

Dorrington Village Parish Plan 2008



Foreword

Thanks are due to a number of people and organisations throughout the parish, the Parish Plan Steering Group which was set up to carry out the preparation of the plan. They were drawn from a wide range of people who either represented organisations from within the parish or who were interested residents. The Steering Group met regularly during 2006/7/8 and gave freely of its time in researching, drafting and organising activities which were associated with the preparation of this Parish Plan.

Thanks to CommunityLincs for their guidance & support, Lincolnshire County Council for their detailed & constructive feedback & finally and most importantly, thanks are due to the residents who responded so well to the Questionnaire. This exercise provided broad, interesting and useful information and enabled the development of a Parish Plan which reflects the views of the community. It has also given the Parish Council, North Kesteven District Council and Lincolnshire County Council information on the areas of most concern to the residents of Dorrington.

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DEFRA via CommunityLincs £3000
Dorrington Parish Council £200
A donation by a parishioner £50

The Parish Plan was completed in May 2008.

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Introduction and Profile

Location

1. Dorrington or “Dirrington” is a village and parish of approximately 340 people in North Kesteven, Lincolnshire. It is situated approximately 5 miles north of the town of Sleaford. The village is off the B1188 road. Grid reference TF080529. The church is of Saxon origin over looking the village from it’s north western end. Near the church are the remains of a house in which Sir Frank Whittle lodged while he was working on the development of the jet engine. The Parish lies within the Southern Lincolnshire Edge Countryside Character Area 47. The parish extends to approximately 1,900 acres.

Source: England Gen Web Project

Landscape

2. The key landscape characteristics of the area are:

- ◆ Part of large scale arable escarpment;
- ◆ Open landscape with rectilinear fields and where enclosure still present hedges and shelter belts;
- ◆ Active and redundant airfields;
- ◆ Ancient track ways with green lanes.



Ariel View of Dorrington Village

Key issues connected with change in the countryside:

- ◆ Agricultural intensification ;
- ◆ Loss of hedgerow and hedgerow trees;
- ◆ Pressure on water resources;
- ◆ Loss of mixed farming;
- ◆ Changes to agricultural support with subsidies no longer linked to production;
- ◆ Encouragement for green farming.

Source: Countryside Agency Character Areas

Census

3. Parish profile people:

- ◆ Males 181
- ◆ Females 159
- ◆ Mean age of population 40.36
- ◆ People with limiting long term illness 74
- ◆ People providing unpaid care 43.

4. Parish profile households:

- ◆ Households 139
- ◆ All cars and vans 219
- ◆ Ethnic Group of households (white) 137
- ◆ Households with over 2 cars 64
- ◆ One person households 30

5. Parish profile accommodation and tenure:

- ◆ All dwellings 154
- ◆ Household spaces with residents 139
- ◆ Vacant houses 11
- ◆ Second residences 4
- ◆ Owner occupied houses 86
- ◆ Rented property 53

6. Parish profile work and qualifications:

- ◆ All people economically active 159
- ◆ Average mean hours worked males 43.56 females 30.54
- ◆ All people with no qualifications and up to level 1 156
- ◆ Number of people travelling to work by vehicle 128
- ◆ Average distance travelled to work 14 miles

Source: National Statistics

History of the Parish

7. Church history:

- ◆ The Anglican Parish church is dedicated to Saints James and John and was built on a hill overlooking the village. The east wall was rebuilt in 1330;
- ◆ The village had a small chapel of ease, but this was taken down in 1698 and taken to Shelford Priory in Nottinghamshire;
- ◆ The Wesleyan Methodists had a chapel here, built in 1832, then replaced in 1881. There was also a Wesleyan Reform chapel;
- ◆ There is an old Lincolnshire tale that tells of Tocti – a Saxon Thane who started building a chapel on the Playgarth but overnight after a feast the stone was found on the hill where the church stands today;
- ◆ Two key features of Dorrington Church which are of great value to the parish are the frieze on the eastern wall known as the Last Judgement and the stone altar which survived Edward V1 's order that all stone altars



should be destroyed. The notice board in the churchyard depicts the Last Judgement.

- ◆ Dorrington Churchyard has in the past been associated with bad luck as it contains victims of tragic accidents.

8. Land and property:

- ◆ In 1841, the Earl of Harrowby was lord of the manor and owner of most of the land in the parish.



B 1188 Lincoln/Sleaford Road junction with Main Street Dorrington

9. Politics and governance:

- ◆ The parish was in the ancient Flaxwell Wapentake in the North Kesteven District.

10. Poor law

- ◆ The common lands were enclosed here in 1789;
- ◆ After the Poor Law reforms of 1834, the parish became part of the Sleaford Poor Law Union.

11. Population

Year	Inhabitants
1801	225
1841	379
1871	495
1911	360

Source England Gen web Project and tek's journal

Village Facilities, businesses and Social Clubs

12. Facilities

- ◆ Playgarth Estate Playing Field;
- ◆ Church and Chapel;
- ◆ Private facilities for village events through the generosity of two residents at The Priory and The Close.



Playgarth Playing Field

13. Businesses

- ◆ Public house and restaurant The Musicians Arms;
- ◆ Pick's the butchers;
- ◆ Numerous farm businesses mainly general cropping with some livestock. Small flock of sheep still exists;
- ◆ Intensive poultry units;
- ◆ Farm Attraction at North Ings Farm;
- ◆ Agrochemical and fertiliser supplier;
- ◆ A Residential Care Home.
- ◆ Home based workers.

14. Clubs and Charities:

- ◆ Good Companions;
- ◆ W.I.
- ◆ Dorrington Welfare Charity.

Consultation.

15. The parish planning process is designed:
 - ◆ to seek the views of residents with regard to the future of the village that they live in;
 - ◆ encourages social cohesion by bringing forward activities or projects that will benefit the community and improve the quality of life;
 - ◆ provide a targeted planned approach to village development projects to seek further funding (supported by evidence);
 - ◆ Once individual projects are identified further funding sources will need to be accessed. Once funding is secured for these projects they will form an on going programme.
 - ◆ Everyone's contribution is valuable as a professional plan will help to attract funds to our community.

 - ◆ The whole point of a parish plan is to give people a voice about issues that affect them where they live, it is a formalised way of informing the Parish Council, District Council and other bodies about what the Parish of Dorrington needs. With this aim in mind our approach has been quite straightforward, we have asked the people of Dorrington about what they want for Dorrington.

