

# FRESSINGFIELD

PARISH PLAN SURVEY

Your village - your voice!



The Report

# FRESSINGFIELD PARISH PLAN

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# FRESSINGFIELD PARISH PLAN SURVEY 2003-4

## INTRODUCTION

### Why a Parish Plan Survey?

In every community there are thankfully those who are concerned that the views and wishes of residents are considered whenever plans for facilities, services, and the future size of the community, are made.

It would hardly be surprising if people felt they had no input into the planning process. This might be provision of key services such as Police, Fire, or Ambulance, the pressure on Local Government to allow housing development, or it might be provision of Sports and Leisure facilities organised and managed by local people.

The Countryside Agency Vital Villages scheme provides funding for communities to produce local surveys that enable evidence to be collected so that planners, whether in Local Government or Local Clubs and Societies, understand the concerns and interests of residents on a range of issues.

At a Public Meeting held in Fressingfield presentations were made by The Countryside Agency, Mid Suffolk District Council, and Suffolk ACRE. A fully independent Steering Group was formed and successfully applied for Countryside Agency funding together with a contribution from the Parish Council. This report is the result of the work of the Steering Group: it is hoped that the data it contains will impact on a range of issues in the future.

### How the survey was designed and carried out

Fortunately it was not necessary for the Steering Group to 'reinvent the wheel'. Sponsored by Cheltenham & Gloucester Plc. software is available containing a large number of questions on a wide range of topics.

It was a challenge, and took a considerable amount of time and debate, for the Steering Group to agree a workable final document which everyone believed would have credibility and enable a representative response to be obtained.

With the aid of extra volunteers, a copy of the survey form was delivered to each of the 470 households in Fressingfield Parish. The return of 297 completed forms is regarded as a very good response to this type of survey.

Our young people were not forgotten and 47 out of 100 copies of a separate questionnaire specifically designed for the 10 - 16 age group were returned.

### **The Report**

The software enables input and analysis of data from the forms. This falls into two distinct sections. One is designed to provide information at an individual level e.g. age, length of residency, etc. The second collects opinion on a range of generally local issues. All on a totally anonymous basis. This analysed data is summarised in sections 7, 8, and 9 of this report while in section 10 we record a range of typical 'freehand' comments: it would take many more pages to publish all of these - but virtually all were printable!

So, we have managed to give everyone the chance to be consulted and it is the hope of every Steering Group member that in the future Fressingfield people will feel that their views have really made a difference. In Section 11 we list topics from the survey which might form the basis of future 'Action Plans'.

Acknowledgements of help we received from many people will be found in section 3 but I must also record my personal thanks to all past and present members of the Steering Group. Thanks are also due to our excellent team of volunteers who delivered and collected the questionnaires, and this report, whatever the weather. Finally, my thanks to the people of Fressingfield for taking part.

Eric Barnden  
Steering Group Chairman  
November 2004

# The Parish Plan Steering Group Team

Chairman: Eric Barnden

## Members:

Ken Blair,  
Dawn Cavilla,  
Harry Fox,  
Judy Fullam (Treasurer 2004),  
Jake Hall,  
Andrea Miller,  
Prue Rush,  
Peter Vincent (Treasurer 2002 -2003)

## The Volunteers

The following also joined the Steering Group Team in delivering and collecting Survey Forms:

Mary Cufley  
Margaret Grimwood  
Philip Hall  
Betty Priestman  
Virginia Skoyles  
Pennie Walker  
Stephanie Whatling

Steering Group Secretary:

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## Thanks and acknowledgements

The Parish Plan Steering Group Team wish to record their thanks for the invaluable help of the following:

Melanie Baker, Patricia Burt, Anita Edwards, Jane Sellers,  
The Countryside Agency

\*

Fressingfield Parish Council

\*

Joanne Rogers  
Community Development Officer  
Mid Suffolk District Council

\*

Annette Gray & Sarah Richards  
Rural Services Officers  
Suffolk ACRE

\*

The Volunteers

\*

Pat Williamson

But

Above all

The People of Fressingfield

## From District Councillor George Frost

Hempland Farm  
New Street  
Fressingfield  
Eye  
Suffolk IP21 5PN

November 2004

Many ways are being sought to involve people in the process by which decisions are made about the communities in which they live. People quite rightly want more say over issues which will affect where they live, their quality of life, and the environment.

The Vital Villages Initiative has given the people of Fressingfield the chance to take part in this Survey which has identified a number of key issues. I warmly thank and congratulate those who contributed to the Parish Plan Survey. The outcome is a document which reflects a wide range of opinions and identifies important issues.

These issues can now be taken forward as Action Plans. To what extent these can be translated into action where various bodies have responsibility and how we should resolve whatever conflicts may arise are exciting challenges to be met.

In any case the exercise is most valuable and should be instructive to communities far beyond Fressingfield and Mid Suffolk.

