

DARTINGTON COMMUNITY ACTION GROUP

DRAFT

Dartington Community Plan



*A community is like a ship;
everyone needs to be prepared to take the helm.*

Henrik Ibsen



contents

| | |
|--|----|
| FOREWORD | 3 |
| INTRODUCTION | 4 |
| WHO REPLIED | 14 |
| EMPLOYMENT | 20 |
| EMPLOYMENT ISSUES | 24 |
| ENVIRONMENT | 25 |
| ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES | 28 |
| DARTINGTON HALL | 29 |
| DARTINGTON HALL ISSUES | 32 |
| EDUCATION AND LEISURE | 34 |
| EDUCATION and LEISURE ISSUES | 42 |
| TRANSPORT AND ROADS | 43 |
| TRANSPORT ISSUES | 46 |
| INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION | 47 |
| INFORMATION and COMMUNICATION ISSUES | 51 |
| RELIGION | 52 |
| RELIGIOUS ISSUES | 54 |
| COMMUNITY | 55 |
| COMMUNITY ISSUES | 58 |
| FUNDING | 59 |
| CONCLUSION | 60 |
| <hr/> | |
| APPENDIX 1 – Brief History | 64 |
| APPENDIX 2 – DCFG Constitution | 66 |
| APPENDIX 3 – Acronyms | 67 |

foreword

by Steve Prime, Chief Executive of South Devon Rural Housing Association

It is hard to believe that the seeds of the Dartington Community Forum Group (DCFG) were sown by Vaughan Lindsay, then CEO of the Dartington Hall Trust, (DHT) in the Summer of 2007, during conversations with the then Vicar for Dartington, Joanna Abbecassis: it seems an entire age ago. Joanna sought to put together heads of significant businesses and organisations in Dartington who had expressed concern and interest in the community. Attending that meeting were some of the people who would spend the next four or five years on what turned out to be a Community Plan (originally called a Parish Appraisal). At the time there were apprehension and concerns over the future of the Trust and the College of Arts, opportunities arising from the construction of a new primary school and the future of the old school site. Dartington Housing Association (now South Devon Rural Housing Association – SDRHA) was considering redeveloping their Brimhay site and wanted to establish what were the needs of the older community.

Starting from scratch, with no real idea of how to seek or collate the thoughts, aspirations and fears of the community, the group initially sought help from a company called Inscape. Inscape had been involved and indeed had produced a Step-by-Step Guide to Community Appraisals. As it turned out the group felt that commissioning consultants was not the way forward. However, the presentation on Community Appraisals given by Inscape did help the group to decide that it did want to compile a Community Plan. At this early stage, the group contacted and were supported by the Community Council for Devon. Almost two years later, with seed funding from DHT and SDRHA, along with a constitution, the Dartington Community Forum Group was formally launched.

The first thing the Group did was to organise a Community Day to ascertain information on things which concerned the community – housing, transport and sustainability – from which a parish survey could be developed. The Community Day took place on 4 July 2009 and proved a great success, providing masses of ideas and issues and information to help form the basis of a Parish Survey. By January 2010, the Dartington Community Survey had been agreed and printed and was delivered to all households during March and April 2010. The survey achieved a 35% return rate. A further Community Day was held on 15 May 2010 to celebrate the success of the outcome of the survey, and to showcase the initial results. DCFG commissioned a professional documentary film to mark and record the community response to the outcome and this can be found on the Dartington Community website.

To make the results of the survey meaningful and relevant, all the sections of ‘free text’ had to be read, analysed and collated. This section of work was by far the most challenging. A debt of gratitude is owed to all the people who sat for hours reading dozens of forms, collating the results into the myriads of actions and then populating the action plans. I always envisaged that the process of identifying the actions needed, based on the actual issues identified, would produce small groups of people with common interests, who would then take responsibility for progressing those elements of the Community Action Plan. It is a sad reflection though, that many of the wants and don’t wants expressed in the results of the survey, were made by people who then went on to state that they did not want to be involved further. The results of the Survey were formulated into action plans and those Action Plans will be delivered over the next few years. Annual progress reports will be posted on the Community Web Site.

I would like to acknowledge the people involved in, and responsible for producing the last Parish Plan which was published in 1999: I know how much work must have gone in to produce that Plan. In all, there have been over 40 volunteers engaged and involved in some form or other in the production of this Community Plan, produced in its entirety by the Dartington Community. There are far too many people to thank and acknowledge, but they know who they are.

On a final note: if a community is to thrive and contribute positively to future change, or preserve the status quo,, it will be less successful if it is left to the ‘few’ to make things happen. Now, more than at any time in the last 50 years, communities have been handed the opportunity to make change (or preserve the status quo) by the introduction of the Localism Act and other legislative changes. It will require more than passive participation to take advantage of this and make the future meaningful.



Dartington

introduction

On Thursday, 9 August 2007, five months after becoming Vicar of Dartington, the Reverend Joanna Abecassis sent a letter to six important local people.¹

“It was Vaughan Lindsay [then Chief Executive Officer of the Dartington Hall Trust] who came up with the idea of a ‘Community Forum’, which I should be delighted to bring together and chair. As I see it, this would be an excellent (and regular) opportunity for us all to get to know and trust one another better and discuss matters relating to the Dartington community as a whole, which affect and concern us all...

I know that Vaughan would like to kick off by us discussing together our long-term aspirations and vision as to how the community as a whole might develop and, of course, how we each may play our part in that.”

The first meeting of the Dartington Community Forum, as it was initially called, was held on Thursday afternoon, 13 September 2007 at the Dartington Vicarage.

While the Parish of Dartington is ancient, and centred on Dartington Hall, the village of Dartington was only created as a result of local Government reorganization in the 1970s. Before that, settlements in the Parish were organized in discrete hamlets – Week, Cott, Staple, Vineyard, etc. One of Joanna’s aims with the Group was to try to provide a sense of identity for the modern village, to bring together the inhabitants of the various hamlets of which it was formed, and thereby promote community cohesion.

“It had to be a good idea to meet and work and plan together so as to present a ‘united front’ of ‘Dartington’ – to share the vision – given that we all really care about the community as a whole.”²

At this time, in the Autumn of 2007, the inhabitants of Dartington were clearly feeling the pressure. Sarah Ingham and others had started up a campaign against the dangers of increasing traffic on Cott Road, for example. It was a campaign which gained considerable publicity, although the Highways Department argued successfully against making any changes in the neighbourhood’s traffic management. At the same time, South Hams District Council’s Planning Department was considering the ‘Totnes and Dartington Development Plan’ which proposed locating a new ‘industrial park’ in Bidwell field opposite



Former almshouses at Shinnars Bridge



Dartington Primary School

St. Mary’s Church (the new Dartington Primary School has since been built in a corner of this field). This Plan also put forward proposals to allow the building of hundreds of new houses in various parts of the Parish. Needless to say, these proposals threatened to make the existing difficult traffic situation altogether intolerable.

At its first meeting, one of the Dartington Community Forum’s main concerns was for the ‘community’ to be part of the process of decision-making:

“The overriding feeling was that the people of Dartington should be given every opportunity to express their view and ideas as to how our community – in every aspect – should take shape... that way – the community would ‘own’ any future development and could present a strong and united front to the planners, thus driving the plans rather than being driven by them...”³

On a practical level, Steve Prime, Chief Executive of Dartington Housing Association, and one of those invited to the Forum’s initial meeting, proposed that the group carry out a ‘Village Appraisal.’ He got in touch with *Inscape*, a consultancy company which had...

“...undertaken a number of high level community consultations on a wide range of issues.”⁴

Inscape provided a quote that the Community Forum considered expensive, although the November 2007 meeting...

“...agreed that the proposed consultation project sounded exciting and that they seemed well-placed to deliver. It was agreed that Steve would try and arrange dates for them to make a presentation.”⁵

The Forum also agreed at its initial (September) meeting that a Village Appraisal...

“...should happen under the auspices of the Parish Council.”⁶

However, Dartington Parish Council had already produced a Village Appraisal in 1999, and many of the Councillors remembered the experience.

“It seems that for the Parish Plan in ’99 the Parish Council took the lead but do not seem keen to repeat the exercise.”⁷



Tigley Cross with St. Barnabas Church steeple behind



Entrance to Broom Park

Vaughan Lindsay attended the Dartington Parish Council meeting on Wednesday, 12 December 2007. At the end of his address to the Parish Council...

“It was then decided that the Vicar and Karen Blincoe (Schumacher College) should be invited to the next Parish Council meeting and the Vicar could explain what she thought the Forum could achieve that the Parish Council could not.”⁸

Subsequently, the Parish Council put the Community Forum in touch with the Community Council of Devon who were supporting Parish Plans and Village Appraisals throughout the County and had developed a toolkit to facilitate the process. It was not until almost a year later however, (in October 2008) that Nigel Doran, Dartington Parish Council’s Clerk, wrote to Joanna:

“I would like to thank you for offering to undertake the Parish Appraisal. I feel sure that the various Parish Councillors will be willing to offer their support when they are able to do so”⁹

DADD – *Dartington Against Detrimental Development* – had been seeking to address the threat of building development in Dartington for several years. In April 2008, it held an Open Day...

“...for the residents of Dartington to answer any questions that may be raised regarding recent development proposals for the village.”

DADD also presented its survey results, based on 115 returned questionnaires. The group had produced a similar survey in 2003 (in response to the Dartington Hall Trust’s Dartington 2020 proposals) and there was some comparison of the results: for example, the number of respondents considering ‘0 – 10’ as an acceptable number of new houses in the Parish had leapt to 19% from less than 5% in 2003. On the other hand, the percentage of respondents considering ‘11 – 30’ as an acceptable number had shrunk from 40% to 27%. Similarly, the number of respondents seeing ‘31 – 75 new houses’ as acceptable had shrunk from 40% to 33% – although this was still the level of new houses acceptable to the highest number of respondents in 2008.

In September 2008, Dartington Parish Council commissioned a Local Housing Needs Report from the Community Council of Devon due to...

“...the perceived lack of affordable housing for local people. This will provide independent evidence of the need for affordable housing in Dartington.”¹⁰



St. Mary's Parish Church, Dartington



The hamlet of Week

The CCD sent out 776 surveys.

“There were a total of 174 surveys returned, which is a response rate of 22.4%. This is a disappointing response rate. Alongside the 174 surveys returned, 26 part two forms were also returned. This is a fair response rate and the survey achieved its aim of identifying actual households in need.”¹¹

Respondents were asked to complete part two of the survey...

“...if you are likely to need to move to another home in Dartington now or in the next few years and if you feel you need help to obtain a local affordable home.”¹²

The Parish of Dartington Local Housing Needs Report was published in February 2009 and identified an immediate need for six affordable homes and a further nine within the next three years. It recommended that these homes should be provided...

“...on suitable small sites within the Parish. The need is for social rented accommodation although a small amount of shared ownership or intermediate rented housing could be supported.”¹³

The Dartington Community Forum next met on Thursday, 26 February 2009 – almost exactly 15 months after its previous meeting. At this point, the Forum – which had begun life as a compatible meeting between the heads of local institutions – began to open out its membership...

“Since we shall need to widen the group very soon (and have always wanted to anyway), [it would be good] to invite anyone else along who you think may be interested. So please do that!”¹⁴

Greg Davies, Senior Projects Officer of the Community Council of Devon came to this meeting to discuss producing a Parish Plan (the document you are now reading). He wrote to Joanna that afternoon...

“I was very impressed with the contributions from all the people there. I think you have the basis of a very effective Steering Group.”¹⁵

As a result of this meeting, Joanna agreed to be Chairperson of the Dartington Community Forum Group (DCFG), and Steve Prime agreed to be Treasurer. No-one took on the role of Secretary until May 2012.



The hamlet of Westcombe



Venton Manor

Joanna and Steve also wrote a Constitution for the DCFG. Steve agreed to hold funds for the group in the Housing Association's bank account, and in May 2009, Dartington Housing Association made the first grant of £450 to DCFG.

The next step was an Open Day which was held on Saturday 4 July in the Primary School, advertising the proposed Community Plan. There were a dozen themes for the Plan from Housing and Development via Allotments and Community Land to Arts and Crafts

On the back of the flyer there was a list of fifteen people involved in the group and five bullet points in answer to the question "Why Dartington Forum?" with the final aim being...

*"To publish and circulate a detailed Parish Plan as a result of these consultations."*¹⁶

As a result of this meeting, there were five pages of suggestions relating to the Plan with dozens of ideas and points including...

- No green-field site development
- Keep us small and separate from Totnes – need for affordable housing to rent
- No more houses till existing traffic problems resolved
- Road safety... speed bumps – better signs – 20 mph limits in lanes
- Collate, co-ordinate and publicise local community venues and events (and potential ones)
- Community use of old Primary School site / buildings
- Buses (the bus fare to Totnes for 1 adult and 2 children = more than a taxi...)
- Community website...¹⁷

Details of some of the ideas coming out of this event were also published in the September 2009 issue of the *Dartington Messenger* (the Parish newsletter).

The next meeting of DCFG was at the Vicarage on 9 October, 2009. There was a discussion of how to incorporate the ideas from the Open Day into the Questionnaire. Steve and a select group of volunteers decided to meet and thrash out these questions at a further two meetings in October.



The hamlet of Brooking

There was also mention of a village website, for the first time: as an interim measure, Steve opened a DCFG page on the Housing Association's website.

At the November meeting, the group decided to pilot the draft questionnaire and get feedback from trying it out in practice on a small number of Dartington residents. There was a discussion of printing costs for the Questionnaire – this was eventually done through Corporate Consultation Services at Devon County Council – and the practicalities of making the video. Steve had researched domain names for a website...

“I note that most of the web domains prefixed by Dartington, have been registered – no doubt by the Dartington Hall Trust.”¹⁸

The group eventually decided on... www.dartingtoncommunity.co.uk

At DCFG's next meeting, in January 2010, details of the questions on the Questionnaire were finalized.

The Questionnaires were finally distributed by a team of just under a score of volunteers in March, 2010 and collected a fortnight later.

The preliminary results were presented at an Open Day at Dartington Primary School in May 2010. KOR Communications from Plymouth recorded the event on video. There was a discussion of a Community Website, and the resulting video may now be watched on the Dartington Community website – www.dartingtoncommunity.co.uk.

Shortly afterwards, at the beginning of June 2010, Joanna Abecassis resigned as Chairperson of DCFG and subsequently left the Parish.

As mentioned above, the Parish Council had set up an “Appraisal Committee” which, in 1999, produced the Dartington Village Appraisal Report – a ten page, black-and-white document that was distributed to all residents in the Parish. It had many illustrative cartoons, and a single chart (giving a breakdown of respondents' ages), while it stated that...

“The original analysed data and written comments are available from Totnes Library for inspection and photocopying.”¹⁹



View from Orchard Park



Lych Gate

The Appraisal Committee had sent out 740 questionnaires in 1999; in 2010, DCAG sent out 797 – which appears to indicate that the number of dwellings in the Parish had increased by 57 (7.7%).

According to the 1996 figures, the Parish had an area of 1,236 hectares, and there were 1,619 people living here. By 2008, its area had diminished to 1,234 ha, while the population had increased to 1,917. The increase in population (of 298 – 18.4%) was proportionately more than double that of the number of dwellings – which would suggest that existing homes were becoming more crowded or that some existing homes were no longer standing empty.

Of the 740 questionnaires sent out in 1999, 485 were returned – 65.5% – representing responses from 944 people – 58.3% of the population at that time.

In 2010, DCAG received just 297 questionnaires back – 37.3% of the 797 sent out – representing the views of 435 people – just 22.7% of the Parish’s population. The rate of return of the questionnaires had reduced to a little over half (56.9%) that of the 1999 rate of return. The proportion of people replying had decreased even more – to less than 40% of those who replied in 1999.²¹

In many ways, DCAG took a more robust approach to the material it collected than had the Appraisal Group: all the comments, for example – the so called ‘free text’ material (the DCFG questionnaires had extensive space for these comments) – were recorded, collated, analyzed and prioritized (DADD had done much the same with its 2008 survey).

Steve Prime organized those who came to the June 2010 DCFG meeting to each take a batch of questionnaires home and transcribe the free text data. He supplied a template for each of the 49 questions into which those who did this work could fit the information. Steve subsequently wrote:

“On Saturday 8 local people met to carry on with the Community Plan, following on from the great effort put in to get thus far by Joanna. The Group is now chair-less and requires a volunteer asap. Steve explained that he was already the Treasurer and it would not be equitable to hold the offices of Chair and Secretary as well!

A number of the group agreed to take and collate some of the free text sections onto templates provided by Steve, from the remaining surveys. There are many more of these to do [150, he says later in the e-mail] so if we could have more volunteers for this task – please e-mail Steve.”²⁴



The lane leading to the hamlet of Billany



Webbers Yard Industrial Estate

In the middle of July 2010, Steve wrote again to everyone on the DCFG e-mail list:

“All surveys have been analysed (free text) and most of the results are back with me – just a few to come.

“We have an offer for Chair from Oliver Tringham (which we can formalise at the next meeting)...

“I will collate all free text and summarise by question number – these will then be available for the interest groups to start work on the action plan against those specific questions – once done we can meet to formalise the final steps leading to the publication of the plan.

“I feel we are now almost there!”²⁵

Steve wrote again at the beginning of September, 2010:

“Unfortunately response to my previous e-mail was not good – only 4 out of 40 responded. It will be a shame after all the effort, time and money spent, Dartington does not get a Community Plan. We are almost there – just a few hours work from a few people I am sure, will deliver a good quality Community Plan, which I hope will inspire and motivate the community of Dartington to act upon the things they have said they want.”²⁶

DCFG finally met again at the end of the month (Saturday, 25 September 2010). The ‘free text’ responses to questions were assigned to individuals for analysis. Steve then brought this material together and drafted the first Action Plan out of the comments which had been collated from the questionnaires. At this meeting, Oliver Tringham was formally elected as the Chairman of DCFG.

The October meeting of DCFG was cancelled as the analyzed free text material was not returned in time.

In December 2010, the Dartington Community website – at www.dartingtoncommunity.co.uk – went online. Katie Rich, who had taken responsibility for the *Information and Communication* section of the Action Plan, efficiently organized the website. The website soon became popular and between 15 April and 19 June 2011, for example, had 1,246 views.

The night before the December meeting of DCFG, Steve Prime was rushed to hospital with what turned out to be cancer. Nevertheless, the meeting went ahead with the new Chairman. The collated actions were brought together into an Action Plan for the Parish, and priorities, time scales and leaders assigned.



Dartington Playing Fields



The hamlet of Staple

The group renamed itself the Dartington Community Action Group – DCAG. Members of DCAG also addressed the need to begin drafting the Community Plan.

Due to his ill-health, Steve resigned as DCAG Treasurer in January 2011.

Work on the Action Plan continued at the April 2011 DCAG meeting.

At its June 2011 meeting, there was a discussion of feedback from the Action Plan. Amanda Chadwick and Oliver Tringham agree to take on the task of drafting the Dartington Community Plan. This was the first DCAG meeting that Rachel Williams, the Dartington Hall Trust's new Community Outreach Officer attended, and she agreed to pass on much of the Group's criticisms of DHT's activities in the Parish.

As a result of the discussions at this meeting, Rachel arranged for Vaughan Lindsay, DHT Chief Executive Officer, to come to the next DCAG meeting as 'Keynote Listener'. This was the first meeting of the group that Vaughan had attended for some years.

At the September 2011 meeting, Vaughan came as promised, and more than fifty local people turned up to the meeting, which was therefore devoted to residents' grievances rather than going through the DCAG Action Plan or Community Plan.

DCAG has sought to develop its dialogue with the Dartington Hall Trust (DHT). This has not been without difficulty, since the Trust is selling off any of its land not on the 'core Estate' – for development 'where possible.' Most of this land is in the village of Dartington (adjoining the Dartington Hall Estate), and its development would have a dramatic impact on the village.

Subsequent meetings have sought to address these threats while maintaining a dialogue and ensure that the whole community benefits from any changes.

At the DCAG meeting on 5 May, 2012, Richard Orr was elected as Secretary, and Carole Powelle as Treasurer. Since that meeting, a distinct DCAG 'Core Group' or Committee has developed, which helps to set the Agenda.

The first section of the Questionnaire asked about the respondents – where they live, their gender, their age and if they consider themselves to be part of the Dartington Community. The questionnaire then went on to ask about different aspects of life in the community, under the headings of: Employment,



Sunset at Droridge



Dartington Hall

Education and Leisure, Environment, Health, Sport and Recreation, Transport and Roads, Information, Religion and Community. The Dartington Community Action Group (DCAG) used similar headings when it developed an Action Plan out of the Questionnaire responses.

Many of the questions had space for additional comments, as mentioned above. These comments were all collated by members of DCFG/DCAG and used to identify individual issues requiring action. They formed the basis of the Action Plan.

Each issue arising from a free text comment therefore had an action associated with it. The action had the aim or purpose of addressing the issue. Lead individuals (DCFG/DCAG members) were identified as well as Partners (e.g. South Hams District Council, local landlords, etc. as appropriate). Each action was also given a Priority (High, Medium or Low) and a Time Scale (1 year, 3 months, etc.)

