

HORTON- CUM- STUDLEY

VILLAGE PLAN



February 2016

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Acknowledgements

This Community Led Plan was prepared with support from Horton-cum-Studley Parish Council, Cherwell District Council, Community First Oxfordshire (previously Oxfordshire Rural Community Council) and Oxfordshire County Council.

The Village Plan process was carried out by a steering group of local people:

Will Lee (Chairperson)

Kate Macfarlane (Secretary)

Barbara Jewell (Parish Council representative)

Carol Welch (Social Committee representative)

Will Badger (Youth representative)

Joan Smith

Katharine James

Photographs: by Kate Macfarlane (throughout the report), Francesca Buttery (the game of rounders p3) and Ella Murmet Burnet (stormy day, right).

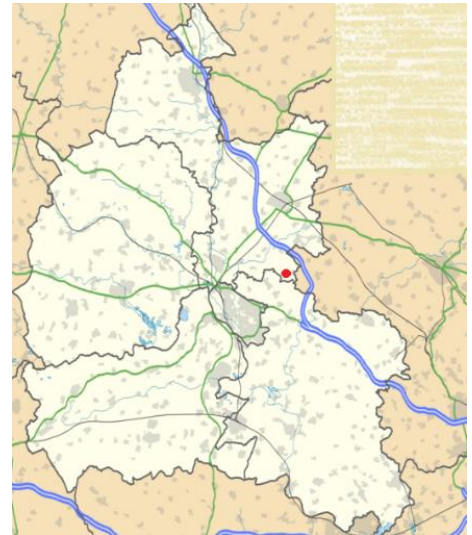


About Horton-cum-Studley

Horton-cum-Studley is a village in Cherwell District, Oxfordshire, north-east of Oxford.

Originally Horton-cum-Studley existed as two parishes. Horton is not mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086 as a separate community. It was originally part of the Manor of Beckley.

Studley was originally in two parts. One in Oxfordshire and the other in Buckinghamshire. The Buckinghamshire part of Studley was transferred to Oxfordshire in the 1800s. Horton and the Oxfordshire part of Studley were separated from Beckley to become the parish of Horton-cum-Studley. In 1932 the two parts of Studley were reunited when the Studley and Horton-cum-Studley parishes were merged.



Horton-cum-Studley Today

The population of Horton-cum-Studley is around 455 (2011 Census).

The parish has a thriving Women's Institute, the annual Otmoor Challenge running event, an annual Michaelmas Fair, Harvest Festival, a tennis club, photography competition, and a gardening club.



In 2000 a grant from the Millennium Fund funded a new village hall which supports a great deal of community activity. However, in the past ten years Horton has lost its pub and also the village shop and post office.

The Village Plan process

The Village Plan was initiated by the parish council in order to identify and address key issues, concerns and priorities of the residents of Horton-cum- Studley and help to formulate a vision for the future of the village.



In January 2011, a village meeting was held in the Millennium Hall to engage more residents in village activities. Various organisations in the village were represented at the meeting. Barbara Jewell participated as a representative of the Parish Council to explain the reasons behind the Village Plan and to engage residents who were interested in being part of the process.

....Village plan steering committee formed

As a result of the village meeting a group of residents was recruited to form a Village Plan steering committee. The first meeting was held on 11th May 2011 at Studley Wood Golf Club at which various roles were agreed and individuals appointed. The group agreed to meet monthly. The initial committee members were:

Will Lee (Chairperson)
Kate Macfarlane (Secretary)
Barbara Jewell (Parish Council representative)
Carol Welch (Social Committee representative)
Will Badger (Youth representative)
Joan Smith
Katharine James

....Consultation with Village residents

At the Annual Parish meeting on 12 May 2011 Aimee Evans from Oxfordshire Rural Community Council (now Community First Oxfordshire) gave a presentation to launch the Village Plan consultation process. Residents were invited to contribute their comments about the village on post it notes which were collected and displayed. 40 residents attended the meeting.

At the Annual Otmoor Half Marathon Challenge and Fete on 4th June 2011, the committee hosted a consultation stall to engage more residents in the Village Plan. Residents were invited to contribute comments and post these in a ballot box. A graffiti wall was also used to record comments and demographic charts of the village and information on the village hall were on display.

At a youth concert in the Millennium in July 2012 Hall (with the Wheatley School Band), young residents were invited to fill out leaflets with details of activities that they would like to see in the village.

At the Barn Dance on Saturday 15th October 2011, leaflets were given out entitled “Let’s make our village an even better place”. A competition to design a logo was promoted. Around 70 residents attended with a good proportion of younger people.

At the Annual Parish meeting in May 2012, which 35 residents attended, Will Lee (Chair of the Village Plan Steering Committee) gave a presentation on how the Parish Plan was progressing. From previous responses the steering committee had identified two issues which they were looking to address. These were:

1. Speeding traffic
2. The possibility of forming a youth club



....a village questionnaire was prepared and distributed

Members of the steering committee were invited to each contribute 10 questions for possible inclusion in a questionnaire. After discussion, the questions to be included were agreed and the questionnaire was compiled in September 2013. During September 2013 the questionnaires were delivered to all homes in the village by a team of eight volunteers.

...Data analysed and results presented

The data was collated and analysed and in April 2014, Will Lee prepared the results in the form of a booklet with pie and bar chart representations of the answers to each question.