George Frost  
Mid Suffolk District Councillor  
Fressingfield Ward

## FRESSINGFIELD - AN ACTIVE VILLAGE



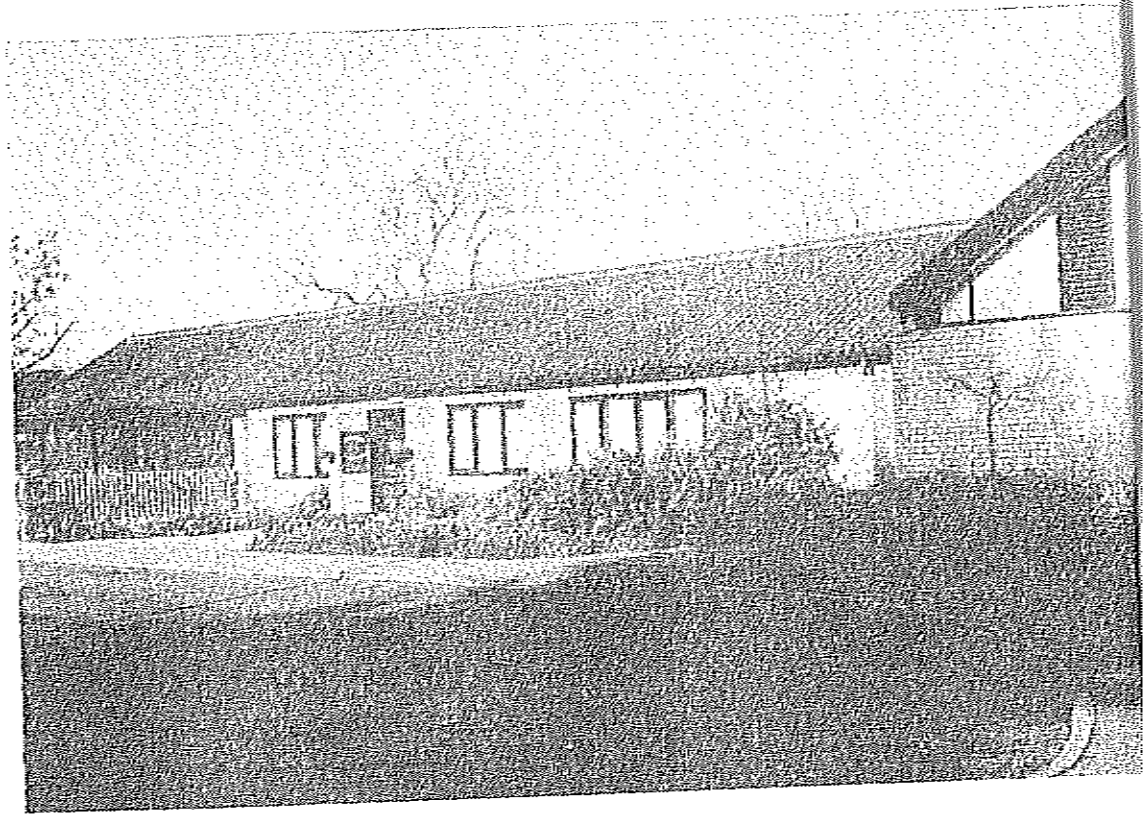
The first modern sign, depicting 'The Pilgrim on his Way' was financed by monies left over from the Coronation celebrations of 1953. A former Fressingfield resident, Mr Adrian Ryan, who taught at Goldsmiths College in London, designed the sign. The subject was chosen as, in earlier days, pilgrims passed through the village. In recent years, young pilgrims, carrying a cross to Walsingham during Holy Week, have continued the tradition of visiting Fressingfield and pausing at the parish church of St Peter and St Paul to pray and take refreshment. A new sign, again depicting a pilgrim and his donkey was unveiled as part of the Queens Golden Jubilee in 2002: the older iron sign now takes pride of place in the village school.

Fressingfield is a Village in High Suffolk with a population of over nine hundred people, many of whom moved into the area from London, the South-East, and the Home Counties, following electrification of the railway line between Norwich and London - Liverpool Street in the 1980's. These families live happily alongside members of long established local families, some of whose names can be traced back for generations.

Fressingfield remains an agricultural community: virtually all land is still farmed although this is now predominantly arable and pig farming following the demise of dairy farming in recent years. Nevertheless many people now travel out of the village to find work in places such as Diss, Harleston, Lowestoft, Ipswich, Norwich, even London. For many commuting is simply a chosen way of life.

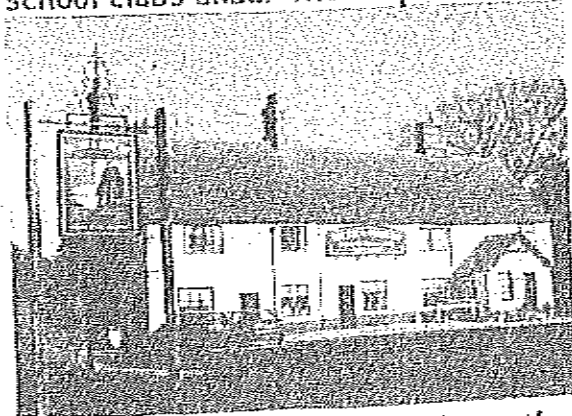
Despite recent growth, Fressingfield remains very much a village community. The building of a new primary school in 1996, to which a Nursery Unit was later added makes the villega attractive to young families.





Above: Fressingfield Primary School

Childcare facilities are also provided by Tiddlywinks Nursery, and a thriving Playgroup, while other volunteers run parent and toddler, Under-5's, and after school clubs under the auspices of the Anglican and Baptist churches.



Good food and drink have always featured in the life of this village, which once had five Public Houses. To-day it is served by the Swan Public House and the famous Fox and Goose Restaurant, situated in what was formerly the Elizabethan Guildhall.

The Primary School has not been the only development in recent years: a new Medical Centre was also built in the village and opened in 1991. The practice, which also has surgeries in Stradbroke and Laxfield covers an area of 115 square miles. A comprehensive service is offered including a dispenser, maternity care and family planning clinics, baby immunization, asthma, diabetes and general health clinics.

