

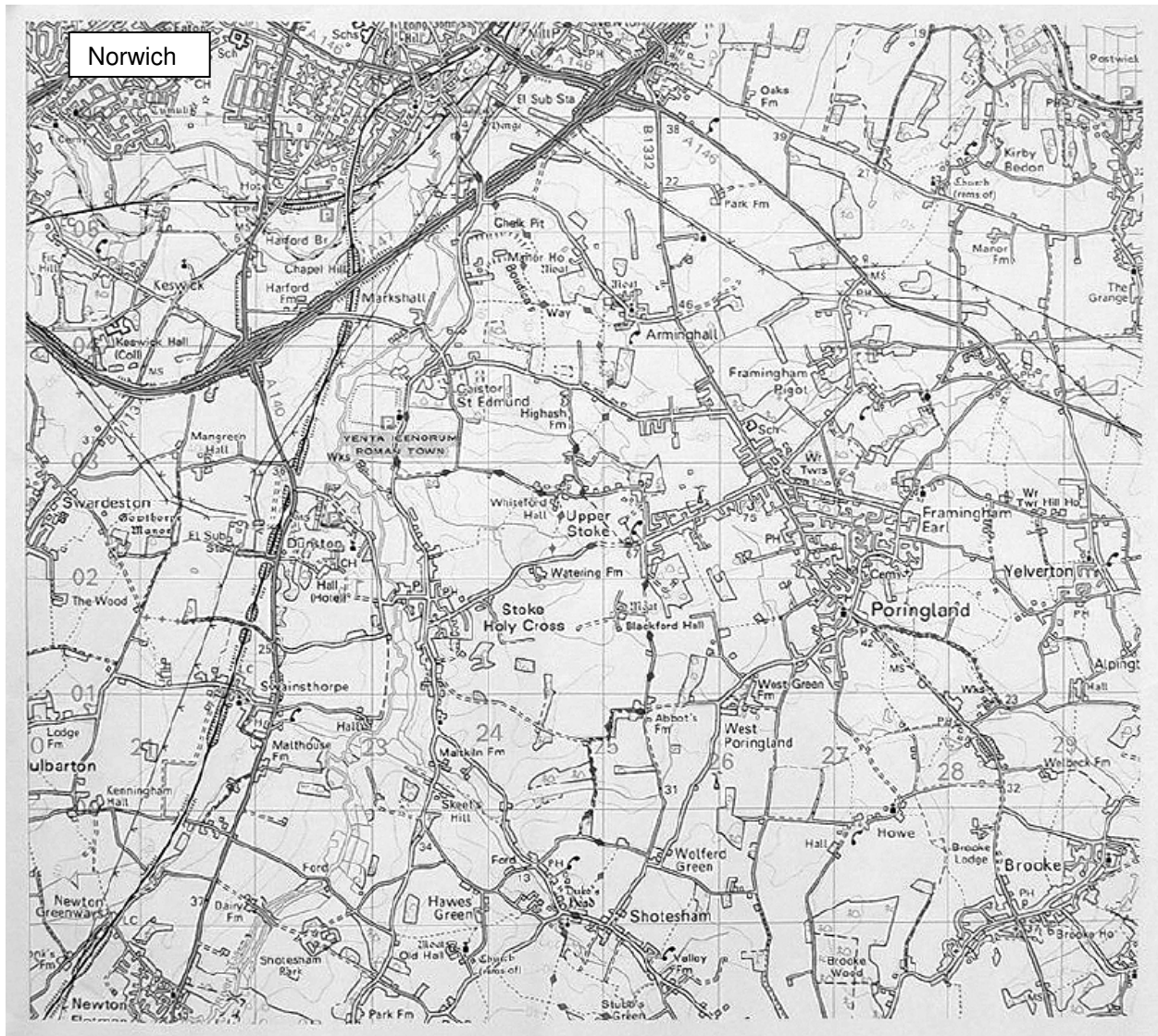
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INTRODUCTION



Map showing geographical location of the villages and their relationship to the road network to the South East of Norwich

The Parish Plan Steering Committee for The Five was set up by the Parish Councils of Caistor St Edmund (including Markshall), Framingham Earl, Framingham Pigot, Poringland and Stoke Holy Cross (including Dunston) following a public meeting on 19th February 2003.

The purpose of the Committee was to act on behalf of the Parish Councils to carry out research and to produce a report outlining how the community sees itself developing over the next 10 years. It would also:

- Identify local problems and opportunities
- Collate what local people think about social, economic and environmental issues affecting rural life
- Set out an achievable and longer term vision for the future
- Provide a guide to the Parish, District and County councils on what is important to local residents and businesses
- Provide data to support funding for community projects

In order to identify within the community which problem areas should be included within the questionnaire, an introductory leaflet was produced and “open days” were held at Stoke Holy Cross Church Hall on 4th October 2003 and Framingham Earl High School on 11th October 2003. Every opportunity was taken to encourage dialogue between the Steering Group, Parish Councils and the residents of the villages.

In August 2004 every household within the five parishes was canvassed with a hand-delivered questionnaire and 56% responded. This is a higher proportion than usual response to this sort of exercise.

The following pages outline the main conclusions from the survey and indicate some of the possible answers to the challenges thrown up. Individual village sections are also detailed.

As not every respondent answered every question the percentages may therefore appear to differ or not total exactly.

THE VILLAGES

All the villages are set in pleasant rolling countryside just a few miles south of Norwich, to which the majority of residents commute for work.

Twin pylons, set on the second highest point in Norfolk, mark what is almost the centre of the Five Villages, and can be seen from distances as far as twenty miles.

The largest conurbation is Framingham Earl with Poringland, where the residential development merges with that of Framingham Pigot, Upper Caistor St Edmund and Upper Stoke Holy Cross. The villages of Caistor St Edmund and Stoke Holy Cross are dissected by farmland, with the lower halves situated in the Tas Valley.

CAISTOR ST EDMUND (with Markshall)

Caistor St Edmund is an attractive historic Village, famous for the remains of its Roman Town, Venta Icenorum, and its sixth century Anglo Saxon burial ground.

A population of approximately 270 is set in 665 HA split into two distinct settlement groups within the village. The first contiguous of Poringland, the second located close to Caistor Hall, now a hotel. The latter consists of a cluster of dwellings, which together with the Hall lie in a mainly wooded area, very rural in character nestling in the Tas Valley.

Situated in the South East corner of the Roman Town is the Parish Church of St. Edmund, Saxon in origin. The village boasts approximately six miles of scenic

footpaths of which many form part of Boudica's Way route



Sketch of the Parish Church of St Edmund.

Farming is the main activity, predominately arable, but diversification has led to horse livery and conservation projects.



Sketch of Caistor Hall Hotel

FRAMINGHAM PIGOT

The parish of Framingham Pigot covers an area of some 635 acres and is situated mainly on the A 146 road about 4 miles from the Norwich Southern Bypass and spreads through to join with its near neighbours of Framingham Earl and Poringland. The Parish Boundary is an irregular shape evolved over the years. The parish is bordered closely with neighbours with whom it has been linked geographically, economically, socially and historically. It was separated from Framingham Earl very early on when Roger Bigot, Earl of Norfolk gave his cousin Reiner Pigot, Knight and male heir Framingham Pigot, together with the Church, the Manor and all tenants plus 500 sheep. In those days it was linked with Bramerton, Kirby and Rockland via the Earl Moxey.



Manor Farm Barns

In 1929 Kelly's Directory reported it was in the Loddon and Clavering Petty Sessional Division, Henstead hundred and union, Norwich County Court District, Rural Deanery of Brooke and the Archdeaconry of Norfolk in the Diocese of Norwich and not much has changed from this. It reports that the church of St Andrew had been changed from that in the days of the Earl of Norfolk which had a 31' x 18' Nave and a Chancel of 25' x 11' with a thatched roof, a round steeple with a tiles top and two bells. Around 1850, George Henry Christie of the Auctioneering business in London re-built the church in stone and flint in the Early English style consisting

of Chancel, Nave, South porch and a tower at the North West of the church, the spire being 110' high containing a clock and three bells. The Church Register dates back to 1555. In those days James Archibald Christie, who was the local MP, occupied the Manor House. The village in those days was mainly comprised of market gardens supplying Norwich Market with vegetables and fruit and the population in 1921 was 245 persons. Even in those days the Directory lists that Motor Omnibuses regularly passed from Loddon to Norwich daily! Several of the existing parishioners can remember the market gardeners listed even in those days and direct descendants still live in the village. In 1929 both the Relieving and Vaccination Officer and Registrar of Births and Deaths and the Deputy Registrars both lived in the parish and used to cover the whole sub-district of Henstead.



Framingham Pigot Church

The parish remains fairly unique in Norfolk with negligible new development and a diminished population of 111, less than half those recorded in Kelly's Directory in the 1920's and 30's. Most of the market gardens have now ceased trading and have been replaced by one larger farm, although many of the village houses and cottages have large gardens enabling householders to grow their own vegetables.

FRAMINGHAM EARL

The parish of Framingham Earl covering an area of around 256 Hectares (632.745) acres is situated on the B1332 road 4.5 miles south east from Norwich towards Bungay. Currently the village has a population of around 850 people and 350 houses.

The village comprises a balanced mixture of residential housing. Facilities available within the community include The Post Office, Framingham Earl Methodist Church, St Andrews Parish Church, The Railway Public House and Framingham Earl Sports College, a High School that enjoys an excellent reputation in the county and is very well supported by the community in the catchment area.



Framingham Earl High School & The New Community Sports Centre

Geographically Framingham Earl is on top of a hill, the highest point in South Norfolk, and covers a water table upon which stand two very large water towers. Forty Acre Plantation stands on poor, sand flint subsoil with localised areas of bog and a basin of clay below. It is recorded that for several hundred years the water table has caused local incidents of flooding and distress to residents and travellers.

