

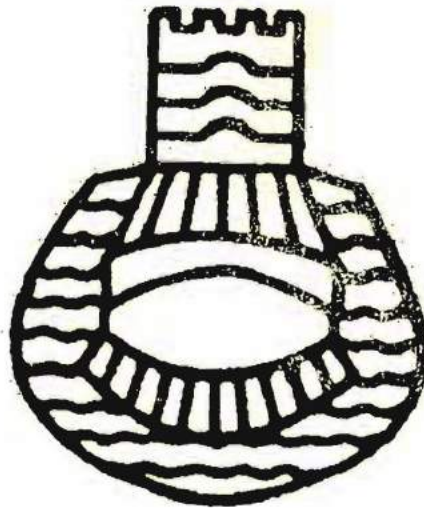
Stephan / David / Rob

For information

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7/4/99

HAUGHLEY 2000



HAUGHLEY VILLAGE APPRAISAL

NOVEMBER 1997 - MARCH 1999

FUNDED WITH THE SUPPORT OF

HAUGHLEY PARISH COUNCIL

SUFFOLK ACRE



HAUGHLEY VILLAGE APPRAISAL 1997 - 99

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- ❖ **Throughout the report we have used this symbol to indicate issues which need further thought and action. They form the basis for a village action plan.**

THANKS

This appraisal document is the result of the combined effort of many people and organisations in Haughley and some people outside it.

It has been a long process and there have been a variety of stages to go through to produce the finished report. Some people have been involved in one or two of the stages; some have been involved for the whole period. All have played a vital part in ensuring the success of the project.

The tasks have included; **getting things started, holding a public meeting; forming a steering group; devising the questionnaire; distributing and collecting the questionnaire; entering the data from the completed replies; analysing the data and the written comments; displaying some of the results at the Street Fair and in the Church and finally writing, producing, printing, binding and distributing the report.**

The following people have helped with this process, their particular role is shown in the key.

Jackie Abbott (V), Dennis Allum (V), Roger Allum (V), Kathleen Armstrong (V), Sue Baylis (AWG), Jeffery Bowden (SG), Heather Cursons (V), Jayne Day (V), Ray and Mary Edwards (V), Mark Eriera (SA), Chris Faiers (A, V), Philip and Jenny Faiers (V), David Fleetwood (AWG), Dennis and Judy Frost (V), Catherine Fuell (V), Joan and Eric Galois (V), Ray Gill (V), Sally Green (AWG), Marion Hamilton (V), Clare Hawes (V), Wendy Jennings (V), Simon Jennings (A), Geoffrey Kay (SG, V) Simon King (V), Charlie Knights (V), Yvonne Lusher (V), Peter Mead (V), Ann Miles (V), Rachel Miles (AWG), Richard and Liz Oastler (V), Paul Pepper (V), Mike Pirrie (AWG), Sally Quirk (V), Rachel Rabett (V), Douglas Rose (V), Ian and Evelyn Shave (V), Maureen and Alan Sparkes (AWG), Gwen and Dennis Spink (V), Fred Stillwell (V), Christine Such (V, A), Viv Sydell (V), Sheila Taylor (T), Judy Thomson (V), Nicola Tindall (V), Julie Tinker (V), Tonia Turner (V), Frances Wait (V), Joanne Walker (V), Kristina Warren (V), Jim Welburn (AWG), Louise Wilby (SA).

We must extend our sincerest appreciation to Suffolk Acre for their advice and support; they also assisted us by helping us claim a Rural Action grant. Haughley Parish Council made a generous contribution to the cost of the Appraisal and Haughley W.I. provided much appreciated refreshments at the public meeting.

Many thanks to everyone involved for helping to create this record of Haughley as it was at the end of 1997. Let's hope it proves to be a valuable document which helps Haughley prepare for the future.

David Evans
Chair of the Appraisal Working Group
28 March 1998

Key

A = Assisted with analysis of Questionnaire

AWG = Member of Appraisal Working Group

SA = Suffolk Acre representative

SWG = Original Member of Steering Group

T = Typed drafts of report

V = Volunteer who delivered and collected questionnaires

A BRIEF HISTORY OF HAUGHLEY

Haughley is an ancient market town; the name is Saxon for "the field by the wood".

It is believed to be an ancient druid settlement or "Magus" which was destroyed by the Roman invaders. The Romans established a settlement here known as "Sitomagus". This was a large Roman garrison of some 3,000 men under the command of General Suetonius. Of the Haughley garrison, a quarter was based in Colchester and the rest at Haughley where they formed a central place for the Roman forces in Suffolk. Haughley became one of the key Roman military centres because it was a staging post between Colchester, the Roman capital, and Norwich, being a days march in either direction.

The Saxons and Danes arrived after the Romans left and the lands around the village came into the possession of a Danish Lord "Gutmund" who built a great hall here on the present site of the Castle mound and moat. Gutmund fought and died with King Harold at the Battle of Hastings. William the Conqueror gave Gutmund's lands in Haughley to Hugh de Montford as one of only four "Honours" or rewards given to his generals. This must be a sign of the importance of Haughley at that time.

In 1086 Haughley was listed under the Suffolk Hundred of Stowmarket in the Domesday Book. William the Conqueror had ordered the survey of the country which recorded that Haughley had a church which held 31 acres of free land and half an acre of meadow. There were 30 villagers, 3 smallholders, 3 slaves and 6 freemen. Also listed were 200 pigs, 18 cattle, 146 sheep, 80 goats, 6 horses and 8 ploughs. Identified by name were those who held land in the manor: Hervey, Ralph, Thorold, Pesserera, Robert and Richard. No females were mentioned.

Gutmund died at the time of the Domesday Book and on the site of Gutmund's Hall, a castle was erected which enclosed an area of 7 acres, within which a community and church prospered. This castle was known as Hageneth Castle and was destroyed following a siege by 10,000 men commanded by the Earl of Leicester on 13th October 1173.

The castle was rebuilt and Edward II stayed here in 1327. Haughley prospered until the late 1600's when fire destroyed much of the town and following the fire Haughley was overtaken in importance by Stowmarket.

In 1999 Haughley has a population of 1,500+ and the Church is still here: all that remains of the castle is the mound and the moat. Haughley is thriving. It has a primary school, a U.R.Chapel, a Gospel Hall, the longest inhabited Post Office in England, various shops including a Co-op Supermarket, a two hundred year old family Bakers, a second hand shop, a hairdressers, the Kings Arms and Railway Tavern Public Houses, a fine restaurant, a weekly auction, a moat with ducks and moorhens and a small village green. In short, all that anyone needs for a good village life.

Sources:

Hollingsworth: The History of Stowmarket: 1844

Kirby: The Suffolk Traveller (Kirby took a survey of the whole county in 1732-34)

Morris (editor): Domesday Book (a modern translation); 1986

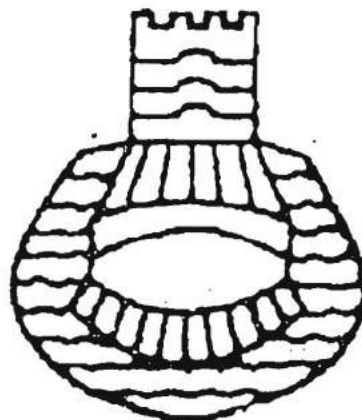
HOW THE APPRAISAL CAME ABOUT

The appraisal has its origins in a campaign in 1996 to protect Haughley from the development of a chicken broiler unit near to the properties in Millfields, on the road to Old Newton. Following tremendous public pressure the plans for the development were withdrawn. At this time it became clear that the character of the village could suddenly be changed as the result of a single planning application. This led to the setting up of a small working group who consulted with **Suffolk Acre** who advised that the Parish Council should consider undertaking a **Village Appraisal** which could be used to draw up a **Village Action Plan** to influence future development.

A second reason was a **strong desire to record life in Haughley** as it was at the end of the end of the present Millennium.

In March 1997 a public meeting was held to which all village organisations were invited, as well as interested individuals. This was well attended and a presentation by Suffolk Acre led to a decision to carryout a village appraisal and a formal Appraisal Working Group was set up.

This group prepared the questions and organised the distribution of the questionnaire. The appraisal was carried out in November 1997. Due to the tremendous interest in the appraisal, the large amount of information collected as well as various problems with the innovative software package which has been used to analyse the results, it has taken over 12 months to prepare the written report of the findings. This is regretted but will not undermine the value of the findings and we hope that it will not detract from the interest in the issues and the comments raised in the replies.



INTRODUCTION TO THE REPORT

The appraisal was completed by 928 people in the village, representing 80% of those aged over 16. This excellent response is the biggest from any Suffolk Village to date and is the first indicator of the villager's interest and concern for Haughley.

There are 605 households in Haughley of which 82% have completed the survey.

The appraisal was conducted by questionnaires; one for each household in Haughley and one for each person over the age of 16. Some village appraisals have included children aged as young as 11 years but we decided, after testing the questionnaire to only include older children as they had an immediate interest in issues such as work, housing and development in Haughley which were a central part of this appraisal.

The questionnaires included questions which required factual answers and, unusually, it also included an opportunity for people to comment in free text boxes on various issues and aspects of village life and institutions. One of the comment boxes invited people to state what they liked or disliked about Haughley. These produced some remarkable insights into the quality of life in Haughley as experienced by those living here. Some of these comments have been included in the text of the report under the relevant subject heading. The majority of the remaining comments have been recorded in an archive document, copies of which can be borrowed from the Post Office. This has been necessary to reduce the cost of printing the report.

The report is therefore a mixture of fact, opinion and comment about Haughley as it is at the end of the twentieth century. We hope it will provide a guide for Haughley as it goes into the next century and the next millennium.

The Appraisal Working Group has decided not to draw up an **Action Plan** from the information in the report as we feel this should be done by the village as a whole when everyone has had a chance to digest the document. We have agreed with the Parish Council that the appraisal report will form a central part of the Annual Parish Meeting in April.



APPEARANCE AND APPEAL OF VILLAGE LIFE . . .

An overwhelming number of positive comments were written about the friendliness and attractiveness of the village: they would fill pages.

Haughley's old buildings, the Moat and the Green, are appreciated and contribute to what is often referred to as the picturesque appearance of the village. It is also recognised that this attractive appearance is the result of individual and community efforts. People commented on the enjoyment of the countryside and there were many references to the pleasure of using the footpaths around the village. These comments and feelings were expressed equally by those who had grown up in the village and by those who had not.

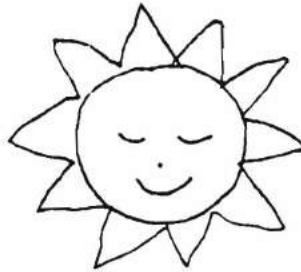
'WE LIKE LIVING IN HAUGHLEY'

"I like the character the village holds in both its buildings and its people".

I like the old picturesque cottages

"It is a happy village with most people ready to help others"

"... the shops, the Post Office and the school.... good playgroup"



"I've grown up here and would like my children to have a happy childhood here too"

"Peaceful and friendly"
(this comment was said twice as many times as any other throughout the Appraisal)

"Haughley has an identity as a village.... and have so far found it to be a pleasant and friendly place to live in"

"Easy access to the countryside"

... AND COMMUNITY SPIRIT

229 respondents were moved to comment about Haughley's community spirit. Of those only 63 were critical. Some of the comments made are used in this section, others can be seen in the Appendix.

