



PURTON PARISH PLAN



Produced by the community for the community



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to thank, first and foremost, the Parish residents, businesses and young people who took the time to respond to the questionnaires. Without these responses and comments, this document would have been almost impossible to produce.

A special thanks to the local businesses for agreeing to act as collection points for our completed questionnaires, thereby saving the Steering Group many hours going door to door.

We would also like to thank the following for their assistance and support in the creation of the Purton Parish Plan.

| | | |
|---|--|---------------------------------------|
| Purton Parish Council | Purton Historical Society | Purton Surgery |
| Wilshire Fire & Rescue Service | South Western Ambulance Service | Wiltshire Police |
| Community First | Hills Waste Solutions Ltd. | Ps & Qs |
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| Bradon Forest School | St Mary's C of E School | Wiltshire Council |
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|--|--|
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| Health and Welfare | Jacqui Lay, Edna Bunce |
| Business | Richard Pagett |
| Plan Layout and Design | Fred Newton, Kandy Newton |



FOREWORD

Why a Parish Plan

The concept of the Parish Plan was put forward by government and adopted by local councils to establish what matters to people in their own community. The plan is part of an independent assessment carried out by a steering group comprising local residents, members of the Parish Council, Bradon Forest and St Mary's Schools and representatives of groups within the parish. It is supported by Purton Parish Council and, throughout the process, membership of the steering group has been open to all parishioners.

The Parish

Purton Parish is situated midway between Royal Wootton Bassett and Cricklade. Purton Parish includes the village of Purton Stoke and the new development at Moredon Bridge – Mouldon View. It has reasonable connections to the national road network, M4 and A419, on typically narrow B and C roads and has a population (as of 2011) of just over 4,200, with approximately 1,700 dwellings.

The parish church, St. Mary's, is one of only three in the country that has both a central octagonal spire and a western tower.

Mondays to Saturdays there is an hourly public bus service in and out of Swindon and to a wider area, however there is no Sunday service. Other operators run services on various days, but residents felt that timetables could be better advertised and simpler, especially for occasional travel but regular users get used to the timings. Although close to Swindon, the parish is surrounded by countryside, something that featured highly in responses in the questionnaire as being a good thing.

The parish facilities include a health centre, library, dentists, churches, the village hall, a social club, a range of local shops, public houses, restaurants and fast food outlets plus a skate-park, three playgrounds and recreational spaces and two social clubs - the Red House and the Working Men's club.

The Process of developing the Plan

A public meeting was held in the Village Hall in September 2011, at which members of the Parish Council and representatives from Community First explained the purpose of a Parish Plan.

The meeting was attended by a wide cross-section of people from the parish. Following this, in October 2011, the process continued with an initial meeting of interested people, going on to form the steering group. During the following months, a constitution was drawn up and agreed and then the process of creating a questionnaire commenced.

The aim of the questionnaire was to obtain information from all areas of the parish (households, business and young people) regarding issues that affected them and their hopes and aspirations, for the parish, during the coming 5-10 years. The main household questionnaire was broken down into sections covering Security and Transport, Education and Recreation, Health and Welfare, Planning, Environment, Shopping and then a final section regarding the respondent.

A draft version of the questionnaire was finalised in mid-June 2012, which was then given to a small group of people for review and testing for ease of understanding. Following their feedback, the final version was compiled and distributed to most homes and 140 businesses in the parish throughout July and August. A further 900 questionnaires, specifically aimed at younger people, were distributed to Bradon Forest School.

We received almost 350 replies to the household questionnaire, 18 to the business one and almost 500 from Bradon Forest. The responses were collated and analysed and then presented to a public meeting, on 12th December 2012, held in the Village Hall.

Action lists in this document are taken from comments from the completed questionnaires and at the Dec 2012 and Oct 2013 public meetings.



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HISTORY

Village History - Purton

Purton is first mentioned in writing in Saxon times, but Ringsbury Camp, at the south-western end of the village, was a fortified Iron Age camp long before the time of Christ. Later, the Romans were in Purton and their relics have been discovered in many parts of the village. There was at least one Roman villa within the village and a Romano-British cemetery was discovered in 1987 during redevelopments at Northview hospital.

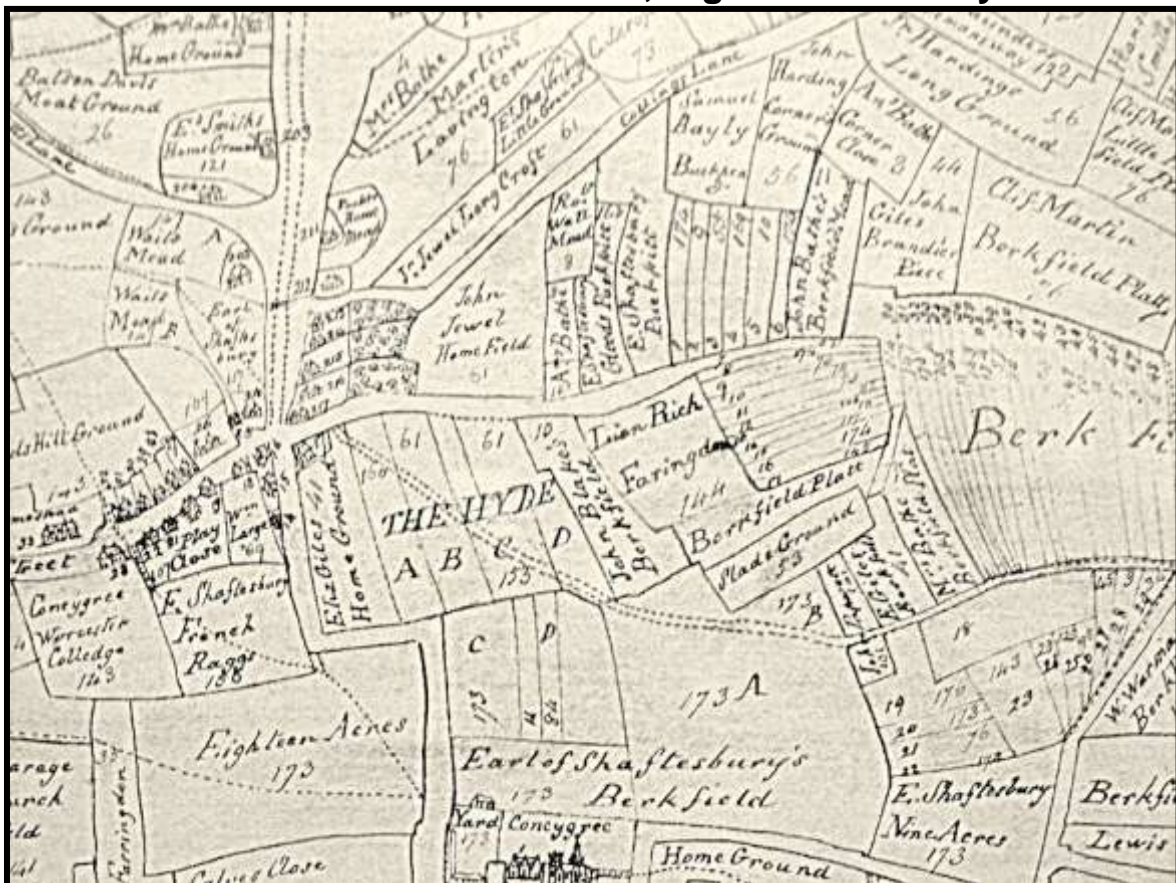
In the late 600s it is recorded in the charters of Malmesbury Abbey that Chedwalla, the Saxon king of this part of Wessex at that time, endowed the monks with land at Purton. This is the first time that Purton is mentioned in writing.

The Saxons called the village 'Piriton', 'Periton', 'Puriton', or 'Pirton', all of them various ways of spelling the 'Peartree Village'.

At this time there was probably a small Saxon church on the site of the present 13th century parish church, St Mary's, and a Saxon cemetery existed at 'The Fox'.

After the arrival of the Anglo Saxons there were two further invasions. First, by the Danes, in about 789AD, when Purton, on the borders of Alfred's Wessex, may well have been the scene of a battle still commemorated in the names 'Restrop', 'Battlewell' and 'Battle Lake', and secondly, by the Normans, in 1066.

Land in 1744 area of Station Road, High Street and Hyde Lane





William I ordered a survey of the whole country to make it easier to raise taxes. In 1086, the year that the Domesday survey was made, the records show that there were at Purton (Pirtone) 51 dwellings (comprising 20 villagers, 12 smallholders, 5 slaves, 13 cottagers and a burgess), land for 24 ploughs, 60 acres of meadow, a wood and a mill.



Tithe Barn

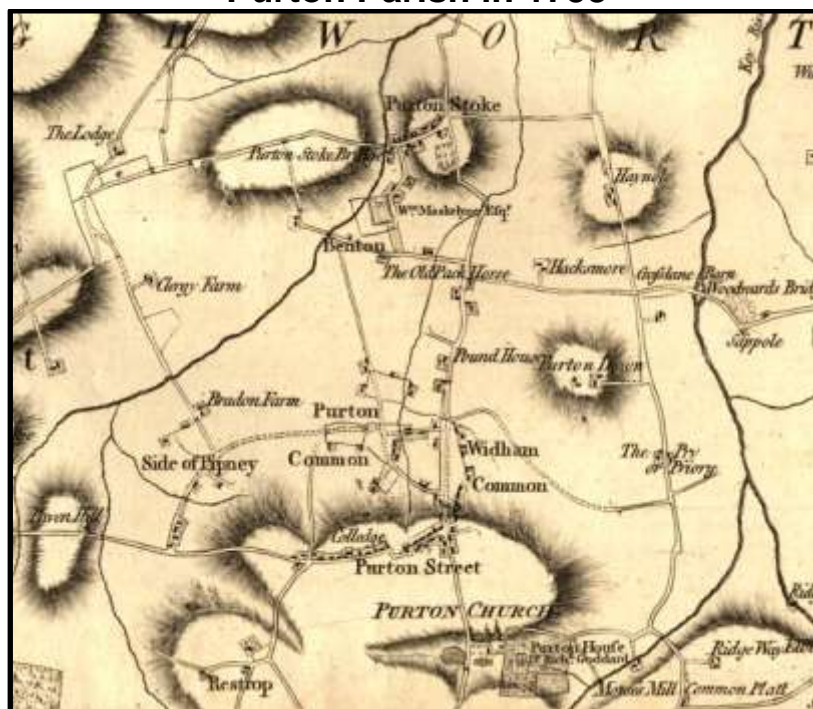
Since those early days Purton has developed in a free and unconstrained way (a linear form) along the main roads with various in-filling over the years and is a mixture of houses of all ages and styles from 12th century cottages through 16th and 17th century and red brick Victorian houses to modern housing estates and developments built from the 1940s to date. Notable older examples include – College Farm House, once the home of Edward Hyde, Earl of Clarendon, The Court, The Close and Sissells.



St Mary's Church

Originally built round the parish church, manor and tithe barn, at some time in the past, perhaps as a result of the Plague or a fire, the village moved to spread out along the Bristol to Oxford coach road.

Purton Parish in 1753





The High Street in the region of the Angel in 1950 and today

Whilst many of the older houses were built from stone from local quarries many of the more recent buildings are of brick and reconstituted stone blocks. The coming of the railway line in the late 19th century created another upsurge in building. There has been a recent tendency for large modern houses to be built in small lanes and in the large gardens of some properties.

Desmond Morris⁴ (author of "The Naked Ape" and other books)



Maskelyne family tomb

Many famous people have been associated with Purton including Dr Nevil Maskelyne¹ (Astronomer Royal), Sir Edward Hyde² (1st Earl of Clarendon), Lady Anne Hyde³ (Duchess of York and first wife of James II).



Lady Anne Hyde

Today Purton inhabitants are a mixture of the descendants of landowners, cottagers, farm workers, former railway employees, together with many newcomers - particularly those who have come to work in the expanding job markets of Swindon, whose employment has been re-located to Swindon, or those who commute to London on a daily basis.

¹ Dr. Nevil Maskeleyne:-
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nevil_Maskelyne

² Sir Edward Hyde:-
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edward_Hyde,_1st_Earl_of_Clarendon

³ Anne Hyde:- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anne_Hyde

⁴ Desmond Morris:-
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Desmond_Morris



Village History – Purton Stoke⁵

Purton Stoke has one main street, containing most of the houses, with the rest in two smaller side roads, plus outlying farm-based dwellings.

As mentioned in the Village History - Purton section (2nd paragraph), the grants of Purton to Malmesbury Abbey in 688 and 796AD did not include Purton Stoke. It was a hamlet in Braydon Forest, which extended from Charlton to the River Ray, and was part of Chelworth Manor. It was probably the “Stoche” in the Domesday Book and became Purton Stoke in the thirteenth century when Adam de Purton inherited from his uncle Thomas de Sandford, the Forest Warden.

Charles I sold the forest in 1631 and gave 25 acres to the village to rent out for grass keep, the proceeds going to the Purton Stoke poor, in lieu of picking wood and grazing cattle. It still exists as a charity 382 years later. In 1733 there was an Inquisition in the Bell Inn when the villagers accused Purton Overseers of using the money for the Purton poor. They paid £223 11s 7d to a lawyer from London to present their case before the Attorney General Sir Philip Yorke. Records show that twelve Purton Stoke households claimed £34 10s in 1746.

Ponds Farm was built in the 1600s. Nevil Maskelyne, the Astronomer Royal spent his holidays there and inherited it in 1772. There is a drawing, by his wife, of a Dame School, beside the Key Bridge, in the village in 1812.

In her book about Purton⁶, published in 1818, Ethel Richardson comments on the “pretty picturesque cottages dotted about irregularly” in Purton Stoke. Six council houses were built in the 1930s. The village also has many listed buildings.

Apart from individual in-filling over the years the most recent change to the village landscape has been the building of 12 modern houses on a former dairy farm site in the centre of the village.

The North Wilts canal was completed in 1819 but was abandoned in 1914. Its remains can still be seen to the east of the village.

In 1819 Robert Watkins⁷, a canal worker from (Royal) Wootton Bassett, robbed and shot dead Stephen Rodway, a canal warehouse owner from Cricklade, and was brought back to the scene of the crime in Purton Stoke and hanged in public before thousands of spectators. This bend in the road is now known as Watkins corner.



Public hanging – 10,000 watched

⁵ History of Purton Stoke:- <http://www.purtonstoke.org.uk/>

⁶ The story of Purton by E.M.Richardson:-
<http://archive.org/download/storyofpurtoncol00richiala/storyofpurtoncol00richiala.pdf>

⁷ Robert Watkins :-
<http://www.purtonstoke.org.uk/watkins.html>



Samuel Sadler, a landowner, bought the Salt's Hole and his son Samuel, a doctor built a Spa building there in 1859 and sold the mineral water throughout the country. The final sales were made in 1940.



Mineral Spa

The Primitive Methodist Church was built in the main street in 1832 and paid for by subscription. In 1868 the materials were recycled when it was taken down and rebuilt in Pond Lane. In 1905, when the Sunday School was added, 105 children were taught there. In 2012 it became a private dwelling.

Miss Warrender from Stoke Cottage, with friends, raised £250 to build an "Iron Hut", in 1910, at the entrance to the village. It was used as a Christian reading room, meeting place, dance hall and a Home Guard headquarters. It is now owned by the Purton and Cricklade Young Farmers Club and still used for events by the villagers.

The school was built in 1896 for £600, raised by public subscription; many of the materials were brought via the canal at Crosslanes.

The Church Bush site was given by Mrs. N Storey-Maskelyne. It had more than 100 children when it first opened. It closed in 1978 and is now used to provide education and training through horticulture to adults with learning difficulties at The Jubilee Project.

Action list related to History from Questionnaire comments and Feedback Meeting.

| | Action | Comments | Responsible | Priority | Funding |
|----|--|--|---|----------|---------|
| H1 | Find out the history of "ownership" of The Common. | Shown on maps as Purton Common. Study required of "ownership" of the land. | Wiltshire and Parish Councils and Historical Society. | Medium | None |
| H2 | Information required on prisoner of war camp in Purton | A missing part of Purton documented history. | Parish Council and Historical Society. | Medium | None |



PARISH PROFILE

The village of Purton is located on the main road equidistant between the two market towns of Cricklade to the north and the much larger town of Royal Wootton Bassett to the south.

To the east of the village is Swindon, which was originally a small rural village on the top of a hill. Swindon grew rapidly in the 19th century, with the advent of the railways, and continued to grow into the major town it is today. It dominates the surrounding countryside and has a major impact on the rural villages around its periphery including Purton.

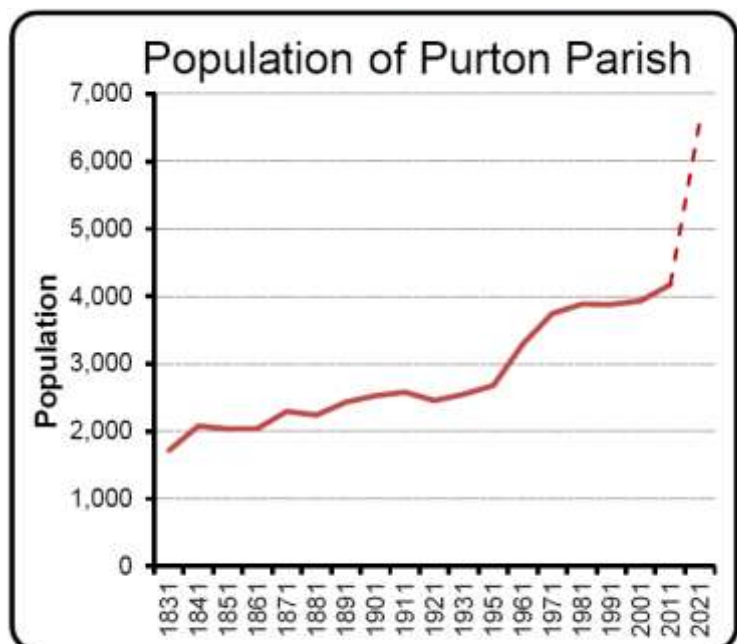
Distances to other settlements:

- 3.6 miles (5.8 km) to Cricklade
- 3.4 miles (5.5 km) to Royal Wootton Bassett
- 4.3 miles (7 km) to Swindon
- 10 miles (16 km) to Cirencester
- 32 miles (52 km) to Bristol
- 77 miles (124 km) to London (City of)

Whilst Purton is the largest settlement, the parish includes the smaller village of Purton Stoke and a number of other hamlets and localities.

From a small Saxon village, Purton has grown steadily over the years. In 1841, the census recorded the parish had grown to 2,081. By 1951 the population reached 2,678 and then grew by 40% over the next two decades to 3,744. Since then it has grown more steadily and is now about 4,200 people.

However by the time of the next census in 2021, with the approved developments at Moredon Bridge (Mouldon View) and Ridgeway Farm, the population of the parish could be well in excess of 6,600 people and that does not take into account any additional housing that



may be built in the meantime and is likely that the parish will have the second largest population in the Community Area⁸ next to the market town of Royal Wootton Bassett.

⁸ Community Area :-
<http://www.intelligenetwork.org.uk/local-area-profiles/>



Description of the Profile

The Profile describes the main characteristics for the parish from the size and make-up of the population of Purton to the number and types of housing. It also looks at who is working, what are the skill levels, levels of deprivation and benefits, state of health and access to services in the parish. The Profile is broken down into the following sections:

- Population, who lives in Purton Parish?
- Economy and Employment: Who is working in Purton, what are skill levels like and what jobs are people doing?
- Deprivation and Benefits in Purton.
- Health in Purton.
- Housing in Purton.

The data for this Profile comes directly from the 2011 Census which was taken on the 27th March 2011 and it provides a detailed snapshot of the state of the parish at that time. The neighbourhood statistics were published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) in January/ March 2013.

However due to the way the data has been compiled, only 46% of the parish by area has been included in the datasets for Purton Parish with the other 54% lumped into the datasets for Braydon Parish. It creates an unacceptably large error in the data the ONS has provided for Purton Parish and so instead the Parish Profile has been compiled using the data for the Electoral Ward of Purton.

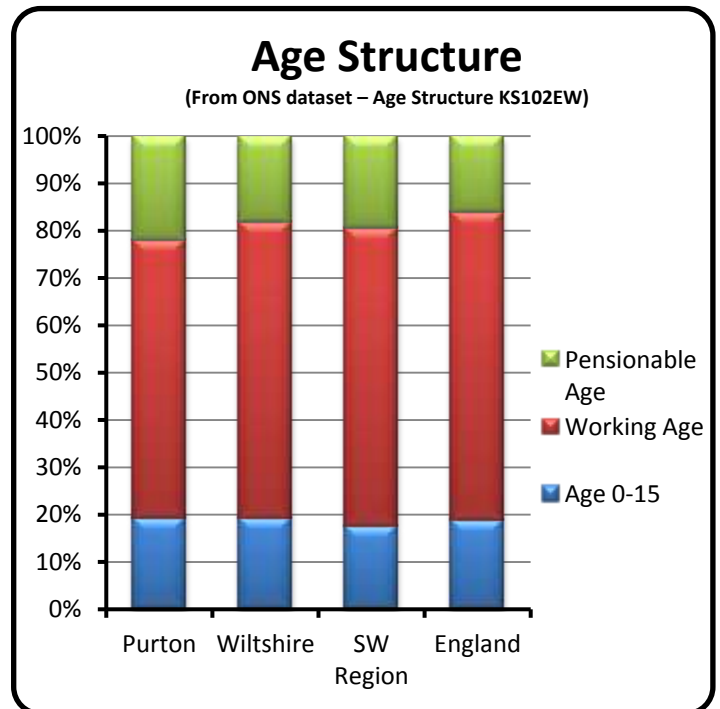
It includes the data for both parishes of Purton and Braydon but as Braydon only has about 50 people, the error is small and acceptable for the Parish Plan. Data is also provided for the unitary area of Wiltshire (excluding Swindon), the Southwest Region and the whole of England for comparison with the data for Purton Parish.

Population

At the 2011 census, the population of Purton Parish (hereafter just referred to as Purton for simplicity) had risen to 4,271, a 7% increase on the 2001 census.

There are more women than men with females outnumbering males by 52% to 48% of the population. The percentage of Children in Purton aged 0 to 15 years is consistent with those for Wiltshire and nationally.

Percentage of people of pensionable age is much higher in Purton than elsewhere. Here the number of pensioners is 22% compared to 20% for the Southwest, 18% for Wiltshire and 16% nationally.



Across all regions, there are two peaks in the population numbers – around the age of 59 to 64 which corresponds to the baby boom immediately after World War Two and another peak for people in their forties who were born in the baby boom of the mid-60s.

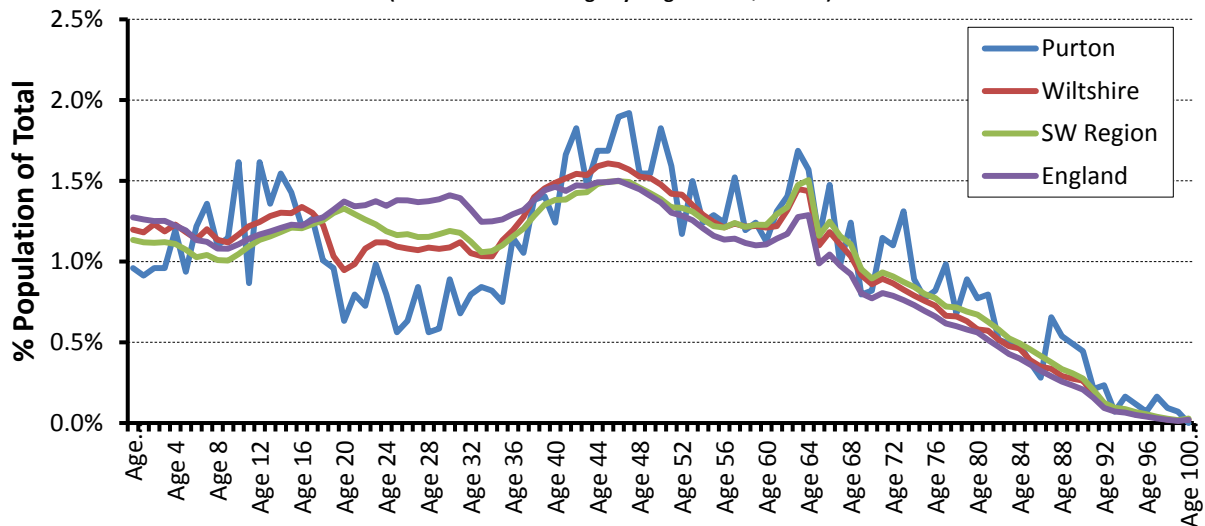


Whilst the profiles for the regions are similar, Purton has a lower number of people in the 18

to 36 age range, about 25% down on the numbers in Wiltshire and 45% down nationally.

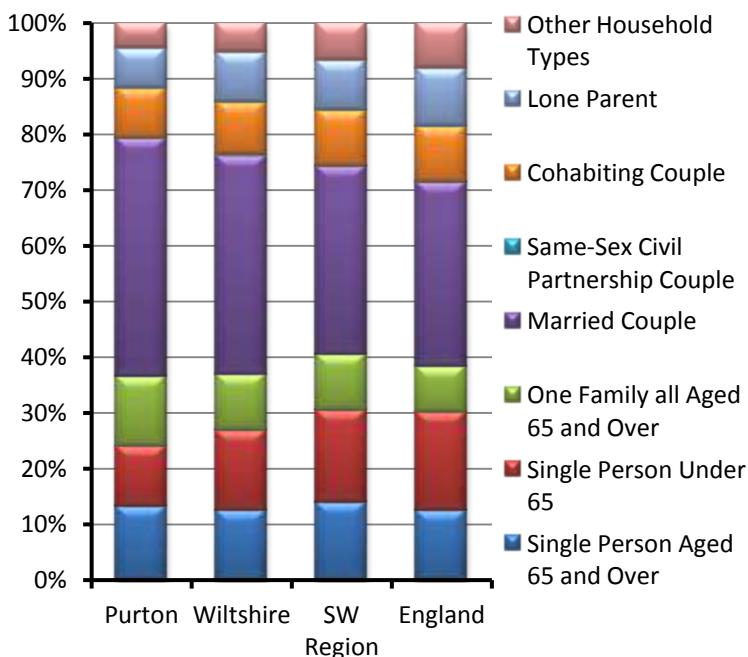
% Population by Single Year

(From ONS dataset - Age by Single Year QS103EW)



Household Composition

(From ONS dataset - Household Composition QS113EW)



Household Composition

Household Composition (or make-up of the household) has changed little in the last decade since the 2001 Census.

The majority of households are still dominated by Married Couples at 43%, though the number has fallen slightly, by 2%, from 2001. However it is compensated by an increase in the number of Cohabiting Couples which has increased by 2% to 9% in 2011.

Purton has 7% lone parents, which is lower than Wiltshire and Southwest, at 9% and nationally at 11%.

Same-Sex Civil Partnership is a new category. There are about 1% nationally but in Purton it is zero.



Vehicle Availability

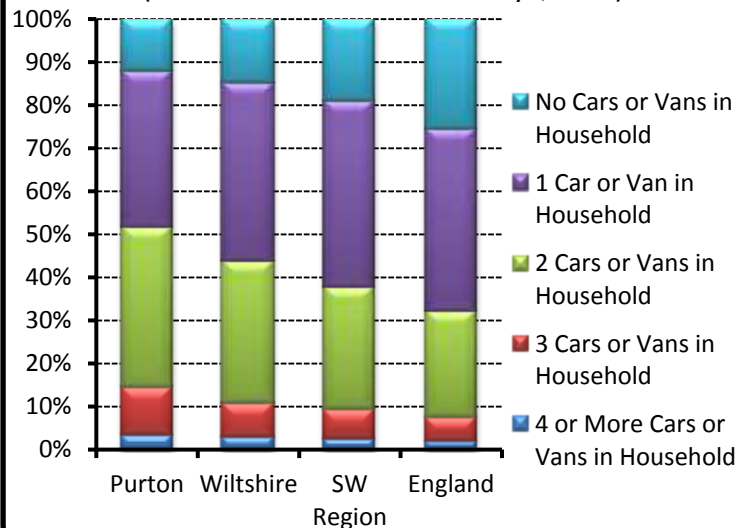
Residents of the parish have more cars/vans than residents in Wiltshire, the Southwest or Nationally. Only 12% of residents in the parish do not have a car or van compared to 26% nationally.

Whilst 36% of households in the parish have access to a car or van, 37% have two cars or vans. It is a much higher level than for Wiltshire, at 33%, the Southwest, at 28%, or nationally, at 25%.

The parish has a total of 2,720 cars and vans which equates to 1.6 cars or vans per household compared with only 1.2 cars or vans nationally.

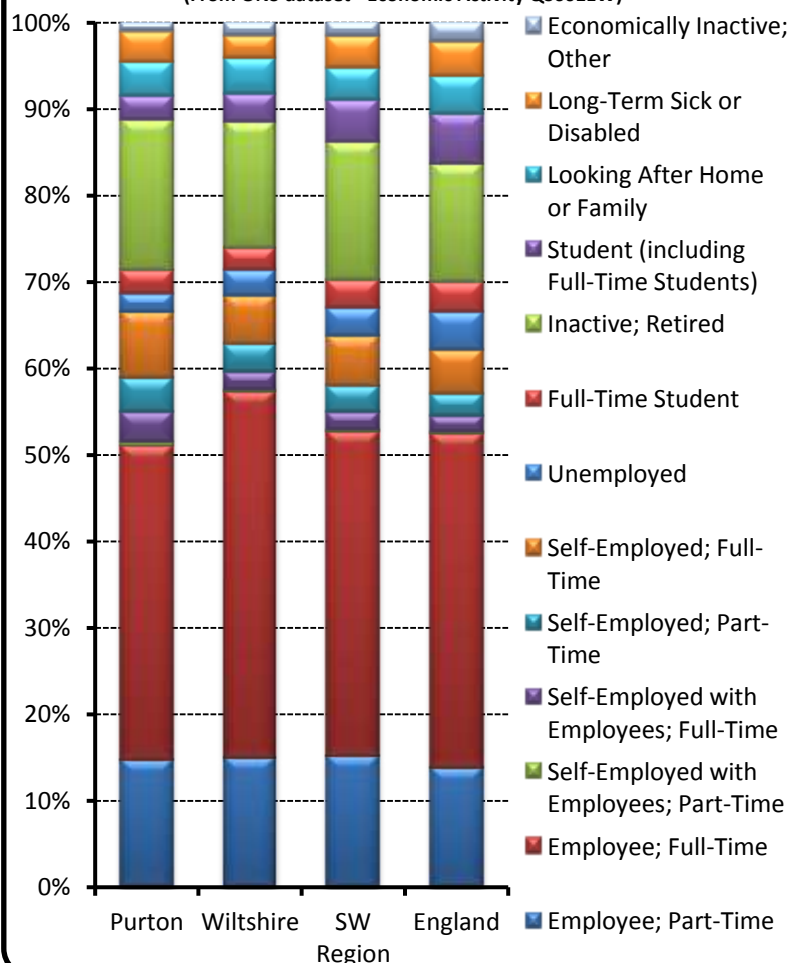
Car or Van Availability

(From ONS dataset - Car or Van Availability QS416EW)



Economic Activity

(From ONS dataset - Economic Activity QS601EW)



Economy and Employment

Economic Activity

There are 2,974 residents in the parish aged 16 to 74 of which 68% are in employment with 32% unemployed. Not as good as Wiltshire, at 70%, but better than the 65% nationally.

47% of residents work Full Time, lower than Wiltshire at 50% but slightly higher than the Southwest or nationally. 19% of parish residents work Part Time.

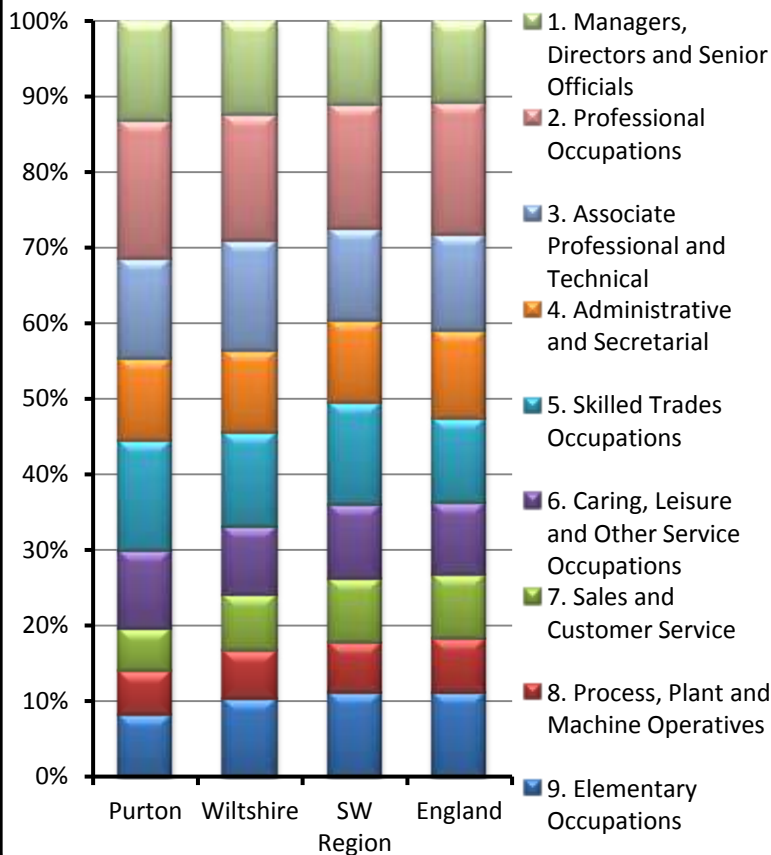
Purton has a high level of retired residents, at 18%, greater than Wiltshire, at 15%, and 14% nationally. This dataset does not include those persons aged 75 and over but the Census does not provide a reason for them being excluded.