Liz Mann has recorded the history of Framingham Earl in her volume "Framingham Earl – The History of a Village" this excellent compendium, a mixture of history, geography and village life is currently being updated by Margaret Mason for the next edition. Framingham Earl is a very old

settlement going back to Saxon times. The Domesday Book (1086) records indicate the Prior of Thetford as Patron of Framingham Earl Church. St Andrews Church contains a number of very old items of architectural interest. An archaeological study in the mid 1980's by Andrew Harris revealed the church was probably constructed around 1090, with indications of a previous building on the site.



Framingham Earl Church

The history of Framingham Earl is well documented from 1066 onwards. At the time of enclosure Dr Edward Rigby (1747-1821) an eminent physician and surgeon at the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital had a country house in Framingham Earl and owned a large area of the heath. During his time he supervised the planting of the great oak trees in Framingham Earl and Poringland, many of which are still standing. Dr Rigby his wife and family are buried in St Andrews Church yard. The inscription on the family vault reads, "A monument to Rigby do you seek? On every side the whispering woodlands speak."

During the second world war a temporary Royal Air Force camp was built on the corner of Long Road and Spur Lane to house the staff of the Stoke Holy Cross radar and signals station. There is an exhibition of photographs in the Royal Oak public house Poringland depicting the people, equipment and station.

PORINGLAND

Poringland is situated 5 miles South East of Norwich on the B1332 road from Norwich to Bungay



Mardling by the Pond

This photograph predates the First World War 1914, and indicates a leisurely country scene beside the pond opposite the Swan Public House (now Grumpys or Zaks). So different from today's traffic laden scene.

According to the 2001 Census, 3261 residents live in an area covering 632 Hectares. Maps dating back to 1797 and 1838 show a very different Poringland, being mainly heathland, typically comprising acid, sandy soil covered with heather, gorse and coarse grasses.

There are 3 churches – All Saints Church built in Saxon times with a circular base. The hexagonal tower was added later. There is also a Roman Catholic Church and the Wellspring Free Church. The Village Hall, erected in 1921, was a World War 1 army hut, purchased by public subscription on land donated for the use of villagers.



The New Norfolk Homes Development

Prior to the Second World War, Poringland consisted mainly of farmers, market gardeners and people working on the land. Porch Farm, Church Farm and several other farms were based in The Street and Shotesham Road. Elizabeth Road was formerly a market garden.

There have been considerable changes in recent years. Development moved forward as various services were provided: electricity in the 1930's; main sewer in 1958; and gas in the early 1960's. Apart from Howe Lane and the northern part of the village, the early development mainly centred on the east side in the 1960's. It was not until the 1970's that the planning envelope extended to the central area west of The Street. Rapid development has continued since and is set to continue in the foreseeable future.

We now have a variety of shops and other local services including a supermarket, local stores, pharmacy, dental practice, optician, veterinary and 2 doctors surgeries, estate agents, financial services, 3 public houses, take away food outlets, hairdressers and vehicle services. A variety of cultural activities are also available. The primary school caters for 356 pupils.

Significant leisure facilities have been provided in recent years. Poringland Lakes is an interesting area with a maze of pathways around small lakes in former sand excavations, but is not yet available for public use. Poringland Community Wood and pond off Carr Lane is a large area recently planted with trees. A playing field caters mainly for football but also includes a children's play area and a bowling green.

STOKE HOLY CROSS (with Dunston)

Stoke Holy Cross boasts eleven mentions in the Domesday Book of 1086, and has been a place of settlement since Roman times. Following the devastation of the plague in the fourteenth century the village centre moved from around the church, north to its present location, remaining small until the eighteenth century. Stoke revitalised during the early nineteenth century through the development of the mustard industry through the Colman family working at the Mill.



After the relocation of the manufacturing processes to Carrow, the village has grown slowly as a dormitory development for commuters to Norwich laying as it does between the B1332 Norwich to Bungay Road and the A140 Ipswich Road, with access to the Norwich Southern by-pass

The villages of Stoke Holy Cross and Dunston cover 927 hectares and have 675 homes; with an adult population of 1236 and 332 children/young people. (2001 census)



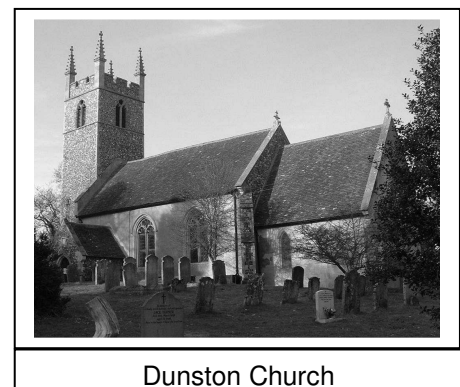
There is a large primary school and, close-by, a well-equipped playing field with pavilion, a Post Office, a hairdresser, a farm shop and butcher, two restaurants (one of which attracts visitors from far afield), a church, church hall and chapel. Upper Stoke has a small recreation ground in Carol Close, and St Georges' Hall, but is most well known for the two pylons, visible from miles around.

There are 5 farms and large areas of arable and grazing farmland, with many sign-posted public footpaths from which to enjoy beautiful swathes of the countryside.

There are also a high percentage of retired people who live in the village.

The parish of Stoke also includes the small village of Dunston, on the opposite side of the River Tas, where the houses, church and a hotel with leisure facilities surround the Common.

Many people come from Norwich to enjoy the peace and tranquillity of Dunston Common and discover the church, tucked away from "the madding crowd" – a little gem of much interest, dedicated to St Remigius.



The villagers look to Framingham Earl for secondary schooling and to Poringland for various health-care services etc. and where In the near future, there will also be indoor sports facilities available and, later, library services, which it is planned, will be shared within The Five.

RESPONSES BY VILLAGE

The Questionnaire was divided into three sections:

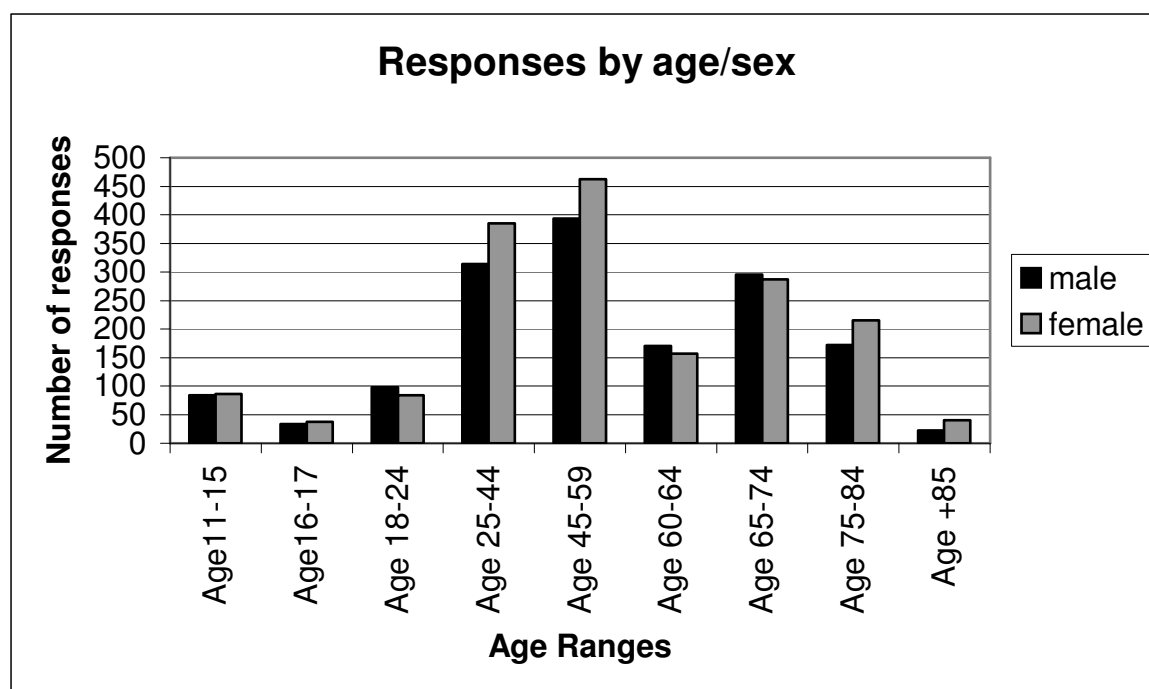
- Household
- Personal
- Business

The Personal section dealt with specific questions seeking information on:

- employment
- transport problems,
- housing
- crime and anti-social behaviour
- education and child-care facilities
- sports and leisure activities and facilities
- use of the country side and development of the area
- waste recycling
- village shop/post office use

The questionnaire was not designed to delve into lifestyle, the role of the churches, the inter-relationship between countryside and an increasingly urbanised population, nor has it touched deeply on matters of law and order (drugs, crime, vandalism) care in the community or wider planning issues.

