

**CLOPTON
VILLAGE PLAN
QUESTIONNAIRE
RESULTS ANALYSIS**

March 2011

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1.0 Introduction

At a public meeting held on 26 October 2003, a general consensus was reached that Clopton should formulate a Village Plan to be used as guidance in future decisions on improvements and proposed developments in the Parish. A Constitution was adopted on 20 April 2004 and after various subsequent discussions, a group of Parish Councillors and the Parish Clerk designed a Village Plan Questionnaire to provide the necessary feedback and information on which the plan could be based.

In mid 2010 a survey was distributed to all 155 households in Clopton in order to ascertain factual data, views and suggestions from residents about life in Clopton and what improvements and developments might be considered for the future. The survey comprised 3 parts, being a General Questionnaire for all households, a Youth Survey for those up to the age of 16 and a Business Questionnaire for business undertakings within the Parish.

This report sets out the results of that survey.

The General Questionnaire was completed by 170 people, being well spread throughout the village, the Youth Survey by 21 people and with the Business Questionnaire drawing 12 responses.

The overall response was excellent and the Council would like to thank all those who took the time and effort to complete the survey. Thanks are also due to:

- Janet Clarke, Roy Compton, Sylvia Freeman and Tony Fryatt for designing the questionnaires.
- the Chairman and the Parish Clerk for distributing and collecting the survey forms.
- those Councillors who helped to compile this report.
- Debach Enterprises for their financial support.
- Annette Gray and Suffolk Acre for their assistance and financial support in both the formulation of the survey and for collating the responses.

The Parish Council intends to call a public meeting to discuss these results after it has analysed them and put forward recommendations as to which proposals might be both feasible and suitable for implementation.

In some cases, especially where the number of respondents was small, the complete data analysis is not included within these results. A full list of statistics may be obtained from the Parish Clerk on request at a cost of £5.00 per set of 35 pages to cover the costs of photocopying.

2.0 Demographics

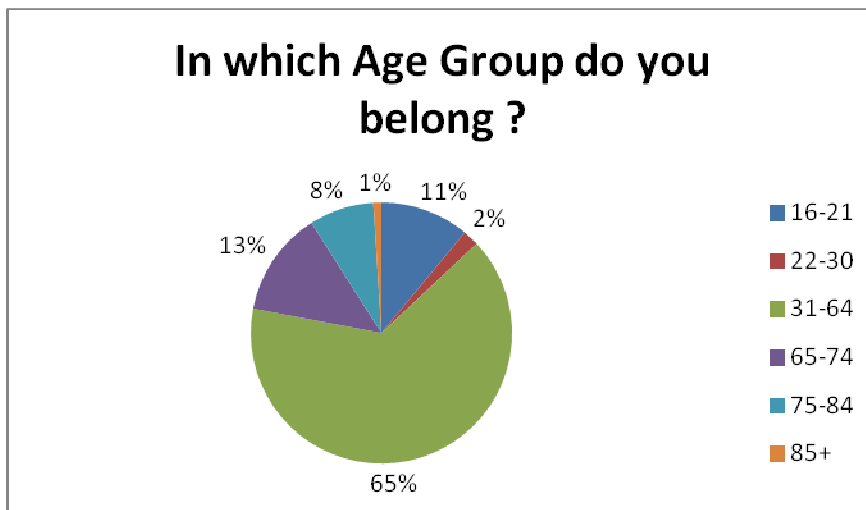
2.1 Gender

165 responses.

47% were male and 53% female.

2.2 Age Profile

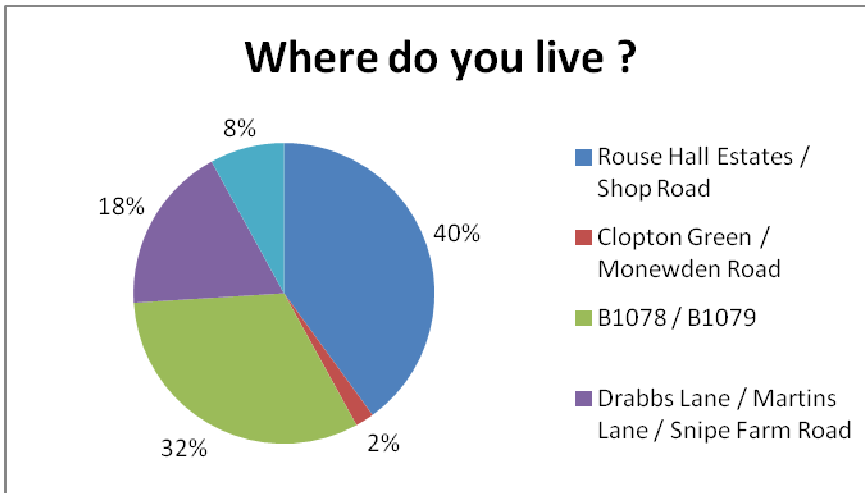
164 responses.



2.3 Residency

2.3.1 Location of House in Clopton

161 responses.



2.3.2 Length of Time Living in Clopton

163 responses categorised as follows:

< 1 year:	7%
1-10 years:	30%
11-20 years:	27%
21-50 years:	26%
>50 years:	6%
Whole life:	4%

6 people admitted to their main residence being elsewhere.

2.4 Situation

163 responses (multiple choice) categorised as follows:

Retired:	26%
Self-employed:	22%
Employed full time:	20%
Employed part time:	14%
In full-time education:	11%
Working from home:	6%
Voluntary work:	6%
Un-waged:	4%
Unable to work – illness/disability:	2%
In part-time education:	0%
In a Government training scheme:	0%

2.5 Travel and Means of Transport

2.5.1 Travel to Work, Place of Study, or Main Place of Occupation

156 responses:

Situated in Clopton:	8%
Woodbridge:	10%
Ipswich:	17%
Other:	34%
Not applicable:	32%

2.5.2 Major Means of Transport

160 responses:

Car:	90%
School bus or coach:	2.5%
Walk:	2.5%
Public bus service:	2%
Motorcycle / moped / scooter:	2%
Car-share:	1%
Bicycle:	0%

2.5.3 Household Vehicle Use and Parking

147 people reported a total of 73 roadworthy vehicles, ranging for 0 to 6 per household, with 2 vehicles per household being the most common. Of these, 92% were either garaged or parked off-road, while 11 people park their vehicles on the road.

2.6 Categories of Businesses run in Clopton

A total of 28 people reported running a business in Clopton, falling into the following categories:

Construction:	7
Finance / professional services:	6
Other services (hairdressing, etc):	5
Manufacturing:	4
Tourism (catering, B&B camp site, etc):	3
Agriculture / horticulture:	2

2.7 Summary

The returns indicate a fairly stable but spread out community with 63% of respondents living in the village for more than 10 years. More than half of them work and a quarter are retired. The majority are in the 30-64 year old age bracket. As could be expected, only 8% of respondents who travel to work do so in Clopton and the car is by far the most important means of transport.