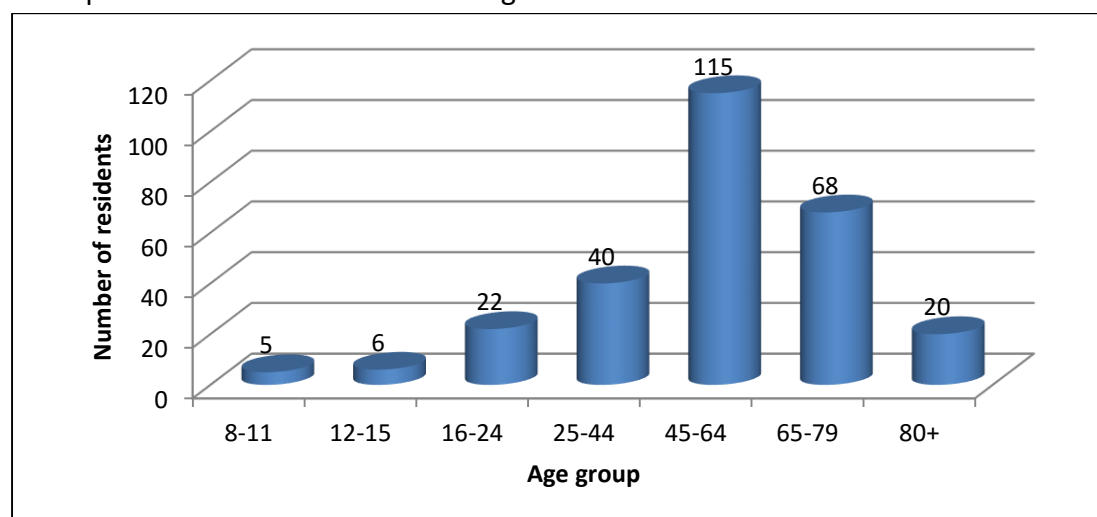
Questionnaire Results

Response rate

There are 186 addresses in Horton-cum-Studley, 6 of which are unoccupied. An estimated 465 people live in the Village. 139 households returned questionnaires (a 74% response rate). In total, 272 people living within these households provided responses.

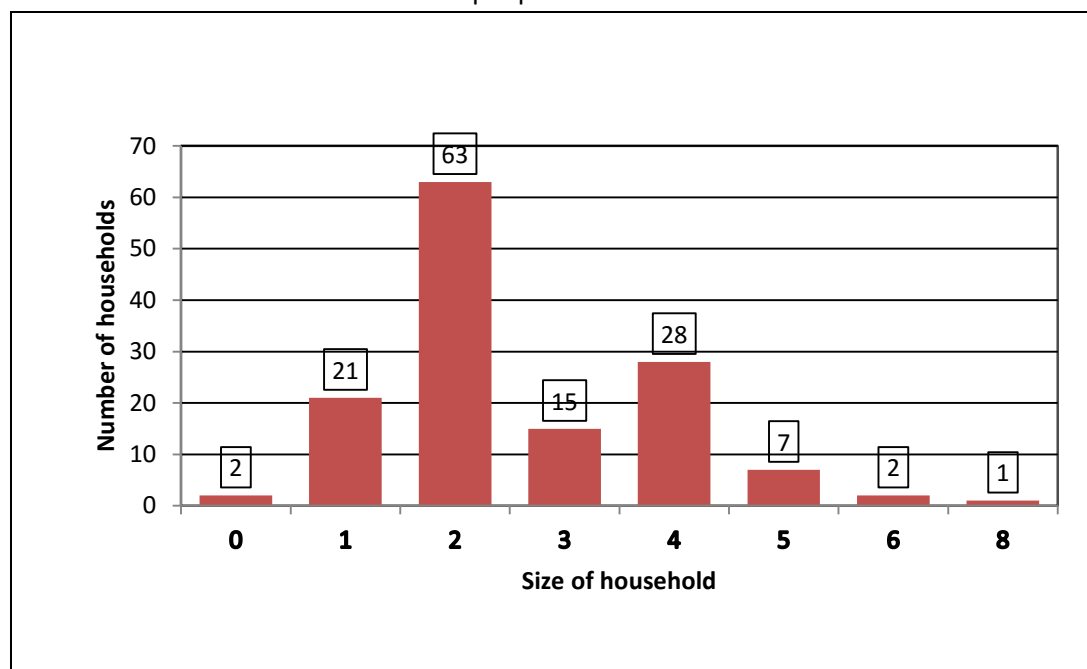
About the respondents

Of those who responded to the survey, 47% were male and 53% female. The largest number of respondents were in the 45 to 64 age bracket.



The respondents were from all parts of the village: Brill Road (30%), Horton Hill (29%), Church Lane (14%), Oakley Road (10%), Mill Lane (6%) Other (11%)

Most households contained 2 or more people.



The length of time respondents had been living in the village varied from more than 20 years (36%), to 10-20 years (29%), 5-10 years (14%), and less than 2 years (4%)

The distance respondents travelled to work varied also:

- Work from home (17%)
- Less than 10 miles (41%)
- 10-25 miles (23%)
- More than 25 miles (19%)

Questions were asked on a range of issues that people in the village had raised at consultation events. The responses to these are summarised below.

Housing and Planning

The majority of respondents (178) said in 10 years' time there should be a modest increase (0-10%) in the number of households in Horton-cum-Studley. 27 said an increase of 10-25%, 4 said an increase of 25% or more and 63 said no increase.