The Census also records that 5% (141) of residents have never worked and 9% last worked before the 2001 census. These figures are higher than Wiltshire but lower than the national average.



Occupations

(From ONS dataset - Occupation KS608EW)



Occupations

Purton Parish has a higher percentage of its residents working in senior and professional occupations.

Of the 2,036 Purton residents aged 16 to 74 in employment, 31% work in senior management and professional occupations (1,2) compared to only 28-29% for Wiltshire and nationally.

Conversely, there are fewer people working in other categories. Only 20% work in sales/customer service, process/plant operatives and in the elementary occupations (7, 8 and 9) compared to 24% in Wiltshire and 27% nationally.

Of note, Purton Parish has a higher number of people in the skilled trades, 14% compared to 12% for Wiltshire and 11% nationally.

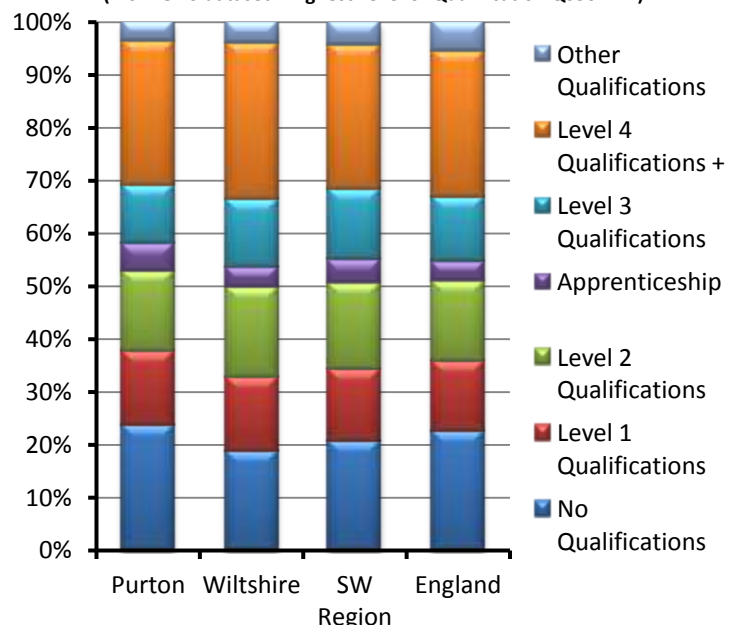
Qualifications

Purton has a high number of working people aged between 16-74 who have no qualifications, at 23%, compared to 19% for Wiltshire and 22% nationally.

Note – Level 4, the highest, equates to degree level or Professional Qualifications. Level 1, the lowest, equates to O levels/ CSE/GCSEs, Foundation Diploma, NVQ Level 1 or Basic/ Essential Skills. Refer to ONS QS501EW for definition of Qualification Levels.

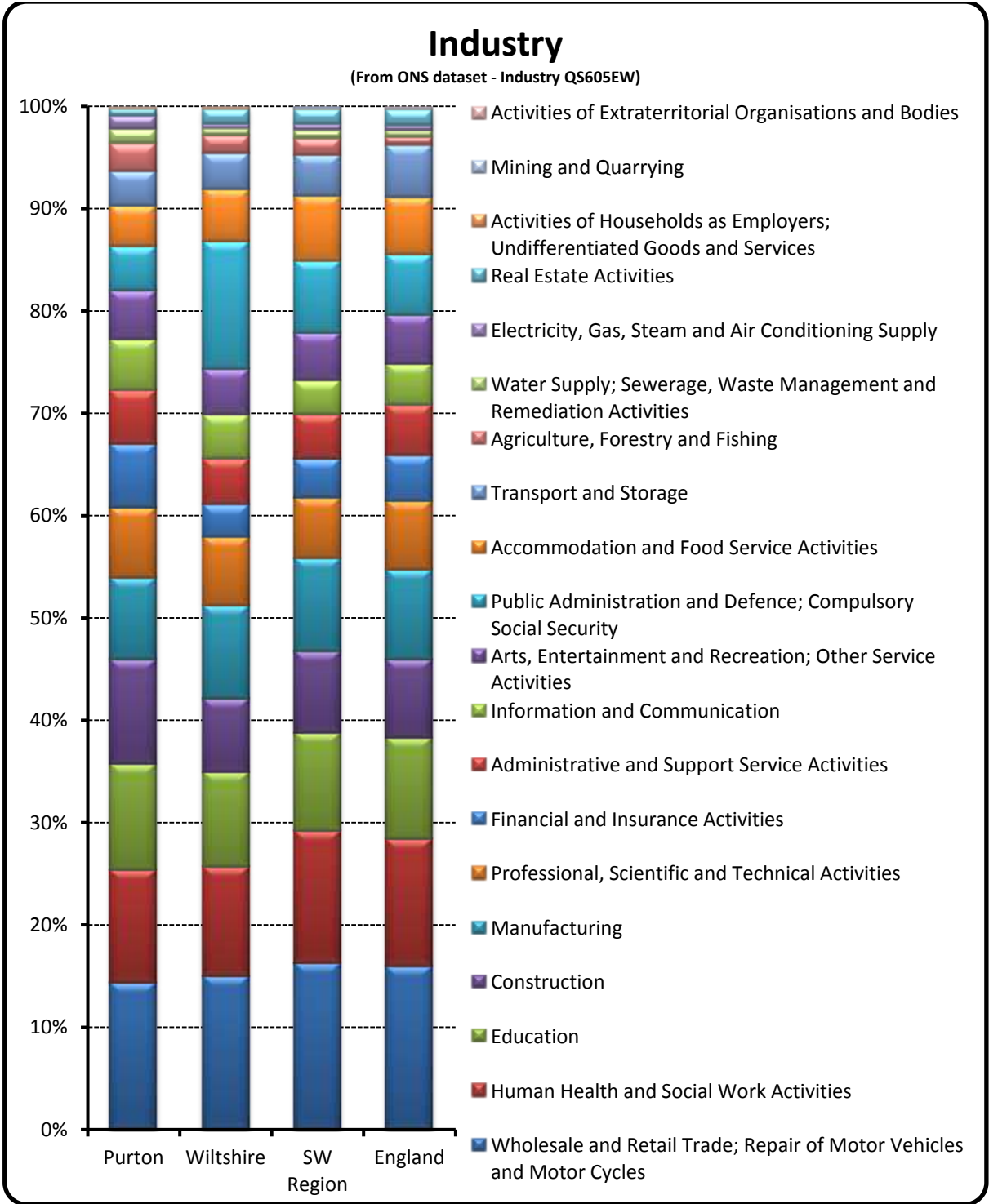
Highest Level of Qualification

(From ONS dataset - Highest Level of Qualification QS501EW)





Industry of Employment



Of the 2036 Purton residents aged 16 to 74 in employment, 14% work in the retail sector, 11% in Health and social work, 10% in education, 10% in construction and 8% in manufacturing.



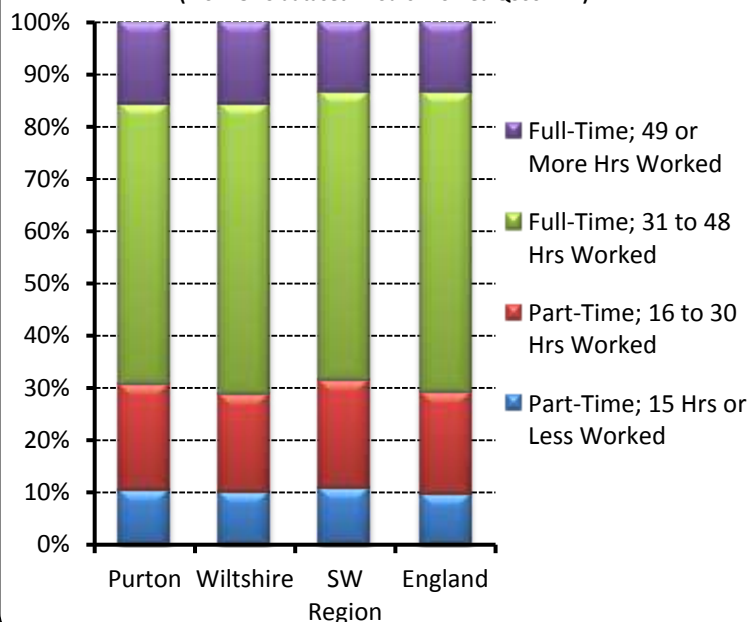
Hours Worked

Pattern of working hours is very similar across Purton, Wiltshire, the Southwest and nationally.

However, 16% of people in Purton, as in Wiltshire as a whole, tend to work longer hours, i.e. more than 48 hours, than across the rest of the Southwest or nationally where only 13% worked more than 48 hours.

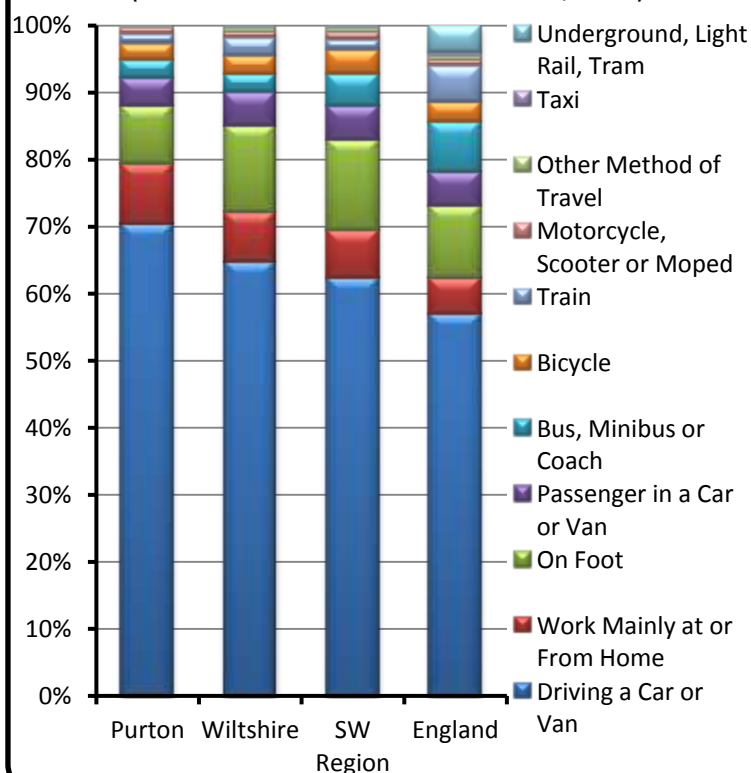
Hours Worked

(From ONS dataset - Hours Worked QS604EW)



Travel to Work

(From ONS dataset - Method of Travel to Work QS701EW)



Travel to Work

More Purton residents travelled to work by car or van than by any other means. 70% of Purton residents drove to work whereas for Wiltshire it is 65% and nationally it is only 57%.

Interestingly, Purton had the lowest level of passengers (car share) at 4% compared to other areas at 5%.

Only 2% of Purton residents cycled to work.

Purton also has the highest number of residents, at 9%, who work mainly at or from home. This compares to 7% for Wiltshire and the Southwest and 5% nationally.



Deprivation and Low Income in Purton

Household Deprivation

The deprivation measure for the Census is based on four selected household characteristics (dimensions):

- Employment – Any member unemployed or suffering long term sickness:
- Education – no person with at least level 2 education
- Health and Disability – health bad or very bad or long term health problem
- Housing – overcrowded, shared dwelling or no central heating

As measured by the census⁹, 50% of households in Purton and Wiltshire are described as deprived in one or more of the four selected characteristics of deprivation. This is better than the 55% for the Southwest and 57% nationally.

Household Deprivation

(ONS dataset - Households by Deprivation Dimensions QS119EW)



Benefits

(From ONS dataset - Working Age Client Group, Nov 2011)



Benefits – Working Age

At the census, there were a total of 225 residents receiving benefits, which, out of the total population of the parish, is proportionately similar to that for Wiltshire but much lower than for the Southwest or nationally.

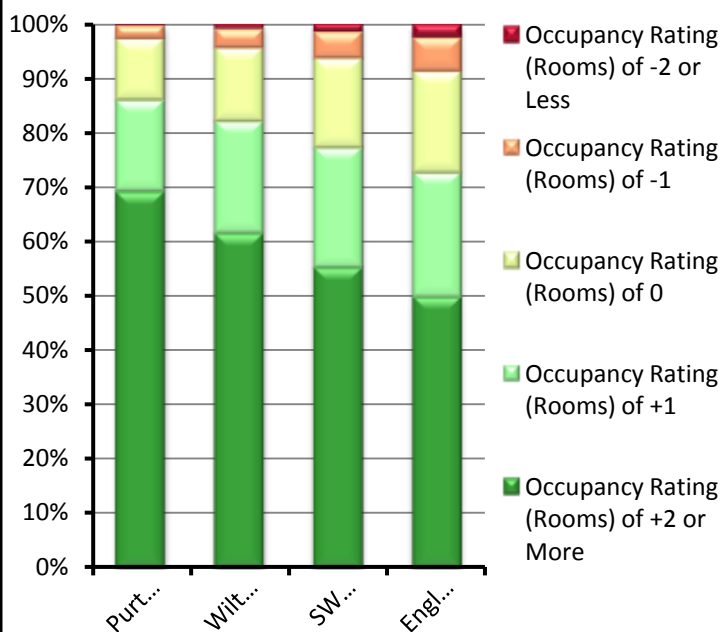
Of those on benefits in the parish, 53% are on Incapacity Benefits which is much higher than Wiltshire, at 45%, the Southwest at 47% and nationally at 44%.

⁹ The Census uses just four (simplistic) criteria to measure Deprivation compared to that used by the English Indices of Deprivation which combines Seven Domains of Deprivation to produce an overall Index of Multiple Deprivation.



Overcrowding

(From ONS dataset - Occpancy Rating (rooms) QS408EW)



Overcrowding

Purton has a total of 49 households that have one or more rooms fewer than required and are described as overcrowded. It equates to 3% of households and compares with 4.5% in Wiltshire, 6.4% in the Southwest and 8.7% nationally.

Note - The Occupancy rating (rooms) provides a measure of whether a household's accommodation is overcrowded or under occupied. A Rating of -1 implies a household has one fewer rooms than required, whereas +1 implies that they have one more room than the standard requirement.

The table below identifies the number of

- (i) Adults, both with and without children, who are not in employment and
- (ii) Persons who have long term health problem or disability

| (From ONS dataset KS106EW) | Purton | | Wiltshire | | SW Region | | England | |
|--|--------|-----|-----------|-----|-----------|-----|------------|-----|
| All Households | 1,701 | | 194,194 | | 2,264,641 | | 22,063,368 | |
| No Adults in Employment - With Dependent Children | 38 | 2% | 5,266 | 3% | 67,942 | 3% | 922,192 | 4% |
| No Adults in Employment - No Children | 528 | 31% | 53,505 | 28% | 711,729 | 31% | 6,426,457 | 29% |
| Dependent Children in Household; All Ages | 506 | 30% | 57,751 | 30% | 598,672 | 26% | 6,425,647 | 29% |
| Dependent Children in Household; Age 0 to 4 | 169 | 10% | 22,196 | 11% | 231,768 | 10% | 2,606,564 | 12% |
| One Person in Household Long-Term Health/ Disability With Children | 71 | 4% | 8,343 | 4% | 92,590 | 4% | 1,019,932 | 5% |
| One Person in Household Long-Term Health/ Disability No Children | 328 | 19% | 38,082 | 20% | 498,726 | 22% | 4,639,674 | 21% |



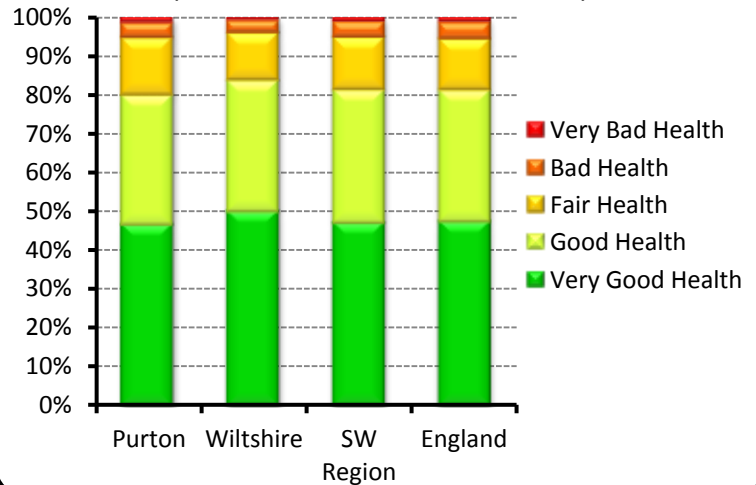
Health in Purton

Approximately 46% of residents in the parish describe their health as “Very Good” though this is lower than Wiltshire, at 50%, and nationally, at 47%.

Approximately 5% of residents describe their health as “Bad” or “Very Bad” which is consistent with the Southwest and national figures though only 4% Wiltshire residents describe their health as “Bad” or “Very Bad”.

General Health

(From ONS dataset - General Health QS302EW)



Housing in Purton

There is a strikingly higher proportion of detached dwellings in the parish than in Wiltshire or in the Southwest. Purton Parish has 45% of detached dwellings compared with 35% in Wiltshire, 30% in the Southwest and 22% nationally.

The proportion of semi-detached dwellings is much the same across all.

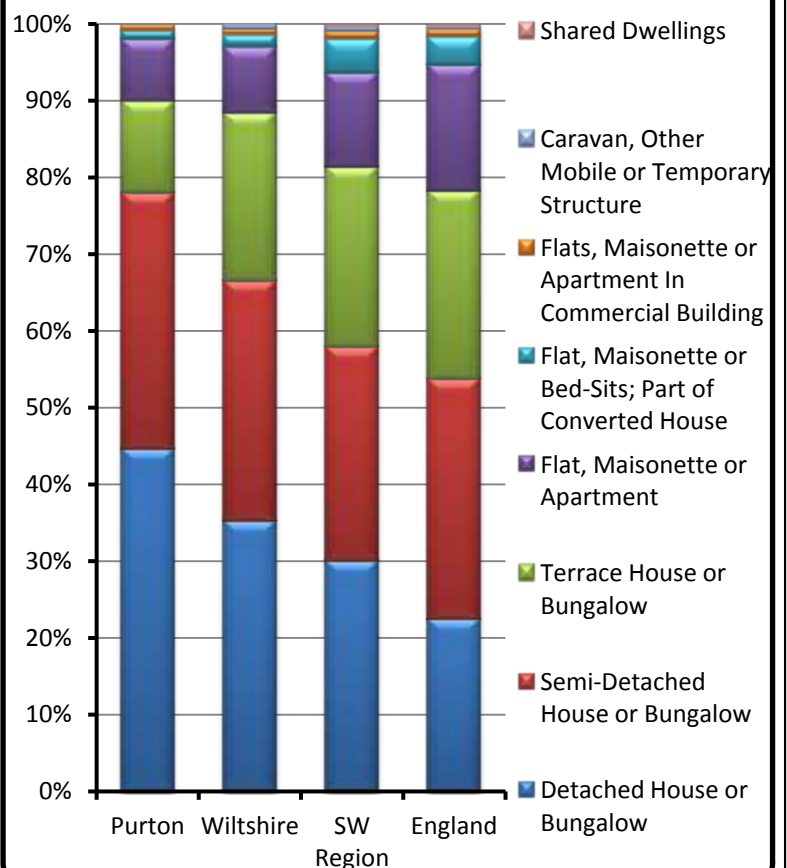
Conversely for terraced dwellings, houses or bungalows, the parish has only about half that of other regions. 12% of parish properties are terraced dwellings compared 22% to 25% elsewhere.

The average number of people per household is 2.4, which is about the same as other areas. The number of rooms per household in the parish is 6.3, similar to Wiltshire but 17% higher than nationally. On average, bedrooms make up half of the total rooms.

Accommodation Type -

Households

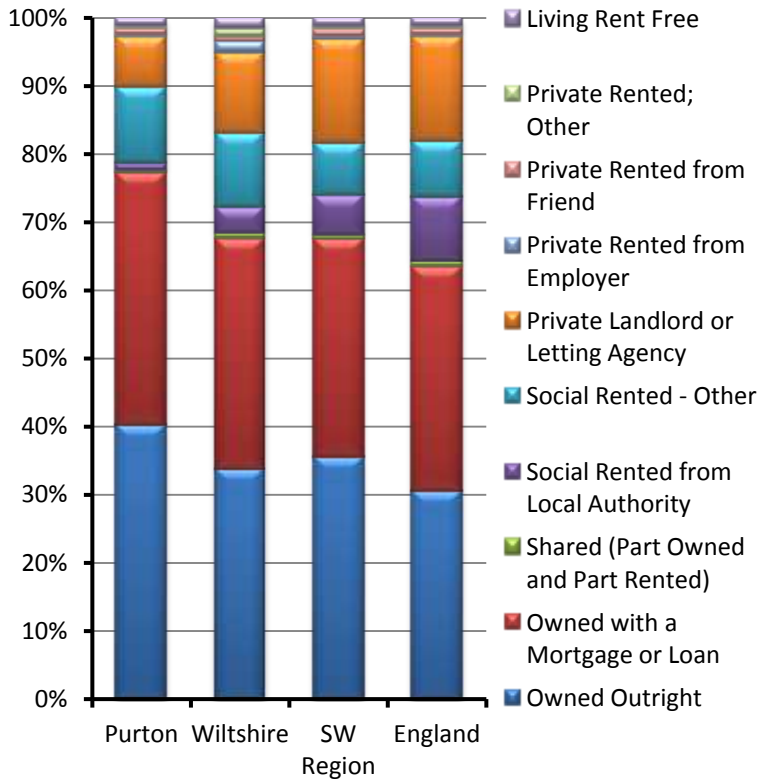
(From ONS dataset - QS402EW)





Tenure - Households

(From ONS dataset - Tenure Households QS405EW)



Number of Households

There are a total of 1774 household spaces in Purton but only 1701 where there is one or more Usual Residents. There are 73 with no usual residents.

Household Tenure

The great majority of homes in the parish are owned outright or owned with a mortgage or loan. 78% of residents in the parish own their homes, which is much higher than for the rest of Wiltshire, at 68%, and 65% nationally.

For Social Housing, the parish is less well-off than elsewhere. Only 12% of dwellings are social housing (1.1% Local Authority and 10.9% Housing Association). Whilst comparable with the level of social housing for the Southwest, it falls short of the national level of 16%.

Tenure - People Age 65 and Over

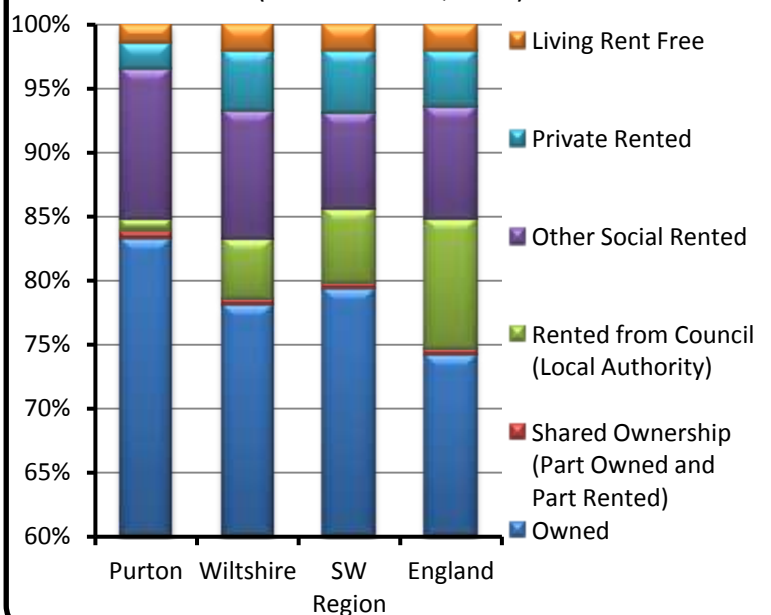
There are 532 households where the reference person is 65 years or over.

More people, over 65 years of age, own their own property. In the parish, 83% own their homes compared with 78% in Wiltshire but just 74% nationally.

13% of residents, aged over 65, in the parish are in social housing, though this is lower than the national level of 16%.

Tenure People 65 and Over

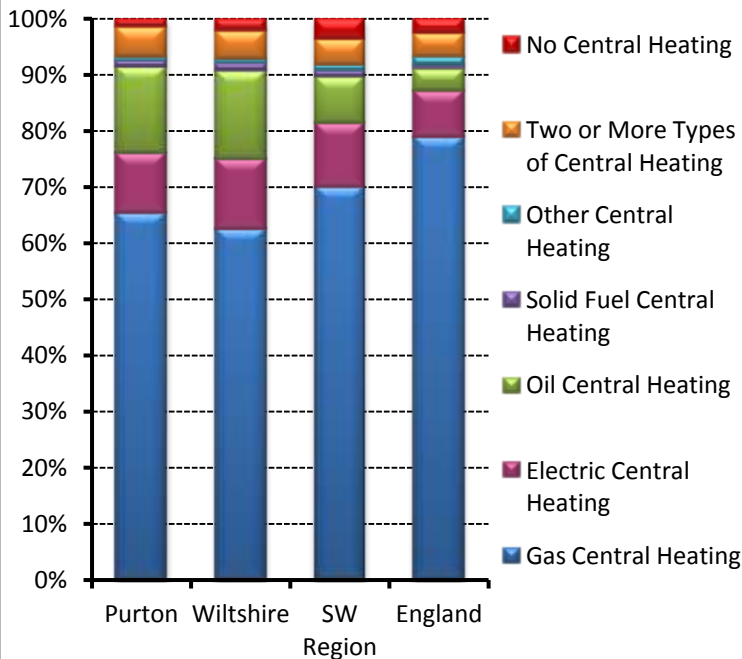
(From ONS dataset QS404EW)





Central Heating

(From ONS dataset - QS415EW)



Central Heating

Just 1.4% of houses in the parish do not have central heating. This represents an improvement from the 2001 census when there were 3.2% of houses without central heating.

Nationally 2.7% of houses do not have central heating but in the Southwest 3.6% of houses do not have central heating.

65% of houses have gas central heating compared to the national figure of 79%. Consequently there is a higher use of oil and electricity for central heating (oil 15% and electricity 11%)

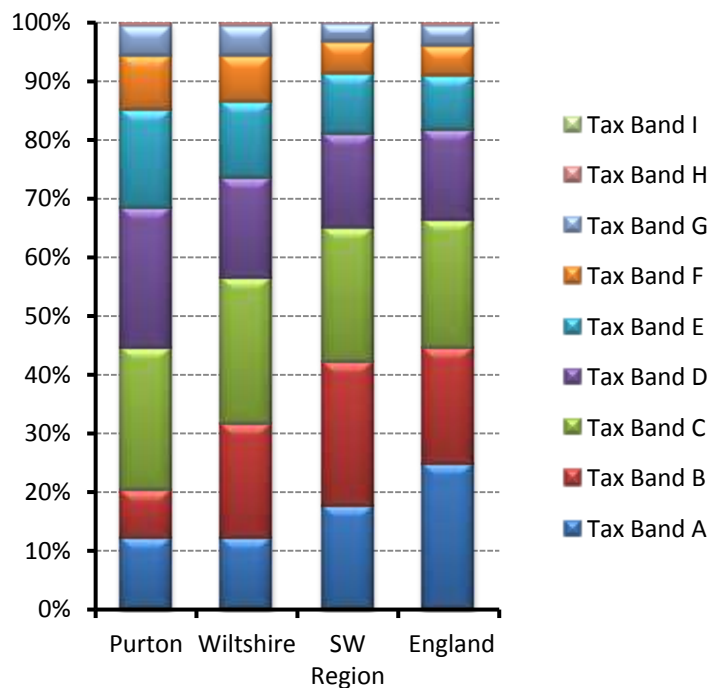
Council Tax Band

There are a total of 1,744 houses for Council Tax at the 2011 census.

Purton Parish has a higher proportion of larger homes than in the other regions with only 20% of houses in the lower Tax Bands A and B.

It suggests there is a lower proportion of Affordable Homes in the parish than in the rest of Wiltshire, the Southwest or nationally in England.

Dwelling by Council Tax Band





TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT

Purton evolved in the days before the invention of the internal combustion engine and the motor car. It was a time when most people walked wherever they needed to go and when the horse and cart was the main transport. Many of the roads and lanes through the villages and surrounding countryside reflect this bygone age.

Purton sits on what was the main road between the market towns of Cricklade in the north and Royal Wootton Bassett in the south. The main traffic would have been along this road, with people walking to market carrying their wares, farmers herding their cattle or driving horse drawn wagons, taking the heavier goods to market.

The old Pike House opposite Collins Lane attests to this bygone age when it cost the princely sum of 5½d for a wagon or cart with 9 or 6 inch wheels to pass on to Cricklade.



The Old Pike House on Station Road

In the mid-19th century, with the coming of the railway, what was the village of Swindon started to grow into a large town. Under government policy it is likely to continue growing, so attracting even more traffic onto the already congested roads in the nearby villages, hamlets and surrounding countryside, and is now the major centre where people go to work, to shop and for their leisure activities.

Whilst there has been much improvement to the road networks in Swindon, there has been little investment in the road and transport infrastructure in this part of North Wiltshire and certainly not in the parish to handle all the additional traffic from the next phase of development in the west and north of Swindon, let alone for future growth of the parish that will inevitably take place.

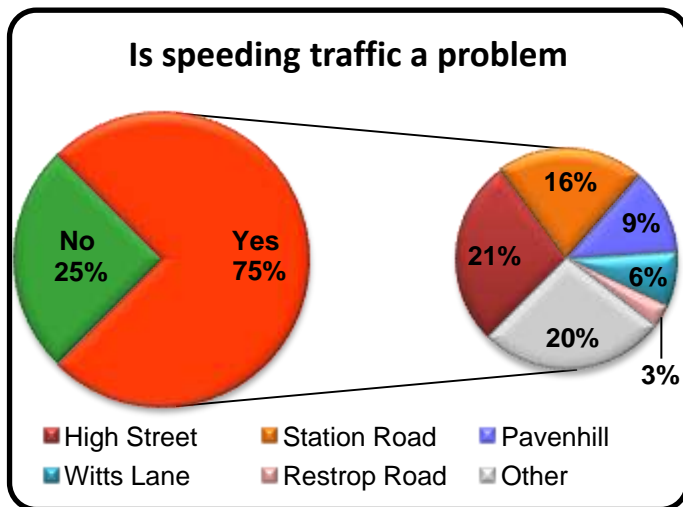
The roads in the parish still largely reflect the time of the horse and cart where there are many narrow roads such as Pavenhill, the High Street by the Angel, Witts Lane, Church End, Manor Hill, Stoke Common Lane and the narrow bridge at Bremhill. There are also the dangerous cross roads at Braydon and Crosslanes. The latter is unlikely to handle the increased traffic for the next phase of development at north Swindon.

In response to the questionnaire, residents identified their concerns with the volume of traffic, parking and of pedestrian safety especially as many of the parish roads are without pavements or street lighting.



Traffic Issues

For many in the parish, the issue of speed and the volume of traffic through the villages and also on the surrounding rural roads is one of their principal concerns. Three-quarters of responses to the questionnaire cited this as their biggest traffic issue.



The volume of traffic has now reached such a level that it is often tailed back along the High Street during the morning and evening commuter travelling times.

Whilst a bypass to relieve the traffic through Purton is unlikely and probably undesirable, as it would open up the countryside to further housing development, the only practical option today is to look at measures to reduce the speed of traffic and to improve the safety for pedestrians and other road users.

A traffic count was carried out in 2012 to assess the need for a pedestrian crossing at the top of the village near Willis Way. It recorded a total of 4,000 vehicles travelling on the High Street during a 24-hour period. It was taken shortly after Tadpole Lane was closed, which, when open, contributes significant additional traffic along the High Street.

Such a volume of traffic proved the need for a pedestrian crossing and this is being pursued with Wiltshire Council Highways Department.

Whilst there is a 30 mph speed limit through the village, the speed limits on the C414 road, leading into the village from the junction at Greenhill crossroads, and from the bottom of the village to the crossroads at Benthams, are 60 mph. Many residents would like to see these reduced to 40 mph.

Residents would also like to see flashing speed signs on the C414 at the entrances to the village to remind drivers to slow down.



Activated flashing speed signs

Many would also like to see a 20 mph speed limit on the High Street in the centre of the village from the Peak down to the Lower Square. It is the oldest part of the village where the road and pavement are at their narrowest. Many pedestrians have received glancing blows from the door/wing mirrors of passing vehicles.



It is also a principal access route for parents who walk their children to the St. Mary's and Bradon Forest schools.

