

5. Information

5.1. Internet

81% of households use the internet. Most of those (413) have broadband access rather than dial up access (122). A significant number of comments were made that the broadband link was poor and residents would like a better service.

Many households (419) felt a Village Website would be useful and would look for access to information about the village. Residents would want to visit the website to find out about Village Events (358 households) and to obtain contact details for Local Traders (339).

Residents felt that the website should also include the ability to view and post "For Sale" notices and ensure that it is easy to find contact details for local clubs & groups (283) and other organisations (253).

5.2. Directory

The Village Directory, produced by the Residents Association, is appreciated by residents with a large number using it for information.

Many residents found the village map in the Directory useful and most used the contact details for local traders.

Most also rated the contacts for local groups and other organisations as either sometimes useful or very useful.

5.3. Lower Dever News

The Lower Dever News (now the West Dever News) is also appreciated by residents with many reading it to keep up to date with village issues. The only section that was of less interest was News from Other villages.

The most interesting items were considered to be the Village Issues, Police reports and Village Events followed by council reports, contact details and nature reports

6. Employment

The question asked in the 1987 survey was slightly different to the question asked in the 2006 survey, but the figures are summarised below. In 1987 there was no distinction between full-time and part-time employment, so the figure for males has remained fairly constant if the two figures are combined. The significant difference is in female employment which has increased by 63%, full-time and part-time, and also there has been an 8 fold increase in those females who identify themselves as being unemployed. 83% of the female workforce in South Wonston (17-64) are in employment or registered unemployed and the discrepancy between the 'retired females' below (195) and the 65+ age group of females in the survey (148), of 47 indicates that early retirements could put female employment well over 90%. The most marked change in the 'Employment' table however, has been in the increase (83%) in the retired population, whereas the general survey shows an increase of 166% from 111 people 65+ in 1987 to 296 65+ in 2006.

	Male -2006	Male -1987	Female -2006	Female -1987
Full-time	421	476	250	272
Part-time	40	*	193	*
Unemployed	9	9	36	4
Semi retired	*	2	*	4
Retired	160	102	195	92

* question not asked

This very high proportion of working parents undoubtedly has its effect on community life. After the children's needs have been catered for, and the necessary living arrangements made, there can be little time for community activities outside the home. On the other hand the increasing elderly population are engaging in community activities; about 80% of WI are fully retired; there is a flourishing 'Seniors Club' and the largest Village Club, the Gardening Club, is run by retired people and has a large retired membership. These work patterns therefore appear to reflect the provision of community activities with about ten clubs for young people and three or four for the retired. It will be interesting to see whether this Village Survey will result in a wider cross-section of people contributing to village life, or whether we shall be using more of the valuable expertise of the recently retired.

Another consequence of this changed demographic pattern for a rural community will be the increasing need for medical and social services which will have to be delivered to the Village, or residents will have to be transported to urban centres. The concern expressed about the continuance of the Doctors' Surgery in the village is understandable, as is the request for our bus service to pass the local hospital, especially as several older residents have now given up driving.

Finally, there has been an increase in the number of people who work within the Village. Most travel some distance to work but a significant number of residents (250) sometimes work from home. A small number of them (30) thought that a club for home-workers would be of interest.

7. Provision of Services

This section will deal with the following services: water supply, libraries, the shop and post office, health and education services.

it goes.

7.1. Water

The balance of responses to the questions on taste and pressure indicate that they have changed little over twenty years. On both occasions 89% of respondents were satisfied with the pressure, while the taste appears to have improved in most households from 79% to 82.6%. Septic tank users remain at about 7% and a new question on soak-aways indicates that about a third (37%) of all households discharge surface water into the main drains, although 14% do not know where



7.2. Library use



A Library Van visits South Wonston once a fortnight and out of the 1138 individuals that responded to this question, only 79 (7%) admitted to being regular users. However, of the 1348 individuals who responded to the question about their use of Winchester Library, 211 (16%) claimed to be regular users, with a further 361 (27%) visiting the Winchester Library on an occasional basis, as against only 28 (2.5%) occasional users of the Library Van.

