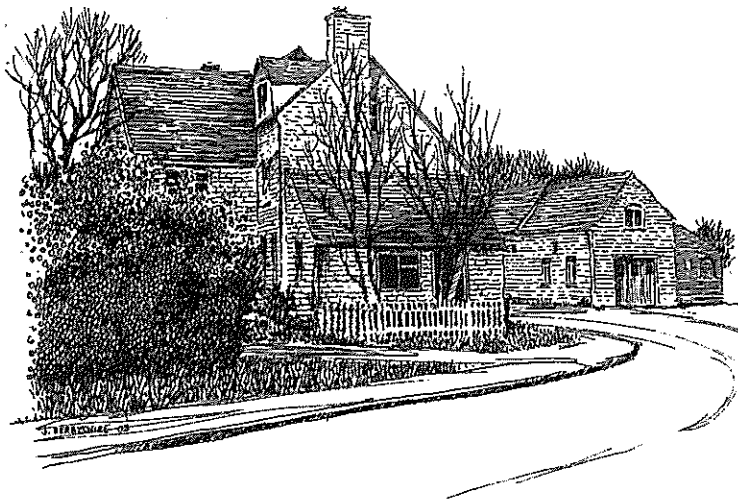




Wilmcote and Pathlow Parish Plan

Results of Village Opinion Survey



June 2004

Acknowledgements

- The Countryside Agency for their assistance and for the grant aid.
- Aston Cantlow Parish Council for supporting the project and for financial assistance.
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- The inhabitants of Wilmcote and Pathlow for their enthusiasm that resulted in a return rate for the Village Opinion Survey of almost 90%.
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- Jack Derbyshire for the drawings of the village and for the map of Wilmcote and Pathlow.

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Wilmcote and Pathlow. A Brief History.

At the time of the Domesday survey Pathlow was situated in the Hundred of Patelau. The largest landowner was the Bishop of Worcester and the lordship of the Pathlow Hundred was claimed by his successors. In 1549 it was granted to John Dudley, Earl of Warwick, but on his conviction for treason it passed to the crown and in 1561 Queen Elizabeth I granted the lordship to Ambrose Dudley, Earl of Warwick. On his death without heirs, it was granted to Sir Francis Smyth of Wootton Wawen. The Hundred of Pathlow was later absorbed into the Barlichway Hundred.

The name Wilmcote is thought to have originated from the name of an inhabitant in Saxon times. At the time of the Domesday survey it lay within the Hundred of Pathlow. In 1205 it formed part of the land that the Normans held in England and was seized by King John. In 1370 Wilmcote was under the control of the Earl of Pembroke.

Dugdale¹ states that "this place is divided into Great Wilmcote and Little Wilmcote, and in both places are about 40 houses, seven of which keep teams. Lord Abergavenny is Lord of Great Wilmcote and the Duke of Dorset is Lord of Little Wilmcote.

In 1228 there was a chapel in Wilmcote. In 1481 it was given to the Guild of the Holy Cross at Stratford but it closed at the time of the Reformation and no traces remain.