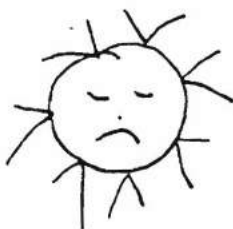
COMMENTS ABOUT:	POSITIVE	CRITICAL
Friendly people	103	6
Community Spirit	50	7
Good Social and Age Mix	10	8
Parish Council & Village Controversies	3	42
TOTAL	166	63

WE LIKE LIVING IN HAUGHLEY BUT ...WE DON'T LIKE

"a few newcomers trying to dictate to those of us who have lived in the village for years"

"continual backbiting and two faced gossiping"

"People on the new estates are not made to feel welcome"



"People don't talk to you unless you have lived in Haughley for at least 15 years"

"rift between two ends of village"

"I like Haughley but I don't like modern methods. I was born in the country and muck spreading was done in the winter not mid summer. Today everything is too fast and too greedy - 70 yrs ago we worked as fast as the horse and still got the job done"

HAUGHLEY: ITS PEOPLE HAUGHLEY'S MARVELLOUS MOTLEY MIXTURE

Perhaps part of the reason for Haughley's success, judged by the positive comments is that it is a well-balanced community. It is not a retirement village with only older people and holiday cottages; nor is it just a village full of young commuters or executives who have moved here because of the good road network. Haughley has a mixture of people, some of whom have lived here for all or most of their lives, and others who have come here because of the availability of housing, employment or because they know it as a friendly place. However this mixture also creates tensions and in some of the negative comments there is a "them and us" element, and reference is made to "factions". Others felt completely at home in Haughley, as this first comment shows:

"I have lived in Haughley most of my life. Attending Haughley School. Attending Girl Guides. Being confirmed at the Church. Married at the Church. My children in turn baptised, married in Haughley and now my grandchildren living here. It's a beautiful village to raise children in. All age groups mix well. I feel proud to be part of our village".

Of the respondents to the questionnaires 412 are male (46%) and 491 are female (54%). So there is a fairly even balance of the genders in the village.

From those who responded:

9% are between 16 and 25 years old

58% are between 25 and 59 years old

33% are over 60 years old.

Of the latter 3 men and 14 women are over 85 years old.

Who are we and where we have come from?

15% of our population have always lived in Haughley,

57% moved to Haughley from within a 30-mile radius.

28 % moved to Haughley from over 30 miles away.

It is reasonable to suppose that almost 75% of the villagers are East Anglian in origin.

Reasons for moving to Haughley

In most cases, people indicated that they moved to Haughley for more than one reason.

The main reasons highlighted were:

availability of work in the area

availability of houses in the village

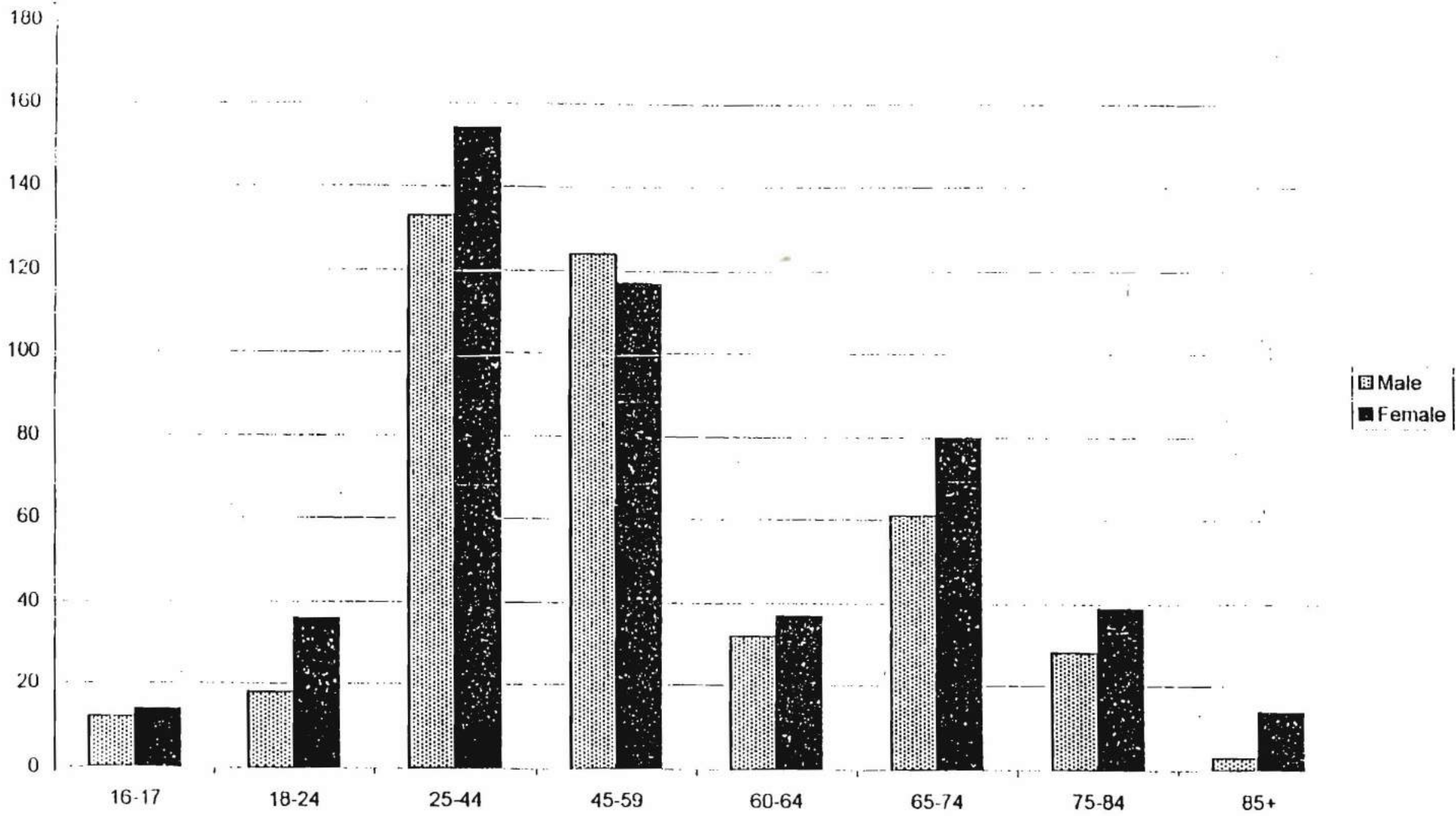
love of country life

love of village life

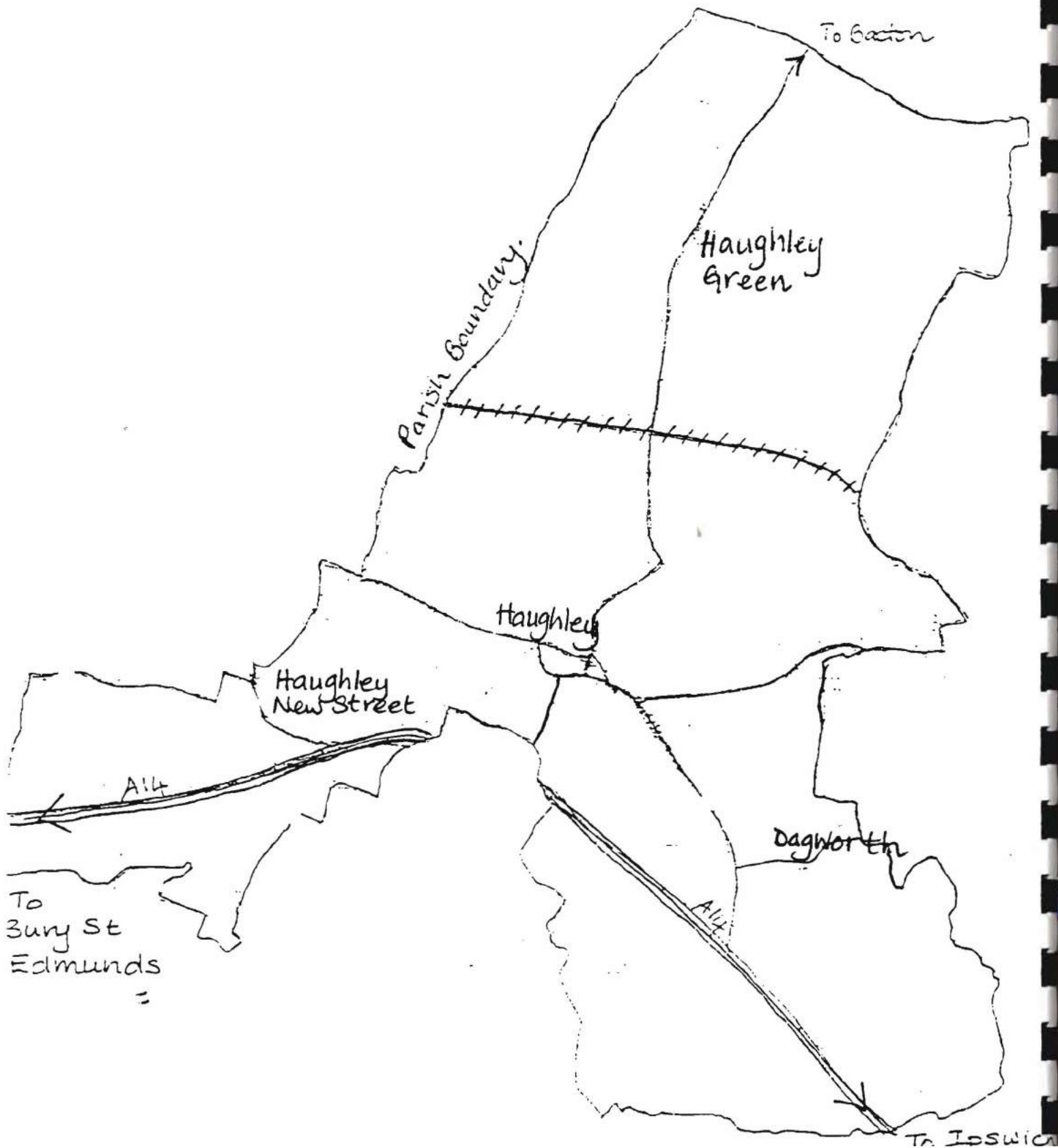
to be near relatives

to set up home

Gender and Age Chart

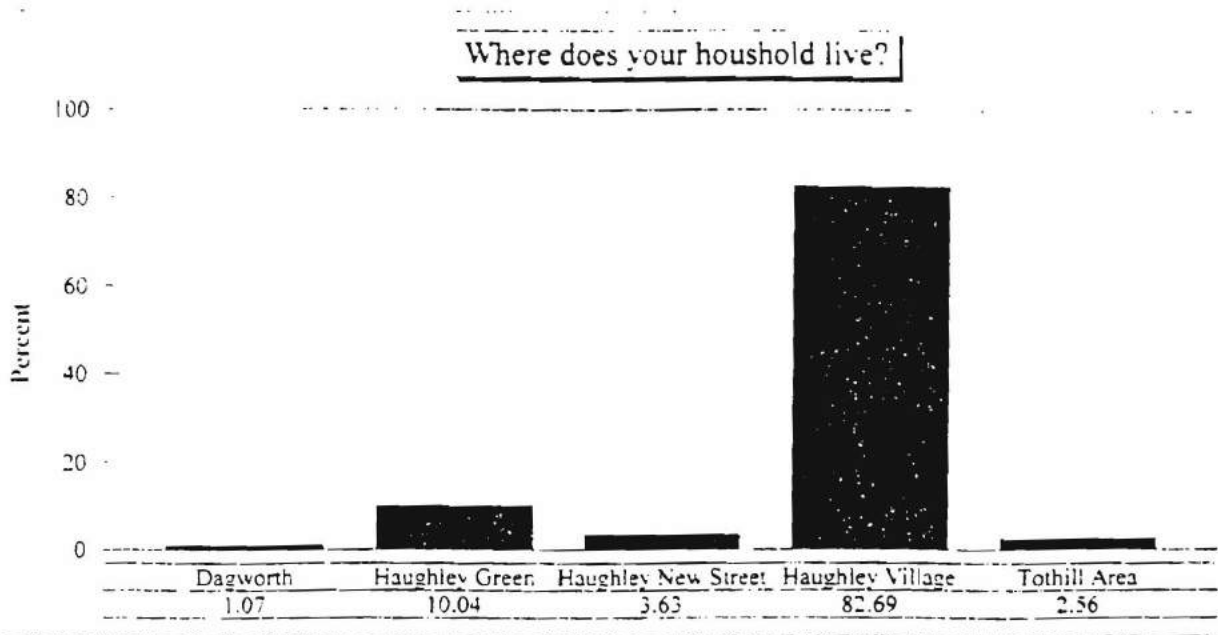


AN OUTLINE MAP OF HAUGHLEY

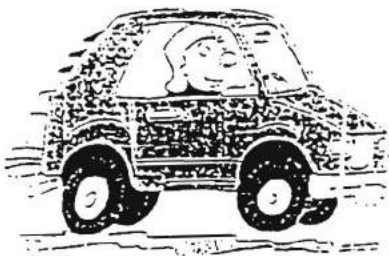


HAUGHLEY'S HOMES, HOUSES AND THEIR LOCATION

Haughley is a village of many parts



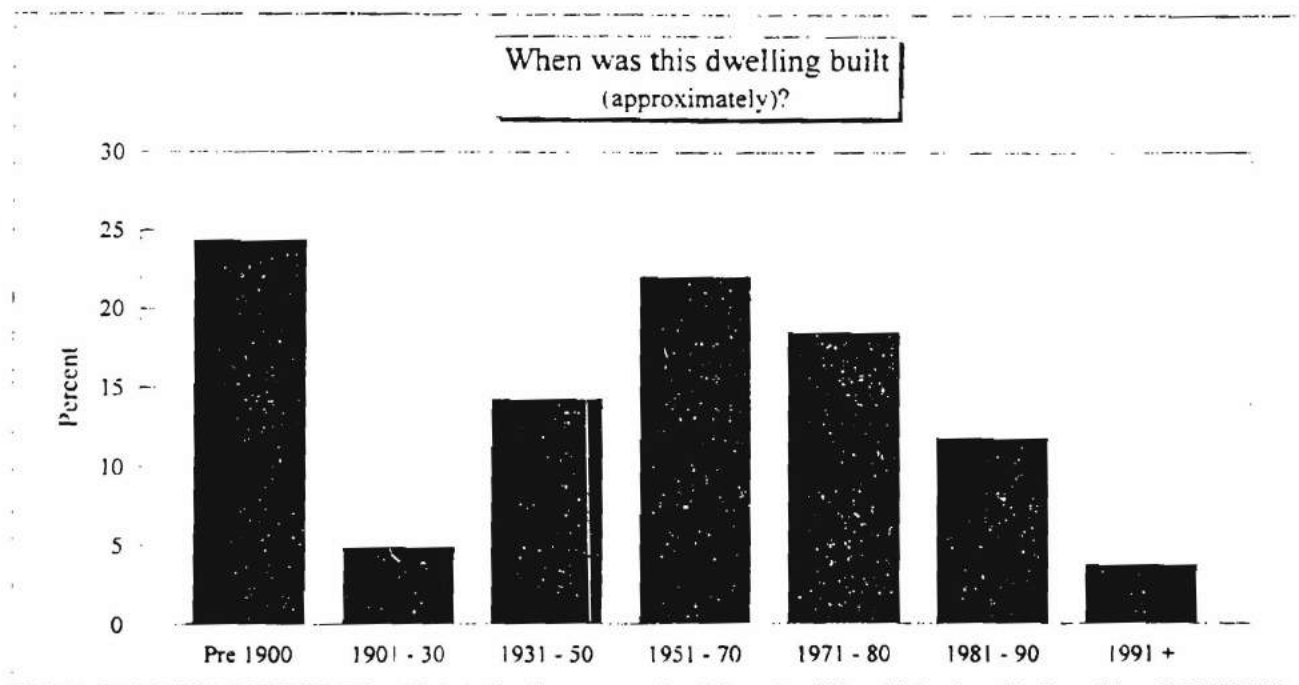
We like the location of our village and its proximity to the countryside We love and hate our proximity to the A14



HAUGHLEY'S HOMES: WHEN WERE THEY BUILT?

Approximately 25% of our houses are pre 1900 and some 18% were built between the turn of the century and the end of the war. Amazingly 50% of our village was built between 1950 and 1990. So far, in the 1990's, new homes account for just 3.6%.

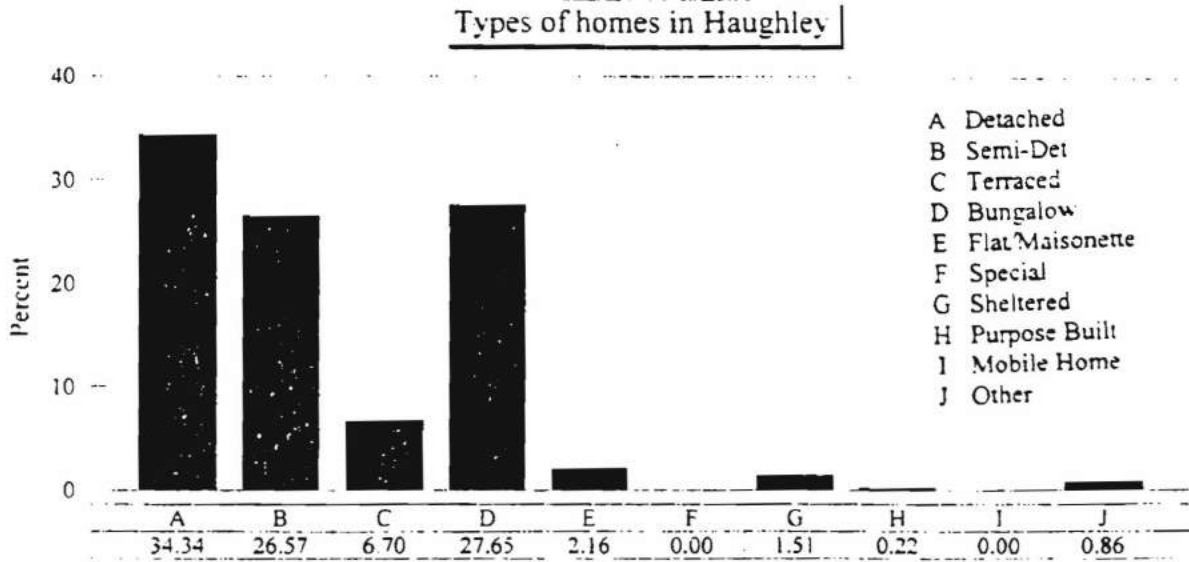
The survey only allowed people to indicate whether their homes were built before 1900, unfortunately there is no way of breaking down this 25% further. By just looking one can see that some of the houses date from Tudor times and doubtless the foundations of some of these and others date from before that.



The charts on the opposite page show the types of homes we live in and how they are owned and rented.

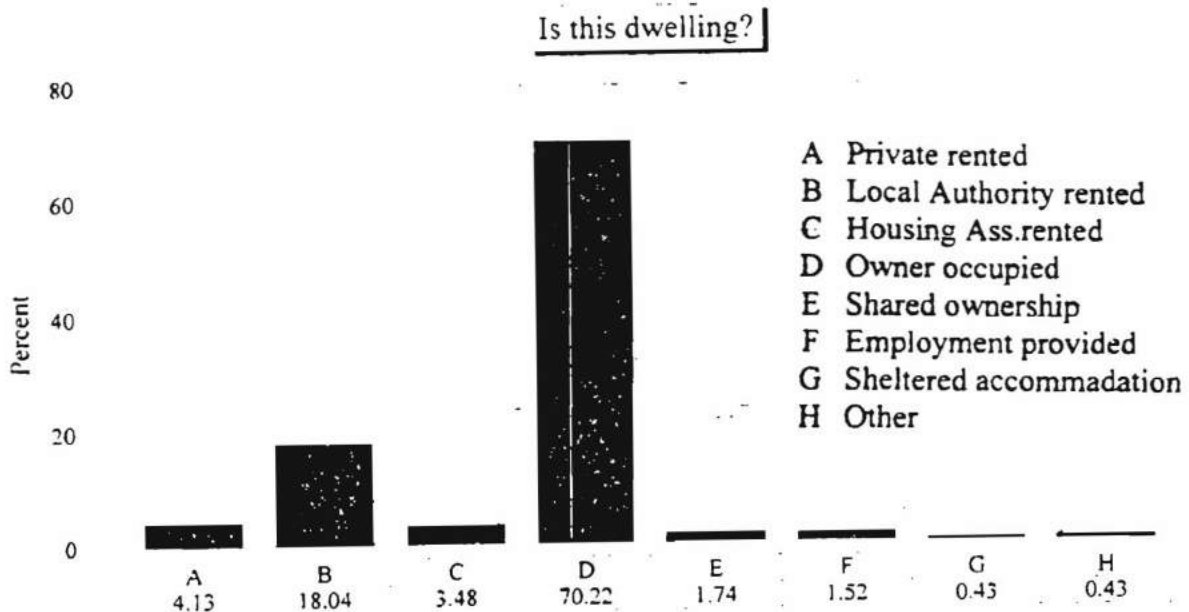
The high proportion of owner occupied properties reflects the national trend in Britain since World War II. For Haughley to retain the mix of age, gender and skill that we currently enjoy, we need to maintain a variety of types of homes.

TYPES OF HOMES IN HAUGHLEY



The diversity of house types in Haughley is likely to be one of the greatest attractions to new comers as it allows residents to move within Haughley as the size of their family changes.

Forms of Ownership



DISTURBANCES TO OUR WAY OF LIFE

The peaceful enjoyment of our homes is disturbed most by traffic noise. There was also a strong objection to foul smells. The questionnaire did not allow us to locate precisely the source of the smells, however, there were sufficient indications that the smells come mainly from the sewerage farm at the bottom of Old Street. The mention of light pollution may or may not have reflected concern at the time about new lights on the Kings Arms.