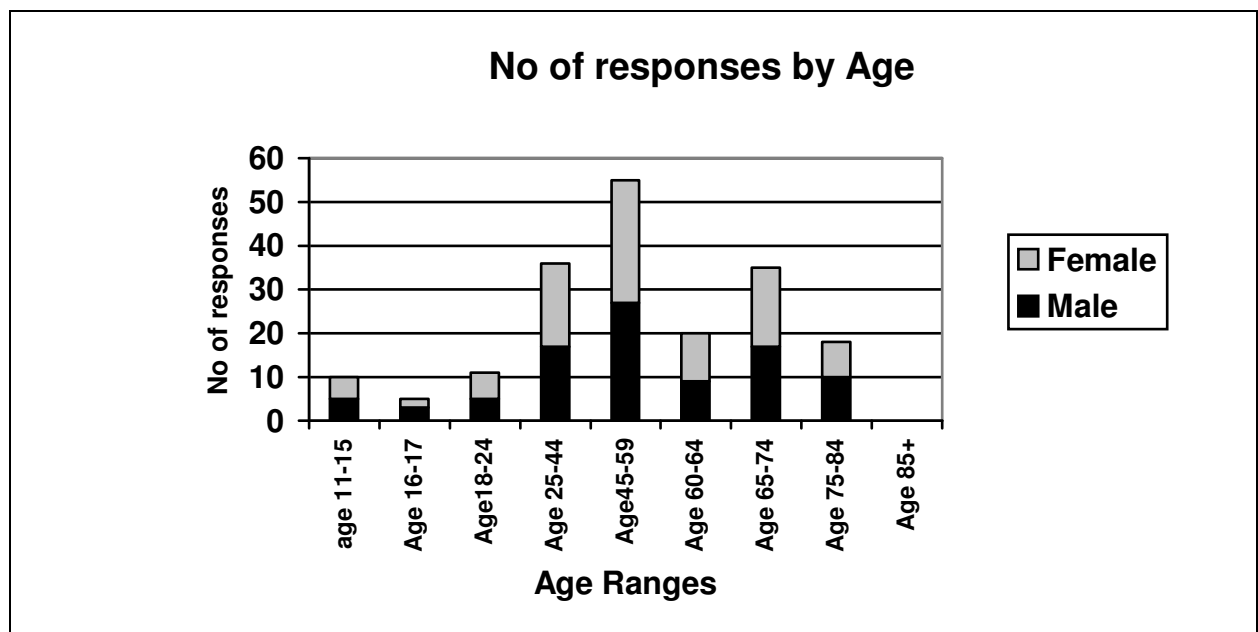
We sent out 2711 questionnaires – one to each household in the area and we received back 1517 questionnaires (56 per cent return) revealing 3336 people, including some children, of which 1582 were male and 1754 were female.



CAISTOR ST EDMUND (with Markshall)

75% of questionnaires delivered to residents of the village were returned showing that the population was made up mainly of the age range of 45-74 years of age. The returns were made up of 89 dwellings and 190 inhabitants.

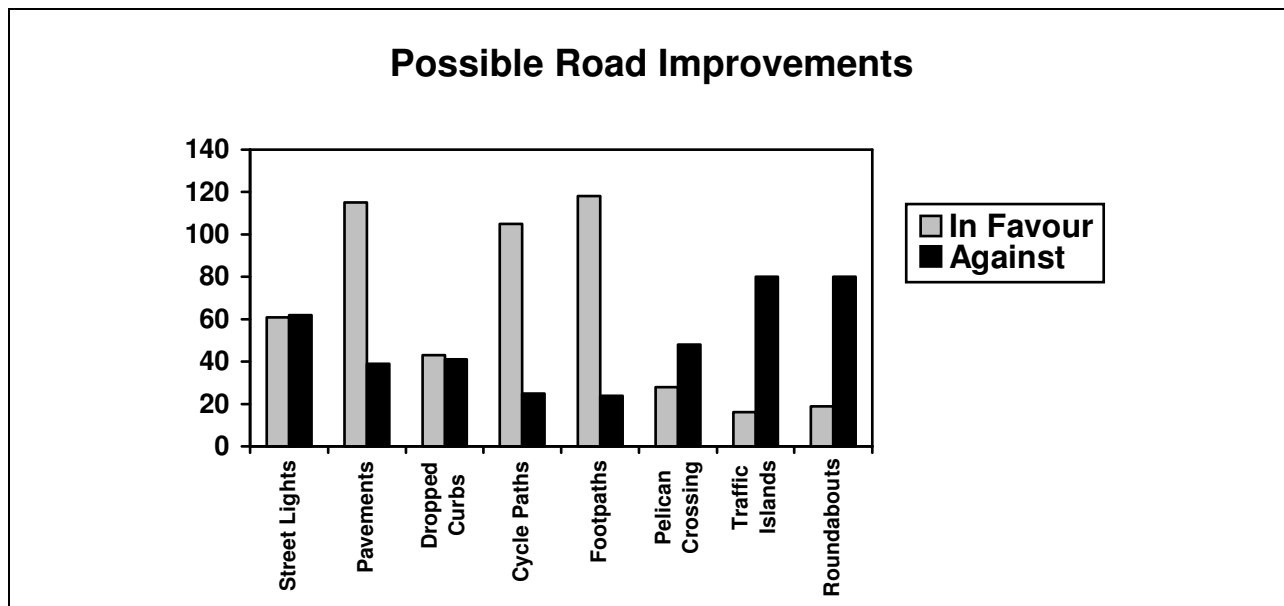
The questionnaire showed that 93% of households had no wish to move within the Five, The lack of rental property and cost of housing was the reason that some could not move. The number of retired people was shown to be 32% and employed 31%. Only 13 people were employed in The Five and overall the main type of employment of the residents was professional/technical and clerical/secretarial.



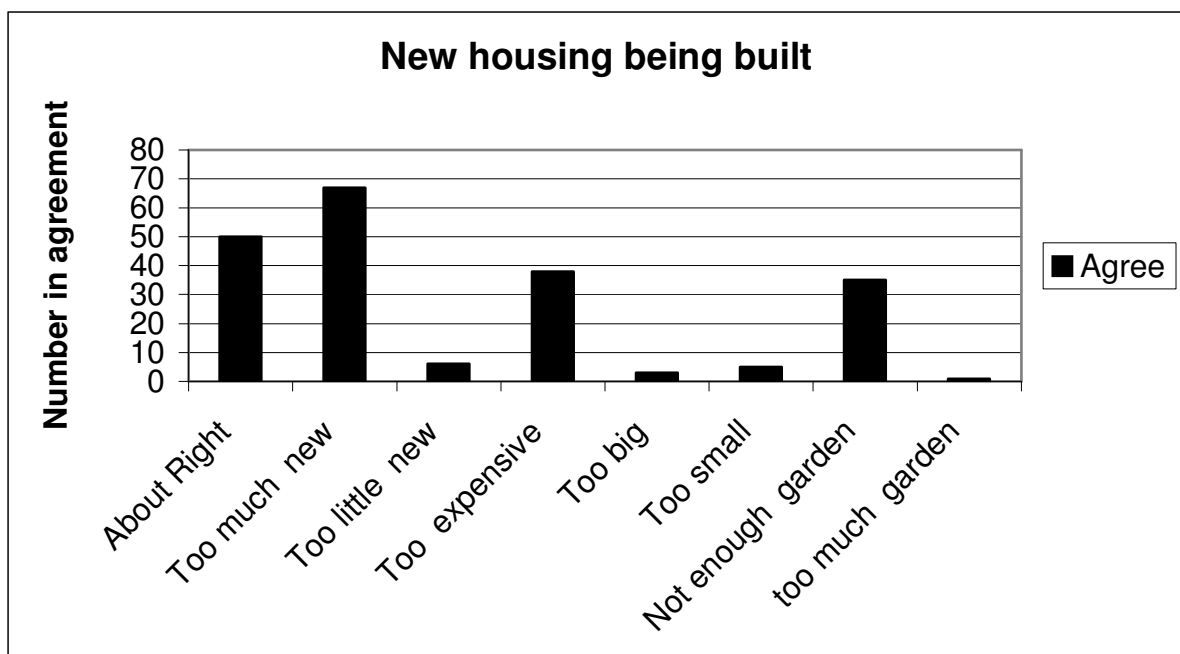
Few people experienced transport difficulties and 95% of residents used the car as means of transport. Most people thought that the bus service was reasonable. Comments were made that a bus shelter was needed at the top of Caistor Lane, a bus service to the hospital and a footpath along Caistor Lane to the bus stop. Some difficulty was found in reaching the hospital, chemist's doctors and dentists.

The questionnaire showed that 83% of residents identified the danger spots in the village As Caistor Lane, Framingham Earl High School, Caistor Hall crossroads, no footpath along Caistor Lane. The majority of replies showed concern regarding the speed of traffic along Caistor Lane. (Especially the lower end), Markshall Lane and the Norwich to Stoke Road. Flashing speed signs were considered by the majority to be needed, followed a close second by reduced speed limits. The main parking problems seem to be at Framingham Earl High School, Framingham Earl Post Office and at the chemist in Poringland.

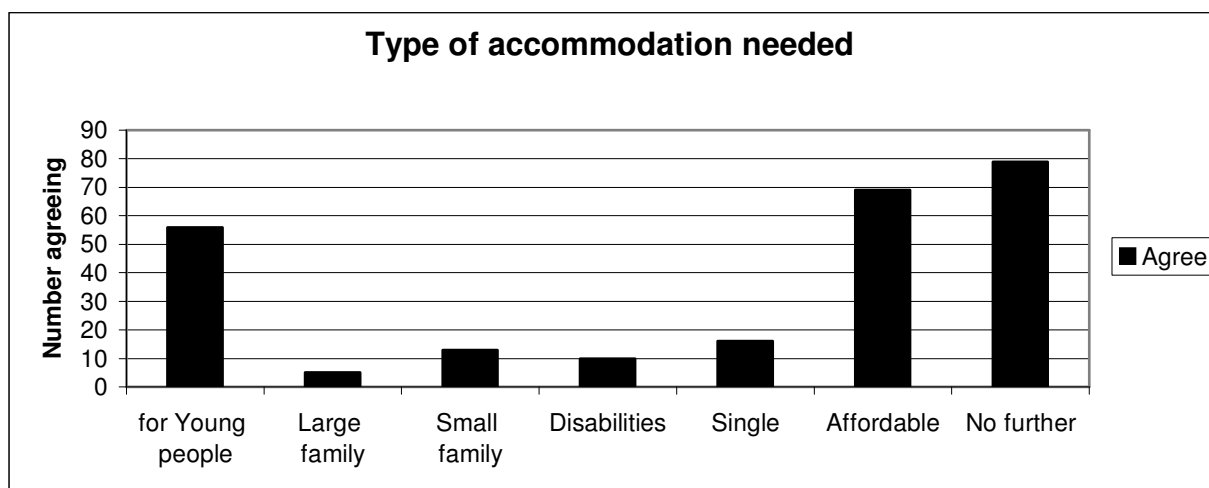
Burglary and vandalism were the main concern of 60% of the respondents, with drug use identified to a lesser extent. Greater police presence and more activities for the young were identified as needed to combat these problems.