Priorities were generally related to feasibility: there seemed to be no point in giving high priority to an action that had no hope of being achieved in the foreseeable future. On the whole, priority was given to ‘quick wins’ – actions that were achievable in the short term such as, for example, Street Lighting. In this case, the aim of the Group’s actions was to reduce the environmental impact of street lighting, by reducing the lighting’s energy consumption, and by getting street lighting turned off at night.

On the other hand, particular issues that seemed to be of high priority to DCAG members, but which were not amenable to quick fixes, were nevertheless prioritized – e.g. the issue of ‘Building on Greenfield Sites.’ In this case, the aims of actions relating to the issue were to...

- Reduce any use of green field sites for building.
- Audit the wildlife value of any sites to be developed.
- Compensate for any habitat loss/degradation.

DCAG addressed the high priority actions first.

In this Community Plan, the issues relating to each heading are summarised at the end of the relevant section.



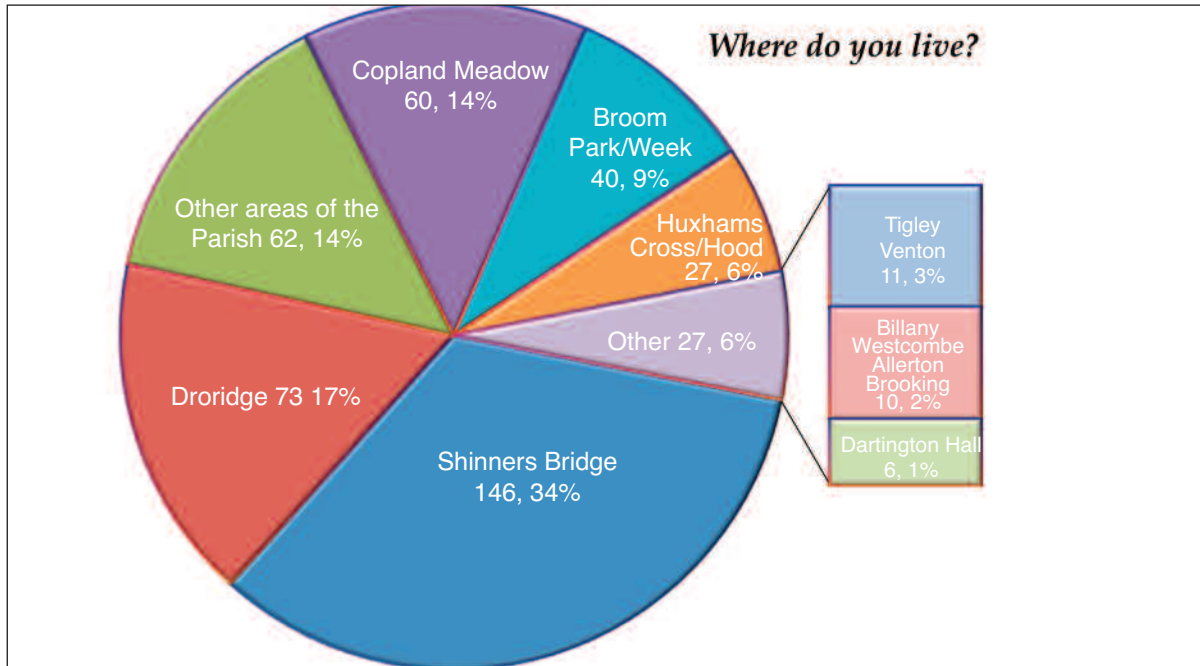
who replied

Residents who responded to the questionnaire came from throughout the Parish, with the largest number coming from Shiners Bridge and the smallest number from Dartington Hall.

The most responsive group were aged between 50 and 70, while the least responsive were those between 20 and 30. Retired people tend to predominate in increasing numbers in the South-West, the South Hams, Dartington, and among Questionnaire Respondents respectively. Ninety per cent of respondents saw themselves as being part of the Dartington Community.



Q.1 : In what area of Dartington does your household live?



Open Space at Hunters Moon



The former Youth Hostel at Lownard



Shinners Bridge

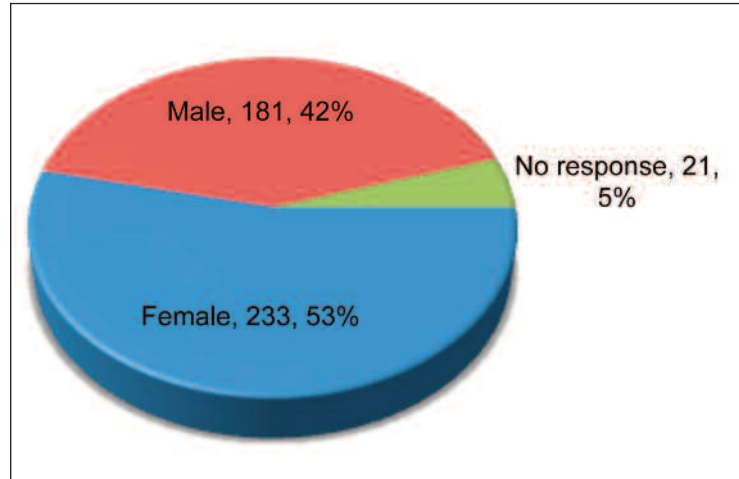


St Barnabas Church;

Q.3 : Are you?

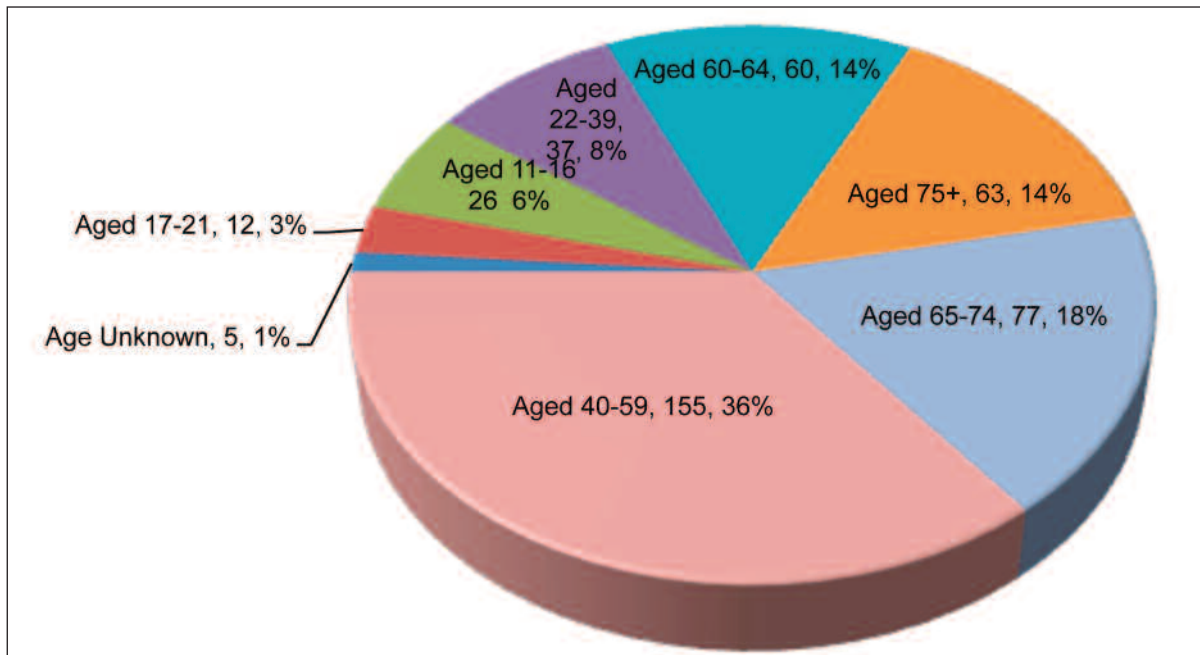
There were 414 responses to this question: 21 people did not respond.

According to the Census data, 47.6% of the population of Dartington Ward is male (compared to 41.6% of respondents), and 52.4% is female (compared to 53.6% of those who responded to this question). These results would suggest that the majority of those who did not state their gender are male.



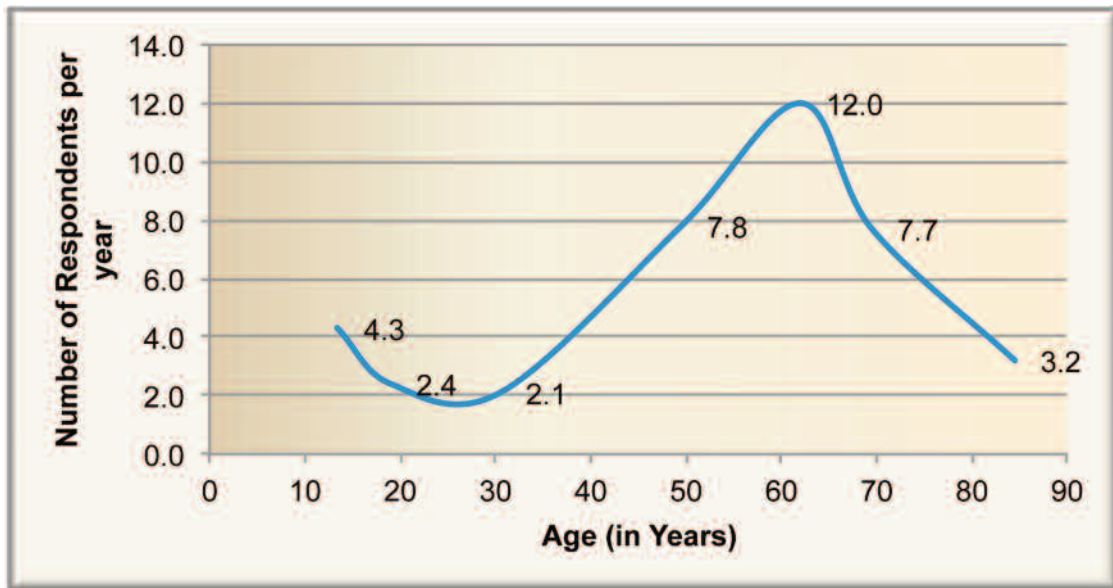
If we consider only those who responded to this question (neglecting those who did not state their gender), there are 8.9% more female respondents to the questionnaire than would be expected from the population of the Ward: it is doubtful that this should be considered a very significant difference.

Q.4 : What Age group do you belong to?



The 40 – 59 age group had the highest proportion of respondents (36.0% of total respondents), while there were fewest in the 17 – 21 age group (2.8%). It is notable that the age ranges for each group were of varying sizes: the 17 – 21 group and the 60 – 64 group each have a range of only five years; in contrast, the 40 – 59 group, the group with the largest range, has a span of twenty years. It is perhaps not surprising therefore, that this group also has the largest number of respondents.

As the only two directly comparable age ranges, it is interesting to note that there were almost five times as many respondents (13.8%) in the 60 – 65 age group as there were in the 17 – 21 group (2.8%). We can look at the responsiveness of each age group – and their consequent impact on the results of the questionnaire – by plotting how many respondents there were per year of age group...



In each case, the number of respondents in the age range was divided by the number of years in the range and a figure plotted for the median age of the group. For those aged 75+, a nominal range of 20 years was taken. It appears clear from this graph that people are at their most responsive in or around their 62nd year. It could certainly be argued that the views of those aged 50 – 70 predominate in this survey, while those of residents in their twenties are poorly represented.

According to the census, the population of the South-West of England has a greater proportion of people of retirement age or over, than England as a whole – 22.5% as against 19.1%. The population of the South Hams has a greater proportion of people of retirement age or over than the South-West of England (taken as a whole) has – 25.9% as against 22.5%. The population of Dartington has an even greater proportion of people of retirement age or over than the South Hams has – 27.8% as against 25.9%.

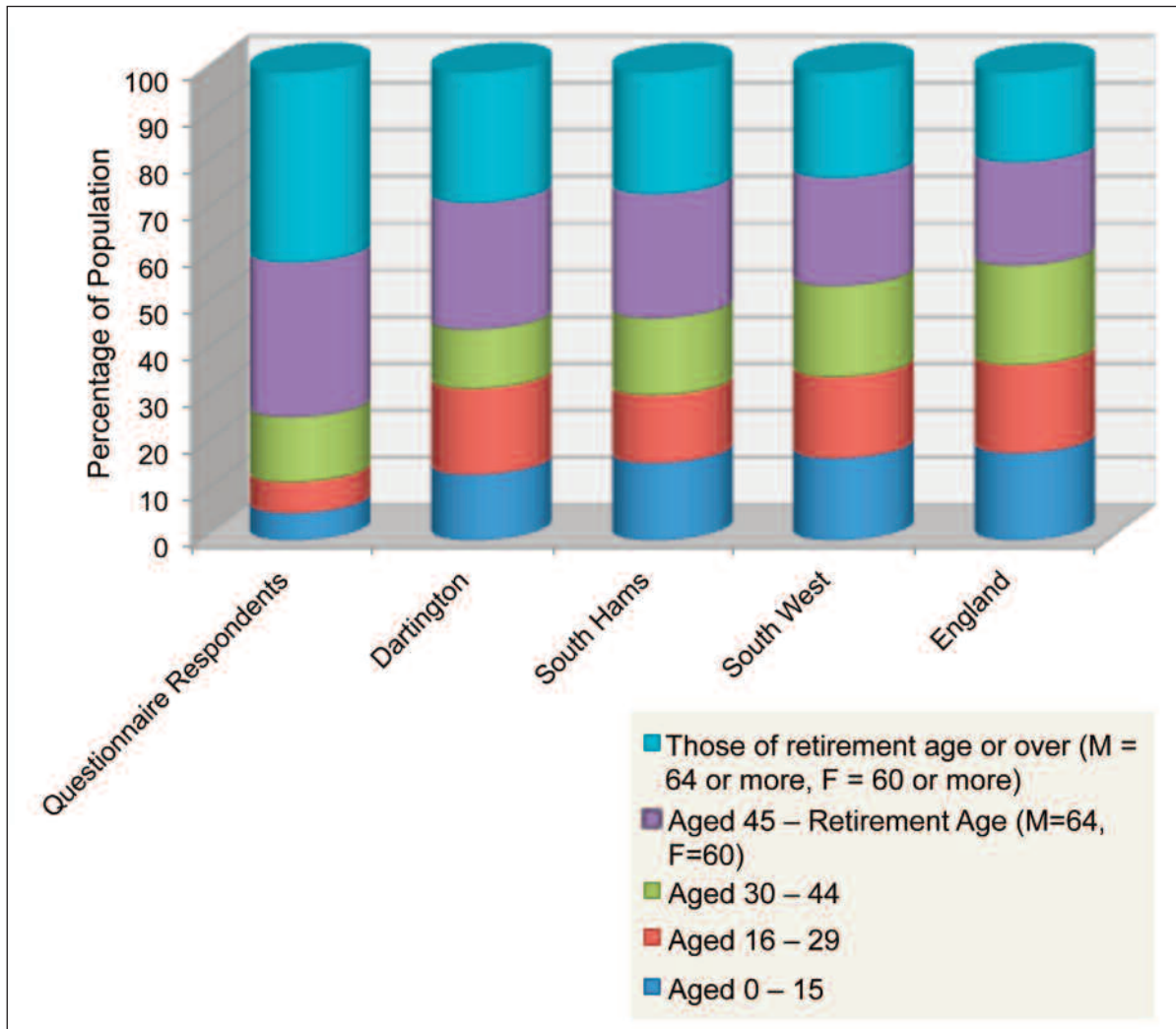
When the Dartington Village Appraisal Report was published in 1999,

“240 [25.4%] of respondents said they were wholly retired.”



Edgar Hodge and Eddie Guy opening the refurbished Village Hall | Photo courtesy of Transition Streets

The proportion of retired people seems to be creeping higher with the passage of time – retired people now form a greater percentage of the population than they did in the past. The following graph attempts to illustrate the tendency for the views of retired people to preponderate over the views of others (the results of the 1999 Dartington Village Appraisal survey are not included):



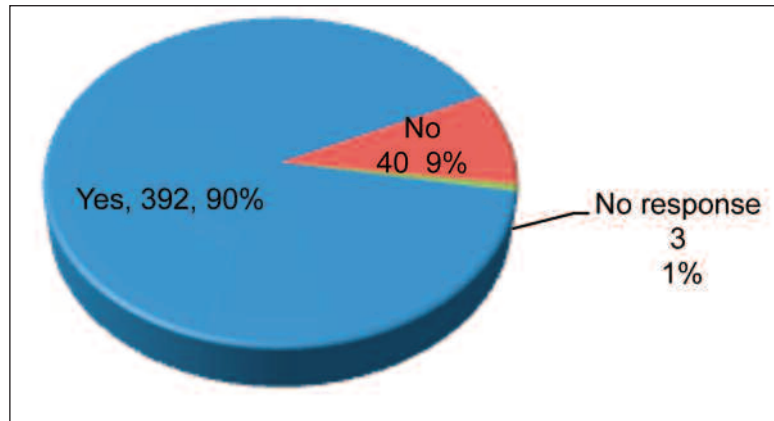
The age ranges from the 2010 questionnaire do not correspond exactly to the ranges used in the Council’s Ward Profiles for Dartington. Extrapolating from the Questionnaire data, however, it is clear that the proportion of people of retirement age or over responding to the questionnaires (approximately 40% of respondents) is higher still than the proportion of such people in the Ward’s population. This proportion of respondents is 46.0% higher than would be expected from the proportion of people of retirement age living in Dartington according to the Ward data: it is, clearly, a significant result. We may therefore confidently state that the views of retired people preponderate disproportionately, over those of working or young people, in the 2010 questionnaire’s results.

No attempt has been made to correlate responses with location of habitation. Considering the Parish’s topographical diversity, and the fragmented nature of the settlements – being a collection of hamlets, rather than having any central village focus – this could have been of significant interest and value.

The second question – after asking where the respondent lived – enquired...

Q.2 : Do you consider where you live to be part of the Community?

Is it more interesting to note that almost one in ten of respondents did *not* consider where they lived to be part of the Community, or that 90% did consider themselves to be part?



Sawmills Orchard (also known as Sawmills Field) due to have houses built on it by 2016



Map showing the Dartington Parish boundary and surrounding area



Webbers' Way Industrial Estate



employment

Although a fair number of people living in Dartington also work in the Parish, there are many other residents who would like to do so but can't. In almost 30% of households, someone had had to move away to find work. This affects the young disproportionately, the numbers having to move reducing almost to zero around the age of 35.

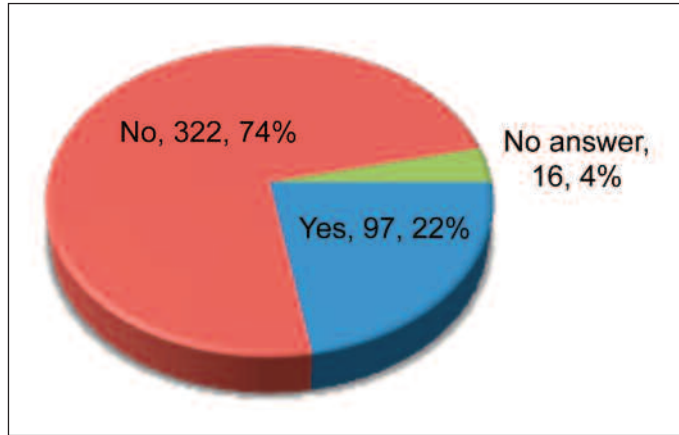
Almost half of respondents were in favour of more small scale, light industrial workshops as a solution, and a somewhat greater proportion were in favour of promoting an Action Plan to encourage Enterprise and Job Opportunities.

Employment was the first area addressed in the questionnaire – in Questions 5 – 9 (inclusive) after the questions relating to the respondents' gender, etc.

Q.5 : Do you work at least part time in the Dartington Community?

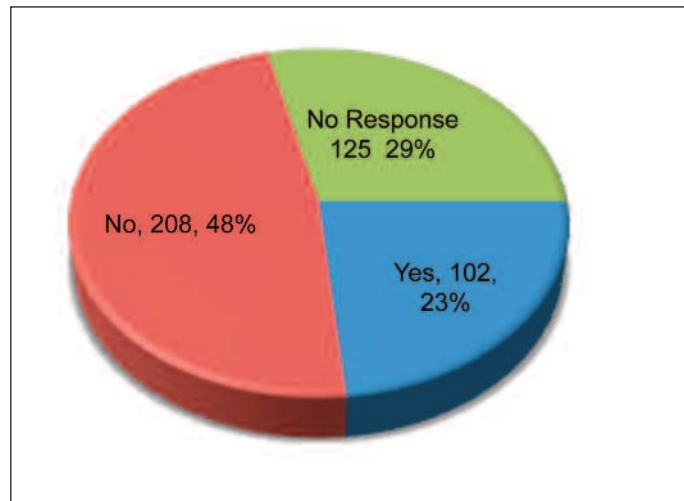
Less than a quarter of respondents (22% of the total) worked in the Dartington Community, even on a part-time basis.

While this might appear to be a very significant statistic, we should remember that approximately 46% of respondents were not of working age (6% were aged less than 16; 40.5% were over retirement age). This means that the proportion of respondents of those able to work, who are working at least part-time in the Dartington Community, is significantly higher than it appears in the answers to this question.



