

# Kennett Village Parish Plan



# Kennett Village Parish Plan



# 2008



to villagers as requested by over 80% of respondents to our survey

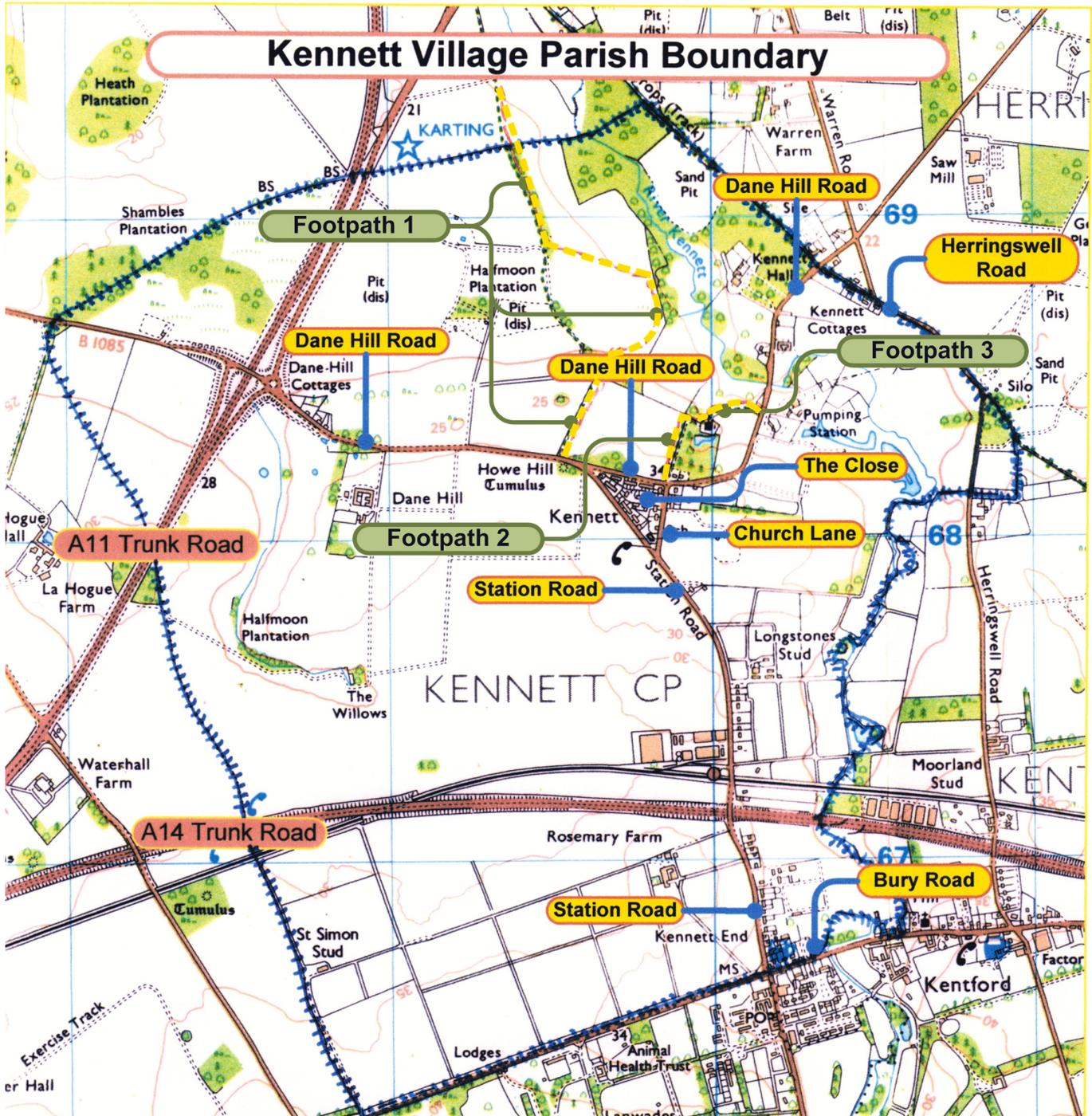
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# Kennett Village Parish Plan

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Kennett Village is in East Cambridgeshire, close to Newmarket. The A11 north-south trunk road crosses the western corner of the parish; and the A14 east-west trunk road runs through the southern quadrant. The “main” roads that run through the village are Dane Hill Road and Station Road with Church Lane linking the two by the school. These roads are responsible for the cut through traffic, which is the main problem highlighted in this survey and therefore is a prominent feature throughout this plan.



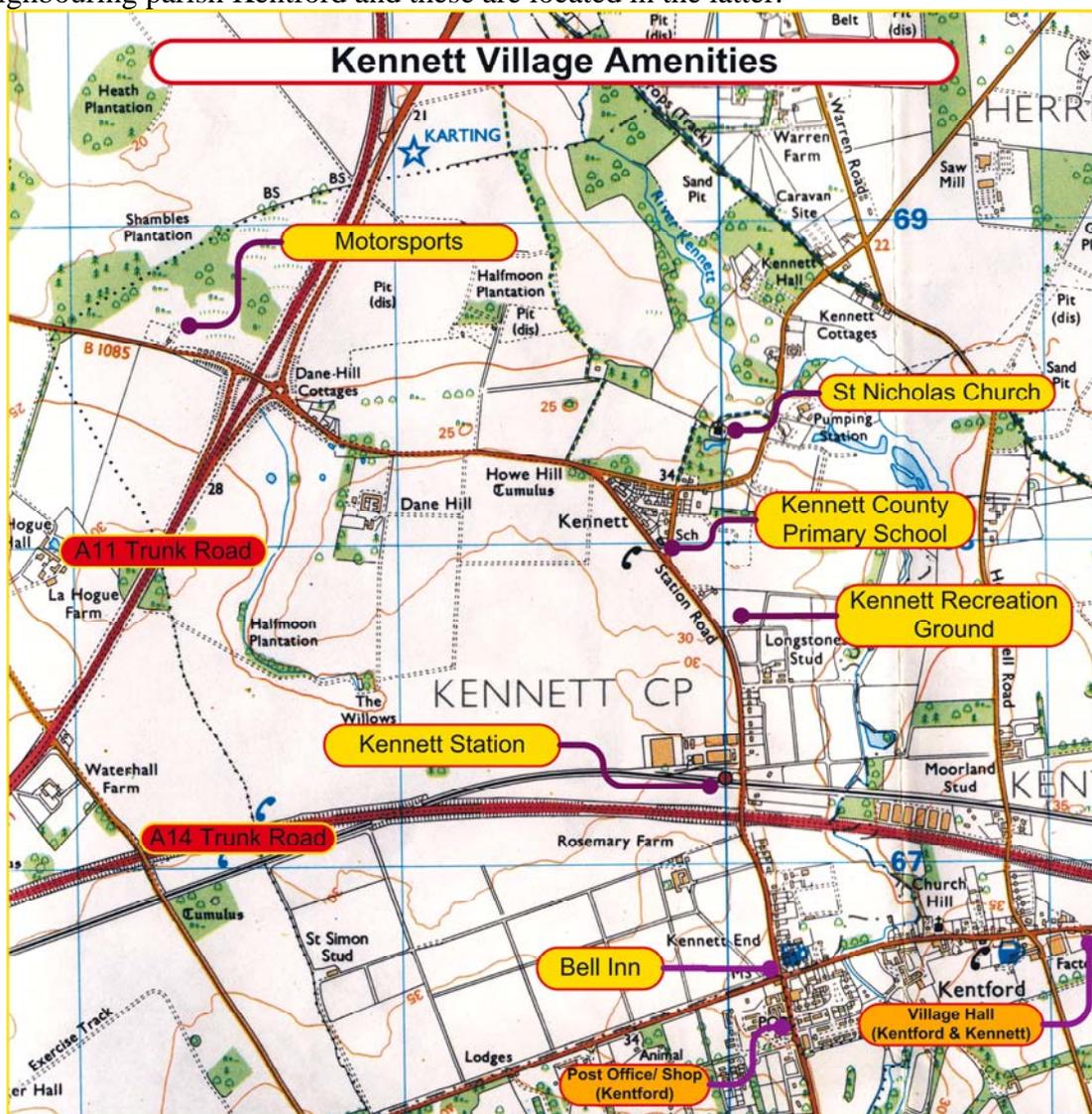
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The South of the parish has its border with not only Kentford as a parish but also Suffolk as a County. Kennett Village is administered by East Cambridgeshire District Council whereas Kentford is administered by Forest Heath District Council which is part of Suffolk County Council.

The village is what is termed a “Ribbon Village” where a majority of its occupants live along a single road, in this case Station Road which runs through the centre of the parish. There is a cluster of occupants around the triangle formed by Dane Hill Road, Church Lane and Station Road and effectively this could be termed the “centre” of the village although there are no facilities there to indicate this. As such the village currently has no “recreational heart” or gathering point for social events apart from a small sports pavillion in the recreation ground.

In addition to this there are “outposts” in the parish which are Dane Hill Cottages just by the roundabout junction with the A11; Dane Hill Farm, where there is a small development of converted barns; and the old medieval centre of Kennett Village now known as Kennett Cottages which are to the North of the parish. Kennett Cottages ceased to be the centre of the village when the railway was built in the mid 1800’s .

The village has several amenities ( St. Nicholas Church, Kennett County Primary School, Sports and Recreation Ground, a Motor Sport area, Bell Inn public house and of course Kennett Station). The Village Hall and the Post Office/ Shop are a facility shared by Kennett Village and its neighbouring parish Kentford and these are located in the latter.



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A Parish Survey was undertaken during November 2007 in order to provide data to assist in the creation of the Kennett Village Parish Plan. The Survey was open to be completed by all households in Kennett Village. The Plan Steering Committee, mostly comprised of villagers rather than Parish Councillors, identified 136 households on the latest Electoral Register, and the questionnaire was hand delivered (and hand collected) to homes by a team of volunteers.

A return ratio for the Survey of just over 66% was achieved, with 90 Households returning Survey Forms, that represent the views of 220 residents. This is a very good return rate (compared with other Parish Plan surveys), that is representative and statistically reliable. Questions have generally been answered consistently across the age range.

The plan was supported by Cambridgeshire ACRE, and the research data was analysed and interpreted by a specialist independent research company, Warwick Networks. Detailed research results and an Appendix of Text Comments are available to view at [www.kennettvillage.co.uk](http://www.kennettvillage.co.uk). The Action plan ( See Section 5) was agreed by Kennett Parish Council on June 2<sup>nd</sup> 2008. A copy of this plan is delivered free by volunteers to all Kennett residents as requested by 82% of the questionnaire respondents.

## **2. RESEARCH SUMMARY**

The overall analysis of the results from the questionnaire has shown the following top findings :

- **95% think the countryside is important**
- **95% are disturbed by traffic noise**
- **88% say parking at the school is a problem**
- **85% say litter bin provision is poor**
- **87% want to protect wildlife**
- **84% think the school is important to the community**
- **80% would help with a Good Neighbours scheme**
- **80% want Kennett to develop as a Village community**
- **79% want a lower speed limit at the school**
- **78% support restriction of the weight of vehicles**
- **72% say that during car boot sales parking is a problem**
- **72% of the village recycles waste**
- **70% want a new village hall**
- **67% want a lower speed limit in Station Road**
- **55% want more footpaths through the local countryside**
- **49% want a lower speed limit in Dane Hill Road**
- **48% want a doctor's surgery**
- **44% have lived here for less than 5 years**
- **42% want a greater police presence**
- **39% use the train**
- **7% (only) say no new dog bins are needed**
- **2% (only) think large groups of housing development are acceptable**

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## 3. VILLAGE HISTORY

Kennett Village covers 560 hectares (1,431 acres). The name “Kennett” is of Celtic origin. A ford crossed the Kennett River in 1161, and in the late 13th century a ferry crossing was known as Kentfayre. The river was navigable until the early 14th century, connecting the parish to the fenland waterways, and on to King's Lynn. Occasional overflows from the river caused serious damage, but in 1977 a pumping station was built to control the water flow.