The creation of a 6th form centre, holiday play schemes and after school clubs were identified as of prime importance to many, whilst adults identified sports/health & fitness, language, arts and crafts, computing and DIY as classes they would most likely attend. Caistor Roman Camp, Poringland Wood, local public house, Dunston Common, local swimming pool, and the mobile library were the most regularly used local facilities with club groups used only occasionally. It was suggested that other clubs might be used if available. e.g. gardening, tennis, badminton, swimming, archery, wildlife and natural history. The majority of respondents thought that a youth meeting place, library and indoor sports centre would meet the sports and leisure needs.



Responses on housing showed that 33% of respondents thought that there was too much housing, 24% the right amount and 19% said it is too expensive. With regard to further building, 79% firmly stated no further additional development be allowed. There was high support for the encouragement of tourism and business development in the area.



Provision of pavements, footpaths and cycle paths were considered to be a high priority. Gritting/snow clearance, mains water, refuse collection and care of verges were considered the local services with the poorest performance rating.

Replies indicated that a high level of recycling was being achieved, however, many identified restrictions, e.g. type and quantity of waste they were allowed to take to sites, and the attitude of staff, were a problem. Most thought the availability of waste sites was reasonable.

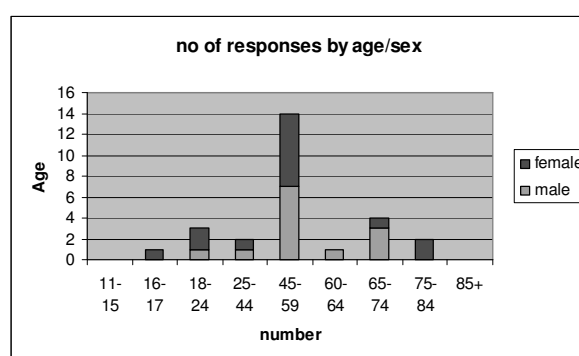
Information regarding village matters was mainly obtained from the parish magazine, the Five magazine and the parish notice boards. However, respondents thought the shopping range within The Five was reasonable. Post Office facilities were used mainly for postal services & vehicle tax. There were several comments from residents that more shops were needed e.g. hardware store, fishmongers, bakers and butchers.

Comments were expressed relating to the few opportunities for employment within the village, although some businesses were not mentioned in the questionnaire e.g. DIY livery & bird watching, legal and leisure.

With regard to future development, comments were that that The Five should remain united and press forward and have a united voice for all the five areas and not allow the five villages to become a suburb of Norwich.

Framingham Pigot

The responses from Framingham Pigot were disappointing, there being only 12 returns received involving 27 residents, 13 male and 14 female. In view of the low numbers, this section of the report has not involved percentages since they may be considered misleading i.e. 6 households would be represented as 50% and 13 residents would equate to 48% of the total. The majority of residents completing the return were within the age range of 45 to 59 as you will be able to see from the chart.



So far as the household section was concerned, one household wished to consider moving within The Five and was unable to do so due to lack of affordable properties to buy or rent and lack of sheltered housing.

No one was seeking employment and of the 15 persons employed, 7 worked within The Five.

Transport and Traffic

Only one person felt they often experienced transport difficulties, 11 occasional and 15 never. All but one person used a van/car as their main means of transport although there were a high number of residents who felt the bus stop location was poorly situated.

Suggested Review – bus stop location

Whilst the majority never experienced difficulty in getting to the variety of services, there were a few who had experienced occasional difficulties and one who recorded difficulties often.

Suggested Review – local transport arrangements for those in need within The Five

One of the main problem areas is traffic with danger spots being identified by 16 residents and linked to the narrow lanes within the locality with speeding being the main problem. What was surprising was that of the suggested control measures, 10 felt that the speed limit should be extended whilst 13 felt they should be reduced. Of the remaining alternatives, flashing speed signs were suggested by 10 residents and physical calming by 7. So far as parking was concerned, only 5 felt there were problems.

Suggested Review – local speed control arrangements within The Five

Anti Social Behaviour

There was concern expressed relating to anti social behaviour especially in respect of burglary (13) and vandalism

(5). It is worth noting that within the household section, only 4 of the 12 households were members of neighbourhood watch. Greater police presence and better consultation with the police were considered to be the most effective measures to be taken.

Suggested Review – local police arrangements within The Five

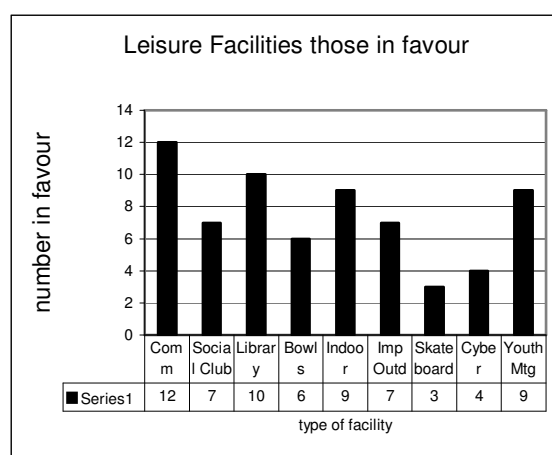
Facilities and Groups

Within the provision of facilities, it was felt that there was a need for a 6th form centre and adult education classes which should include computing (6), languages (6), art and craft (7) DIY (5) and sports/health and fitness (5).

Suggested Review – to submit these for consideration to the local schools

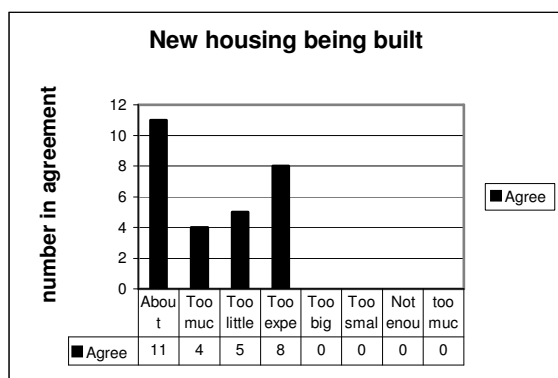
The use of facilities and groups seems to indicate that the public houses are the main frequented location with areas such as the mobile library, Poringland Wood and Dunston Common also being used. Of the groups/clubs very few were attended, the church social being the highest at 3. However, if available, clubs such as gardening (7), tennis (5), dance (4) and badminton (4) would be attended.

The needs may be shown as follows:

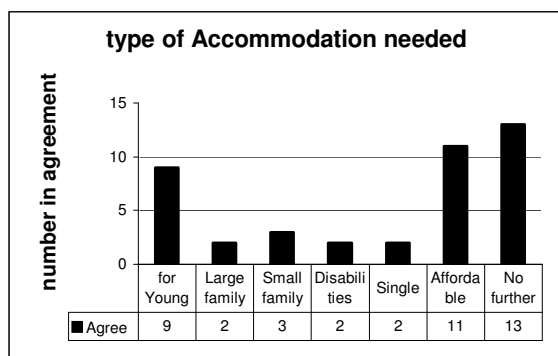


Suggested Review – to review arrangements within The Five

Housing



The first of the graphs provide an indication that housing within Framingham Pigot is about right although felt to be too expensive.



The second graph indicates that there are no further homes needed although there is a need for affordable homes, especially for young people.

Suggested Review – to review housing arrangements within The Five

Developments

Overall, 8 residents were in favour of tourism with 3 having reservations and 7 against.

11 were in favour of small-scale business development with 5 having reservations and 4 against.

There were 8 in favour of small-scale industrial workshops with 1 having reservations and 11 against.

Street and Services

The majority did not wish for street lighting (11/5); pavements (10/6); dropped kerbs (8/3); pelican crossings (9/2); traffic islands (9/2) or roundabouts (9/5). However there was favour for cycle paths (8/6) and footpaths (14/5).

In general all the services were felt to be good or reasonable. However sewerage, street cleaning, care of verges, gritting/snow clearance and TV reception were poor and could be improved.

Suggested Review – to review within The Five

Waste

With the exception of oil (5) and cardboard (7), virtually everyone is recycling as much as possible. 13 felt the waste sites were good, 9 felt reasonable and 1 poor. Too many restrictions on type of waste accepted were felt by 9 residents whilst 3 felt there were too many restrictions on quantity of waste accepted.

Suggested Review – to link with South Norfolk Council and the County Council

Shops

13 felt that the range on shopping facilities was good with 6 suggesting reasonable. Unfortunately 5 felt they were poor.

Postal services came top (22) for Post Office with 20 for vehicle tax, other services 16, pensions 5 and banking 8.

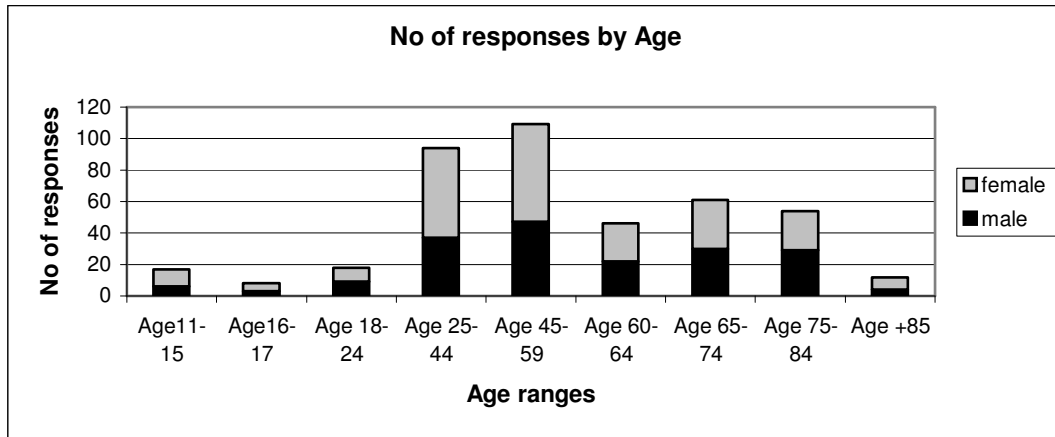
Open Spaces and Information

There was considered a need for more open spaces by 12 to 9.

