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Brushford Parish Plan •



Brushford Parish Plan



Thinking about the future, not forgetting the past

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(i) Introduction



Brushford



Brushford from the air



Brushford Village Hall

Brushford Parish Plan Report 2011

Brushford is a village and civil parish in Somerset 2 miles (3.2 km) south of Dulverton and 12 miles (19 km) north of Tiverton in Devon. According to the 2001 census it had a population of 535 in 243 households. It covers an area of 1,149 hectares (11 km²) of which 3 hectares (0.030 km²) are within the Exmoor National Park.

Brushford Origins

Brushford is an ancient Somerset Parish, named as Brigeford in the Domesday Book survey of 1086. The village still boasts a 13th century church, which is said to have been visited by Elizabeth I. Indeed, the old oak tree in the churchyard is one of the oldest oaks on Exmoor and was referred to as “The old oak” in Elizabethan times.

Prior to 1866, when the Taunton to Barnstaple Railway and the Exeter to Dulverton branch lines were built, Brushford consisted only of the church and a few cottages, accessed via what is known now as the “Back Lane”.

In 1874 the Fourth Earl of Carnarvon built a farmers’ market in Market Field, which resulted in the closure of the Dulverton market previously held in the town’s main square. As a result of increasing trade and tourism, he built The Carnarvon Arms Hotel. In 1896 Perry Lane was cut through over The Little Exe and Barle rivers, and the “New Road” was built through the village. In 1908 the Carnarvon Garage was built. After this the village of Brushford grew rapidly, including many council houses built on land which had been a market garden alongside the main street, now called New Road, up to the church. Several quarries on the north and south side of Hulverton Hill had been worked at one time.



At the Exebridge end of the parish, there had been a saw mill by the leat on the Somerset side of the bridge, as well as a school and a village shop. Sadly all these features belong to the past.

Brushford Today

The Parish is made up of Brushford, that part of Exebridge on the Somerset side of the River Exe to the South and the hamlet of Nightcott to the West.

There is a thriving and active community and the village is justifiably proud of its recreational facilities including a full size polo ground, a purpose built games court which accommodates tennis, hockey, basketball and netball to name but a few of the sports available, and a children’s playground.

(The Parish Plan sub-committee of the Parish Council would like to thank Mrs Toni Jones, past manager of the Carnarvon Arms Hotel, for some of the exact details of this historical abstract.)

The Parish Hall is a thriving hub of activity, with widely differing groups enjoying the amenities, from Line Dancing to Tae Kwan Do, from the Luncheon Club to Short Mat Bowling. Indeed, hardly an evening goes by, winter or summer, when the Parish Hall is not in use.

Parish Plan

The purpose of the Parish Plan was to identify the wishes and needs of the residents of the Parish of Brushford and to develop a Parish Plan based upon those needs.

Now the Plan has been drawn up, regrettably it does not mean that everything wished for will be delivered. However, it will provide the Parish Council with the basis for developing those ideas further in order to go forward with a positive piece of thinking, based upon the community's wishes as to how it wants the Parish to develop over the coming years.

With the Plan delivered, and once it has been accepted by all, the Council will establish working parties to build upon those plans, secure funding where necessary and deliver where possible the wishes of the neighbourhood.

It is important, however, that the Parish Plan should not be confused with the government's plans for "Neighbourhood Plans" as part of "The Big Society", which would appear to be more confined to long term housing planning and facility ownership (pubs, shops etc., which may be in danger of closing).

Comments were added to the original questionnaire which have been included in this report. All comments were carefully considered and if there are comments which have not been included in this report it is either because there were other sections in the questionnaire which covered them or they were ambiguous.

Following the open day on the 3rd December 2011 when the draft Parish Plan was made available to the public, further comments were received. These have been added to this report where appropriate and are shown in *italic type in this style*.

The Brushford Parish Plan Committee



Open Day
3rd December
2011 in the
Parish Hall.



(ii)

(ii) Development of the Parish Plan

In April 2010 rumours of significant housing construction in the village of Brushford were circulating. It transpired that three areas of land had been suggested by the Parish Council in response to West Somerset Council's request for possible sites for housing development.

A meeting was arranged by West Somerset Council to display its plans for housing development. This was advertised on Radio Somerset and in the West Somerset Free Press but unfortunately neither medium has wide coverage in Brushford. Unsurprisingly only about a dozen people attended the meeting in the Parish Hall.

However word of this meeting generated a host of rumours which precipitated an urgent open meeting attended by over a hundred parishioners, the majority of whom expressed concern at the situation. The Principal Planning Officer for West Somerset Council attended the meeting at short notice to try and answer the many questions.

It became clear that the parish of Brushford had no plan of how, or whether, the village should develop in the future, or what its needs were. The Parish Council acknowledged there was an urgent need for a Parish Plan, so a subcommittee responsible to the Parish Council was formed to tackle this project. Some initial funding was made available by the Parish Council, with a subsequent grant being made by the Heritage Lottery Fund, under 'Awards for All'.

The plan was developed in 5 stages:

- Stage 1: A basic questionnaire distributed to all households
- Stage 2: A full questionnaire based on the findings of Stage 1 constructed and delivered to all households
- Stage 3: An analysis of returns used to create the first draft of the plan to Form the basis of discussion at a "Have your Say" Day.
- Stage 4: Development of an action plan
- Stage 5: Implementation by the appropriate authorities and agencies

The first leaflet (circulated in October 2010 to the 256 dwellings in the parish) asked people to record: *Things I like about Brushford. Things I don't like. Things I would like to see improved. What else would you like the whole village to consider?* 125 responses were received containing many comments and suggestions. These were analysed into subject areas (see below).

The next step was to construct a full questionnaire from the responses. The questionnaire was organised as follows:

- Section 1: Household Profile
- Section 2: Housing
- Section 3: Employment
- Section 4: Care and Voluntary Services
- Section 5: Communications
- Section 6: Leisure
- Section 7: Roads and Transport
- Section 8: Eco Initiatives and the Environment
- Section 9: Local Facilities and Services

This structure has been maintained throughout the project.

The group made a considerable effort to make the questionnaire both comprehensive and comprehensible. A covering letter accompanied each questionnaire which was delivered by hand personally to each household. It was hoped that such an approach would encourage a good response. Further publicity for the project was achieved through the parish magazine and more encouragement to complete and return the questionnaire was given through a leaflet drop a week before the return date. All responses to both questionnaires had to be strictly anonymous.

The second stage was successfully completed in May 2011 with 127 questionnaires being returned (out of 256 delivered, just under 50%). In addition to the high response rate, the group was greatly encouraged by the number of people who completed the separate form to volunteer to help in various ways.

Following the analysis of the questionnaire, the data were set out, using histograms and pie charts where necessary, to form the first draft of the Parish Plan - using the slogan "Thinking about the Future - not forgetting the Past". An Open "Have Your Say" Day was organised for 3 December 2011 which was attended by 72 members of the public as well as members of the Group and the Parish Council. The Principal Planning Officer for West Somerset also spent some time at the event.

All pages of the draft Parish Plan showing the survey results were printed in large-scale format and displayed on boards (kindly loaned by Exmoor National Park) in the Parish Hall. Visitors were encouraged to make further comments on the various sections on sheets of card or "Post-it" notes. It had been noted that the questionnaire had not given an opportunity for people to express their preferences on what number of new houses for rent they would find acceptable. Votes were therefore invited from three options and over half those attending took this opportunity to register their views.

In addition to the display of the draft Parish Plan, the various organisations that use the Parish Hall were given the opportunity to advertise their activities; and people were asked to make suggestions for a permanent commemoration of the forthcoming Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012. Excellent refreshments were provided by the Chairman of the Parish Council and his wife.

Following the event, the votes were counted and the comments analysed by the Group and the information was added to the draft Parish Plan.

Further work was then undertaken by the Parish Plan Group to identify and prioritise actions required and to list the external organisations that would need to be involved. This stage was completed in February 2012. The final Parish Plan was then presented to the Parish Council for approval and adoption.

The action plan will take a number of years to complete. Some issues require short term actions. Others are more complex and highly dependent on support from outside organisations.



