

Sproughton Parish Plan

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Executive Summary

The village of Sproughton situated to the West of Ipswich and the parish boundary joins the Ipswich boundary at several points. The village consists of approximately 580 houses although in the Hadleigh road area there is continued development in small numbers. The nearest village with shopping facilities is Bramford with a Co-Op Store, which contains the Post office. There is also a pharmacist and a paper shop in Bramford. To the North of the village are Burstall and the small market town of Hadleigh.

The village was effectively split by the building of the A14 in 1985, Church Lane that used to connect to the eastern boundary of Hadleigh road and London Road was closed to vehicular traffic and is now joined by a very dark and forbidding underpass.

This has had the effect of isolating that part of the community from the main village; residents from that area feel more a part of Ipswich than the village of Sproughton which is a great pity.

Sproughton High Street is the B1113 and at times is very heavy with through traffic, as is Lower Street which links to and from the A14. This is very evident if there is an accident on the A14, the village is then used as a major diversion which causes stress to those living on the High Street Lower Street area.

The old medieval core of the village bounded by the Church, Sproughton Mill and the Tithe Barn remains relatively intact.

With this in mind the plan was analysed by area. Area 1 Hadleigh and London Road, Area 2 High Street and Lower Street and Area 3 Church Lane and roads off. Each area had its own points of view.

There are approximately 570 households in the parish some 263 households responded to the questionnaire. The population is around 1100 and the number of responses was 572.

There are a total of 94 young people under 18, 43 male and 51 Female.

The adult population is 232 Male and 256 Female.

The highest number of responses came from the 45-59-age group followed by the 25-44 age group.

Traffic is a Major issue.

Sproughton High Street is the B1113 and at times is overloaded with through traffic, as is Lower Street which links to and from the A14. This is very evident if there is an accident on the A14, the village is then used as a major diversion which causes stress to those living on the High Street Lower Street area. Vehicles' exceeding the speed limit is another issue in both areas. Church Lane also gets overloaded especially at school opening times. There was wide support for speed control measures.

Generally street lighting was felt to be about right.

The responses told us that 54% of the respondents felt that the number of houses built during the last 10 years was about right, also some 15% felt there was too much 18% felt those houses built

were too expensive. It was also felt that there could be more social housing to enable those with families in the village to remain in the village and not be forced to move out. The Parish Council could investigate the possibility of involving a Housing Association if suitable land was to be found.

The majority of residents wanted the village to stay, as it is a quiet residential village, some 87% of residents work outside the village most within a radius of 30 miles but some travel more widely on business.

Generally the village is considered crime free and there are not many areas where residents feel unsafe. The Underpass at the end of Church Lane came out the worst, this is somewhat forbidding at the best of times with graffiti and other items found there.

Residents felt that the quality of life for young people could be enhanced by more organised activities, possibly using the school or Tithe barn clubs such as Table tennis, a youth club, volleyball and Yoga were mentioned.

For the over 25's interests such as Gardening, U3A, Arts and crafts, Computer Internet club and a Film/Cinema club. The major problem with this is who will run the clubs, whilst a number of residents would be interested very few would be prepared to help organize and run the clubs. Another challenge.

The idea of a community shop was well received with some 25% saying they would use it weekly and 7% saying they would use it daily. Some 40% said they would use it occasionally with only 8% saying they would not use it at all. The response to the question on would you be prepared to help in the shop was well received with enough positive responses and offers of help in counter work and also home delivery to enable a rota of helpers to be worked out. If funds could be made available this would be a great contribution to village life.

Overall, a high proportion of residents regard the countryside/landscape/wildlife as important assets and a positive reason to live in the Parish. This was principally for the wildlife, tranquility and countryside the area has to offer.

Litter and high traffic volume were regarded as particularly negative factors of the overall area of Sproughton, although interestingly natural features such as nettles and mud were the most referenced access restrictions on footpaths.

Over 60% of residents thought that the Parish Council publicized its activities well and were aware of local concerns and feelings. Surprisingly only around 20% of residents had ever attended the Annual Parish Meeting. This figure should be improved. Also only 30% felt they would be prepared to pay through Council tax for any improvements.

The results obtained from the plan were used to develop an action Plan for the parish. This will help the parish Council and other organizations to develop and justify future projects, which are important to the community.

The Parish Plan, which is after all a snapshot in time, will provide informative for history and a guide to the long term planning of the village.

SPROUGHTON PARISH PLAN

Introduction

A public meeting was organised by the Parish Council in 2004. The Parish Plan Steering Group was formed at that time to produce a Parish Plan and the Parish Council and Suffolk County Council provided funding. The Steering Group compiled this questionnaire after consultation with the parish at an open day and informal meetings with residents. Also after many hours of meetings discussing the composition and final number of questions, and from comments cleaned by attending courses on organizing the plan the optimum number of questions that should be asked were around 80 with to many more it made a forbidding document.

This was quite a challenge; we feel we have got the balance right

A software programme was purchased which would help analyse the results. The final questionnaire was printed.

Volunteers delivered it to every household in the parish of Sproughton.

The Questionnaires were collected and analysed, this published report will be made available to all parishioners and a public meeting held to discuss the results.

An action plan will be drawn up from the results, which can be used to influence discussions, and planning, which affect our community

This has been hard work and a labour of love for the community by all who took part in the preparation, delivery and compilation of this report.

