

~ Limpley Stoke ~



Village Plan 2008

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2. Limpley Stoke Village Plan - Summary

THE VILLAGE

- ❑ Limpley Stoke is situated in the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the Western Wiltshire Green Belt Area.
- ❑ It is situated on the A36; 6 miles from Bath city centre and 5 miles from Bradford-on-Avon via the B3108.
- ❑ It is situated on the River Avon and the Kennet and Avon Canal.
- ❑ It is in the West Wiltshire District Council area.

AIMS OF THE VILLAGE PLAN:

The plan is intended to be a living document that identifies the main issues and opportunities for the village. It should be updated regularly with a time horizon for the improvement opportunities of up to 5 years.

- ❑ To take the views and ideas of the village community and communicate these in a structured way to the Parish Council and other voluntary groups who are working on different improvement initiatives.
- ❑ To link the ideas of the community with the strategic development plans from County and District Councils.
- ❑ To engage more people in the community in improvement activities.
- ❑ To comply with government requirements to help gain funds for improvement activities.

THE NUMBERS (2001 Census)

- ❑ Limpley Stoke has a population of 637 people and 242 households
- ❑ 14% of the people are below the age of 16; 22% between 16 and 45 and 64% older than 45 years.
- ❑ It lies in close proximity to the parish of Freshford.
- ❑ A number of people on Winsley Hill are in Winsley Parish but associate themselves closely with Limpley Stoke.

COUNCIL AND DISTRICT COUNCIL PLANS

From the Wilts Structure Plan, West Wilts Green Belt, AONB, Wilts renewable energy plans:

- ❑ Reducing the need to travel, with an increased emphasis on public transport, cycling and walking
- ❑ Providing scope in towns and villages to facilitate local job creation and economic and social regeneration, and provide for local housing needs
- ❑ In the open countryside, balancing economic diversification with the conservation of a wide range of environmental assets.
- ❑ To maintain the open character of undeveloped land adjacent to Bath, Trowbridge, Bradford on Avon
- ❑ To prevent the coalescence of Bradford on Avon with Trowbridge or the villages to the east of Bath
- ❑ Priority in planning will be given to the landscape over other considerations
- ❑ Develop community awareness and ownership of renewable energy initiatives.

THE PLAN PROCESS

- ❑ The Village meeting on 25th May 2006 gave the mandate to prepare a Village Plan
- ❑ Volunteers for the steering group were invited through the village newsletter The Clarion.
- ❑ A questionnaire was distributed in July 2007
- ❑ Progress was communicated through the Clarion
- ❑ The draft plan was communicated in a consultation meeting on 7th February 2008.
- ❑ The draft was updated based on feedback and published on

KEY ELEMENTS OF THE VILLAGE PLAN.

The basis of the village plan is the input from the community gathered through the questionnaire. This clearly showed there are 2 over-riding priorities for the Village:

- 1.To maintain and enhance the beautiful rural environment of the village.**
- 2.To maintain and develop the friendly community spirit in the village.**

The plan addresses the main improvement opportunities highlighted by the community through the questionnaire. These are: Traffic Volume and Public Transport; Traffic speed and our safety; Retail; Services; Leisure and Recreation.

The impact of each of these on the over-riding priorities is considered in the plan.

3. Questionnaire Summary

Purpose:

The basis for the Village Plan must be the opinion and views of the people living and working in the village.

The Steering Group considered that a questionnaire was the only practical way to give every person in the village an opportunity to express their views.

Design:

We set some criteria for the design of the questionnaire:

- It must collect opinions without asking leading questions.
- It must be simple and quick to complete.
- It must focus on improvement opportunities.

The Questions:

It asks people to write:

- 3 things I most like about Limpley Stoke are.....
- 3 things I don't like about Limpley Stoke are.....
- 3 things I wish we had in Limpley Stoke are.....
- 3 things I don't want to come to Limpley Stoke are...

Delivery & Collection:

During June and July 2007, one form per person over the age of 4 years old was delivered by volunteers to all residential addresses within the parish, Winsley Hill and Murhill.

These were later collected or people returned them by post or in one of four drop off points around the village.

Response (no. of forms)

Residents who do not work in village	178
Residents who also work in village.	18
Children age 12 and under	25
Total Residents	221
People who work but do not reside	5
Unclassified responses	7
Visitors	0
Total Responses	233
Total Comments	2713

Analysis & Results:

All responses were entered into a database. Each comment was classified by subject and topic.