16. The process initially started at an open meeting led by a Rural officer from CommunityLincs where villagers were asked to give their views in the following areas.
 - ◆ Facilities and amenities needed.
 - ◆ Traffic and transport.
 - ◆ Communications.
 - ◆ Housing.
 - ◆ Environment
 - ◆ Crime and safety.
 - ◆ Employment and skills.

17. Following this initial meeting the parish plan steering group was formed and contained representatives from all clubs and organisations within the village including 2 members of parish council They took the seven headings and all the issues raised under these, as their starting point. A circular was written containing news of the initial meeting, the seven headings and all the issues raised under these. This was then sent to every household and residents were asked to indicate which they felt were the most important issues and also to put forward issues that may have been missed. They were asked to put this information on the circular and return it, a £20 voucher to be spent in local butchers was offered as a prize in a free draw competition using the returned circulars.

18. A village newsletter was started, this was free and delivered to every household in the village. It was seen as a way of keeping people informed about the parish plan and gave villagers an opportunity to also contribute, in the broadest possible sense, about where they live. A "design a logo" competition for the village news was run for the children in the village, on the reverse of their

entry they were asked to write what they would like to see Dorrington, to make it a better place for them to live in. A £20 Woolworth's gift voucher was the prize given.

19. An open afternoon in the chapel tea room for children and young people was held and the children were invited to say what facilities they would like to see in the village.
20. A number of talks were held on Green Issues, the first concentrated on alternative building methods and use of woodland and the second on farming and promoting wildlife. These reflect the rural nature of Dorrington and it was hoped it would help stimulate thought about how it may develop. These talks were held on Sunday evenings in the restaurant at the village pub, our thanks to the landlord.
21. Regular press releases have been sent out to all the local newspapers and every one so far has been published in at least one of these.
22. A village questionnaire was put together containing the issues raised and was delivered to each household.

Analysis

23. All the data gathered from each returned questionnaire was totalled using a spreadsheet programme and the resulting information is presented in two forms, one numerical, two as bar charts. The information obtained from the returned questionnaires has formed the basis of this parish plan.

24. The Parish action plan. This highlights the issues raised, suggests solutions to these, identifies individuals and organisations who should undertake these tasks and also the timescales involved to resolve these.



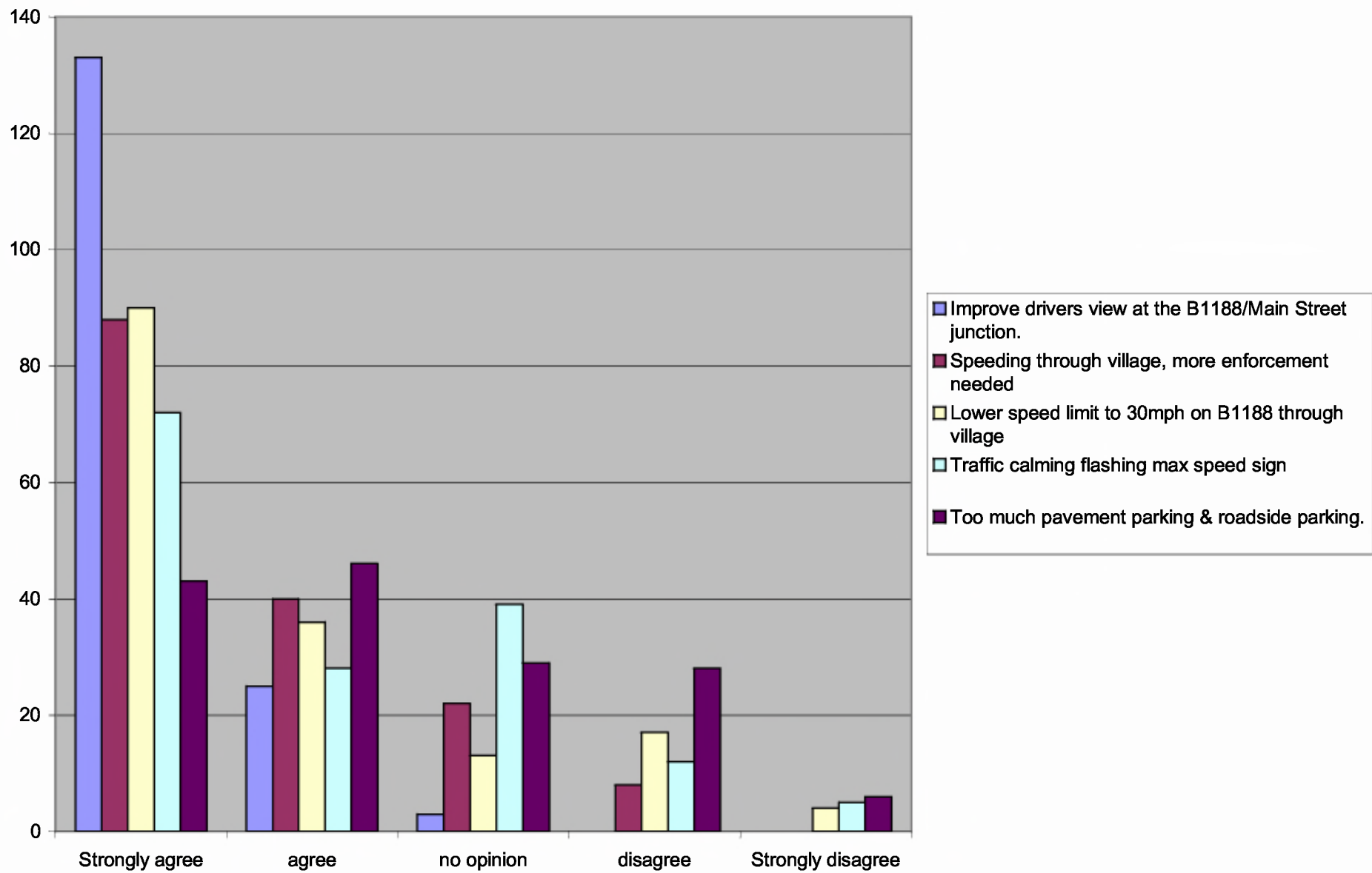
Traditional Pasture landscape with orchard in Dorrington under Defra's Environmental Stewardship Scheme.