Traffic noise	378
Smell pollution	306
Shooting	193
Noise pollution	118
Low flying aircraft	80
Light pollution	69
Others	28
Farm animals in gardens	11



There were lots of comments about traffic noise and these give a taste of them;

"The noise and speed of traffic on the A14 past our property gets worse. Something should be done at Tothill to divert the traffic away from properties on this hill. It is like a race track - continuous - not just daytime but also at night. If you think it is noisy living in Haughley village - can you imagine how we suffer here at Tothill?"

"Living in Old Street traffic noise is a problem at times".



FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF HOMES

The majority of respondents considered the past developments to be about right. Some three quarters of respondents thought there should be some future development in Haughley. They favoured:

conversion of redundant buildings	37%
development of single dwellings in controlled areas	33%
small groups of less than 10	28%
carefully designed larger properties	6%

Many felt this could be within the village but 15% of respondents wanted development to take place on the edge of the village and 25% wanted no development at all.

Those who favoured development wanted future home building in Haughley to be of the following types:

low cost starter homes	29%
local authority homes	20%
owner occupied	18%
sheltered housing	11%
private rented	9%

Less than 5% wanted shared ownership and employer provided homes.

50% of those under 30 wanted more low cost starter homes.

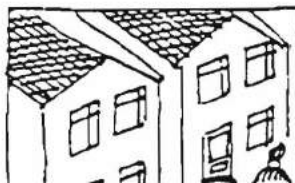
Moving on

Over 93% of respondents did not wish to move from Haughley. Of the 14 households who wanted to move, most wanted to stay in Haughley and simply wanted either a larger or smaller property to accommodate the changes in their family size or to accommodate an elderly relative.

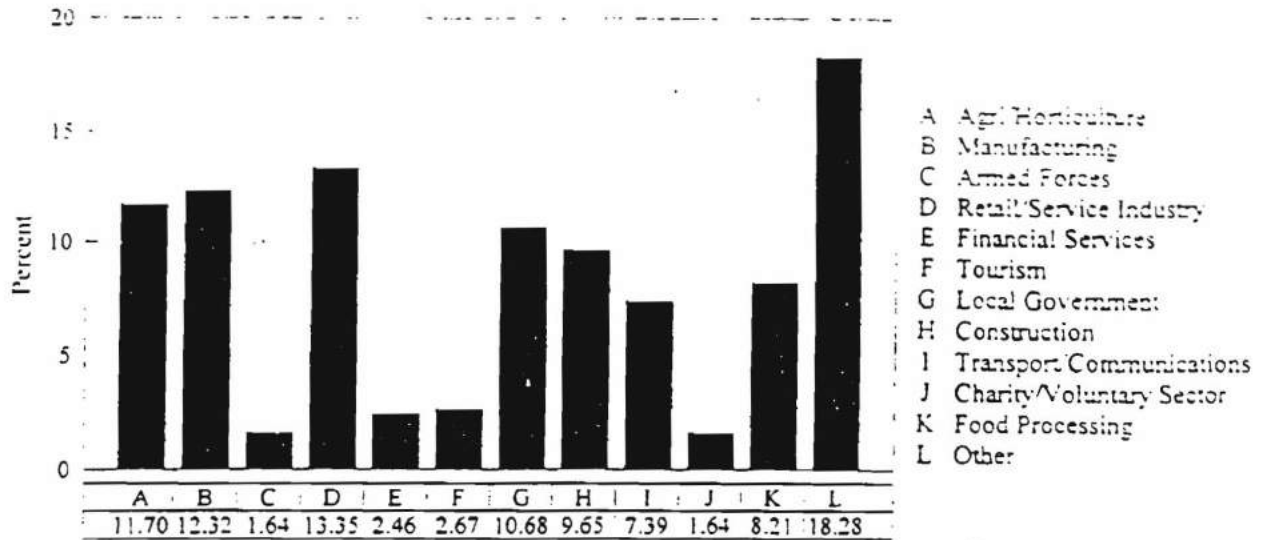
❖ New Housing Development

The majority of Haughley residents are in favour of the controlled development of small groups of homes for families, starter homes and homes for single people. We would like new dwellings to be constructed in friendly materials and carefully located so the green belt around the village is maintained.

The nature of the infrastructure of the housing is likely to continue to attract the same resident 'social mix.' Haughley needs to continue to attract the balance of age ranges of its residents to remain a thriving village. This will include making provision for what may become an ageing population as well as providing homes for young adults who wish to remain in Haughley but live independently of their parents.



HAUGHLEY'S WORLD OF WORK



Our world of work is certainly varied and balanced - there is a whole host of talent in the village - not to mention the experience of the retired.

Local farms, Rannochs, ICI, local retailers and the businesses and public services in Stowmarket, Ipswich and Bury St Edmunds mean that unemployment in the village is not a major problem. The A14 gives villagers easy access to the local towns for employment.

Despite the modern electronic age Haughley maintains its link with its rural past which is shown by the high number of people still working in agriculture and horticulture.

Apart from the vicar and the vet, who identified themselves on their questionnaires, contemplating what the people who indicated 'other' do for a living, can be a source of some enjoyment.

Those seeking work

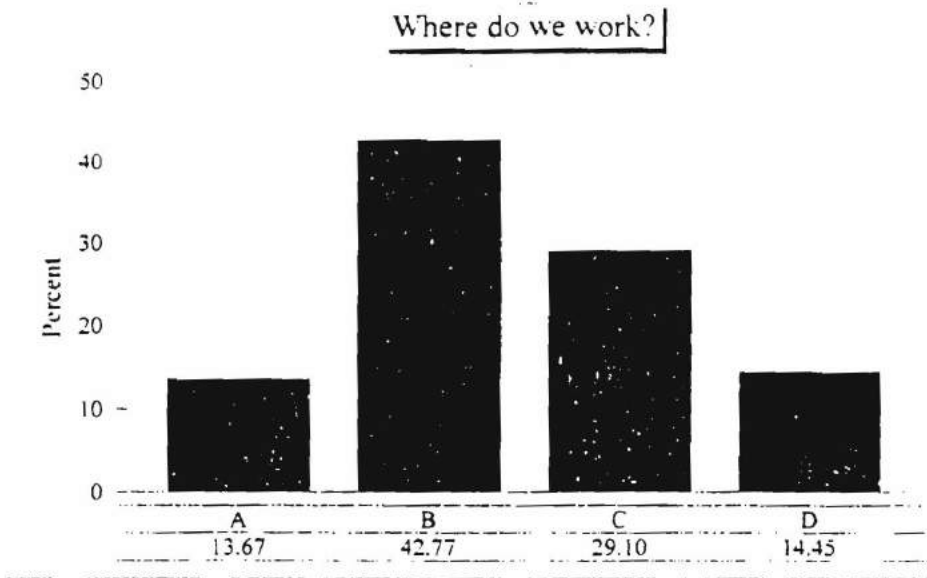
13 people were actively seeking full time employment and 26 were seeking part time employment.

The barriers to finding employment are chiefly lack of access to transport and availability and cost of child care. Six people felt they did not have the right qualifications and just one person needed more advice.

Qualifications

77% of villagers who responded, have qualifications ranging from GCSE's to Degrees and including a variety of Diplomas, HNC, OND and Commercial Qualifications 23% of the respondents have no qualifications.

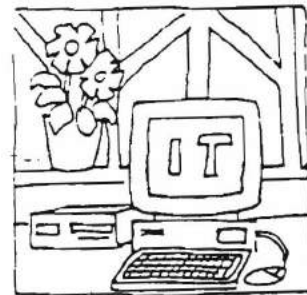
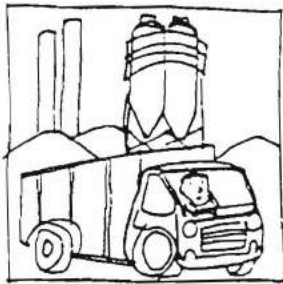
Location of work



FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF EMPLOYMENT IN HAUGHLEY

43% of respondents wanted more jobs in Haughley and the same number were in favour of small business development.

- ❖ Tensions appear here over future developments providing work opportunities within the village. Local workplaces might mean fewer vehicles, more money spent in the village, and more skills and understanding available. Some peoples' lives may well be enhanced.
- ❖ On the other side of the coin, more workplaces could mean more commercial vehicles, more noise and other pollution depending on the nature of the businesses.



The development of tourism

On balance, there were more respondents against the encouragement of tourism in and around Haughley than for it. If tourists were to be encouraged, bed and breakfast and guest houses were considered to be the best option. 209 respondents wanted more overnight tourists in the village, whereas 308 did not, 334 had no opinion one way or the other.

TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

Transport to work, training and study

Most respondents work or study within 5 miles of Haughley (43%), with 29% working between 6 and 20 miles from Haughley. 13.67% work from home.

There were few surprises here. 73.5% use cars to travel to work or study. Only 4.6% use the public bus system. Is this because most people have cars, or because the buses do not go to the places we work or don't go at the right times?

Just 1.9% of people in Haughley walk to work. 3.3% are close enough to cycle. 1.4% use mopeds/motorbikes.

3.9% of the population use a work provided bus. A very small percentage use taxis (0.6%) and trains (0.3%).

75% of respondents have day time access to a vehicle
25% of respondents do not

Use of Vehicles

83% of respondents use their vehicles for business and work purposes
77% for leisure
76% for shopping

Extensive use is made of Stowmarket Leisure Centre and the local Supermarkets in Stowmarket, Bury St Edmunds and Ipswich (although another section shows that villagers do use their local shops in Haughley.)



Vehicles

We own 546 cars, 47 vans, 23 motorbikes, 4 lorries and 2 specially adapted vehicles

337 vehicles are kept in a garage

249 are kept off the road

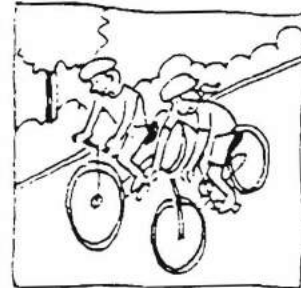
68 are kept on the road

There are many times when it feels and looks as if more than 68 vehicles are parked on the roads in and around Haughley. However, they are an asset to traffic calming in many incidences and essential for our worlds of work, leisure, education and health.

Bicycles

There are a lot of bikes in Haughley - 350

Bikes are most often used for recreation, some are used for transport to work and school and a very few are for shopping, some are just owned and not used!

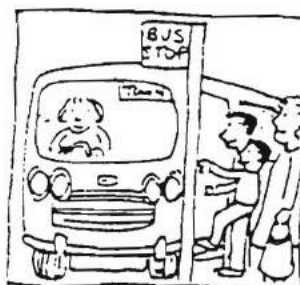


The local bus service

Some people use the buses occasionally but the vast majority of the village, never at all.

Buses are used most often for shopping purposes, 33 people use them for medical visits, 20 for leisure and 18 for work.

- ❖ In spite of the fact that so few people use the buses, they are obviously vitally important to those who do. However, responses from the 'bus users' revealed that, at the time of the survey, it was difficult to find something positive to say about the service. There were grumbles about the routes, the timings and the position of the bus stops. The bus service, or lack of it, is a very real issue for those who do not have cars.