Members

Mike Everett

Jennifer Everett

Elizabeth Fenwick

Peter Lee

Neil Fuller

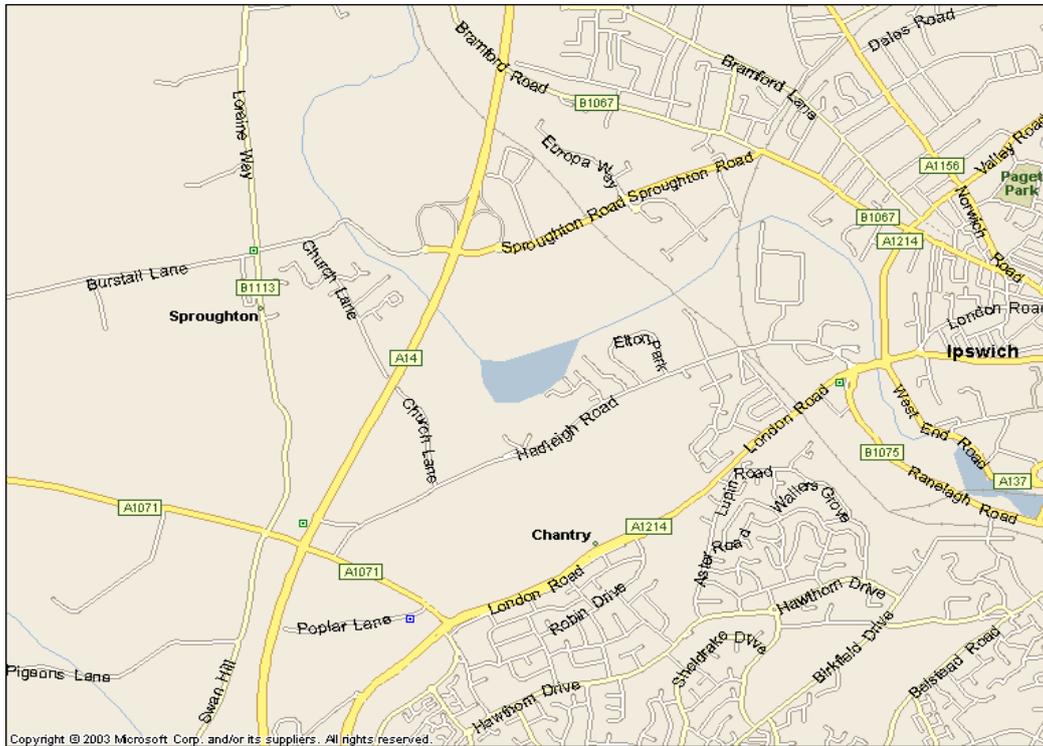
Colin Davis

With advice and support from

Simon Curl, Chairman Sproughton Parish Council

Ros Lavington, Vice Chairman Sproughton Parish Council

Plus a dedicated number of volunteers who helped to deliver and collect the completed plans.



Sproughton Village

The village of Sproughton situated to the West of Ipswich and the parish boundary joins the Ipswich boundary at several points. The village consists of approximately 580 houses although in the Hadleigh road area there is continued development in small numbers. The nearest village with shopping facilities is Bramford with a Co-Op store, which contains the Post office. There is also a pharmacist and a paper shop in Bramford. To the North of the village is Burstall and the small market town of Hadleigh.

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This has had the effect of isolating that part of the community from the main village; in discussing the Parish Plan with residents from that area they feel more a part of Ipswich than the village of Sproughton which is a great pity.

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Village Profile

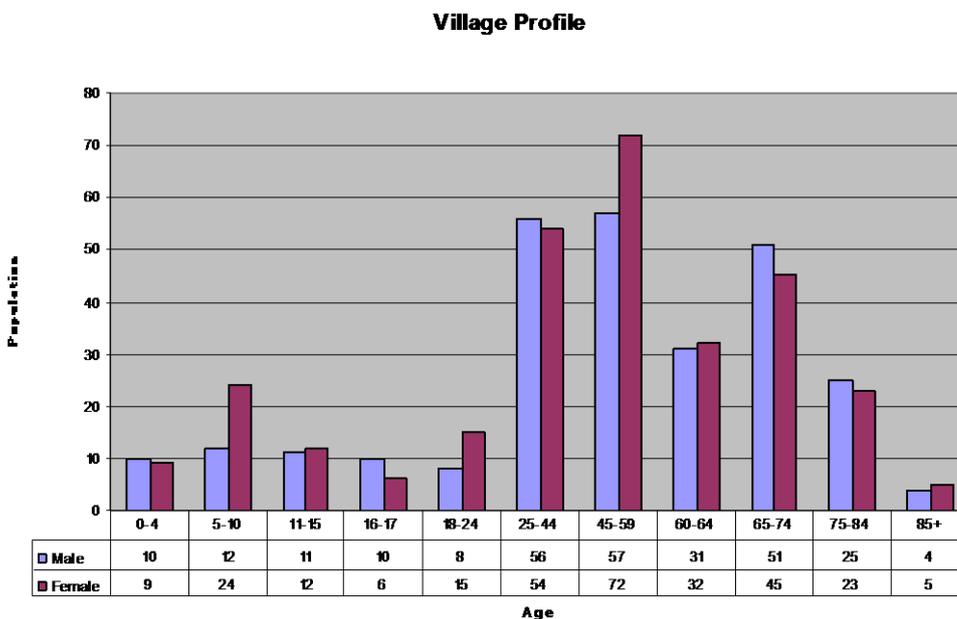
The overall response to the questions was very positive some 60% of residents replied, there were some gaps many in the Hadleigh Road London Road area did not seem to be interested and on collection of questionnaires and discussion a number felt they were more aligned with Ipswich and not part of the village which is a great pity. One person commented that this was the first time they had been approached by anyone from the village. This is something we need to address. The returns from parts of High Street mainly from the rented properties were lower than average.