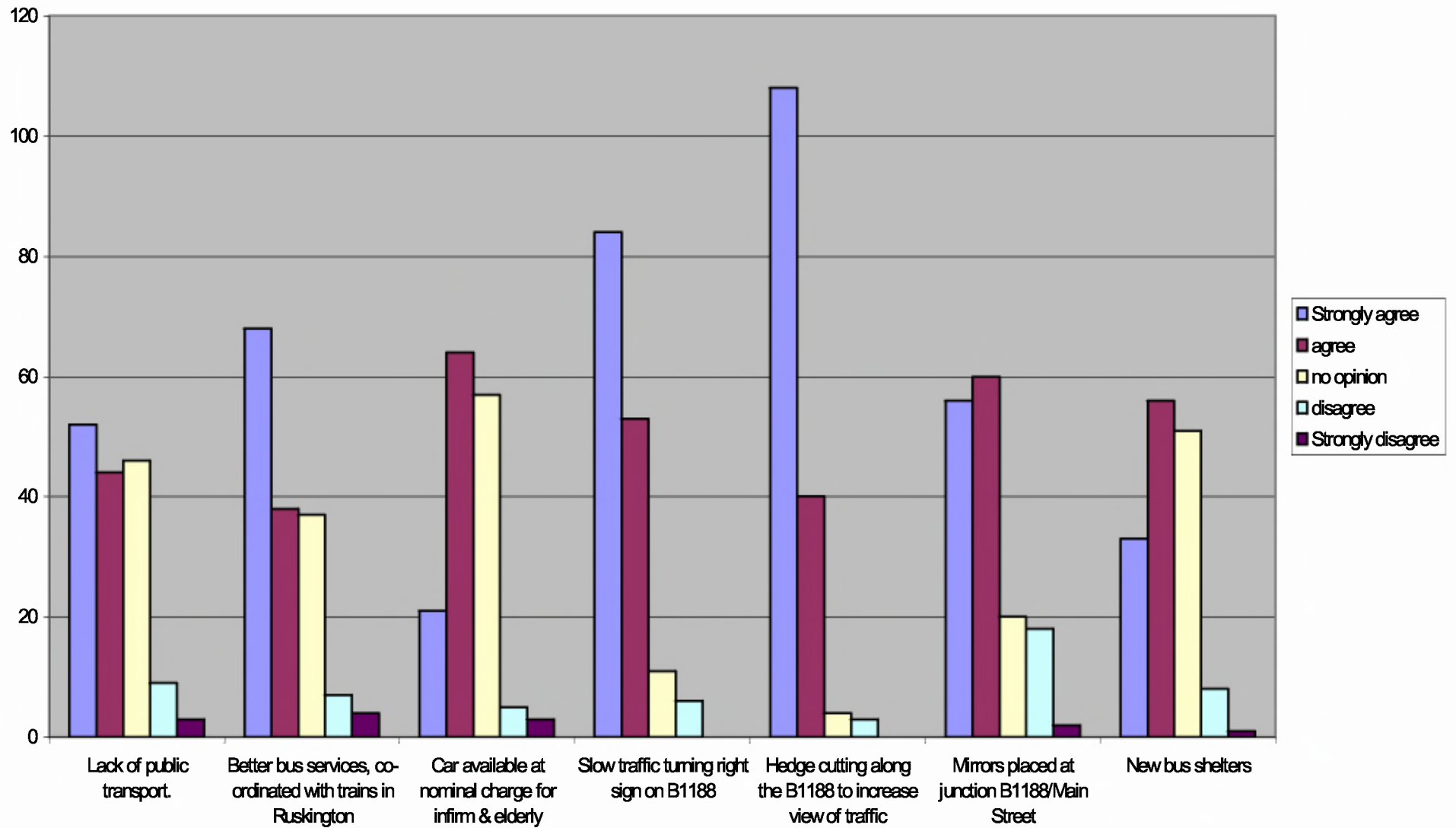
Questionnaire Data presented in Tables & Bar Charts.

The Road Safety Red Route initiative highlighted the twelve routes in the county that accounted for a high proportion of KSI (Killed or Seriously Injured) casualties. The B 1188 is the only 'B' Class road within the twelve routes. (Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership)

During our consultations for our Parish Plan this is by far the biggest concern raised by residents in the village questionnaire, the statement to 'Improve drivers view at the B1188/Main Street junction' as received the following number of responses, 130 strongly agree, 30 agree with no one disagreeing with this at all! This category generated the largest number of responses.

