

PAKENHAM PARISH PLAN 2010





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The Street - Pakenham

Introduction

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Introduction

In 2008 Pakenham Parish Council, in association with Suffolk ACRE, held a public meeting at the Village Hall to discuss the merits of creating a Parish Plan. The objective of this was for parishioners to have a greater say in how their surroundings and environment should develop in the future with regard to local and national government plans and how these might be put into action. A vote at the end of the meeting showed an overwhelming majority to be in favour of creating a Parish Plan and several people put their names forward to join the Steering Group - their first meeting was held on 27th January 2009 when officers were elected and the process began. A major task lay ahead because Pakenham is a large and widespread parish.



Pakenham Parish Council received a grant from ITV for set-up costs and initial training from Suffolk ACRE on how to gather the views and opinions from residents and other stakeholders in the parish, and how to obtain further funding. As a result of much planning during 2009 a constitution and detailed budget were drawn up and presented to the National Lottery for a grant. The grant application was successful and then the hard work began.



Central to the fact-finding process were three separately worded questionnaires that were respectively distributed by hand to all parish householders, local businesses and young people. In order to assist the design of the questionnaires and understand what issues people found most important, the Steering Group organised a drop-in afternoon in March 2010 for all parishioners with refreshments supplied by the WI. Those attending were invited to discuss issues and then asked to write down what they felt was important under headings such as the Environment, Housing, Transport, Roads & Traffic, Utilities, Parish Facilities, Tourism and Leisure, Industry and Business, Faith and any other issues for which they may have had concerns. This event was well attended and the comments expressed formed a basis on which to design the questionnaires.



In order to publicise the Parish Plan and the questionnaires, the Steering Group held a launch at the Village Fete at the end of July 2010, showing displays of Pakenham past and present, parish maps, and discussing with all visitors the importance and validity of everyone's opinions. Despite the early rain, the hospitality was enjoyed by visitors, many of whom were surprised at what the parish had to offer and many took questionnaires home to complete.



Introduction . . . 2

In the following days, questionnaires were distributed to all households and businesses in the parish and additionally all questionnaires were available for download and/or on-line completion via the pakenham-village.co.uk web site. To encourage participation, all questionnaires were anonymous and sufficient numbers

were printed and available for all members of a household to complete separately. Additionally, the 'return by' date was extended to account for holidays and a reminder flyer was hand delivered by the Steering Group to all households thereby giving all members of the Parish a final opportunity to participate. Completed questionnaires were returned to named collection points.

LimeSurvey open source software was used to build the questionnaires and approximately 11% of the returned questionnaires

were completed on-line. The returned paper questionnaires were then entered on-line by members of the Steering Group. All paper questionnaires were numbered on input to enable auditing if required. The resulting analysis of 264 completed questionnaires provided by the LimeSurvey software are discussed in the following pages and are not influenced by the opinions of the Steering Group or Parish Council.

When reviewing the graphs, please be aware of two different types of questions:-

Some of the questions required a single selection i.e. "Pick one of the following". All the answers for that question would then add up to 100%.

Then, some of the questions were multi-choice i.e. "Select any of the following that apply". That meant that each respondent could select more than one answer e.g. if there were six multi-choice selections and all respondents selected every answer, then all 6 selections would each show as selected by 100% of respondents. In this example, it means you cannot add the percentages together as they would add up to 600% !

It is hoped that this document will be useful in influencing the way future planning and developments take place within Pakenham, and ensure the wishes of the parishioners are taken into account when decisions are made by local and national authorities.



Pakenham to 2010

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Pakenham 2010

The beautiful parish of Pakenham lies five miles north-east of Bury St. Edmunds. It has been a settlement since pre-historic times and it was recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086.

The parish of Pakenham today has a population of about 800 people and covers an area of approximately 3½ miles by 2 miles. Most of this is good fertile land and woodland with a number of farms and smallholdings and a variety of residential property. There is also an area of land either side of a tributary to the river Blackbourn which forms Pakenham Fen used for livestock grazing. Micklemere in the north-east of the parish is a large wetland area and is an active Wildfowl Reserve. Pakenham has the unique distinction of having two working mills: a windmill, that is privately owned (but which the public may access on request) and a watermill, owned by Suffolk Preservation Society and supported by a group of dedicated volunteers.

As in many small rural villages, during the latter half of the last century there was a gradual decline of services. The one remaining shop in the village centre is the last of the original eight within the parish and is now located, together with the Post Office, in the new village hall, occupying an area originally proposed as a small meeting room.

In 2003 with the help of various grants (including the National Lottery Community Fund) the old village hall was demolished and replaced with one of the most modern in this region. Situated centrally in the village it is the mainstay to many social events, regular club meetings and private functions and also where the Pakenham Players present an annual drama event.

The Fox Public House is almost opposite the village hall and is the last remaining of five original Pakenham pubs. All former shops and pubs have been redeveloped into residential properties.

Business and retail outlets in the parish include Suffolk Agri-Centre, a farm equipment distributor and repair service to all farming machinery; a butchers shop; the Little Explorers Day Nursery; a farm outlet retailing animal feed, fertilisers etc.; a garden centre in Fen Road; a free range egg producing unit; equestrian services, to mention just a few.



Pakenham to 2010 ... 2

The present day Pakenham Parish Church of St. Mary was built around the year 1100 although the origins of the church go back further, for the Domesday Book notes a church already in existence at that time. The Norman tower was added in the 14th century with further additions as late as 1849. The parish now forms part of a benefice with two other parishes.



Sitting prominently on a hill overlooking the village, its congregation has always been actively involved in the life of the community. The electoral role lists sixty five persons who are allowed to vote for the Parochial Church Council, the governing body of the Church which means approximately 10% of the overall parish is represented in this way. The church mission is actively carried out by the ministry team who provide pastoral care and work closely with other village groups to maintain the welfare of the parish. Members of the congregation are deeply involved in other bodies in the parish, e.g. Parish, District and County Councils, the W.I. and the Playing Field & Village Hall Association to name but a few. The church is regularly used for weddings, christenings and funerals. The members of the church provide, together with others within the community, the necessary moral and pastoral care which welds a community together.



Pakenham has a very active Women's Institute that meets monthly in the village hall. As well as welcoming visiting guest speakers on various interests, they also discuss and are very supportive of local issues and voluntarily provide services and facilities, mainly catering, for the enjoyment of the people who live here and those visiting the parish. They also provide and donate facilities for the use of the local community through their fundraising and are responsible for producing the Welcome Pack which is available to all new residents. A party of 9 members also recently gained fame for providing a Tea Time in Texas which was covered on national television, as well as followed daily on the local www.pakenham-village.co.uk web site.



In Pakenham we are fortunate to have a number of charitable endowments, dating from the 16th century onwards, which have been grouped into 3 trusts. The income was originally from property and land rents but is now largely derived from Charity Commission Investment funds. The main distribution of funds is agreed at a trustee meeting in December and is divided equally between the Church, the Education Trust and the general Pakenham Charity in accordance with the trust deed. All grants are made to benefit Pakenham residents, with money allocated to both individuals and organisations.

Pakenham is a low crime area and what has become known as 'anti- social behaviour' is practically unknown.

The People of Pakenham

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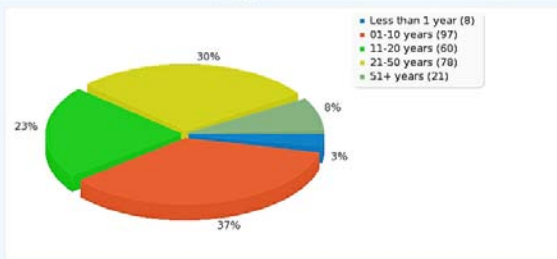
The People of Pakenham

With a good community, a friendly atmosphere and beautiful rural setting, it is not surprising that people arrive, settle-in and become passionate about the parish of Pakenham, with one member proudly proclaiming that they had lived here all their life!

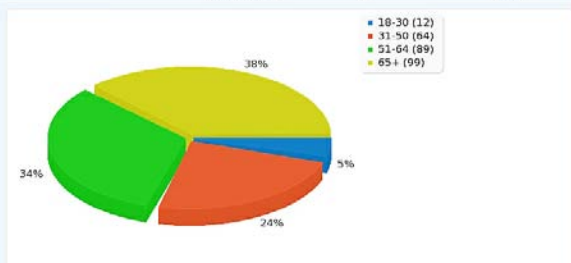
Respondents to the questionnaire had a fairly even gender distribution, 53% female, 47% male, with 8% having lived in the parish for more than 50 years and 30% between 21 and 50 years. 23% have lived here between 11 and 20 years, 37% between 1 and ten years and only 3% less than one year.

As the above percentages show, people come to the parish and like to stay. This has now resulted in an ageing population with 37.5% of respondents aged 65 years or over and 34% aged between 51 and 64. 24% are aged between 31 and 50 and only 5% aged 18 to 30.