A bridge stood at the south-east corner of the parish from 1604 or earlier, linking Kennett Village and Kentford. It was crossed by the main Newmarket-Bury St. Edmunds road. That was a major route during the 17th century, and a turnpike during the late 18th and 19th centuries. The Newmarket to Bury St. Edmunds railway line, existing in 1854, runs south-eastwards in a cutting through the south of the parish. Kennett railway station had a staff of four including a station master between 1861 and 1891. After 1967 it became an unstaffed halt on the Cambridge-Ipswich line.

The parish church, named for St. Nicholas by 1279, stood next to the main village street until 1866. After the diversion of the road eastwards, it was approached by the existing hedge-lined avenue. Its 15th-century west tower dominates the church and the surrounding landscape.

In 1086 Kennett Village was inhabited by 19 peasants. There were 17 dwellings in 1664. Kennett's inhabitants numbered 90 in the early 1790s, increasing to 182 in 1911 and 320 today.

From the late 16th century there has been a farmhouse at Dane Hill. The Bell Inn dates from the 16th century. In 1785 it provided a change of horses for travellers.

In 1951 Donald McClaren gave 2 acres east of Station Road to Kentford and Kennett sports club for use as playing fields.

A council housing estate was built from 1958-62 in the triangular junction to the south of the village. In the 1980s those houses were purchased by tenants, with 30 taken over by the Hereward Housing Association. In 1989 there were 48 houses in the triangle, which formed the new centre of the village. Ten new detached houses were built in 1997-8 at the north-east corner of the triangle.

The heath land in the north-western corner of the parish was quarried extensively during the early 20th century. In 1991 the 60 acre site was purchased for motorbike riding. In the late 1970s Suffolk county council deposited 250,000 tonnes of waste in the adjacent area east of the Norwich road. Land fill waste operations north of Dane Hill Farm were discontinued in 2003, and the area is now being landscaped. Planning permission exists for the excavation of sand and gravel on 45 hectares at Kennett Hall Farm.

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## 4. PARISH COUNCIL ACTION PLAN HIGHLIGHTS

This section summarises the actions that the Plan Steering Committee would like the Parish Council to implement, based on the results of the Plan's research.

### 4.1. General

Encourage the development of Kennett Village as a "Village Community". Weight of traffic, traffic pollution, speeding, parking and danger spots on roads are the key concerns of villagers. Protection of the countryside and wildlife is also a major concern. The Parish Council has few resources to manage and implement all these activities, and therefore support "Action Groups" of villagers need to be encouraged to assist with the plan's implementation, and to seek financial support and grants.

- \* The Parish Council is to produce a village development plan with prioritised and time lined tasks ( [See Section 5](#))

### 4.2. Highways

- \* Implement lower speed limit reviews with Cambridgeshire Highways throughout village, with a priority for a 20 mph limit at the school, and traffic calming measures.
- \* To work with Cambridge County Council Highways and Network Rail to monitor the railway bridge weight limit at Kennett Station.
- \* Review and improve parking problems at the School and during car boot sales at the recreation ground in Station Road.
- \* Involve Suffolk County Council in reviews of dangers at the Bell Inn road junction.
- \* Review the need for expanded and improved "environmentally friendly" street lighting.
- \* Aim to improve facilities for pedestrians and cyclists, with more footpaths and cycle paths.
- \* Repair flashing speed signs.
- \* Work with the Highways Authority to realise a link between the A11 and A14 for North/Southbound A11 traffic access to the A14 East ( towards Ipswich and Felixstowe Port)
- \* To ensure that Cambridgeshire Highways regularly check and clear the road drainage in the Village. A specific effort needs to be made to remove the excess silting in the road drain soak away sumps and to ensure they are then regularly maintained to prevent re-occurrence of the current situation.

### 4.3. Transport

- \* As 39% use the train, support efforts to improve timetables, reliability, and upgrades to the station area and parking. Bus timetables could also be improved.

### 4.4. Housing

- \* Oppose any residential or commercial development (of any size) that will increase commercial traffic, parking problems or a considerable increase in private traffic on the roads in the village.

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- \* Oppose any development in neighbouring communities (e.g. Red Lodge, Kentford, Moulton or Herringswell) that will increase commercial traffic, parking problems or a considerable increase in private traffic on the roads in the village.
- \* Restrict building to current “infill” policy, supporting conversion of redundant buildings, single dwellings in controlled locations and redevelopment of brown field sites for housing.
- \* Affordable Homes: with the new development along Dane Hill Road, Kennett will have a 25% level of social housing, higher than the national average. Any proposals to expand social housing further should be reviewed to ensure that the balance is maintained. The planning conditions applied to the development of affordable homes, including the priority allocating these homes for Kennett people, should be monitored.

### 4.5. Village Facilities

- \* Assist in researching grants for local activities.
- \* Support groups aiming to increase “Village Events”.
- \* Research possibility of providing some Doctor’s Surgery or Clinic Facilities in the village.
- \* Support additional educational facilities around the school, such as playgroups and after school clubs.
- \* Encourage groups wishing to expand activities for young people: including Youth Club, Brownies/ Cubs, Youth Football, Scouts and Guides.
- \* Support efforts to provide adult education.
- \* Support and promote the new Neighbourhood Watch scheme, and a Good Neighbours scheme.
- \* Seek improvements in roadside care/street cleaning ( road litter, drainage)
- \* An improved “customer friendly” rubbish and recycling collection service.
- \* Investigate location and provision of recycling banks, litter bins and dog bins.
- \* Support any local shop concept.
- \* Encourage groups wishing to expand sports clubs and activities, including Keep Fit, Tennis, Dancing and Badminton.
- \* Church: support efforts to provide further events such as concerts and music.
- \* Support any opportunities to improve the facilitation of more utilities in the village i.e. Mains Gas Supply and Main Sewerage.
- \* Investigate increasing the number and size of Post Boxes in the village.

### 4.6. New Recreational Facility

- \* Research the support, funds and location for a new village community/ recreational facility, probably on the playing fields. The village recreational facility would facilitate a centre for the community to support sporting, educational and social events.

### 4.7. Police Coverage

- \* Work with Police Community Support Officers (PCSO’s) to extend police visibility.
- \* Promote and encourage village attendance at Police Surgeries.
- \* Promote police activities on village web site and any newsletters.

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## 4.8. Environment

- \* Oppose any residential or commercial development that will impact the amenities of the countryside or wildlife.
- \* Protect the countryside, footpaths and wildlife. Support groups wishing to be proactive in this activity.
- \* Monitor and control the environmental impact of industrial and farming activities: including quarrying, composting, aggregate storage, production and transport, shooting and motor racing.
- \* Improve signage and promotion of footpaths. Explore possibilities of creating more footpaths through the local countryside.

## 4.9. Village Development Funding

- \* Seek/ exploit funding opportunities (e.g. S106) for developing the village positively from any planning application.

## 4.10. Communication

- \* 44% of villagers have lived in Kennett Village for less than 5 years: they need to be made aware of the village's facilities potentially by developing a "Welcome to Kennett Village" pack to be given to people joining our community.
- \* Develop Village Newsletter.
- \* Build on success of web site.
- \* Expand Notice Board coverage.
- \* Publicise Council decisions in local press.

## 5. PRIORITISED PARISH COUNCIL ACTION PLAN

The following section contains the prioritised parish council action plan which was drawn up and agreed by the members of Kennett Parish Council after analysing the results of the parish plan questionnaire contained in Section 6.

# Kennett Village Parish Plan

## KENNETT PARISH ACTION PLAN 2008

*PC=Parish Council, CCC=Cambridgeshire County Council, PFA=Playing Field Assoc, ECDC=East Cambs District Council, KTAG=Kennett Traffic Action Group, NP= Neighbourhood Panel, LSP=Local Strategic Partnership, SCC=Suffolk County Council*

Issue Headings	Action/How	Priority	Action Start Date	Partners	Resource Implications	Planning Authority Involvement?
<b>1. Highways &amp; Footpaths</b>						
<b>1.1 Speeding in village 1</b>	Parish Council to re submit traffic calming and speed limit bids to CCC	High	Bid to be submitted 2008	PC & Cambridgeshire County Council	Clerk's time and PC Time	Yes
<b>1.2 Speeding in village 2</b>	PC to support and promote Neighbourhood Speedwatch	Low	2008	PC, Police and Neighbourhood Panel, KTAG	Website, Newsletter	No
<b>1.3 Highways</b>	Meet Highways and Environmental Services to review need for street cleaning, Drainage, flashing speed signs, cyclist facilities and lanes	Med	2008 on	PC, Highways, CCC, KTAG, ECDC	PC time	Yes
<b>1.4 Speed Limits</b>	PC to meet with Highways to install 20 mph limit at school, lower limits through village, and upgrade pavements	High	2008 on	Parish Council, School, KTAG & CCC	Clerk's and PC time.	Yes
<b>1.5 Heavy Goods Traffic</b>	PC to meet with Highways to discuss A11/A14 interchange potential. Support KTAG	High	2008, 2009 on	PC, Highways, CCC, KTAG	Clerk's and PC time.	Yes

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Issue Headings	Action/How	Priority	Action Start Date	Partners	Resource Implications	Planning Authority Involvement?
<b>1.6 Dangerous Junction</b>	Work with Suffolk and Cambridgeshire Highways to highlight and resolve the traffic issues with the junction at the Bell Inn Public House	Med	2008 On	PC, Highways, CCC, Police, KTAG and SCC	Clerk's and PC time.	Yes
<b>1.7 Dangerous Parking</b>	Seek solutions to parking at school and car boot, inc finding and purchase of land, Seek external funding	Med	2008 on	PC, School, police, Highways, PFA, KTAG	PC and PFA time	Yes

### 2. Conservation, Environment & Footpaths

<b>2.1 Planning</b>	Oppose developments impacting countryside & wildlife	High	Ongoing	CCC, ECDC, Environment Agency	PC	Yes
<b>2.2 Preserve and protect green spaces</b>	Find team leader and group to develop plan to involve land owners, ECDC, CCC and Environment Agency	Low	2008 on	CCC, ECDC, Environment Agency	PC, Website, Newsletter, PFA, Volunteers	Yes
<b>2.3 Rural FootPaths</b>	Find team leader and group to champion maintenance, signage and new rural footpaths	Low	2008 on	PC, Website	PC, Volunteers, £5k	No
<b>2.4 New dog, litter bins and recycling bins</b>	Plan and Install. Seek funds	Low	2008	PC, ECDC	£3k	No
<b>2.5 Gas, Oil and drainage</b>	Research availability of Gas and Mains Sewers, and Oil Supply Pooling	Low	2008 on	PC	PC, Volunteers, Website	No

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Issue Headings	Action/How	Priority	Action Start Date	Partners	Resource Implications	Planning Authority Involvement?
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### 3. Sport, Recreation

<b>3.1. Playground Upgrade</b>	Raise external and charity funding, to include youth facilities, lighting on field, improvement of play area	High	June 2008 on	PC, PFA, Acre	PC and PFA, £20k, Website	Yes
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### 4. Youth

