



Stoke Goldington Village Envelope



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Par.2055



Scale 1:3,500

# STOKE GOLDINGTON VILLAGE APPRAISAL 2012

## Foreward

Welcome to the Stoke Goldington Village Appraisal 2012. This is the first appraisal carried out by Stoke Goldington Parish Council since 1989 and in the intervening years many changes have taken place, both to the village, the surrounding area, and to the infrastructure on which we all depend.

The purpose of the Appraisal is twofold. Firstly, to capture a snapshot of the opinions of those who live in the village, secondly to help the Parish Council make good decisions that take into account those opinions, especially when these relate to matters that often stir up controversy, such as planning applications.

The format of the Appraisal broadly follows that of 1989 in order that trends can be analysed. However, there were quite a few issues in the 1989 Appraisal that are no longer relevant today, and equally new issues that did not previously exist, such as the availability of mobile phone coverage and internet connections.

The Parish Council spent a significant amount of time drawing up the questionnaire and analysing the results, especially those results where residents were asked to add their comments rather than just answer yes or no. Comments which were similar in nature have been grouped together and have a number after them indicating how many respondents made the same point. Comparisons with the 1989 result for the same question are shown in square parentheses.

Where comments were not requested we have had to ignore these. Similarly anything that might be considered libellous is not repeated in these results. If a response was unclear or unreadable we have ignored it since all the questionnaires were anonymous and it was not possible to ask for clarification. However, all the completed questionnaires have been reviewed by several councillors in order that as much data as possible could be captured and to ensure that residents' comments are reflected as accurately and fairly as possible. In some cases these opinions may not be welcome by all or even the majority, but everyone is entitled to their own view and this document reflects that. Readers will notice that opinion on some matters is sharply divided, but that is to be expected.

As central government strives to ensure that decisions are taken as locally as possible we believe that this has been an important process which will have a long term benefit for our community and for good governance. The Parish Council sometimes has to make difficult decisions and this Appraisal will assist us in keeping the best interests of the whole community uppermost at all times.

Stoke Goldington Parish Council, November 2012 (*Original signed by Councillors*)

**R Trett**.....

Chairman

**D Warren**.....

Vice Chairman

**D Geliher**

Councillor

**I Allen**.....

Councillor

**K Foxley**

Councillor

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## Introduction

The 2012 questionnaire was based on the 1989 Village Appraisal & the 2012 Society of Parish Clerks recommended standard questionnaire modified to exclude questions less relevant to 2012 and to include ones more relevant. Drafts were issued to the Parish Council, feedback given and amendments made seven times to arrive at the final version.

These summarised results need to be considered against the background of 2012 economic & social situation of this region, nationally & globally.

There are some indications of the warning “use it or you’ll lose it” and others of the inevitability of market forces and economic reality but in each section an attempt has been to summarise the responses received and where meaningful a comparison with 1989 to point out how things have changed or not, as the case may be. Where specific comments have been provided they are faithfully listed.

## Overall Results

*(1989 figs in [ ] for comparison)*

- **254** [204] were distributed and **79** [157] were completed which represents a **31%** [76%] return
- The **whole parish**, inc. Eakley Lanes was covered
- Maps (envelope, conservation, etc) are located in a specific area of the Parish Council website.

## Guidance Notes

- *Numbers & % based on returns to each specific question being addressed*
- *[1989] comparison*
- *% and/or unit figs given where most meaningful*

## SECTION 1 – THE PLACE & THE PEOPLE

### General

No household that made a return failed to fill in the Ages Section but when we compare the 2012 overall % returns of 31% with 1989 [76%] and the age distribution below then this needs to be understood before using the 2012 information as a basis for a Village Plan for the future.

The sexes are equal 50% each. A total of 179 individuals were included in the responses to the survey which showed 15% [5%] under 18 years old and 25% [10%] over 70. The main age group (71) [230] is in the range 19-60 years.

#### Note

*We will try to compare the age distribution of the 2012 returns with the Mar 2011 census data – available to Unitary Authority level online 16 July 2012 – to parish level between Nov 2012 & Feb 2013?*

Range	Male		Female		Total		1989
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	%
0 – 8	6	3	6	3	12	7	[11]
9 – 18	7	4	7	4	14	8	[14]
19 – 60	35	20	36	20	71	40	[55]
61 – 70	19	11	18	10	37	20	[10]
70+	22	12	23	13	45	25	[10]
<b>Total</b>	89	50	90	50	179 [417]	100%	100%

### Environment

#### *Public Footpaths & Verges*

Villagers had many & varied comments to offer, some general and some specific, and from differing points of interest. The extent of individual's expectations differs greatly & once all comments are visible to everyone contrary opinions can be expected

Starting with an overview & then listing in detail they are:-

96% [85%] use the footpaths at some time with 56% [33%] using them frequently. 82% think they are adequately maintained [the vast majority felt the footpaths weren't adequately maintained].