The spiritual life of the village provides worshippers with Anglican, Baptist, and Methodist congregations: all three denominations regularly join together under the banner title 'Fressingfield for Christ'

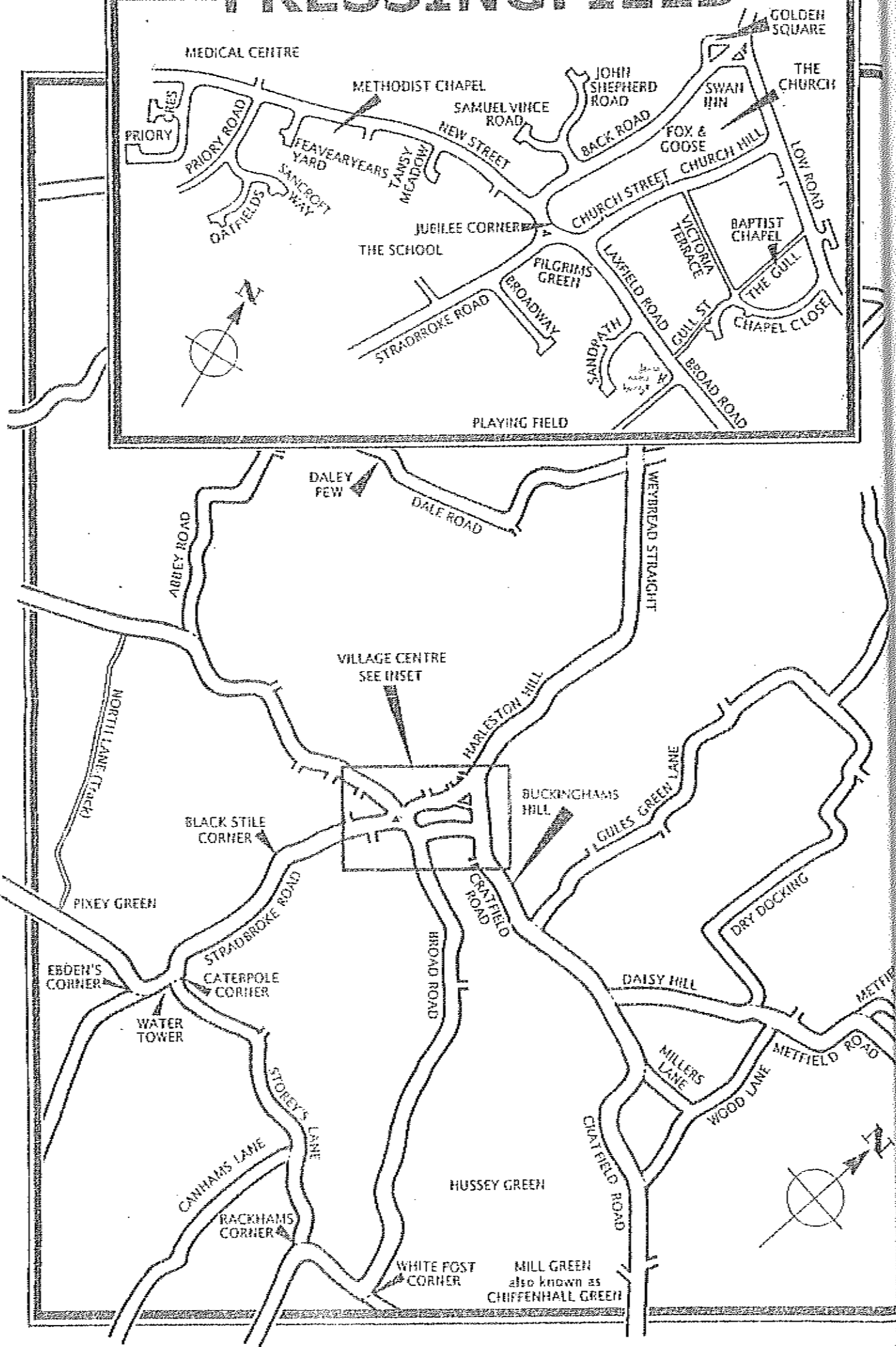
As its name implies, Fressingfield Sports and Social Club provides a recreational venue for villagers. Aside from regulars at the well stocked bar, the club pavilion is home to the Bowls Club, Darts Team, and Friendly Club. The adjoining land sees the bowling green, football pitch, tennis courts (recently renovated), and a play area for young children. Inter-village Sports take place on an annual basis, sometimes hosted by Fressingfield.

The village has a wide range of activities for all ages. In addition to those already mentioned there are Beaver, Cub, and Scout Groups; there are youth activities at the Baptist Church. A Poetry for Pleasure group meets monthly and the Women's Institute, Royal British Legion, Mothers Union, and over-50's Luncheon Club all thrive in this community. Meals on Wheels are provided by the WRVS cooked in the kitchen of the Methodist church on three mornings each week and distributed by volunteers from the community.



Above: Fressingfield: The Post Office

# FRESSINGFIELD



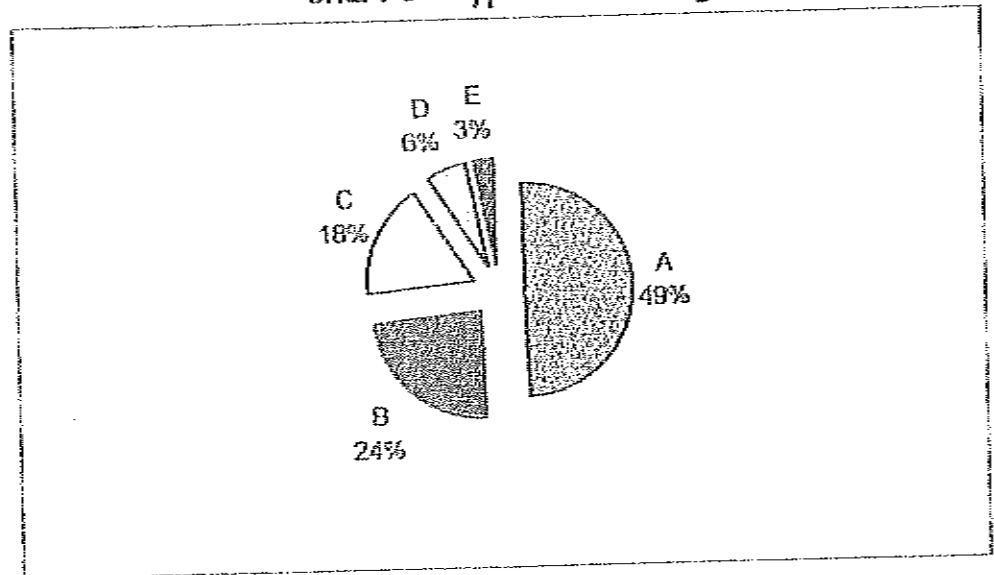
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## FRESSINGFIELD HOUSEHOLDS

### HOUSING

Fressingfield comprises 420 households. Of the 297 from which completed questionnaires were returned nearly 78% are owner occupied. Chart 1 shows the distribution of housing by type in the village: for example nearly 50% of residents who responded to the survey live in a detached property.