Field summary for G11		
About You :- How long have you lived in the Parish of Pakenham?		
Answer	Count	Percentage
Less than 1 year (G1101)	8	3.03%
01-10 years (G1102)	97	36.74%
11-20 years (G1103)	60	22.73%
21-50 years (G1104)	78	29.55%
51+ years (G1105)	21	7.95%
No answer	0	0.00%
Not displayed	0	0.00%



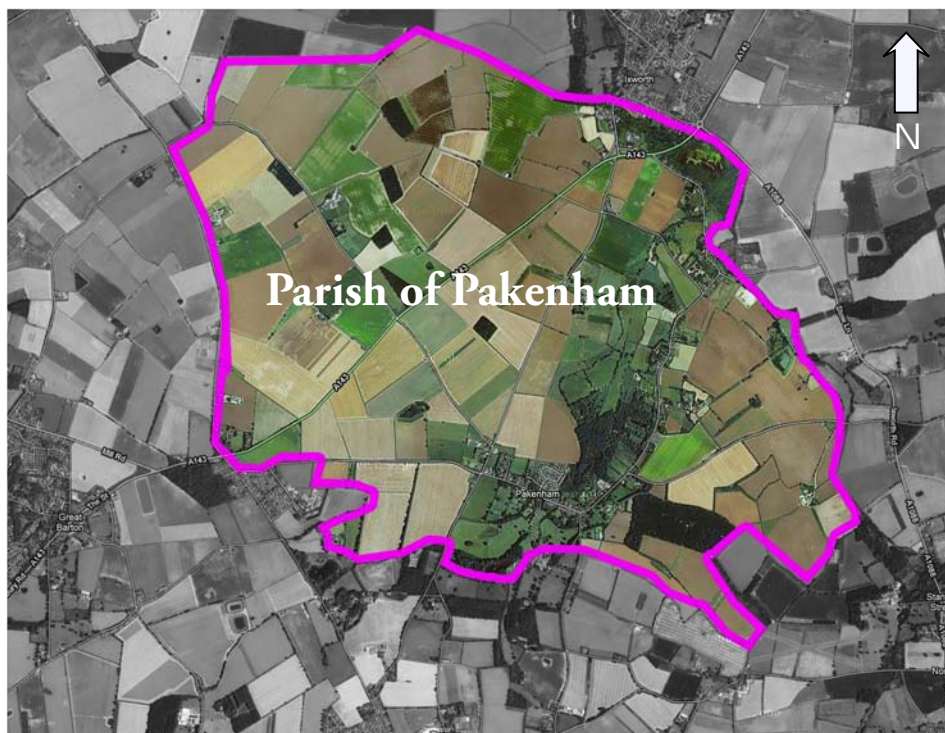
Field summary for G13		
About You :- Please select your age group		
Answer	Count	Percentage
18-30 (G1301)	12	4.55%
31-50 (G1302)	64	24.24%
51-64 (G1303)	89	33.71%
65+ (G1304)	99	37.50%
No answer	0	0.00%
Not displayed	0	0.00%



Respondents were asked whether living in the parish, if any, all or none of the following were important to them and 90% selected the countryside & environment, 72% also considered the location (being near to Bury St. Edmunds, road and rail links etc.) and 69% also considered the village community were important. Only 2% felt that none of the above were important.

With reference to quality of life, 62% of respondents felt better for living in Pakenham and 30% felt it had stayed the same; 5% considered their life to be worse and 3% had no opinion either way.

Map of the Parish



Retail, Local & Other Services

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Retail, Local & Other Services.

The parish is fortunate to have retained a Post Office situated in the centre of the village that also combines a small shop and newsagents where 62% of respondents said they used these services often and 32% occasionally; 39% said they had papers delivered to the door often and 8% occasionally. If available, 69% said they would use a larger Post Office/Shop, 61% said they would use full Post Office facilities and 51% said they would use a Cash Point.



The Fox is the last remaining public house in the parish and is situated in the centre of the village where 18% of residents said they used the pub often with a further 61% using occasionally. If available, 6% said they would use a Pool/Billiards table and 4% would use a Public Internet access point if situated in the pub.



Within the parish, on Brand Road, is a well-stocked butcher that 11% of residents used often and 28% occasionally.



Local Farm Shops were used often by 13% and 44% occasionally and 57% said they would use local food/farmers markets for locally produced food.

Direct Food Deliveries via the Internet are used often by 8% and 19% occasionally whereas 22% used General Internet Shopping often and 35% occasionally.



Suffolk Agri-Centre has premises in Fen Road offering farm machinery sales and repairs and also has a hardware shop open to the general public that 7% of residents used often and 31% occasionally.



There are numerous mobile services offered within the parish and used as follows:-

Library Van: 2% often, 6% occasionally.

Mobile Grocer: 2% occasionally.

Mobile beauty/hairdresser services: 8% often, 4% occasionally.

Mobile Fish and Chip Van: 6% often, 15% occasionally.

Milk Delivery services: 23% often, 2% occasionally.

Local Car Servicing and Repair services are used often by 8% and occasionally by 20%.

3% used Taxi services often, 22% occasionally.

Retail, Local & Other Services ... 2

If available, residents would use the following services:-

Lottery Ticket purchases: 30%

Dry cleaning services: 23%

Mobile top-up card purchases: 16%

Photocopying Services: 11%

Laundry Services: 6%



When asked if residents would be able to quote the Ordinance Survey number that located their home in case of an emergency, 19% said yes.

When asked if other services were needed in the parish, residents said:-

More random police speedgun checks: 46%

Random foot patrols by police: 41%

Monthly mobile police unit: 15%

Improved street lighting: 22%

More litter bins: 27%

More activities for the young: 41%

16% of residents thought none of these were needed.



Residents' comments under 'other' services needed were:-

Immediate response from police when crime committed, Police patrols after 11pm and Higher profile police presence;

Street lights to go off at 01.00H;

Footpath sweeping;

Bottle bank;

Delivery of Sunday newspapers.

(Other comments made are dealt with in further sections.)



Retail, Local & Other Services ... 3

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Asked if any of the following applied, residents said they:-

Suffered poor or no mobile phone reception: 51%

Would use gas if available in the parish: 44%

Suffered regular electricity service cuts: 42%

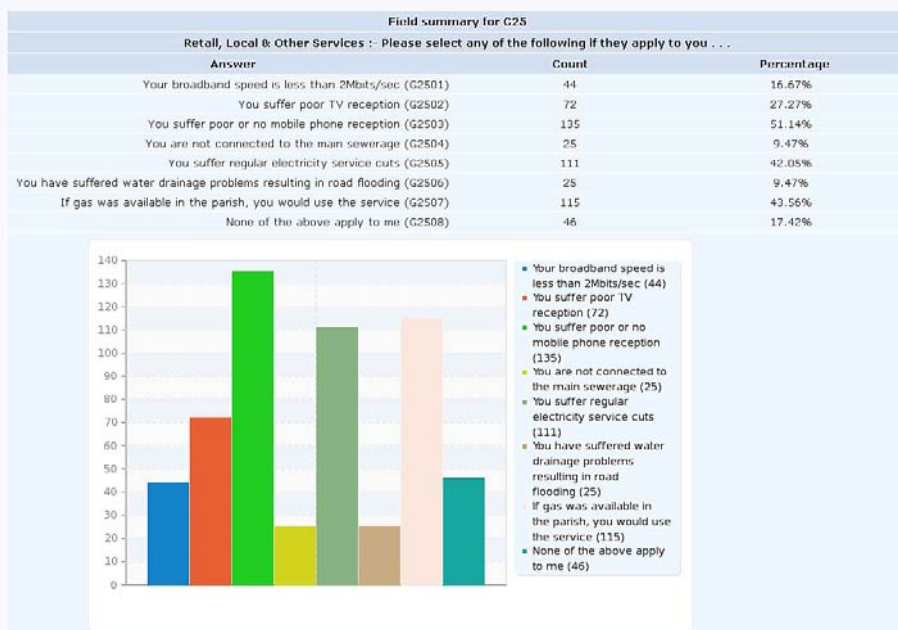
Suffered poor TV reception: 27%

Had broadband speed of less than 2Mbps/sec: 17%

Were not connected to the main sewerage: 9%

Have suffered water drainage problems resulting in road flooding: 9%

17% said that none of the above applied to them.



When asked if respondents would support an application to erect a mobile phone mast within the parish, whilst 9% would support the application in any location, 8% would also support the application if not visible with an additional 15% if sited away from housing and a further 30% would give their support if it not visible *and* sited away from housing. Under the right circumstances therefore, a majority of over 62% would support an application. A little over 20% either offered no opinion or considered their reception was sufficient not to require a mast. The remaining 17% did not want a phone mast in Pakenham.



Pakenham Water Mill

Transport, Traffic & Highways

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Transport Traffic and Highways

Use of roads, tracks and footpaths is the only means of moving around in and through Pakenham Parish. Commuting to work from Pakenham depends on road transport as the limited bus services and distance from the nearest railway station make access to a car a necessity for a large number of residents. Pakenham does not have sufficient bus users to make a frequent bus service viable although there are a number of regular services operating in the area.