The Parish Magazine was the favourite form of information (24) followed by word of mouth (15). and the EDP (11). Of the remaining, notice board (8), The Five (5), Post Office (5) and EEN (3).

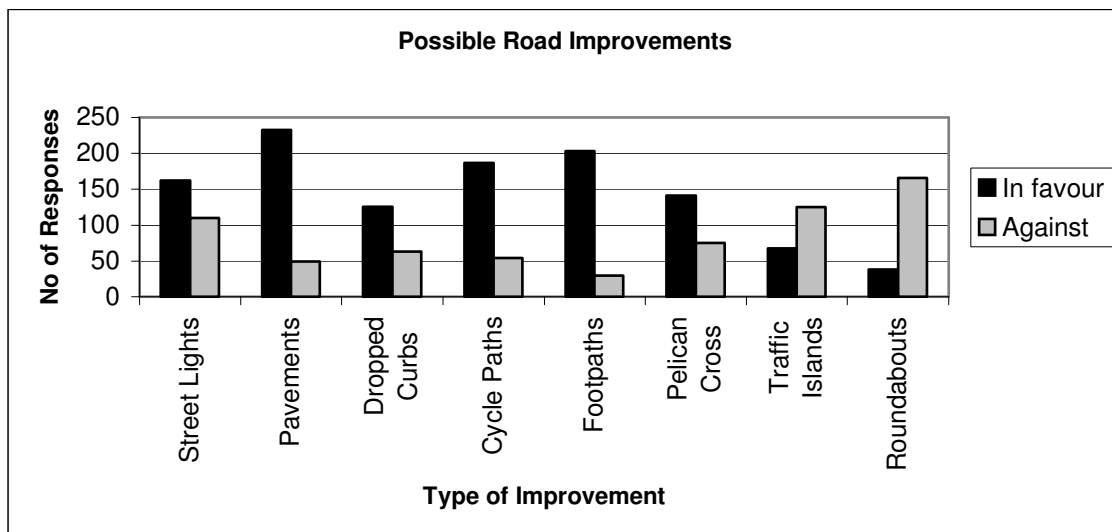
FRAMINGHAM EARL

Framingham Earl residents provided a high number [419] of responses to the questionnaire with a selection from each age range: The majority spread across the 25 to 59 year old age group, but with only a 44% response by household.



The questionnaire showed the population centred on the private car as being the main mode of transport. However, those using the bus service gave it a better than average overall rating with timetable, costs and bus shelters as the main items for improvement.

A majority of residents identified specific transport danger spots [with over 50 detailed] but more quoting Long Road, The Street/Roundabout and Framingham Earl Post Office areas than any others. Speeding was an issue for a small majority and Long Road, The Street/Roundabout and the estate to the far east of Poringland (referred to as the Wilcon estate) are the areas of most concern. Almost 50% of respondents opted for flashing speed-warning signs as their preferred measure of control.

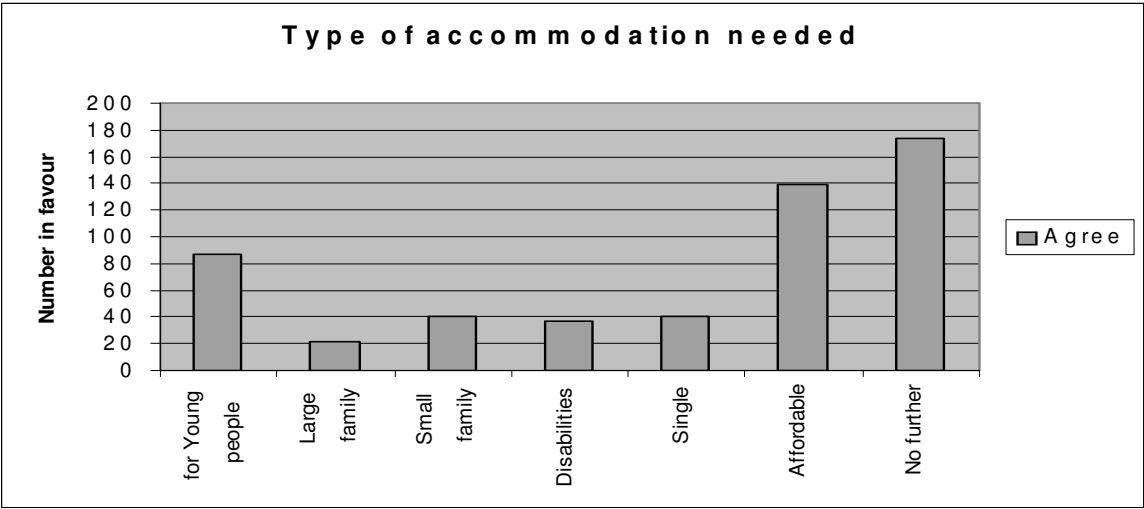


Although parking was not, in general, considered a problem the areas adjacent to Framingham Earl Post Office and High School, the chemist and Poringland Church and Post Office were of greatest concern.

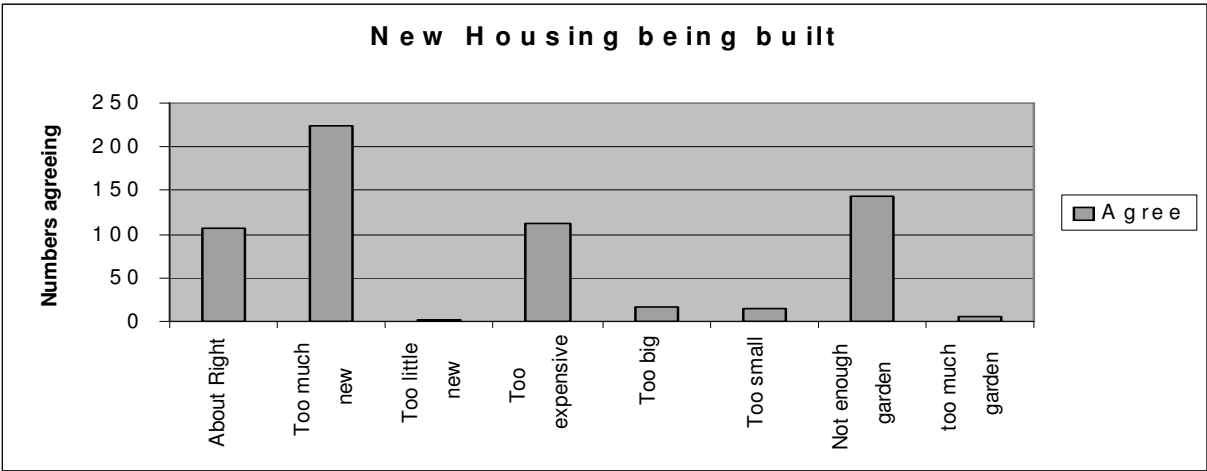
There was strong support for additional pavements alongside roads, footpaths in the countryside, cycle paths and street lighting, whereas the provision of more roundabouts and traffic islands were given a very negative response.

Vandalism was a main concern to over 50% of the respondents, with burglary and drug use issues identified to a slightly lesser extent. Greater police presence and more activities for young people were identified, as the greatest need to help combat these problems.

The high price of house rental / purchase was the main reason cited for not being able to move house within the area, with affordable homes for the young considered to be a priority for any new build.



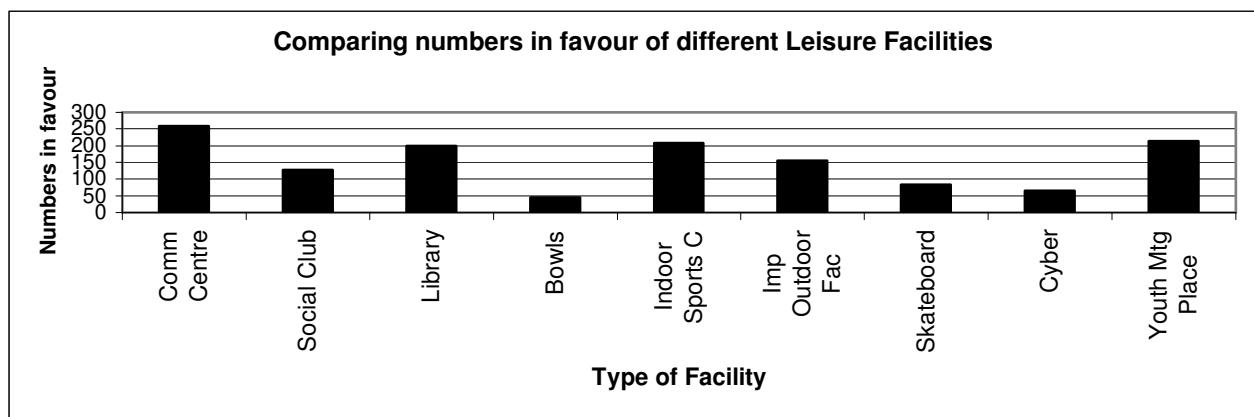
However, a large majority identified that too much new-build housing, with not enough garden space, had already been erected and a significant number of replies also referred to problems with surface or storm water drainage. The need for more open public spaces [for picnic or children's play areas] was an issue, which gained a high level of support



Gritting/snow clearance, care of verges, TV reception and street cleaning were the local services with the poorest performance rating, although replies indicated a high level of recycling being undertaken by residents. Many identified the restrictions on the type and

quantity of waste they were allowed to take to household waste sites, distance to travel and attitude of some staff as significant problems. Several respondents thought there was wider scope for recycling, particularly all types of plastic.