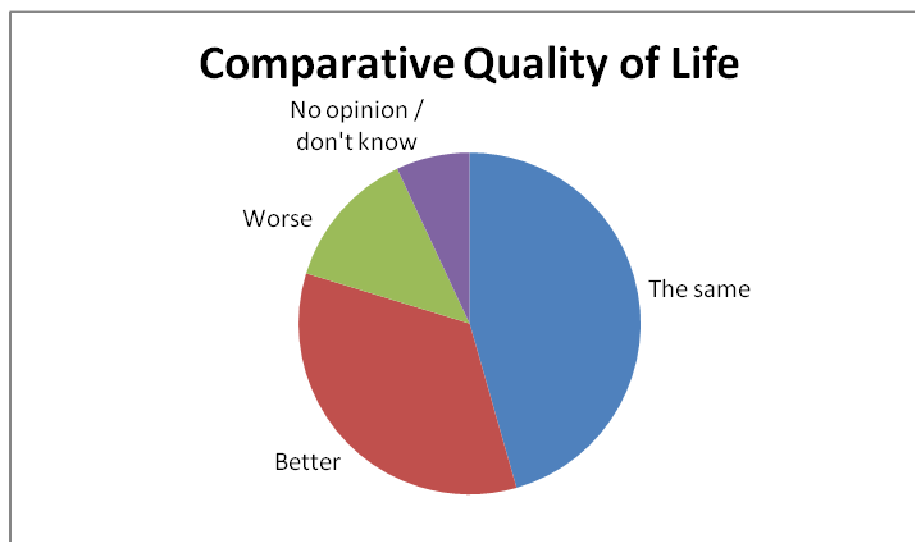
3.0 Wellbeing

3.1 What Residents Find Important about Clopton

164 respondents (96%) found that there was something important to them about the village. The countryside / environment came first (131), followed by location (80), being a village (40) and near to a town (23). Reflecting a lack of community spirit, the community and the social life appeared lower in the rankings.

3.2 Comparative Quality of Life

The table below shows the assessment of 158 people of their quality of life now, compared to when they first move to or lived in Clopton. 80% stated that it was at least the same or better.



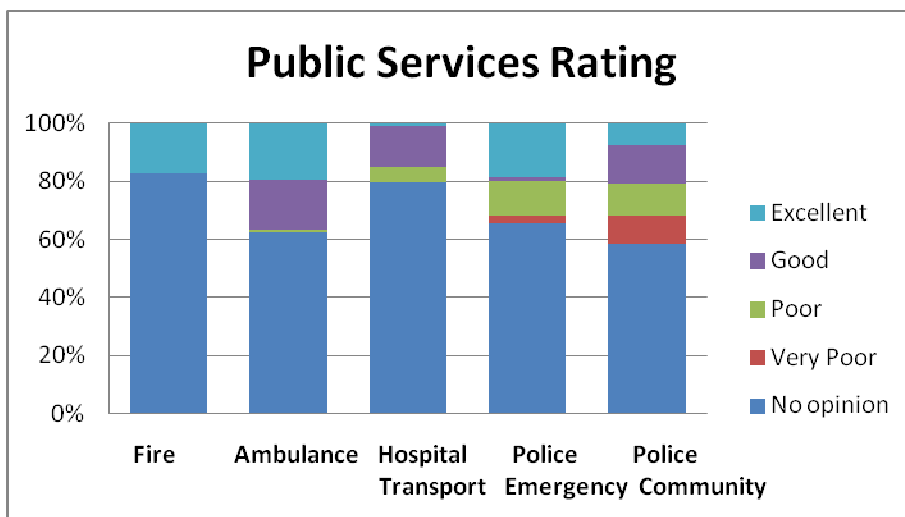
Comments received from those whose quality of life was worse indicate that this is due to anti-social behaviour and to an increase in HGV traffic using the B1078 and B 1079.

4.0 Public Services

This section shows the survey respondents' rating of the various public services.

4.1 Emergency Services

119 responses, analysed below. The high incidence of 'No opinion' reflects a limited need for the emergency services but that when used, there is overall confidence in the service delivery, with the exception of the police, particularly in the community.

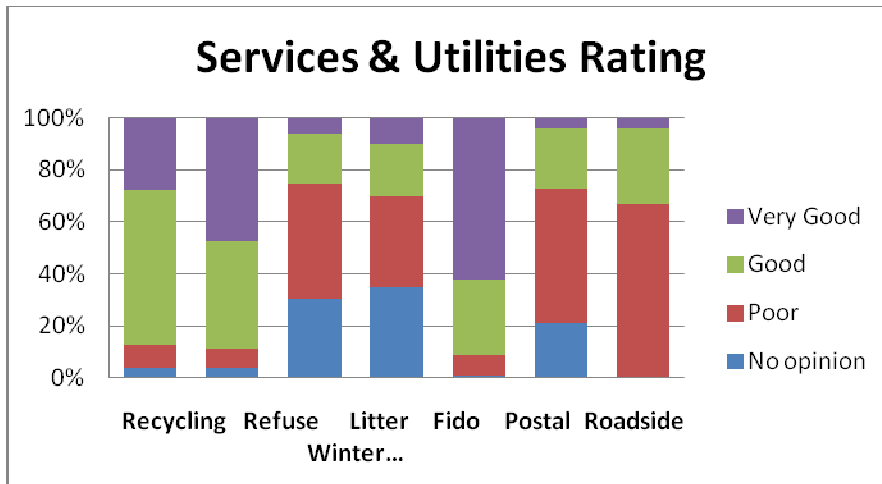


4.2 Services & Utilities

Responses on the individual services ranged from 114 to 139, with the ratings shown below, noting that no service was rated as either 'Very Poor' or 'Excellent'.

The major services of recycling, refuse collection and the postal services were well rated. Litter bins and fido bins were found wanting and roadside care / street cleaning and winter gritting

were perceived to be poor overall:



Radio and telephony services were generally rated as adequate with the exception of mobile phone reception which 89 respondents (64%) rated as poor.

129 people use the **internet** at home, 55 of whom rated Broadband reception as poor.

The **public telephone box** is used by 1 person a few times a month, by 2 people a few times a year and never by 120 people.

The **letter box** is used by 90 people several times a month, or more frequently, with 34 more people using it less frequently and never by 26 people.

55 people out of 158 respondents find a need for an **information advice network** for use in the event of local emergency. 48 people see no such need, whilst a further 55 people have no opinion or don't know.

4.3 Medical Services

89% of respondents rated the Doctor as 'Good' or 'Very Good'.

77% of respondents rated the Dispensary at the doctor's surgery or Health Centre as 'Good' or 'Very Good'.

The overwhelming majority of respondents had no opinion on any of the other medical services listed in the survey.

92% of respondents use the doctor or Health Centre located in a neighbouring village or market town. Generally, people have to travel further afield to the dentist, with 87% travelling further than 5 miles. A small number (between 3 – 4%) experience some difficulty in visiting the doctor and/or the dentist.

4.4 Public Bus Service

145 responses.

Only 2% of respondents (3 people) listed the public bus service as their major means of transport (see section 2.5.2).

