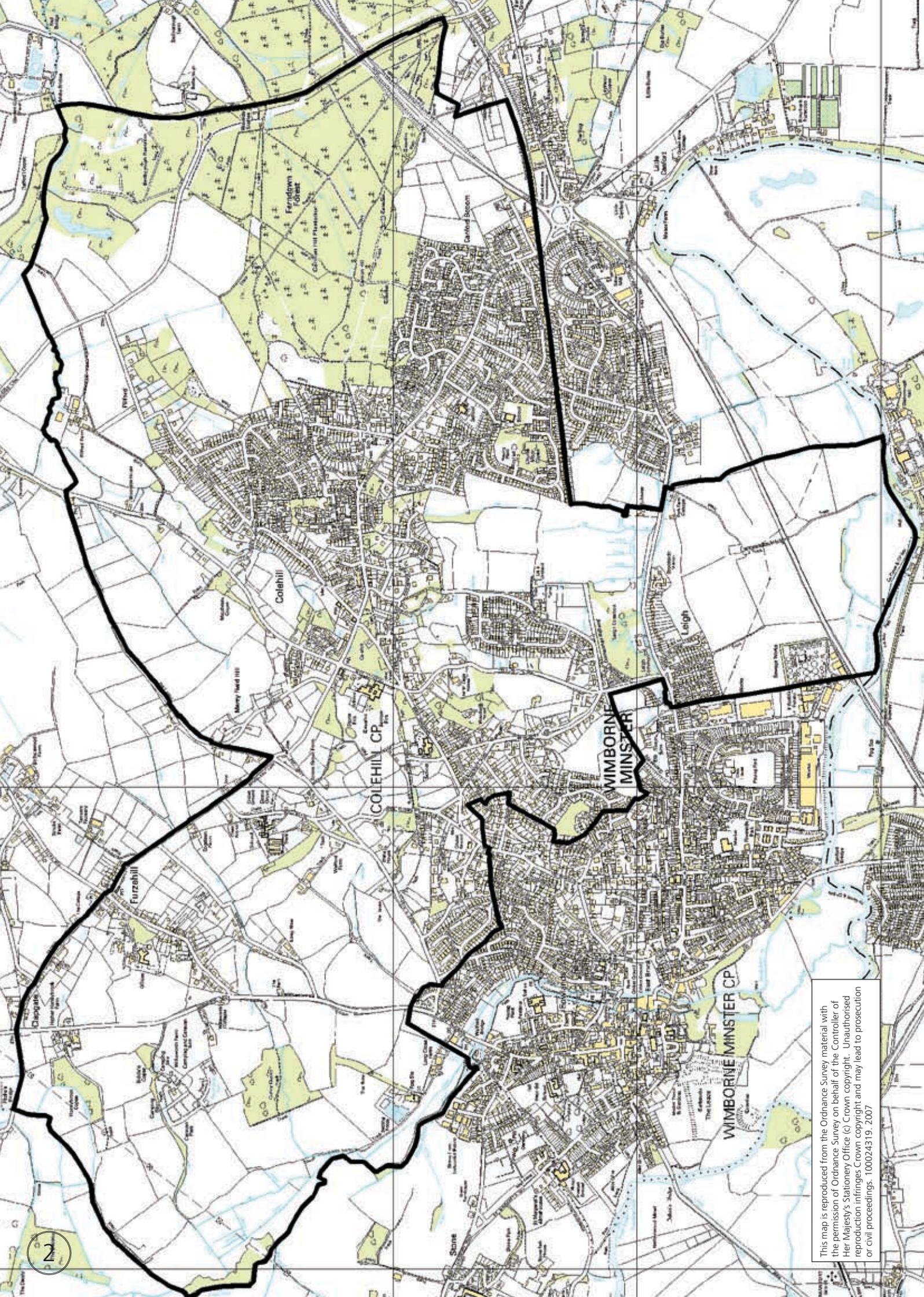


COLEHILL PARISH PLAN

Colehill Parish Plan Group - 2008



A FEW FACTS AND FIGURES

National Census 2001

Dwellings

Dwellings, total	2870
Owner occupied	2526
Second Homes	3
Housing Association	187
Average Household Size	2.46
Average Number. of Rooms per Household	5.96
One Person Household, pensioner	402
One Person Household, other	226
Lone Parent Households	83

People

All People	7000
All Males	3441
All Females	3559
Children 0 - 15	1260
Young People < 25	599
People 25 - 64	3741
People 65 - 74	768
People > 75	632
People with a long-term limiting illness	1019
People in good health	5162

Employment (16 to 74)

All People	5108
All Males, employed	1772
All Males, unemployed**	61
All Females, employed	1510
All Females, unemployed**	39
Average hours worked - Male	42.1
Average hours worked - Female	28.7
Average miles to work	9.4
No qualifications above Level 1	2264

**Registered unemployed

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South East Dorset

South East Dorset comprises Bournemouth, Poole and Christchurch Boroughs, and East Dorset District, with parts of North Dorset and Purbeck Districts.



INTRODUCTION

In October 2006 more than 160 people gathered in the Memorial Hall to discuss the desirability of developing a Parish Plan for Colehill. The vast majority agreed that this would be a good thing, and subsequently ten people, including two Parish Councillors, volunteered to form a Steering Group.

Why Parish Plans?

The idea of a Parish Plan did not suddenly materialise out of thin air, but was born of the government's desire to involve communities in determining their own future. This initiative was embodied in the Local Government Act of 2000, augmented by the White Paper *"Strong and Prosperous Communities 2006"*. These are the *"licence"* for town and parish plans.

Not surprisingly there are structures to help in the development of these plans. At District there is the East Dorset Community Partnership, chaired by Sir Ronald Stuart-Paul. (Web site www.eastdorsetcommunitypartnership.org.uk). Within it there are Local Action Groups (LAGs), of which Wimborne and District Local Action Group is one; Colehill residents are free to join this LAG. East Dorset District Council (EDDC) also supports Theme Action Groups (TAGs) on topics such as Health, Housing, Environment, Traffic and Transport, and Youth. These themes were identified in research by Bournemouth University for EDDC into what were people's major concerns and interests. It happens that they are also the main themes developed in various Parish Plans.

So far, a half dozen Parish Plans have been written and adopted by communities in East Dorset and they, together with the work of the LAGs and TAGs, have informed the Sustainable Community Strategy that was adopted by the East Dorset District Council in January 2008. This is a *"living"* document that will be continually updated, and the Colehill Parish Plan will add to that body of knowledge. Local authorities and other agencies are obliged to take note of and, where possible, act on the messages of the Parish Plans.

The Colehill Parish Council, although not directly involved, has given assistance in drawing up Colehill Parish Plan and supports it.

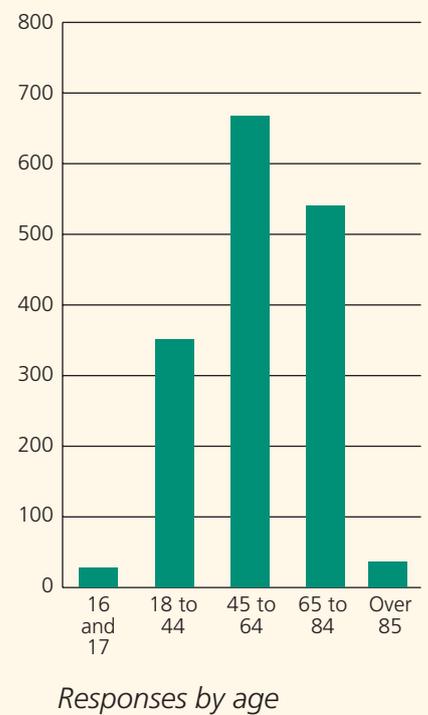
We hope that this Parish Plan will point the way to improving the Community of Colehill for the majority of the people who live here.