The following subjects were mentioned most frequently (average no. of comments per form):

Countryside Preservation	2.9
Transportation	2.1
Recreation and Leisure	1.5
Retail	1.5
Road safety	1.3
Services	1.1
Community Spirit	0.9
Other	0.3

4. Traffic speed and road safety

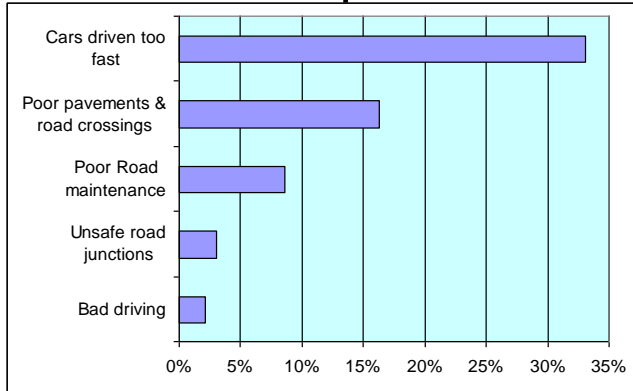
THE ISSUES

- Cars driving too fast through the village.
- Poorly maintained and insufficient pavements and footpaths through the village
- No safe place to cross the A36
- Poor road maintenance

SOLUTIONS

- Implement traffic calming measures where possible in the areas of greatest speeding problems
- Build pavements along stretches of roads leading to community meeting points (eg village hall, church, pub, playground) to encourage residents to walk to local destinations. Dangerous stretches of roads without pavements include B3108, Lower Stoke, Crowe Lane and Church Lane.
- Where new pavements result in a narrowing of the road, these might act as a natural speed calming measure.
- Resurface paths providing linkages between Upper, Middle and Lower Stoke (eg the Twizzle) and build railings at slippery/ steep sections to encourage residents to walk safely around the village.
- Construct a pedestrian crossing point at an appropriate location on the A36.
- Investigate “shared space” and possible benefits for the village – co-operate with Freshford.

Numbers – Top dislikes



ACTIONS AND TIMESCALE

- Develop hard data on traffic speeds at different points in the village. By Dec 2008.
- Draw up plan for prioritising pavement construction in the village. By Dec 2008.
- Investigate work required to improve safety of local footpaths. By June 2008.
- Draw up feasibility proposal for creating a safe crossing place for pedestrians across the A36 - 2011.

IMPACT ON THE COMMUNITY

- Slower cars will reduce danger to pedestrians.
- Safer pedestrian access will encourage walking and cycling.
- More pedestrian linkages between Upper, Middle and Lower Stoke and an A36 crossing point will improve the sense of social cohesion within the community.

IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT

- Slower speeds may reduce attractiveness of rat-runs and reduce traffic volumes. Must avoid excessive signage.
- Pavements along existing roads will have little environmental impact.
- Where pavements require road widening or access through fields, sensitive planting will be required to minimise the environmental impact.
- Increased walking will reduce the use of cars for local journeys.

PARTNERS

- Parish council
- Highway Authority
- Inter-route
- Freshford Parish Council.
- County Council.

IMPLEMENTATION TEAM

5. Traffic Volume and Public Transport

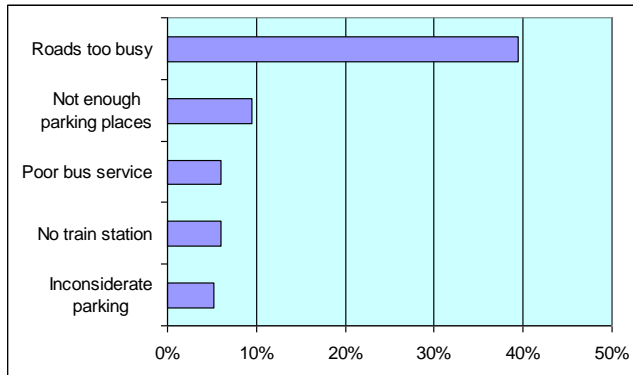
THE ISSUES

- The sheer volume of traffic causes congestion, noise and disturbance.
- Lack of parking causes people to park inconsiderately, as well as limiting social interaction.
- The need to improve access to public transport.

