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17 January 1998

BAMPTON VILLAGE APPRAISAL

I have pleasure in enclosing a copy of the recently published village appraisal. This report inevitably only highlights the main findings. For those of you who would like to analyse the results in more detail all the information is available on disc for purchase from ourselves.

The questionnaires were uniquely numbered and keyed and from the data entered the summary reports produced. Each record contains the questionnaire number which can be used to join the data in different sections. The data is available in two formats, ExcelTM spreadsheet format with a sheet for each questionnaire section and in CSV (Comma Separated Variable) with a file for each questionnaire section which can then be imported into most databases.

For reasons of confidentiality no comments are included in the data supplied. Whilst every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the data there can be no liability for, and not limited, to errors, omissions etc of the material supplied. The data will be supplied zipped up using pkZipTM on either floppy disks or via email. Copyright is held by Bampton Parish Appraisal Committee whose permission should be sought before publishing any information based on the data contained therein.

With such a high percentage of questionnaires returned there is a wealth of information which would be useful to local councils, the Police, Social Services and the utility services when looking to improve their services within the local community. We believe we are the first in Oxfordshire to make this information available. If you are interested in purchasing this information please reply to the address above enclosing a cheque for £50.

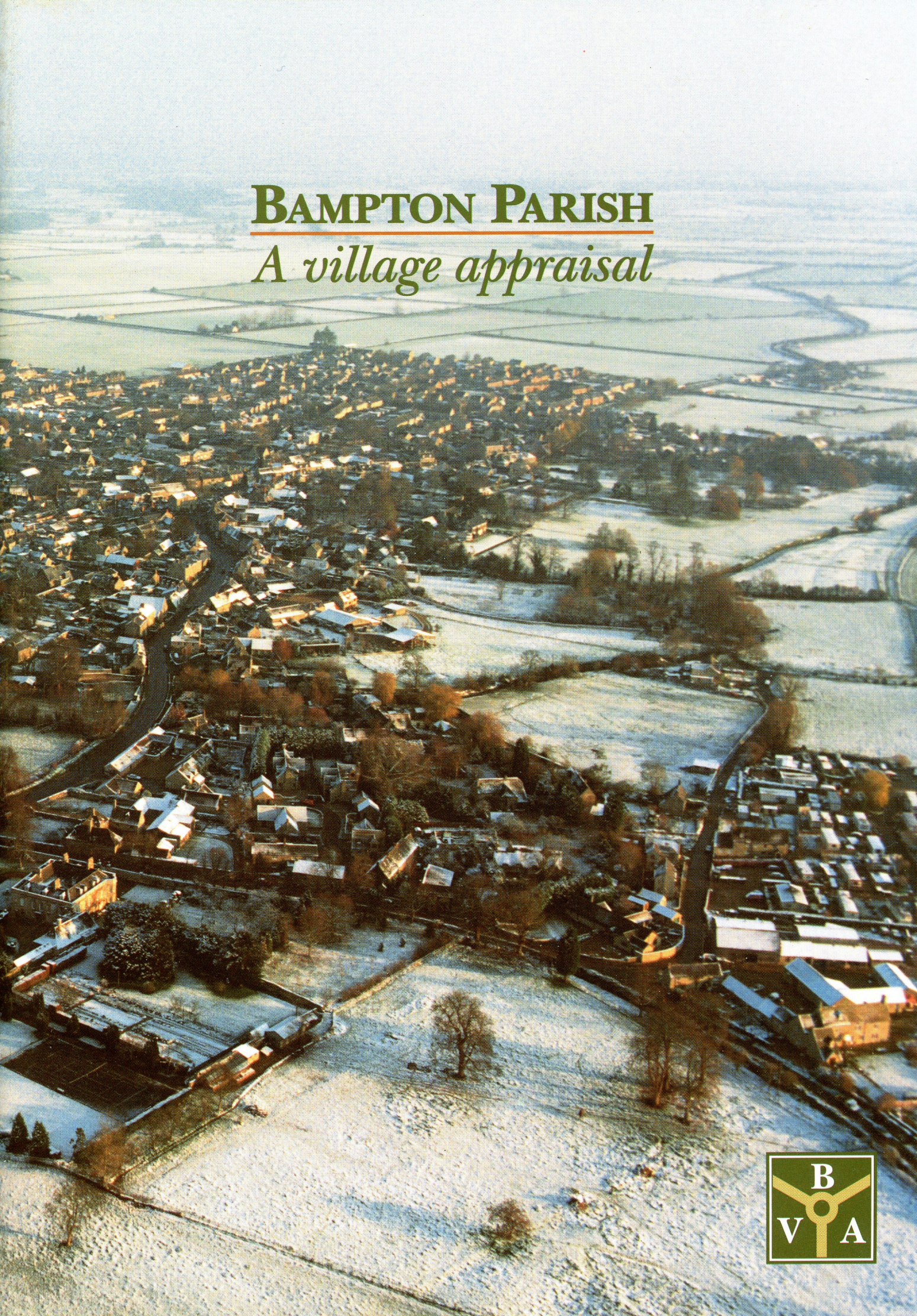
Yours faithfully

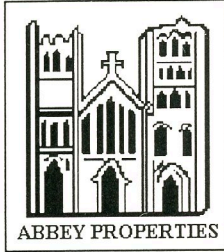


Brenda Sapsford
Deputy Clerk

BAMPTON PARISH

A village appraisal





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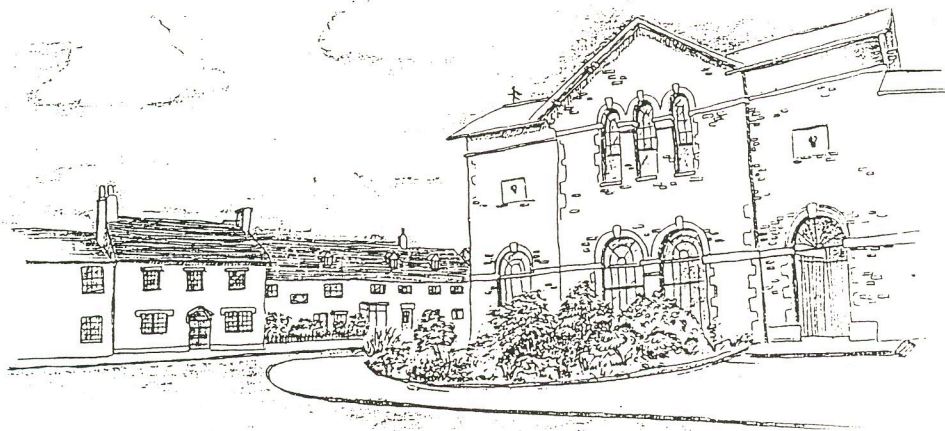