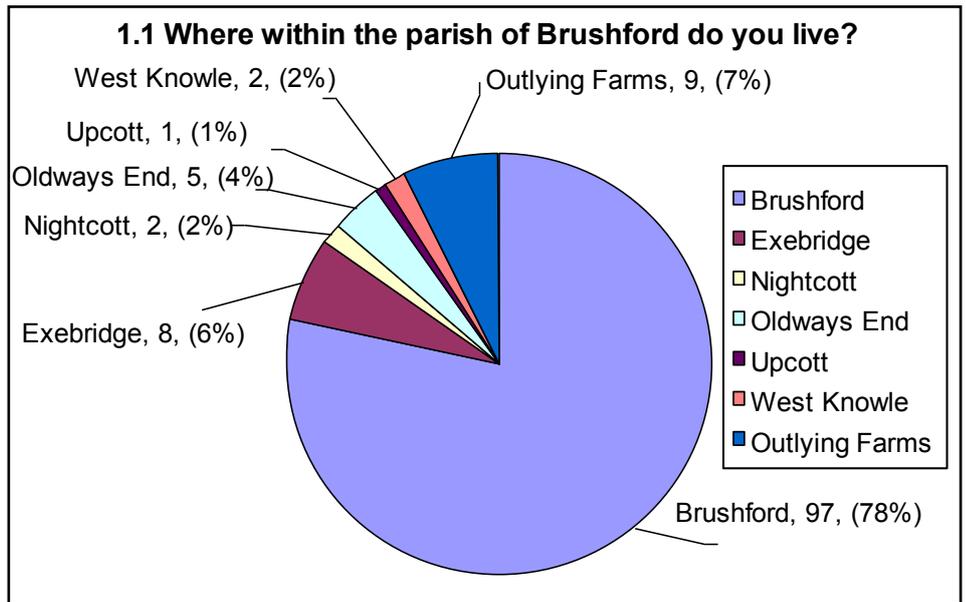
Exebridge Lake

1 Household Profile

1.1 Where within the parish of Brushford do you live?

Brushford	97
Exebridge	8
Nightcott	2
Oldways End	5
Upcott	1
West Knowle	2
Outlying Farms	9

This pie chart shows percentages taken from the figures of the returned questionnaires

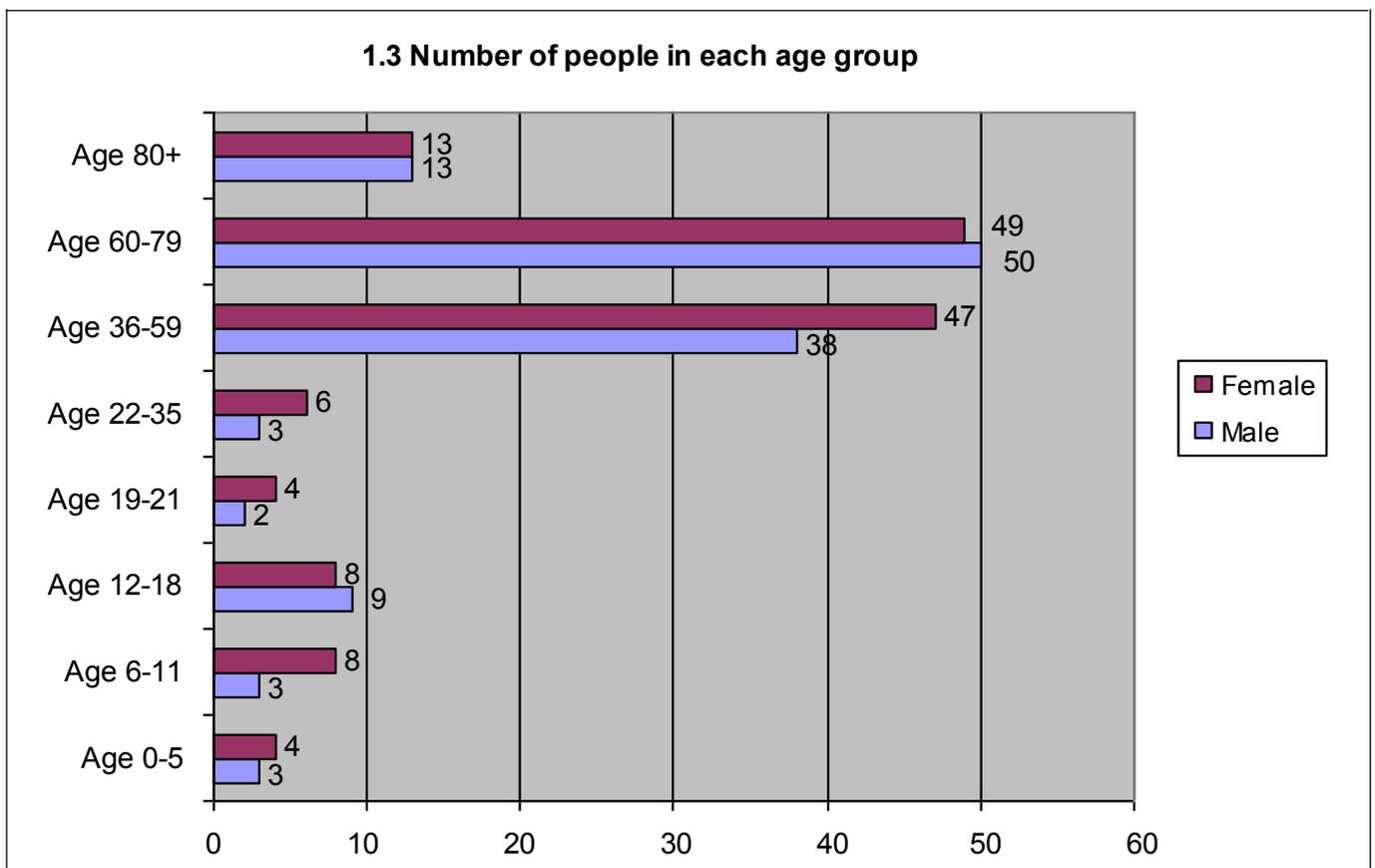


1.2 How many people in the household?

Total from completed forms 262

With a questionnaire response rate of approximately 50% it is thought that the population of the parish remains close to the census figure of 535.

1.3 Number of people in each age group



Population Information

	Survey response		Brushford population		
	Male	Female		Male	Female
Under 6	3 (1%)	4 (2%)	Under 5	8 (1%)	7 (1%)
6 to 11	3 (1%)	8 (3%)	5 to 9	5 (1%)	8 (1%)
12 to 18	9 (3%)	8 (3%)	10 to 19	26 (5%)	35 (7%)
19 to 35	5 (2%)	10 (4%)	20 to 34	17 (3%)	14 (3%)
36 to 59	38 (15%)	47 (18%)	35 to 59	81 (15%)	102 (19%)
60 to 79	50 (19%)	49 (19%)	60 to 79	98 (18%)	88 (16%)
80+	13 (5%)	13 (5%)	80+	17 (3%)	33 (6%)
TOTAL	121 (47%)	139 (53%)	260 (100%)	TOTAL 253 (47%)	287 (53%) 540 (100%)

Please note: figures may not add up to the total because of rounding

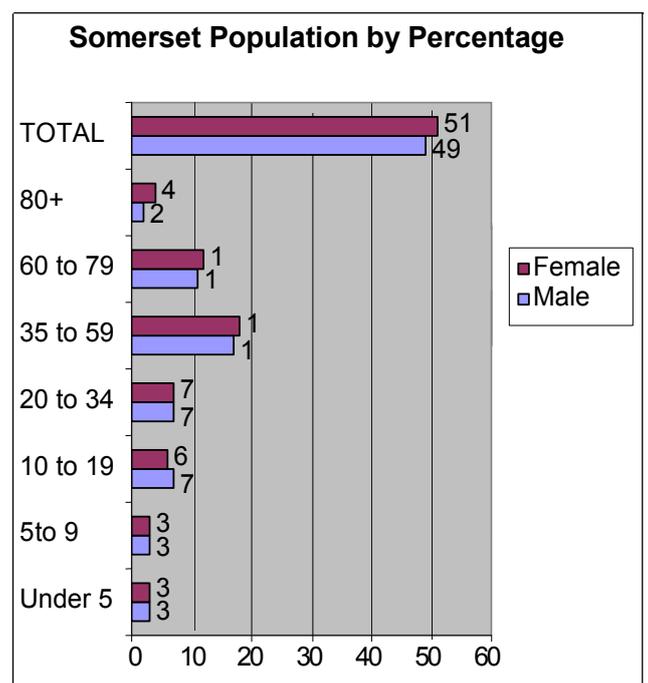
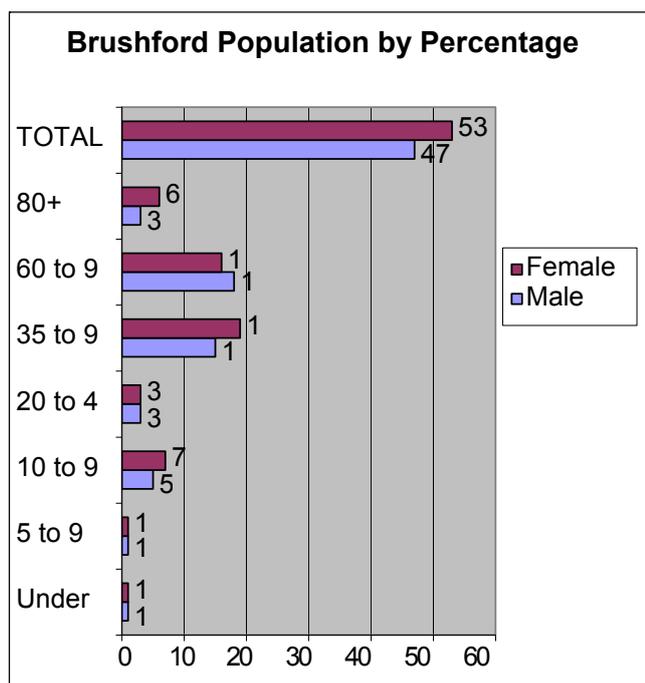
Source: Office for National Statistics/NHS Somerset

Here is the comparison of Brushford's total population with that of Somerset:-

	Brushford population %		Somerset population %	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Under 5	1	1	3	3
5 to 9	1	1	3	3
10 to 19	5	7	7	6
20 to 34	3	3	7	7
35 to 59	15	19	17	18
60 to 79	18	16	11	12
80+	3	6	2	4
TOTAL	47	53	49	51

Source: Office for National Statistics/NHS Somerset

Brushford does indeed have an older population than the county average.