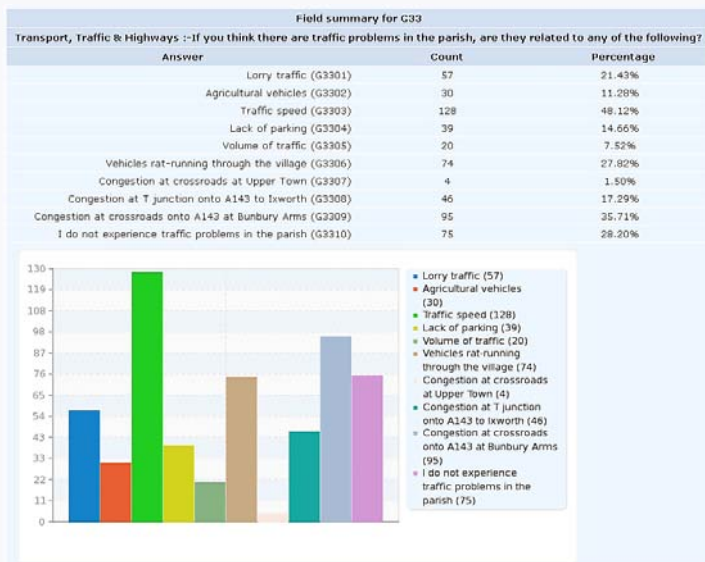
The A143 trunk road is the only major road passing through the parish and there are very few pedestrian paths alongside roads except in Pakenham Village itself and that part of Ixworth that lies within the parish. Being a mainly rural area, street lighting is confined mainly to the village and some outlying areas near dangerous blind spots.

There are a significant number of footpaths that are used mainly for recreational purposes (there is a guide to Pakenham footpaths, published as a guide to walkers and tourists) and these are maintained by both local landowners and the County Council Highways department.

The questionnaire highlighted traffic speed as the most important problem and this prompted the largest number of detailed comments from respondents. Other major issues were the quantity of through traffic in the village and lanes and congestion at junctions with the A143 and the Bunbury Arms cross roads.

Some Village residents have previously considered the cross

roads at Upper Town a serious black spot and it has been suggested that a roundabout here with footpaths leading down into the village would make this a safer area although only 1.5% of respondents considered this area suffered congestion.



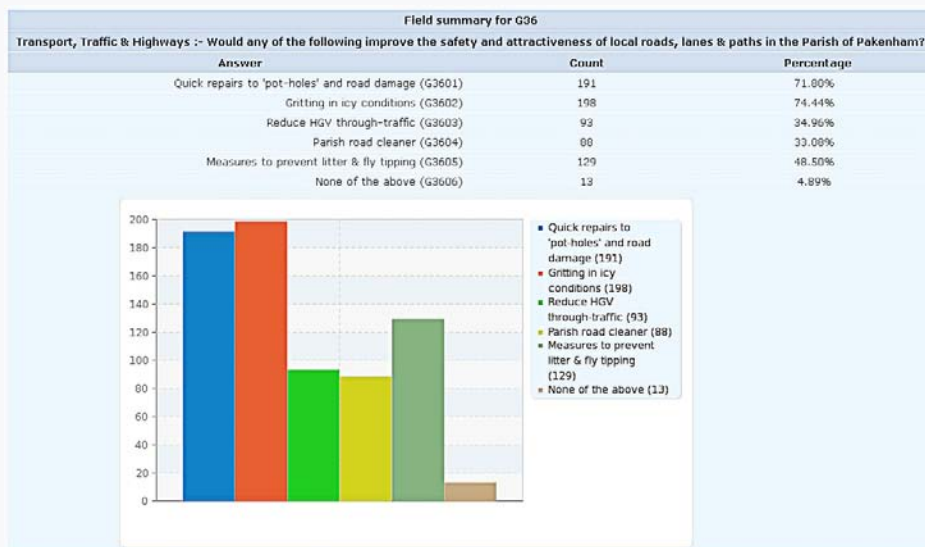
Lack of parking and the tendency to double-park in the village were cited as causes of congestion but this could be minimised if everybody with off road parking used it and more use was made of the overflow car park at the church during functions at the village hall.

When asked about traffic control measures, over 40% thought flashing 30MPH signs would be useful although responses to specific questions about signs showed 80% thought we had enough signs already.

Questions about specific cases of bad parking and parking facilities showed that 60% of the residents experienced no problems although this is probably due to a large number of respondents living outside of the village centre.



One question asked what extra provision of roads, footpaths and related facilities should be made. Most popular was a map of the footpaths (already in existence) and better maintenance of the footpaths. There is already provision to maintain the footpaths (via the Suffolk County Council web site) and this needs to be more widely publicised. Better maintenance of the metalled



roads was requested, particularly rapid repair of pot holes and gritting in icy conditions. Some roads in Pakenham are considered too minor to be gritted even though they are used by through traffic avoiding icy conditions on the major roads.

Transport, Traffic & Highways ... 3

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Suggestions of car and journey sharing were not received favourably with 84% showing no interest at all. Medical visits and the school run were the most popular car sharing activity. A separate question highlighted a requirement for more school buses to reduce the number of car journeys and free local school transport to avoid children having to walk on roads with no footpath.

The most popular improvements to the bus service were links to the shops and station in Bury St Edmunds although bus links to neighbouring villages of Stanton, Thurston and Ixworth were considered almost as important. There was less support for dial a ride bus services and refurbishment of the bus shelter although nearly 50% indicated that they relied on bus services and recent proposals to reduce services drastically will cause considerable inconvenience.

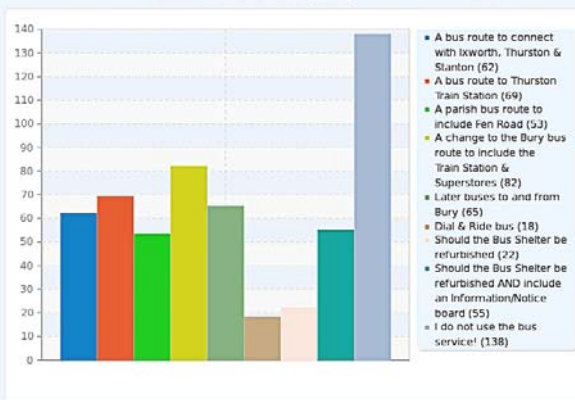


Being able to drive easily and safely around the rural lanes was considered important with many extra comments regarding a need to cut hedges and trees to improve visibility.

Field summary for G37

Transport, Traffic & Highways :-Would you like to see any of the following improvements to the Bus Service?

Answer	Count	Percentage
A bus route to connect with Ixworth, Thurston & Stanton (G3701)	62	23.31%
A bus route to Thurston Train Station (G3702)	69	25.94%
A parish bus route to include Fen Road (G3703)	53	19.92%
A change to the Bury bus route to include the Train Station & Superstores (G3704)	82	30.83%
Later buses to and from Bury (G3705)	65	24.44%
Dial & Ride bus (G3706)	18	6.77%
Should the Bus Shelter be refurbished (G3707)	22	8.27%
Should the Bus Shelter be refurbished AND include an Information/Notice board (G3708)	55	20.68%
I do not use the bus service! (G3709)	138	51.88%





Ploughing in Pakenham

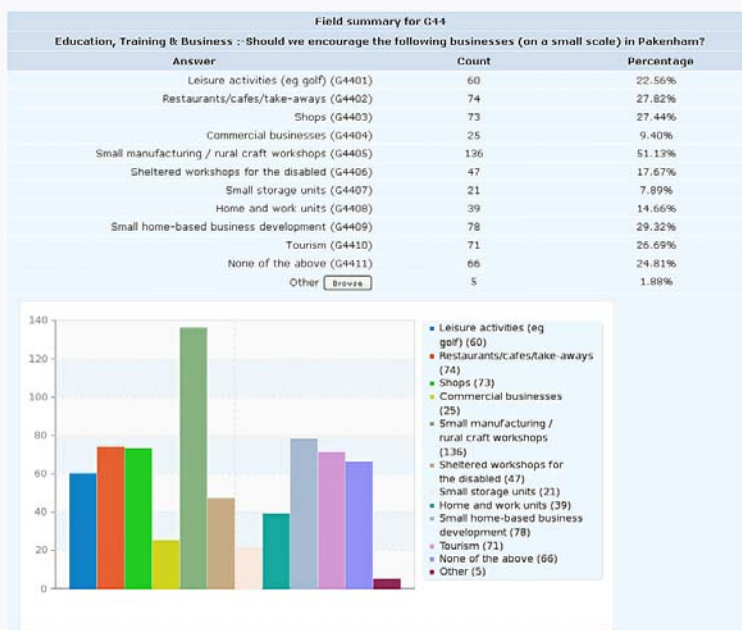
Education, Training & Business

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Education, Training & Business

Around 14% of respondents felt there was a need for a primary school, after school clubs, toddler groups and playgroups in Pakenham (probably reflecting the current relatively small number of young families). There was less support for a private nursery school or more registered child minders, but nearly 20% of respondents would like a summer play scheme.

30% of respondents thought there was a need for adult education evening classes, with most support for recreational classes. Computer skills classes were mentioned by several. There was relatively little interest in vocational or skills for life classes.



Over 80% of respondents do not work in Pakenham, but it should be noted that 50 people replied that they did. There was very considerable support for the encouragement of small-scale business, with only 25% against this. Over half were favourable to small manufacturing or rural craft workshops. There was also significant support for encouraging the following: small home-based businesses, tourism, leisure, catering, shops and workshops for the disabled.

Several people commented that local employment opportunities should be encouraged.