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BAMPTON PARISH
A village appraisal



Acknowledgements

The Steering Committee would like to thank everyone in the community who helped with the appraisal. In particular we acknowledge the generous financial help from the Oxfordshire Rural Community Council, the Society for the Protection of Bampton and the Parish Council. The generous and enthusiastic assistance given by many people in the distribution and collection of questionnaires, the kindness shown by Abbey Properties in providing us a collection point is acknowledged. We are also in debt to Gilbert Marsh and Jo Lewington for their delightful illustrations and to the Royal Air Force for the aerial photograph of Bampton Parish.

We are most grateful to all concerned. Without your help and support we could never have produced this document.

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Introduction

The 1996 edition of 'Images of Bampton' described how people have lived in our village over the past 100 years and how the village has grown. It tells us that over 100 new houses were built in the 1950s and that many more have been added since 1982. This has had the effect of doubling the population over the past 40 years to its present level of around 2300 residents of all ages.

These changes have not greatly affected the uniqueness of the village, but such a large population increase with all that it entails has had some impact on the quality of life and opened debate on what the future holds, where do we stand and what action should be taken to maintain Bampton's unique ambience. It was therefore decided to hold an appraisal of the Bampton Community. Public meetings were held under the auspices of the Parish Council to form a steering committee to set the project in motion. The steering committee held its first meeting in mid-1995 under the chairmanship of Henry Reed-Purvis. The members comprised Jim Taylor (chairman Bampton Parish Council), Eva Gooding, Liz Banham, Janet Newman, Vivien Handley, John Aylmer, Denis Lawlor, Peter Smith and Doug Faithfull.