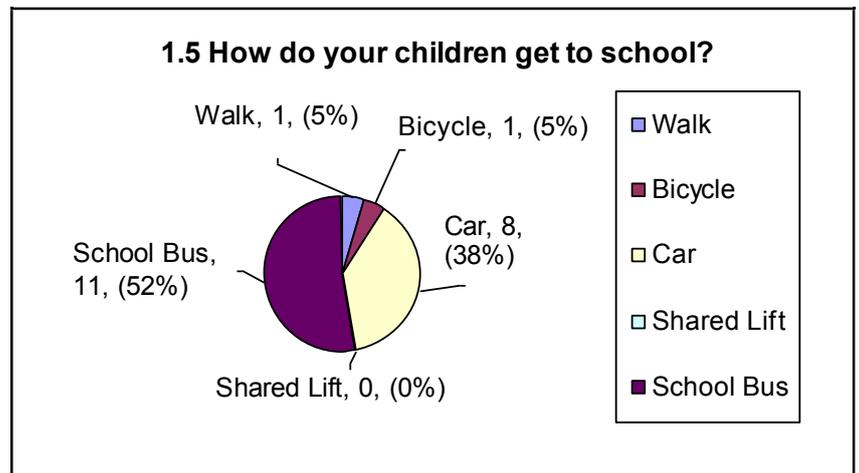


1.4 Number of members of families under 18 attending School/College etc.

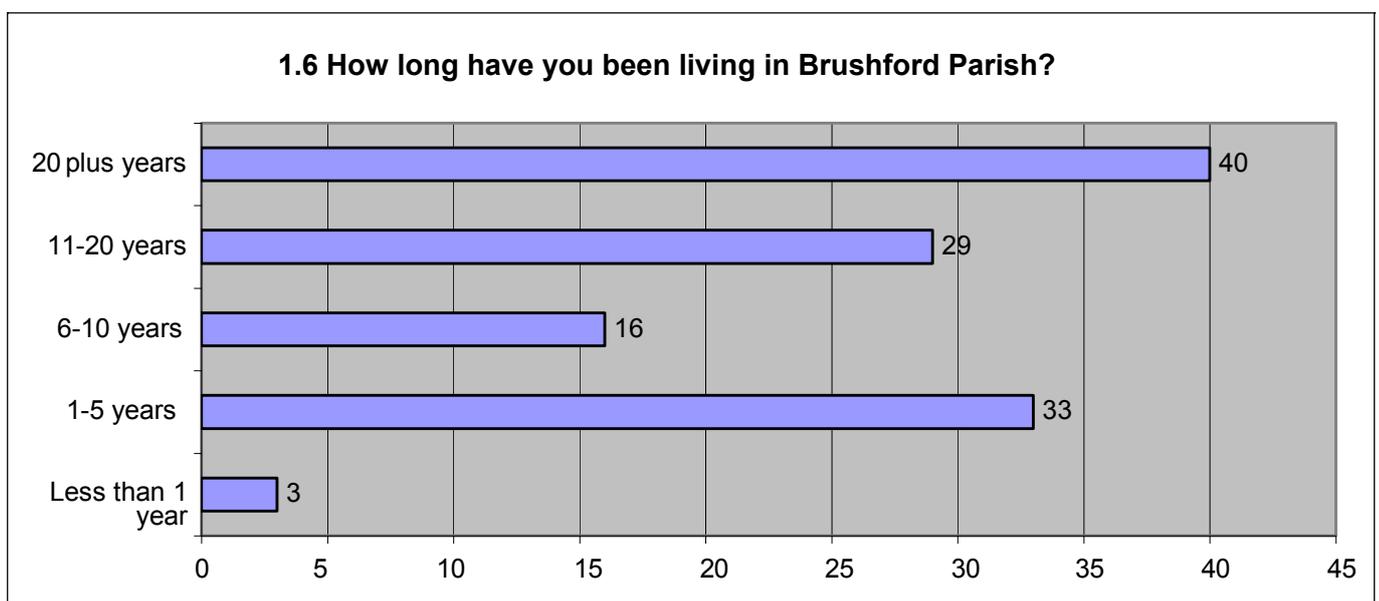
Brushford Parents and Toddlers	2
Dulverton Children's Centre	2
Dulverton All Saints First School incl. Nursery	10
Dulverton Middle School	9
West Somerset Community College	7
Kingsmead Community School, Wiveliscombe	1
Blundells, Tiverton	2
Kings College, Taunton	0
Queens College, Taunton	0
Richard Huish College, Taunton	0
Somerset College, Taunton	0
Bridgwater College	0
West Buckland School	0
Wellington School	0
Other (not stated where)	1

1.5 How do your children get to school?

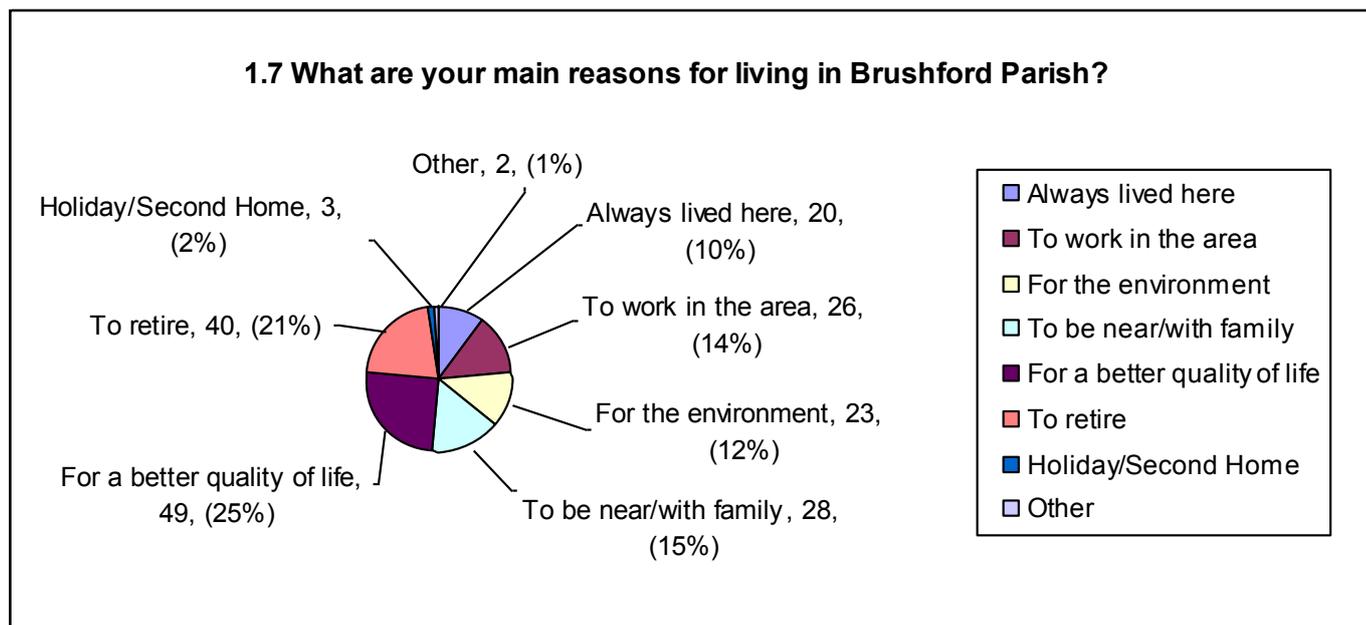
Walk	1
Bicycle	1
Car	8
Shared Lift	0
School Bus	11



1.6 How long have you been living in Brushford Parish?



1.7 What are your main reasons for living in Brushford Parish?



There were a number of comments regarding the reasons for living in Brushford. These included being able to afford to buy a smaller house, downsizing from Dulverton, being in love with the area, living in a small village and wanting to return to the area where evacuated in World War II. Please note; there was more than one response per household.

