

Carlton Parish Appraisal 2001

Final Report

by

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Carlton Parish Appraisal Team
May 2002

Summary

The Carlton Parish Appraisal was carried out to find out the views and opinions of all parishioners. What do people love or hate, what things are good or bad, what would people like more of and what less? This kind of information is needed by the organisations which run services or take decisions about our Parish. It is also required to support applications for grants and other support. These results will be used in all kinds of local plans and initiatives, will be an important element in consultations with government, and will help local organisations to determine their priorities.

We would like to thank everyone who completed their Parish Appraisal form.

This is what you told us:

Most of us like Carlton pretty much the way it is, and are very wary of change. We like the peace and quiet, the setting of the village in beautiful countryside but within reach of services and facilities, and the appearance of our local buildings. We value and appreciate the local countryside and use it for outdoor activities.

We also value our neighbours and friends, and the help and support they offer when we need it. Most of us support village events while accepting that no event can cater for everyone's taste.

Many of us, both young and old, feel that the village lacks a focal point where we might expect to run into our friends and neighbours and make new acquaintances. Young people would appreciate more activities and an informal meeting place. Many of us are concerned that the Parish does not have a safe recreational space.

Most of us have cars and do not use public transport. At the same time many of us are worried by the increasing speed and volume of traffic along our local lanes. There is strong support for creating a safer route to Market Bosworth for walkers and cyclists.

Very few of us attend the parish church regularly, but most of us value the church building and think that better use should be made of it.

Recommendations

- We strongly recommend that every effort be made to acquire land for a playing field. Responses show that Carlton Green is considered unsuitable for games. The Green is now surrounded by houses and the roads around it are getting busier. A safer playing field would be well used, and would be a place where parishioners of all ages could meet. The Parish Council needs to act as the lead agency for this major project.
- We recommend that a safer route for pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders be made between Carlton and Market Bosworth. The Parish Council needs to initiate this project and liaise with the Highway Authority and funding bodies.
- We recommend that careful consideration be given to ways of making better use of the church building. The Parochial Church Council needs to act as the lead agency in assessing the future use of the church building.
- We recommend that a directory of local services be produced and regularly updated. The Carlton Parish Appraisal Team will initiate this project.
- We recommend that a teenage survival guide to living in a rural parish be produced. The Carlton Parish Appraisal Team will consult with young people and initiate this project.
- We recommend that consideration be given to expanding the recycling centre. Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council will need to assess the potential of this site.
- We recommend that there be an investigation of ways of promoting and making better use of mobile shops. The Carlton Parish Appraisal Team will initiate this project.
- We recommend that consideration be given to ways of involving local people in the management of wildlife sites in the parish, and would draw the attention of local landowners to the interest of local people in wildlife sites. The Carlton Parish Appraisal Team would be willing to be the lead agency in setting up a practical project.
- We suggest that adults, and particularly parents, consider ways of providing activities for young people during the summer holidays. We do not think Carlton is big enough to support its own youth club, but there is potential for informal groups to organise their own activities.
- We suggest that parishioners consider employing young people from the village to help with appropriate jobs.
- We suggest that a regular cycle of informal social events such as coffee mornings might be appreciated and well-supported as a venue where home-based parishioners could meet.
- We note that a housing needs survey was recently commissioned by Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council and recommend that the Parish Council gives careful consideration to the findings.
- We note that many parishioners are upset by speeding traffic, dog fouling, poor parking and thoughtless behaviour. These are areas where each of us has a social responsibility to do what we can to ensure that Carlton remains a pleasant place to live.

Young People Questionnaire: results

Young people's questionnaires were issued to everyone in the Parish under 16 years old. We gave out 58 questionnaires and got 47 back - a response rate of 81%.

In this report the percentages are all calculated on the number of questionnaires returned (47) and corrected to the nearest whole number. Percentages have not been calculated where respondents could have given multiple answers. All responses are tabulated in Appendix 2.

1. About respondents

There were equal numbers of male and female respondents in Carlton (49% of each), with an even spread of ages. 19% of young people were less than 5 years old, 38% between 6 and 11, 30% between 12 and 14 and 11% between 15 and 16 years old.

45% of young people had lived in Carlton for less than 5 years, 43% for between 5 and 11 years, and 11% for more than 11 years.