<b>4.1. Youth Club/Group</b>	Review need. Set up and seek external funding. Facilitate communications with youth group via web site.	Low	2009	PC, PFA, Youth leader	PC and Playground Assoc, £1k	No
<b>4.2 Teenage Shelter</b>	Review needs. Find external funding	Med	2009	PC, PFA, NP, Acre	PC and Playground Assoc, £20k	Yes

### 5. Community Safety

<b>6.1 Improve Street Lighting in Station Road</b>	Consult on precise locations in public meeting.	Med	2008	PC, PFA, Youth Leader, Police	PC to include in budget	No
<b>6.2 Policing</b>	Publicise Police surgeries, speeding and anti social behavior (ASB) concerns	Med	2008	PC, Youth Group, Police & NP	Website, Newsletter	No
<b>6.3 Revitalise Neighbourhood Watch scheme</b>	Launch with PCSO, Scheme Leader	Low	2008	Parish Council, police, Neighbourhood panel	Website, Newsletter	No

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Issue Headings	Action/How	Priority	Action Start Date	Partners	Resource Implications	Planning Authority Involvement?
<b>6. Transport</b>						
<b>6.1 Train Services</b>	Communicate Parish Plan results to Network Rail	High	2008	PC, Network Rail	PC	No
<b>6.2 Station, Upgrade parking</b>	Seek planning opportunities	Low	2008 on	PC, ECDC, Highways, Network Rail	PC time	Yes
<b>7. Education</b>						
<b>7.1 Support facilities for Pre-School and After School Groups</b>	Use new Community/Recreation Centre and school	Low	2008	Toddler Grp, Preschool Grp, School, Parish Council, LEA	PC and Youth Leader time Ext funds	No
<b>8. Business</b>						
<b>8.1 Local Shop</b>	PC to monitor opportunities for one	Low	2008	Parish Council, ECDC, Network Rail	PC time	Yes
<b>9. Housing</b>						
<b>9.1 Planning</b>	Restrict building to current “infill policy”. Support single dwellings in controlled locations & redevelopment of brownfield sites	High	2008 on	PC, CCC, ECDC	PC, ECDC	Yes
<b>9.2 Affordable Housing</b>	PC to promote new Hastoe Housing Development availability to residents	Med	2008	Parish Council and Hastoe Homes	PC, Hastoe time, Newsletter, Website	Yes

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Issue Headings	Action/How	Priority	Action Start Date	Partners	Resource Implications	Planning Authority Involvement?
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### 10. Health

<b>10.1. Doctors Clinic</b>	Explore the possibility of setting up a clinic in Community/Recreation Centre	Low	2008 on	Parish Council, ECDC, CCC, Health Authority	PC time	No
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### 11. Parish Council

<b>11.1 New Community/ Recreation Centre</b>	Find external funding for extension to existing Pavilion	High	2008	Parish Council, Acre, PFA, LSP	£50k to £150k	Yes
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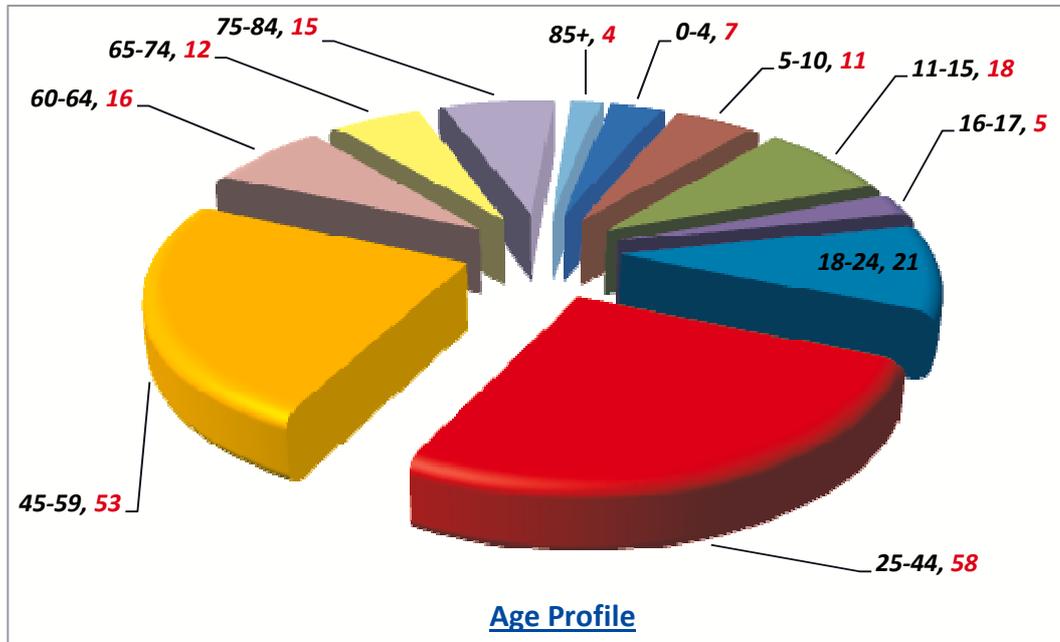
### 12. Church and Community

<b>12.1 Hold special events inc concerts at church, and Picnic in Park</b>	Church Council, Vicar, PFA, PC	Low	2009	Volunteers	Newsletter	No
<b>12.2 Develop welcome to village newcomers</b>	Organise welcome information packs	Low	2008	PC, volunteers	Website, magazine, Newsletter	No
<b>12.3 New Good neighbours scheme</b>	Find leader, promote	Low	2008	PC, police	Website, magazine	No

## 6. RESEARCH RESULTS

### 6.1. Household Section

Population Profile (Q2) – Number of Respondents by Age



The Survey covers 220 people; and the age analysis of the respondents is broadly representative of the wider community. For example, 16.4% are aged 0-14, compared with 18.6% of East Cambridgeshire in the 2001 Census; 21.2% are 60+, compared with 19.6% of Cambridgeshire in the 2001 Census.

### 6.2. Dwellings and Tenure (Q3,Q4)

Most houses are owner occupied, 67%. (Cambridgeshire average is 71%). 17% of respondents to the Survey - being 15 dwellings - live in Housing Association dwellings. However this figure indicates an under representation from this sector of the community because the actual figure for Kennett Village is 30 'social housing' dwellings; which is 22% of 136 homes on the Electoral Role. Detached and semi-detached houses make up 60% of the housing stock of Kennett Village. Bungalows account for 30%, with terraced houses and flats making up the remainder.

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## 6.3. Household Amenities and Problems

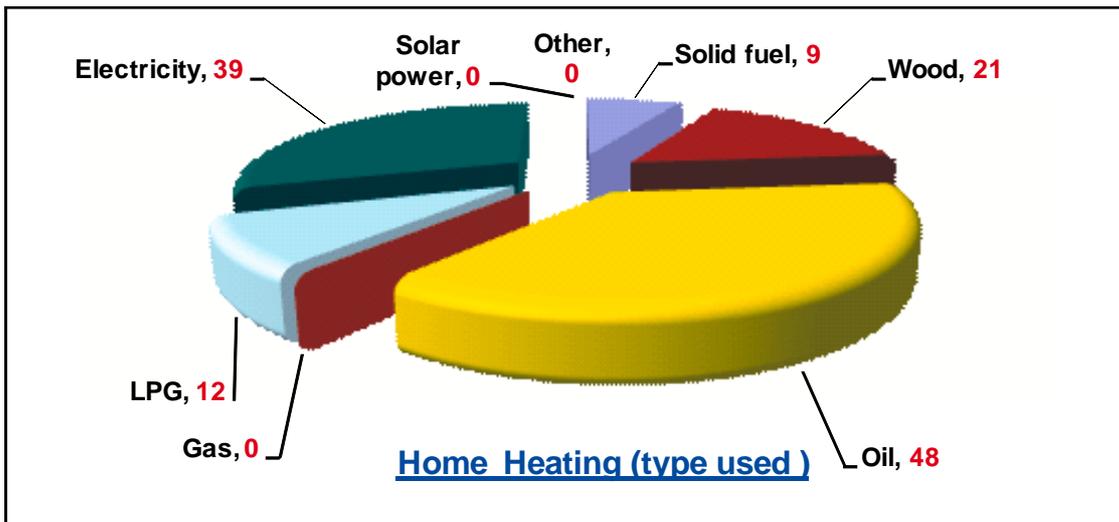
Which of the following amenities does your dwelling have ? (Q6)

### Sewerage

Of the 90 replies received, only 33 stated they have mains sewerage, which shows the low availability of mains sewerage throughout the village.

### Home heating

The replies to Q.6 on how houses are heated are shown below. [Number of respondents]



A Mains Gas supply is not available to most residents (Q40) in the Village.

More than half the survey respondents would like to be connected to a supply if it became available.

### Flooding (Q8)

Localised flooding caused by surface water and poor storm drains have created problems for 21% of respondents; but of these, only 3% appear to have been significantly inconvenienced; one person saying they had been badly affected three times in the past year. The issue here is mainly that the road drain soak away sumps are not being cleared and as such the drainage cannot cope with heavy downpours of rain.

### Education (Q9)

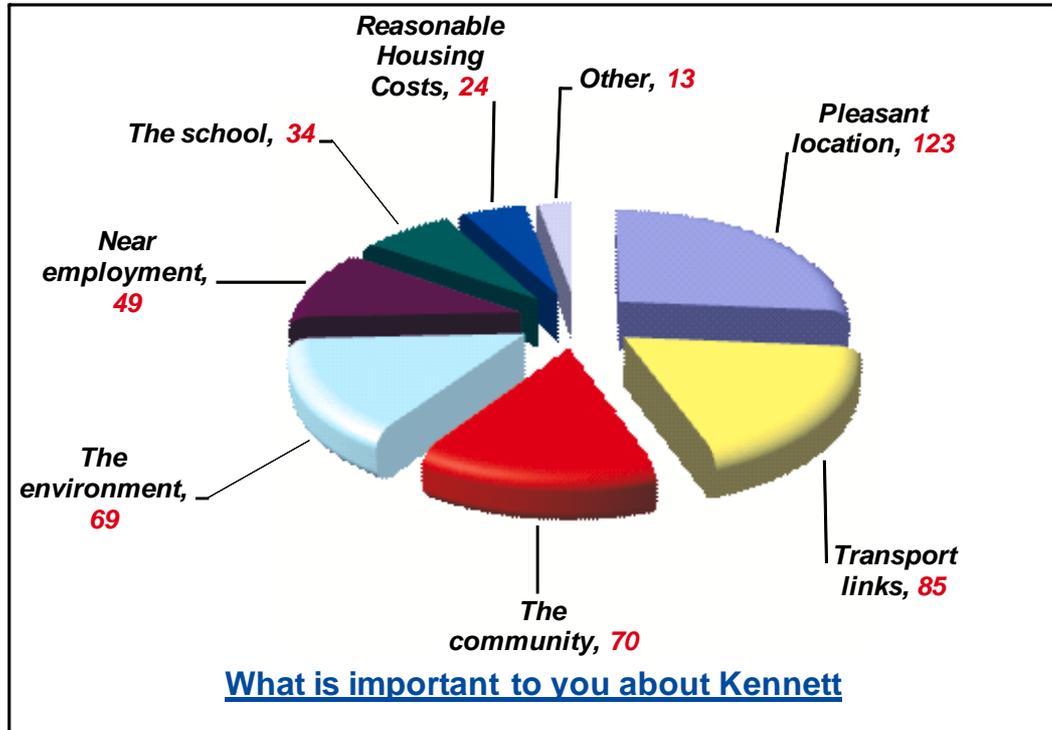
In total 48 children and young people under 20 were noted as attending an educational establishment; of whom 14 are in Primary education, 22 in Secondary, and 12 in Further education of all types. Around half of homes are therefore estimated to have young people in education.