2 Housing

Across West Somerset, it was argued that 2500 new homes will be needed by 2026. It is possible that the Parish of Brushford might be a proposed site for some of these. What are your views on this?

2.1 I would support the building of new private housing in Brushford.

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Support new private housing	9	26	23	16	30

There were comments returned from the questionnaire which asked for small scale only, a maximum of 8 and no to larger developments.

Summary: This concept by itself seemed to have less support from the parish.

2.2 I would support the building of new homes for shared ownership (ie housing association) for local people in Brushford.

Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
18	40	21	11	20

There were comments returned from the questionnaire asking for the number of properties to be limited, mention of the public meeting in May 2010, concerns re sewage, employment, access and preserving the village spirit.

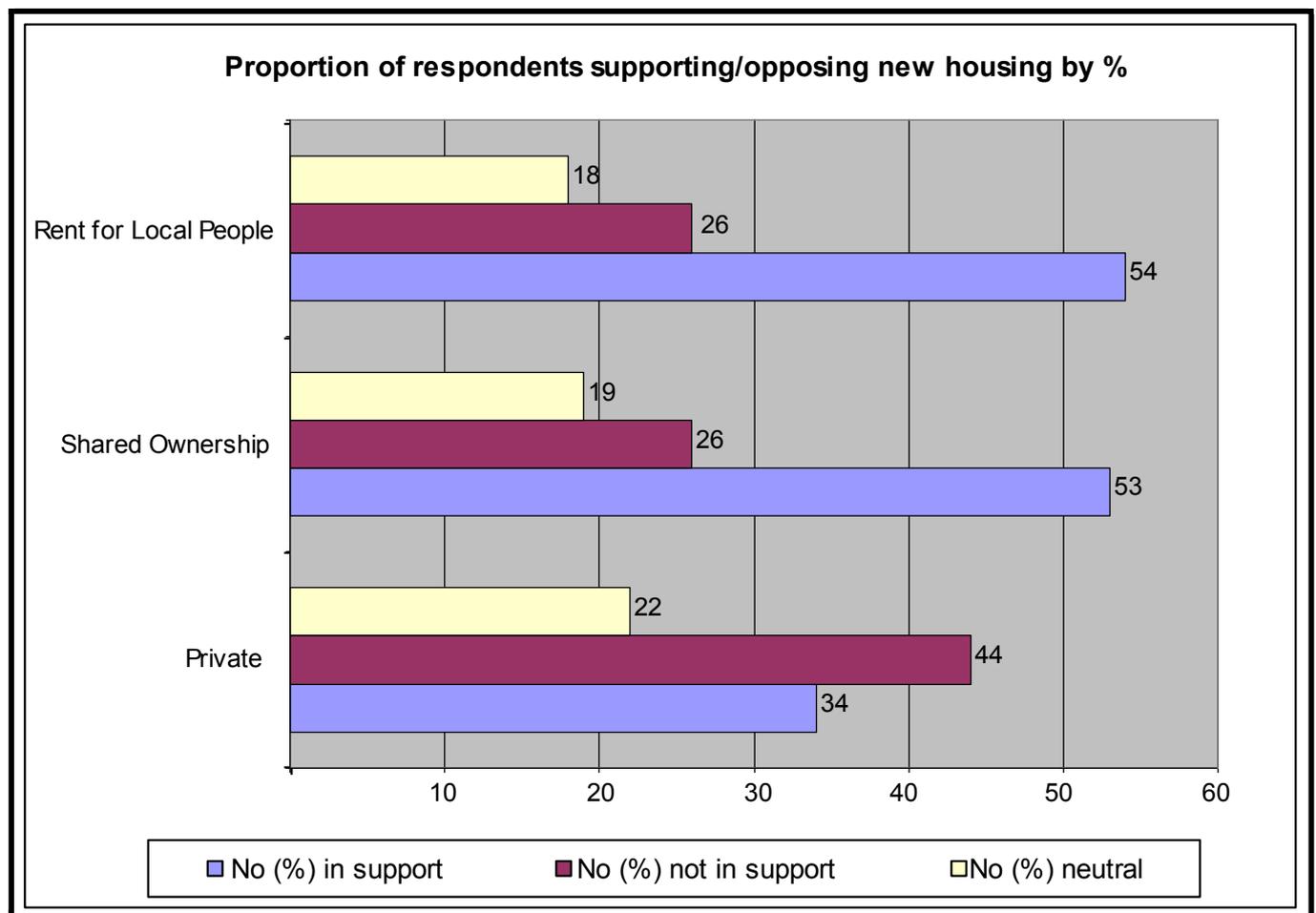
Summary: This favoured some shared ownership but several comments were for the number of properties to be limited.

2.3 I would support the building of new properties for rent (ie 'affordable housing') available for local people in Brushford.

Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
28	34	20	14	18

Summary: There was definite support for rentable or affordable housing for local people but again the plea was for the number to be limited.

By combining the overall totals in favour or against the following picture emerges:-



2.3a A supplementary question was put to those attending the Open Day on 3rd December 2011 to enable people to specify the number of new houses they would find acceptable. Responses were as follows:

How many houses for rental/affordable purposes would you accept in Brushford?	Number of votes	Comments
1 - 5	14	(1) But only if they are of a decent and aesthetic standard (2) Beside Travis Perkins
6 - 10	14	Houses to rent
More than 11	7	20 or fewer 20 or fewer houses
Total votes	35	

Note: One additional response commented they would vote either 1-5 or 6-10; another comment was “Not houses behind Ellersdown Lane. No access and too steep.” Neither of these has been included in the numbers in the table above.

Conclusion: Of the 37 responses, the majority were in favour of a small number of new houses to rent, reflecting the overall response to this section.



“Congratulations to the Committee on a really good exhibition. The quality of the presentation is very impressive and the whole exhibition is very informative, thank you for going to the effort.”



If it were the case that the Parish of Brushford was identified for new housing, where do you think it should be built?

2.4 By in-filling (ie using any available land within the current village boundaries)

Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
19	38	13	15	22

A majority would accept houses by infilling.

2.5 On brownfield sites (ie previously developed land)

Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
21	46	15	7	17

A higher proportion would accept the brownfield site option (previously developed land).

2.6 If new building in Brushford were to take place, where do you think it should be built?

Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
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On fields near the village that have already been suggested (ie beside Travis Perkins behind the Parish Hall and Ellersdown Lane)	14	11	15	17	58
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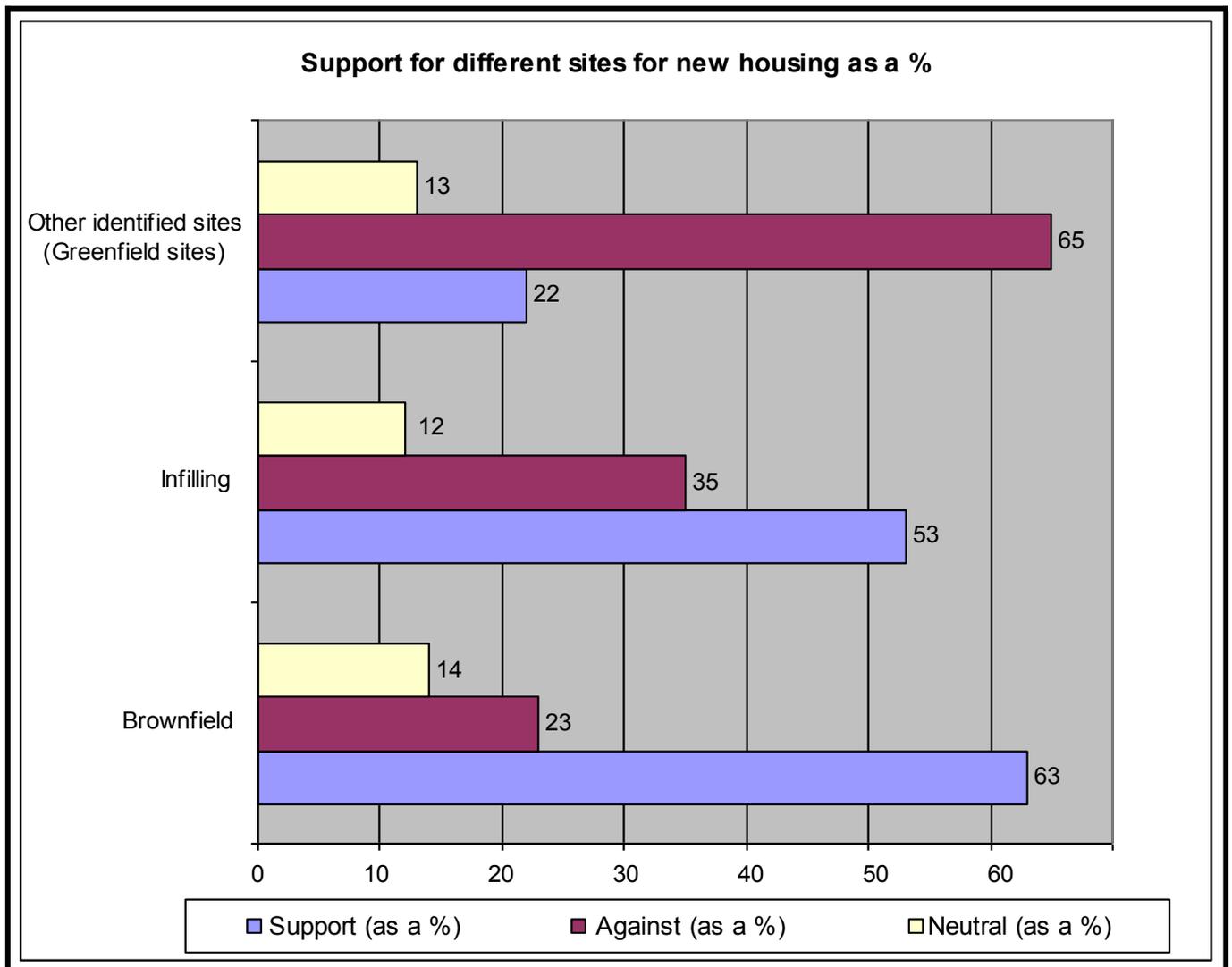
Note: The fields behind the Parish Hall, Ellersdown Lane and behind Travis Perkins are greenfield sites - owners would need to be consulted.