This appraisal is simply a stocktaking, a survey of the Bampton Parish and village life. It sets out to document the community and to provide a basis of sound knowledge of the facts and figures of the village. It gives residents the opportunity to express personal opinions and offers evidence to the Parish Council with which to face possible planning pressures and achieve future services that the village may require. The information was obtained by way of four separate questionnaires.

1. A household and education questionnaire for each head of household (1040 completed questionnaires).
2. A youth questionnaire for those aged between 11 and 17 years (130 respondents).
3. A business questionnaire to each business in the Parish (48 completed questionnaires).
4. An individual questionnaire to every adult (1750 respondents).

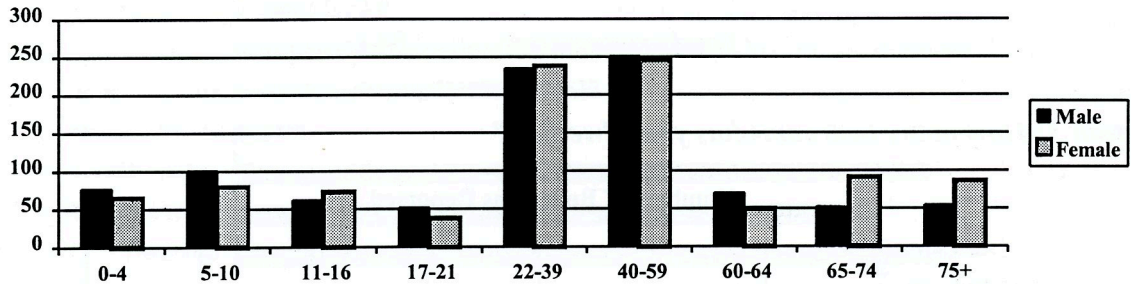
The questionnaires were designed to provide statistical data with the option for residents to add their personal comments to a wide range of subjects directly affecting life in the village. The response was extremely good with just over 78% adults responding, 92% youth, 77% heads of household and all businesses. The facts, figures and comments do therefore represent the views of a substantial proportion of the residents.

Household Data

People

The Steering Committee felt it was important to discover the age balance in the village to see if there were any unusual trends that might affect stability in the years ahead. We therefore asked each head of household to list every family member into one of the following age groups.

Breakdown of Population by Age Groups and Sex



From this evidence it would appear that Bampton has a healthy age balance with just over 16% of the population over 65 years and 24% under 16 years. There are sufficient children under 17 years old, we suggest, to justify the Parish paying high regard to providing adequate facilities for the young.

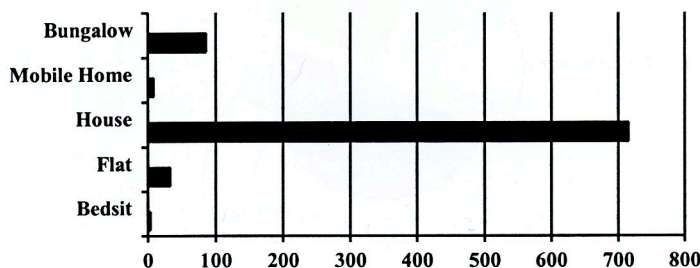
Housing

We felt it necessary to take stock of housing in the village and asked six questions covering the type, age and size of properties and the facilities enjoyed, linked to ownership and tenure. To begin with we needed to know how many homes there were in the village and this was puzzling. For example, three different figures emerged from various local documents ranging from 1000 to 1200 without any information on source or accuracy. The Chairman of the Parish Council provided a figure of 1041, extracted from current Council documents. This figure is taken to be reasonably accurate.

Against this figure of 1041 we received between 844 and 847 replies to the six questions posed to each head of household. This represents an 81% return which is considered representative of the village as a whole.

Question 1: How would you describe your dwelling?