Chart 1 - Types of Dwellings



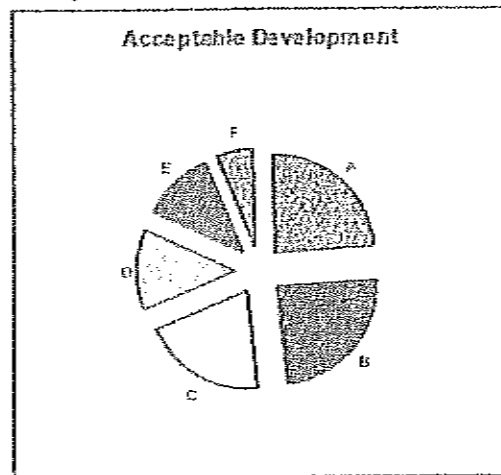
A: Detached House, B: Semi Detached House, C: Bungalow, D Terraced House, E: Other

Opinion is equally divided between those who favour no new development and those who would accept provision of between 11 and 50 new properties.

Views on the future size and shape of the village show that if additional properties are to be provided small groups of no more than 10 are preferred with the emphasis on properties for young people and the elderly rather than executive homes. The conversion of redundant buildings or sites is equally favoured. A paucity of both private and local authority rented accommodation was noted. Larger developments and expansion of the village settlement area was favoured by only about 20% of respondents.

These findings are illustrated in Chart 2-3 on the following page.

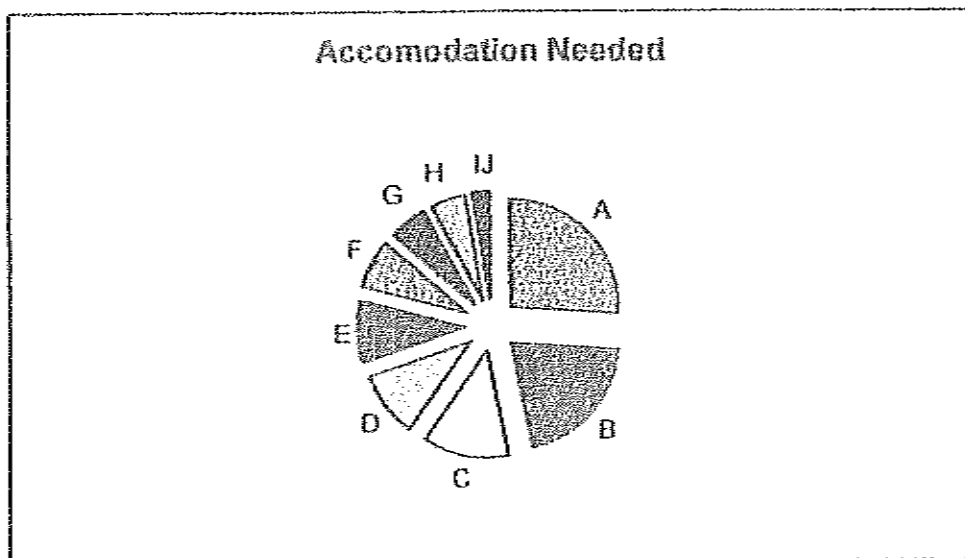
**Chart 2 - Acceptable Types of Housing Development**



(Numbers voting for each type)

- A - Small groups, less than 10 (203), B - Conversions (197)  
 C - Single dwellings (170) D - None (111)  
 E - Large groups, carefully designed (52) F - Others (5)

**Chart 3**



(Numbers voting for each type)

- A - Homes for young people (249), B - Small family homes (198) C - Homes for the Elderly (122), D - No more homes needed (95), E - Warden supervised housing (90), F - Homes for single people (72), G - Homes for disabled people (56), H - Large family homes (50), I - Executive homes (21), J - Others (3)

The existing infra structure is already considered by many to be inadequate for the existing settlement.

Nearly half of correspondents agreed that regular flooding including untreated sewerage between the bottom of Harleston Hill and the Baptist Chapel is a serious problem.

Great concern was also expressed at the impact of further development on the level of road traffic - highlighted later in this report where Transport and Road Safety issues are discussed.

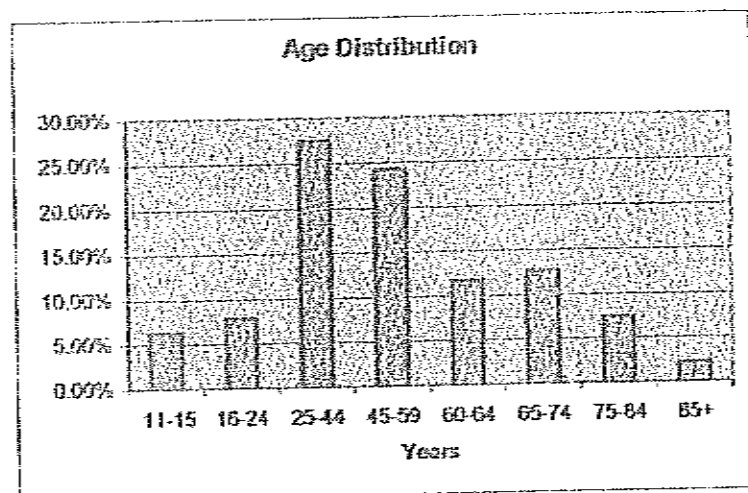
#### ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

It is recognised nowadays that fear of crime is greater than incidents of crime: any who regularly attend Parish Council meetings will hear that crime is rare in Fressingfield. However of 481 responses to the survey question on this topic 40% were concerned about vandalism and 29% about theft. Hopefully the new Neighbourhood Watch Scheme organised by Ben Symonds and Robin Rampley will help allay people's fears. It is reassuring that 42% were not concerned about crime at all!