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## Length of residency (Q12)

44% of people have lived in Kennett Village for less than 5 years, showing there is a large number of new residents, with 12% being here less than a year. (187 respondents).

## Reasons for moving to Kennett Village - (Q13) - [Number of Respondents]



Kennett Village is not seen as a retirement community. Of those responding to the question, 37% came because of the property available, and 34% because they believed it was a ‘pleasant location’ (residents made multiple choices in their replies to this question). (175 respondents.)

## 6.4. Transport, Roads and Traffic

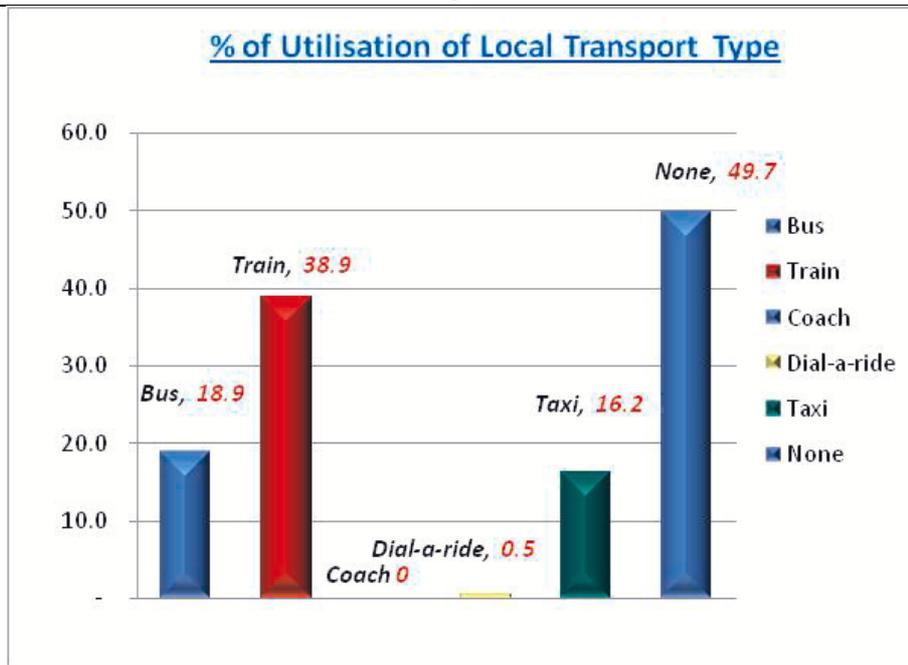
### Public Transport (Q17)

The train is the most widely used form of public transport, with 39% of respondents using it; but the bus service is also used by 19% of people, which is a greater percentage than is usually found in similar surveys. About half of people do not use public transport from the Village at any time. The data column adds up to more than 100%, as some use more than one service. 185 respondents.

*“Improve station access and parking facilities.”*

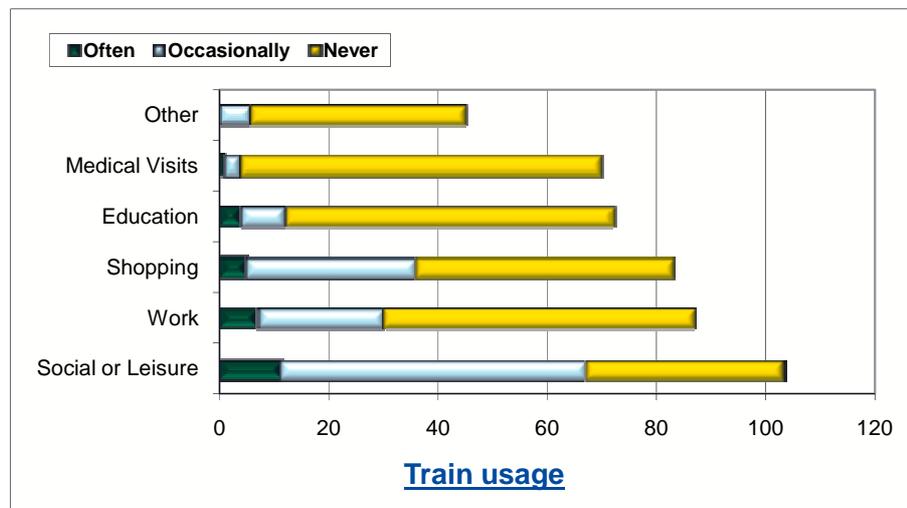
*“Frequency of the train service needs to be improved.”*

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## Trains (Q19)

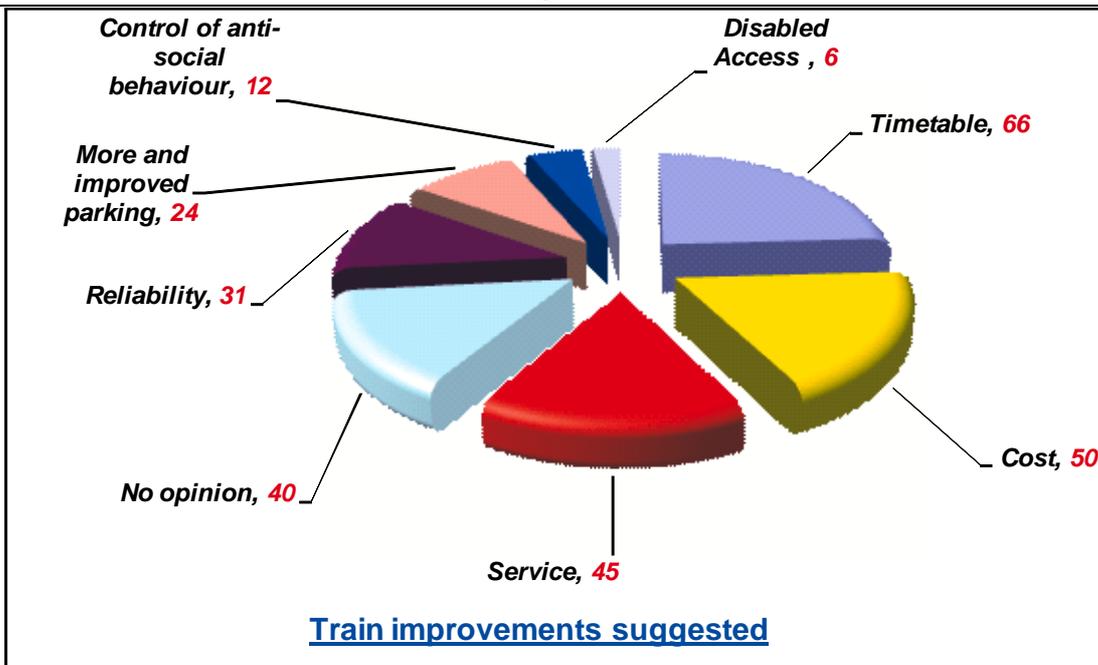
Trains are used most frequently for social and leisure purposes, twice any other use; but also for shopping and work.



Reason	Often	Occasionally	Never
Work	7	23	57
Shopping	5	31	47
Medical Visits	1	3	66
Social or Leisure	11	56	36
Education	4	8	60
Other	0	6	39

There were significant adverse responses about train timetabling, cost, and service provision and reliability (Q21). A text comment believes that the station area in general needs updating, and with particular reference to access and parking provision. There were 120 respondents to this question.

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Improvement	Num.	%
Service	45	16.4
Timetable	66	24.1
Cost	50	18.2
Reliability	31	11.3
More and improved parking	24	8.8
Disabled Access	6	2.2
Control of anti-social behaviour	12	4.4
No opinion	40	14.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>274</b>	<b>100.0</b>

### Buses (Q18)

The bus is mostly used for shopping and leisure services. The quality of the bus services through Kennett Village is generally considered to be good or reasonable as far as routing, reliability and cleanliness is concerned; (Q20) but with about 30% percent of users feeling that timetabling could be improved.

### Street Parking Problems (Q16)

Street parking is considered to be a problem by most people in Kennett Village. The main area of risk is around the school (88%); and then, particularly at set-down and pick-up times. Also on Sundays outside the car boot sale site at the recreation ground (72%). Other places mentioned as causing problems are Station Road, outside the station; and along Dane Hill Road from Church Lane past the Pumping Station to the cross-roads. 153 respondents.

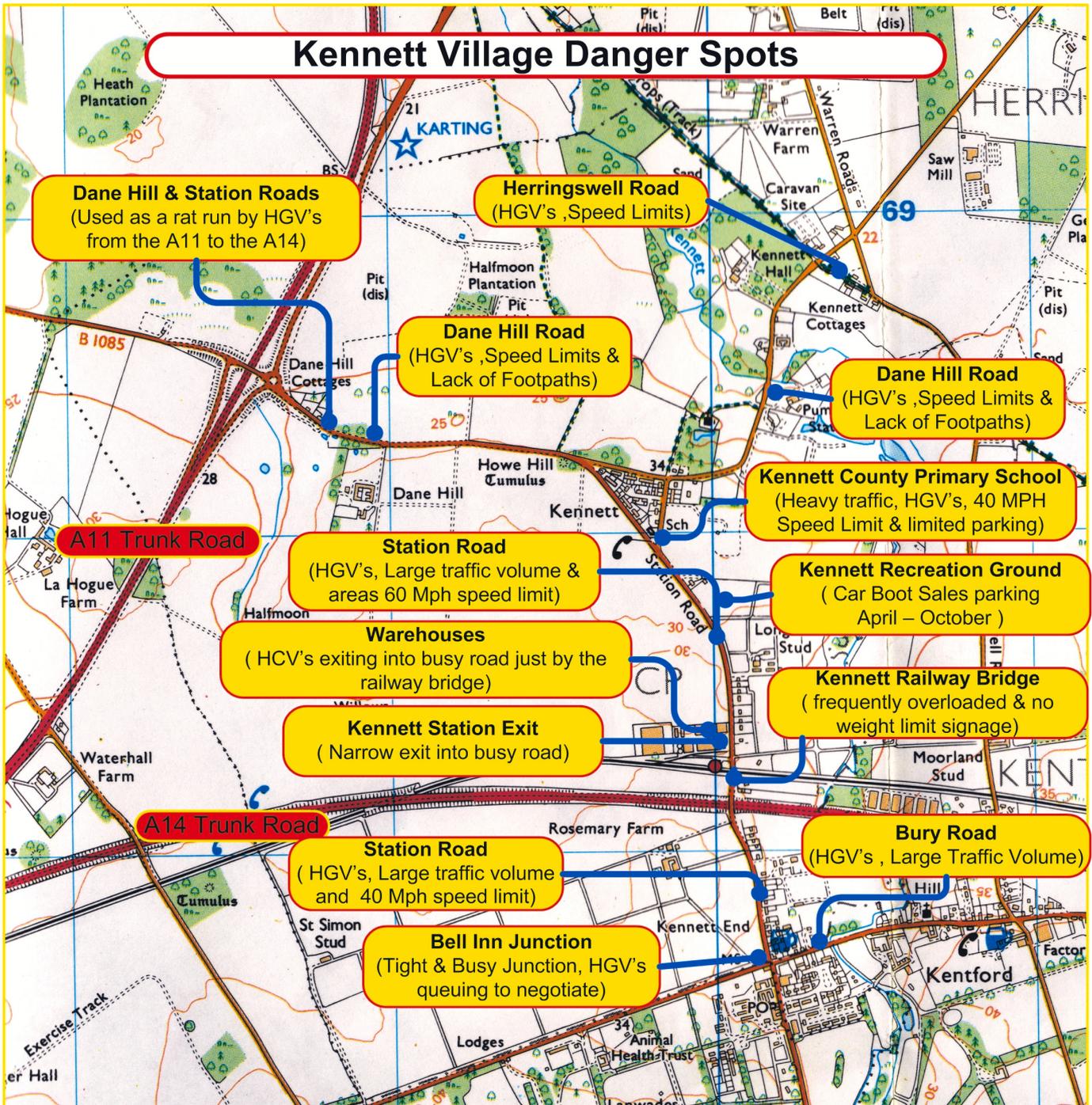
*‘The two danger areas are round the school at the pick-up times and the Sunday car boot sales’*