59% of respondents never use the bus service. Those who do seek improvements in the timetable (25%), a bus shelter with/without information point (19%), the route (11%), bus stop locations (11%), with a small number commenting on access for the disabled and cost. More people would use the bus if a better service could be provided, with 9 people indicating that they would use the bus on a daily basis, a further 12 on a weekly basis and 82 occasionally. However, 47 people (31%) would never use the bus, even if the service improved.

4.5 Local Services

The use of the various services available locally is tabulated as follows:

Local Service	Responses	Daily	Weekly	Monthly	Occasionally	Rarely/Never
Milk Door Delivery	121	34%	N/A	N/A	4%	62%
Papers Door Delivery	126	34%	3%	1%	3%	59%
Library Van	105	N/A	4%	5%	5%	87%
Fresh Fish Van	115	2%	22%	N/A	7%	70%
Internet Grocery Delivery	122	1%	17%	7%	17%	58%

5.0 Public Servants

5.1 Awareness

123 responses indicate that more than two-thirds of residents know how to contact the electricity and water emergency services, about two thirds a Parish Councillor, one half the Parish Clerk and the Village Hall's Booking Clerk, one third a District Councillor, the elected Member of Parliament and the Church Wardens and a quarter a County Councillor and the local religious leader.

5.2 Parish Council Performance

The overall awareness of the Parish Council's activities was quite low, with more than half of responses giving a rating to all but one of the questions as either 'No opinion' or 'Don't know' and with almost the same proportion never having attended a Parish Council meeting. The ratings on individual areas of activity are tabulated below.

Question	Responses	Agree	No opinion Don't Know	Disagree
Publicises its activities/decisions well	111	43%	38%	19%
Is open and accessible	105	41%	54%	5%
Liaises well with District/County Councils	105	24%	73%	3%
Overall does a good job	120	43%	52%	6%
Spends the Precept wisely	100	19%	73%	8%
Publicises Planning Applications well	103	36%	48%	17%
Publicises PC/Committee meetings well	103	36%	52%	12%

A number of people would like to have the start time of the Annual Parish Meeting put back from 19.00 hrs and have it better and/or more widely publicised. Other suggestions were to make it more informal and interactive, with possibly engaging a topical speaker. There was some criticism that the Council does not listen to the views of local residents.

87 respondents thought that the Parish Council should try to buy land for various local amenities including allotments (41%), a nature reserve (53%), a play area (34%), affordable housing (38%) and for community renewable energy (24%). It was not clear from the Survey from where funding would come for such projects.

5.3 Places of Faith & Pastoral Care

154 responses (multiple selection).

How places of faith are important:

Use of Places of Faith	Proportion
For ceremonies (baptisms, weddings, funerals)	63%
As historic buildings	56%
For regular/occasional worship	31%
Not at all	26%
As a community building	9%

In Clopton, 12 people replied that they attend the Annual Church Meeting, with 116 people either not interested or not knowing that they could. A small minority (6) were concerned that they might be volunteering for something.

A majority of people (79%) rated various aspects of pastoral care in the village as 'Don't know'. Those who expressed an opinion rated them as 'Poor' 47%, 'Good' 32% and 'Fairly well' 21%.

6.0 Areas of Concern

6.1 Road Safety

Road safety is clearly an issue in the village. With many comments received listing perceived danger spots, the overwhelming majority related to the Shop Road/B1078/Manor Road junction.

Other danger spots mentioned were the B1078/1079 5 way junction and the narrow road on the B1079 between the Old Rectory and the church. Speeding and the volume of HGV traffic are noted as adding to the danger, with over 70% of 159m responses listing both of these factors as contributing to traffic problems.

A high proportion of 130 responses (91%) shows that residents feel that some kind of speed control measure should be introduced, the most popular being flashing 30 mph signs. A further 76 people thought that random police speed-gun checks are needed in Clopton.

6.2 Crime

Only 12% of 156 respondents were unconcerned about crime in the village. The major crimes listed as a concern are:

Speeding through village:	62%
Burglary:	42%
Litter	36%
Threatening/rowdy behaviour & verbal abuse	29%
Noise	19%
Dog fouling	15%

The significance of concern over burglary is reflected in 67 people indicating a need for a Neighbourhood Watch scheme to be set up in Clopton (see Section 7.3.3).

Thirty people suffered from a crime or anti-social behaviour in Clopton in the 3 years prior to the survey but did not report it to the police. Twelve of them thought that nothing would be done if they did, 9 feared a revenge attack, 6 considered it too trivial and one didn't know how to report it.

From comments made, anti-social behaviour, fighting and noise in Rouse Hall Estate is an area of concern.

6.3 Noise

There were 152 responses as to the causes of problems for Clopton residents. Of these, 61 people (40%) noted traffic noise, 25 (16%) noted noise pollution and 17 (11%) noted noise from low flying aircraft. Noise pollution from Rouse Hall Estate and the noise from bird scarers were mentioned as specific irritations.

6.4 Unsightly, Derelict and/or Under-used Areas of Land

The following areas (listed alphabetically) were mentioned in 25 free-text responses:

- Bear Buckle's yard on Birds Hill: area to be cleared of dumped rubbish.
- Churchyard - overgrown pit to N.W. of: sympathetically adapt to a car park to improve road safety.
- Debach airfield: clean up mess and remove all kinds of detritus, derelict vehicles, used tyres, etc.
- Hill Farm: Enforcement of planning regulations. Removal of derelict vehicles/trailers and reduce the number of vehicles/trailers.
- Rouse Hall Estate – meadow behind bungalows: under-used, could be developed as a play area for children, or used for parking bays, allotments, or housing.
- Shop Road – concrete road opposite to: a popular walk but which has a grim appearance because of the broken concrete surface.
- Shop Road – the old piggeries: under-used and unsightly. It should be made into a play area for children or developed into area with benches, alternatively used for allotments or housing.
- Snipe Farm Road – former airfield hospital site: under-used which could be developed for housing.
- Village Hall – woodland and pond area behind: clear away dumped rubbish and manage for wild life.

6.5 Additional Measures for Village Improvement

153 people responded with the following recommendations:

Measure	Responses	%
Random speed-gun checks	76	50
More activities for young people	56	37
Random foot patrols by Police	42	27
More litter bins	41	27
More fido bins	25	16
Road safety training for young people	23	15
Mobile Police unit monthly	22	14
Personal safety talk / exhibition	11	7
Drug / alcohol education, information, prevention	7	5
CCTV cameras	7	5
None of the above	22	14