SOLUTIONS

- Active involvement from village in plans for road development particularly A36/A46 link road.
- Improve knowledge of bus services and encourage use to preserve the existing routes and to be able to lobby for improved services.
- Create new car park for village hall and playground (see leisure and recreation).
- Car sharing schemes in addition to the Link.

Numbers – Top dislikes



IMPACT ON THE COMMUNITY

- Reduce traffic volumes which improves safety and encourages more walking.
- Better use of community facilities e.g. Hall and playground.
- Improves access to social activities in neighbouring communities.
- Car sharing improves social interaction.

IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT

- Less use of cars reduces noise and pollution.
- New car parking must be in keeping with rural setting.
- Improved car parking may encourage more cars.

ACTIONS AND TIMESCALE

- Learn which roads people are too busy.– June 2008
- Advertise bus routes more widely. – June 2008.
- Identify car sharing opportunities (e.g. school runs). - Dec '08
- Investigate “shared Space” & the roads that might benefit from it – Dec 2008.
- Understand Regional strategic transport/road plans – June 2008.
- Feasibility study of car park in Middle Stoke. By 2009

PARTNERS

- Parish Council
- Highway Authority
- Traffic consultants
- Freshford PC
- Bus companies.

IMPLEMENTATION TEAM

NAMES

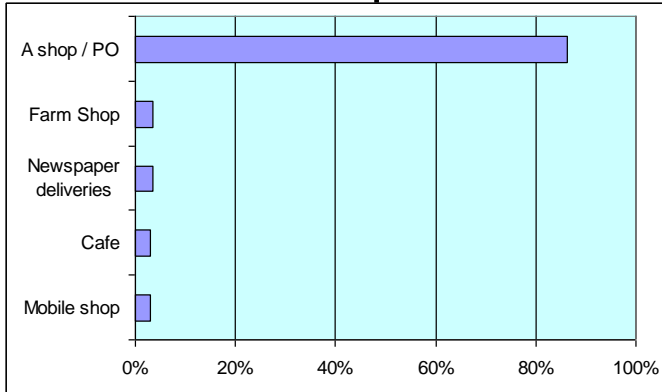
THE ISSUES

- The lack of a retail focal point in the village following the closure of the post office and shop.
- Rural post offices are being closed down across the country.
- There is a shortage of suitable/affordable sites in the village for retail premises.
- Is there sufficient demand within the village to support a stand-alone shop?

SOLUTIONS

- Limpley Stoke and Freshford are adjacent communities facing very similar problems following the closure of the Freshford shop and post office in 2007. Limpley Stoke should work closely with Freshford to establish a new shop/ post office/ coffee room tailored to meet the needs of the two communities. The latest plan is for new custom-built premises next to the Memorial Hall. This could also be accessed from Limpley Stoke via the St Mary's church car park.
- Local support should be given to anyone looking to establish a retail presence in the village which would act as a social hub.

Numbers – Top wishes



ACTIONS AND TIMESCALE

- Nominate someone to represent the views of Limpley Stoke residents on the Freshford Shop Project by March 2008.
- Every concerned resident can support the Freshford shop project by giving commitments of money and/or time (contact Gitte Dawson on 01225 722511). Timescale: Now.
 - The Limpley Stoke SOS group to provide support, when requested, to anyone planning to open a retail premise in the village. Timescale: upon request.
 - Construct a new village shop/post office/ coffee shop in Freshford. Timescale: December 2008 at the earliest.

IMPACT ON THE COMMUNITY

- A local shop/ post office/ coffee room would provide an important social hub.
- A combined enterprise would enhance relations in the broader community between Freshford and Limpley Stoke.
- A village shop & associated services could provide a service to the more disadvantaged in the community without access to cars (eg the elderly and the young)

IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT

- A local shop, would reduce the number of car journeys outside the village.
- The proposed new build at the Memorial Hall will need to be sensitive to the conservation area.
- The Memorial Hall site would utilise existing car parking facilities and thus minimise the loss of greenbelt land.

