welly-wearers only in wet weather, get difficult.
- (2) Hicks Path should be kept clearer, especially nettles.  
Hicks Path dangerous: fallen leaves in autumn, ice in winter.  
One by Upper Farm in appalling condition, both ends, in winter.  
FP below Hill House is appalling in damp and wet weather.  
Wet and muddy on field side of stile by Cedar Cottage.

Question 7. Would you like to see a part-time "Roadman" employed by Parish Council, to attend to litter, verges and footpaths clearance?

Yes 67%    No 21%    Don't know/no comment 12%

Some in favour of a Roadman commented as follows:

- (2) We always had one in the "old days" (also reduces vandalism)
- (2) Litter clearance, removing overhead branches would be very good.  
It would depend on cost.  
An idea worth following up.  
But what of footpaths not within the village?  
Fund-raising and contributions to pay for his services.

Some against a Roadman commented as follows:

- (5) Villagers should keep frontages and pavements of their houses clear and tidy, voluntary basis, many do now, educate those who do not. (PC should encourage this; roadman would involve too much money). We should not relieve AVDC/BCC of their obligations from our rates.

#### OTHER COMMENTS ON ROADS, LANES OR PATHS:

There were 6 comments on road safety matters:

- (2) School bus requires off-street parking away from crossroads - it sometimes arrives too early and waits.  
I am concerned about access to houses granted planning permission on Aylesbury/Long Crendon road. Too close to bends, not clear vision - likely to cause more accidents.  
When Old Granary converted from barn, AVDC did not allow existing access - near bend, too dangerous. Now, with more traffic, Manor Villas is given permission for access. Do names matter?  
PC should look at scheme that Stone PC are presenting to BCC for textured road surface (called "Vibrolines") to reduce speed.  
Imposition of one-way systems: one man's meat is another's poison in terms of safe access to driveways and required direction of travel.

...and the 7 remaining comments were mostly on footpaths and pavements:

- (2) Stop horses fouling some of footpaths on Winch. Rd. (pavements? - Ed)  
Winchendon Rd footpath (pavement? - Ed) very uneven.  
Would like more bridleways around village for riding off the roads.  
Create a new circular walk - Crawley Farm to Crendon Road (parallel to rwy), then across to spinney below rwy (along existing track). The latter to be new FP in exchange for relinquishing one down to church.  
Walking enthusiasts should be welcomed - trade for shop, pub and any cottage industry which might develop. However, footpaths and those who enjoy them seem to be unwelcome to the farmers.  
Street lights and metalled paths would make village like Long Crendon or Haddenham - then we'd have to move to Winchendon.

## QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS. PART 9 - SERVICES

Note: In analysing the replies it was noticed that many people who had a complaint (and some were quite strongly critical about a particular service), did not mark the "No" in questions 3 to 8 below. Therefore, a high proportion of the "No answer/don't know" replies really belong in the "No" category and, really, the proportion of people answering "Yes" is the critical factor in judging the quality of all these services.

This section mostly consisted of very short questions as follows:

- |                              |           |     |
|------------------------------|-----------|-----|
| 1. Do you use the phone-box? | Often     | 1%  |
|                              | Sometimes | 14% |
|                              | Never     | 81% |
|                              | No answer | 4%  |

The following comments were made:

- (3) It's good to have it, vital.
- (2) Do not want present one replaced by ugly new one.
- (2) Always broken/out of order (sometimes need it when working here).
- (3) Only works sometimes (out of order half the time).  
Have never known it to be out of order, but no directory there.  
I tried once, it was out of order and not very clean.

- |                                   |           |     |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|-----|
| 2. Do you use the Mobile Library? | Yes       | 20% |
|                                   | No        | 73% |
|                                   | No answer | 7%  |

The following comments were made:

- (10) Aren't we lucky? Useful. Excellent (will order anything).  
Another meeting point for villagers.  
Have in the past, but the day is not suitable now.  
Occasionally.

Note: Some respondents, obviously anxious to ensure its continuation, made comments like "but one day I may need to", and "no, but only because I am at work", etc. It is obviously a popular service.

- |   |                          |     |
|---|--------------------------|-----|
| 3. Are the public litter bins satisfactory? | Yes                      | 30% |
|   | No                       | 40% |
|   | No answer,<br>don't know | 30% |

The following comments were made:

- (19) Should be emptied more often/regularly (especially by bus shelter).
- (19) Too few (need more at strategic points; perhaps with lids; more near Green, telephone box, shop).
- (17) Too small, especially the one at bus shelter.
- (13) Where are they? What litter bins?
- (2) Need another at opposite bus shelter.  
Totally inadequate.  
Bin at bus shelter full of broken glass for many weeks - a hazard.  
Need one outside school.  
Problem: how to make people use those provided or take litter home.  
Sometimes better to have none, then people take litter home.  
Satisfactory - if they are used.  
People should take their litter home and dispose of it.