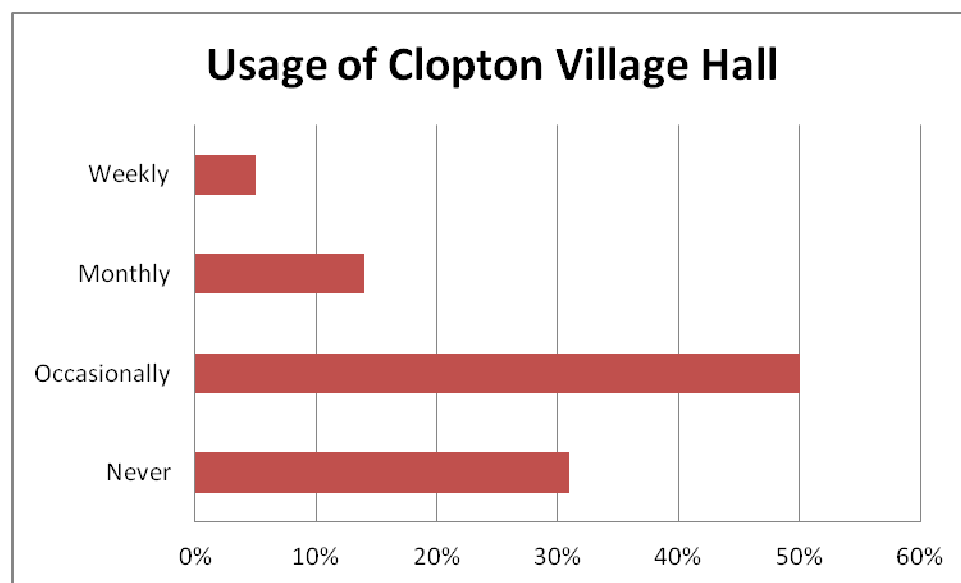
7.0 Village Facilities

7.1 Use of Facilities

7.1.1 Clopton Village Hall

137 responses

a) Usage



b) Adequacy

Of 152 responses, 107 people (70%) felt that the village hall is adequate for the village, 7 people (5%) found it inadequate, with the balance of 38 people (25%) responding either 'Don't know' or 'No opinion'.

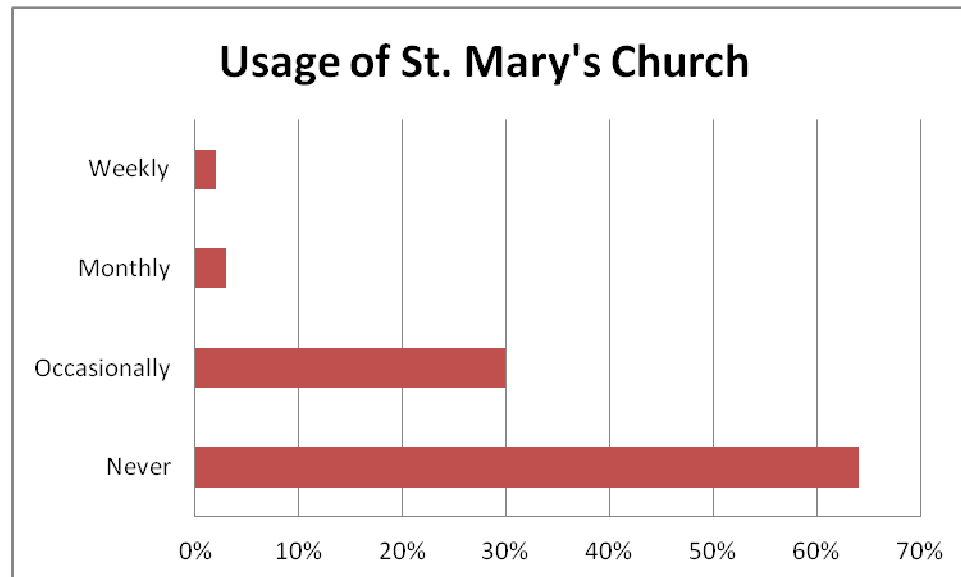
c) Quality of the Facilities

The majority of the major facilities were rated as 'Good' by the a majority of respondents. A lack of awareness of the less obvious facilities such as storage, access and facilities for the disabled, the bar and coach parking all drew a high proportion of 'Don't Know' as a response.

7.1.2 St. Mary's Church, Clopton

125 responses

a) Usage:



People use Burgh and Grundisburgh churches, as well as Clopton.

94 people would like to see the church used for as a meeting place for various activities, including concerts (78), exhibitions (73), plays (35) and unspecified meetings. It was remarked that these supplementary uses are a good idea but not without proper provision for car-parking to cater for the number of people such events would attract.

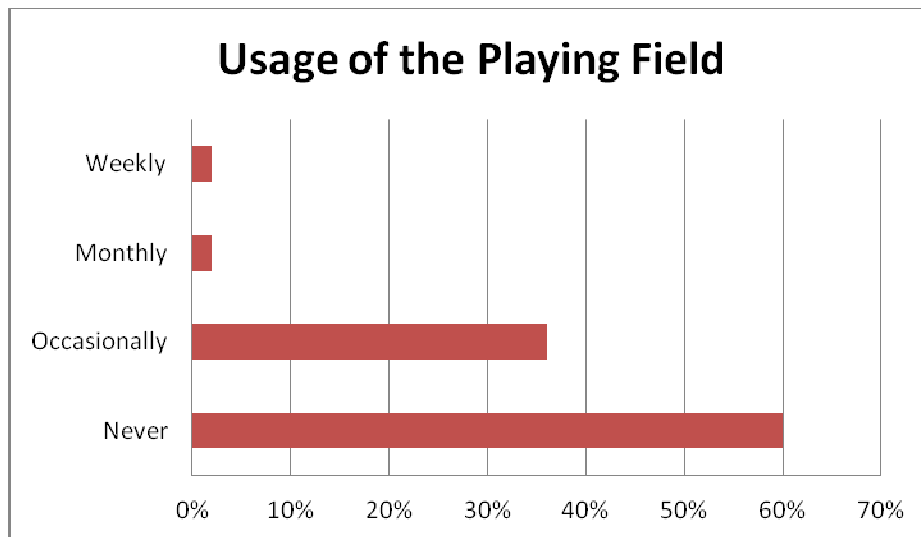
Although for 87 people places of faith are important as historical buildings, only 15 people would be interested in becoming a member of the Friends of St. Mary's Church if one was set up to help with the maintenance. 86 people would not be interested and 33 people answered either 'Don't know' or 'No opinion'.

Of 145 people who answered the question about being buried in St. Mary's Churchyard after death, 14 do, 86 do not and 45 are undecided.

7.1.3 Playing Field

121 responses.

a) Usage:



It was remarked that the playing field is water-logged during the winter months, also that it is dangerous for children to cross the B1078 to reach it.

Of 152 people who answered the question as to whether Clopton requires a children’s play area, 66 answered ‘Yes’, 29 ‘No’, leaving 57 undecided, or without opinion.

