

**CHARFIELD VILLAGE PLAN**



**LOCAL SOLUTIONS FOR LOCAL ISSUES**



**The Charfield Village Plan**  
**2013**

***A Community Led Plan for the Parish of Charfield,  
South Gloucestershire***

## Foreword

On behalf of Charfield Parish Council, I welcome the publication of this Village Plan. I acknowledge and celebrate the work that has gone into producing it, and offer the thanks of the Council to the Village Plan Steering Group. Considerable effort has gone into this document over many months, and I urge you to read it whether you be residents who responded to the original questionnaire or local authorities wishing to know more about our local needs and views.

The purpose of this Village Plan is both to place Charfield in the now, as it is today, and to lay out how the residents of Charfield wish to see it develop into the future.

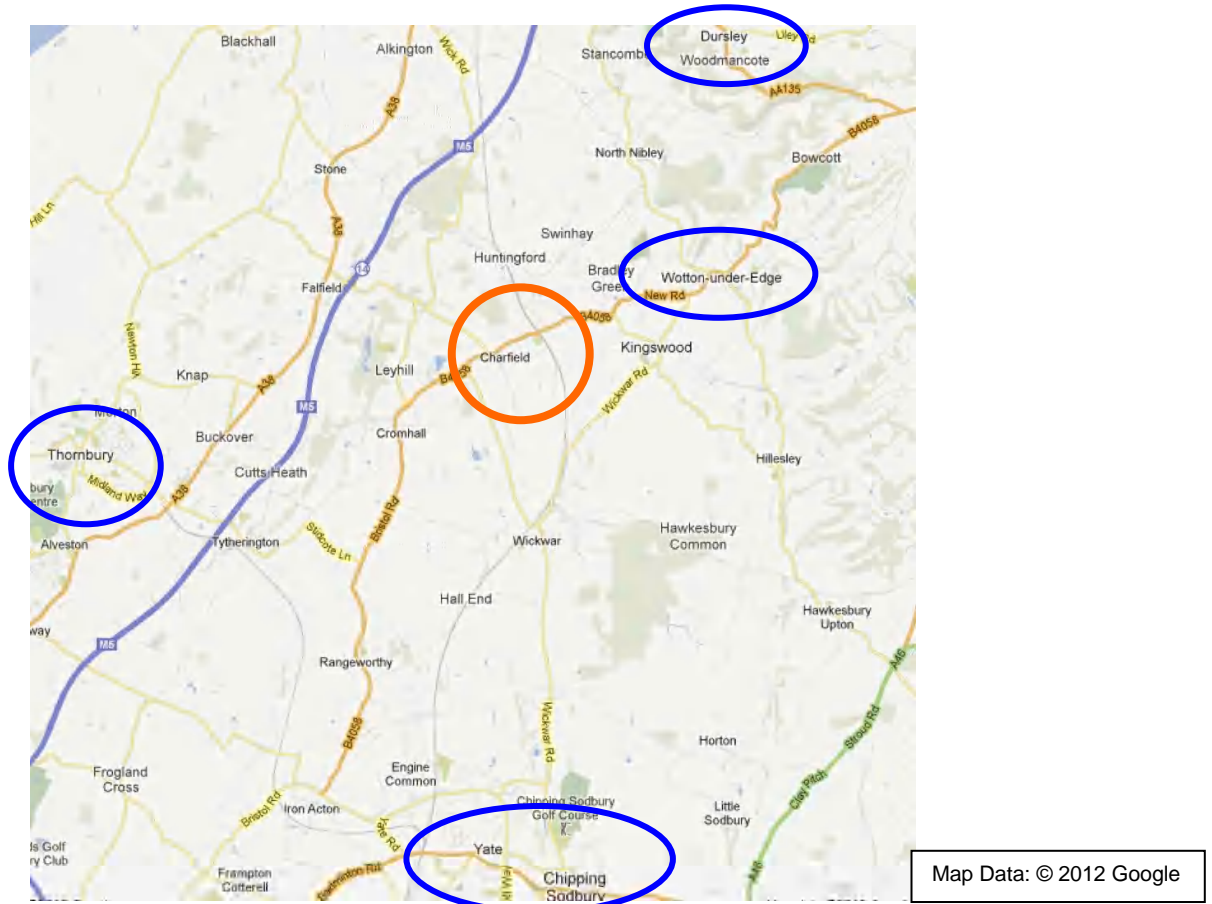
In the second decade of the twenty-first century we live in a massively changing social environment. Changes in central funding mean we are increasingly asked to do more with less, while the relaxation of planning law means our world can be affected drastically by those outside our community. It is therefore vital to know what the residents of Charfield want, for the future of their village and parish. This Plan will assist Charfield Parish Council as it works with other local authority departments, and it will be a platform from which positive action will be determined.

From its inception and consultation through to the analysis and production of the report, the enthusiasm and focus on accuracy and detail of this Plan has been impressive. I hope that, like me, you will be both interested in the details within this document and inspired to get more deeply involved in the challenges ahead. Our aspirations are more likely achieved if everyone gets behind the actions resulting from this project. Again, I thank all those who gave their time, energy and creativity in producing this Village Plan.

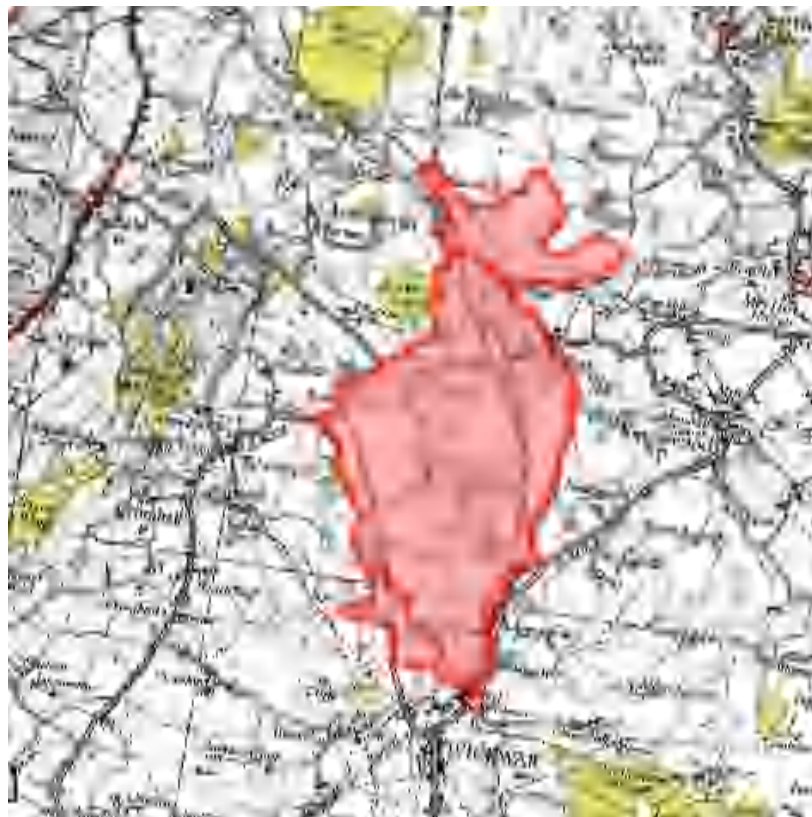
**Mark Rosher - Chairman  
Charfield Parish Council**

South Gloucestershire Council embraces the spirit of localism and is very proud to support and encourage locally led plans. Charfield's plan is an excellent example, which establishes locally focussed priorities, supported by carefully collected evidence. They have made great efforts to reach the whole community. We would like to congratulate them on their achievement and wish them success in achieving their priorities.

**Cllr Claire Young, Cllr Pat Rooney, Cllr James Hunt  
On behalf of the Communities Select Committee  
South Gloucestershire Council**



**Figure 1: Location map of Charfield and main nearby towns**



**Figure 2: Parish Boundary Map of Charfield**

# Contents

<b>Introduction.....</b>	<b>6</b>
What is the status of the Charfield Village Plan? .....	6
What is the purpose of the Charfield Village Plan?.....	6
How will the Plan be implemented? .....	7
<b>The Parish of Charfield.....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Preparing the Plan .....</b>	<b>9</b>
Establishing a Steering Group .....	9
Community Engagement & Publicity.....	9
Gathering comments, issues and ideas.....	9
Questionnaire Surveys.....	11
Other Consultations .....	12
Analysis of findings and formulating the Actions .....	12
<b>Topic 1: Community Facilities, Open Space and Recreation.....</b>	<b>13</b>
Part 1: Charfield Memorial Hall, Playing Field & Park.....	13
Household Questionnaire (Questions A1 (part), A2, A4, A5, A6 (part)) .....	13
Youth Survey.....	17
Business Survey .....	18
Key Actions .....	18
Part 2: Other Community Facilities & Areas of Open Space .....	20
Household Questionnaire (Questions A1 (part), A3 and A6, F8) .....	20
Open Space .....	22
Youth Surveys.....	23
Key Actions .....	24
<b>Topic 2: Community Activities &amp; Initiatives .....</b>	<b>26</b>
Household Questionnaire (Questions C1, C2, B3 and B4) .....	26
Youth Surveys.....	29
Key Actions .....	31
<b>Topic 3: Community Communications.....</b>	<b>32</b>
Household Questionnaire (Questions B1, B2).....	32
Key Actions .....	34
<b>Topic 4: Broadband .....</b>	<b>35</b>
Household Questionnaire (Questions B5, B6, B7, B8).....	35
Youth Surveys.....	36
Business Survey .....	36
Key Actions .....	36
<b>Topic 5: Safety and Security .....</b>	<b>37</b>
Household Questionnaire (Questions D1 – D7) .....	37
Youth Surveys.....	38
Key Actions .....	39
<b>Topic 6: Environment .....</b>	<b>40</b>
Household Questionnaire (Questions F1-7 and F9-12, A3 (comments)) .....	40

Youth Surveys.....	42
Business Survey .....	42
Key Actions .....	43
<b>Topic 7: Traffic and Transportation .....</b>	<b>44</b>
Household Questionnaire (Questions E1-15 and H4) .....	44
Youth Surveys.....	49
Business Survey .....	50
Key Actions .....	50
<b>Topic 8: Development.....</b>	<b>52</b>
Household Questionnaire (Questions G1, G2, G3) .....	53
Youth Surveys.....	54
Business Survey .....	54
Key Actions .....	54
<b>Summary of Key Actions.....</b>	<b>56</b>
<b>Next Steps .....</b>	<b>61</b>
Publication of the Plan and Summary Documents .....	61
Monitoring and Review .....	61
<b>Acknowledgements .....</b>	<b>62</b>
Steering Group.....	62
Contributors.....	62



## Introduction

Welcome to the Charfield Village Plan. This Plan presents a way forward for Charfield, with a series of practical actions to improve Charfield as a place to live, play and work.

The Plan is based on the findings of extensive community engagement, which included a Household Questionnaire, Business Questionnaire and Youth Survey.

Preparing the Plan has helped to bring the community of Charfield together and create a greater sense of community spirit. The high response rates to the various forms of community engagement demonstrates how much people care about the future of Charfield and gives this Plan a robust and credible evidence base.

The Plan has been drawn up by an independent Steering Group made up of local residents with the support of Charfield Parish Council, South Gloucestershire Council and the West of England Rural Network.

### ***What is the status of the Charfield Village Plan?***

The Charfield Village Plan is a 'community-led' plan, which is often known as a 'Parish Plan' and has been prepared following the Parish Plan guidance published by South Gloucestershire Council with the invaluable help of a Rural Advisor from the West of England Network of Rural Community Councils.

This Plan is NOT a 'Neighbourhood Plan', a type of plan recently introduced by the Government's Localism Act 2011. The Charfield Village Plan covers a whole range of social, economic and environmental issues. A Neighbourhood Plan specifically covers land use development and other spatial planning issues. It may well be appropriate for a Neighbourhood Plan to be prepared following on from the Charfield Village Plan.

### ***What is the purpose of the Charfield Village Plan?***

The purpose of the Plan is to make Charfield an even better place to live, play and work. The Plan provides a mechanism for finding out the community's needs and desires for the future and presenting them in a way that is easily accessible. It gives local people a greater influence over the future of Charfield.

The key benefit of having a Charfield Village Plan is that it provides clear and robust evidence of the needs and priorities of the community to local authorities, external agencies and other organisations, whose decisions have an impact on Charfield.

The evidence gathered through the process of preparing the Charfield Village Plan can therefore be used to:

- ensure that local government bodies (e.g. South Gloucestershire Council, Charfield Parish Council) are much better informed when they come to take decisions that affect Charfield;
- inform how South Gloucestershire Council, other statutory agencies and community groups plan their services and activities locally;
- encourage community involvement and partnership working by highlighting projects that need help from local people as well as external agencies to get things done; and
- support applications for external funding for projects, as some grants are only available if there is supporting evidence from a Community-led Plan.

## How will the Plan be implemented?

An Action Plan is incorporated into the Charfield Village Plan. A series of Actions are identified for issues that have been raised through the community engagement. These are presented in a table at the end of each topic. A Summary of Key Actions is then set out towards the end of this report (on page 56).

Alongside each specific action, the group/organisation responsible for implementation is identified, along with potential partners. This may be South Gloucestershire Council, Charfield Parish Council, the Police, or an existing community group or maybe a new community group will need to be established to take a particular action forward.

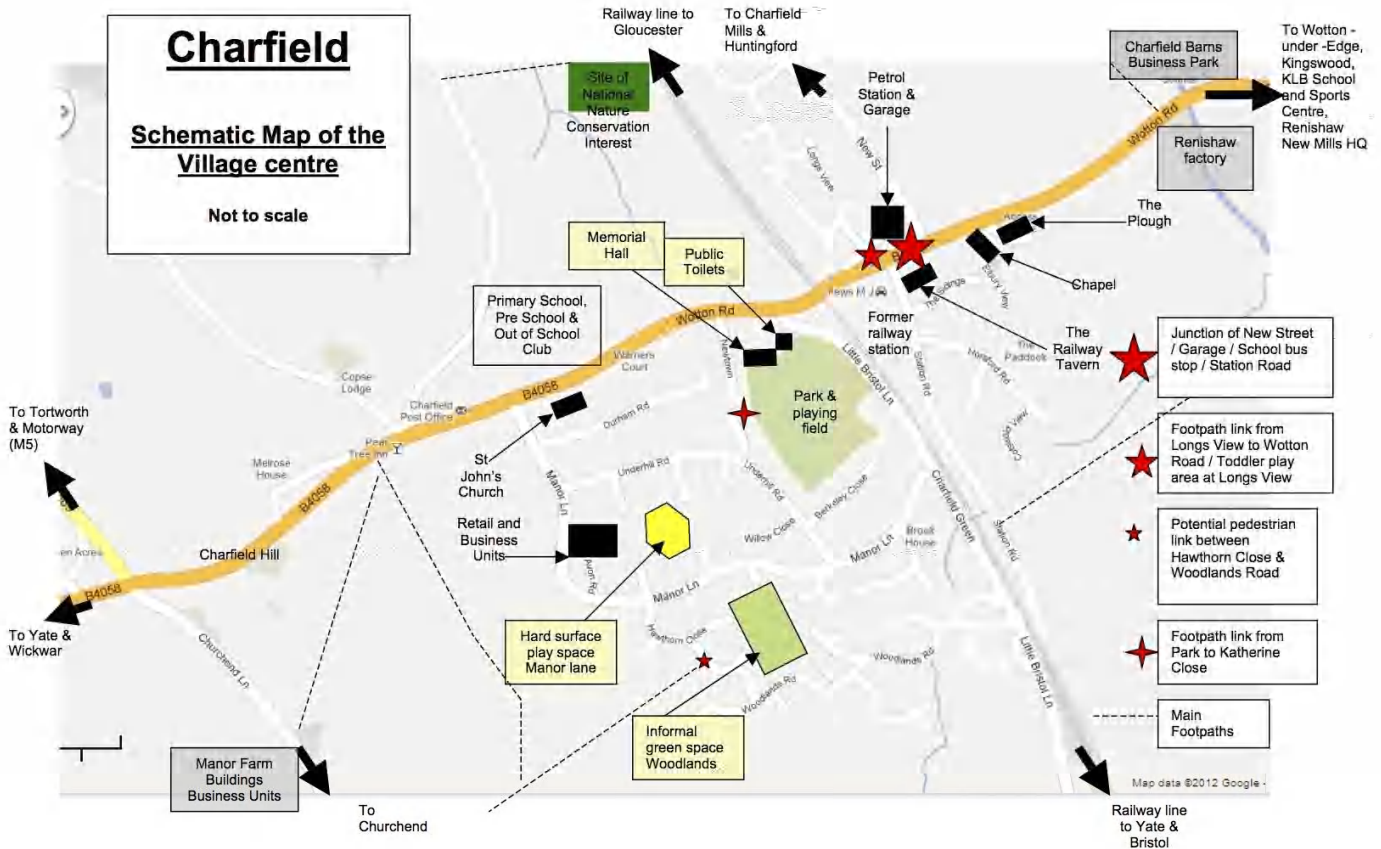


Figure 3: Map of Charfield showing the location of some important issues

## The Parish of Charfield

Charfield has a population of 2,538 people (2011 Census). There has been a 2% decline in the population in the parish since the previous Census in 2001. The 2011 Census shows that there are 974 households in Charfield and the average household size is 2.6 persons per household, which is slightly higher than the South Gloucestershire average of 2.4. The age structure of the population is also indicated in the Census information. In Charfield, 20% of the population are aged 0-14, 65% are aged 15-64, and 15% are aged 65 or over. (*Census 2011: Population and household estimates analysis at Parish level, ONS, November 2012*)

The information available from the Census 2011 is being released in stages. At present, more detailed data regarding employment and travel to work, for example, at the appropriate geographical level for Charfield is not available. Therefore the Census 2001 data has been used instead.

The 2001 Census showed that about 77% of the 16-74 year old age group are economically active (this means either in full or part time employment, unemployed or full time student). The proportions in these categories are about the same as for the wider area of South Gloucestershire. The proportion of economically inactive is 23%. However, compared to the South Gloucestershire average, Charfield has more students (part time) and more people looking after home / family, but less permanently sick / disabled.

In terms of type of employment, the Census (2001) shows that Charfield has less higher managerial / professional workers (8%) than the South Gloucestershire average (17%) but considerably more people work for small employers or are 'own account' workers (21%) compared to 8% (South Gloucestershire average). With regard to travel to work, Charfield has a higher proportion than South Gloucestershire of people who travel to work by car (78%) and also a slightly greater proportion who work from home (10%). A very small proportion of people travel by bus (1.5%) or bicycle (0.9%) or on foot (3.9 %) to work.

These demographic statistics reflect the fact that Charfield lies a few minutes drive time from Junction 14 of the M5. The village itself is positioned on the B4058 – a road that divides the village. The main Birmingham to Penzance railway line also dissects the village but the station was closed in the 1960s. It has some bus services to nearby towns, including Wotton, Yate and Thornbury. There are no cycle routes or footpaths to link with nearby towns or facilities.

The village has developed in a linear pattern along the B4058 with housing estates built on either side of the road. There are several clusters of houses in the Parish that are more isolated from the main built up area of the village. There is a Primary School, Pre School, Out of School Club, two Churches, Burial Ground, three Pubs, a Post Office, Shop, Petrol Station, Mobile Library and Community Hall. The village also has a playing field, tennis court, equipped children's play area and some informal green space amongst the housing developments.

The largest employer in Charfield is MJ Fews, but there are a couple of business / industrial estates on the outskirts of the village suitable for smaller employers, and another site just over the boundary. The major employer in the wider area, Renishaw, has an establishment adjacent to the parish boundary which employs 100 people, and its headquarters are located 2 km away at New Mills.

The nearest town is Wotton-under-Edge, which is located in the County of Gloucestershire within Stroud District. This town provides useful shopping facilities, a cinema and swimming pool (summer only). The sports centre at Katherine Lady Berkeley (KLB) School provides important facilities for people in Charfield too. Links across the County boundary are very important for Charfield.



## Preparing the Plan

### ***Establishing a Steering Group***

Charfield Parish Council initiated the process of bringing together a wide range of residents to form a Steering Group to prepare a Village Plan for Charfield. The Parish Council had already been successful in applying for a grant from South Gloucestershire Council to 'kick off' the whole process.

In June 2011, a meeting was advertised around Charfield to encourage people to come along and find out more about parish planning. The meeting was facilitated by the Parish Council and supported by South Gloucestershire Council and the West of England Rural Network. The meeting was well attended, with 17 local residents interested in forming a Steering Group.

A further meeting was organised to establish a Steering Group, elect a Chair, Treasurer, Secretary and Publicity Officer. The first tasks were to prepare a constitution, open a bank account and devise a work programme. Regular meetings were planned to keep the process on track and preparations were made to use various village events to publicise the Village Plan and to gather views from the community on their issues and concerns for now and in the future.

The Steering Group received grant funding from South Gloucestershire Council and Charfield Parish Council. Assistance has also been received from local businesses with, for example, printing and administrative costs. A full list of contributors, both financial and non-financial, is given in the Acknowledgements section of this report.