PARTNERS

- Freshford Shop Project
- ViRSA
- All residents
- Potential retailers

IMPLEMENTATION TEAM

7. Leisure and Recreation

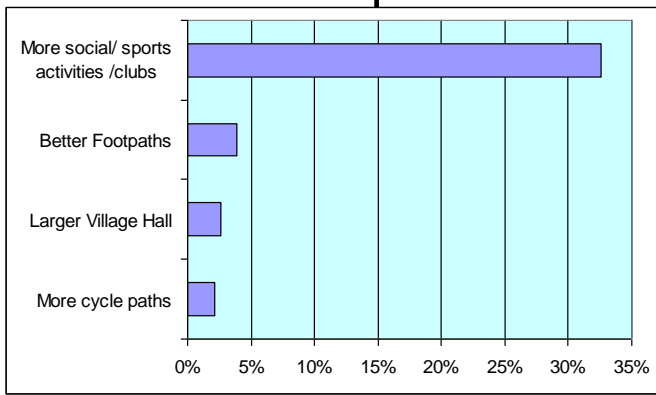
THE ISSUES

- Demand for more clubs and societies
- LS has no village centre.
- The LS Village Hall is too small for some functions.
- Need to improve range and quality of play facilities in the play park

SOLUTIONS

- A village shop or other focal point to create a centre
- We have a medium size hall in Limpley Stoke village, as well as access to the larger Memorial Hall and Old Bakery in Freshford, How to use these could be better communicated.
- Create recreational activity areas for children and young people
- Advertise more widely the existing clubs, and encourage residents to establish more groups where there is demand.
- Investigate village directory – linked with Clarion/ Parish Newsletter etc.
- Improve car parking fro village hall and playground. (see traffic volume and public transport plan).

Numbers – Top wishes



IMPACT ON THE COMMUNITY

- Create meeting places for improved social networks.
- Bring like minded people together
- Creating meeting places and hub for younger people in the community
- Enhanced community and social cohesion

IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT

- Encourage more walking in village
- More use of village hall could cause car congestion in Middle Stoke.
- More use of park, hall and other local activities may result in fewer car journeys from village.

ACTIONS AND TIMESCALE

- Support Freshford shop campaign
- Look into possibility of focal point in village by June 2008
- Advertise access numbers for the village hall and the memorial hall by March 2008
- Form a working group to devise a costed plan for creating new recreational facilities in the park by June 2008.
- Raise awareness of all the activities and clubs available to people.
- Provide a forum (notice boards, clarion, web, directories, parish magazines) for like minded people to decide to form a club. By June 2008.

PARTNERS

- Freshford Shop Campaign
- LS Parish Council
- YouthClub
- Mothers and Tots
- Freshford Parish Council / Village plans
- St. Mary's and Hinton church parish newsletters

IMPLEMENTATION TEAM

8. Services

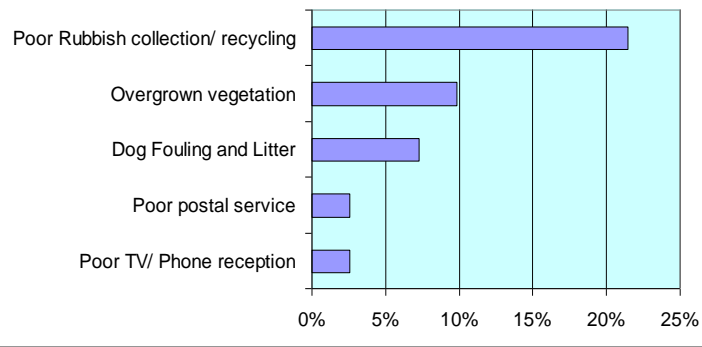
THE ISSUES

- Waste management /recycling
- Visible policing & Law Enforcement
- Litter and dog fouling
- Overgrown vegetation

SOLUTIONS

- Regular cardboard and plastic bottle collection
- Regular surgeries with community police officers
- More litter and dog mess bins.
- Regular maintenance of vegetation overhanging public footpaths/roads
- Small work parties to help those who are unable to maintain overgrown gardens that overhang public paths/roads
- Promote use of alternative solutions for poor communication reception
- Food waste collection

Numbers – Top dislikes



IMPACT ON THE COMMUNITY

- More bins/boxes
- Visible policing will enhance feeling of security
- Law enforcement
- Reduced litter and dog mess will make walking more enjoyable

IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT

- Fewer smelly grey bins attracting flies and rats.
- Fewer trips to the tip, reducing the carbon footprint of the village
- Tidier village
- More discreet dishes replacing aerials