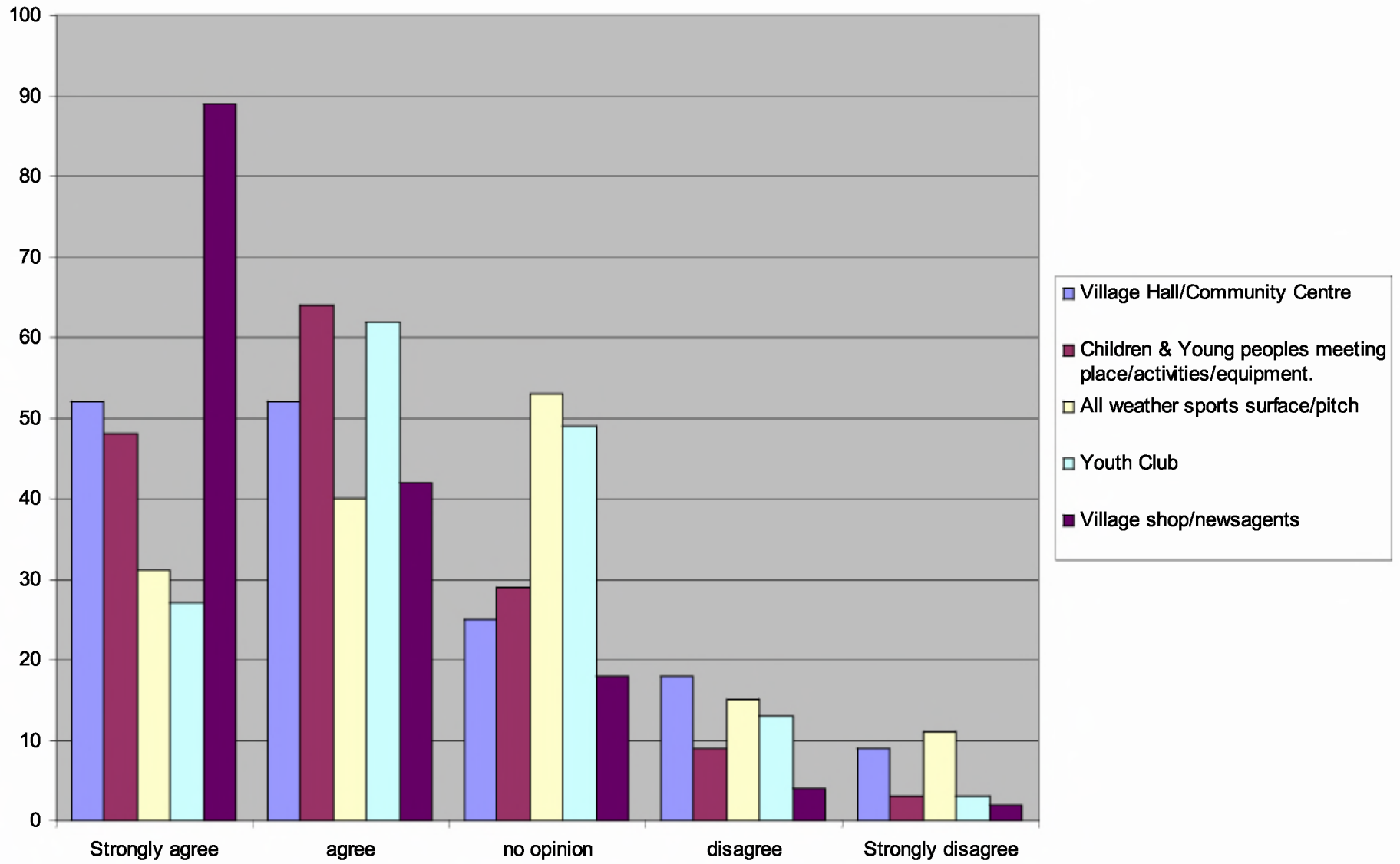
1. Traffic and transport.	Strongly agree	agree	no opinion	disagree	Strongly disagree
Improve drivers view at the B1188/Main Street junction.	133	27	3	0	0
Speeding through village, more enforcement needed	88	40	22	8	0
Lower speed limit to 30mph on B1188 through village	90	36	13	17	4
Traffic calming flashing max speed sign	72	28	39	12	5
Too much pavement parking & roadside parking.	43	46	29	28	6
Lack of public transport.	52	44	46	9	3
Better bus services, co-ordinated with trains in Ruskington	68	38	37	7	4
Car available at nominal charge for infirm & elderly	21	64	57	5	3
Slow traffic turning right sign on B1188	84	53	11	6	0
Hedge cutting along the B1188 to increase view of traffic	108	40	4	3	0
Mirrors placed at junction B1188/Main Street	56	60	20	18	2
New bus shelters	33	56	51	8	1





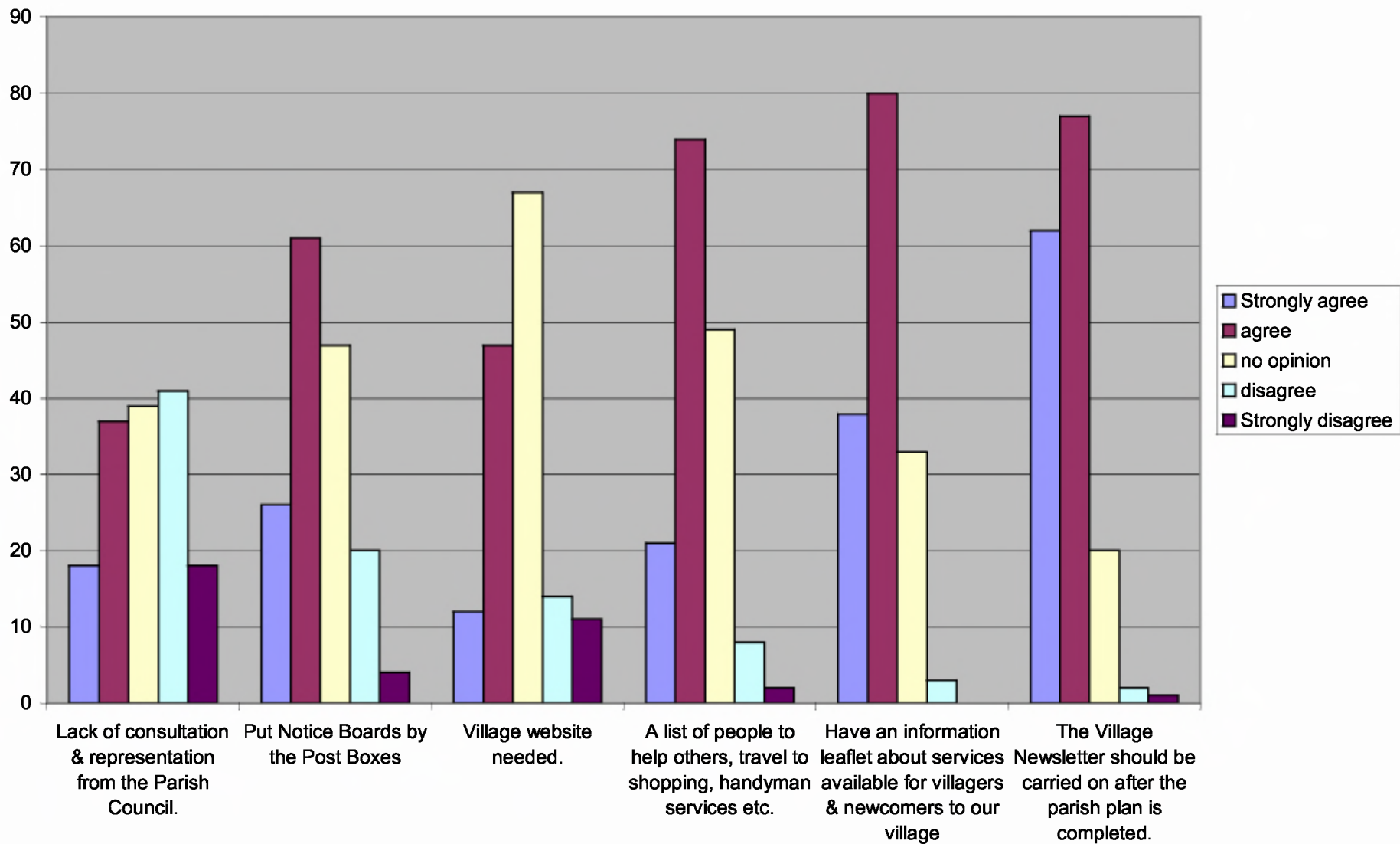
Given that Dorrington is currently classed as a third tier village and it is recommended that to be reclassified as a fourth tier village because of it's lack of amenities and facilities. We feel it is worth noting here than during the last 30 years the village school, a post office and general store and the newsagents shop have all closed. This only leaves a pub/restaurant and a butchers shop open Mondays to Fridays in the village. So we are starting from a very low base line.