7.2 Improvements to Facilities

7.2.1 Pedestrian & Cycle Facilities

145 responses to a multiple selection question thought the following should be introduced:

Facility	Responses	%
Map of local footpaths	79	54
Circular walks leaflet for Clopton	63	43
Better signposts for existing public footpaths	42	29
Better maintenance of public footpaths	36	25
Cycle paths	39	27
More footpaths (public Rights of Way)	35	24
Guided walks of the area	27	19
Wider footpaths and/or pavements	23	16
Pedestrian crossing	16	11

Dropped kerbs for wheelchairs and pushchairs	5	3
None of the above	19	13

7.2.2 Roads, Lanes and Paths

156 responses to a multiple selection question thought the following would make Clopton more attractive:

Facility	Responses	%
Reduce HGV traffic	119	76
Remove litter	76	49
Seasonal cutting of verges to promote wildlife	58	37
Measures to stop vehicles damaging verges	53	34
Keep roadside verges mown and tidy	50	32
Remove unnecessary signposts	30	19
None of the above	9	6

7.3 Social Facilities, Care & Support and Community Services

7.3.1 The Need for Social Facilities

68 responses to a multiple selection question thought the following are needed in Clopton:

Facility	Responses	%
Adult educational evening classes	41	60
After school clubs	28	41
Summer play scheme	25	37
Playgroup	13	19
Mothers and toddlers	12	18
Under 5's and parents club	9	13
Pre-school	5	7
Private nursery school	4	6

7.3.2 The Need for Care & Support Services in Clopton

Of the 117 people who replied, 92 (79%) didn't know or had no opinion. The balance saw a need for one or more of a variety of services. Most of these were in the form of help with transport or collection of prescriptions, pensions or shopping, with a few requiring help around the house or with personal tasks. Importantly, 9 people would like someone to call in to see if they are okay.

There are 12 people who care for a member of their household who has a physical or mental health disability.

7.3.3 The Need for Other Community Services

93 people answered a multiple selection question as under:

Facility	Responses	%
Neighbourhood Watch scheme	67	72
Good Neighbour scheme	42	45
Community time swap	11	12
Community coffee caravan	10	11
Community toy library	6	6
Nominate a Neighbour	3	3

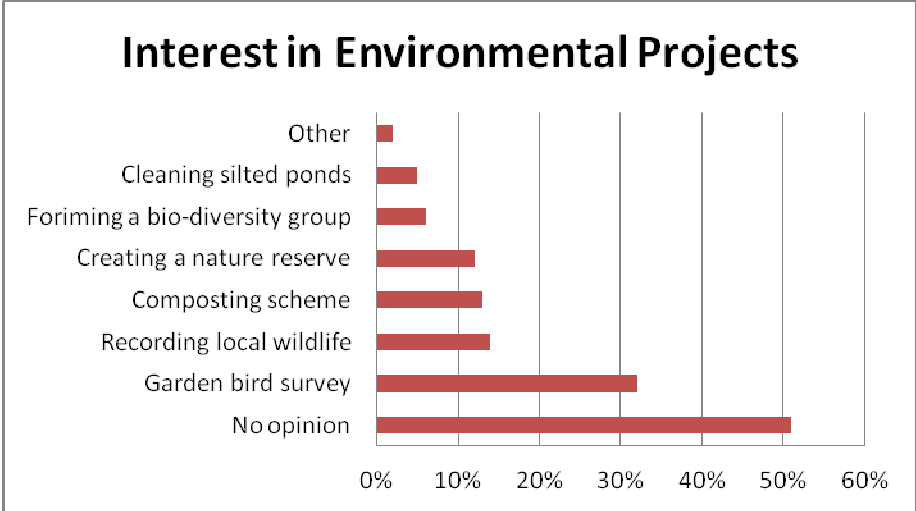
7.3.4 The Community's Willingness to Help

Responses to several questions indicate a small number of people are prepared to offer various forms of community help as follows:

Help with Service	Number
Local Parish events	7
Pastoral visits to the elderly, sick, housebound, etc	5
Meals on wheels	4
Leisure time activities for young people	4
Hospital transport	3
Local Parish groups	2

7.4 Environmental Projects

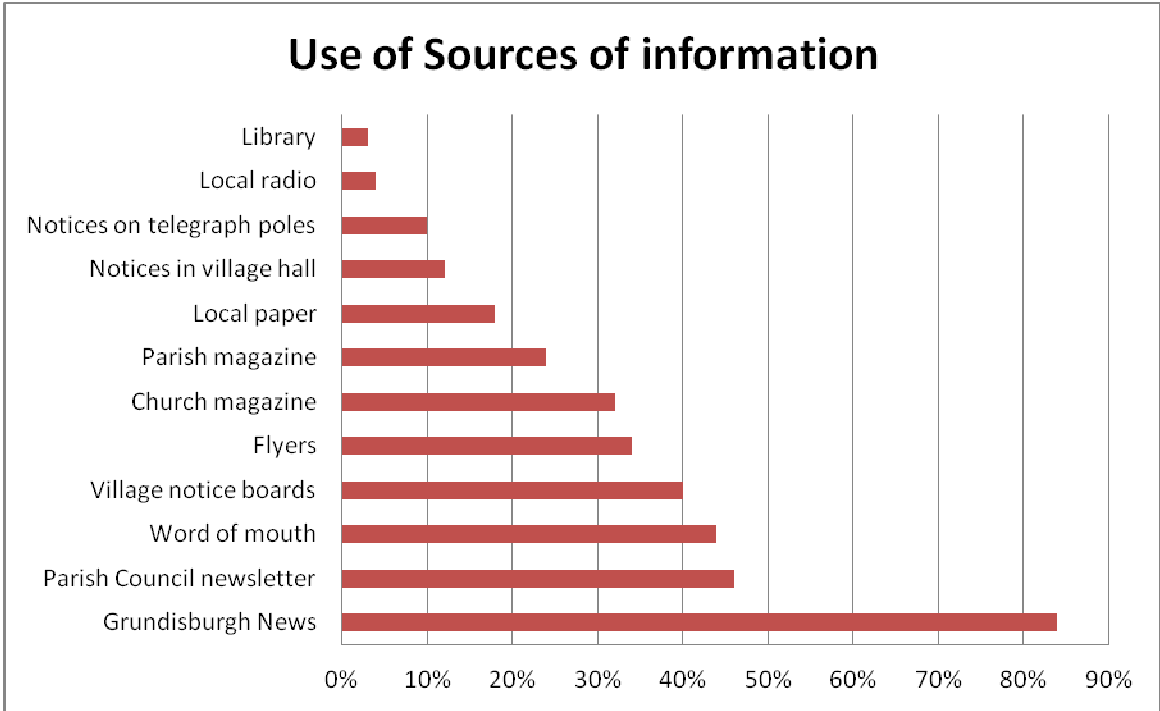
110 people answered to a multiple selection question asking if they would be interested to take part in environmental projects:



7.5 Community Events, Clubs & Activities

7.5.1 Sources of Information used for Activities and Events taking place in Clopton

149 people answered a multiple selection question as follows:

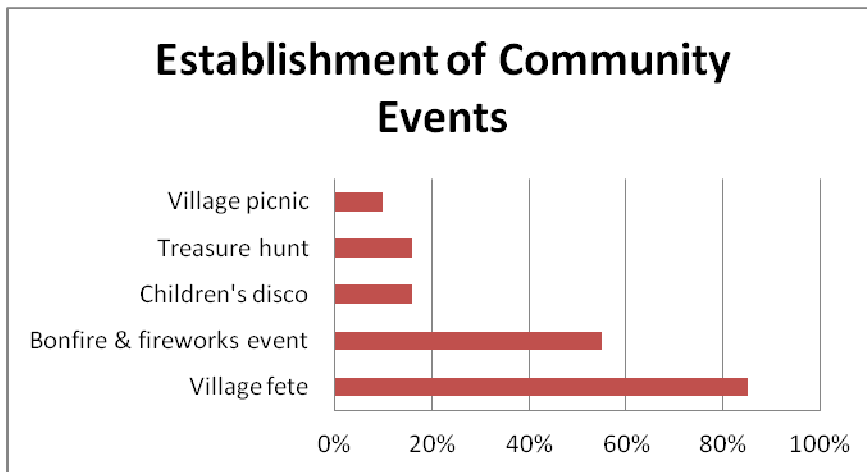


It is significant that the 2 most used sources of information are the Grundisburgh News and the Clopton Parish Council newsletter (“The Newsletter”).