Bearing in mind the wide age range of respondents, it was reassuring that 64% of them agreed with the statement '*I would know where to get help if I was in trouble*' (19% disagreed; 9% had no opinion).

2. School and travel

More than 10 different schools were attended. Most respondents attended St Peter's Primary School (10), Market Bosworth High School (9) and Bosworth College, Desford (6). Most usually travelled to school by car (34), with 19 sometimes sharing lifts with friends. Only 9 went on a school bus. Many (39) visited their friend's homes after school.

About half of young people (51%) sometimes walked or cycled to Market Bosworth, but a majority (70%) said they would do so if there was a safer route. These are high figures, considering that 19% of young people were less than five years old.

3. Hobbies and interests

Young people had a very wide range of hobbies and interests, but because of the small number of young people in Carlton there were not many individuals with interests in common. School sports (9), swimming (8), football (7), cycling (6), tennis (5) and music (5) were the individual activities listed most often. Out of the 41 activities cited, 19 would need a dedicated facility, 13 could take place on a playing field, 13 indoors or at home, and 6 in the local countryside.

Young people were asked where they carried out the listed activities. Of the places listed, 67 were less than 10 miles from Carlton, 5 less than 25 miles away, and only 1 more than 25 miles away. There were few suggestions for new activities which young people would like to be available in Carlton; the most popular suggestion was a place to meet friends (6).

4. Recreation

Only 2% of young people often played on Carlton Green, while 15% played there sometimes. 79% (37 respondents) said they never played on the Green because they were not allowed to (15), the Green was too small (13) or unsafe (13), balls went in gardens (6), and other unspecified reasons (22).

Most young people (87%) said they would use a bigger or safer playing area if there was one nearby, and they would like it to have play equipment (50) and a shelter where they could meet with friends (51%). There were many suggestions for specific items ranging from swings and goal posts to a bike track, crazy golf course, zip wire and assault course.

57% of young people disagreed with the statement *'I prefer to spend my leisure time indoors'* (19% agreed; 17% had no opinion). 68% disagreed with the statement *'Computer games are more fun than real games'* (9% agreed; 17% had no opinion); and 40% agreed with the statement *'I think Market Bosworth Playscheme is great'* (13% disagreed; 36% had no opinion).

Most young people (72%) agreed with the statement *'I can go out in Carlton without worrying about bullies or gangs'* (15% had no opinion; 4% disagreed). 15% agreed with the statement *'I would like to go to a night club'* (40% disagreed; 43% had no opinion), but we have since found out that some younger children thought that a night club meant going out at night in a group to look for bats and badgers.

5. Jobs and travel

15% of young people (7 individuals) had a part time job, with 3 working in Carlton, 2 in Market Bosworth and 4 elsewhere. 55% thought that there should be more opportunities for part-time jobs for young people in this area and would like jobs doing paper rounds (5), baby-sitting (4), dog walking (4), waitress/shop assistant (4), odd jobs/varied (4), washing cars/cleaning (2), garden centre (2), mechanic (1).

More than half of young people (57%) were allowed to go to town on their own or with friends, with Market Bosworth (11), Leicester (10) and Hinckley (8) the most popular destinations. Only 9% said they found it difficult to get transport in and out of Carlton.

Most young people (77%) usually had access to a car or lift when they needed transport, while 15% sometimes did. 43% of young people used buses, but 47% never did so. Young people said that bus services could be improved by making them more frequent, cheaper and faster (8). There were single requests for more destinations, a fast service to Hinckley and Twycross, and more buses on Sundays. One comfort-lover requested reclining seats, and free food and drink.

55% of young people never walked country footpaths without an adult with them, but 36% did so sometimes and 4% did so often. The footpath users reported difficulties with overgrown paths (4), foot & mouth restrictions (3), mud (2) and poor signposting (3). 38% said they would like to go on a guided walk to find out where local paths run, but 57% would not.

6. Wildlife

Most young people (79%) said they would like to see more areas in the Parish managed mainly for wildlife (37 individuals) and would also like to be able to visit these areas (34), while 28 individuals said would be willing to help look after wildlife sites.

7. Village events

70% of young people sometimes attended village events, and 23% often did so. Only 4% never attended village events.