Comments were made that any new building should be in proportion to the size of the village and limited to not more than 5-7%.

There were written comments in the questionnaire which stated that homes are difficult to sell in Brushford so why build more (even smaller and cheaper ones), and to not build behind the village hall. Build for local people.

There was unequivocal evidence that building on “greenfield” sites was against the wishes of the majority.

By combining the overall totals in favour or against the following picture emerges:-



Definition:

- Greenfield site = Undeveloped land
- Infilling = Fitting in between existing housing
- Brownfield = Re-use of previously developed land

The following paragraph is included for information:-

11.2.3. Brownfield Land: National planning policy promotes the re-use of suitably located previously developed land as the preferred and most sustainable option for new development. PPS3 states that re-using brownfield land is the most effective and efficient use of land and that at least 60% of new housing should be delivered on such sites. Local authorities are also encouraged to set housing density policies to make the most efficient use of land. PPS 7 also emphasises that priority should be given to brownfield sites for new development such as housing, within or adjacent to existing towns and settlements and that new development in the open countryside is strictly controlled. In the open countryside the re-use of existing buildings is encouraged, however redundant agricultural buildings are not termed as brownfield sites and therefore considered to be greenfield.

<http://www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/sa - chapter 11.pdf>

“With the garage not being used, this could be used for housing and satisfy Brushford’s needs”

Conclusion:

The village wants more affordable housing or homes for rent for local people but not built on greenfield sites; the brownfield or infilling options have greater support. The number of houses should be in proportion to the size of the village thus maintaining its community spirit.



Behind the Parish Hall, behind Ellersdown Lane and beside Travis Perkins: Greenfield sites the Parish Council suggested for development.

2.7 Over the next 5 years, will you or a member of your household be looking in Brushford Parish for:

	Yes	No
Affordable housing to rent	7	104
A house to buy	9	102
Housing Association house to buy (shared ownership)	4	100
Sheltered accommodation	2	103
Residential Care Home	8	99

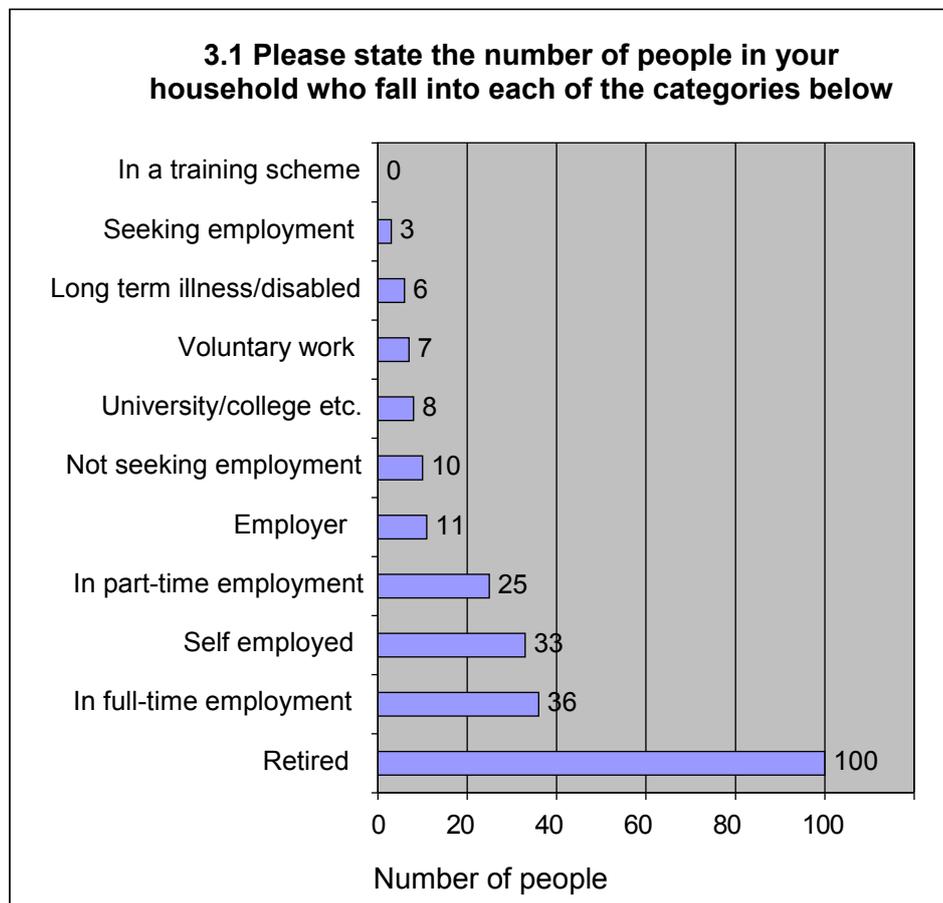
Summary: the data show there is a need for some affordable housing, reinforcing the overall response to housing in general.

2.8 If your house is a second home, how much time do you spend there during the year?

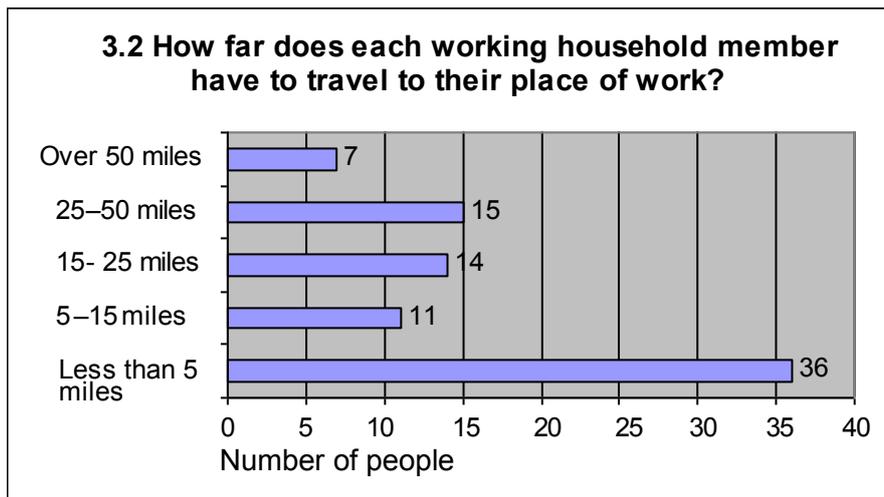
One week	0
One month	1
3 months	1
6 months	1
More than 6 months	0