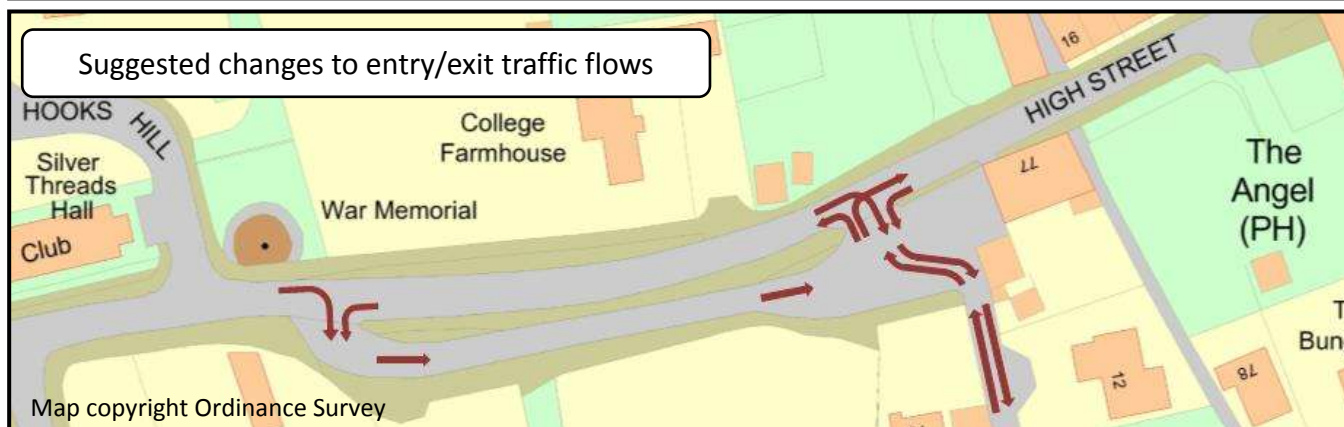
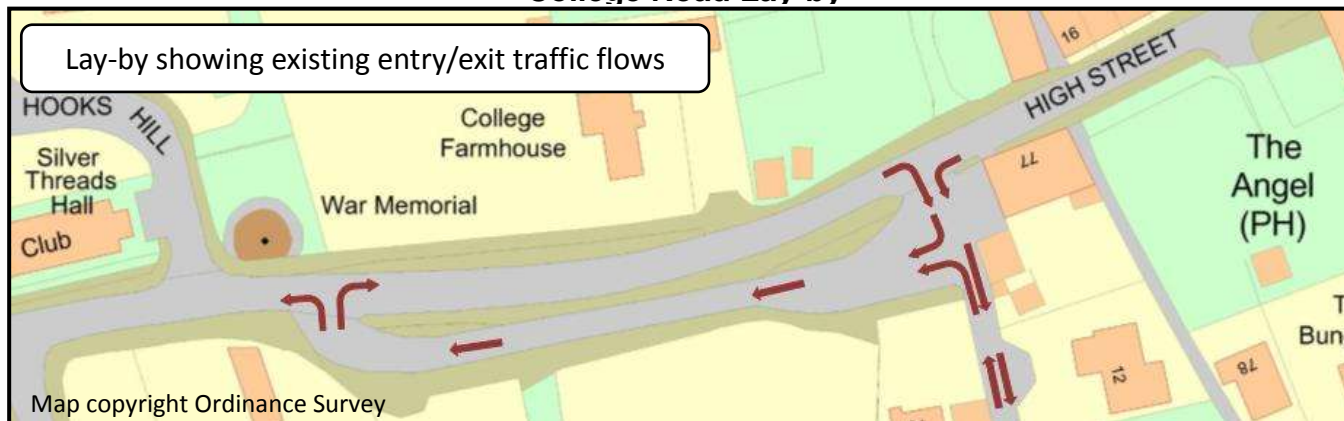
The traffic on The Peak and Reids Piece is excessive with school buses and parents ferrying children by car to and from St Mary's and Bradon Forest. The Peak/Reids Piece is a narrow one-way road that has difficulty coping with the volume of buses and cars, which damage the grass verges and pavements and often obstruct local residents' driveways with inconsiderate parking.

Some residents feel a dedicated route to the schools is required, although housing along the High Street precludes it from this direction. An alternative could be from Restrop Road at the top of the village through the fields behind the houses coming in to the rear of the schools.

Such a scheme may need to be funded and would only be possible if further developments, outside the settlement boundary¹⁰ of the village, came forward to deliver this scheme. It might then be possible to stipulate that a new access road to the schools be included in any such development.

The lay-by at College Road is heavily used by parents dropping off and picking up their children from both schools. Access from the lay-by onto the High Street is difficult due to the lack of vision when turning right. A proposal to remodel the entry/exit of the lay-by shown below has been put to the Parish Council and a number of residents have said that they would like this proposal carried forward.

College Road Lay-by



¹⁰ Formerly known as Framework boundary

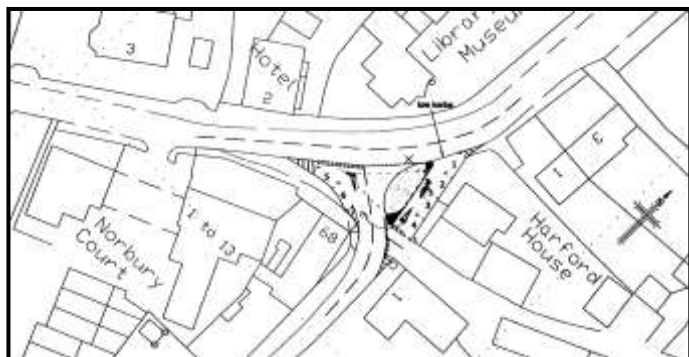


The Lower Square (also called the Triangle) at the junction with Church Street and Hyde Lane has been highlighted as a problem area.

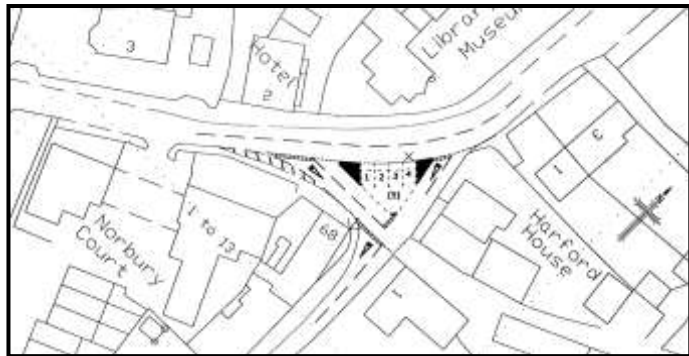


Lower Square looking south

In 2002, Wiltshire Council produced seven new designs for the layout of this area but these were not progressed at that time.



Two of the seven proposals for a junction re-design



Since then, traffic has increased dramatically. Coupled with motorists failing to stop at the end of Church Street, inconsiderate parking in the square and motorists, on leaving Station Road,

speeding up past Best One (now includes the Post Office) into Church Street, the area has become more hazardous both to road users and pedestrians and its layout needs to be revisited.

The speed of the traffic on Station Road is causing residents concern with motorists travelling faster than the speed limit, particularly early in the morning. A recent traffic survey recorded speeds in excess of 42.5 mph¹¹.

A possible option that was suggested would be to change the junction of Witts Lane at Station Road from a "T" to a mini-roundabout¹² to help reduce the speed on Station Road. Traffic would have to slow down to traverse the mini-roundabout and it would have the added advantage of making it easier for traffic to exit Witts Lane onto Station Road.



Junction of Witts Lane with Station Road

¹¹ 53,751 vehicles were recorded over 12 days from 6 June 2013 with 85th percentile travelling at 42.5mph and therefore road is eligible for Speed Indicator Device. The 85th percentile is the speed at which 85% of the traffic was travelling at or below, thus 15% was travelling faster than 42.5mph.

¹² There may not be enough room to fit a mini-roundabout so other alternatives such as a speed table or a change to the street scene may need to be considered - www.gov.uk/government/publications/mini-roundabouts Department of Transport Note 1/07 on Traffic Calming www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/70662/ltn-1-07.pdf Dorset ANOB options for a more rural traffic calming www.dorsetaonb.org.uk/assets/downloads/Dorset_AO_NB_Partnership/trafficin villages-web.pdf



Should the development at Widham Farm proceed there is concern that the proposed “T” junction onto Station Road for the development would be too close to the railway bridge and compromise road safety. It is felt that a mini-roundabout here would be more appropriate.

The speed limit increases to 60 mph where the road leaves the village and continues up Manor Hill until it enters Lydiard Millicent, where the speed limit reduces back to 30 mph.

Manor Hill is, in places, very narrow. There have been a number of accidents on this road and, with the number of walkers along the bottom of the hill, it has been suggested that the 30mph speed limit is extended to Lydiard Millicent.

The narrow section at Church End around St Mary’s Church has become a congestion “hot spot” at peak times and needs attention.



Railway bridge from Station Road – Widham (junction would be on left approx. opposite the lamp post)



Church End by St Mary’s Church

Suggestions have been proposed to create better driver awareness on this section of road including a priority system; vehicle activated warning signs, highlighting oncoming vehicles, or mirrors, though this might enable traffic to speed faster around Church End¹⁴. The potential to prohibit large vehicles and HGVs from the road around the church should also be considered.



Railway Bridge and junction with New Road - Widham

The junction of New Road with the main Cricklade Road at the bottom of the railway bridge was highlighted as requiring further improvement/enhancement, possibly changing the dangerous chicane.

Church Street is subject to high volumes of traffic in the morning and evening peak times¹³ as commuters use it as a rat-run.

survey period. The 85 percentile of traffic is travelling at or below 31.8mph.

¹⁴ Shared Space where both pedestrians and vehicles share the same road space might be an alternative that is more in keeping with the environs of the Church.

¹³ 36,148 vehicles were recorded over the 12 days from 6th June 2013, an average of 3,012 per day over the



Further along at The Fox, residents have concerns about the volume and speed of the traffic, not just by those commuting to work in Swindon but also parents from northwest Swindon on the school run to Bradon Forest. A traffic survey, carried out during the last week of July 2012, recorded traffic speed at the 85th percentile of 37.6 mph¹⁵.



Community Speed Watch

This speed qualifies for the setting up of a Community Speed Watch scheme to which a number of residents have already applied for training in the use of speed watch cameras.

Residents have also suggested the possibility of closing the road to through traffic or changing the status of the road to residents only. Other options, such as flashing speed signs, improved signage and priority systems, could be considered. The introduction of a footpath and some form of street lighting might also be of benefit to the safety of residents at The Fox.



The Fox – country road without footpath

There is a 7.5 ton weight limit to prohibit large vehicles and HGVs passing through the village. Wiltshire's Lorry Watch operates in the village for residents to report incidents to the Parish Council.

The village of Purton Stoke is about two miles north of Purton and situated off the main B4553 Cricklade road. The main road has a 50 mph speed limit. Stoke Common Lane, which runs through the length of the village, has a 30 mph speed limit and connects, at its eastern end, to the main road with a "T" junction.



B4553 Cricklade Road and junction with Purton Stoke

Almost immediately opposite is the junction for Newths Lane. Both junctions have poor visibility for traffic entering the main Cricklade Road.

¹⁵ The 85th percentile is the speed at which 85% of the traffic is travelling at or below, thus 15% was travelling faster than 37.6 mph.



There have been a number of accidents, recently including one fatality. Many residents of Purton Stoke would like to see this stretch of road by the junction reduced to a 40 mph speed limit.

Parking

Residents find parking in Purton difficult with 36% saying they often have problems finding a space to park with a further 57% stating they occasionally have problems.

More than half who replied to the questionnaire stated that they found the main problem was at the Pavenhill shops at the top of the village.

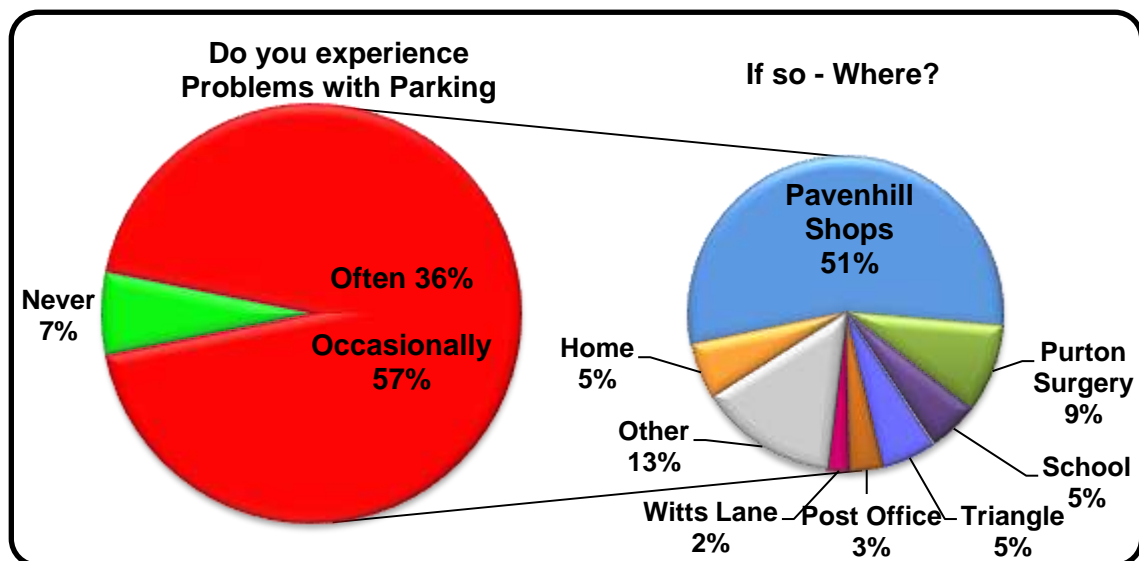
Many said that the flouting of the two-hour parking limit and parking on the double yellow lines were the main issues.

Whilst this is an offence, with the limited number of Parking Wardens in Wiltshire, regrettably, it does not get the attention required to deter motorists from illegally parking on double yellow lines.

Problems with parking at the Doctors Surgery in Willis Way were the second biggest concern with 9% highlighting this as an issue.



Parking problems at the Pavenhill shops





The car park at the surgery, which is close to the Pavenhill shops, frequently fills and parking overflows onto the surrounding roads. There was general agreement that the parking arrangement within this whole area needs to be reviewed to include additional parking although space for this would need to be found.

On-street parking problems in The Peak and Reids Piece are predominately caused by many of the parents on the school run who park indiscriminately on grass verges and across residents' driveways when dropping off and collecting their children from St Mary's and Bradon Forest schools.



Parking at The Peak.

Parking needs to be reviewed, with both schools to consider if some form of drop off/pick up point within the school premises could be appropriate to help reduce the congestion.

Similarly provision could be created by removing some of the grass verges to provide lay-by type provision for residents in Reids Piece, similar to that shown. This could remove vehicles from the road, thus creating a safer route to the schools and should be investigated.



Possible lay-by as used in another part of Reids Piece

The two-hour parking restriction at the College Road lay-by has been highlighted with some 5% of replies wishing to see the limit extended in order to complement activities at the Silver Threads Hall. Others have raised it as an issue in relation to school activities.



College Road lay-by



Parking in the High Street, along the narrow section near the Angel Pub, often causes congestion at morning and evening peak times and during the school run, although it does help to slow traffic speed. However it is not expected to be such a problem now that the Post Office has moved into Best One Convenience Store in the Lower Square although it will need to be monitored.

Many residents find parking in the Lower Square an issue due to the lack of restrictions and indiscriminate parking by other motorists. The lay-out was criticised as there is no clear interpretation of how cars should park.

Parking on Station Road is not seen as a significant problem except for the stretch between Witts Lane and Smith's Court.



Parked cars on Station Road

Residents of Smith's Court find exiting onto Station Road difficult and wish to see double yellow lines imposed either side of the junction to give them better vision upon their exit.



Lower Square (often called the Triangle)

However, the move of the Post Office to Best One is likely to see an increase in motorists parking in and around Lower Square, resulting in increased congestion at the junction. The layout of the area needs to be revisited to make more effective use of the available space. There will also be an increase in the number of pedestrians crossing the road to get to the Post Office and it is likely that a pedestrian crossing will be required.

Whilst many residents use the Village Hall car park, it is a private car park for the users of the Village Hall, Library and Parish Council Offices.



Exit from Smith's Court onto Station Road

Over time, motorists parking on pavements has become a major concern for pedestrians, not just on Station Road but throughout the parish. Whilst it is not an offence to park a car on the pavement, if it causes an obstruction impeding the passage of pedestrians along the pavements then it is. Unfortunately it is not the highest of priorities for the police.



Parking on Station Road near Smith's Court and Stoke Common Lane Purton Stoke

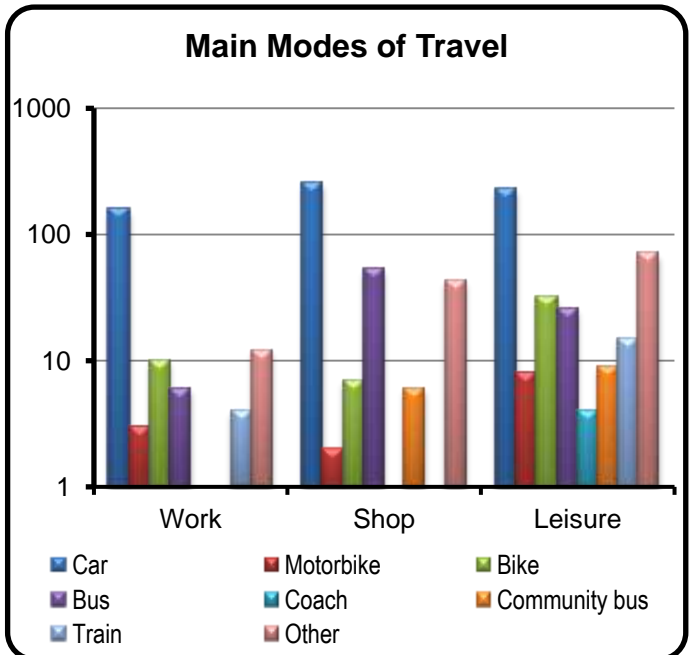


Some 2% of the replies identified parking in Witts Lane as a problem, both at the entrance to the road, between Peartree Close and Station Road, and also further down the road at the narrow section leading to The Common.

Main Modes of Travel

From the questionnaire, 85% of replies said they travelled to work, the shops or for leisure by car. Travelling to the shops was the highest followed by leisure. It highlights just how much residents in the parish rely on nearby Swindon for its employment, retail and leisure activities.

The 2011 national census records that parish residents have, on average, 1.6 cars or vans per household, which is 33% more than the national average.



There was little feedback regarding car sharing even though the census indicates that about 6% share a car or van to work. It is an avenue that should be explored further and actively promoted to residents.

Public transport came low on the list with the main issues being confusion about the timetables and operators. Many residents felt that timetables could be better advertised and simplified, as most are unaware that services are available to Cricklade, Cirencester and Royal Wootton Bassett as well as Swindon.





Voluntary minibus services operated by Age Concern are well used by elderly residents. There are two other transport services that serve Purton, Connect2Wiltshire, which operates around Royal Wootton Bassett including Purton and the Great Western Hospital, and Swindon Dial A Ride for people with mobility impairment or disability. Both charge for the service.

Purton once had a railway station on the Swindon to Gloucester line, before it was closed in 1964 as part of Dr Beeching's rail cuts. The station was heavily used by local residents who worked in the Railway Works in Swindon. Since then the platforms have been removed and only the old ticket office remains.

With the re-doubling of the railway line, it would be opportune for the village to decide if it wishes to promote re-opening a railway station in the parish.

Feedback from the questionnaire stated that there should be more done to improve and encourage the use of footpaths and cycle ways both in the village and beyond.

Promoting their use may well help to reduce the number of vehicles travelling to the local schools and places of work. Developing dedicated routes further afield to Swindon, Cricklade and Royal Wootton Bassett should also be considered



Such routes are eco-friendly and promote health and wellbeing of individuals through exercise.



Purton Station at Widham before it was closed in 1964

When asked in the questionnaire "If Purton had a train station, would they use it", a surprising 51% said they would use the train with, a further 37% said possibly and only 12% said no. Whilst a railway station would help reduce the amount of out-commuting by car, on the down side, it would draw more traffic into the village to use the station.



Pedestrian Safety

The safety of pedestrians is of paramount importance and is a concern for residents who have highlighted a number of areas in the village that need improvement.

Pavenhill ~ the section of the road from the west of the Royal George public house does not have a pavement. It is subject to high volumes of traffic at peak times and residents feel that, at the very minimum, there is a requirement here for signs warning motorists of pedestrians walking in the road.

Willis Way ~ young people walking to school and a large number of people, accessing the surgery cross the High Street near to the Willis Way junction. The need for a pedestrian crossing has been assessed by the Parish and Wiltshire Councils, with a view to site a Zebra Crossing adjacent to the Old Scout Hall.

Main High Street ~ a high number of children cross by the Veterinary Surgery en route to St. Mary's junior school via College Road. Remodelling of the College Road lay-by and its junction with the High Street would allow for an improved means of crossing at this point such as an enhanced crossing¹⁶.

Lower Square ~ many residents cross the High Street by the Institute to the convenience store, Best One and post office. Re-modelling Lower Square could allow for the provision of a pedestrian (Zebra) crossing.

Widham ~ the Railway Bridge does not have a footpath so pedestrians have to walk in the road to cross the bridge. The road is very busy during the morning and evening rush hours with commuter traffic that tends to speed up as it leaves the village.

Although there are signs warning motorists of pedestrians in the road, because it is a humpbacked bridge and visibility over the bridge for motorists is poor it leaves pedestrians dangerously exposed. A footbridge is required alongside the road bridge to separate pedestrians from the traffic.



Railway Bridge at Widham looking from Station

A number of other areas were identified where improvements are required, such as levelling and resurfacing, and repairs to kerbs. It was also felt that street lighting for some areas could be improved.

There is also a need, in some areas, for properties to cut back overhanging hedges bordering the pavements so as not to impede pedestrians.

¹⁶ Enhanced dropped kerb crossings consist of a localised lowering of the footway to carriageway level on either side of the road to provide a defined location for pedestrians to cross and in addition are provided with either or both bollards in the footways and coloured surfacing on the carriageway. The additional features help to define the crossing location to both pedestrians and motorists and highlight its presence



Action list related to Traffic and Transport from questionnaire comments and Feedback Meeting

| | Action | Comments | Responsible | Priority | Funding |
|------|---|--|--|----------|-----------------------------|
| TT1 | Reduce speed limit on C414 to 40mph from Greenhill crossroads to village and Widham to Bentham junction | Both sections are deregulated. Would improve safety into the village | Wiltshire Council Community Area Transport Group (CATG) | Medium | Wiltshire Council |
| TT2 | Speed Activated signs at both ends of Purton village, and The Fox | To remind drivers of the 30 mph speed limit through the village | Wiltshire and Purton Parish Councils | Medium | Wiltshire & Parish Councils |
| TT3 | Traffic calming in High Street from Norbury Court to The Peak | Reduce accidents from passing traffic, principal access route for children to school | Wiltshire Council | High | Wiltshire |
| TT4 | Reduce speed limit on Manor Hill from Purton to Lydiard Millicent to 30mph | To improve safety on a narrow deregulated road | Parish Council and Wiltshire Councils (CATG) | Medium | Wiltshire Council |
| TT5 | Implement Community Speed Watch for the Fox | To deter speeding along The Fox | Parish Council and Wiltshire Police | High | Wiltshire Police |
| TT6 | Develop plan to actively promote other areas in the parish for Community Speed Watch | Review with residents other potential for Speed Watch e.g. Hayes Knoll | Parish Council | Medium | Wiltshire & Parish Councils |
| TT7 | Reduce speed limit on Cricklade Road at Purton Stoke/ Newths Lane junction to 40mph | To improve safety of the junction | Wiltshire Council (CATG) | High | Wiltshire Council |
| TT8 | Police on foot and clamp down on speeding | To see police on foot within the parish plus use of mobile speed guns to check/reduce speeding | Police | High | Police |
| TT9 | Carry out regular traffic and speed counts to monitor the level of traffic on the parish roads | Work with surrounding parishes and towns to understand the traffic flows in the local region. Parish to have own Metro Count | Purton, Lydiard and Hook Parish Councils, Cricklade Town Council and Swindon Council | High | Parish and Town Councils |
| TT10 | Change access to lay-by at College Road | Improve vision for drivers when exiting and would enable schools buses to park correctly | Parish Council and Wiltshire Councils (CATG) | Medium | Wiltshire Council |



Action list continued

| | Action | Comments | Responsible | Priority | Funding |
|------|---|---|-------------------------------|----------|---|
| TT11 | Redesign junction and improve parking at Best One opposite Parish Council offices | Dangerous junction. Re-design crossing and speed control required, especially as Post Office is moving Feasibility study required | Wiltshire and Parish Councils | High | Wiltshire Council |
| TT12 | Mini roundabout with Widham Farm, if development is approved | "T" Junction proposed would compromise traffic safety | Wiltshire Council | High | Developer |
| TT13 | Mini-roundabout (or alternative traffic calming) at junction of Station Road and Witts Lane | Reduce speeding on Station Road especially early morning and make exiting Witts Lane easier | Wiltshire Council (CATG) | High | Wiltshire Council |
| TT14 | Review New Road Junction and Chicane near Widham bridge | To improve safety and reduce speeding | Wiltshire Council (CATG) | High | Wiltshire Council |
| TT15 | Prohibit large vehicles and HGVs from Church End | To reduce damage to buildings and Graveyard Walls | Wiltshire and Parish Councils | Medium | Wiltshire Council |
| TT16 | Consider Mirrors or vehicle activated signs for Church End | To help see what is coming round the corner. It's a single track road with difficult corners. May speed of traffic, consider Shared Space | Wiltshire and Parish Councils | Medium | Wiltshire Council |
| TT17 | One way traffic around Church End or access only | Major traffic study required to see impact of this proposal | Wiltshire and Parish Councils | Medium | Wiltshire Council |
| TT18 | Proposed new entrance road to Bradon Forest school from Restrop region | To relieve congestion traffic from Purton High Street Feasibility study required | Wiltshire and Parish Councils | High | Wiltshire Council |
| TT19 | Repair serious damage to road and verges between Cricklade and Purton Industrial Estate | Caused by heavy increase in Large Vehicles and HGVs | Wiltshire Council | High | Wiltshire Council Road Maintenance Budget |
| TT20 | Consider one-way traffic flow around Dogridge, Restrop View, Ringsbury and Pavenhill | To ease traffic flow though it is likely to increase speed of traffic | Parish Council | Medium | Wiltshire Council |



Action list continued

| | Action | Comments | Responsible | Priority | Funding |
|------|---|--|---|----------|---|
| TT21 | Bring HGVs traffic for Hills site from the Braydon side of parish | Serious damage to road and verges between Cricklade and Hill's site Feasibility study required | Wiltshire Council | High | Wiltshire Council Hill's |
| TT22 | Additional parking required at Pavenhill shops area | Inadequate parking at Shops. Will require additional land | Parish Council | Medium | High capital cost, look for Developer contributions |
| TT23 | Improve parking at surgery | Parking at the surgery is difficult at times. Parking strategy required for area at the top of the village | Surgery and Parish Council | Medium | Wiltshire Council |
| TT24 | Additional lay-bys in Reids Piece adjacent to the school | To help reduce congestion for residents during school run | Wiltshire and Parish Councils | Medium | Wiltshire Council and GreenSquare |
| TT25 | Drop off/ Pick up point for pupils within school premises | To help reduce congestion for residents during school run | Parish Council and BFS | Medium | Wiltshire Council |
| TT26 | Review two-hour parking limit in College Lay-by, increase to four hours | Current limit impacting users of Silver Threads Hall. | Wiltshire and Parish Councils | Medium | Wiltshire Council |
| TT27 | Extend double yellow lines on Station Road either side of Smith's Court | Improve driver vision when exiting Smith's Court | Wiltshire and Parish Councils | Medium | Wiltshire Council |
| TT28 | Review parking in Witts Lane between Peartree Close and Station Road junction | Reduce irresponsibly parked cars over driveways | Wiltshire and Parish Councils | Medium | Wiltshire Council |
| TT29 | Extend double yellow lines in Dogridge | Move parked cars away from the junction with Pavenhill | Wiltshire and Parish Councils | High | Wiltshire Council |
| TT30 | Increase parking space at the Church | Insufficient parking for major events. Will require additional land | St Mary's PCC | Medium | St Mary's PCC |
| TT31 | Enhanced crossing at College lay-by | To make pedestrian crossing easier at peak times | Parish Council and Wiltshire Council (CATG) | Low | Wiltshire Council |



Action list continued

| | Action | Comments | Responsible | Priority | Funding |
|------|--|---|--|----------|-------------------------------------|
| TT32 | Pedestrian Crossing at Lower Square | With Post Office moved to Best One, there will be an increase of users crossing at Lower Square | Parish Council and Wiltshire Council (CATG) | High | Wiltshire Council |
| TT33 | Footpath on Manor Hill from Church End to Peartree Hotel | To improve safety of walkers/ pedestrians | Parish Council and Wiltshire Council (CATG) | Medium | Wiltshire Council |
| TT34 | Pedestrian Crossing at top of village near Willis Way | Main crossing for the Surgery and children to school, principle agreed but conflicts with new Scout Hut | Parish Council and Wiltshire Council (CATG) | High | Wiltshire Council |
| TT35 | Footbridge over railway at Widham | Dangerous crossing over the bridge for people on foot. Feasibility study required | Wiltshire and Parish Councils | High | Developers to contribute. |
| TT36 | Development plan to actively promote car sharing schemes for the village | Car sharing in Purton is low | Parish Council | Medium | Parish Council |
| TT37 | Train station for Purton | Has 51% support of residents though may increase vehicles into the village. Parish Meeting to review | Parish Council plus Wiltshire Council and Network Rail | Medium | Wiltshire Council and Network Rail |
| TT38 | Review and promote more cycle ways within the village and connect to neighbouring towns and villages | To reduce reliance on the car and promote healthy living | Parish Council | Medium | Parish Council and Wiltshire Police |
| TT39 | Bus required to Royal Wootton Bassett | Already one on Wednesday | Wiltshire and Parish Councils | Medium | Discuss with Bus companies |
| TT40 | Bus service required for The Fox | To give access to Swindon and Purton | Wiltshire and Parish Councils | Medium | Discuss with Bus companies |
| TT41 | Lack of Sunday bus service | Survey to decide how many would use it? | Wiltshire and Parish Councils | Medium | Discuss with Bus companies |
| TT42 | Road from Purton to Lydiard Millicent needs gritting in winter | | Wiltshire Council | High | Wiltshire Council |



HOUSING AND DEVELOPMENT

The villages of Purton and Purton Stoke, set in the open countryside of north Wiltshire, each have their own unique identities and cultures. Life in the villages is less hectic with a more relaxed lifestyle and closer community than that found in large urban areas with problems of noise, pollution, traffic congestion and crime, or the perception of crime. It is one of the reasons that many people wish to live in the parish.

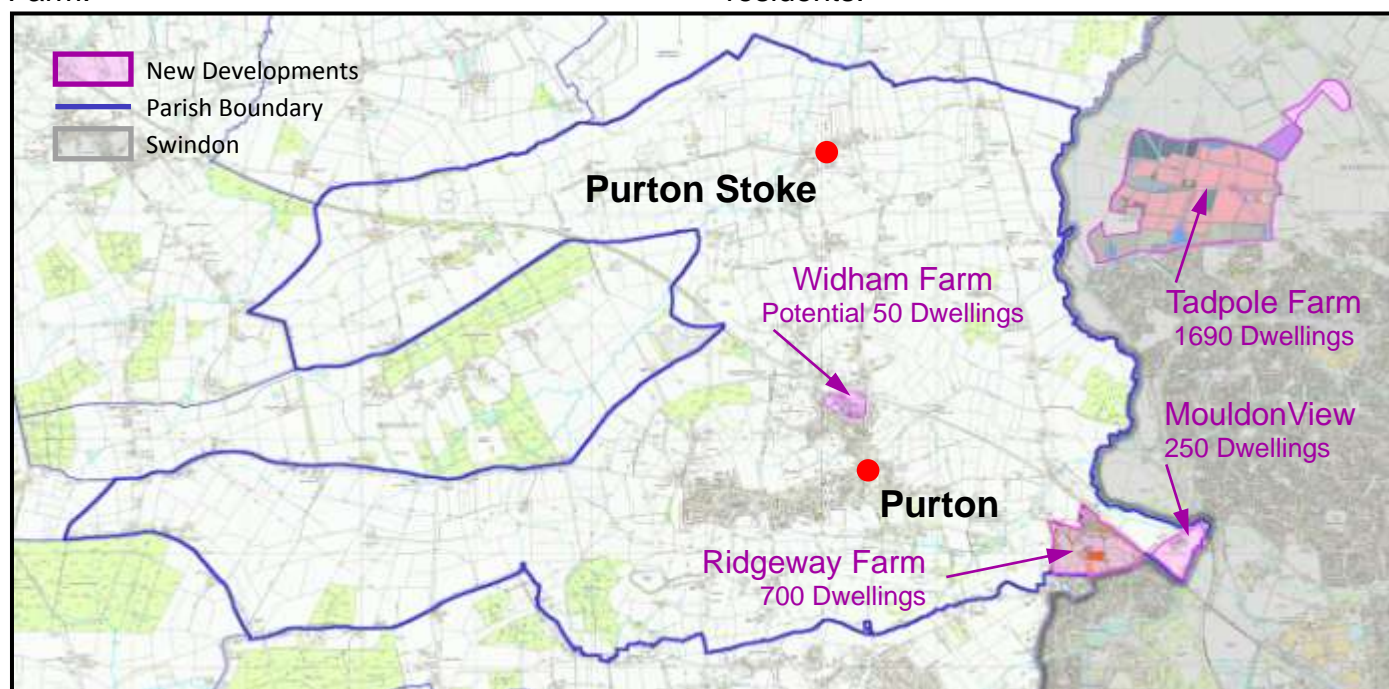
Purton is located close to Swindon, the main Principal Urban Area and economic driver for this sub-region. Swindon has driven the rapid growth for housing and development that is spilling out into the surrounding countryside including into the Parish of Purton and that pressure will continue.

In 2008, a development of 200 houses was approved at Moredon Bridge (Mouldon View), to which a further 50 have since been considered for permission. In 2012, a major development for 700 houses was approved at Ridgeway Farm.

Both sites are in the east of the parish adjacent to Swindon's boundary. A development for a further 50 houses in the village is continually being sought at Widham Farm. These represent an additional 1,000 houses, excluding any other smaller developments that may occur, and is a 60% increase in the total number of houses across the parish. Developers already have interests on other parcels of land in the parish for further large developments.