There was support for using part of the church building for events, meetings or parties (55%), though 38% did not think this was a good idea.

8. Views on Carlton

When asked what they liked most about Carlton, the most frequent answers were the countryside and views (16), peace and quiet (10), animals (5), friends and parties (4), and safety (4). Other answers included my house (3), the fete (2), tractors (2), and footpaths, flowers and walks (4).

When asked what they liked least, the most frequent answers were no park or playing area (14), nothing to do (8), nowhere to meet friends (2), and never see anyone (3). Other answers were no shops (6), fast traffic (5), small and not enough children (5), and too quiet (3).

When asked what we should try to preserve, the most frequent answers were the unspoiled views (12), the church (11) and wildlife and habitats (11).

When asked what we should try to change, most responses (17) related to activities and facilities (9) and a playing area (8). There was mention of speeding traffic (3) and a village hall (2), but some thought nothing should be changed (5).

It is interesting to compare these spontaneous responses to those to other, structured questions. For example, 55% agreed with the statement *'There is nothing to do in Carlton in the school holidays'* (23% disagreed; 17% had no opinion); and 45% agreed with the statement that *'Carlton is a dull and boring place where nothing ever happens'* (36% disagreed; 15% had no opinion). 55% agreed with the statement *'I have friends in Carlton'* (32% disagreed; 9% had no opinion), while 53% agreed with the statement *'My friends all live too far away for me to go on my own to visit them'* (32% disagreed; 4% had no opinion).

32% of young people agreed with the statement *'When I leave home I would still like to live in Carlton'* (30% disagreed; 30% had no opinion), but only 17% agreed with the statement *'I would rather live in Leicester where there are more people and activities'* (57% disagreed; 19% had no opinion).

Twelve young people requested information on 20 different clubs and societies, which was forwarded in November 2001.

Adult Questionnaire: results

247 adult questionnaires were issued and 210 returned, giving a response rate of 85%.

All percentage figures in this report are calculated on the total number of questionnaires returned (210) and corrected to the nearest whole number. Percentages have not been calculated where respondents could have given multiple answers. All responses are tabulated in Appendix 3.

1. Respondents

There were slightly more female (50%) than male (45%) respondents in the Parish, and the responding population was skewed towards older people.

A third of respondents (34%) had lived in Carlton for more than 20 years and more than half (56%) for more than 10 years.

On weekdays 44% of adults usually remained in Carlton. The 112 (53%) who usually spent the working day outside the Parish travelled widely. 43 went to Leicester, 38 to Market Bosworth and 32 to Hinckley with 22, 16 and 9 travelling to Nuneaton, Coalville and Tamworth respectively. 56 travelled to other places, sometimes abroad.

When they left Carlton, 197 respondents travelled by car and only 19 by bus. A few travelled under their own steam by walking (17) or cycling (13).

2. Occupation

131 respondents (62%) had a paid job, with 86 working full-time and 44 working part time. 65% of adult respondents were retired, and 11% were students.

Opinion was fairly evenly divided between those who thought there should be more paid jobs in the parish (47%), and those who thought there should not (44%). Those who wanted to see more jobs (99) thought that parish services like a shop, garage or pub (70), craft workshops (45), childcare (44), and home working (43) would be most appropriate. There was less support for farming (37), tourism (27), offices (14) and light industrial units (12).

3. Housing

Most people (71%) did not expect to be looking for alternative accommodation within the next five years, but 56 individuals (27%) did. Of these 56 people, 18 would be looking for a starter home, 17 for a small family house, 10 for a retirement home, 9 for a large family house, and 2 for sheltered accommodation.

Of the 56 people looking for a new home, 29 were planning to buy and 14 to rent. 50 thought their new home would be outside the parish. The most commonly cited reasons were retirement or relocation (12), high house prices or no suitable properties (10), employment or working away (8).

115 respondents (55%) would be in favour of some new housing in the parish for local people, with 41% against. There was most support for small family homes (70), affordable starter homes (56) and affordable retirement homes (43).

The commonest problems near respondent's homes were dog fouling (59), ants (50), fire or bonfire smoke (45), flies (41), bad smells (31) and dirty or uneven pavements (26).