In relation to information, 49 people think that Clopton needs a village website. This calls into question the residents' awareness of the existing website which contains other points of information listed in the survey. 25 people would find a village map useful.

7.5.2 Community Events

110 people answered a multiple selection question to see various community events established in Clopton as follows:



7.5.3 Interest in attending New Clubs / Activities in Clopton

98 people would be interested in attending a wide range of new clubs and activities, were they to be set up. Of the 18 listed activities, the top 5 most popular are:

- Flix in the sticks: 58%
- Revive the village fete: 36%
- Gardening club: 36%
- Rambling club: 23%

- Book club: 19%

7.5.4 Interest in attending New Sports Clubs / Activities in Clopton

80 people would be interested in attending a wide range of new sports clubs and activities, were they to be set up. Of the 17 listed activities, the top 5 most popular are:

- Pilate:	39%
- Yoga:	34%
- Keep fit:	29%
- Badminton:	26%
- Indoor Bowls:	25%

8.0 Village Development

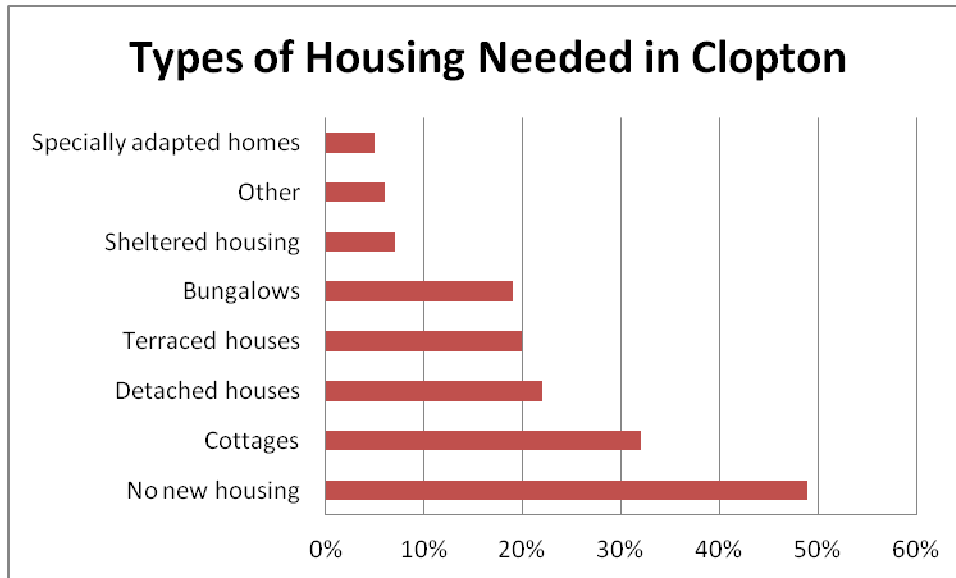
8.1 Housing

There is a limited need for new housing in Clopton

In response to the question about needing alternative affordable accommodation in Clopton now or within the next 10 years, 140 people replied 'Not applicable', 2 people replied 'Now', 8 people replied 'In the next 3 years' and 5 people replied 'In 4 -10 years'. Nobody replied that they were on the District Council's Housing Register.

Of those looking for accommodation, 8 would be looking to buy, 4 to rent, one person is looking at sheltered housing and one at residential care.

146 people answered the multiple selection question on what type of housing is needed, were new housing to be built in Clopton, as follows:

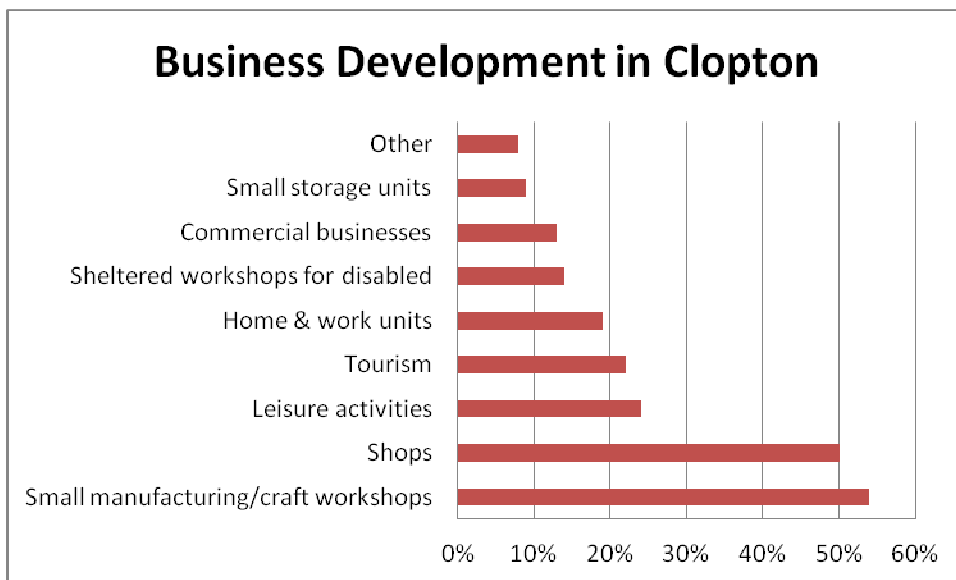


There is a strong body of opinion opposed to any new housing development in the village.

8.2 Businesses

8.2.1 Development of Small Scale Businesses

129 people answered the question about the desirability of the development of small scale businesses in Clopton as follows:

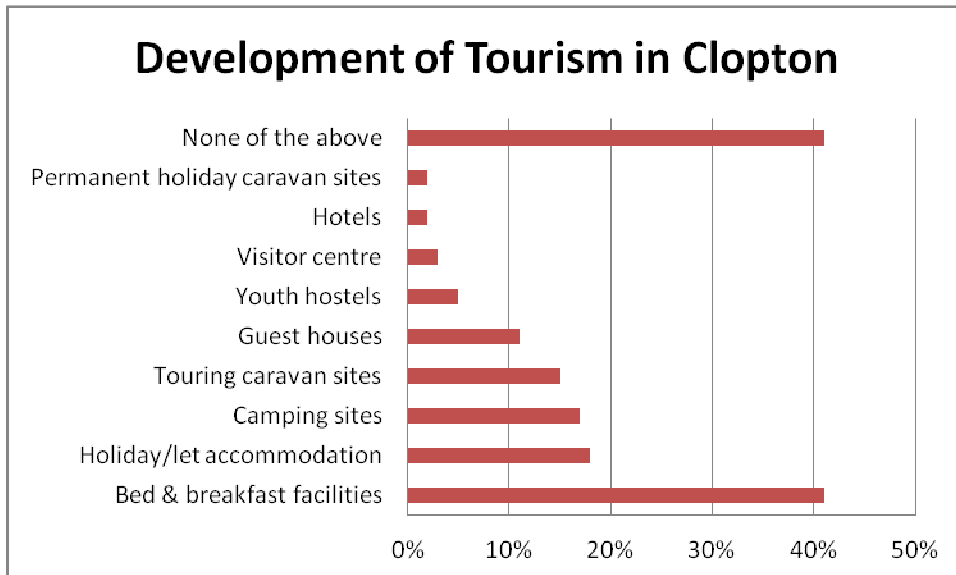


People variously commented that with Clopton being an agricultural and dormer hamlet, it would not benefit from business development, also it has no infrastructure to

support businesses, while others remarked that it would benefit from a pub, high value skill based businesses, or 'anything and everything'.

8.2.2 The Encouragement of more Tourism in Clopton

151 people answered a multiple selection question on the types of tourist activities that should be encouraged as under, though tourism itself was not particularly highly rated as a business activity appropriate for development in the village:



9.0 Comments & Observations

A selection of comments and observations made in the survey is listed below:

- Clopton population has been in decline for 200 years. It has limited facilities and I would not describe it as a village. The population is dispersed and poorly connected due to the heavy traffic issues. Schools, shops, etc are provided by larger neighbouring villages. Even here the young population is in decline with Otley and Grundisburgh schools feeling the impact of declining pupil counts. Resources which could be used to provide these villages with critical mass would be poorly spent in developing Clopton.
- As Clopton is a village that is so widespread, it would be nice to have more community events and many more facilities for children and young people i.e. a park with a play area, youth club, or groups or classes for young people.
- I feel that it is very difficult for Clopton to develop as a community due to the way it is spread out. There is no pub or shop and the B1078 does nobody any favours.

- Develop at a moderate pace, otherwise the village will die.
- I do not want any new housing in Clopton due to the fact that the heritage were supposed to have allocated the last new-builds to local (Clopton) people and instead housed people of anti-social tendencies.
- If Clopton PC wants to consider Clopton developing further, i.e. housing, business activity, etc, then great consideration should be given to traffic problems and provision of sewerage.
- Monitor and limit development at Debach Enterprises. Continue to monitor HGV traffic and liaise with SCDC as necessary.
- Without a school as a primary focal point in the village, it is hard to imagine that a community spirit can be developed. Shops are not viable in such a dispersed Parish.
- The social divisions in Clopton run quite deeply – there is a distinct lack of community spirit in the village.
- I am aware of being a newcomer to the village and can only observe ‘Clopton-comers’ problem. It appears to be an area that is disregarded as far as amenities and access are concerned. Rouse Hall Estate has several children of varying ages but no play area apart from the playing field surrounding the village hall which is water-logged for about 4 months of the year.
- A crossing is desperately needed to get to the bus stop (B1078).

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2010 Clopton Youth Survey.

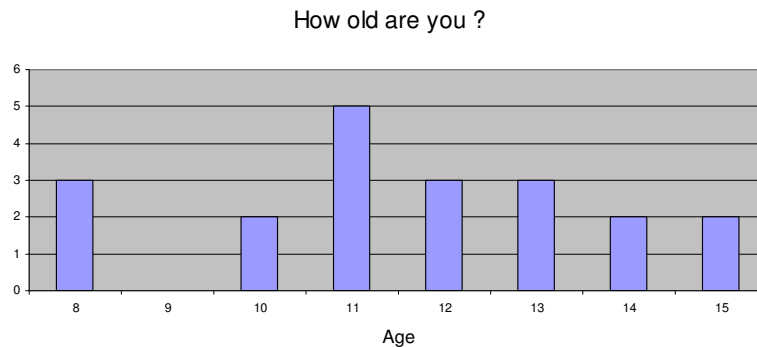
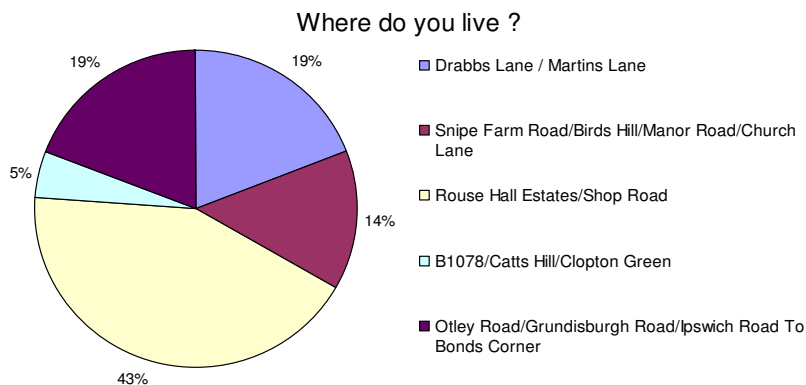
1.0 Introduction

The Clopton Youth Survey was created as part of the Clopton Parish Plan. The separate Youth Survey was distributed and collected together with the Parish Plan.

21 responses were received which seems reasonable for a village the size of Clopton. As we have no firm idea of the number of 'Youths' in Clopton it is not possible to estimate a response rate.

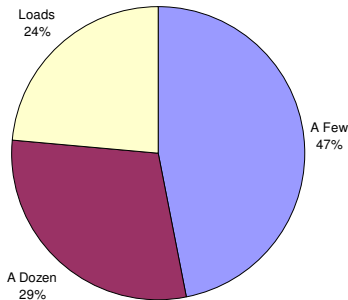
2.0 Results

The survey was completed by people living across the village of Clopton and with an even spread of ages, though there was a strong bias towards male respondents, being fifteen out of the twenty people to reveal their gender.

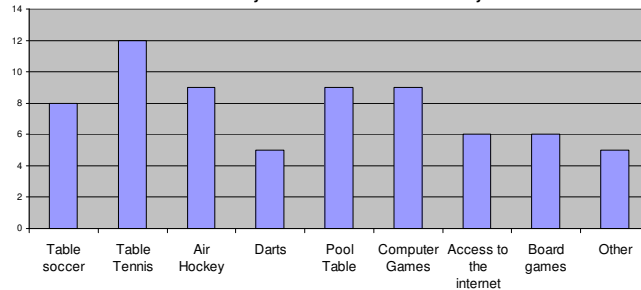


The survey suggests that the young people of Clopton do not get to meet each other but there was a high level of support for an evening youth club at the Village Hall being open throughout the week, offering a range of activities and catering mostly for children between eight and fifteen. A small weekly charge is acceptable to almost all respondents. The idea of a youth council was supported by 80% of people who expressed an opinion.

