

Summary of Responses

Thank you to those who took part in the recent Household Survey. A summary of the responses is shown below. A full report will be available in 2021 as part of the continued Neighbourhood Plan consultation process.

How the consultation was run

780 questionnaires were delivered in July 2020 to all houses in the parish. Residents were able to respond by filling in the questionnaire or completing it online via a dedicated link hosted by Survey Monkey.

We received a good response from a broad range of age groups and Household types, and 317 questionnaire forms were returned, with about 90% having most of the questions completed. Therefore, we have a good sample size of opinions on which to base our evidence for the plan.

Headline results

General - A high proportion of respondents (over 60%) have lived in the parish for at least 15 years and many were either born here or had family connections. Others indicated that they were drawn to the area by the proximity of the countryside and their places of work.

Housing - 63% of responses indicated that their housing need was unlikely to change in the next 10 - 15 years and about 25% indicated that they would need to upsize or downsize. Of those families looking to move home, most would prefer to remain in the parish.

12 respondents indicated that their family may require an additional home in the parish (for example adult children may move out) and 43 respondents indicated a demand for housing for families not currently living in the parish who are likely to want to move here. In total, this would indicate a need for at least 55 new homes from people with a local connection. Whilst most people agreed that we need a broad range of homes and more affordable housing, many were against large developments due to strain on the current infrastructure. 55% of respondents would find the current rate of development, up to 5 homes a year on average (up to 75 homes in total) acceptable if continued over the Neighbourhood Plan period.

Employment - Whilst most respondents completed Q18 on employment categories the resulting data appears contradictory and will require more in-depth analysis.

Traffic & Transport - The questions in this section provided the greatest number of responses and comments. People in the parish are generally reliant on their cars for getting about. Car ownership levels have risen above those predicted when the current parking standards were devised, and the data shows that problems caused by on-road parking, speeding and safety at junctions are clearly an issue in many parts of the parish.

Community Facilities - Respondents were asked to rank the importance of the existing Community Facilities and the results show that, generally all the current facilities are deemed to be very important to the parish.

When asked about the top priorities for new facilities, ideas that have previously been raised appeared again i.e. more footpaths / bridleways, Health Centre, allotments and more open spaces for sports and leisure including facilities for youth activities.

Character & Environment – Open spaces within and around Sturminster Marshall village were highly valued, with Churchill Close Green especially being enjoyed by all ages. There was strong support to retain, maintain and improve footpaths to create safe circular walks avoiding roads where possible. People wanted to see cycle routes established and greater access for the disabled and for pushchairs.

There was a relatively small number of respondents to the question about what people thought were examples of good development and bad development with two recent developments appearing at the top of both lists. There were fears that overdevelopment might lead to loss of the rural character of the parish.

There was overwhelming support for the idea that climate change should be taken into consideration in drawing up policies in the Neighbourhood Plan and many would be interested in a community energy conservation or energy generation project.

Youth - There were three questions aimed at the under 16 age group. Whilst most of the respondents indicated that they liked living in the parish, enjoyed the availability of sports activities, clubs and proximity of the countryside and the coast, there was a common list of suggested improved facilities:

- *“Somewhere for the Youth to gather/hang out so we're not in the way e.g. shelter or hut. Skate park, youth club, community centre”.*
- *Multi-use games area, Tennis Court, Improved play area (Zip Line), New Basketball Net, Permanent Football goal with net, Youth Club, Shelter, Skate Park, Cycle Pump Track,*
- *Need more play equipment in the park for younger children - rocker or smaller slide/climbing frame etc.*

General questions - Summary of responses

Q2. How many years has your household lived in Sturminster Marshall parish?

No. of years	No. of Households
Less than 5 years	43
5 to 15 years	78
More than 15 years	194

Q3. What made you choose to live in this area? Please tick up to three points.

Reason	
Born here / family connection	70
Cost of housing	36
Local facilities generally (pubs, shops, etc.)	56
Lack of crime	22
Character of the countryside	191
Good road links	53
Convenient for workplace / jobs	95
Catchment area for good schools	64
Sense of community	80
Character of the housing	69
Good public transport links	11
Nothing in particular	8
Other	35

Q4. And now you are here, what is it about the area that you enjoy or value most? Please tick up to five points.