Are you satisfied with the following? (Questions 4 to 8 inclusive):

|                            |                          |     |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|-----|
| 4. Village Police Service? | Yes                      | 35% |
|                            | No                       | 29% |
|                            | No answer,<br>don't know | 36% |

The following comments were made:

- (41) What police service? Is there one? (have never seen a policeman or car in village; certainly do nothing about car parking or speeding).
- (14) Very rarely seen (one in 3 years), would like to see more evidence of a service (know they are scarce, but could ours walk or bike around the whole village, so we could get to know him and be reassured?)
- (8) Not aware of any service, but little need (never needed them).
- (4) Doesn't seem to be a service, we need one. (Only see car when there's trouble; they only react to events, rather than patrol to deter).
- (3) Should be a policeman/resident bobby for each village.
- (2) Could relevant phone number be listed on village notice board? How is he contacted?  
Should use cycles instead of cars.  
If villagers contacted them more when vandalism occurred, they would visit village more often.  
Generally satisfactory as we are reasonably behaved.  
No confidence in their ability to undertake community policing.  
Should make more obvious patrols.  
Impressed by them when my neighbour called them about vandalism.  
Never seen patrols, except one Panda which had lost its way and driver asked me for directions!  
Takes too long to get police out.  
Satisfied considering their limited resources.  
Police seriously under-strength, not surprising that village cover is negligible.  
Need more patrols at night.  
For months a disqualified driver has been driving in village and has been reported to the police.  
Neighbourhood Watch should suffice.

|                                |                          |     |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|-----|
| 5. Village Rubbish Collection? | Yes                      | 82% |
|                                | No                       | 10% |
|                                | No answer,<br>don't know | 8%  |

The following comments were made:

- (12) Not enough bags per house, (need a minimum of 2 per household, when will they recognise the problem?)
- (12) Sacks too thin/poor quality, ripped open by animals - mess in road.
- (9) Spillage unnecessary and they are careless, leaving bits of rubbish around (sometimes run over full bags and leave broken glass behind).
- (7) Very good service, regular.
- (2) Could we have a skip more often - near school - many dwellings there.
- (2) Why do some people put bags out ready? (It's supposed to be a house collection, might lose the service if we do their job).  
One should receive same number of replacement bags as one puts out.  
People should tie sacks to stop spillage - dustmen don't clear up.  
Delivery of 1 bag/week very wasteful - batch delivery every so often?  
New bags are left to blow around the village.  
Will not take extra bags despite us dumping most of our own rubbish!  
Would be nice to have two collections a week.  
Won't collect anything other than your own dustbag (will they take

garden refuse?)

Container stands blow over in high winds.

Havn't got used to idea that we must put rubbish out for dustmen, if we do not it is left in the bin for another week.

Rubbish collection should include emptying litter bins.

After much complaining, service now OK.

Bin men are very amenable.

6. The Water Board?

|                          |     |
|--------------------------|-----|
| Yes                      | 76% |
| No                       | 5%  |
| No answer,<br>don't know | 19% |

The following comments were made:

- (7) Water tastes horrible (always boil ours; we filter ours; undrinkable)
- (2) Water often discoloured/cloudy.  
Water smells awful.  
Water tastes peculiar sometimes.  
No provision for shutting off mains outside property. Was promised 2 years ago - nothing has been done.  
Very little water pressure in our house.  
My one dealing with them indicated lack of efficiency.  
Could clear up the River Thames which borders village.  
They charge a lot for a little.

Note: Four people thought that the Board was responsible for clearing drains/gullies, but had already registered their complaint in Part 8.

7. Electricity service?

|                          |     |
|--------------------------|-----|
| Yes                      | 75% |
| No                       | 9%  |
| No answer,<br>don't know | 16% |

The following comments were made:

- (6) We lose our supply very easily/much too often in bad weather/storms.
- (5) Too many breakdowns (unspecified; lack of public information on times of restoration of power).
- (2) Supply varies.
- (2) Poles and wires are hideous and vulnerable to storms - dangerous.  
Has got better, but still room for improvement.  
Satisfied on whole, but too many power cuts.  
Always found them helpful and efficient.  
Much better than 20 years ago when we first moved here.  
Have been overcharged (but amended)  
Can EEB give us warning of meter reading dates - am often out.  
Power variable, making cooking difficult at times.

8. Telephone service?

|                          |     |
|--------------------------|-----|
| Yes                      | 59% |
| No                       | 20% |
| No answer,<br>don't know | 21% |

The following comments were made:

- (8) Often very bad crackly lines (it's been going on for years)
- (7) Faults take a long time to rectify - very slow repairs.
- (3) Useless/very poor service, too slow (waiting for a private line 1 year).
- (3) Leaves much to be desired - equipment performance not very good - quite unreliable.
- (3) OK, but could be improved.
- (3) Keep having crossed lines (for 2 years - as soon as they cure one, we get another; we are supposed to have a "non-party" line)
- (2) Regular breakdowns (in bad weather when lines go down).
- (2) Getting worse, but a national problem.  
Satisfied, except for the bill.  
Definitely not satisfied.  
Have found them efficient when problems occur.  
At least, it's no worse than anywhere else.  
Improving, but still get engaged tone instead of dialling tone and during dialling, too often.  
Have had a lot of trouble on our line - complaints have been ignored.  
Took more than 2 years for them to connect us to a permanent pole.  
Have been overcharged (but amended).  
Can never get directory enquiries on first try, always engaged.  
I understand there is long delay in repairs unless one is prepared to pay an emergency fee.