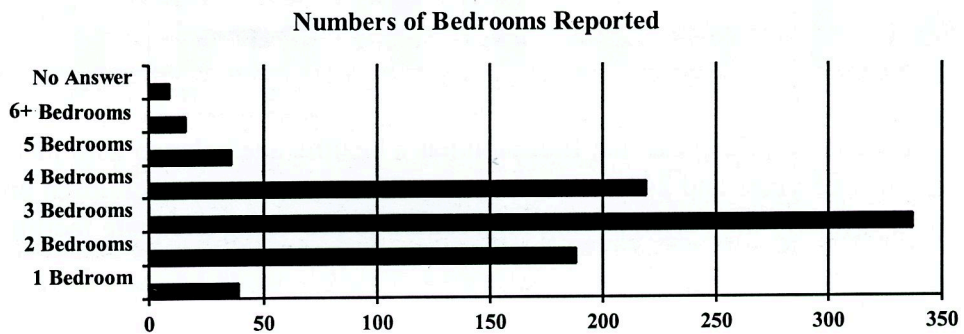
Different Types of Houses Reported



Question 2: What is the approximate age of your dwelling?

Fewer than 5 years	39
6-10 years	167
11-20 years	86
21-30 years	103
31-40 years	71
41 years +	316
no answer	62
Total	844

Question 3: How many bedrooms has your dwelling?

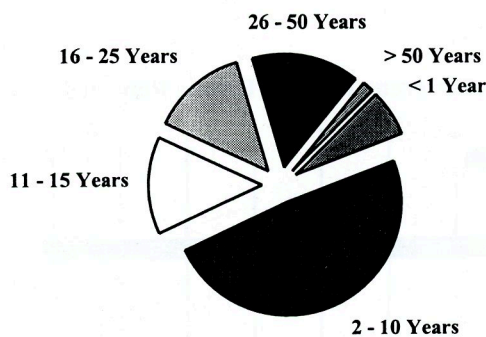


Question 4: Please comment on occupancy and ownership.

	Yes answers
Is this your only dwelling	763
Do you own the property	595
Do you rent privately	52
Do you rent a from council	86
Do you rent from a housing associations	18

Question 5: How long have you lived at your present address?

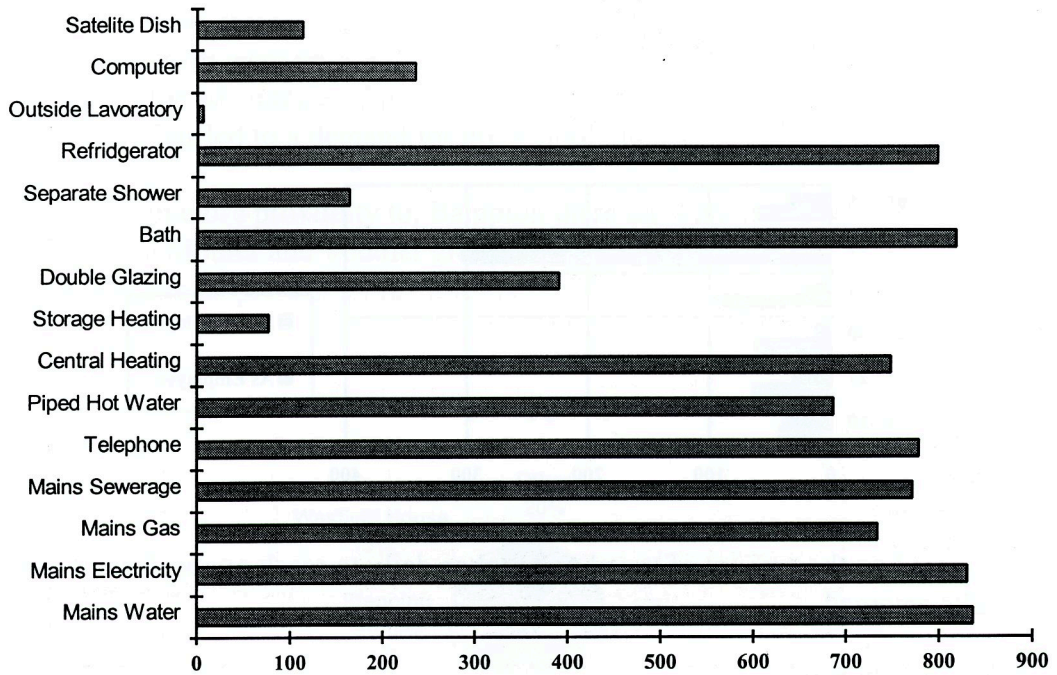
Number of Years Reported Living at Present Address