Across the boundary with Swindon, a development for 1,690 houses was approved in autumn of 2012 at Tadpole Farm located northwest of Swindon. It bounds the border of the parish and will inevitably have significant impact on the traffic and infrastructure of the parish.

It is this continued pressure from developers for ever more housing in the villages of Purton and Purton Stoke and within the surrounding countryside that is of concern to many parish residents.



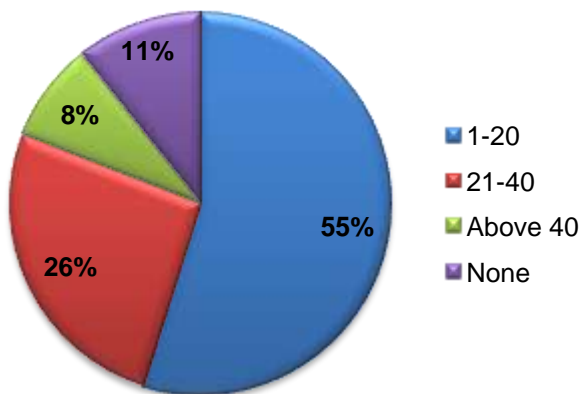
Purton Parish showing major approved and proposed future developments



When asked in the questionnaire how many houses should be built in the parish over the course of the next five years, the majority of people who responded (55%) stated that there should be no more than 20 additional houses built during this period. A further 26% considered up to 40 additional houses would be acceptable but only a small 8% would accept numbers greater than these.

At the other end of the scale, 11% of people who responded to the questionnaire did not want any further housing development in the parish.

How many houses should be built in next five years

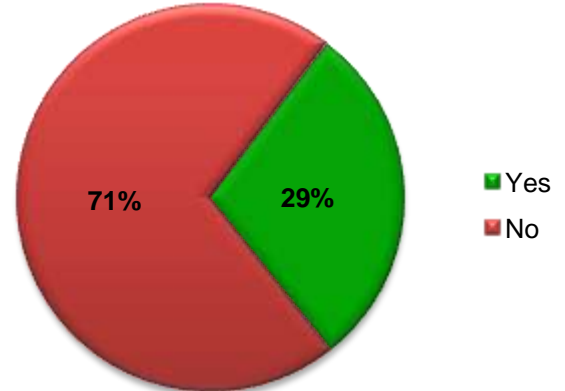


Planning

Responses from the questionnaire and also the Feedback Meeting held in the Village Hall in December 2012 showed that planning was a major concern for many of the residents in the parish.

Most are sceptical of the planning process and how it works with 71% who do not believe that the local planning authority takes any notice of the views and objections raised by local residents when considering planning applications, particularly those for larger developments.

Do the planners take notice of views of local residents?



This response is understandable as the planning process is complex. Understanding how it works is key to knowing why so many unwanted developments get approved against the wishes of the public.

Until March 2013, the policy that defined how many houses and where they were built was the Wiltshire and Swindon Structure Plan 2016¹⁷. It provided the strategic policy framework for land use planning, development and transport across both the administrative areas of Wiltshire and Swindon.

This framework, in turn, was used to inform the more detailed Local Development Framework (LDF) produced by Wiltshire County Council and (the then) district councils against which decisions on development were made.

Many of the policies in the LDFs have been superseded by Planning Policy Statements from Central Government. For Purton, the biggest impact was the removal of the Rural Buffer this was in place to prevent coalescence between Purton and its larger neighbour Swindon.

¹⁷ Wiltshire and Swindon Structure Plan 2016
<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/wiltshire-structure-plan-2016-adopted-version.pdf>



In 2004, the last Government introduced new regional planning arrangements to replace the existing planning policies with Regional Spatial Strategies (RSS) from 2006 to 2026. These were to have more planning weight than the policies they were to replace. However by the last election, only a handful of RSSs had been approved by the Secretary of State and this did not include the Regional Spatial Strategy for the South West (SWRSS) which was still in draft.

Nevertheless, the previous Government put considerable weight on the emerging RSSs when considering planning applications and it was largely for this reason that the 200 houses at Mouldon View were approved by the Planning Inspector on Appeal.

The current Coalition Government decided to promote Localism¹⁸ and to bring back the decision making for strategic planning from the Regional Assemblies, which subsequently were abolished, and to put it into the hands of the local decision makers, i.e. the local unitary councils. The Government has now revoked all RSSs (including the SWRSS in March 2013) and Wiltshire is producing a new LDF for Wiltshire to 2026.

Called the Wiltshire Core Strategy¹⁹ (WCS), it was subject to a ten-week independent examination in public into its soundness. There will inevitably be some changes but these will not be known until the planning inspector makes his report, due late in 2013.

The WCS was expected to be approved by the Secretary of State later this year, though it is now more likely to be spring of 2014 before it will become the LDF for Wiltshire.

With the introduction of the Localism Act, the Coalition Government also introduced a new National Planning Policy Framework²⁰ (NPPF or the Framework). Its aim is to make the planning system less complex and easier to understand.

At the heart of the NPPF is the presumption for sustainable development. Policy 14 states *“a presumption in favour of sustainable development which should be seen as a golden thread running through both plan-making and decision-making”*.

However policy 14 also states that for taking planning decisions, if the development plan is absent or out of date, planning permission should be granted. In the case of Ridgeway Farm, the Planning Inspector found that the current Structure Plan was too old and therefore out of date and that the emerging WCS had not been approved and therefore was absent and so granted the development for 700 houses.

It is on the basis of the Ridgeway Farm decision, that developers resubmitted the planning application for Widham Farm.

Another thread running through the NPPF is Neighbourhood Planning²¹ (policy 183) which gives communities such as parish councils and neighbourhood forums the power to establish general planning policies for the development and use of land in a neighbourhood, though it cannot be used to prevent development.

¹⁸ Localism Act 2011:

www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2011/20/contents/enacted

¹⁹ Wiltshire Core Strategy document (draft):

www.wiltshire.gov.uk/planninganddevelopment/planningpolicy/wiltshirecorestrategy.htm

For reference Swindon's Core Strategy document (draft) can be found at:

[http://www.swindon.gov.uk/ep/ep-planning/forwardplaning/ep-planning-localdev/Documents/core_strategy_web\[1\].pdf](http://www.swindon.gov.uk/ep/ep-planning/forwardplaning/ep-planning-localdev/Documents/core_strategy_web[1].pdf)

²⁰ NPPF at

www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2

²¹ Neighbourhood Planning Regulations at

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2012/637/contents/made>



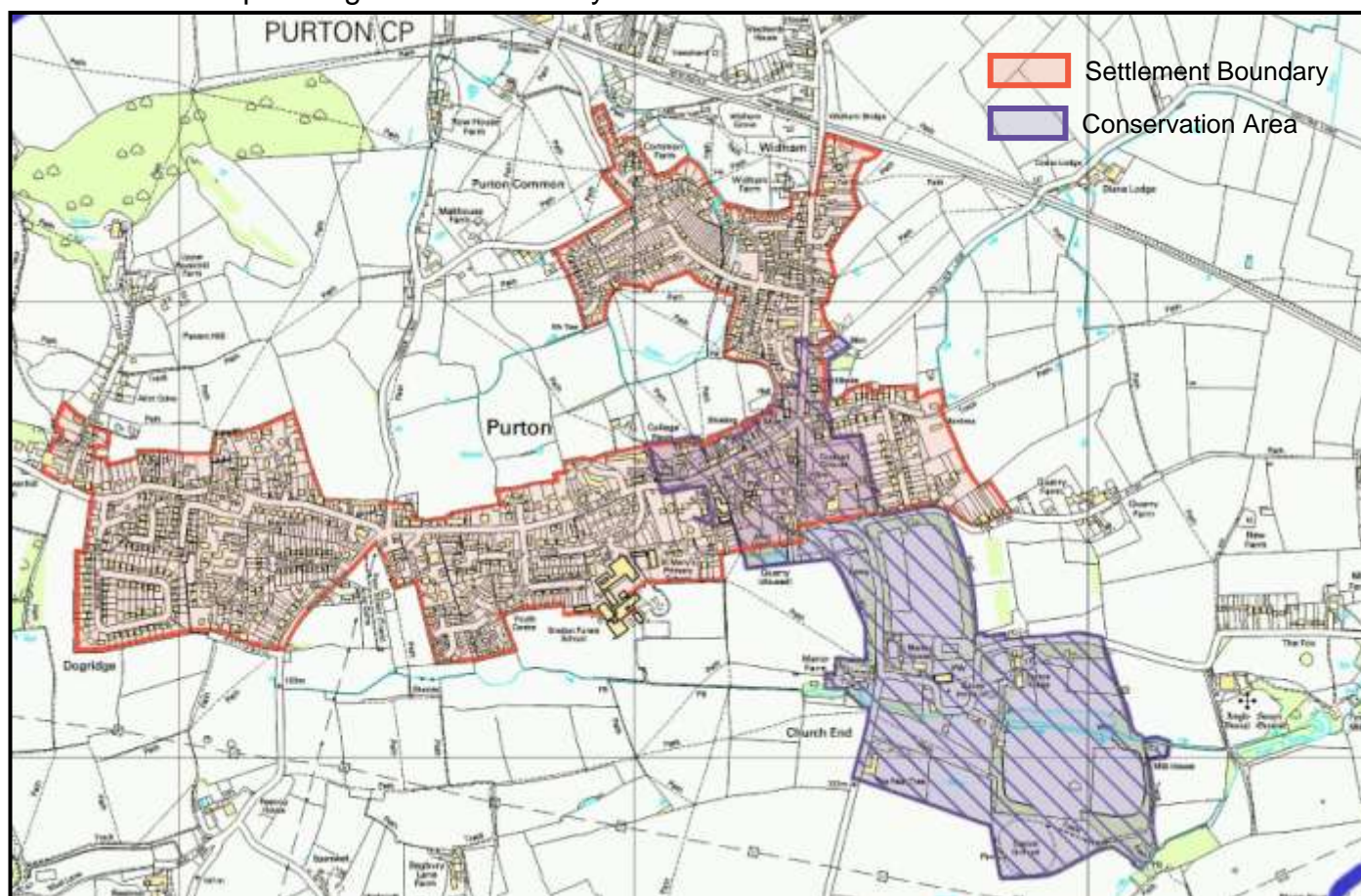
Once approved, neighbourhood plans will sit alongside the Core Strategy and form part of the planning policies for that area. Purton is a member of the North East Wiltshire Villages Neighbourhood Plan²² (NEW-V) which includes Broad Town, Clyffe Pypard, Lydiard Millicent, Lydiard Tregoze, Lyneham and Bradenstoke and Tockenham.

The Parish Plan aims to inform the Neighbourhood Plan of the needs and wishes of parish residents.

Within the WCS are a number of Core Policies that relate to how planning is decided locally.

Purton Parish sits within the Royal Wootton Bassett and Cricklade Community Area²³ and is covered by the Spatial Strategy Core Policy 19.

Over the course of the WCS plan period to 2026, it identifies an additional 1,250²⁴ houses for the Community Area which, allowing for completed and specific permitted sites, leaves sites for just 115 houses to be identified, as at February 2012. The figure does not include the 700 houses at Ridgeway or the additional housing at Moredon Bridge.



Purton Parish Development Settlement Boundary and Conservation Area

²² NEW-V website - <http://new-v.co.uk>

²³ The Community Area includes the Parishes: Braydon, Broadtown, Cricklade, Clyffe Pypard, Latton, Lydiard Millicent, Lydiard Tregoze, Lyneham and Bradenstoke, Marston Mersey, Purton, Tockenham and Royal Wootton Bassett.

²⁴ This is a minimum number of additional houses required not a maximum number.



Purton is identified as a Large Village in the WCS and, under the Settlement Strategy Core Policy 1, retains its settlement boundary, shown in the map on the previous page. Core Policy 1 says for a large village, such as Purton, development will predominantly take the form of employment sites and small housing sites (fewer than 10 units) within the settlement boundary. Development outside the settlement boundary is restricted but can be reviewed by the community through an appropriate planning process such as a Neighbourhood Plan. Purton Stoke, as a Small Village, loses its settlement boundary but development under Core Policy 2 is limited to infill that respects the existing character and form of the settlement and does not elongate the village or impose development in sensitive areas.

Purton also has a designated Conservation Area²⁵ which covers the more historic centre of the village and extends south including the Manor House, Purton House, St Mary's Church, the Peartree Hotel, the Dingle and the Cricket Ground. Planning controls are more restrictive within conservation areas.

Development in both large and small villages under Core Policy 1 is limited to that required to help meet the housing needs of the settlements and to improve employment opportunities, services and facilities.

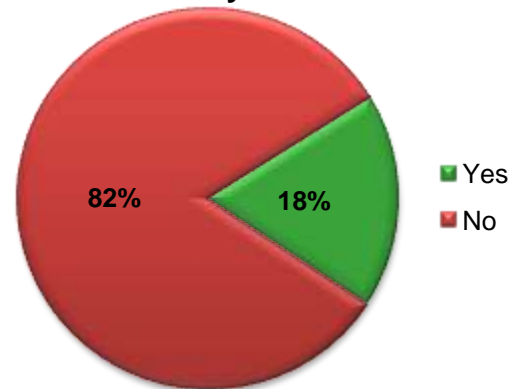
The WCS has identified the need to protect the identities of settlements adjoining the boundary with Swindon and strive to do this through Core Policy 51 Landscape. It adds the caveat that local communities may wish to consider this matter further in a Neighbourhood Plan.

Housing Development

Given that additional housing will be required, the overwhelming view of Purton and Purton Stoke residents (82%) was that it should not be in the open countryside around the villages, i.e. outside the settlement boundary.

The countryside is considered a precious asset by residents; it maintains the rural feel of the villages and that it should be protected against additional housing development.

Build new housing in the Countryside



From the comments received, more than three quarters of residents who answered the questionnaire felt that any new development should be limited to infill within the existing settlement boundary.

However there has been considerable infill²⁶ of new houses in the village to date. There is a finite amount of space and so this will be a decreasing option. Though no study has been undertaken to determine how much more is possible there will come a point when all the unused plots of land and gardens will have been used and any new development, to meet the needs of the village, would have to be outside the settlement boundary.

²⁵ Wiltshire Council Conservation Areas - www.wiltshire.gov.uk/planninganddevelopment/ourplanning/services/conservationhistoricenv/conservationareas.htm

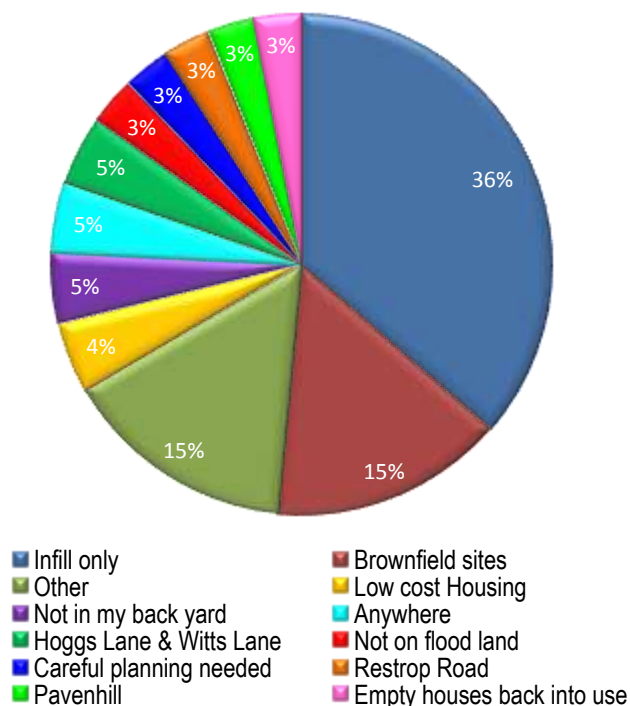
²⁶ In planning terms these are referred to as Windfall Sites



On another front, the linear layout of Purton village has resulted in “glimpses” of spectacular views. From some vantage points, the views may extend to some 20 to 30 miles to the north and west. These are under threat as new development fills in the gaps. Current planning policy completely ignores this quality.

All three locations are outside the settlement boundary in open countryside and so would be contrary to the Local Development Plan. The category “Other” represents 10 single location or comment responses that could not be categorised into any of the other groupings identified in the pie chart.

Where should new houses be built

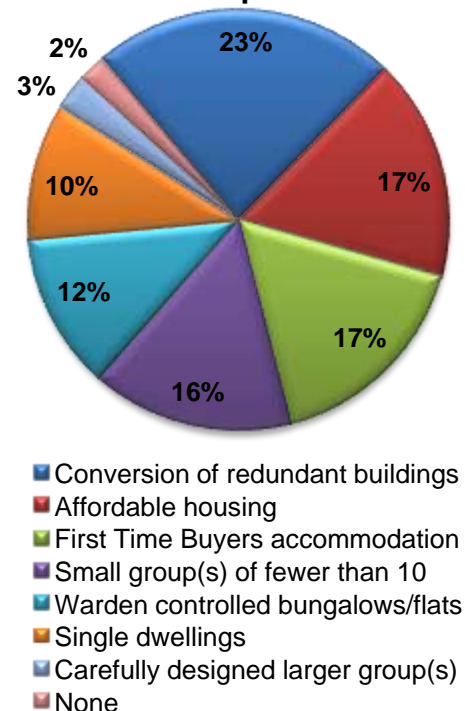


House on Station Road with potential to be brought back into use

There is a strong view that brownfield sites should be used for additional housing and that any unused and redundant buildings should be brought back into use. However there are not many brownfield sites or unused/redundant buildings in Purton though the response to the questionnaire showed this is a high priority for residents.

Of the 310 responses received 66 went on to give their input as to where (or not) development should happen. Only three responses identified land between Hoggs Lane and Witts Lane and only two suggested land either north of Pavenhill or east of Restrop Road.

What type of housing development





Whilst small developments, of 10 or fewer houses, are generally seen as acceptable by residents, larger developments greater than 10 are not, e.g. the proposed development at Widham Farm for 50 houses, with potential for a further 75-100²⁷, is seen as unacceptably large.

Feedback identified the need for careful planning for larger developments with many residents expressing concern that the styles of many new houses and developments are not in keeping with a village setting and as such Purton was becoming progressively more urban.

The proposed development at Widham is a case in question. Its size, layout and style of houses would be more at home in the urban hinterland of Swindon or Chippenham rather than an English village.

The general view of residents is that any new development should be more sympathetic and complement the existing style and character of the village. Also that the size of any new development should be to meet only the housing need of the local community and not of larger neighbours such as Swindon (Wiltshire's Core Policy 1 Settlement Strategy – large and small Villages).

There is concern over the shrinking size of gardens with new houses. Most are just pocket-sized and some without any garden at all just parking space. Gardens provide an important private space for families to enjoy but most importantly they can provide a place for young children, and their friends, to be able play safely without the risk of traffic or other perceived threats.

Small gardens also tend to promote the urbanisation of the locality rather than retaining

the rural character of the village that most residents prefer. The importance of gardens needs to be promoted in the Neighbourhood Plan.

There has always been concern with the provision of residential parking for new developments and the consequential increase in on-street parking.

Wiltshire published their Local Transport Plan 2011-2026 – Car Parking Strategy²⁸ in March 2011. This sets the minimum residential parking standards as 1 car parking space for a 1 bedroom house, 2 for a 2 to 3 bed house and 3 spaces for a house with 4 or more bedrooms. Garage space is not included in these numbers and visitor parking is 0.2 spaces per dwelling (unallocated).

However there are circumstances under which the parking spaces can be reduced and so new developments will need to be watched to ensure compliance with the parking strategy.

There was a very positive response to the question on what kind of alternative energy would residents support (see Environment/Energy). Wiltshire supports Sustainable Construction and Low-Carbon energy for new development in Core Policy 41 and that it should be encouraged for new housing developments.

However, with all the importance placed on climate change nationally, all such measures, including integrated photovoltaic roof panels, water harvesting and grey water, should be mandatory for all new developments of three bedrooms or more and be considered for inclusion in the Neighbourhood Plan. Also, ground source heat pumps, fed from bore holes shared between houses, should be encouraged.

²⁷ The original application was for 148, reduced to 136. The question was asked by the Inspector at the Inquiry as to whether they would use the remaining land in the future for more development and the answer was 'Yes'

²⁸ Wiltshire Council car parking strategy for housing estates <http://wiltshire.gov.uk/ltp3-car-car-parking-strategy.pdf>



According to the Environment Agency²⁹, neither Purton nor Purton Stoke are built in a flood zone so flooding is not seen as a reason to reject development and that any local “pooling” of water can be managed with Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS). For example, such flooding as occurs around Locks Lane, the Common, Widham Farm, Witts Lane, Peartree Close and New Road.

SUDS comprises various elements to attenuate (slow down) the run off rate of rain water from a housing development to the same level as a correspondingly sized green field. It includes permeable paving, infiltration and attenuation systems including storage to allow for short heavy downpours, filter (French) drains, swales (part time drains), settlement or balancing ponds and wetlands.

However they require permanent ongoing maintenance to keep them free from weeds, silting and general debris to ensure they continue to work. It does seem illogical to consider such a system as truly “sustainable” and most residents, who commented on flooding in the questionnaire, felt that new developments should not be built on land that is known to flood.

Affordable Housing

A combined total of 34% of residents identified that there is a need for both affordable homes and low cost housing³⁰ for first time buyers.

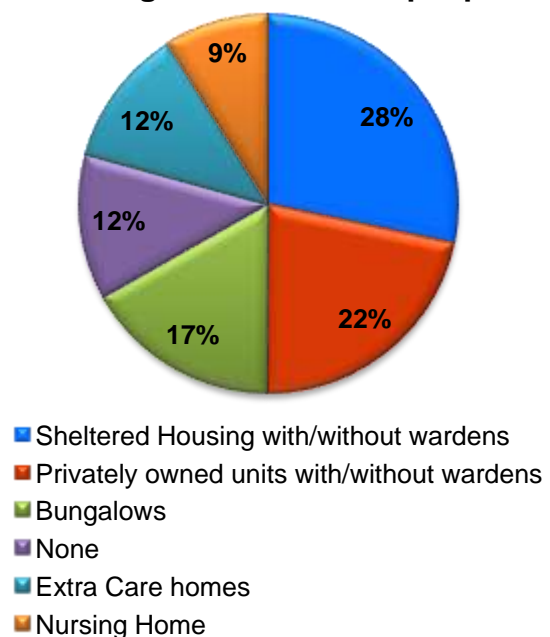
The Wiltshire Core Strategy Policy 43 requires 40% (net) affordable housing³¹ provision on new developments of five houses or more.

A joint survey³², carried out by Wiltshire Council and Purton Parish Council in November 2011, identified 210 affordable homes in Purton. This is just over 12% of the parish’s housing stock, much lower than Wiltshire’s average of 19.2%. The report recommended that Purton Parish Council and Wiltshire Council should work together to identify suitable sites for 24 low-cost/affordable homes over the next three years, in line with Wiltshire’s Core Policy 44³³.

Housing for the Elderly

Wiltshire’s Core Policy 46 addresses the needs of older people in the county. Essentially it promotes housing schemes that assist older people to live securely and independently within their communities.

Housing needs for older people



²⁹ Environment agency:- Enter post code and the site shows you areas likely to flood.

<http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/homeandleisure/37837.aspx>

³⁰ Low cost housing means housing built by the private sector, such as starter homes.

³¹ The expression ‘affordable housing’ means low-cost, subsidised housing available to rent or part-buy from a local authority or a registered social landlord such as a housing association.

³² Purton Housing Needs Survey published January 2012 www.intelligencenetwork.org.uk/planning-housing

³³ Both Mouldon View and Ridgeway Farm developments will have affordable homes but allocations between Swindon and Wiltshire are unknown at present.



When asked about the housing needs of older people, residents also wanted to see provision made that would allow older people to live independently within the community. Many opted for Sheltered³⁴ Housing along the style of Hooks Hill³⁵ followed by privately-owned retirement homes, along the lines of Norbury Court.



Norbury Court Retirement Homes

There is no provision for extra care homes in Purton although provision is planned for within the Ridgeway Farm development, however no details are available.

In the parish there are three nursing homes, Ashgrove House on Station Road, White Lodge Care Home outside the village at Braydon and The Cedars on the High Street.



Ashgrove House Nursing Home

There is concern about The Cedars, which is operated by the Orders of St John, as to whether or not it might close as it does not comply with the latest government legislation.



The Cedars Care Home

Also, Wiltshire Council considers that Purton does not have the need for this type of facility and similar facilities are being considered to be offered at nearby towns of Cricklade and Royal Wootton Bassett.

Growing old and having to move into a nursing home can be a lonely process but moving older residents away from family and friends, many of whom they may have known for years, can only aggravate this process.

³⁴ Terminology

- Assisted Living where residents own their own unit/flat within a private development designed for older/disabled residents. With alarm systems etc. and may have a warden on call. Many have 'hotel' services, such as laundry, cleaning and restaurant.
- Sheltered Housing is a self-contained flat or bungalow linked to a Community Alarms Centre which allows tenants to call for help in an emergency.
- Extra Care is an alternative to residential care, nursing care, supported living and sheltered housing and provides 'a home for life' for many people even if their care needs change over time.
- Nursing Homes and Nursing Care where residents need 24/7 nursing care either within a dedicated building with other residents or with a full time carer.

³⁵ Hooks Hill - <http://www.housingcare.org/housing-care/facility-info-11862-hooks-hill-purton-england.aspx>



If The Cedars is to close, the Parish Council must campaign for a replacement to be built in the village either at the existing site or on an alternative site to serve the needs of the older residents in Purton.

When asked about the housing needs of older people, 17% of residents identified the need for bungalows to allow them to remain independent when they have found living in a house has become more difficult with age.

However in recent times fewer bungalows have been built mainly because of the cost of land. By their very nature, bungalows require a larger plot size to provide the amount of living space required that a corresponding house would. Unfortunately bungalows tend to carry a price premium which keeps them out of affordable housing developments.

There are various pockets of bungalows in the village, primarily in Highridge Close, Restrop View, Glevum Close and Vasterne Close and at a number of other smaller sites within the parish. There is always a need for bungalows in the village both to meet the needs of older residents and for people with mobility issues.

Developers, when planning new housing developments for the village, should consider including a proportion of bungalows in their plans for the older and less mobile residents.

Core Policy 46 encourages the provision of homes which incorporate "Lifetime Homes Standards" so they can be readily adapted to meet the needs of older people and those with disabilities.

The contention is that rather than just "encouraging", all new homes should be built to the Lifetime Homes Standards³⁶ and this should be considered for inclusion in the Neighbourhood Plan.

³⁶ Lifetime Homes - <http://www.lifetimehomes.org.uk/> and the Joseph Rowntree Foundation - www.jrf.org.uk/publications/building-lifetime-homes

Shops

Village shops and post offices play an important part in maintaining vibrant communities, not only in terms of villagers being able to purchase supplies, access banking and postal services without having to travel outside the village, but also to provide important social hubs in villages. They are places to share information and meet with friends and neighbours.

There used to be a much larger range of shops in Purton but over the years with growing retail competition from nearby Swindon, many of the shops became unprofitable and faded away.



Pavenhill Shopping Parade

Most of the remaining shops are located at the top of the village at Pavenhill but with their general dilapidated state together with the parking problems, it is recognised that the site is long overdue for renovation/ re-development.



Pavenhill Shopping Parade rear view



This could be carried out in phases so as not to have an impact on the continued operating of the existing shops. There is a potential for apartments above the shops, which could help make the project attractive to a developer.

A more radical approach would be to look for a central site in the village for the shops, such as College Farm Yard, which has been identified by Wiltshire Council in its Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment³⁷ (SHLAA), and could, if it were to come to market, be considered for retail shops including cafés, coffee shop, an arts and crafts centre or similar and provided with adequate car parking. It could also provide access to the green space (possibly a local park) behind.



College Farm Yard - Possible location for new shops

The Pavenhill shops require urgent action to ensure a vibrant and sustainable retail offering for the village for the future.

Employment Land

Whilst some land such as Purton Brickworks at Mopes Lane and the small industrial site in New Road has been allocated for industrial and commercial facilities, the amount of land set aside for employment is small compared to the size of the village. Thus the majority of residents out-commute to Swindon or further for employment.

Wiltshire's Core Policy 34 prioritises additional employment land at the Principal Settlements (e.g. Chippenham), Market Towns and Local Service Centres rather than at Large or Small Villages, though it does not preclude it.



Mopes Lane

Allocating additional land for employment in Purton would help to redress the balance with the large amount of housing development and to reduce the level of out-commuting.

Whilst not advocating land to be set aside for large industrial or commercial operations (e.g. Honda, Nationwide or similar), an industrial park for small industrial and commercial units covering such activities as information and communication technologies (ICT), knowledge based and creative industries, environment, accounting and financial services or similar. Incubator units for start-up businesses and fully serviced facilities should be considered.

The ideal location would be at Mopes Lane if land could be made available, either within the existing site or adjoining it. If not, then land would need to be found elsewhere adjacent to the village. It would need to be outside the settlement boundary to prevent additional heavy traffic through the village and this should be considered within the Neighbourhood Plan.

³⁷ Wiltshire's Strategic Housing Land Assessment - www.wiltshire.gov.uk/planninganddevelopment/planningpolicy/strategichousinglandavailabilityassessment.htm



Distinctive Landscapes

Much of Purton sits on a hill overlooking the open countryside in a wide sweep from Swindon in the east around to Fairford and Cirencester in the north and on to Malmesbury in the west and the hills near Stroud in the background.

Wiltshire's Core Policy 51 seeks to protect and conserve distinctive landscapes and visually sensitive skylines and Core Policy 52 protects the delivery of green infrastructure for the Cricklade Country Way and the Great Western Forest which includes Berriman's Wood. Both are on the eastern side of the parish.

However there are other green spaces that are important to the parish, such as the escarpments of Francome Hill (known locally as High Hills), north of Pavenhill, and that from South Pavenhill Farm around to Ringsbury Camp. These should be offered similar protection in the Neighbourhood Plan to preclude inappropriate housing development that would destroy the magnificent views and impact the visually sensitive skyline at the top of the village.



Looking west towards Ringsbury Camp

Similarly the setting around the Iron Age hill fort of Ringsbury Camp also should be protected and in particular the distinctive landscapes leading up to the Camp from Restrop Road.

Future Developments

Two questions that kept on coming up through the Parish Plan process is where are the next housing developments going to be in the parish and what type of housing is being proposed.

It is not an easy question to answer and depends on many factors. Market conditions and whether housing developers see a demand for houses, where do people want to live, availability of land for new housing, access to services, e.g. shops, employment, schools etc., available infrastructure and of course, for developers the most important question, will it be profitable?

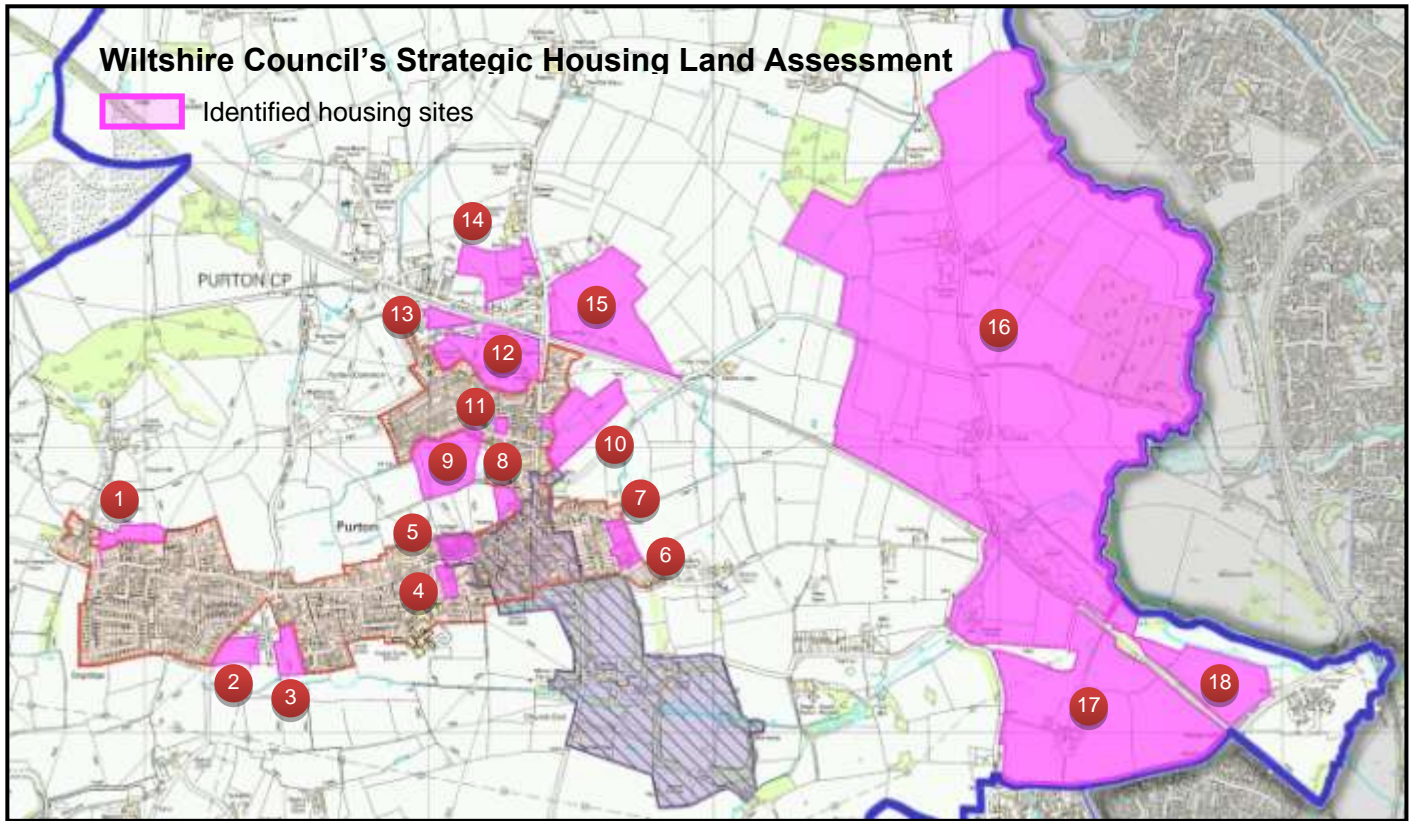
A starting point to understand where new houses are being considered is the local Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA)³⁸. Local authorities are required to identify available land within their administrative area for new housing development and they call on landowners and developers to submit suitable sites³⁹ for inclusion in the SHLAA.