Pakenham Windmill

Our Environment

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Our Environment

Maintaining the quality of the environment surrounding Pakenham is very important to the majority of its residents and a large interest in the way the public and private open space is managed was very evident. Interests were shown in becoming involved and supporting community projects such as the allotments (16%), a proposed community orchard (22%), community woodland (24%) and a nature reserve (over 40%). 25% would also welcome a composting scheme. Only 30% of respondents said they had no interest in any of these facilities.



The diversity of wildlife and especially birds in the parish is also of interest to many people with nearly 28% being willing to participate in a garden bird survey, and nearly 33% of residents felt bird watching should be encouraged. Nearly 18% also wished to monitor other local wildlife.

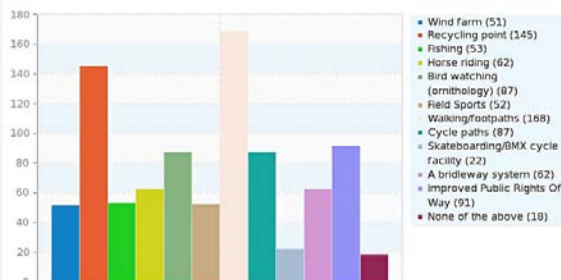


Considering the small number of young people in the parish, improvement of The Dell for the use of children's

Field summary for G53			
Our Environment :-Should the following be encouraged in the Parish of Pakenham?			
Answer	Count	Percentage	
Wind farm (G5301)	51	19.32%	
Recycling point (G5302)	145	54.92%	
Fishing (G5303)	53	20.09%	
Horse riding (G5304)	62	23.48%	
Bird watching (ornithology) (G5305)	87	32.95%	
Field Sports (G5306)	52	19.70%	
Walking/footpaths (G5307)	168	63.64%	
Cycle paths (G5308)	87	32.95%	
Skateboarding/BMX cycle facility (G5309)	22	8.33%	
A bridlway system (G5310)	62	23.48%	
Improved Public Rights Of Way (G5311)	91	34.47%	
None of the above (G5312)	18	6.82%	

activities was also encouraged, with nearly 19% supporting this project. Developing a nature trail around the parish was supported by nearly 17%, however nearly 54% indicated no wish to contribute to any of these issues.

Environmentally friendly projects such as wind farming for energy were supported by nearly 20% of residents, whilst nearly 55% felt a recycling point should be encouraged for local waste.



The quiet lanes and public rights of way in the parish are enjoyed by many residents, with nearly 64% involved in walking on the footpaths, 24% regularly riding horses on the lanes and bridleways, and 35% wanted to see improvements made to public rights of way. 33% enjoyed cycling in the area and would like to see cycle paths created, and 9% would like improved skateboarding and BMX facilities provided. Participation in field sports and fishing were almost equally represented by 20% of respondents in each category. Only 7% of respondents showed no interest in these facilities.

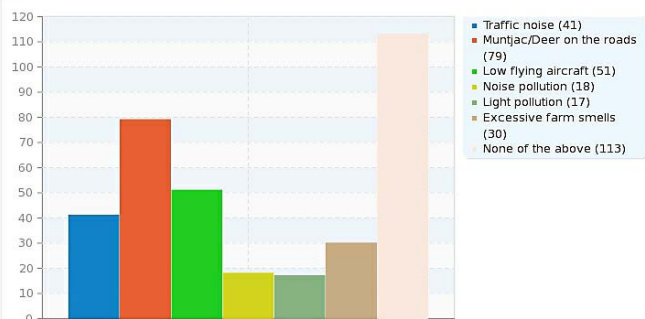


Issues such as traffic noise, air and light pollution did not seem to cause residents too many problems. Surprisingly the largest issue raised was deer and muntjac on the road, with 30% of respondents finding this a problem. Traffic noise only affected 16%, low flying aircraft 20%. Noise and light pollution each between them affected only 7% of respondents, and farm smells less than 12%. 43% of respondents declared none of these issues caused them any problems at all.

Field summary for G54

Our Environment :-Do any of the following cause you a problem in the Parish of Pakenham?

Answer	Count	Percentage
Traffic noise (G5401)	41	15.53%
Muntjac/Deer on the roads (G5402)	79	29.92%
Low flying aircraft (G5403)	51	19.32%
Noise pollution (G5404)	18	6.82%
Light pollution (G5405)	17	6.44%
Excessive farm smells (G5406)	30	11.36%
None of the above (G5407)	113	42.80%



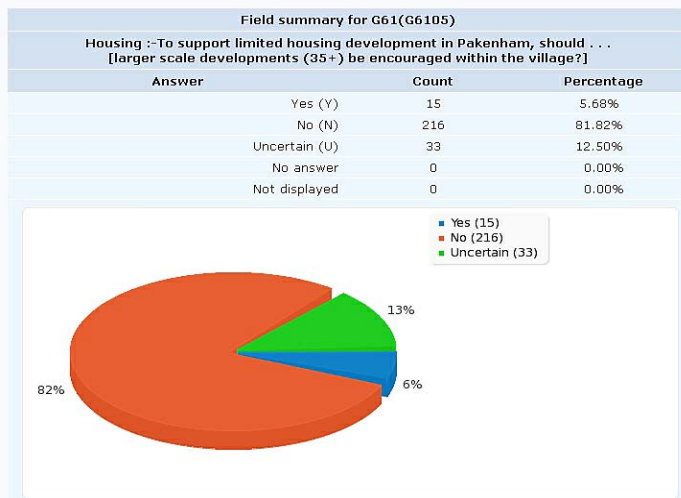
Housing

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Housing

The majority of houses in the parish are situated along four roads from Upper Town, down along The Street to the junction of Church Hill, Fen Road and Bull Road. Fen Road continues onto Mill Road and the hamlet of Grimstone End.

As part of the Suffolk County Council Structure Plan, Upper Town, The Street and Church Hill are defined as 'an other village' and developments are only permitted in these areas. The rest of the parish is classified as 'a Rural Area'. Most of the permitted housing development has already been exhausted. The largest built between 1949 and 1951 comprised a mixture of 70 houses and bungalows. Since then there have been 3 smaller housing developments all in the same area, one of 20 detached bungalow type houses, a second of 15 detached houses and a third of 6 larger detached houses on the site of the last primary school. There was a noticeable affect on the village due to the closing of the primary school in 1989. The school was the focal point for young families and since then the number of families with children has declined significantly.



The question of housing development in Pakenham gave rise to considerable comment. Respondents were almost universally against large-scale

Housing . . . 2

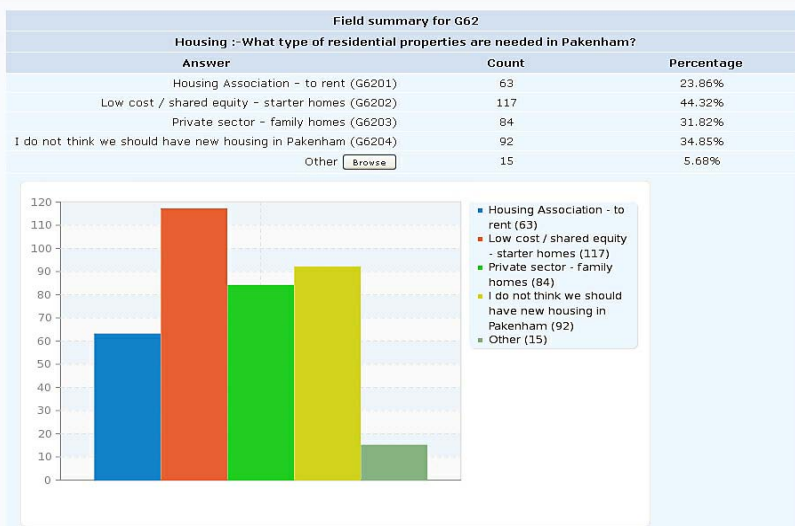
developments and there were many comments expressing the need to maintain the village “look and feel”, and referring negatively to the expansion in some neighbouring parishes.

44% of respondents felt that low-cost or shared equity starter homes were needed, with concern that there is little available housing for the next generation. A third thought there was a need for private sector family homes and about a quarter favoured rented housing association properties. However, a third of respondents did not think there should be any new housing. Opinion was divided concerning the possible expansion of the current housing settlement boundary, but there was a significant majority favouring the conversion of redundant building for residential use.

In addition to starter homes, the need for smaller homes and sheltered housing for older residents was expressed by several people. There was also concern at policies that resulted in local people having to move away while people from outside the village replaced them.

In summary, although there was some opposition to any new building, a picture emerged of majority support for:-

- small-scale developments, (1-4 units) preferably “in-fill”
- priority to be given to low-cost starter homes for young people and families
- provision for the elderly, enabling them to remain in Pakenham
- development should be gradual and sensitive to the environment



Communication & Information

21

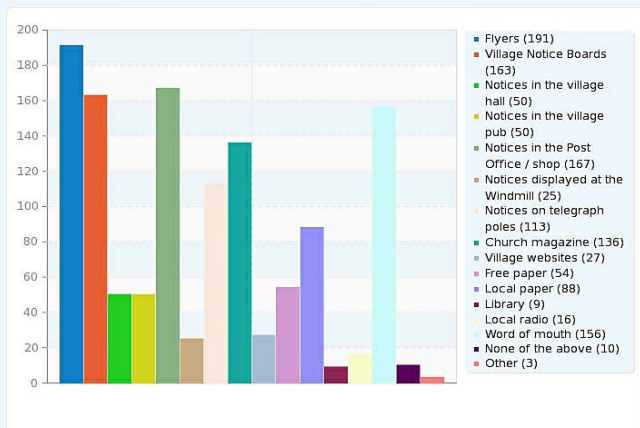
Communication & Information

Flyers are the main source of information with regard to activities and events taking place within the parish as reported by 72% of those who replied. Information was gathered by checking notices in the Post Office, (63%), village notice boards (62%), the Church Magazine (52%) (only distributed by subscription), on notices pinned to telegraph poles (43%), and passed by word of mouth (59%).