Residential Profile

There are approximately 570 households in the parish some 263 households responded to the questionnaire. The population is around 1100 and the number of responses was 572.

There are a total of 94 young people under 18, 43 male and 51 Female.
The adult population is 232 Male and 256 Female.

The highest number of responses came from the 45-59-age group followed by the 25-44 age group as can be seen from the Chart



The Chart shows that there is a trend towards an older population with nearly 50% of the residents in the 25-59 year old group.

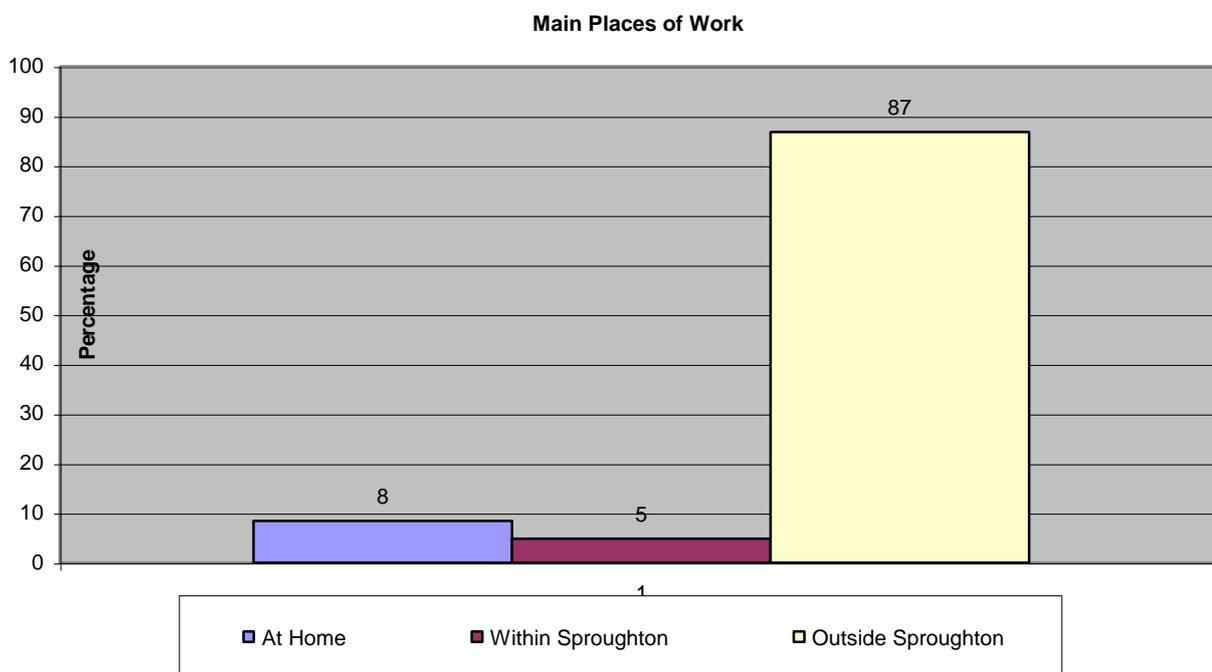
Some 22% have lived in the village for 6-15 years, 21% for 16-25 years and 23% for 25-50 years. Some 5% have lived in the village for their whole life.

Why did you choose Sproughton?

The reasons residents gave for choosing to live in Sproughton are interesting. Some 12% have family connections, 30% chose it because it was an attractive area, and 15% came because of employment in the area and 6% for retirement.