Q.6 : If you do not work in the Dartington Community, would you like to, either now or in the future?

Even though we do not know how the 46% of respondents not of working age responded to this question, we may nevertheless infer that the proportion of people who would like to work in the Dartington Community, and who are not working there, but who are ready and able to work, is significantly higher than the 23% indicated in this result (since it includes all those neither ready nor able to work).



In the 1999 survey...

“...more than 60% said that they would like to see more jobs becoming available in Dartington.”

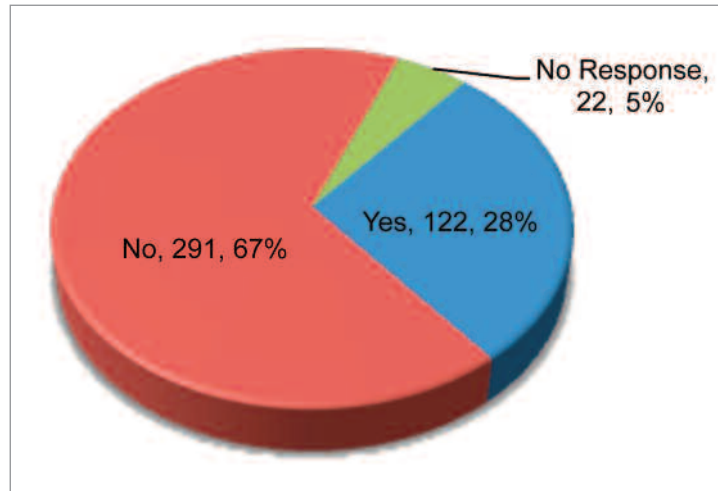


Petrol station and Village shop

Question 7 asked to what extent respondents or members of their households had had to move away from the Parish in order to find work.

Q.7 : Has anyone in your household had to move away from Dartington in order to find work?

Almost three in ten (29.5%, excluding those who did not respond) of those who replied to this question had had someone in their household who had had to move away from Dartington in order to find work. This affected young people disproportionately as the following data and graph indicate:

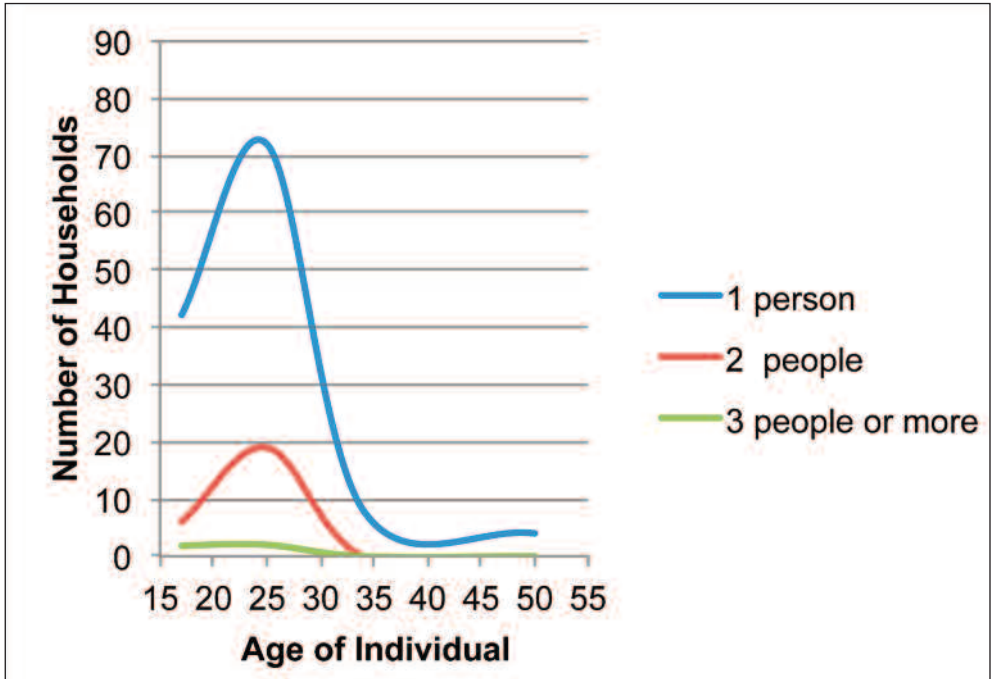


Number of People in household who have had to move away from Dartington to find work

| | Aged 16 – 20 | Aged 21 – 30 | Aged 31 – 40 | Aged 41+ |
|------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|----------|
| 1 person | 42 | 72 | 8 | 4 |
| 2 people | 6 | 19 | 0 | 0 |
| 3 people or more | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 |

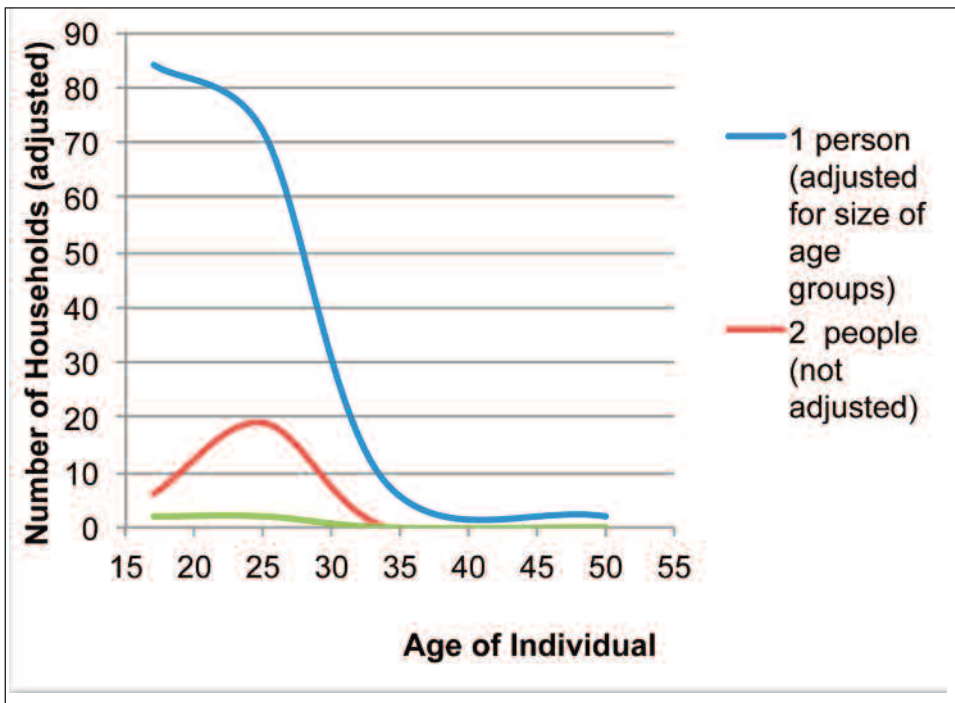


Higher Tweed Mill



Number of households in which people have had to move away to find work plotted against the age of the individuals in question

As with Question 4 above, we should note that the age groups were not of the same size: 16– 20 is a range of five years, while the next two ranges (21 – 30 and 31 – 40) are both of ten years. When the figures for ‘one person having to move away to find work’ in the 16 – 20 age group are adjusted to take account of this, the graph looks as follows (the graphs for ‘two or more’ individuals would be similarly affected, but have not been adjusted):



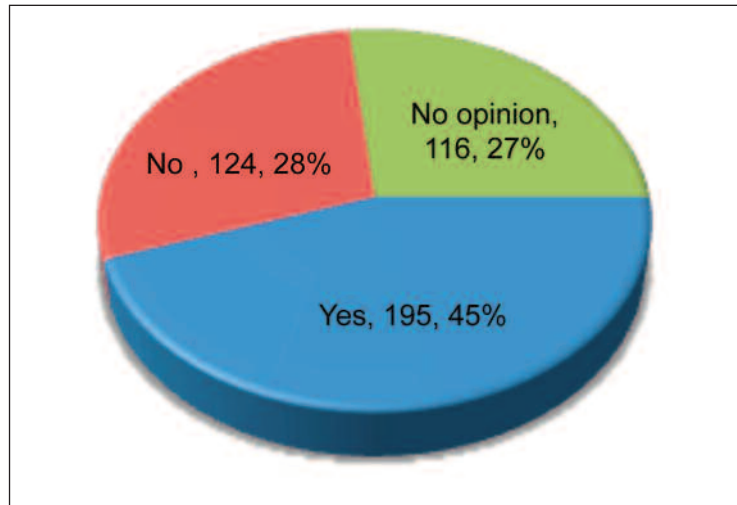
Number of households in which people have had to move away to find work plotted against the age of the individuals in question: the figures for one person have been adjusted to take account of the differing sizes of the age groups; the figures for two people and for three people or more have not been adjusted.

We might conclude that it becomes easier to find work in the Parish as you get older. A significant number of young people have had to move away to find work. Following on from the identification of this situation, there were two questions examining possible responses to the problem:

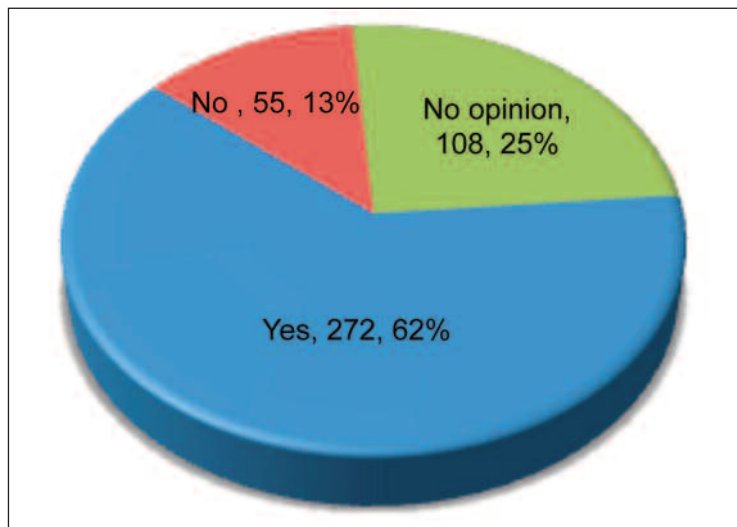
Q8 : Would you like to see a few more small scale light industrial workshops and/or offices proposed for Dartington?

While a little under half were in favour of the proposal, it is perhaps interesting to note that more than a quarter of respondents had no opinion. A similar number were against the proposal.

A somewhat greater number of respondents were in favour of a second proposal, while the number of those with no opinion was very similar. A smaller number were against the second proposal.



Q9 : If the Community was to promote an Action Plan to encourage Enterprise and Job Opportunities, what would your likely reaction be?



EMPLOYMENT ISSUES

There were two issues that arose out of the comments to these questions. One related to the idea of establishing the actual demand for more small-scale light industrial or office units and, if the take-up was as high as the questionnaire suggested, lobbying for more such units. The other related to doing the same with low-rent craft workshops.

DCAG members saw both these issues as being of low priority – presumably in recognition of the group’s limitations in having an impact on the problem.



Footpath through North Woods at Dartington



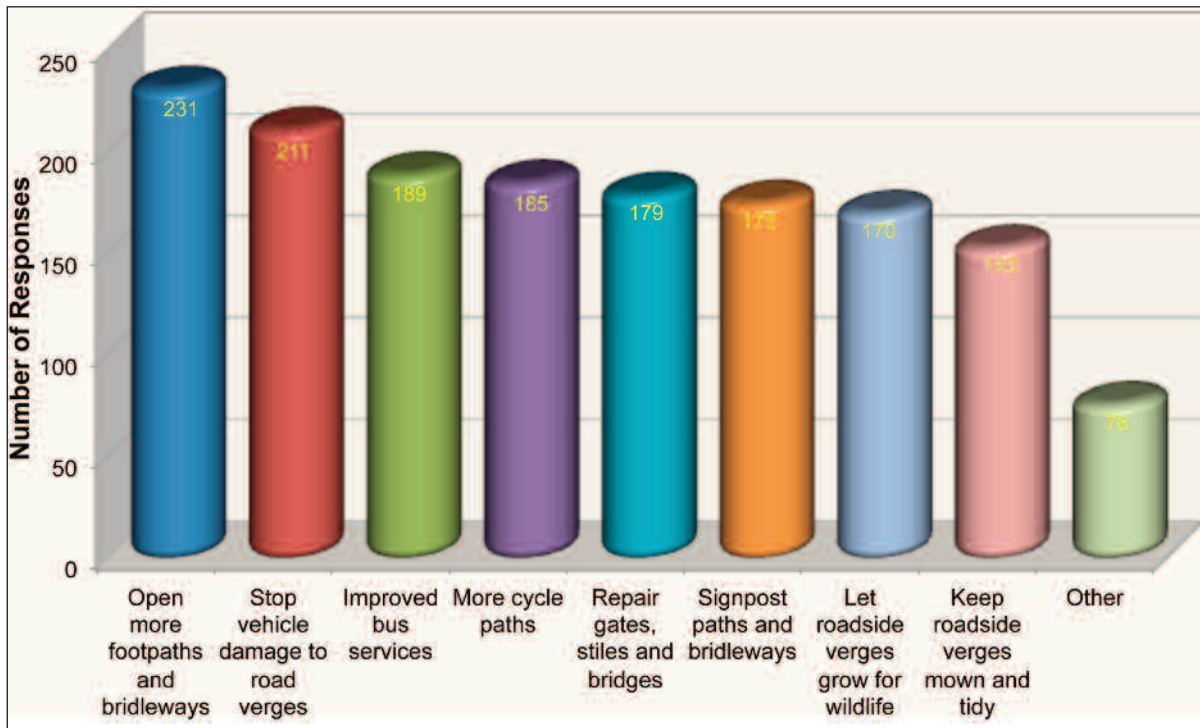
environment

There was no clear preferred strategy for improving the roads, lanes and paths of the Parish. On the other hand, in order to protect local wildlife, ‘Retaining Open Spaces’ and ‘Leaving Natural Cover Undisturbed’ were significantly more popular than for example, establishing a ‘Community Nature Reserve’. The prospects for a new Community Compost Scheme look good with more than 60% of respondents saying they would use it ‘often’ or ‘occasionally.’ More than a fifth of respondents would be interested in taking part in a Sustainable Community Group.

DCAG members have taken Environmental issues to heart and sought to address a wide variety of issues from persuading landlords (including DHT) to plant trees and encouraging farmers to reduce the use of pesticides and herbicides, to arguing with local institutions (including the Parish Council and Highways Agency) to reduce street-lighting. DCAG also provides a forum for residents and others to express their feelings and points of view on matters of great environmental concern, including the question of building on Greenfield sites. Questions 12 – 15 inclusive, related to the Environment; although the last of these questions could arguably be considered in the section on Community.

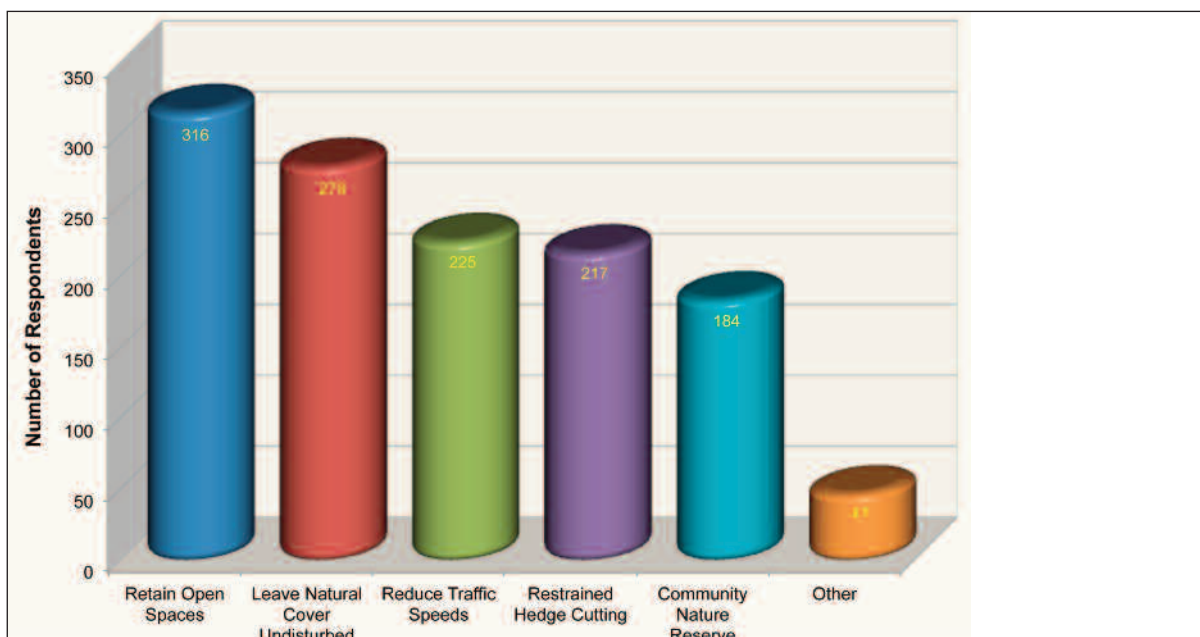
It is interesting to note (from Question 45 – see below in the Community Section) that 74.9% of all respondents considered ‘The Environment’ to be the most important thing about the Community of Dartington – significantly more than for any of the other choices.

Q.12 : What do you think could be done with the roads, lanes and paths to improve the local countryside?



Respondents were able to tick as many as they liked of the possible responses to Question 12. The spectrum of frequencies was fairly narrow (excluding the ‘Other’ responses) – from a minimum of 153 advocating ‘keep roadside verges mown and tidy’ to the largest number of 231, looking to ‘open more footpaths and bridleways.’ Just over half (51.0%) more were in favour of the latter, compared to the number of those backing the former.

Q.13 : What do you think could be done to protect wildlife in Dartington?

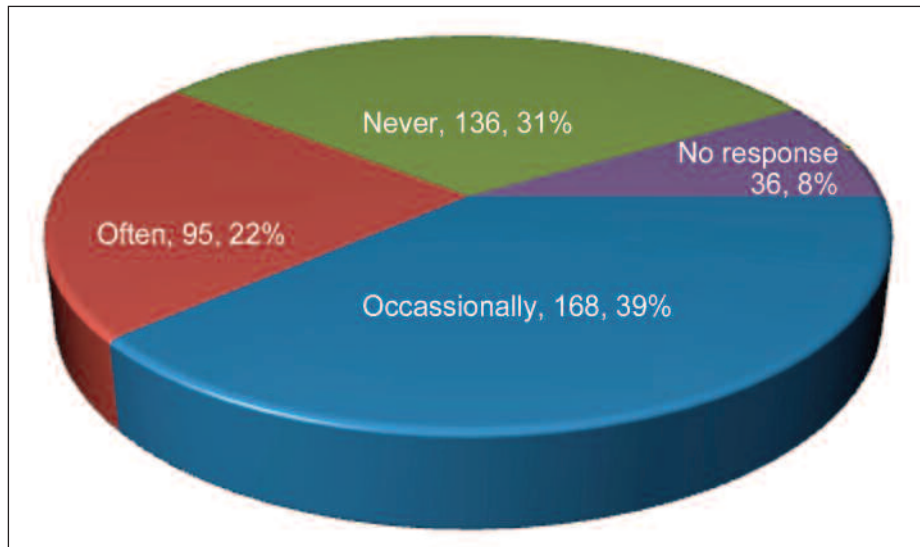


There was a somewhat larger spread of responses: from 184 to 316 (excluding the ‘Others’): 71.7% more respondents were in favour of retaining Open Spaces compared to those advocating a Community Nature Reserve.

Question 14 asked about compost schemes – which generally have a positive effect on the environment as well as on communities...

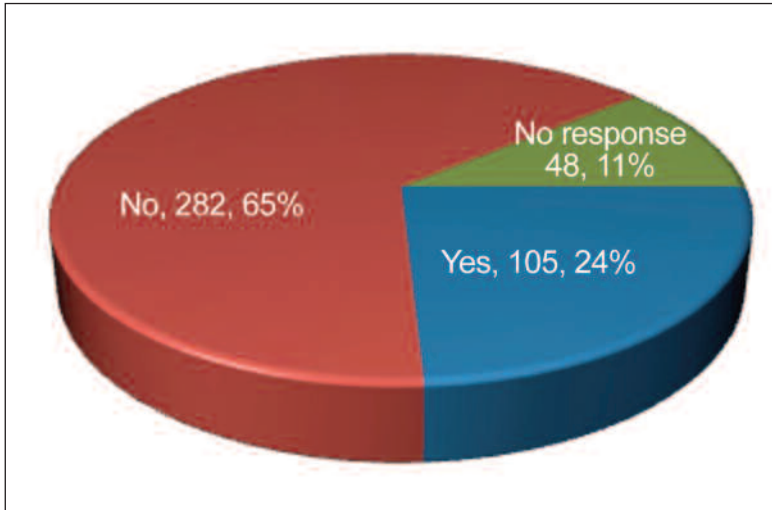
Q.14 : If more Community Composting Schemes were introduced would you use them?

It seems that another Community Composting Scheme would be well used, if more than 60% (60.5%) of respondents would use it ‘often’ or ‘occasionally.’