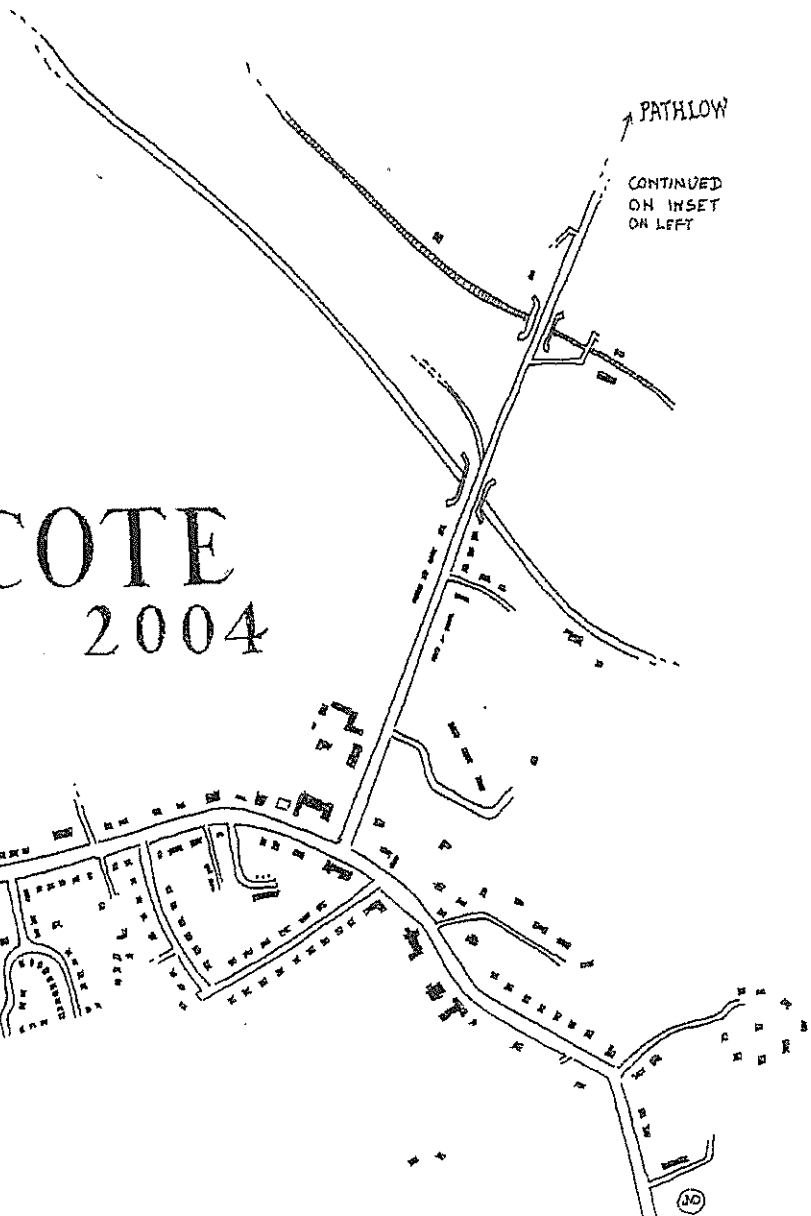
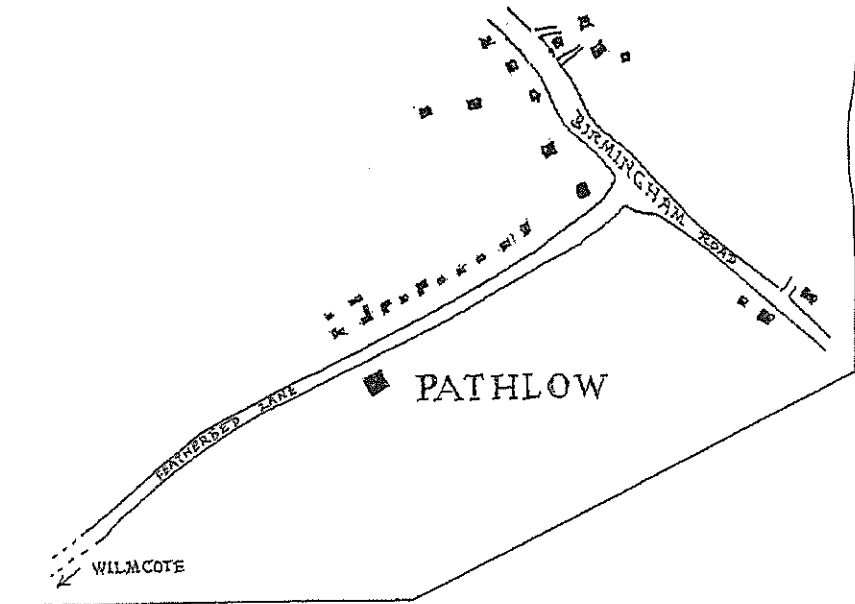
There are a number of houses in Wilmcote with 17th century or earlier timber framing, the most important being that known until recently as Mary Arden's House which was thought to be Mary Arden's home. It now appears that in the 16th century the house belonged to the Palmer family and it has been renamed Palmer's. The true location of the Arden homestead has been identified as the adjacent Glebe Farm which has been dated to 1514. The Shakespeare Trust owns both properties.

There are several rows of attached stone cottages in Wilmcote that were built when the lime and cement works were operating in the 1830's. The Lower Lias limestone had been quarried for building purposes for many years and in the 1540's it was used to repair the Clopton Bridge in Stratford. The industry was transformed when the Birmingham - Stratford canal was completed in 1816. Large lime and cement works were established and were worked until the early 1900's. Remains of these works can still be seen by the canal and near Gypsy Hall Farm.