Some also came with their families and some for other reasons

Employment Main place of Work



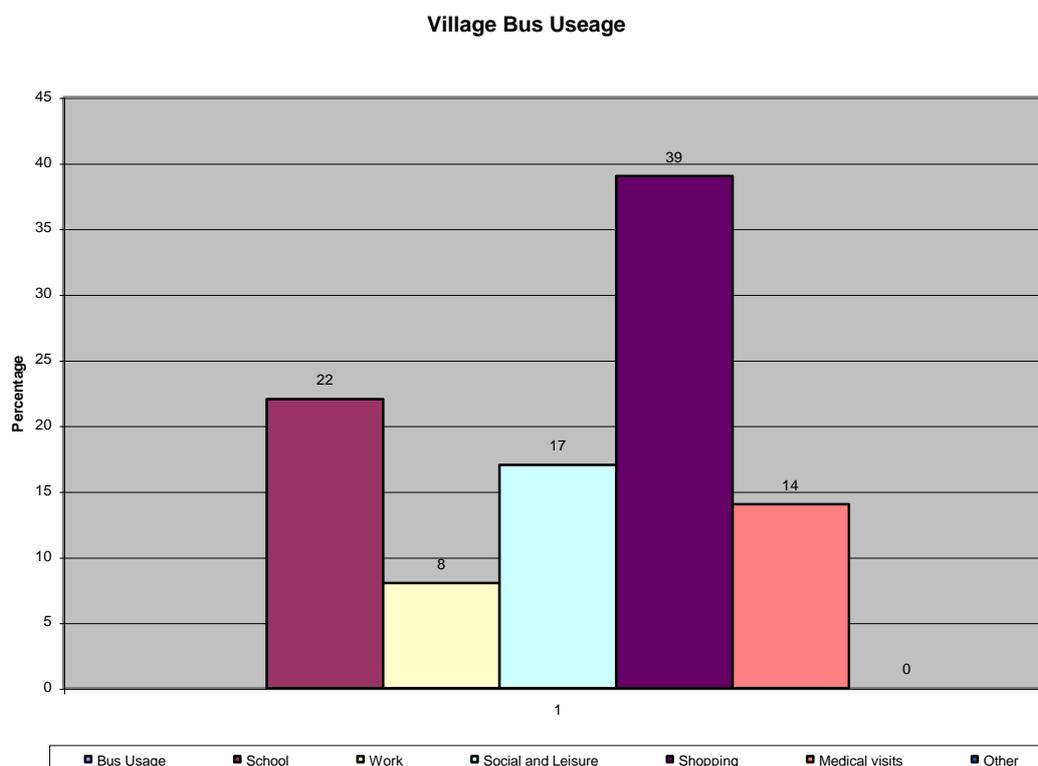
The majority of residents work out of the village some 87% with only 6% working within the village.

This confirms what we already know; the village is a dormitory for Ipswich and surrounding areas. The Majority work in Ipswich and others in a 30-mile radius. Some travel nation wide with their employment.

Transport and road Safety

Bus Transport

Most people responded to this question. The majority of replies indicated that better frequency and more routes would encourage more use of the bus service together with better information on timetables. Free or cheaper buses and increasing car costs would also affect use.



The highest percentage of bus use was for shopping mainly in Ipswich some 39% of responses indicated this. The next highest was for the school trip 22%, 17% for social and Leisure and 14% for Medical visits.

Surprisingly only 8% used the bus to get to work.

It would seem that those working in the town centre were happy to use the bus but for other destinations it was inconvenient. A number commented on the lack of an early morning bus connecting with the railway station also for the evening return home.

Most respondents stated they use their cars for convenience with their home to work journeys.

A number of Hardy souls travel to work by bicycle thereby saving money and keeping fit. This can be hazardous in some parts of the journey to town. There is a need for improvement in the cycle network to link Sproughton with the town cycle network.

Road Traffic



The photograph above shows a typical rush hour scene in High Street this bears the brunt of the problems this scene is also typical of Lower Street at peak times with cars and some lorries coming from both directions. The timing of this is usually from 7:30am to 9:30am and again in the afternoon from 4:30pm to 6:00pm. During the day this area is reasonable. Lower Street is bad with some drivers being very inconsiderate and refusing to give way to oncoming traffic.

Some vehicles use High Street and Lower Street as a short cut to and from the A12/14 To avoid the Copdock interchange others going to Bramford and Claydon. Some going to and from work in Ipswich and the industrial estates off Sproughton.

During the School term time the traffic is heavy in the High Street/Lower Street area and going into Church Lane at School pick up and drop off times. This is from 8:30am to 9:15am and again in the afternoon from 3:00pm to 4:00pm. This causes frustration to residents in the Broomfield Common /Gipping way area and to a lesser extent Church Lane residents. The bulk of comments relating to the school run were speeding down church lane, parking at junctions near to the school causing residents problems getting out of their roads.

In the Hadleigh Road London Road area the problems are similar. Many motorists are reported to be ignoring the speed limit of 30mph in this area especially from the Chantry Gates to Larchwood Close. The installation of a slow down at brow of hill sign, also the installation of larger 30mph signs could help here.

Heavy goods driver training along Hadleigh Road also causes nuisance and traffic delays along this stretch of Road.

Speeding is also reported along Poplar Lane.

Major danger spots

Plenty of response to this one with no surprises! Overall the general concerns were speeding, rat running, cars parking and driving on pavements and lack of safe parking. Main danger spots were identified as

- High Street (52% of respondents)
- Junction at Wild Man PH (30%)
- Junction of Church Lane and Lower Street (20%)
- Speeding on Lower Street (15%)
- Speeding along Hadleigh Road from Chantry Gate to Larchwood Close. (15%)
- Lane discipline on the London Road Bus Lane.

10% of people would like a footpath to the Beagle Pub

Other areas of concern are:

- Junction of Burstall Lane and Ransome Close
- Corner by Tennis Court House
- London road bus lane

Ideas for solutions included:

A bypass, A1071/A14 link road, speed cameras, traffic lights, parking provision, calming measures, preventing cars from mounting pavements, no access to wide vehicles, pedestrian crossings (especially on school routes), making High Street one lane, stop parking on pavements, mirrors opposite difficult junctions, speed humps, more visible speed restriction signs, lower speed limit, extra street lighting, access only signs.