2. Facilities and amenities needed.	Strongly agree	agree	no opinion	disagree	Strongly disagree
Village Hall/Community Centre	52	52	25	18	9
Children & Young peoples meeting place/activities/equipment.	48	64	29	9	3
All weather sports surface/pitch	31	40	53	15	11
Youth Club	27	62	49	13	3
Village shop/newsagents	89	42	18	4	2



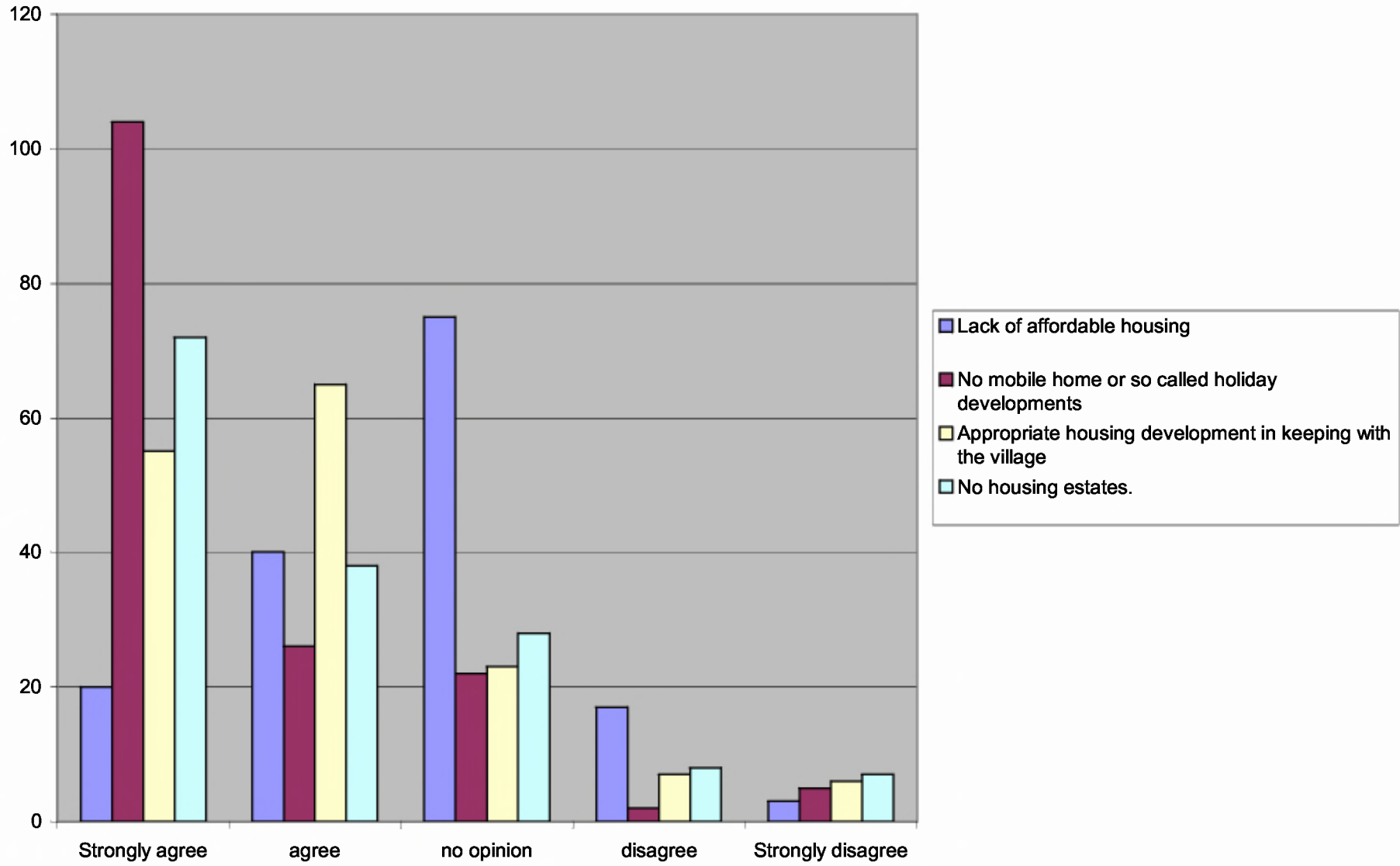
Communications within the village has improved over the last few years with the introduction of the parish council news which has since been combined with the village newsletter. Only by keeping people informed of what is happening within the village gives people the opportunity to participate in village life.

3. Communications.	Strongly agree	agree	no opinion	disagree	Strongly disagree
Lack of consultation & representation from the Parish Council.	18	37	39	41	18
Put Notice Boards by the Post Boxes	26	61	47	20	4
Village website needed.	12	47	67	14	11
A list of people to help others, travel to shopping, handyman services etc.	21	74	49	8	2
Have an information leaflet about services available for villagers & newcomers to our village	38	80	33	3	0
The Village Newsletter should be carried on after the parish plan is completed.	62	77	20	2	1