HAUGHLEY'S LOVE HATE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE A14

The advantages and disadvantages of Haughley's location, with its easy access to the A14, was a subject referred to in both the likes and dislikes section as well as in the comments on the environmental aspects of the village

Likes and dislikes

Comment about	Times mentioned
Danger of traffic and congestion in Haughley	67
Proximity to Local Towns	54
A 14 - The Dangers of Crossing	46
A14 - An Asset to Haughley	19
A14 - A Liability (Noise Pollution)	18

Environmental

Limit the Number of HGV's through the Village	25
Reduce the Speed of Traffic in the Village	11
Improve facilities for Pedestrians and Cyclists	8
Provide Better Road Signs	1

Advantages

For some Haughley is ideally situated, it is near to Stowmarket for shops, supermarkets, banks and the leisure centre and it is also near to the larger towns of Bury St Edmunds and Ipswich. This advantage has clearly been a reason for some people moving to Haughley especially as the A14 not only provides a quick means of getting to local towns but also to the rest of the country because of the good connection with the national road network.

"It is close to the A14 and Stowmarket ... Fishponds Way should have "travel calming", e.g. red road, sleeping policeman etc "

"Enjoy locality and access to A14. Do not like HGV's and cars speeding in village".

"Close to A14, can cycle to Stowmarket, Bury and Ipswich"



Disadvantages

The disadvantages of Haughley's position alongside the A14 produces major disadvantages which are clearly shown in people's responses. The A14 is dangerous to cross whichever way traffic is going (turning right to go west to Bury St Edmunds or turning right back into Haughley from the east)

- ❖ The A14 also draws traffic into Haughley (not all of it with business in the village) and this causes congestion in Old Street, and the speed and size of lorries creates dangers in Station Road and Windgap Lane. However it has to be remembered that Tothill is also part of Haughley and they have tremendous problems with the noise from the A14. A problem which is shared, if on a reduced scale, by the rest of the village

"I like the location of our small estate and the convenient access to A14 and inner country roads. At the same time, I would like to see a safe entrance upon and exit from A14".

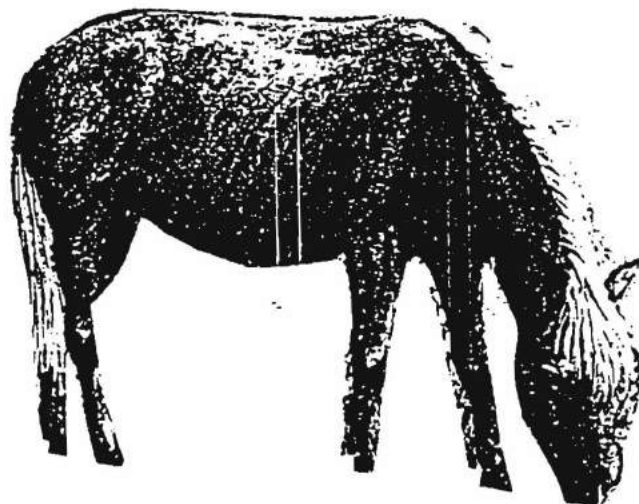
"I dislike having to take my life in my hands trying to cross the A14 returning west bound to Haughley"

"Living in Old Street traffic noise is a problem at times"

Speed and Danger of Traffic in Haughley:

"I would like to see cars prevented from speeding up and down Station Road and from Old Newton. This is dangerous, especially to children".

There should be "no traffic, only horses".



HAUGHLEY'S SERVICE INDUSTRIES AND FACILITIES

The chart shows how people value the Newsagents, Co-op store, Post Office and Bakers. It also shows how much the local hostilities are valued by their regulars. A number of respondents wrote Hairdresser and Vet beside 'other'. We should have included them on the list - apologies. The Fish and Chip van was also omitted.

Other local businesses were mentioned on the forms in ones and twos.

There were 871 respondents to the following question:

How often do you use the following shops and services?

	1-Daily	2-Monthly	3-Less frequently	4-Never
Post Office	324 - 35%	293 - 32%	184 - 20%	65 - 7%
Newsagents	503 - 55%	207 - 22%	117 - 13%	43 - 5%
Co-op Store	383 - 42%	219 - 24%	203 - 22%	65 - 7%
Counting House Restaurant	9 - 1%	14 - 1.5%	174 - 19%	574 - 63%
Kings Arms PH	56 - 6%	132 - 14%	332 - 36%	281 - 30%
The Railway Tavern	56 - 6%	58 - 7%	225 - 24%	447 - 48%
Palmer's Bakery	249 - 27%	203 - 22%	262 - 28%	127 - 14%
Other	10 - 1%	23 - 2%	53 - 6%	34 - 4%

In addition to the above factual overview of Haughley's services we have included comments about all those things usually called village facilities; this includes some comments about village organisations and clubs. The clubs did not get a lot of comments but the village seem to appreciate the efforts which are made to set-up and maintain them. The facilities that Haughley has to offer enhance the community spirit and give people a chance to develop a social life in the village. The football club was specifically mentioned and someone described it as a central part of Haughley's identity when they said, "I like Haughley Football Club. I dislike anybody who does not have Haughley at heart".

"There is something for everyone if you feel inclined to join with village life". Or as this person said, "all age groups well catered for with regards to activities".

"A well served village, the community have a pride in the appearance of Haughley and to my knowledge most groups/clubs are well supported. I like to feel that I can choose to be involved in activities on offer".

It was also recognised that you should not expect everything to be available in a village, "amenities, although few, meet some of the normal day to day needs".

The fact that Haughley has a broad range of shops has been praised several times but here is a comment from a dissatisfied customer:

"The thing I dislike about the village is the way the shops all close for dinner. I feel that they should have at least one that stays open at lunchtime".

There were positive comments about village "institutions" such as the Parish Magazine, Haughley in Bloom and the Street Fair. As with other subjects opinion was divided about whether the facilities and institutions were good or bad.

After commenting very positively about the picturesque nature of Haughley and its many facilities, one person wrote "my only concern is that the ever increasing 'Haughley in Bloom' displays will soon overwhelm the inherent beauty and character of the village".

This contrasts with the person who wrote, "I like the history and historical buildings, community spirit especially during "Haughley in Bloom", village fair, church fair etc."

"Haughley has a bit of everything, lots of walks, bridle paths, is very pretty and the people are friendly, excellent pubs". I like Haughley because "it is still a village and friendly. People (are) willing to organise village events and celebrations".

"I like the large organised events e.g. Street Fair, Xmas Fair, Bonfire Night".

❖ The final comment in this section offers some original ideas but also raises the question of what should be provided in the village and what should we have to travel to Stowmarket for.

"I propose the village could be improved by:

1. An up to date school with modern equipment
2. Convert old school into education centre for daytime and evening classes with use of computer available to all.
3. School canteen converted to gym and sports facility".



FACILITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Some village appraisals have issued questionnaires to children as young as 11. We took the decision, after testing-out the questionnaire with this young age group, that we would restrict it to young people of 16 and above. We felt that the opinions of this age group would be valuable across many areas of the questionnaire. Their aspirations for housing of their own and for employment will be a significant factor in the immediate future.

The disadvantage of restricting the age range in this way was that we did not get opinions from the younger teenagers themselves on what the village has to offer. Teenagers of 16+ are inevitably going to be looking outside the village for more commercial, "youth culture" type activities while the younger age group may find some of their needs for social activity met by the youth club. This distinction may help to explain the reason for some of the critical comments.

"There is not much to do for people of my age group (15 - 18)".

"Haughley has a good school and facilities for young children. However I feel the village needs to cater further for the needs of teenage children".

This view is confirmed by a teenager's comment, "Nowhere for teenagers to go, nothing to do". And another said, "lack of clubs for younger people".

Another teenager added another angle to this when she said, "there is nowhere to go or nothing to do for teenagers, apart from the youth club which I feel too old for".

The views of some teenagers are perhaps summed up by this last comment, which shows another consequence of not providing a wide enough range of activities for children and young people, "in the village there is a lot for older people; bingo, W.I., pubs etc. There is nothing for the younger generation, which are the generation of the future and will grow up being bored".

Significant numbers of young people are attending further education, or are in full time employment.

9	attend	Sixth Form College
31	attend	University
10	attend	Other establishments



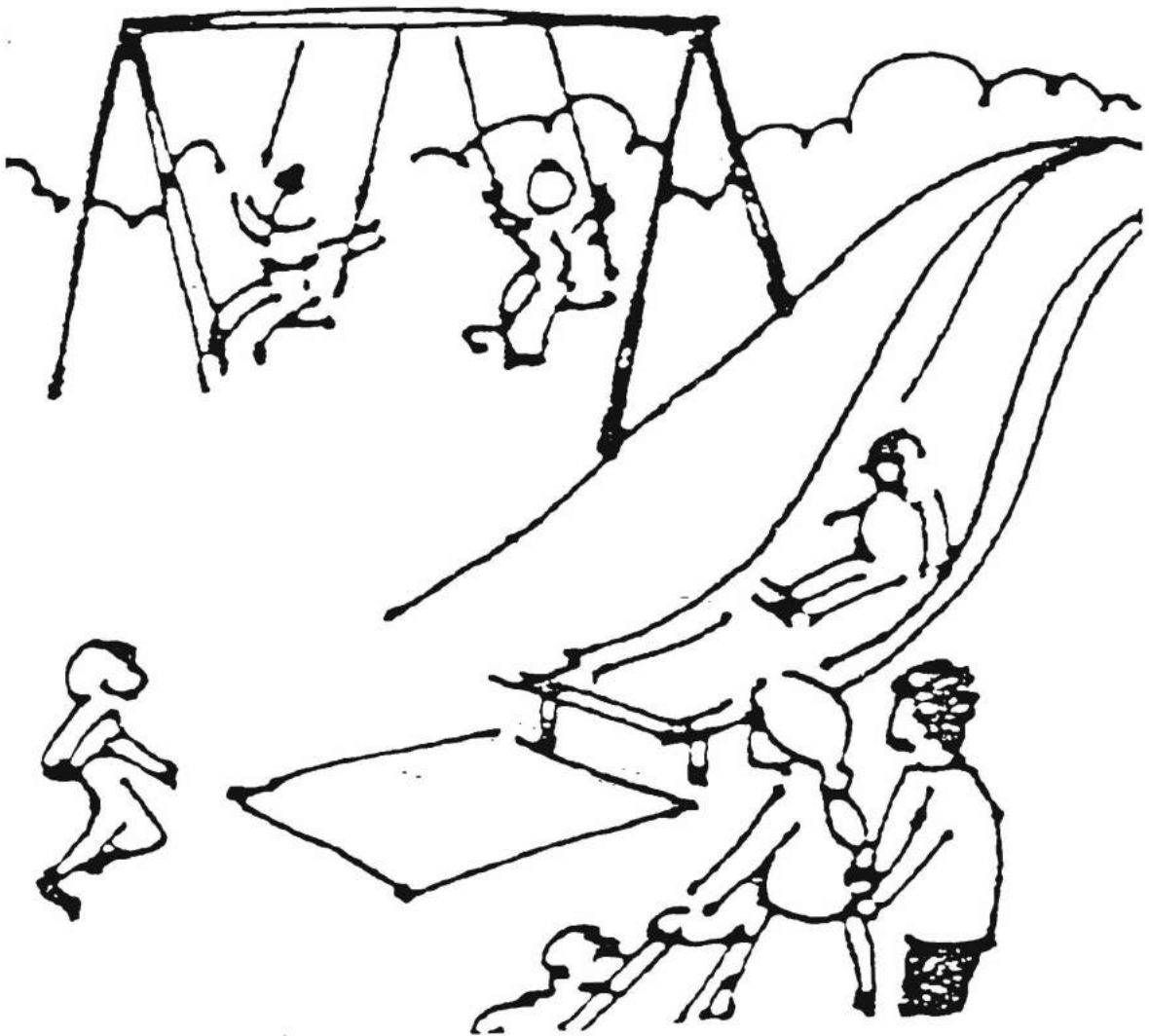
LACK OF FACILITIES

An adults point of view

Some of the criticisms about the lack of facilities for children did not come from children themselves as some of the quotes clearly demonstrate. This tells us that facilities for children and young people are not just for their own benefit. They benefit all age groups because they remove the risk of childrens' play disrupting the peace and quiet enjoyment which some adults look forward to at the end of their working day or in retirement as demonstrated by the first few quotations.