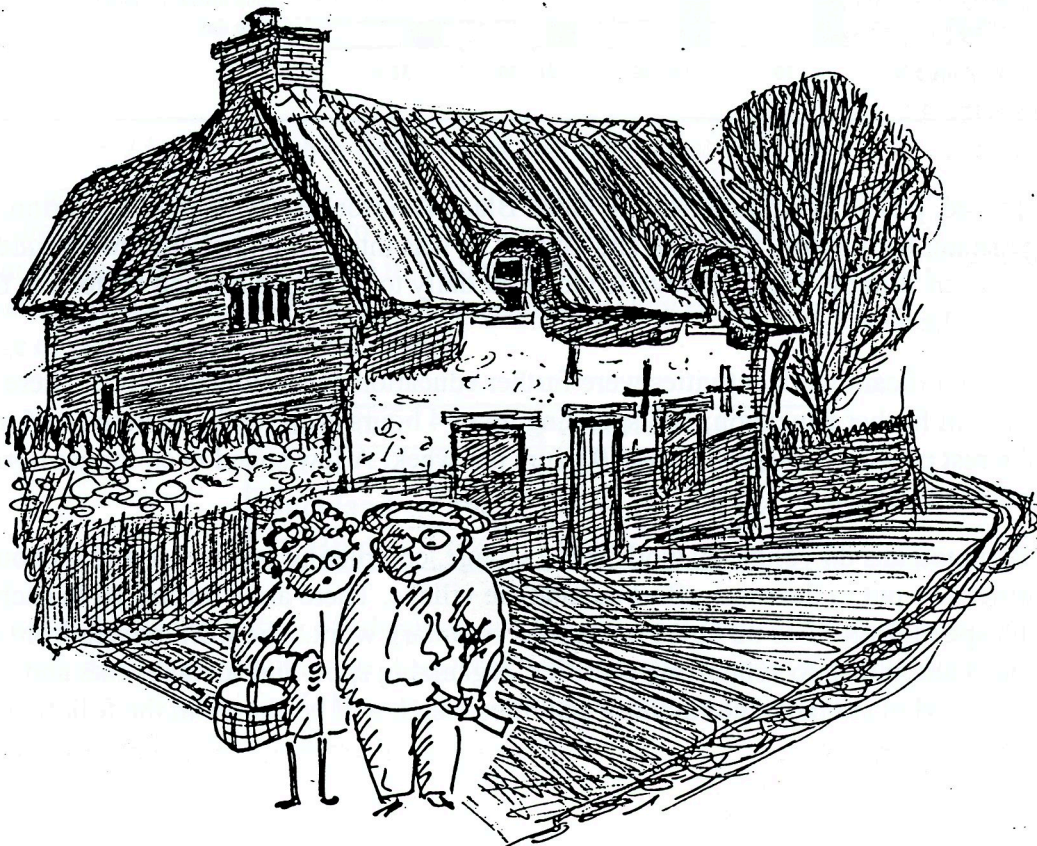
Please note that the figures for <1 year and 2–10 years represented a proportion of residents who have moved home within the village as well as new arrivals.

Question 6: What amenities exist in your dwelling?

Quantities of Amenities Declared



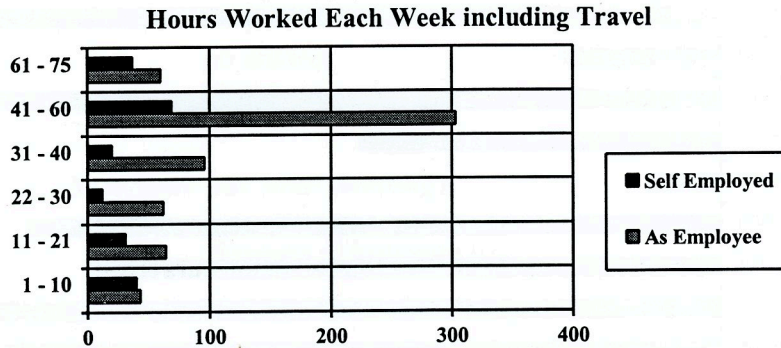
We suggest the above results speak for themselves and provide a statistical base which may be of considerable benefit to the Parish Council in forward planning.