Question 9. Neighbourhood Watch Schemes encourage the reporting of suspicious activity to the Police. Would you:

|                            |     |
|----------------------------|-----|
| Participate                | 43% |
| No answer/don't know       | 26% |
| Like to know more          | 22% |
| Have nothing to do with it | 9%  |

There were the following comments:

- (14) It more or less exists here already (been done for years; natural nosiness ensures "watching"). I keep watch when neighbours are away (they do same for me; commonsense).
- (3) Should not be necessary. Police (and we need more) are paid for by rates - that's the answer. (Would hope anyone seeing something wrong would inform police anyway.)  
People don't know each other here, so how do they know intruders?  
Those who would report will anyway, scheme or not.  
Doubt if police would take any notice.  
Unless introduced with intelligence and control, it could cause more problems  
Missed the meeting.  
I have made a start.  
I want to know my coordinator.  
Villagers should not require one, but how can we see anything with no street lights?

Question 10. Are you satisfied that we are getting good service from the Parish Council?

Yes 57%    No\* 20%    No answer/don't know 23%

\* Some answered "yes and no" to qualify their response - these were included under "No".

- (3) Satisfied on most things - reasonable.  
 PC is elected by residents to act on behalf of village, therefore it is to the benefit of the village that PC should be supported.  
 As an elected body it should have more authority than at present, it would then have power and more people would seek election.  
 But too few attend meetings. More publicity in advance?  
 Appear to be fairly enthusiastic.  
 Need follow-up schemes, ie. footpaths and listing houses.  
 Except for Minutes on board, don't hear too much - hope questionnaire will help.  
 Not active enough over threat to village school.  
 Too nit-picking on one hand, and not enough clout on the other.  
 I feel they are too petty and unhelpful.  
 Need more help from councillors in backing villagers views.  
 PC knows little of planning law, and rarely takes trouble to find out. Not taken seriously enough - acts like a bunch of amateurs. Do little positive for village.  
 Councillors should make more effort to learn what villagers really think before voting on issues - especially planning applications - Ted Birt used to come around and ask people.  
 PC should take more initiative in educating villagers on such things as speeding, noise, etc.  
 Too lenient with some who appear to flout PC instructions - dog fouling on verges, etc. Certain councillors have been reported for irregularities, but no action has been taken.  
 Any improvement welcome, cost is no problem.  
 PC should invite applicants to site meetings, as well as neighbours, so that no bias is shown, and PC would get more respect. They invite criticism by putting inaccurate comments in letters.  
 Too much bullying by "powerful" (?) local element not on council, particularly over planning.  
 What service?  
 Make them more responsible to village by election only, and full time with a salary.  
 PC is well-meaning but wields little power - advise and recommend but little else. District/County pay little heed and ignore as they see fit. Institution of PC is now redundant.

Then came a general introductory statement concerning the Parish Council and the Rates: "If the Council keeps the Village Rate low it can only offer a limited service to the village on certain things. Generally, this has been the policy in the past, and some people agree. Others disagree, and feel that the Rates should be used for extra useful projects in the village. A modest project might cost an average of £5 per house per year; for example, a parttime roadman (see Part 8, question 7), or increasing the grant to the Village Hall, or a village newsletter. Perhaps you could suggest other useful projects. What do you think about the Village Rate? Please tick one of the two statements below:"

Then came two linked questions (11 and 12):

Should the Parish Council always keep their part of the Rates as low as possible, regardless of all other considerations?:

Yes 18%

PC should not subsidise village hall - should be self-supporting.  
 PC Minutes on notice board are a newsletter.  
 Dropped refuse makes this very untidy village. PC should not need

money to encourage people to have some pride in their village.  
Any village project should be self-supporting.  
Rates should be kept as low as possible without jeopardising safety of inhabitants. Should not be used for anything other than upkeep.  
More self-help is the answer.  
Village population is too small to justify ambitious projects.  
Village projects, if any, should be decided by people of village, not just the unrepresentative PC who can never make up their minds.

OR

Should the Parish Council give increased financial support to worthwhile village projects?:

Yes 66%

- (4) But only for fabric or maintenance of village for the good of all (eg, lights, litter), not for societies or social aspects which have limited appeal (church, village hall).
- (4) Within reasonable financial constraints (as long as they don't get carried away!)
- (3) But only if worthwhile ideas are subject to a "village referendum", ie, must be wanted by a considerable majority (otherwise keep precept as low as possible).
- (3) Public should take more interest in PC meetings and would need to, if idea is agreed. Larger precept would generate more public commitment and interest - also result in improvement to many aspects of village.
- (2) News-sheet/letter (like Crendon) might help help residents in "belonging", and help everyone to know what's going on here.
- (2) But, your worthwhile project may be my waste of money and vice versa. Much more tree planting, beneficial to village's appearance.  
Roadman.  
Hopefully, a by-product of Appraisal will be feasibility study of the suggestions, publicity of cost per household, and whether it is required that they then proceed?  
PC should consider each project on its merits.  
Put aside money for: watch scheme, storage shed (village hall), little more street lighting, and litter bins.  
Our expenditure of 2p per £ is less than most villages spending 4p - latter would give us an extra £1000: for partime roadman and kerbing.  
I didn't vote on either as the question is too heavily loaded - PC should deal with matters as they arise.