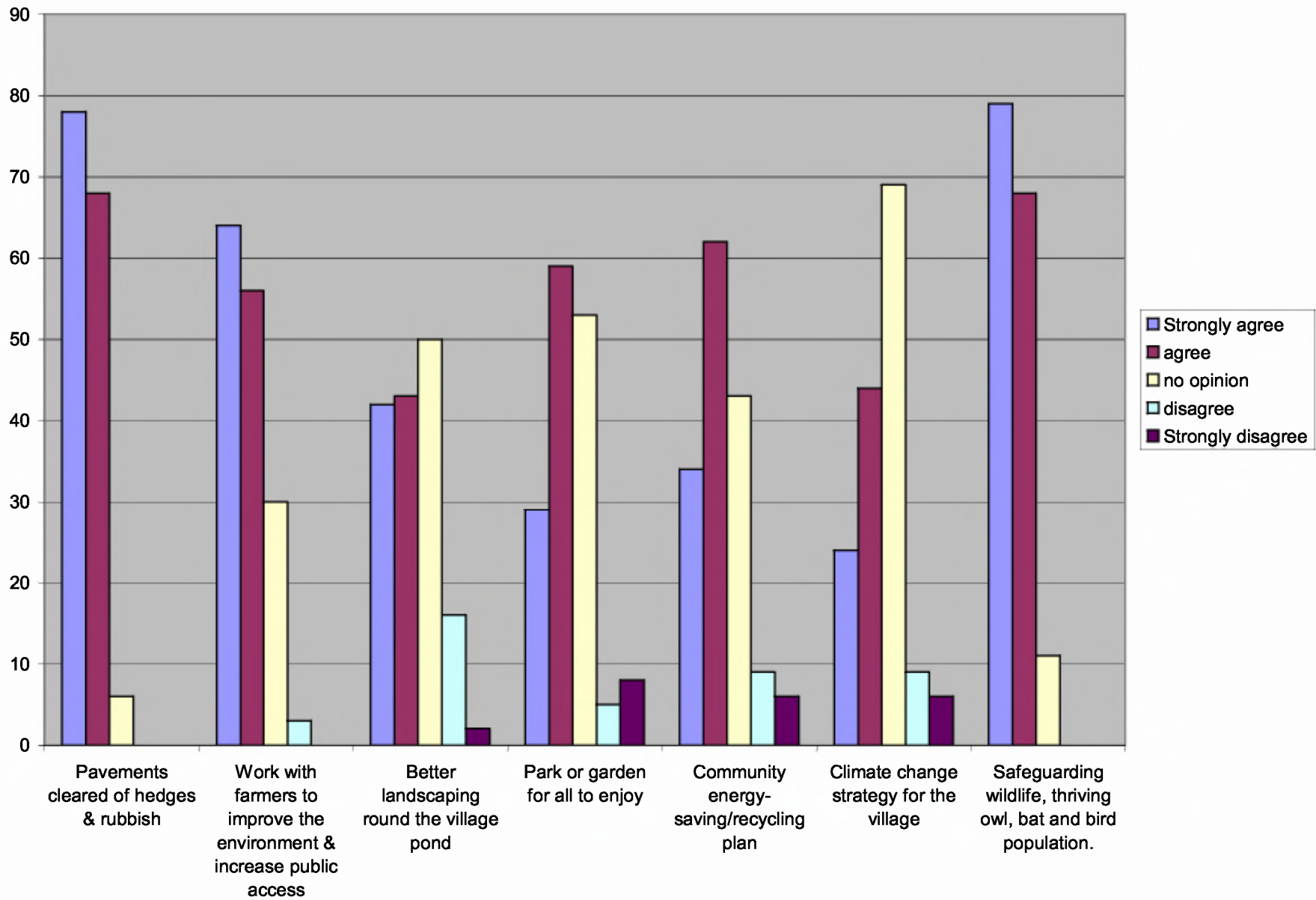
Dorrington is seen by many of its residents as one of the last unspoilt Lincolnshire villages. Going through the process of seeking their views appears to have generated a lot of anxiety and that somehow a Parish Plan would spoil Dorrington and many wish that nothing should be changed in the village. Change will happen if we wanted it to or not and Lincolnshire has become a desirable place to live. This is reflected in popularity of Lincolnshire with Television Property Programmes and the ever rising land and house prices. Lack of affordable housing is now very much a national as well as local issue and NKDC planning reflects this but adding a label of affordability to planning applications should not lead to inappropriate development within our village.

4. Housing.	Strongly agree	agree	no opinion	disagree	Strongly disagree
Lack of affordable housing	20	40	75	17	3
No mobile home or so called holiday developments	104	26	22	2	5
Appropriate housing development in keeping with the village	55	65	23	7	6
No housing estates.	72	38	28	8	7



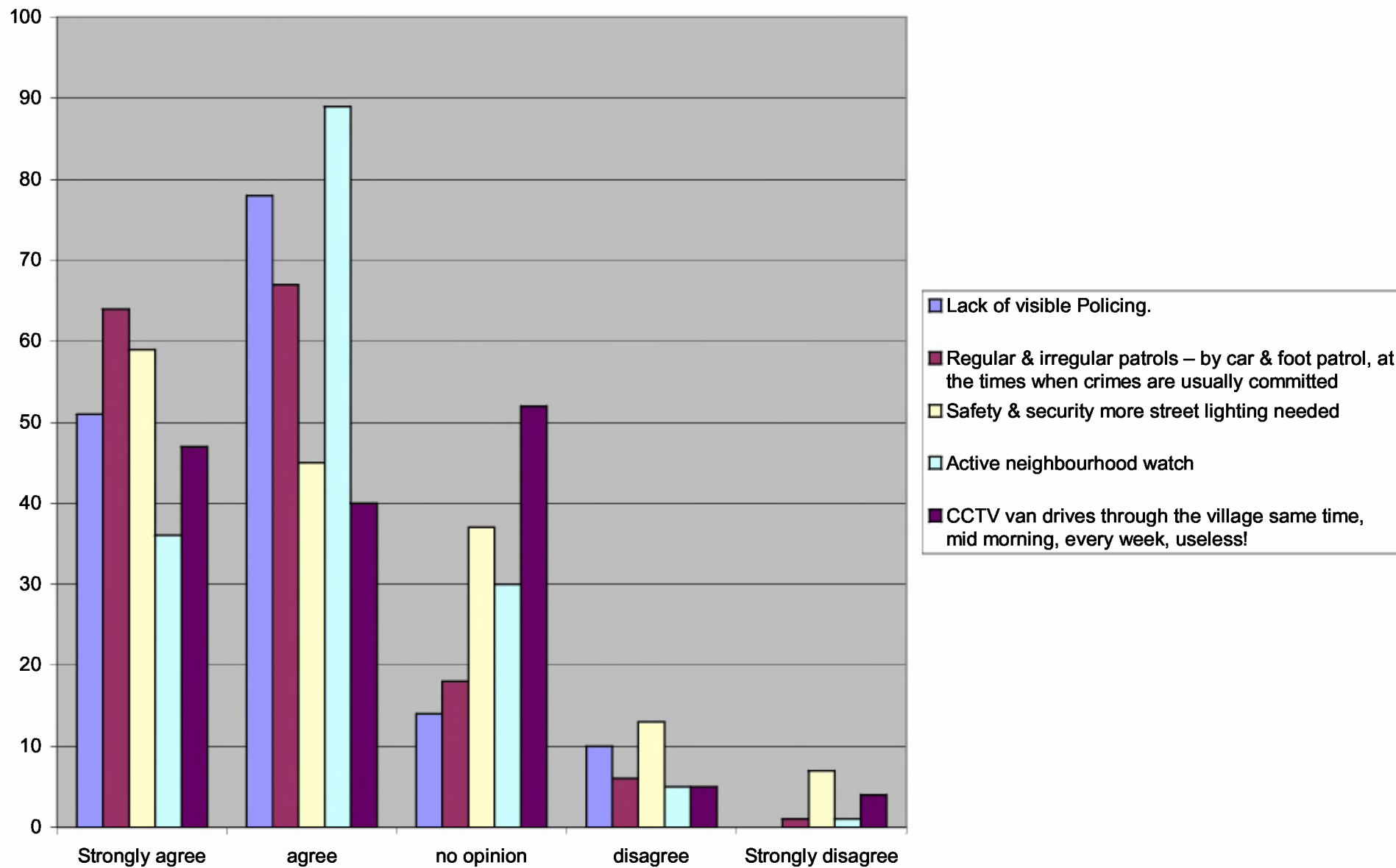
Dorrington is an attractive village and in the past has been a winner in the best kept village competition. Villagers do care about their environment and this is reflected in the high number of positive responses.