Under Way

The Colehill Parish Plan Steering Group elected a chairman at an early meeting, a non-councillor as decreed by the constitution, and after preliminary research the group produced a questionnaire. This was delivered to every house in Colehill. The response was extremely high, with 858 survey forms and nearly 1800 personal replies received - including under 16's.

Much time has been spent in carefully analysing the data and taking note of the comments made by the residents. Further, the Parish Plan Steering Group has discussed the issues with the responsible authorities, service providers and stakeholders.

This Parish Plan embodies the hopes and feelings of the people of Colehill as recorded in their responses. We have shown too the proposed actions of the service providers and authorities such as Dorset County Council, East Dorset District Council, Colehill Parish Council, Dorset Police, and the Primary Care Trust.



Responses by age

EARLY HISTORY OF COLEHILL

Six Bronze Age round barrows visible in Colehill show that people lived here as early as 2,000 BC. The River Stour would have been navigable and there is evidence that in about 500 BC peoples from Continental Europe were populating the South West, bringing with them the elementary culture of the early Iron Age. Fortifications at Hengistbury Head and more forts inland were established then.

Parts of tracks survive, running parallel to the river from the coastal fort, passing through modern locations such as Parley and Stapehill, and on to Badbury Rings. It is very likely that the line of Middlehill Road derives from these very early tracks.

Later in Roman times Wimborne developed as an important trading centre on the River Stour, and as a junction for further tracks from Poole to Badbury Rings and on to Salisbury. Another track radiating eastward possibly set the line for what was to become the A31. Bridges replaced the fords (Canford) in about 100 AD.

There then followed the Saxon invasion and the formation of the Kingdom of Wessex. Agriculture became established and with it clearance of some small plots on the sunny heathland slopes around Colehill. Over the centuries farms and estates grew until most of the ownership of land was consolidated into the estates that we know of today - Kingston Lacy, Hanham and Uddens.

Satisfaction and Importance Levels

To be able to present a large number of percentage figures in a comprehensible way this report makes use of "levels" of satisfaction and importance. They are derived from the scale of (5) to (1) by adding the percentages relating to (5) and (4), and taking away the percentages relating to (2) and (1), and then rounding. As an example:

How satisfied are you with the provision of Facilities for Under 5's?

High: (5) 7.8%, (4) 19.4%

Medium: (3) 34.9%

Low: (2) 15.6% (1) 22.3%

Overall satisfaction level: Minus 11%

Note that satisfaction and importance levels can range from +100% to -100%. A level of zero means that people in general are neither satisfied nor dissatisfied, or that a matter is neither important nor unimportant

This method is often used in opinion polls.

Colehill as a Community

Emerging from a small hamlet, where little had changed since medieval times, Colehill saw significant expansion in the Victorian era. Largely due to the arrival of the railway, Wimborne became prosperous and the rich of South East Dorset sought to make their homes on large estates on the slopes of Colehill.

So began the development of the village as a community. Notably, the Village School in Middlehill was founded in 1865. Ten years earlier a Primitive Methodist Chapel had been built (replaced in 1913 by the Methodist Chapel in Lonnen Road). The Anglican Church started as a "Tin Tabernacle" in 1881 and was in use temporarily until St. Michael's and All Angels was built in 1893. This is a particularly fine building, designed by William Caröe in the Arts and Crafts style. The Parish Council was formed in 1896, and met in Glyn's Coffee Tavern in Colehill Lane. A year later a village recreation ground was proposed but, in fact, Oliver's Park did not materialise until 1967.

The woodland known as The Triangle has "village green" status and there are two areas of "common land" nearby. Leigh Common to the south was created as a Local Nature Reserve in 1995. Some of the older parts of Colehill, Giddylake and Rowlands Hill, together with Merrifield, Burt's Hill and Dean's Grove, have been designated Conservation Areas.

There are six schools in Colehill, ranging from nursery schools and first schools to a middle school; a special needs school and a private school.

Many describe Colehill as a lovely place in which to live - part rural and part suburban. Some would like it to stay exactly as it is. But most people can see that this is not possible and, in any event, there are things that need to be improved if Colehill is to function well as a community.

The principal roads through the village are Smugglers Lane and Middlehill Road, crossed by Lonnen Road and the Wimborne Road. The way that Colehill has developed has obviated any focal point, except perhaps the Triangle, the War Memorial and St. Michael's Church. With Furzehill and Dogdean to the north and the Parmiters to the south, each a mile away, it is no surprise that many respondents have criticised the far-spread nature of Colehill and the lack of cohesion. There is a shortage of central facilities - ranging from inadequate shops, no central pub, no coffee shop to no central park with toilets.

For some, especially newly retired, Colehill is a peaceful haven, but for others Colehill has become a mere dormitory. This is especially true of working families, there being very little local employment apart from the schools and the East Dorset District Council offices at Furzehill.

One of the inhibiting factors seems to be an apparent lack of information about what is going on and what facilities may be available, notwithstanding the many notice boards around and the Stour and Avon Magazine. A parish newsletter was frequently suggested together with better use of the Community Website to carry topical news and advertise events. Many of the adverse comments could have been avoided if only the respondents had been aware of what there is in Colehill.

Notwithstanding this, there is an earnest plea from many residents for Colehill to reinvigorate itself as a community and to develop the main facilities appropriate to a village of its size with a broad range of ages.

The Memorial Hall and the Library

The Memorial Hall received a mixed reaction; again some people claiming not to know what went on. An average of 270 people use the hall every week with the many events taking place there - see the Activities section for more detail. The satisfaction level was 29%, and it was seen as a prime asset in the

village that should be expanded in conjunction with the Colehill Library. There was an overwhelming response that the Library should be kept open "at any cost" but the importance level was still only 34%.



It should be mentioned that the Memorial Hall and the Library (as well as the adjacent Colehill First School) are on land owned by Dorset County Council. Trustees own the Memorial Hall itself and it is run by a management committee, whereas County owns and runs the Library. As a result of County threatening earlier to close the Library the Parish Council is considering taking on financial responsibility, but with reduced hours from County staff supplemented by volunteers. It has to be admitted that the building is in poor condition.

More ambitiously a small group, comprising Parish Councillors with Officers of the Friends of Colehill Library, is planning a fundamental rebuild of the Library. It is proposed to link a new library building to the Memorial Hall, and to provide additional community meeting rooms with a coffee shop. This could meet many of the aspirations so strongly expressed in the survey. This would be very expensive and public authorities are said to be very short of money. However, funds may be available through lottery and other grants.

Facilities

The Post Offices (Co-op Stores and Furzehill General Stores) were considered to be extremely important in the village with a rating of 85%, and it is acknowledged that they have a dual function. With the shortage of other facilities they have become the "twin hubs" of the village for many people.

"Colehill has, over the last 40 years become an urban sprawl and yet there is no central pub, inadequate retail facilities, no central facilities for community matters, and poor public transport."

Post Offices are under threat of closure across Dorset and elsewhere, and this could possibly affect the commercial viability of the stores. The Parish Plan should give support to their retention in view of their vital importance.



When questioned about facilities for Senior Citizens, and some 35% of the respondents were over 65, the level of satisfaction was -18%. This dissatisfaction was eclipsed by the adult perception of the provision of Youth Facilities at -57%. The Colehill Sports and Social Club rated an importance of -30%, and even a Public House rated a mere 3% in importance despite comments being made by some that it was essential to have one as a focal point in the village. There were as many comments in favour of having a coffee shop where people could drop in and chat.