A majority of respondents (61%) disagreed with the statement *'My neighbours would not like it if I had a compost heap in my garden'* (22% had no opinion; 9% agreed).

4. Health and community care

The vast majority of respondents (75%) knew a local person whom they could call on if they needed help urgently. The 8% who thought they did not know anyone should be aware that many parishioners offered to help neighbours in need, and that there will be someone living near them who would be prepared to help in an emergency. Up to 6% of respondents reported that they had recently been given some kind of practical help by someone from Carlton.

Most respondents (85%) had not experienced any problems with access to health or social services. Of those reporting problems, 7 complained of waiting a long time for GP appointments, 4 of the lack of a good local dentist, and 2 of poor access to GPs at weekends and out of hours.

11 respondents expressed interest in joining a monitored personal alarm scheme (5%). A majority of respondents (77%) agreed with the statement *'I feel safe to go out alone in Carlton at night'* (11% had no opinion; 8% disagreed).

A majority of respondents (63%) disagreed with the statement *'It is a waste of time to report suspicious things to the Police'* (19% agreed; 13% had no opinion).

5. Transport

Many respondents indicated several towns where they did most of their shopping, and to avoid editing bias all responses (434) were counted. The most popular shopping venues were Market Bosworth (92), Hinckley (90), Leicester City (51), Fosse Park (40), Coalville (37), Nuneaton (36), Ibstock (35) and other places, including Tamworth (42).

The vast majority of respondents (92%) had no difficulty getting transport out of Carlton; the few (3%) who did cited the lack of buses, their cost, the difficulty of finding information and the distance to the bus stop. One respondent was concerned that it was impossible to get a taxi from Carlton in an emergency.

Most respondents (74%) did not use public transport. Those who did (22%) thought that the services could be improved by more frequent buses (11), cheaper fares (7), better timetabling (5), and different routes providing direct services to Coalville and Hinckley (4). There was a similar response when those who did not use public transport were asked what improvements would persuade them to do so. Out of 83 respondents, 24 said that nothing would persuade them to use public transport.

The vast majority of respondents (93%) had access to a car or lift when they needed transport, and 52% (110) gave lifts to friends (68), neighbours (66) and members of their family (57) from Carlton.

6. Road safety and traffic

Two thirds of respondents (62%) considered that traffic and parking caused problems in Carlton, though one third (33%) did not agree. Most problems were attributed to speeding traffic (113), parking on roads (49), and parking on pavements (41). Speeding traffic was identified as a problem all through the village; parking on roads was thought to be most serious near the church, and parking on pavements most serious along Main Street. The most popular suggestions for solving these problems were traffic calming measures (39), the prosecution, fining or naming and shaming of offenders (20), and speed cameras (11).

Respondents were divided as to whether the roads around Carlton were dangerous: 50% thought they were, but 47% thought they were not. A number of respondents stated that all roads were dangerous and those round Carlton were not particularly so. Respondents selected sharp or blind corners (57), mud on the road (46), ruts along the edge of the road (30) and the absence of kerbs (27) as the most dangerous hazards.

The majority of respondents (73%) disagreed with the statement that '*Parking on pavements is acceptable because it helps road traffic to move faster*' (14% no opinion; 9% agreed).

There was strong support for the idea of building a surfaced foot- cycle- and bridle-way between Carlton and Market Bosworth (79% for; 17% against). Most of those in favour (155 out of 165) also said that they would use it, if it was built.

7. Environment and conservation

Walking was very popular, with 178 respondents (85%) reporting some use of local rights of way. 68% of respondents said they walked local footpaths and bridleways sometimes, with an additional 17% walking them often. The most frequent problems encountered were bushes or nettles (34), crops across paths (31) and mud or water (25). 30% of respondents said they would like to go on a guided walk to find out where local paths run.

Wildlife conservation is popular, with 155 respondents (74%) wanting to see more areas in the parish managed mainly for wildlife. There was a fairly even spread of interest between trees (118), meadows (109), nature reserves (107) and ponds (99). 140 respondents (67%) would like to be able to visit these areas, and 79 said they would be willing to help manage them.

A third (33%) of respondents would like more seats and benches around the parish, but a significant minority (20%) opposed this suggestion. Most people were not bothered either way (44%).