The Wiltshire SHLAA⁴⁰ was published in December 2011 and contains eighteen potential sites for housing within Purton Parish:

³⁸ The Government's National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) requires Local Planning Authorities to prepare a Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment to establish realistic assumptions about the availability, suitability and the likely economic viability of land to meet the identified need for housing over the plan period: www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2 and SHLAA Guidance: www.gov.uk/government/publications/strategic-housing-land-availability-assessment-practice-guidance

³⁹ In North Wiltshire, for a site to be considered it must be greater than 0.15 hectares. The number of houses is calculated on the basis of 30 dwellings per hectare (dph).

⁴⁰ Strategic housing land availability assessment appendix 3 Royal Wootton Bassett & Cricklade area maps of sites:- <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/planning-shlaa-2011-dec-appendix-3-royal-wootton-bassett.pdf>



SHLAA Sites: 1 - North of Pavenhill, 2 - Restrop Road, 3 - Off Willis Way, 4 - Northcote, 5 - Derelict Cottage (College) Farm, 6 - Blake House, 7 - Mardrea (4 Approved), 8 - Purton Court, 9 - Jewels Ash, 10 - Station Road, 11 - Corner site (Peartree Close), 12 - Widham, 13 - Locks Lane, 14 - Hansells Farm, 15 - Hansells Farm 2, 16 - The Pry, 17 - Ridgeway (Development of 700 Approved) and 18 - Moredon Bridge.

Deliverable within 5 years:

200 - Land at Hansells Farm
 90 - Land at Hansells Farm 2
 30 - Land North of Pavenhill
 95 - Land off Station Road
 36 - Land off Willis Way
 700 - Ridgeway (Approved on appeal).
 129 - Widham (50 dismissed)
 1,280 - **Total**

Deliverable in 11-15 years:

16 - Blake House
 8 - Corner site (Peartree Close)
 22 - Derelict Cottage (College) Farm
 93 - Land at Jewels Ash⁴¹
 18 - Land at Locks Lane
 14 - Land at Mardrea (4 approved)
 15 - Land at Northcote

34 - Land at Restrop Road
 200 - Land North of Moredon Bridge
 14 - Rear of the Court
 2,000 - The Pry
 2,434 - **Total**

3,714 - **Grand Total** (inclusive of the 700 houses at Ridgeway Farm)

Of the eighteen sites listed, only five sites⁴² are within the settlement boundary of the village. These include the land at Northcote, the Corner Site at Peartree Close, Blake House, College Farm and the land at Mardrea.

⁴² These five sites on the SHLAA have potential for 75 dwellings, but as only 4 were approved for Mardrea, it reduces to 65. Together with St Mary's and Northview the number of dwellings would be in the order of 86.

⁴¹ Hanick Homes are proposing 28 houses for this site.



The remainder are all outside the settlement boundary and in the countryside and therefore contrary to the local development plan and the emerging Core Strategy. Most have little to do with meeting local housing needs particularly the three sites at The Pry, Moredon Bridge and Ridgeway Farm which are about meeting the housing needs of Swindon and not those of Purton Parish.

It would appear that the criteria for including potential sites for housing development in the SHLAA does not take much heed of the Local Development Plan or the emerging Core Strategy.

However Wiltshire Council points out that the inclusion of sites within the SHLAA does not mean that the council would automatically consider planning applications favourably.

If all eighteen sites in the SHLAA were brought forward, they would have the potential to provide up to 3,714 new houses across the parish, which would be far in excess of local needs.

Over the plan period to 2026, 1,250 houses have been identified in the Core Strategy to meet the needs of the Royal Wootton Bassett and Cricklade Community Area which, after accounting for the completed and specific permitted sites, only leaves sites for 115 houses to be found, and that is for the whole area, not just Purton.

The SHLAA identifies five sites within the settlement boundary, which, together with the redevelopment of the old St Mary's School for 8 dwellings, plus 13 dwellings proposed for Northview House and potential windfall sites⁴³, will deliver more than enough housing to meet Purton's needs over the plan period to 2026.

⁴³ Windfall housing sites are ones that come forward unexpectedly and have not been identified for housing through the plan preparation process. They are generally small, infill sites within the urban area, although large windfall sites can occasionally come forward.

Consequently the sites outside the settlement boundary are not needed to meet local needs.

Sites outside the settlement boundary should only be considered where consultation with the community has recognised a specific need and, through the process of the Neighbourhood Plan, the community can identify an appropriate site to meet that need.

The settlement boundary protects the village from speculative housing development not related to the needs of the Village.

Development outside the settlement boundary should not be considered unless:

- a) It arises directly from the needs of the village, is sustainable, and will produce a substantial tangible benefit that meets the identified needs of the Village, such as: a site for care home or a development to fund an access road to Bradon Forest School.; and
- b) The benefit can be secured within a stipulated timescale either through planning conditions or a planning agreement (section 106) or some other legally enforceable arrangement that ensures that the benefit will be delivered.

Whilst the new National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) has changed the planning landscape it is a rather blunt instrument when planning applications are being considered.

There needs to be a more intelligent approach to housing, an approach that has the flexibility to determine housing that is appropriate and fit for a variety of purposes; for the first time buyer, the elderly, those that have specialist requirements and the larger family homes; housing that is in keeping with its surroundings, housing that adds to the community, and for housing that does not lock-in problems (or costs) for the future.



New housing needs to allow for families to grow, having adequate off-street parking, safe areas for children to play, be close to local shops and amenities, access to transport, to be a safe place where people want to live, to allow people to be able to communicate with each other and to be part of the community.

There is little pressure the Parish Plan can bring to promote these requirements other than to highlight them and to urge the Neighbourhood Plan to consider how these needs might be realised.

Perhaps it is wise to note the lesson of Ridgeway Farm.

Whilst the planning application was turned down by Wiltshire Council, the Planning Inquiry (planning appeal) dealt almost exclusively with planning policies when coming to a decision about the development and not those matters that most concern local residents such as traffic, impact in services and infrastructure etc.

In such matters it is more the case of who is able to afford the more expensive barrister to fight their case.

Residents and the Parish Council need to remain vigilant to rebuff planning applications that neither meet local needs nor add to the local communities in which they are situated.

Action list related to Housing and Development from questionnaire comments and Feedback Meeting

| | Action | Comments | Responsible | Priority | Funding |
|-----|--|---|--|----------|-----------------|
| HD1 | No building into the countryside | Settlement Boundary ⁴⁴ has been retained by the emerging Wiltshire Core Strategy (WCS) | Wiltshire and Parish Councils and Neighbourhood Plan | High | No capital cost |
| HD2 | New development to meet local needs only | Need to hold Wiltshire to its Core Policy 1 Settlement Strategy for new developments | Wiltshire and Parish Councils and Neighbourhood Plan | High | No capital cost |
| HD3 | Review building outside the Settlement Boundary only where it meets the needs of the village and provides specific and identifiable local benefits for the village | WCS retains Settlement Boundary against building in open countryside but it can be reviewed by the community through the Neighbourhood Plan | Wiltshire and Parish Councils and Neighbourhood Plan | High | No capital cost |
| HD4 | Identify land not suitable for development due to flooding | Consider provision in Neighbourhood Plan against building on land that floods | Purton Parish Council and Neighbourhood Plan | High | No capital cost |

⁴⁴ Formerly known as Framework boundary



Action list continued

| Action | | Comments | Responsible | Priority | Funding |
|--------|---|---|---|----------------------|--|
| HD5 | Identify suitable sites for additional affordable housing to rent and buy | 24 affordable houses identified in Rural Housing Needs Survey Jan 2012 | Wiltshire and Parish Councils and Neighbourhood Plan | High | Wiltshire Council and Developer |
| HD6 | Preclude Housing Development on Visually Sensitive Landscapes | Consider provision in Neighbourhood Plan to preclude housing around Francomes Hill (Pavenhill) and Ringsbury Camp | Parish Council and Neighbourhood Plan | Medium | No capital cost |
| HD7 | Promote family sized gardens | New houses need gardens to provide private space and safe play for children | Wiltshire and Parish Councils and Neighbourhood Plan | Medium | No capital cost |
| HD8 | No more than 40 houses in next 5 years | Has been exceeded by Ridgeway Farm 700 but objective is limit further growth to local needs | Wiltshire and Parish Councils and Neighbourhood Plan and Government | High | Funding from Wiltshire Council for legal battles |
| HD9 | Improve the shopping area, including parking, at Pavenhill | Multi-ownership of shops is a problem. Establish a joint working group of interested parties to undertake study of potential options | Parish Council | Long term but urgent | Wiltshire Council and Developers. Consider EU funding and/or S106 ⁴⁵ /CIL ⁴⁶ money |
| HD10 | Retain residential Nursing/ Care Facilities/Day Care (Cedars) in Purton for the elderly | Essential to keep nursing home provision. Establish a joint working group involving local people to undertake study of potential options, including the complete complex of The Cedars and Hook's Hill. | Wiltshire and Parish Councils and Orders of St John | High | Wiltshire Council and Developers. |

⁴⁵ Money from Section 106 Agreements (S106) is used to help offset/ mitigate the impact of a new housing development on the existing surrounding community and can include contributions towards affordable homes, schools, highways and street works, sports and leisure facilities and open spaces. S106 are legal agreements between the developer and the local planning authority. www.pas.gov.uk/pas/core/page.do?pagelid=12516

⁴⁶ The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is a new levy that local authorities can choose to charge on new developments in their area. The money can be used to support development by funding infrastructure that the council, local community and neighbourhoods want. www.gov.uk/government/policies/giving-communities-more-power-in-planning-local-development/supporting-pages/community-infrastructure-levy



Action list continued

| | Action | Comments | Responsible | Priority | Funding |
|------|--|---|----------------------------------|----------|-------------------|
| HD11 | Wiltshire Council planning take no notice of peoples objections to planning procedures | Request Wiltshire Council to produce an entry level guide to explain the intricacies of the planning system | Wiltshire Council Planning Dept. | High | No capital cost |
| HD12 | Keep the Cedars or replace within Purton | Parish Council to make certain either retained or replaced within Purton | Wiltshire and Parish Councils | High | Wiltshire Council |
| HD13 | All day parking in the Lower Square, review to reduce to a one hour parking zone. | Discussed at Parish Council meeting in Oct 2012. Will be re-considered. | Parish Council. | Medium | Wiltshire Council |



LOCAL ENVIRONMENT AND RECREATION

Environmental issues cover a wide range of diverse subjects including:-

Emergency planning; flooding; air pollution; landfill, waste and recycling; fly tipping; litter; dog fouling; library; museum; open spaces (play areas, parks, sporting facilities, allotments); footpaths; clubs and organisations

Emergency/Resilience Planning⁴⁷

A Government initiative, directed at town and parish councils, is that all parishes have an up to date Community Resilience Plan, replacing Initial Response Plans that some parishes had written several years ago. Purton Parish Council is preparing a parish emergency plan, which could form part of a Community Resilience Plan in the future.

These new community resilience plans will be owned and maintained by a person, nominated by the town/parish council, who will keep them fully up to date.

There is currently one site (Bremhill Bridge Fuel Storage Depot) that is under Control of Major Accidental Hazards (COMAH) within the parish, therefore it is important to have a robust emergency plan in place.

Off-site plans are produced by Wiltshire Council for specific sites in order to meet the County Council's obligations under COMAH regulations and Major Accident Hazard Pipeline Safety regulations. At present plans for Purton are available from Wiltshire Council.

Wiltshire Council as the Local Authority has an Emergency Planning Unit to provide support and assistance to the council's service providers, the Emergency Services and other agencies, during the initial stages of an incident, whilst trying to maintain normal council services.

Once the initial threat to people and property has passed the team co-ordinate and assist with the recovery of the community.

Flooding

To understand the problems of flooding the geology of the area is an important issue. The Parish of Purton is situated on a bedrock of Oxford Clay in the north of the parish, and of Corallian Limestone in the south.



Geological map of Purton and the surrounding area

The Oxford Clay is not likely to absorb any groundwater, whereas the Corallian Limestone will do so. There are also shallow drift deposits of alluvium that follow the course of the River Key.

⁴⁷ This relates to unexpected disasters, incidents and natural events where there needs to be a plan in place.



The parish has two river courses – the River Key to the west and the River Ray to the east – and a number of small streams, a vast number of ditches which act as water courses, several lakes, dew ponds and an unused underground reservoir. There are also networks of springs and wells across the whole parish (including some wells on the top of the hill), indicating that there are water deposits lying under the ground. To the north of the parish around Packhorse Lane there is also an aquifer.



Crosslanes/Tadpole Lane July 2007

There are several aspects to flooding to be considered within the parish – fluvial flooding which comes from the two rivers and identified within the Environment Agency flood maps but more importantly pluvial flooding which comes off the land. Pluvial flooding is not within the remit of the Environment Agency to comment on at planning stage, hence they make no comment on many applications. It is often assumed therefore, wrongly, that there are no flooding problems. Pluvial flooding has in recent years been recognised as ‘an invisible hazard’.

Flooding from sewers, where there is a combined system and from blocked culverts or inadequate culverts to take flows from properties, come under the term pluvial flooding.

The Environment Agency is preparing surface water maps that show where there are issues relating to pluvial flooding.

These maps can be used, with evidence gathered locally, to show where there are key issues around the parish that could be made worse by development.

The River Ray’s natural flood plain lies along its course and passes through the parish at Moredon Bridge (Mouldon View), Ridgeway Farm and down to Tadpole Lane Bridge.



River Ray at Moredon Bridge July 2007

The source of the river stems from an area north of the M4 corridor (Front Garden development – Wichelstowe – in Swindon). On its route is Barnfield Sewage Treatment Plant where all the treated water from the conurbation of Swindon is discharged into the river plus also surface and storm water.

The capacity of the plant is approximately 86 million litres per day – about 1000 litres per second. Whether the river course is capable of containing this volume of water or any added volumes, as more housing in Swindon uses the facility, is unknown.

The land alongside The Pry and the River Ray basin is a natural flood plain and is regularly flooded. Water, from Purton, flows “as a river” along Collins Lane towards The Pry, flooding roads and property en route. Historically land at Moredon Bridge (Mouldon View) has flooded upstream along the River Ray basin.



Montage of pictures taken from The Pry of the River Ray overspill at Orchid Fields, Swindon - July 2007

The River Key's natural flood plain lies along its course, spilling out in particular around Braydon Cross Roads, north of the railway line at Benthams, Purton Stoke and at Broadleaze, just outside the parish. The river flows alongside the B4553 and could easily be mistaken as a deep ditch in dry periods, however in full flow the course fills to the top and is eroding the river banks in places.

Run-off water in Purton naturally tends to flow towards the two river courses. However, it is obstructed on the way northwards by the railway line, the limited capacity of the culverts under the line cause flooding, initially south of the railway to roads and property. North of the railway flooding again occurs to properties and roads. The route of run-off in the south of the village, is eastwards, past Purton House and into the River Ray, downstream from Ridgeway Farm. Much of this water comes off fields, which lie higher than the road at Manor Hill, and from the highways.

Wiltshire Highways need to have gullies and grips⁴⁸ kept clear and dug and a programme to inspect, regularly, the culverts under the road.

The ditch system is important to ensure water flows are maintained. A regular programme is required to ensure landowners keep ditches cleared. Also landowners need to understand their riparian responsibilities⁴⁹.

In Purton there is a combined foul and storm sewer, which was upgraded with a new sewer through Widham. However there are still areas in the parish where storm water discharges from older sections. There are also several areas where there are no mains sewers and septic or cess pit alternatives discharge 'cleaned water' into ditches.



Cricklade Road July 2007

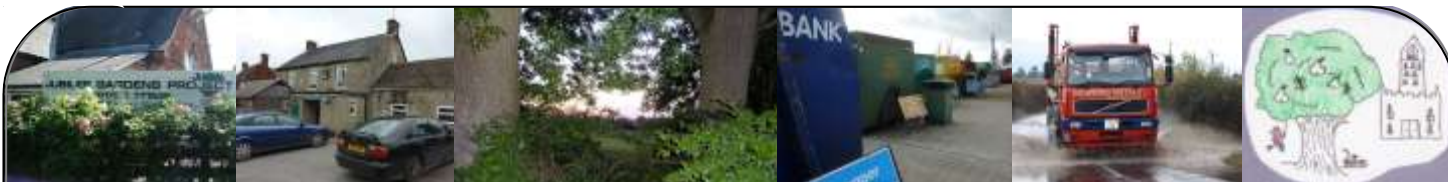


New Road July 2007

⁴⁸ Small drainage channel cut above an excavation to conduct surface water away from the excavation

⁴⁹ Riparian responsibilities of landowners :-

<http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/homeandleisure/floods/31626.aspx>



There are potential needs for main sewers, in particular around The Hyde/Hyde Lane and The Fox. Section 98 of the Water Industry Act 1991 allows for the requisition of sewers⁵⁰. This entitles developers and potentially householders a right to connect to a main sewer in the locality, however the cost of the connection has to be borne by the applicant and not Thames Water⁵¹.

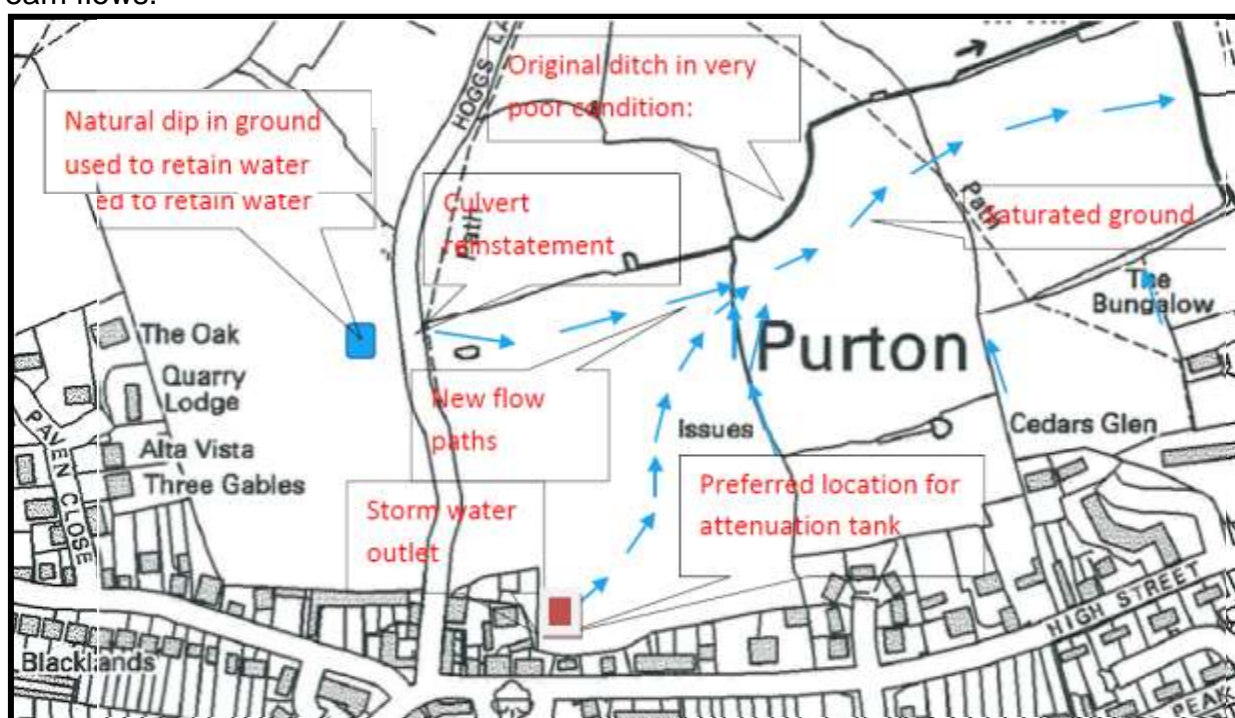
In extreme weather conditions the existing systems within the parish cannot cope – with properties, roads and land at risk of being flooded. The village has in the past been cut off at all roads in and out of the parish due to extreme flooding. In 2007 and 2008 over 35 properties within the parish were flooded.

There are several areas in the parish where water pools naturally. The addition of holding ponds could prevent water from flooding downstream and contain incoming water from upstream flows.

These are yet to be identified within the Flood Working Group report. Wiltshire Council has compiled a draft Flood and Drainage report 2010, updated in 2012 and April 2013. This will/can be used so that planning applications can be informed where there are concerns regarding flooding in the parish. The parish council can then request that landowners keep ditches clear to flow and not filled in and culverts are inspected and kept free from blockages.

The Parish Council has in 2013 set up a flood working group of residents which will continue to up-date the Flood and Drainage report for Purton.

Wiltshire Council has an Operational Flood Working⁵² group where parishes can take issues when additional help and funding might be required to correct areas of extreme flooding.



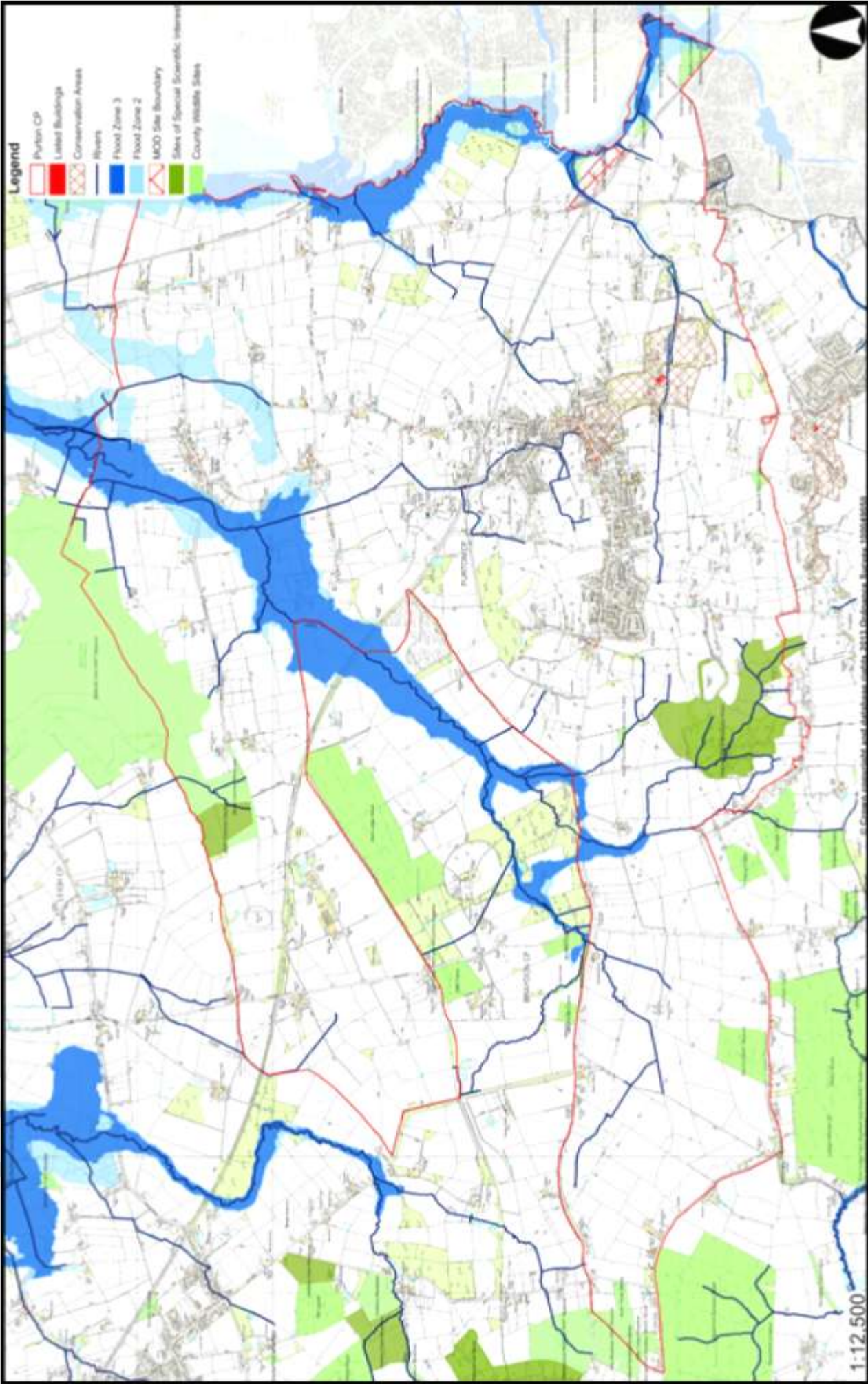
Typical page from Draft Flood and Drainage report

⁵⁰ Provision of Sewerage Services :-
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1991/56/part/IV/Chapter/II>

⁵¹ Thames Water:-
<http://www.thameswater.co.uk/2528.htm?q=ashton+keynes+zone&wholesite=&start=0&filter=0&partialfields=&oldernm>

⁵² Operational Flood Working group
<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/communityandliving/civilemergencies/floodinganddrainage/floodingofwg.htm>

Areas at risk of flooding in the Purton Parish





Flooding from River Key Purton Stoke April 2012

Purton sits in the Thames river basin and Thames Water is the Water Authority responsible for supply of water and foul drainage. Water supply comes from Ashton Keynes zone. Sewage treatment is at Mopes Lane, Purton.

Landfill, Waste and Recycling

Purton has two landfill sites, one north of the railway, now capped and the second south of the railway and active, both are approached from Mopes Lane and close to the River Key. They are both identified within the current Wiltshire and Swindon Waste Site Allocation Plan adopted 2013 on sites at Parkgate Farm and Purton Brickworks and are part of larger land areas allocated for the operation of other waste activities including a Household Recycling Centre (HRC) and composting site.

These sites are operated by Hills Waste Solutions Limited. Waste is transported into the sites using the B4553 via Cricklade and Swindon on HGVs as there is a 7.5ton weight restriction through the village. The highway network needs constant repair as the roads have not been upgraded or strengthened to take the volume of HGV traffic. Kerb edges are damaged and road edges potholed and damaged.



Flooding off raised fields Manor Hill Nov 2012



Landfill and Park Gate Farm composting facility

There is scope on both sites for additional activities as identified in the Wiltshire and Swindon Waste Site Allocation Plan, which may come forward in the future as planning applications.

At Queen Street, in the west of the parish, MJ Church Limited operates a smaller facility with items mainly coming in from their skip collections. The road network at Queen Street, Wood Lane and B4696 are also affected by the HGV traffic.

Wiltshire Council is the authority responsible to collect waste and kerbside collections within the parish. There is a wide range of materials collected from the kerbside including green waste for composting.



There are facilities for recycling at Mini Recycling Sites at the Village Centre and at other key points around the village although much of this type of facility is being phased out.

In 2011/12 the Mopes Lane site recycled 4863 tonnes. The landfill site permissions, plus the green waste and tyre-shredding tonnage brings in additional large volumes of traffic on country roads. The tonnage for green waste alone is currently 25,000 per annum, which is likely to increase as Purton sites begin to take green waste from across the county.

Littering, Fly-Posting, Fly-Tipping and Graffiti

Littering

Littering is a problem especially alongside roads, creating an untidy appearance and can block watercourses and culverts.

There are some issues of littering around and within the two school grounds but this is addressed by the schools. However windblown litter from the schools into nearby fields is a concern. The village is well served with litter bins and dog fouling bins.

In the past there has been a yearly 'Spring Clean' when teams of people went out and collected litter and put into a skip in the Village Hall car park.

The Community Payback Teams also can be available to collect litter and this is normally arranged with the Parish Council. Community Payback is a scheme run by the Probation Service⁵³ nationally. Offenders sentenced to Community Payback complete a range of projects: from maintaining rights of way and church and cemetery maintenance to graffiti removal and litter picking after community events.

Fly-posting

There are a number of issues regarding fly-posting around the village, in particular advertising events that are not local to the community such as sale of garden furniture, carpets and fairground/circus flyers.

Fly-posting is an offence and offenders can be fined up to £2500. Any illegal advertising can be reported to Wiltshire Council and can be removed by the council without notice.

There is a scheme, run by Purton Twinning Association, called 'the blackboards' which are put out to advertise events. This is operated by a local resident and to use the service it is necessary to book well in advance and pay a small cover cost. Contact the Parish Council offices for details.

Fly-tipping

Fly-tipping around the parish occurs in lay-bys and quieter rural roads plus outside the HRC in Mopes Lane. It is often considered that, because of the HRC, there is more fly-tipping in the area if customers arrive to find that the facility is shut or they are being charged to leave the waste.

Wiltshire Council will collect from the public roads but any fly-tipping on private land is the responsibility of the landowners.

Graffiti

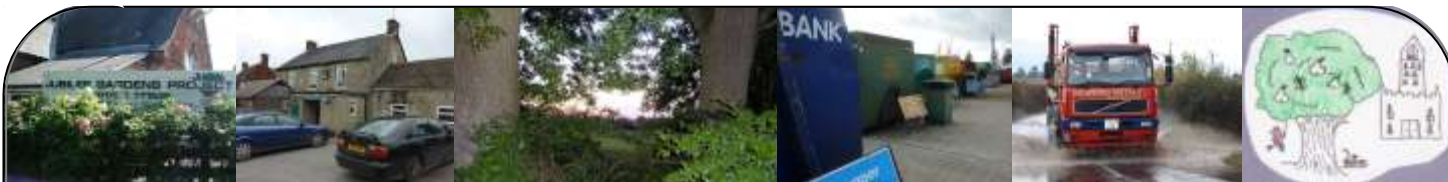
Purton does not have an excessive problem with graffiti however there have been periods when problems have been experienced.

Air Pollution

Sources of air pollution within the parish could stem from traffic, trains, methane from landfill and airborne smells from the composting facility at Parkgate Farm and vehicles bringing in waste.

Environment Agency is responsible for testing pollution from the operating site at Parkgate Farm and Purton Brickworks site.

⁵³ Wiltshire probation service
<http://www.wiltshireprobation.org.uk/>



Local authorities have a duty to monitor air quality within their areas having regard to national air quality objectives and standards and report this information to Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) on an annual basis. There are seven pollutants which they are required to consider under European and UK law, these include lead, benzene and sulphur dioxide⁵⁴.

Air quality in Wiltshire is predominantly good with the majority of the county having clean unpolluted air. There are seven locations where the combination of traffic, road layout and geography has resulted in exceeding of the annual average for nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) and fine particulates (PM₁₀). These are in Westbury, Bradford on Avon, Devizes, Marlborough and three in Salisbury.

Wiltshire Council has produced an Air Quality⁵⁵ Strategy which is a high level guiding document to inform policy and direction across a range of council services with the aim to improve air quality.

Dog Fouling

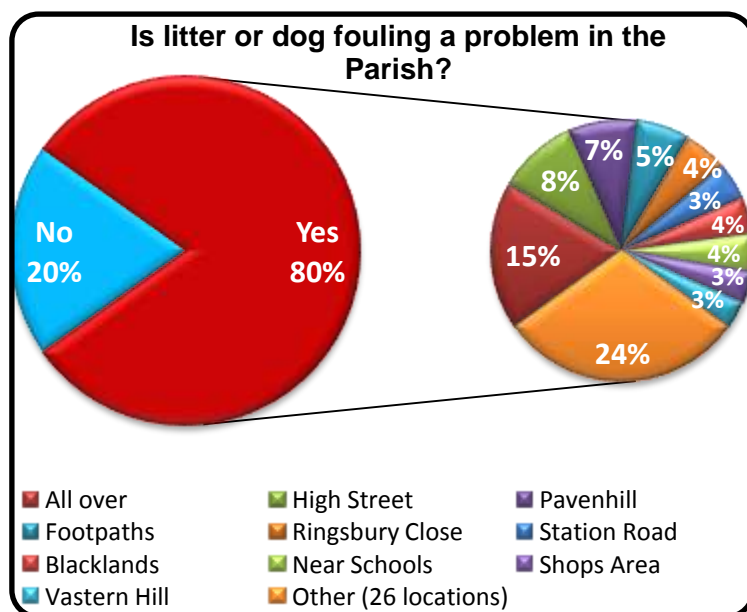
The problem of dog fouling in the UK is a big problem in towns, villages and also the open countryside. In Purton it is a regular issue and a concern to many residents.

It is a problem on footpaths, open spaces and in fields. Dog owners need to be responsible residents and clear up after their dogs.

There are, unfortunately, a few who, when they have picked up, hang/throw the bags into bushes and trees – this is unacceptable and would come under the legislation of littering.

Part of the solution is to educate dog owners that fouling is not acceptable using posters and articles in local magazines and papers.

Dog faeces can be put into general litter bins if well wrapped.