There were also many comments about the lack of competitive outlets: for example, a "proper" greengrocer, butcher, farm foods etc. This was given an importance level of 70%. Against this must be set the fact of market forces. Would any of them survive in Colehill with the pull of a town so close - namely Wimborne - and several supermarkets within motoring distance? Is it realistic to try to duplicate these facilities?



Activities

Colehill has several locations for activities: for example the Memorial Hall, St. Michael's Hall and the Methodist Hall. These are frequently fully booked.

In the Memorial Hall alone the following activities take place more or less weekly:

Under-5s Play Group, University of the Third Age, Pilates, Tai-Chi, Bridge, Karate, Badminton, Amateur Dramatics, Art Classes, Floral Club, Hardy Plants Society and the Evening Women's Institute.

There are weekly meetings of the Scouts and Guides at the Headquarters in Oliver's Park - see *Young People's section*.

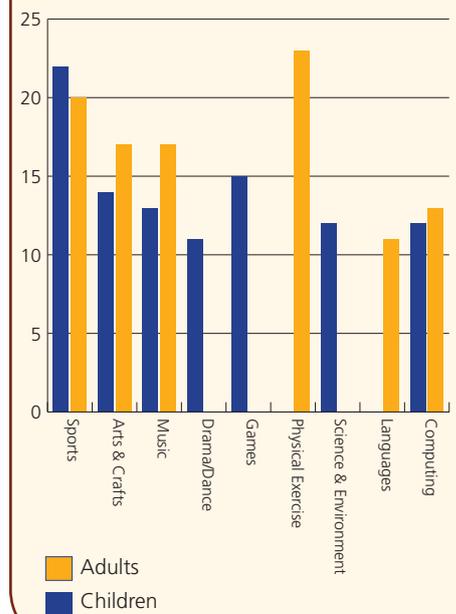
The holiday activities that parents considered could appeal to their children were Sports with 22%, Arts and Crafts 14%, Music 13%, Drama/Dance 11%, Games 15%, Science and Environment 12%, and Computing 12%.

Adult activities followed a similar pattern with Sports 20%, Arts and Crafts 17%, Music 17%, Physical Exercise 23%, Languages 11%, and Computing 13%.

It will be seen that there are some of these activities in Colehill if people wish to take advantage of them. There is the local CoMaD, Colehill Music and Drama group, which stages two or three productions every year. There are physical fitness classes, educational classes, and so on in the Memorial Hall. It really is a question of knowing what is going on and making the effort to join in.

The Community Magazine (now the Stour and Avon Magazine) was criticised for uneven and late delivery in Colehill but reviewing its pages there are literally scores of interest groups, ranging from aerobics to camera clubs, from performing arts to bowling. Adult education classes are also held at Allendale House. There are excellent gym and swimming facilities at the Queen Elizabeth Leisure Centre, Wimborne. Admittedly these are not in Colehill itself, but with a gamut of activities within a radius of three to five miles can we expect to see every one

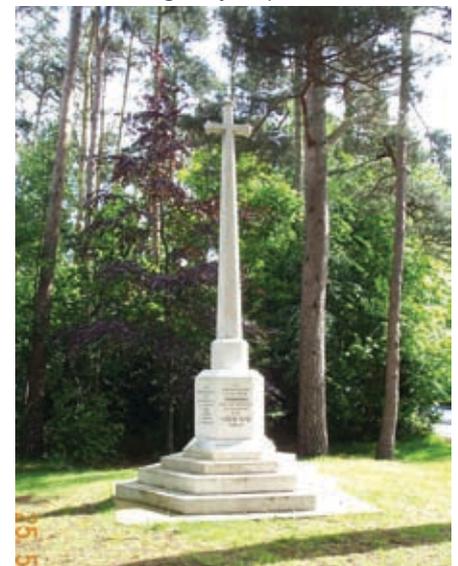
Percentages of Activities



of them replicated in Colehill? Many of the members of these clubs travel far greater distances just to be able to participate.

Dorset POPP (Partnership for Older People's Projects) is prepared to assist in getting events going for those over 50 and very recently held a forum at the Allendale Centre for those wishing to get something organised. A favourite activity is computer tuition, particularly on a one-to-one basis. St. Michael's Church is running a group called Colehill Webs in conjunction with POPP.

Residents were asked whether places of worship were important to them. The result was a level of -13%, meaning that residents at large did not regard them as being very important.



"We are totally unaware of anything going on in Colehill. Why can't we have better information?"

Colehill is a relatively new creation and at the end of the 18th Century it was largely uninhabited heathland with a few cottages scattered here and there. However, within sixty years the benefits of the “health giving pine forest” were bringing the well-to-do to Colehill. Large houses such as Park Homer, Northleigh House and Beaucroft House were all built in the late 1800s.

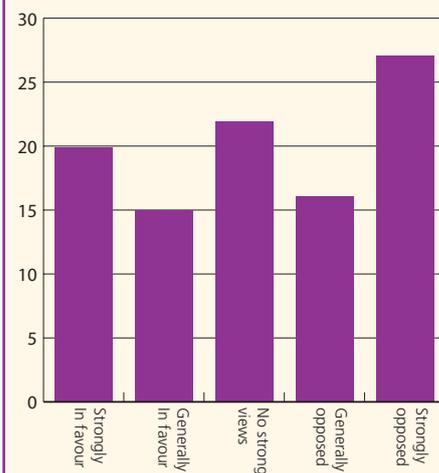
Thus began the development of Colehill as we know it today, but even by 1901 the Census still recorded only 1005 people, rising to 1500 by 1931. Development continued but mainly through small building operations. Some of these developments were on land that had been sold by the owners of the large houses and others on land bought by local builders, who saw the potential of Colehill. Substantial building work did not start until the 1960s; the population more than doubled in the ten years from 1961 to 1971 - from 2300 to 5370 people. A number of large housing estates were built with modern family homes, and also three sheltered housing complexes. Today the population is in excess of 7000 and development, principally infill, continues.



Green Belt and New Developments

The recent developments ensure that most of Colehill’s population is made up of “incomers” who, like our Victorian predecessors, saw Colehill as a lovely place in which to live. The dilemma facing us now is how we reconcile the desire of people to move to Colehill, without ruining the very things that make Colehill special.

Building houses in back gardens and on infill plots is seen as damaging by a majority of respondents. However, a number would not object to the development of family homes (satisfaction level 20%) but few would be happy to see the provision of affordable low-cost housing (satisfaction level -8%), despite an apparent need for their maturing children. They ascribed an importance level of 78% to there not being any new apartments or high-density housing built in Colehill. Almost as an after-thought an importance level of 59% was awarded to architectural style.

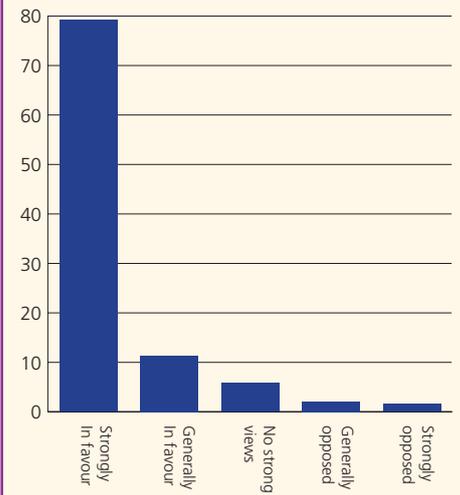


Views on Affordable Housing (% of respondents)

The responses in the survey make it clear that most people (over 90% of those who replied) want the Green Belt areas to be maintained in any future developments, and saw any reduction as detrimental. Nevertheless, when asked where any development could take place, 36.6% felt that it should be within the main urban area; 38% thought it should be outside the main urban area; and 25% were content to see it in selected areas of the existing Green Belt.