(Note: With respect to questions 11 and 12 above, 16% of respondents did not commit themselves to an answer for either question, and must be presumed as being in the "Don't Know" category.)

#### OTHER COMMENTS ON VILLAGE SERVICES:

- (2) I would expect a Rate reduction because of the School closing. It is an educational amenity and one of the most worthwhile projects that should have been supported.
- (2) Village lacks several basic amenities (eg, street lighting, pavements) which should be provided out of the District/County Rate.  
Rates are too high.  
We have a parish magazine, maybe it could be enlarged?  
Postal Service. To get mail in mid-morning is a poor service.  
(Apologies - a terrible oversight to leave out Postal Service - Ed).  
Postal deliveries are erratic, varying as much as 3 hours in am. Why?

I would like mains sewerage and North Sea Gas.  
Would rather pay a modest amount directly towards Chearsley services than pay into AVDC funds.  
Too many people in village - not enough entertainment. Newcomers don't want to mix. There is great bitterness within village.  
Rates do not match the services: only 2 lights, no police service, poor rubbish clearance, drains never cleared. Why are we paying one of the highest rates in the country?  
Would like reliable information on when mains gas may be expected.  
New amenity of Haddenham BR station is a very welcome addition.  
Need conservation service for planting trees, hedges, maintenance of footpaths and stiles.  
PC will act if pressed hard enough, but soon forget and don't keep pressure up, so faults simply recur in a week or so.

## QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS. PART 10 - HEALTH AND WELFARE

This was a very short and final section which was made up of only three questions, as follows:

1. Accepting the fact that we have no health services based in the village, are you satisfied with the following local services?

These answers are divided into Women/Men %, with each line making 100%.

|                 | "Yes"   | "No"  | "Don't use" | Not given |
|-----------------|---------|-------|-------------|-----------|
| Doctor          | 92%/85% | 1%/0  | 1%/8%       | 6%/7%     |
| Dentist         | 57%/64% | 2%/4% | 26%/22%     | 15%/10%   |
| Home Help       | 5%/5%   | 2%/1% | 76%/77%     | 17%/17%   |
| District Nurse  | 18%/16% | 1%/0  | 64%/69%     | 17%/15%   |
| Health Visitor  | 20%/8%  | 1%/0  | 63%/74%     | 16%/18%   |
| Chiropodist     | 12%/8%  | 0/2%  | 73%/71%     | 15%/19%   |
| Meals on wheels | 3%/3%   | 1%/0  | 77%/78%     | 19%/19%   |

Note: In the above listings, for services other than Doctor and Dentist, it is the "No" answers that are significant (because a high proportion of people do not use the other services). Therefore, the answers would seem to indicate a high satisfaction with all local services.

2. Please list your comments on any of the above services - do you have any problems getting to any of them? Please say which service is the problem, and have you any ideas as to how to make things easier?

- (7) Good local health centres, but not good for those without car. Buses are poor. There is a case for doctor/dentist/nurse surgery here, once or twice a week. District Nurse used to come weekly in the old days.
- (5) No problem if you can drive/have partner who can, and have the car.
- (5) I have no car, buses are inadequate - it's difficult to time appointments with doctor (they always assume you have someone to drive you, and it seems impossible to get them to come to you).
- (3) As suggested earlier - a volunteer car service needed (eg. getting prescriptions is a problem at moment).  
 District Nurse: overworked and not paid enough.  
 Health Visitor not used now, but she was marvellous when we did.  
 Health Visitor could give more help and advice.  
 Nearest is Thame - offers very poor choice, unless you can afford to go private.  
 Helpful if repeat prescriptions could be collected from village shop.  
 Mobile infant welfare clinic (once/twice per month) would save travel  
 I have no problems getting to any of the services - when I was a child, used to walk to doctor at Haddenham, thought nothing of it.  
 Small village cannot expect above services internally.  
 Better bus service would assist.

3. Do you know any special problems that disabled people in Cheersley may have?

|                          |     |
|--------------------------|-----|
| Yes                      | 7%  |
| No                       | 62% |
| No answer,<br>don't know | 31% |

- (2) Cars awkwardly parked (in unusual places)
- (2) Speeding cars (in lanes).
- (2) Transport - if they cannot drive, or have not got a car.  
No personal knowledge, but a "FISH" scheme may be good idea fo a few who may need help.  
Too many kerbs.  
Getting in the village hall.  
General lack of social outlets for over 50s and OAPs.  
Crossing the main road.  
Getting around in general, see question 2 above.  
Lack of proper pavements/paths for wheelchairs.  
They may lack information regarding the above services.  
Access to shops - but now much better with new PO services/shop.  
Appraisal answers will show if any - then give help if possible.  
Lack of community spirit means that many are not aware of help needed by old people.  
I believe there is much more "good neighbour" help given than is known about.  
Cheersley is not particularly suited to any badly disabled person.  
Not aware of any, but if there are, the local church should be in front helping an organizing what is necessary.