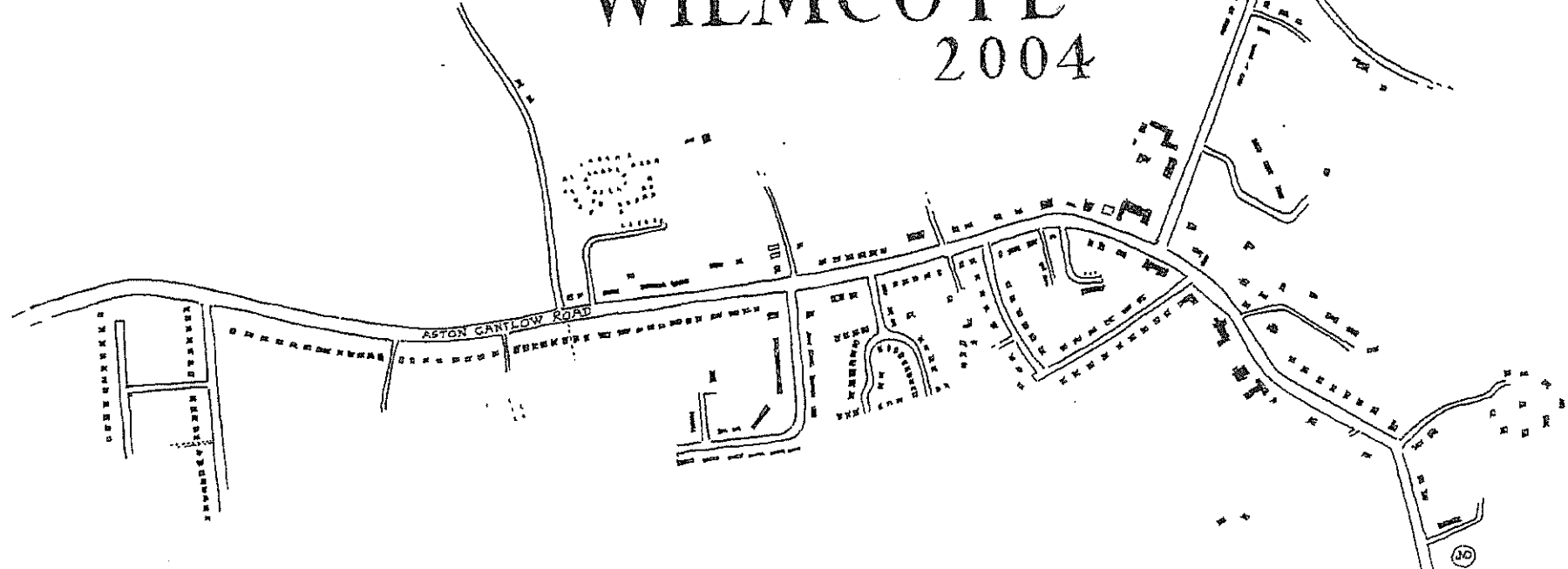
The railway opened in 1860 and was used for transporting lime and cement. Canal traffic declined and the decline was accelerated when the quarries ceased working. In 1950 steps were initiated to close the canal but closure was avoided.

The Church of St Andrew was built in 1841 to meet the semi industrial conditions and the rise of the population that had been created by the cement industry. This was the time of the Catholic revival in the Church of England. The Church with the vicarage and school adjoining was designed by Butterworth and is widely admired as a pure specimen of the Gothic Revival. St. Andrew's Wilmcote claims to be the first church in which full Catholic teaching and practice was restored in the Church of England and it was here that the Eucharistic Vestments were worn for the first time after the Reformation.

¹ Dugdale. Antiquities of Warwickshire, published in 1656.



WILMCOTE 2004



Introduction

In November 2000 the Government's Rural White Paper *Our Countryside - The Future* launched the concept of the Parish Plan, the purpose of which is to

"... set out a vision of what is important, how new development can best be fitted in, the design and quality standards it should meet, how to preserve valued local features and to map out the facilities which the community needs to safeguard the future."

In late 2001 Aston Cantlow Parish Council agreed that Wilmcote Ward should proceed with a Parish Plan. A Village Meeting was held in February 2002, a decision was taken to proceed with a Parish Plan for Wilmcote Ward and a Working Group was appointed.

The Working Group then produced a detailed schedule covering the steps that would be involved in producing the Plan. It was estimated that the total cost of the project would be £6550.