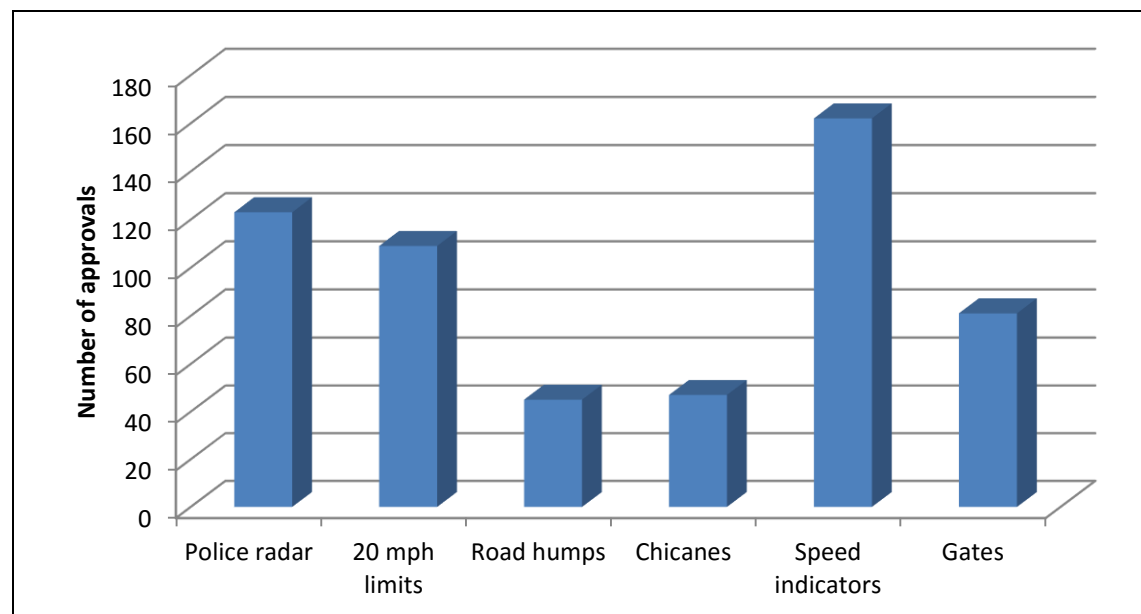
Those who supported an increase were asked about ways to achieve this. 96 supported infilling, creating a denser village, 74 supported new housing at the extremities, creating a longer village, 45 said backfilling, creating new streets off main roads, and 5 said "in other ways".

Traffic issues: Roads and Pavements

Respondents were asked to rate a range of issues as being either a major problem, minor problem or not a problem.

Issue	Major	Minor	Not a problem
Speeding in country lanes	47%	39%	14%
Speeding through village	60%	34%	6%
Road Maintenance	81%	15%	4%
Salting and gritting	44%	35%	21%
Flooding	10%	33%	57%
Road damage from HGVs	39%	42%	20%
Verge damage from HGVs	33%	39%	28%
Mud on roads	4%	29%	66%
On-road parking	7%	28%	65%
Pavements and footpaths	18%	34%	48%

For those who saw speeding as a problem, the numbers in favour of the following speed reduction measures were:



Car ownership in Village

The majority of households (77) owned two cars. 16 households owned three, 6 owned four cars, and 3 owned more than five. 4 households didn't own a car and 27 households owned 1 car.

Footpaths and Bridleways

Respondents were asked how often they use the footpaths and bridleways in and around Horton-cum-Studley and views about the condition of the footpaths and bridleways. The responses are summarised below.

How often do you use footpaths and bridleways	% responding
Daily	24%
Monthly	11%
Never	7%
Occasionally	23%
Weekly	35%

Condition of the footpaths and bridleways	% responding
Adequate	63%
Don't know	3%
Good	22%
Poor	12%



Bus Services

Respondents were asked how often they used the public bus service. The majority (130) said not at all, 113 said infrequently, and 25 frequently. For those who don't use the bus service, or use it very infrequently, responses were as follows:

Reasons for infrequent use	Numbers responding
Inconvenient timetable	117
Don't know about services	17
Fares too expensive	15
No Sunday or evening bus service	41
Car more convenient	184
Other	10

Horton-Cum Studley Parish council

In response to the question, "Have you ever attended a Parish council Meeting?" 52% said yes and 48% said no. For those who had attended, 95% considered they felt discussions reflected local concerns.

Residents in need of support services

Respondents were asked how many people in their household would benefit from the different types of support services.

Number who would benefit	Service	Number of respondents
1 person	Lifts to/from Surgery	20
1 person	Lifts to/from Hospital	16
1 person	Collection of Prescriptions	11
1 person	Home Meals	3
1 person	Local Shopping	13
1 person	Lifts to/from meals	3
1 person	Conversation	3
1 person	Reading Aloud	4

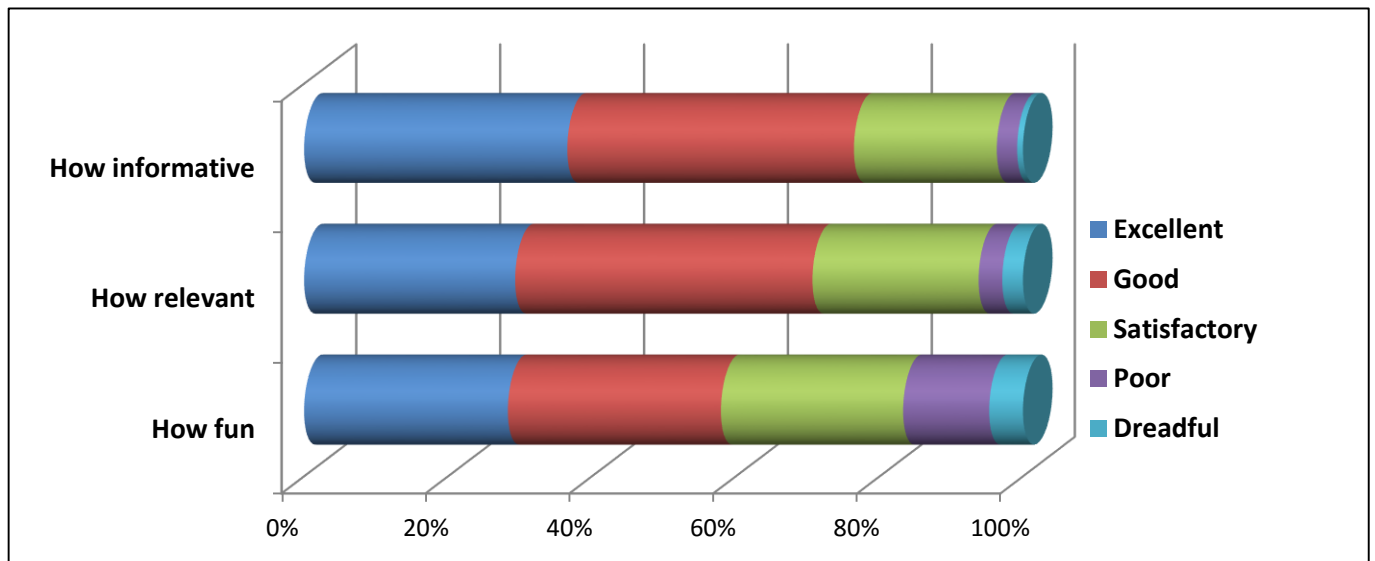
Recycling

In response to a question on the level of satisfaction with current recycling services, the majority (52%) said they were satisfied, with 32% very satisfied and 16% dissatisfied.