How is time spent?

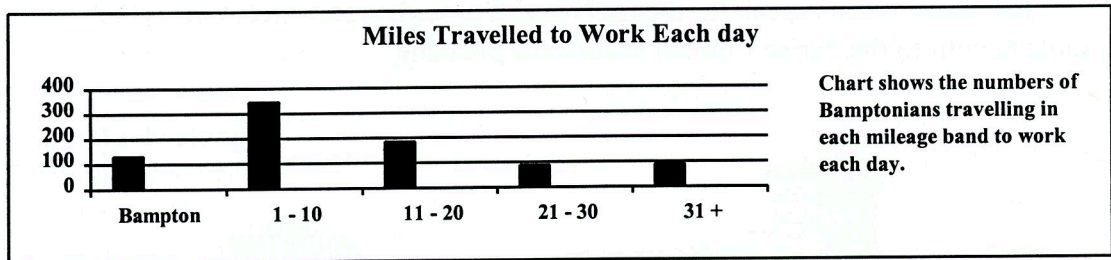
We found from the evidence presented that there are 362 retired residents, 94 unemployed, 53 registered disabled and 49 long term sick. The work pattern for the remainder is shown below:

Work hours each week, travel included



Interest also focused on the amount of travel undertaken daily to reach one's place of work. The following results emerged.

Miles travelled daily to work



As to be expected, places of employment included Black Bourton, Brize Norton, Carterton, Burford, Eynsham, Kidlington, Swindon and Oxford. It was interesting that only two residents claimed to work in Witney, and 176 travelled to work daily to locations beyond Oxford to the east and Swindon to the west.

The other two significant work activities were further education and voluntary work. There are 195 adults involved in further education; 108 spending up to 4 hours each week, 42 between 5 and 10 hours and the rest periods between 11 and 30 hours per week. A few spend even longer hours a week on further education.

Some 175 Bamptonians do voluntary work in the village, completing between 1 and 10 hours a week. A further 111 put in the same effort outside the village. There are a further 16 in each category who spend from 11 to 30 hours on similar voluntary work. The work ranges from giving help to the aged and infirm to supporting charities, organizing sport and social events and involvement in a whole range of community activities which will be shown in the following sections.

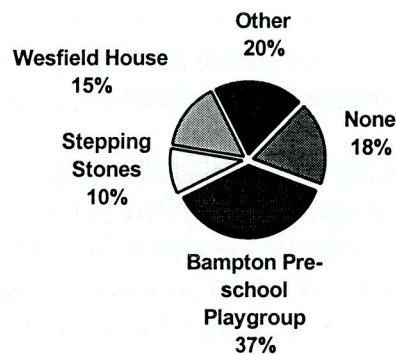
Education

Pre-School Care

The last three decades of the 20th century have heralded great changes in pre-school and after-school child care. Before this time pre-school children were mainly catered for at home by mothers or family members; there were no pre-school facilities in Bampton apart from a small private nursery. A belief in the advantages of pre-school education outside the home and the need or desire for mothers to work has led to a demand for pre-school, nursery, childminding and after school care facilities.

Within, and in close proximity to, Bampton there are a number of pre-school facilities available including a Mother and Toddler group for infants from birth to 3 years. The breakdown of children attending local pre-school facilities is as follows:

Children Attending Playgroups and Nurseries



Evidence from the survey indicated that a number of parents are strongly in favour of state-funded nursery education.