	No.	%	1989
Walked frequently	39	56%	[29%]
Occasionally	28	40%	[56%]
Practically never	3	4%	[15%]
<b>Total</b>	70	100%	[100%]

Adequately maintained?	No.	%	1989
YES	59	82%	[25%]
NO	13	18%	[75%]
Total	72	100%	[100%]

## General Comments

Regular Maintenance *"adequate but not great"* (1)

\* Of existing pavements, verges, kerbstones, road surfaces – *"generally needs improvement"* (6)

- Grass cutting should be collected after mowing verges (1)
- Residents need to cut back shrubs, trees, hedges that overhang pavements (1)

### Specifically:

- Town End Crescent area, inc. bus stop (2)
- High Street Malting Close to White Hart (1), school to shop (1), Clarkes Orchard to Town End Crescent (1), near Neil's shop (1), TEC to Village Hall & near VH (1), Malting Close (High Street road end) (1)
- Dag Lane (2)
- Church Lane (1)
- Path to Newport Pagnell (1)

\* Of field paths generally – *some paths lost signs* (1) (recently contacted footpaths officer)

- Keep communications open between landowners & walking groups (1) – keep dogs on leads particularly near live stock (1)

### Specifically:

- Diagonally from field by church to Chua's track (1)
- Bridleway 13 has been diverted (1)
- Footpath 17a not maintained (1)
- Better maintenance of gates & stiles (1)

New / improved amenities

- Cycle path around Stoke Woods (1)
- Better way markings (2) / signage around Stoke Wood requires upkeep (1)
- less stiles / more gates (easier for less able) (1) – kissing gate at top end of Birds Lane (1)
- widen pavement opposite school (1)
- widen path from Mount Pleasant to Church Lane (2)
- more footpaths by side of road between villages to encourage running / walking (1)
- bridleway access to Stoke Woods without need to go up main road to Purse Lane (1)

## **Development**

(2 responses said the map of the village envelope in the questionnaire could have been made clearer)

### **Outside the Village envelope**

37 responded simply "None" / 1 responded simply "Yes" / 17 qualified their response :-

- limited to meet village and farmers' needs (1)
- housing OK if it doesn't cause flooding or sewage problems (1)
- No further building until sewage system updated, it cannot cope (1)
- none if it affects flood risk to existing village (1)
- possible housing, restriction on industrial development (1)
- limited up to 60 homes (1)
- along Mount Pleasant road (1)
- a little to the south east (1)
- low cost starter & retirement homes (1)
- some affordable housing to sustain village (1)
- some development should be allowed (1)
- a scattering of housing (1)
- yes affordable homes (1)
- very little if any (1)
- affordable housing + wind farm (1)
- no objection to wind farm unless noise hazard (1)

### **Within the Village envelope**

The responses to the question "Do you think any further development should be allowed?" were:-

	%	1989
YES	27%	[11%]
LIMITED	46%	[55%]
NO	27%	[34%]
Total	100%	[100%]

### **Features to be retained**

Many individual features & "Views of ----" & "Views from ----" were mentioned which in summary shows wide support that any future development would need to carefully protect all the features so widely appreciated.

Individual features mentioned were:-

- The Church (9), both clumps of trees at either end of the village (4), all established groups of trees & hedges (4), copse on Ravenstone Rd (4) (needs better husbandry – bulbs set by seat), Grade listed buildings throughout the village (3), Stoke Park Wood (4), Rivers, streams & brooks need to be cleaned out & maintained (2), spring & pond on West Side Lane (2), recreation ground (2), school as a school (2), school green (1), all the village (1), social life in village & church (1), outside appearance of White Hart Pub (1), Old Rectory (1), horse chestnut tree opposite White Hart Pub (1), Dag Lane as a pathway all the way to the church (1), Neil's pond & trees (1)

Views from & to mentioned were:-

- View of the Church from – North & South (1)/ Orchard Way (2)/ Purse Lane (1)
- View from the Church to – the village (1)/ to Olney (1)/ to Ravenstone (1)/ to Hanslope (1)
- View of Stoke Park Wood (2)                      from Stoke Park Wood to the village (2)
- View from Swan's Way down over the Village, river and beyond (1)
- View of the village from derelict barn between the village & Bunsty (1)
- View of war memorial (2) & surrounding cottages (1)
- View from recreation ground to Ravenstone (1)
- View from path & road south of the village over the fields and river (2)

### **Eyesores**

When comparing the responses to this question in 2012 with 1989 you are left with the feeling that time changes most things but not at a pace to satisfy everyone!