#### FRESSINGFIELD PEOPLE

The distribution by age of the 623 residents declared on the 297 completed questionnaires is shown in Chart No. 4. There is virtually a 50/50 split between the sexes.

Chart 4



Nearly 60% have lived here for between 1 and 15 years and nearly 20% between 26 and 50 years. Over 43% came here from over 30 miles away in the UK. 535 people (out of 623) provided a reason for coming to live in Fressingfield: over 30% gave 'love of village life' while there was a very even spread of the remainder across different family reasons and work.

## WHAT THE PEOPLE SAID - PERSONAL VIEWS OF FRESSINGFIELD

The 'Personal' section of the questionnaire comprised 58 questions designed to enable residents to give a personal view of local services and other topics. In this section of the Survey Report we summarise the key issues from the 297 completed forms.

### ACCESS TO ADULT EDUCATION AND 'LEISURE COURSES'

Adult Education and Leisure Courses are available to Fressingfield residents at the High Schools at Harleston and Stradbroke - both four miles away, and at more distant centres such as Eye, and Diss.

Fressingfield has ideal accommodation for both day and evening Educational and Leisure activities including the Sancroft Hall, and the Sports & Social Club Pavilion with good availability during the day and evening. Nearly 57% expressed an interest in a wide range of topics. Courses suggested included: Archaeology, Art, Computer Skills, Keep Fit, Languages, Local History, The Environment and Nature.

### BUSINESS & LEISURE DEVELOPMENT IN FRESSINGFIELD

The questionnaire invited views on whether the following should be encouraged in and around the village:

- Tourism development including more Bed & Breakfast accommodation, self-catering holiday lets and residential activity holidays,
- Small business development, small scale industrial workshops, and more jobs generally.

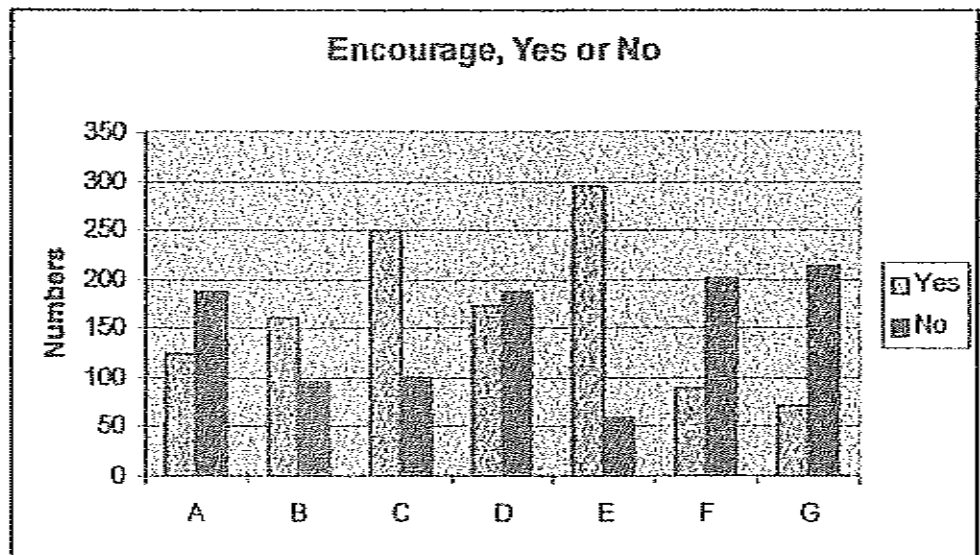
As can be seen from Chart No. 5 which appears on the following page there was general support for encouraging tourism although less support for 'Self-catering lets and residential activity holidays'.

There was little opposition to small business development and generation of more jobs although a significant minority were opposed to 'small scale industrial development'.

It has to be said however that to a certain extent there must be a trade off between these two broad sectors



**Chart No. 5**  
**Business and Leisure Development in Fressingfield**



- A - Tourism attractions/development    B - More B&B accommodation  
 C - Small business development        D - Small industrial workshops  
 E - More jobs                                F - Self-catering holiday "Lets"  
 G - Residential activity holidays

### ROAD SAFETY & TRANSPORT

#### ROAD SAFETY ISSUES

Fressingfield straddles the B1116 link between Harleston, on the A143 Bury St Edmunds - Gt. Yarmouth Road, and Framlingham and the A12 trunk road at Wickham Market.

Typical of many rural villages, Fressingfield has seen a continual hike in the volume, size, and speed of traffic. The general increase in housing development, mobility in employment, and centralisation of schools (the 'School Run'), and car use in general are all significant contributory factors.

In response to concern among residents about the impact of traffic on the village environment Suffolk County Council, as Highways Authority, and Suffolk Traffic Police installed monitoring devices on the B1116 in the heart of the village on three occasions during 2002-3. Over 2200 vehicle movements were recorded in a 24 hour period!

Agriculture is the predominant activity so it has to be accepted that there will be deliveries and collection, movement about the local lanes of increasingly large machines, and movement of livestock by lorry. All over roads which have hardly changed since the days of the horse and cart!

The County Highways Authority's published guidance - 'The Lorry Route Network' clearly shows that the B1116 from Harleston, through Fressingfield, to Dennington, is not a lorry route: nevertheless this is not enforced.

In seven questions the Parish Plan questionnaire sought to establish key areas where residents agree action is needed.

**Danger Spots:** residents were asked if they supported action at five locations. There were 436 responses with three sites being particularly notorious:

New Street - Location of the village 'Mace' store and Medical Centre

Jubilee Corner - a blind bend and crossroads on the B1116 in the heart of the village en route to the Primary School

Stradbroke Road - again on the route to the School and here a 'Crossing Patrol' was supported.