Education for 5–11 year olds. Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2

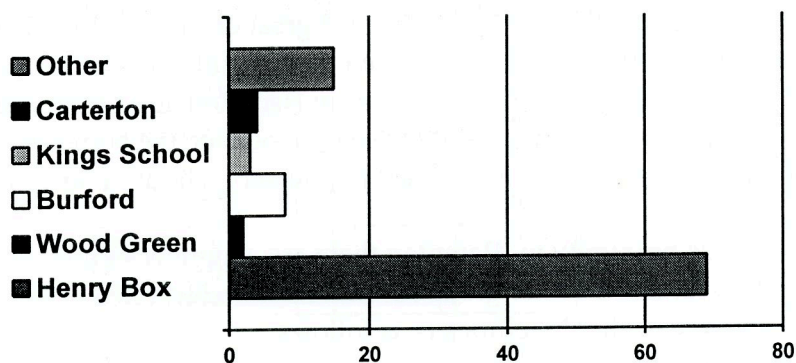
Greater mobility coupled with the legal right of parents to choose the school to which they send their children has undoubtedly led to a declaration of satisfaction in the survey on the quality of education (ranging from 90 to 100%) in both primary and secondary schools. Comments indicated that dissatisfaction seemed to find its roots in national policy rather than locally controlled factors. The range of choice is reflected in the table.

Bampton	59%	Clanfield	7%
Aston	1%	Carterton	3%
Buckland	4%	Witney	6%
St. Hughes	6%	Other	14%

Comments on the underfunding of education and the resultant large classes and reduction in special needs support were numerous. Concerns were expressed about the suitability and wisdom of a ten subject curriculum for 5–11 year olds. A high degree of support was indicated for all the primary schools named in the survey.

Secondary School Education. Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4

Choice of secondary school is reflected in the following chart



All the secondary schools in the area work closely with the local primary schools to make cross phase transition as smooth and as seamless as possible. However, evidence from the survey suggests that whereas communication between school and home at the primary school stage is good or acceptable, communication at the secondary school stage could be improved.

Strong feelings were expressed concerning school transport. Safety and reliability of school buses worried a number of parents. Children attending Henry Box School are provided with free transport to the age of 16 as this is the catchment area for Bampton Primary School. Some respondents expressed the view that choice of school is available at a cost. For any other school the cost of transport has to be borne by the parents, as does the cost of transport for pupils in further education after the age of 16. Some felt this cost to be burdensome. Over-crowding on some school buses was an issue for some parents.

Further and Higher Education for 16–21 year olds and Mature Students.

Ten per cent of those surveyed over the age of sixteen are engaged in further or higher education. The following table demonstrates the enrollment in educational establishments both within and beyond Oxfordshire.

Location	% Attending	Location	% Attending
Witney College	28	Oxford University	3
Burford	6	Oxford Brookes	10
Carterton	4	Open University	12
OXPENS	5	Other	30
Abingdon	2		

Housing and Development

The returns showed a breakdown of 618 male and 739 female adults of which only 18% have lived in the Parish since birth. The breakdown of length of residence in the village is shown below.

Adult Residence	Numbers
Within last 4 Years	297
5-10 years	352
11-20 years	263
21-31 years	166
31-40 years	101
41-60 years	112
61-70 years	41
Over 70 years	25

These figures confirm the enormous population expansion over the last 20 years as the number of houses almost doubled to the present level of something near 1050.

Some 160 adults share accommodation with relatives and 68 share with others. The replies show that 87 people intend to move for reasons of employment, 52 because of overcrowding and 257 would like to buy their home in the price range of £40,000 to £120,000. When asked to state future intentions over 79% said they intend to live in Bampton permanently which implies a high level of stability.

We sought opinion on how people would like to see the village develop, and to our surprise less than two-thirds offered an opinion on this topic; and of those who replied 10% offered no comment. Among the positive replies over 80% wish to see Bampton retain its character and size while improving its appearance. A small majority would like to see it grow into a market town with more facilities, 37% opted for improvements to attract tourists, and 65% wanted better employment opportunities in the village for residents. Yet, and somewhat contradictory, the overwhelming majority did not want to see the village become touristy like Burford, develop like Carterton, nor expand its dormitory tendency.