Parish Newsletter

The majority of respondents (78%) said they read the parish newsletter. 17% said they usually took a quick look at it but didn't read much of the content and 5% said they didn't read the newsletter.

Respondents were asked to score the newsletter according to their experience of it in the following areas, 5 being excellent and 1 dreadful. Most found it excellent or good.



Village email list

The majority (183) felt there should be a village email list, held by the clerk to the Parish Council. This would be used for making announcements about village events and news. 70 respondents said no to the idea of a village email list.

Village website

The majority (182) thought the village needed a regularly updated website. 71 respondents said no to a website. Those who thought the village needed a regularly updated website were asked what aspects they would find most useful. Numbers were as follows:

Website content	Numbers of respondents
Calendar of events in the village	180
Online booking for the Millennium Hall	124
Who's who in the village (contact names and details)	116
Blog/chat rooms for discussion of key issues	61
Club and society pages (including join up info & latest news)	148
Suggestions box for the Parish Council	131
Online pin board of local services wanted and offered	162
Link to pot hole reporting	149

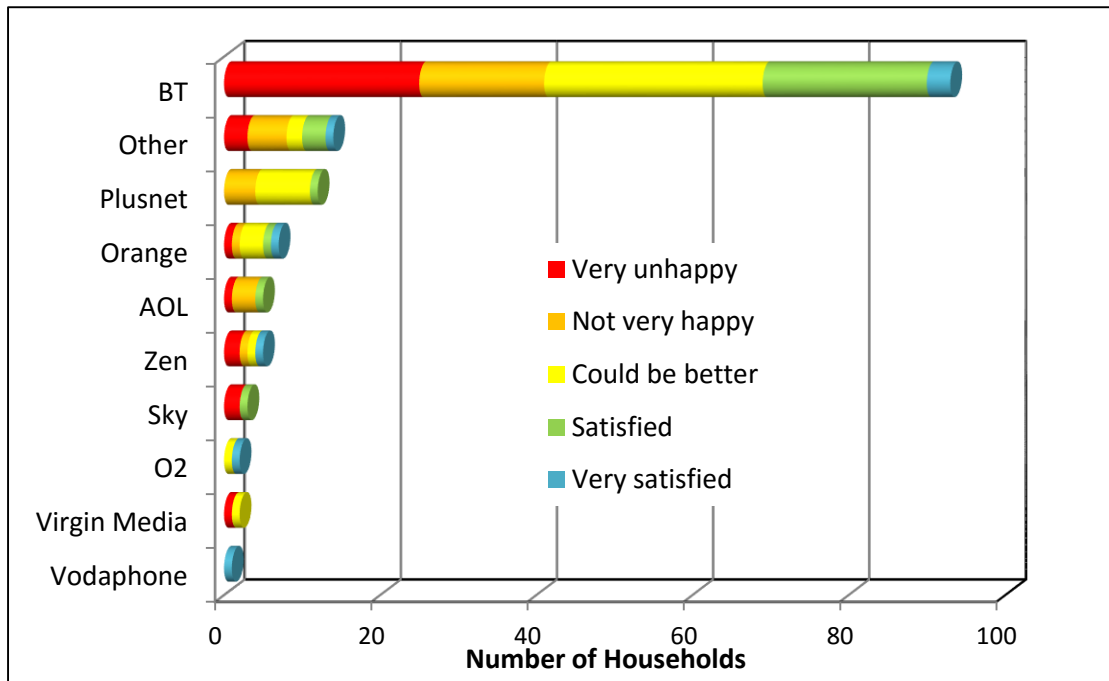
70% of respondents said they would prefer some areas of the website, especially containing people's names and contact details, to be private and only accessible with a valid username and password. 30% said they would prefer it to be an open access public website so they don't have to remember a username or password.

Social media

36% of respondents said they were Facebook users, and 22% said they would be interested in being a member of a Village Facebook group. 15% of respondents said they were Twitter users, and 8% said that if the Parish Council or village clubs and societies set up Twitter accounts they would follow them.

Broadband

Respondents were asked if they used broadband services in the village. If so they were asked their level of satisfaction with the service they received.