There was support for enlarging the recycling centre to accept cans (89), plastics (83), directories (75), cardboard (73) and clothes (62).

8. Services and facilities

Respondents appreciated Carlton News, with most (84%) agreeing with the statement '*Carlton News keeps me well-informed of local matters*' (11% had no opinion; 3% disagreed).

Saint Andrews church was considered important as an historic building (125) and as a focal point for the community (120). It was regarded as significant for special services (75),

weddings and funerals (74), but much less important for baptisms (41) and Sunday worship (35).

There was support for using the church building as a village hall as well as the parish church, with 70% in favour (but 21% opposed), and support for sympathetic alterations or extensions to the building to create a suitable space (134 for; 24 against).

The most used mobile services in the parish were window cleaners (106), chimney sweeps (74) and the milkman (61). Only 12 respondents said they used the mobile library.

Most respondents (71%) said they would find a directory of local services useful.

9. Recreation and leisure

65 respondents were members of clubs or societies based outside Carlton or Market Bosworth; 45 belonged to clubs or societies in Market Bosworth, and 17 belonged to clubs or societies in Carlton.

Many respondents enjoyed outdoor recreational activities (62%), with walking (68), cycling (35), gardening (14), hunting, shooting and fishing (13) and golf (11) listed most often among 27 different activities.

Indoor recreational activities were also popular (51%), with swimming (14) cinema, concerts and theatre (9), bridge and card games (9), socialising and entertaining (7), gym (7) and badminton (7) listed most often among 44 different activities.

Respondents were asked where they went to pursue their interests, but the responses were not very useful because most did not answer this part of the question while some gave a list of places. Of the places listed for outdoor activities, 63 were within 10 miles of Carlton, 17 within 25 miles, 19 elsewhere in the UK, and 4 abroad. Of the places listed for indoor activities, 67 were within 10 miles of Carlton, 11 within 25 miles, and 6 more than 25 miles away. It was clear that respondents travelled up to 25 miles to a wide range of venues to use specific facilities or attend meetings of clubs or societies. The destinations were evenly spread around all points of the compass.

The idea behind these two questions was that if enough respondents had a shared interest there might be potential for starting a new club or society in the parish. What emerged was that parishioners have a very wide range of interests, with very few individuals sharing specific hobbies and interests.

169 respondents (81%) attended some village events, with 47 (22%) attending often and 122 (58%) attending sometimes. 29 (14%) never attended village events, citing work or other commitments (5), or that events were boring or sameish (5), or cliquy (2).

A majority of respondents (56%) disagreed with the statement '*Public events attract undesirable people to the village and encourage crime*' (22% had no opinion; 18% agreed).

There was enthusiasm for celebrating the Queen's Golden Jubilee with 86 respondents suggesting a party of some kind. 6 people suggested planting trees or creating a nature site, 3 acquiring a playing field, and 3 fundraising for the church.

There was support for Carlton having its own playing field or open space, with 58% in favour and 24% against. Most people said they would like to use a field for sports (26), games (15), village events (14), and an equipped playground (9). Other suggestions ranged from very specific answers such as kite-flying to very general ones like recreational. In practice an open area could accommodate many different uses. A potential future conflict was highlighted by one respondent who would like to use a field for dog walking and one who specified that a field should not be used by dogs.

Respondents expected a playing field to be funded by local government (69), with specific mention of the council tax (45), the Borough Council (12) and the Parish Council (12). Other suggestions included fundraising (24), grants (11) and the National Lottery (10).

10. Local government

Just over a third of respondents would prefer the Parish Council to meet in the village (37%), but half did not mind the PC meeting elsewhere (50%). About a third of parishioners (36%) said they would be reluctant to attend a Parish Council meeting held in a private house, though 52% would not mind.

Two thirds of respondents (69%) agreed with the statement *'I am kept informed of planning applications which might affect me'* (15% disagreed; 11% had no opinion).

In the year of the survey, Carlton Parish Council received £29.43 from each Band D property in the Parish. Half of respondents (50%) were not prepared to pay more council tax for better services or facilities. However, 105 individuals (38%) indicated that they would be willing to pay more, with 35 prepared to pay £20 pa, 27 prepared to pay £10 pa and 15 prepared to pay £5 pa more.