### ***Community Engagement & Publicity***

#### **Gathering comments, issues and ideas**

July / August 2011

A distinctive logo was designed and produced for the Charfield Village Plan to go on all publicity material and to give the Plan an immediately recognisable identity. A large banner was produced of the logo for use at events. A specific email account was set up for people to send their comments and ideas to [charfieldvillageplan@gmail.com](mailto:charfieldvillageplan@gmail.com). An introductory article on the Charfield Village Plan was written for the CHADRA newsletter, which is distributed to 800 households who pay £1 per year. The article was also printed as a flyer and distributed to those households who do not have the newsletter, about 200 households. The article was published on the Charfield Community Website: [www.charfield.org](http://www.charfield.org) and linked to the Charfield Parish Council website: [www.charfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.charfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk)

In order to start gathering ideas and suggestions from people, drop boxes were placed in a number of convenient locations (Steve's shop, Post Office, Church, Petrol Station, Memorial Hall, Tortworth Farm Shop, Charfield Primary School). Comment slips were provided which asked people: *What do you like about Charfield? What would you improve? And if you could have one wish for the Village what would it be?*

Notices / posters were put up on the public noticeboards in the Village. To widen the publicity surrounding the Charfield Village Plan, an on-screen advert was placed at the local cinema, the Electric Picture House, Wotton-under-Edge.

The online forum on the community website was checked for issues raised, and the minutes of the Tortworth, Cromhall and Charfield Safer Stronger Community Group meetings were also looked at over the previous year to identify any issues raised via that forum.

September / October 2011

On Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> September the Memorial Hall had a 'Food, Facts and Fun Day', at which the Steering Group were able to use the Hall for a display stand. The Fun Day, including the presence of the Village Plan Steering Group, was advertised on a flyer distributed to all households. For the event, the Steering Group prepared a large interactive display stand and had 14 Steering Group members mingling with people throughout the day. People were encouraged to express their feelings about Charfield - what they liked, disliked or were concerned about in the future. They filled in post-it notes and stuck them on the 'Happy Hedge' or 'Weeping Wall' or in the 'Wishing Well'. The response was excellent, with about 140 comments made. An analysis was made of the comments, which was used to help formulate the questions for the Household Questionnaire.

To ensure that elderly people in Charfield were contacted directly, a Steering Group member visited the Luncheon Club in September to discuss their issues and concerns.

An advert was placed in the CHADRA newsletter in October 2011 to encourage people to put their comments and ideas in the drop boxes or via the websites or email. The advert also promoted the forthcoming Steering Group display stand at the Fireworks Evening at Charfield Primary School. A similar item was placed in the Charfield Primary School weekly newsletter.



**Figure 4: Village Fun Day, September 2011**

November / December 2011

An interactive display stand was set up by the Steering Group at Charfield Primary School on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> November for the Fireworks Evening. Again, people were encouraged to give their comments and ideas on what they liked, disliked and wished for the future of Charfield. A static informative display was left in the Memorial Hall during the 'bacon butties' gathering prior to the Remembrance Day Parade on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November.

The Steering Group had a stall at the Charfield Primary School Christmas Fayre on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December. On the stall, there was a fun shove-ha'penny game with a Charfield theme to attract younger children, and also a large cardboard Christmas tree with many of the ideas already suggested to the Steering Group on it. People were invited to stick three dots against those ideas that they supported. About 100 people, adults

and children, had a go and the result gave an indicative weighting of the priorities that people had for the ideas suggested.

Students at The Castle School, Thornbury, who live in Charfield were involved in providing feedback at the planning stage of the Household Questionnaire. They were brought into small discussion groups where they considered what they liked about Charfield and what they would improve or wish for. Responses were also completed and submitted via the “drop boxes” around the village and at Student Services at The Castle School. The results were collated and provided a useful youth input for the formulation of the Household Questionnaire.

## **Questionnaire Surveys**

All the comments and suggestions received during the various public consultation exercises carried out between July and December 2011 were collated and grouped into common topic areas. These were analysed and used as a basis for formulating the Household Questionnaire.

### Household Questionnaire

The Household Questionnaire was written by the Steering Group using the comments, ideas and suggestions gathered during the earlier community engagement activities and with the helpful advice of the Rural Advisor from the West of England Rural Network and also Gloucestershire Rural Community Council.

The questionnaire was distributed to all 1000 households in the Parish of Charfield during February and March 2012. Nearly 50 volunteers helped with the distribution and collection process and Steve’s Shop and the Post Office acted as collection points for completed questionnaires too. Every household received a questionnaire, with the opportunity to respond as a household or individually as an additional questionnaire could be provided on request.

In total, 582 questionnaires were completed, which equates to almost 60% of all households. This high response rate gives the Charfield Village Plan a robust and credible evidence base on which to build an Action Plan to address the needs and desires of the community.

The initial automated statistical analysis of the questionnaires was done by Gloucestershire Rural Community Council, using their computer software to scan and analyse the tick box questions. All the written comments were analysed manually by the Steering Group.

### Youth Questionnaire

Initial contact was made in September 2011 with Geography A-Level students at the local secondary school, Katherine Lady Berkeley (KLB) through the School’s Liaison Officer. A small group of students expressed an interest in helping the Steering Group to gather input from school pupils who lived in Charfield. After a meeting with the Steering Group, the students decided to prepare their own online ‘youth survey’ and set up an online discussion forum, using Facebook. They carried out their own publicity campaign at school and were able to get 86 pupils (out of a potential 150) to complete the online survey. The students presented their results to the Steering Group in March 2012, and the findings have been used to formulate the Action Plan for the relevant sections of the Charfield Village Plan.

### Business Questionnaire

Local businesses were contacted for input into the Charfield Village Plan process at an early stage but minimal response was received. The Steering Group drafted a brief business questionnaire and with the help of Business Studies students at KLB School an expanded list of businesses was produced.

The Steering Group sent out the questionnaire (either delivered by hand or post) to 62 local businesses in and around Charfield. Completed survey forms were received from 22 businesses, giving a response rate of 35%.

## Other Consultations

Members of the Steering Group also attended the Safer Stronger Community Group (SSCG) meetings which are held for Charfield, Tortworth and Cromhall every three months. Initially, the SSCG were given an update on the Village Plan, and the meetings also proved useful to find out residents concerns about safety, security and traffic issues.

Many stakeholders, including local community groups, businesses, landowners, the local housing association, Police, South Gloucestershire Council, and nearby Parish and Town Councils, were contacted by letter to ask for input into the Village Plan process.



**Figure 5: Analysis of the returned household questionnaires**

### Analysis of findings and formulating the Actions

The results of the Questionnaires have been analysed by the Steering Group and an Action Plan has been developed. The Actions are presented at the end of each Topic section, and a Summary of Key Actions is presented towards the end of this report (on page 56). The Actions are identified as the practical 'next steps' for addressing a particular local issue that has arisen out of the data analysis.

Each section is structured in a way that describes how the data was collected, a summary of the key findings from the data, and a conclusion / recommendation as to what actions could be carried out to work towards a potential solution to the issue. Some issues fall into more than one topic so the Plan should be read as a whole.

The topics are:

1. **Community Facilities, Open Space and Recreation**
  - Part 1: Memorial Hall, Playing Field and Park
  - Part 2: Other Community Facilities and Areas of Open Space
2. **Community Activities & Initiatives**
3. **Community Communications**
4. **Broadband**
5. **Safety and Security**
6. **Environment**
7. **Traffic and Transportation**
8. **Development**



## Topic 1: Community Facilities, Open Space and Recreation

### **Part 1: Charfield Memorial Hall, Playing Field & Park**

Charfield Memorial Hall, Playing Field and Park form a highly important part of the community infrastructure in Charfield. The Memorial Hall and Playing Field are a registered charity and are run by a committee of management trustees / members that are all volunteers.

The committee is responsible for overseeing the day to day running of the hall and fields. Their objective is to provide indoor meeting and function facilities plus outdoor playing fields and recreational facilities for residents of the parish of Charfield and surrounding areas. The Football, Cricket and Tennis Clubs pay an annual subscription to the committee for the use of pitches / court and are responsible for the maintenance of these areas.

The Parish Council are Custodian Trustees for Charfield Memorial Hall and Playing Fields. The Parish Council is responsible for the installation and maintenance of play equipment and maintenance of land that equipment is sited on within the playing fields. Other than that, the Parish Council do not have a say in the running of the hall and fields.



**Figure 6: Charfield Memorial Hall**

### **Household Questionnaire (Questions A1 (part), A2, A4, A5, A6 (part))**

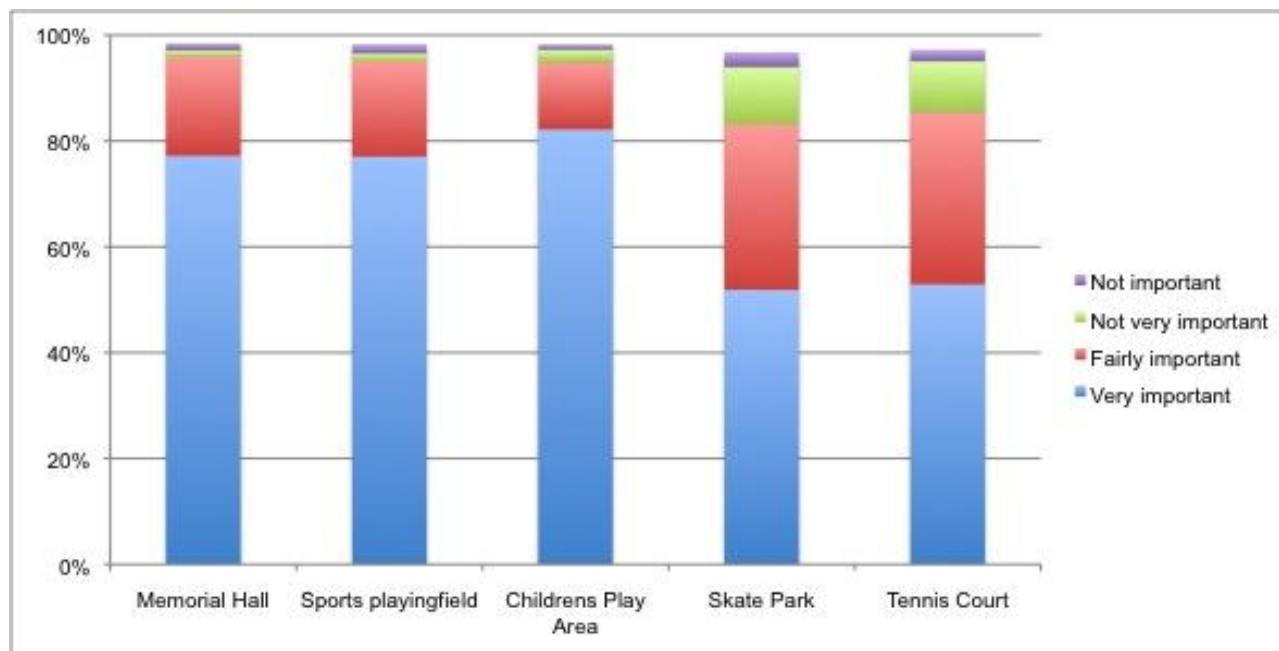
Residents were asked to rate the importance of each facility; see Table 1 and Graph 1.

Importance of Facilities	Very important	Fairly important	Not very important	Not important
Memorial Hall	451	109	7	8
Playing Field for football/cricket	450	105	9	10



Children's Play Area	480	74	14	6
Skate Park	303	183	63	16
Tennis Court	309	190	56	13

**Table 1: Importance of the Memorial Hall, Playing Field and Facilities**



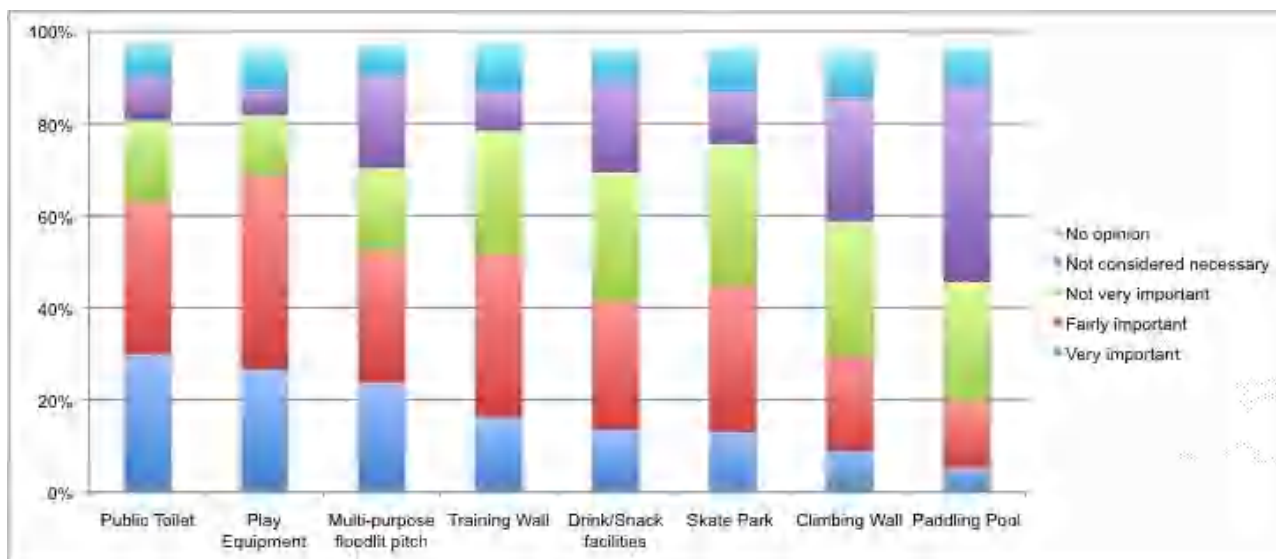
**Graph 1: How important are these facilities?**

It can be seen that the Memorial Hall, the Playing Field for football & cricket and the Children's Play Area are of very high importance to the community, since 450 households represents 77% of those returning the survey, and almost 50% of the total village population.

Question A2 asked for ideas/suggestions for improving the external facilities around the Playing Field.

Ideas/Suggestions	Very important	Fairly important	Not very important	Not considered necessary	No opinion
Improved Public Toilet Facilities	175	193	103	56	43
Improved Play Equipment	156	245	77	33	48
Floodlit multi-purpose pitch	139	167	105	118	38
Training Wall (tennis, football practice)	95	207	156	50	62
Tea / Coffee / Snack facilities	79	162	164	118	38
Skate Park improvements	76	186	179	67	54
Climbing Wall	52	121	170	158	57
Paddling Pool	32	81	153	252	44

**Table 2: Ideas/suggestions for improving playing field area**



**Graph 2: How important are the following suggested improvements to the playing field?**

Table 2 and Graph 2 show that improvements to the public toilet facilities features top of the 'Very important' category for the highest number of households; this is covered in more detail in Part 2 of the Community Facilities Topic (on page 20). However, improved play equipment has the highest combined 'Very important' and 'Fairly important' scores. Having a floodlit, multi-purpose sports ground also features high on the list as does a training wall.

Over 80 additional suggestions were made concerning the improvement of the playing field. The most common suggestions can be summarised as:

- Improve footpath through field to Katherine Close (e.g. tarmac, lighting)
- Remove Blue Hut
- Covered seating for sport spectators
- Better swings, climbing frame, roundabout
- Zip-wire
- Picnic tables / area and more benches
- CCTV
- Basketball, netball hoops, football goals, cricket nets
- Kids cycle pathway around field
- Running track around field
- Tea/coffee/snacks/ice creams area
- Replace sand pit with something else
- Hire out sports equipment
- Cash machine

***"The playing field is a great community space – it just needs to be appreciated and cared for by all who use it."***  
Charfield Resident

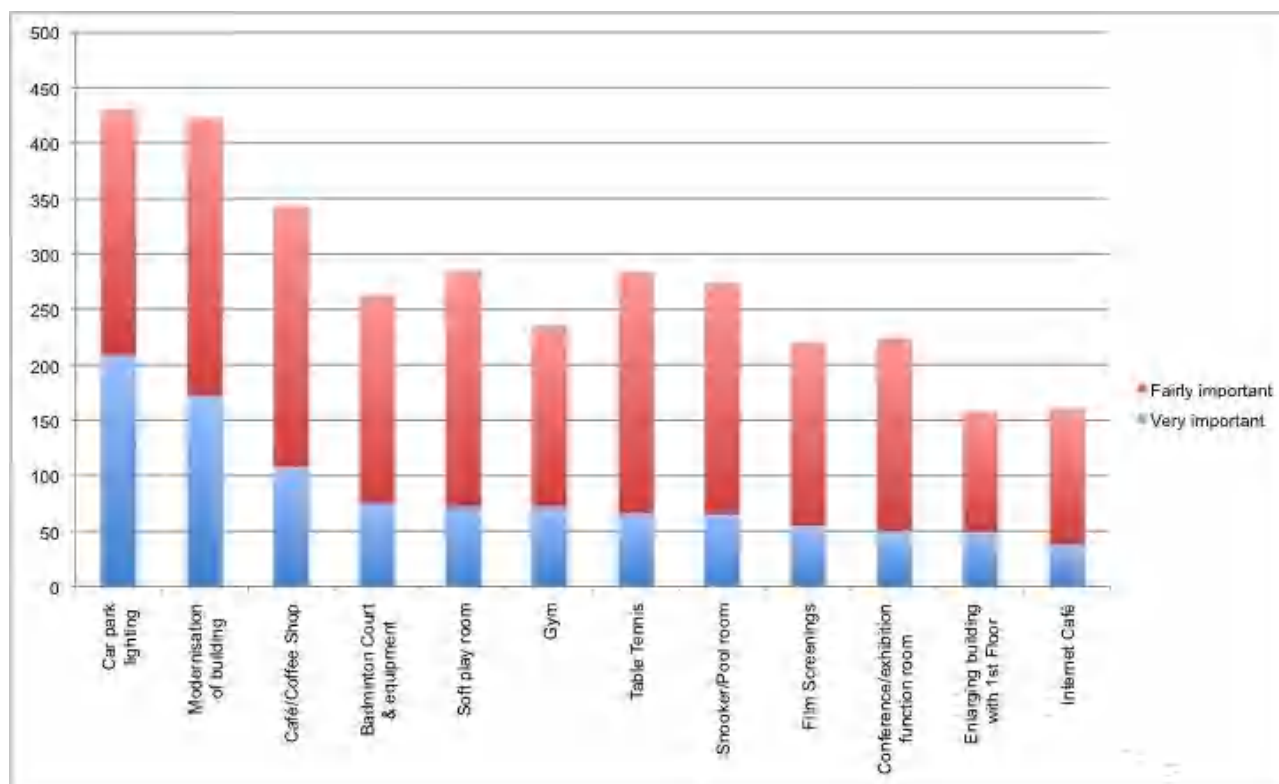
Interestingly, when the Village Plan Steering Group asked the Students who carried out the Youth Survey what would be the one overriding thing that should be done in Charfield in response to their survey, the answer was unanimous in that the Blue Hut in the Park was the issue of most concern to the majority of respondents.

Question A4 asked about suggested improvements to the Hall itself; see the results shown in Table 3.

Ideas/Suggestions: Hall	Very important	Fairly important	Not very important	Not considered necessary	No opinion
Lighting to Car Park	209	221	63	43	29
Modernisation of building	172	251	84	25	27
Café / Coffee Shop	108	235	139	48	31
Badminton court & equipment	75	188	184	71	43
Soft Play room	72	213	146	64	56
Gym	72	164	163	121	34
Table Tennis	66	218	169	54	48
Snooker / Pool room	65	209	153	81	50
Film Screenings	55	165	165	126	41
Conference/exhibition/function room	50	174	166	110	53
Enlarging building with 1st floor	49	109	199	136	63
Internet café	38	123	216	141	35
Small business centre / Business meeting rooms	32	103	198	151	62
Dance floor with sprung floor & mirrors	27	95	202	166	66
Computer games room	25	102	206	166	55

**Table 3: Suggestions to improve the Memorial Hall**

Graph 3 below shows the “Very Important” and “Fairly Important” response numbers combined.



**Graph 3: Suggested improvements to the Memorial Hall**

Lighting in the car park takes priority over other suggested improvements, with general modernisation of the building being next in line, followed by a cafe.

In addition, over 80 comments were also made giving other suggestions for improvements to the Memorial Hall. The most common suggestions can be summarised as:

- Open daily in the early evenings for young people
- Install a skittle alley
- Make gate entrances larger
- Snacks / catering van
- Café complex - including pool / snooker, computer games, films
- Enlarge & improve comfort of bar area
- Make it a Social Club
- Improve toilets & heating
- Rebuild it completely
- Build in security features & have a security presence

***“The Memorial Hall needs to be totally modernised. It needs to become more accessible to everyone in the village.”***  
Charfield Resident

Question A5 related to funding for the Memorial Hall. At present, the Memorial Hall receives no regular funding apart from fundraising and hire charges. However, the Parish Council has regularly given grants to specific applications from the Memorial Hall Trustees.

The Parish Council raise a small amount of money from Council Tax (which is known as a precept). The Question asked whether, in principle, residents would be in favour of a small increase in Council Tax specifically to support improvements to Charfield Memorial Hall? For example, for a Band D property would residents be willing to pay 50p a month or a £1 a month? This question was specifically asked in response to widespread concerns in the community over the poor state of the Hall. The idea to raise funds through Council Tax specifically for improvements was an additional way of assisting with the more rapid modernisation of the Hall that needs to occur.