*‘The boot sale should have more signs encouraging people to park on the recreation ground and not dangerously on the road. Is there anywhere near the school where a car park could be created, as the lack of footpaths make it impossible to walk some children to school; and safer parking should be available’.*

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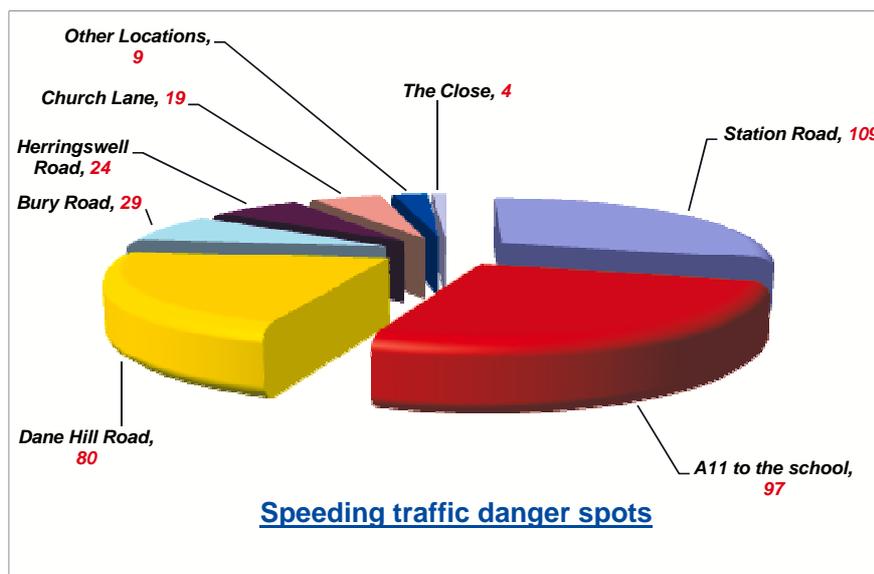
## Danger Spots (Q22)

When asked to identify ‘danger spots’ on the roads in Kennett Village respondents identified many of the same areas that had been named in the question on street parking. Those were; particularly ‘outside the school’ (67% of respondents); the car boot sale site (45%) and at the railway station and bridge. The cross roads at the Bell Inn were also deemed to be a major danger spot. Also mentioned in the free text comments, although not given as a specific choice in the question, was the easterly end of Dane Hill Road; at the entrance to the Church; from the sewerage Pumping Station to the cross roads; and the area around Warren Road and Herringswell Road, near to Kennett Cottages. 172 respondents.



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## Speeding Traffic Danger Spots (Q23) – [Number of Respondents]



Speeding Traffic is a problem throughout Kennett Village. 67% consider Station Road the worst danger spot.

The main roads through the Village, particularly Dane Hill Road from the A11 to its junction with Station Road, and then continuing along the length of Station Road through to Bury Road, carry HGV traffic which is finding its way from the A11 Trunk down to the A14 Trunk bound for Ipswich and Felixstowe. The road was not built to sustain this volume of traffic and the village suffers as a result. [ *HCV count on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2005 carried out by East Cambs District Council on the section of Station Road between the Bell Inn junction to the fork of Dane Hill Road and Station Road showed that there were 500+ HCV vehicle movements in a 13 hour Period* ]

Considering the number of villagers who reside in Bury Road there is almost a 100% response from them that there is an issue with speeding and heavy traffic along the Bury Road.

To a lesser extent the continuation of Dane Hill up to Kennett Cottages and the Herringswell Road is also said to suffer from traffic travelling too fast; and from HGV traffic exiting the Ridgeons site in Herringswell in order to travel down to Church Lane and on down Station Road to access the A14.

The turn at the Bell Inn is considered extremely tight for large lorries which frequently mount the curb in trying to negotiate the turn at the junction in doing so and cutting across the opposite side of the road . (162 respondents) For Example:

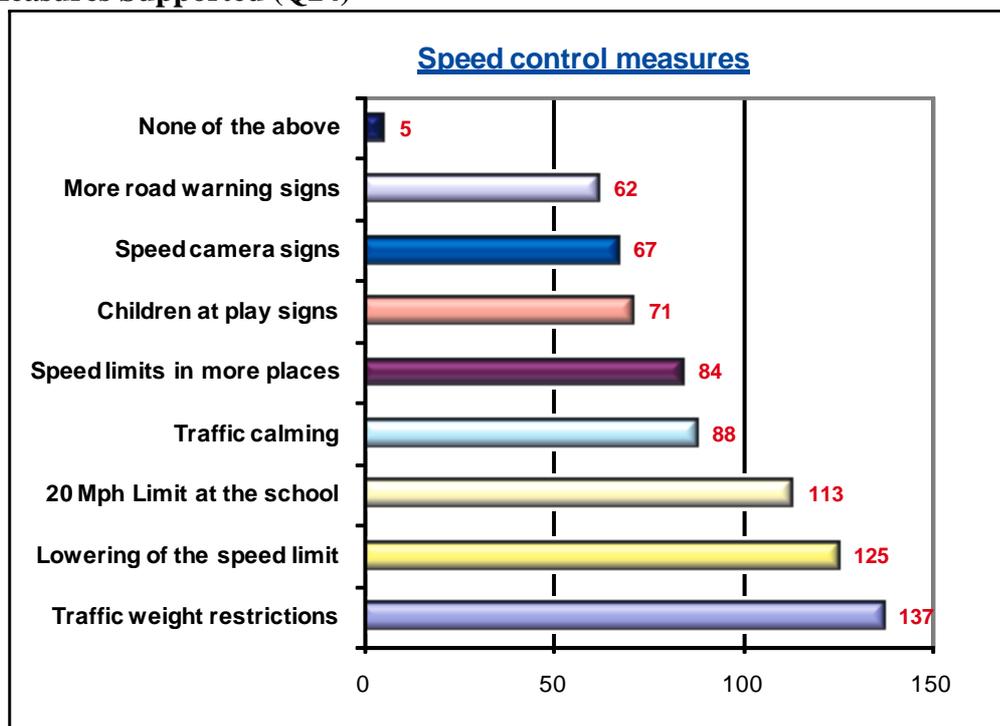


# Kennett Village Parish Plan

## HGV negotiating the Junction at Bury Road/ Station Road by the Bell Inn

*‘From 0630 - 1730 Mon - Fri 50/60 ft articulated lorries use Church Lane and Dane Hill Road as a short cut (rat run) from A11 to A14 over the Kennett railway bridge. That coupled with speeding traffic along the road and poor parking facilities at the school is an accident waiting to happen’.*

### Speed Control Measures Supported (Q24)



The problem of speeding and large and heavy goods traffic on minor ‘B’ roads, provoked the single biggest response in the Survey. Although not strictly a ‘speed control’ measure, support for the restriction in the weight of vehicles travelling through the Village was the most popular (78%).

The size of lorries using the roads is seen to be particularly dangerous to children ,old people; and to pedestrians in general, because of the narrowness or lack of footpaths along some parts of the roads.

Many people feel the railway bridge is overloaded when used by HGV’s. There is widespread support for a reduction in the speed limit in a number of areas; and particularly to 20 mph outside the Primary School. (64% respondents).

Most of the measures suggested have significant approval with none receiving less than 60 ‘votes’ in support. Traffic calming by means of ‘speed bumps’ would receive a mixed response because of the perceived extra noise these would produce, particularly from HGV’s, slowing and then accelerating away. 176 respondents.

# Kennett Village Parish Plan

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*'I regularly walk from the school to Lanwades Stud and often feel very threatened by the speed of traffic rushing past -- especially in summer when foliage along by the playing field was not kept under control. Should not be 60 mph there'.*



## **Typical HGV Traffic in Station Road**

*'Enforcement of weight limit on bridge to stop lorries using it as they are a danger. At the Bell junction lorries frequently have to cross to the other side of the road to turn, sometimes mounting the curb'.*

*'Dane Hill Road is not suitable for HGV lorries with six axles and the like'.*

## **Preferred locations for reduced or additional speed limits (Q25)**

The most supported place for reduced or additional speed limits is, as would be expected; outside the School. (79%). But in truth most of the roads discussed above have support for a general reduction in speed limits. It is probable that what respondents would really like to see is a significant reduction of 'through traffic' throughout the Village, with no speed limits greater than 40mph and additionally a much lower limit at the school. 67% support speed limits in Station Road, and 49% in Dane Hill Road and from the A11 to the school. There were 159 respondents to this question.

*'It should be 30 mph from The Bell all the way to A11 junction'.*

# Kennett Village Parish Plan

## 6.5 Housing and Facilities

### Street Lighting (Q26)

Of the 179 residents that answered the question, 48% thought the street lighting was either good or reasonable in Kennett Village. However 38% thought the provision to be poor (also Q40); and there were 25 individual text comments detailing specific areas of shortcoming; particularly that Station Road, Dane Hill Road, and Church Lane are all in need of improvement, which seems to cover most of the Village area except Dane Hill towards Kennett cottages; and then there is one comment for Warren Road and Herringswell Road.

### Facilities for Cyclists.(Q27)

Of respondents with an opinion (133), 75% believe cycling facilities are inadequate. There were 30 comments about where facilities were inadequate, but of these; half of the respondents stated:

*‘everywhere; all over; throughout the village; are there any?’*

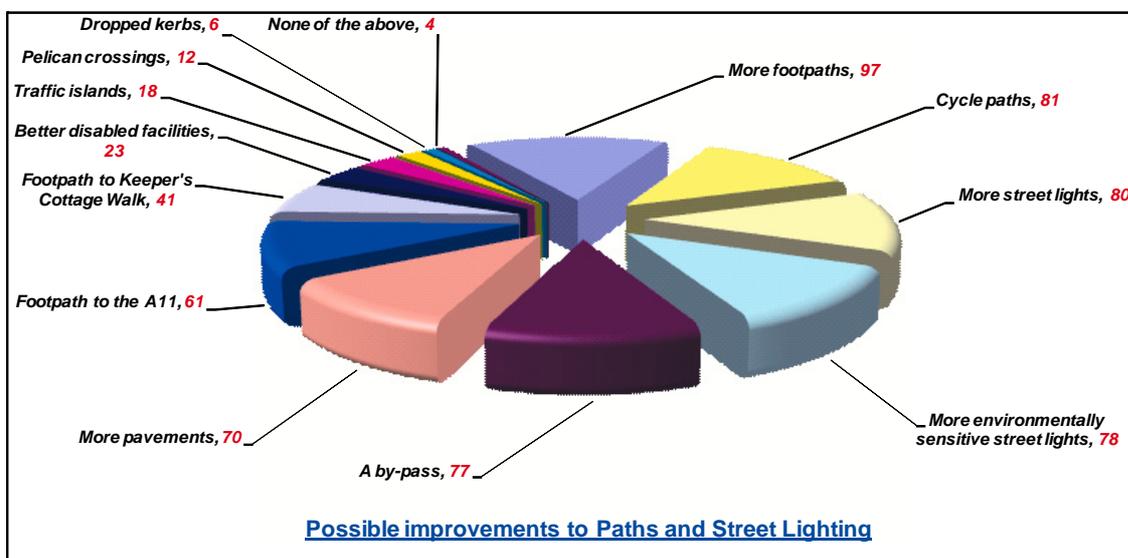
With narrow roads, heavy HGV traffic, and little or no provision of cycle tracks, it appears that cycling, other than on side roads in the immediate vicinity of houses, can be a difficult and perhaps hazardous experience.