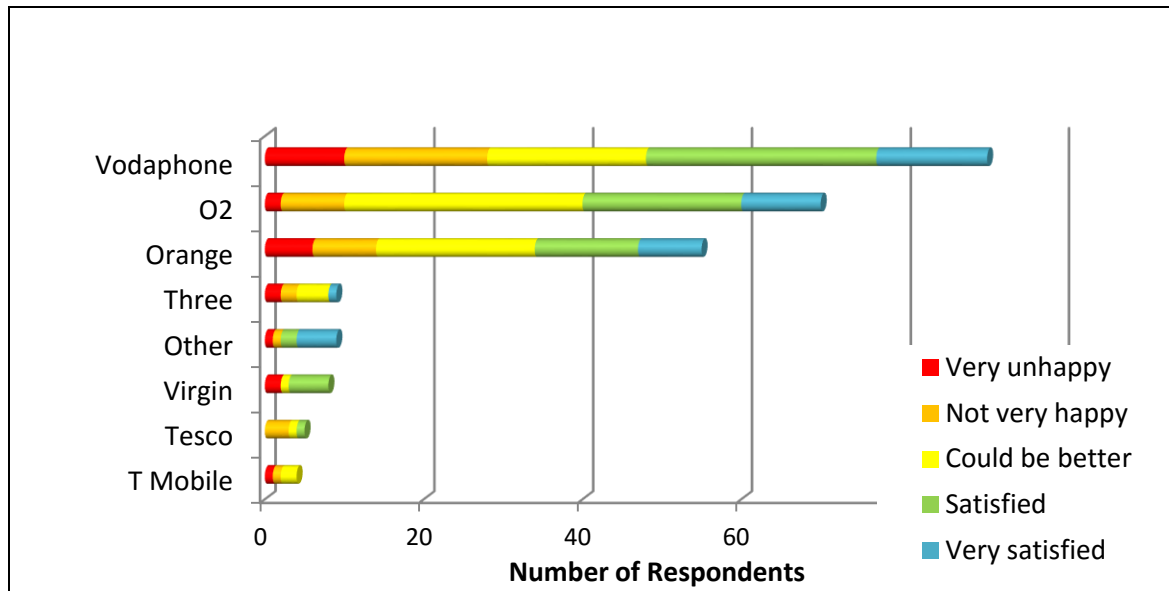
Gigaclear

Several Otmoor villages were attempting to bring Ultrafast fibre optic Broadband services to rural communities at the time of the questionnaire. Gigaclear (a service provider) has a website for expressing interest in Ultrafast broadband. For the Beckley, Noke, Elsfield and Woodeaton group, enough people had already expressed interest, and Gigaclear had started to take orders in that area. If sufficient households Horton-cum-Studley, Forest Hill and Stanton St John area expressed an interest, Gigaclear would start taking orders from Horton-cum-Studley also.

The majority of respondents (131) said they were aware of the campaign to get Ultrafast Broadband to Horton-cum-Studley. 19 said they were not aware. 96 respondents said they were intending to express an interest on the Gigaclear website. 49 said they were not intending to.

Mobile phones

Respondents were asked if they used mobile phone services in the village. If so with which provider and what was their level of satisfaction with the mobile phone signal they received?

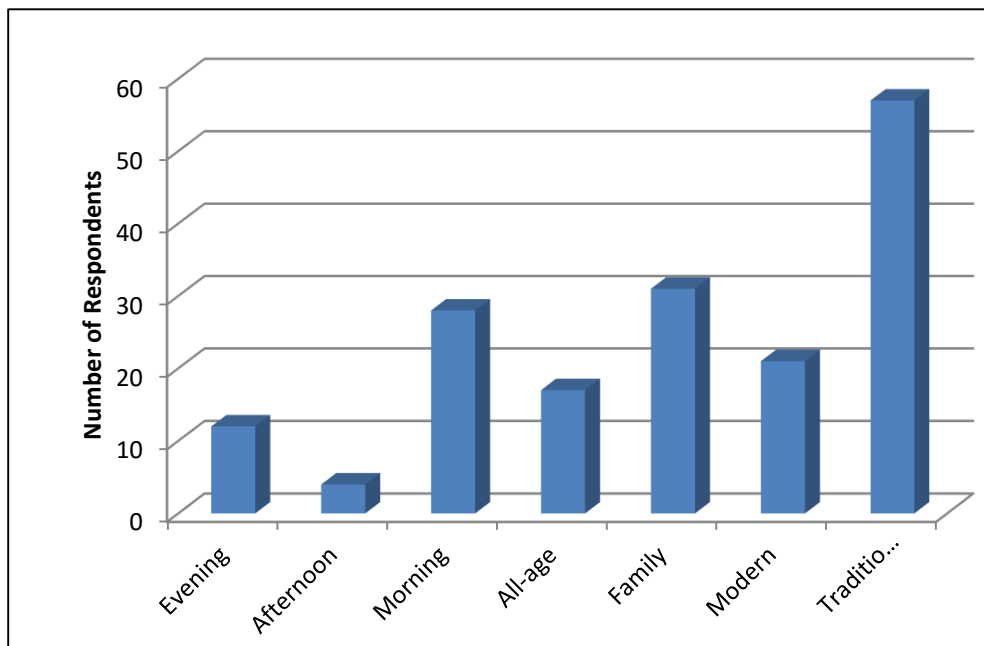


The Church

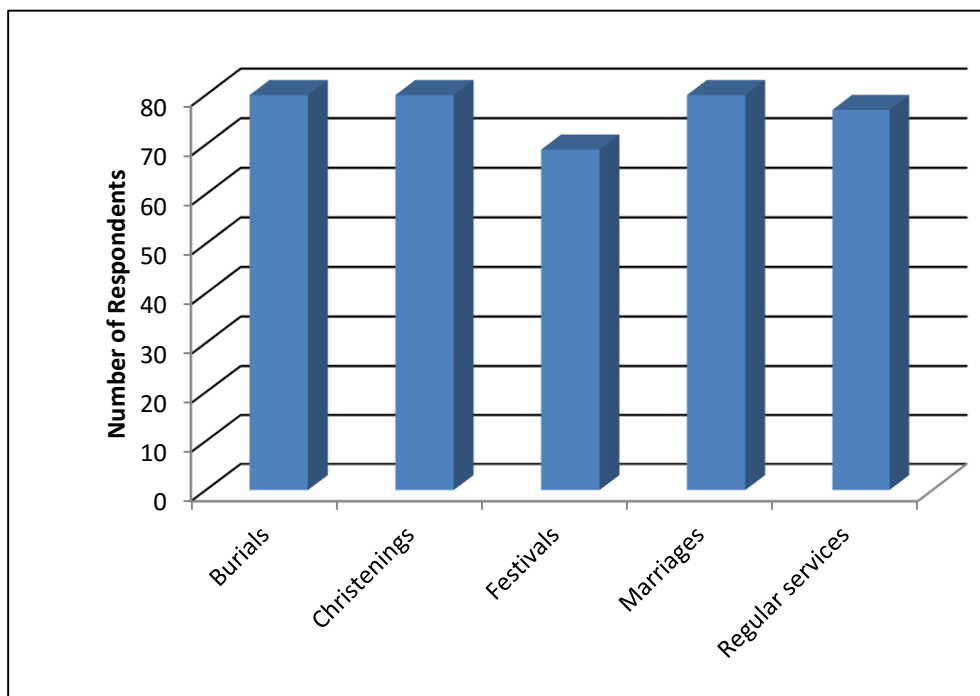
The majority of respondents (61%) said that the village church was important to them. 39% said it wasn't important to them. 53% of respondents attended church occasionally, 17 % regularly and 30% never attended. 26 respondents attended or supported a church or Christian group outside the village. 166 said they didn't. 41 respondents indicated they would be interested in contributing to the life of the church. 126 said they would not.