The results to the question were as follows:

Amount	Yes
50p a month	192
£1 a month	243
Total respondents in favour of a small increase	435

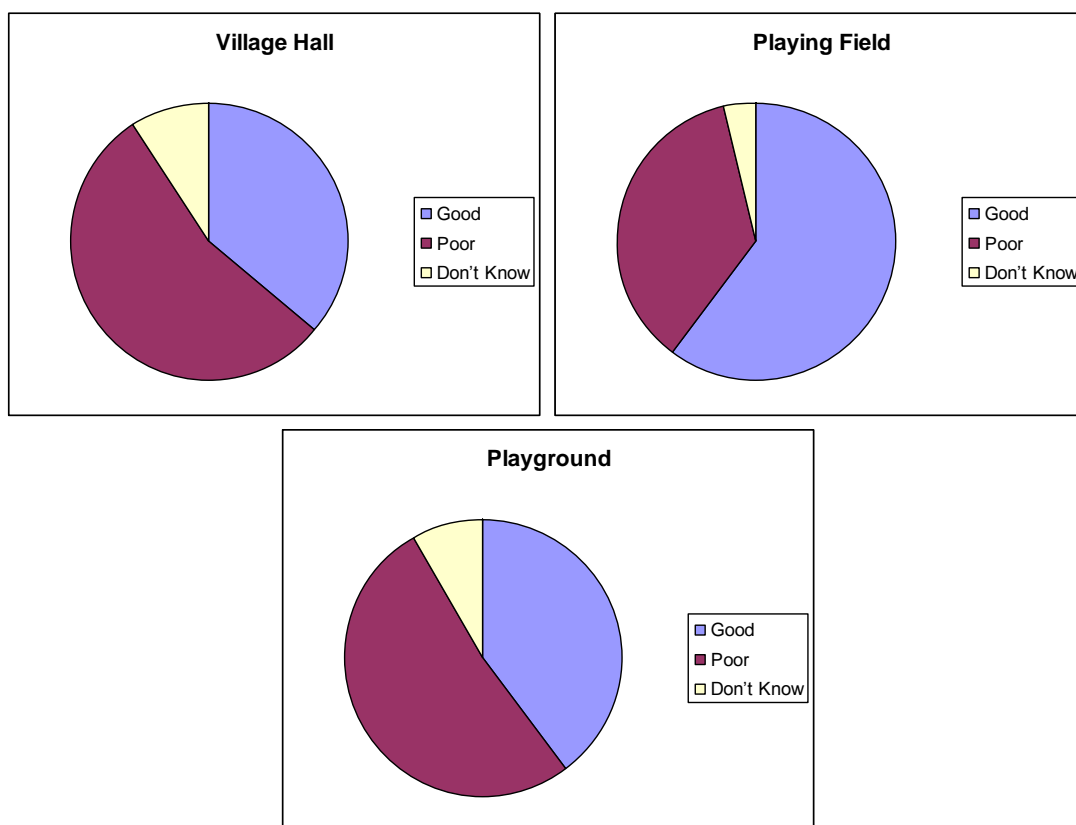
**Table 4: Would residents be in favour of a small increase in Council Tax specifically to support improvements to the Memorial Hall?**

This shows that there is strong support for the Parish Council to charge an amount within the precept which will be set in December 2012 for collection in 2013/2014, with 435 out of 582 respondents (75%) supporting at least 50 pence per month. For example, 50p a month represents £5 per year and if this was per household it would equate to approximately £5000 (calculated on a 10 month Council Tax).

Comments relating to this question raised the issue that the money should be ‘ring-fenced’ and specifically be for improvements to the Hall. People are keen to see the visual aspect of the Hall improved and the Hall should become financially viable.

### Youth Survey

In the Youth Survey, children and young people at KLB School were asked what they thought of the Memorial Hall, Park and Playing Field in Charfield. The response showed that the majority of respondents considered the Memorial Hall and park as ‘Poor’, whereas the playing field was considered ‘Good’ by most students.



**Graph 4: KLB students' views on Memorial Hall, Park & Playing Field**

This indicates that from the point of view of children and young people, improvements need to be made to the Memorial Hall and to the park (playground).

The pupils at The Castle School, Thornbury, highlighted the Park as the thing they liked most about Charfield. The majority also wanted more skate ramps at the Park.

### Business Survey

Local businesses were asked whether they would use facilities at the Memorial Hall for business meetings if they were made available. The response was that most businesses would probably not make use of such a facility as there is already provision at a local hotel.

### Key Actions

Issue	Action	Who is Responsible?	How will progress be made?
Improve & modernise the Memorial Hall	Consider increasing Council Tax precept by small amount specifically for improvements to Memorial Hall	Parish Council	Parish Council to liaise with Memorial Hall Trustees
	Install lighting in car park of Memorial Hall	Memorial Hall Trustees	Make application for grant funding to install lighting
	Develop a complete modernisation plan and implement when funding permits	Memorial Hall Trustees	Grant Funding will be sought using the evidence provided by the Charfield Village Plan to support applications.
	Raise money from fundraising events	Memorial Hall Trustees and the Community	The Community to support events
Increase range of activities	Consider implementing some of the suggestions made for different uses /	Memorial Hall Trustees & New Activity Groups	Encourage organisers of activities to come forward. Village Plan launch event.



available at Memorial Hall	activities of the Memorial Hall		
Improve & enhance the Playing Field and Park Facilities	Improve play equipment in the Park using evidence from Village Plan for priorities (see suggestions)	Parish Council	A sum of money has been set aside for the improvement and enhancement of playing fields and other open spaces in Charfield – this is as part of the planning agreement for the development next to the Chapel (Kings Meadow). The Parish Council will work in partnership with South Gloucestershire Council in consulting the community, co-ordinating plans and managing implementation to make the best use of these funds.
	Consider removal of the Blue Hut from the Playing Field	Parish Council	The Parish Council will revisit this issue with the advice of the Police and consider the best approach.

**Table 5: Key Actions - Topic 1, Part 1: Charfield Memorial Hall, playing field and park**

## Topic 1: Community Facilities, Open Space and Recreation

### ***Part 2: Other Community Facilities & Areas of Open Space***

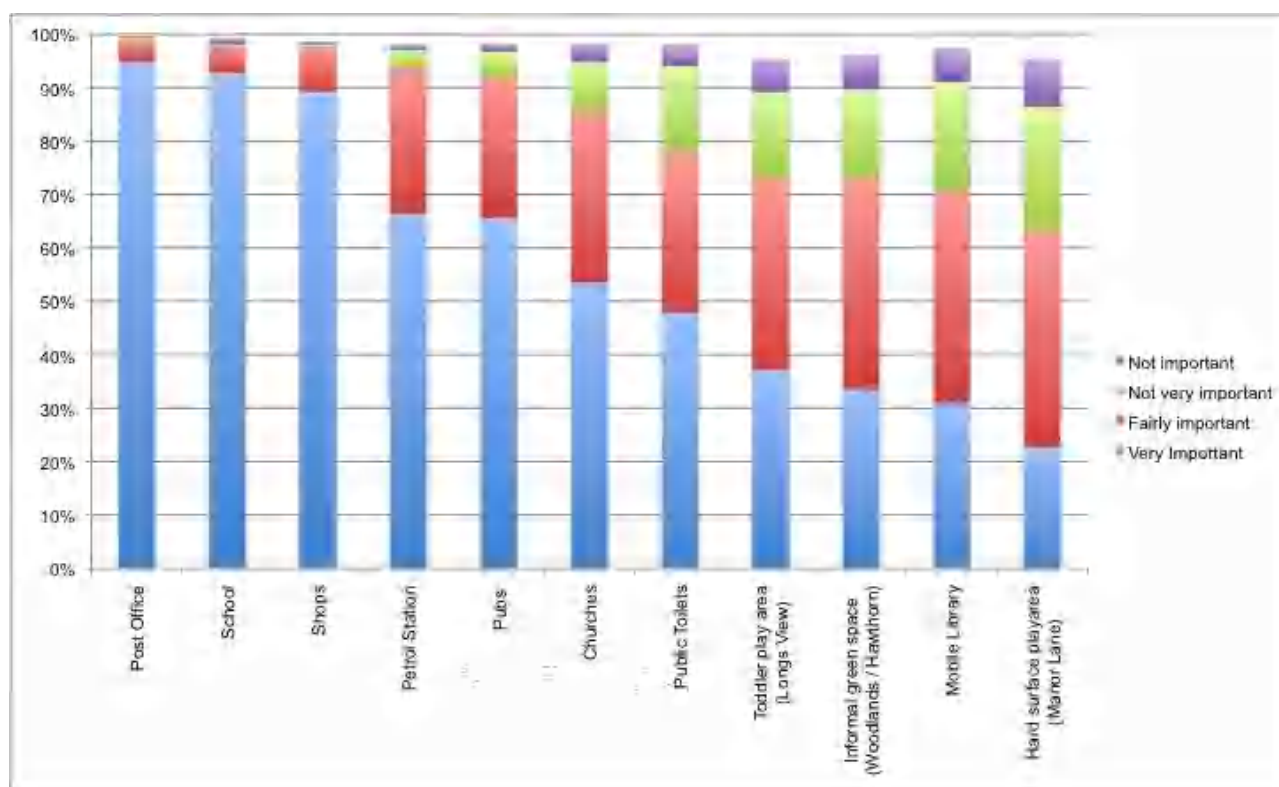
This section covers community facilities and open space ***other than the Memorial Hall and Playing Field*** as these are dealt with in Part 1 of this Topic. It does include analysis of the importance of existing facilities, suggestions for additional facilities and consideration of how three other areas of public open space could be better used and improved.



**Figure 7: Play Area at Longs View**

### **Household Questionnaire (Questions A1 (part), A3 and A6, F8)**

All the existing facilities in Charfield are important to residents. Of virtually unanimous importance to everyone who responded to the Household Questionnaire are the Post Office, school, shops and petrol station. Most respondents also considered the other facilities including pubs, churches, public toilets, mobile library and the other three areas of open / play space to be 'Very' or 'Fairly' important too; see Graph 5.



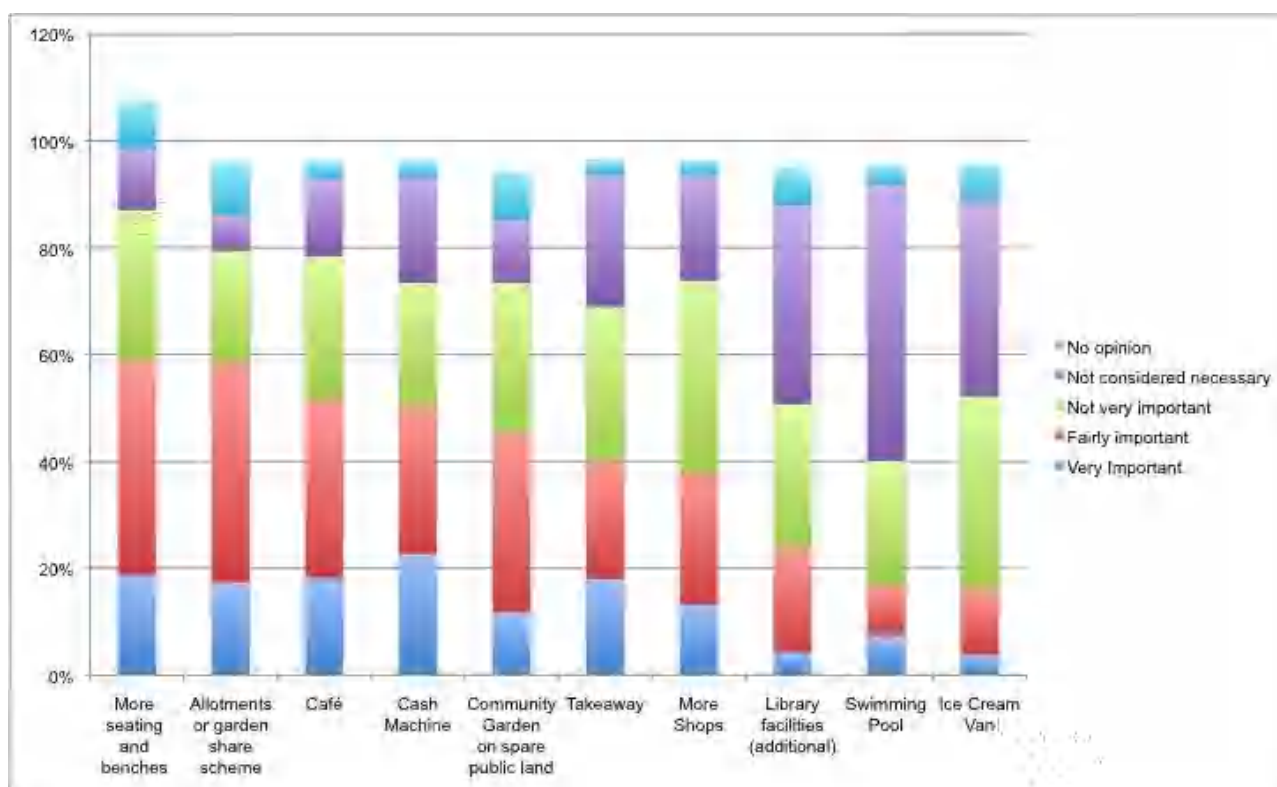
**Graph 5: How important are these facilities to Charfield?**

From the graph, it can also be seen that most respondents thought the public toilets in the Memorial Hall car park were an important facility. This is confirmed through a specific question on the toilets, which resulted in 63% of respondents saying they were 'necessary'. However, the comments put forward by respondents said that they needed to be better maintained and cleaned and that they needed modernising or demolishing and a new block built. A suggestion was made that they were linked to the indoor facilities in the Memorial Hall.

Several additional facilities were suggested as being needed in Charfield. Respondents to the questionnaire indicated which ones they considered to be important or not. Graph 6 indicates how important respondents considered the suggested additional facilities to be.

There were also over 70 suggestions or comments regarding other additional facilities. These are summarised as:

- Library facilities – respondents were unaware of the existing mobile library facility
- Make better use of poorly kept existing buildings e.g. outbuildings in the Railway Tavern car park and the old bank by MJ Fews
- Re-open a railway station in Charfield
- Provide a safe pedestrian crossing over Wotton Road near Railway Tavern / Longs View
- Community compost scheme
- Doctors surgery / chemist
- Shops - grocers, bakery, butchers
- Picnic area
- All weather football / basketball pitch
- Monthly farmers market
- Restaurant / café / takeaway



**Graph 6: How important are these suggested additional facilities for Charfield?**

The table at the end of this section identifies the ‘actions’ that are needed to help bring forward some of these suggestions.

## Open Space

The three areas of open space specifically identified in the Questionnaire, (which were considered as ‘Very’ or ‘Fairly’ important by the majority of respondents), were the subject of more detailed questions. Residents were asked to consider how these areas could be better used. The areas are:

1. Toddler play area at Longs View
2. Hard surface play space between Manor Land and Underhill Road
3. Informal green space between Woodlands Road and Manor Lane.

Nearly 170 respondents considered that the hard surface play space could be better used, 126 thought the informal green space could be better used, and 106 considered the toddler play area could be better used. There were 117 written comments or suggestions made for improving these areas. The most frequently made suggestions are summarised as follows:

1. Toddler play area at Longs View
  - a. Update and expand the play equipment e.g. swings, slide
  - b. Improve maintenance & appearance of whole area
  - c. Provide more seating e.g. picnic tables / benches
2. Hard surface play space between Manor Land and Underhill Road
  - a. Resurface area and introduce painted floor games and play ideas e.g. hopscotch, maze / bicycle practice routes including hill rises and junctions for small children with scooters / trikes
  - b. Provide seating and picnic tables
  - c. Introduce basketball / netball hoops / football goals and mark out courts and small football pitch
  - d. Investigate installing fitness and / or play equipment and / or climbing / training wall;
  - e. Consider opportunity for creating a public garden area / allotments.

*“My little 3 year old loves the Longs View Toddler Area”*  
Charfield Resident





**Figure 8: Hard surface play space between Manor Lane and Underhill Road**

3. Informal green space between Woodlands Road and Manor Lane
  - a. Provide some seating e.g. picnic tables / benches
  - b. Introduce some children's play equipment e.g. toddler area / adventure playground / sculpture trail
  - c. Community orchard
  - d. Allotments
  - e. Protect from development (apply for 'Village Green' status)
  - f. Plant more trees and flowers

The issue of allotments was explored in more detail in the questionnaire. Respondents were asked how likely their household would be to apply for an allotment in Charfield if they were available. There was a good level of interest indicated in the responses, with 145 households saying that they would be 'Very likely' or 'Quite likely' to apply for an allotment; of these 51 were 'Very likely'. The Parish Council has a duty to provide allotments (under the Allotments Acts 1908 and 1950) if there is sufficient demand.

The idea of creating a community orchard or garden in Charfield was supported by 226 (39%) of respondents. Similar support was given to the potential initiative of a community compost scheme.

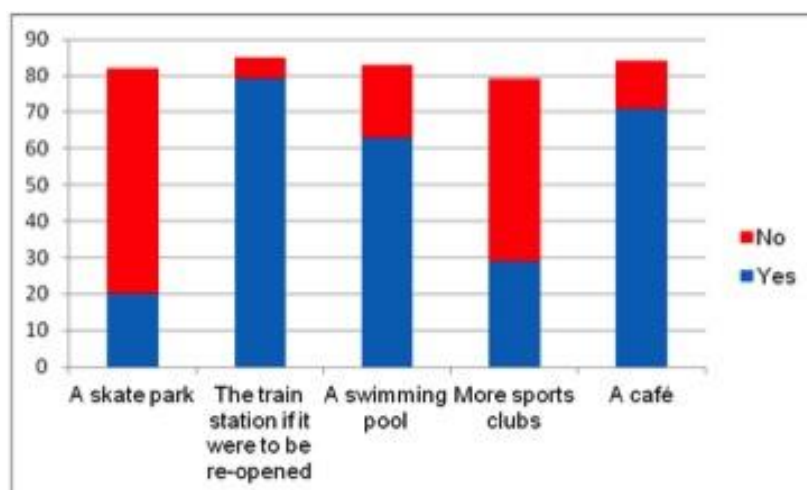
The issue of protecting open space from future development is considered under Topic 8: Development.

## Youth Surveys

The youth survey carried out at KLB School asked young people what they thought of facilities in Charfield, including the Memorial Hall, Park and Playing Field, Youth Club and Shops. The results for the 'shops' are relevant to this section (the other facilities are covered in other Topics). The results were that 62% thought the shops were 'good', with 35% saying they were 'poor'.

They were also asked if specific facilities were available, would they make use of them. The results were:





**Graph 7: The number of KLB students that would use these facilities, if they were available**

93% of the students who took the survey said that they would use the train station if it were to be reopened (see Topic 7: Traffic & Transportation on page 44). 85% said that they would use a café. The majority said that they would not use a skate park nor attend more sports clubs if they were made available in Charfield.

The Castle School students commented that the village shops were important to them and their most popular request was for more skating areas.

### Key Actions

Issue	Action	Who is Responsible?	How will progress be made?
Improve and enhance areas of Open Space in Charfield (for specific actions for Park & Playing Field – see Topic 1 Part 2)	Replace and expand play equipment at Toddler area in Longs View	South Gloucestershire Council	Steering Group to contact South Gloucestershire Council to achieve immediate maintenance of whole area.  South Gloucestershire Council to replace and expand play equipment and provide more seating (picnic tables / benches).
	Make better use of Hard surface play space between Manor Land and Underhill Road	South Gloucestershire Council	South Gloucestershire Council to improve area using ideas put forward through Village Plan process.
	Consider low key enhancements of Informal green space between Woodlands Road and Manor Lane.	South Gloucestershire Council	South Gloucestershire Council to improve use of area by considering suggestions put forward through Village Plan process.
Increase use of existing facilities	Advertise Mobile Library	South Gloucestershire Council (library service)	Advertise in CHADRA, the Charfield community website <a href="http://www.charfield.org">www.charfield.org</a> and posters / leaflets.
	Improve Public Toilet facility	South Gloucestershire Council	South Gloucestershire Council to update public toilet facility.
Provide additional facilities in Charfield	Allotments	Parish Council	Approach landowners to identify suitable location for provision of allotments
	Community Orchard or Garden	Parish Council / New Community Group	Seek new 'action group' at launch event of the Charfield Village Plan.
	Community Compost Scheme	Parish Council / Steering Group (through launch event) / New Action Group	Seek new 'action group' at launch event of the Charfield Village Plan.
	All weather football and basketball pitch	Parish Council	Consider including all weather football and basketball pitch in the plans to improve and enhance the Park / Playing Field
	Shops / takeaway / cafe	Individual businesses	Depends on market demand. Plonkers Café started on Tuesdays in Memorial Hall.