Community Composting Scheme at Hunters Moon

Question 15 looked at actually putting environmental projects into action.



Q.15 : Would you be interested in taking part in a Dartington Sustainable Community Group?

A similar number of respondents (24% as compared to 22%) would be interested in taking part in a Sustainable Community Group as would be interested in often using a Community Composting Scheme. In both cases, the proportion is less than a quarter of respondents.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Street Lighting

Residents were concerned about the waste of resources when street lighting was left on overnight. DCAG discovered that the wattage of street lighting on the A385 had been lowered in 2009. The Highways Department has been liaising with Dartington Parish Council with a view to turning off street-lights overnight (between 0030 and 0530).

The bulbs in the street lights on minor roads should have been replaced with white light bulbs of a lower wattage during the financial year 2011 – 12.

Building on Greenfield Sites

DCAG is closely monitoring any future development plans for the village. The Group has liaised with DHT's Land Use Review Manager regarding the importance of preserving local flora (e.g. orchids) and fauna (e.g. deer).

Protecting Dartington's Environment and Wildlife

Residents were very concerned to protect Dartington's environment and wildlife and to promote good practice. Examples included...

- Ways in which hedges and open spaces could be managed to encourage wildlife;
- Reducing the use of pesticides and herbicides;
- Optimising habitats for barn owls;
- Tree planting.

Some local tree planting has taken place with a local residents' group, the Bramble Close Residents Association, when the Dartington Hall Trust cut down a stand of mature trees next to the former Brimhay Nursery School. The scope for action has been limited and DCAG has found most local landowners and farmers to not be particularly receptive to these concerns.



The Courtyard at Dartington Hall



Dartington Hall

The Parish of Dartington is unusual in having the Dartington Hall Estate in its midst. The Estate still employs a significant number of people, and still has significant economic weight. More than 90% of respondents make use of the Estate, with the Hall Gardens being most popular, closely followed by the Cider Press Centre, Arts events (Cinema, Concert, Theatre, etc.) and going for walks. A somewhat smaller number make use of the White Hart bar and restaurant.

As with other organizations in the Parish, DCAG has sought to maintain a healthy dialogue with the Dartington Hall Trust. A significant number of the Trust's actions have however, been of great concern to local people. The issues that these have raised include...

- The closure of Dartington College of Arts;
- The impact of new road signs on the environment;
- Changing the names of established local places;
- The introduction of parking charges
- The sale of land for building development, in and between the hamlets of which Dartington village is comprised

...among much else. DCAG provides a public forum for the discussion of these concerns where local people can speak and be heard.

The Questionnaire had two questions about Dartington Hall – the Estate and the Trust which manages it. The Dartington Hall Estate was bought by Leonard and Dorothy Elmhirst in 1925 with the aim of ‘rural regeneration.’ From then until 1975 (Dorothy died in 1968, Leonard in 1974), the Estate was home to a vast range of enterprises – from Schools to Tweed Mills, from an Art College to a Sawmill. The activities of the Estate are now very much reduced, yet the Estate was clearly still a significant resource for the Parish and local Community at the time of the questionnaire being circulated



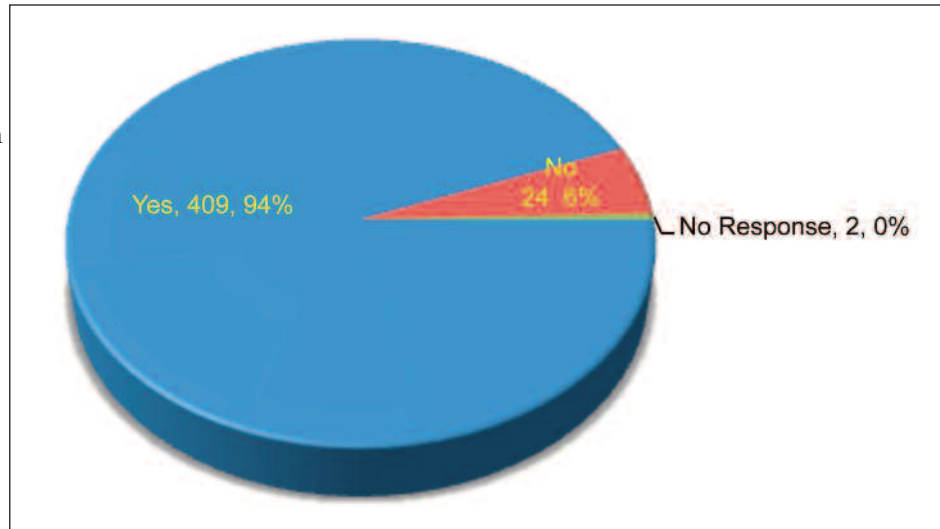
Colourful leaves in the Dartington Hall Gardens



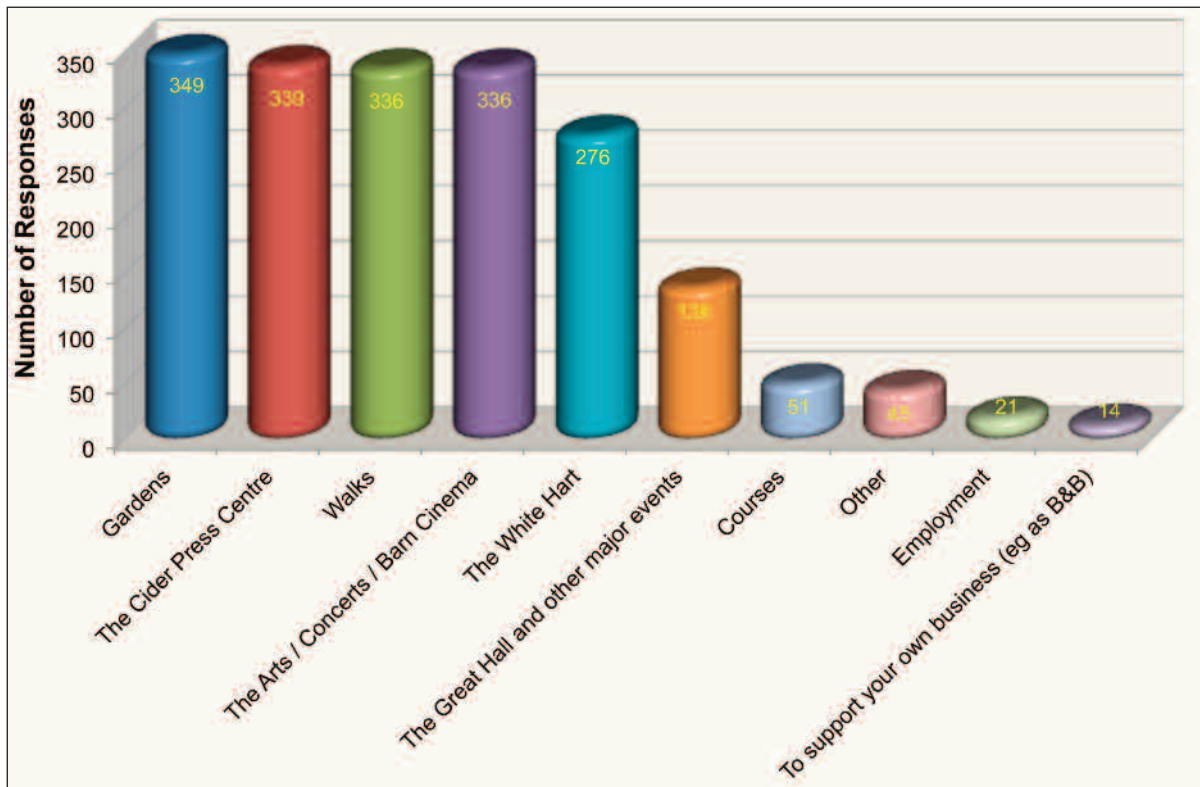
Entrance to the Courtyard at Dartington Hall

Q.18 : Do you make use of the Dartington Hall Estate?

Almost 19 out of 20 respondents made use of the Estate. The question then went on to explore the ways in which respondents made use of it. Question 18 also asked...



What Dartington Hall facilities do you make use of?



It is perhaps of note that very similar numbers of respondents made use of the Estate in a broad variety of ways: through the Hall Gardens, the Cider Press Centre (since renamed ‘The Shops at Dartington’) Walking and the Arts, Concerts and the Barn Cinema. Significantly smaller – but still substantial – numbers made use of the White Hart bar and restaurant (four fifths – 79.1% – of the number of those using the Gardens) and the Great Hall and other Conference Rooms for major events (two-fifths – 39.5% – of those using the Gardens). Those using the Dartington Hall Estate for other uses (Courses, ‘Other,’ Employment and for Supporting their own Businesses) ranged from 14.6% for people attending Courses at the Hall, to 4.0% for those using the Hall to support their own businesses.

DARTINGTON HALL ISSUES

Representatives from the Dartington Hall Trust have regularly attended DCFG/DCAG meetings and the Trust has generally been supportive of the Group, its former Chief Executive (Vaughan Lindsay) having been ‘in at the beginning.’ Various Directors of DHT attended meetings until, in 2010, the Trust appointed a Community Outreach Officer – Rachel Williams. Since then, Rachel has attended DCAG’s meetings and acts as a valuable liaison between the local community and the Estate. The Trust has agreed to continue to support production of the Parish Council Newsletter, The Dartington Messenger.

DHT is the largest land-owner and employer in the area. The Trust had an income of £12.4m in 2011 – 2012 – down from £15.1m the previous year. It is doubtful that there are any other organizations – let alone individuals – in the Parish with income anywhere near these figures.



DHT commissioned an independent company to review and report on signage on the Estate. As a result, a plethora of new signs have recently been put up, despite South Hams District Council having only authorized ‘replacements.’ This has contributed to significant antagonism among local residents.

The Trust’s actions have a major impact on the village and local community, and are frequently controversial. The closure of the College of Arts for example, significantly reduced the local economy, as well as removing hundreds of creative young people from the neighbourhood.

On a more mundane level, DHT has recently introduced parking charges on all its car parks – including those in the village. Obviously, these charges have not been welcomed by local people.

The Trust keeps empty a large number of buildings in an area in which there is great pressure on housing and facilities, particularly for young people (see the section on Employment above).

The Dartington Hall Trust owns a large amount of land in the Parish. It sees this land as high risk (having all its land in one area) and of low productivity (rents are low in relation to asset value). It currently has a strategy of selling off, preferably for development (since the price is higher), all of its land which is not on the core Estate. Over the years, the Trust has managed to develop several fields and clearly hopes to obtain permission for others. There is clearly a preference for building on green fields rather than brown field sites for the obvious reason that doing so is significantly more profitable. Such green field development is not welcomed by DCAG or the majority of people in the Parish (see ‘Building on Greenfield Sites’ above). If all DHT’s land in the Parish were to be developed, it would have a massive impact – indeed, Dartington would inevitably become a town in its own right.

The Trust consults with local people on its proposals through its Community Conversations and other fora. However, those who attend DCAG meetings often remark that DHT’s ‘consultation events’ are stage managed to produce the responses that DHT seeks. DCAG members have to strike a balance between maintaining an effective dialogue with the Trust – good relations are sought by the majority of those who come to DCAG meetings – while at the same providing an effective forum for people, who feel aggrieved and often scarred, to speak and be heard.



Shops at the Cider Press



education & leisure

Respondents were keen for the new Primary School to be part of the community, and the School seems to have generally responded positively to this feeling.

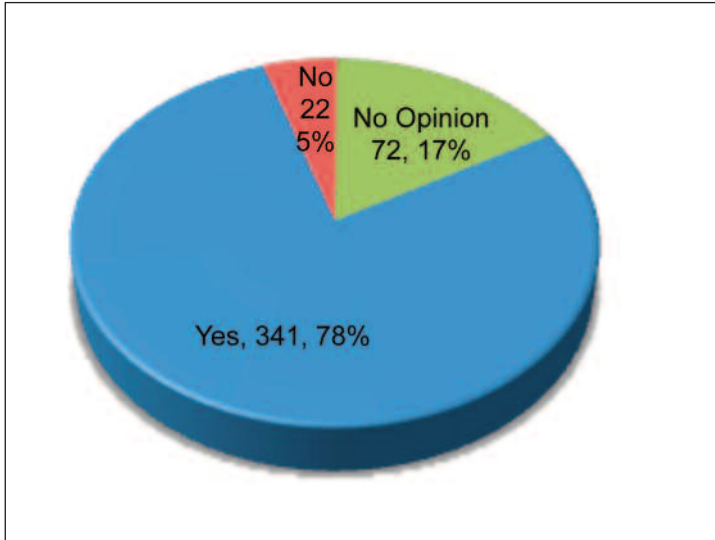
Dartington Village Hall was seen as inadequate when the questionnaire was distributed, but has since undergone a major renovation.

Wildlife watching and organized walks were by far the most popular leisure activities, although a wide range of sports are also played. Yoga and Keep Fit were the most popular potential new leisure activities, while Badminton and Table Tennis were the most popular potential sports. Very few people would be interested in helping to run any of these activities, however.

Meadowbrook is by far the most frequented of the existing recreational venues (the Church comes second) and hosts a wide variety of groups – from Ki Aikido for Children to Traditional Upholstery. A Gardeners' Society was the most sought after new activity, closely followed by a Luncheon Club for the Elderly.

As can be seen from the following chart (relating to Question 10), residents in the Parish were keen to make use of the facilities at the new Dartington Primary School.

Q.10 : Would you like the facilities of the new Dartington Primary School to be made available to the local Community?



Jill Mahon, the Head Teacher, has indeed facilitated such use, since the School opened – for some time, the Dartington Community Action Group met there.



Perhaps coincidentally, the proportion of people in the current survey wanting School facilities to be open to local people was exactly the same as in the Dartington Village Appraisal Report in 1999...

“78% (506 people) of those who expressed an opinion thought the school should be available to the local community out of school hours as a home for various social and educational events.” [This statement related, obviously, to the former Dartington Primary School.]



Totnes Creameries Short Mat Bowls Club practising in the hall

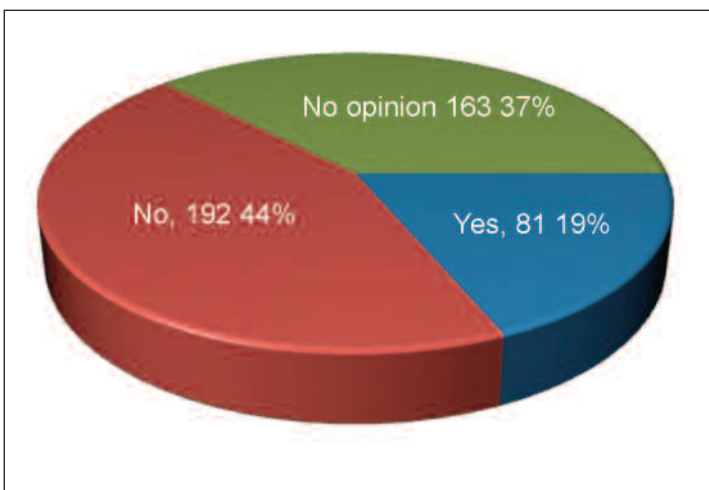


Dartington Village Hall - after refurbishment

The Village Hall on Cott Road, was built by Leonard and Dorothy Elmhirst in 1926, soon after they bought the Dartington Hall Estate. It was intended as a memorial to those from the village who had died during the Great War. Famously no names were inscribed “as everyone knew who they were...”

The Village Hall is now one of several buildings available to those living in the Parish. However, the Village has grown enormously since the Hall was constructed, so that Question 28 asked...

Q.28 : Do you think the (Cott Road) Village Hall is adequate for the needs of the Community?



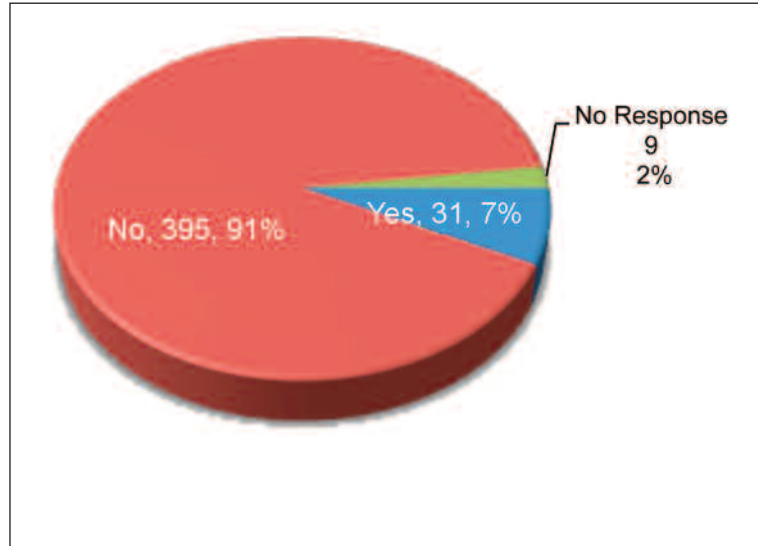
The largest group of respondents (43%) felt that the Dartington Village Hall in Cott Road was now inadequate, in contrast to the less than half this number (19%) who felt that it was adequate. Almost two in five – not many less than those who felt it was inadequate – were of no opinion.

Since the questionnaire was distributed however, the Village Hall Committee has organised better heating and obtained a grant for insulation and solar panels. Renovation of the Village Hall was completed in March 2012.

There were a number of questions about leisure activities in the Parish. These started with a question about disabilities: Question 19 asked...

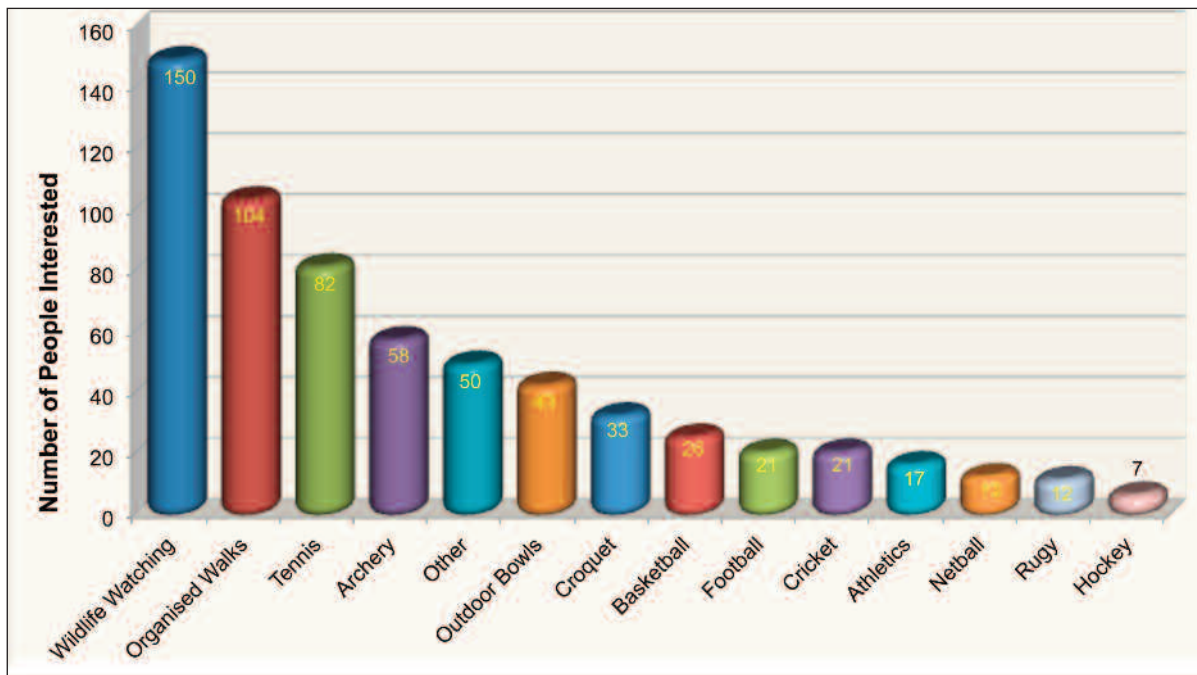
Q.19 : Do you consider yourself disabled?

On the surface, it would appear that respondents to the Questionnaire are in significantly better health than those in the Ward in general. In the Ward data, “22% of respondents said that they had a long standing illness, disability or infirmity” – a proportion more than three times as large as the group of Dartington Questionnaire respondents and therefore of statistical significance. Perhaps DCFG should have made greater efforts to ensure that those with disabilities were able to respond to the questionnaires?



There was interest in a wide range of Indoor and Outdoor Activities. (The figures in both the following charts refer to numbers of interested respondents rather than percentages: respondents could indicate that they were interested in more than a single Outdoor Activity.)

Which of the following Outdoor Activities would you be interested in?