Solutions

- The cheapest solution is for dog owners to pick up after their dogs⁵⁶
- Parish Council appoints a Dog Warden paid for out of the precept. This could be someone who has other duties within the parish
- Local Authority appoints more dog wardens across the county paid for from the Council Tax which would either need to be increased or other services cut. However there is no guarantee this would resolve the problem as the wardens would likely concentrate their efforts in urban areas

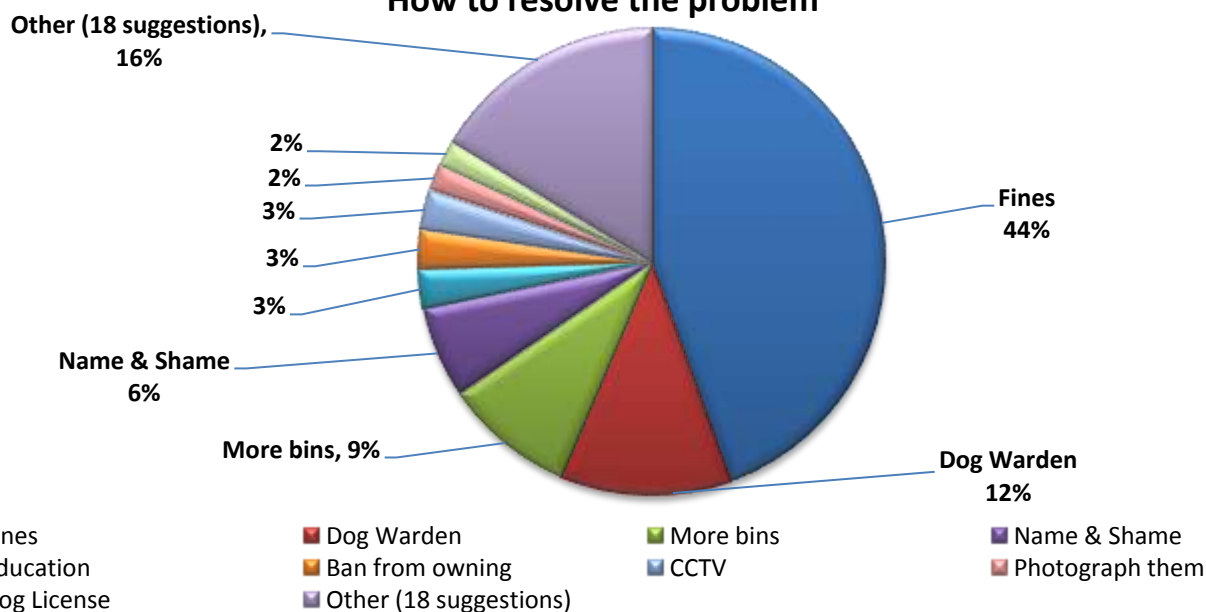
⁵⁴ Air pollution:-
<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/communityandliving/publicprotection/pollutionandnoise/airandwaterpollution/airquality/agreviewandassessment.htm>

⁵⁵ Air quality strategy for Wiltshire:-
<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/report-draft-air-quality-strategy-for-wiltshire-october-2011.pdf>

⁵⁶ The Precept is normally the main source of finance for Town and Parish Councils. The Town/Parish Council makes a demand upon the District or Unitary Council to raise the funds from the Council Tax payers of the Parish as part of their Council Tax Bill each year.
<http://www.council-tax.com/counciltaxprecepts.html>

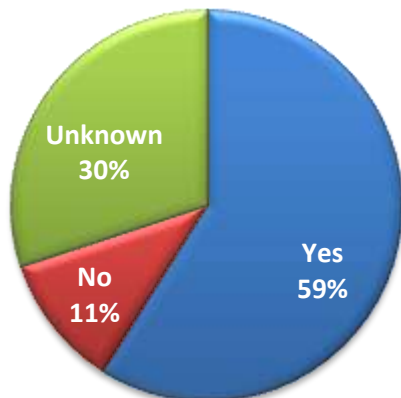


How to resolve the problem



Recreation

Are there sufficient recreational activities available



Purton is fortunate to have four areas within the village which belong to the parish, these are:

1. The Dingle and the adjacent Purton Cricket Club ground, owned by the parish council.
2. Play Close, where there is a play area for younger children and open space, owned by The Play Close charity⁵⁷
3. Village Hall, Library, Museum and Council Offices, owned by the Purton Institute and Village Hall charity⁵⁸

4. Red House Club⁵⁹, where there is a social club with games room for pool, darts and a skittle alley, is just off Church Street and serves as a focal point for local residents.

The Red House Club leases its premises from the Purton Village Centre and War Memorial charity⁶⁰, which owns all the land at this site. The land was gifted to the village by several previous residents

“To provide or assist in the provision for the inhabitants of the Parish of Purton and the neighbourhood thereof, facilities for recreation and other leisure-time occupation in the interest of social welfare with the object of improving the conditions of life for the said inhabitants.”

⁵⁷ <http://opencharities.org/charities/203201>

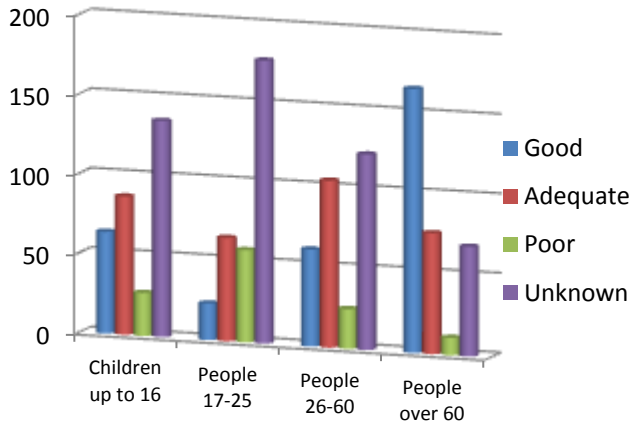
⁵⁸ <http://opencharities.org/charities/203202>

⁵⁹ <http://www.redhouseclubpurton.co.uk/>

⁶⁰ <http://opencharities.org/charities/305562>



Quality of local facilities



The village also has a youth centre, at Reids Piece, and a number of other meeting places, which include The Village Hall, The Millennium Hall (used by brownies and scouts), The Silver Threads Hall, Scout Hut, Methodist Church and St. Mary's Church plus the two schools.

Living in a rural village there are also other opportunities for recreation such as walking, using the network of paths, cycling, horse riding and gardening. Plus there are numerous village clubs and organisations giving the opportunity to participate in some form of recreation, such as sporting or less active pursuits such painting, bell ringing, amateur dramatics, historical society etc.

Sporting Facilities

Purton is well served with public sporting facilities on the village charity land, with a number of sports clubs to belong to, with football pitch, tennis courts, bowls club, skateboard park and putting green. The Cricket Club is the oldest club in Wiltshire and still thriving. The only facilities missing are indoor sports hall (although badminton can be played at the Village Hall) and a swimming pool both of which would be beneficial to both the schools and residents of the village.



Football, Tennis and Bowls at Village Centre

Open Spaces

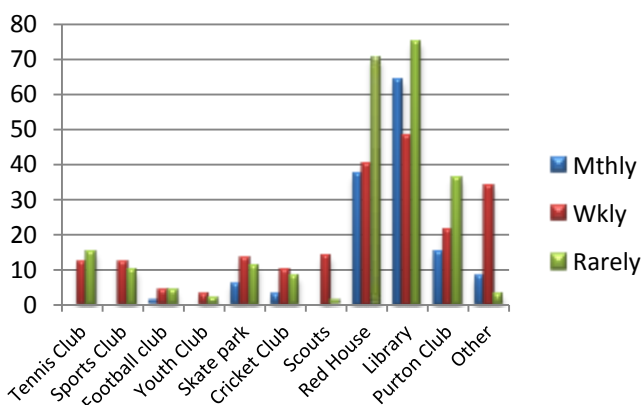
Play Areas

There are three children's play areas in the village providing swings, slides etc. Play Close and the Village Centre, both belonging to the village charities.



Play area at Play Close

Use of community facilities





Also at the Village Centre there is a skateboard park. The parish facilities are maintained at the expense of the parish mainly from the precept. At the top of the village, at Dogridge, is the Venture Play Area, owned by Wiltshire Council but operated by the parish council.



Skateboard facility at Village Centre⁶¹

Parks

At present Purton and Purton Stoke do not have any Public Park areas. An area to be considered is behind Jewel's Ash, where a lake would also help solve some of the surface and ground water problems.

Having parkland and more allotment land in the village would also create a more self contained community and would also make Purton an attractive place to visit to enjoy the facilities and support local shops.

Currently the Carnival, which has been running for more than 30 years, meets at Bradon Forest School playing fields. Having a park in Purton would potentially also create a place for community open air events to occur, such as the carnival and fete.

Open Countryside

Purton is surrounded by open countryside and woodland and enjoys far reaching views over farmland and the historic Braydon Forest. The separation of the village from the urban sprawl of Swindon is very important to the village residents and maintaining an open feel and green spaces around the village will continue to keep the village a pleasant place in which to live in.

There are several important features within the countryside around the village including the Iron Age Camp at Ringsbury, and the escarpments that extend around the west face of Upper Pavenhill to Francomes Hill, the Ancient Braydon Forest, Berriman's Wood, the medieval ridge and furrow hay meadows, the old drove roads, Wilts & Berks, Thames and Severn Canals route, County Wildlife Sites, Nature Conservation Sites of National Importance, Great Western Community Forest, a number of locally important archaeological sites and the old commons of Purton.

Rights of Way

Purton Parish has 166 Rights of Way with a total length of nearly 68 miles in length. This consists of 143 footpaths, 22 bridleways, and one byway. There is a volunteer "stile gang" of four people who go out approximately every month repairing stiles where necessary. Eighteen footpaths have been adopted by local volunteers as well as by three members of the Ramblers Association who maintain various paths. Twice every year there is a Parish Council meeting, to which the Stile Gang, ramblers and other interested parties from the village are currently invited to discuss any problems with footpaths, access and stiles.

⁶¹ Picture taken on opening day, helmets now required to be worn by skateboarders.



Anyone can adopt, or choose to maintain footpaths within the parish. Any overgrowing brambles, branches can be cut back and any litter collected. These footpaths link many beautiful places and views of Purton.



For example, the Roman camp beyond Ringsbury Close, the High Hills looking out to Cirencester, the canal, aqueduct and woodlands (Berriman's Wood) planted by villagers in 2000. There are small maps and two books of short walks available for a small fee from the Parish Office.

The byway Vasterne Hill is also a private road serving a number of properties who use the route for vehicular access. The route is often difficult to drive down due to the number of potholes, and is narrow with few passing places. The upkeep of the top surface is the responsibility of Wiltshire Council and work has been carried out in the past to re-dress the lane.

A consolidated surface would stop the erosion of the surface however this may create unacceptable levels of traffic and much greater speeds on the route, which would be detrimental to the public use of the byway. There is potential for any future developments in the parish to contribute towards the upkeep of this route and other rights of way in the parish.



Berriman's Lane bridleway is another route in the village which is often in poor condition and is well used for cyclists commuting into Swindon and from Swindon to access the countryside. This route again needs constant upkeep because of heavy use.

Swindon bridle path users have lobbied for the bridle paths to be kept clear of overhanging foliage for horse traffic and have shown an interest in being involved in any path clearance required to keep these routes open.

The ancient sunken lane - Mud Lane - which accesses Ringsbury Camp from the southeast has been re-opened for public access.

Allotments

An allotment is an area of land, leased either from a private or local authority landlord, for the use of growing fruit and vegetables. In some cases this land will also be used for the growing of ornamental plants, and the keeping of hens, rabbits and bees.



Allotments at Restrop

An allotment is traditionally measured in rods (perches or poles), an old measurement dating back to Anglo-Saxon times. 10 poles is the accepted size of an allotment, the equivalent of 250 square metres or about the size of a doubles tennis court.

The village has three allotment areas – Pavenhill, Poor Street (just off Restrop Road) and the Old Quarry (top of Play Close). The first two sites are owned by the Church of England and the last is privately owned. With the cost of food increasing and the size of gardens decreasing there could be potentially a need in the future for further land to be identified for allotment use⁶². Land with access to flowing water and good growing soil would be ideal plus access for vehicles.

Common Land

Prior to the Inclosure Acts of 1738 and 1799 there were several areas of Commons or commonable places of Pasture Ground in the parish. Purton Common, Stoke Common, Shooters Hill, Pavenhill, Bagbury Green, Little Marsh, Widham and Cow Street all commonly called by the two names only of Purton Common and Purton Stoke Common.

This land contained twelve hundred acres or thereabouts. The commons and roads and rights in the parish are described in the Inclosure Award of 1738. The original document is held at the Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre at Chippenham and a copy is at the Parish Council offices.

Some work has been undertaken by residents in the parish to identify rights over some of the land, which may have been lost over time, and in the last year Wiltshire Council used the document to ascertain the rights over Stoke Common Lane.

Parts of the old Common, off Witts Lane and Locks Lane, still exist but allegedly in private ownership. The land is overgrown and in general poor condition and gives an air of not being cared for which does not add to the general outlook of the houses in the locality.

The loss of so much common land in the 18th century may well have been compensated by the creation of other rights over the land but as Purton receives more and more development in the future these rights become just part of consolidated footways and no longer pleasant open rural walks.

Hence there is the need to create public areas of open land to retain the rural feel of the village and to keep open vistas through to the wider open countryside and swathes to allow not only human access but also for wildlife to be able to use corridors of open undisturbed land around the parish.

Library and Museum

Purton library and museum⁶³ is housed in the Victorian Workmen's Institute building, along with the Parish Council offices, on the corner of the High Street and Station Road. The Purton Institute and surroundings is owned by the Purton Institute and Village Hall charity.

⁶² Allotments:- <http://www.nsalg.org.uk/allotment-info/>

⁶³ Purton museum:- <http://www.purtonmuseum.com/>



The library occupies the old Reading Room on the ground floor and the museum is located on the first floor in what was the Public Area and Theatre.

People living in the parish can recollect seeing pantomimes performed there as well as films being shown. There is a film poster for The Red Shoes on display in the museum, which was used to advertise the film when it was shown. There is a gallery in the museum from which local gentry could watch. They also had a pay booth separate from that of the ordinary people.

The building was opened in 1880 having been built on the site of the Charity School which was opened in 1781 and closed in 1840. As well as the rooms described above there was also a tea and coffee room and a smoking room.

The Parish Council offices are where the caretakers flat and his garden extended into part of what is now the Village Hall car park.

The Institute was never a financial success as the annual subscription was five shillings (£0.25p), thought to be too much for the working people of the 1880s.

The library has a selection of adult and children's fiction and non-fiction as well as some talking books and DVDs.

There are also two computers, with internet access, that are free to use for library members. Visitors are also able to use this facility. Wi-Fi is also available and a simple registration process is required before use.

Local information such as Parish Council minutes and some parish records are also available here.

Since September 2011 the library has been run by a team of volunteers, with support from the Wiltshire Library Service, which has enabled it to stay open. During the first year over 2,000 hours were worked by this team enabling the library to open for more sessions than previously.



Children's Section

The museum is under the trusteeship of the Purton Historical Society and there are displays of local items of interest. The museum is available to anyone who wants to visit and is now staffed Wednesday 2pm to 5pm and Saturday 10am to 1pm.

Churches

Church of England

The village has had St Mary's Church⁶⁴ at its centre since the 12th century or earlier. It is one of only three churches in the country which has both a central tower with spire and a western tower. The others are at Wanborough (Wilts), and Ormskirk (Lancs).



St Mary's Church

⁶⁴ St Mary's Church:-
<http://communicate.co.uk/wilts/stmaryspurton>



Several additions/modifications have been made over the years. A central tower and spire were built and transepts added in 14th century; north and south aisles rebuilt in 15th century; and major restorations in 1872. There are eight bells in the west tower with the oldest dating back to 1598.

The surviving parish records date back to 1558, for marriages, and 1564 for burials. To celebrate the millennium a Parish time capsule was buried at the church. Services are 8.00am Communion (traditional), 10.30am Communion supported by the choir (the first Sunday of the month is a less formal Family Service supported by the music group), and Evensong at 6.00pm also with the choir.

In addition there is a focus on specific age groups. This includes baptism of infants and support for parents; United Junior Church, for children aged 3-11 (currently based at the Millennium Hall); Rock Solid for ages 9-11 and Solidifi for ages 11-16. The last three are all jointly run with the Methodist Church and by a jointly appointed youth worker. Youth and adult confirmations are also available.

Church services are also held for baptisms, weddings, and funerals. Services are regularly conducted at the various care homes in the village. For more than 15 years St Mary's has had a part-time vicar.

For the future it is recognised that the church must continue to be effective and relevant for future generations. This includes, as a Church Family, reviewing the mission, looking beyond the church walls to the wider village, communication (including notice boards and website); spiritual development and prayers for healing; building (including heating and how best to use the available space); pastoral care and pattern of church services.

St Mary's is used by the primary school and Bradon Forest. Church representatives are also involved in taking school assemblies.

St Mary's church is entirely funded by the gifts of the congregation, and from fees for special occasions, e.g. weddings and baptisms. A congregation of 40-60 is typical for the 10.30am Sunday service.

Methodist Church

In 1740 John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, rode on horseback between Oxford and Bristol, and in Purton he 'ate and conversed'. Regular meetings took place in people's homes, but we then had to wait more than 100 years before any church was built.

The first Methodist chapel in Purton was opened in 'the Row' in 1843, but was replaced by the Upper Square Methodist Church at Mount Pleasant (Hoggs Lane) in 1856 and was part of the Primitive Methodist movement.

The Wesleyan Methodist movement in Purton had its first chapel at the Playclose in 1866, and this was replaced by the Playclose Methodist Church in 1882.

Over the years both churches flourished, but in 1932 worldwide Methodist Union took place and the titles of Primitive and Wesleyan became history - but because of their strengths both Purton churches continued to meet separately. However, both congregations came together gradually in the late 1960s and early 1970s when Playclose moved from the Swindon Circuit to join with Upper Square in the Brinkworth and Wootton Bassett Circuit.

Purton Methodist Church was formed in 1973 by both congregations merging, renovating the church building in the Playclose for all future use, and closing the church in Hoggs Lane, now a private dwelling.

Today the church is part of the Upper Thames Methodist Circuit which stretches from Wootton Bassett and Braydon to include all the churches as far as Lechlade and Shrivenham



The Minister is responsible for the Methodist Churches in Wootton Bassett, Purton and Braydon – and the Circuit employs a Youth Worker to work in Wootton Bassett and Purton. This appointment is funded by the Circuit, the Methodist churches and St Mary's Church.



Purton Methodist Church

There are services, prayer, children and youth work, fellowships, study groups, lunches, charity fund raising, coffee and chat, and many are shared as part of Purton Churches Together.

Purton Churches Together

In 1974, a new Methodist Minister and a new Anglican Vicar both moved to Purton at the same time, this led to the initiative for the congregations of both churches to start working together. This grew and the official recognition was the signing of a Local Ecumenical Partnership (LEP) Covenant in 1999. The LEP is now called Purton Churches Together.

Meeting Places and Restaurants

There are a number of places to meet and socialise including the Village Hall, Millennium Hall, Silver Threads Hall, St. Mary's Church, Methodist Church, Youth Centre, Scout Hut, St. Mary's Junior School and Bradon Forest Secondary School plus also the Red House Club, Purton Working Men's Club and The Angel. Other pubs and restaurants are the Pear Tree Hotel, The Bell, The Royal George and The Maharajah.

Tourist Attractions

There are several Wildlife Sites, Nature Conservation Sites of National Importance, Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and parts of Braydon Forest within the parish.

Restrop Farm and Brockhurst Wood⁶⁵ are SSSIs and are at the end of Mud Lane, or at the end of Brockhurst Lane but are mainly private land. Brockhurst Meadow is part of the farm. SU073866

Berriman's Wood⁶⁶ Spread across more than five acres on the eastern boundary of the parish alongside the River Ray. A mix of native trees including oak, ash, lime and aspen were planted between 1998 and 2000. The wood has entrances from the west and east, both through kissing gates. The site is generally flat with a number of uneven grass pathways and one surfaced pathway running west to east and into Moulden Hill Country Park. SU114884

Red Lodge Pond - A large pond tucked away within a Forestry Commission woodland. There is a seat overlooking the pond, which is a hive of activity in the late summer with colourful dragonflies and damselflies, making this the best time to visit. SU054888

Ringsbury Camp⁶⁷ - Ringsbury Camp is an Iron Age hill fort, thought to date from approximately the year 50BC, located to the southwest of the main village.

The Firs⁶⁸ - is an atmospheric area of woodland that lies in the heart of what was the Royal Forest of Braydon. Until the beginning of the last century it used to be open fields, evidence of which survives today. SU047864

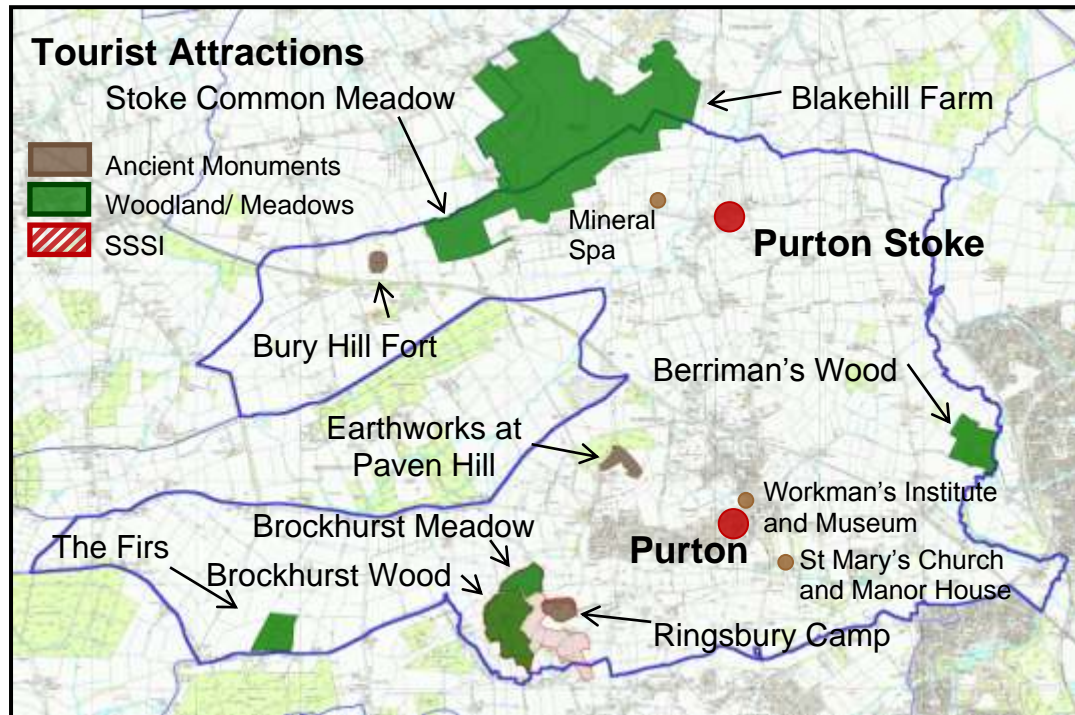
Bury Hill Camp – Listed monument, Iron Age hill fort.

⁶⁵ http://www.english-nature.org.uk/citation/citation_photo/1005783.pdf

⁶⁶ <http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/en/our-woods/Pages/about-this-wood.aspx?wood=5165>

⁶⁷ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ringsbury_Camp

⁶⁸ www.wiltshirewildlife.org/Reserves/thefirs.pdf



Earthworks on Paven Hill - Originally thought to have been a Civil War entrenchment now known to be geological. SU08138819

Swindon & Cricklade Railway⁶⁹ - offers a round-trip passenger journey of approximately four miles. Trains run between Blunsdon and Hayes Knoll, plus the extensions, north towards Cricklade and south towards Mouldon Hill.



Swindon & Cricklade Railway open day

Tithe Barn⁷⁰ - Barn and farm buildings, built 15th-16th century, now outbuildings and 2 dwellings. SU095871

Manor House⁷¹ - An imposing building in a picturesque setting, built late 16th century, originally belonged to Malmesbury Abbey until the Dissolution, it then passed through Bennet and Jay families until rebuilt by Lord Chandos in late 16th century. SU0963187195

Library/Workmen's Institute⁷² - standing on the site of a 16th century school, the 3-storey building, built late 19th century for James Sadler, occupies a central point in Purton. SU0933987765

St Mary's Church⁷³ - The current church, built 13th-14th century, stands on the site of an earlier church dating to at least the 12th century.

⁷⁰ <http://www.britishlistedbuildings.co.uk/en-317948-tithe-barn-at-manor-house-purton->

⁷¹ <http://www.britishlistedbuildings.co.uk/en-317947-manor-house-purton->

⁷² <http://www.britishlistedbuildings.co.uk/en-317958-public-library-purton->

⁷³ <http://www.communicate.co.uk/wilts/stmaryspurton/page10.phtml>

⁶⁹ <http://www.swindon-cricklade-railway.org>



There are several Wiltshire Wildlife Trust⁷⁴ nature reserves in the parish:

Brockhurst Meadow⁷⁵ - is at the end of Brockhurst Lane, northwest of Ringsbury Camp. Brockhurst Meadow is a rushy hay meadow with signs of ridge and furrow farming. Wildlife includes many wildflowers of wet meadows: ragged robin, sneezewort, meadowsweet, marsh thistle, common spotted orchid, heath spotted orchid, adder's-tongue fern, sedge species and the insects that feed on them such as the Marbled White butterfly. Grid ref: SU069869.

Blakehill Farm⁷⁶, partly in Purton Parish, is the former RAF Blakehill Farm airfield from the Second World War. Its grasslands are habitat for mammals including roe deer and brown hare, birds including kestrel, skylark, wheatear, whinchat and stonechat and butterflies include Small Copper and Brown Hairstreak. The Trust bought the site from the Ministry of Defence to form a large meadow of about 600 acres (240 ha), and opened it to the public in 2005.

It rears a small quantity of organic grade beef, usually rare breeds such as Longhorn cattle. These cattle ensure grasses and other common plants do not begin to dominate over the other rarer plants. Grid ref: SU073923.

Stoke Common Meadows⁷⁷ are at the end of Stoke Common Lane in Purton Stoke. Stoke Common Meadows consist of a small wood and grasslands, with ancient hedgerows and ditches. The meadows are habitat for many wildflowers including pepper saxifrage, sweet vernal-grass, heath spotted orchid, adder's-tongue fern, bugle, ox-eye daisy and common knapweed. Some of the fields are a Site of Special Scientific Interest. Grid ref: SU070904.

For further items of interest/activities in the parish, visit the Parish Council website⁷⁸

Purton Twinning Association

The Purton Twinning Association began informally with a meeting in the parish council office in 1995 and Héric was identified as a potential twinning partner. It is in the department of Loire-Atlantique and approximately 15 miles north of Nantes. The village is of a similar size to Purton, supports a number of shops, a church, nursery and primary schools, a cinema, sports centre, two village halls and a camping site.

Formal twinning with Héric and the Association took place in 2000. Many members have established strong friendships with families in Héric and the Association continues to provide support to individuals, families and organisations who wish to develop contacts. Héric holds various events each year at which Purton is represented, including a 24-hour tandem race, a music festival and an autumn fair. In Purton the Twinning Association has organised various events for members that have included quiz evenings, murder mystery nights, barbecues and a wine tasting.

Energy

In terms of renewable energy for average households the options are: wind or solar photovoltaic (electricity producing), solar thermal (hot water only), heat pumps/exchange (ground and air for hot water and space heating). If houses have sufficient garden, then a ground source heat pump is an option for hot water and space heating. For those with less garden space to spare, then an air source heat pump is the next best thing.

⁷⁴ <http://www.wiltshirewildlife.org/>

⁷⁵ <http://www.wiltshirewildlife.org/Reserves/Brockhurst+Meadow>

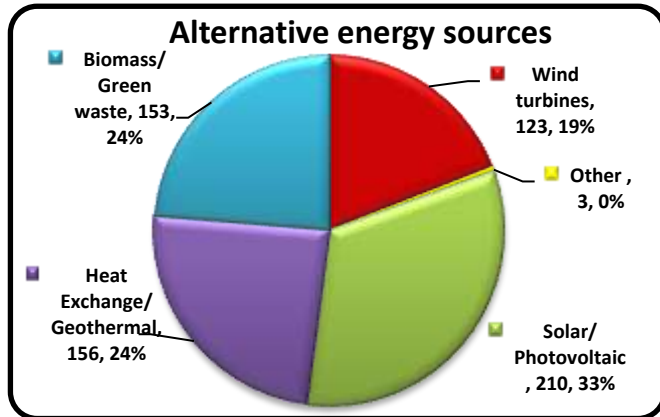
⁷⁶ <http://www.wiltshirewildlife.org/Reserves/blakehillfarm>

⁷⁷ <http://www.wiltshirewildlife.org/Reserves/stokecommonmeadows>

⁷⁸ www.purtonparishcouncil.gov.uk



These choices were fairly evenly selected in questionnaire responses.



- Many houses in the parish have the potential for ground/air source heat pumps
- At least a couple of parish locations have enough wind to make a small turbine viable
- Hundreds of parish homes have the potential for solar, both electricity and water heating



Solar Photovoltaic Panels

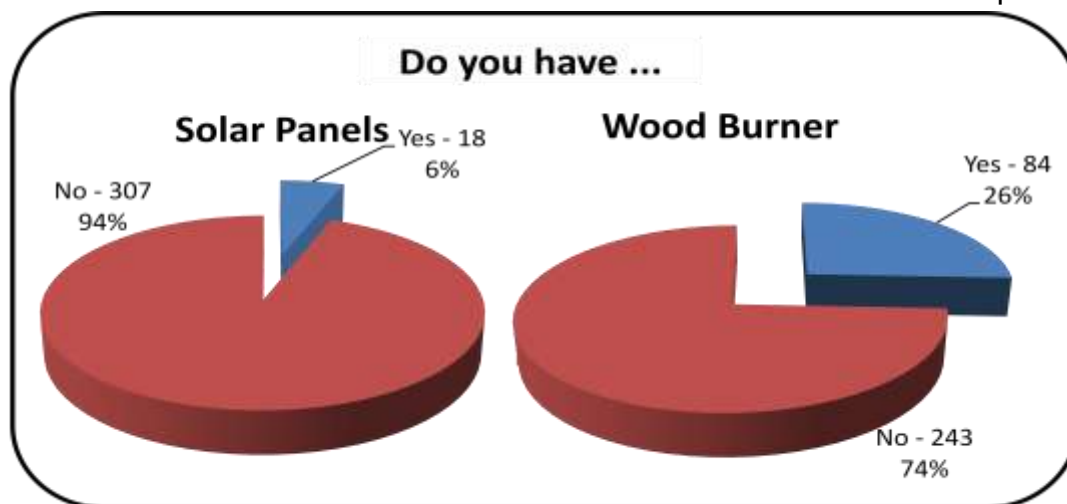
To produce serious energy, for a wider basis than a single household, the only candidate is wind. There are at least a couple of places where small-scale wind would work in the parish. The parish has plenty of opportunity to produce a lot of its own energy either as electricity or as heat (water or space).

There are already good examples of all these types in the parish, except wind, the nearest is on the road to Cricklade just outside the parish.

Given that energy costs will continue to rise, some things might help our local energy supply:

Of course, the first thing to do before contemplating any of the above is to make sure that existing energy (electricity, gas, oil) is being used efficiently.

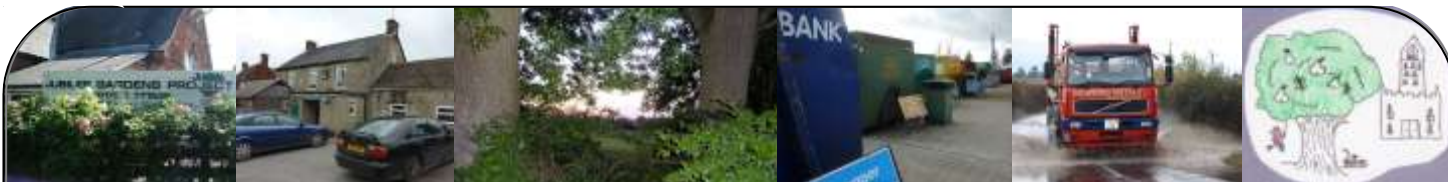
The questionnaire also asked what do you have already and it seems quite a few have wood burners and some have solar panels.



Solar Farms

Solar arrays (more generally known as solar farms) are becoming increasingly popular, and solar developments within the parish have great potential to supply energy to some parts of the local community.

Such an application has been made for a site next to Chelworth Industrial Estate, and the prospective solar arrays at Lower Moor Farm Nature Reserve just outside Oaksey, which demonstrate just what could be done with a former quarry and landfill site.



Two further projects have also been proposed within the parish, one at Braydon Manor Farm (for about 7 MW) and one at Braydon Fields Farm (250 kW); the latter is community-owned. In addition, a consultation has been held for an array at Bentham, though not for community power.

The permissions for these structures are usually temporary and are based on removal of the structure after 25 years. Although the sites can be many hectares in extent, the opportunity to provide community power, or other funded projects (derived from significant sale of power to the national grid), could be used to offset any potential visual intrusion.

Communications

Working from home and with the new digital age, it is important that residents receive reliable and constant reception for broadband, mobile telephone and digital TV.

There are currently around 200 businesses operating in the parish most of which are small companies. Applying for and receiving benefits will soon be encouraged to be done 'on-line', and with internet shopping, banking and email communication, it is all the more important to have appropriate broadband speeds across the parish.

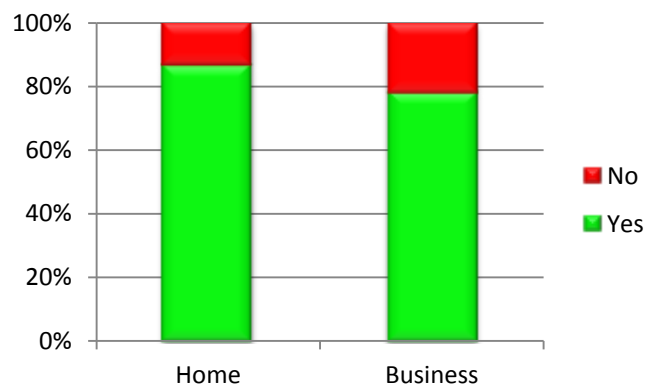
The British Telecom telephone exchange, in Station Road is under-utilised as equipment is becoming more compact.