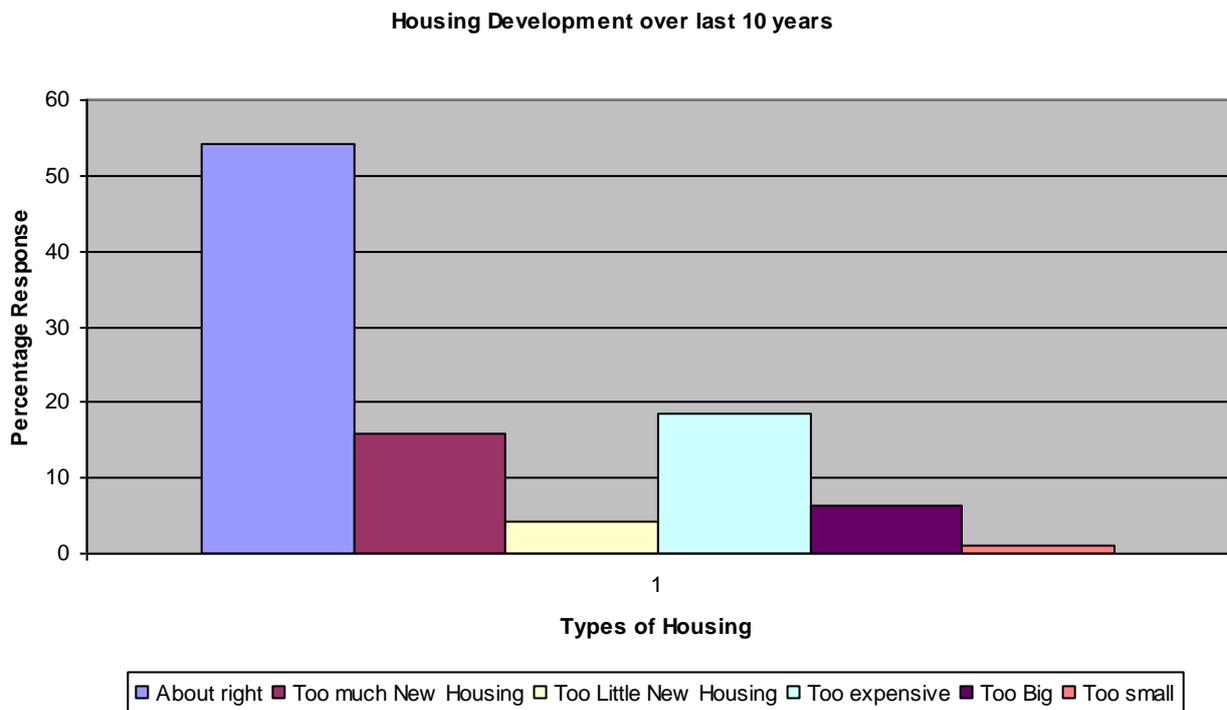
One highly original solution was to have a set of TOLL GATES at each entrance to High Street and across Lower Street near the church

Housing and Planning

Overwhelmingly 68% of those responding to the questionnaire thought that the level of housing in the parish was about right. Some 6% thought that there was too little new housing.

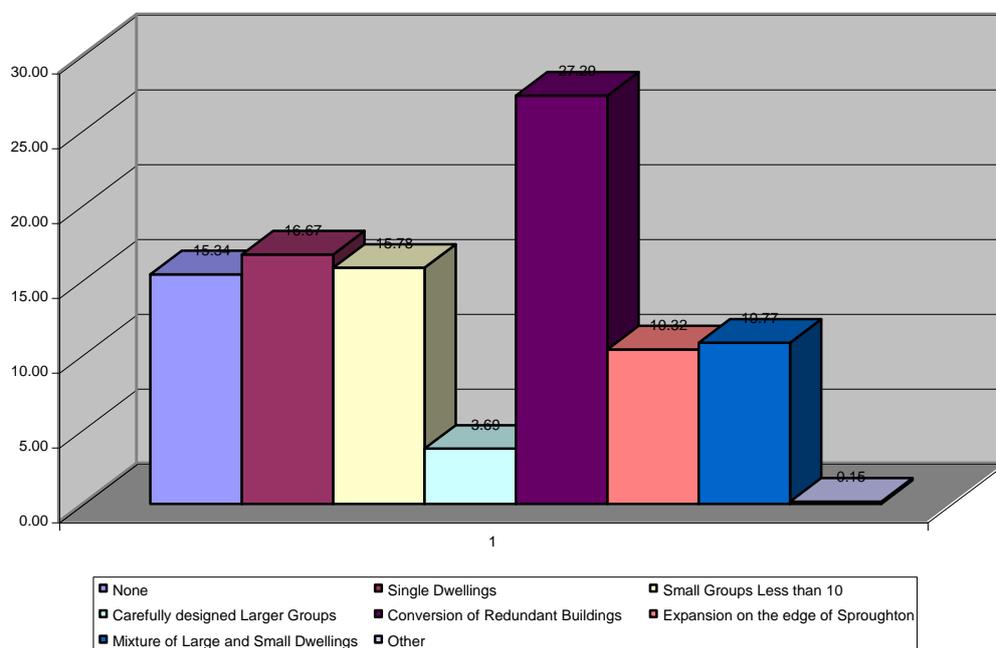
Housing

The responses told us that 54% of the respondents felt that the number of houses built during the last 10 years was about right, also some 15% felt there was too much 18% felt those houses built were too expensive. It was also felt that there could be more social housing to enable those with families in the village to remain in the village and not be forced to move out. The Parish Council could investigate the possibility of involving a Housing Association if suitable land was to be found



The chart above shows opinions on the homes built over the last ten years.