Funding at this level was finalised in July 2002. The Countryside Agency contributed £3900, the Parish Council contributed £350 and the remaining £2300 was unpaid 'support in kind' covering such items as interviewing, data analysis, layout and design of reports, production of visual aids and general secretarial work.

Village Opinion Survey

Basic Information

- The Village Opinion Survey was delivered to 454 properties and completed surveys were received from 403.
- Of these 403 properties, 373 were in Wilmcote, 19 were in Pathlow and there were 11 completed surveys in which place of residence was not indicated.
- The total number of residents living in these properties was 927.
- The number of household members, aged 11 and over, completing the Village Opinion Survey was 766.

Form of Questions

- Questions were basically of four types:
 - Those that requested yes or no answers. Not everyone completing the survey answered all the questions.
 - Those that provided only one box. Persons completing the survey were asked to tick the box for yes and leave the box blank for no.
 - Those in which respondents could tick several answers. In this case results are expressed as percentages of the number of respondents rather than the number of responses.
 - Those that required written answers.

Modus Operandi

The procedure followed in the production of the Parish Plan was designed to give everyone in the community an opportunity to say what they considered to be the key issues facing Wilmcote and Pathlow over the next 10 years. Three stages were involved:

Stage 1. A consultation exercise involving residents, village organisations and local businesses to identify what were considered to be the key issues facing Wilmcote and Pathlow.

The data was analysed and findings were presented at a Village Exhibition at which further key issue suggestions were received.

Stage 2. Based on the key issues identified in Stage 1 a Village Opinion Survey was developed consisting of 64 questions the majority of which were multi-response. The survey team delivered the questionnaires to all households and in the majority of cases contact was made with an occupant. The same team members collected the completed questionnaires.

The design of the Village Opinion Survey was developed with assistance from Warwick Network who also carried out the processing and analysis of the completed surveys.

The Register of Electors for 2003 was used as the basis for circulation. This contains 469 properties, to which properties not on the register were added and properties unoccupied during the months of August and September were subtracted. This gave 454 properties to which Village Opinion Surveys were delivered. Completed questionnaires were obtained from 403 properties, giving a response rate of almost 89%, which is very high for an exercise of this type.

Stage 3. The following reports have been prepared;

Report 1. A Master Report containing all the numerical data and text data from the Village Opinion Survey. This document is available for reference.

Report 2. A report covering the main findings from the Village Opinion Survey for circulation to all dwellings in Wilmcote and Pathlow.

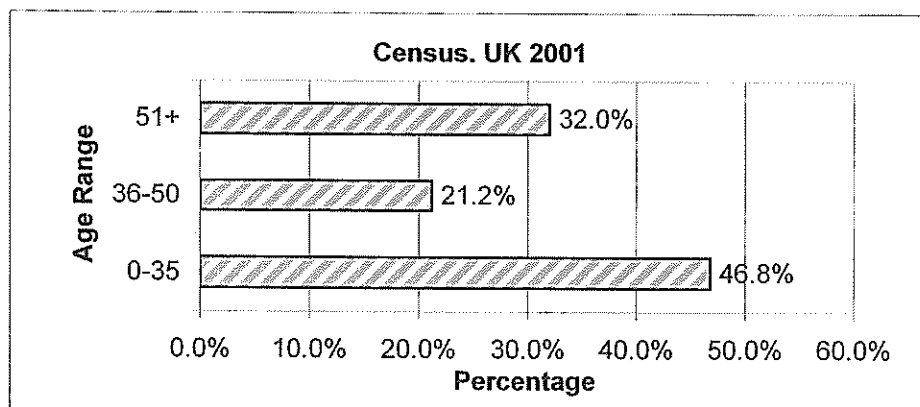
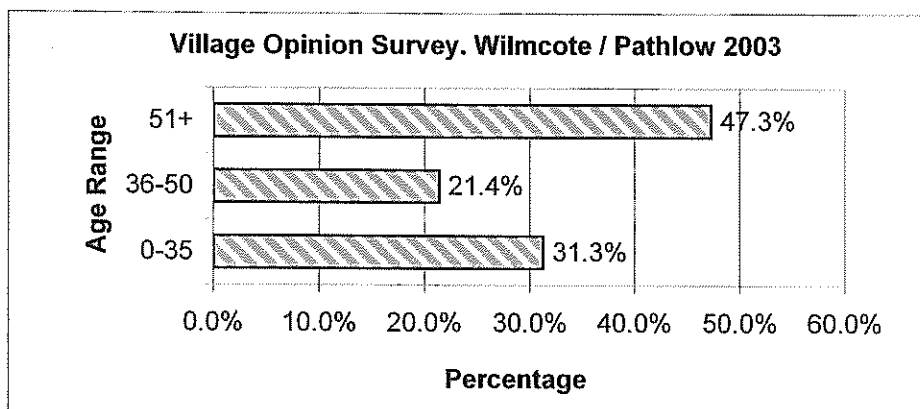
Report 3. An Action Plan based on the findings from the Village Opinion Survey for circulation to all dwellings in Wilmcote and Pathlow.