7.3. The Shop and Post Office

It was recorded in 1987 that there were once four shops in the Village and several delivery rounds, but in 2006 there is just the one shop, and two delivery rounds for newspapers and milk. The shop is used regularly by 1109 people and the post office by 727, with 93% of the latter rating the post office service good or very good, while at the shop the response to the same question was 90%. The product range in both was highly rated.

There were a few suggestions of extra services that the shop could provide; photocopying (7), internet access (3) more fresh local produce (3), a café (2), a cash point (3) and an access ramp (2). The written responses included requests for the issue of passport application forms (6) and TV licences (5).

7.4. Mail

Associated with the Post Office is the mail

delivery service and while 124 households (20%) recorded that they had lost something in the mail in the last year, which is quite a high number; 509 (79%) responses declared their satisfaction with the mail delivery times.

2 respondents complained that there is a Keats Close in Oliver's Battery to which mail has been delivered. (There is also a Pine Close there). There were 3 complaints noted about the erratic timings of the deliveries.

7.5. Citizen's Advice

Citizen's Advice provided a service one morning a week at the Surgery, and from the financial year 2007/8 it has closed for lack of funding. Only forty households claimed to have used the service in the Village which is less than one enquiry a week

7.6. The Health Services

The Gratton Surgery is one of the few facilities still available in South Wonston and so the Working Group wished to test the extent to which residents wanted to use it. When asked where members of the household preferred to visit, 315 (59%) said South Wonston Surgery, but in reality only 89 had most appointments there and 189 some appointments. The reasons given for this were that a) no suitable appointment was available 205 (44%); b) personal GP was not available at South Wonston 98 (21%); c) not offered the option, 72 (16%). Seven respondents added that the reason not to use the local surgery was the lack of a dispensary and one that there was a lack of privacy and poor soundproofing. It is clear from these responses that more people would like to be seen at South Wonston than are in fact



seen. Although the headquarters of the local practice is in Sutton Scotney and includes a Dispensary, more people live in South Wonston than in Sutton Scotney and Wonston put together. Furthermore, an interesting response to the open ended question 116 asking residents what they would like to see in an expanded South Wonston, showed that 25 identified a full-time surgery in South Wonston as being an important development. However, the Sutton Scotney Dispensary does arrange to send prescriptions over to South Wonston Stores which must be a great benefit to those patients without transport.

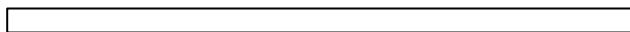


In addition, 51 (9%) people reported transport difficulties in getting to Sutton Scotney which is understandable when there is only an hourly bus service followed by a walk of several hundred yards. The majority of these people rely on

lifts from neighbours, (26).

Since GPs no longer provide a 24 hour service, the alternatives assume much more importance. 157 (24%) claim not to be aware of the NHS Direct Service, and of those 204 who have used it, 146 (60%) of the respondents claimed it was excellent

or good. Similarly, 148 (23%) respondents were not aware of the doctors out-of-hours service, and of the 170 that used it during the last year, 104 (61%) thought that it was good or excellent. A 40% dissatisfaction rate with those services however, does leave some cause for concern.



7.7. Educational provision



The majority of the questions examined the interest in adult education, as there are few questions that can be asked about schools that do not touch on either the qualitative or social aspects of schooling which are examined by OFSTED. However, the issue of school transport was raised, and it should be explained here that special buses are provided by Hampshire County Council (HCC) to a) bring children in to the Village Primary School, and b) take the secondary aged children out of the Village to the Henry Beaufort School. However, post-16 children have to make their own way to the various colleges in the area:

Post-16 College location	Number
Winchester	45
Eastleigh	1
Basingstoke	5
Southampton	5

Post-16 transport to college	No.
College bus	6
Public bus	34
Train	8
Own car	9
Lift share in car	2
Family car	13
Cycle	1
Scooter or motorbike	4