### Facilities for pedestrians (Q28)

Although just over half respondents with an opinion (169) believe pedestrian facilities are reasonable, somewhat better therefore than the facilities for cyclists, 46% considered them poor. There were still 32 comments identifying where walking can be difficult. Dane Hill is mentioned in half the comments; and this includes the whole length out to the A11.

*‘Along Station Road, too close to the road traffic, my daughter got bowled over by a lorry tail-wind once’.*

### Possible improvements to Paths and Street Lighting (Q29)

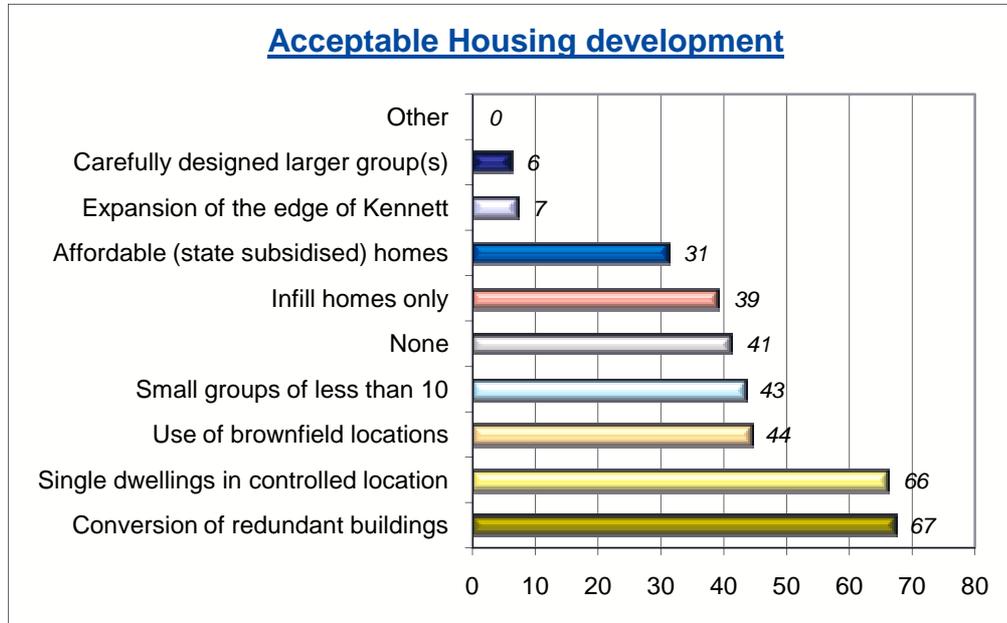


# Kennett Village Parish Plan

Most of the suggestions put forward in the survey received significant support from the 177 respondents. More footpaths (55%), cycle paths, and street lights (albeit ‘environmentally sensitive’) being seen as the most desirable.

*‘It is dangerous to walk/cycle out to the A11 with the lack of paths, lighting and visibility’.*

## Housing Development (Q32): Multiple Response by 175 Respondents



Many people believe that the recent development in and around Kennett Village is detrimental to the character and atmosphere of the village. There is the feeling that the extra traffic from the development at Red Lodge ( Kings Warren) , combined with the existing problem with HGV traffic (Kennett Village being used as a cut through A11 to A14) has overwhelmed the village.

23% of the 175 respondents would prefer no further house building. If building is to take place the conversion of redundant farm buildings and the construction of single dwellings are the most popular solutions, followed by construction on ‘brownfield’ sites or small groups of less than ten buildings. Development of larger groups of housing has only 3% support.

Comment is made that Kennett Village is a somewhat sprawling village which lacks an obvious centre. Residents of Kennett Village value most its pleasant location, its transport links, and the general environment and sense of community (Q14); and when asked what should be encouraged in the Village (Q15) more housing and ‘affordable homes’ were near the bottom of preferences, and more public footpaths, more Village Events, and more recreation areas were at the top.

What should be encouraged in Kennett	Strongly in favour	In favour	No strong opinion	Have reservations	Definitely not
More public footpaths	60	52	47	5	2
More Village Events	38	67	57	2	1
More recreation areas	34	72	45	9	3
More jobs in Kennett	10	32	89	11	16
Small business development	8	31	53	28	36
Affordable (state subsidised) homes	8	24	51	28	45
More Housing	6	19	37	39	50
Small scale industrial workshop	5	15	42	45	49

# Kennett Village Parish Plan

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## Additional facilities

Asked if there is a need for any additional facilities or services in the Village? (Q33)

A Doctor's Surgery was suggested by 48% of 159 respondents, but second in the list of preferences was 'none'! This emphasizes the importance of the Surgery demand, and suggests that most other of the listed facilities are provided in local towns.

## Educational

The Primary School in the Village is seen by 84% of 158 respondents as important to the local community (Q30), and many people feel that the provision of additional services around the education of young children is needed.

A Nursery School, Playgroups, the availability of more childminders, and after school clubs are all seen as beneficial and wanted. There is also a significant enthusiasm, backed by 50 respondents, for adult evening education classes. It cannot be ignored that the largest reply to Q31 was 'not relevant'. This question option was added for those without children (apparently 38% of households).

## Good Neighbours (Q34,35)

84% of 172 respondents to Q34 thought there was a need for a good neighbour scheme. The idea of a good neighbour scheme that might help people by giving lifts to Doctors surgeries, checking on neighbours, the elderly or sick etc would probably receive significant support if instituted.

80% of 174 respondents would be prepared to help if a 'Good Neighbour' scheme were set up; and a nucleus of 22 people would be prepared to help once a week. Only 21% of respondents could "never" help.

## Environmental and Utility Services (Q40)

Overall there is satisfaction with the majority of services to the Village. Services that were rated highly, at between 85 –90% for 'good' or 'reasonable', were water, electricity and telephone. The other facilities were rated at between 80% and 60%. But there seems to be room for improvement for particular services in certain areas of the Village.

The main areas of dissatisfaction in order of magnitude are:

- \* Street Lighting
- \* roadside care/street cleaning
- \* TV reception
- \* internet broadband speed
- \* highways
- \* Snow clearance/ gritting.

*'Roadside care is poor, lots of litter in the verges and hedgerows and road drains not properly maintained'.*

## Recycling (Q41,42)

Kennett Village is keen to recycle. Most people (72%) do, but the recycling service on alternate Mondays or Tuesdays does not seem to cover the whole area of the Village, if the text comments are taken into account. There is some criticism of the restricted coverage on types of material accepted. (22 text comments).

*'Too messy and fiddly'. If bins were provided it would help'  
'I am still waiting for my black box to be delivered.'  
'Too complicated.'*

There is however a positive response to potential usage of further recycling facilities if they were provided. Most people do try if possible to recycle as much as possible; with many taking their recycling to the 'recycling centre' themselves. There is a demand for recycling banks. 128 of the 171 respondents (75%) would use bottle banks in Kennett Village.

## Litter Bins (Q43,Q44)

Nobody was prepared to say that the provision and location of litter bins in Kennett Village was good. 85% of respondents with an opinion – 102 people – said 'poor', and text comments suggested that none had ever been seen.

There was a general opinion that dog bins should be provided throughout the Village; with people mentioning the recreation ground, the track to the gun club, and the lane to the Church, being particularly affected by dog fouling.

## Postal Services (Q45)

There is general satisfaction with the postal services in Kennett Village; and the text comments relate to national policy issues – Saturday and Sunday deliveries and collections – rather than local inadequacies. Respondents would like to see more post boxes in the Village, and there are some issues with the size of certain boxes unable to easily take large envelopes.

## Potential Local Shop usage (Q46)

There would be significant support for a local shop in Kennett Village, but the figure for 'occasional use' is quite high. 26% of the 187 respondents would use it daily, and 71 people weekly.

## 6.6 Security and Crime

### Police Coverage (Q36)

Most people seem to regard the police coverage of Kennett Village to be poor, influenced by the fact that the police are not often seen in the Village.

### Neighbourhood Watch (Q 37)

There would appear to be both support for, and a willingness to join the 'Neighbourhood Watch Scheme'. 83 people said they would be willing to help.

# Kennett Village Parish Plan

## Concern about Crime & Anti-social behavior (Q38)

Very fortunately Kennett Village appears to have a low rate of crime.

‘Litter’ and ‘dog fouling’ appear as the major concerns. Most of the problems can be considered as anti-social, but would not normally become police matters. The crime of theft is mentioned by 32% of respondents to the question. It is not clear from the answers and the text comments whether or not this is a concern which people are expressing as a result of hearsay, or whether the replies represent thefts actually incurred. If the latter there would appear to be a significant problem; but the former is probably the correct interpretation. (There were several deception burglaries shortly after the research). 163 respondents.

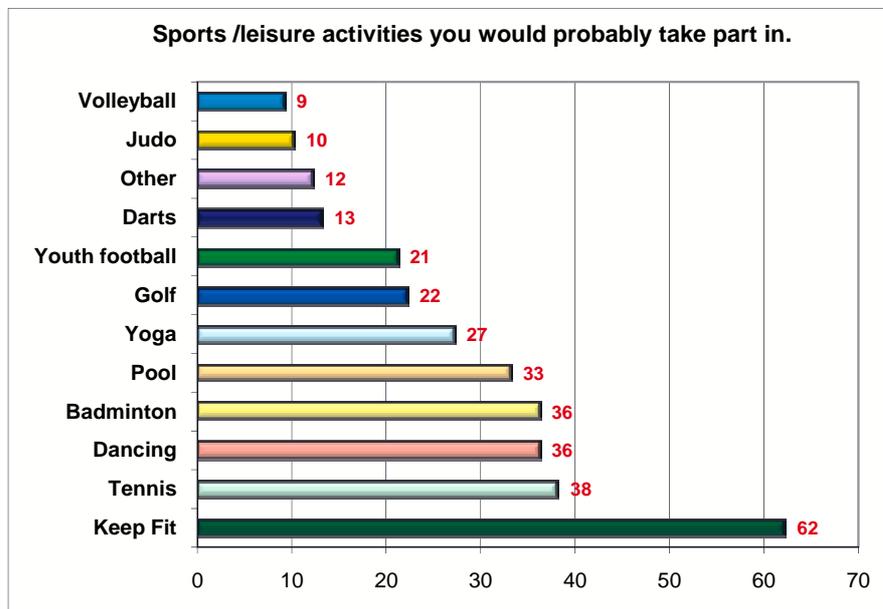
## Measures needed to combat crime (Q39)

The most popular ways in which crime may be combated in the Village are suggested to be ‘more activities for young people’, ‘improved street lighting’, and a greater police presence. This seems to imply that people see the on-street activities of young people after school and at night as the required focus of anti-crime - perhaps more accurately anti-social behavior – activity. 178 respondents.