More than 60% of respondents thought that any new developments must provide adequate recreation facilities and that the infrastructure should form a significant part of any development plan. Retail stores, whilst considered as being inadequate elsewhere, were given an importance level of only 20% in new developments. As far as employment was concerned, the creation of new commercial/ industrial enterprises was seen as a low priority, with an importance rating of -54%. All the views expressed above seem to reinforce Colehill as being a dormitory village.

“People will never be satisfied with housing because it is a matter of personal need rather than an overall appreciation.”



Views on maintaining the Green Belt (% of respondents)

Regional Spatial Strategy

The results from the survey also have to be set against the national, regional and local government targets for housing. The South West Regional Authority, SWRA, published its Regional Spatial Strategy, RSS, in mid-January 2008. The RSS covers the whole of South West England, including South East Dorset of which we are part. The SWRA has identified the need for 6400 extra houses between 2006 and 2026 in East Dorset District.

In its deliberations the South West Regional Authority defined “areas of search” within which housing could be built. One area lies to the north and west of Wimborne in the Green Belt and encroaches into the north eastern boundary of Colehill Parish.

The pressures to build within Colehill Parish are strong and increasing, and it is clear that some development is inevitable. The Parish Plan is one means by which the residents’ opinions can be heard.



“We should oppose the idea of building more property in the Burts Hill area.”

A Primary Issue

In Colehill the question of the built and natural environment is a primary issue. It is mainly the environment that attracted most of us to come here in the first place and a satisfaction level of 86% is recorded.

Maintenance of the Semi-Rural Surroundings, and Wildlife Protection

Almost 95% express a desire to see Colehill remain unaltered for future generations. This, of course, inevitably ties in with the question of planning and building in the area, as well as the policies that shape the development and maintenance of woodland and open spaces.

Some residents believe that other people do not understand the Tree Preservation policy. There is concern (at a level of 36%) that there may be loss of trees in the parish, either due to ignorance of the policy or failure to comply.

The openness of the area is also greatly valued. If there were to be a loss of open space there would be a level of concern of 93%. Adults and children alike feel that the maintenance of such areas, particularly Cannon Hill, is important.

Local wildlife is greatly dependent on the preservation of woodland and open spaces. Deer and foxes, together with grey squirrels, rabbits and badgers, frequent Colehill. With an importance level of 91%, there is a desire for the preservation of flora and fauna, and long-range planning by the Forestry Commission and Natural England is seen as an essential element.



Pollution, Refuse and Recycling

Traffic, both local and through traffic, has increased dramatically in recent years. Residents expressed concern, at an importance level of 95%, in the possibility of increased air pollution, and at a level of 96% for increased noise pollution. This fear raises the issue of the expansion of Bournemouth Airport. We must work with the authorities responsible for the airport and its environs to ensure that consideration is shown for the residents of this area.

Litter, or rather the absence of it, was ascribed an importance level of 76%. The area around the Co-op corner was seen as the greatest problem, and residents felt that more needs to be done to reduce the litter. There was a common view that young people were largely responsible for the mess. In any event, the standard of street cleaning and the maintenance of the verges had declined considerably in recent years

“We need more dog waste bins in the area”

Dog waste is a further issue. Whilst many felt the problem was worst in the Cannon Hill Plantation, some also thought that a few dog owners were not cleaning up behind their dogs in the roadways.

Refuse collection and recycling drew the largest number of comments under Environment. The satisfaction level with the refuse collection service provided by the East Dorset District Council was 71%, but the satisfaction level for recycling was only 41%. It is clear that residents want recycling stepped up to include other recyclable waste and a better facility for disposal than that which is currently available at the County Council site in Brook Road, Wimborne.

The long-term strategies of the District and County Council are fundamental to encouraging greater recycling. Residents fear that any reduction of waste collections and no greater efforts towards recycling could lead to more rubbish in streets and random tipping in the countryside.

“Cannon Hill is a lovely place which, if lost, would destroy Colehill’s rural charm.”

Health services in Colehill are very limited. There are no general practitioners (GPs), hospitals or dentists here, although there is a pharmacy. Responsibility for providing adequate healthcare lies with the local PCT - the Dorset Primary Care Trust in Dorchester.

Policy

It is of interest that the East Dorset District Council has produced a draft Health Strategy, which is out for consultation and covers the period 2008-2013. This is not a stand-alone document but is part of the wider picture, which should include the strategy of the local PCT in response to national directives. The "Choosing Health" (2004) White Paper sets out a policy framework and expects local councils "to bring concerted and integrated local action on health". The 2006 White Paper "Our Health, Our Care, Our Say" outlines a new direction for community services and emphasises the importance of achieving better prevention services, giving people more choice, tackling inequalities, and providing more support to people with long term needs.

The Public Health Report for Dorset, produced by Dorset County Council, provides information on the health of the public in the County and the progress that has been made against health objectives.

EDDC has a corporate theme entitled "Making a Difference" which outlines a vision 'to work with others to provide the services that meet people's aspirations' and to ensure that everyone 'enjoys a high quality, safe and healthy environment'. Local Area Agreements (LAAs) set the strategic direction for 3 years and focus on priorities to make communities healthier places. The major changes for 2008 will mean: more emphasis on area based health service delivery, fewer central targets, and more freedom in local area health spending decisions.



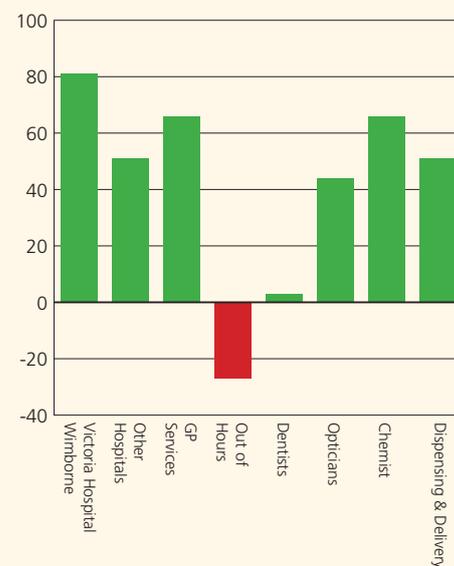
Present Situation

The following comments apply only to health services provided in Wimborne and beyond in South East Dorset, since there are none in Colehill except for the pharmacy. It should be noted that there are hospital transport services and that there is a chargeable Dial-a-Ride facility.

(Remember, satisfaction levels can range from +100% to -100%, with zero indicating that people are neither satisfied nor dissatisfied).

There is an overall satisfaction level of 81% with Victoria Hospital, Wimborne, and 51% with other local hospitals in South East Dorset.

Survey results indicate a 66% level of satisfaction with GP services. However, a very different picture emerges with GP out-of-hours services, with -27% (note



Level of satisfaction (%)

the minus) being the satisfaction level with this service.

Satisfaction levels with dentistry were disappointing, being just 3%. Opticians' services received a 44% satisfaction level.

On pharmacy, that is chemist and prescription services, responses indicated a high satisfaction level of 66% with chemists' services, and a satisfaction level of 51% with prescription dispensing and delivery services.