The post-16 students are mainly reliant on the public bus service,

7.8. Student transport

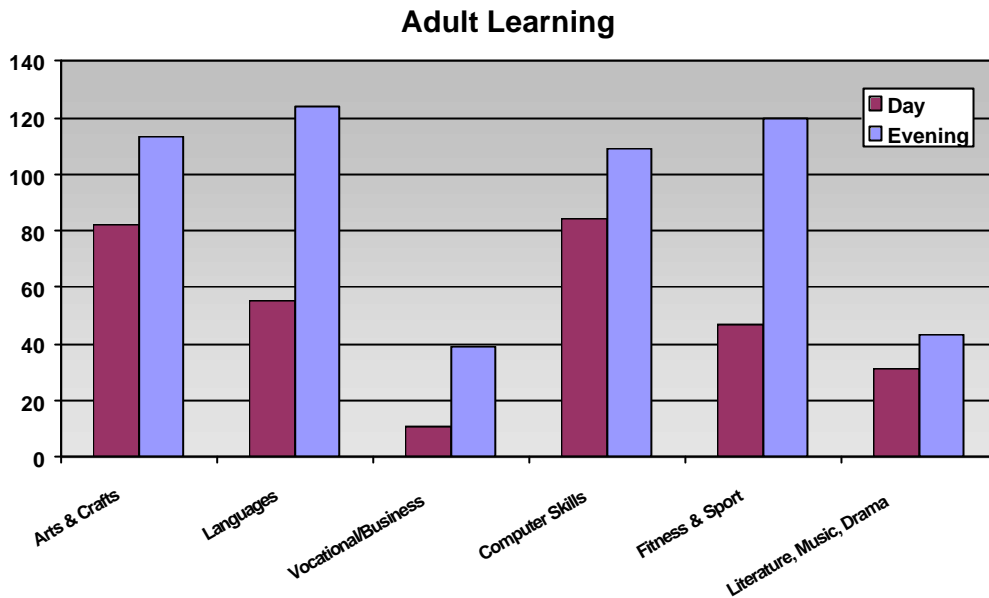
123 households indicated that their children were travelling to school or college from the Village, and of these 39 (32%) said that they were not happy with the arrangements. Of the written responses, several parents complained that the early morning service bus was so full that ‘my daughter ... at Peter Symonds has trouble getting on the 8 o’clock bus’. With 45 young people travelling into Winchester to college it is not surprising, and they are of course fare paying passengers. In addition, this group complained about the inadequacy of the hourly service.

There appeared to be two main complaints about the school buses hired by HCC. The first concerns what one parent describes as ‘the vehicles are clapped out and old’, while another raises the issue of ‘no seat belts and safety’ in general. The second complaint from most of those responding to this section (6), were about the timing of the provision of late buses where ‘some (school) clubs finish after the late bus’. Only one parent refers to bad behaviour on the bus.

Sparsholt College is about five miles from South Wonston as the crow flies, and there must be at least 5 students attending from the Village, who will have to go into Winchester and out again if travelling by bus, which, based on an hourly service, must be difficult at times.

7.9. Adult Education

Of the adults 163 (26%) have attended classes in the last two years, 30 as far away as Eastleigh and Basingstoke with Reading and Portsmouth University mentioned by 2 individuals. When asked about their interest if something could be arranged in the Village the response rose to 354 (61%).