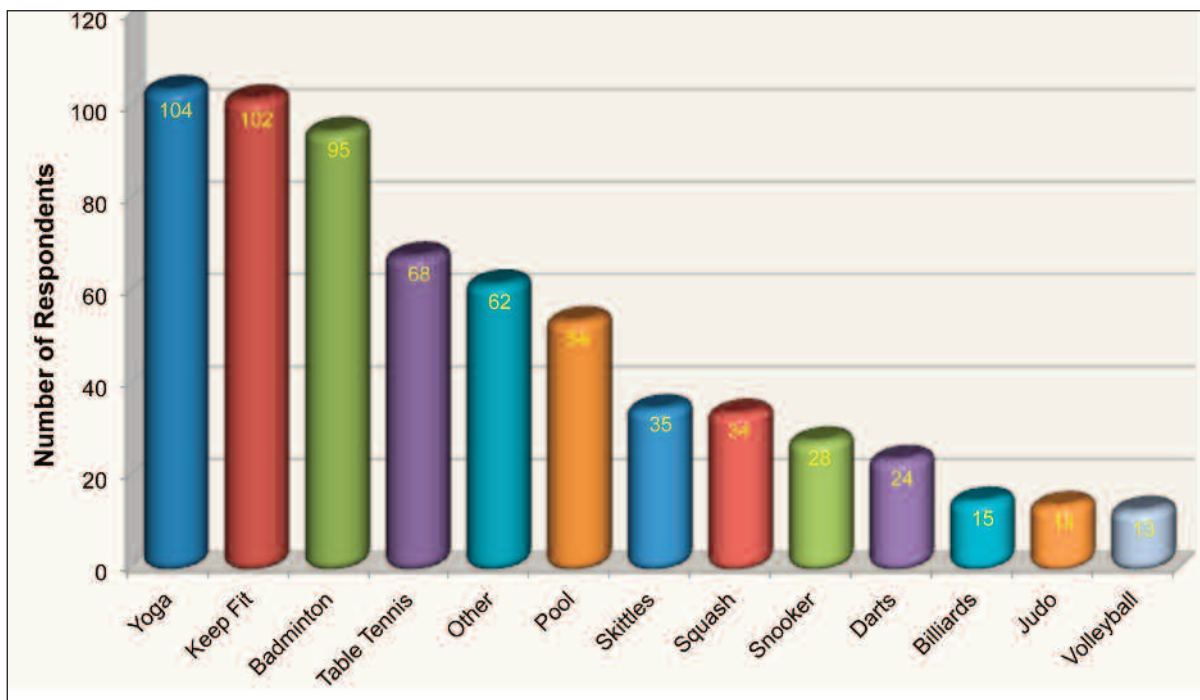


It is of note that there was more interest in Wildlife Watching and Organized Walks (354 respondents) than the total for all sports (333 respondents, excluding ‘Other’).



Local young people playing Tambourelli in the Lescaze designed gymnasium at Foxhole – now closed and left to rot (awaiting rejuvenation by the Abundant Life project at an unspecified time in the future)

Q.22 : Which of the following Indoor Activities would you be interested in?



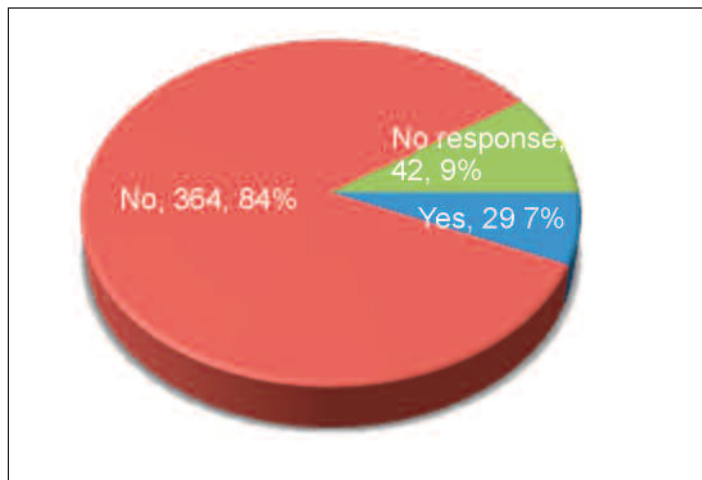
Once again, respondents expressed greater interest in non-sporting activities, although not to such a marked degree. There were 206 expressions of interest in Yoga and Keep Fit, compared to 163 in Badminton and Table Tennis (the two most popular sports).

DCAG has worked hard to bring interested residents together with Activity Groups through encouraging the exchange of information on the Dartington Community website.

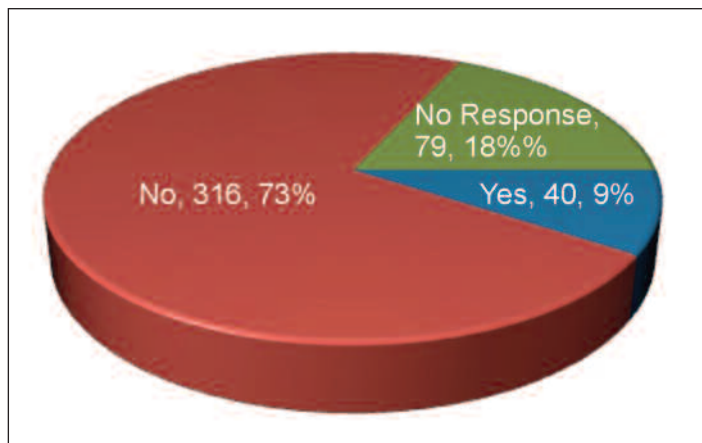
The number of respondents actually interested in running any of these activities was much more limited, as can be seen from the results of Question 24...

Q.24 : Would you be able to help run any of the above (Indoor or Outdoor) Activities?

There was a marginally more positive response (a greater number of people responding 'Yes') when it came to the prospect of helping to run and organize Social Activities, as shown by the response to Question 27...



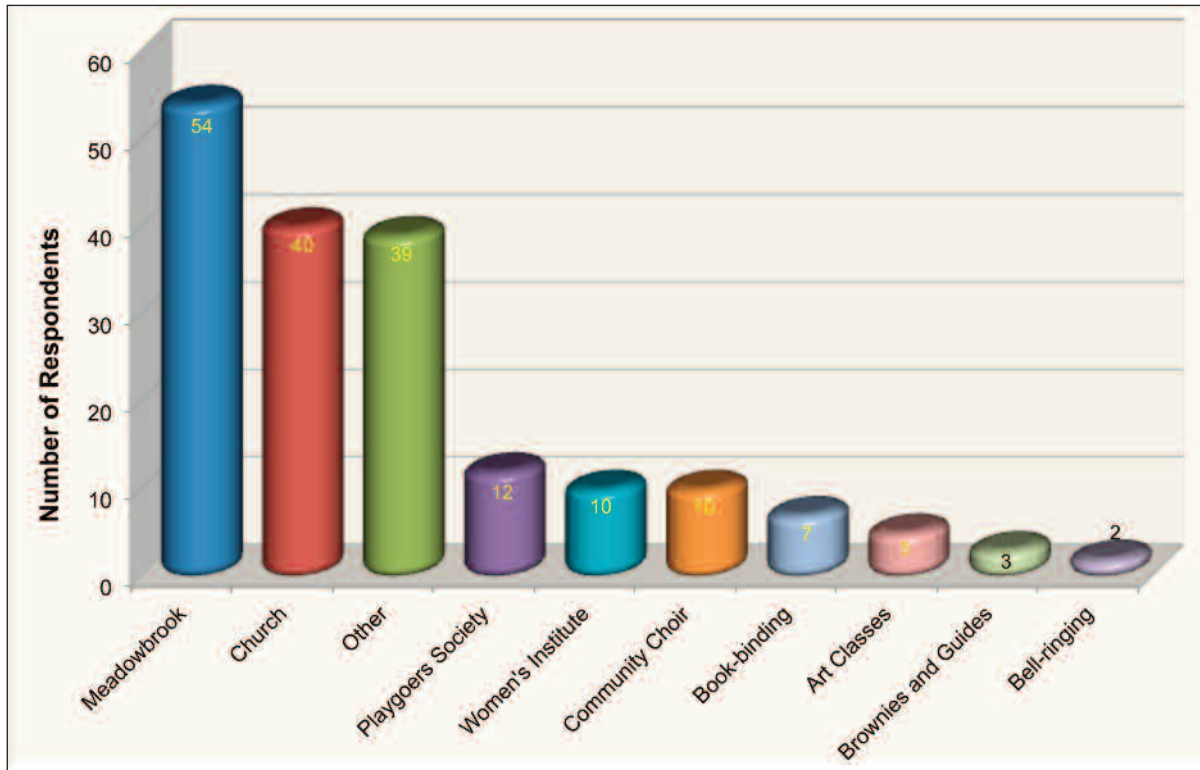
Q.27 : Would you be prepared to help run and organize Social Activities?



Playing fields

Question 25 explored which social activities, respondents were already involved in:

Q.25 : Which existing recreational activities/clubs are you involved in?



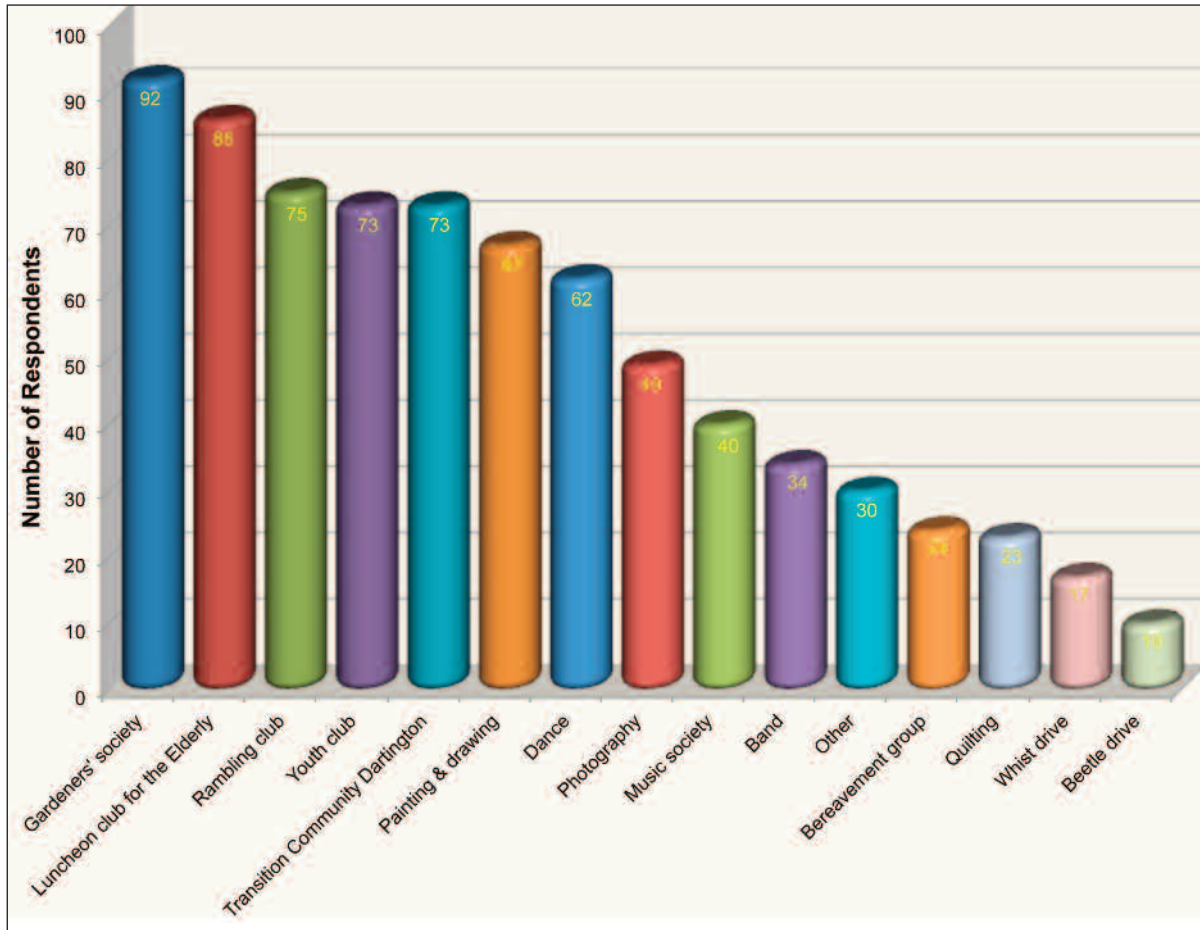
The number of people involved in Meadowbrook (54) is more than all those involved in the seven least popular activities put together (39). Only those involved in the Church and ‘Other’ come close in numbers. Meadowbrook is used by a wide variety of groups (see: <http://www.dartingtoncommunity.co.uk/?cat=5>), including: Country and Western nights, Traditional Upholstery Courses, Bingo, Ki Aikido for Children, Feng Shou Kung Fu, Tai Chi, some Women’s Institute meetings, and many others.



Meadowbrook Community Centre

Question 26 asked which additional clubs or groups, respondents would like to see in the Dartington Community:

Q.26 : Which other clubs/groups would you like to see formed?



Although 92 people indicated they were interested in a Gardeners’ Society, for example, only 40 people suggested that they would be interested in helping to run any of the social activities.

It is perhaps worthy of note that the second most popular suggestion, a Luncheon Club for the Elderly, was also mentioned in the 1999 Village Appraisal Report...

“Residents wanted there to be more social events to enrich the life of the parish and suggested... the return of the luncheon club...”

It seems that the Luncheon Club may be a long time coming!



The Cott Inn

EDUCATION and LEISURE ISSUES

There was a perception that more leisure activities would be welcome if there were somewhere more comfortable in which to do them. DCAG took the view that it would be more productive to increase knowledge of and use of the existing facilities, e.g. the Primary School, Meadowbrook and the Church and Village Halls. As a result, those running activities at Meadowbrook and the Village Hall are now encouraged to publicize them on the Dartington Community website.

The Dartington Village Hall Committee has installed new heating and rewired and re-roofed the Village Hall with solar panels. DCC and SHDC have both provided grants. The Village Hall Committee put on a successful and well-attended 'Hall Warming' event on 8 January 2012.

By far the most significant provider of cultural activities in the Parish is the Dartington Hall Trust through various subsidiary bodies. There has been considerable discussion at DCFG/DCAG meetings with representatives from DHT of ways in which local participation in cultural activities at the Hall might be developed further. DCAG also negotiated with Dartington Arts – unsuccessfully, as it turned out – to initiate cultural activities in the village.

It has become clear that a far wider range of cultural activities takes place in the community than had been included in the Questionnaire. These activities include: Pilates, Tai Chi and Tambourelli, Dartington and Church Choirs, DHT volunteers, TEQ campaign, Archery, Dance classes, Playgoers, Keep Fit, Soup Groups, Cycling, Walking and Outdoor Activities. Many of these are now advertised on the website. Residents also expressed interest in cycling, model aircraft flying, canoeing, Rounders, community picnics, folk dancing, swimming, singing, dance, arts and crafts activities and educational and vocational courses.

Cycling and folk dancing groups have been formed since the Questionnaire was circulated.

The Cott Inn has instigated weekly music evenings and is encouraging local people to use the premises as a meeting point.



Looking down from Cott towards the Shinners' Bridge roundabout.

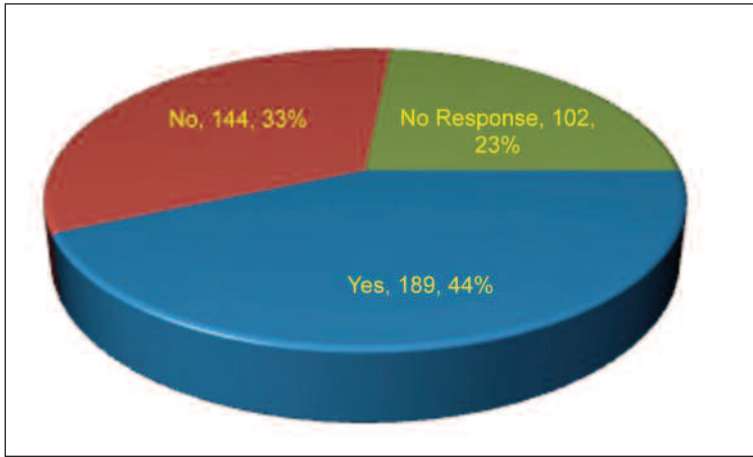


transport and roads

A third of respondents thought Public Transport was inadequate, while a fifth had no opinion. More than half never took a taxi, while four-fifths of those who did took one less than five times a month – despite the fact that for two or more people travelling together, taxi fares are often cheaper. On the other hand, more than four out of five thought that traffic was a major problem in the Parish at least some of the time. Barracks Hill, Longcause and Droridge were the most popular places for ‘action to improve road safety,’ closely followed by Cott Lane.

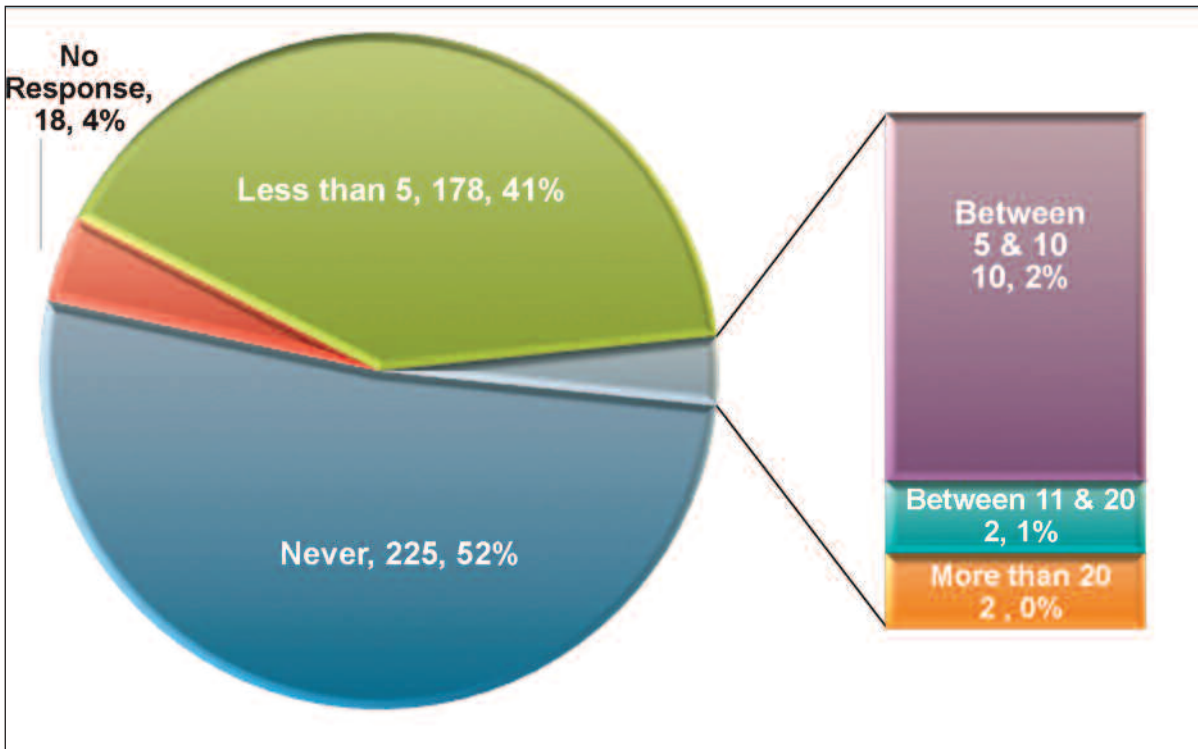
Traffic issues are of continuing concern for residents of the village.
 Question 30 asked...

Q.30 : Is Public Transport to and from Dartington adequate?



A third of respondents thought Public Transport was inadequate, while somewhat less than half thought it was adequate. Almost a quarter of respondents made no comment.

Q.31 : How many times a month do you use local taxi services?

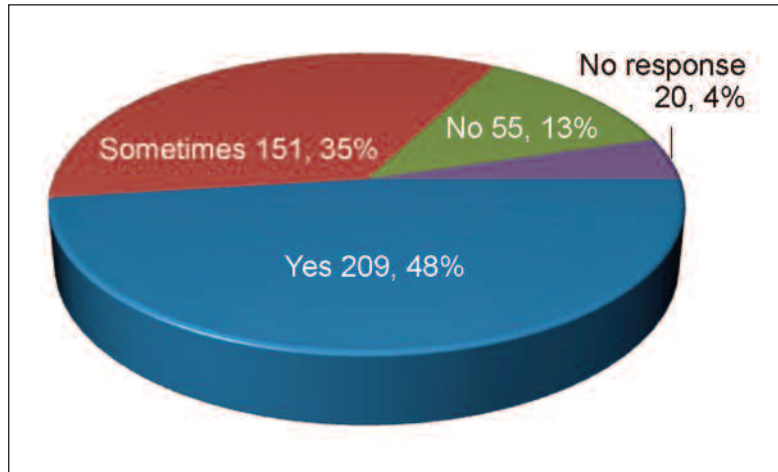


More than half the respondents never used local taxi services. Of those who responded to this question, only 3.5% used local taxi services five or more times a month. Considering the high price of bus services (see p8), this is perhaps a little surprising.

Q.33 : Do you think Traffic is a Major Problem in and out of the Parish?