ACTIONS AND TIMESCALE

- Start dialogue with WWDC about providing additional boxes for cardboard and plastic
- Investigate solutions for reducing smell of rotting household waste in hot weather
- Investigate feasibility of links between police and local groups – possible suggestion boxes around village
- Devise a sensitive approach to encourage householders to maintain vegetation that overhangs public footpaths, identify those needing assistance
- Encourage dog owners to pick up after their dogs in designated areas, identify locations for additional bins
- Include information for better reception in future edition of the Clarion

PARTNERS

- WWDC Waste Management
- Community Police Officers
- Village groups

IMPLEMENTATION TEAM

- Liz Booty
- Orla Morrish

A1. Map of Limpley Stoke Parish Boundaries



A2. Things we like most about Limpley Stoke

Services

Garage	8%
School	3%
Doctors Surgery	3%
Other	3%

Public Transport

Bus Service	6%
Bus & Rail	3%
The Link System	2%

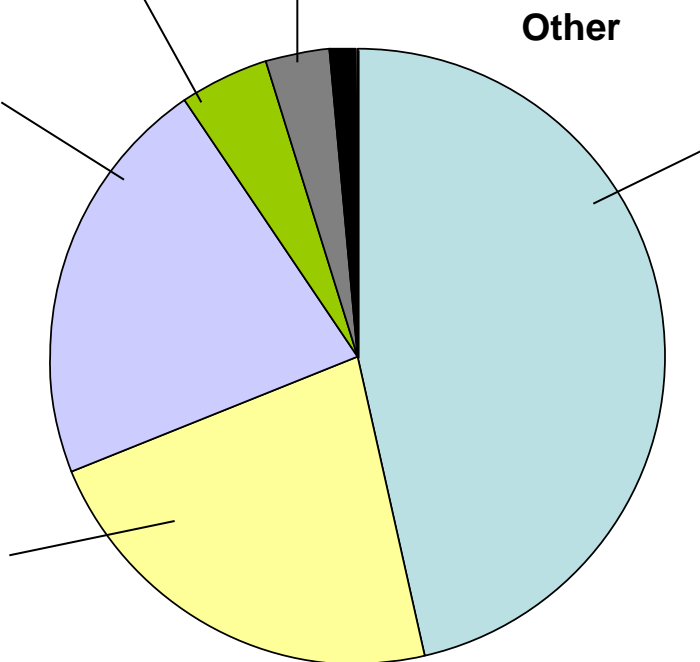
The Pie chart shows the proportion of comments in each category

Friendly Community

Community Spirit	34%
Friendly People	25%
Church	9%
Newsletters	7%
Other	4%

Recreation & Social

Good pub	21%
Walking	20%
Village Events	13%
Playground / Park	11%
Village Hall	13%
Other	16%



Location

Beautiful Countryside	76%
Peace & Quiet,	27%
Close to Bath	23%
Style of buildings	11%
Canal	9%
Wildlife	6%
Other	4%

Percentage figures are % of respondents who made the comment. The tables add up to more than 100% because people could make more than one comment.

In this section there were **778** comments from 233 completed forms

A3. What we don't like about Limpley Stoke

Recreation & Social

Poor Footpaths	3%
Poor Village Hall	3%
Poor playground	3%
Other	5%

Lack of Shop

No shop or Post Office	31%
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The Pie chart shows the proportion of comments in each category

Environmental

Disruption from Hotel	7%
Noise from Roads	7%
Bad planning rules and implementation	5%
Noise from trains	4%
Too many road signs	3%
Other	20%

Services

Poor recycling	21%
Overgrown Vegetation	10%
Dog fouling & litter	7%
Poor TV & mobile phone	2%
Poor Postal Service	3%
Other	5%

Poor Community

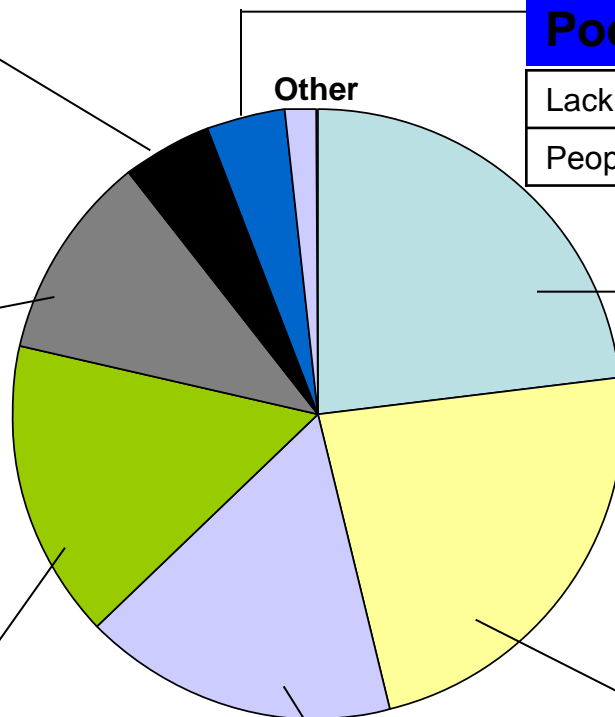
Lack of Village Centre	6%
Peoples' behaviour	3%