"I dislike the estate being taken over as a play area. I like children, I'm a teacher, but I like a quiet environment"

"No play area for under fives. Millfields would be ideal with picnic area, tables and chairs, sand pit, small swings and roundabouts with paths for youngsters to cycle on safely"



HAUGHLEY'S UNDER SIXTEENS

As has been said, this age group did not have their own part to play in this questionnaire; but we were able to judge parts of their lifestyle from questions put to their parents.

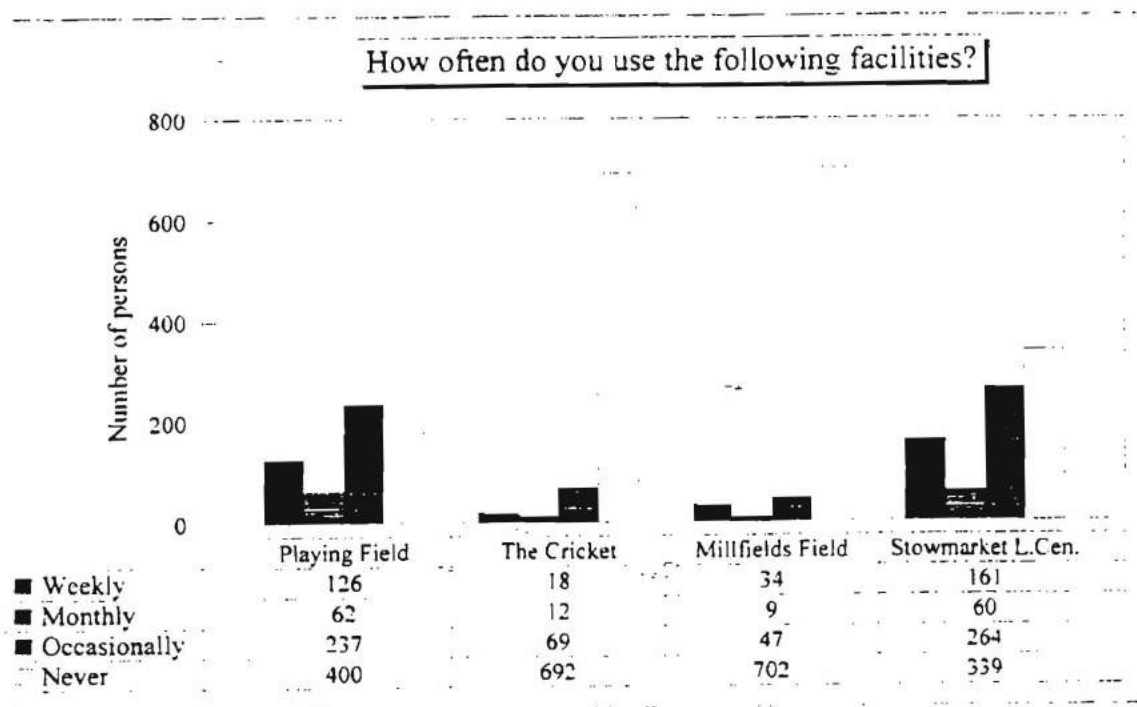
After school and during the holidays, about 100 Haughley children are cared for by relatives and neighbours, 9 by childminders and 1 by a nanny.

- ❖ Provision and cost of childcare were sited as barriers to some people seeking employment.

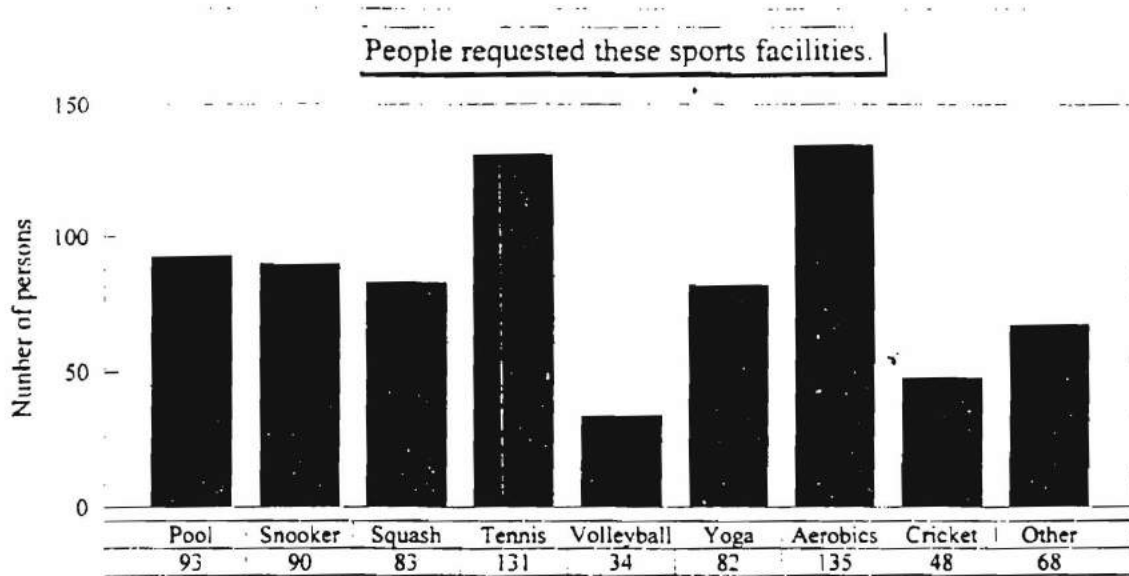
Use of educational facilities

28	children attend	Haughley Playgroup
16		Nursery School
71		Primary School
68		Middle School
39		Secondary School
1		Special Needs School
16		Other

- ❖ The vast majority of under sixteen's are able to take advantage of after school activities. However, 13 could not because of lack of transport, 8 because of the distance involved, 2 because of Special Needs and 1 because of expense.



SUGGESTED ADDITIONAL RECREATIONAL FACILITIES



The above chart shows which clubs/activities we would be prepared to attend if they were available in Haughley.

Over 50% of people also use the Leisure Centre at Stowmarket.

❖ Are the Village Hall, Pavilion and Playing Field adequate as venues?

THE PARISH COUNCIL

More people thought the Parish Council to be not aware (161) than fully aware (133) of local concerns and feelings. 300 people were prepared to take the middle road and respond 'quite aware.'

Of the 928 respondents, only 218 had ever attended a parish council meeting. Most of these had been within the last year when emotions were running high over trees, hanging baskets and lights.

The 779 responses to the question on 'how well the parish council communicates' were difficult to interpret:

Yes, they do communicate well	312 (37.7%)
No, they do not communicate well	235 (28.4%)
No opinion	280 (33.9%)

Responses on whether we would be prepared to increase the parish rate were a little more definite:

Yes	193	22.7%
No	284	33.4%
No opinion	95	11.2%
Not sure	279	32.8%

This can be reasonably linked with whether we are satisfied with the way the money is spent.

353 people said they did not know how the money was spent.

There were 25 respondents who were very satisfied with the Parish Council and they, *may* or *may not* be members of the Parish Council, their families and the odd friend. The 30 who were very dissatisfied *may* or *may not* be those antagonists over the trees and lights.



LOCAL GOVERNMENT RATINGS

COMMENTS ABOUT THE PARISH COUNCIL AND VILLAGE CONTROVERSIES

There were a large number of critical comments specifically about the Parish Council. Some of these are listed below. It is inevitably necessary, in a document of this length, to be selective, however, we have decided to include some of the more contentious and colourful comments to show the strength of feeling on this subject. If the appraisal had been done at a time when Haughley was not such front-page news, it is likely that the negative opinions would have been more balanced and across the range of issues, rather than be so concentrated on the Parish Council. It must also be remembered that the overwhelming majority made **no comment at all** about the Parish Council.

"I wish the Parish Council would not make mountains out of molehills: e.g. pub lights, hanging baskets, trees in street. Perhaps they should spend 12 months in East London or Liverpool. Then they would see what problems exist in the real world."

"I dislike having to pay the second highest village precept in Mid Suffolk and the petty squabbles that should be settled within the village without resorting to Mid Suffolk D.C. and without talking to the press."

"A few 'newcomers' trying to dictate to those of us who have lived in the village for years how things should be done... and never listen to the views of others."

"I dislike the way in which the Parish Council is 'highjacked' by a few pompous, arrogant people ignorant of the views of the people they purport to represent."

"Haughley is one of the most beautiful villages in Suffolk but because of the attitude of the ruling body i.e. the Parish Council, half the village is cut off from the other half and have no chance to contribute to the place they live."

"The Parish Council is twice as large as it needs to be, leading to too much in-fighting between various factions."

The isolation of Haughley Green was also commented on; "I dislike the feeling that Haughley Green does not exist by **some** members of the Parish Council."

Another person added, perhaps looking at the recent controversies from a perspective that was more understanding of the Parish Council's problems, felt that it had shown a 'disappointing side.' The nasty 'hate' letters, verbal abuse etc. have created much ill feeling. 'Better communication maybe is needed, but if people don't want to read or listen then.... you can lead a horse to water, but you can't make it drink.'

Others were more positive and recognised the difficult task any Parish Council faces when it makes decisions of behalf of the village.

"I dislike people running the Parish Council down when the press gets the **facts** wrong."

"I dislike people who criticise those who do their best to help village organisations but do nothing to contribute themselves."

MID SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL

289 people felt that the District Council was quite aware of local concerns. 61 people thought that MSDC was fully aware and 214 considered them to be not aware.

Fully aware of concerns	61	6.6%
quite aware of concerns	289	31.4%
not aware of concerns	214	23.2%
no opinion	210	22.8%

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

The County Council fared less well. Of the respondents to the question: "Do you feel your elected representatives are sufficiently aware of local concerns and feelings?"