Field summary for G71

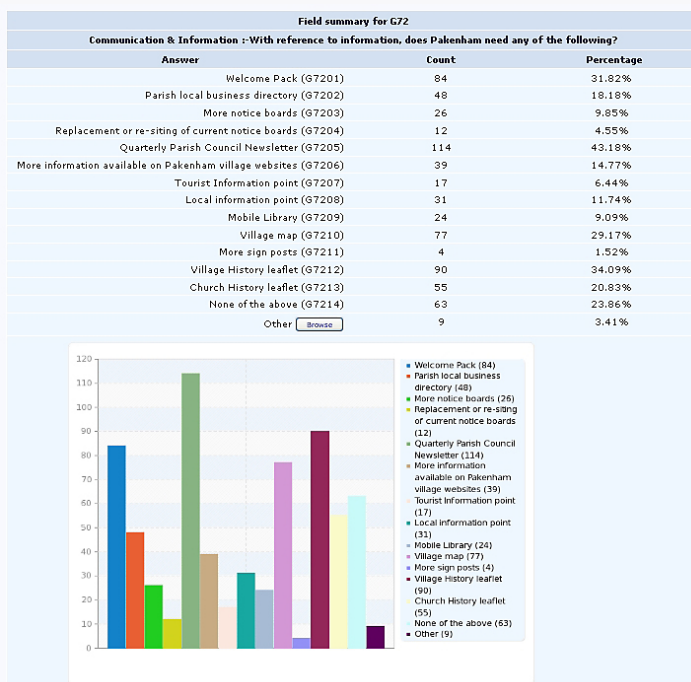
Communication & Information :- Do you obtain information about activities and events taking place in Pakenham from any of the following?

Answer	Count	Percentage
Flyers (G7101)	191	72.35%
Village Notice Boards (G7102)	163	61.74%
Notices in the village hall (G7103)	50	18.94%
Notices in the village pub (G7104)	50	18.94%
Notices in the Post Office / shop (G7105)	167	63.26%
Notices displayed at the Windmill (G7106)	25	9.47%
Notices on telegraph poles (G7107)	113	42.80%
Church magazine (G7108)	136	51.52%
Village websites (G7109)	27	10.23%
Free paper (G7110)	54	20.45%
Local paper (G7111)	88	33.33%
Library (G7112)	9	3.41%
Local radio (G7113)	16	6.06%
Word of mouth (G7114)	156	59.09%
None of the above (G7115)	10	3.79%
Other <input type="button" value="Browse"/>	3	1.14%



Information was also gathered by various means including notices on the www.pakenham-village.co.uk web site, at the Fox Public House and the Village Hall, Local Papers and even The Ixworth Parish Magazine. A general comment given was that notices of events were often given at too short a notice.

It was generally reported that the Parish would benefit from a quarterly newsletter to give advance notification of all coming events and a Local Business Directory would also be of advantage for all local trades. Some of those who replied suggested a Welcome Pack, and/or a Village or Church History Sheet all of which exist. The Welcome Pack is organised by the local WI and a history of the church is located in the Church. A book titled Pakenham - Village of Two Mills, containing a history of Pakenham (published in the 1980's), although now out of print, is available to read on the pakenham-village.co.uk web site. This suggests a continuing demand for various types of information within the Parish.



It should be recorded that when the Pakenham Plan Questionnaires were distributed to households and farms situated across the A143 west of Pakenham most of the residents did not consider themselves part of Pakenham Parish as they were closer to either Great Barton or Ixworth.

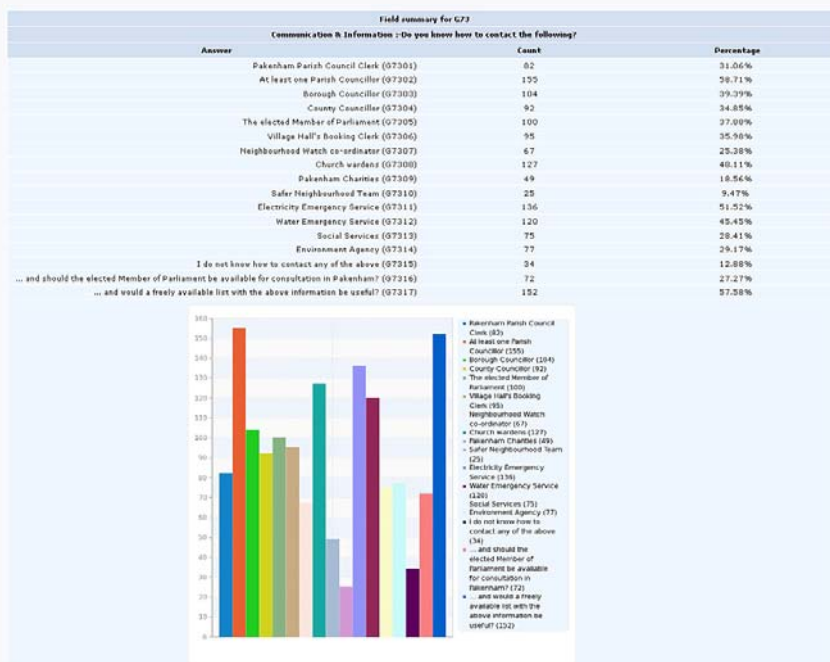
Questionnaires were not delivered to households past Church Cottages as they are in fact in the parish of Thurston despite the fact that the houses up to Orchard Lane are within yards of Pakenham Parish and yet nearly 2 miles from other Thurston houses.

Communication & Information ... 3

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The majority of households (59%) know how to contact at least one Parish Councillor. This percentage is followed closely by 52% of people who know how to contact the Electricity Emergency Department. This is perhaps expected because of the number of power cuts that Pakenham experiences. After these high percentages the numbers begin to decrease; 48% Church Wardens, Water Emergency 45% and then out of a list of 14 from Borough Councillors to Safer Neighbourhood Team the percentages decline to 6% with 13% who did not know how to contact any of the listed people or organisations.

72% of people would like the elected Member of Parliament to be available for consultation in Pakenham. Interestingly when a sample of people were asked to name a local European Member of Parliament only 1% were able to answer.



To finalise 58% would like to see a freely available comprehensive contact list for Pakenham to include our MP, Councils & Councillors, Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators, Safer Neighbourhood Team, the various Associations, relevant services and utility suppliers.



Blackbourne River - Pakenham

Health & Our Community

25

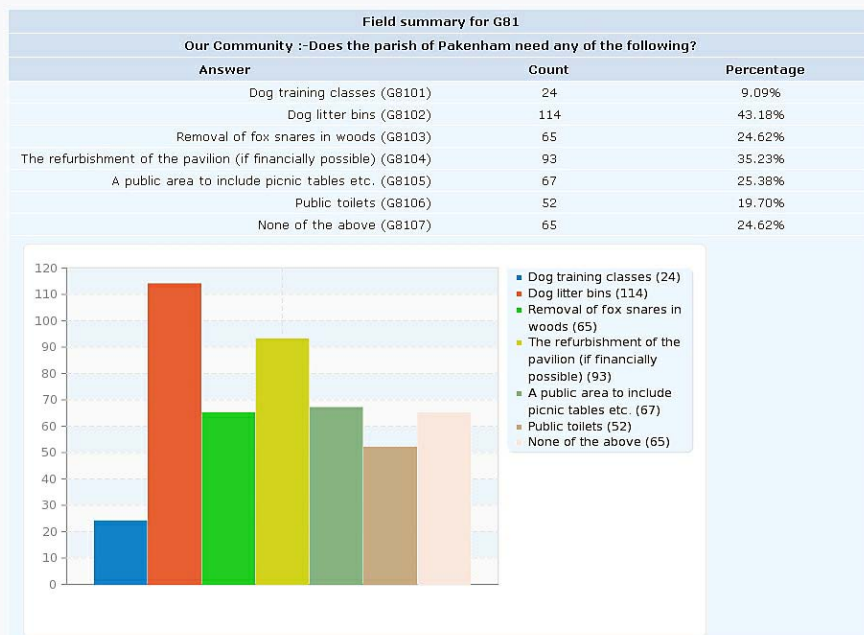
Health

Approximately 60% of respondents were registered with doctors at Ixworth Health Centre, with others attending Woolpit , Bury St Edmunds surgeries or RAF facilities.

While a significant number of people used the Ixworth prescription collection service at Pakenham Post Office, over 80 % did not. The great majority reported that they were able to make appointments at convenient times. 14% of respondents thought a doctor's surgery was needed in Pakenham and there was one comment that this would be helpful for the elderly.