In the free text comments there was almost universal agreement that there should be GP and dentistry services in the parish. However, in light of the above strategies, reports and plans, local services are unlikely to change as the emphasis will be on 'area services'. It was generally held that out-of-hours services had deteriorated and that GP home visits were difficult to arrange.

Regarding Care Services, the majority of replies indicated low satisfaction. For Home Care the satisfaction level was -20%, and for Day Care it was -25%. (Note minus). These services are the responsibility of Dorset County Council and must be of very great concern to the elderly residents.

Unfortunately, we do not anticipate any great changes in health provision in the parish. There are dangers that services may become even more distanced, leading to greater problems regarding access.

"Could not access a doctor without a car"

Residents' Concerns

HomeWatch groups have been active in Colehill for several years and have contributed towards keeping crime levels low. "RingMaster", an e-mail service from the Eastern Region Headquarters at Ferndown, notifies Co-ordinators and Contacts of possible threats and these are passed on to residents in the HomeWatch groups. FarmWatch also operates in the area.

It is clear that most people consider that the risks of being a victim of crime within the parish are low or very low, but still there are some concerns. We need to look at residents' responses in more detail.

There appears to be little concern about the possibility of one's home being burgled, and extremely little concern about problem neighbours. The views expressed regarding anti-social behaviour and vandalism are perhaps surprising. About 20% thought that they were very likely to become victims, but the vast majority rated the possibility as being low or very low.

Concern about mugging and an attack whilst on public transport was very low: less than one in five thought it was a serious risk. This is significantly below the national average.

There was a recurring theme about young people damaging public amenities. This was seen as a lack of discipline, and could be stopped by police presence and intervention.

Many people thought that the local policing was only average or inadequate, and a satisfaction level of -14% was recorded.

A Low Crime Area

Statistics show that Colehill is a low crime area. This is true right across the spectrum of offences, but this does not lessen the effect on the victims of the crimes that are committed, or on other residents generally.

It is worrying that residents do not have much faith that the Police will react to a call or take significant steps to alleviate the problem of anti-social behaviour.

The issue of crime and safety produced one of the greatest reactions in terms of comments. Of those who did comment 74% had serious concerns with the lack of visible policing in the area. With a significant number highlighting experiences of poor or non-existent response when police were called.

Addressing the Concerns

Ideally, we all would probably like to see officers patrolling our streets on foot every day, "like it was in the old days". Reality is different: modern policing has had to move on to encompass new and greater demands. All new legislation from government, almost inevitably, falls to the Police to administer with ever mounting paperwork. It does, however, mean that officers are spread more thinly with less opportunity to be pro-active.

Policing is paid for partly from central government and partly from a precept upon local government. Ideally, we would recruit many more officers but financial constraints preclude that course of action. Whilst some people may be willing to pay higher council tax for better service, the majority feel that they already pay enough.

There must, therefore, be compromise solutions, which enable the Police to do their job and at the same time go some way towards satisfying the concerns of residents.



Progress

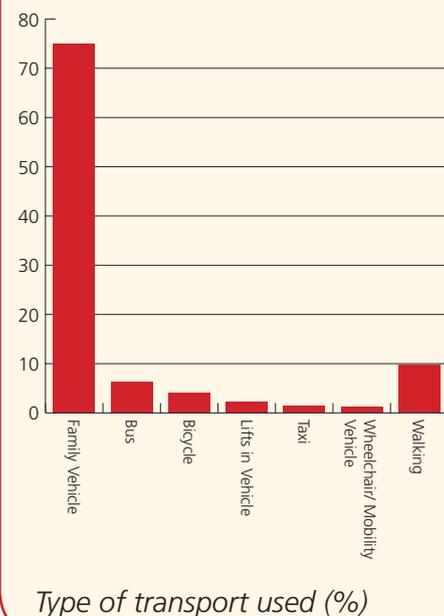
In the last few months it has to be said that Dorset Police has made significant progress toward addressing people's worries. We now have a visible and active police presence in Colehill, a Police Constable and a Community Police Officer, both supervised by a Police Sergeant. All are contactable through Wimborne Police Station. To increase accessibility a Community Police van regularly attends the area, where you can call in to report matters or just talk to an officer.

Partners and Communities Together (PACT) – the Safer Neighbourhood Team, working with residents and agencies to address concerns, will back this up. Our demands must be reasonable and our co-operation is essential to develop policing strategies for the parish.

Colehill Parish Council, which regularly has police officers attending its meetings, will continue to press for improvements with all of the relevant authorities.

"Recently we suffered from gangs in the area. The Police were called and they were very helpful."

TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT



Traffic



As expected, speeding was a major issue with many residents expressing concern, whether as pedestrians, drivers or cyclists. Concern levels (i.e. dissatisfaction) were 51% and 52% respectively with pedestrians and cyclists, and 45% with motorists and passengers. Whilst Middlehill Road was the most frequently mentioned problem area, Furzehill, Lonnen Road, Hayes Lane, Sandy Lane/Pilford Heath Road and the Wimborne Road were also often cited. In fact, these are all the through routes in Colehill, which many people saw as being used as "rat runs" due to increasing congestion in the wider area.

Over recent years the Parish Council has continuously pressed the County Highways Department to implement traffic calming measures in Middlehill Road. Finally, in 2007 plans were agreed and a budget was allocated to implement various measures to address this problem, with work scheduled to start in 2008. The plans may be viewed by arrangement with the Parish Clerk or via your local councillor.

Furzehill formed a local group called FLASH, Furzehill Local Action for a Safer Hamlet, which has applied pressure to Dorset County Council through the Colehill Parish Council and has achieved some improvements: namely, a safer turning off the Cranborne Road and speed limits in Grange, linking with further limits in Holt village. However, because of the narrowness of the road and a lack of pavements a dangerous situation still exists.

However, a key measure taken since the Parish Plan process began has been the provision of a SID (Speed Indicator Device) for exclusive use in Colehill and Holt, funded by the East Dorset Community Partnership and a local trust. This device, supported by regular speed checks by the local police, has had a positive impact in reducing excess speeds in the two villages.

Congestion

Traffic congestion and dangers caused by delivery trucks were cited as major issues at the Co-op junction. As there are currently no plans to address this within the Middlehill Road traffic-calming scheme, continuing pressure will need



to be exerted to agree and implement affordable measures to alleviate these problems.

In common with many other areas of Dorset, traffic congestion and parking outside schools was seen as another major issue with two thirds of people expressing dissatisfaction. The overall satisfaction level was -45%; that is, gross dissatisfaction. This issue has been discussed with both the Police and with school head teachers and is the subject of further study and debate to determine what can be done within limited budgets to reduce the size of the problem.

Despite recent changes to layout, Canford Bottom roundabout is still viewed as a major hazard by motorists, cyclists and pedestrians alike. Local councils need to continually apply pressure for a plan to solve this problem.

"Please do something about speeding in Furzehill before someone gets killed."



Infrastructure

The main infrastructure problems were the lack of car parking; poor maintenance of minor roads and pavements; with less than a third being satisfied. Inconsiderate parking was cited in the Wimborne Road and at the schools.



Transport

Three-quarters of the respondents said that a family vehicle was their major mode of transport with shopping, medical visits and leisure activities being the most frequent needs.

Only just over one-third of responses indicated any usage of bus services, with less than one person in twelve using them twice a week or more. This is likely to increase with the issue of free bus passes. A minority expressed dissatisfaction with the services provided. However, recently the bus services in and around Colehill have become more extensive - with the No.13 bus to Wimborne and Bournemouth running a half-hourly service, the No. 88 Colehill Circular, and an on-demand service (Door2Dorset) in remote areas. It is hoped that the services will be well patronised; otherwise they could be lost if the bus companies find them uneconomic.