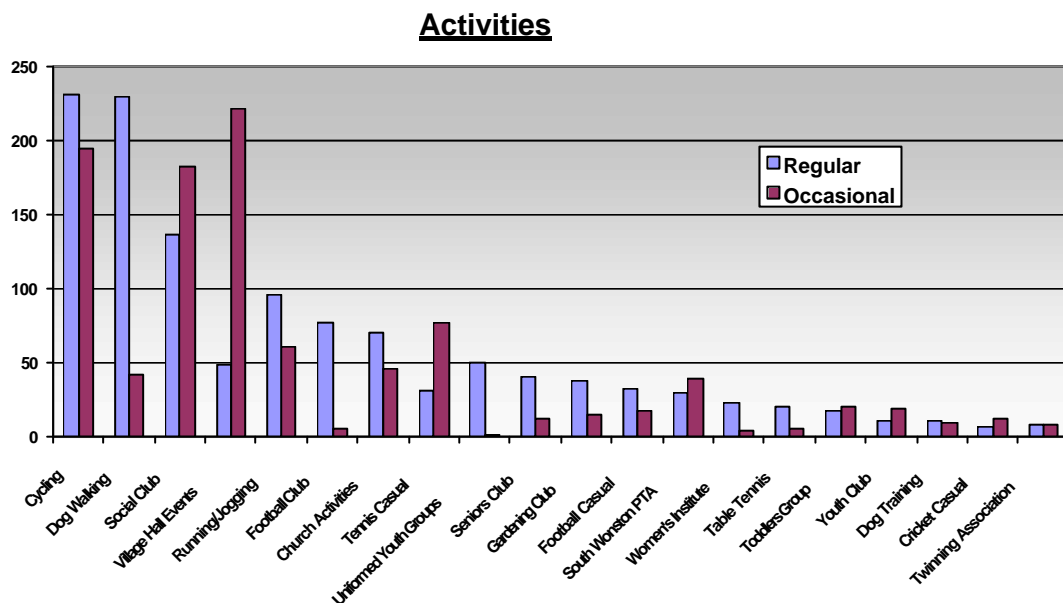
In 1987 289 people suggested that they would attend Languages (34), Keep Fit (25), Cooking (20), and Art (18) plus 96 other different subjects in the Village if they were offered. To the recollection of people living in South Wonston during the last twenty years, nothing happened. Over the last decade the provision of classes for adults generally has shrunk considerably and most people have to travel to an urban centre to attend, whereas twenty years ago there was a greater attempt to provide classes in village halls and local rural primary schools. With the prospect of global warming it makes better sense to bring the tutor to the class, rather than fifteen cars descending on a college – mid-week evening buses are out of the question from South Wonston. It is to be hoped that the local provider of adult classes will respond to the above interest and at least try to offer some classes in the village, either in the school or the Village Hall.

8. Social Activities

This section will deal with the activities in which residents currently take part within South Wonston, and those in which they would take part if facilities were available. It also covers the facilities considered to be of greatest importance and the voluntary help offered to enable various projects to continue or be initiated.

8.1. Popular Activities in the Village

It may be a reflection of the current trend towards 'healthy living' to note that the activities enjoyed by residents predominantly involve fresh air and exercise. This would appear to start from an early age since the play equipment at the Recreation Ground is considered the most highly valued facility, receiving votes from 405 households.



The fact that there are 1,247 bicycles in the Village is evidence that one of the most popular activities is cycling, in which 778 residents take part, either regularly or occasionally, and a significant number (59) indicated that they would be interested in joining a cycle club. 262 walk their dogs, while 1120 just enjoy walking the local footpaths and 157 go jogging or running. A ramblers group would be of interest to 198 residents and signposted walks are considered one of the most important possible additions to the village by 214 households.

In addition to the activities listed on the questionnaire, residents take part in a variety of sports and pastimes ranging from Pilates to remote control models and are involved in everything from playing classical and rock music to school governorship.

8.2. Outdoor Sports

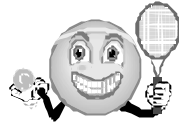
Football is the most popular competitive sport. 84 people take part in organised football



and 51 play on a casual basis. 39 other adults would take part if facilities were available. It is therefore not surprising that

the football pitch at the Recreation Ground is the second most valued facility in the village (363 households). Improved changing facilities at the Pavilion are considered important by 201 households, catering facilities by 79 and floodlighting by 145.

Tennis is the second most popular sport, enjoyed by 109 residents. The tennis court is highly valued by 255 households and if more facilities were available a further 161 residents would take part. There is also support for a tennis club.