Transport

Roads Too Busy	39%
Not enough Parking	9%
No Train station	6%
Poor Bus Service	6%
Inconsiderate Parking	5%
Other	1%

Road Safety

Cars Driven Too Fast	33%
Poor pavements and road crossings	16%
Poor Road condition.	9%
Unsafe junctions	3%
Bad Driving	2%
Other	3%



A4. Things we wish we had in Limpley Stoke

Affordable Housing

Affordable Housing	9%
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Improved Services

Better recycling and waste management	15%
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More police and law enforcement	6%
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Better TV /Phone reception	5%
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Better litter and dog poo control	4%
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More maintenance of paths	35
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Other	11%
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Better Transport

Working station	17%
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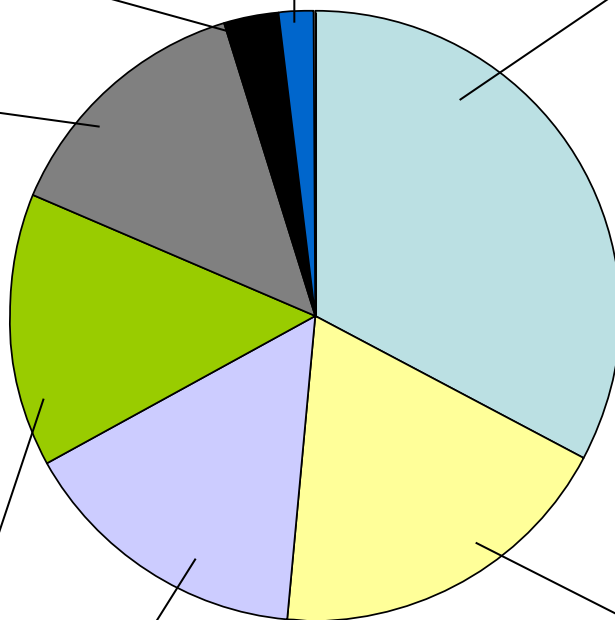
Better Bus Services	12%
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Better parking	8%
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Bypass the A36	3%
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Other	4%
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Other



Better retail

A Shop / Post Office	86%
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Newspaper Deliveries	3%
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Farm Shop	3%
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Mobile Shop	3%
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Cafe	3%
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Other	2%
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The Pie chart shows the proportion of comments in each category

Better Recreation & Leisure

More social / sports activities	33%
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Better Footpaths	4%
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Larger Village Hall	3%
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More Cycle Paths	2%
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Other	7%
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More Road Safety

Slower traffic	38%
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Better Pavements and Road crossings	14%
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Better Road maintenance	3%
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Other	3%
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A5. Things we don't want to come to Limpley Stoke

Traffic Calming

Traffic calming	6%
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Humorous answers

Humorous answers	7%
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Anti-Social Behaviour

Undesirable people	7%
Increase in crime	3%
Other	2%

Environmental Damage

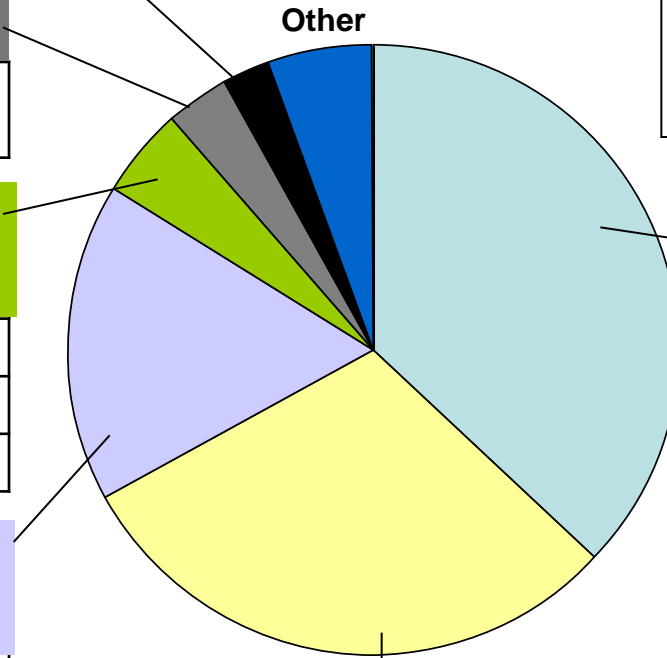
More Noise	20%
Mobile 'Phone Masts	5%
More street lighting and road signs	5%
More unsightly garbage bins and litter	4%
Other	5%