34	said	fully aware
216	said	quite aware
262	said	not aware
256	said	no opinion



ISSUES SPECIFIC TO HAUGHLEY GREEN, NEW STREET, DAGWORTH & TOTHILL

Despite our efforts to ensure confidentiality some people clearly indicated that they were from Haughley Green. This page has been put together from those comments but there may have been others from Haughley Green who did not identify their location. Some had very strong opinions especially about being "outsiders" from the main village. Others had complaints about traffic and the dangers of walking within Haughley Green itself.

COMMENT	TIMES MENTIONED
Footpath needed	6
Traffic calming & enforcement of 30mph limit	5
Traffic reduction	3
Bus service needed	3
More facilities/ shop	3
Not part of Haughley	3
Enjoy peace & quiet	2
Improve Cricket as play area	1

Just to illustrate the strength of feeling behind some of the above comments we have included a couple of them:

"I dislike the fact that I cannot walk the road from Bacton to Haughley without fear of being flattened by motorists speeding. Find the footpaths overgrown and dangerous for most of the year"

"I dislike Haughley Green being treated as "a boil on the bum of Haughley", destined to be a further dormitory".

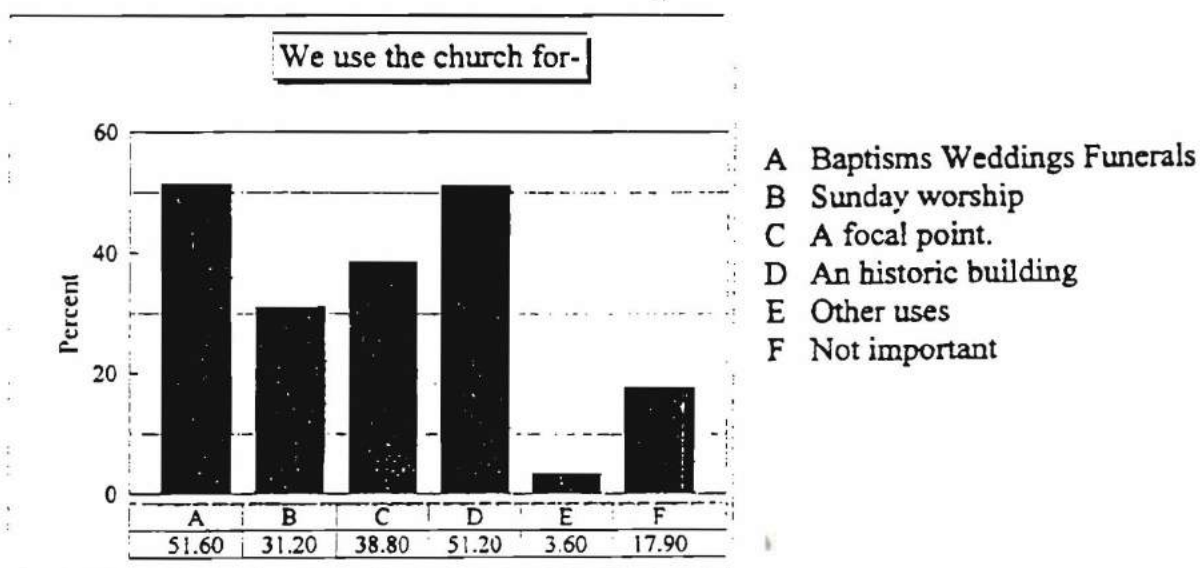
Dagworth, Haughley New Street and Tothill residents maintained their confidentiality apart from one Tothill respondent who wrote:

"The noise and speed of traffic on the A14 past our property gets worse. Something should be done at Tothill to divert the traffic away from properties on this hill. It is like a racetrack - continuous - not just daytime but also at night. If you think it is noisy living in Haughley village - can you imagine how we suffer here at Tothill?"

PLACES OF WORSHIP

Over 50% of respondents said they attend St Mary's Haughley at some time. Both the URC in Haughley and the Gospel Hall in Haughley Green have regular congregations. Roman Catholics living in Haughley have to travel to worship. Over 30% of villagers never attend any form of Church for worship.

Notwithstanding peoples religious views, St Mary's Church is important to 90% of the respondents for baptisms, weddings and funerals, as an historic building and as a focal point for the community.



A variety of aspects of the Churches were included amongst the features of local organisations that people appreciated.

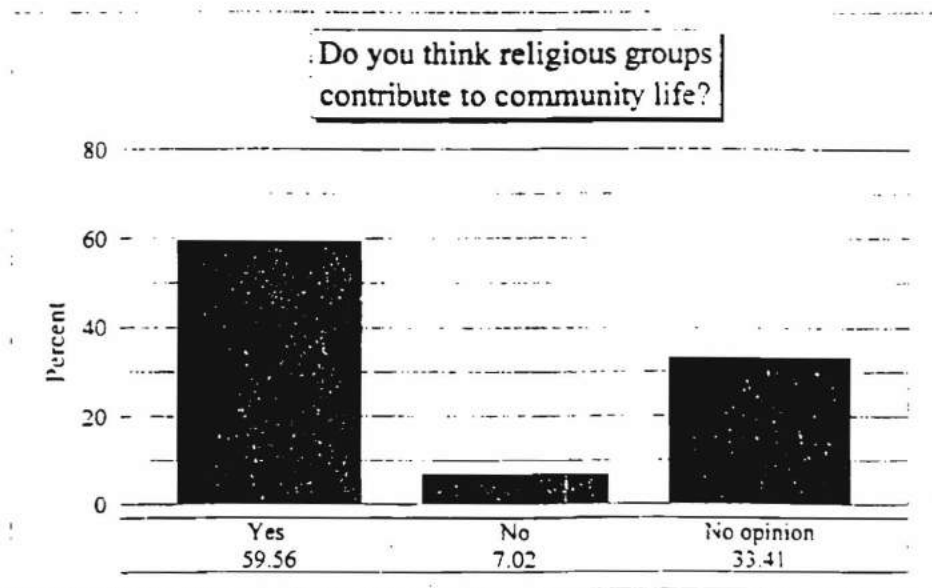
“I like the fact that a church service is available each Sunday”

“I like Haughley because it is an attractive, safe, rural village and I like the church bells”

“I like the sense of community – highlighted by the excellent Parish Magazine”

The Churches' contribution to community life

The chart below shows how much the religious groups contribute to the community. Most of the village organisations have 'church goers' on their committees or as part of their membership. Many villagers turn out for the Street Fayres and coffee mornings and certainly the contribution of the Churches to the life of the village is valued.



HAUGHLEY'S HEALTH AND SAFETY

Doctor's surgeries

Most respondents go to Stowmarket to see their Doctor (70%). Nearly a quarter goes to Woolpit: many were older residents. 6% go elsewhere and just 1% goes to Elmswell. It is essential for a minority that the bus services are maintained for visits to the Health Centres.

Dentist

A number of respondents had found difficulty registering with a NHS dentist. Unfortunately, a reflection of the national trend.

Neighbourhood watch

❖ 648 people wanted Haughley to have a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. Just 38 were not in favour and 188 had no opinion.



General feelings about safety in the village

Haughley has little crime and vandalism; people generally feel safe and parents appreciate it is a safe place for their children to play; as the following comments show:

"I feel fairly safe, I only wish there was better lighting at night as there are a lot of widowed ladies in the village who must be afraid in the darkness."

A younger woman of 18-24 years seemed to agree with these sentiments when she wrote "It is dark and eerie at nights (poor lighting)."

"I like living in Haughley because it is reasonably safe and quiet and little crime."

"Haughley is clean, quiet, friendly; in all a lovely village and we love it."

"The peace and quiet of Haughley is lovely and the lack of vandalism good."

"I love living in Haughley, it is a small, quiet village... I used to live in Stowmarket near a housing scheme estate and we, like many others, found this led to noise."

"Like the sense of safety in the street so children can play."

·DOG MESS BINS·

- ❖ The number of people wanting 'Dog Mess Bins' reflects the strong concerns about the problem of dog mess.

Respondents overwhelmingly reckoned that these were required throughout Haughley Village and Haughley New Street. It would appear that dog owners would welcome the provision of bins.



Litter

- ❖ Over 38% of you said that you wanted a campaign against litter. Certainly litter detracts from the look of the village and the level of response demands some action by villagers, local organisations and the Parish Council.

Street lighting

- ❖ Most people considered the street lighting to be poor rather than good:

Poor	419
Reasonable	277
Good	104
No opinion	23

Crossing the A14 - How concerned are we?

- ❖ Extremely concerned 741
- Moderately 115
- Not at all concerned 32



ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Recycling

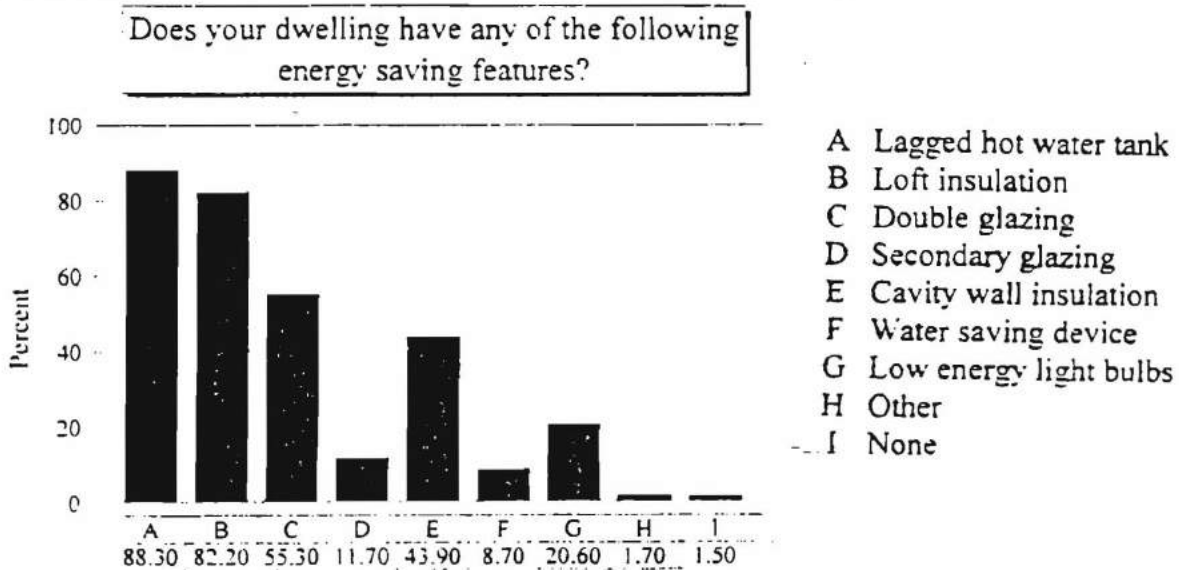
91% of people said they would be prepared to sort certain items for recycling purposes. This is the highest percent of positive responses from the whole appraisal. Just 4% said they would not and 5% had no opinion.

- ❖ There would appear to be messages here for both the District and Parish Councils to provide greater facilities to recycle waste and to help us create a more sustainable environment for future generations.

Proportion of houses with insulation and energy saving features

88.3%	Lagged Hot Water Tank
82.2%	Loft Insulation
55.3%	Double Glazing
11.7%	Secondary Glazing
43.9%	Cavity Wall Insulation
20.6%	Use low-energy light bulbs
18.7%	Water saving devices

From further analysis it was evident that overall Local Authority homes were much better insulated than private ones.