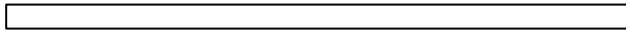


Cricket is less popular, but the 20 residents who currently participate could

be increased by 72 if there was an opportunity to play in the Village. A cricket pitch is considered important by 188 households.

Other outdoor sports which would be of interest if facilities were available are bowls (100 people interested) boules (81) and croquet (30). The proposed skate park is considered an important addition by 119 households and a youth shelter by 87. At least 54 young people are keen on skateboarding.

Residents would also like to take part in golf, kiting, a running club, swimming, rugby, sailing, rowing, horse riding, basketball and netball.



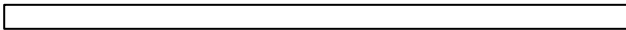
8.3. The Recreation Ground

As successive housing developments in the Village become more and more compact with smaller and even non-existent gardens, the Recreation Ground assumes a greater importance in residents' lives. The most popular response to Question 59 about 'important features' in the Village was the children's playground (405), followed by the football provision (363) and the tennis court (255). The children also rated the Recreation Ground the top of their 'likes' about South Wonston, in their own questionnaire, with 96 unsolicited responses, ahead of the next 'like', the Village Shop with 37.



Since many of the outdoor activities take place at the Recreation Ground, all the other facilities it provides are highly valued. The car park is important to 243 households, benches 238, dog walking area 167, BMX track 108 and basketball court 92. The addition of a public toilet – this provision was raised by a focus group held at the Henry Beaufort School in preparation for the children's questionnaire - is very important to 260 respondents and perhaps they would stay longer, particularly those with children, and get even more exercise if one was available!

The Pavilion is involved in many sporting activities, but it also considered important as a useful sized meeting room by 75 households.



8.4. Indoor Activities

The wish to take part in healthy exercise is further highlighted by the fact that it is the wish of 274 residents to take part in keep fit classes. Facilities for badminton would also be popular and used by 174 people, if a suitable building was available. More (36) would take part in table tennis than at

present if there was space for more tables and indoor bowls would be of interest to 102. Other suggestions were Pilates, yoga and gymnastics.

Residents would also be keen to take part in less strenuous indoor activities, the most popular being dancing (150 ball room and 162 other), and there is also



considerable interest in the arts. 57 would like to play music and 38 would like to listen to music. 69 would like to take part in amateur dramatics and 88 in art. The suggestion of a 'Culture Club' to include many of these in addition to talks, events and trips has been made. 38 people would like to play bridge and 21 chess.

Other suggestions for activities included a book club, tai chi, a shares club, musical instrument lessons, singing group, bingo, scrabble, classes in languages and IT, activities for the under fives, teenagers and older residents.

8.6. Clubs and Groups

The results indicate that existing local clubs and groups have a membership of between 20 and 70. Also, 117 residents take part in church activities. As most clubs and groups meet in either the Village Hall or Pavilion, improved parking and facilities at these locations could perhaps help to increase their membership numbers.

A meeting room the size of the Village Hall is considered important to 99 households and the small meeting room is important to 55.

Other local clubs and groups in which residents are involved include Local History Group, Residents Association, stamp club, bumps and babes, drama and dance.

8.7. Village Events

Events involving the whole village would be well supported. Some of the following suggestions did take place in the Villlage up to twenty years ago but fell away because the lack of people to organize them. A fete or carnival appeals to 402 households, BBQ/hog roast 292, as well as concerts (200) or film shows (241) and a talent show (52). Suggestions for other events include a family rambling day, a dance (ball, barn

8.5. Other Leisure Activities

During their leisure time, 320 villagers use the Social Club as a meeting place. Almost as many (270) attend events at the Village Hall. It is possible these events could attract greater support, if better car parking was available. This was considered to be the most important facility missing at present by 261 households. 153 households would like improved kitchen facilities at the Village Hall and this was provided in 2008. A further 137 households expressed an interest in having the use of an allotment.

dance, Scottish dance or ceilidh), pig racing, car boot sale, Christmas party, more quiz nights, lectures/talks, a dramatic production and a sports day/BBQ.