3 Employment

3.1 Please state the number of people in your household who fall into each of the categories below



3.2 How far does each working household member have to travel to their place of work?

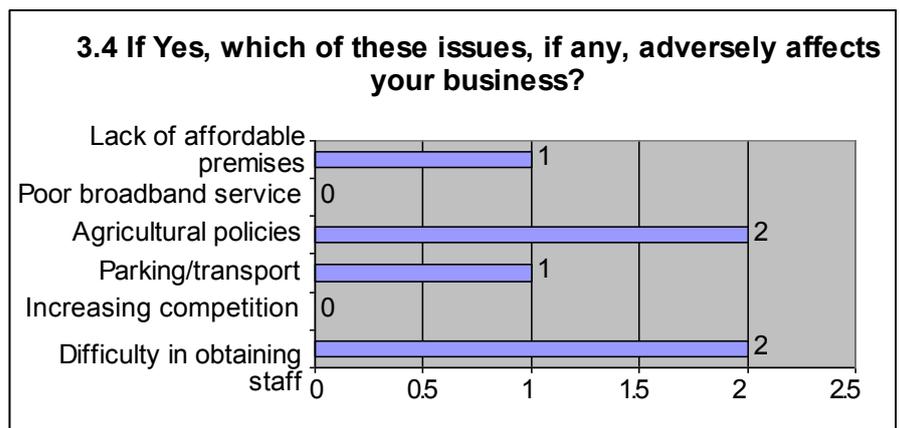


3.3 Are you an employer in Brushford Parish?

Yes	No
9	103

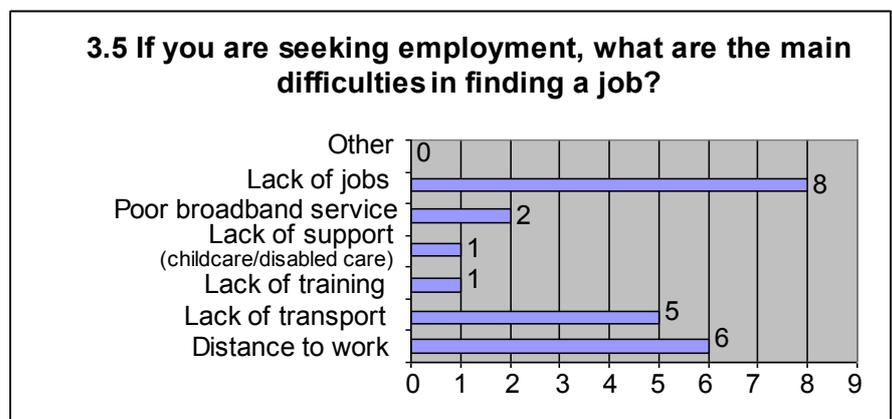
3.4 If Yes, which of these issues, if any, adversely affects your business?

Difficulty in obtaining staff	2
Increasing competition	0
Parking/transport	1
Agricultural policies	2
Poor broadband service	0
Lack of affordable premises	1



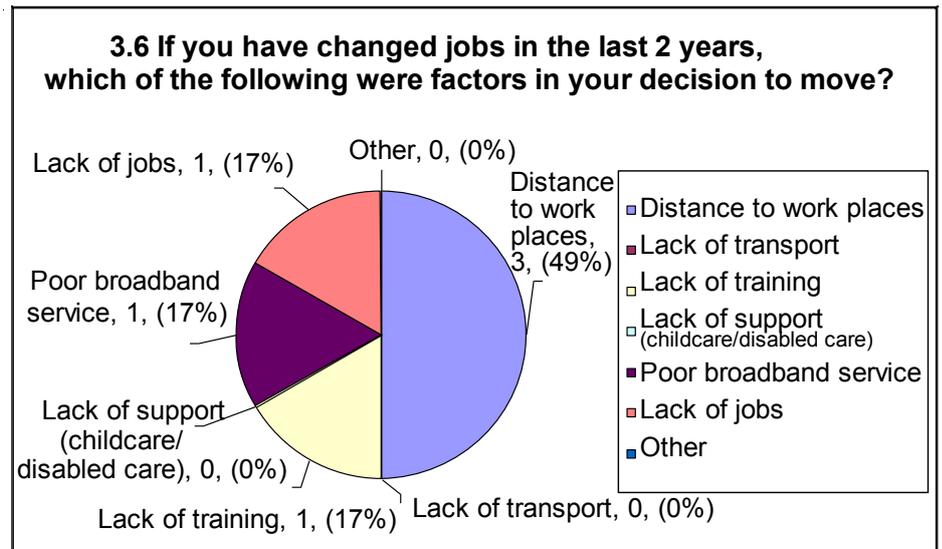
3.5 If you are seeking employment, what are the main difficulties in finding a job?

Distance to work places	6
Lack of transport	5
Lack of training	1
Lack of support (childcare/disabled care)	1
Poor broadband service	2
Lack of jobs	8
Other (please state)	0



3.6 If you have changed jobs in the last 2 years, which of the following were factors in your decision to move?

- Distance to work places 3
- Lack of transport 0
- Lack of training 1
- Lack of support (childcare/disabled care) 0
- Poor broadband service 1
- Lack of jobs 1
- Other (please state) 0



Distance from work and lack of transport raised difficulties for those seeking potential employment. In addition employment opportunities are not plentiful.

4 Care and Voluntary Services

4.1 Are you, or is anyone in your household, in need of personal care?

Yes	No
10	123

4.2 Please indicate whether you already receive, or are in need of, help with any of the following:

	Already Receive	In Need	May Need	Would Pay
Getting up and going to bed	1	0	5	0
Help with housework	7	2	4	3
Transport to shops, doctor, or hospital	5	1	6	3
Help with weekly shop	5	1	5	1
Gardening	10	6	6	6
Meals (like "Meals on wheels")	1	0	4	0
Repairs/odd jobs	8	3	6	5

**4.3 Are you aware of, or do you use, any of the following voluntary services?
Would you be willing to pay for any of them or lose the service?**

	Aware of	Use	Would pay
Brushford Voluntary Lifts	51	6	23
Prescription Delivery Service	57	23	11
Brushford Ladies Group	49	8	5
Brushford Activity Group	29	3	6
Luncheon Club	54	7	11
Community Bus	56	4	15
Other (please state)	1	0	0

A comment was made that a kids club on a Monday from 5.30-6.30 would be ideal.

4.4 Would you be interested in any of the following?

	Volunteering for	Using
Gardening group	8	7
Tree planting	18	4
Best garden competition	3	4
Maintaining churchyard	12	1
Litter collection	18	1
Other	1	0

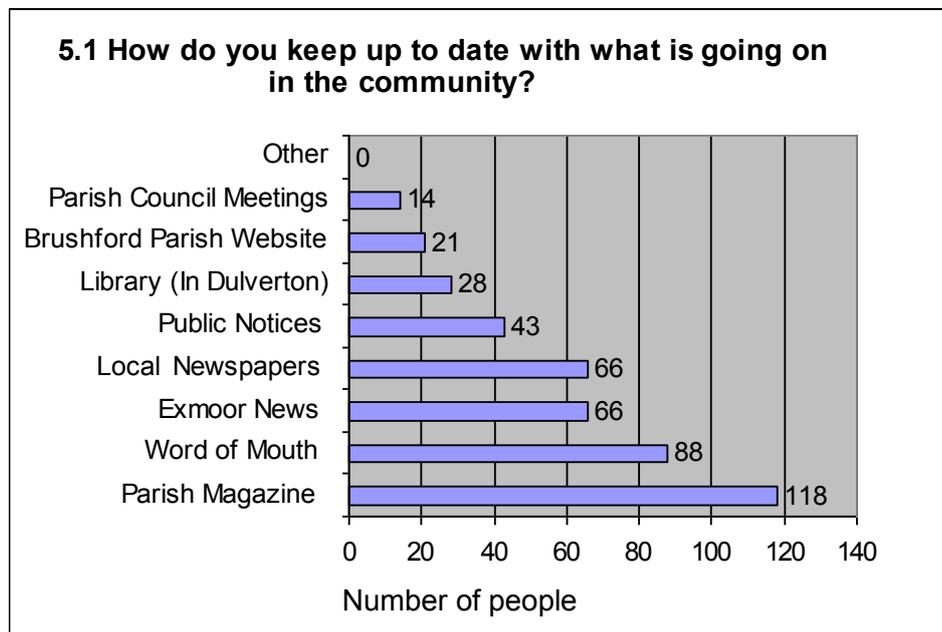
An additional suggestion of “any micro energy generation scheme” was made. There was also an interest for teaching knitting, crochet, passing on old skills like sewing etc. and setting up fetes. It should be noted that the response and willingness of people who wish to be involved in volunteering was impressive. For example, very early in this information gathering exercise two new drivers came forward, have had their CRB checks completed and are already taking parishioners to their various destinations, such as to hospital and General Practice Surgery.



St. Nicholas Church, Brushford

5 Communications

5.1 How do you keep up to date with what is going on in the community?



5.2 Which Parish Notice Board do you use?

Parish Hall	54
Village Shop	53
Exebridge	3

5.3 Do you think that an extra Notice Board opposite the phone box in Brushford would be helpful?

Yes	No
44	55

45% of people answered yes to the new proposed site – this shows there is a call for a new board.