Nearly two-thirds of residents never use a bicycle, with only one in ten making frequent usage. An explanation could be that the roads and cycle paths rated a -30% (*note minus*) satisfaction level.

The main issue with pavements seemed to be overgrown hedges that restrict their width and force users, and especially those with prams and the drivers of disability vehicles, onto the busy main roads. As the responsibility for maintaining a hedge lies with the owner, specific problem locations need to be pinpointed, owners identified and requested to fix the problems. If action is not then taken, the County Council can perform the maintenance and charge the owner for the work.

“The Co-op junction is very dangerous and the delivery lorries make it far worse and definitely more dangerous.”

The Young People's Questionnaire was delivered with the main questionnaire and was intended for under 16's. The majority of services use the age of 16 as a 'cut-off' point, that being school leaving age. The questionnaire was completed by 162 young people (79 male 83 female) with an even spread across the ages. Of those attending school, 54% attend schools in Colehill.

Facilities

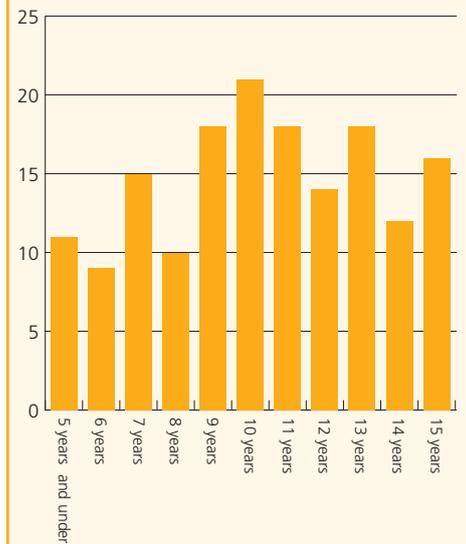
There are facilities for young people in the parish at The Reef, Oliver's Park, and the BMX area in the woods to the west of St. Michael's Church.

More than 200 youngsters attend the weekly meetings of the Scouts and Guides in the Headquarters at Oliver's Park. The groups range in age from about 5 to 8 (Beavers and Rainbows), through 8 to 10 (Cubs and Brownies) to 10 to 14 (Scouts and Guides). There are even groups catering for ages up to 25.

The Reef has a 3-year plan for development, with a re-build, to include Internet, sports and drama facilities. This was arrived at after consultation with young people. However, it will require funds to be raised and will be open to young people from Wimborne. A shortage of staff is currently restricting the opening of the centre, but it is hoped that volunteers will come forward. In 2008 The Reef may be open on four evenings a week, including Friday, providing facilities for those 10 years and older. Sport and leisure facilities will be enhanced by the re-development of The Reef; however, this is subject to funding and fund raising, and the availability of staff.

Oliver's Park is seen by some young people as not being central to the parish, and subject to litter and dog faeces.

The young made no mention of the BMX bike area. However it is used by up to 20 young people, particularly in late spring, summer and early autumn and is under the supervision of a volunteer marshal.



Respondents by age



"There must be more emphasis on providing activities for teenagers."

Activities

A majority of under 16's would choose sport as the activity that they would like to see provided in the parish, with an even spread between the other listed activities; art, music, drama, science, activity games and computing.

The satisfaction level for the availability of sports and leisure facilities was -9%. (Note the minus).

Local bus services provide access to facilities outside the parish and these were categorised as: - a. after school b. at weekends and c. during holidays. There was a mixed response with 20% indicating poor satisfaction with provision at these times although 35% indicated satisfaction. Bus services were commented on as being expensive and sometimes unreliable. The satisfaction level with bus services for young people was 66%.

Issues

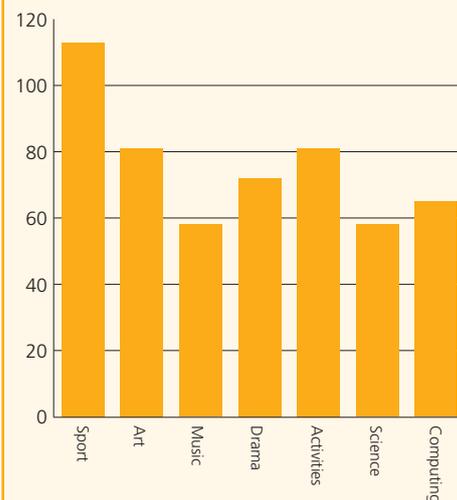
Regarding their personal safety, 28% indicated that they are highly satisfied with their safety in Colehill, with 1% not. The level of satisfaction with safety was 63%.

Responses to being asked how they liked living in Colehill indicated 86% having high satisfaction and 1% having low satisfaction. The overall level of satisfaction was 82%. This is remarkably high when one thinks of the usual stereotype of young people - bored, with nothing to do. Nevertheless, there are issues that deserve to be addressed.

Young people commented on: traffic; play areas; buses and other issues. Most of the comments showed major concerns over the danger of speeding traffic and the high volume of traffic through the parish.

The general issues of traffic and transport are taken up elsewhere in this report.

Other factors included: a lack of policing; some intimidating young people in the area; a lack of things to do in the parish; and a need to protect green areas including provision of more litter bins.



Activities



"We feel there is a need for open air recreational areas for all ages to be able to pursue sports and pastimes not already catered for i.e. tennis, rugby, football, bowls, archery etc. The Library is a vital aspect of local life for all ages, especially the access to computers to those unable to afford such equipment and unable to travel into Wimborne for this purpose".

"To be able to cycle away from traffic, some bike jumps, play parks."

Children's page

The children's perspective of living and being at school in Colehill.

(With grateful thanks to the children and staff of Colehill First School)



When we go to school we get to do fun things and games each day and you can write loads of stories. You have loads of space to walk your dog too.

Ellie aged 8

There are lots of things you can do in Colehill because it is in the country and in the community. As well you also get free space and I think Colehill First School is great.

Sophie aged 8

It has lots of shops, everything is close, and there are woods and parks to play in.

John aged 9

I like living in Colehill because it's got lots of facilities, community, shops, parks and bridle paths for walking your dog.

Oakley aged 8

I can walk my dog in the woods and you can get around.

Joseph aged 9

There are nice places you can walk with your dog. There are also nice parks where children can play and there are farms to grow crops.

Olivia aged 8

I like it because you have lots of caring teachers and you can make friends and play.

Courteney aged 8

I like our school because it has lots of caring teachers and they all give us good work and we have lots of friends.

Becky aged 8

I like Colehill First School and there are lots of animals and open spaces. I can walk my dog and play with friends... lots of walks and it is a safe place.

Dixey aged 8

It has transport, lots of schools and shops. It also has playing fields, open spaces and parks.

Kirsten aged 8

There are lots of lovely open spaces where you can take walks.

Chloe aged 8

...Truly unsolicited opinions!