Local public houses, Poringland Wood, Poringland Playing Field, the Mobile Library and local time share swimming pools were identified as the most regularly used local facilities with activity groups showing a much lesser patronage. High numbers of replies suggested a community centre, youth meeting place, indoor sports centre and library as the new facilities most needed by the village. There were also 8 people who suggested a swimming pool, with a very wide spread in the choice of clubs/activities that might be attended if they were available



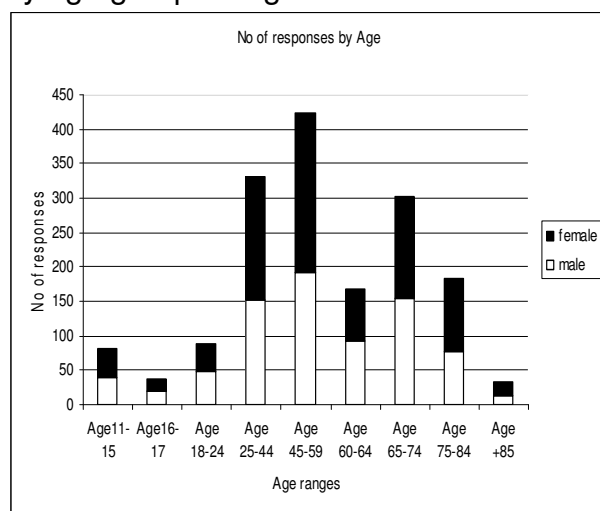
Almost 97% rated the local shopping facilities as *good* or *reasonable* with considerable use being made of the local post office services. However, over 80 suggestions were put forward for nearly 25 different types of additional shopping facilities with over 40% citing a bakery, butcher or hardware/ironmonger shops, as those they would most like to see.

Responses on the issues of tourism, small business and industrial workshops showed there was little support for any of these developments, with most indicating they had reservations or were definitely against the ideas. This opinion is reflected in the very low number of people [less than 20] employed by 'in-parish' companies. Over 50 different ideas of how The Five should develop, were put forward by approximately 130 people, with over 70% falling into the following general areas:

- Restrict/control the size of future development in discussion with local people
- Provide and develop infrastructure such as village hall, community centre, library, street lighting, educational/useful/casual meeting facilities for the young [and not so young], paths, improved 'cleaning' and better police presence etc
- The Five to continue to build closer community links based on village life with some respondents wishing to see more community events.

PORINGLAND

There were 1647 completed responses from a population of 3261 (2001 Census) – a response rate of 51%. Originally this was thought to have been higher but a number of the returned booklets had not been completed. The table below provides details of the return by age group and gender.



Household Section

Of the 791 households, flooding appears to be a problem for 3.2% (25) with a few problems experienced by 15.8%. The remaining 81% did not experience such problems.

64 respondents indicated they wished to move house within The Five for which the main obstacles were lack of affordable housing (38), price (21) and lack of affordable properties to rent (14). There were 13 who felt there was a lack of sheltered accommodation.

Only 23% were within a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. Of the remaining, 58% did not belong to a scheme and 19% were not sure if they were members.

Employment

Of those employed (825), 86.64% were employees and the remaining 13.36% were self-employed. There were 33 seeking employment, 51 unwaged, 34 permanently sick/disabled and 575 retired. Of those employed, 82% were outside of The Five.

The majority of those employed were professional / technical (26%),

managerial (22%) and clerical / secretarial (18%). Agricultural / horticultural accounted for 4%.

For those seeking work the main barriers appear to be lack of opportunities, transport, qualifications and training, and lack of experience.

Transport and Traffic

Transport difficulties were not seen generally as a problem. 2 out of 3 of respondents never have a problem; 29% only occasionally. Less than 5% do. By far the majority of respondents (81%) travel by car or van; 16% travel by bus; few cycle (2%); and 1% use a motorbike. Generally responses were favourable for the bus service. Route and location of bus stops were rated good or reasonable by a significant majority of respondents (90%) with timetable and reliability similarly (80%). Approximately 2/3rds of respondents rated cost and access for the disabled good or reasonable, but just over 70% would prefer more peak-time seats.

However, various improvements were suggested: e.g. more frequent and a later service including evenings and Sundays; a return to a 15 minute service; better spacing of timings between First and Anglian; less non-arrival or late arrival of service. Other comments related to cost and drivers' attitude (First) and more easy access for disabled persons and pushchairs. Other suggestions include a stop at Castle Meadow, a more direct route to Norwich, cross-country / East / West buses to nearby villages, a bus along Shotesham Road / Albion House and a seat in the shelter near the Church.

A number of people had problems accessing services; travelling to hospital (239 occasionally, 56 often) dentist also comparatively difficult (148 occasionally, 44 often); doctor 115 occasionally, 30 often; shops 111 occasionally, 15 often. optician 74 occasionally, 14 often.

Danger spots (70%) and speeding (68%) provoked a wide variety of comment and a substantial wealth of detailed locations. Main danger spots related to parking i.e. schools, post offices, the Pharmacy, church, and on the pathway outside of Grumpy's. Speeding traffic was linked to The Street and Norwich Road, Shotesham Road and a variety of other areas. All the details and comments will be passed to the Parish Council.

So far as controls were concerned, the provision of flashing signs was the most popular (1011), more road warnings (406), lower speed limit (355), children at play signs (345), physical traffic calming (321) and extension of speed limit (248).

Anti Social Behaviour

With regard to crime and anti-social behaviour, vandalism is the main concern (963), followed by burglary (661); drunkenness and drug abuse (both over 300 responses) also cause some concern. The main measures needed to combat crime and anti-social behaviour were thought to be: greater Police presence (1041) and more activities for young people (1033). Other measures were: improved street lighting (500); more Neighbourhood Watch schemes (450); better consultation between Police and local people (413); more drink and drug education/prevention (376).

Facilities and Groups

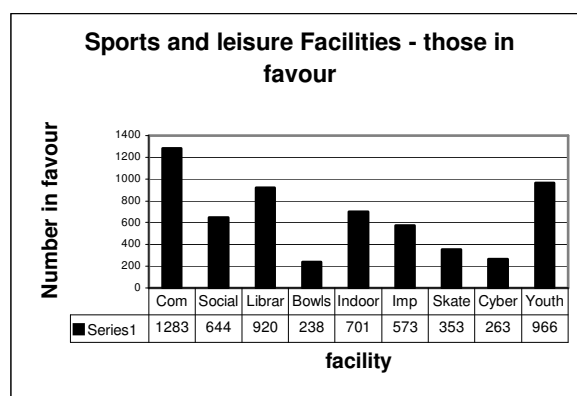
In relation to educational and child-care facilities, the main requirement was fairly equally scored in 4 separate areas: after school clubs (382); holiday play schemes (384); adult education classes (344) and a 6th form centre (360). Others, such as nursery classes / schools (206); playgroups (157); registered childminders and full day care (136 each) received less total support, probably because they affected less people. If that was so there could be a high request ratio.

Sports/health & fitness was the most popular requirement for adult education (513 responses). Demand was also indicated for computing (397) and arts/crafts (339); less so for languages (275) and DIY skills (208).

The most popular local facilities were public houses (962). Poringland Woods (667) and Poringland Village Hall (654) come next; the mobile library (419) and Roman Camp followed (382). Other facilities with some popularity are activities and sports at Framingham Earl High School (287) and Dunston Common (263). The majority of the usage is occasional rather than weekly or monthly use.

The best-attended group in The Five: by Poringland respondents is the church social group (174). This is followed by keep fit / yoga (92) and school sports clubs (74). Next come youth football (68), Scouts, Guides and Ventures (52); bowls (64); billiards / pool / snooker (57) and darts (47).

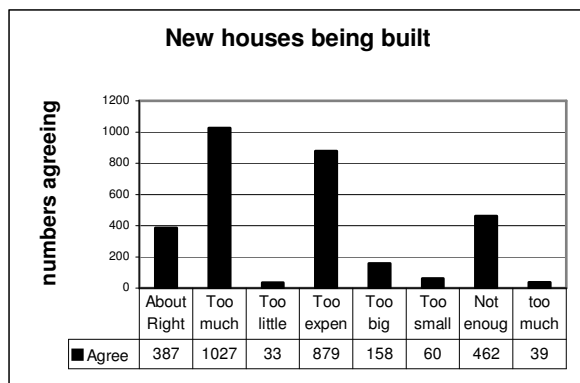
Asked which clubs/activities might you attend if they available, gardening was top choice (326), followed by badminton (301), tennis (274) and dance (272). squash (174), drama (141) and music (166) also had a fairly strong following.



Housing

Whilst 1027 considered there was too much new housing, 536 felt no further homes were needed. 879 felt that houses were too expensive, and a corresponding number (887) felt there should be an emphasis on affordable homes. There was also concern for

homes for young people (710) as well as for people with special needs (351) and single accommodation (379).



The future development of The Five: brought a significant response. The biggest single request was for no more large housing estates (98), followed by 73 respondents who wanted to maintain the rural character: Others pleaded for “controlled building”, not too quickly resulting in the The Five: becoming a small town. The infrastructure should match the development of the area and additional facilities should keep pace with new building.

Developments

Most people did not want tourism development/attractions (65%) or small-scale industrial workshops (68%). However small scale business development was more evenly divided- 54% in favour, 46% definitely not.



Poringland Stones

Street and Services

Public services received a mainly favourable response. Approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ of respondents thought mains water supply, sewerage, mains gas, and electricity services were good. Refuse collection, TV reception, radio and telephone reception was considered good by $\frac{2}{3}$ of respondents. Most people thought street cleaning and care of verges, was good or reasonable; gritting and snow clearance was rated poor. The majority of people who needed septic tank emptying thought the service was good.

Waste

Recycling has really caught on in Poringland with a high proportion of respondents recycling bottles, newspapers, cans and plastic. Approximately 50% also recycle cardboard and clothing. Respondents requested bins are made available for plastics and communal composting of green waste.

The majority of respondents thought available household waste sites good or reasonable. But a significant numbers of people thought there were too many restrictions on both the type and quantity of waste accepted. Others thought the waste sites were too far away.

Shops

By far the majority of respondents thought that the range of shopping facilities in The Five: are good and most of the remainder thought them reasonable. Some would like to see more specialist shops such as butcher and baker and an all day café. Postal services were, not surprisingly, the main reason for using a local post office (1365). A high proportion of respondents also use a local post office. for vehicle tax, TV licence and other bills (831). A smaller proportion uses them for pensions, allowances, banking services and information leaflets.