Bonfire Night is enjoyed by many, but it would be pleasant to have a similarly popular event in the warmer weather. This could also help to raise funds for local organisations.

8.8. Voluntary Help

Of those who indicated they would attend the above events, members of 92 households would be prepared to assist or organise them.

Other volunteers would be happy to help with the upkeep of the village, by litter picking (59), general cleaning (14), hedge trimming (20) and carrying out minor repairs (17). They would also like to be involved in neighbourhood watch (57), environment watch (43), voluntary driving (32), footpath warden (25), youth work (12), dog warden (10), fundraising (11) and the Parish Council (17). Dog walking and helping people who were housebound were also suggested as possible voluntary contributions.

Those who would be prepared to share their experience of organising leisure activities indicated that they could help with sporting

and fundraising events, walks, arts and crafts, meditation classes, cycling ride/treasure hunt, PTA work, developing new facilities, junior events/clubs/concerts and club camping events. 38 generously offered to run a club or activity.

It is hoped that those who offered voluntary help of any kind have given their contact details.

8.9. Other Suggestions

New facilities which are considered to be important to the village and which have not been mentioned above, include street lighting on all roads (186 households) seats at bus shelters (162), a burial ground (105) and a memorial garden (79). Bus shelters are considered an important existing facility by 196 households. Suggestions have been made for a time/skills swap scheme and a village café.

9. Views on the Environment

This section of the survey covers several areas that affect the lives and well-being of the residents of South Wonston, including Crime, Noise, Waste Disposal and the general built and space environment. These questions come at the end of an extensive questionnaire – questions 87 to 116 – and to demonstrate the importance of this area to the residents out of a total of 674 questionnaires completed, question 106 about open space drew 639 responses, while on street lighting (Q. 108) 648 responded.

9.1. Crime

South Wonston is designated by the Police Authority as a low crime area. The biggest problem appears to be frequent vandalism at the Recreation Ground which is situated on the south eastern edge of the village, and not easily overseen. The residents therefore were asked how vandalism affected them and very few responded – 61 in all – but of those who indicated that vandalism was a problem on their property 12 said that Friday night was the worst time. This accords with the experience of the Parish Council at the Recreation Ground. Some of the worst excesses at the Recreation Ground appear to be associated with alcohol consumption as the large amount of broken glass which staff have to clear up on Saturday mornings, seems to testify. The police statistics show that few crimes are reported to them from South Wonston, and those that are, are not of a very serious nature.

41 households gave their addresses where they claimed vandalism had taken place,

from damage to a vehicle, a pumpkin with a lighted candle inside being thrown at a front room window to beehives being overturned. The main complaints come from the residents of Downs Road. This survey was taken in the autumn 2006 but in June 2007 the Parish Council received several complaints from people in Downs Road about anti-social behaviour stretching from one end to the other. This small outbreak appeared to coincide with young people finishing school before taking examinations.

The majority of the remaining complaints seem to be associated with continuing misbehaviour of young people leaving the Recreation Ground as the streets identified include Westhill Road, Lower Road and paths through into Downlands Way, and parts of the Waverley estate closest to Lower Road.

However, 97 households had opinions on how to reduce vandalism, and of these 38

wanted more policing of one kind or another; 20 felt parents should be held more responsible for knowing where their children are, especially late at night, and 10 would like to see parents pay for any damage, with 6 advocating naming and shaming the culprits. 11 households thought that there should be more activities for young people; 10 wanted more lighting in the streets and at the Recreation Ground and 7 requested CCTV. 6 felt that the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme should play a part. Other

expressions of opinion included the birch, street buddies, a night curfew on young people and a minibus every evening down into Winchester. The young people themselves never referred to crime but did say that they liked South Wonston because 'people were friendly' (19) and it was 'a peaceful place' (10); only 5 mentioned bullying.