Reason	
Born here / family connection	64
Cost of housing	13
Local facilities generally (pubs, shops, etc.)	150
Lack of crime	106
Character of the countryside	269
Good road links	114
Convenient for workplace / jobs	73
Catchment area for good schools	40
Sense of community	173
Character of the housing	82
Good public transport links	22
Nothing in particular	7
Other	21

Q5. Thinking about the issues above (and any other points), what is the main thing you might want to change to improve this area?

225 responses covering the following topics:

- More affordable, shared ownership and assisted housing
- Maintain community spirit but also need to take ownership
- Improve public transport links
- Roads: improve traffic management and road safety by reducing speeding and volume of traffic. New access road into and from Bailie Gate industrial estate. Extra parking for schools and shops.
- Provision of a health centre
- Cycle and footpath improvements. Need to be able to safely cross A350 & A31. Access to cycle paths for Henbury residents.
- Control anti-social behaviour and litter.
- Extra tree planting and landscaping.
- Maintain rural character of the parish.
- Restrict new development

Housing - Summary of Responses

Q6. Please enter the number of people in your household that are in the following age ranges (including yourself).

AGE	0-4	5-14	15-19	20-34	35-49	50-64	65-79	80+
	50	56	33	80	87	187	204	35

Q7. What type of house do you currently live in?

House	Semi detached	Terrace	Bungalow	Flat /Apartment	Other
168	71	37	30	2	5

Q8. How many Bedrooms does your home have? Please include all spare rooms that could be used as bedrooms.

1 bed	2 beds	3 beds	4 beds	5 beds	6 beds	7 beds
2	43	92	127	37	5	1

Q9. Do you?

Rent from Housing Association/Trust. (Affordable rented)	Rent from Private Landlord	Own the home	Other
19	19	271	1 shared. 2 left blank

Q10. Thinking about the next 5-10 years, please indicate which statement best describes what the situation of your household is most likely to be.

Where I/we live now may still suit my/our needs	We may need an additional home(for example adult children may move out)	I/we may need to move to a bigger home	I/we may need to move to a smaller home	Other
200	11	13	70	17

Q11. If you require a different home, would this be in the Parish?

Yes, somewhere in the Sturminster Marshall Parish	No I/we will be moving away from the Parish	Not sure	Not applicable
41	17	38	13

Q12. If you answered yes to question 11, what size or type of house would best fit your needs?

3-4 bed house	14
3-4 bed bungalow	7
1-2 bed bungalow	12
2 bedroom terraced or semi-detached house	4
2 bed flat/apartment	3
1 bed flat/apartment	0
Shared accommodation with care facilities	1
Adapted housing disabled	1
Live/ work unit	1
other	0

Q13. Will you be looking to:

Rent from housing association/trust (affordable rented)	6
Rent from a private Landlord/ letting agent (at Market rent)	0
Part buy/part rent from housing association/trust (shared equity)	3
Buy at a discount rate (affordable home ownership)	4
Buy on the open Market (with a mortgage or outright)	48
Self- build (plot of land)	10
Other	0

Question 14. Do you know anyone living outside of the Parish who is looking to move into the Parish in the near future?

No	Yes they are already on the housing register	Yes they will be applying for social housing	Yes they will be looking to purchase on the open market
280	11	4	22

Not all those that answered this question put the requirement of property needed.

Those already on housing register: 3 looking for 3 bedroom house

- 2 looking for 3-4 bedroom house
- 1 looking for a 2 bed house
- Going to apply to go on housing register:
 - 1 Supported accommodation
 - 1 2 bedroom property
 - 1 2/3 bedroom property
- Looking to buy on the open market:
 - 9 3-4 bedroom property
 - 4 2-3 bedroom house/semi
 - 1 1-2 bedroom Bungalow
 - 1 2-3 bedroom Bungalow
 - 1 Starter Home / Flat / apartment

Q15. Looking ahead over the next 15 years, what level of growth do you consider is about right if acceptable sites are identified?

308 responses (7 people had no opinion on this question).

Up to 5 homes a year (75 in total)	5 – 10 homes a year (75-150 in total)	10 -15 homes a year (150-225 in total)	15-20 homes a year (225 – 300 in total)
176	91	23	18

Q16. Subject to finding acceptable sites, where do you think housing should be built?

The majority of people put more than one answer to the question.