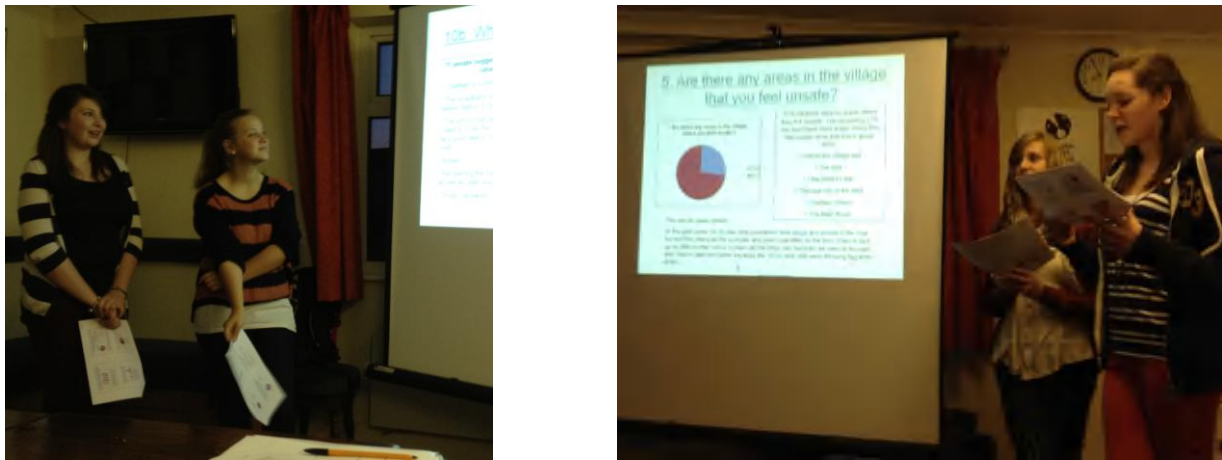
	Health Facilities	Healthcare providers	Steering Group to pass findings of Charfield Village Plan to local healthcare providers.
Bring unused existing buildings into use	Identify potential viable use for out buildings in Railway Tavern Car Park	Landlord and Owners of Railway Tavern Parish Council	Parish Council to liaise with owners of Railway Tavern to reach a potential re-use and upgrading of the near derelict outbuildings. Consider additional facilities identified in the Village Plan. <i>See Topic 8: Development.</i>
	Identify potential use for old bank near MJ Fews	Owner of Building Parish Council	Parish Council to liaise with owners to reach a potential re-use. <i>See Topic 8: Development.</i>
Improve access to existing facilities within Charfield and beyond.	Open a railway station in Charfield	Parish Council South Gloucestershire Council Network Rail	<i>See Topic 7: Traffic &amp; Transportation</i>
	Provide a safe pedestrian crossing over Wotton Road from Longs View footpath link.	South Gloucestershire Council	<i>See Topic 7: Traffic &amp; Transportation</i>

**Table 6: Key Actions – Topic 1, Part 2: Other Community Facilities & Areas of Open Space**

## Topic 2: Community Activities & Initiatives

During the preparation process of the Charfield Village Plan, the Steering Group engaged with all age groups in the village. The youth survey undertaken by students at KLB School was an excellent way of reaching the 11-18 age group who might not otherwise have been directly engaged in the process. Discussion groups were held with Castle School students who live Charfield and the comments helped to inform the household questionnaire.

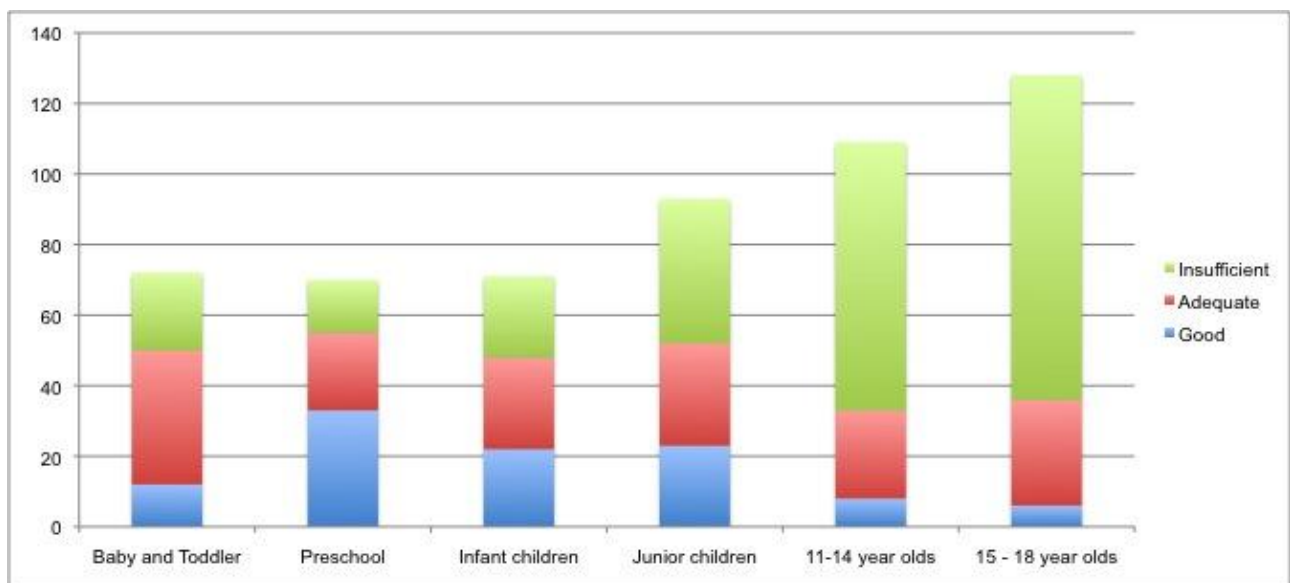
Also, in response to the Steering Group's early engagement exercises where one of the key issues highlighted was that there was nothing for young people to do in the village, the household survey contained questions relating to activities for specific age groups from babies through to teens. Older people were also engaged through a visit to the Luncheon Club and through the household questionnaire.



**Figure 9: KLB Students presenting the findings of their Youth Survey**

### Household Questionnaire (Questions C1, C2, B3 and B4)

Residents were asked whether activities in Charfield for different age groups of children and young people were sufficient for their household's needs.



**Graph 8: Adequacy of activities in Charfield for the following age groups**

The survey revealed that for younger children (Baby & Toddler, Preschool and Infants) the activities available in Charfield were either 'Good' or 'Adequate' (Graph 8). The situation becomes less satisfactory when considering junior children and worsens considerably for older children. In particular, a large proportion of respondents have indicated that activities for the 11-14 and 15-18 year old age groups are 'Insufficient' for their household's needs.

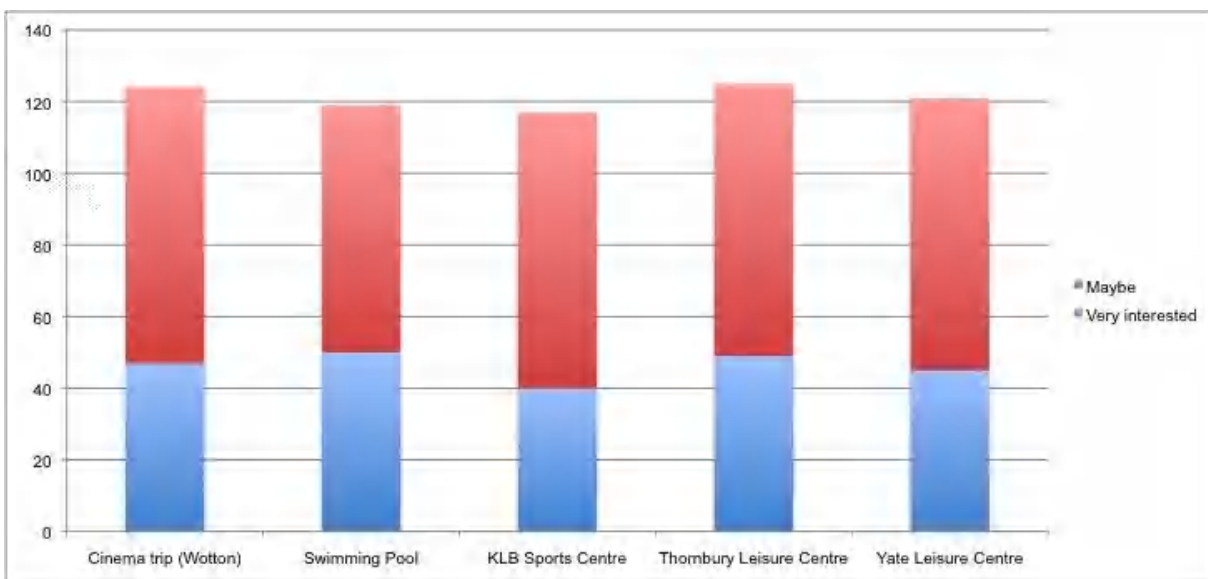
Respondents were also asked for suggestions for additional activities. Over 45 suggestions were made and these are summarised as:

- More 'Baby and Toddler' activities e.g. gym tots, music with mummy, baby massage, Rugby Tots, Tramp Tots
- Pre-school activity group weekly e.g. singing / tumble tots
- Debating club for 15-18 year olds.
- Language Club (Ecolé Français)
- Engineering Club, IT Club - build a computer / programme software writing
- Open the hall in the evenings for young people.
- Youth café / meeting place every evening
- Sport clubs: table tennis / tennis / badminton / croquet / basketball archery / rugby
- Pool table & table tennis nights at Hall
- More football goals / training walls throughout the Village
- Youth Club
- Soft play and café
- Specialist Clubs - craft / animals / bird watching /wildlife /cookery classes / art club for children or adults / knitting / dress making / dog training
- Rambling club
- Summer activity club for children age 13+ e.g. multi-sport Football, tennis, archery, cricket
- Dance / ballet classes
- Music / bands for young people

*"I think a summer activity club for children age 13+ would be great: eg multi sport Football, tennis, archery, cricket ...."*  
**Charfield Resident**

It is important to maintain existing activities in Charfield as some have indicated through the questionnaire that funding is very limited. Recently, the funding for the Youth Club at the Memorial Hall has been cut by South Gloucestershire Council as part of a review of Rural Youth Services. Therefore from 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013 there will be no youth club in Charfield. The Parish Council are now looking into the future of youth service provision in the village with a view to 'plugging the gap' in some way. Since the Household Questionnaire there are now two 'Baby and Toddler' groups held at the Memorial Hall and it has been indicated that a youth group may be held at the Chapel.

An idea was put forward in the Household Questionnaire which suggested organising community-led transport to enable visits to facilities in neighbouring towns for children and young people, see Graph 9.



**Graph 9: Number of respondents interested in using community-led transport scheme to these destinations**

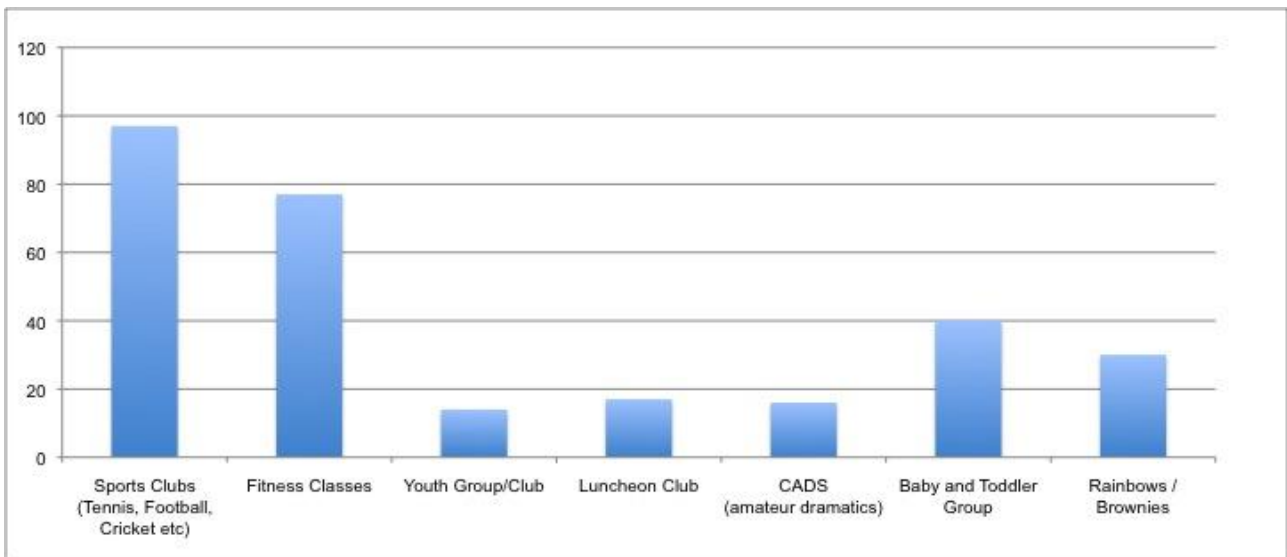
Generally, the level of interest in the options suggested was similar. In all cases over 100 respondents were either 'Very Interested' or 'Maybe interested' in participating in such a scheme. Suggestions were put forward for alternative destinations too, these included:

- Tytherington Quarry Activity Centre
- Orienteering, cycling and walking trips
- Snowdome, Theme Parks, NEC
- Yate and Thornbury on Saturdays
- The Mall (shopping and bowling)
- Dursley (Pool and Library)
- Slimbridge Wetlands Trust

**"A soft play area in village would be great"**  
**Charfield Resident**

There were several queries as to why this idea was for young people only, it should be for everyone, particularly older people who may lack their own transport too. In addition, other transport-related issues are covered under Topic 7: Traffic & Transportation (on page 44).

Questions B3 and B4 of the household questionnaire focussed on activities in Charfield available for all ages of people. Residents were asked which existing activity groups they participated in.



**Graph 10: Numbers that participate in Charfield activity groups**

Currently, sports and fitness type activities are clearly the most popular. There is a noticeable lack of attendance (2%) at the youth club from such a high proportion of returned questionnaires. Many comments highlighted other activities that are currently available including:

- the 'Charfield Big Sing'
- Pub based activities – darts, dominoes, bingo and cribbage
- Church based activities such as a choir
- a Golf society
- Cubs/Scouts (held in Cromhall but serves Charfield children)

It is clear that Charfield has many activities currently available that enrich quality of life in the village. There is also a significant amount of interest in new activities being available in Charfield as shown in Table 7 below.



Suggested Additional Activities (Question B4 & F9 (part))	Total of 'Fairly' or 'Very Interested' households
Summer Fete/Fayre or annual event	433
Charfield in Bloom/Entrance to village	390
Community Garden/Orchard	280
Music club/bands	260
Interest groups - crafts etc.	233
Social activities for older people	219
Youth group/activity	202
Singing club/choir	180
Womens Institute	173
Twinning Association	118

*"We miss the summer fete"*  
Charfield Resident

**Table 7: Interest expressed in suggested additional activities**

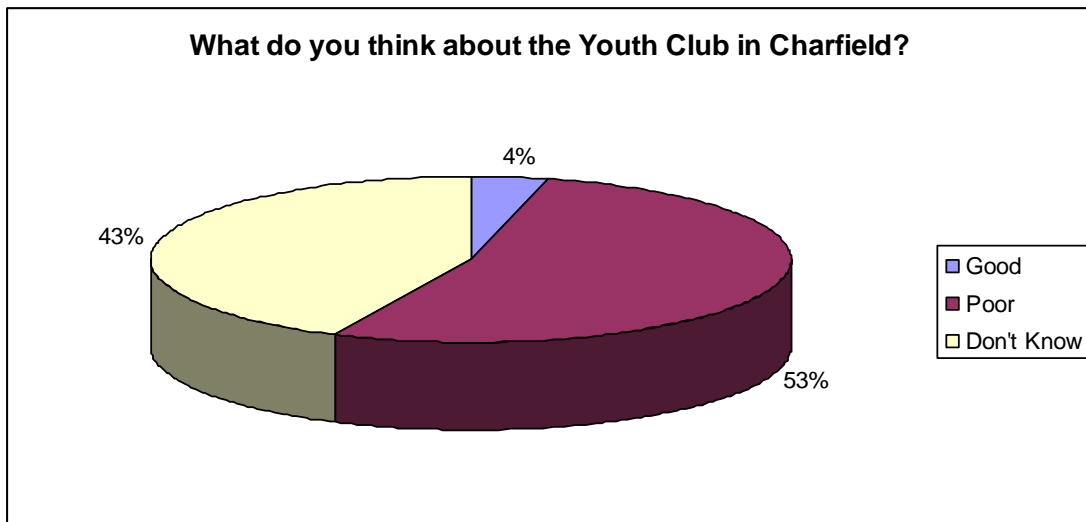
There is a need to publicise the current activity groups running in the village as the request for a Youth Group highlights the lack of awareness of the group that exists. However, from 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013, the Youth Club in its current form will no longer exist. Alternative provision is being considered by the Parish Council.

More suggestions were made for additional activities, and these included:

- Car / Motorcycle Club
- Short Courses – French, First Aid
- University of the Third Age (U3A)
- Cycling Club
- Dog Walking Club
- Running Club
- Ballroom Dancing classes
- Art / Photography Group
- Craft club
- Rambling Club
- Yoga classes
- Bridge Club
- Chess Club
- Badminton, table tennis, croquet clubs
- Day centre & Carers Group
- Coach Outings occasionally
- Allotments (see Topic1, Part 2: Community Facilities on page 2020)

## Youth Surveys

One of the key issues to come out of the consultation that has been carried out during the preparation of the Village Plan is that all age groups highlight the problem of a lack of things for young people to do. The Youth Survey by KLB Students asked the question *"What do you think about the Youth Club in Charfield?"* The results shown below highlight the lack of awareness of the existing youth club.



**Graph 11: KLB survey views on the Charfield Youth Club**

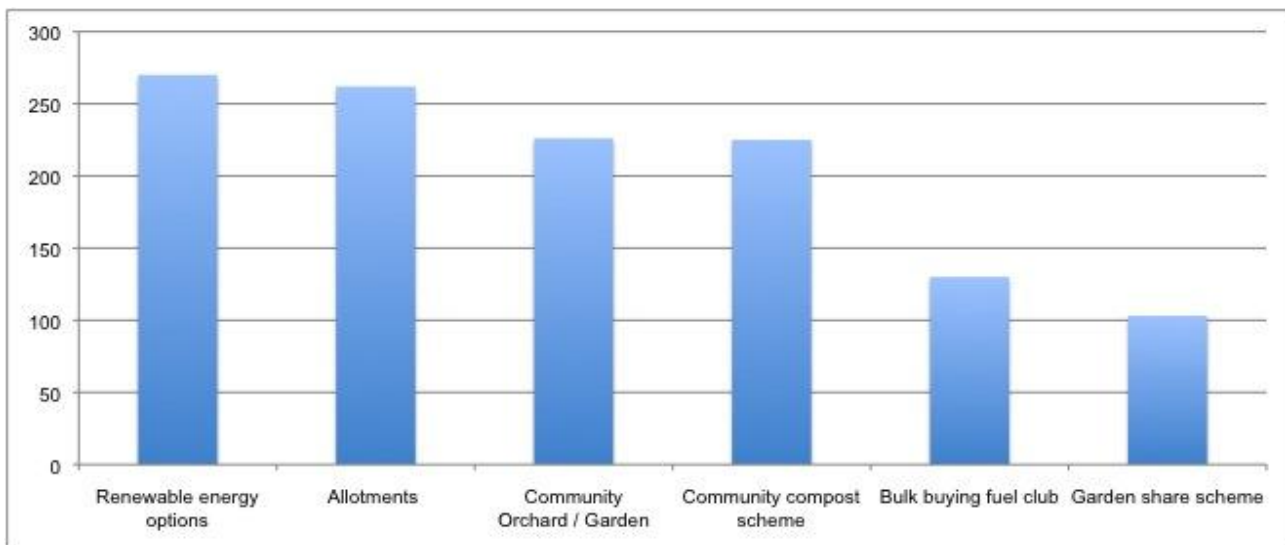
Also, young people were asked whether they attended any clubs in Charfield and the response was 'No' (90%). The 10% who said 'Yes' specified tennis, cricket, football, Taekwondo and amateur dramatics clubs as the ones they attended.

Interestingly, the findings of the Youth Survey indicated that 85% of respondents would use a café if one was available and 80% said they would use a swimming pool. The majority said they would not use a skate park or attend more sports clubs (See Graph 7 presented under Part 2 of Topic 1: Community Facilities, Open Space and Recreation on page 20). Conversely, the students at Castle School have expressed an interest in more skate park facilities.

However, some suggestions were made for other clubs and these were included:

- Boxing, rugby, cricket, netball, hockey, table tennis
- Dancing, yoga
- Photography
- Gymnastics for teenagers
- Cooking club

Several potential community initiatives were put forward in the household questionnaire, and residents were asked to show their interest. The results are shown on Graph 12.



**Graph 12: Support for a range of community/environment initiatives in Charfield**

Note that the issues of Allotments, Community Compost Scheme and Community Orchard/Garden are covered under the Topic 1, Part 2: Community Facilities, Open Space and Recreation (on page 1220).

With regard to the other initiatives, there may be potential to pursue these if there was a suitable level of interest. For example, the idea of a garden share scheme was looked at further in the questionnaire, and 53 respondents indicated that they were 'Very likely' to let someone else grow fruit and vegetables in their garden in return for produce or help. On the other hand 60 respondents said their garden was not enough in terms of workload. If these could be matched up a viable garden share scheme could be established.