5. Environment.	Strongly agree	agree	no opinion	disagree	Strongly disagree
Pavements cleared of hedges & rubbish	78	68	6	0	0
Work with farmers to improve the environment & increase public access	64	56	30	3	0
Better landscaping round the village pond	42	43	50	16	2
Park or garden for all to enjoy	29	59	53	5	8
Community energy-saving/recycling plan	34	62	43	9	6
Climate change strategy for the village	24	44	69	9	6
Safeguarding wildlife, thriving owl, bat and bird population.	79	68	11	0	0



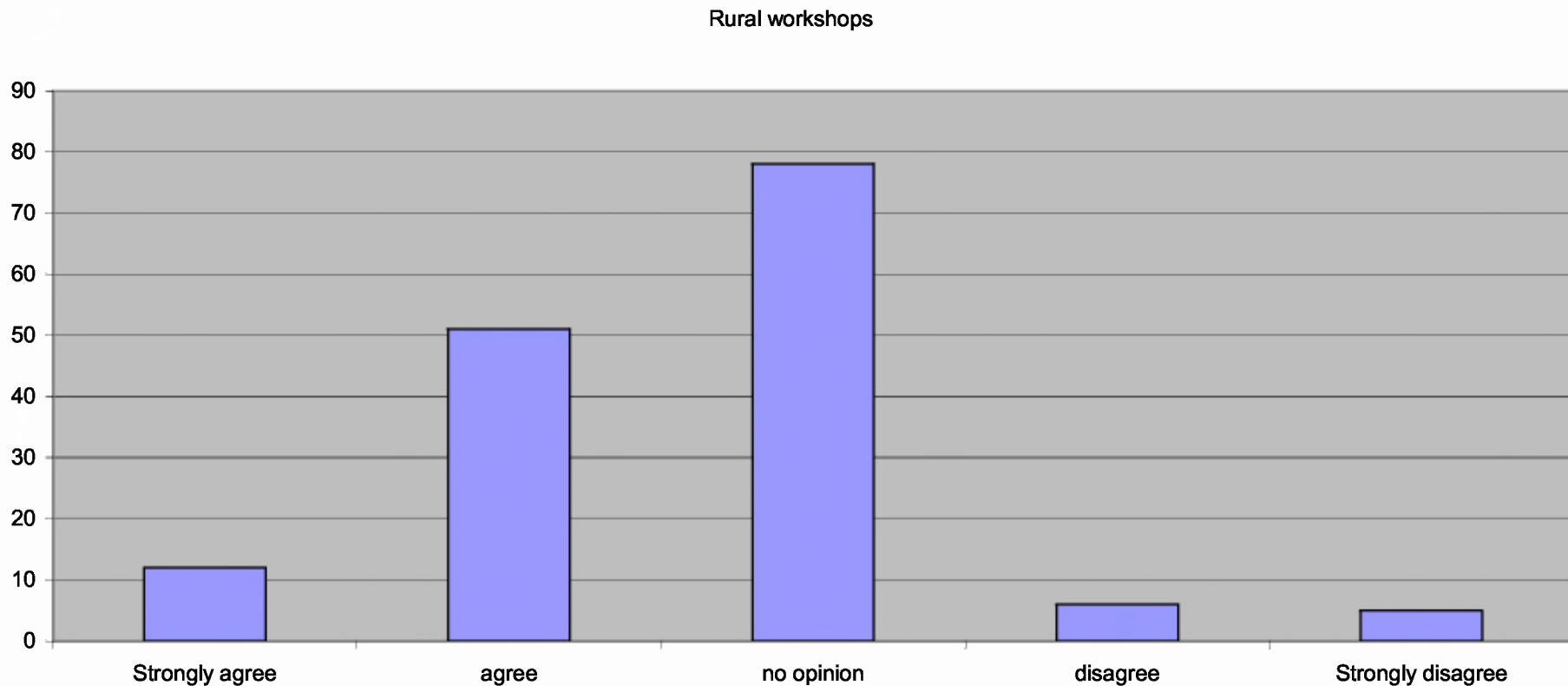
Crime and safety is an emotive issue and luckily crime is generally low in Dorrington.

6. Crime and safety.	Strongly agree	agree	no opinion	disagree	Strongly disagree
Lack of visible Policing.	51	78	14	10	0
Regular & irregular patrols – by car & foot patrol, at the times when crimes are usually committed	64	67	18	6	1
Safety & security more street lighting needed	59	45	37	13	7
Active neighbourhood watch	36	89	30	5	1
CCTV van drives through the village same time, mid morning, every week, useless!	47	40	52	5	4



This category generated a suggestion about rural workshops and a majority support this. It should be borne in mind that given the problems associated with the roads within the village i.e. their narrowness and the lack of footpaths in parts, serious consideration should be given about the siting of any such workshops. There is already a problem with overrun on the footpaths and verges due to the size of vehicles using Main Street/Fen Road.

7. Employment and skills.	Strongly agree	agree	no opinion	disagree	Strongly disagree
Rural workshops	12	51	78	6	5



Below the number of responses to the issues from the questionnaire are ranked*. The results should be used in conjunction with all other available information when deciding on what priority needs to be given to resolving these issues. There are issues that could be undertaken together and this is partly reflected in the categories of the Action Plan.