Note: Some people said "The hills". This was not accepted, because no-one (except You Know Who, and do we really need an earthquake?) can do anything about it (not even the Parish Council).

#### OTHER COMMENTS ON HEALTH AND WELFARE SERVICES:

We should show more consideration of the older element of the village, eg, at Xmas.  
With the School closing, we should approach AVDC to set up a Health Clinic there, also to incorporate the Play-School, and a Centre for all our village activities, evening classes - LET'S BUY THE PLACE.

#### FINAL COMMENTS ADDED BY SOME PEOPLE:

Congratulations to all concerned, this is an excellent questionnaire.  
The Questionnaire was a good idea.  
The village belongs to families, expectant mothers, children. We must think of them, and the closing of the school is the biggest thing to happen.  
Thank you for undertaking this useful study of opinions.  
Long winded questionnaire, thank God it's finished.

## PART 11 - JUNIOR QUESTIONNAIRE

### INTRODUCTION

A total of 83 Junior Questionnaires were distributed throughout the village. These were returned as follows (Boy/Girl being determined from Question 1):

|       |    |
|-------|----|
| Boys  | 16 |
| Girls | 12 |
| <hr/> |    |
| TOTAL | 28 |

Representing 34% of those distributed.

For the purposes of the questionnaires, "Junior" defined those aged between 8 and 16 years.

### THE QUESTIONS

Question 2 asked for the age group, and the analysis shows:

|      |       |       |
|------|-------|-------|
| 8-10 | 11-12 | 13-16 |
| 57%  | 21%   | 22%   |

### THE VILLAGE

What do you like about the village, and why?

- (8) Friendly, nice people, like knowing them all
- (6) Quiet, peaceful, pretty, not very much traffic
- (6) Small
- (6) No comment
- (4) Shop has everything you need; friendly
- (3) Youth Club
- (2) Football team
- (2) Old houses
- (2) Countryside (for walks with dog)
- (1) Footpaths for walks
- (1) Lots of space
- (1) River
- (1) Peaceful church
- (1) Nice school and nice people in it

What do you dislike about the village, and why?

- (11) No comment
- (8) Lack of facilities, with following mentioned:
  - 2 No playing field
  - 1 Nowhere for roller skating
  - 1 No BMX track
  - 1 No swimming pool
- (2) Nothing
- (2) Crossroad is dangerous, no speed limit on main road
- (2) Roads are a bit rough
- (1) No street lighting
- (1) School closing, will completely change village
- (1) Too many foreigners
- (1) Too many houses being built
- (1) Infrequent buses

## SCHOOL

(Before it was closed, Cheersley school took children up to the age of eight, so many children completing questionnaires were ex-pupils. Despite the fact of the school closure after the survey was made, it was felt the childrens' replies to the first two questions would be of interest)

Did you go to the village School?

19 said Yes (68%)

Those that answered "Yes" were then asked what they thought of it. The replies were as follows:

- (12) Very Good/Brilliant/Good school and teaching, liked it
- (2) Good back-up for future/next school
- (2) Friendly
- (2) Small, not too big
- (1) Bit too small

Do you feel that our School is an important part of village life?

100% said Yes

Reasons given were:

- (10) School is centre of village life, parents meeting etc.
- (9) No comment
- (5) Tots should not be bussed
- (5) School attracts young families with children here.

Do you go to school on a School Bus?

61% said Yes

Those that answered Yes were then asked what they thought of the service. The replies were as follows:

- (7) Always/often late, awful; terrible in winter
- (1) Drivers do not know where to go
- (1) Don't like drivers smoking

Additional comments:

I use public bus to Lord Williams, fares very high; should be a school bus Haddenham-Cuddington-Chearsley-Crendon-Thame (Lower and Upper Schools). 261 to Aylesbury always late and crowded (other passengers get cross) and driver sometimes stops for his coffee, so we are even later for school! Cheersley school should NOT be closed

## AMENITIES

Do you use the public buses?

|              |     |
|--------------|-----|
| Occasionally | 43% |
| Daily        | 32% |
| Never        | 25% |

If you use the public bus, what for:

|                   |                     |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| Shopping          | 12                  |
| To School         | 10                  |
| Social/Recreation | 5                   |
| Visiting friends  | 4                   |
| Other:            | 1 (Doctor, dentist) |

Would you like to see any improvements to the public buses? Comments were:

- (5) Increase in service, more buses
- (2) Existing buses should run to time

Do you use a bike? 89% Yes

What do you use your bike for?

|                  |    |
|------------------|----|
| Fun              | 20 |
| Shopping, etc    | 4  |
| Visiting friends | 4  |

If you use a bike, do you have any special problems? Comments were:

- (10) Bad/fast car driving on village roads
- (4) Bad road surfaces - bumpy and/or gravel
- (2) Lack of bike track

Do you use the village shop? Yes - regularly 68%  
Yes - occasionally 32%

Comments were:

- (8) Now good/more variety/good stock
- (4) Brilliant/fab/excellent/friendly
- (3) Much improved by new owners
- (1) Not enough childrens' lines

Do you use the phone-box? Never 93%  
Yes - Sometimes 7%

Comments were:

- (1) Never working because of vandals

Other comments on amenities were:

- Need more facilities like a roller skating area.
- Amenities are non-existent.