**Speeding:** 63% of respondents believe that a speeding problem exists in Fressingfield. A further question sought to determine where and what speed control measures would be supported. A substantial majority, 55%, support a 20 m.p.h speed limit in New Street, from Jubilee Corner to west of the Medical Centre together with increased police presence. 89% of households, representing 468 vehicles, report keeping them in a garage or at least off the road. However 64% of respondents considered street parking a safety risk in Fressingfield: an indication of the conflict between pedestrians and speeding vehicles.

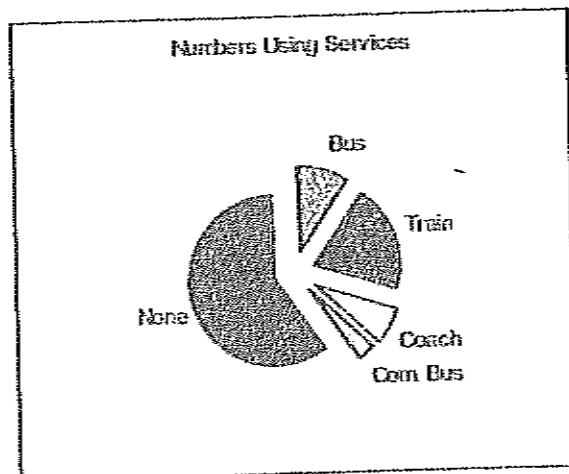
**Facilities for pedestrians, the standard of footways, street lighting:** Opinion on these topics was distinctly polarised - and quite evenly balanced. For example 222 thought facilities for pedestrians reasonable: 230 thought poor. On the one hand many consider street lighting reasonable while of 124 who rate it poor a number do so because they consider it polluting! 40% say the footways are poor for those with disabilities or manoeuvring pushchairs or wheelchairs.

## TRANSPORT ISSUES

The survey contained questions designed to enable residents to give their views on transport issues, particularly bus services.

Apart from School Bus Services, Fressingfield is served by a few bus routes connecting the village to Harleston and Diss and ultimately, Norwich. Inter-City rail services run from Diss to London - Liverpool Street.

520 responded when asked which services were used: Bus, Train, Coach, and/or Community Bus. It has already been noted in this report that, typical of many rural villages, commuting is a way of life: as can be seen from Chart No. 6 below: 117 reported travel by train, 56 claimed to use bus services with a further 40 taking coaches and 19 a Community Bus.



The invitation to rate various aspects of the bus service received 311 responses. These mainly identified poor choice of routes (74%) and frequency of services (67%), but good or reasonable reliability and cost. A common view expressed was doubt about the viability of bus services in country areas. 343 said they did not use public transport.

Detailed analysis of the views obtained in this section may nevertheless give scope for an Action Plan to find ways to get more residents out of their cars and onto public transport. Since the survey was carried out the BORDAHOOPA bus service, in conjunction with Suffolk County Council, introduced a 50% reduction to Suffolk Bus Pass holders, a benefit previously only available to Norfolk residents.

## PUBLIC & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

**Health:** A large majority of the 635 correspondents confirmed little difficulty in getting to Medical/Dental, etc, facilities and 98% had no problem in collecting prescriptions, or do not currently need this service.

**Public Services:** A good level of satisfaction was generally expressed except for the 'Bobby' - the Community Police Officer. At the time of preparation of this report this officer, based at Eye, is expected to cover 16 villages. Recent reorganisation has led to the amalgamation of Police and Social Services resources at Eye aimed at ensuring telephones are always manned. The officer has also been provided with a Radio Voice Mail link so that calls may be directed to and from him (or her). Mention has already been made of residents concerns regarding Anti-Social Behaviour, crime statistics, and the new Neighbourhood Watch Scheme.

**Refuse Collection, Street, and Approach Road Cleaning:** A good service except for the approach roads to the village which scored a higher reasonable to poor rating no doubt in the face of the casual attitude to litter from vehicle occupants.

## SPORTS AND SOCIAL FACILITIES, CLUBS & ACTIVITIES

**Clubs and Activities:** We appear to be an energetic and sociable bunch in Fressingfield. Of 446 who answered these questions, well over half claimed they would be happy to participate in any sport or entertainment if it was made available in the village! Responses are analysed below:

Activity	No.	Activity	No.
Amateur Dramatics	40	Keep Fit	58
Arts & Crafts	47	Lectures	30
Badminton	17	Martial Arts	10
Bingo	39	Multi Gym	61
Camera Club	13	Musical Activities	39
Cinema/Film Club	39	Scrabble & Cards Club	12
Computer Club	50	Snooker/Billiards	79
Cricket Club	10	Swimming	62
Dance Classes	49	Table Tennis	29
Disco's	32	Walkers Club	34
Evening Classes	73	Whist Drives	14
Exhibitions	37	Wildlife Group	30
Gardening Club	42	Yoga	34

Substantial interest was expressed in activities which are already provided by Fressingfield based Clubs i.e. Bowls/Carpet Bowls, Classic Cars/Motor-Cycles, Tennis. Scope here for clubs to give greater publicity to their activities?

The Sports & Social Club Pavilion: Mention has already been made of the suitability of the Pavilion for Education and Leisure courses. 388 people responded to the question of support for the development of the pavilion into a Community Centre offering various activities. An impressive 85% of respondents felt that village occasions would find a regular home and the facility could be hired for private functions. Dances and Charitable events were also highly popular choices. A third of respondents regarded Sports and social facilities for the 17 to 25 age group as poor and only reasonable for the 26 - 60+'s!