49% of respondents agreed with the statement that *'I never know when the Parish Council is going to meet or what it is going to discuss'* (28% disagreed; 17% had no opinion). Almost half (46%) disagreed with the statement *'I am only interested in local government matters which affect me directly'* (23% agreed; 22% had no opinion).

11. General

The things that parishioners said they liked most about Carlton were its environment and its social fabric. The specific environmental features mentioned included peace and quiet (89), rural setting (44), views over open countryside (17), country setting but near towns (11) and location (5). The specific social features mentioned included community spirit (26), friendliness (22), lovely people (10), neighbours (7) and people who helped when needed (5).

The majority of respondents (74%) agreed with the statement *'Carlton is a haven of peace and quiet'* (10% disagreed; 10% had no opinion). Almost two thirds of respondents (63%) disagreed with the statement *'Carlton is a dull and boring place where nothing ever happens'* (20% had no opinion; 12% agreed). A similar proportion (62%) also agreed with the statement *'Carlton is a friendly place and welcomes newcomers'* (22% had no opinion; 11% disagreed).

The things that respondents said they liked least about Carlton were the volume of through traffic (27), the lack of facilities or a shop (15), the lack of recreational facilities for young people (14), gossip (10), inappropriate new development (10) and the absence of a village hall

(10). There was a much longer list of specific dislikes (50 items) than of specific likes (32 items).

Parishioners were anxious to preserve the physical and social environment of the parish. On the physical environment specific mention was made of country views (37), the church (21), peace and quiet (14), size (14), character buildings (13), limiting development (13), everything (6), wildlife (7), and environment (5). On the social environment, respondents commonly mentioned rural lifestyle (28) and community spirit (12), the pub (5) and the identity of the village (5). There was also specific mention of helpfulness (2), safety (2) and family values (2).

When asked what we should try to change, most respondents (35) answered 'nothing' or 'as little as possible'. There was a long list of things which individuals thought should be changed (49 items), but little unanimity. Controlling traffic and improving road safety were listed most often (25), followed by better facilities for children (15 suggestions under 3 headings).

12. Volunteers and requests for information

The appraisal questionnaire ended with two pages, the first inviting volunteers and offering information on parish organisations, and the second offering information on 67 local clubs, societies and organisations.

22 respondents offered lifts to any neighbours who needed help, 10 said that they would be interested in standing for election to the Parish or a higher council, 15 were willing to help run a village organisation and 2 offered part-time work to young people.

Information on Parish organisations was requested by 14 individuals. This was forwarded in the form of personalised letters, and the names of those interested were passed on to the organisation concerned. The number of inquiries was as follows:

Carlton Footpath Group	12
Carlton Charity Lands	10
Parish Council	9
Friends of St Andrews Church Carlton	4
Carlton Neighbourhood Watch Group	4
Carlton Book Club	3
Parochial Church Council	1

Comparison with previous Parish Appraisal

The first Parish Appraisal, carried out in 1991, was a much smaller exercise than the current one with only 13 questions, of which 6 were open. One questionnaire for each registered elector was delivered to every household, and the replies were not collected. 217 questionnaires were issued and 95 returned: a response rate of 44%. The results were reported to every household in the Parish in the form of a pull-out supplement to Carlton News, and were included in the Minutes of Carlton Parish Council (1991/p.63/2a; p.71-76). The percentages quoted below were all calculated on the 95 responses received.

The 1991 electoral register for the Parish listed 215 electors in 97 dwellings while that for 2001 listed 248 electors in 112 dwellings. Over the ten years between appraisals the number of electors and the number of dwellings both increased by 15%.

When asked why they chose to live in Carlton, the commonest responses in 1991 were quiet, peaceful and unspoilt (41%), rural setting and open views (33%), pleasant or real village (27%), close to work (13%) and small (11%). When asked what they liked most about the parish, the commonest replies were peace and quiet (42%), rural setting (18%), friendly (15%), small (13%) and caring community (9%). There is little difference between these responses and those from 2001: parishioners still value the same things. Although the questions were not exactly the same, it is interesting that positive social features were mentioned by a higher proportion of respondents in 2001 (70/210 against 24/100).