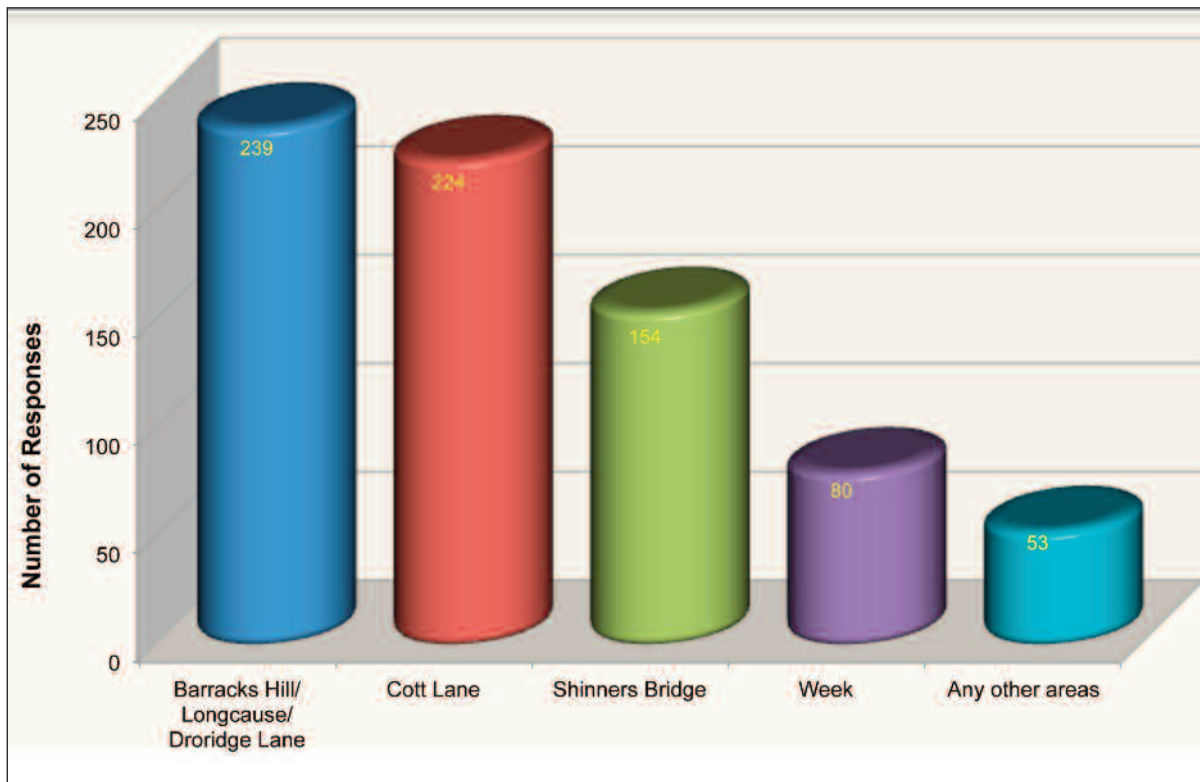
More than four out of five respondents (82.8%) thought that Traffic is a major problem in and out of the Parish at least some of the time – as it surely is in most of the Parishes of England.

Although there are large parts of each day and night, when there is no, or very little, traffic on the roads, at peak times there can be long tail-backs from Totnes to Shinners’ Bridge and further. In Summer, these problems are exacerbated by the dramatic influx of holiday-makers, many with caravans. The history of protest and activity around this topic would tend to corroborate the existence of the problem.



Although there are large parts of each day and night, when there is no, or very little, traffic on the roads, at peak times there can be long tail-backs from Totnes to Shinners’ Bridge and further. In Summer, these problems are exacerbated by the dramatic influx of holiday-makers, many with caravans. The history of protest and activity around this topic would tend to corroborate the existence of the problem.

Q.34 : Would you support action to improve road safety in the following “danger-spots”?



This question gives some idea of which areas might find support for action on curbing traffic. (Respondents were able to indicate their support for more than one area of action.)

Transport was one of the areas in common with the 1999 Village Appraisal. The latter Report wrote...

“81% of those expressing an opinion [thought] the parish [needed] pedestrian crossings, mainly centred upon Shinners Bridge.”

Subsequently, pedestrian crossings were created at Shinners Bridge and next to the second roundabout leading to the Cider Press car parks.

“Approximately [*sic*] 273 locations were named as danger spots on the roads and the majority mention the area around the School and Shinners Bridge. Many call for a 20 mph speed restriction on all roads around the school area and village shop... The road calming scheme in Cott Road is not as successful as was hoped and residents would like to explore other solutions to the problem, such as a speed limit of 20 mph...”

Much of the village is now subject to a 20 mph speed limit.

In 1999, there were also a number of questions on parking (“59% [were] against the introduction of more parking restrictions”), community transport and car sharing. There was one question on car sharing in the 2010 questionnaire – the results of which have been omitted from this document as we feel the question was not well phrased. In 1999, 43.1% of respondents said that they would never use a car share scheme. In 2010, this proportion had dropped to 24.1%.

TRANSPORT ISSUES

Increasing Traffic and its Effect on Residents and the Local Environment

The speed and amount of traffic passing through Dartington Village has been a problem for many years, due to the decision made by Devon County Council to turn the A384 and A385 into through routes. With the potential increase in housing, this problem can only get worse, particularly on the narrow lanes leading to new developments. Increasing traffic also has a severe impact on the use of these lanes by walkers, cyclists, horse-riders, etc. Although there is a cycle route through the Parish, the separation of motor vehicles from other traffic could best be currently described as rudimentary.

In April 2011, DPC and DCAG members participated in the Totnes on the Move workshops run by Devon County Council. Those who attended were keen to put forward the views of DCAG and emphasize the importance of Dartington in planning the traffic arrangements for Totnes and the surrounding area. For more on the Totnes on the Move report see the Dartington Community Website (www.dartingtoncommunity.co.uk).

Totnes has since received a £1,000,000 grant to develop sustainable transport for the area and we hope that some of this money will be put towards the development of environmentally friendly ways of travelling between Dartington and Totnes.



Noticeboard outside the Village Hall (above);
Front page of *The Dartington Messenger* (right)

Dartington Messenger
March 2012

The Dartington Messenger is now available to view online at:
www.dartingtoncommunity.co.uk

HM THE QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS ON 4TH JUNE 2012

Dartington parishioners are invited to attend a meeting on Tuesday 20th March at Meadowbrook Community Centre at 7pm, to set up a working party to organise community events in the village to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee on Monday 4th June 2012.

We hope to make this event as successful as the Golden Jubilee. Please join us and take part or help. All clubs/organisations within the village are asked to participate, including local traders and shops. Everyone is welcome!

Next Meeting: Tuesday 20 March at 7pm at Meadowbrook Community Centre.

Contact : Terry Parsons 762262
Anne Lambell 862280 (eve/weekends)
Mike Pound 864169
Sue Goldsworth 864337

A number of activities have been proposed:
The usual village fete with stalls, a fancy dress parade, kiddies sports, 3-legged football, outdoor skittles, bouncy castle, barbeque, pony rides, tree planting, etc.

Exhibitions of old photographs or artefacts of Dartington life, eg. youth theatre, music and dance. Do you have any photos of village life or events over the past years which would be of interest to others?

Draw tickets will be sold on the run-up to the day and drawn at the dance in the evening. Proceeds go towards the cost of the community events and hopefully we can buy a commemorative bench for the village green at Shinnars Bridge or elsewhere.

Queen's Diamond Jubilee

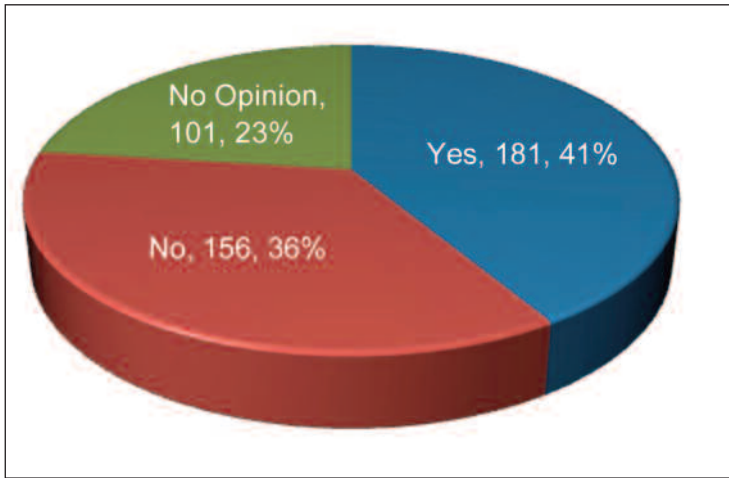


information and communication

The Dartington Messenger is clearly of great importance and is well-read in the Dartington community: it appears to be the most effective way of keeping people in touch with what's going on in the Parish and even, further afield. Four out of five households are connected to the internet and those who are not seem to be little interested in the development of a Community Internet facility. The community website was seen as welcome, and is now well-used. The Mobile Library is still enjoyed regularly by a minority of people in the village.

DCAG has put much effort into increasing communication, and intends to continue its efforts through local radio, notice boards, meetings and other means.

Q.35 : Do you feel you receive enough information about activities in the Community?



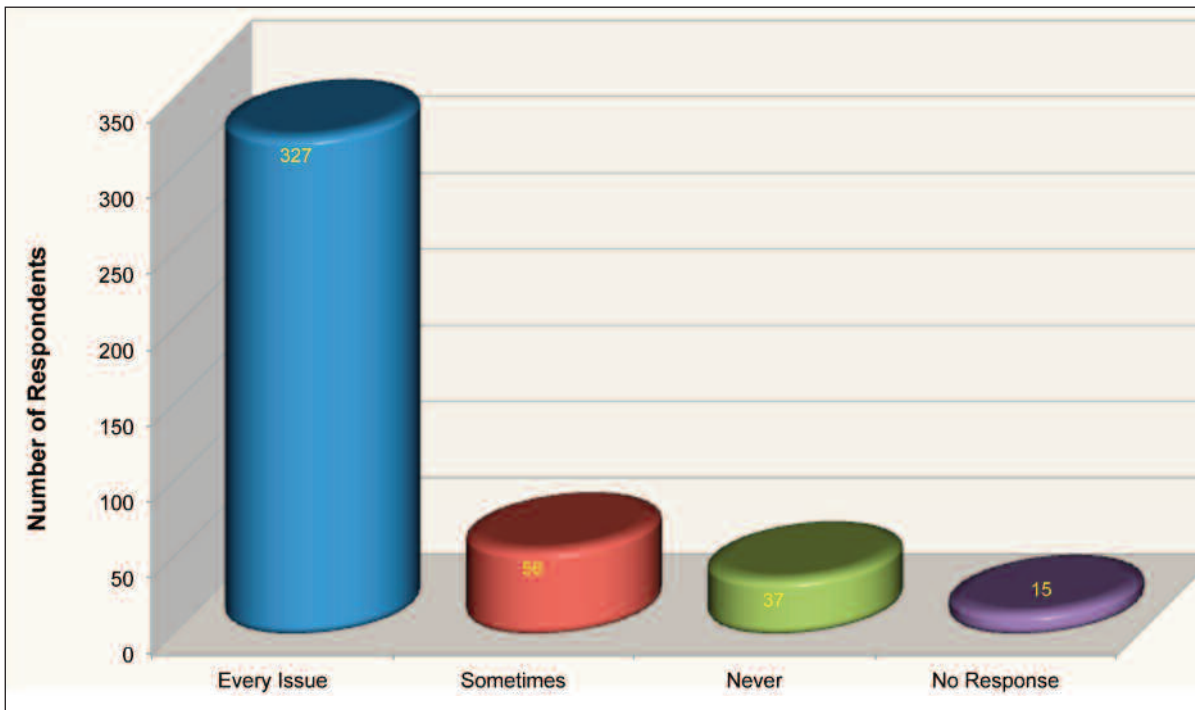
The number of people feeling that they received enough information about activities in the Community was similar (181 vs. 156) to those who felt that they had not. Statistically, there were 15.9% more in the first group – 41.6% compared to 35.9% – which result is conventionally considered to be significant. However, almost a quarter of respondents (23.2%), had no opinion.

The 1999 Village Appraisal Report stated that...

“Almost three-quarters of us... would like there to be a regular magazine or newsletter, which would serve to publicise parish events and general information”

As a result, the *Dartington Messenger* – the Parish newsletter – came into being. Question 36 of the 2010 Questionnaire asked about the *Messenger*.

Q.36 : Do you read the Dartington Messenger?

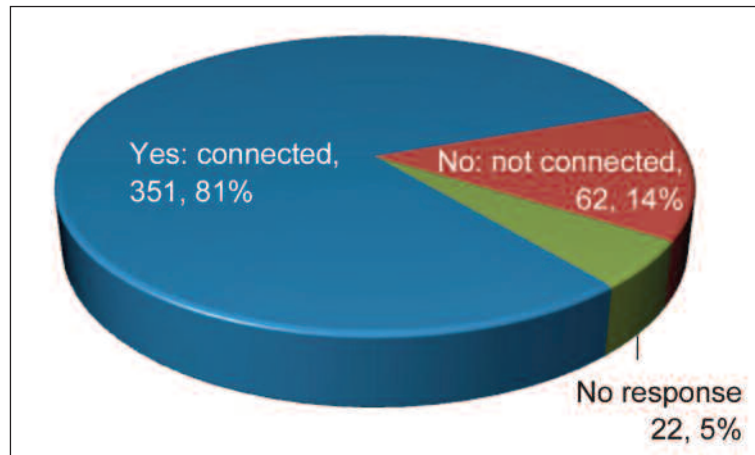


The Messenger seems to have been a great success. It is circulated to every household in the Parish and appears to be very well read. Almost 9 respondents out of 10 (88.0%) answer that they read the *Messenger* every issue or at least sometimes.

Q.37 : Is your household connected to the internet?

Seventeen out of twenty households (85.0% of those who responded to the question) are connected to the internet, although there is still a significant minority (15.0% of those who responded) without internet access.

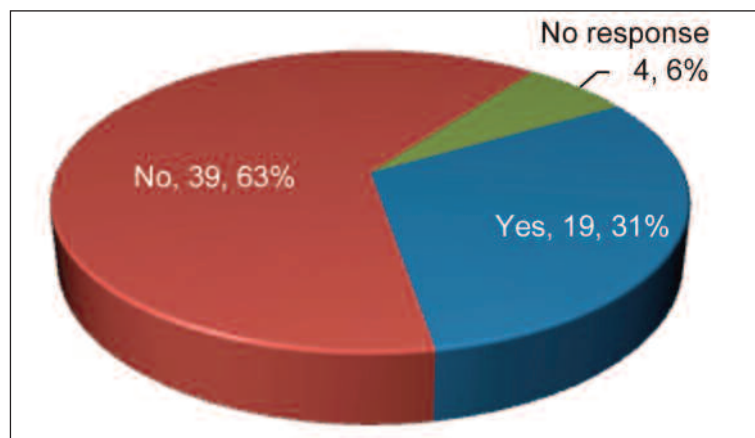
Question 37a looked at those people who are not connected to the Internet, asking...



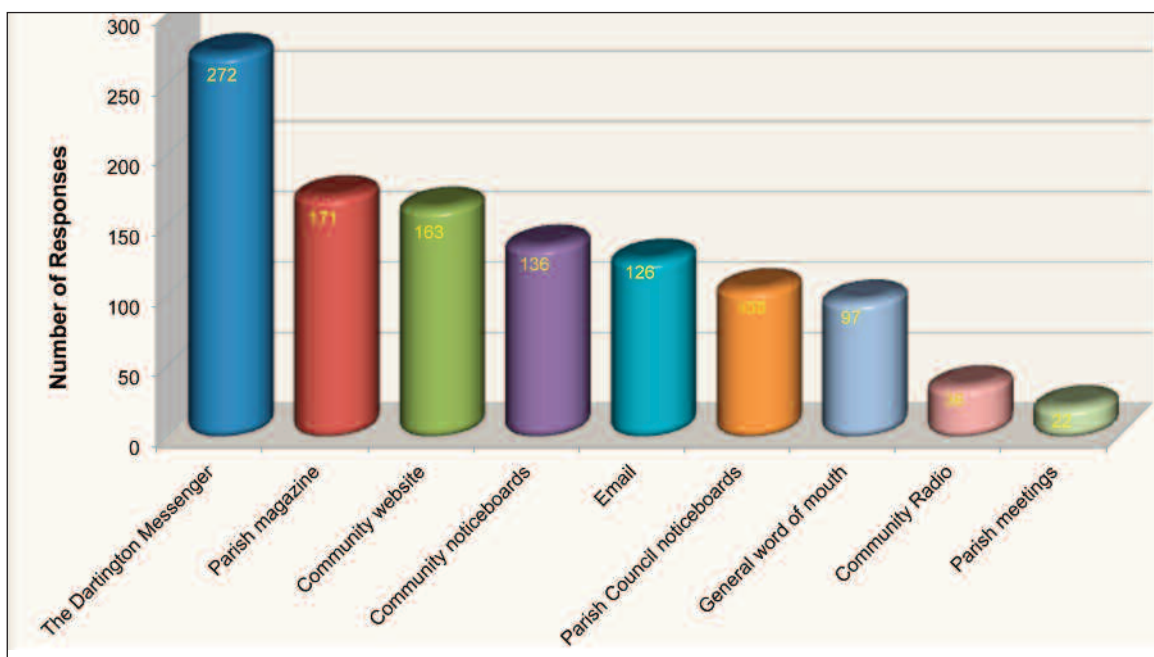
Q.37a : If not, would you value a Community Internet facility?

Less than a third (30.6% – 19 respondents) of those without an Internet connection would value a Community Internet Facility.

It is hardly a result likely to compel the development of such a facility.

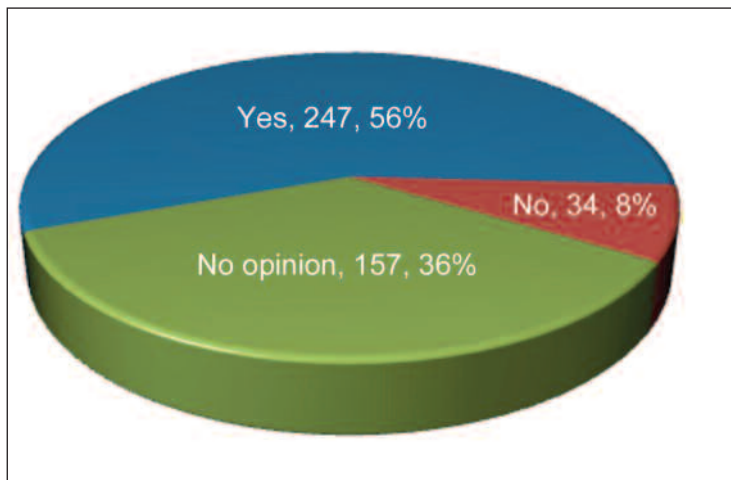


Q.38 : Which of the following would be most effective in keeping you informed of news/events and services?



The *Dartington Messenger* was seen as by far the most effective means of keeping residents informed: 109 people (66.9%) more than those who would use the Community website, for example.

Although Dartington has got an award-winning local radio station – *Soundart Radio* – residents clearly do not see this as an effective way of receiving news or information about events and services.

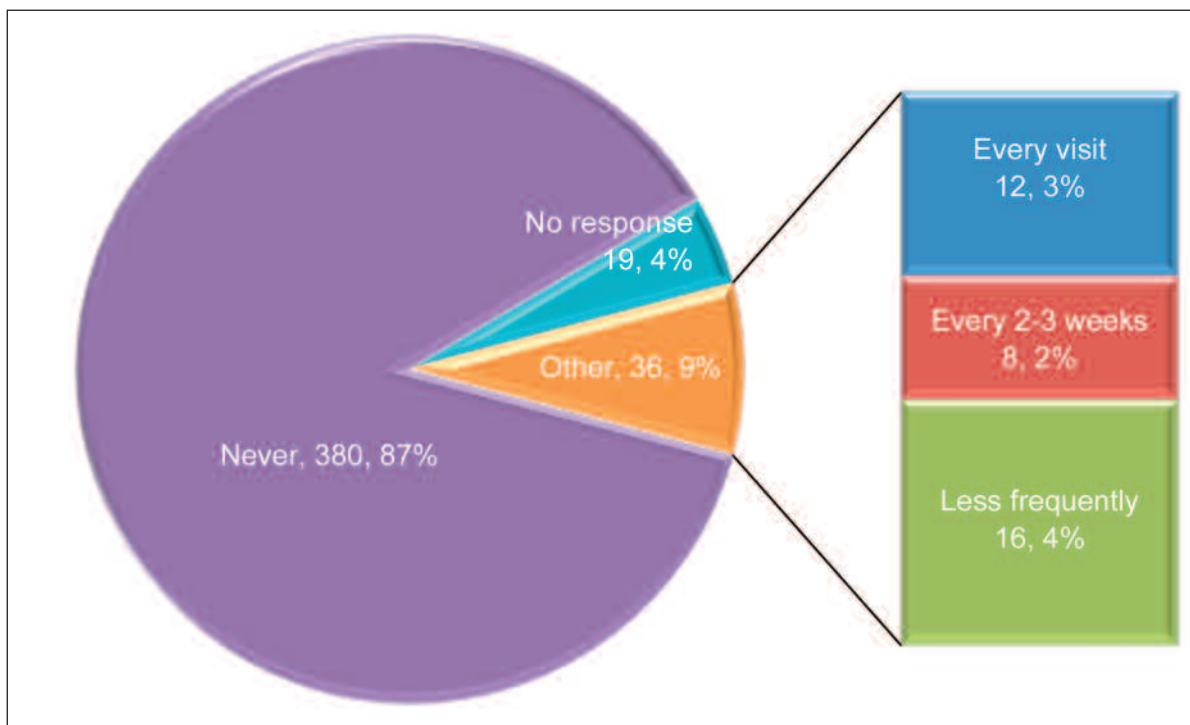


Q.39 : Would you like to see a Community Website, acting as a continually updated Central Point of Information?