The Neighbourhood Watch Scheme has fallen into abeyance with only 99 households claiming to be members.

9.2. Problems of Noise

South Wonston was built on the top of a Down and as such can detect sounds more easily from further afield than a village settlement in a valley. The rebuilding of the A34 in the 1980s was a boon to South Wonston in that the main road from Southampton to the Midlands and the North no longer passed the end of Downs Road, thus reducing the great difficulty of access into and egress from the village. All benefits often come with a price and the fact that 354 households felt that the noise from the new dual carriageway was extremely loud and excessive, seems to underline the need for an examination of the road surface for the mile or two past the village. 157 respondents even felt that the A34 had become noisier in the last year. Work has been done further down the A34 to reduce the road noise past the next village of Kingsworthy.

The next source of noise is more recent. In 2003 Planning Permission was granted on a five year temporary basis to the local farmer jointly with a promoter to develop a motocross site adjacent to the Three Maids Island junction with the A34. This has proved to be an irritant not only to the inhabitants of South Wonston, but also to other neighbouring villages. 162 respondents feel it is loud or extremely loud and intrusive, while 471 would be opposed to any further developments at the site. A planning application for an extension of the activities at the motocross site in 2006, resulted in huge opposition from South Wonston and the application was withdrawn.

Lower Road forms the southern boundary of the village, it is part of an ancient drove road. Recent legislation has banned its use for through access, so that it can be used safely for leisure pursuits such as walking, cycling and horse-riding. However, there has been a feeling in the village that since the arrival of the motocross, there has been more motorcycle activity on Lower Road, and other tracks around the village, and this was endorsed by 277 households. The main reasons for the objections to the use of Lower Road by motorized vehicles were; Danger - 250 responses; Noise 236 and Dust 92, while 9 wrote in to complain that the surface deterioration was a major cause for concern.

Two other aspects of noise that impinge on the residents of South Wonston are flights using Southampton Airport and noise from gun fire at a local clay pigeon shoot and the Worthy Down Camp. Neither of these greatly affect people. Only 73 were disturbed by aircraft noise and 66 by gunshot noise.

9.3. Waste Disposal

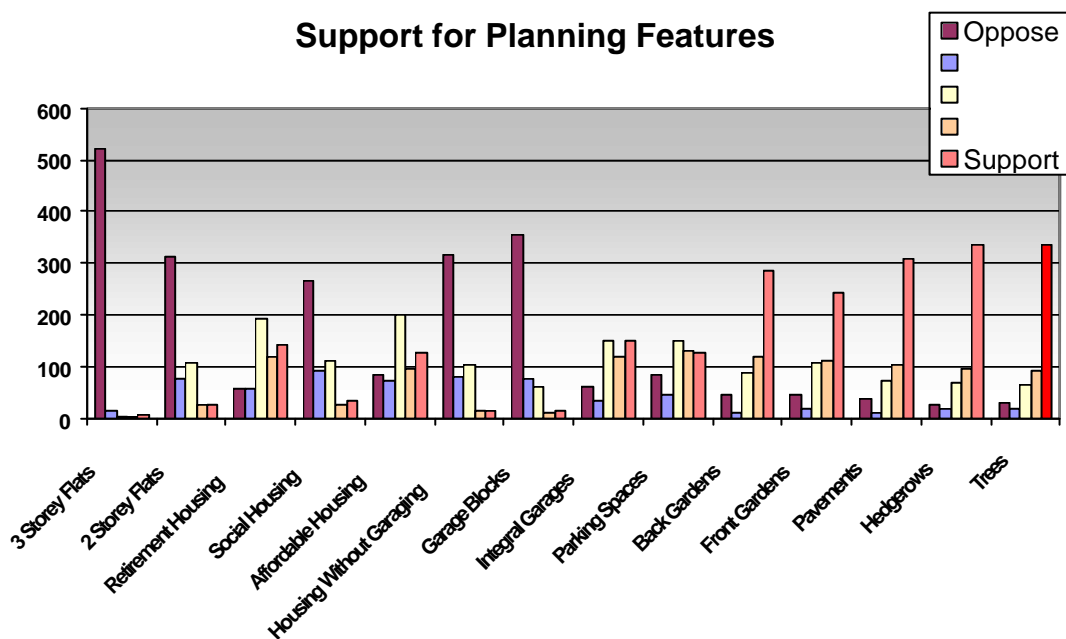
364 households felt that they did not have any problems with a fortnightly collection but a substantial number (286-44%) did have problems and of these 121 wrote detailed descriptions of the various problems. 67 reported flies and maggots; 64 bins were just smelly, (sometimes just a problem in the summer), and 21 said that fortnightly was not enough largely because the bins were not big enough. This was reinforced by Q. 100 when 215 households stated that a ‘fortnightly