The things that respondents said they liked least about Carlton in 1991 were unsympathetic new development (29%), smells and flies (19%), and fast traffic and lorries (15%). Some very prominent developments - barn conversions and large infill plots - had been carried out in the late 1980's, and these very obvious changes to the village fabric may have prompted the comments about development. There was probably as much development between 1991 and 2001 as between 1981 and 1991, yet there were far fewer comments about unsympathetic new development in 2001 (10/210 against 29/100). It may be that the more recent developments have been on less obvious sites, or that parishioners now accept that some development is inevitable.

In 1991 there were more working farms in the village, and there had been many complaints about continuing odour nuisance from a large pig farm between Carlton and Barton in the Beans. Fewer respondents spontaneously listed flies and smells in 2001 (5/210 against 19/100), though in 2001 a possible 20% (41/210) indicated flies and 15% (31/210) indicated bad smells as being a problem near their home. In 2001 the volume of through traffic was the most disliked feature, but was only mentioned by about the same proportion of respondents as in 1991 (27/210 against 15/100 respectively).

The majority of respondents in 1991 thought that more housing would not be of benefit to the village (82%), and that the village would not be better if more people lived in it (80%). Most said they would object if new houses were built behind their property (93%). In response to a specific question about different kinds of new development, 44% would have objected to any at all, 49% would have accepted infilling and 16% would have accepted low-cost starter homes. In 2001, 55% of respondents were in favour of some new housing in the parish for local people, with strongest support for small family homes, followed by affordable starter and retirement homes.

Concerning commercial development in 1991, 75% said they would have found a village shop acceptable, and 11% would have accepted workshops, but 22% would not have supported any at all. On tourism, 56% would have found B&B acceptable, 35% small picnic sites and 13% a small site for touring caravans. 26% would not have found any development acceptable. In 1991 this question was asked as one of several about built development, whereas in 2001 a similar question about jobs was asked in the context of employment. In 2001 the 99 respondents (47%) who thought there should be more paid jobs in the parish considered services such as a shop, garage or pub (70), craft workshops (45), childcare (44) and home working (43) to be most appropriate.

When asked what new or improved facilities they would like to see in Carlton in 1991, 41% of respondents said they did not want facilities and would have lived in a town if they did. However, 22% said they would have liked a playground or playing field, 14% a village hall and 11% a village store. In response to a specific question in 2001, 58% of respondents were in favour of Carlton having its own recreational space. In 2001, when asked what they liked least, 15 respondents said the lack of a shop or facilities, and 10 the lack of a village hall; there was also strong support for making better use of the church building.

When asked what highway improvements they would have liked to see in 1991, 29% said that village pavements needed repair with an additional 19% specifying where; 13% requested controls on parking; and 13% said that local public footpaths needed clearance, waymarking and stile repairs. A programme of pavement repairs and improvements was begun in 1991, and in 2001 dirty and uneven pavements were identified as a problem by only 26 respondents. In 2001, 62% of respondents thought that traffic and parking caused problems, with speed (113), parking on roads (49) and parking on pavements (41) considered the most serious.

The Carlton Footpath Group was formed in 1993, and since then all the public footpaths in the parish have been waymarked, all stiles and footbridges renewed or repaired, a map and walks leaflet published, and annual surveys carried out. In spite of these improvements, respondents still identified problems with the infrastructure, reporting difficulties with poor signposting (22), gates and stiles (16), barbed wire (12) and locked gates (9). Respondents also reported difficulties arising from natural causes such as bushes or nettles (34), crops across paths (31), mud or water (25), farm animals (11) and dogs or dog mess (10).

In 1993, a series of thefts from garden sheds before and after a gardens open day led to a heated debate and a parish referendum on public events of this kind. 219 referendum letters were issued to parish residents and 162 returned; a response rate of 74%. In response to the specific question *'I do / do not wish to see the Village Gardens Open Day to be repeated'* 82 respondents (51%) voted against the event being repeated, 76 (47%) in favour, and 4 (2%) had no opinion. In 2001 only 18% of respondents agreed with the statement *'Public events attract undesirable people to the village and encourage crime'*.