What types of development should take place in Sproughton



Comments on the future of new housing in the village varied from none 15% to 27 % recommending the conversion of redundant buildings. Some 10% wanted expansion on the edge of the village thereby preserving the village centre.

The survey tells us that the Housing is preferred in small groups of under 10 this represents 55% of opinion.

Low cost housing was highlighted by 43% of those who responded This could be beneficial to the village in enabling young people who wish to remain in the village to do so.

Planning

Residents also felt that there was not enough publicity given to planning applications affecting the village 44% felt the information was adequate but 52% felt the Parish Council should publicise applications more. The applications and the Planning meetings are advertised locally but attended by very few parishioners, unless they have an interest in the application.

A diversity of opinion but the feeling is that the parishioners do not want the village swamped with new housing to give infrastructure problems especially on the roads.

Local Services

Healthcare

Generally the opinions were good however a number of people some 27% had difficulty getting to Hospital, 25% to their Doctor and 20% to the Chemist. For families with their own transport this was no problem, but for others it presented a problem although most I suspect overcame this with the help of family and friends.

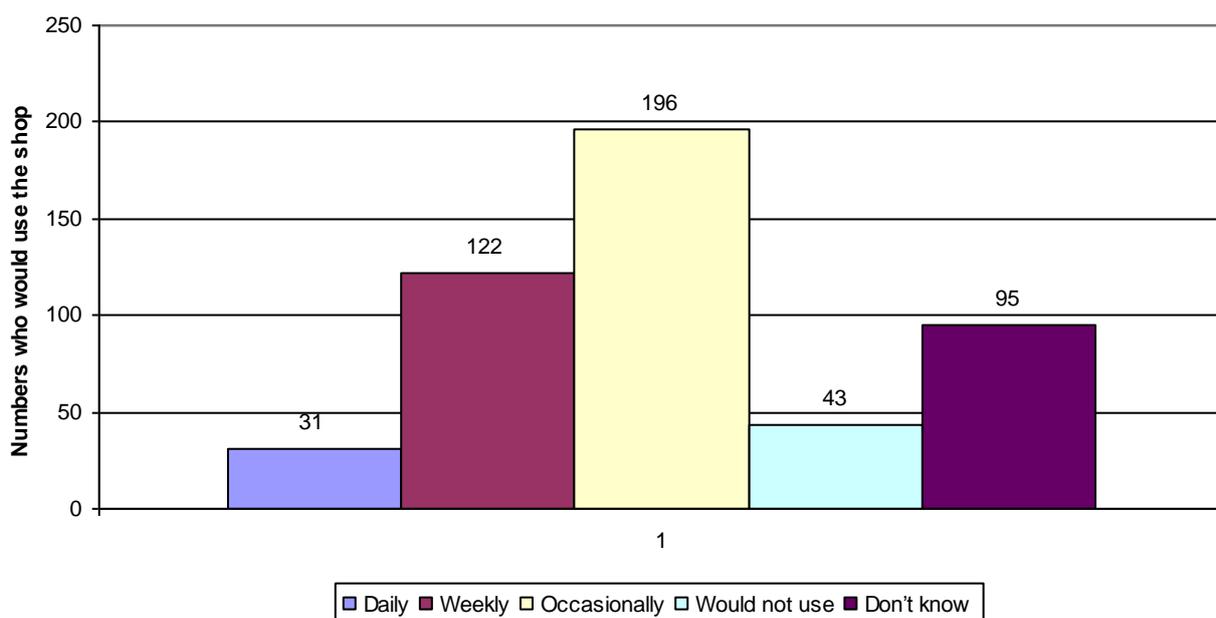
There was strong support for a village medical facility some 40% would like to see a mobile surgery. Mobile Screening facilities were suggested by 35% also Well man /well woman clinics were suggested by 44%.

Clearly this is an area to explore.

Shopping

The village has no Post Office or shopping facilities although we are very close to 4 main supermarkets. This is alright if you have your own transport or do not run out of some simple items that need urgent replacement. The nearest Post office and grocery shopping is in Bramford; this is used on a regular basis by many from the village as is Morrisons both within a mile walk. The nearest newsagent is also in Bramford.

If a community Shop were opened in Sproughton how often would you use it



This Graphic shows the response to the question regarding the community shop some 349 people of just over 70% of those responding would use the shop at some time in the month.

However if such a shop were to open the figures prove it would fill a need for shopping in the village. These survey figures could then be beaten.

There was also a good response to offers of help to staff the shop with jobs such as filling shelves, counter work, accounts, and also home delivery. Home delivery would be of great benefit to the elderly and would be much appreciated.

The Community Shop could possibly help with the collection of prescriptions.

Education

The responses were very positive and indicated that Sproughton Primary School and the Jigsaw Playgroup were a great asset to the village 90% of the responses indicated this.

The other point that parishioners were keen about was to make use of the school out of hours for various clubs as needed.

Emergency Services

The survey told us that residents viewed all services as excellent, although a greater visible police presence would be appreciated.