Open Spaces and Information

A high proportion of respondents (83%) think there should be more open spaces in The Five: The Five: is the main provider of information about events locally (983). The parish magazine comes next (771) and word of mouth takes 3rd spot (736). The EDP, notice boards and The Advertiser are the next most popular sources.

Comments for Future Development

With regard to facilities, there was a large response for more leisure facilities for teenagers/ youngsters and a new functional community centre. More leisure/ sports facilities, a community sports hall, tennis courts/ sports track, more playground activities for under 5's and more conservation areas/ open space attracted a further 30 requests. A new library and more facilities for disabled persons were also requested. Other points made were: "Poringland does not have a heart as a village"; keep the same standard as now, we need more quality than quantity and keep green belt areas. Community spirit concerned several respondents, with events such as village fetes, fairs, coach

outings and setting up voluntary services to help the needy suggested. Small starter homes, assistance schemes for local first-time buyers and more footpaths and cycle lanes were also requested.

Business

Employment is mainly own business (17). 9 businesses employ 1-3 persons; there were 5 businesses in the range 4-5 employees and 1 in the category 11-25 people.

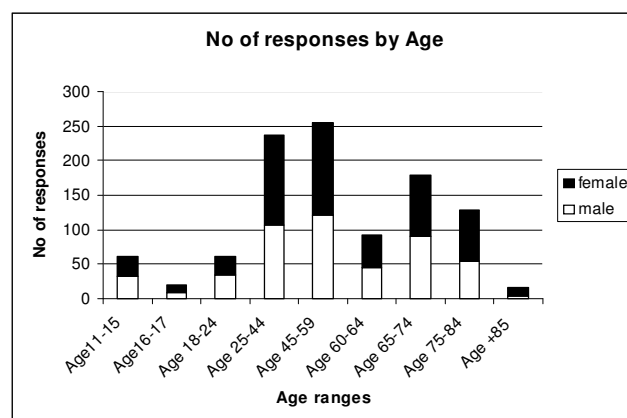
Businesses fall into the following categories: consultancy 5; construction 4; agriculture, finance / professional services and transport and childcare, 3 of each; tourism 2; manufacturing 1. 2 employers with vacancies in the last 12 months had difficulty filling them, but 6 had no problems. The reasons given for difficulty in filling vacancies were transport (2); lack of the required experience (2) and lack of required qualifications/skills (1).

18 respondents said there were sufficient facilities for their business to grow; but 4 said no.

STOKE HOLY CROSS (with Dunston)

Stoke Holy Cross and Dunston residents provided a very good response to the questionnaire, with 69% of questionnaires returned completed. The responses by age group are indicated in the adjacent table.

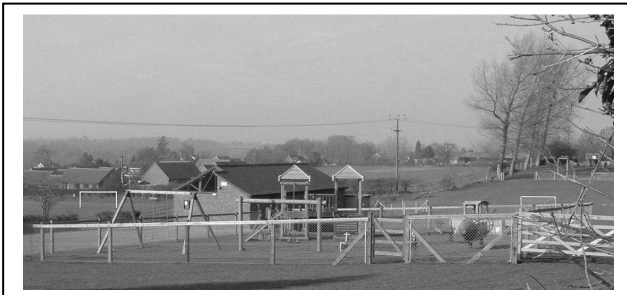
The largest response (24.5%) came from the 45-59 age group, followed by (22.5%) from those aged between 25-44. 8% of the total respondents were in the 11-17 age range with 31% over the national retirement age.



The general view across the board seemed to be that the residents of Stoke Holy Cross and Dunston very much appreciated the villages in which they live, and wanted to keep the positive aspects of the rural setting which had attracted them in the first place.

Use of the car is the main mode of transport in, around and out of the villages. A high proportion of responses recorded concern over danger spots on the roads; in particular

at the Norwich Road/Mill Road junction, where visibility is difficult, at the A140 /Dunston junction and in Long Lane, particularly near the School and Playing field. Alarm was



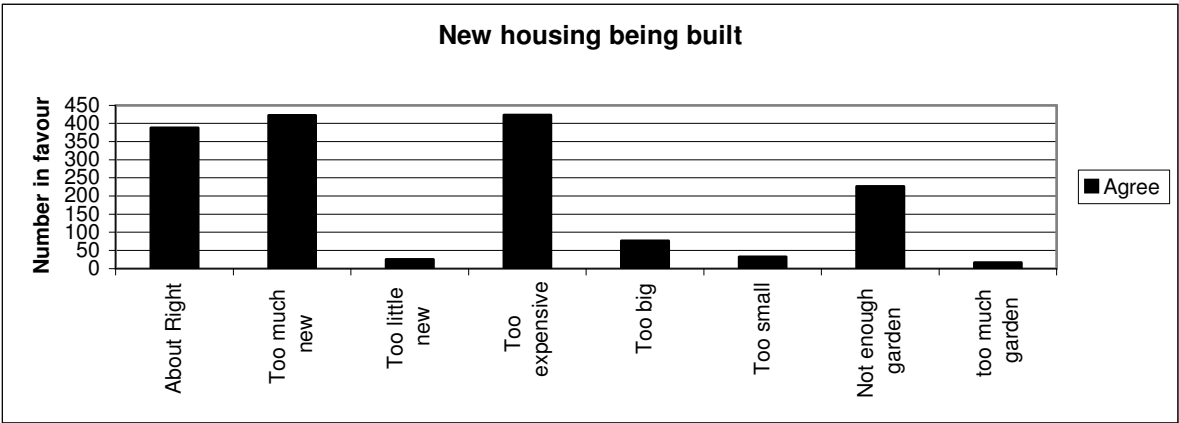
The Playing Fields, Stoke Holy Cross

expressed by more than 50% of respondents at the problem of speeding cars through the villages; specifically Stoke Road/Poringland Road/Long Lane and Norwich Road proved problem areas, as did the less built up areas through Dunston, between Upper and Lower Stoke and at either end of Norwich Road, Stoke, where there are no footpaths alongside the road.

Almost 50% of the responses supported the introduction of flashing speed signs with 25% supporting the lowering of speed limits, in particular near the school and playing field, where the introduction of a *children at play* sign was suggested by many. Although parking was not, in general, considered a problem, many noted that the area around the school and playing field were highly congested in the early morning and mid-afternoon. There was strong support for additional pavements alongside roads, especially between Upper and Lower Stoke, and for the introduction of cycle paths and more footpaths in the countryside, but little enthusiasm for pelican crossings or traffic islands, and those who would support the introduction of streetlights were off set by those who opposed them.

A small but significant number experienced difficulties in getting to the hospital, doctor, dentist and optician. A good few commented on the desirability of improved bus services at peak times and the re-introduction of the half-hourly bus timetable providing links between Lower and Upper Stoke and Poringland. Generally the bus service was considered to be good or reasonable, but access for those with young children or disabilities could be improved.

If new housing was to be built in the villages, many wanted more affordable accommodation, and housing for single people and the young; but the general opinion was that the balance was about right and very little housing development was desired.



From the 492 households that responded, 86 had some problem with flooding.

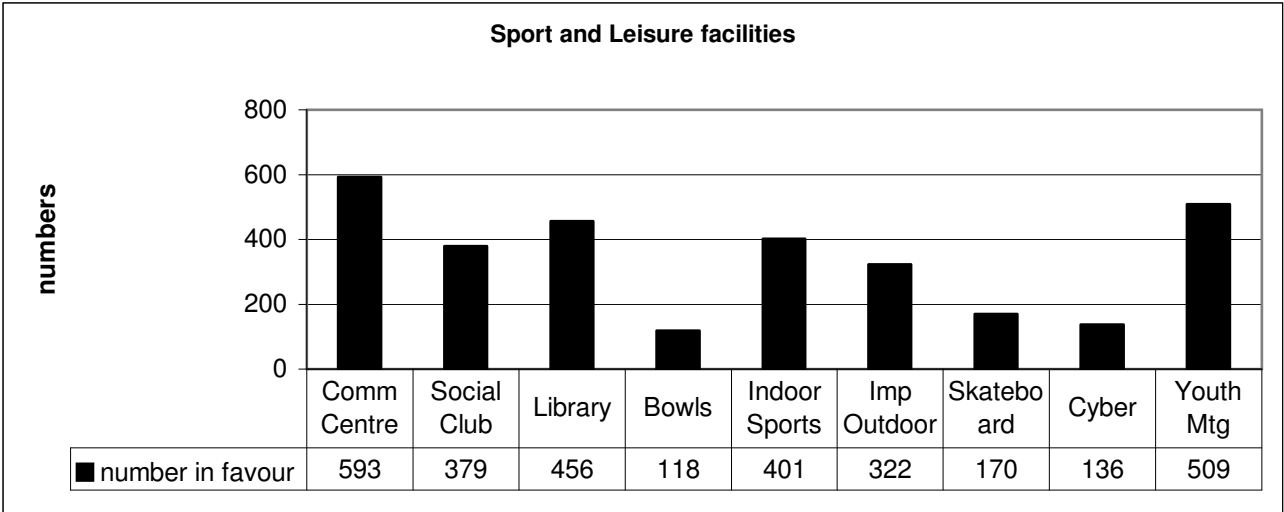
Over one-third of residents were concerned with the level of vandalism in the villages, and nearly as many with the threat of burglary, while drunkenness and drug use were identified to a lesser extent. Greater police presence and more activities for the young

were identified, as the greatest need to help combat these problems. Interestingly, 308 people suggested more Neighbourhood Watch Schemes should be introduced. With 72 responding households already in such a scheme; 118 who didn't know and 294 not in a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme, improved coverage of this self-help scheme could bring significant benefits.



Continuation of after-school clubs and holiday play schemes and the creation of a new sixth form centre were of prime importance to many, with sports/health and fitness, arts and crafts and computing being identified as adult education classes most likely to be attended. Tennis, badminton, dance and gardening clubs/activities would also be supported by 15-20% of those who responded.