Potentially, by 2014, the equipment will need replacing. There could be an opportunity to redevelop the site and relocate the exchange to a smaller site.

Broadband

Wiltshire Council has, in 2013, agreed a contract with BT to provide Superfast Broadband across the county. Over the next three years BT will ensure that 91% of all premises are able to access this service and that 100% of all premises will be able to access standard broadband by March 2016.

Is Broadband speed sufficient

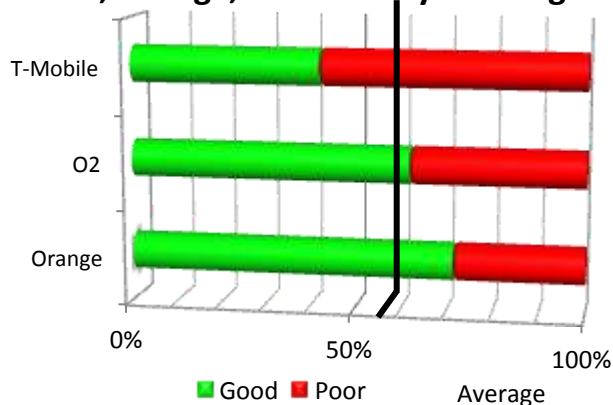


Mobile Telephone

<http://www.sitefinder.ofcom.org.uk/search> - shows current masts in the Purton area.

Network coverage varies across the parish and this was demonstrated by the responses received to the questionnaire in August 2012.

O2, Orange, T-Mobile by Coverage



Digital Reception

Purton Parish residents receive transmissions from Meridian, Central England (Oxford transmitter), West TV (Mendip transmitter) and via Freesat, depending on where in the parish they are.

Ofcom is the communications regulator for TV and radio sectors, fixed line telecoms, mobiles, postal services, plus the airwaves over which wireless devices operate. Residents can report any ongoing problem with providers to them.



PRIDE IN PURTON

We live in a very pleasant parish

Many of us consider ourselves fortunate to be living here as part of the community, we care for it and get involved in it.

To some however, the parish is just a place to live, to come home to at the end of a day's work, somewhere to move away from when the property market picks up.

We would like to encourage a more positive attitude to living in Purton.

The parish belongs to the residents. We would like people to be proud to live in here, and to be involved in all that the parish has to offer, and it does offer a lot.

True it does have a few problems, where in the world doesn't?

We can do something about some of these problems.

Some of the nicer parts of Purton



Some of the not so nice!!!





Let's keep Purton tidy

Parishioners will be organising litter picks through the year.



Let's be proud of Purton

If we aren't nobody else will be

To join us, contact the Parish Council offices



Action list related to Environment and Recreation from the Questionnaire and Feedback Meeting

| | Action | Comments | Responsible | Priority | Funding |
|------|---|--|---|----------|--|
| ER1 | Flooding report. River and surface water | Flooding is an important issue within the village and raised at many planning applications as a concern. Document to be produced identifying problem areas and solutions | Wiltshire Council In preparation by Carl Collins | High | Wiltshire Council for highway projects |
| ER2 | Emergency/resilience planning report | A copy to be kept in Parish Council office | Parish Council | High | Minimal cost |
| ER3 | Dig out river Key | Requires digging out to help stop flooding. Part of flood protection | Wiltshire Council | Medium | Maintenance. |
| ER4 | Watercourses, gullies, grips and culverts to be kept clear | Required to stop local road flooding | Wiltshire Council | High | Maintenance |
| ER5 | Notify land owners of their riparian responsibilities | Required to stop local road flooding | Parish Council to notify land owners | High | Maintenance |
| ER6 | Bridle paths to be kept clear of overhanging branches | To give easy passage | Wiltshire Council | Medium | Maintenance |
| ER7 | To stop dog fouling in the streets and fields. Community Area has a task group | General problem in the parish | Wiltshire and Parish Councils and dog owners | High | If local dog warden required then high at £10 per household |
| ER8 | Add footpath numbers to signs | Footpaths have numbers. Numbers to be added to signposts | Parish Council | Low | Parish Council |
| ER9 | Litter “days” | Litter in verges is a general problem. Volunteers have agreed to help twice per year – also can be Community Pay back teams | Organised by Parish Council | Low | Minimal cost |
| ER10 | Roadside verges and gutters to be cleared | Weeds in gutters and damaged verges in many parts of the parish | Wiltshire Council Highways via Parish Council and residents | High | Wiltshire Council Highways state that it is determined by Parish Council |



Action list continued

| Action | | | | | | Comments | Responsible | Priority | Funding |
|--------|--|--|---|--|---|----------|--|----------|---------|
| ER11 | “Tidy up” the village and give Pride to Purton | | Many parts of the village are untidy and un-attractive. Flower beds and cut grass areas to be at entrance to village and within village | | Parish Council | High | £5 per year per household agreed in Parish questionnaire | | |
| ER12 | Shelter at Play Close Park | | General protection | | Parish Council | Low | Parish Council | | |
| ER13 | Parish Council Office better sign-posted and accessible | | Under consideration | | Parish Council | Medium | Parish Council | | |
| ER14 | Advertise on Parish web site and put a notice in Purton Magazine and on notice boards what to do if the elderly find the black boxes too heavy to lift | | Contact Wiltshire Council and they will supply two boxes | | Wiltshire Council | Medium | Minimal cost. | | |
| ER15 | More for young people. Internet café, games workshop | | Consider to include with coffee shop | | Wiltshire and Parish Councils | Medium | Parish and Wiltshire Councils | | |
| ER16 | Look at efficiency savings in the Parish Council Offices | | Efforts are always being made to reduce costs | | Parish Council | Medium | Low cost. | | |
| ER17 | A better youth centre and somewhere for the young to meet socially | | Existing Youth Club building is not in a central position, consideration to be given for new facilities | | Parish Council | Low | Parish and Wiltshire Councils | | |
| ER18 | Help for the elderly to maintain their gardens | | Identify an approved list of garden contractors and their costs | | Parish Council | High | Minimal cost. | | |
| ER19 | Improve allotment fencing to keep deer out | | Deer have become a menace on the allotments and doing considerable damage | | Allotment owners | Medium | Land owners | | |
| ER20 | Areas for parks, pond and play areas to be identified in village | | Area suggested at the back of Jewel’s Ash. Feasibility study required | | Wiltshire and Parish Council and developers including 106 money | High | Wiltshire and Parish Councils plus 106 money | | |



Action list continued

| | Action | Comments | Responsible | Priority | Funding |
|------|--|---|----------------|----------|--------------------------|
| ER21 | Use the Village Centre fields for more activities, e.g. farmers market | Consider using on a Sunday morning | Parish Council | Medium | Minimal cost. |
| ER22 | Consider introducing play streets. See Bristol City web site for example | Similar to Bristol, safe play streets | Parish Council | Low | Parish Council |
| ER23 | Introduce "Loop hearing system" in Village Hall | Difficult to hear particularly when heating system on | Parish Council | Medium | Cost estimates obtained. |
| ER24 | Purchase GIS mapping system | Required by Parish Council to map and keep up to date for example water courses, tree and bins location | Parish Council | Medium | £500 per year |

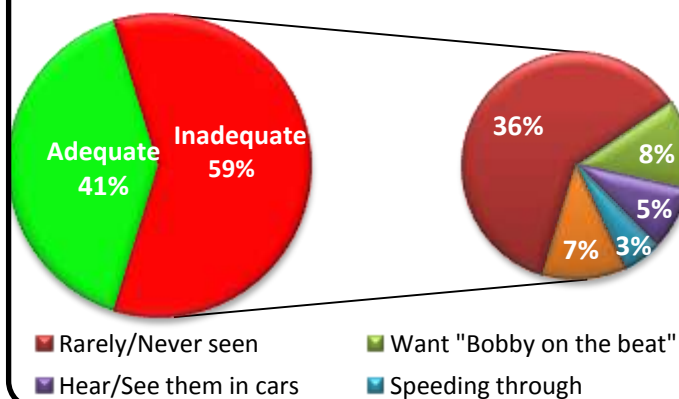


EMERGENCY SERVICES - Police, Ambulance and Fire & Rescue

Police

The questionnaire showed that 63% of those surveyed did not know the new non-emergency police phone number 101. When notified of this result the police acted quickly and within a few days information cards had been distributed to local shops, post office, library, council offices and circulated via the Purton Magazine.

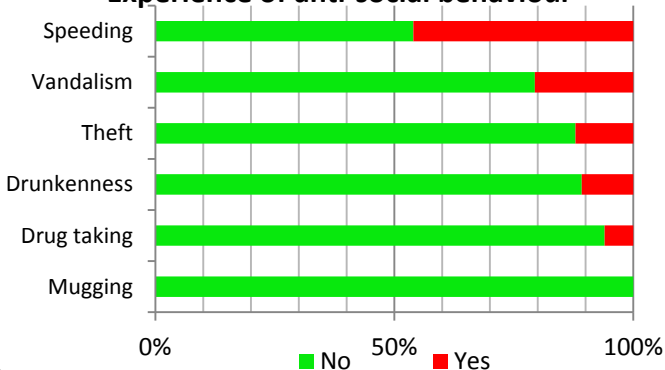
Level of Police presence



59% stated that the police presence in the village was inadequate. Again the police acted quickly, now there is a "Bobby on the beat" from time to time. Speeding throughout the village was also reported, the police have now implemented speed enforcement checks along with monitoring of stop signs.

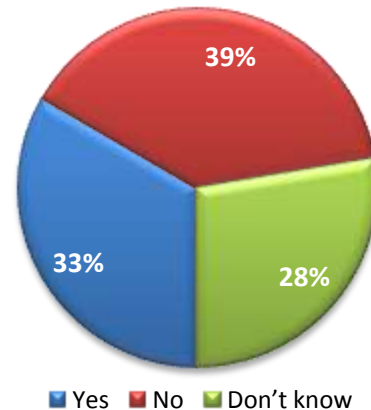
Questionnaire results showed that speeding was considered the main anti-social behaviour.

Experience of anti-social behaviour



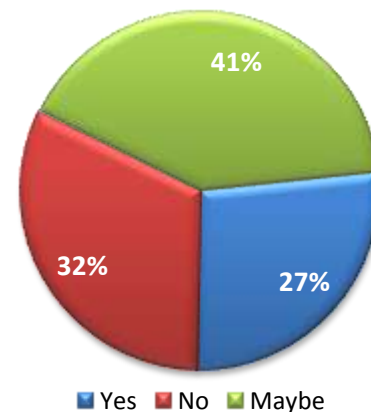
Only 33% of those that replied said that they were in a Neighbourhood Watch scheme⁷⁹.

Are you in a Neighbourhood Watch area



But 68% said that they might be interested in joining a scheme.

Interested in joining



⁷⁹ Neighbourhood Watch Association
<http://www.wiltshire.police.uk/index.php/nhw-home/wiltshire-a-swindon-neighbourhood-watch-association>



Ambulance Service

Purton is served by an ambulance station in Swindon, as well as stations in Chippenham, Malmesbury, Devizes and Marlborough. However, crews on duty are not all based at ambulance stations in between call-outs to emergencies. As a service, they have done a huge amount of work in recent years in plotting where and when they receive 999 calls. This gives them a better understanding of where vehicles need to be positioned to be able to respond to patients in the most effective way. As a result, as well as ambulance stations, crews also operate from what are known as stand-by points.

These are locations from which paramedic crews can respond to 999 calls. Wherever possible, they try to identify locations where crews have facilities - toilets, somewhere to eat and drink, etc - so work with shopping centres, supermarkets, other services (GP surgeries, local hospitals, etc). For example, one of the key standby points in Swindon is the West Swindon District Centre.

Given the constant demand and changing nature of 999 calls, it is impossible to say that a particular vehicle/resource will be the one assigned to an emergency in a particular location. As a service, the aim is to provide patients with the right care in the right place at the right time

Fire & Rescue Services⁸⁰

Wiltshire & Swindon Fire and Rescue services employ 587 operational fire fighters, consisting of 228 full time staff, and 359 who work a retained duty system. They cover a wide range of activities including fire fighting, attending road traffic accidents, advice on fire safety, and attending incidents involving hazardous materials. It is interesting to note that in 2012 electrical fires accounted for almost a third of house fires in the region. Overloaded sockets were a major contributing factor.



Sabre fire engine



Foam fire fighting



Chip pan fire

For a house fire or traffic accident in Purton appliances could come from any of the local stations at Cricklade, Westlea, Swindon or Royal Wootton Bassett.

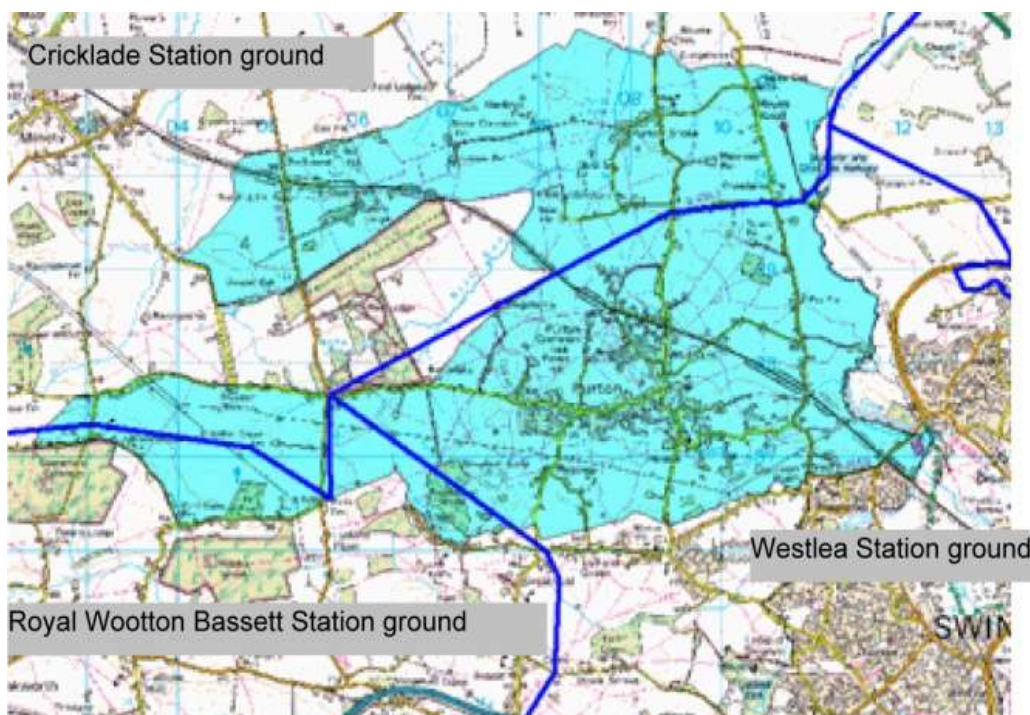
Service response standards are as follows:

- Attend any dwelling fire within 20 minutes on 98% of occasions
- Attend any dwelling fire in 10 minutes on 80% of occasions
- Attend a road traffic collision (RTC) within 20 minutes on 95% of occasions

During 2010-2012

- 2 out of the 5 dwelling fires attended within 10 minutes and all within 20 minutes
- All RTCs in Purton Parish were attended within 20 minutes

⁸⁰ Wiltshire Fire Brigade:- <http://wiltsfire.gov.uk>



Response times are very important and these are shown in the table below.

| Count of incidents | | | | | Average of minutes to arrive at incident | | | | |
|----------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | Total | | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | Total |
| FADA | 12 | 4 | 12 | 28 | FADA | 11.31 | 10.88 | 11.34 | 11.26 |
| FAGI | 4 | 3 | 6 | 13 | FAGI | 11.66 | 11.04 | 12.81 | 12.05 |
| FDR1 Dwellings | 1 | 3 | 1 | 5 | FDR1 Dwellings | 11.95 | 9.89 | 11.82 | 10.69 |
| FDR1 Other | 2 | 1 | 1 | 4 | FDR1 Other | 10.43 | 17.72 | 8.32 | 11.72 |
| FDR1 Other Buildings | 2 | 0 | 3 | 5 | FDR1 Other Buildings | 8.63 | 0.00 | 10.39 | 9.68 |
| FDR3 Chimney Fires | 3 | 2 | 1 | 6 | FDR3 Chimney Fires | 9.74 | 16.96 | 7.93 | 11.85 |
| FDR3 Secondary Fires | 2 | 3 | 4 | 9 | FDR3 Secondary Fires | 10.20 | 11.35 | 11.27 | 11.06 |
| Lock ins/outs | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | Lockins/outs | 15.23 | 0.00 | 11.35 | 13.29 |
| Other Special Services | 2 | 2 | 4 | 8 | Other Special Services | 9.66 | 14.22 | 11.28 | 11.61 |
| Other without mobilisation | 7 | 6 | 8 | 21 | Other without mobilisation | 0.00 | 1.15 | 0.00 | 0.33 |
| RTCs | 4 | 3 | 4 | 11 | RTCs | 9.23 | 12.04 | 11.73 | 10.90 |
| Total | 40 | 27 | 45 | 112 | Total | 8.84 | 9.76 | 9.35 | 9.26 |

| | | | | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| FADA | False alarm due to apparatus | FAGI | False alarm good intent | FDR1 Dwelling | Dwelling fire |
| FDR1 Other | Other primary fires | FDR1 Other building | Non domestic building fire | FDR3 Chimney Fire | Chimney fire |
| FDR3 Secondary fires | Secondary fires | Lock ins/outs | Locked in/out | Other special services | Non fire incident, flooding etc |
| Other without mobilisation | Where appliance not needed | RTCs | Road traffic collisions | | |

Action list related to Emergency Services from the Questionnaire

| Action | Comments | Responsible | Priority | Funding |
|--------|--|--|----------|-----------------|
| ES1 | Make details available on how to join or start up a Neighbourhood Watch scheme | Wiltshire Police Parish Council | Medium | No capital cost |
| | 68% of questionnaire responses expressed an interest expressed in joining a scheme. Add Neighbourhood Watch information to Parish Council web site. | | | |



EDUCATION

Pre-school

In Purton village there are two pre-schools – Playclose Pre-school and Purton Under 5's.

Playclose Pre-School

Playclose Pre-School was first opened in 1974 and is privately run. It is located to the rear of the Methodist Church in Play Close and has access to secure outside space. The pre-school is a member of the Pre-school Learning Alliance and is OFSTED registered. They have sessions to meet the different needs of children aged between 18 months and 5 years. Children can attend for up to four hours a day, five times a week.

Purton Under 5s

Purton Under 5s Community Playgroup has been in existence for some 30+ years, a community playgroup run by a committee of parents, a member of the Pre-school Learning Alliance and is a registered charity. Accredited by the Bristol Standard an ongoing Self Evaluation scheme that is verified externally every year, the playgroup is situated on St Mary's Junior School site in its own self-contained building.

Originally based in the Scout Hut near the doctor's surgery for several years and finding these premises rather limiting with no outside play area and access straight onto the main road, the decision was made to move.

After several years of fundraising and acquiring grants a site was secured on the primary school grounds and two former mobile classrooms were bought from the local education authority.

In November 1994 the pre-school moved into the current premises, the resulting accommodation continues to be cared for by successive groups of parents.

Since the centre opened within St Mary's school grounds the children have benefited from a very strong and dedicated team of staff. Supporting this has required equally dedicated groups of parents to form the committee each year, and raise the funds that provide the children with facilities and equipment that we can all be justifiably proud of. There have been a series of very successful inspections carried out by Ofsted.

St Mary's CE Primary School⁸¹



St Mary's CE Primary School has provided education to the community of Purton since 1884. It was originally the only school for children and young people until it eventually expanded further up College Road in the 1950s. Here it began to provide some secondary education to children in the days before Bradon Forest Secondary School was established in 1962.

⁸¹ St Mary's Church of England Primary School:-
<http://wiltshire.schooljotter.com/stmaryspurton>



In the mid 1950s, a second site was added to complement the Victorian building. At this time, the school was separated so that the infants were taught in the original school and the junior children taught in the newer building. So it remained until January 2012 when the current state of the art building was opened. The present facility embraces true primary education by providing a school that enables all ages to share the same site, resources and staff.

The new campus is a two form entry school, taking up to 60 children in each of the seven primary age ranges. When full, the maximum number of students will be 420. At present there are 304 children on roll. The building incorporates a large number of sustainable and eco-friendly features including rainwater harvesting, ground source heat pumps and solar panels.



The design and construction of the building was shortlisted by the Royal Institute of British Architecture for the best educational building in the Southwest of England category.



St Mary's has always enjoyed a close relationship with the Church of England. A distinctive Christian ethos remains a core strength and value of all that the school aims to share and teach. These values and many other experiences of education within St Mary's remain buried in a time capsule in the new school, ready to be opened in 2061.

The school is recognised by Ofsted as a good school and strives to be outstanding in all areas. The school also takes part in activities organised with Swindon, many of which revolve around sport.

The school has a variety of extra-curricular activities. There is a breakfast club each morning and there are after school clubs for French, sewing, choir, wake and shake, football, cricket, tennis, Bollywood dancing and homework club. There are plans to run a full after school club from September, which will enable the school to offer a full wrap around care option for parents and carers.





The premises are available for lettings and are currently used by the Purton Historical Society.

The majority of the community work revolves around providing a first class education for the children of Purton and surrounding areas. The school building is also used to provide holiday clubs as well as being used by the Church to provide activities during August. Approximately 80% of pupils are from within the catchment but pupils from beyond are welcomed whilst there are spaces.

For the future, the faculty are aware that there are issues surrounding travelling to school and there is a need to address the issue of access to the site as many parents and carers bring their children in cars. College Road is one of the main points of access, but it is important to remember that this is a private road and not one that can be used by parents to approach the school in cars without prior arrangement

Bradon Forest School ⁵¹



Bradon Forest School is on a pleasant campus with rural views and on the outskirts of the village. Its name derives from an extensive Royal medieval forest in the locality. The school opened in 1962 to cater for 390 students of secondary age, becoming fully comprehensive in 1974, grant maintained in 1993, and a Foundation school in 1999.

It is now a successful 11 to 16 year old co-educational comprehensive, with approximately 1000 students on roll.

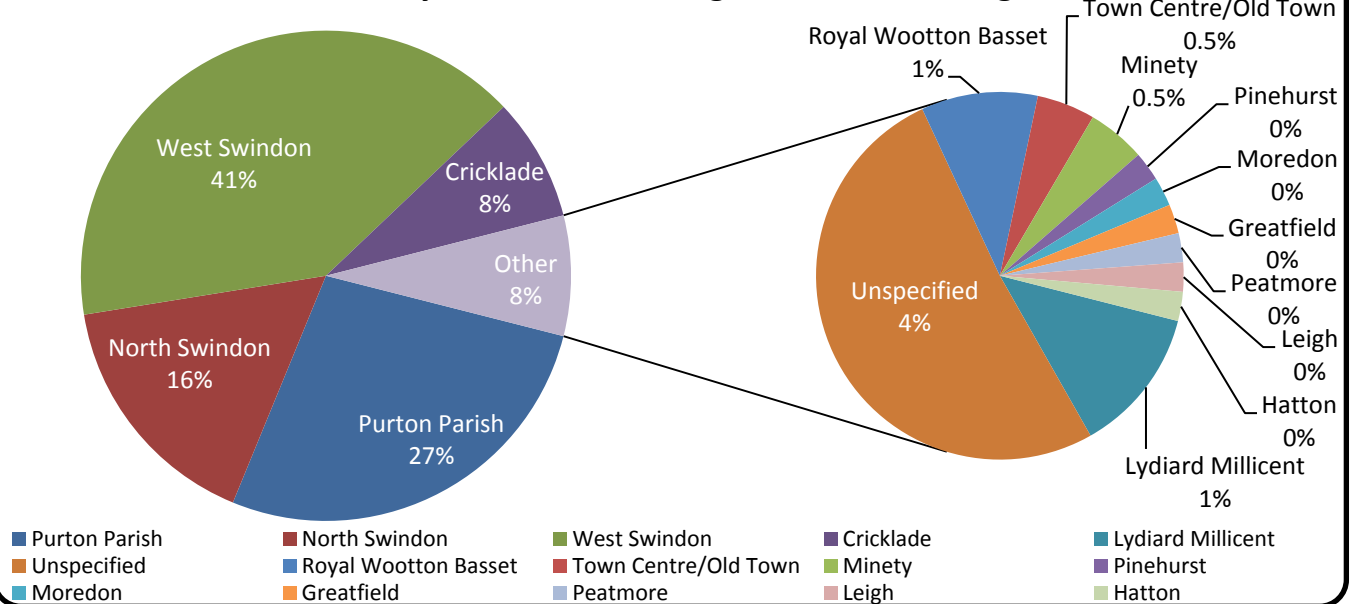
The area served includes Purton, Cricklade, the surrounding villages in North Wiltshire as well as the north and west of Swindon.

⁸² Bradon Forest School:-
<http://www.bradonforest.org.uk/index.asp>



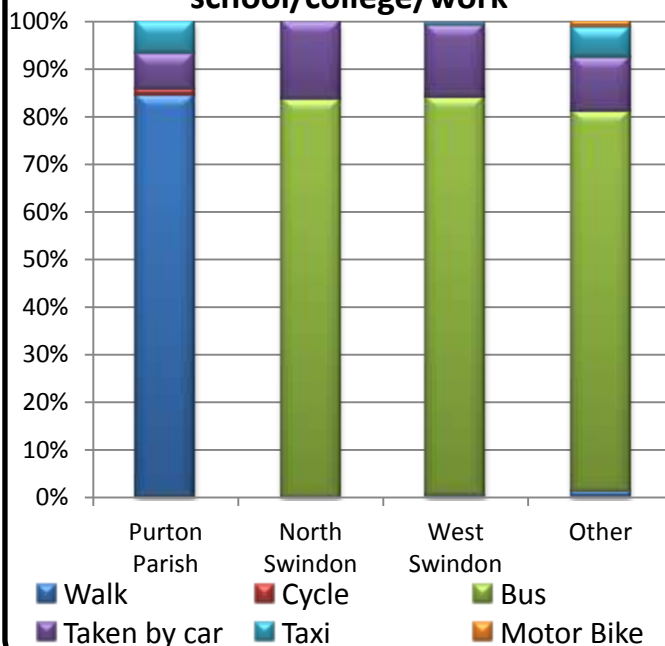
The survey in July 2012 showed that 73% travelled to the school from outside the parish.

Where do you travel from to get to school/college/work



The main entrance to the school is approached by a one-way system through a residential area with narrow access roads.

How do you travel to school/college/work



The village High Street is narrow, particularly near the Angel pub which is near to one of the main drop-off/pick-up points, resulting in heavy congestion particularly during coach leaving time, because the lay-by is used as a drop off point by parents for both primary and secondary schools.

All students at Bradon Forest take examination courses in English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, Science(s), Foreign Language(s), Humanities and the Arts, as well as subjects chosen from a comprehensive options package.



Every classroom and learning space has an Interactive White Board and there are 450+ computers running Windows 7 and

Office 2010, enabling industry standard information and communication technologies to be used across the curriculum.



Bradon Forest is a national lead school for ICT and e-safety. Also one of the first 100 schools nationally, out of 25,000, to be invited to pilot the ICT Mark award, being successfully reassessed for the third time in 2010. It was the first school to be awarded the '360° Safer Online' quality mark and are helping other schools to develop their e-safety provision.



There are extensive out-of-hours activities and clubs on offer plus a variety of subject specific GCSE clinics and subject enrichment activities including Drama Club, sports clubs and teams, the 'IT Crowd' and the orchestra. The facilities of the school are used in the evening by local people, attending ceramic classes, and by Purton Football Club. There is a 100-seat theatre with a programme that includes innovative new companies as well as established, experienced performers. In 2013 there will be a minimum of 14 shows including music concerts, dance, new drama and professional theatre.

Recent improvements to the school's facilities include a new Library Learning Centre, a suite of three ICT rooms, two music rooms with accompanying practice rooms, a second Drama Studio and two new Science Laboratories.



The new Design Technology block was completed in 2004 and provides first class facilities for all aspects of design technology.



In 2005 the school was awarded the Department for Education's Popular and Successful School Status capital grant and four new Science laboratories were built, plus a pavilion and new changing rooms, opened January 2007.

Phase 2 provided two new Art rooms and resource areas and an extra new Humanities room, opened May 2007. Phase Three was completed and in use in June 2007 and provides an additional 30 station ICT room plus new facilities for the Progression/Connexions suite and extra facilities for Learning Support. In October 2008, a new four-classroom block was completed which further enhances the facilities for Mathematics. In September 2009 a new Training Centre with meeting room was opened and Art was provided with a 3D/Sculpture room. The site bungalow and gardens have been refurbished into additional offices and pastoral space, with the garden being used for land based studies.



A range of further enhancement projects are planned for the next twelve months including further upgrading in ICT, classrooms, and public areas. These developments enable the school to provide students with a high quality learning environment for the 21st century.



A sports hall would be a great asset not only to the school but it could also be used by the local community. Currently the school has only a gymnasium that also has to be used for examinations at various times in the year.

High achievers are encouraged at Bradon Forest. Over the last 10 years the school has maintained a broad and balanced Key Stage 4 curriculum that closed as 'few doors' as possible whilst challenging all the students, irrespective of ability.

The school prides itself on having a very high percentage of school leavers go onto post-16 provision.

The majority of students attend Cirencester College, New College and Swindon College. A very small minority enter full time employment or apprenticeships. The school has looked at a feasibility study with Wiltshire Council and have a blueprint for reconfiguration of buildings should sixth form status be granted in the near future. This would not only benefit children in the immediate vicinity but those from the new developments at Ridgeway Farm.

The majority of students access higher education at degree level and beyond, the school prides itself on 12 Oxbridge student placements in the last three years.

Action list related to Education

| Action | Comments | Responsible | Priority | Funding |
|--------|---|---|---|--|
| E1 | To solve car parking problems in and around St Mary's and Bradon Forest schools | Car parking problems in the area including inconsiderate parking during drop off and pick-up | St Mary's and Bradon Forest schools Parish Council Parents | Medium None |
| E2 | Learning centre required in the village, e.g. IT | Consider using the facilities of the school for evening classes | Wiltshire and Parish Councils and St Mary's and Bradon Forest schools | Medium Extra costs to cover staff attendance in the evening for lock-up and hire facilities |
| E3 | A swimming pool required in village | A suitable site for school and public use | Wiltshire and Parish Councils, St Mary's and Bradon Forest schools | Medium Wiltshire Council |
| E4 | 6 th form at Bradon Forest | With increasing numbers from the development of Ridgeway Farm a 6 th form at Bradon Forest becomes more viable | Wiltshire and Parish Councils and Bradon Forest school | Low Wiltshire Council |
| E5 | To use the schools in summer holidays | Excellent facilities unused for 6-7 weeks in the summer | Parish Council to carry out a feasibility study | Medium Costs to be checked |
| E6 | Removal of litter from around the school grounds and adjacent land. | Litter around the school grounds and litter blown onto adjacent land is a problem. Schools to organise litter collection. | St Mary's and Bradon Forest schools. | Medium No capital cost. |



HEALTH AND WELFARE

Surgeries



Purton Surgery, Willis Way

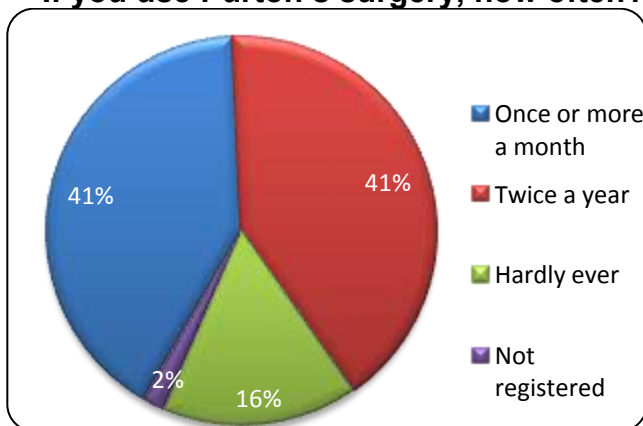
Purton has its own doctors surgery with a group practice of six doctors, three nurses, thirteen members in the practice team and two members in the healthcare team.

The surgery offers a number of additional health facilities, such as clinics for chronic diseases such as asthma and diabetes and a wide variety of other medical services including antenatal and postnatal care, minor surgery, childhood vaccinations and well-person check-ups.

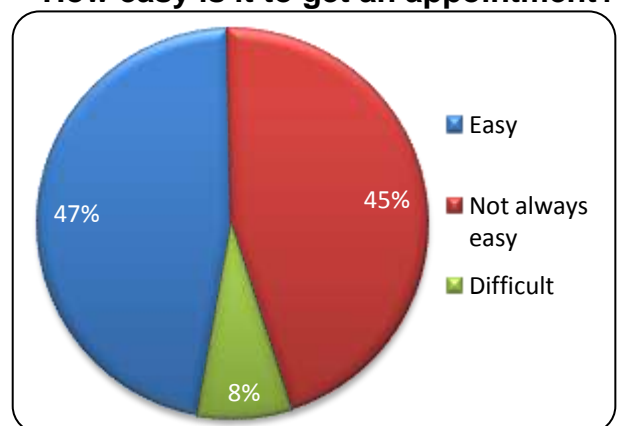
The parish also has a chemist and pharmacy at the Pavenhill shops. There are two private dentists, Philip Cook in the High Street and Church End Dental Practice and there are, or have been, private practices for homeopath and allergy testing, chiropractic and physiotherapists.