## Key Actions

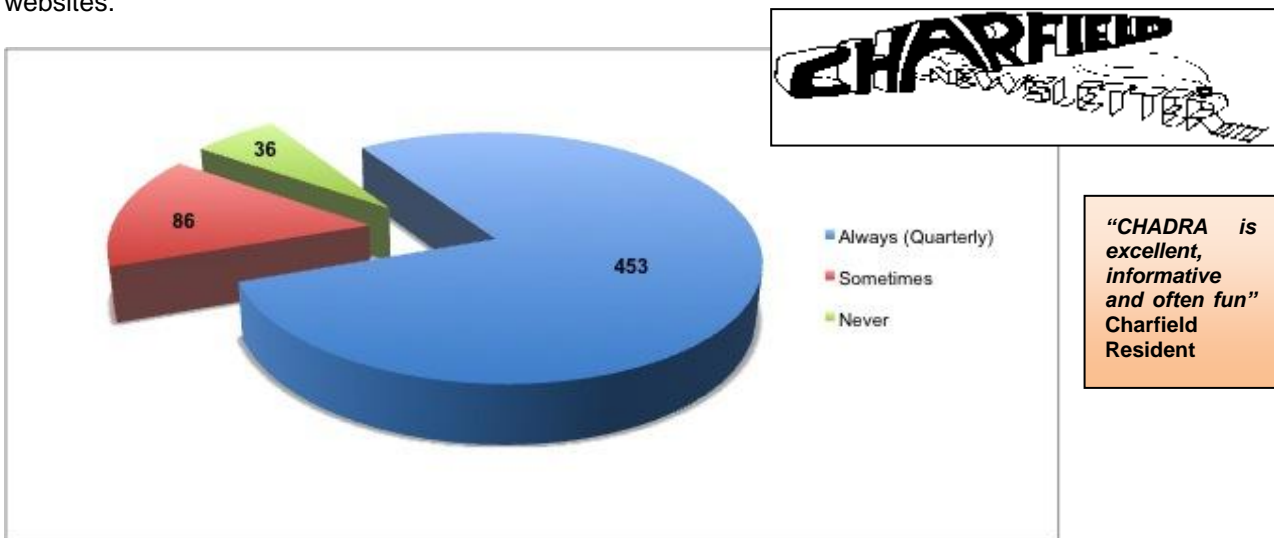
Issue	Action	Who is Responsible?	How will progress be made?
Maintain existing level of activities	Publicise activities to increase usage & assist voluntary run groups with grant funding applications	Activity Groups CHADRA newsletter & Charfield Community Website (Evergreen Computing) Council for Voluntary Services (CVS) South Gloucestershire (provide advice on grant applications)	Increase publicity of activities in CHADRA Newsletter / Charfield Community Website. Consider regular email updates of local activities and events to residents & local newspaper.
Increase activities available in Charfield for young people	Target new activities to Junior children; 11-14 and 15-18 year olds (see suggestions).	Parish Council  Steering Group (through launch event) / New Action Groups	Parish Council working group are investigating the best approach to providing services / activities for young people. Steering Group (through launch event of Village Plan) to seek new activity groups.
	Establish an evening youth café	Parish Council / Memorial Hall Trustees	Investigate viability of a regular evening youth café.
Increase activities available in Charfield	Introduce new activity clubs in Charfield	Steering Group (through launch event) / New Action Groups	Steering Group (through launch event of Village Plan) to seek new activity groups.
Increase access to activities and facilities for everyone	Investigate community-led transport scheme available to all age groups	Steering Group (through launch event) / New Action Group	Steering Group (through launch event of Village Plan) to seek new action group.
	Publicise & improve access to Wotton Swimming Pool for young people	Wotton Pool – publicity. Access linked to Transport issue of safe route to Wotton	<i>See Topic 7: Traffic &amp; Transportation</i>
Establish new community initiatives	Investigate the feasibility of establishing schemes for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Garden Share</li> <li>• Renewable energy</li> <li>• Fuel bulk buying</li> </ul>	Steering Group (through launch event) / New Action Groups	Steering Group (through launch event of Village Plan) to seek new action groups. Consider using <a href="http://www.landshare.net">www.landshare.net</a> website for garden share scheme. Support available for community renewable energy initiatives from Jane Thompson, Sustainability Team Leader at South Gloucestershire Council

**Table 8: Key Actions – Topic 2: Community Activities and Initiatives**

## Topic 3: Community Communications

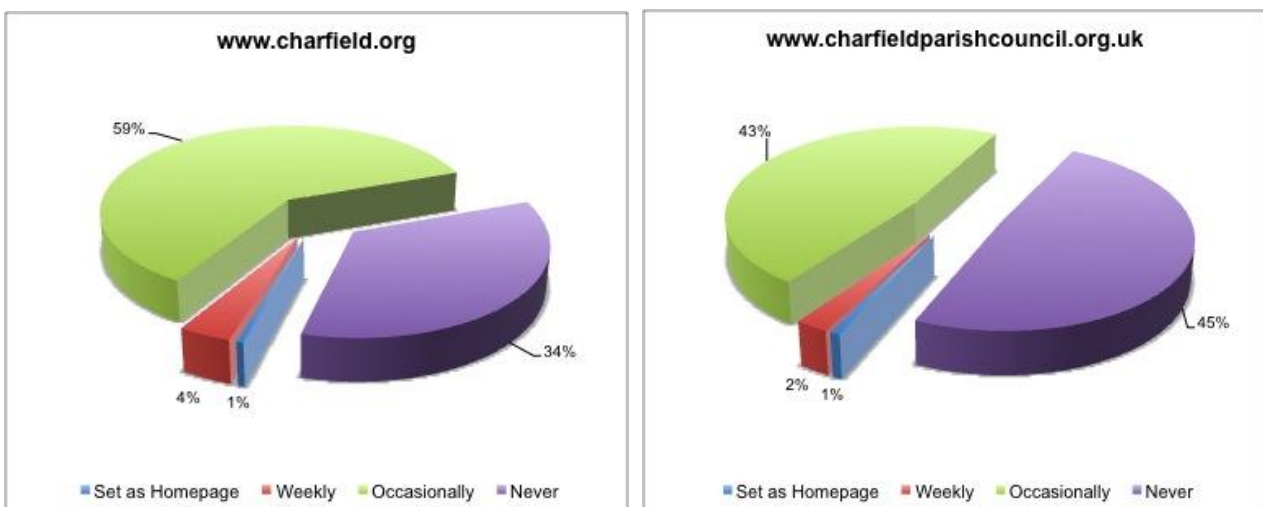
### Household Questionnaire (Questions B1, B2)

The key formal methods of communication in Charfield are the CHADRA quarterly newsletter, the various noticeboards in the village, the community website [www.charfield.org](http://www.charfield.org) and the Parish Council website [www.charfieldparishcouncil.org](http://www.charfieldparishcouncil.org). Residents were asked how often they read the newsletter and used the websites.



**Graph 13: Readership of CHADRA the community newsletter**

Graph 13 shows that the CHADRA newsletter reaches the largest number of people. In total 453 respondents indicated that they always read CHADRA. However, this could be improved further as the newsletter is not delivered to around 200 households in Charfield, it goes to the 800 households who pay £1 per year towards costs (and also membership of the Residents Association). 200 households is a significant number to be excluded from the prime method of communication in the village. Many residents suggested making the newsletter free and deliver to all households in Charfield. The newsletter contains several pages of advertising and it would be reasonable to expect that advertising charges could cover the costs of producing the newsletter. Grants may also be available to assist with this change too (e.g. South Gloucestershire Council Revenue Grant).



**Graph 14: Use of the Charfield websites**

Graph 14 indicates that 59% of respondents occasionally used the community website and 43% used the Parish Council website. On the other hand, 34% (or 197) respondents said they never used the community website and 45% (or 261) respondents said they never used the Parish Council website. Clearly there is an opportunity to try and increase the reach of these websites.

There were 125 suggestions on how communications could be improved in Charfield. Many referred to the need to improve broadband in the Village and this is dealt with in under Topic 4: Broadband (see page 35). The comments relating to methods of communication are summarised as follows:

1. CHADRA

- a. Deliver CHADRA to all households free of charge
- b. More updated features, and more focussed articles
- c. Greater involvement of local businesses
- d. Update and make more sophisticated
- e. Include map of footpaths
- f. Include a prominent advert for community websites.
- g. Introduce a kids fun page
- h. Publish it electronically on website
- i. Distribute by email.

2. Community Website

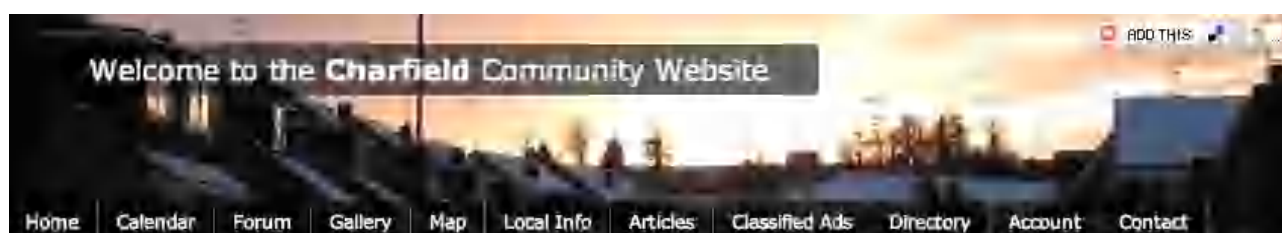
- a. Publicise and advertise the existence of website more e.g. CHADRA, Posters, Leaflets
- b. Add more details of regular groups / activities e.g. Monday playgroup; mobile library schedule; footpath maps
- c. Add links to other websites e.g. South Glos Council; Thornbury U3A;
- d. Publish CHADRA on website
- e. Add a swap / free cycle type page
- f. Add a kids fun page
- g. Encourage more village groups to have web pages linked to community website
- h. Include blogs
- i. Include feedback and recommendations for local services
- j. Make more interactive
- k. Investigate sources of public / grant funding to assist in development of website.
- l. Collect email addresses to form a database for use as a distribution list for monthly / regular updates on Charfield-specific events and activities.

3. Parish Council

- a. More active and better communication
- b. Better engagement with the community
- c. Update website more regularly e.g. minutes
- d. Publicise and advertise the existence of website more e.g. CHADRA, Posters, Leaflets.

4. General suggestions

- a. Use social media to improve communications e.g. Twitter / Facebook
- b. Drop-in shop similar to Citizens Advice
- c. Discussion groups occasionally
- d. More noticeboards e.g. outside school by pedestrian crossing
- e. Clear the existing noticeboards of business adverts and keep for village events.
- f. Improve appearance of existing noticeboards and keep up to date.
- g. Regular updates on village activities e.g. email / monthly short newsletter, leaflet drops
- h. Develop a regular 'Charfield News and Views' feature in the Gazette





**Key Actions**

Issue	Action	Who is Responsible?	How will progress be made?
Improve community communications	Widen the readership of CHADRA	CHADRA Committee	Expand newsletter distribution to include all households – make available electronically and / or make free of charge and deliver to all households. Consider grant application to assist with transition should advertising charges not cover costs. CHADRA committee to consider linking up with Charfield community website (Evergreen Computing) to enable the electronic distribution of the newsletter to an email database of residents.
	Publicise the Community website and Parish Council website.	CHADRA Committee / Evergreen Computing / Parish Council	Regularly advertise the websites in CHADRA and on Village notice boards
	Develop an email database	CHADRA Committee / Evergreen Computing	Launch a publicity campaign to encourage people to register with community website and to receive Charfield-specific news and events information as a regular update. Also submit regular update to local newspaper.
	Improve Community Website	Steering Group / Evergreen Computing	Enhance and improve the Charfield community website (see suggestions). Investigate grant funding to assist with development of website.
	Improve use of community noticeboards	Parish Council / Memorial Hall Trustees	Keep up to date, clear of adverts & publicise community events.

**Table 9: Key Actions – Topic 3: Community Communications**

## Topic 4: Broadband

Many people in Charfield consider their broadband speed is poor. The infrastructure requires upgrading to enable faster Broadband speed. The Government's target is for 2Mbps (Megabytes per second) for all UK households and superfast broadband for 90% of households. The Charfield Village Plan Steering Group has campaigned to ensure the broadband infrastructure is upgraded in the Village as soon as possible.

South Gloucestershire Council is working in partnership with Wiltshire Council on the broadband delivery project. The installation of the wholesale broadband network (from which Internet Service Providers can sell new services) will be implemented in phases over a three year period completing in December 2015. The order in which the roll out of infrastructure will take place is unknown until the physical surveying and final network design has been completed. However, all residents and businesses in Charfield, including those with 01453 numbers served by the Wotton-under-Edge telephone exchange, will be included in the South Gloucestershire Council broadband project. South Gloucestershire Council have announced that British Telecom is the preferred bidder for the broadband delivery contract and further details will be given in due course.

Charfield had an excellent response to both the Residents and Business consultation exercise carried out by South Gloucestershire Council on this vital issue early in 2012. In fact, in their report on the '*Superfast Broadband Survey - Analysis of Residents and Business Survey Responses*', South Gloucestershire identified that out of all the areas in South Gloucestershire where public subsidy intervention is required to upgrade broadband infrastructure "*the greatest numbers of responses were received from Charfield, Olveston and Bradley Stoke*" (April 2012). Thank you to everyone who responded.

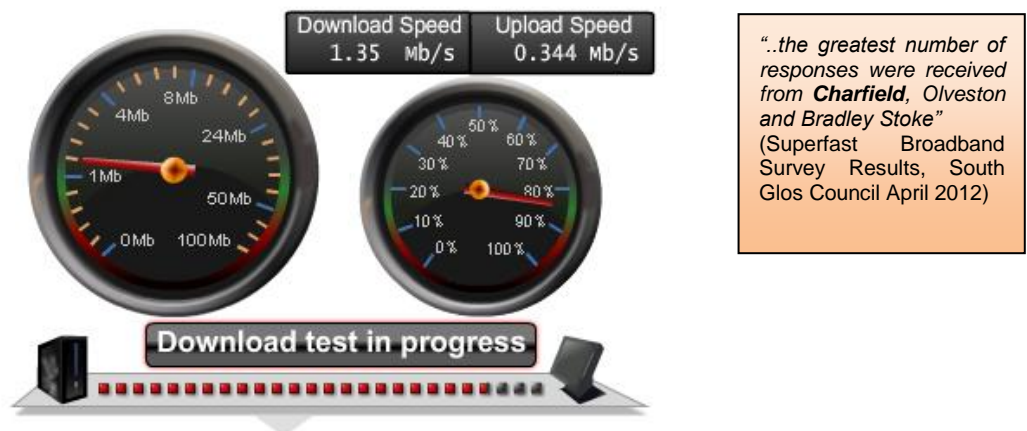


Figure 10: BroadSpeedChecker.co.uk

### Household Questionnaire (Questions B5, B6, B7, B8)

Broadband is essential for meeting many needs of people living and working in Charfield – it is used for business, educational and leisure purposes. It is an integral part of modern life.

Many households in Charfield use a broadband internet connection. Only 11% never use it. 46% of households use it for 'light leisure / domestic use', 42% use it for 'heavy leisure / domestic use' and 22% of respondents use it for business purposes.

Poor broadband speed is one of the key issues for Charfield. The straw poll done at Charfield Primary School Christmas Fair showed that it was the second most important issue for people in Charfield. With regard to the household questionnaire, only 37 households said they had a broadband speed above 2Mbps

(the Government Target). Whereas 390 households had a speed below 2Mbps, of which 198 households had a speed of below 1Mbps.

When asked how people found their broadband speed: 355 households responded that it was either 'poor' or 'so poor it affected their use', and 138 households found it acceptable. More significantly, if the speed of broadband was better, many more households indicated that their use would be in the categories 'heavy leisure / domestic use' and 'business purposes'. Respondents also said that if the broadband speed was faster:

- they would be able to work from home more, and therefore cut down the need to travel
- they would be able to use i-player
- they would participate in more activities including voluntary work

**"Sort out broadband - it is dire"**  
Charfield Resident

## Youth Surveys

The results of the youth survey found that 77% of the students who responded said that slow broadband connection was an issue. This was the highest response to any issue raised in the survey.

When asked what issues would young people raise at a 'Youth Council for Charfield', one response was "*the broadband is ridiculously slow*".

## Business Survey

The unanimous response from local businesses surveyed was that their highest priority issue was the speed of Broadband in Charfield. Nearly all business respondents said that the broadband speed was '*so poor it affects the business*'. Some businesses have got round the issue by installing more phone lines and bearing the additional cost. Others are considering leaving the village if they wish to expand. Larger businesses, such as Renishaw, have their own independent internet infrastructure.

Anecdotal evidence has indicated that several businesses have not moved into premises in Charfield solely due to the poor broadband speed. Broadband is clearly the most important issue facing the local economy in Charfield.

## Key Actions

Issue	Action	Who is Responsible?	How will progress be made?
Broadband Speed	Upgrade Broadband Infrastructure in Charfield	South Gloucestershire Council	British Telecom announced as preferred bidder for contract for the broadband delivery project in South Gloucestershire. Further details to be announced. Phased implementation of project scheduled over a three year period completing in December 2015.
	Send results of household, business and youth survey to South Gloucestershire Council to urge them to prioritise Charfield.	Steering Group	Letter sent to South Gloucestershire Council 19 September 2012 and Steve Webb MP. Results of business survey to be sent too.

**Table 10: Key Actions - Topic 4: Broadband**

## Topic 5: Safety and Security

### Household Questionnaire (Questions D1 – D7)

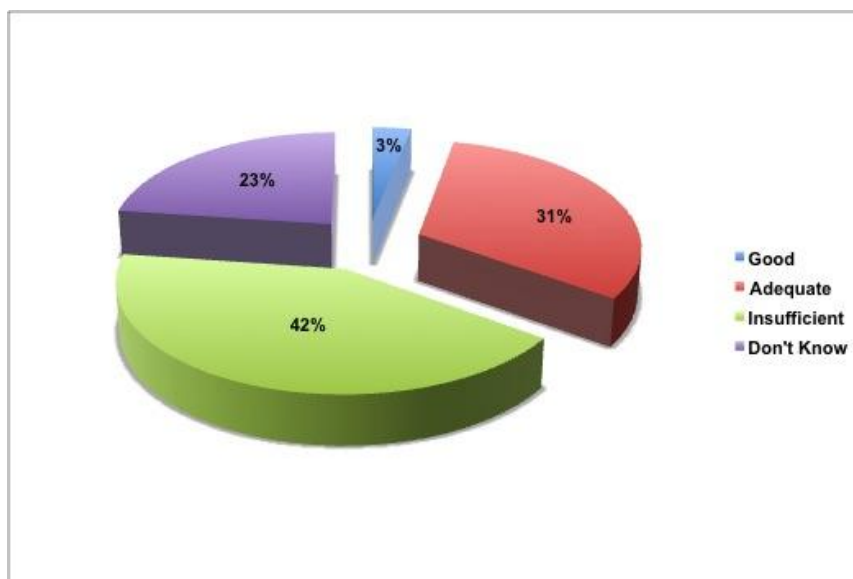
Residents were asked about their experience of anti-social behaviour in Charfield; 222 households reported experience of some form of anti-social behaviour in the last 5 years, in 104 cases this was reported to the police. The reasons given for not reporting the crime included:

- A feeling that the police would not be interested or that being a village on the border of two counties meant responses were slower
- Dealing with the incident themselves
- The incident being too minor
- The incident was reported to the council
- It would be impossible/difficult to track the people responsible (e.g. littering, dog fouling) and that the result of the behaviour rather than the action itself is witnessed
- The crime was dealt with through the Safer Stronger Community Group

Many of the comments gave more details of the nature of the crime involved. These are summarised as:

- 15 Vehicle related crime (including damage to vehicles, speeding motorists and dangerous driving/inconsiderate parking)
- 12 Youth crime
- 12 Vandalism
- 8 Anti-Social Behaviour
- 8 Dog Fouling
- 5 Theft
- 4 Alcohol Related
- 3 Drug Relate
- 3 Litter
- 3 Noise
- And also graffiti, dog barking and attacking, absconded prisoner, road accident, invasion of privacy, security of business premises, fly tipping.

Residents were asked what their view was on the level of police presence in Charfield; the views are shown on Graph 15.



**Graph 15: Views on police presence in Charfield**

It is interesting to note that whilst 42% of respondents considered the police presence to be 'insufficient', only 72 respondents had actually had to call the police in the last 3 years, and 50 of these said the response time had been appropriate.

The idea of re-establishing a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme in Charfield was suggested and 306 (52%) households expressed an interest in belonging to such a scheme.

A wide range of suggestions for improving safety and security in Charfield were given. The most frequent suggestions for improvements are summarised as:

- Street Lighting to stay on longer / better lighting at village hall
- Improved police presence (have a Police Officer not a PCSO, evening patrols, police advice surgeries, open a police station)
- CCTV
- Combat Speeding Motorists / Traffic Safety
- Better Youth Facilities and liaison with youths
- Neighbourhood Watch Scheme
- Reduce inconsiderate parking near school and on major roads, larger school car park.
- Challenge and report Anti-Social Behaviour



**Figure 11: The Blue Hut**

The street lighting being switched off at night and poor lighting in the Memorial Hall car park were given as the most common reason for concerns over Safety and Security.

Another popular request to improve crime statistics was the use of CCTV cameras at the Memorial Hall. Speeding traffic and inconsiderate parking were considered a priority. Better facilities for youths and liaison with youths as well as challenging and reporting Anti-Social Behaviour including drug and alcohol abuse was mentioned too.

## **Youth Surveys**

The young people of Charfield surveyed at KLB School and The Castle School felt very strongly about the negative behaviour of a minority of young people in the village and the intimidating feeling they get when they are using the playing fields and park, particularly around the Blue Hut where these young people



congregate. They feel that young people in their late teens and early twenties are sometimes isolated due to the lack of public transport from the village.