Age Distribution

In the Village Opinion Survey age data was collected in age bands and covered 927, about 90% of the residents of Wilmcote and Pathlow. It was decided to compare the age distribution in Wilmcote and Pathlow with that of the UK as a whole using data from the 2001 Census. The age bands used in the Village Opinion Survey are slightly different from those in the 2001 Census so recalculation of the 2001 Census data was required. The data in the table below shows that Wilmcote and Pathlow have a much older population than the UK average.

Age Range	Number	Wilmcote / Pathlow	UK Census 2001
0 - 4	38	4.1%	5.9%
5 - 10	62	6.7%	7.6%
11 - 16	64	6.9%	7.8%
17 - 20	32	3.5%	4.9%
21 - 35	94	10.1%	20.6%
36 - 50	198	21.4%	21.2%
51 - 65	230	24.8%	17.0%
66+	209	22.5%	15.0%

In the bar charts below the age data is expressed in three age groups, 0-35, 36-50 and 51+. This shows even more clearly the difference in age distribution between Wilmcote and Pathlow and the UK as a whole.



Traffic

The Village Opinion Survey confirms that traffic, both speeding and parking, is considered to be a major problem in Wilmcote and Pathlow. The steps that the villages think should be taken to improve the situation are given in the sections below.

The majority (76%) of responses felt that the frequency of the tour buses is now at an acceptable level. Over 90% were of the opinion that local horseriders behaved responsibly, and 85% felt that drivers of vehicles behaved responsibly towards horseriders.

Is traffic a problem in Wilmcote / Pathlow?		
yes	605	82.4%
no	129	17.6%

Speeding. The most popular choices to attack the problem are for a 30mph limit through Wilmcote and a 20mph limit near the School. Speeding is considered to be most prevalent in Aston Cantlow Road and Station Road

If you think speeding is a problem, do you want? (546 respondents)		
30mph limit throughout Wilmcote	374	68.5%
20mph limit near the School	290	53.1%
Traffic calming: 'gateways' at entries to Wilmcote	212	38.8%
Better enforcements of speed limits by police	204	37.4%
Traffic calming: speed humps or road narrowing	173	31.7%
40mph limit on A3400 at Pathlow	106	19.4%
A mini roundabout at the Green	57	10.4%

If you think speeding is a problem, where are the problems? (539 respondents)		
Aston Cantlow Road	357	66.2%
Station Road	292	54.2%
Featherbed Lane	193	35.8%
Church Road	182	33.8%
The Ridgeway	116	21.5%

Parking. There is considerable support for parking restrictions at problem spots. The situation was thought to be most serious in Station Road, particularly near the Green, and in Aston Cantlow Road.

If you think parking is a problem, do you want? (603 respondents)		
Parking restrictions at problem spots	457	75.8%
More off-road parking	301	49.9%
No parking on pavements	274	45.4%

If you think parking is a problem, where are the problems? (635 respondents)		
Station Road (the Green)	522	82.2%
Outside the School	402	63.3%
Station Road	340	53.5%
Chapel Hill (Masons Arms corner)	260	40.9%
Aston Cantlow Road	112	17.6%

Pavement Lighting

A small majority of the responses considered there was a problem with pavement lighting. It was felt that the main needs were for more pavement lights, the cutting back of foliage shielding lights, more powerful lights and better maintenance. The major problem areas identified were Aston Cantlow Road, Station Road, particularly near the Station, and Church Road, particularly near the School.