*‘Police on the beat, i.e. bikes not in cars. And getting to know and be known by the locals’.*

## 6.7 Recreation and Leisure, Places of Worship

### Potential new sports clubs and activities (Q47)

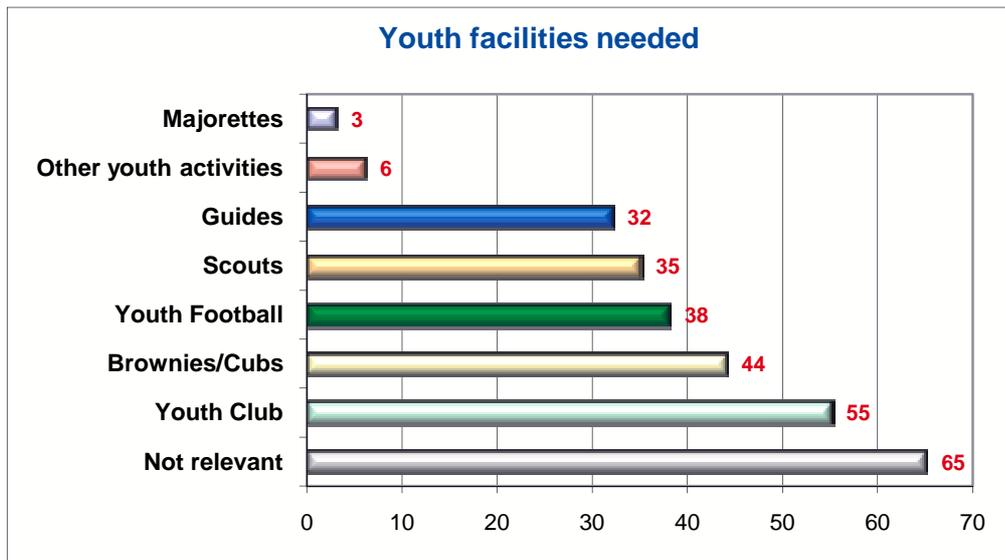


There is quite significant support for many of the suggested activities; but it should be noted that the number of people replying to the question has reduced to 123, so that respondents have made an average of 2.6 choices each.

A number of the activities of course require indoor facilities which may not be available at present. Nevertheless, 50% (62 of 123 respondents) would take part in Keep Fit, 31% (38 people) in tennis, and 36 people each in Badminton and Dancing. (note: that the actual numbers could be up to 50% higher, as the survey was only responded to by 66% of the village).

# Kennett Village Parish Plan

## Potential new activities for young people (Q48)



There is similar significant support for activities for the young people of the Village (see also Q39). 147 respondents. A Youth Club is often quite difficult to organise in a smaller community, because of the complexity of legislation on Health and Safety, and Youth Workers.

*'Dance evenings for teenagers'.*

*'Young people are difficult to please, especially young teenagers who are unable to drive.'*

*'A gathering space with Internet facilities, games and music'.*

*'Kids need activities and direction. As they are the future, the more they get out of and relate to the area the better for all.'*

## Information Flow (Q49,50,52)

Word of mouth is currently the way in which most people hear about forthcoming events in the Village, with the local newspaper, second, some way behind.

## Decisions of the Local Council (Q51, 52)

Decisions of the council are felt to be made public well, by 55 people of 131 expressing an opinion (42%); but badly by 76 people (58%).

Most people (61%) of 145, would like to see a Village Newsletter produced, either on hardcopy, or electronically; and there is significant call for more notice boards to be installed, and for those existing at present, to be better maintained.

The Village Internet Site, which was only in development at the time of the Survey design, has done well to receive 10% coverage after only two months operation, and should develop into a valued medium in the future.

The possibility of a new Village Hall was supported by 70% of respondents.

# Kennett Village Parish Plan

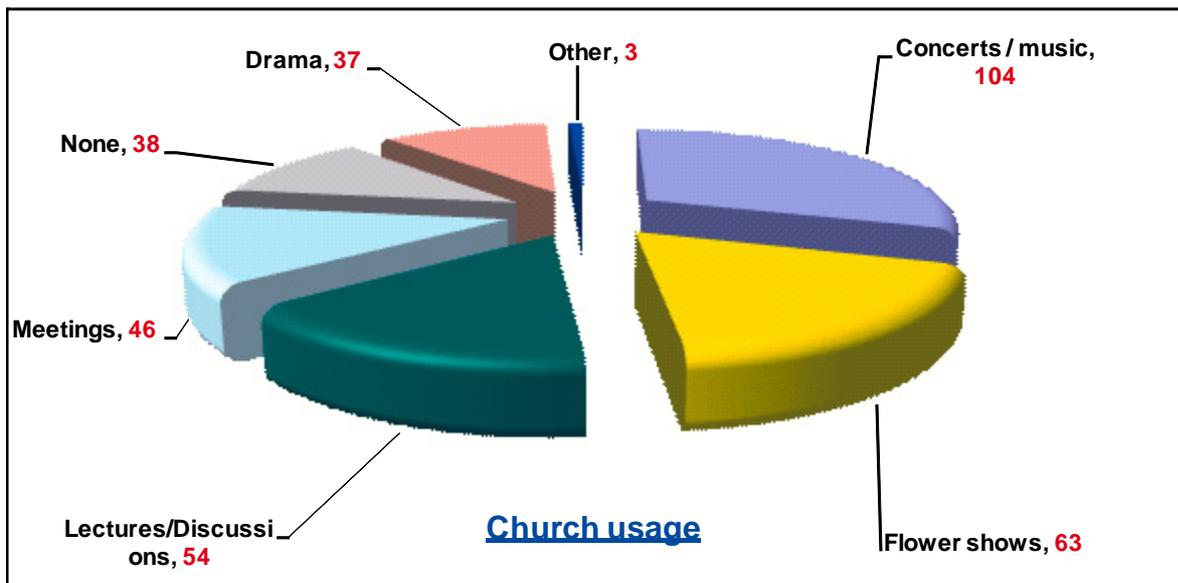
## Where should a new Village Hall be located. (Q51)

Most people (66%) would like a new Hall to be built on the recreation ground. It is not clear if this could then be shared with neighbouring Kentford. The idea of sharing was supported by 29%.

## Attendance at places of Worship (Q53,54)

The number of respondents who have attended St Nicholas' Church is 77 (44% of respondents). 34 people seem to attend churches outside the Village.

## Additional uses for Kennett Village Church (Q55)



The idea of using St Nicholas' Church for events in addition to normal services meets with the approval of a significant number of the 155 respondents. But it should be noted that a quarter of people replying were against the idea.

*'More use should be made of this beautiful historic building'*  
*'A fixed church service timetable is required for general services'*

# Kennett Village Parish Plan

## 6.8 The Environment

### Importance of the Countryside (Q56,57)

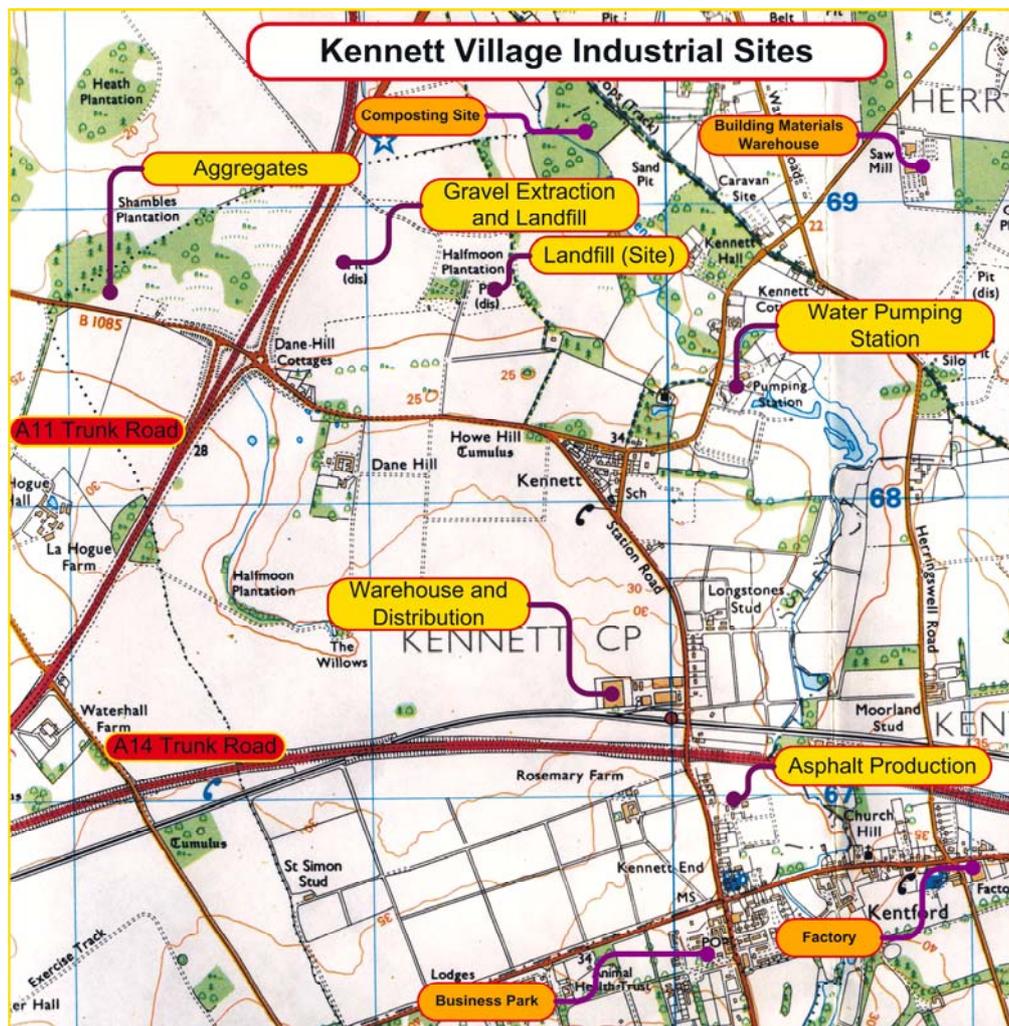
Except for the very small number of people with ‘no opinion’, everyone replying (182 people) feels that the countryside around Kennett Village is ‘important’ and ‘very important’ to them. 57 people wrote text comments in reply to Q57 which asked what should be done to protect and enhance the local environment and countryside of Kennett Village. Very many of the comments were to do with the reduction of traffic, particularly HGV’s, through the Village.

Although within the main body of the Survey there is criticism of poor street lighting, when related to the environment and the importance of the countryside, some comments refer to the necessity/ desirability of reducing light pollution.

A number of people are worried about future development; not just the building of additional houses, but also the way in which industrial sites, e.g. Hanson ( Asphalt) and Banks Grain (Warehousing and Distribution), may develop ( See following Diagram)

There is also concern about the amount of landfill being carried out.

Villagers support more tree planting; some expansion of footpaths through the countryside and the creation of particular ‘wild’ areas for the preservation of wildlife.