73% of the young people surveyed said they felt safe in the village, whereas 27% felt unsafe and specified the following areas:

- Outside the Memorial hall
- The Park
- Blue Hut in the park
- Little Bristol Lane
- Charfield Green
- The Main Road

Young people were also asked through the youth survey whether they stayed away from certain areas or avoided going out in the dark due to safety and security issues. In response to the question *“In the village as a safety precaution do you ever?”*

- 75% take a mobile phone with them
- 28% avoid going out in the dark
- 27% stay away from certain areas
- 7% do not go anywhere by themselves
- 4% take a personal alarm with them
- Whilst 22% do none of these.

When asked if there were a youth council in Charfield what issues would they raise, the most popular answers were: bullies, safety in the park, railway station and broadband.

Safety and security is clearly a real issue for children and young people in Charfield.

### Key Actions

Issue	Action	Who is Responsible?	How will progress be made?
Improve reporting of all crime to Police	Encourage people to report all crimes through greater publicity:	Police / Safer, Stronger Community Group	Publicise in <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ CHADRA</li> <li>▪ Community Website</li> <li>▪ Safer Stronger Community Group</li> <li>▪ local beat surgeries</li> <li>▪ posters around the village</li> <li>▪ advertise the local police telephone number (101)</li> </ul>
Reduce fear of crime for all and improve safety & security	Set up a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme	Steering Group (through launch event) / New Action Group	Seek advice from Police Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator
	Street lighting – review current switch off arrangements	South Gloucestershire Council	Steering Group to inform South Gloucestershire Council of findings of Village Plan.
	Install lighting in Memorial Hall Car Park	Memorial Hall Trustees	Submit grant application for funding for external lighting.
	Consider use of CCTV at Memorial Hall & Park	Parish Council / Memorial Hall Trustees	Seek advice from the Police.
	Consider removal of Blue Hut in the Park	Parish Council	The Parish Council will revisit this issue with the advice of the Police and consider the best approach.

**Table 11: Key Actions – Topic 5: Safety and Security**

## Topic 6: Environment

### Household Questionnaire (Questions F1-7 and F9-12, A3 (comments))

Residents were asked their views on the maintenance and upkeep of the village. The response was that 68% considered it Adequate. Only 11% thought it was Good, and 15% considered it was Poor.

Over 60 people gave litter, dog fouling and cleanliness as the main problems facing Charfield's environment. Several residents complained about litter in verges and hedges and along the railway line behind the metal railings. Other comments included improvements to the entrance signs and main road through the village including the Post Office, the Railway Tavern, the railway bridge area including the entrance to Little Bristol Lane, Memorial Hall and Sportsman's Lounge, the bus shelters, waste land on the main road, farms, hill verges and the centre of the roundabout. It was suggested that more trees and flowers at the entrances to the village and around the shops would enhance the feel of the village and one person suggested a communal Christmas tree and lights.



A few residents highlighted the need for more regular maintenance of the playing field, cutting of hedgerows and communal green areas of the village. Also certain private gardens and driveways were criticised by a few for a lack of care and maintenance and junkyard appearance. Footpaths were generally thought to be adequate although a few people said they should be resurfaced or cleaned in places. The footpath between the Memorial Hall and Katherine Close is also too dark and narrow and can get slippery. Some roads are very muddy due to tractor use and are not cleaned up afterwards e.g. Devil's lane and Huntingford. A few concerns were expressed about the cleaning out of gullies along Wotton Road, drains and also the stream running through Woodlands Road and Charfield Green.

Flash flooding events that occurred towards the end of 2012 after long periods of intense rainfall highlighted the vulnerability of certain areas of the village and the need for improved maintenance of gullies, ditches and the need for further drainage / remedial works. The areas specifically affected were Woodlands Road (where the stream runs through to Charfield Green), the Pin Mill and Wotton Road (by the Little Avon River opposite the Renishaw site).

People feel very strongly about the environment of Charfield. The main suggestions for improving the environment can be summarised as:

- Improve entrance signs to village & keep clean
- Introduce flowers, baskets & planters to entrances of village
- Trees & flowers on Charfield Hill, 'soften' roundabout
- Village in Bloom
- Improve appearance of buildings (Shop, Post Office, Memorial Hall, toilets)
- Clean up graffiti
- Improve maintenance of verges, hedges, open spaces
- Re-surface pavements
- Improve hard play surface in Manor Lane
- Reduce Litter & Employ someone to collect litter
- Railway Tavern outbuildings an eyesore
- Walkway between Katherine Close & Field needs improving
- Clear Drains & Gullies

***"The Hill coming into Charfield would look nice with Trees / flowers"***  
**Charfield Resident**

Suggestions were made in response to the questions regarding open space (Question A3) that related to the general appearance and character of Charfield too. In summary, these suggestions were to:

- Improve maintenance and upkeep of open spaces
- Make the entrances to the village more attractive with flowers;
- Protect open spaces within village from development;
- Consider a Public Garden, Village Pond or other focal point.

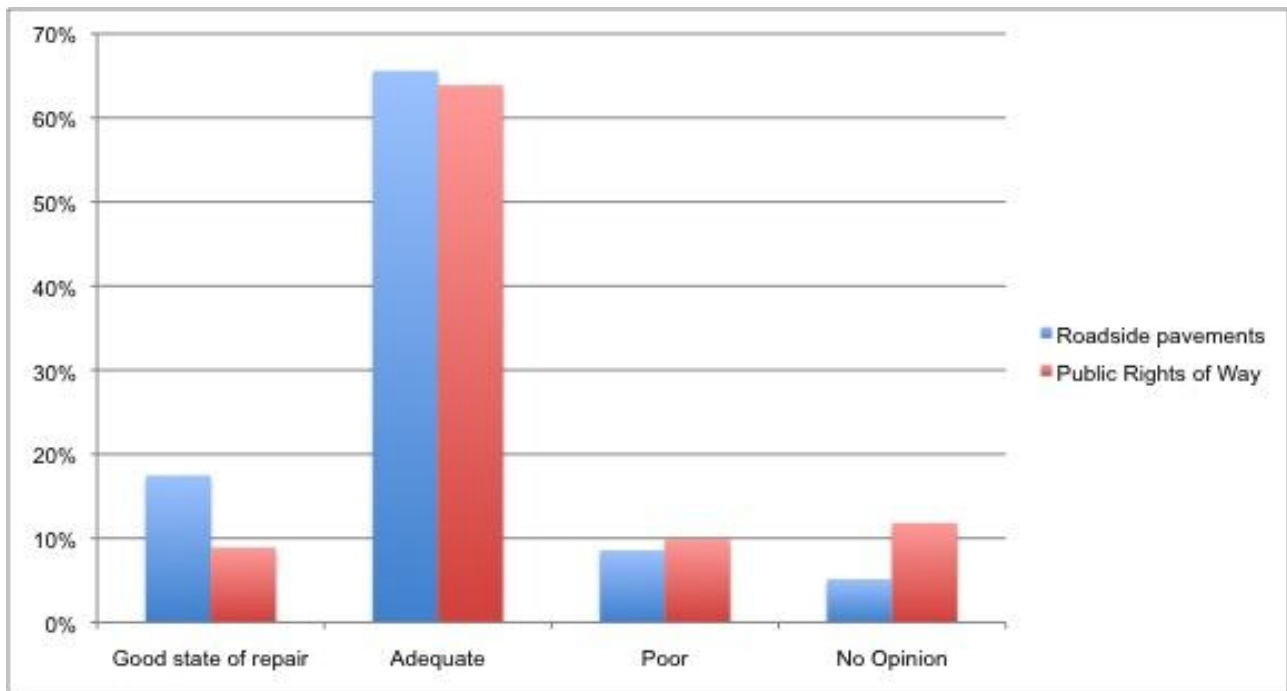
Dog fouling is also an issue in Charfield, with the majority of respondents (60%) considering it was a problem. However, there was a mixed response to the need for more dog litter bins – with about 38% saying Yes, 24% No and 31% Don't Know. However, again people feel very strongly about this issue as there were over 150 additional comments. Many comments indicated that it wasn't the lack of bins that was a problem, it was more that people did not use them. The wide range of areas suggested clearly indicates that dog fouling is a problem right across the village. The areas most consistently identified were:

- New Street & Pin Mill
- Wotton Road
- Manor Lane / Wotton Road Junction
- Little Bristol by phone box
- Devils lane by the Church
- Swinhay Lane
- Rights of Way behind School
- Churchend
- Pool Farm Lane
- Hawthorne Close
- Footpath across Railway Line
- Huntingford
- Between Steve's Shop and School
- Little Bristol Lane & Wotton Road junction
- Underhill Road
- Willow Close
- Station Road
- Woodlands Road
- Longs View

***"I'm a dog owner but I'm sometimes appalled by the mess"***  
**Charfield Resident**

Litter was also addressed in the questionnaire. Respondents were asked if there were sufficient litterbins in the village. 32% said Yes and 37% said No. 83% were aware of the two Parish Council run litter picks each year and 35% indicated that they would participate in the next one.

Residents were asked about the state of the footpaths in and around Charfield. The results are given in Graph 16.



**Graph 16: Views on the state of Charfield footpaths**

There were over 75 additional comments made suggesting specific areas for improvement. The most commonly suggested were:

- Establish a footpath & cycle link to New Mills, KLB and Wotton
- Wotton Road pavement too narrow & dangerous for children
- Improve footpath across playing field to Katherine Close
- Establish a pedestrian gate between Hawthorn Close and Woodlands Road
- Complete footpath to link to Tortworth
- Publicise rights of way, circular walks, and produce a leaflet
- Improve footpath signs & stiles and maintenance
- Extend pavement beyond Post Office 50 yards to link to footpath
- Provide a roadside pavement from Charfield hill to first properties on Tortworth Road
- Pavement linking Churchend across Wotton Road to pavement down Charfield Hill.
- Footbridge over railway Farm Lees area to link up behind school

By far the most common suggestion for improving footpaths in and around Charfield was for a safe footpath and cycle route to link to New Mills (Renishaw), KLB School & Sports Centre and Wotton-under-Edge. This issue is considered further under Topic 7: Traffic and Transportation on page 44.

### Youth Surveys

30% of the children and young people surveyed at KLB felt that litter was an issue in Charfield.

62% said that nowhere to go locally was an issue. A safe footpath and cycle route to KLB Sports Centre and Wotton would help address this. Also, the 90 parents and young children consulted at the Charfield Primary School Christmas Fayre in 2011 indicated that a safe route to Wotton and KLB Sports Centre was their top priority.

### Business Survey

Several businesses raised the issue of flood prevention in Charfield as a result of flooding incidents in November 2012. The worst affected areas were close to the Little Avon River at the Pin Mill and Wotton Road outside the Renishaw establishment in Charfield. In their survey response Renishaw highlighted the vulnerability of the village in terms of road communications during the recent floods. Flooding in Charfield, Wickwar and Kingswood had left the village inaccessible from several directions.

## Key Actions

Issue	Action	Who is Responsible?	How will progress be made?
Improve maintenance and upkeep of Charfield	Improve maintenance of footpaths, hedges, verges, open space in the village	South Gloucestershire Council (Highways)	Steering Group to report findings to South Gloucestershire Council.
	Install new signs & tubs of flowers to make entrances to village more attractive	New Action Group	Steering Group to seek to establish new action group through launch event of Village Plan Approach local businesses for sponsorship. Investigate grant funding.
Reduce Flooding	Improve maintenance of drainage gullies, ditches etc and implement further drainage / remedial works to minimise risk of flooding. Particular problem areas are Woodlands Road, Pin Mill and Wotton Road (opposite Renishaw factory).	South Gloucestershire Council (Highways, Drainage & Open Spaces); Environment Agency	South Gloucestershire Council and Environment Agency to improve maintenance and implement further drainage / remedial works required.
Tackle Dog Fouling	Encourage people to report offences to Dog Warden	The Community	All to report offenders to the South Gloucestershire Council Dog Warden 01454 868000
	Consider provision of additional Dog Litter Bin (see suggestions)	Parish Council	Parish Council to progress.
Tackle litter problem	Continue with litter picks & consider employing a litter picker	Parish Council	Parish Council to progress.
Improve usage and quality of footpaths	Publicise public rights of way	Parish Council / South Gloucestershire Council (Public Rights of Way)	Produce a leaflet of local routes and circular walks Publicise in CHADRA newsletter / Community website and Parish Council website
	Improve footpath signs, stiles and maintenance	South Gloucestershire Council (Public Rights of Way)	Steering Group to report findings to South Gloucestershire Council.
	Widen Wotton Road pavement which is too narrow & dangerous for children going to school.	South Gloucestershire Council (Highways)	Steering Group to report findings to South Gloucestershire Council.
	Improve footpath across playing field to Katherine Close	Parish Council	Parish Council to progress.
	Provide pavements in Charfield Hill area – properties on Tortworth Road & across Wotton Road linking to lane leading to Churchend	South Gloucestershire Council (Public Rights of Way and Highways)	Steering Group to report findings to South Gloucestershire Council.
Establish new footpaths in and around Charfield	Provide safe footpath & cycle link to New Mills, KLB and Wotton	Steering Group (through launch event) / New Action Group	See Topic 7: Traffic & Transportation
	Establish a pedestrian gate between Hawthorn Close and Woodlands Road	South Gloucestershire Council (Public Rights of Way and Highways)	Steering Group to report findings to South Gloucestershire Council.
	Extend pavement beyond Post Office 50 yards to link to footpath	South Gloucestershire Council (Public Rights of Way and Highways)	Steering Group to report findings to South Gloucestershire Council.
	Complete project already started to link path to Tortworth	South Gloucestershire Council (Public Rights of Way and Highways)	Steering Group to report findings to South Gloucestershire Council.
	Investigate footbridge over railway behind Farm Lees area to link up to paths behind school	South Gloucestershire Council (Public Rights of Way) Network Rail	Steering Group to report findings to South Gloucestershire Council.

Table 12: Key Actions - Topic 6: Environment



## Topic 7: Traffic and Transportation

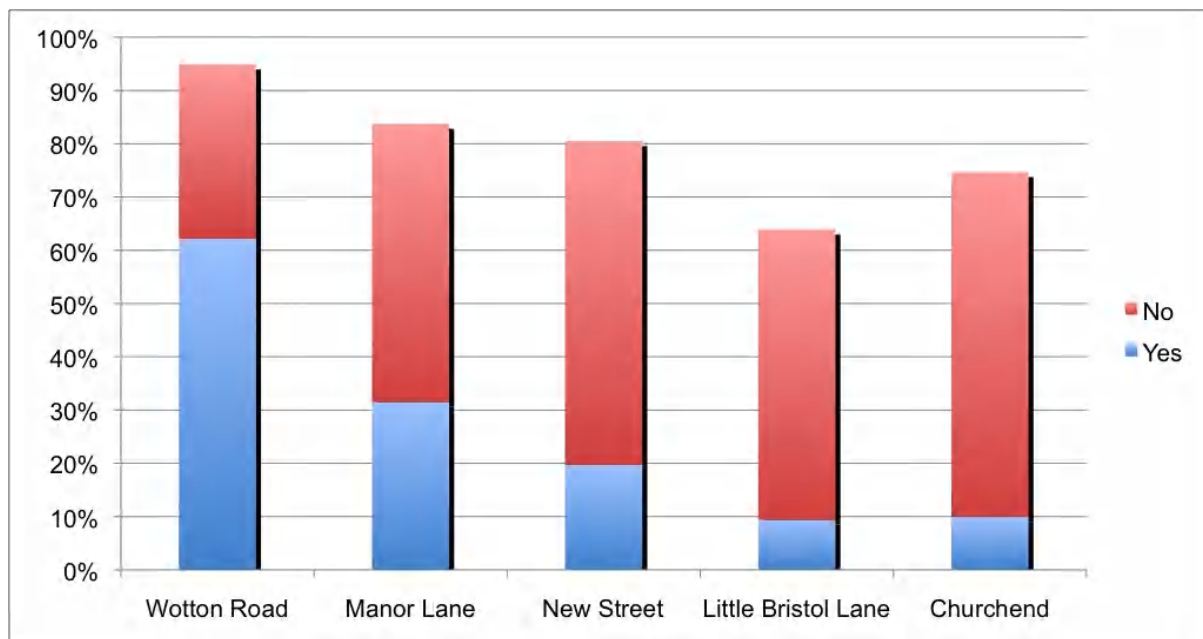
From the outset, it was apparent that issues relating to traffic and transportation were very important to the people of Charfield (ultimately, 30% of all comments on the household questionnaire related to this area). Therefore the household survey considered most modes of transport: car, cycling, walking, bus, taxi and train. Similarly, the KLB student survey revealed that there is concern amongst children and young people for speeding traffic, and bus and train services.

The early results and comments of the household survey have been shared with South Gloucestershire Council Highways Department. Initial discussion with Officers from the Council (Highways and Transportation) has been undertaken. It is understood that the Council has some plans to consider some of these issues, and further meetings have been arranged to consider the next steps forward.

### Household Questionnaire (Questions E1-15 and H4)

#### Traffic issues

The household survey revealed that speeding issues were a particular worry, with 62% expressing concern with speeding on the main road, Wotton Road (Figure 12). Also of concern are traffic speeds in Manor Lane and New Street, and several respondents commented that speeds are too high in Underhill Road as well.



**Figure 12: Do you have concerns regarding traffic speed?**

The survey considered views on traffic calming solutions, and it was revealed that views were varied on how traffic speeding might be addressed. A quarter of households added further comments and suggestions on this issue and these were similarly mixed. However, 16% were in favour of speed reductions<sup>1</sup> and over a third supported a greater Police presence or other speed control, such as an average speed camera; meanwhile 9% would rather see no further change.

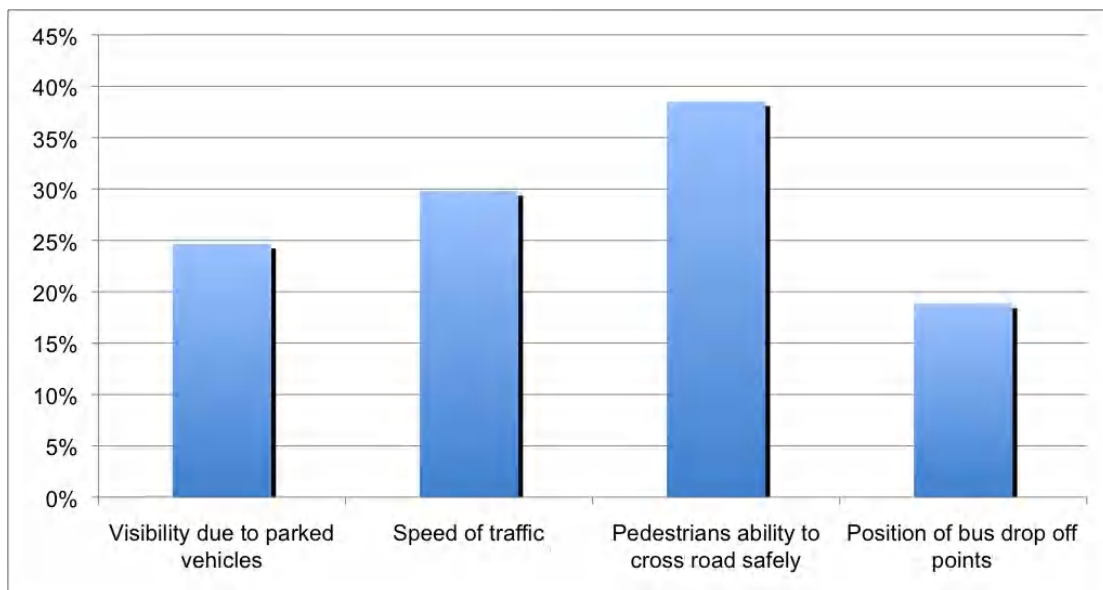
<sup>1</sup> Note: since the survey was undertaken, the speed limit on Charfield Hill has been reduced from 50 mph to 30mph

From the initial comment gathering exercises, it was clear that there were concerns regarding the safety of the New Street / Wotton Road / Station Road area, so this was included on the household survey as a specific question (Figure 14). It was established that almost half of the respondents (48%) were concerned about this area. 70 households commented on the issues in this area; 34% of these considered that vehicles should be stopped from parking on the path outside the petrol station and 27% were in favour of a pedestrian crossing.



**Figure 13: Wotton Road / New Street / Station Road / Little Bristol Lane**

Then, when specifically asked in the next question in the survey, 58% of the respondents thought that there should be a permanent crossing in this area.