Within Sturminster Marshall Village (denser development using gardens)	Adjoining Sturminster Marshall village (in the Green Belt)	Some limited development in the smaller settlements such as Jubilee Cross and or Almer Area	Brownfield sites (vacant employment land)
50	56	105	211

Q17. Are there any particular sites that you think would be suitable for over 5 homes?

The Sheiling, Dullar Lane. Old Nursery	2
Old M.S Centre Moor Lane	9
Parkes Field, Newton Road	19
134 High Street, Garden Paddock	1
Springfield Farm, Newton Road	18
Drax Estate	1
Crumpets Farm Drive, Mobile home plots	2
A350 Roundhouse Roundabout	5
Archground, Station Road	22
Churchill Close Green	1
Churchill Arms, High Street	13
Bartons Ground	1
Bailie Gate Industrial Estate	11

Redundant Farm Buildings	3
Lamplands, Newton Road	5
Red Lion, Church Street	1
Rear of Sheridan Way	1
Dullar Lane	3
South A350	2
Almer	1
Land between Industrial Estate and A31	1
School site	1
Henbury	1

Employment - Summary of Responses

Q18. Prior to the coronavirus lockdown, please enter the number of people in your household that fall within each category (including yourself):

Employment status	No.	%
Employed / Self Employed	324	37
Retired	254	29
Unpaid carer in your own home	10	1
Housewife / househusband	34	4
Working from home (eg home office)	41	5
Mobile working (no main work base)	10	1
Working in Sturminster Marshall parish (in other premises)	8	1
Working based outside of Sturminster Marshall parish	88	10
In pre-school or primary school education	31	4
In secondary school / higher education	55	6
Unable to work due to health / disability	9	1
Currently unemployed seeking work	4	0
Other	2	0

Q19. Is anyone in your household looking to buy or rent business premises in the parish in the foreseeable future?

Business premises needs	Responses No.	Type of Business	No. of Employees
Non	300		
Yes; to start a new business in the area	1	Eco based	2 - 9

Yes; to expand or relocate a business that is already based in the parish.	1	Removals	1
Yes; to expand or relocate a business that is based outside of the parish.	0		
Other	0		

Traffic & Transport - Summary of Responses

Q24. How many vehicles used by members of your household (including works vehicles) are normally kept overnight at your home? (315 responses)

No. of parked vehicles/ household	0	1	2	3	4	5 or more
No. of households	10	90	137	50	19	9

Q25. How many off-road parking spaces (garaging and on driveways) does your home have? 312 responses. 3 respondents with vehicles did not complete this question.

No. of off road parking spaces/ household	0	1	2	3	4	5 or more
No. of Households	7	42	87	52	53	71

Q26. Does any member of your household have mobility difficulties, for example, a blue badge holder? 307 responses

Mobility difficulties	No. of Households
Yes	49
No	258

Q27. Do any of the following within the parish cause you direct concern?

	Yes, a lot	Yes, a little	Not really
Road safety - speeding traffic	173	86	45
On-street parking in unsafe locations	137	87	54

Road safety - other (e.g., dangerous junctions)	107	77	70
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If you answered "Yes, a lot" to any of the above, please give details of what the issue is, and where in the parish you have had the most concern.

Specific issues causing concern merged with open ended responses to Q5.

Issue	No. of responses
Parking in High Street and Station Road	124
Speeding on village and minor roads	93
Parking issues elsewhere	59
Traffic speed on A roads	48
Traffic volume in village	38
Improve public transport	31
Merging onto and crossing A roads	24
Road surfaces	12
Cycle paths, extend trailway	8
Separate road to Industrial Estate	7
Increase capacity of A roads	6
Safer access at junctions	5
A350 bypass	5
Improve/ extend footpaths	5
Heavy vehicles using Back Lane and White Mill	5
Improve lighting at junctions	3
White Mill parking	3
Not in favour more parking restrictions	1

Q28. If you think there is a need for any new walking / cycle routes in the parish, please say which type (walking or cycling) and where these should go (to / from).

	No. of responses
Extend trailway to Blandford and Corfe Mullen	49
Footpath to White Mill	11
Footpath – Jubilee Cross to Lytchett Matravers	9
Maintain / improve Moor Lane to Mill Lane Footpath	10
Footpath along A350 to The Fox	10
Improve footpath – Henbury to village	8
Footpath along Newton Road and King Street	4
More access to river / bridge at Walnut Tree Field	10
More circular walks generally	3

Q29. Does anyone in your household regularly use the local bus services and / or the Dorset Community Transport service?