Do you think pavement lighting is a problem?		
Yes	374	53.1%
No	330	46.9%

If pavement lighting is a problem, what action is needed? (412 respondents)		
More pavement lights	313	76.0%
Cut back foliage shielding lights	109	26.5%
More powerful lights	93	22.6%
Better maintenance	73	17.7%
Fewer pavement lights	7	1.7%

If pavement lighting is a problem, where is action needed? (404 respondents)		
Aston Cantlow Road (in general)	257	63.6%
Station Road (in general)	179	44.3%
By the Station	168	41.6%
By the School	123	30.4%
Church Road (in general)	108	26.7%
Glebe Estate	53	13.1%
Swanfold	27	6.7%

In spite of the majority of responses indicating that pavement lighting is a problem there was little support for an increase in the Parish Precept to pay for additional lights.

Would you be willing to pay for extra pavement lights in the Parish Precept?		
Yes	181	28.2%
No	460	71.8%

Roads and Pavements

The state of the roads and pavements is considered to be unsatisfactory by the majority of respondents. The problems and places where work is considered necessary are listed in the tables below.

Is the state of the roads a problem?		
Yes	427	61.4%
No	269	38.6%

Is the state of the pavements a problem?		
Yes	396	57.3%
No	295	42.7%

Roads. Potholes, subsidence and drainage are considered to be the most widespread problems and remedial work is particularly required in Station Road, the Ridgeway and Featherbed Lane.

If you think the roads are a problem, what are the problems? (474 respondents)		
Potholes	280	59.1%
Subsidence	250	52.7%
Poor drainage - puddles after rain	243	51.3%
Worn surfaces	224	47.3%
Eroded verges	184	38.8%

If you think the roads are a problem, where is work needed? (474 respondents)		
Station Road	255	53.8%
The Ridgeway	209	44.1%
Featherbed Lane	164	34.6%
Aston Cantlow Road	161	34.0%
Aston Hill	147	31.0%

Pavements. The major defects are thought to be uneven and deteriorating surfaces particularly in Aston Cantlow Road and Station Road. There is support for extending the pavement in Church Road, providing a pavement in Featherbed Lane and reinstating the pavement along the A3400 at Pathlow.

If you think the pavements are a problem, what are the problems? (435 respondents)		
Uneven surfaces	291	66.9%
Deteriorating surfaces	215	49.4%
More pavements required	151	34.7%
Lack of weed control	143	32.9%
Subsidence	69	15.9%
Poor kerbs	65	14.9%

If you think the pavements are a problem, where is work needed? (434 respondents)		
Aston Cantlow Road	198	45.6%
Church Road (lengthen pavement)	186	42.9%
Station Road	170	39.2%
Featherbed Lane (provide pavement)	153	35.3%
Church Road (general condition)	132	30.4%
A3400 (reinstate)	63	14.5%

Planning and Development

A large majority of the replies consider that there should be no further development in Wilmcote and Pathlow. However, if there is to be further development the views are that it should be sympathetic and should consist of smaller homes and should not encroach into the Green Belt.

Further development in Wilmcote / Pathlow?		
Yes	132	19.0%
No	563	81.0%

Planning. With regard to the present planning process a small majority thought it does not operate to the benefit of the parish, and a large majority felt that recommendations from the Parish Council should have a greater bearing on the outcome of planning decisions.

Do you think the present planning process operates to the benefit of the parish?		
Yes	260	46.3%
No	302	53.7%

Do you think Parish Council recommendations should have a greater bearing on the outcome of planning decisions?		
Yes	533	83.8%
No	103	16.2%

Development. If there is to be further development in Wilmcote / Pathlow a large majority thought it should be sympathetic. There was little support for small houses being replaced by executive dwellings or back garden development and virtually no support for building in the Green Belt or commercial development. There was support for starter homes for young people and low cost houses for sale.

If there is to be further development do you want? (374 respondents)			
Sympathetic development	yes	298	79.7%
Development by infilling	yes	155	41.4%
Back garden development	yes	82	21.9%
Small houses replaced by executive dwellings	yes	26	7.0%
Building in the Green Belt	yes	17	4.5%
Commercial development	yes	10	2.7%

If there is to be further development would you want? (498 respondents)			
Starter homes for young people	yes	323	64.9%
Low cost houses for sale	yes	206	41.4%
Medium cost houses for sale	yes	149	29.9%
Sheltered housing	yes	138	27.7%
Houses to rent	yes	113	22.7%
High cost houses for sale	yes	91	18.3%
Shared ownership housing	yes	80	16%

Environment

On the subject of refuse collection there is a high level of satisfaction with the present system and recycling is thought to be an important issue by over 90% of respondents. There is considerable support for extending the recycling to green garden waste and plastic materials. Bonfires do not appear to be a major issue.