Community Safety

In general most people feel safe in the village. The item for the greatest comment is traffic related and concerns walking on the narrow pavements with cars coming very close, too close for comfort. The pavements also came under fire as needing attention. The surface and the width are not adequate for mothers with prams or pushchairs along the high street especially during peak traffic times.

Some parishioners feel unsafe after dark especially in the Church Lane area near the underpass, which is somewhat dark and forbidding even during daylight hours.

Other worries are

Theft 27%

Vandalism 40%

Speeding 71%

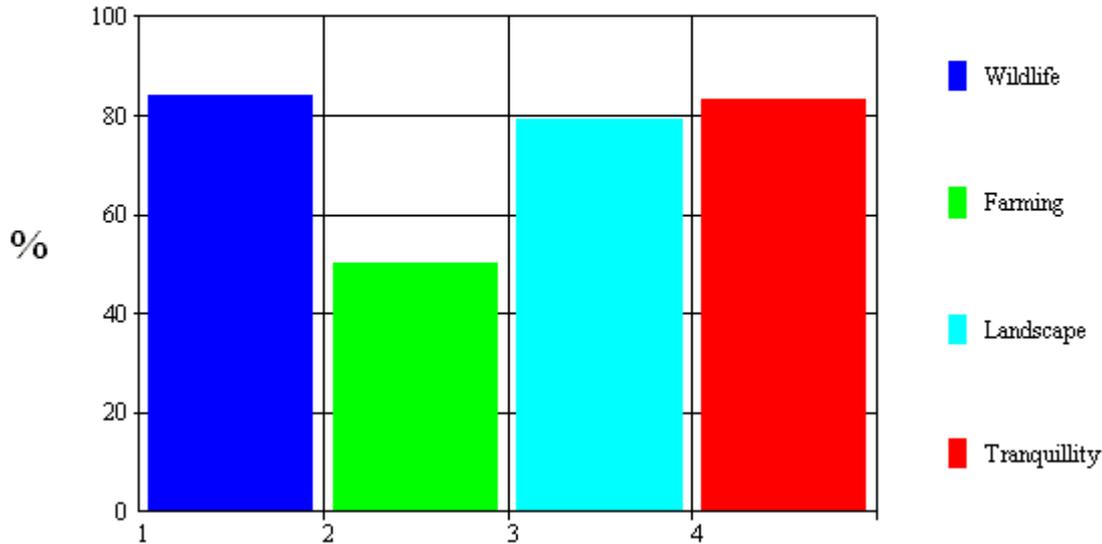
Careless driving 40%

Dog fouling 53% Playing Field and Church Lane

Litter 53% Sproughton Road and Church Lane near the School

Countryside and Environment

Which elements of the countryside around Sproughton do you value?



Overall, a high proportion of residents regard the countryside/landscape/wildlife as important assets and a positive reason to live in the Parish. This was principally for the wildlife, tranquillity and countryside the area has to offer.

Litter and high traffic volume were regarded as particularly negative factors of the overall area of Sproughton, although interestingly natural features such as nettles and mud were the most referenced access restrictions on footpaths.

There are a number of people in the village with appropriate skills to assist with identifying wildlife priority's (eg. Habitat Map and local Biodiversity Action Plan) and advising about their conservation management.

The headline proposed activities for improving the parish included 'A Spring Clean Day' and entering a Best Kept village competition. Over a quarter of people also thought a heritage center and music/arts festival would be a welcome feature.

Sproughton village

In High Street and Lower Street, and the Church Lane area the priorities to protect and enhance the environment were as follows:

- i) Reduce traffic (84%)**
- ii) Preserve heritage and wildlife features (over 70%)**
- iii) Reduce noise**
- iv) Recycling**

The priorities to protect were as follows:

- i) Reduce pollution (54%)**
- ii) Create local nature reserves (50%)**
- iii) Other habitat creation (over 24%)**

Headline proposed activities include 'A Spring Clean Day' and entering a Best Kept village competition. Over a quarter of people also thought a heritage centre and music/arts festival would be a welcome feature.

Hadleigh Road Area

In Hadleigh Road, the priorities to protect and enhance the environment were as follows:

- i) Maintain wildlife features (71%)**
- ii) Preserve heritage sites and buildings**
- iii) Recycling (60%)**
- iv) Reduce traffic (42%)**

The priorities to protect were as follows:

- i) Reduce pollution (59%)**
- ii) Create local nature reserves (57%)**
- iii) Other habitat creation (over 28%)**

Headline proposed activities include 'A Spring Clean Day' and entering a Best Kept village competition. Since the survey both these suggestions have been carried out. In actual fact they were in hand as the questionnaire was being produced. For once the Parish Council was ahead of the wishes of the parishioners.

Traffic reduction has been undertaken by the Parish Council for many years this survey shown us that the actions taken were the right ones.

Leisure Activities

The survey indicated that a number of new sports clubs/activities could be of interest to Sproughton residents if they were available

Billiards	12 (7.4%)
Darts	13 (8.0%)
Judo	16 (9.8%)
General keep fit	66 (40.5)
Skittles	11 (6.7%)
Snooker	23 (14.1)
Volleyball	19 (11.7)
Yoga	46 (28.2)
Gymnastics	16 (9.8%)
Dance	54 (33.1)
Boules	17 (10.4)
Skateboarding	9 (5.5%)

The only interest currently in offer from the list is Keep Fit and that it for ladies only, it is possible that some of the men would be interested in a men's keep fit. Quite a number of people stated that they travel into Ipswich for many of the activities listed above

The survey also told us that a number of residents would be interested in the following activities.