*"The main eyesore mentioned in 1989 was Springbank Garage, 1/3 of people mentioned it, and several people stated it should be developed for housing"!!*

In 2012 the area around the garage, pub and shop were together described as the least attractive (1) but in both 2012 & 1989 several people stated that *"the village is generally attractive, it's these areas (warts & all), that give character, without them it would be bland"* (3)

### **Specifically:**

- Land on LHS of High Street (towards Northampton opposite Springbank) (5)
- Pub car park (4)
- Gardener White (3)
- Ugly extension to lovely house opposite Pub (1) –**PC Note**, a planning application which included partially demolishing this was refused by MKC.
- Town End Crescent parking area, garages, fuel tanks in front gardens (4)
- Corner of Olney Road, old sheds (4)
- Dutch Barn behind 36/38 High Street (5)
- Land opposite White Hart untidy could be grassed over (3)

- Farm equipment graveyard West Side Lane (3)- **PC Note**, this has since been cleared.
- Stable area (at the top of Dag Lane by church) (2)
- Dag Lane (vacant site next to Missenden Cottage) (1)
- Field at the RHS of the field at the bottom of Malting Close gradually being filled with bird pens & rubbish (1)
- Play park needs updating (1)
- Phone box by White Hart needs to be maintained (1)
- Road side signs need to be kept clean (1) – **PC Note**, this has been addressed.

### **Suggestions for Improvement**

As with the previous question comparison of 2012 with 1989 gives some insight as to whether the varied expectations of villagers are being satisfied over time. Also of the wide range of views of small numbers of villagers on what adds to or detracts from their ideal of how Stoke Goldington should be. To some extent remedial actions are, as villagers, in our own hands

This question comes before others that deal with some issues more specifically; the responses have not been transferred, but are kept where they were made

- regular litter picking day, voluntary if necessary (2) (especially tennis courts (1))
- general rubbish clear up where necessary (1)
- clean street signage (1) and restyle in keeping with conservation area like Weston Underwood
- owners of houses with hedges, bushes, trees encroaching onto pavements / paths asked to cut them back (1)
- stop putting rubbish out on footpaths before collection day (1)
- traffic control throughout the village (2)
- 20mph throughout the village (1)
- speed cameras at south of village (1)
- Bypass (1)
- please ensure all flood defences are carried out & other developments that increase the risk of flooding are restricted (2)
- ensure MK council workers complete all gardening tasks (opposite the reading room) as per contract (1) – **PC Note**, this is not MKC's responsibility.
- keep all recreation ground up to spec. (1)
- despite signs & bins recreation ground still used as canine toilet (1)
- weed the stream in the recreation ground (1)
- need better playground (1)
- more trees elms (1)
- possibly more trees to grow into standards, generally the village looking lovely (1)

- no, I don't want the village to change (1)
- constant Anglia water leak in the Crescent, requires additional pipe into ditch (1)
- better street lighting in some areas (1)
- shop facelift (1)

## Education

As shown earlier in this report the age distribution of those households that made questionnaire returns, when compared with 1989, shows a % skew from the younger towards the older age groups. The effect of this is perhaps illustrated in the low numbers returned to this question & the following one

### Younger members of the household

	Boys	Girls	Total	1989
SG Pre-school	0	0	0	-
SG First School	3	1	4	-
Others in the vicinity	3	5	8	-
<b>Total</b>	6	6	12	[96]

[note: - 1989 included Mothers & Toddlers 10 & Play School 9]

### New School starters

	Boys	Girls
2013 [1989]	- [1]	- [-]
2014 [1990]	1 [5]	1 [3]
2015 [1991]	- [3]	1 [1]
2016 [1992]	- [1]	- [1]
2017 [1993]	- [5]	- [4]

(note: - We plan to ask the pre & first school their understanding of the numbers of children they have/ will have attending that live in Stoke Goldington)

### Transport difficulties for after school activities

Only 20% [33%] of people answered this question and of those only 2 [17] stated that they do encounter problems.

	Total	%	1989
YES	2	12%	[26%]
NO	7	44%	[37%]
Don't know	0	0	[2%]
N/A	7	44%	[35%]
<b>Total</b>	16	100%	100%

### Further Education Statistics

Does any of your household attend Further Education day or evening classes?