Don't use buses	Yes, for shopping trips	Yes, for work journeys	Yes, for getting to school / college	Yes, for other trips.
229	55	6	19	35

The main "Other" trips included visits to doctors, dentists and hospitals and for connections to railway and coach services in Poole.

Q30. Are there any changes to the bus routes or timings that would encourage you to use the services more?

	No. of responses
No	161
Improve bus service to Wimborne	68
Improve frequency and later buses to Wimborne, Poole & Blandford	27
Other	12

Q31. Street Lighting – which statement below reflects your views. In future developments.

	No. of responses
There should be street lighting (but using low energy / timed lights)	145
There should not be any street lighting (to minimise light pollution)	152

Do you think the level of street lighting in existing areas is:

	No. of responses
About right – no change is needed	127
About right – but more could be done to reduce the amount of energy used eg. through more efficient technologies	88
Not enough (there should be more street lights)	52
Too much (there should be fewer street lights)	35

Q32. Additional roads – it has been suggested that another road could be built between the Bailie Gate industrial estate and the A31 or A350, to relieve Station Road traffic. Do you support this idea?

	No. of responses
Yes	212
No	86

Q33. Where do you see problems with road safety issues, and what measures would you like to see implemented to resolve them, for example traffic calming?

- Responses were in line with responses to Q27 & Q28 – concerns re. Station Rd and High St, from roundabout to Moor Lane – suggesting yellow lines so parking only 1 side, speed humps, speed cameras, 20mph zone.
- A31 & A350 speed cameras requested
- Other locations cited for speed and / or parking: Churchill Close, Newton Rd, Back Lane and Front Lane.

Community Facilities - Summary of Responses

Q34. How important do you consider the following local facilities to be?

Facility	Very important	Reasonably important	Not important	No opinion or response
First School	241	34	6	36
Pre-School	222	42	10	43
Memorial Hall	217	76	8	16
The Old School Hall	164	101	18	34
The Churches	164	85	25	43
Footpaths & bridleways	249	48	5	15
Co-Op store	250	47	7	13
NISA store & Post Office	256	48	5	8
Wellbeing pharmacy	244	55	7	11
Vines Farm Shop	132	11	37	33
Red Lion pub	144	127	22	24
The Fox pub	134	129	25	29
World's End pub	49	105	84	79
Churchill Arms pub	55	51	88	123
Golf Club	104	129	36	28
Play Park	225	60	9	23
Churchill Close Sports pitches	217	68	9	23

Q35. What are your top priorities for improvements to our facilities, or new facilities? The following have been previously raised, but you may have other ideas. (Respondents were allowed to tick up to three boxes).

Facility	No. of responses
More footpaths / bridleways	179
Health Centre	170
Allotments	131

Other open spaces for sports and leisure	100
Skate Park	72
All weather sports pitch	46
Other	49 responses mostly reinforcing the options above plus youth facilities and tennis courts.

Respondents were also asked “If you have any particular ideas or thoughts on parish facilities, please note them briefly here”.

66 responses were received mainly calling for a health centre, more leisure and youth facilities and improvements and extensions to footpaths to avoid busy roads.

Environment - Summary of Responses

Q36. What local green spaces do you value, for example Churchill Close Green and Charborough Green?

	Response
Churchill Close	133
Walnut Tree Field	99
Charborough Green	70
Maypole Green	51
Bartons Ground	47
Stocks Green/Timber Green	33
Footpaths/bridleways	14
Golf Course	12
Fields around village	11
Old railway line	10
Riverside	9
Moor Lane	6
Millmoor	3
Arch Ground	2
Mapperton fields	1
Lamplands	1
All green spaces	64
None	4
Nil returns for this question	51

Summary of comments

- The open space people valued most was Churchill Close
- The Walnut Tree Field was also valued, especially as it borders the river
- The two greens comprising Market Place were also highly thought of
- Charborough Green was of value, especially to those living nearby

Q37. Are there any walks or views within the area that you think should be protected, reinstated or created? If so, please describe the location and route / what the view is:

Feature	Responses
Walnut tree field	37
Trail way/Railway line maintained or extended	29
White Mill and Bridge	11
River walks/Stour Valley Way	24
Moor Lane Footpath	36
Barton's Ground	8
Mill Moor footpath	21
Dullar Lane and Woodland walk	3
Golf Course	5
Build a footbridge over Stour	7
New path to Vines Close/Baillie Cross/Henbury	4
Gladwich field path	3
Jubilee Cross	1
Mapperton walks	2
Long Drove	1
Churchill Green	22
Village Greens	11
Protect All/Everything	49
No response	97

Q38. Please identify any features or characteristics of the parish environment that are important to you.