Brushford looking from Perry New Road

Broadband/Internet

	Yes	No
5.4 Have you access to a computer at home?	83	38
5.5 If not, do you use the computer at Dulverton Library?	6	55
5.6 Do you use the Internet?	84	31
5.7 Do you use E-mail?	80	33
5.8 Do you shop on-line?	64	49
5.9 Do you use the internet to watch TV programmes or Videos?	28	82
5.10 Are you aware that Brushford Parish has a website? www.brushfordparish.com	61	51
5.11 If so, do you look at it?	34	58
5.12 Would you find a Brushford Parish blog useful?	35	67
5.13 Would you like to see the web site extended to include Local Events, Village News etc?	64	33
5.14 Would you use an Internet Café facility in the Parish?	16	92
5.15 Would you find access to wi-fi in the Parish Hall useful?	20	86

It was encouraging that people were aware of the Parish website but surprising that a smaller proportion had not personally explored the site so far. It is hoped more people will explore this in the future, perhaps with the inclusion of information from the Exmoor Gazette and the Parish Magazine, keeping content up to date.

The Parish Clerk, who edits the website, has again reported he would be delighted to consider any general and Church news that parishioners wish to have inserted.

5.16 Do you consider Broadband speeds are:	Poor	Adequate	Good
	48	32	4

Someone commented that they would be prepared to investigate alternatives eg point to point or satellite.

“Parish website needs sorting out”

“Bury overhead wires”

“Faster broadband and better reliability”



6 Leisure



Photo courtesy of Exmoor National Park

Events in the Parish Hall

6.1 How often do you use:-

How often do you use Activities in the Parish Hall

	Weekly	Monthly	Sometimes	Never
Fitness classes/Sport	20	0	9	64
Social gatherings	4	8	67	26
Other activities	3	9	47	37
Luncheon Club	3	6	4	74

How often do you use Jubilee Gardens

	Weekly	Monthly	Sometimes	Never
Play area	9	2	14	68
Tennis Court	8	2	13	74

6.2 If you have used the following, how satisfactory was it?

	Very good	Good	Poor	Not used
Parish Hall	63	34	0	9
Jubilee Gardens Play area	3	24	4	46
Jubilee Gardens Tennis Court	0	22	3	52

It should be noted that the Parish Hall is a great success and the Parish Hall committee should be congratulated.

“Bigger and better play facilities for all ages” **“Clubs for teenagers at weekends”**
“More adult education and crafts in the hall” **“More activities for children “**

6.3 Which of the following would you like to have in the village, and how often would you use it?

	Would like to have	Would not like to have	Would use frequently	Would use sometimes	Would never use
Larger playing field	22	6	5	14	69
Village Green	29	4	7	30	41
Skateboard park	8	13	2	3	81
Safer cycling routes	35	1	13	12	59
Bowling Green	21	5	6	14	62
Soccer/Rugby Club	11	9	1	7	77
Better tennis court	12	4	2	18	67

There was a comment in the written questionnaire suggesting taking out the kissing gate on the river field, so creating a safe (and cheap) route to ride to Dulverton. The kissing gate is not in the parish of Brushford. A minority want more sports facilities in Brushford.

6.4 Do you think we need:

	Yes	No
More activities for children	46	20
More activities for teenagers	59	13
More activities for adults	32	32
More activities for the elderly	43	22
Adult education classes	46	23
Evening recreation classes (after 6.30pm)	34	28
Another social focal point other than the hall	20	48

Summary: the responses indicate a desire for more activities for children and the elderly, and more adult education classes.

6.5 If there were a street party (eg for a national event like the Queen's Diamond Jubilee), would you support it?

Yes	No
91	25

A Diamond Jubilee party committee has already been set up and any volunteers should contact Barbara Wilson. (01398 323212)



Jubilee Gardens, Brushford

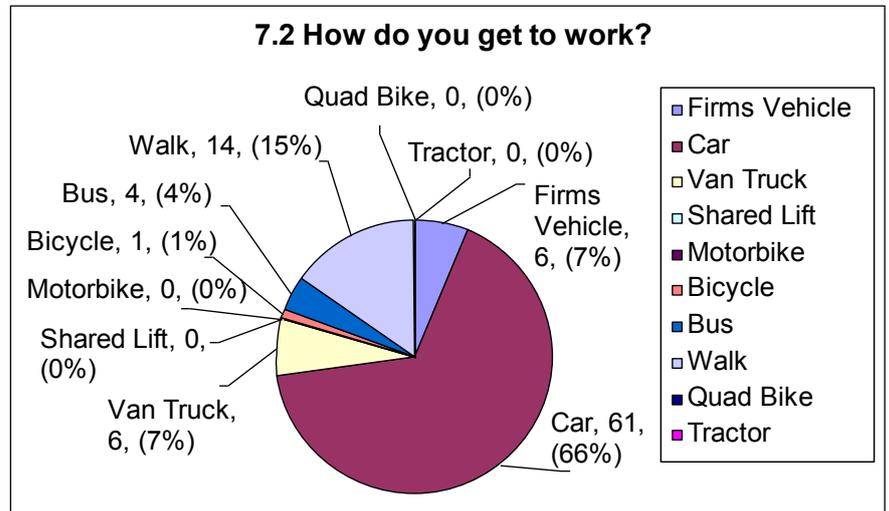
7 Roads and Transport

7.1 How many vehicles of any kind belong to members of your household?

Total 218

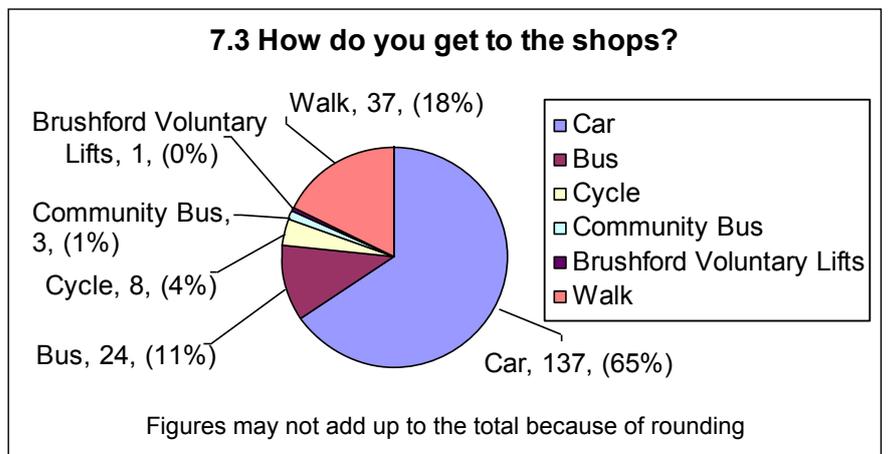
7.2 How do you get to work?

Firms Vehicle 6
 Car 61
 Van Truck 6
 Shared Lift 0
 Motorbike 0
 Bicycle 1
 Bus 4
 Walk 14
 Quad Bike 0
 Tractor 0



7.3 How do you get to the shops?

Car 137
 Bus 24
 Cycle 8
 Community Bus 3
 Brushford Voluntary Lifts 1
 Walk 37



7.4 How often do members of your household use public transport?

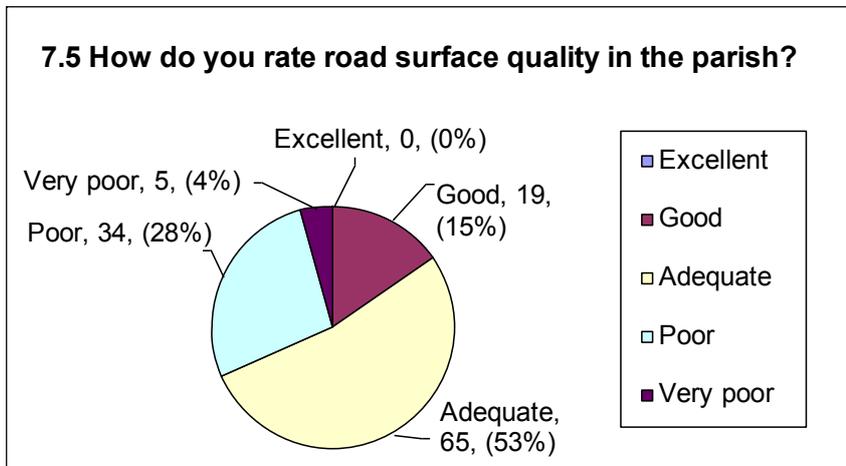
	Dulverton	Tiverton	Taunton	Elsewhere
Daily	8	1	0	2
Weekly	9	1	2	3
Monthly	4	9	6	1
Occasionally	26	28	38	35
Never	65	61	58	54

“Cost of school bus to Dulverton from age 8 considered prohibitive for some”

“Better transportation to and from Dulverton would be a huge advantage - Extension of hours to later in evening.”