Some of the specific differences between the two appraisals can be attributed to the way in which the questions were asked, and their context in the questionnaires. Others can be attributed to local events and awareness of national issues. For example a few very prominent new houses or conversions generate concern about change, but gradually mellow into accepted components of the village fabric. There is currently increasing national concern about affordable housing. In 2001, proposals to erect a telecommunications tower near the village united people in their opposition to the plans, and prompted a reappraisal of the importance of views across open countryside that were perhaps in danger of being taken for granted.

Parishioners are very wary of change, but the two appraisals document increased support for the development of a parish playing field or recreational open space. There has also been a shift of opinion in favour of providing some new housing in the parish for local people, with the emphasis on small family homes.

Finally, it is clear that the timeless and priceless values of peace and quiet, rural setting, and small friendly community remain the most important for parishioners today, and are those which it is most important to preserve for Carlton in the future.

Appendix 1.

Background and methodology

1. Background

The first Parish Appraisal was carried out by Carlton Parish Council in 1991, and was one of the first in Leicestershire. The PC decided that this exercise should be repeated in 2001, and an outline of the project and request for volunteers was published in Carlton News in September 2000. Four volunteers came forward and the Carlton Parish Appraisal Team (CPAT) was formally constituted. The CPAT met ten times between November 2000 and August 2001, and progress was regularly reported in Carlton News and the local press.

2. Methodology

The appraisal sought the views of every individual resident in the Parish of Carlton at the end of September 2001. The appraisal addressed local issues where there was potential for local people to influence policies or make changes. The original intention was to issue the same questionnaire to all parishioners to emphasise to young people that their views would be taken as seriously as those of adults. However, a test revealed that young people found many of the adult questions irrelevant or impossible to answer, so a different questionnaire was prepared. It was decided to issue everyone over the age of 16 with the adult questionnaire, on the basis that at this age young people could leave school and begin work. It would have been much easier to have selected 18 years as the cut-off age, because then the adult questionnaire could have been issued to everyone on the electoral roll.

Comments on the final working draft of the questionnaires were solicited from the statutory consultees: Carlton Parish Council, Leicestershire County Council, Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council, Leicestershire Rural Community Council, Leicestershire Constabulary, Hinckley & Bosworth Primary Care Group and the Diocese of Leicester. These drafts were also tested on the families of CPAT members.

Every adult over 16 years old received a 15-page questionnaire containing 80 questions, and every young person received a 6-page questionnaire containing 52 questions. Both questionnaires were printed in Comic Sans 14pt type. To maintain interest, the adult questionnaire was illustrated with 10 line drawings of village buildings, while each page of the young people's questionnaire was decorated or illustrated by a different young parishioner. Some of these illustrations appear in this report. Everyone also received a plain brown self-seal envelope to ensure that all replies were anonymous. Each member of the CPAT issued and collected questionnaires in an area away from their own home.

247 adult questionnaires were issued, and 210 collected: a response rate of 85%. 58 young people's questionnaires were issued and 47 returned, a response rate of 81%. In this report, percentages have not been calculated where respondents could have made multiple answers. All percentages have been calculated on the total number of questionnaires completed (210 and 47, respectively) and corrected to the nearest whole number. All responses are tabulated in Appendices 2 and 3. A total significantly less than 100% shows that a question was not answered by all respondents. In these Appendices the correction to whole numbers before summing means that a 100% response rate may not always yield a percentage total of exactly 100. It also means that the percentage total cited may be a different figure to the total number of respondents worked out as a percentage of the total number of questionnaires completed.

Most responses could be scored simply, and spot checks have been made on the scores for selected questions. All arithmetic has been checked by two CPAT members working independently. Some written responses were ambiguous, and there is an element of subjectivity in the way in which written responses were noted and grouped, but these factors would not make a significant difference to the main findings. The completed questionnaires will be stored for at least two years, and can be made available for further analysis.

One copy of this report will be delivered to every household in the Parish of Carlton, and sent to each of the statutory consultees listed above. Copies will also be deposited in Market Bosworth Library, Hinckley Library, Hinckley & Bosworth Council for Voluntary Services and the Leicestershire Records Office. Spare copies will be given to other organisations on request while stocks last.

At the time of writing it was planned to launch this report at The Gate Hangs Well, Barton Road, Carlton at 1800 hrs on Monday 17th June 2002, by kind permission of the licensee.

Appendix 2.
Young People Questionnaire - raw data

Appendix 3.
Adult questionnaire - raw data