In response to the question, “Are there practical ways in which church members or leaders could be a help to you and your family”. 22 said yes and 138 said no. Respondents were asked what sort of services suited them best.



Respondents were asked what services they considered it important for the Church to conduct.



Social activities and community events

The Otmoor Challenge has been Horton-cum-Studley's flagship community event for over 30 years, and attracts visitors and runners to the village from miles around.

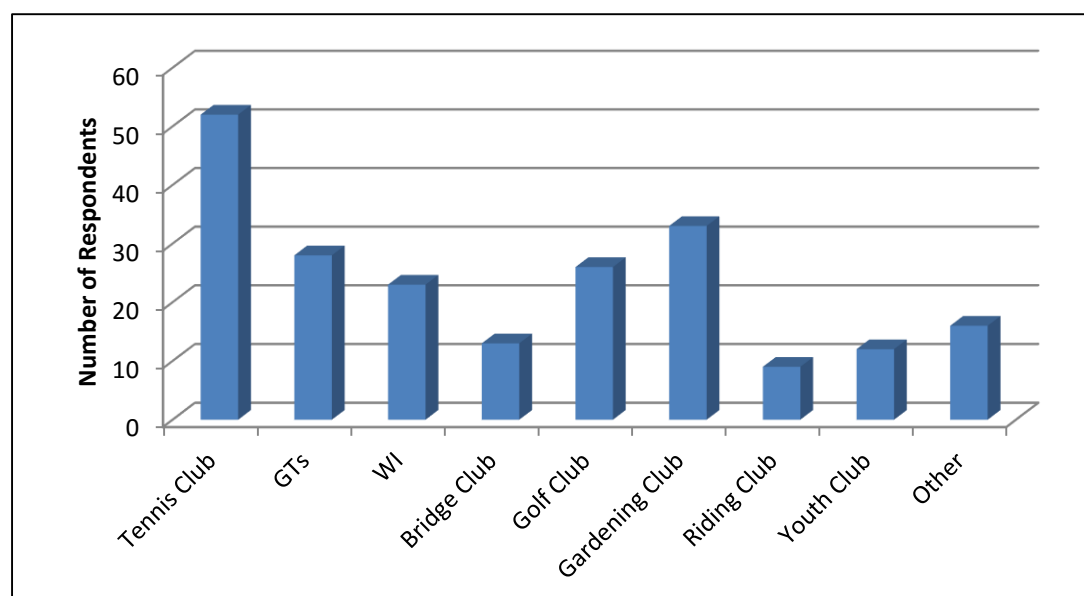
Many people in the village volunteer their time to organise the event, and in doing so, put on a much enjoyed event and raise a lot of money for charity. Since the Otmoor Challenge started, approximately a quarter of a million pounds has been raised for local causes such as the alms-houses, tennis club, gardening club, WI, and the church. Respondents were asked whether they had been involved in the Otmoor Challenge in recent years or intend to be involved in the year to come.

Have you been involved?	Number of respondents
I have visited the Otmoor Challenge to enjoy the stalls and activities	185
I have participated in either the run or one of the walks	80
I have helped with organising the stalls and activities	76
I have helped with organising the run or walks	53

The majority of respondents (201) felt the Otmoor Challenge to be very important, and a vital tradition for the local community to continue. 59 felt it to be quite important and an event they enjoyed coming to and would do in the future. 10 felt it was not important and not an event they wanted to be involved in.

Village Societies and organisations

Respondents were asked whether they are members of, and/or attend, the following societies and organisations in the village.



Interest in organised community activities

Respondents were asked to say which of the following community activities they would be interested in participating in.

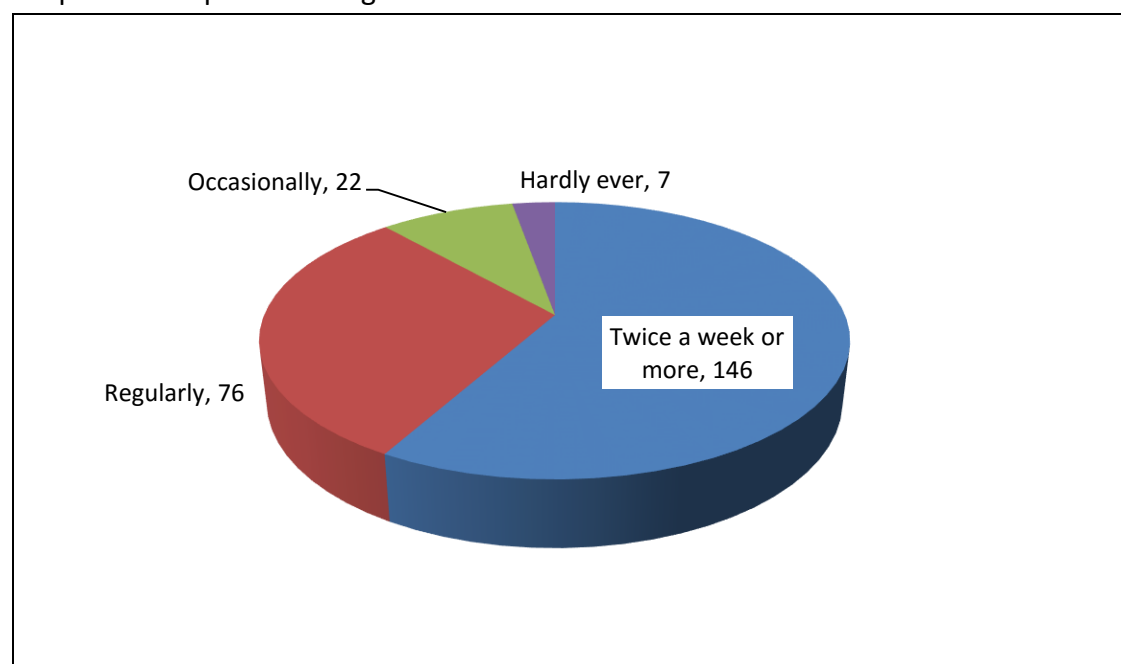
Community Activities	Number of respondents
Barn dance	106
Film Night	92
Christmas Carol singing	91
A round of golf	44
Tuck Shop	43