The Playing Field was identified as the most regularly used facility in Stoke, closely followed by the mobile library. The areas of open countryside at Poringland Woods, Dunston Common and Caistor St Edmund Roman Camp were also extremely popular.



on a more occasional basis backing up the desire expressed by nearly half the respondents that there should be more open spaces in the Five for local people to walk and picnic and for the local children to play. High numbers of replies indicated support for provision within The Five of a community centre, social club, indoor sports centre, library and a youth meeting place with facilities. A good number of replies also mentioned the lack of a Public House in Stoke and Dunston, despite there being two restaurants and one hotel.

The standard of services provided in Stoke and Dunston were generally considered good or reasonable, but there was room for improvement regarding the care of verges and gritting/clearance of snow. Although



replies indicated a high level of recycling being undertaken by residents, many identified the restrictions on the type and quantity of waste they were allowed to take to household waste sites as a significant problem; specific comments addressed the increase in fly tipping as a result, the need for the bottle and clothing banks at the pavilion to be emptied more frequently, and a desire for a wider variety of recyclable materials to be catered for.

Almost 90% were happy with the local shopping facilities and a significant number said that it was essential that the shop and post office be retained in Stoke village. Considerable use was made of the post office services across The Five but only a few suggestions for additional shopping facilities were made, which included a baker, butcher, dvd/video hire shop, a take-away and banking facilities.

On the issues of tourism, small business and industrial workshops, two-thirds of responses did not wish to encourage further development. However, 94 respondents work within The Five whilst 19 people site lack of local job opportunities or access to transport as being a barrier preventing them taking up work. The majority of owners/managers of the wide variety of businesses active within the area felt there were sufficient facilities for their businesses to grow and only two had experienced problems in filling vacancies over the last 12 months.

On the question “How would you like to see The Five develop?” there were 255 responses, the majority falling into the following general areas:

- ❖ retain the character of the villages and their rural atmosphere; preserving the size of the village by restricting housing development
- ❖ provide improved infrastructure such as paths, safer roads, meeting places for the teenagers and a more high profile police presence
- ❖ improve educational facilities, in particular new classrooms at Stoke Holy Cross Primary School and provide a 6th Form Centre at Framingham Earl High School

Action Plan

This project is unusual and in many ways unique in that it covers 5 parish councils, each with their own concerns and yet when brought together, those concerns are very similar and interdependent. The provision of local facilities is often not financially viable within individual villages but shared between The Five, would become more reasonable and realistic whilst at the same time maintaining the individual characteristics of each village.

An example would be the concerns of traffic throughout the area. In trying to solve the problem in one parish, would have the effect of creating additional or increased problems in one or all of the other four parishes. A further example would be the provision of permanent library facilities within the area, not achievable per village but jointly a far better opportunity provided there is infrastructure to enable ease of travel to and from the library for everyone.

For this reason one of the recommendations is that the current ad hoc arrangement of meetings between the five Parish Council Chairmen and Clerks, be more effective and formalised into an Area Forum, agreed by each of the Parish Councils with formal terms of reference to include the District Councillors and County Councillor and others. The Chairman of the Steering Group will contact each of the Parish Councils for the consideration of this proposal as a matter of urgency.

However, whilst there is a need for combined action, this should not stifle individual parish councils initiating action plans of their own.

The Steering Committee is mindful of the need to ensure that your Parish Councils and the other local authorities responsible for the provision of our services not only take into account your views but also ensure the establishment of continued communication and dialogue. It is also recommended that Parish Clerks provide a short feedback brief of their Council meetings within The Five magazine.

Have we had any changes as a result of work so far?

Yes.

Feedback from the returns has been beneficial in respect of the Community Centre provision to be situated within Poringland.

Similarly the need for open space provision has benefited, there being future provision of over 20 acres within Poringland and including the Lakes Project.

The need for additional variety of retail outlets has ensured that Parish Councils are taking business provision into account when planning applications are being considered.

These are just some changes; others will take a little longer. The main areas are detailed as follows:-.

Description of Action	Caistor St Edmund (with Markshall)	Framingham Earl	Framingham Pigot	Poringland	Stoke Holy Cross (with Dunston)	Joint
Development of a formally constituted Joint Council Group / Area Forum						Joint meetings between Councils are ad hoc. The proposal is for representatives from each of the five Parish Councils, together with the District and County Councillors meeting quarterly as a Joint Policy Group (JPC).
Improved communications between Parish Councils jointly and other service providers						To ensure more effective communication relating to the needs and views of The Five
Improved road signage.	Flashing signs on entering the village especially along Caistor Lane, Markshall Lane and Norwich to Stoke Road.	Flashing signs on entering the village	Flashing signs on entering the village	Flashing signs on entering the village	Flashing signs & children at play for school/playing field area on Long Lane and entering the village. Improve visibility / warn of danger at the Mill Road / Norwich Road junction	To review combined area jointly with associated authorities
Improved parking	Framingham Earl Post Office and chemist in Poringland	Framingham Earl Post Office, Poringland church and chemist in Poringland		Framingham Earl Post Office, Poringland church and chemist in Poringland		To review combined area jointly with associated authorities
Improve Policing	To consider better methods for reducing vandalism	To consider better methods for reducing vandalism	To consider better methods for reducing vandalism	To consider better methods for reducing vandalism	To consider better methods for reducing vandalism	To review with a associated authorities

Description of Action	Caistor St Edmund (with Markshall)	Framingham Earl	Framingham Pigot	Poringland	Stoke Holy Cross (with Dunston)	Joint
Improve the awareness of Neighbourhood Watch Schemes	Supportive throughout area	Supportive throughout area	Supportive throughout area	Supportive throughout area	Supportive throughout area	To review combined area jointly with associated authorities
Improve traffic flow especially at peak times	Urgent consideration	Urgent consideration	Urgent consideration	Urgent consideration	Urgent consideration	To review combined area jointly with associated authorities
To review speeding restrictions	Especially along Caistor Lane, Markshall Lane and Norwich to Stoke Road.	Especially along Long Road, The Street and Wilcon Estate	Along all the village lanes	Especially along Long Road, The Street and Shotesham. To extend the limit approximately 200yds past the Ramblers on Norwich Road.	To include 30mph limit through Dunston & up to the Shotesham Rd turning and 20mph near schools and child play areas (Long Lane)	To review combined area for 30mph along all roads within the residential areas of The Five and selected 20 mph areas jointly with associated authorities
Provision of footpaths	Provision needed along Caistor Lane	Supportive	Supportive	Supportive	Especially between Stoke Holy Cross and Upper Stoke for children to Framingham Earl High School	To produce a joint network
Provision of cyclepaths	Supportive throughout area	Supportive throughout area	Supportive throughout area	Supportive throughout area	Supportive throughout area	To review with associated authorities
Provision of bus shelter	Top of Caistor Lane					
To consider within The Five the current bus service provision in line with community needs	Supportive throughout area	Supportive throughout area	Supportive throughout area	Especially at peak times, Sundays and evenings	Especially at peak times and between Stoke Holy Cross and Poringland	To review with associated authorities
Bus stop location			To review the current bus stop location			
Additional sports facilities	Supportive throughout area	Supportive throughout area	Supportive throughout area	Supportive throughout area	Supportive throughout area	To review with associated authorities

Description of Action	Caistor St Edmund (with Markshall)	Framingham Earl	Framingham Pigot	Poringland	Stoke Holy Cross (with Dunston)	Joint
To consider within The Five the provision of additional clubs	Supportive throughout area	Supportive throughout area	Supportive throughout area	Supportive throughout area	Supportive throughout area	To ensure combined approach
Youth meeting place	Supportive throughout area	Supportive throughout area	Supportive throughout area	Supportive throughout area	Supportive throughout area	To review with associated authorities for a joint response to satisfying individual & combined needs
Library facilities	Supportive throughout area	Supportive throughout area	Supportive throughout area	Supportive throughout area	Supportive throughout area	To review with associated authorities, including any additional infrastructure
Retention of rural setting	Supportive throughout area	Supportive throughout area	Supportive throughout area	Supportive throughout area	Supportive throughout area	To ensure combined approach
To replace mobile classrooms					Build new classrooms at Primary School	
Provision of 6th Form Centre at Framingham High School	Supportive throughout area	Supportive throughout area	Supportive throughout area	Supportive throughout area	Supportive throughout area	Lobby school leavers & associated local authorities
Limit housing development	Supportive throughout area	Supportive throughout area	Supportive throughout area	Supportive throughout area	Supportive throughout area	To ensure combined approach
Affordable housing provision	Supportive throughout area	Supportive throughout area	Supportive throughout area	Supportive throughout area	Supportive throughout area	To ensure combined approach
Encouragement of local shops	Supportive throughout area	Supportive throughout area	Supportive throughout area	Supportive throughout area	Supportive throughout area	To ensure combined approach
Better community centre facilities	Supportive throughout area	Supportive throughout area	Supportive throughout area	Supportive throughout area	Supportive throughout area	To ensure combined approach including any additional infrastructure
Additional open space provision	Supportive throughout area	Supportive throughout area	Supportive throughout area	Supportive throughout area	Supportive throughout area	To ensure combined approach

The Steering Committee members:

David Hwer (Poringland) - Chairman
Tracey Fordham (Poringland) - Secretary
Sheila Baker (Caistor)
Paul Chapman (Caistor)
Jill Day (Caistor)
Terry Mann (Framingham Earl)
Arthur VandenBergh (Framingham Earl/Stoke Holy Cross) - Vice Chairman
Chris Walker (Poringland) - Treasurer
Sheena Garden (Poringland)
Derek Oliver (Poringland)
Lesley Sanders (Poringland)
Glenys Stead (Poringland)
Dave Gudgeon (Stoke Holy Cross)
Rosie Bunn (Stoke Holy Cross/Caistor St Edmund)
Viv Carrington (Stoke Holy Cross)
Peter Bradshaw (Stoke Holy Cross)

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