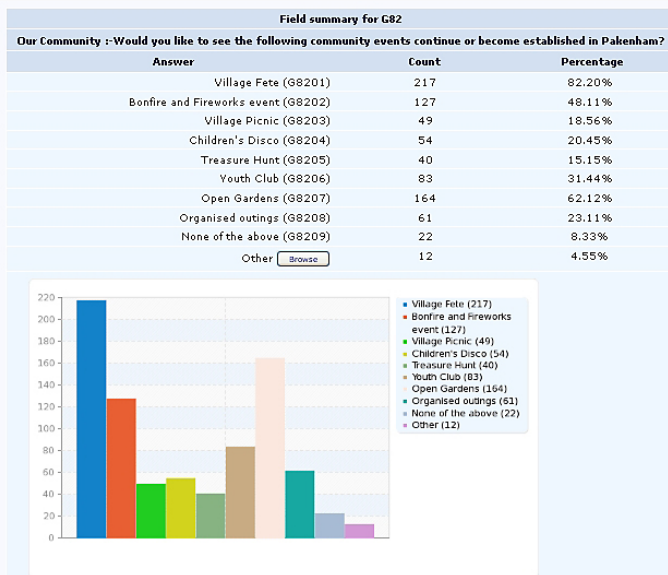
Our Community

The theme of outdoor leisure and enjoyment was very evident from respondents who supported the maintenance of access to the public open spaces by way of the upkeep of footpaths, improvement to the Pavilion on the Playing Fields and the creation of picnic areas and public toilets within the parish [between 36% – 20% respectively]. There was concern about dog fouling and the requirement to provide better facilities for dog walkers [44%]. Interest was also shown in the welfare of the local wildlife with 25% being opposed to the use of pest control. Only 25% showed no interest in these activities.



Our Community . . . 2

Social events such as the Village Fete where the local community was encouraged to take part with various local charitable fundraising and small scale retail events proved very popular with 83% support from respondents. The November 5th Bonfire Night, in previous years held at The Fox but not so in recent years, had been a very popular event and interest in bringing it back at the same or another location was shown by nearly 50%. The popularity of horticultural and gardening activities was evident with 63% of respondents supporting the annual Open Gardens event, and interest was expressed in reinstating the Village Flower Show. The response to the level of facilities provided for the young people of the parish was probably in keeping with the low number of children and adolescents; although some facilities do exist, 32% wanted to see a youth club provided and 21% a Children's Disco. 16% also showed an interest in a community Treasure Hunt. Only 9% of respondents showed no interest in supporting these events.



There are many small voluntary organisations in Pakenham, run both on an individual basis, or as part of national organisations, which contribute to maintaining the character of the parish, as well as assisting in the smooth running of those facilities provided for local people as well as those visiting. These include the Friends of Pakenham Mills (both Watermill and Windmill); the Patients Association at Ixworth Surgery with its voluntary transport system helping those people who are unable to attend the surgery by their own means, keep appointments and collect prescriptions; the Village Hall & Playing Fields Association; events run by the

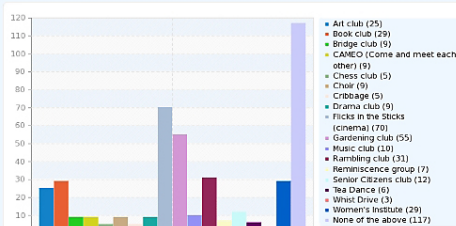
Our Community . . . 3

27

local St Mary's Church; and the Women's Institute. Interest from respondents in helping with these organisations was low, ranging between 2% up to 8%. 79% of respondents showed no interest in supporting these in a voluntary capacity. Although the Women's Institute gained higher support as a joining, rather than volunteering, organisation with 11%.

Indoor activities did not inspire many respondents, although 26% supported the idea of "Flicks in the Sticks" cinema nights. Clubs covering an interest in art, books, playing cards, chess, drama, music, choir, tea dances, senior citizens and reminiscence were supported by between 2% and 11 % of respondents, although some of these activities do already exist. Outdoor activities were more popular, with 21% supporting a gardening club and 12 % a rambling club. 44% of respondents expressed no interest in participating in these clubs.

Field summary for G84			
Our Community :-Would you be interested in attending new or existing clubs/activities in Pakenham?			
Answer	Count	Percentage	
Art club (98401)	25	9.47%	
Book club (98402)	29	10.98%	
Bridge club (98403)	9	3.41%	
CAMEO (Come and meet each other) (98404)	9	3.41%	
Chess club (98405)	5	1.89%	
Choir (98406)	9	3.41%	
Cribbage (98407)	5	1.89%	
Drama club (98408)	9	3.41%	
Flicks in the Sticks (cinema) (98409)	70	26.52%	
Gardening club (98410)	55	20.83%	
Music club (98411)	10	3.79%	
Rambling club (98412)	31	11.74%	
Reminiscence group (98413)	7	2.65%	
Senior Citizens club (98414)	12	4.55%	
Tea Dance (98415)	6	2.27%	
Whist Drive (98416)	3	1.14%	
Women's Institute (98417)	29	10.98%	
None of the above (98418)	117	44.32%	



When it came to attending new or existing organised sport, the situation showed a similar lack of interest within the parish. Leisure sports such as badminton, billiards/pool, cricket, darts, equestrian activities, football, indoor bowl, judo, kick boxing, lawn bowls, skittles, snooker, squash, table tennis, tennis and volley ball, showed parishioners interest ranging between 9 – 0%. However on the wish to remain well, Keep Fit, Pilates and Yoga were more highly supported with 20%, 12% and 17% respectively. Over 50% said they had no interest in participating in any of these sports activities.

In summary, it would appear Pakenham is a parish whose inhabitants wish to enjoy the outdoor life more than the indoor, and that they wish to enjoy their own, rather than organised, leisure activities. A lot of pride in the appearance and continued maintenance of the surrounding public and private spaces is very evident from respondents, especially where gardening is concerned. However, there is also sufficient support for those community projects and institutions which benefit all residents in the parish, and to those who visit, which is probably at a correct balance.



Flower Festival - St. Mary's Church - Pakenham

Young People's Questionnaire

29

Pakenham Young People's Questionnaire - Results and Overview.

Of about 70 paper questionnaires distributed for young people, only seven were returned with an additional 2 completed using the on-line facility, six girls and three boys. Five were over 13 years old and four under 11. While this low level of response creates difficulties in determining how representative the results of this survey are, they did show some similar trends.

Pakenham has no schools for children 5 – 18 years. Of those in education in neighbouring parishes, two were at primary, four at upper, two were at distant boarding schools, and one had now left full time education. Of those at local schools, three used the school or public bus, two went by car, and one walked. Five respondents had lived in the parish for less than five years, and the other four for most of their lives. With regard to friendships and relationships within the parish, most of them had little or no contact with others in their age group beyond their own homes, a minority did meet their friends at the playing field.

Most of the children felt Pakenham was a friendly and trustworthy place to live and they all felt safe within the parish. Whilst most had not been affected by any crime in the parish, two had been victims of theft, and

Field summary for Y14

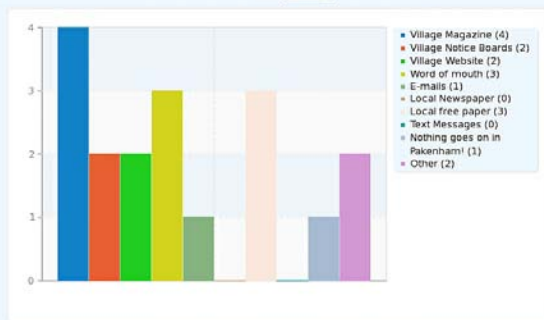
Communication and Information --How would you like to find out what is going on in Pakenham?

Answer	Count	Percentage
Village Magazine (Y1401)	4	40.00%
Village Notice Boards (Y1402)	2	20.00%
Village Website (Y1403)	2	20.00%
Word of mouth (Y1404)	3	30.00%
E-mails (Y1405)	1	10.00%
Local Newspaper (Y1406)	0	0.00%
Local free paper (Y1407)	3	30.00%
Text Messages (Y1408)	0	0.00%
Nothing goes on in Pakenham! (Y1409)	1	10.00%
Other Browse	2	20.00%

bullying at school. Only one felt there was disrespect for local property. They also felt the roads were safe, although commented on some car drivers speeding and there being too many lorries. With regard to the provision of public transport within Pakenham, seven stated they would like to see it improved.