Is the refuse collection system satisfactory?		
Yes	664	91.5%
No	62	8.5%

Is recycling important to you?		
Yes	654	90.6%
No	68	9.4%

Do you recycle the following via the refuse collection system? (575 respondents)			
Newspaper	yes	540	93.9%
Glass	yes	501	87.1%
Metal containers	yes	339	59.0%
Textiles	yes	157	27.3%

Would you recycle the following via the refuse collection system? (613 respondents)			
Plastic materials	yes	507	82.7%
Green garden waste	yes	484	79.0%

Do you use bonfires to clear garden waste?		
Yes	258	37.2%
No	435	62.8%

Are you troubled by neighbours bonfires?		
Yes	176	24.8%
No	533	75.2%

Litter and Dog Fouling. Litter is not felt to be a serious issue but dog fouling is considered to be a cause for concern. There is support for enforcement of penalties, more doggie bins and education of dog owners.

Is litter a problem?		
Yes	226	32.3%
No	474	67.7%

Is dog fouling a problem?		
Yes	361	55.3%
No	316	46.7%

Suggested locations for Doggie Bins.

In all there were 171 suggestions re the siting of doggie bins. The most popular sites were; Aston Cantlow Road (37), canal towpath (33), the Green (15), Station Road (12) and Church Road (10). There are a number of considerations to be taken into account including, cost which is circa £100 per bin, agreement from British Waterways to site bins on the canal towpath and that bins must be in positions that give easy access for emptying.

Facilities for Children / Teenagers

A large majority of responses were of the view that Wilmcote / Pathlow are short of facilities for children and teenagers.

Does the village lack facilities for children / teenagers?		
Yes	477	74.1%
No	167	25.9%

Under 12s. Support for a play area for the under 12s is considerable and there was significant volunteer support for setting up and running a play area.

Does the village need a play area for under 12s?		
Yes	472	75.3%
No	155	24.7%

If you think the village requires a play area, would you? (respondents 209)		
Supervise your children in the play area?	yes	172
Help set up, maintain and organise the play area	yes	70

Teenagers. A large majority of responses were of the opinion that the village needs a Youth Club. There are an encouraging number of people willing to help with the management and running of a youth club.

Does the village require a Youth Club?		
Yes	487	79.7%
No	124	20.3%

If you think the village requires a Youth Club, would you? (respondents 110)		
Be willing to be a helper?	yes	53
Be willing to be on the management committee?	yes	70

General. Responses were in favour of a wide range of activities including supervised football for under 12s, a drama group for young people, a meeting point for teenagers, cricket nets for teenagers and a Scout Hut.

Do you think the village needs any of the following? (472 respondents)			
A meeting point for teenagers	yes	289	61.2%
Supervised football for under 12s	yes	234	49.6%
Drama group for young people	yes	231	48.9%
Cricket nets for teenagers	yes	212	44.9%
A Scout Hut	yes	199	42.2%
An all-weather surface for skateboards	yes	152	32.2%

Village Organisations

The Post Office / Stores, the School and the Village Hall are all thought to be vital to the village. Neighbourhood Watch is considered to fulfill an important role and there are a large number of people who are prepared to become members. There is a strong feeling that children should walk to school under supervision.

The Post Office / Stores (740 respondents)			
Is the Post Office / Stores a vital village facility?	yes	732	98.9%
Are you a frequent user of the stores?	yes	633	85.5%
Are you a frequent user of the Post Office?	yes	598	80.8%

The School (710 respondents)			
Is the School vital to the village?	yes	696	98.0%
Should children walk to school under supervision?	yes	636	89.6%
Does the School require more space?	yes	313	44.1%

The Village Hall (624 respondents)			
Is the VH a vital village facility?	yes	596	95.5%
Have you been to an event in the VH in the last year?	yes	380	60.9%
Does the VH need additional car parking?	yes	259	41.5%
Do you use the VH as a member of an organisation?	yes	147	23.6%

Neighbourhood Watch (579 respondents)			
Do you think that NW fulfills an important role?	yes	556	96.0%
Are you a member of NW?	yes	225	38.9%
If not, are you prepared to be a member?	yes	162	28.0%

Mary Arden's House (639 respondents)			
Should there be a reduced rate for village residents?	yes	610	99.5%
Do you visit Mary Arden's House?	yes	285	44.6%

The Parish Council. There was considerable support for the Parish Council having more influence with Stratford District Council. A large majority of respondents knew a member of the Parish Council and more than 50% of respondents thought that Aston Cantlow and Wilmcote Wards should be split to form two Parish Councils.