## ACTIVITIES

Would you like to see a Youth Club here? Yes 79%

(Note: Youth Club and football team began after questionnaire was printed)

Those that answered "Yes" were then asked what things they would like to do.

Replies were as follows:

- (7) Outings
- (6) Discos
- (4) Table tennis
- (3) Football
- (2) Snooker
- (1) Videos
- (1) Darts
- (1) Competitions

Is there anything that really interests you, that you would like to see available in the village?

- (5) BMX club
- (3) Photography
- (3) Art
- (2) Drama club
- (2) Roller skating area
- (2) Martial arts
- ...and one each for the following: nature club, pony club, swimming club, badminton, astronomy, gym club.

Do you like taking part in any sports activities?

29% did not reply

7% said No

11% said Most sports

The remaining 53% listed their interests as follows:

(7) Swimming

(6) Football

(3) Tennis

(3) Cricket

(2) Netball

(2) Horse/Pony riding

(2) Gym

...and one each for the following: Snooker/pool, roller skating, squash, running, table tennis, rugby, rounders, squash, Kung Fu, BMX riding, American football.

Would you be willing to help with any new club, sport or activity?

57% said Yes

43% gave no reply or said No.

Would you like to see any of the following groups in the village?

61% gave no reply or said No

The remaining 39% (11 children) gave the following:

Boys: Cubs and/or Scouts - 8

Girls: Brownies and/or Guides - 3

Did you know there is a Junior Church in the village every Sunday at 11 am?

64% said Yes

32% said No

4% did not reply.

\* \* \* \* \*

## APPENDIX 1

### "PUNCTURING" OF THE VILLAGE LIMITS

#### INTRODUCTION

Towards the end of the analysis of the questionnaires, the Appraisal Committee was asked to provide a Summary of the results of Parts 2 and 4, so that the Parish Council could make the information available to the Rural Studies Group, AVDC. Before the Summary was sent to AVDC, it was debated by the Parish Councillors and it became obvious that the most contentious item was the interpretation of village opinion about the village limits.

The discussion centred on data summarized from Part 4 of the Questionnaire, where the following statement appeared: "In accordance with the Village Conservation Document, new housing development has been mainly kept within the village limits. The village limits are marked on the enclosed map." This was followed by Question 3, and the analysis showed the following results:

|   |                           |     |
|---|---------------------------|-----|
| If more houses appear, where<br>should they be built? | Inside village limits     | 35% |
|   | Don't know/no comment     | 24% |
|   | Both (inside and outside) | 23% |
|   | Outside village limits    | 18% |

The key issue which emerged from the discussions between the Parish Councillors was the "puncturing" of the village limits. As can be seen from the above results, the addition of "Both" and "Outside" makes 41%, who say they are willing to see the limits punctured - as against the 35% who say any new housing must be within the limits. Some discussion then revolved around the "Don't Knows" and the statement in the Summary that: "a significant proportion of people who replied, Don't know/No comment (24%), had reservations, with half of them not wanting any more houses".

From that qualification, one councillor had the opinion that if half the "Don't knows" did not want any more houses, then "they should be added to the "Inside" group to make  $35 + 12 = 47\%$  not wanting a puncturing of the limits". This threw the discussion into confusion, because the statistical analysis by the Committee had not examined this problem in detail, and no firm conclusions could be made.

This Appendix is an attempt to look at this problem in a little more detail, to try to clarify the issues (always a very difficult thing with statistics!).

#### THE ANALYSIS

The Questionnaires were re-examined in more detail, to determine the correlation between the answers concerning village limits and building rates (question 2 of Part 4). The data from those answers is given in the following Table. Note that some proportions differ very slightly from those given earlier - by 1%. This is because the total sample size was slightly different for the earlier analysis compared with the final analysis. Obviously the final analysis data is the most accurate. In the main body of the Table below the first value in each column is the number of replies, the second number is the % within each column and group, derived from that first number.