Information - What's going on in Fressingfield? Questions were included on the dissemination of information to the village community. The 'Parish Magazine', *5-Alive*, was rated as the most common source of information by 88% of the 504 respondents with the village notice board on 47%. *5-Alive*, Notice Boards, the Post Office, and Mace Shop were all similarly rated when it came to advertising events, etc. The amount of information available was rated 'reasonable' by 50%. A similar number thought Fressingfield needed a Newsletter but only 11% were interested in assisting with production and distribution.

#### LOCAL SHOPS & SERVICES

Fressingfield people clearly place great value on the shopping facilities and services available in the village. Both shop and Post Office are used on a weekly basis by 40% of respondents.

A wide range of goods is available at the village 'Mace' store which enjoy strong support. The Post Office is highly valued despite frustration at having to travel to either Harleton or Stradbroke for vehicle tax - when we are being urged to reduce car use. (The survey revealed over 500 vehicles based in Fressingfield)! Despite savage competition on price the combination of petrol station and 'coal yard' is an almost unique asset.

The mobile library appears to attract very low use: it visits Fressingfield on a Friday which is popular for shopping outside the village. Fresh fish, vegetable, and Fish & Chip vendors have traditionally visited Fressingfield but there is a general lack of knowledge of when they come.

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Fressingfield people displayed a lively interest in their Parish Council and the work of the Parish Councillors. Just over half know who their Parish Councillors are and most respondents know that they can raise topics with their local Councillor and receive an answer. Over 20% expressed themselves very satisfied with the way money collected through the Council Tax is spent but 69% would not be prepared to pay more! 334 respondents (65%) said they did not know how it is spent!

Most appear to know they are welcome to attend Parish Council meetings, although only a third had actually exercised this right. About a fifth of those responding thought local council decisions and activities are badly publicised. When attention is turned to publicity given to planning applications, half thought it was sufficient and half thought it was not!

Just over one fifth of those responding think that their representatives at all levels of local government are not aware of local concerns and feelings but only 65 out of 524 respondents would consider offering themselves as Parish Council candidates. An indicator of attitudes which goes a long way to explain low turnout at council elections?

## THE LOCAL ENVIRONMENT

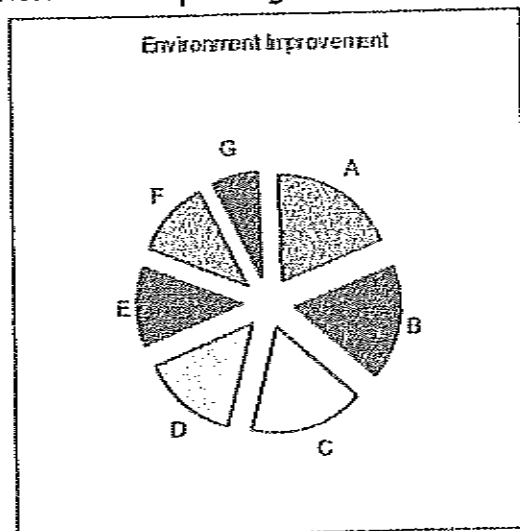
Improving the natural environment of Fressingfield: Nearly 500 responses were received to this section of the survey. Views were invited on six issues; the results are analysed in chart No.7 on the following page.

We clearly accord management and protection of the existing natural environment a higher priority than creation of a 'Village Green'. A typical set of topics for possible future action plans - see page 26.

Footpaths and Bridleways: Not unexpectedly use of footpaths around Fressingfield is high. 72% of 525 respondents stating they used them. Nevertheless problems are encountered and these are analysed in Chart No.8.

Something can be done about most if not all these issues and, again, this is suggested as a topic for an action plan on page 26 of this report.

Chart 7 - Improving the Environment



(Numbers supporting types of improvement)

A - Management of verges and hedges: 273.

B - Protection of hedges and trees: 242.

C - Creation of Community Woodland: 238

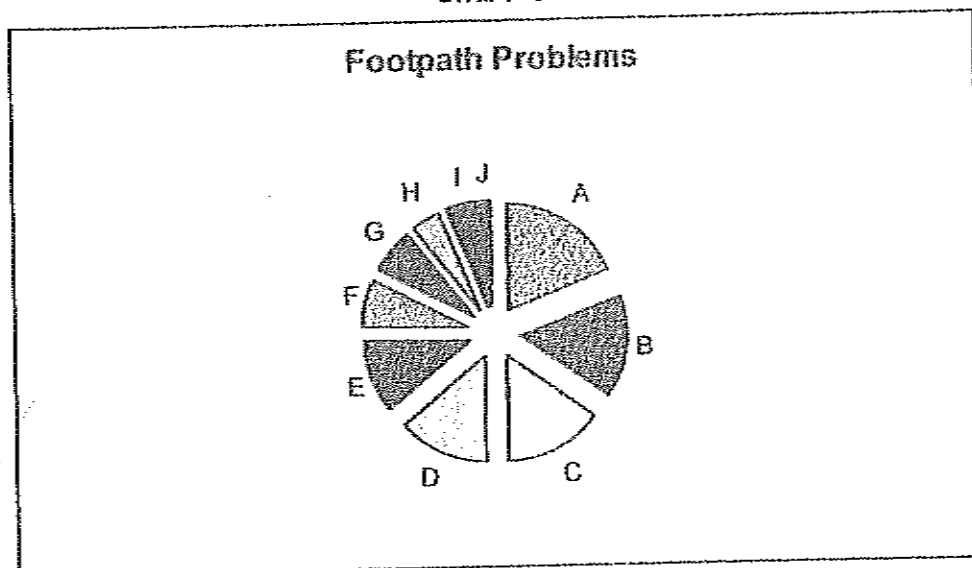
D - Conservation area and nature reserve: 205

E - Management of open spaces: 176

F - Village Green: 167

G - No opinion: 101

Chart 8



(Numbers for each type)

A - No signposts: 149.