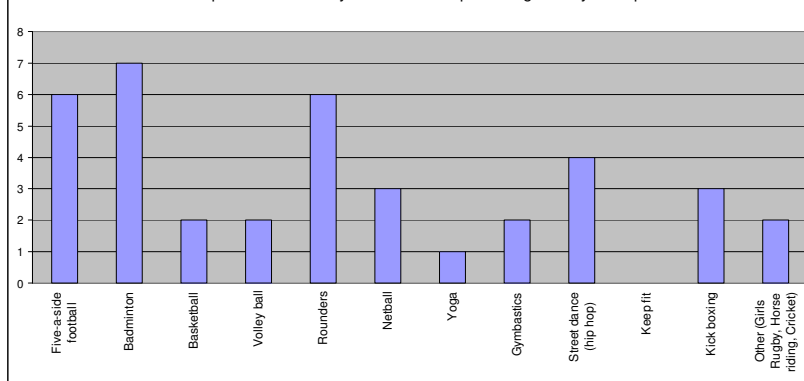
Do you know many children / young people in Clopton ?



What activities would you like to see available at the youth club ?



Which new sports/clubs would you attend in Clopton village if they were provided?



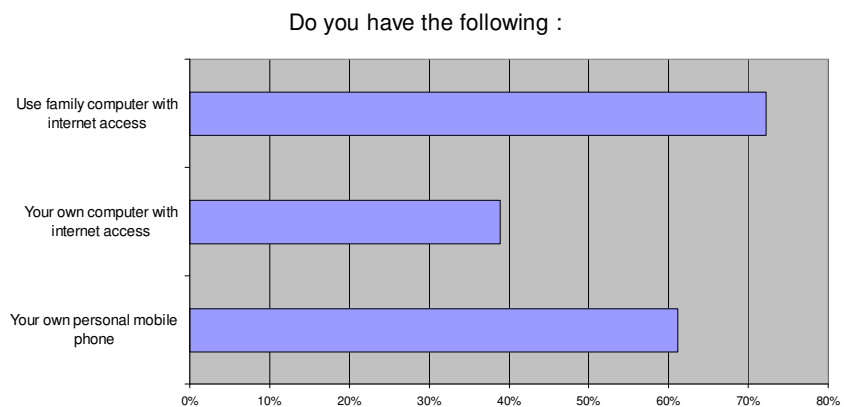
If they were available, many people would like to use sports facilities such as a skateboard / BMX park, Assault course or Zip wire and many would like more clubs offering out of school interests such as Art, Drama, Dance and Music. The survey shows that most people must travel outside the village to pursue sporting interests but naturally enough they would attend organised sports or clubs if they were available locally. Most survey respondents do not feel that the Play area facilities are good, they would like there to be a climbing wall, a Zip wire and more swings, including a swing seat for the disabled

There was particular interest in a village cinema as well as music and drama events and a wildlife and conservation club.

The respondents attend a wide selection of schools in the Ipswich to Woodbridge area; they all get to school by bus or car.

To get to places outside of the village, most people travel by car, though the survey suggests that if there were more buses to Ipswich and Woodbridge at regular intervals then they would be used.

Of those that answered this question, the majority have both their own mobile phone and access to the internet.



When asked how they would like to find out what is going on in the village most people supported the use of a Village magazine and a web site.

Of those who expressed an opinion, 91% of people feel safe in Clopton with only a few people raising bullying and drunken behaviour as problems.

Over the last two to three years the majority of respondents have taken part in sponsored or charity events, though very few have been involved in village projects or the village fete.

There is a very low awareness of how to contact a local religious representative or an elected official at any level of government from the Parish Council up to the local Member of Parliament. In addition there is very little knowledge of the local councils and the work that they do.

When asked about living in Clopton, respondents like the open space, the countryside, wildlife, friends and family, they do not like the lack of things to do, the lack of shops and the need to travel.

3.0 Conclusions

It is apparent from the questionnaire returns that the youth of the village feel that there could be more going on for their age groups in the village. Due to the low numbers of respondents and the large range of required activities it is not possible to meet all demands.

Solutions will rely heavily on their ability to be self financing and on the motivation of parents, youth and volunteers.

There are a number of considerations that need to be made for any activities to take place. The starting point will be finding volunteers with the skills to run an activity or club. This will in some form guide what can be done. Ensuring that there is enough interest will be the second consideration. Luckily we have an excellent village hall and space surrounding so 'where' should be less of a factor. However it is not easy for everyone to reach the village hall without adult assistance.

It is possible that there are some activities available in Clopton that are not well publicised and if this is the case help needs to be given to raise the profile of these activities. It is also possible that there are clubs in neighbouring villages that Clopton Youth could attend if the transport issues could be overcome?

More investigation is needed however with volunteers and enthusiasm there is potential to provide more activities for the Clopton Youth.

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2010 Clopton Business Questionnaire

Unfortunately only 12 replies were received from a total of over 40 questionnaires sent out, less than a 25% response rate, making it very difficult to evaluate replies.

The majority of responses (50%) were from businesses operating from domestic premises, 3% from a Commercial Park and 16% from other.

Finance/professional services accounted for the largest group with 25%, with agriculture and manufacturing both at 16.6%, other services at 33.33% and retail at 8.33%. 81.82% reported no shortage of either skilled or unskilled labour with only 2 responses (18.18%) advising of a shortage of unskilled labour. 66.67% of those responding advised that they had difficulties of obtaining suitable labour either due to lack of qualifications or experience. Job vacancies were mainly by word of mouth (62.5%) or the local press (37.5%).

66.67% thought that the signposts were adequate with the same number instructing drivers to their site to use specific routes. 25% considered the signage unsatisfactory with a further 8.33% considering them to be old, hidden or barely noticeable.

Most people travel by car to their place of work and 50% of businesses used vans or cars for business purposes. They rated the local roads as badly maintained (58.33%) with dangerous junctions and corners, too many lorries and there should be more speed limits and speed bumps. The majority (81.82%) were not interested in a travel plan. Those operating lorries advised that they should have access to the A12 via Bredfield.

There was a suggestion that there is a lack of suitable business premises in Clopton but with only 4 responses it is impossible to be more specific.

77% considered that the planning process could do with improvement at all levels.

All those who responded to the amount of energy used advised that they either switched appliances off at the mains when not in use or off overnight.

45% expressed an interest in having an energy audit.

80% of respondents were not aware that District and County Councils offer Grant Aid for rural businesses.

The rating for various services is as under:

Mains water	Satisfied	91.67%
Mains gas	No apparent demand	
Mains electricity	Satisfied	91.67%
Sewerage	Satisfactory	42.86% - remainder do not have
Refuse collection	Satisfactory	70%
Roadside care	Unsatisfactory	50%
Street cleaning	Unsatisfactory	58.33%
Winter weather service	Unsatisfactory	60%
Land line telephone	Satisfactory	91.67%
Mobile phone	Satisfactory	50% - also 50% rated unsatisfactory
Postal service	Satisfactory	100%
Internet	Satisfactory	75%
Courier services	Satisfactory	77.78%
Fire brigade	Satisfactory	30%
Ambulance service	Good	41.67%
Police emergency	Good	40%
Police general	Good	36.36% - 36.36% also rated it as reasonable

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