collection was insufficient due to the volume of waste produced’.

As for the recycling of materials, 547 were happy with a fortnightly collection. 596 households (90%) put garden waste out for collection, and 354 (53%) made their own compost. A couple of respondents did comment on the weight of the full green recycling bags and the porous nature of the label packet where the address label disintegrated in a very short time.

9.4. The Living Environment

Question 104 asked for people’s observations on a wide range of planning issues which are set out in the diagram below. This aspect of the Village Plan will be reinforced by the production of a separate ‘Village Design Statement’ which, if approved by Winchester Planners, should influence future planning applications in South Wonston.



There is a general lack of support for three storey buildings (81%) and the provision of flats in particular. Separate garage blocks were the second least acceptable feature (65%), with houses with no garages (60%) being third in that list,

social housing was probably interpreted as rented accommodation and this came fifth on the unacceptable list (54%).

Over two thirds of the residents wished to include trees (68%), hedgerows (65%),

pavements (62%), back gardens (61%) and front gardens (54%) in any new development. People obviously recognise that these features are part of the rural environment, that is so cherished by South Wonston residents.

The village cannot be extended westward because of the old and new A34s and there is not much enthusiasm for extending in any other direction, particularly north and south, where 67% and 68% respectively

were against. To the east 54% are against any extension in this direction which would elongate the village still further and undermine any attempts to develop the settlement as a more cohesive unit.

Great emphasis is placed by respondents on the need to keep as many open spaces as possible both within (Q. 106 – 72%) and alongside the village (Q. 107 – 80%).

Street lighting has been an issue for a long time in South Wonston. Some roads like Wrights Way and Wrights Close have no street lighting, while Downs Road has more environmentally friendly footway lighting directed downwards. In other parts such as the more recent estates at the eastern end of the village, there is some more conventional street lighting furniture spilling light in all directions. In addition South Wonston also boasts one or two astronomers who always appear at Parish Council meetings if the question of extending the street lamp provision is to be discussed. Those who want more lights are in the minority (Q. 108 – 35%), although in the 184 written responses they are quite clear in which areas they think more light should be shed.

Street lighting was requested in the following areas of South Wonston:

Wright's Way	50	Existing non – lit roads	34
Stavedown & adjacent	25	Wright's Close	24
Downs Rd	23	Borman Way estate	10
Downs Rd/Christmas Hill	8	Recreation Ground	7
Groves Close	7		

Some of the above respondents selected more than one road for more lighting, while 13 indicated that there should be less light pollution.

9.5. Features to be preserved

Finally in this section, respondents were asked which features of the village should be preserved (Q. 114). While just over 50% wanted to preserve the existing village boundaries, other features appeared to be more important to the residents, and these were features that enhanced and preserved the rural character of the village and its surroundings.

81% (533) wanted to preserve the Rural Aspect; 80%, the Country Paths; 73%, Trees & hedges; and 65% the Lower Road as a rough track. The continued provision of gardens is an essential feature of this Village for 60% of the respondents. 51% felt that trees and hedges were essential to the character of South Wonston, although 170 households did have problems with some hedges growing over public paths.