Feature	Response
Maypole Green	5
War memorial	2
White Mill/Bridge	13
Churchill Arms	5
Village feel/rural setting	15
Shops/restaurants/pubs	18
Church	18
Old School Hall	4
Play Park	2
River access	19
Community spirit	23
Walnut Tree Field	6
Memorial Hall	7
School	6
Golf Club	4
Housing mix/design	9
Access to countryside	10
Green spaces in the village	22
Footpaths including the railway line	13
Churchill Close	3
Conservation area	9
Football ground	1

Negative comments	14
No response/not answer the question	145

Q39 Are there any recent housing or other building developments in the local area (or close to the parish) (a) that you think are particularly GOOD?

	Response (where more than 1)
Elm Gardens	12
Jubilee Way	12
Henbury House Gardens	3
Parklea / Railway Drive	3
Baillie House bungalows	3
Co-op	3
"Herb" cottages, High Street	2
Churchill Close infill	2
None	12
Don't know	3
Wyatt Homes, Wimborne	3

Summary of comments

- There was a relatively low response to this question
- Of those responding Elm Gardens and Jubilee Way were thought to be examples of good development (15% each)
- A further 15% thought there were no examples of good development

(b) that you think are particularly BAD?

	Response (where more than 1)
Elm Gardens	23
Jubilee Way	13
Planned change of use, Churchill Arms	7
Infill, especially in Churchill Close	7
Baillie Gate Cottages	6
Parklea/Railway Drive	6
Sheriden Way	4
New houses in Balls Lane	4
Tattersall Gardens	4
Hérons Green	3
Bungalows in Dullar Lane	2
Cwtch	2
Industrial Estate	2
All	2
Solar panels	2
Recent building in village too crowded	2

Chalkpit houses, Spetisbury	8
Over development in Wimborne	8
Proposed development in Newton Road	2
All	2

Summary of comments

- More respondents identified “bad development” than did “good development”
- The highest proportion thought Elm Gardens was an example of bad development
- Jubilee Way was also identified by a significant number

Q40. ‘What concerns you most about new housing and areas of development?’

Summary of comments

- This question brought a low number of responses, with 269 nil returns

General

- Small houses with insufficient parking/garaging
- Village already overdeveloped
- Too many cars
- Inadequate infrastructure

Specific

- Closing of Churchill Arms for housing
- Elm Gardens and Jubilee Way: houses too crowded together

Q41 Do you agree that climate change is important and should be reflected in the draft Plan’s policies?

	Responses
Yes	275
No	21

Would you be interested in a community-scale energy conservation or generation project?

	Response
Yes	227
No	69

Summary of comments

- There was overwhelming support for the idea that climate change should be taken into consideration in drawing up policies in the Neighbourhood Plan
- A large proportion of respondents would be interested in a community energy conservation or energy generation project.

Youth Facilities - Summary of Responses

42. How do you rate living here on a scale of 1 to 5.

Rating	No. of responses (total 78)
1	1
2	3
3	11
4	23
5	40

43. What places or activities do you like going to in the area?

74 responses which predominately include the following:

- Activities and events in the Memorial Hall and Old School Hall
- Sporting activities eg. golf, karate and football
- Countryside and open spaces; bridleways and footpaths for walking
- Cycling
- Proximity of Dorset coastline, Barford Farm and Kingston Lacy Estate (NT land)

44. Is there anything about the local parish that you would like to see changed, and if so, in what way?

Category	No. of responses (total 93)
I like the area just how it is now	20
I can't think of anything.	24
I would like to see... (see ideas and suggestions summary below.)	49

- Somewhere for the Youth to gather/hang out so we're not in the way e.g. shelter or hut. Skate park, youth club, community centre.
- Multi-use games area, Tennis Court, Improved play area (Zip Line), New Basketball Net, Permanent Football goal with net, Youth Club, Shelter, Skate Park, Cycle Pump Track,
- Need more play equipment in the park for younger children - rocker or smaller slide/climbing frame etc