THE COUNTRYSIDE IN AND AROUND HAUGHLEY

There was a very positive response to which aspects of the countryside villagers value. The most frequently mentioned were the footpaths (604), the Moat (535), the Churchyard (488), the Playing Field (451) and the Cricket at Haughley Green (181).

- ❖ You felt most of these areas had a good to reasonable appearance, but felt particularly that the Moat and Picnic site needed attention.
- ❖ Similarly, most respondents considered the local roads to be in good to reasonable repair, but people were less happy with the state of the pavements and verges.

Haughley Wildlife

- ❖ Over half of respondents thought that the village should create local nature reserves and ponds.

Footpaths

Respondents across the age range valued the footpaths. Most people know where they are but thought more signposts were needed. However, more respondents were not prepared to help maintain them than were!

- ❖ You were very keen to have maps of local footpaths and guided walks of the area.



VILLAGE HALL

Parishioners were asked: "Do you think the Village Hall is adequate for the needs of Haughley?" The replies were as follows:

Yes	307	35%
No	272	31%
No opinion	292	33%

In the comment box 323 residents, 35% of the population, made comments covering a range of issues as shown below.

COMMENTS ABOUT	NUMBER
Inadequate parking	144
Hall too small	58
Kitchen needs updating	15
Hall needs modernising	25
Toilets need refurbishing	14
Poor outside lighting	9
New hall needed	9
Poor / noisy heating	9
More activities for children / teenagers needed	9
Complements Ron Crascall Pavilion	6



- ❖ The biggest problem is felt to be the lack of parking. A problem which cannot be solved if the village hall remains in its present location. The second concern is about the size of the hall. Some of the reasons for this come out in the comments.

"The village hall committee does an excellent job in looking after the hall. As representatives from village organisations they take all views into consideration. In order to improve we could do with better car parking facilities."

"Good central position. Easy to walk to. Needs street light outside. Poor parking."

"Well-used and appreciated venue for twelve local organisations. Shame about no car parking nearby"

"Much more modernisation and refurbishment – especially in the toilets and kitchen area."

"The hall is a good size and appears to be well maintained. Larger ones can become a millstone as well as attracting undesirable events."

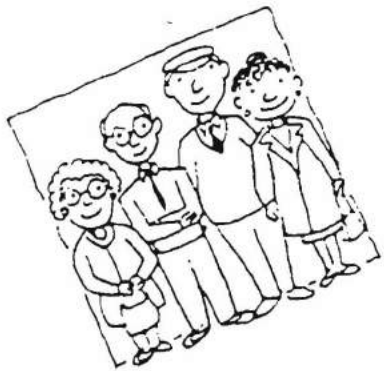
"Not big enough or equipped for playgroup needs"

"Hall well maintained. Adequate if kitchen / catering facilities enhanced"

"Should be more community events held in hall. It would help it to be appreciated"

At least one person thought that it was not worth refurbishing the village hall and proposed an alternative use,

"The village hall should be closed and sold for conversion into a private dwelling."



A NEW PRIMARY SCHOOL FOR HAUGHLEY?

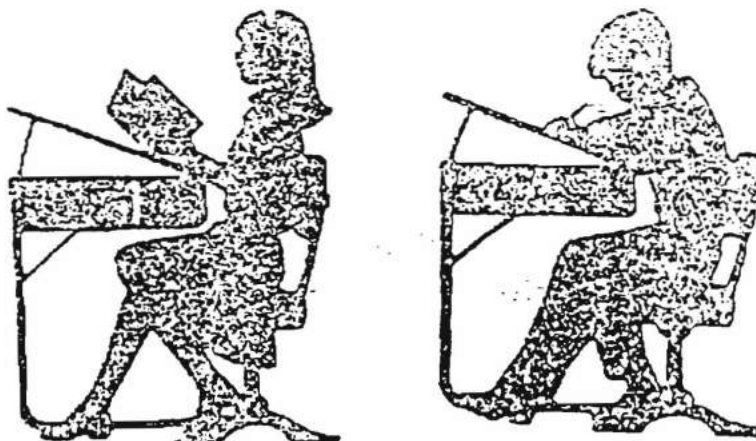
Householders who indicated that they felt there was a need for a new primary school were asked to record their reasons. 142 householders out of 928 indicated that they would like a new primary school. The main reasons given for wanting a new school were the perceived inadequacies of the present one: its size, facilities, location and environment.

Reasons for wanting new school:

Reasons given:	Number:
Present school too small	89
Inadequate play space and facilities	56
Unsuited to modern education	46
Dislike use of portacabins	29
Dangerous location/ crossing busy road to playing field	28
Investment for the future	21
Present school too old	13
Need for purpose built school	21

Further analysis shows that there were differences in the kinds of responses made by householders with children compared to those without children. 63% of the householders wanting a new primary school have children compared to 37% of householders without children.

- ❖ "A new primary school has been on the agenda for the last 30 years. Surely it is now time it became top of the agenda."



"I have lived here for 25 years. My children attended primary school and during all that time a new school has been promised. The school is old and too small for the needs of children in the 90's"

"Too small for our future grandchildren"

"It would create more space for increased number of children and bring the school up to date for the year 2000"

Households with children were more likely to state dislike of the portacabins, that the present school was unsuited to **modern education and the inadequacies of the play space and facilities on offer at the present school**. 39 households have children in the age group 5 - 10 years, a total of 50 children from these households were attending Haughley Primary School at the time of the survey. These households, compared to others wanting a new primary school, were more likely to give reasons citing the inadequacies of the present facilities. The following quotes each provide a comprehensive assessment of the perceived inadequacies:

"Old building is overcrowded cramped - little play space for children. Portacabins should be temporary classrooms not permanent. External classrooms environment important part of teaching processes and relates to psychological well being of staff and pupils"

"The present building is far too small: there are 'temporary' portacabin classrooms: insufficient play area; in an emergency, such as a fire, the children need to congregate across a busy road in the playing field: children needing extra help with work are taught in the entrance hall"

It should be noted that no one criticised the teaching and learning at Haughley Crawfords - just the building and the inadequate facilities.



CONCLUSION AND ACTION POINTS SUMMARY

The following is a summary of the main issues and what we have called "Action Points". They have been taken directly from the text but have been grouped together into subject headings. These issues were marked in the text by the "bullet point" symbol, as mentioned on the contents page.

As stated in the introduction we have not tried to create a **Village Action Plan** from these issues as we feel that before that is done the report needs to be considered by individuals and organisations in Haughley. The relevance of the facts and opinions included in the report need to be **debated more widely** and the responsibility for any decisions which are taken needs to rest with the **Parish Council** as the democratically elected body in Haughley. We are delighted that the Parish Council has decided to make this village appraisal the centre-piece of the Annual Parish Meeting

Housing Needs and Potential Development

- ❖ The majority of Haughley residents are in favour of the controlled development of small groups of homes for families, starter homes and homes for single people. We would like new dwellings to be constructed in friendly materials and carefully located so the green belt around the village is maintained.
- ❖ The nature of the infrastructure of the housing is likely to continue to attract the same resident 'social mix.' Haughley needs to continue to attract the balance of age ranges of its residents to remain a thriving village. This will include making provision for what may become an ageing population as well as providing homes for young adults who wish to remain in Haughley but live independently of their parents.

Work and Employment

- ❖ Tensions appear here over future developments providing work opportunities within the village. Local workplaces might mean fewer vehicles, more money spent in the village, and more skills and understanding available. Some peoples' lives may well be enhanced.
- ❖ Provision and cost of childcare were sited as barriers to some people seeking employment.

Traffic and Public Transport

- ❖ On the other side of the coin, more workplaces could mean more commercial vehicles, more noise and other pollution depending on the nature of the businesses.
- ❖ The A14 also draws traffic into Haughley (not all of it with business in the village) and this causes congestion in Old Street, and the speed and size of lorries creates dangers in Station Road and Windgap Lane.

- ❖ It has to be remembered that Tothill is also part of Haughley and they have tremendous problems with the noise from the A14. A problem which is shared, if on a reduced scale, by the rest of the village.
- ❖ In spite of the fact that so few people use the buses, they are obviously vitally important to those who do. However, responses from the 'bus users' revealed that, at the time of the survey, it was difficult to find something positive to say about the service. There were grumbles about the routes, the timings and the position of the bus stops. The bus service, or lack of it, is a very real issue for those who do not have cars.
- ❖ Crossing the A14 - How concerned are we?

Extremely concerned	741
Moderately	115
Not at all concerned	32

Environmental and Re-cycling Issues

- ❖ Over half of respondents thought that the village should create local nature reserves and ponds.
- ❖ 91% of people said they would be prepared to sort certain items for recycling purposes. This is the highest percent of positive responses from the whole appraisal. Just 4% said they would not and 5% had no opinion. There would appear to be messages here for both the District and Parish Councils to provide greater facilities to recycle waste and to help us create a more sustainable environment for future generations.

Village Appearance and "Services"

- ❖ You felt most of these areas had a good to reasonable appearance, but felt particularly that the Moat and Picnic site needed attention.
- ❖ Similarly, most respondents considered the local roads to be in good to reasonable repair, but people were less happy with the state of the pavements and verges.
- ❖ Over 38% of you said that you wanted a campaign against litter. Certainly litter detracts from the look of the village and the level of response demands some action by villagers, local organisations and the Parish Council.
- ❖ Most people considered the street lighting to be poor rather than good:
- ❖ The number of people wanting 'Dog Mess Bins' reflects the strong concerns about the problem of dog mess.
- ❖ 648 people wanted Haughley to have a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. Just 38 were not in favour and 188 had no opinion.
- ❖ You were very keen to have maps of local footpaths and guided walks of the area.

Major Village "Assets" and Resources (Village Hall and the School)

- ❖ Are the Village Hall, Pavilion and Playing Field adequate as venues?
- ❖ The biggest problem is felt to be the lack of parking. A problem which cannot be solved if the village hall remains in its present location. The second concern is about the size of the hall.
- ❖ "A new primary school has been on the agenda for the last 30 years. Surely it is now time it became top of the agenda."
- ❖ The vast majority of under sixteen's are able to take advantage of after school activities. However, 13 could not because of lack of transport, 8 because of the distance involved, 2 because of Special Needs and 1 because of expense.
- ❖ The final comment offers some original ideas but also raises the question of what should be provided in the village and what we should have to travel to Stowmarket for.

"I propose the village could be improved by:

1. An up to date school with modern equipment
2. Convert old school into education centre for daytime and evening classes with use of computer available to all.
3. School canteen converted to gym and sports facility".

This final comment deserves some response. It would be possible to combine a solution to the concerns about the Village Hall and about the School if the idea of a "Community School", such as they have at Mendlesham, were considered. This could lead to, not only, a new combined school and village hall, but would also raise the question of how to use the existing buildings. This could create some exciting opportunities.

NOTES AND COMMENTS

If you wish to respond to any of the facts, opinions or action points included in this appraisal you could use this page to record your own comments.

Please then raise them with any group that you belong to in the village or with a member of the Appraisal Working Group (listed in the THANKS section) or come to the Annual Parish Meeting on 24 April 1999.