More Road Traffic

More Traffic	45%
Road developments in the valley	22%
Other	2%

Urban Development

More Housing	46%
Supermarket	13%
Unregulated development	12%
Industry	7%
Fast Food Outlets	3%
Other	3%



The Pie chart shows the proportion of comments in each category

A6. Limpley Stoke Key Facts – 2001 Census

Number of People.

Total	637
Female	343
Male	294
In Households	542
In Communal Est.	95

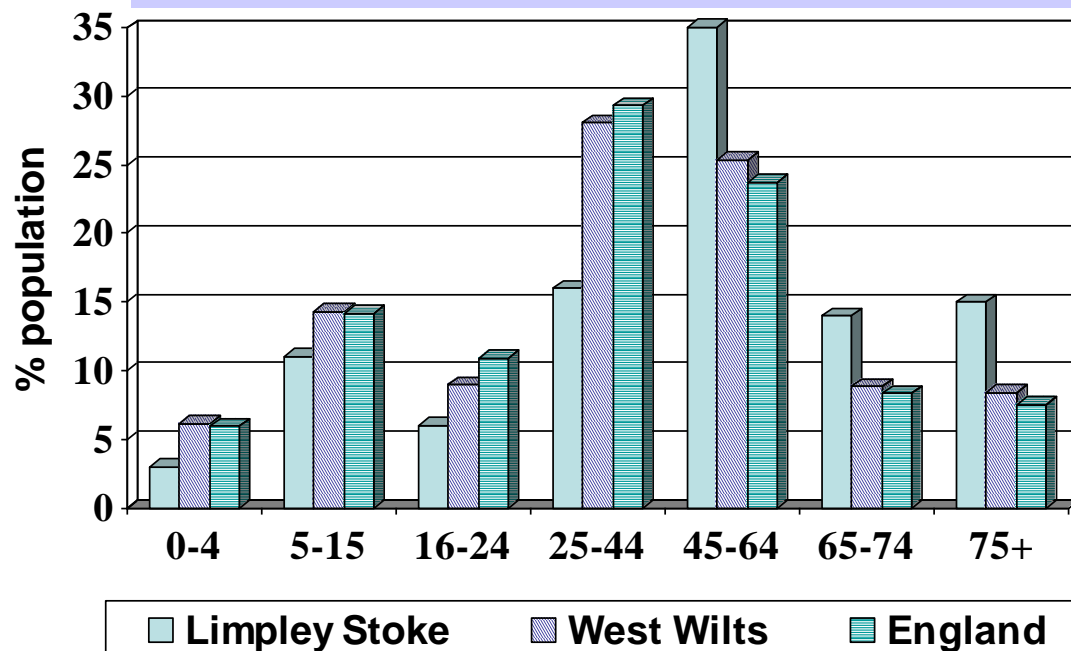
Health (number of people)

Good Health	452
With a limiting long-term illness	117
Providing unpaid care	57

Households number of households

Total	242
One Person - Pensioner	37
One Person Other	30
One Family pensioner	42
One couple no children	59
One Couple with Children	51
Other	23
With one or more persons with limiting long term illness	63
With no car or van	27
With 1 car or van	87
With 2 cars or vans	102
With 3 or more cars or vans	26
Pensioner households without car or van	22
Total no. cars	385

Age Distribution.



A7. Steering Group Members

- Adrian Kennedy
- Alan Dun
- David Ford (Chair)
- Fleur Hitchcock
- Liz Booty
- Robert Godwin
- Orla Morrish
- Sarah Dun
- Sheila Reiter
- Simon Coombe