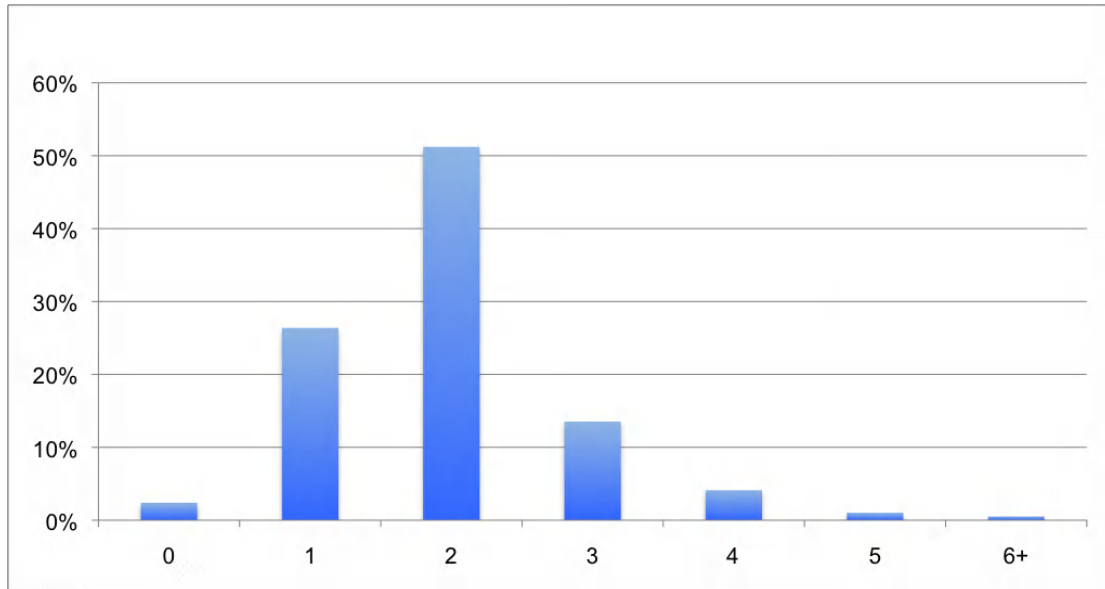


**Figure 14: Issues of concern at the New Street / Wotton Road/ Station Road junction area**

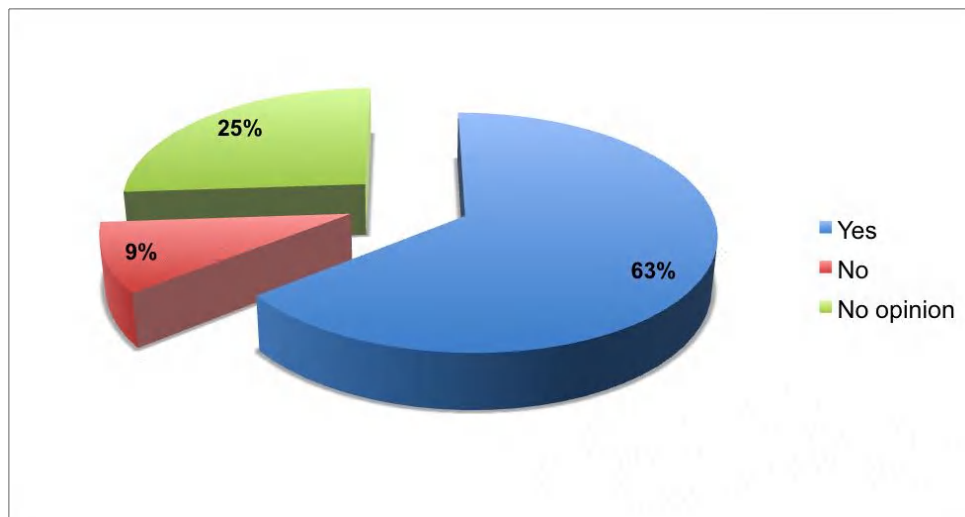
Modes of Transport

It was confirmed that the car is the most commonly used mode of transport with 98% of households having access to a car and indeed 74% having access to two or more cars (Figure 15).

With this high car use noted however, when asked about a 'car share noticeboard' on the community website, 23% indicated that they would you be interested in using it. Similarly, 63% considered that the layby near Junction 14 (currently used informally for car sharing) should be made into a more formal car share facility (see Figure 16), and 22% would use it if there was a charge for safe and secure parking whilst 41% would not.



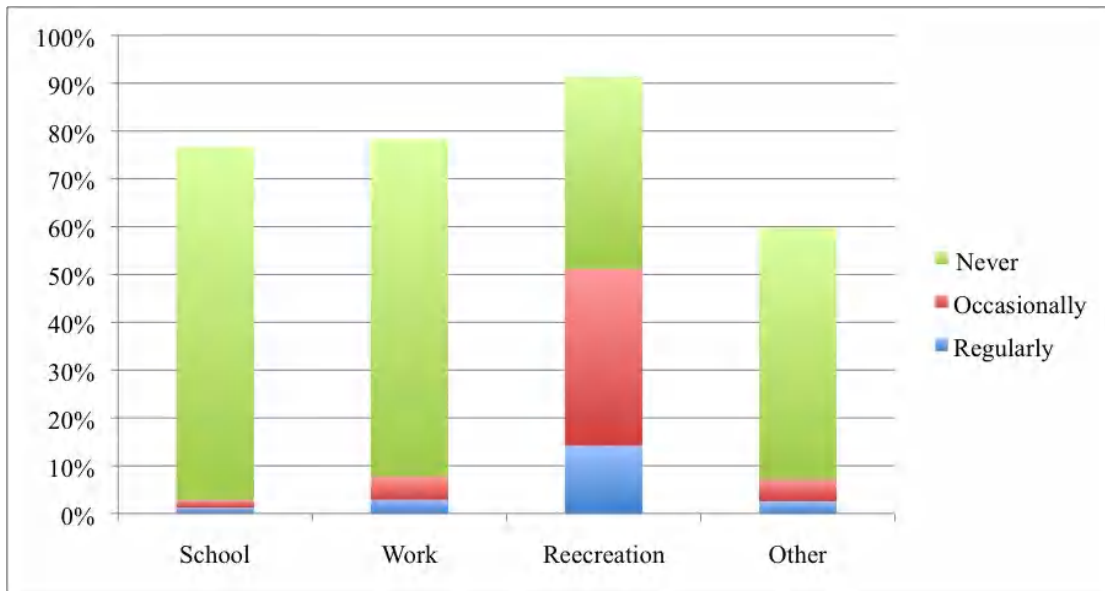
**Figure 15: Number of cars/vans regularly sited at your property**



**Figure 16: Interest in making the informal parking arrangement at M5 Junction 14 into a more formal car-share facility**

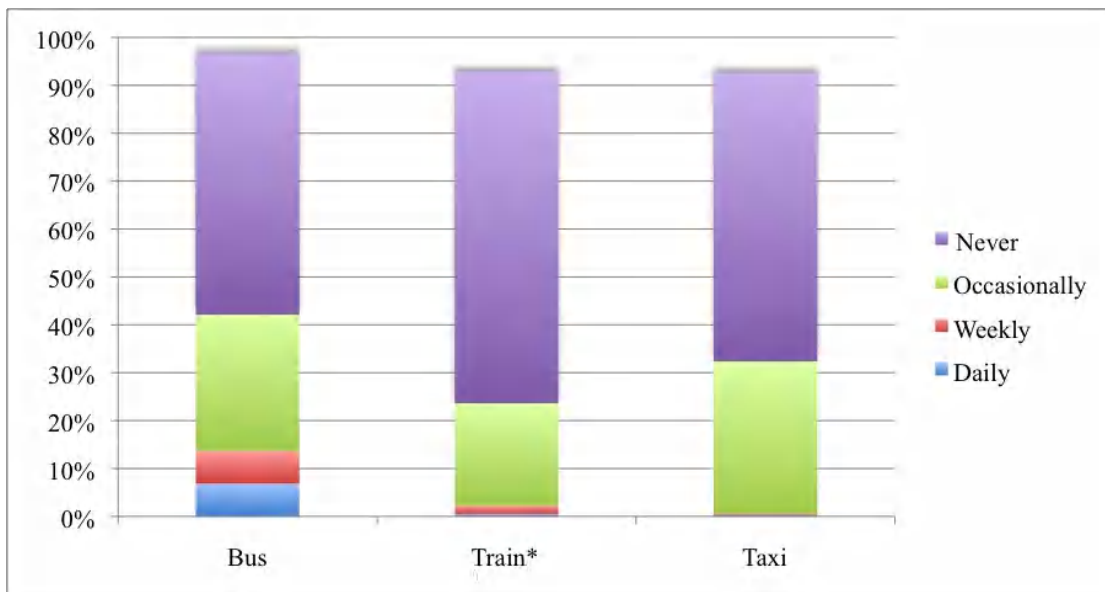
Cycling is not currently a popular mode of transport, apart from occasional recreational use (Figure 17). However, when asked if people would cycle more if there were safer routes for cycling, 45% responded that they would cycle regularly and a further 44% cycling occasionally. Almost a quarter of respondents added where they would wish to cycle to, of which 23% where to Kingswood/KLB school and 48% to Wotton.

A specific question was asked about the likely use of a cycle/foot path linking Charfield to Wotton and KLB school: 6% replied daily, 14% weekly and 41% answered occasionally. There was also an interest to provide better routes within Charfield for example to the Primary School.



**Figure 17: Frequency of current cycle use**

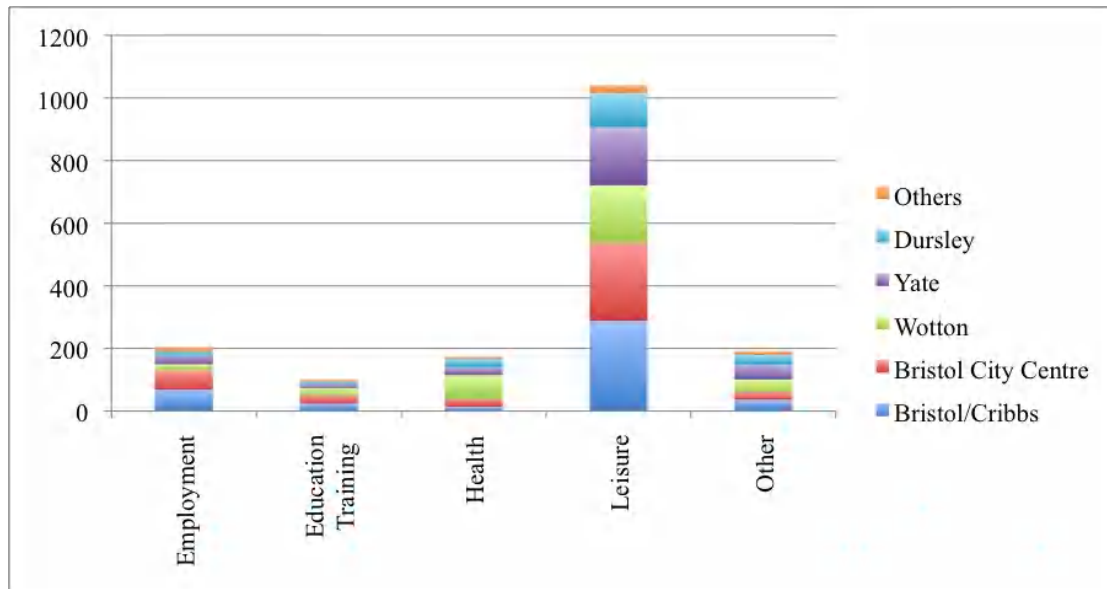
Use of other forms of transport is limited, then main mode being bus as shown in Figure 18.



**Figure 18: Frequency of other modes of transport**

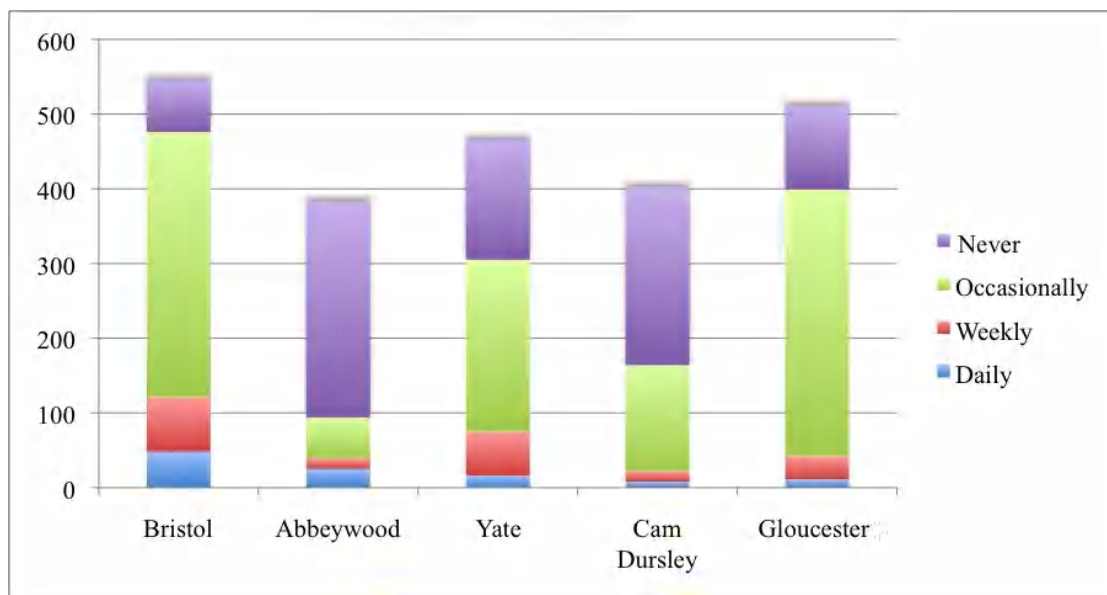
(\*Train from Yate or Dursley)

Following on from this, the next question asked which of each household's needs would be met by the following improvements to public transport? Figure 19 shows that respondents considered that such improvements would particularly serve their leisure needs to a range of destinations.



**Figure 19: How each household’s needs would be met by improved services to a variety of destinations**

Finally in this section, households were asked if Charfield had an operational railway station again whether anyone in your household would use it. Figure 20 shows that there is significant interest in the use of the railway, possibly 18% using it daily.

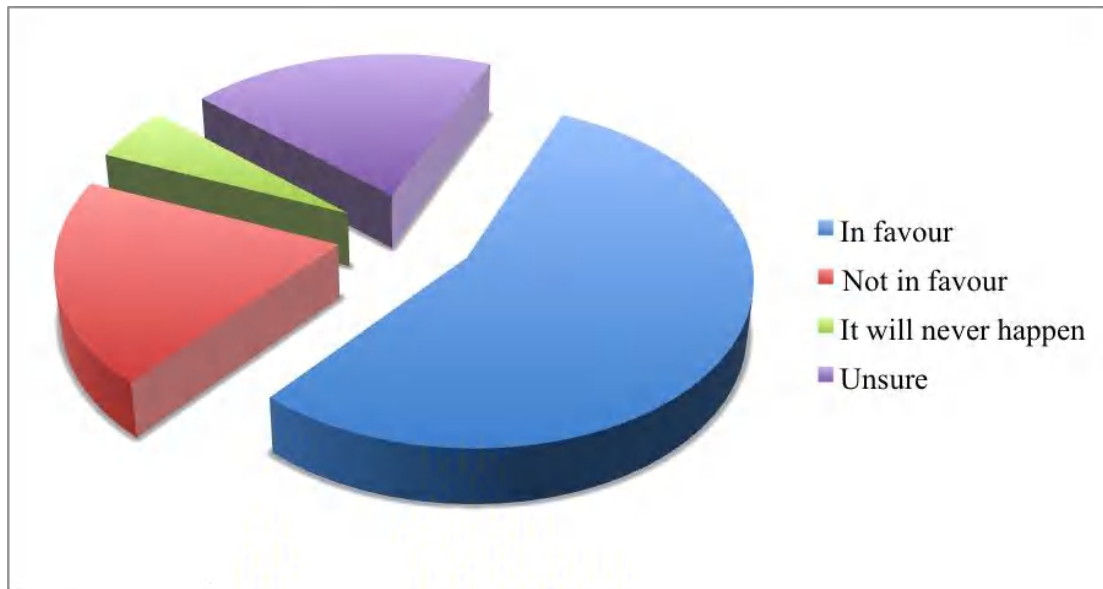


**Figure 20: Potential use if Charfield had an operational railway station**

Households were again asked for comments on the subject; there are strong views for and against the re-opening of the station. Of these 151 comments, there are concerns about the parking arrangements (17%), the generation of increased traffic (6%), the siting of the station (2%) and the potential to attract growth of the village (3%). Others saw the potential to connect to the wider railway system e.g. to London and Cheltenham (15%), to take cars off the road (4%) and to give some freedom for children seeking employment and others that do not drive (3%).

Overall 55% of the comments were in favour of re-opening of the station, 20% were against, 5% consider that “it will never happen” and 20% others were unsure (Figure 21).





**Figure 21: Views on the re-opening of the railway station**

## Youth Surveys

### Traffic and Transportation issues

The main issues that were raised in the KLB Survey were that 50% considered that there are poor bus services and 39% felt that speeding traffic is an issue.

There was great interest in the possible future use of the railway with 93% of the students who took the survey saying that they would use the train station if it were to be re-opened.

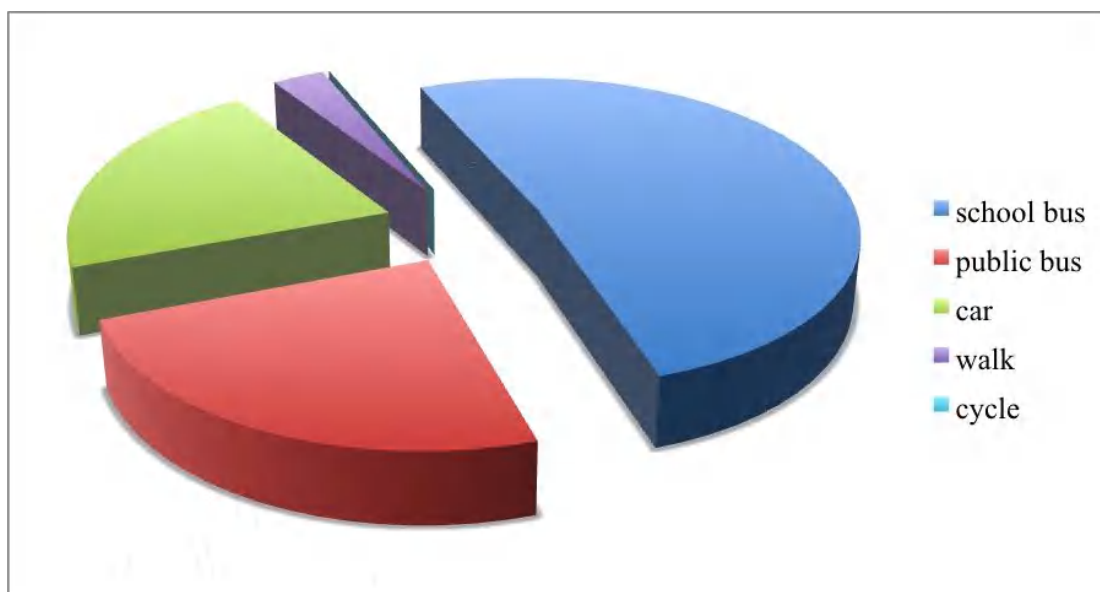


Photograph by  
Mrs B Pearn

**Figure 22: Charfield Railway Station (opened 1844, closed 1965)**

Modes of Transport

KLB students were asked how they travelled to school. It was revealed that 75% of the students used the bus to get to school, with another 21% getting a lift by car and 3% walking. No one cycles to school. See Figure 23.



**Figure 23: Modes for transport to KLB School**

Students were also invited to add comments on the traffic and transportation issues. Such comments include:

- *“The school bus parks outside the garage where I need to cross the road in the morning, it would be a good idea to move the bus further down the road”.*
- *“Re-opening the train station, as young people as well as older would benefit from it.”*

**Business Survey**

With regard to road infrastructure, the major employer in the local area, Renishaw, commented that the new roundabout at Charfield Hill had significantly reduced delays for employees travelling to work. In response to the question about transport improvements, Renishaw highlighted that their employees would particularly benefit from improved public transport connections, safer cycling routes and suggested that an easily navigable footpath to and from their headquarters site at New Mills would be of benefit too.

**Key Actions**

Issue	Action	Who is Responsible?	How will progress be made?
Traffic speed especially on Wotton Road	Discuss with South Gloucestershire Council (Highways) and Police	South Gloucestershire Council (Highway Authority)	Steering Group to report findings to South Gloucestershire Council and establish a new action group through launch event. Seek advice from South Gloucestershire Community Speed Watch Network.
Wotton Road / New Street / Station Road area ▪ junction safety ▪ pedestrian crossing ▪ bus stop location	Discuss with South Gloucestershire Council (Highways) and Police	South Gloucestershire Council (Highway Authority)	Steering Group to report findings to South Gloucestershire Council and establish a new action group through launch event
Improvement in bus services	Discuss with South Gloucestershire Council (Transportation) and bus operators	South Gloucestershire Council (Transportation) and Gloucestershire County Council	Steering Group to report findings to South Gloucestershire Council and Gloucestershire County Council.
Provide improved cycleway/footpath connections	Discuss with South Gloucestershire	South Gloucestershire and Gloucestershire County	Steering Group to report findings to South Gloucestershire Council

to adjacent villages, in particular Wotton and Kingswood/KLB	Council and Gloucestershire County Council (Highways)	Council (Highway Authorities)	and establish a new action group through launch event
Investigate further the concept of re-opening the railway station	Discuss with South Gloucestershire Council (Transportation) and railway operators	South Gloucestershire Council (Transportation) and railway operators	Steering Group to seek to establish a new action group through launch event

**Table 13: Key Actions – Topic 7: Traffic and Transportation**

## Topic 8: Development

The development and use of land covers a whole range of issues, including housing, business, retail and leisure. Development and changes of use are managed through the planning system operated by South Gloucestershire Council in its role as Local Planning Authority.

With regard to future development, the current planning policy for South Gloucestershire allows, in principle, small-scale infill development within a defined boundary around Charfield. Planning Policy also allows 'affordable' housing schemes to meet local needs as an 'exception' to normal planning policy in rural areas.