Village shop

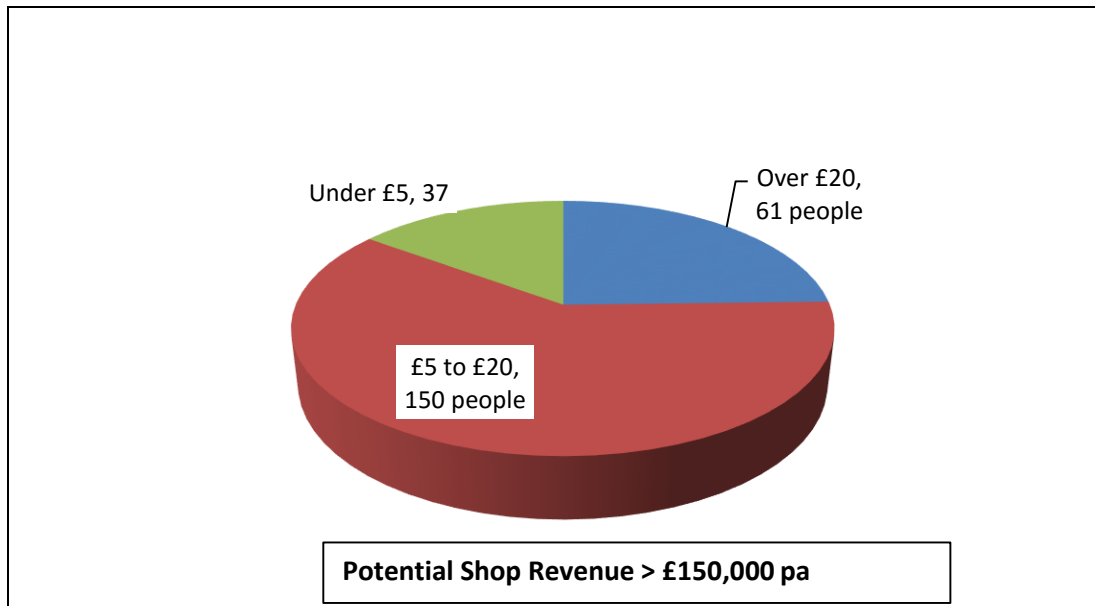
217 respondents felt there was a need for a Village shop in Horton-cum-Studley. 51 did not see the need for one. Respondents were then asked which operating model they thought would work best if there was a village shop.

Preferred operating model for village shop	Number of respondents
A traditional convenience store similar to that operating in Stanton St John	149
A Volunteer run convenience store similar to that in Islip	51
A over the bar convenience store run in conjunction with a pub	43

Respondents were asked how often they would be a customer if their preferred type of shop was set up in the village.



And how much might they spend there a week?