Basic Data:

Where houses should be built (from Part 4 Question 3):

|                 | INSIDE | OUTSIDE | BOTH | DON'T KNOW<br>NO COMMENT |        |
|-----------------|--------|---------|------|--------------------------|--------|
| Total replies = | 63     | 30      | 41   | 41                       | = 175  |
| Proportion =    | 36%    | 17%     | 23%  | 24%                      | = 100% |

Building Rate (from Part 4 Question 2):

|              |    |     |    |     |    |     |     |     |      |
|--------------|----|-----|----|-----|----|-----|-----|-----|------|
| Under 3 =    | 21 | 33% | 3  | 10% | 6  | 15% | 9   | 22% | = 39 |
| Over 3 =     | 2  | 3%  | 5  | 17% | 11 | 27% | Nil |     | = 18 |
| About 3 =    | 11 | 17% | 13 | 43% | 13 | 32% | Nil |     | = 37 |
| No more =    | 15 | 24% | 5  | 17% | 2  | 5%  | 13  | 32% | = 35 |
| Don't know = | 14 | 22% | 4  | 13% | 9  | 21% | 19  | 46% | = 46 |

The main argument revolves around the "Don't Know" (Limits) group and the "No More" (Houses) group. The Councillor's suggestion was that you take the "No More" group (13 replies) out of the "Don't Knows" (total 41) and add them to the "Inside" group. This is an unfair suggestion for two reasons. Firstly, you cannot just take one group in isolation from all the others: there are "No More" groups within each of the main headings: eg, under "Outside" there are 5 in the "No More" group. Clearly they cannot be added to the "Inside" column! Secondly, it is unfair because the original question was "IF more houses appear, where should they be built?" The original "No More" group were therefore faced with a new question, and 13 out of the original 35 said that they didn't know what to answer, or declined to do so. You cannot assume that IF they had answered, they would have answered: "Inside"! That is stretching the imagination too far!

The best way to examine the correlation between answers on village limits and building rates is to treat ALL the "No More" (Houses) group and ALL the "Don't Know" (Limits) groups quite separately, and then look at all those who were left (who stated definite preferences), and see what they think about the limits. This gives the following results (using the data from the above Table):

|                       | Number | Proportion |
|-----------------------|--------|------------|
| No More (Houses) =    | 35     | = 20%      |
| Don't know (Limits) = | 28     | = 16%      |
| Inside =              | 48     | = 28%      |
| Outside =             | 25     | = 14%      |
| Both =                | 39     | = 22%      |

The people in the last three groups are effectively saying "we accept that more houses will be built, and we have an opinion as to where they should be built", and they constitute 64% of the respondents. Of that portion, 14 + 22 = 36% are prepared to see the village limits punctured, and 28% do not want that.

CONCLUSIONS.

This analysis clearly shows that, no matter which way you look at the data, there is no clear majority (ie, greater than 50%) in favour of a single course of action with respect to the village limits. There are slightly more people saying they accept some "puncturing", compared with those who say all new houses

must be within the limits, but the difference is not large: 40 to 36 or 36 to 28, depending upon which set of statistics are used. It might be reasonable to assume that those who said "Both" would accept that half the new houses would be inside and half outside. This would make the Inside proportion  $28\% + 11\% = 39\%$ , and the Outside proportion  $14\% + 11\% = 25\%$ . So, then there would be a restricted puncturing of the village limits, but with the higher proportion of new houses appearing inside.

Also, other data from the Questionnaires suggests that a majority would like to see a slowing down of the building rate, and that building outside the limits should be very carefully controlled.

This report of the analysis does not constitute a statement of village policy on planning matters. Villagers clearly indicated that they do want such a policy to be made (Part 4, Question 1), and it is suggested that the data in this report should form part of the basis of such a policy document. Therefore, if the Parish Council (in formulating the policy) thinks that village limits might be "punctured", the Appraisal indicates that such a policy should be subject to limitations - some of which have been discussed in this Appendix.

Note: This analysis has been somewhat detailed in terms of number and percentages. The objective has been to try to make some sense of the Appraisal results. It is fully accepted that in real-life, a village policy document could not necessarily specify that  $x\%$  of houses should be built inside the limits, and  $y\%$  outside. Therefore, the conclusions presented here should only be taken as a guide to future policy on planning.

## APPENDIX 2

### STREET LIGHTS IN THE VILLAGE

#### INTRODUCTION.

In Part 8, question 4 of the Questionnaire the following was asked:

"There are two village lights. Would you like to see more (bearing in mind that installing more would affect the rates)?"

The answers indicated that a majority (56%) did not want more lights, and 31% of the respondents said "Yes" - they did want more. Those that had answered "Yes" were then asked to specify where they would like the additional lights. There were 64 individual comments. As explained earlier, the diversity of the opinions meant that it was easier to list the proposed sites separately.

#### COMPLETE LIST OF LIGHTS REQUESTED:

- (7) Throughout village, everywhere (unfortunately necessary - muggings)
- (5) At School junction, outside School
- (5) One/two down each lane/close (but appreciate it could be expensive)
- (5) School Lane
- (3) Chilton Rd.
- (3) By phone box
- (3) On Green by main road
- (3) Watts Green.
- (2) At junctions of roads and footpaths (timed to switch off at 11.30pm)
- (2) Near residential areas.
- (2) At all junctions of lanes and roads.
- (2) Church Lane
  - At the church.
  - Regular intervals along each lane.
  - At each end of sunken lanes
  - At dark spots in the village.
  - Entry/exit points
  - Centre of village.
  - On main roads.
  - By village hall (there is one there - Ed)
  - Bottom of Dark Lane.
  - Both ends of Hicks Path at Dark Lane.
  - Dark Lane
  - Both sides of Dark Lane.
  - Winchendon Rd
  - Top and bottom of village.
  - Bottom of village.
  - Junction by Turnip Close.
  - Present light for OAP bungalows is in the wrong place.
  - At least another 4 powerful lights on main roads, especially near bus shelters where certain undesirables gather at night.
  - Soft lighting - like Long Crendon.
  - Attach to buildings rather than posts.
  - Lack of lights reduces social contact and security for elderly.
  - More scattered about village might stop vandalism.