South Gloucestershire Council is preparing new planning policy (known as the 'Core Strategy') for the area, and this will set out broadly where and what type of new development will take place across South Gloucestershire over the next 15 years. The proposed planning policy for rural areas keeps the current settlement boundaries around rural settlements until they are reviewed in the *Policies, Sites and Places Development Plan Document (DPD)* that the Council will prepare following engagement with local communities and other stakeholders / partners.

The Government has recently introduced a new tier in plan-making which can set local planning policies – known as Neighbourhood Plans. The aim is to give communities greater influence in the planning and development of their local area. There are stringent rules that must be followed in preparing a Neighbourhood Plan, including a referendum. A Neighbourhood Plan can only be prepared by the Parish Council in Charfield, but it must comply with the planning policies prepared by South Gloucestershire Council. It must also propose the same amount of, or more, development as South Gloucestershire Council; it cannot be used to limit development.



**Figure 24: New development off Wotton Road**

An alternative option to preparing a Neighbourhood Plan would be for the Parish Council to work in close consultation with South Gloucestershire Council to influence the planning policy documents prepared by South Gloucestershire Council that affect Charfield. In particular, South Gloucestershire Council have indicated that they are commencing work on their *Policies, Sites and Places Development Plan Document (DPD)*, which includes reviewing the development boundaries around villages in rural areas.

### Household Questionnaire (Questions G1, G2, G3)

In response to the question which asked how residents would like to see Charfield in 10 years time, 42% (247 households) said 'no further growth', 38% (219 households) said 'growth capable of sustaining current facilities', and 16% (94 households) said 'growth requiring additional facilities'. This means that over half of respondents (54%) considered that over the next 10 years they would like to see some development occur in Charfield.

When considering the top three priorities for Charfield, out of those who answered the question, 'restricting growth' was the second most important priority. The top priority was to 'retain the village / community feel'. It is clear that residents are concerned that any new development should be small scale, carefully integrated and in keeping with the village.

Respondents were asked about the type of development they considered was needed in Charfield. 52% of respondents suggested that 'affordable homes to meet local need (social rented/shared ownership)' were either 'yes definitely' or 'maybe' needed in Charfield. 49% suggested that 1 or 2 bed houses or flats were needed and 47% suggested bungalows, with 42% suggesting Sheltered Accommodation was needed too. These findings highlight the concerns respondents have for local people being able to afford a home in the village and also the ability of older residents to stay in the village as their needs change.

Out of those respondents who considered certain types of homes were 'definitely not' needed in Charfield, the highest percentage (40%) said larger detached homes, and 30% said 4-bed houses were not needed.



Figure 25: Affordable homes being built in Charfield



Development does not just cover housing, it includes business, retail, leisure, community and other uses too. 63% of respondents considered that more community development was either 'yes definitely' or 'maybe' needed in Charfield, with a similar number suggested 'leisure' development was needed too. Just over a third of respondents considered that more business and retail units were needed but this was counteracted by a third suggesting that these were 'definitely not' required. The following specific types of development were suggested too:

- Doctors Surgery / health centre
- Takeaway, bank, butchers, pharmacy
- Youth, recreational and sporting facilities  
e.g. youth centre, football goals and training walls, leisure centre, badminton & squash courts
- Children's facilities e.g. soft play
- Allotments / Community Garden
- Rebuild the Memorial Hall.

**Our priority is "to stay here forever because in general we love it"  
Charfield Resident**

Suggestions were made in response to the need for additional facilities (Question A6) for making better use of poorly-kept existing buildings. For example, the outbuildings in the Railway Tavern pub car park were often referred to as a good place for some shops, café, soft play or other facility. Also the old bank building by MJ Fewes was suggested for re-use too.

Also, with regard to open space (Question A3), residents wanted to ensure that open space was protected from development. There was a suggestion of investigating 'Village Green' status to protect some areas.

### Youth Surveys

Development was not specifically covered as an issue in the KLB youth survey. The Castle School youth survey suggested 'More Shops'.

### Business Survey

Most businesses reliant on passing trade were supportive of more residential development as it would expand their customer base. Businesses were less supportive of any new development that would introduce more competition for the same customers as you would expect.

Minerals development was highlighted by the Tortworth Estate as an important source of local employment with 60 employees working at the Churchwood Quarry operated by Cemex. The employees also support the use of local services in Charfield. In due course there may be a requirement to work further limestone mineral reserves which are within the parish of Charfield. Therefore the future expansion of the quarry and the potential impact on the village will be important issues for local people and the Parish Council to consider when there is a review of minerals planning policy and proposals by South Gloucestershire Council.

### Key Actions

Issue	Action	Who is Responsible?	How will progress be made?
Future development in Charfield	Ensure that the Charfield Village Plan, and the evidence that it is based upon, is used in the consideration of planning applications in Charfield Parish.	Parish Council  South Gloucestershire Council	Steering Group to meet with South Gloucestershire Council officers to inform them of the key findings of the Charfield Village Plan.  Parish Council to adopt the Village Plan.  Parish Council to use the evidence provided by the Village Plan in their representations to South Gloucestershire Council on planning applications that affect Charfield.
	Work with South Gloucestershire Council on new planning policies that will affect Charfield through the adoption of the emerging South Gloucestershire Core Strategy, subsequent	Parish Council / South Gloucestershire Council	South Gloucestershire Council planning officers to liaise with Parish Council

	detailed, site specific, planning policy documents and any review of minerals planning policy documents.		
	Consider whether to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan or not.	Parish Council	Seek advice from South Gloucestershire Council planning officers on the best approach for influencing planning policy for Charfield
Affordable homes to meet a local need in Charfield	Carry out a Local Housing Needs Survey	Parish Council	Parish Council in conjunction with South Gloucestershire Council Rural Housing Enabling Officer have prepared a Housing Needs Survey and may be carried out early 2013.
Accommodation suitable to meet the needs of older people	Ensure any new development (planning applications) includes appropriate mix of homes to meet local needs	Parish Council South Gloucestershire Council	Parish Council to highlight these issues in representations they make on planning applications to South Gloucestershire Council.
Bring poorly kept existing buildings into use	Identify potential viable use for out buildings in Railway Tavern Car Park	Landlord and Owners of Railway Tavern Parish Council	Parish Council to liaise with owners of Railway Tavern to reach a potential re-use and upgrading of the near derelict outbuildings. Consider additional facilities identified in the Village Plan ( <i>also see analysis under Topic 1, Part 2: Community Facilities, Open Space and Recreation</i> ).
	Old bank near MJ Fews	Owner of Building Parish Council	Parish Council to liaise with owners over use.
Protect open space from Development	Formally protect public open space in Charfield.	Parish Council South Gloucestershire Council	Parish Council to seek protection of areas of open space (e.g. investigate Village Green status or planning policy protection in emerging South Gloucestershire Council documents).

**Table 14: Key Actions – Topic 8: Development**

## Summary of Key Actions

Actions	Who is responsible?
<p><b>Present findings of Village Plan to Stakeholders &amp; the Community</b></p> <p>Parish Council, Community Groups, South Gloucestershire Council (Planning, Highways, Open Spaces, Public Rights of Way, Libraries, Drainage, Youth service), Police, NHS and others.</p>	<p>Steering Group (including launch event in Charfield)</p>
<p><b>Improve existing community facilities</b></p> <p>a) Modernise &amp; Improve Memorial Hall –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Prepare comprehensive modernisation plan and implement when funding permits</li> <li>o Continue fundraising events for Hall</li> <li>o Consider increase in funding through Council Tax (Parish Precept)</li> <li>o Submit grant applications for funding using evidence from Village Plan in support. First priority is lighting in Car Park.</li> </ul> <p>b) Upgrade public toilets</p>	<p>Memorial Hall Trustees &amp; Parish Council</p> <p>Council for Voluntary Services (CVS) South Gloucestershire – help community groups with grant applications. <a href="http://www.cvs-sg.org.uk">www.cvs-sg.org.uk</a></p> <p>South Gloucestershire Council (Open Spaces)</p>
<p><b>Improve and enhance open space / recreation areas</b></p> <p>a) Improve range and quality of equipment in the Park e.g. all weather football/basketball pitch (<i>see analysis under Topic 1, Part 1 &amp; Part 2</i>)</p> <p>b) Replace and expand play equipment at Toddler area in Longs View (<i>see analysis under Topic 1, Part 2</i>)</p> <p>c) Enhance the appearance and use of the hard surface play space at Manor Lane (<i>see analysis under Topic 1, Part 2</i>)</p> <p>d) Implement low key enhancements to informal green space at Woodlands Road (<i>see analysis under Topic 1, Part 2</i>)</p> <p>e) Establish a Community Orchard / Garden</p>	<p>Parish Council</p> <p>South Gloucestershire Council (Open Spaces)</p> <p>South Gloucestershire Council (Open Spaces)</p> <p>South Gloucestershire Council (Open Spaces)</p> <p>Parish Council / New Action Group / South Gloucestershire Council (Open Spaces) for advice and guidance.</p>

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Who is responsible?</b>
<p><b>Maintain viability of existing activities</b></p> <p>a) Advertise Mobile Library and Wotton Swimming Pool</p> <p>b) Publicise other activities / events in Charfield (regular email update of activities &amp; events)</p> <p>c) Advise community groups with grant applications</p>	<p>South Gloucestershire Council (Libraries) /Wotton Pool / CHADRA newsletter / Charfield community website (Evergreen Computing)</p> <p>Activity Groups / CHADRA newsletter / Charfield community website (Evergreen Computing)</p> <p>Council for Voluntary Services (CVS) South Gloucestershire – help community groups with grant applications. <a href="http://www.cvs-sg.org.uk">www.cvs-sg.org.uk</a></p>
<p><b>Introduce new activities, facilities &amp; initiatives:</b></p> <p>a) Provide Allotments</p> <p>b) Investigate introducing a Community Compost Scheme</p> <p>c) Set up a garden share scheme</p> <p>d) Investigate opportunities for a community renewable energy initiative</p> <p>e) Establish a fuel bulk buying club</p> <p>f) Establish a regular evening youth café. Introduce new activities targeted to junior age children and 11-14; 15-18 year olds (<i>see analysis under Topic 2: Community Activities &amp; Initiatives</i>).</p> <p>g) Establish new activity groups (<i>see analysis under Topic 2: Community Activities &amp; Initiatives</i>).</p> <p>h) Investigate provision of health care services e.g. visiting doctors surgery</p> <p>i) Establish a café / coffee shop / takeaway / shops</p>	<p>Parish Council</p> <p>Parish Council / Steering Group (through launch event) / New Action Group (Seek advice from Thornbury Community Compost Scheme)</p> <p>Steering Group (through launch event) / Charfield community website (Evergreen Computing) possible link to <a href="http://www.landshare.net">www.landshare.net</a></p> <p>Steering Group (through launch event) / Support available from Jane Thompson, Sustainability Team Leader at South Gloucestershire Council</p> <p>Steering Group (through launch event) /</p> <p>Parish Council / Memorial Hall Trustees</p> <p>Steering Group (through launch event) / the Community</p> <p>Steering Group (to inform providers of findings of Village Plan) / local surgeries</p> <p>Individuals / Businesses</p>

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Who is responsible?</b>
<p><b>Improving community communications</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Expand the receipt of CHADRA to all households in Charfield (electronically available and / or make free of charge)</li> <li>b) Regularly and more widely publicise the Charfield Community Website <a href="http://www.charfield.org">www.charfield.org</a> and Parish Council website <a href="http://www.charfieldparishcouncil.org">www.charfieldparishcouncil.org</a></li> <li>c) Improve the use of noticeboards in the Village.</li> <li>d) Enhance community website (see suggestions) &amp; establish an email database of residents.</li> </ul>	<p>CHADRA Committee / Charfield community website (Evergreen Computing)</p> <p>Parish Council / CHADRA / Evergreen Computing</p> <p>Parish Council / Memorial Hall Trustees</p> <p>Steering Group / Evergreen Computing / CHADRA Committee</p>
<p><b>Upgrade broadband infrastructure in Charfield</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Continue campaign for improved broadband speeds in Charfield</li> </ul>	<p>British Telecom / South Gloucestershire Council (01454 &amp; 01453 up to County boundary)</p> <p>Steering Group and Community to support campaign championed by Steve Webb MP and Councillor John O'Neill.</p>
<p><b>Reduce the fear of crime &amp; improve safety and security for all (including traffic safety issues):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Address issue of Blue Hut – consider removal from Park</li> <li>b) Review Street Lighting switch off</li> <li>c) Install Lighting in Memorial Hall Car Park</li> <li>d) Encourage reporting of crime to Policy</li> <li>e) Establish Neighbourhood Watch Scheme</li> <li>f) Consider CCTV at Memorial Hall &amp; Park</li> <li>g) Address problems in New Street / Wotton Road / Garage / Station Road area – Junction safety; Pedestrian crossing &amp; Bus stop location.</li> <li>h) Widen Wotton Road pavement which is too narrow &amp; dangerous for children going to school.</li> <li>i) Enforce speed limits especially on Wotton Road. Consider community speed watch scheme.</li> </ul>	<p>Parish Council</p> <p>South Gloucestershire Council</p> <p>Memorial Hall Trustees</p> <p>The Community / Safer Stronger Community Group / Police</p> <p>Steering Group (through launch event) / New Action Group (Seek advice from the Police Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator)</p> <p>Memorial Hall Trustees / Parish Council</p> <p>South Gloucestershire Council (Highways)</p> <p>South Gloucestershire Council (Highways)</p> <p>Police / Steering Group (through launch event) / New Action Group (Seek advice from South Gloucestershire Community Speed Watch Network)</p>



Actions	Who is responsible?
<p><b>Improve linkages &amp; accessibility (including transportation):</b></p> <p>a) Improve bus services</p> <p>b) Investigate re-opening of Charfield Railway Station</p> <p>c) Establish a community led transport scheme for all age groups to enable access to facilities in other places.</p> <p>d) Provide a safe pedestrian crossing over Wotton Road from Longs View footpath.</p> <p>e) Provide safe cycle and footpath connections to adjacent villages – in particular Wotton, Kingswood, KLB School &amp; Sports Centre. Also, complete link to Tortworth. (see analysis under Topic 7: Traffic &amp; Transport and Topic 6: Environment)</p> <p>f) Other improvements to footpaths to enable greater accessibility / linkages (see analysis under Topic 6: Environment):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Establish a pedestrian gate between Hawthorn Close and Woodlands Road</li> <li>o Investigate footbridge over railway behind Farm Lees area to link up to paths behind school</li> <li>o Extend pavement beyond Post Office 50 yards to link to footpath</li> <li>o Provision of pavements in Charfield Hill area – properties on Tortworth Road &amp; across Wotton Road linking to lane leading to Churchend</li> </ul> <p>g) Publish a leaflet with local rights of way and circular walks from Charfield.</p>	<p>South Gloucestershire Council &amp; Gloucestershire County Council (Public Transport)</p> <p>Steering Group (through launch event) / New Action Group / South Gloucestershire Council &amp; Gloucestershire County Council / Network Rail &amp; Train Operating Companies</p> <p>Steering Group (through launch event) / New Action Group</p> <p>Steering Group (through launch event) / New Action Group / South Gloucestershire Council (Highways)</p> <p>Steering Group (through launch event) / New Action Group / South Gloucestershire Council (Highways) &amp; Gloucestershire County Council (Highways)</p> <p>South Gloucestershire Council (Public Rights of Way &amp; Highways)</p> <p>Parish Council / South Gloucestershire Council (Public Rights of Way)</p>

Actions	Who is responsible?
<p><b>Improve the environment of the Village</b></p> <p>a) Reduce the risk of flooding - Improve maintenance of drainage gullies, ditches and implement further drainage / remedial works required. Particular problem areas: Woodlands Road, Pin Mill and Wotton Road (opposite Renishaw site).</p> <p>b) Introduce attractive, 'welcome' signs to the entrances of the Village, improve appearance of village &amp; consider 'village in bloom'.</p> <p>c) upgrade &amp; enhance footpath through field to Katherine Close</p> <p>d) Bring poorly kept buildings back into use. Priority – outbuildings of Railway Tavern, Old bank near Fewes (<i>see analysis under Topic 8: Development and Topic 1, Part 2: Community Facilities, Open Space and Recreation</i>).</p> <p>e) Continue with Litter Picks, consider employing a litter picker and providing more dog bins (<i>see analysis under Topic 6: Environment</i>).</p> <p>f) Better enforcement of litter / dog fouling offences. Consider 'Green dog walking scheme'.</p> <p>g) Improve upkeep and maintenance of hedges, verges, open space, footpaths &amp; rights of way</p>	<p>South Gloucestershire Council (Highways, Drainage and Open Space); Environment Agency</p> <p>Steering Group / New Action Group</p> <p>Parish Council</p> <p>Parish Council &amp; Landowners</p> <p>Parish Council / Steering Group (through launch event) / New Action Group (linked with action 'b' above)</p> <p>South Gloucestershire Council Dog Warden / Steering Group (through launch event) / New Action Group</p> <p>Parish Council / South Gloucestershire Council (Public Rights of Way and Open Spaces)</p>
<p><b>Influencing future development</b></p> <p>a) Ensure the Charfield Village Plan is used as a material consideration in planning decisions by South Gloucestershire Council.</p> <p>b) Work with South Gloucestershire Council on the preparation of their new planning policy documents to ensure the findings of the Village Plan are taken into account (<i>see analysis under Topic 8: Development</i>). Consider preparing a Neighbourhood Plan if necessary.</p> <p>c) Undertake a Housing Needs Survey to understand the level of local need for affordable housing in the Village.</p> <p>d) Ensure any new development has an appropriate mix of homes to meet local needs. The Village Plan identified a lack of accommodation suitable to meet the needs of older people.</p> <p>e) Protect existing public open space within Charfield. Consider applying for Village Green status or achieve policy designation in South Gloucestershire Council Planning documents.</p>	<p>Parish Council / South Gloucestershire Council (Planning)</p> <p>Parish Council / South Gloucestershire Council (Planning)</p> <p>Parish Council / South Gloucestershire Council</p> <p>Parish Council / South Gloucestershire Council (Planning)</p> <p>Parish Council / South Gloucestershire Council (Planning)</p>

## Next Steps

### Publication of the Plan and Summary Documents

The publication of the Charfield Village Plan is only the first step in an ongoing process. The Action Plan needs to be implemented. Many actions are in progress already, but others need the active support of members of the community. If you think you might be able to contribute in any way, please contact the Steering Group email: [charfieldvillageplan@gmail.com](mailto:charfieldvillageplan@gmail.com) or the Clerk to Charfield Parish Council: Hannah Saunders, Tel. 01454 294960, email [clerk@charfieldparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@charfieldparishcouncil.org.uk)

The Plan has been presented to Charfield Parish Council to adopt and take forward. South Gloucestershire Council is fully supportive of the Plan and is keen to assist the Parish Council in achieving the aspirations of the community they represent.

South Gloucestershire Council will also take into consideration the Charfield Village Plan when developing its planning and community strategies. It will also form a material consideration in the determination of planning applications by South Gloucestershire Council.

A summary of the Charfield Village Plan will be printed and distributed to all households and businesses in the Parish of Charfield during Spring 2013. The full version of the Charfield Village Plan is published on South Gloucestershire Council website [www.southglos.gov.uk](http://www.southglos.gov.uk) Charfield Parish Council Website [www.charfieldparishcouncil.org](http://www.charfieldparishcouncil.org) and the Charfield Community Website [www.charfield.org](http://www.charfield.org) . Printed copies are available to borrow from the Parish Council.

The evidence gathered through the preparation process of the Village Plan is available to view on the Charfield websites too.

### Monitoring and Review

The Steering Group will be retained in order to review progress made with the Action Plan. The Group will meet approximately every 3 to 6 months to help keep up the momentum of implementing the various actions and overcome any issues or problems.

## Acknowledgements

### Steering Group

(present & former members)

- Paul Macnamara - Chair
- Nicola Melville – Secretary
- Betty Manser – Treasurer
- Sue Simmons – Publicity Officer
- Mick Simmons
- Tim Hill
- Jo Davis
- Matt Fuller
- Steve Hake
- Val Hake
- Vanessa Cole
- Ian Kershaw – Parish Council Rep
- Paul Patterson – Parish Council Rep
- Richard Hancock – Parish Council Rep (former member)
- Steve Nute (former member)
- Suzie & Mark Smyth-Roberts (former members)

### Contributors

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- Dick Whittington – Rural Advisor, West of England Rural Network
- Hannah Saunders – Clerk to Charfield Parish Council
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- Memorial Hall Committee – for providing use of hall for meetings and events
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- Wotton Cinema – publicising Village Plan on screen in July 2011, Oct 2011
- Graphics company N3 – for providing the graphic work for logo.
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- KLB School business studies students and their teacher Mr Pegg – for compiling the list of businesses
- Fuller and Sons – business questionnaire administration costs
- Chris Harris for the Charfield Diamond Jubilee celebration photograph on the front cover.

**And finally 'Thank you' to everyone in and around Charfield who participated and contributed to the Charfield Village Plan**

*If you require further information or would like to get involved please contact the Steering Group email: [charfieldvillageplan@gmail.com](mailto:charfieldvillageplan@gmail.com) or the Clerk to Charfield Parish Council: Hannah Saunders, Tel. 01454 294960, email [clerk@charfieldparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@charfieldparishcouncil.org.uk)*