More than half of respondents welcomed the prospect of a Community Website, although more than a third were of no opinion. There was also a small minority (8%) who did not want to see a Dartington Community website!

Question 40 asked about the Mobile Library which visits the Parish on a fortnightly basis:

Q.40 : Do you use the Mobile Library Service?



Although more than 90% of respondents said that they never used it, there is nevertheless a hardcore of respondents who say they use it every visit.



Mobile Library

INFORMATION and COMMUNICATION ISSUES

One of DCAG's fundamental aims has become the development of a communication network for the Parish, so that residents have an effective means of exchanging information on news, events, activities etc. As part of DCAG, Katie Rich set up the Dartington Community website (www.dartingtoncommunity.co.uk) in December 2010, with links to the websites of Dartington Parish Council, Totnes on the Move, Dartington Primary School and other local organisations. DCAG is also liaising with DPC about posting the Dartington Messenger on the website.

The Community website has information on local activities and Village Hall events as well as details of the Mobile Library visits. The website has been promoted on local radio and in the Dartington Messenger itself.

Notice boards are seen as an important complement to web based communication and, for a significant minority of residents, are still a primary source of information. DCAG has negotiated to develop more community notice board space.



Dartington Parish Church



religion

While Churches are still seen as an important part of Parish life, they are much less important for Sunday worship, than as, for example, Historic Buildings. The majority of respondents were not aware of the costs of maintaining the Churches, and people were evenly split in whether the local community should contribute to their upkeep.

On the other hand, the majority of those with an opinion, thought that the Churches should be used for other functions in addition to religious services.

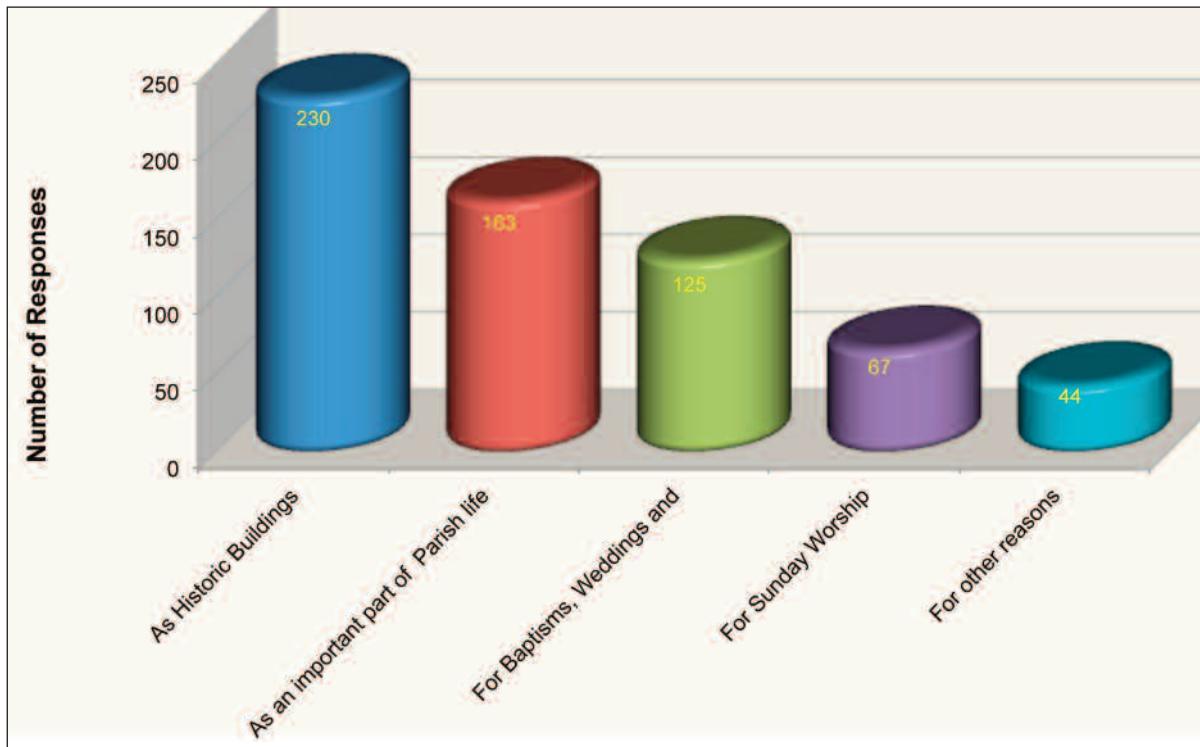


Dartington Hall graveyard



Dartington Parish Church graveyard

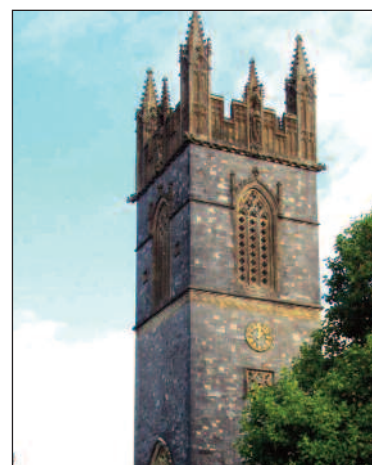
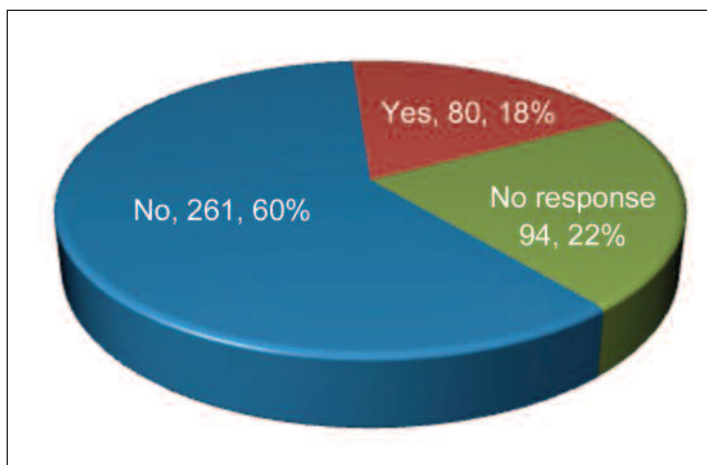
Q.41 : Are the Parish Church and St Barnabas Church important to you?



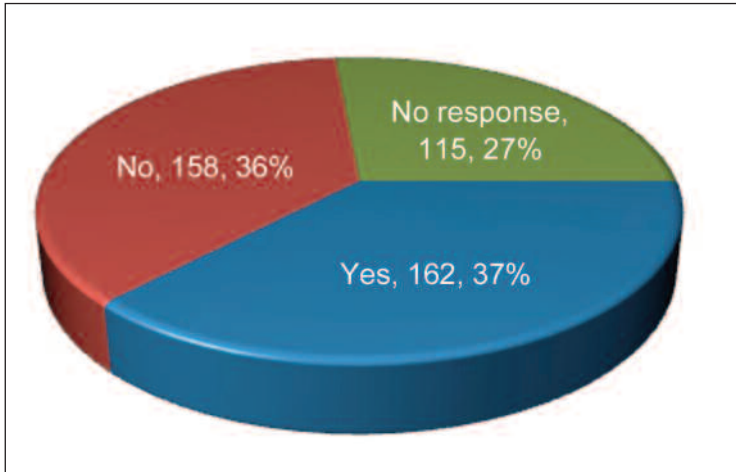
The Churches could be important to residents for more than a single reason. Although Churches are still seen as an important part of Parish life, it is perhaps not surprising – even if it is saddening – that their importance as places of Sunday worship is so much less than as Historic Buildings.

We may also note that there was no space for respondents to say that the Churches were not of importance to them so that the conditionality of Question 42 below is somewhat redundant.

Q.42 : If Yes, did you realise that the Church has to raise £40,000 locally each year to keep running?



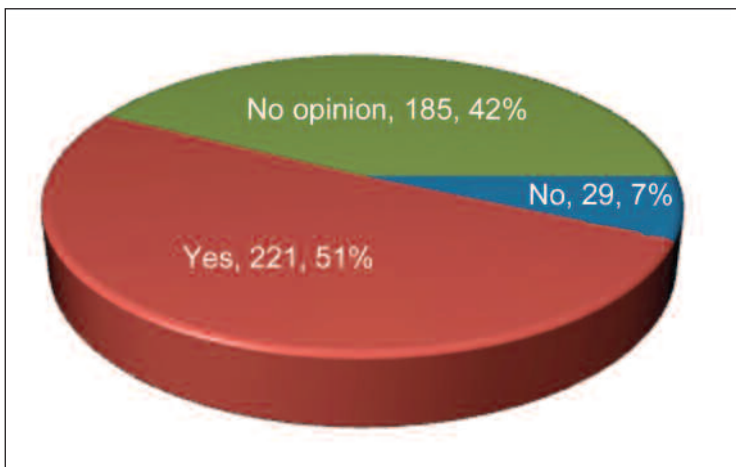
The majority of respondents were clearly not aware of the cost of maintaining the Church.



Q.43 : Do you think the local community should contribute in some way?

Those who responded to Question 43 below were divided almost equally. An even greater number did not respond to this question (than to the previous question 42).

Question 44 explored possible solutions to the issue of funding the upkeep of the Churches:



Q.44 : Would you like to see the Churches of the Parish used for other functions?

The vast majority of those with an opinion wanted to see the Church used for other functions as well as religious services. In neighbouring Littlehempston, this has recently led to a remarkable rejuvenation of the Church there.

RELIGIOUS ISSUES

Religion was the only section in which there were no comments at all.





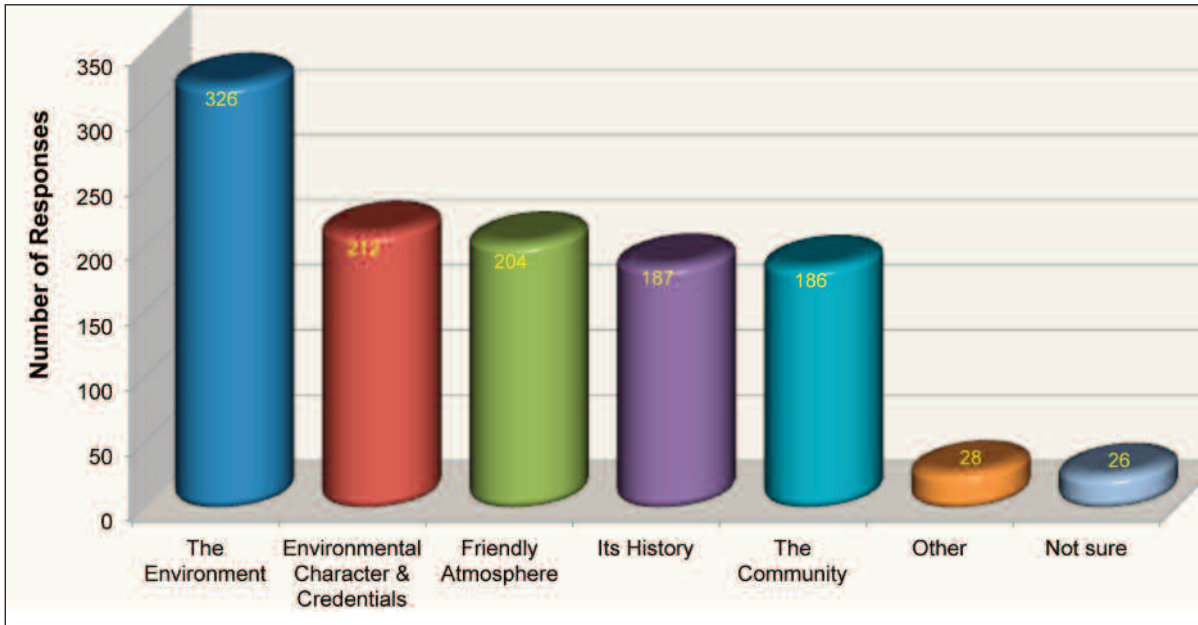
community

To residents in the Parish, the Environment is by far the most important thing about the community of Dartington. Most respondents wanted to see the community developing as ‘a Centre for Arts, Culture and Music’ and as a ‘Working Community’ – both of which match the Dartington Hall Trust’s traditional focus. Commuting, Tourism and Retirement were the Dartington community’s least popular fates.

As in other areas of the questionnaire, the number of people actually prepared to help implement or guide any new developments is very much smaller than those who would welcome things if they just somehow happened.

There are however, a number of community initiatives taking shape, including Community Orchards, and more allotments. Respondents had views on what was most important to them about the Community of Dartington and how they would like this Community to develop.

Q.45 : What is the most important thing to you about the Community of Dartington?

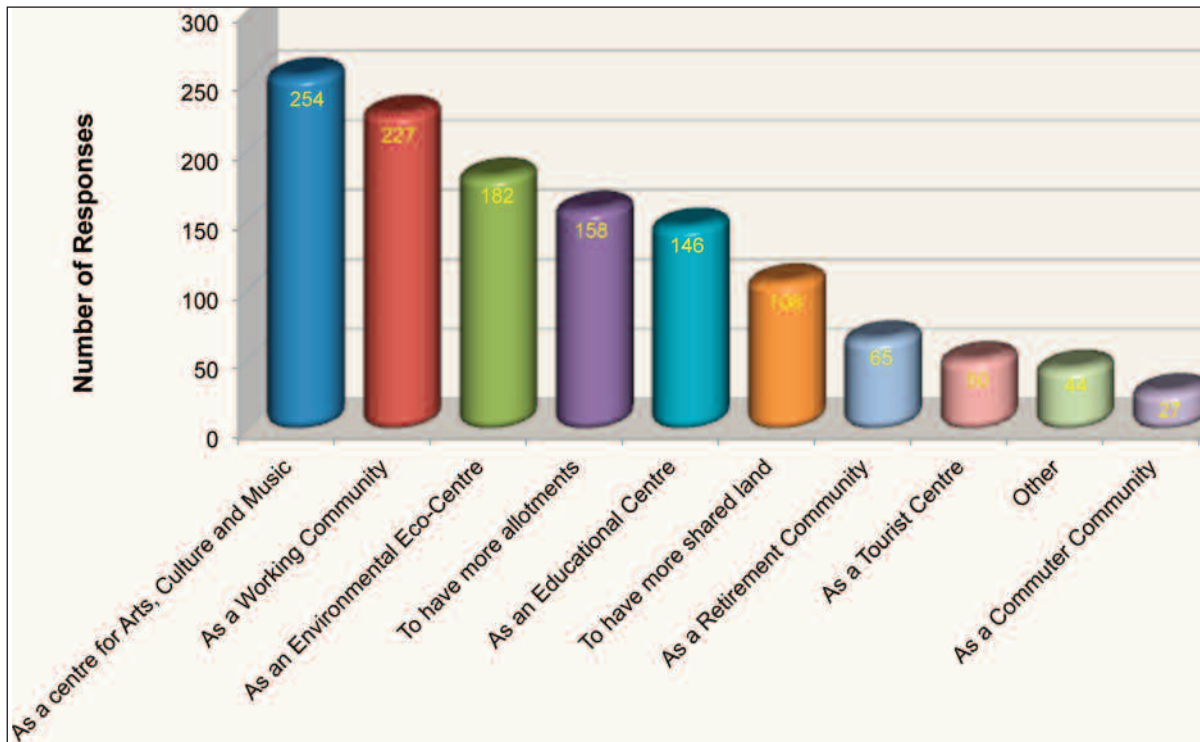


There were 1,169 responses to this question – respondents were able to indicate more than one response – equivalent to almost three responses each, out of the five main ones available, excluding ‘Other’ and ‘Not sure.’ “The Environment” received 53.8% more responses than the next answer – “Environmental Character and Credentials.” Together with the subsequent three responses – Friendly Atmosphere, History and The Community – the variation in responses was just 14%.



One of many walks in the Parish

Q.47 : How would you like the Community to develop?



Whilst the Community of Dartington clearly values the Dartington Hall estate and its environment, Dartington Hall Trust’s proposals to develop the large amounts of land in the Parish that it owns will have a very significant impact on the village. The Dartington Community however has clear ideas as to how it would like to develop as reflected in the responses to question 47.

The responses were not exclusive and respondents could indicate more than one choice. There were 1,259 responses – an average of 2.9 responses per respondent. Almost three out of five respondents (58.4%) wanted the Community to develop as a ‘Centre for Arts, Culture and Music’ – which has, of course, been Dartington Hall’s traditional focus in recent years.

More than half of respondents wanted Dartington to be a Working Community.

As mentioned above (pp17-18), Dartington already has a high proportion of retired people compared with local, regional and national norms.



Forder Lane House undergoing renovation (March 2012): South Devon Rural Housing Association’s Retirement Home

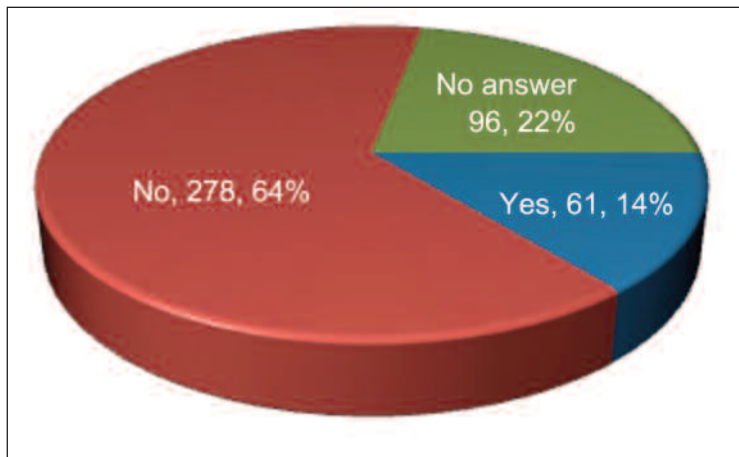
Notwithstanding the Dartington Hall Trust’s plans for a large new retirement home (‘The Abundant Life’) at the erstwhile Foxhole School, less than 15% of respondents wanted Dartington to become a Retirement Community. A future as a Tourist Centre or Commuter Community was desired by even fewer.

More than 40% of respondents aspired to Dartington becoming an Environmental Eco Centre – which may, of course, have something to do with Schumacher College’s presence on the Dartington Hall Estate, as well as Dartington’s proximity to Totnes and the Transition Town initiative, several of whose leaders live in the Parish.

In 1999...

“Some residents perceived the community feeling to be absent. Dartington parish is crossed by busy major roads, which tend to isolate the various parts from each other. The village needs a focal point.”

Q.48 : Would you be prepared to help develop and implement a Community Action Plan resulting from this questionnaire?



The proportion of respondents who say they are interested in helping to take the results of the Questionnaire forwards is even smaller than of those interested in participating in a Sustainable Community ...

By comparison, in 1999, 21% of respondents “said they would like to be involved in producing a Parish Design Statement.

COMMUNITY ISSUES

Provision of Community Space

One of the proposals in the questionnaire free text was for the setting up of community spaces. Community Groups in Week and Huxham’s Cross are currently raising funds and negotiating with the Dartington Hall Trust with the aim of setting up Community Orchards in their respective hamlets.