In the Parish Plan questionnaire residents were asked a number of questions including:

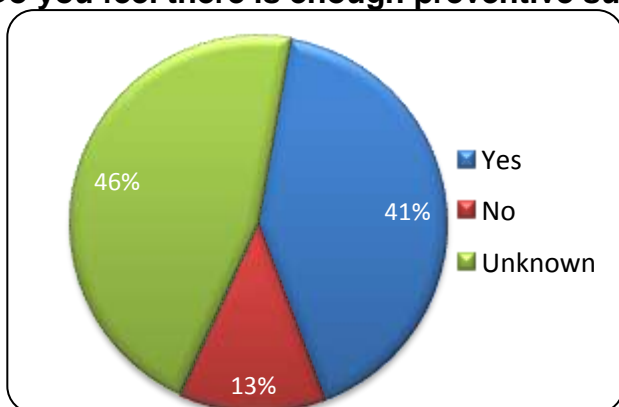
If you use Purton's surgery, how often?



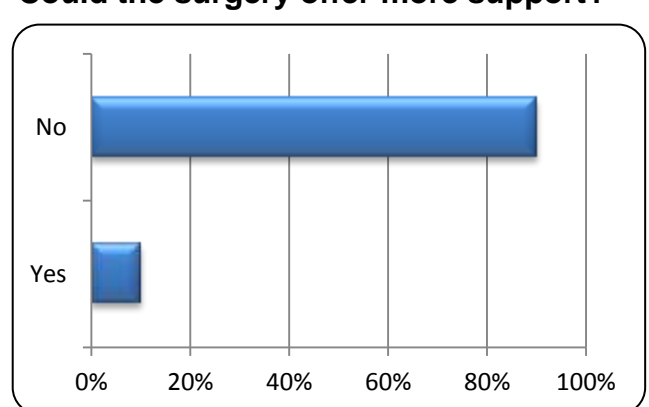
How easy is it to get an appointment?



Do you feel there is enough preventive support?



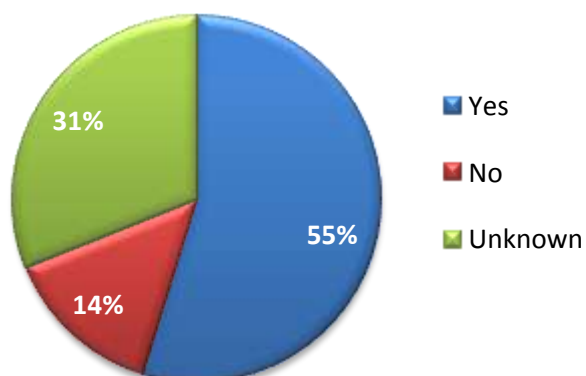
Could the surgery offer more support?





Do you feel there is enough support after you have seen the doctor or nurse?

Support following appointment



If the surgery is contacted out of hours then the call is diverted to another provider commissioned by the NHS. This out of hours service assesses the patients' needs on an individual basis and refers appropriately to a number of different providers/services, which could include one of the local hospitals.

Hospitals

Hospitals in the area include:

Great Western Hospital (GWH) in Swindon
Ridgeway Private Hospital at Wroughton
Cirencester Hospital
Savernake Hospital at Marlborough
Chippenham Hospital

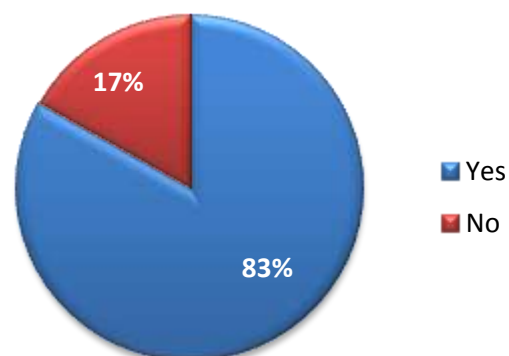
Plus also facilities at
Devizes

Further afield at
Bath Royal United Hospital,
Oxford Radcliffe
Bristol hospitals.

There are difficulties in getting to the hospitals, especially the ones further away, for those without cars, because there are no direct public transport routes to any of them.

Are you aware that the surgery offers on-line booking of appointments and ordering of repeat medication?

Aware of online appointment booking and ordering of repeat medication



There is a potential need for this to be reviewed so that Great Western Hospital, which is closer and easier to access, is included.

However, Great Western Hospital is potentially the easiest with buses going to the hospital from the bus terminal in Swindon.

Residents have reported that they have not been able to stay at GWH perhaps for the later stages of recovery and moved to hospitals in the county which are not easily accessible by public transport for families to visit whilst recovering and for outpatient visits.

Other transport facilities are available to the GWH, with the Dial-a-Ride scheme (Purton Parish Council have supported the scheme with grant funding) and Connect 2 operating from Royal Wootton Bassett.



Older People's Provision - Housing/ Nursing Homes/Day Care



Three charities in the parish support local residents:

- Purton Age Concern
- Helping Hand
- Silver Threads

Providing Christmas vouchers, street warden schemes, mini bus, day trips, luncheon club, social events and support for local projects and those in need.

For the older population Norbury Court offers private homes - 28 flats and cottages for the over 55's – run by Peverel Retirement. There is also a range of privately-owned bungalows, suitable for the elderly and disabled, and a number of private houses with 'granny annexes'. The parish also has a number of privately run nursing homes, The White Lodge operated by Barchester Healthcare, and Ashgrove House Nursing Home plus Quarrydene Holmleigh Care Homes Ltd which provides for the disabled.

Northview Hospital, at Willis Way did provide for the care of disabled people however there has been a change in recent years to move the residents out into the local community so they are now cared for in their own homes by round-the-clock care provision. The Ridgeway Partnership operated Northview and is currently not being used. Consultation with the parish was carried out in January 2011 for the disposal of the site as use for development for 13 new houses. The site could be ideal for further provision of extra care for the elderly or nursing care.

GreenSquare Group is the current social housing provider (previously Westlea Housing) with bungalows for the elderly and disabled in The Peak and Reids Piece and Hooks Hill sheltered accommodation just off the High Street. However, a number of the housing association stock of bungalows are occupied by families so there could be a need for further accommodation solely for disabled and elderly occupation.

There is also a need for residential and day care provision within the parish, currently serviced by The Cedars however this may, in future, be provided in nearby towns with transport provided by the local authority. This needs to be assessed and considered whether transporting people is sustainable or if the change of scenery and meeting new people will be a benefit for a good quality of life.

The Cedars nursing home belongs to the local authority and is currently being operated by The Orders of St John Care Trust⁸³ providing much needed residential and nursing care in the village centre. The Cedars has however been identified for potential closure, as the bedroom facilities do not provide the space and en-suite accommodation required by current legislation. Alternative provision is identified in Wiltshire Council Older Peoples Housing Strategy as being at Cricklade, Royal Wootton Bassett or for residents to remain and receive care within their own homes.

⁸³ www.osjct.co.uk



With poor transport links, to both of the neighbouring towns, residents may be cut off from regular visits from friends and families and the community they have grown up in. Results from the questionnaire showed that the parish want residential and day care provision within the village.

The village has in the past had dropped kerbs put throughout enabling wheelchair access to most areas although this is often hampered with vehicles parking on the pavements, uneven surfaces and dog fouling.

It is also recognised nationally that levels of dementia, in particular cases of Alzheimer's disease, are likely to rise. Early recognition of dementia can prolong the quality of life if diagnosed early. The Quality & Outcomes Framework 2011 shows that currently, in the Community Area, there are around 146 known cases. These equated to 0.5% of the population. In Purton there are approximately 39 people (0.4%). These are only the diagnosed cases. A national report on Alzheimer's found that in the age group 70-79 4% and in the age group 80+ 16.7% (1 in 6) of the population would have symptoms. Therefore the local diagnosed cases are likely to be only around one third of the residents living with dementia.

Further support for carers and those with memory loss is important and in Royal Wootton Bassett and Cricklade area a community group has been set up to provide social interaction and support – 3M's Club.

Wiltshire Council is in the process of creating a DVD on memory loss⁸⁴ which has potential to be used as a training aid for the general public and service providers in understanding the issues. Similar projects on stroke survivors and living with learning difficulties and autism have already been done in the county.

Wiltshire Council has an Older People's Accommodation Development Strategy which was approved by the Council's Cabinet on 25th January 2011. In May 2011 the Area Board for Royal Wootton Bassett and Cricklade announced – *'Since the approval of the Older People Development Strategy, a large housing development within Purton has been proposed, which will significantly alter the demographic projections for the area. The Council are therefore investigating the potential development of an extra care scheme in Purton through S106 contributions. This development would result in The Cedars care home closing and the residents being relocated to the new facility.'*

Within the Ridgeway Farm development site, on the eastern edge of the parish, provision has been shown for additional extra care housing however this site is cut off from the village and there are no direct bus routes to connect the proposed facilities to the main area of housing in the village centre. The question is will the facility at Ridgeway Farm be the right location for the residents of Purton. There is a lack of public transport to the site therefore visitors will need to rely on having a car to visit friends and family in the facility.

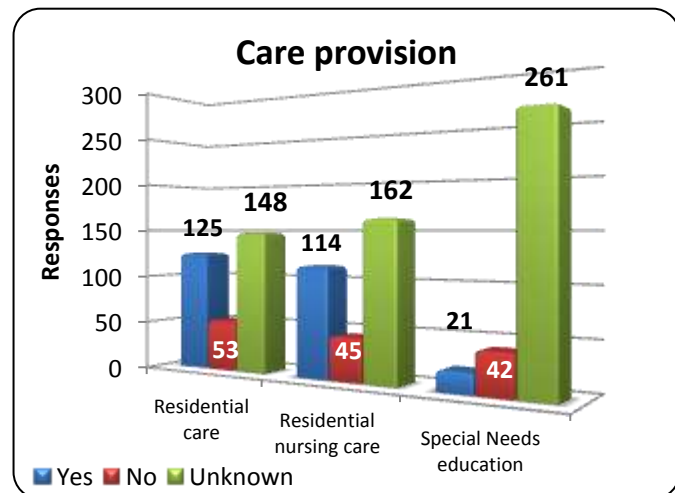
Purton Parish also has a policy on burial in the cemetery – *'The burial of persons who have been resident outside the Parish at the time of death will only be allowed in the following circumstances: when persons had moved away from the village for reasons of ill-health and in order for them to receive care, or where it is intended that the person be buried in the space remaining in an existing plot.'* This could be very distressing for families and residents who are moved away to the local town's facilities as 'old age' may not be seen as 'ill-health'.

⁸⁴ <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/communityandliving/wiltshirevoices.htm>



In the Parish Plan questionnaire the question was asked:

Do you think there is enough provision in the parish for Residential Care/Nursing Care; Special Needs Education



Wiltshire Good Neighbours⁸⁵ can put older residents in touch with the services and people who can help them to live more independent lives. They can provide information on a variety of topics and these may include :

- Befriending services and social activities
- Benefits
- Healthcare
- Transport and many more



Voluntary and Community Sector

The parish is fortunate to have numerous voluntary groups with people of all ages helping with events and collections. Many of the groups support the needs of the community with fund raising and giving out vouchers to spend in the local shops. Collections are often made for national charities, with many particularly well supported by the people of the parish.

Being involved in a community group can bring a sense of wellbeing and contributes back to enrich society.

It could be seen that for those who also belong to some of the many organisations, clubs and groups this is also volunteering your time. Without those who are prepared to be chairs, secretaries etc. these groups may well not survive.

Having a club to attend where people with similar interests are, also adds to the vibrancy of the community and gives people a chance to meet and socialise and also gain skills in running such groups

⁸⁵ Wiltshire Good Neighbours:- www.wiltsgn.org.uk
 rwbcrickladegnc@communityfirst.org.uk



The museum, library and publication and delivery of the Purton Magazine are all run by volunteers.

Another very important voluntary sector for our community is that of the role of parish and unitary (county) councillors.

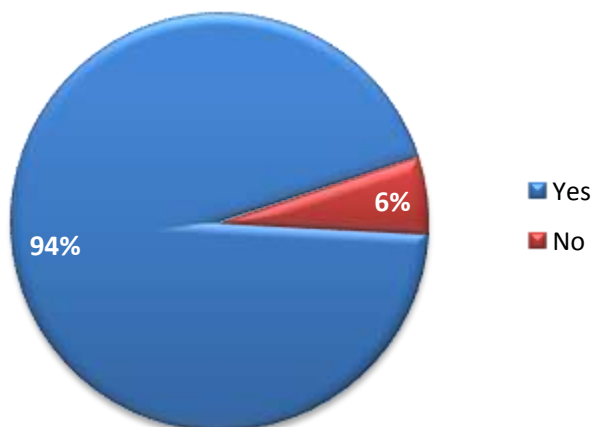
Parish councillors support the community through Local Governance. They can be from any walk of life and may have a wide range of skills. They work with the parish council's clerk's office and make decisions for example on where the precept money should be spent within the community.

They may also work with groups of residents on task groups looking at and resolving issues – the footpath team and also the flood working group being two examples. There potentially is a need for more residents to be prepared to volunteer and work alongside the parish councillors. Parish councillors are elected by the community however when there are openings on the council, there is a process of co-opting new members.

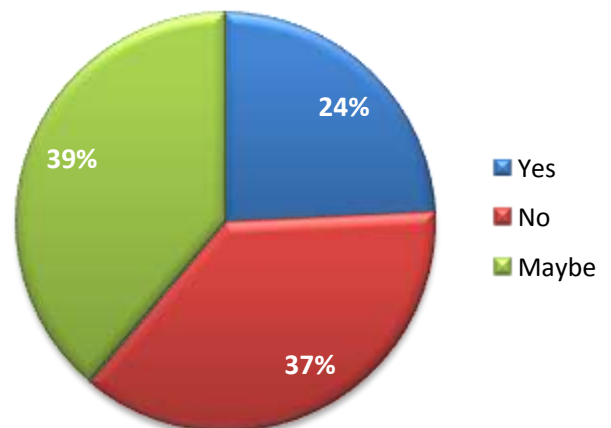
The unitary (county) councillor is the elected spokesperson for the parish at Wiltshire Council. The role is extensive, not only representing the local people but also being part of the governance of the county as a whole. They work with all the departments at Wiltshire Council in particular to resolve issues and provide services for their communities. They also work alongside the parish council and other partners such as the police, health providers, schools and Housing Association. There is only one councillor per electoral division or ward (which can be made up of several parishes) and the councillor is always elected by the residents. The councillor can be anyone from the community and has to be put forward to stand for election by ten local residents. There will normally be several candidates standing, representing different aspects of society. In Purton the councillor represents both the parishes of Purton and Braydon.

Parish councillors are not paid for their role and work voluntarily for the parish whereas the Unitary (County) councillor receives an allowance and expenses.

Are you aware of the voluntary sectors in the parish?



Would you be willing to support the voluntary sectors in fund raising, driving of mini-bus, refreshments?





Health and welfare of the community – what should be considered ?

Healthy Lifestyles?

- Walks and access to the countryside – improvement of cycle and bridle paths / easier access to footpaths?
- Sports – swimming pool / indoor sports hall at the school?
- Adult education – potential for range of courses to be held at Bradon Forest/ St. Mary's Schools?
- Public transport – better services to nearby towns/ hospital?

Welfare of our Community?

- Cemetery space - where?
- Rural roads - improved roads for HGV traffic/ safe railway crossings/ pavement Widham Bridge?
- Housing - more housing for the elderly / flats/ bungalows / assisted living / nursing home?
- Affordable housing - for residents and those connected to the parish or Wiltshire?
- Flooding - what is needed to be done to maintain ditches and watercourses?

- Public open space/ parkland - maintaining the existing facilities and providing additional space such as a park and lake area to the central part of the village.
- Allotments - is there sufficient provision?
- Safe environment - large numbers of articulated HGVs and waste to landfill

How can these be provided or mitigated?

- Developers 106 Contributions & Community Infrastructure Levy
- Network Rail to put in safe crossings as part of the 'doubling up' programme of the railway
- Conditioning new housing only for occupation of the elderly on scheme
- Land identified only for housing for occupation of elderly and rented/low cost housing
- Flood plan for Purton Parish identifying problem areas to ensure kept clean and maintained
- Emergency Parish Plan - Control of Major Accidental Hazards & Landfill Sites

Action list related to Health and Welfare

| | Action | Comments | Responsible | Priority | Funding |
|-----|---|--|---------------------------|----------|------------------|
| HW1 | Give yearly preventative health checks for over 74s | NHS health checks are offered for all patients between 40 and 74 | NHS via Wiltshire Council | Medium | NHS |
| HW2 | Advertise methods of travel to local hospitals | There is difficulty understanding the various services available to travel to local hospital, to be added to Parish Council web site | Parish Council | Medium | No capital cost. |



BUSINESS

A quick scan of the *Purton Magazine* reveals that the local economy of the parish is rich in its diversity with a few large employers (such as Associated Dental Products, Hills Waste and The Peartree at Purton) several farms, a variety of retail outlets and small businesses, many of whom are sole traders. Those who are not sole traders (i.e. a single person) have usually between two and six employees with perhaps one or two part-time staff. In addition, there are several social enterprises or not-for-profit organisations.

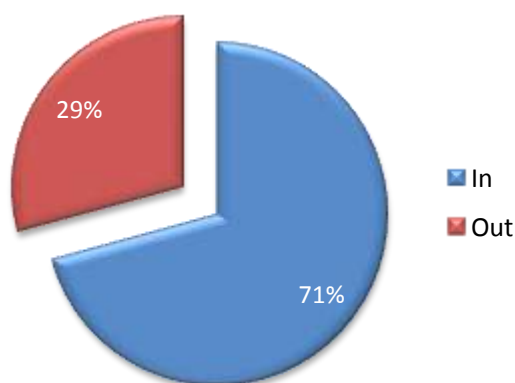
It was disappointing, therefore, that of the 143 businesses that were circulated with the business-focus questionnaire only 18 were returned (about 12.6% return). This may reflect apathy, business pressures or some other unidentified reason. None of the larger employers responded so it is difficult to know how they regard the parish ~ any values they hold or concerns they may have.

Most of those who replied tend to be living in the parish and/or mostly employ those who live in the parish. This is what they said in brief:

From the several sole traders (one-person businesses) who responded:

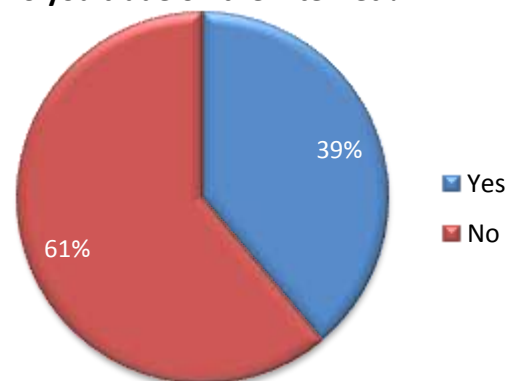
- Most live and work in the parish

How many employees live in the parish ?



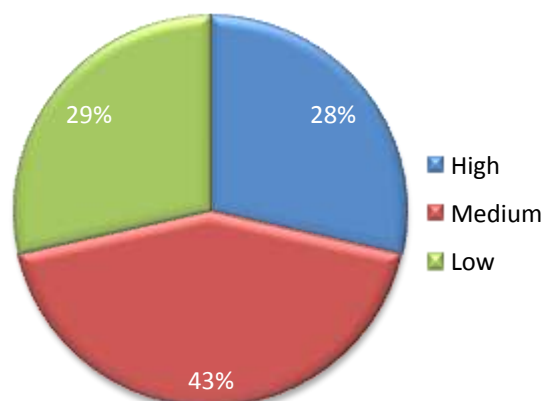
- Most are not trading on the internet

Do you trade on the internet ?



- Though those who do trade on the internet are high users of this method of trading

How much trade is on the internet ?



From the several smaller businesses (two-six employees) who responded:

- Most are not trading on the internet to any significant extent
- Most have employees from the Parish



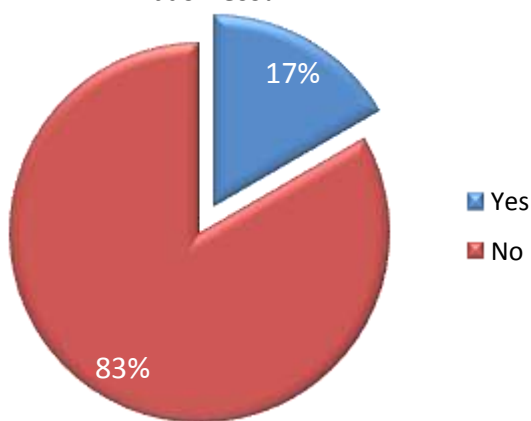
The main concerns are:

- For those who run a “shop” there tends to be concerns about parking (the lack of it, its restrictions or being in “competition” for it with nearby householders)

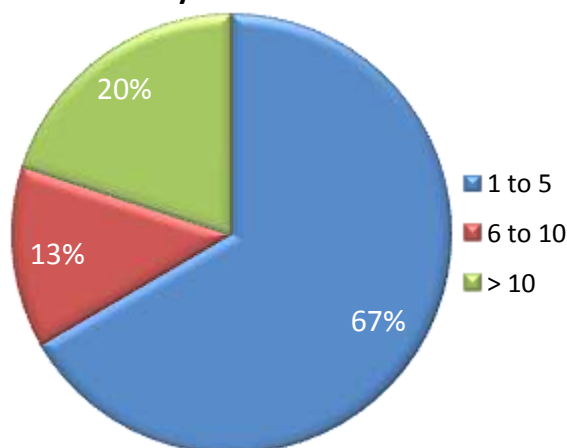
For those who use the post office:

- Some use a great deal
- Some occasionally
- For those who do not use one reason is lack of parking

Is car parking a problem for your business?



How many times each month ?

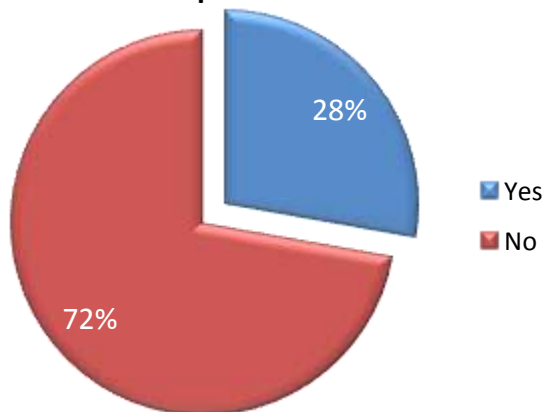


- For others it is about how to change attitudes to using local shops or local trades
- For others it is about littering and dog mess around their area which detracts from the trading experience
- For those who use the internet, it is lack of speed and also power outages

Improvements needed by businesses include:

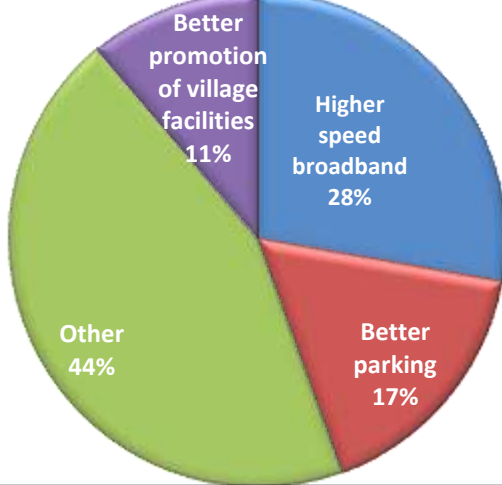
- Greater freedom to innovate
- Limit similar businesses setting up
- Better funding arrangements (for social enterprises)
- More houses being built (to bring in more customers)
- Improving car parking where currently restricted
- The parish needs to be better promoted so people are more aware of the facilities/services available
- Faster internet
- Fewer power outages
- Purton Magazine to provide advertisers some editorial space (e.g. one article per year for regular advertisers)

Local restrictions preventing business expansion





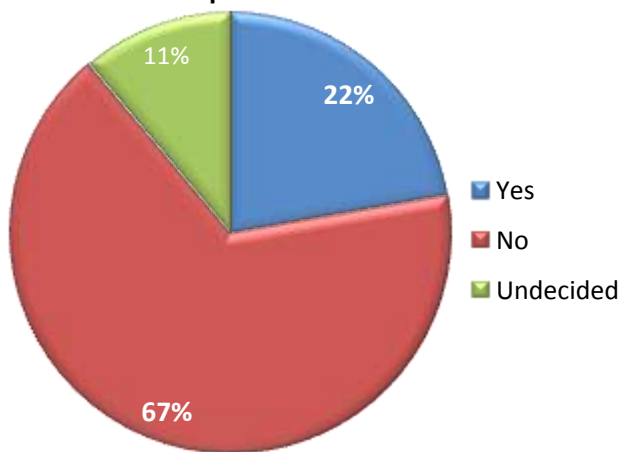
What local improvements would benefit your business ?



Prospects for the future:

- Most businesses are not anticipating any expansion, though one or two wish to expand (particularly if small business units were available)

Business expansion in the near future ?



Potential Actions

So, what can be done to address the concerns of businesses, make the trading environment generally more productive and develop the local economy to be more resilient?

In no particular order:

Internet Speed and Power Outages

There is a general plan to have greater speed during 2013 so this should be no longer an issue. Power outages are outside the parish's control and influence; and more may be expected in the years to come. For those who have solar power they may be less affected as they should be able to power some minimum requirements from their systems.

Certainly, any business that has the opportunity to deploy solar will be able to cut one of their bills as electricity prices will continue to increase year-on-year.

Those who are not yet trading on the internet may benefit from exploring the possibilities of that.

Parking

This is a problem for business at the two retail locations, The Triangle and the Pavenhill Shops, though more so for the latter. This is dealt with in more detail under *Transport*.

Buying Local

It is more convenient, but often more expensive and (as recently described in the Purton Magazine) local traders are not always customer-service focussed. There is some education needed; buying locally is better and local traders do need to be trained on how to treat customers. Sadly, there are stories of how some customers use local traders by obtaining advice and quotes and then sourcing the service or product from outside the parish to save a few pounds.

This can be counter-productive. There are also some stories of atrocious local service. A willingness of the trader and customer to realise the benefits to the parish need to be developed. Without traders there is no community just a large dormitory; without customers there is no community, just a large dormitory



Littering and Dog Fouling

This is a problem for business at the two retail locations, The Triangle and the Pavenhill Shops.

This is dealt with in more detail under *Environment*.

Business Models

Traders may need to change their business models to accommodate changing work and lifestyle practices of their customers. If they do not, then it will be no surprise when trading ceases. Similarly, each parishioner really needs to try to shop or buy locally.

Certainly, expecting new house building to bring the local economy to life is not really tenable, unless there is a fundamental change in using local shops and traders.

It is known from other surveys that there is a real barrier to using local shops and services and this is just about price. If local shops and services are wanted then there will be a price premium but that should be made up for by quality of service (here, traders have a job to do). There are some great exemplars but others do need to change their perception of their customers.

Action list related to Business

| Action Plan related to Business | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|---|--|--|----------|---------------------------------------|
| | Action | Comments | Responsible | Priority | Funding |
| B1 | Improved Internet speed | Press for upgrade by lobbying | Parish Council | High | Wiltshire Council and BT |
| B2 | Greater use of Internet trading | Raise awareness of business benefits | Wiltshire Council | High | Wiltshire Council |
| B3 | Improve parking at Pavenhill shops | Develop a parking plan (but needs to be linked to overall Development Plan for Purton) | Parish Council | High | In conjunction with Wiltshire Council |
| B4 | Changing attitudes to provision of local services and local purchasing | Develop a programme to change attitudes | Parish Council with Wiltshire Council (could be with Area Board) | High | Wiltshire Council |
| B5 | Purton Magazine to consider providing regular advertisers with some editorial space | Raise with Purton Magazine | Parish Council | Low | Nominal |
| B6 | Provision of small business units | Document within the Neighbourhood Plan | Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group | High | Commercial |
| B7 | Coffee shop required | Where and would it be really used? | Various interested parties. | Medium | High start up cost |
| B8 | Community arts/crafts shop required (combine with coffee shop ?) | Where and would it be used | Circulate in Purton magazine to see if anybody interested in starting up | Medium | High start-up cost. |
| | | | | | |



TAKING THE PLAN FORWARD

A strategy is not complete if it does not include a delivery plan. In order to implement the views expressed in this plan it was presented to the Parish Council in September 2013, and adopted as the forward plan for the community.

Links with a number of service providers are being established to enable the improvement of several local services, including health, transport and social care.

Within the Plan there are 98 comments listed as actions that have been taken from the completed questionnaires and from the December 2012 and October 2013 public meetings.

There are 40 actions listed as High priority, thirteen of these (listed below) are considered to have a major impact on the parish. Every effort must be made to achieve success in these actions.

Progress of all actions in the Plan, but in particular the thirteen listed, are to be reported on by the Parish Council at the Purton Parish annual general meeting.

| | Action | Comments | Responsible | Priority | Funding |
|------|--|--|--|----------|---|
| TT8 | Police on foot and clamp down on speeding | To see police on foot within the parish plus use of mobile speed guns to check/reduce speeding | Police | High | Police |
| TT9 | Carry out regular traffic and speed counts to monitor the level of traffic on the parish roads | Work with surrounding parishes and towns to understand the traffic flows in the local region. Parish to have own Metro Count | Purton, Lydiard and Hook Parish Councils, Cricklade Town Council and Swindon Council | High | Parish and Town Councils |
| TT11 | Redesign junction and improve parking at Best One opposite Parish Council offices | Dangerous junction. Re-design crossing and speed control required, especially now that Post Office is moving Feasibility study required | Wiltshire and Parish Councils | High | Wiltshire Council |
| TT18 | Proposed new entrance road to Bradon Forest school from Restrop region | To relieve congestion traffic from Purton High Street Feasibility study required | Wiltshire and Parish Councils | High | Wiltshire Council |
| TT19 | Repair serious damage to road and verges between Cricklade and Purton Industrial Estate | Caused by heavy increase in Large Vehicles and HGVs | Wiltshire Council | High | Wiltshire Council Road Maintenance Budget |



| | Action | Comments | Responsible | Priority | Funding |
|------|---|--|---|----------------------|--|
| TT21 | Bring HGVs traffic for Hills site from the Bradon side of parish | Serious damage to road and verges between Cricklade and Hill's site Feasibility study required | Wiltshire Council | High | Wiltshire Council Hill's |
| TT35 | Footbridge over railway at Widham | Dangerous crossing over the bridge for people on foot. Feasibility study required | Wiltshire and Parish Councils | High | Developers to contribute. |
| HD9 | Improve the shopping area, including parking, at Pavenhill | Multi-ownership of shops is a problem. Establish a joint working group of interested parties to undertake study of potential options | Parish Council | Long term but urgent | Wiltshire Council and Developers. Consider EU funding and/or S106/ CIL money |
| HD12 | Keep the Cedars or replace within Purton | Parish Council to make certain either retained or replaced within Purton | Wiltshire and Parish Councils | High | Wiltshire Council |
| ER1 | Flooding report. River and surface water | Flooding is an important issue within the village and raised at many planning applications as a concern. Document to be produced identifying problem areas and solutions | Wiltshire Council In preparation by Carl Collins | High | Wiltshire Council for highway projects |
| ER7 | To stop dog fouling in the streets and fields. Community Area has a task group | General problem in the parish | Wiltshire Council, Parish Councils and dog owners | High | If local dog warden required then high at £10 per household |
| ER9 | Litter "days" | Litter in verges is a general problem. Volunteers have agreed to help twice per year – also can be Community Pay back teams | Organised by Parish Council | Low | Minimal cost |
| ER20 | Areas for parks, pond and play areas to be identified in village | Area suggested at the back of Jewel's Ash. Feasibility study required | Wiltshire and Parish Council and developers including 106 money | High | Wiltshire and Parish Councils plus 106 money |



WEB LINKS AND SOURCES OF INFORMATION

History:-

- a. Domesday reloaded:- <http://bbc.co.uk/history/domesday>
- b. Parish registers on line:- <http://www.parishregister.co.uk>

Transport:-

- a. Traffic accidents in Purton:- <http://www.crashmap.co.uk>
- b. MetroCount Traffic survey:- <http://www.metrocount.com/products/mc5600/>
- c. Roadworks in UK:- <http://www.roadworks.org/>
- d. UK hauliers route planner:- <http://www.ukhaulier.co.uk/routeplanner.asp>

Planning:-

- a. Permitted Development:- <http://www.planningportal.gov.uk>

Environment:-

- a. Water Industry Act:- <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1991/56/part/IV/chapter/II>
- b. Guidance on Dog Control Orders and local environmental quality can be found:- <https://www.gov.uk/local-environmental-quality>
- c. Clean Neighbourhoods & Environment Act 2005:- <http://www.defra.gov.uk>
- d. Map of water courses:- <http://imnh.isu.edu/digitalatlas/hydr/concepts/gwater/gwtrvw.htm>
- e. Wiltshire Council street care and cleaning:- <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/parkingtransportandstreets/streetcarecleaning.htm>
- f. Legislation:- [Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005](#), [Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003](#) [Environmental Protection Act 1990](#).
- g. Oil club UK:- <http://www.oil-club.co.uk/>
- h. Community First oil buying scheme:- <http://www.communityfirst.org.uk/index.php/cf-bulk-oil-buying>
- i. Wiltshire Community History:- <http://history.wiltshire.gov.uk/community/getcome2.php?id=186>
- j. Wiltshire Council Strategic Flood Risk Assessment:- http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/wiltshire_strategic_flood_risk_assessment_high_level_executive_summary_june_2009.pdf
- k. Weather history:- <http://www.myweather2.com>

Health and Welfare:-

- a. Wiltshire Council's Older People Housing Survey:- www.wiltshire.gov.uk/lifeoversixtyfive.htm