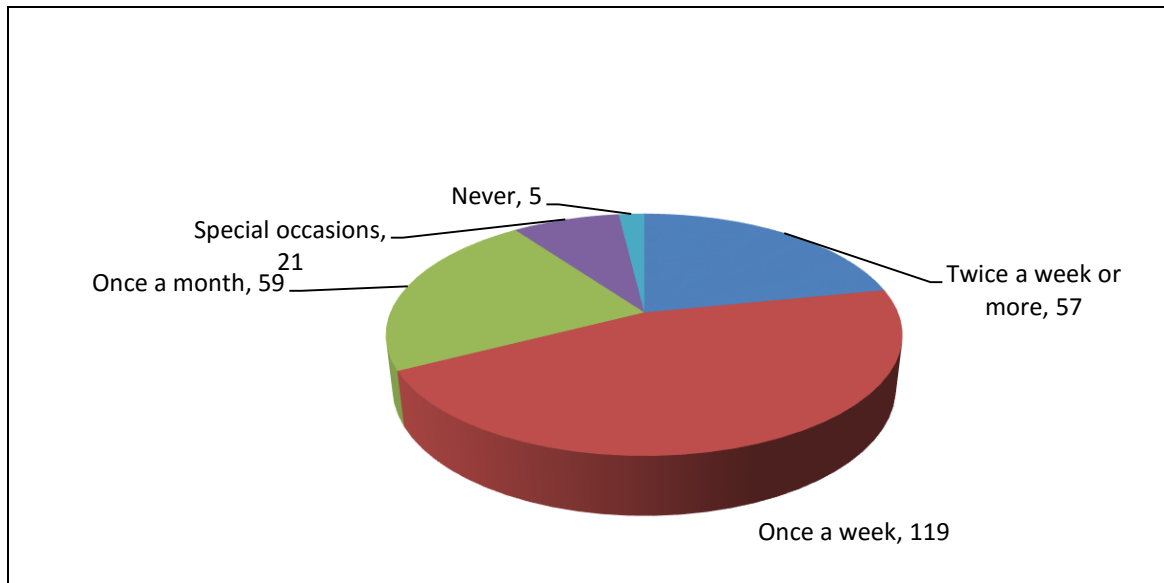


Public house

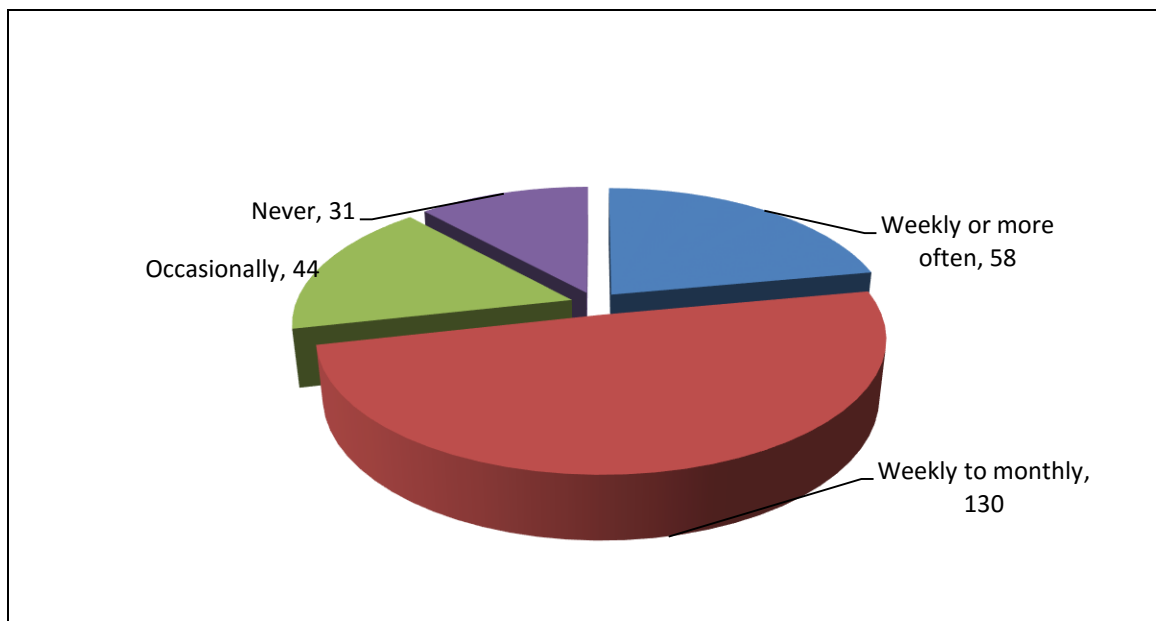
242 respondents thought that Horton-cum-Studley would benefit from having a pub in the village. 27 though it wouldn't benefit. Respondents were asked which operating model would most likely be successful if there was a pub in the village.

Preferred operating model for pub	Number of respondents
A drinker's pub known for good beer, a good atmosphere, value snacks	127
A destination gastro pub offering good quality food and service	103
A Hotel focussing on accommodation and also providing restaurant and bar	21

If the respondents preferred model was established how often would they be a customer there?



And if a food takeaway service was operated from the pub, offering local home deliveries, would they be a customer and if so how often?



Several village communities have bought their pubs in recent years to stop them from closing down and to retain an important community facility. Some Horton-cum-Studley residents proposed to club together to buy-out the local pub. The question was asked "If a community buy-out of the Otmoor lodge was attempted, would you support it?" If so, what type of support would you offer?

Type of support for community buy-out	Number of respondents
Yes, I'd be supportive, and I'd be prepared to volunteer some time to help organise the buy-out	35
Yes, I'd be supportive, and if the purchase price is fair, I'd consider being one of the investors	46
Yes, I'd support the idea, but I wouldn't consider financial investment or volunteering my time to help out	107
I'd neither support or oppose it-I am neutral	57
I don't know whether I'd be supportive	5
No, I'd oppose it because I don't think it would be good for the village	11

Mobile Library Service

A mobile Library service currently stops in Mill Lane every Thursday afternoon at 2pm. Respondents were asked how often they used this service.

Frequency of use	Number of respondents
Regularly: more than 6 times a year	10
Every now and then: between 1 and 6 times a year	12
Rarely: Less than once per year	19
Never use	222

Actions arising from the consultation

Once the questionnaire results had been compiled and analysed, needs and priorities were identified, and actions taken, as follows:

1. Access to faster Broadband

This was considered to be a high priority. Service provider Gigaclear installed fibre optic cables in the village during Summer 2014. This was paid for by those living in the Village and all villagers can now access superfast broadband.

2. Improved activities for Young People

- Youth Club. A youth club was started which ran for just over a year with up to 10 young people involved between 11 and 16. The club numbers dwindled due to competing activities in the areas of sporting activities and school projects at Wheatley Park School. There is an active mothers and toddlers group so it may be there will be greater demand for this in future years, as these children grow up in the village
- Film project. With the support of a professional in the film industry, a group of young people began to film events in the village. The project however never ran to completion.

3. Speeding in the Village

Local PCSOs (Police Community Support Officers) spoke at the Annual Parish Meeting in response to identified residents' concerns about speeding. They suggested setting a speedwatch project under which the police provide a speed camera, which is then operated by 3 Volunteers. One takes the speed, one the first part of the registration, and the third person takes the second part of the registration. The information is then provided to the police and if the offence is repeated the police issue a fine. Six to seven villagers offered their services as volunteers to be involved in the project, but due to loss of contact with the PCSO the project is currently on hold.

Concerns were expressed about traffic volumes and the knock on effects of road works on the A40 and accidents on the A34. Interest was also expressed in buying a radar measuring speed sign.

4. Community Shop

There was a proposal to set up a shop in the Millennium Hall. This did not proceed.

5. Village Coffee Morning

A regular coffee morning started as a result of the responses received in the Village questionnaire and receives very positive feedback from the mainly older, and newer residents who attend. This was started by the Village Hall committee and has been running for 3 years on the second Saturday of each month.

6. Community Pub

There was interest in the Village for the Otmoor Lodge to be used as a community space. The Otmoor Lodge Action Group (OLAG) investigated options for this being sold to the Village but found that it was not possible.

In Summary...

The Village Plan resulted in a range of new initiatives to address needs and priorities from the Questionnaire.

Some of these initiatives continue, some were tried and stopped, and others remain to be tackled or encouraged.

Many of the actions are dependent on the support of volunteers and the initiative of the local community.