Bridge club	7 (4.0%)
U3A	28 (16.2%)
Gardening Club	51 (29.5%)
Arts and Crafts Club	43 (24.9%)
Drama	16 (9.2%)
Choir	14 (8.1%)
Music Society	14 (8.1%)
Band/Orchestra	11 (6.4%)
Photography	30 (17.3)
Computer/internet club	53 (30.6%)
Film/cinema club	36 (20.8%)
Book club	32 (39.0%)
Wine club	41 (50.0%)
Pudding club	18 (22.0%)
Model club	12 (14.6%)
Scalextric club	7 (8.5%)

The activities could easily be accommodated in either the Tithe Barn or the Church Hall. These are new activities and interests in addition to the existing Badminton and Carpet bowling clubs. Provided somebody would volunteer to run them. These results could be discussed at an open meeting

In response to the question. How many times a month do you use the following facilities in Sproughton?

473 people responded

	5-10	3-5	Never
Tithe Barn	34 (7.2%)	147 (31%)	250 (52%).
Church Hall	59 (12.5%)	103 (21%).	261 (55.%)
Wild Man pub	48 (10.1%)	156 (33%)	221 (46%)
Beagle pub	64 (13.5%)	169 (35%)	199 (42%)
Sports and social	7 (1.5%)	11 (2.3%)	391 (82%)
Playing Field	45 (9.5%)	55 (11.6%)	271 (57%)
Play Area	44 (9.3%)	56 (11.8%)	293 (61%)
Millennium Green	49 (10.4%)	129 (27%)	223 (47%)

Surprisingly the survey shows that the existing facilities are never used by a high percentage of residents.

460 people responded to the question relating to social facilities for the various age groups. Surprisingly over 50% had no opinion.

	Good	Reasonable	Poor	No Opinion
Children up to 16	20 (4.3%)	64 (13.9%)	94 (20.4%)	247 (53%)
Young people 17-25	5 (1.1%)	29 (6.3%)	127 (27%)	257 (55%)
People 26-60	20 (4.3%)	104 (22%)	62 (13.5%)	243 (52%)
People over 60	72 (15.7%)	115 (25%)	27 (5.9%)	223 (48%)

Parish Council

The survey told us that the parishioners awareness of the work of the Parish Council is more or less evenly divided some 53% want more information and 46% agree that the amount of information published is about right, some 2% are in the don't know category.

The annual Parish Meeting on only attended by some 32% of the Parishioners with 67% never having attended. It would be good to improve on this figure

The survey also tells us that 78% of the Parishioners feel that the Parish Council is doing a good job and 71% feel that Babergh is also doing a good job, but only 43% feel that way regarding Suffolk County Council.

The survey also tells us that 32% would pay for additional facilities for the village from a rise in council tax with 67% saying NO.

The survey reminds us that we should try and improve communications.

The Action Plan

The results of the survey told us what are the most important issues to the Parishioners and what the parish council should concentrate on.

The action plan sets out the immediate concerns and a time frame for action.

Some actions can be started straight away; some actions for example Traffic and Housing are being worked on already.

The newly created Shop Panel is researching the Community Shop.

Many actions will fall to the Parish Council, but some such as leisure activities and the wish list of clubs will only happen if members of the community come forward and organize them. The Parish Council can help as much as it is able but the impetus will come from those interested in specific subjects.

Sproughton Action Plan

<u>Category</u>	<u>Action</u>	<u>Lead Organisation</u>	<u>Partners</u>	<u>Priority</u>	<u>Progress</u>
<u>Transport and Road Safety</u>	Liase with Suffolk CC On traffic reduction. Communicate panel's efforts to all parts of the Parish.	<u>SPC Traffic Panel</u>	<u>Suffolk CC</u>	<u>Immediate</u>	
<u>Housing</u>	Research Affordable Housing. No large new developments.	<u>SPC Housing Panel</u>	<u>BDC</u>	<u>Immediate</u>	
<u>Healthcare</u>	Investigate Well Woman and Well man clinics.	<u>SPC</u>	<u>Suffolk CC</u>	<u>Research Possibilities</u>	
<u>Services</u>	Research the possibility of a community shop for the parish.	<u>SPC and designated Panels</u>			
<u>Crime</u>	Maintain contact with local Community police	<u>SPC</u>	<u>Suffolk Police</u>	<u>Ongoing</u>	
<u>Leisure Activities</u>	Investigate need for new special interest clubs for example Wine Club and Gardening Club	<u>SPC and Clubs</u>	<u>Tithe Barn Panel and possibly Church Hall for events to be held on a regular basis</u>	<u>To find people willing to organise any new clubs</u>	
<u>Parish Council</u>	Increase awareness of the good work we do for the community, Try to get more to attend the annual Parish meeting	<u>SPC</u>	<u>The Community</u>	<u>Ongoing</u>	
<u>Religion and Worship</u>	Increase awareness of the village Church	<u>SPC and Organisations</u>	<u>All Saints Church</u>		