Note: If an attempt was made to satisfy the above lighting requirements for the village, a quick estimate shows that a total of 39 lights might be required.

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Note. Major subjects such as Environment, Amenities, etc, are found under those headings in THE RESULTS, or see Table of Contents. For references to the shop, church, specific houses, lanes or other locations within village, see Part 2 of this Index. Other villages or towns will be found in Part 3.

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| Trees                            | 8-10, 12, 15, 29, 33,<br>44, 45 |
| Tug-of-War                       | 27, 29                          |
| Vandalism                        | 21, 24, 29, 40                  |
| Vehicles - see Cars              |                                 |
| Verges                           | 8-12, 35, 43                    |
| Views - of countryside, village  | 7, 9, 10, 15, 18                |
| Village - Limits                 | 15-16, 52-54                    |
| - Size, shape, character, spirit | 7-9, 13, 15                     |
| Voluntary Car Service - see Cars |                                 |
| Walls, fences                    | 9, 10                           |
| Water Board                      | 12, 41                          |
| Weight Limits (on lanes)         | 33                              |
| Youth Club                       | 32, 48, 50                      |

## PART 2: LOCATIONS WITHIN THE VILLAGE

Note: With respect to speeding, road safety, maintenance, almost every lane is mentioned on Pages 34 - 35. Those references are not included below.

|                                     |                          |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Aylesbury Road                      | 11, 12, 15               |
| Baulk, The                          | 11                       |
| Bernards Close                      | 24                       |
| Bus shelter, stops                  | 8, 11, 39                |
| Cedar Cottage (Dark Lane)           | 10, 11, 23, 33, 37       |
| Chearsley Hill House (Chilton Road) | 10, 11, 37               |
| Chestnut Tree                       | 7, 10                    |
| Chilton Road                        | 10, 15                   |
| Church, junior church               | 7, 25-26, 28, 44, 51     |
| Church Lane                         | 5, 9, 11, 15, 23, 24, 36 |
| Church Piece                        | 15                       |
| Crawley Farm                        | 38                       |
| Crendon Road                        | 38                       |
| Dark Lane                           | 11, 12                   |
| Duckpond (Stockwell)                | 10, 11                   |
| Farmyard (Footpath)                 | 36, 37                   |
| Furze, The                          | 36                       |

|                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Green, The                         | 8, 10-12, 24, 28, 29<br>36, 37, 39             |
| Hicks Path                         | 37   |
| Hideaway (Elm Brook Close)         | 23   |
| Hobgoblins (Footpath)              | 36   |
| Lammas Path (Houses and footpath)  | 11-13, 37                                      |
| Lower Green Lane                   | 10, 11, 15, 23                                 |
| Manor Farm (Church Lane)           | 11   |
| Manor Villas (Chilton Road)        | 38   |
| Old Granary, The (Crendon Road)    | 38   |
| Pub                                | 7, 8, 23, 26, 30-31<br>33, 34                  |
| Pub - behind                       | 11   |
| School                             | 7, 8, 10, 11, 15, 21, 23<br>24, 32, 39, 43, 49 |
| School Lane                        | 11, 24   |
| Shop/Post Office                   | 7, 24-25, 46, 50                               |
| Shupps Lane                        | 23, 33   |
| Thame, The River                   | 41   |
| Turnip Close                       | 33   |
| Upper Farm (Chilton Road)          | 17, 37   |
| Vicarage, The Old (Aylesbury Road) | 12   |
| Village - Hall                     | 8, 11, 27-30, 43, 44, 47                       |
| Watts Green                        | 23   |
| White House (Church Lane)          | 36, 37   |
| Winchendon Road                    | 15, 38   |

### PART 3: LOCATIONS OUTSIDE THE VILLAGE AND PARISH

|                    |                              |
|--------------------|------------------------------|
| Aston Hill         | 5                            |
| Aylesbury          | 7, 13, 20, 22, 25            |
| Bicester           | 20                           |
| Birmingham         | 7                            |
| Chinnor            | 13, 20                       |
| Cuddington         | 15, 20, 23, 30, 31, 32       |
| Gerrards Cross     | 12                           |
| Haddenham          | 13, 15, 18, 20, 22<br>24, 38 |
| High Wycombe       | 7                            |
| London             | 7, 25                        |
| Long Crendon       | 20, 31, 32, 36, 38, 44       |
| M40                | 7                            |
| Oxford             | 7, 22                        |
| Princes Risborough | 20                           |
| Stokenchurch       | 5                            |
| Stone              | 38                           |
| Thame              | 5, 7, 20, 22, 24, 25, 46     |
| Winchendon         | 13, 38                       |

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