Community Action Plan

AIM: To encourage a supportive community spirit within the village, thereby making it an even better place in which to live

Issue	Actions	Owner	Partners	Checkpoint
Information	To provide residents with up to date information on matters affecting them, events and facilities	Parish Council	East Dorset District Council	Ongoing
	To publish a twice-yearly Community Newsletter	Parish Council	East Dorset District Council	Quarter 3 2008 
	To commission and maintain a professional community website which will be kept up to date and will: <i>publish the work of the Parish Council, its agendas and minutes</i> <i>encourage public groups to advertise events and facilities</i>	Parish Council	Public groups Churches Residents	Quarter 3 2008 
Consultation	To conduct residents' surveys at least once a year	Parish Council	Residents	Quarter 3 2009 
	To call public meetings, as required, on matters affecting a number of residents	Parish Council	East Dorset District Council	Ongoing
	To encourage participation in the Local Action Group and Theme Action Groups	Parish Council	East Dorset Community Partnership	Quarter 3 2008 
Key Facilities	To support measures to retain and enhance key facilities	Parish Council	East Dorset District Council	Ongoing
	To support the continuation of the Colehill Library	Parish Council	Friends of Colehill Library East Dorset District Council	Ongoing
	To support the continuation of the existing Post Offices in Colehill and Furzehill	Parish Council	Residents East Dorset District Council	Ongoing
	To support and raise the profile of the Memorial Hall and other halls in Colehill	Parish Council	Residents Memorial Hall Committee Churches	Quarter 4 2008 
	To examine the feasibility of enhancing the Memorial Hall and Library as a Community Centre	Parish Council	East Dorset District Council	Quarter 1 2009 
Activities	To gauge support for clubs, educational and recreational activities for adults, and to lobby the authorities	Parish Council	Residents Bournemouth and Poole College	Quarter 4 2008 
	To gauge support for special facilities and activities for the elderly, and to lobby the authorities	Parish Council	POPP Dorset County Council Help the Aged Age Concern	Quarter 3 2008 
	To encourage "village wide" activities, e.g. a Village Fete or Barbecue	Parish Council	Residents	Quarter 1 2009 
	To hold a yearly Village Civic Service in addition to the Remembrance Service	Parish Council	Churches Residents	Quarter 1 2009 

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"It would be nice to hold a community event, e.g. a festival, something for all ages."

Housing Action Plan

AIM: To enable residents to influence housing development to the maximum degree possible

Issue	Actions	Owner	Partners	Checkpoint
Preservation of the Green Belt	To publicise widely any planning applications relating to the current (2008) Green Belt in Colehill and for the Parish Council to state its view on such applications	Parish Council	East Dorset District Council Developers	Ongoing
	To hear residents' views on the East Dorset District Council's 'Issues and Options' communications, and to include those views in the Parish Council's response	Parish Council	East Dorset District Council	Quarter 2 2008 
	If the Secretary of State, Communities and Local Government, should approve urban extensions in Colehill then the Parish Council should publicise the plans and provide an opportunity for residents to influence the Master Planning process	Parish Council	East Dorset District Council	Ongoing
Development within Colehill	To examine the possibility of commissioning a Village Design Statement so that local residents can influence the location, style and scale of future development within Colehill	Parish Council	East Dorset District Council	Quarter 4 2008 
	To facilitate cooperation between the Parish Council, East Dorset District Council and Developers to ensure that any new development meets the requirements of the Village Design Statement, and primarily does not overload the existing infrastructure, and consequently has sufficient new infrastructure provision within the design	Parish Council	East Dorset District Council Developers	Ongoing
Affordable Housing	To determine the affordable housing needs within Colehill, and to develop a Parish wide plan in conjunction with the relevant authorities to meet those needs.	Parish Council	East Dorset District Council Social Landlords e.g. EDHA, Developers	Quarter 4 2008 

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"The infrastructure is not geared to take more housing in terms of schools and general facilities."

Environment Action Plan

AIM: To influence positively the environment so that the habitat is protected for people, flora and fauna

Issue	Actions	Owner	Partners	Checkpoint
Tree preservation on private land	To publicise Tree Preservation Policies	East Dorset District Council	Parish Council Residents	Quarter 4 2008 
Preservation of Woodland and Open Spaces	To ensure that long term plans are in place to improve and develop existing sites (including the 2002 development plan).	Forestry Commission Parish Council	Natural England East Dorset District Council Dorset County Council	Ongoing
Preservation of Wildlife and Habitat	To identify the habitat of various species, and especially to emphasise the importance of sites of scientific interest.	Natural England Forestry Commission	East Dorset District Council Parish Council Residents	Ongoing
Dog Fouling	To enforce legislation by increased dog warden presence and activity.	East Dorset District Council	Parish Council Residents	Quarter 4 2008 
Refuse Collection and Recycling	To seek inclusion of cardboard as part of regular recycling collection.	East Dorset District Council	Parish Council Residents	Quarter 4 2008 
	To introduce collection of degradable waste for recycling	East Dorset District Council	Parish Council	Quarter 2 2009 
	To seek overall improved collection strategy	East Dorset District Council or applicable council	Parish Council	Quarter 2 2009 
Bulk Waste Disposal	To seek improved bulk waste disposal facilities vis-à-vis Brook Road.	Dorset County Council	East Dorset District Council Parish Council	Quarter 2 2009 
Air and Noise Pollution	To seek reductions in potential air and noise pollution by traffic control methods on through roads in the Parish.	Dorset County Council	Parish Council East Dorset District Council Highways Agency	Quarter 4 2008 
	To minimise air and noise pollution from Bournemouth International Airport	East Dorset District Council	Bournemouth Airport Christchurch Borough Council	Quarter 4 2008 

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Health Action Plan

AIM: To seek to improve the provision of health care in Colehill by monitoring, registering and supporting the Health Services

Issue	Actions	Owner	Partners	Checkpoint
Out of Hours Service	To register and monitor specific incidents, and communicate these to the relevant service providers	Parish Council	GP Surgeries Dorset PCT	Quarter 4 2009 
Home Care and Day Care Services	To register and monitor specific incidents, and communicate these to the relevant service providers	Parish Council	Social Services Dorset PCT	Quarter 4 2009 
Health Service Delivery	To register and monitor any reductions in Health Service delivery and communicate these to the relevant service providers	Parish Council	GP Surgeries Dorset PCT East Dorset District Council Dorset County Council	Quarter 4 2009 

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"A proper medical centre with GPs, dentist and pharmacy would be ideal."

Crime and Safety Action Plan

AIM: To reduce further the amount of crime and the fear of crime in Colehill

Issue	Actions	Owner	Partners	Checkpoint
Inadequate Police Presence	To initiate regular patrols on foot or bicycle by officers, with contact with residents	Police	Parish Council PACT Dorset Crime Reduction Partnership	Ongoing
	To facilitate surgeries for residents to seek Police help and advice in the parish	Police	Parish Council PACT Dorset Crime Reduction Partnership	Ongoing
	To promote use of the Police Incident Line - 22 22 22	Police	Parish Council PACT Dorset Crime Reduction Partnership	Quarter 4 2008 
Vandalism and Anti-Social Behaviour	To maintain CCTV at the Co-op road junction and install where needed	Parish Council	Police PACT Dorset Crime Reduction Partnership	Ongoing
	To liaise with schools, youth groups etc and educate on issues of concern	Police Parish Council	Head Teachers Youth Service PACT Dorset Crime Reduction Partnership	Quarter 4 2008 
	To maintain and extend HomeWatch, and increase membership	Police Parish Council	HomeWatch Volunteers PACT Dorset Crime Reduction Partnership	Ongoing
Home Security for the Elderly	To facilitate access to advice and help in providing security in the home	Police Parish Council	HomeWatch Volunteers PACT Dorset Community Safety Partnership	Quarter 4 2008 

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Traffic and Transport Action Plan

AIM: To make the roads safe for use by drivers, riders and pedestrians, and to improve transport links while protecting the semi-rural nature of the village