Communication was important to all respondents, they expressed an interest in knowing what was happening in the parish and whilst most of

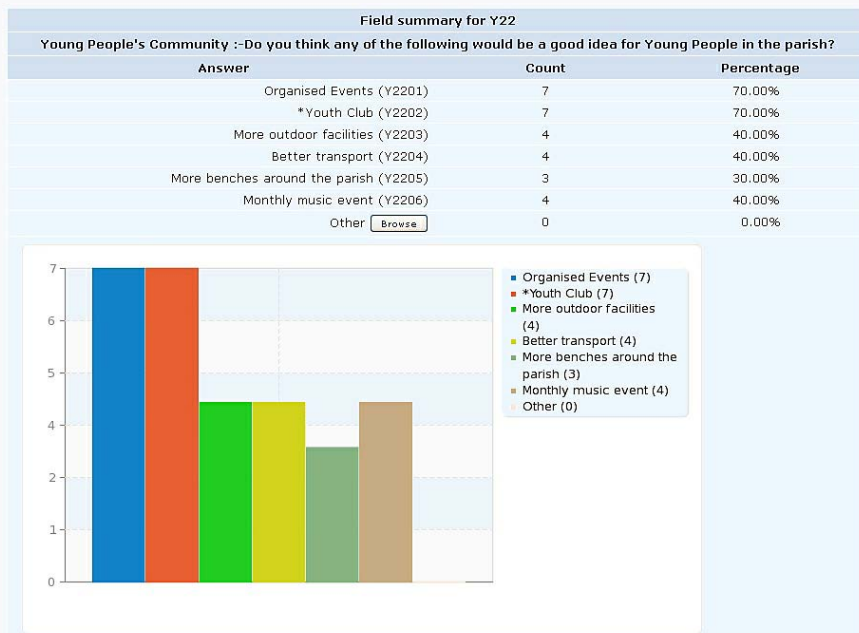
them had access to their own mobile phones and internet facilities at home, most also expressed an interest in receiving information via a parish magazine, flyers and notice boards. Many of the children regularly visited the post office/shop and picked up information from there, as well as sweets!



With regard to the facilities for young people, respondents felt that whilst there was plenty of provision for the under 5's, there was far less for older children. Meeting places outside the home were not used by many, but some did meet friends at the playing fields. It was also felt that there were not enough facilities for teenagers.



There was a general consensus that a youth club would be a good idea, as well as setting up a Youth Council, to provide activities such as music and disco events, darts, table tennis, pool/billiards, board & computer games, and Internet access points, and all supported that a small payment for these events would be reasonable.



Many of the children were interested in the usual active leisure sports such as swimming, ten pin bowling, BMX, football, tennis, skateboard, basketball and assault course. There was also significant interest in the artistic activities such as art clubs, dance and drama, keep fit and yoga.



Business Questionnaire

31

Business Questionnaire - Results and Overview

From the 50 paper questionnaires delivered to known local businesses, nine were returned with an additional 4 completed using the on-line facility: of these nine worked from their homes or separate offices within them, one from an industrial unit, one from an agricultural holding, one from a mobile phone and the other was the post office. It is believed that this response does not reflect the complete picture of business in the parish as most of the area is down to farming by private landowners and there are also many other small businesses supplying a variety of services. However, there is a good variety among those who did respond, and there are some general trends expressed by all. It is also believed that most respondents were located close to the village centre.

The range of business was agriculture/horticulture [2]; construction [2]; financial/professional services [3]; household services [1]; leisure/tourism [1]; retail and transport [2]; auto dismantlers [1] and the post office [1]. There was low level employment with 16 people being permanently employed, 5 temporary and 2 seasonal and sub-contract respectively, of these only 8 lived within the parish. Finding local accommodation was either not a problem or not applicable for most respondents' employees, with only 1 employee having difficulties.

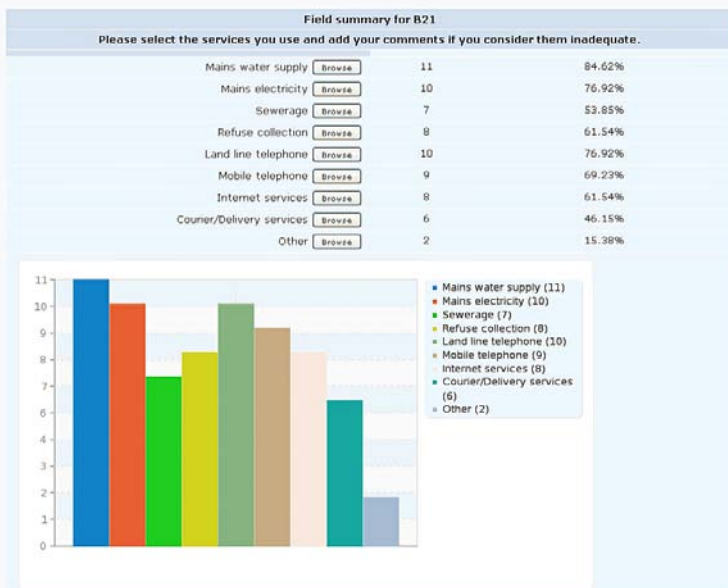
Nearly half of the respondents felt they would have problems expanding their businesses within the parish, although only two expressed an interest in larger local commercial workspace. Only a minority expected to attempt creating job opportunities. Most of the businesses were content with the provision of skilled and unskilled employees, with only 1 expressing difficulty in each case respectively. Most had no problems hiring suitable employees, with, again, only 1 finding difficulty. It was generally felt that there was no local training available, but this did not affect their ability to find suitable staff. None of the respondents felt the need to advertise for staff, stating they found suitable people by word of mouth, or those who contacted them direct.

Whilst the majority of the respondents felt the local roads were adequate, three stated they had had problems with pot holes and flooding, and random road closures without notification, which had affected their businesses. Five respondents felt it necessary to advise visiting drivers to use a specific route whilst eight had no problems with this. Eleven had no problem with the signposting whilst one felt the signposting to the Windmill and Watermill were confusing and another that their road junction could be dangerous and the warning signs there were not adequate.

When it came to local authorities, most respondents were satisfied, although they commented the parish council could be less parochial and both Borough and County Councils could be more efficient, make quicker decisions and be more flexible.

Most were mindful of how much energy they used, and turned off their appliances and computers when not in constant use. However, only two showed any interest in participating in a free of charge energy audit to assess their usage.

Most, but not all, used supplies from mains water, electricity, sewage, refuse collection, land line telephone, mobile telephone, Internet, and courier/delivery services. A minority felt these services to be expensive and, at times, problematic. Those not on mains sewage depended on septic tank emptying. Nearly half the respondents complained about the poor, and in some cases non-existent, level of mobile phone reception and signal. The broadband connection was also slow.



Whilst there was not an enormous use of the emergency services, it was felt the Police could provide a better response, and the ambulance service was slow to respond and also had difficulties in locating the patient.

Perhaps it is a sign that Pakenham businesses are well run by skilled people, as only one person knew there was an Economic Development Office at St Edmundsbury Borough and Suffolk County Councils, and only two knew there was grant aid for rural businesses. However, the majority [9] of respondents expressed an interest in having their business listed in a local Pakenham business directory.

On the whole, it seems Pakenham's businesses are relatively content with their local facilities, it is also felt the services in the parish are vital and part of the local commercial network. The advantages of small businesses and working from home are also highlighted by the lack of transport and parking expenses, lower overheads, leading to improved competitiveness.



Comments

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Comments

Many of the comments made by respondents to the questionnaire have been included in previous sections. However over 90 people took up the opportunity to make additional comments at the end. Many of these expressed the hope that Pakenham would not change, typically stating “Pakenham is a lovely village as it is”. It was evident that the peace and quiet, relatively small population and friendly village community are much appreciated. Several people were very concerned that Pakenham should not have rapid housing development or be turned into a dormitory village, although , as previously, the need for low-cost homes for young people and housing for older people was mentioned. One respondent commented that without growth at a “sensible rate” Pakenham would stagnate and lose facilities such as the post office and pub.

Road safety concerned a lot of respondents. Many people commented on the problem of speeding vehicles, especially through the village and on Fen Road, where “sleeping policemen” were suggested. Parking on roads and verges and its limited availability at the Village Hall were also topics that were raised. The need for hedge cutting and tree-branch trimming to increase driver safety were issues of concern, as was the lack of gritting of roads in the winter. A roundabout at the Upper Town crossroads was suggested.

There were several comments that there were no questions in the questionnaire directly about the Church and its contribution to the community. It is important to note here that the questionnaires were compiled from parishioners’ input at the drop-in event held on 27th March 2010 and no questions were raised, nor comments made regarding the Church.

Other proposals included a monthly newsletter, new notice boards with lighting, preparation for the 2012 Olympics and Queens Jubilee, a campsite to promote tourism and the possible use of Andersons Pit as a recreational open space. Dog fouling was an issue and also the damage done by muntjac deer. The frequency of electricity cuts was also mentioned.

This consultation has highlighted the varying perspectives of people living in different parts of the parish, with Grimstone End residents often expressing a feeling of being forgotten by the rest of the parish and relating more to Ixworth facilities than those in Pakenham. One person commented that they were left to fight planning issues on their own and that they needed more regular buses that might bring visitors to the Watermill and Micklemere Reserve.

In general the comments confirmed the results of the questionnaire, painting a picture of a population concerned to build on and preserve the good environment and community in Pakenham, but with a number of specific concerns. The following two pages show just a small selection of the comments made . . .

"It is a lovely village that I wouldn't want to see changed a great deal. I would like to support local traders if they could supply goods at a reasonable price i.e. fruit and veg, meat, this side of A143 road."

"I like Pakenham how it is - there is a good mix of community activities to hand if you want them but I also like the fact that the village is away from the hustle and bustle of Bury."

"Priority given for starter homes for young adults who live in Pakenham with their parents, who wish to settle in Pakenham and not have to move out of village to have their own home."

"Lovely village to live in with a reasonably good community feel. Communication between main village and Fen Road is an issue and should/could be improved. Speed of traffic is a major issue - particularly down Fen Road."