# Kennett Village Parish Plan

*'Farmland to be used as such. Better maintained public footpaths, and more of them'.*

*'Do not build any more housing'.*

*'More footpaths for access to countryside'.*

*'Retain the green fields surrounding Kennett Village and make greater use of the Playing Field'.*

*'Create a park for health and leisure and walking'.*

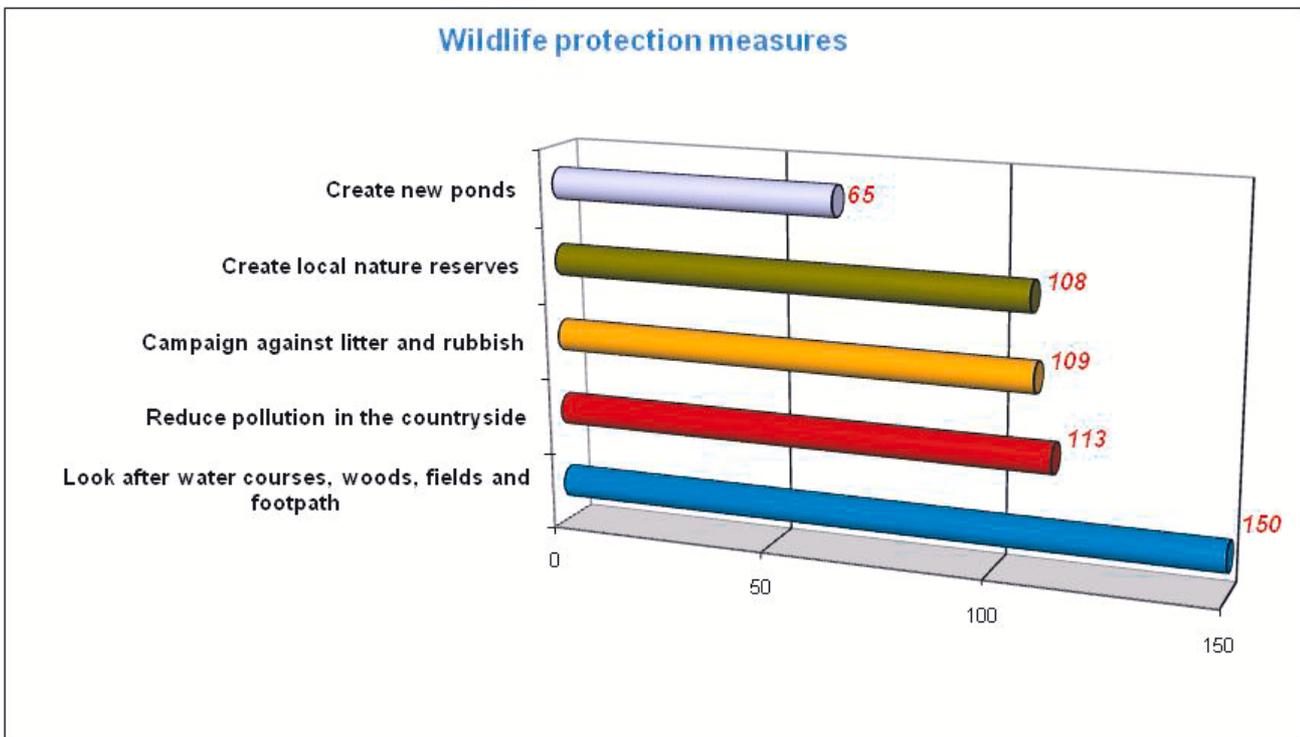
*'Plant more trees, more meadow land for wildlife'.*

*'Encourage the developments of wildlife areas with footpath access'.*

*'Careful monitoring of new housing'.*

*'We need more footpaths to explore countryside. Parish Council should encourage tree planting'.*

## Protection of Wildlife (Q58)



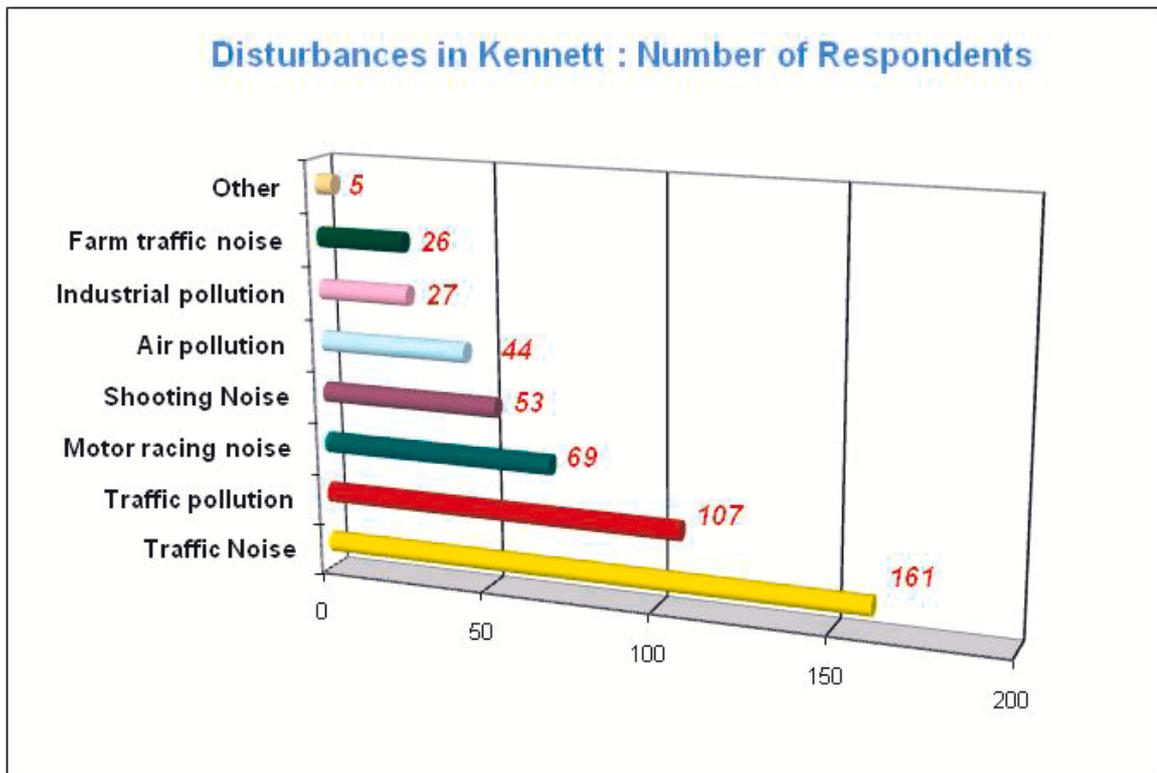
There is, as would be expected, significant support for the suggested wildlife protection measures, with 87% of 172 respondents supporting its general protection .

*'Leave wild areas as wildlife already seems to thrive. Limit hunting to maintain wildlife'*

*'Monitor game keeping activities in the Kennett Village area'.*

# Kennett Village Parish Plan

## Disturbances affecting Kennett Village (Q59)



If there is one theme running through this Commentary it is the ongoing noise disturbance and traffic pollution affecting Kennett Village from traffic travelling through the Village; and these two factors are singled out again – top of the list – in this question on disturbance in general. 95% are disturbed by traffic noise. The disturbance from motor racing is noted by 40% (69 of 170) and shooting by 34%.

## Knowledge of Footpaths and Bridleways (Q60)

In general there seems to be good support for local footpaths and bridleways. However only 43% know where they are, while 52% do not. 60% believe they are badly signposted; and of this number probably 20% do not use footpaths because they are unsure of their existence, or where they go.

A surprising number – 43 people – more than half of the active users – would be prepared to help in their maintenance. Those that know and use them would like more!

## Future Development of Kennett Village (Q61)

People who live in Kennett Village today are most keen (80% or 144 of 179) that it develops as a village community above all else; and this is reflected in the general text comments that it should not become connected to any neighbouring town or settlement.

## How to publicise the Findings of the Kennett Village Plan (Q62)

Most people would like to receive a copy of the Findings at their home; and a copy posted on the Village Website; and with the possibility of a Public Meeting to present the Findings for explanation and discussion.

A text comment hopes that a copy would be sent to Local Government Authorities in the area; and also to local Members of Parliament.

# Kennett Village Parish Plan

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## 6.9 Last Thoughts

*Please summarize your thoughts on matters that are important to you*

This last question (Q63), asking residents for 'last thoughts' on Kennett Village and how it should develop, produced a pleasing and worthwhile collection of comments, views and ideas. A number of people feel that the Village has no obvious centre; and this makes the development of community spirit more difficult.

There is some support for additional development to enable the Village to provide further facilities such as a Recreational/ Community Centre and shop. The recent development of large scale 'identical' housing at Red Lodge is to be avoided.

There are some thoughts that Kennett Village is not large enough to support its own Hall and should remain in partnership with Kentford. Some residents feel that Kennett Village is in need of a better play area for young children. There is some criticism that the amount of local authority (housing association) housing has caused Kennett Village to deteriorate significantly in the last decade.

But someone can equally well say:

*'all in all it is a great little village and most issues could be dealt with by very little expense and a bit of determination and planning.'*

The problem of traffic, and particularly HGV's, travelling through the village en route to elsewhere, is highlighted again and again. There should be an improvement in how Public Meetings are announced/ communicated; and Notice Boards at present in the Close should be relocated outside the School.

The overall impression given is of a small community, with a significant number of concerned individuals interested in its improving future as a Village Community.

*'Thanks for the opportunity to have our say. It reminds us that we once lived in a Democracy'.*

# Kennett Village Parish Plan

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## 7. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Kennett Village Parish Council and the Plan Steering Committee would like to thank all those who have helped with the creation and implementation of this Plan.

**Plan Steering Committee:** Barclay Dutson, Anthony French, Derek Miles, Josephine Swanson, Robin Swanson.

**Plan Volunteer Support:** John Alston, Pam Evans, Gilly Greet, Jackie Hughes, Nick Pank, Diane Wallis, Darren Watson, Robin Watson

**Cambridgeshire ACRE** – For assistance, funding and initial guidance.

**Bell Public House** for prize donation

**Fingerprint** ([www.fingerprintpm.co.uk](http://www.fingerprintpm.co.uk)) for our printing

**Warwick Networks** ([info@warwick-software.co.uk](mailto:info@warwick-software.co.uk)) for data analysis

**Phillip Moore** for providing the traffic photographs

And, of course, the **220 Kennett Village residents** who completed the questionnaire!

If you would like to get involved in any of the support activities covered by the plan or wish to comment, please contact the Parish Clerk or write to :

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68 Station Road,  
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**Telephone:- 01638 552576**

**E-Mail:- [kennettvillage@btopenworld.com](mailto:kennettvillage@btopenworld.com)**

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If you need further information about the plan and it's background information please contact Barclay Dutson on **01638 751098** or E-mail [info@kennettvillage.co.uk](mailto:info@kennettvillage.co.uk)

### Useful Contacts

#### **Kennett & Kentford**

<b>Playing Field Association</b> .....	Diane Wallis.....	01 638 751646
<b>Youth Activities</b> .....	Diane Wallis.....	01 638 751646
<b>Sports Activities</b> .....	Nick Pank.....	07 734 717221
<b>Kennett Traffic Action Group</b> .....	Derek Miles.....	01 638 751362
<b>Neighbourhood Watch</b> .....	Kevin Pryke.....	07 932 012486
	Gilly Greet .....	01 638 751436
<b>Refuse and Recycling</b> .....	Veolia.....	01 353 863864
<b>Local Police</b> .....	Ely.....	08 454 564564
<b>St Nicholas Church</b> .....	Rev. Mike Banyard....	01 638 721616
<b>Kennett Primary School</b> .....		01 638 750386
<b>Cambridgeshire County Council</b> .....	Highways .....	01 353 650570
<b>Cambridgeshire County Council</b> .....	Street Lighting. ....	08 00 253529

*Published : August 2008*



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