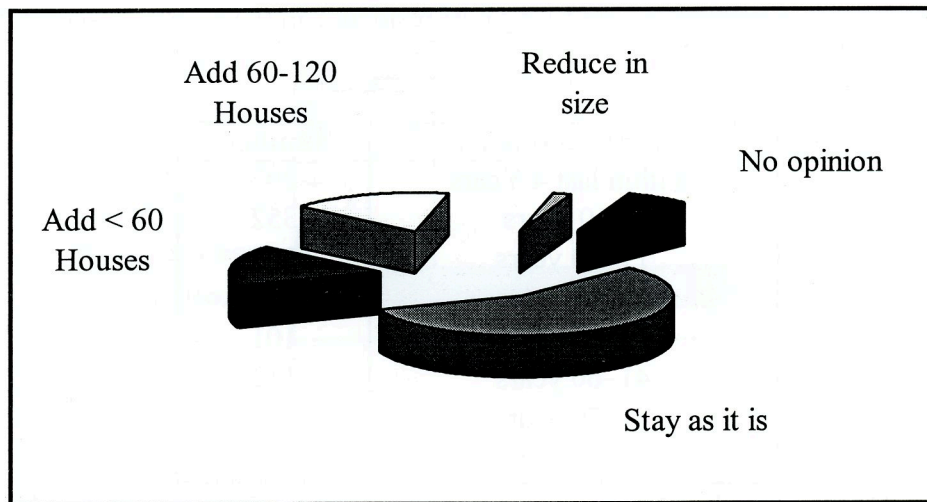
NICK READ

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We also asked people how they would wish to see the village change in size over the next decade with the following results.



Those who opted for more houses to be built placed them largely in two categories:

- Sheltered housing for the aged or infirm, with or without a warden service.
- Housing association low cost homes for first time buyers (80 people said they require low cost housing).

Finally, opinion was equally divided on the role of planning authorities and the way in which they exercise control of new housing developments in the village. Almost every villager applauds the two societies who play an important part keeping a watchful eye on expansion and development and their efforts in the general protection of Bampton Parish.



Utilities and Public Services

Utilities

Our look at utilities was deliberately brief and we simply asked people to comment on the quality of the service received from the electricity, telephone, gas, and water companies. The results are as follows:

Utility	Quality of service	
	Good to adequate	Poor
Electricity	96%	1.50%
Telephone	93%	2.50%
Gas	86%	2%
Water	85%	12%

In general the service provided by the utility companies was judged to be most satisfactory. However, there were 152 criticisms on water service concerning lack of pressure, taste and speed of response to emergencies. Also, 27% of responses asked for more public telephone boxes in the village.

Public Services

The same question was posed to people about public services and the responses again were highly satisfactory with the fire, ambulance, refuse collection, library and postal services being judged good to adequate by over 98% of respondents. The two public services well below this highly satisfactory level were street cleaning and policing. Some 22% of adults judged street cleaning qualities to be poor and their comments suggest that this is linked to dog fouling in the streets.

The responses on the quality of service provided by the Thames Valley Police Force was dissimilar from the other results in that 29% graded the service good, 32% adequate, 25% poor while 14% declined to offer any opinion. The police are of course judged by the level of crime, the speed of response to calls for help, their ability to solve petty crime and whether or not they provide an alert, regular police presence. We therefore attempted to establish the village view on these points, recognizing that residents not having had any contact with the police, or with crime of any form were unlikely to have a view. The first question therefore was

“Have you suffered from any of the following in Bampton over the prescribed periods?”

	No	Yes, in last 2 years	Yes, in last 3–5 years	Yes, more than 6 years ago	Police informed
Vandalism	928	258	56	36	133
Theft from cars	1107	117	34	20	79
Car theft	1098	40	22	25	45
Burglary	1106	85	47	37	104
Personal violence	1159	16	14	9	17
Totals		516	173	127	

The increase in vandalism during the past two years is most significant with over 20% of adults being affected. The results show that, over the same period, 117 residents had their cars broken into while parked in the village. The most important conclusion drawn from the table is that in the first four categories the trend is sharply upwards. Indeed, there is a shared opinion that many of the crimes go undetected. As a result 43% of residents consider the level of policing in Bampton poor, 37% say it is barely adequate, with less than 5% assessing it good. 15% offered no opinion, and as suggested earlier we suspect that this group may not have had contact with the police or crime. Less than 5% of homes are currently in a neighbourhood watch scheme but 51% said they would be prepared to join such a scheme if it was organized on their behalf.

The Steering Committee strongly recommend that the Parish Council look into the question of crime and policing with the appropriate authorities in a positive attempt to halt the worsening upward trend in vandalism and crime.

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