The Parish Council (604 respondents)			
Should the PC have more influence with SDC?	yes	490	81.1%
Do you know any member of the PC in Wilmcote Ward?	yes	411	68.0%
Should Wilmcote W and Aston Cantlow W be split to form two PCs?	yes	314	52.0%

Public Transport

The survey shows that both the local service buses and the rail services are considered to be very important. There are 229 regular users of the train service but the number of regular users of the service buses, 106, is quite low.

Bus Service (656 respondents)			
Do you think the local service buses are essential?	yes	641	97.7%
Do you think more regular bus services are required?	yes	270	41.2%
Do you think more bus stops are required?	yes	123	18.8%
Do you think bus shelters are required?	yes	109	16.6%
Are you a regular user of the local service buses?	yes	106	16.2%

Trains (674 respondents)			
Do you think a rail service is essential for Wilmcote?	yes	669	99.3%
Are you a regular user of the train service?	yes	229	34.0%
If you are a regular user is the service reliable?	yes	141	20.9%

The tour buses provide an important service with 210 users, the majority of these have a free (at the time of the survey) residents season ticket,

Tour Buses (231 respondents)			
Do you use Tour Buses to travel to and from Stratford?	yes	210	90.9%
Do you have a free residents season ticket?	yes	184	79.7%

Sport and Leisure

There was significant interest in both cricket and tennis with a willingness to travel to Aston Cantlow to play tennis. There is interest and support for forming a senior citizens group and a village art group. Out of a total of 430 replies, a large majority are in favour of more benches in the village,

Cricket (respondents 78)			
Do you play cricket?	yes	50	74.4%
Are you interested in joining a village cricket team?	yes	58	64.1%

Tennis (respondents 156)			
Do you play tennis?	yes	103	66.0%
Would you travel to Aston Cantlow to play tennis?	yes	90	57.7%
Would you like to learn to play tennis?	yes	75	48.1%
Would you be interested in forming a tennis club?	yes	68	43.6%

Leisure (respondents 152)			
Would you join a senior citizens group?	yes	85	55.9%
Would you join a village art group?	yes	79	52.0%
Would you join a village bridge club?	yes	38	25.0%

Should there be more benches around the village?		
yes	302	70.2%
no	128	29.8%

Suggested locations for Benches.

In total there were 196 suggestions for the siting of benches. The most popular sites were: Aston Cantlow Road (69), the canal towpath (24), Station Road (17), the Green (16), the Bovis Triangle (15) and Glebe Estate (10).

In Aston Cantlow Road, the entry to Glebe Estate was the most favoured position and in Station Road the preferred position was opposite Mary Ardens House.

The village is fortunate that SWHA has given and installed three benches. One is at the entry from Aston Cantlow Road into Glebe Estate and two are on the Glebe playing field.

Considerations that have to be taken into account include cost (circa £750 / bench) and for a bench to be sited on the canal towpath agreement is required from British Waterways.

The Final Question

In all there were 1180 replies to the question "Please list the 3 things that you would like to see happen in Wilmcote / Pathlow in the next 10 years." The majority of the replies deal with the short to medium term rather than with long term issues and can be broken down in decreasing order of mentions as follows:

- Action to be taken to control and improve the traffic situation in particular speeding and problem parking.
- Restriction of further development with Wilmcote being kept as a village and the Green Belt maintained. If there is to be further development there was overwhelming support for affordable housing for young people.
- Improved facilities for children and teenagers. In particular, a play area for the under 12s and a Youth Club for teenagers.
- The key village organisations, the Post Office / Stores, the School and the Village Hall, to be retained and supported.
- The condition of roads and pavements to be improved
- More litter bins and recycling extended to green waste and plastic materials.
- Street lighting to be improved.
- Sporting activities to be introduced.
- More activities and events.
- Public transport to be improved and extended.
- Development of a greater sense of community.
- Sort out the Bovis Triangle.

A number of suggestions appeared for the first time including:

- Broadband to be introduced.
- Local medical facilities