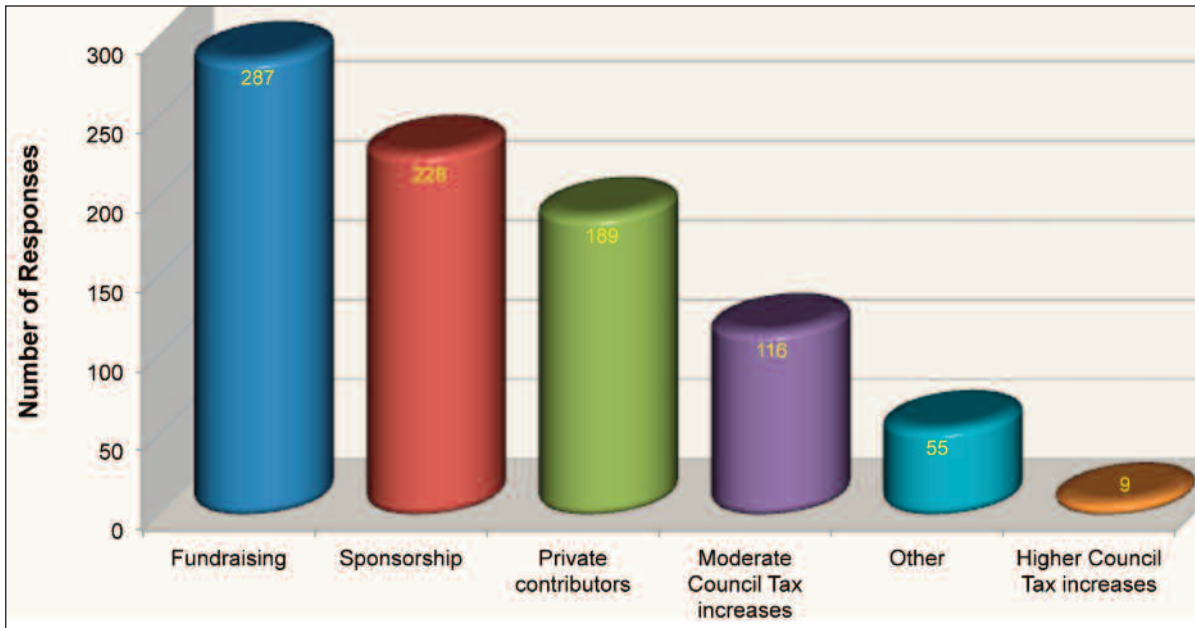
Allotments

Current waiting lists are very long. Dartington Parish Council is in the process of redrawing allotments to allow more to fit into the same space. Riverford Farm in the adjoining Parish of Staverton has opened up a field for community allotments and has advertised them on the Dartington Community website.



funding

Q.49 : If suggestions raised by this questionnaire require money for implementation, where should this money come from?



Respondents could indicate more than one of these funding alternatives. Fund-raising is significantly the most popular of the choices offered. Funding through increased Council Tax would be less well received, 'Higher Council Tax increases' being the least popular of all. In any case, it looks as if the community would prefer to fund the implementation of any proposals autonomously.



Yarner Beacon

conclusion

Despite its many faults, the DCFG Questionnaire gives a better idea of what the citizens of Dartington think than anything else we have to hand. Nine out of ten of those who responded feel that they are part of the Community – which means that we have something on which to build, if we want to develop the cohesion of the local Community.

This Community Plan, which resulted from the Questionnaire, provides considerable information about the Dartington Community. We can safely conclude that there are more people living in the Parish who don't work here, than there are those who do. Almost a quarter of the total respondents (102 out of 435) said that they did not work in Dartington, but would like to do so. Young people in particular, have to move out of the Parish if they want to get a job.

The Questionnaire had a limited scope when it came to envisaging how employment opportunities might be developed, and only asked about “small scale light industrial workshops and/or offices.” It is noteworthy that in the neighbouring Parish of Staverton, the various enterprises at Riverford Farm have created significant employment opportunities based on intensive organic agriculture.

We are unlikely to be surprised to find that respondents considered Dartington's “Environment” important. To those who answered the questionnaire, it was by far “the most important thing... about the Community of Dartington” and there was a great deal of feedback and many ideas on maintaining and improving the countryside and helping wildlife. Encouragement for reduced Street Lighting was passed on to the Parish Council and Devon Highways. DCFG members participated in DHT's Land Use Review – they noted the effects of new fencing, for example, on local flora and fauna, and then passed this information on to those responsible.

The Dartington Community Action Group has become a significant force in the local community – which is entirely due to the time and effort that many local people have put into it. Officers have been elected, and there is now a functioning Committee or Core Group. Attendance at meetings varies: not all the same people come to every meeting, but people clearly feel able to turn up and express their views – which are heard, noted and published in the Minutes of the meeting. The group provides a public forum for local residents (and others) to come and have their say in an open and courteous environment.

DCAG has a good relationship with the Parish Council and with its District Councillor, Jacqi Hodgson: Members of the group have participated in SHDC's Development Fora for planning decisions, and there is regular attendance at other meetings such as the Totnes Housing and Built Environment Forum.

While “Building on Greenfield Sites,” may not be something that DCFG/DCAG can prevent directly, the topic generated such strong feeling in the Community that it was nevertheless given High Priority in the group's Action Plan. DCAG continues to encourage the local planning authority to follow Government guidelines and build on brown-field sites first. It seems that this topic is likely to continue to be of concern.

While the Dartington Hall Estate is a resource of great value to the Community and surroundings, it is also a part of the Parish like any other. The Estate is very well used by citizens of the Parish in a wide variety of ways. There has been considerable liaison between DCFG/DCAG and DHT over a range of issues from signs for walkers on the Estate to a meeting for local people to air their concerns to the Trust's Chief Executive.

On the other hand, the Trust is private, independent and accountable to no-one other than the very light touch of the Charity Commissioners. It still has huge assets although its accounts would indicate that its expenditure has, for many years, exceeded its income. Since it was first set up in the 1920s, the Trust's decisions and activities have had a major impact on the Parish and surrounding areas, as well as the region – and even internationally. In recent years, the Arts, Education, Culture, as well as the Village Hall and local businesses have all benefited from its investments.



View of Dartington

However, while the Trust consults local people, its decision-making is not transparent. Many of its recent decisions have been strongly contested by the Trust's many stakeholders – two recent examples are the amalgamation of Dartington College of Arts with University College, Falmouth leading to the former College's removal from the Estate (mentioned in the section on Dartington Hall above); and the sale of the Elmhursts' collection of paintings by Rabindranath Tagore, Ben Nicolson and others.

It is unfortunate that none of the Trustees live in the Parish and so cannot naturally represent the concerns of local people at Trust meetings. Whilst DHT needs to ensure its survival – and its business interests are obviously part of that – it is regrettable that the Trust appears to see this as being inevitably at the expense of the environment and local community.

We believe that there is a way forwards that will ensure the Dartington Hall Estate flourishes together with the rest of the Parish. We all need to acknowledge the effects of the Trust's decisions, and the scars that these have left on many members of the community. Let us not forget what has happened, but let us, on the other hand, also forgive: often enough, the people who caused the wounds have moved on. The challenges we face are increasingly daunting and it is only by working together that we have a chance of addressing them.

If carried through, the Trust's current development plans will cause massive social and environmental degradation with little or no benefit to the people who live in the area. Indeed, it seems extraordinary that building on green fields is considered the way forwards for the body which hosts Schumacher College ("Transformative Learning for Sustainable Living") on its Estate.

Schumacher College has high-flying thinkers dropping in on a regular basis, who make grandiose statements about the College's students working with the local community (its resident managers make similar statements): there is clearly, therefore, a great opportunity to put such ideas into practice. It is one of the many reasons for which DCAG continues its efforts to maintain a dialogue with the Trust.

DCAG cannot claim credit for developments to the Village Hall, although it was clear from the Questionnaire that such changes were needed. The Questionnaire produced a lot of information on Indoor and Outdoor Activities and the desire for a greater range of both – even if it was disappointing how few respondents were prepared to help make such activities a reality. On the other hand, it was evident that many activities were under-publicized, a lack which the Dartington Community website has helped to remedy.

The Questionnaire and the Group contributed to the ongoing debate about transport and provided some useful information on taxi use, for example, as well as perceptions of traffic and public transport.

In response to the obvious need for increased publicity and communication, DCFG members set up the Dartington Community website – www.dartingtoncommunity.co.uk. This is also contributing to the development of a community identity, as well as enabling local people (and others) to get a better idea of what is going on in the Parish. The Questionnaire also confirmed the importance and effectiveness of the Dartington Messenger – the Parish Magazine. On the other hand, it seemed unlikely – at least from the results of the Questionnaire – that a Community Internet facility would be well used.

Questionnaire responses provided some interesting information on how people viewed the Churches in the Parish, as well as ways of paying for their upkeep.

The responses provided a fascinating view of how people see themselves and the Community, as well as how they want the latter to develop. The Parish already has a high proportion of retired people, and it is clear that a further increase in the "Retirement Community" is one of the least popular options for development. Plans for the Abundant Life retirement home at the former Foxhole School are currently on hold.

Increases in Council Tax were not viewed as a popular way of funding the implementation of any proposals. Fundraising and Sponsorship were considered preferable.

If the Parish of Dartington is developed in the near future as some people would like it to be, then let us hope that the time, money, energy and effort put into the Questionnaire, the Action Plans, this Community Plan and the meetings of the Dartington Community Forum/Action Group will enable such a development to benefit the residents in whose community it is being built, rather than just the developers financing it. Adversity often has the positive effect of bringing people together: so let us take the opportunities presented by these continuing threats and come together and talk to each other and work together to change the village in the way we want. Let us have the courage and confidence to make our voices heard, to present our ideas properly, and ensure that they are considered and respected so that the ideas and visions of the Dartington Community come to life.

Oliver Tringham.

Endnotes

- 1 Karen Blincoe, then Director of Schumacher College, Andrew Brewerton then Principal of Dartington College of Arts, Brian Evans, Chairman of Dartington Parish Council and then Councillor on South Hams District Council, Vaughan Lindsay, Chief Executive Officer of the Dartington Hall Trust, Stuart Ludford, Head-teacher of Dartington Primary School, and Steven Prime, Chief Executive Officer of Dartington Housing Association. Of these only Karen Blincoe did not attend the first meeting on 13 September 2007.
- 2 Minutes of the Dartington Community Forum meeting on 13 September 2007, by Joanna Abecassis – Section 1
- 3 *Ibid.* (Section 4)
- 4 *Ibid.* (Post Script)
- 5 Minutes of the Dartington Community Forum meeting on 27 November 2007 – Section 3.
- 6 Minutes of the Dartington Community Forum meeting on 13 September 2007 – Section 5.
- 7 E-mail from Steve Prime to Joanna Abecassis, dated 19 June 2008, Subject: RE: Community Forum & Appraisal.
- 8 From the Minutes of the Dartington Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday, 12 December 2007.
- 9 Letter dated 11 October 2008.
- 10 The Parish of Dartington Local Housing Needs Report, February 2009, p5.
- 11 *Ibid.*, p5.
- 12 *Ibid.*, p20.
- 13 *Ibid.*, p4
- 14 Circular e-mail, dated 10 November 2008, from Joanna to members of the Dartington Community Forum.
- 15 E-mail from Greg Davies to Joanna, dated 26 February 2009, Subject: [SPAM] RE: Dartington Parish Plan Meeting – REMINDER!!!
- 16 Dartington Community Plan flyer.
- 17 From Dartington Community Plan flyer for event on Saturday, 4 July 2009.
- 18 Minutes of the Dartington Community Forum Community Plan Group Meeting on 19 November 2009 at the Vicarage.
- 19 From the Dartington Village Appraisal Report, undated but refers to a Public Meeting on “Tuesday, 13 April” – presumably 1999. In March 2013, “the original analysed data and written comments” were still available for inspection in Totnes Library.
- 20 $37.3/65.5 = 56.9\%$
- 21 $22.7/58.3 = 38.9\%$
- 24 Circular e-mail from Steve Prime, dated 21 June 2010, Subject: Community Survey - Stage III - meeting 19 June 2010.
- 25 Circular e-mail from Steve Prime, dated 19 July 2010, Subject: Progress Update.
- 26 Circular e-mail from Steve Prime, dated 7 September 2010, Subject: Next Meeting 25 September 10am Forder Lane House.

APPENDIX 1 – BRIEF HISTORY

2007

- **Thursday, 9 August:** The Reverend Joanna Abecassis writes to six community leaders in Dartington.
- **Thursday, 13 September:** First meeting of the Dartington Community Forum at Dartington Vicarage, attended by:
 - Joanna Abecassis, Vicar of Dartington,
 - Andrew Brewerton then Principal of Dartington College of Arts,
 - Brian Evans, Chairman of Dartington Parish Council and then Councillor on South Hams District Council,
 - Sue Gaskin, Lead Manager of Dartington Primary School,
 - Vaughan Lindsay, Chief Executive Officer of the Dartington Hall Trust,
 - Stuart Ludford, Head-teacher of Dartington Primary School,
 - Steven Prime, Chief Executive Officer of Dartington Housing Association (which subsequently renamed itself South Devon Rural Housing Association).
- **Tuesday, 27 November:** Dartington Community Forum meeting in Dartington Vicarage.
- **Wednesday, 12 December:** Vaughan Lindsay attends a meeting of Dartington Parish Council and talks about the Dartington Community Forum.

2008

- **Saturday, 26 April:** DADD Open Day.
- **Inspace Consultancy** gave a presentation to DCFG on Community Assessments in Somerset Villages. Their advice was to keep impartial.
- **Wednesday, 10 September:** The Rural Housing Enabler for Devon attended a meeting of Dartington Parish Council where it was agreed a Housing Needs Survey for the Parish would be carried out.

2009

- **Thursday, 26 February:** Meeting of the Dartington Community Forum, including Greg Davies Senior Projects Officer of the Community Council of Devon.
- **Friday, 20 March:** Dartington Community Forum Group (DCFG) meeting at which the Group's Constitution is adopted. The Constitution is signed by the Chairperson, the Reverend Joanna Abecassis and the Treasurer, Steve Prime. (The Constitution is attached as an appendix to this Community Plan.)
- **Friday, 8 May:** DCFG receives a grant of £450 from Dartington Housing Association.
- **Wednesday, 3 June:** DCFG Meeting at the Vicarage. Planning the Open Day.
- **Saturday, 4 July:** DCFG Open Day at Dartington Primary School: "Come and have your say!" Joanna wrote: "We held a very successful Open Day at which we gathered lots of ideas for the Draft Questionnaire and also some more volunteers."
- **Monday, 14 September:** Michel Hicks (South Hams District Councillor) gave a grant of £500 to DCFG from his Locality Fund.
- **Thursday, 24 September:** The Dartington Hall Trust matched SHDC's grant with another £500.
- **Friday, 9 October:** DCFG meeting at Dartington Vicarage. Questions for the Questionnaire; a community website.
- **Monday, 9 November:** South Devon Rural Housing Association gave a supplementary grant of £50 thereby making its contribution equal to SHDC's and DHT's.
- **Thursday, 19 November:** DCGF meeting at Dartington Vicarage. Draft questionnaire; video.
- **Tuesday, 24 November:** Barry Cripps is the community star of a DCFG 'Talk-back Show' on Soundart Radio (Dartington local radio – 102.5FM).
- **December:** the Draft Questionnaire is piloted amongst a small group of DCAG members and others and the questionnaire refined as a result of the feedback received.

Joanna Abecassis wrote: “Everyone was very pleased with the final version of the questionnaire with attractive fonts and pictures and a coloured cover illustrated by the children from Dartington Primary School with their ideas.”

2010

- **Wednesday 27 January:** DCFG Community Plan Meeting.
- **Thursday 25 – Friday 26 March:** 797 questionnaires were delivered to all the households in the Parish by a team of around 18 volunteers.
- **Friday, 9 April:** 297 questionnaires were returned – a 37.3% response rate. These 297 questionnaires provided responses from 435 people. In 2008 (the latest figures available), the ward of Dartington had a population of 1,917. The 435 responses therefore represented 22.7% of this population.
- **Saturday, 15 May:** DCFG Open Day at Dartington Primary School to present the preliminary results of the questionnaire and provide an opportunity for the community to give feedback. DCFG paid KOR Communications £669.75 to record the event on video.
- **Saturday, 19 June:** DCFG meeting at Forder Lane House.
- **Thursday, 24 June:** South Hams District Council made a grant of £1,224 from the Community Grant Fund.
- **Monday, 19 July:** Circular e-mail from Steve Prime to everyone on the DCFG e-mail list.
- **Friday, 9 July:** DCFG paid £1,715.50 to Devon County Council for...
“Community Plan To set up questionnaire and print copies for all households in the paris[h]...”
- **Tuesday, 7 September:** Steve Prime sends out another e-mail exhorting members to do their bit...
- **Saturday, 25 September:** DCFG Meeting at Forder Lane House.
- **Saturday, 23 October:** The planned DCFG meeting was cancelled as the analyzed free text material had not been returned in time.
- **December:** The Dartington Community website – www.dartingtoncommunity.co.uk – went live.
- **Saturday, 11 December:** First DCFG meeting called by the new Chairperson, Oliver Tringham.

2011

- **Thursday, 13 January:** Steve Prime resigned from the Dartington Community Focus Group as Treasurer due to ill-health.
- **Saturday, 9 April:** First DCAG meeting in Forder Lane House.
- **Saturday, 11 June:** DCAG meeting in the Library at Dartington Primary School.
- **Wednesday, 28 September:** DCAG meeting in Dartington Primary School with Vaughan Lindsay as ‘Keynote Listener.’

2012

- **Saturday, 14 January:** DCAG meeting at Dartington Primary School with another good turnout, discussing the threat of development in the village, particularly as a result of DHT’s public consultation on the Abundant Life project, which proposes the transformation of the old school buildings at Foxhole into a Retirement Home and the construction of several four storey blocks of flats.
- **Saturday, 25 February** DCAG Meeting in Dartington Primary School.
- **Thursday, 29 March** DCAG Meeting in Dartington Primary School.
- **Saturday, 5 May** DCAG Meeting in Dartington Primary School.
- **Tuesday, 4 September** DCAG Meeting in Dartington Primary School.
- **Saturday, 6 October** DCAG Meeting in Forder Lane House.
- **Saturday, 3 November** DCAG Meeting in Dartington Village Hall.

2013

- **Saturday, 5 January:** DCAG meeting at Dartington Village Hall.
- **Saturday, 2 March:** DCAG meeting at Dartington Village Hall.

APPENDIX 2 – DCFG Constitution

DARTINGTON COMMUNITY FORUM GROUP

GROUP FORMATION & CONSTITUTION

Prepared 19 March 2009

INTRODUCTION

The Dartington Community Forum Group (herein after referred to as the Group) has been established in order to facilitate to progression of certain community projects, starting with The Dartington Parish Plan.

PRINCIPLES AND ACTIVITY OF THE GROUP

The Group has been established by and for the local community and will enable people to give their views on a wide range of issues in the Parish of Dartington. It will provide an opportunity for those involved to feel that they are valuable members of the community. The Group wants this activity to add to the quality of life and identify areas of community life where the community itself can influence.

AIMS

To lead and facilitate community projects of benefit to the community of Dartington.

FUNDING

As this is a not for profit group, any funds received from grants or fundraising will be used to sustain the work of the Group and meet direct operating costs. Regular 'report of accounts' will be presented to the Group by the Treasurer during normal monthly meetings. Bank statements (or passbook) will be available for review at all times. The bank account held at the Lloyds TSB Bank will only be accessed with the signatures of two appointed members, one of which will be the Treasurer. The account will be a 'Treasurer's Account' which shows all incoming and outgoing activity. At the end of each financial year the Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer will sign to verify the year's accounts have been recorded accurately.

DISSOLUTION

In the event of winding up or dissolution the liquidator shall first, according to law use the assets of the Group to satisfy its debts and liabilities. Any balance of assets remaining must not be distributed among the members of the Group, but shall be transferred to some other non-profit institution/s with objectives similar to or compatible with the Group or, if for any reason residual assets cannot be transferred in accordance with this provision they shall be given for charitable purposes in the Group's area of benefit. A condition will be attached to ensure that access to archive material is maintained by the local community, past group members and any partners formed during the Group's existence, by offering the material to the local authority museum/library/archive service for access by people living in Dartington.

GROUP PROPERTY

Currently the Group does not have any property. Should funding be forthcoming and equipment purchased, an addendum to this document will be provided.

GROUP STRUCTURE

The group consists of a general membership and an elected Management Committee. Membership is open to anyone who has an interest in the activities of the group and agrees with the terms of the group constitution. A meeting open to all members elects the management committee annually. Members of the management committee make appointments to the following posts annually:

- Chairperson
- Secretary
- Treasurer

As at 20 March 2009, the management committee agreed the following appointments:

Chairperson: The Revd Joanna Abecassis

Secretary: (to be appointed)

Treasurer: Mr Steven Prime

Should one of the above resign, the rest of the Group will be informed at the following meeting and a new appointment made. All the above herewith sign to acknowledge their assurance that this Group will endeavour to maintain a professional and trustworthy approach to all its activities.

SIGNATORIES TO THE ABOVE

Chairperson _____ Secretary _____

Treasurer _____

GROUP MEMBERSHIP RECORDS

A register of active members will be maintained by the Secretary, and will be available for public inspection. Should there be any grievance it should be brought to the attention of the Chairperson.

SUMMARY

This Group does not intend creating complicated systems and will use this document as the basis for group policies and practice. All members both existing and new will receive a copy of this document. Amendments to this constitution can only be made through a resolution passed by a majority of members at a public meeting.

APPENDIX 3 – Acronyms

| | |
|--------|--|
| CCD | Community Council of Devon |
| CEO | Chief Executive Officer |
| CVS | Council for Voluntary Services |
| DADD | Dartington Against Detrimental Development |
| DCAG: | Dartington Community Action Group |
| DCC: | Devon County Council |
| DCFG | Dartington Community Forum Group |
| DHT: | Dartington Hall Trust |
| DPC | Dartington Parish Council |
| DRA | Dartington Recreation Association |
| IT | Information Technology |
| KEVICC | King Edward VI Community College |
| SHDC | South Hams District Council |

Oliver Tringham & Amanda Chadwick
April 2013

Charts and Statistics by Chris Edwards and Oliver Tringham.
Photographs by Amanda Chadwick and Oliver Tringham.



The River Dart near Dartington