"Having lived in Pakenham for 30 years I have come to the conclusion that I like it the way it is."

"Pakenham must not become a dormitory village. Pakenham needs low cost family housing and families. Pakenham has fantastic heritage and every effort should be made to preserve its character and architecture whilst at the same time allowing youth, work and business opportunities."

"Needed - A roundabout at Upper Town to make the crossroads safer. Needed - Footpaths along Thurston Road to join up with the paths in The Street to give Upper Town residents safe access into the village."

"More community thought to Olympics/Jubilee 2012 - think now/start planning now."

"Flicks in the sticks (cinema): Brilliant idea to have at village hall (as Gt. Barton do). I think Pakenham is the right size in terms of housing. It is lovely the way it is, tranquil, well maintained generally and a friendly community which should be encouraged further. Enlarging the village would totally destroy it."

"Sleeping Policemen in Fen Road. Parts of Fen Road are not maintained, i.e. hedgerows not cut back."

"The village housing stock must be allowed to grow at sensible rates or we will stagnate and possibly lose the P.O. and pub."

"A cluster of houses for young people and similar for OAPs each year within or near boundary limits. Reminders to motorists to respect our village on entering."

"Parking at the Village Hall is a problem."

"Pakenham is a beautiful village and should be kept that way."

Comments . . . 3

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"Replacement or re-siting of current notice boards WITH LIGHTING."

"Pakenham is a beautiful village and should be kept that way. All villages that I've seen being used for new housing are completely ruined."

"I think it is a lovely village with incredibly nice decent, caring people. Please don't change it too much!"

"To maintain a good community, housing must be offered to local people."

"I don't think the fact we have agricultural traffic going through the village is a problem, but the speed they travel at is of great concern."

"I would like to see a more regular bus route going through Grimstone End and Fen Road - at the moment all we have is one bus coming through here once a week. Saturday bus would be a bonus and bring tourists from Bury to visit the watermill and SWT Micklemere Reserve etc."

"We live in a village not a town because we like peace and quiet. There is far too much noise pollution around the area and something should be done to reduce this."

"I want encouragement of local landowners to create permissive bridle ways for horse riders."

"Pakenham must encourage the development of low cost family homes to encourage more young people to live in the village."

"A monthly news letter free to all residents would be the best way to keep everybody in the village engaged in what is happening."

"Map showing house names outside village hall to help delivery drivers."

"Better foot path maintenance over farmland. Proper maintenance of roadside trees and hedges. Promotion of safe parking in main street and Fen Road. Web site recycling scheme. Annual village tidying event. Church open daily."

"I think the village is large enough. Any bigger and it will become attached to Thurston or Ixworth and lose its identity."

"30mph speed limit between Mill Farm and Hall Farm, Thurston Road. Roundabouts at T junction onto A143 to Ixworth and Bunbury Arms."

"I actually grew up in Pakenham and have recently returned to spend my retirement years. It is still a very friendly village that respects the wonderful natural surrounding environment. Getting the balance right between development and respect for the countryside will always be difficult. I think the needs of the current population is paramount to any decisions and ideas - so this document is perfect - well done."



Harvest time - Pakenham

Action Plan

37

Action Plan

The work of the Parish Plan Steering Group concludes with the presentation of this report recording the following issues, which will now be passed to the elected members of Pakenham Parish Council for their action and implementation.

The Action Plan represents the main issues raised by the residents of Pakenham who completed the questionnaires.

It is recommended that the Parish Council report the progress made in addressing these issues in their minutes and a detailed report to be made available for the people of the parish within 6 months from the presentation of the plan on March 24th 2011.

Recommended Actions for the Pakenham Parish Council to instigate (continued p38):

ISSUES	part 1 of 2	ACTIONS
Housing		
1. A shortage of affordable housing, family housing and suitable accommodation for older people		Carry out a housing needs survey
2. Making housing available to local people		Contact Local Housing Associations that have already achieved this as part of an investigation into providing targeted housing.
Utilities		
1. Interruptions to electricity supply		Contact suppliers in order to assess options & costs.
2. Installation of mains gas supply		Set up initial contacts in a manner that will ensure a positive response
Communications		
1. Parish Newsletter		Contact possible local help
2. More notice boards (and with lighting)		Parish Council
3. Local Business Directory		Contact possible local help
4. Comprehensive Contact list (to include MEPs, MP, Councils & Councillors, Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators, Safer Neighbourhood Team, Associations, Services & Utility Suppliers).		Parish Council
5. Improve mobile phone reception & broadband speed		Contact suppliers Ask for an explanation of what is involved in any installation and why it will/will not be cost effective

ISSUES continued	part 2 of 2	ACTIONS continued
Transport & Roads		
1. Improve & Expand the Bus Service.		Parish council to make contact with local bus companies and find out why Pakenham is poorly served by buses. Use information to match parishioner requirements with availability.
2. Need for pothole repairs, gritting in icy conditions, pavement & footpath maintenance and hedge cutting		Contact relevant authorities and seek explanations of why current state has been allowed to evolve and provide timetable of improvements/repairs
3. Dangerous junctions and congestion at A143 intersections and improving Upper Town crossroads & footpath access.		Investigate and contact relevant authorities
4. Traffic calming measures and parking in village centre		Investigate and make recommendations
Parish Amenities		
1. Need for recycling centre		Investigate possibilities
2. Refurbish the Bus Shelter		Investigate possibilities
3. Local Farmers' Market		Investigate possibilities
4. "Flicks in the Sticks"		Investigate possibilities
5. Bonfire Night		Investigate possibilities
Youth facilities		
1. Refurbish the pavilion		Investigate possibilities
2. Youth Club and activities		Survey for need and local help
3. Improvement of The Dell		Investigate possibilities

Funding

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ITV Community Fund



Pakenham Parish Council received a grant from the ITV Community Fund to enable the setting up of a Planning Group and to cover basic costs including hiring meeting rooms, obtaining initial Public Liability Insurance and sending committee members to attend a Parish Plan

Application Workshop organised by Suffolk ACRE (Action with Communities in Rural England).

The Workshop covered aspects and suggestions on how to progress through all stages of parish planning activities. Suffolk ACRE also advised on how to apply for a National Lottery grant and estimated budget requirements.

National Lottery Fund

Our application to Awards For All for National Lottery funding was accepted and granted in full. Within our application we had to show that our objectives were clear and obtainable, that our cost estimates were reasonable and allocated to viable account headings.



Throughout the entire project our experienced treasurer kept a tight control on all expenditure and all items submitted for payment were accompanied by full supporting paperwork.

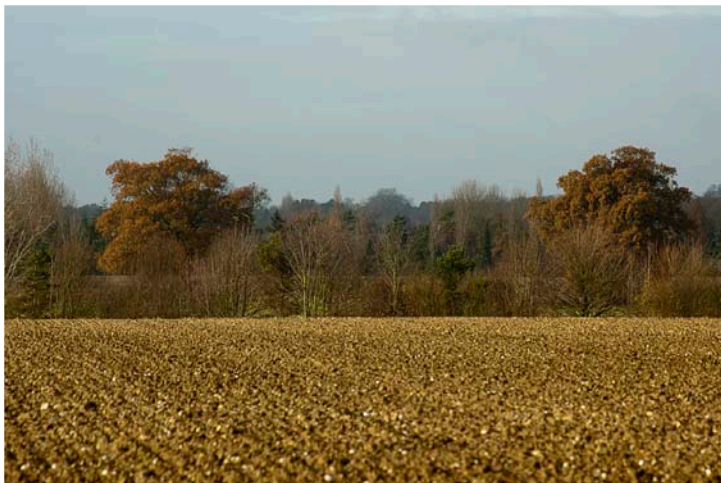
Pakenham Parish Council

A grant was also received from the Pakenham Parish Council as a contingency against the possibility of the Pakenham Parish Plan Steering Committee failing to obtain National Lottery funding and also to help should the planned budget be exceeded.

Pakenham Parish Plan Steering Committee Members

All members of the planning committee gave their time freely. Their hours were costed at an appropriate rate to provide the actual total costing of the project but no payments were made to any committee members for their time.

Due to the computer skills and business acumen of members of the committee it was not necessary to purchase the computer software or outsource the data input of the questionnaires as originally budgeted, and therefore considerable savings have been made against the original budget estimates and as a result refunds will be made to both the National Lottery and Pakenham Parish Council.



Nearly ready for planting - Pakenham



Acknowledgements

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Pakenham WI ~ Catering

Jake Waddilove ~ Loan of marquee

RAF Honington ~ Loan of display boards

LimeSurvey ~ Use of questionnaire & analysis software

Suffolk ACRE ~ Funding advice

Martin Harrison ~ Pakenham parish historian

Ann Harvey ~ Photography

St Mary's Church ~ Use of Martin Room facilities & display stand

Members of the Pakenham Parish Plan Steering Committee:-

John Head, Karl Scott, Ann Harvey, Ros Griffin,

Maggie Cohen, Richard Griffin, Nigel Farthing & Barry Harvey.

Thanks also to Joanne Tyrell, Denise Ashley, Holly Weaver & Diane Townsend



Autumn in Pakenham



Pakenham Parish Plan 2010
by the people of Pakenham
for the people of Pakenham
Published 2011