Issue	Actions	Owner	Partners	Checkpoint
Excessive Speed of Traffic	Use of Speed Indicator Device (SID) - <i>To continue to use SID at the 5 agreed sites with SID poles.</i>	Parish Council	Volunteers	Ongoing
	Check extent of speeding issue in identified sites - <i>To arrange for speeds to be checked in Sandy Lane/ Pilford Heath Road to test whether SID pole should be installed</i>	Parish Council	Police DCC Highways	Quarter 3 2008 
	To check speeds on Burts Hill and Cranborne Road - <i>If issue indicated, liaise with partner to identify solutions</i>	Police Parish Council	DCC Highways	Quarter 3 2008 
	Middlehill Road/Smugglers Lane, Furzehill, and Hayes Lane - <i>Check personal injury collisions, arrange speed checks and liaise with partners to identify solutions</i>	Parish Council	Police DCC Highways	Quarter 3 2008 
	Ongoing Speed Checks - <i>To conduct regular speed checks at sites where SID operational, and at other speeding hotspots</i>	Police	Parish Council	Quarter 3 2008 
	New Speed Limit - <i>To liaise with partners to agree to extend 30mph limit on Cranborne Road back to "Welcome to Wimborne" sign</i>	Parish Council	Wimborne Minster Town Council East Dorset District Council Dorset County Council	Quarter 4 2008 
	Residents' Speed Pledge - <i>To implement East Dorset Community Safety Group's Speed Pledge when available</i>	Parish Council	East Dorset Community Safety Partnership	Quarter 4 2008 
Driver Education - <i>To work with Partners to develop Driver Education Plan</i>	Parish Council Police	East Dorset Community Safety Partnership	Quarter 4 2008 	
Parking Obstructing Traffic	St Michael's School - <i>To propose solution to improve traffic flow in Wimborne Road and Colehill Lane at school start and end times</i>	DCC Highways	PACT Panel Parish Council	Quarter 3 2008 
	To investigate feasibility of cycleway from Middlehill Road via Kyrchil Lane and wooded triangle across Wimborne Road	PACT Panel	DCC Highways Parish Council St Michael's School	Quarter 4 2008 
	Co-op - <i>To work with Partners to agree plan to minimise obstruction caused by delivery lorries</i>	Parish Council	Co-op DCC Highways East Dorset District Council	Quarter 4 2008 
Road and Pavement Maintenance	To invite residents to identify key areas needing attention and liaise with Partners to agree plans to address these problems	Parish Council	Residents DCC Highways	Quarter 3 2008 
	To publicise Dorset Direct to register future problem areas	Parish Council	Dorset County Council	Quarter 4 2008 
Pavement Obstructions	To invite residents to identify key areas needing attention and contact owners to fix the problem. If issue persists, then register with County Highways to address.	Parish Council	Residents DCC Highways	Quarter 3 2008 
	Publicise Dorset Direct to register future problem areas	Parish Council	Residents DCC Highways	Quarter 3 2008 
Bus Services	To publicise all available services to residents	Parish Council	Wilts and Dorset Door to Dorset	Quarter 3 2008 
Canford Bottom Roundabout	To lobby Highways Agency to improve signage and lane markings, and consider means of giving safe pedestrian access across the junctions	Parish Council	Highways Agency	Quarter 3 2008 

"School runs and parking make motoring in Colehill dangerous and frustrating."

YOUNG PEOPLE

AIM: To improve facilities and activities for Young People in Colehill

Issue	Actions	Owner	Partners	Checkpoint
Youth Facilities	To support the improvement and development of The Reef	Youth and Community Service	Parish Council Wimborne Minster Town Council East Dorset District Council Dorset County Council Volunteers	Quarter 1 2012
Youth Activities	To support the availability and provision of activities for young people in the Parish	Parish Council	Schools Churches Youth and Community Service East Dorset District Council Volunteers	Quarter 1 2010
Oliver's Park	To improve the cleanliness of Oliver's Park, including the provision of litter and dog bins, and the clearance of dog faeces.	Parish Council East Dorset District Council	Local residents	Quarter 1 2009
Traffic Speed	<i>See Traffic and Transport Section</i>			Ongoing

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"Make the Memorial Hall more like the Allenview Centre where there are classes to suit all and somewhere for a coffee and a snack."

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

A	Abandoned vehicles	01202 886201
	Admissions (Schools)	01305 251000
B	Benefits Enquiries	0800 0556688
	Buses (Wilts and Dorset)	01202 673555
	Bus Passes	01202 886201
	BT (Residential Faults)	0800 800151
	Bridleways/Rights of Way	01305 224463
C	Citizens Advice Bureau (Wimborne)	01202 884738
	Colehill Parish Council	01202 887786
	Colehill Sports & Social Club	01202 884263
D	Doctors Surgeries - Quarterjack	01202 882112
	Walford Mill	01202 886999
	Dorset County Council (All Departments)	01305 251000
E	East Dorset District Council (All Departments)	01202 886201
	Electricity (Power Cuts)	08457 708090
F	Fallen Trees	0800 232323
G	Guides and Brownies	01202 882197
	Gas Escapes	0800 111999
H	Hospitals - Bournemouth	01202 303626
	Poole	01202 665511
	Wimborne	01202 858200
L	Leisure - Queen Elizabeth Leisure Centre	01202 888208
	Lighting - Highways - (EDDC)	0800 0684145
	Libraries - Colehill	01202 886676
	Wimborne	01202 882770
N	NHS Direct	0845 4647
P	Police Helpline (non-emergency)	01202 222222
	Pavements (damage to)	0800 232323
R	RSPCA	08705 555999
	Rights of Way/Bridleways	01305 224463
S	Scouts and Cubs - Brian Williams	01202 880058
	Samaritans	08457 909090
	Schools - Colehill First School	01202 882506
	Hayeswood First School	01202 882379
	St. Catherine's Primary School	01202 883763
	St. Michael's Middle School	01202 883433
	Allenbourn Middle School	01202 886738
	Queen Elizabeth School	01202 885233
	Beaucroft School	01202 886083
	Dumpton School	01202 883818
T	Trains (National Enquiries)	08457 484950
	Trading Standards	01305 224012
	Tourist Information	01202 886116
W	Water Services - Bournemouth and West Hants	01202 590059
	Wessex Water	08456 004600
	Women's Institute (WI)	01305 266366

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Dorset Community Action for initial advice and funding to set up the project.

East Dorset Community Partnership team led by **Simon Woodcock**, and the particular assistance of **Ron Tomlin** who provided guidance and advice regarding the questionnaire.

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The **Residents of Colehill** who responded so well to the questionnaire and gave the initial impetus in 2006 for the Plan to evolve.

The members of so many organisations who have given so much advice and assistance during the consultative process to enable the Group to produce this Plan.

The following businesses who have generously provided sponsorship for the questionnaire: **Messrs. Grenville Walker** (incorporating Paul Gunn) **Solicitors**; Colehill Garage; **The Horns Inn** (Burts Hill); **The Barley Mow** (Colehill Lane) and **Alison Cooke** (Podiatrist).

The **Co-op** at Colehill, **Furzehill Post Office**, **One Stop Stores** and **Colehill Library** who all gave great assistance to the progress of the questionnaire.

Finally, to all the members of the **Parish Plan Steering Group** who have given freely of their time and effort in so many ways to produce this document:

Keith Baker, Norman Davies, Ken Lannon, Denise Maude, Dave Mitchell, David Packer and **John Shave**.

Not forgetting the help and infinite patience of **Tracey Paine** as Secretary.

Sheet 85 Salisbury

Sheet 85 of the David and Charles edition was sheet 15, named Salisbury, in the Old Series of Ordnance Survey 1in maps.

Sheet 15 was first published in August 1811, reprinted in 1840's, 1850's and 1870's with additions such as railway lines and stations.



St Michael and All Angels Parish Church, Colehill