Place	Issues where a majority agree	Tot	%
1	Improve drivers view at the B1188/Main Street junction.	158	98
2	Safeguarding wildlife, thriving owl, bat and bird population.	147	91
3	Pavements cleared of hedges & rubbish	146	91
4	Hedge cutting along the B1188 to increase view of traffic	145	90
5	The Village Newsletter should be carried on after the parish plan is completed.	136	84
6	Slow traffic turning right sign on B1188	131	81
7	Village shop/newsagents	125	78
8	Regular & irregular patrols – by car & foot patrol, at the times when crimes are usually committed	124	77
9	No mobile home or so called holiday developments	123	76
10	Speeding through village, more enforcement needed	120	75
11	Lack of visible Policing.	119	74
12	Active neighbourhood watch	119	74
13	Work with farmers to improve the environment & increase public access	117	73
14	Have an information leaflet about services available for villagers & newcomers to our village	115	71
15	Appropriate housing development in keeping with the village	107	66
16	Lower speed limit to 40mph on B1188 through village	105	65
17	Children & Young peoples meeting place/activities/equipment.	100	62
18	Better bus services, co-ordinated with trains in Ruskington	95	59
19	No housing estates.	95	59
20	A list of people to help others, travel to shopping, handyman services etc.	85	53
21	Lack of public transport.	84	52
22	Safety & security more street lighting needed	84	52
23	Traffic calming flashing max speed sign	83	52
24	Community energy-saving/recycling plan	81	50
25	New bus shelters	80	50
26	CCTV van drives through the village same time, mid morning, every week, useless!	78	48
27	Village Hall/Community Centre	77	48
28	Car available at nominal charge for infirm & elderly	77	48
29	Park or garden for all to enjoy	75	47
30	Youth Club	73	45
31	Better landscaping round the village pond	67	42
32	Put Notice Boards by the Post Boxes	63	39
33	Too much pavement parking & roadside parking.	55	34
34	Climate change strategy for the village	53	33
35	Rural workshops	52	32
36	All weather sports surface/pitch	45	28
37	Lack of affordable housing	40	25
38	Village website needed.	34	21
	Issues where a majority disagree		
39	Lack of consultation & representation from the Parish Council.	4	2

*Ranked by adding strongly agree and agree, minus strongly disagree and disagree, no opinions were omitted. The total number of people who responded 161.

DORRINGTON ACTION PLAN
Traffic & Transport

No.	Issue	End objective	Action	By whom	Time scale
1	<p>Improve drivers view at the B1188/Main Street junction. Speeding through village, more enforcement needed Lower speed limit to 30mph on B1188 through village Traffic calming flashing max speed sign Slow traffic turning right sign on B1188 Hedge cutting along the B1188 to increase view of traffic Too much pavement & roadside parking.</p>	Increase road safety	<p>Draw up a road improvement scheme for the B1188 & the Main St./B1188 junction and get it programmed in for completion. Apply for No Waiting restrictions to be put in place at the junction to tackle the illegal parking. Apply for a lower Speed Limit on the B1188 enforcement needed of existing limits. Enforce hedge cutting if required.</p>	<p>Parish Council Lincolnshire County Council County & District Councillors Police Lincs. Road Safety Partnership</p>	ASAP & ongoing
2	<p>Lack of public transport. Better bus services, co-ordinated with trains in Ruskington Car available at nominal charge for infirm & elderly New bus shelters</p>	Improve public transport	<p>Audit the present public transport that is available to identify problem areas</p>	<p>Parish Council Action group. NKDC Rural Transport Partnership</p>	6 months

Facilities & Amenities needed

No.	Issue	End objective	Action	By whom	Time scale
3	Village Hall/Community Centre	A suitable village venue/resource	<p>Identify individuals, organisations & funding to help develop a scheme to provide this.</p>	<p>Parish Council Action group.</p>	<p>3 months to start And then ongoing</p>
4	<p>Children & Young peoples meeting place/activities/equipment. All weather sports surface/pitch Youth Club</p>	Offer a range of activities, facilities & equipment.	<p>Review the present Playgarth site & facilities, combine with the village hall/ community centre scheme to get max. use from the site with phasing options to aid completion as funding is obtained</p>	<p>Parish Council NKDC (play strategy, community funding & guidance on sports outreach) Groundwork Lincolnshire</p>	<p>3 months to start And then ongoing</p>
5	Village shop/newsagents	Increase retail choice	<p>Do a study into demand and range of items people need. Explore results with existing retailers, consider support for a community shop.</p>	<p>Parish Council Action group. Village Retail Services Association (VIRSA)</p>	6 months

Communications

No.	Issue	End objective	Action	By whom	Time scale
6	<p>Lack of consultation & representation from the Parish Council. Put Notice Boards by the Post Boxes Village website needed. A list of people to help others, travel to shopping, handyman services etc. Have an information leaflet about services available for villagers & newcomers to our village The Village Newsletter should be carried on after the parish plan is completed.</p>	<p>To improve everyone's access to information, to enable them to make informed choices and participate in the community.</p>	<p>Parish Council to obtain free website reassess location of Notice Board Compile information on services and people available to help others Seek funding to enable Newsletter to continue</p>	<p>Parish Council Action group.</p>	ongoing

Please note where Action Group is entered under the 'By whom' heading it is intended that interested villagers will be given the opportunity to become involved in achieving the things they have identified. There will also be a Parish Plan Monitoring Group set up to see that the actions identified in the plan are carried out.

Housing

No.	Issue	End objective	Action	By whom	Time scale
7	Lack of affordable housing Appropriate housing development in keeping with the village No housing estates.	A range of appropriate housing in Dorrington. A village design statement	Consider all planning applications and object if required Participate in planning policy formation Working group for Village design statement	Parish Council NKDC	ongoing

Environment

No.	Issue	End objective	Action	By whom	Time scale
8	Pavements cleared of hedges & rubbish Work with farmers to improve the environment & increase public access Better landscaping round the village pond Park or garden for all to enjoy Community energy-saving/recycling plan Climate change strategy for the village Safeguarding wildlife thriving owl, bat and bird population.	To provide a safe environment	To identify initiatives and funding	Parish Council NKDC Groundwork Lincolnshire Action group.	ongoing

Crime & Safety

No.	Issue	End objective	Action	By whom	Time scale
9	Lack of visible Policing. Regular & irregular patrols by car & foot, at the times when crimes are usually committed Safety & security more street lighting needed Active neighbourhood watch CCTV van drives through the village same time, mid morning, every week, useless!	To make Dorrington a place where people feel safe and less crime is committed	Participate in consultation & Policy formation	Parish Council Police Community Safety Partnership (NKDC)	ongoing

Employment & Skills

No.	Issue	End objective	Action	By whom	Time scale
10	Rural workshops	Appropriate employment opportunities	Consider all planning applications	Parish Council NKDC, Business Linc	ongoing