C - Mud / water: 116

E - No information: 89

G - Farm animals: 53

I - Barbed wire: 33

B - Bushes and nettles: 124

D - No difficulties: 110

F - Missing stiles or bridges: 56

H - High stiles: 36

J - Locked gates/other users: 14

(Not shown - other difficulties, not defined, 44)

## YOUNG PERSONS' QUESTIONNAIRE

Forty-seven young people, aged between ten and sixteen years, responded to the questionnaire. All attended either the Primary Schools in Fressingfield or Mendham with the older young people attending the Secondary Schools in either Stradbroke (4 miles), Harleston (4 miles), Framlingham (10 miles) or Debenham (16 miles). Those who lived near enough walked to school or were taken by car; those more distant travelled either by school bus or car. No-one cycled to school or was taken by taxi, although three reported travelling by other methods (unknown).

The majority took part in after-school activities (30). Of the seventeen who did not only six gave a reason, five concerned transport and road safety issues, the sixth simply did not wish to take part! Two thirds of respondents said that their friends did not live in the village with half of these having difficulty in meeting friends living outside the village. Again distance, safety and lack of transport were cited as being the main reasons. When travelling out of the village to meet friends, the vast majority were reliant on parents, although four would walk, three cycle and two use public transport. When asked if the bus service were to become more frequent, would they use it, two thirds said they would.

Regarding the local bus services, the request was for more frequent services and cheaper fares.

Asked about major danger spots in the village, Jubilee Corner (the junction of Laxfield Road, Harleston Road, New Street and Stradbroke Road), was considered to be the greatest hazard with 16 respondents mentioning it. Four felt there were difficulties by the bus shelter, two had difficulty in crossing Laxfield Road to reach the Recreation area and two saw difficulties in New Street around the shop.

All those who participated in clubs and groups did so either at school or within the village with the exception of two going to Harleston and one elsewhere. At school the top leisure activities were football (19), Badminton (16), Swimming (16) and basketball (14). In the village these figures revised to cycling (9), tennis (8) and football (7). A small number (7) took part in sport away from the village or school.



When asked which activities they would take part in if they were available in the village football came first (8), basketball second (5) and badminton and drama third (4). Regarding the current use of the Sancroft Hall there were 5 regular users and 13 occasional. Those using the playing field regularly were 7 and 20 occasionally.

The following suggestions were made for the improvement of village facilities:

Sancroft Hall: more weekly clubs; re-decoration (currently in progress)  
more modern things for older children.

Sports Pavilion: More discos; open to more people; modernise; install CCTV  
cameras; youth club with computers; advertise more events  
of interest to young people.

Playing field: More recycling bins; better goal nets; more football pitches;  
a youth football team; more sports facilities; more provision  
for older people; more lighting and lamp-posts; Summer  
sports for boys and girls.

Play area: More equipment for older children; bigger roundabout and  
monkey bars; sandpit.

Regarding future general improvement in the village, it was felt that no more houses should be built, the Sports pavilion be enlarged, there should be more activities for older people and 14-16 year olds especially discos, the use of the tennis courts should be free, better public transport, revision of the 30-mile signing, floral displays in the summer months and more clubs to include a rugby club, an under 10 youth club and a place for 15-17 year olds to meet at weekends.

## FROM THE SURVEY - YOUR COMMENTS

Comments from the 'Freehand' section at the end of the survey form:

- Heavy vehicles go too fast on our small, windy roads.
- We are happy with the village as it is - do not urbanise it.
- A big thank you to the volunteers who give up their time to help others. . . . .and clear up after others.
- Increase in housing density means an increase in traffic which is already spoiling the village.
- Move if you don't like the place, it is a village not a town.
- There should be a register of people willing to help with transport, shopping, gardening, etc.
- (We) must not be too enthusiastic to turn the village into a suburb - its charm lies in the undeveloped state.
- We must make sure that local people don't drift - or are forced away.
- The present environment must be maintained.
- It is time to start planning a by-pass.
- Fressingfield is lovely but needs houses for young people to help them stay in the village
- Dogs foul garden hedges, the football pitch, and many pavements - it is getting worse.
- Local people should not stand in the way of development.
- We moved here from Essex due to the crime there and high house prices - we received a very warm, friendly welcome.
- . . . feel very strongly that there should be no further building in Fressingfield. . . enough brown field sites in places like Norwich and Ipswich . . . Fressingfield has a unique character which will be spoilt . . . no need for such development
- . . . thought (the questionnaire) had too many questions
- All too few pet owners are responsible and clear up - poop bins would benefit those who clear up and encourage those who don't
- Questions about Parish Council definitely biased...disgraceful
- This (questionnaire) could have been halved and money saved as we all pay for this in some way and money does not grow on trees
- The traffic on Laxfield Road has increased in volume over the last five years with too many drivers travelling at excessive speeds - danger to other drivers, pedestrians, cyclists, horse riders, etc
- A village Christmas tree please

## Section 11

### WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE? ACTION PLAN OPTIONS.

The following list is neither exhaustive nor in a suggested order of priority. The issues are simply listed in the order in which they arose in the Parish Plan questionnaire and report. Some might actually take a small effort to achieve - others may require a marathon! Nevertheless the Steering Group believe that they offer a starting point for those in the community willing to get involved.

Adult Education and Leisure courses in Fressingfield.

Support for the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme.

Road Safety

- reduce speeding in key locations,
- crossing patrol at Stradbroke Road,
- 20 M.P.H. limit in New Street, etc.

Transport - How to improve the bus service and encourage bus use.

Local Services - Tax your vehicle at Fressingfield Post Office.

The Petrol Station: use it.

Sports & Social Club or Community Centre?

Clubs and Associations - Publicity.

The Mobile Library.

Mobile Fresh Fish & Vegetable Shops.

The Local Environment - issues including impact of Lorries on verges, etc.

Dog waste bins.

Public Footpaths & Bridleways:

- Support for the Parish Council Footpaths Officer
- Sources of Maps & Information.

Some issues can only be addressed by engaging with Parish, District, and/or County Councils. Nevertheless they can only represent the community view if that view is known and promoted.