7.5 How do you rate road surface quality in the parish?

Excellent 0 Good 19 Adequate 65 Poor 34 Very poor 5



7.6 Do you want traffic calming measures on the following roads? (For example lights, cameras, illuminated warning signs, or road humps etc.)

	Yes	No
Road from Church to garage (Brushford New Road)	35	74
The main B3222 between Dulverton and Exebridge	56	59

It would appear that there is no great desire for expensive speed calming measures, but in view of the request for a pedestrian crossing (see “7.7”), this by itself may turn out to be a calming measure.

Comments in the written questionnaire suggested a mini roundabout and that round humps have been suggested before. The cost of these would not justify the wishes of the minority of people as shown above.



Bus stop, B3222, Brushford

7.7 If a pedestrian crossing could be provided by the bus shelter on the main road, would you take advantage of it?

Yes	No
80	42

7.8 If safe cycle/walking paths could be provided, would you take advantage of them?

Between Brushford and Dulverton	Walk	Cycle
Residents aged from 10 - 15	9	10
Residents aged from 16 - 19	2	5
Residents aged 20+	97	52

There were written comments that children under 10 would use the path.

“Many requests were made for a footpath/cycle path along the field by the river to Dulverton and great concern was expressed about traffic speeding through the village”

Between Brushford and Exebridge	Walk	Cycle
Residents aged from 10 - 15	5	7
Residents aged from 16 - 19	0	2
Residents aged 20+	70	37

Between Exebridge and Dulverton	Walk	Cycle
Residents aged from 10 - 15	6	7
Residents aged from 16 - 19	0	2
Residents aged 20+	46	27

Would not take advantage

Residents aged from 10 - 15	1
Residents aged from 16 - 19	1
Residents aged 20+	38

The need for a safe cycle route to Dulverton is shown in the responses (see “6.3”). It is interesting to note that the comments show a fair number of adults would like at least a pavement plus or minus a cycle track between Brushford and Dulverton – even if there is no cycle path, a safe pedestrian path would be very popular.

7.9 Do you think too many vehicles are parked in the village main street?

Yes	No
44	64

7.10 Are you aware of the yellow grit container facilities in the village?

Yes	No
88	24

7.11 Dumpsy bags of grit: were these put in helpful places?

Yes	No	Don't know
53	12	47

Written comments from the questionnaire suggested that moving them further up New Road would be helpful. It is noted that if a suitable site were available it could be considered.

8 Eco Initiatives and the Environment

Fuel Saving

	Yes	No
8.1 A. Would you be interested in a car sharing scheme?	18	81
8.2 B. Would you be interested in using community transport?	45	60
8.3 C. Is investment in renewable energy important to you?	68	35
8.4 D. Are you considering using renewable energy?	41	61

With reference to “8.2” a comment was raised in the written questionnaire that it would be possible depending on where it is going. Please note this matter has been raised with Dulverton Town Council.

8.5 Would you support community initiatives?

	Yes	No
A. Log buying co-operative	38	58
B. Central Composting facility	69	32
C. Allotments	37	56
D. Tree planting	53	42
E. Community Heating Oil Scheme	60	41

	Yes	No
8.6 Would you be in favour of photovoltaic panels on the Parish Hall roof to generate electricity for the Parish Hall?	89	16

8.7 Are you concerned about light pollution in your area?	33	68
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8.8 Would you like the street lights turned off between, for example, 12 midnight and 5.00 am?	74	33
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8.9 Would you like more street lighting?	13	94
--	----	----

8.10 Would you be in favour of solar-powered street lighting?	89	17
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Please note that experts have said the trees behind the Parish Hall would have to be lowered considerably in order for the photovoltaic panels to be effective.



Brushford Parish Hall from Allers Wood looking to Hulverton Hill

Hygiene	Yes	No
8.11 Should the sewage system be improved to get rid of bad smells?	81	18
8.12 Should public toilets be provided in the village?	55	53
8.13 Should dogs be on leads through the poop-scoop area?	85	28
8.14 Should dog owners be encouraged to clear up after their animal(s)?	114	2
8.15 Do we need more dog litter bins?	73	31
8.16 Are you concerned about uncleared refuse?	47	62
8.17 Do you regard bonfires as a nuisance?	30	88
8.18 Are there enough litter bins in the village?	43	58
8.19 Do you wish to retain a weekly refuse collection? (a fortnightly collection is proposed)	108	7

“Bad sewage smells in Exebridge from the Anchor Inn scheme which is piped into Exebridge pumping station. Somerset Environmental Health do not want to know.”

“There are overpowering smells of human waste on the main road side of the village which are exacerbated when the wind changes direction.”

Suggestions for commemorating the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee

“Planting a tree at West Knowle. Planting ornamental trees down the road. Village sign on stone as they have in Dulverton/Battleton. A larger all ages play area.”

9 Local Facilities and Services

	Yes	No
9.1 Will you support the village shop/filling station?	115	2

9.2 What shop/filling station opening times would be most convenient for you?

Mornings only	Afternoons only	Open early evening	All day
4	1	5	108

“Strong support for a village shop to promote community spirit and provide a centre”

“Offers received to help in the shop. Suggestion of splitting the shop into units of local suppliers (meat , veg, crafts etc) to spread cost and attract a wider audience - farm shop and garage”

	Yes	No
9.3 Would you find a home delivery service for shopping helpful?	40	62
9.4 Would you like a return of the doctor’s weekly surgery in Brushford?	58	48
9.5 Would you like a greater police presence?	73	38
9.6 If you have needed to call the police, were you satisfied with their response time?	24	14
9.7 Would you like the Neighbourhood Watch scheme revived?	86	15
9.8 The Recycling Centre is under threat of closure. Are you happy with the reduced hours?	82	40
9.9 Are you happy to have to pay to use the Recycling Centre?	63	61
9.10 Are you happy with the amount you presently have to pay to use the Recycling Centre?	59	63
9.11 Do you find the current bus timetable convenient?	50	31
9.12 Would you like the bus companies to run smaller buses?	76	19

Ref "9.3" A note was made in the written questionnaire that Tesco, Sainsburys, Waitrose deliver in this area.

9.4 Dulverton Surgery has been consulted in the past and it believes it is not feasible.

9.13 Do you want a café or bistro in the Carnarvon Clock Tower complex?

Yes	No
54	53

A comment was raised in the written questionnaire that putting a bistro in the Carnarvon Clock Tower complex was originally part of the planning approval and asked the Parish Council to take note.

9.14 If yes, how often would you use it?

Daily	Weekly	Monthly	Occasionally
2	18	19	22
		23	

10 Actions arising from the Parish Plan

Priority Actions

Action	Agency/Individual involved
HOUSING: Ensure the parish is kept informed of any impending plans for housing construction in good time. As the Parish magazine was found to be the best communications mechanism, it might be employed as well as the Parish web-site.	West Somerset Council: Planning Directorate Exmoor National Park Authority Brushford Parish Council ("BPC")
SAFE CYCLING-WALKING PATHS between Brushford and Dulverton; and Exebridge (if feasible)	Exmoor National Park, Dulverton Town Council, local landowners concerned, West Somerset Council. BPC.
SPEEDING TRAFFIC/PEDESTRIAN CROSSING OPPOSITE BUS STOP	Police, Highways Authority. BPC.
IMPROVE SEWAGE SYSTEM IN BOTH BRUSHFORD AND EXEBRIDGE	South West Water, Environment Agency, West Somerset Council BPC.
VILLAGE SHOP: Widespread calls for a shop. On the Open Day it was noted that several people expressed willingness to serve shifts if an overall manager could be found.	Site owner. Investigate possibility of a community shop. BPC.
Better broadband speeds and reliability	British Telecom. BPC. Connecting Devon and Somerset.
Greater Police presence/Neighbourhood Watch scheme	Police Force. BPC.

Other actions arising from the Report

Activities for children - more wanted	BPC.
Adult education classes - more wanted	BPC.
Central composting facility	BPC.
Congratulations to Parish Hall Committee for this excellent facility	Chairman of the Parish Council to write.
Diamond Jubilee commemoration: endorse suggestion for a commemorative stone at the entrance to Brushford	BPC.
Dog litter bins: more needed	BPC.
Larger play area for older children	BPC.
Notice board opposite telephone box	BPC.
Parish Hall: flower bed should be retained and tidied. using those who volunteered for gardening	Parish Hall Committee
Parish Hall: slippery on paving, and car park needs attention	Parish Hall Committee
Photovoltaic panels on roof of Parish Hall	Parish Hall Committee
Tree planting	BPC.
Website of Parish Council - needs attention	BPC.

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Brushford Parish Plan Group

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Mrs Toni Jones

Members of Dulverton Youth Group

Thank you to all who helped compile this information and to all who completed and returned the forms. Thank you also to those who have volunteered or who are about to volunteer.



Sunrise from Hulverton Hill