	No.
YES	7
NO	26
Don't know (not answered)	46

Classes attended	Where
Water colour painting	MK Gallery
Language / Craft / Drawing	?
Archaeology & History	Oxford
Geology	Leicester
Guitar	Simpson: Music service
Badminton	Stanbury HC
Swimming	Middleton Pool
A Level	Uppingham
University	Newcastle
University	Cambridge
Accountancy	MK College
?	Olney & Newport

### *Classes Required*

*Computer class for over 60s (1)*

*Zumba evening class (2)*

*Exercise / Dance (1)*

*Keep fit / aerobics (2)*

*More sport facilities & classes for all ages (1)*

*Art classes (1)*

*Yoga (2)*

*Pilates (1)*

*Body balance (1)*

*Various Crafts (1)*

*Badminton (1)*

*Karate (1)*

*[There is a wide number of courses attended by villagers and further requirements are just as wide. It is clear that there is hardly any justification for holding additional classes in the village due to the small number of applicants in each discipline]*

## SECTION 2 - HOUSING

### Housing commentary

All of the responses said Yes when asked if their Stoke Goldington home was their main residence. The average time spent living in Stoke Goldington is 21 years and the range of time spent here is 6 months to 87 years.

95% of residents own their home

In 1989 there was an underlying concern about the ability of children of the village residents being able to reside in Stoke Goldington when they grow up. In 2012 when asked "Does anyone in your home require separate accommodation from other residents?" only 2 responded "Yes" and 1 "not yet maybe 3 or 4 years" – all young persons.

Although in 2012 the demand from descendants of villagers does not appear to be great there is a wide perception that affordable housing is desirable to encourage younger first time buyers & families into the village (life blood of village!) and smaller retirement housing for the elderly (transport then being a possible issue?)

In 1989 the "self-build" exercise of Leaside was seen as one opportunity (for those able to take advantage of it) to obtain reasonably priced houses for themselves, but once resale takes place normal market pressures apply.

In 2012

Shared ownership & housing associations with criteria in order to apply & rules to suppress resale are also suggested.

### House ownership

	Own	Rent
Own or rent your home	74 [84]	4 [32]

	Private Landlord	Employer	Council
Rented Accommodation	1 [5]	0 [3]	3 [24]

Tied	1 [5]
Not Tied	39 [27]

### Accommodation required

	Yes	No	Not Yet	Young Person
Accommodation required	2 [11]	68 [132]	1 [3]	3 [7]

	Yes	No
Do they wish to live in SG?	4 [9]	1 [2]

	Family house	To Rent	Single Accom.	To Purchase
What type of accommodation do they require?	1 [2]	2 [2]	2 [5]	1 [3]
	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>		
Have they applied to Housing list?	0 [2]	4 [10]		

## House changes

	Yes	No
Do you wish to change?	10 [20]	57 [97]

	Larger house / bungalow	Smaller house / bungalow	Sheltered Accom.
To what type of house?	1 [11]	8 [ 8]	2

	Yes	No
Do you wish to remain in SG?	50	3

In the 1989 Village Appraisal report a meeting (Sept 87) of the Economic Planning and Development Committee of the Borough of Milton Keynes is mentioned from which a Housing Land Availability Study evolved.

The 1989 Village Appraisal report mentions *“the allocation for Stoke Goldington was 6 houses on the old Bus depot site (now Leaside). This did not preclude infill building but only if this is feasible without a significant adverse effect on the character of the village”*

In 2009 the first Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) for Milton Keynes was undertaken, updated in 2010. This identified 19 sites in Stoke Goldington which have been assessed for suitability for development and reduced to 6 “Potentially Suitable Sites (currently outside the strategy)”. The number of potential dwellings within these sites ranges from 12 to 78.

The 2012 response to the village questionnaire question:- *“If the Appraisal shows that there is a demand for a small number of extra homes in Stoke Goldington, do you agree they should be built?”* was:-

Yes	56	73% [70%]
No	21	27% [30%]

### How many should it be?

How Many?	Responses	
1 – 5	14	25%
5 – 10	22	39%
Over 10	18	32%
Over 50	2	4%

### *What type?*

- smaller homes for first time buyers (8) (some reserved for younger residents (1))
- low cost to enable younger people to have homes here (5)
- Bungalows & small houses for the elderly (6)
- small 2 / 3 bedroom houses (4)
- cottage style to suit young couples without children (1)
- low cost housing for families (1)
- houses like Leaside for families (1)
- affordable rented homes (1)
- new cul-de-sac to encourage families with younger children into the village, offered to Stoke residents first and not rented (1)
- terrace or semi-detached (1)
- 2, 3, 4 bed, over 50 (2)
- developers should provide a range (inc. affordable for young) (1)
- infill within village envelope (1)
- sympathetic architecture in keeping / proper energy efficient design (1)
- shared ownership with no opportunity to increase equity (1)
- In order to ensure low cost for young residents needs to be tied permanently to housing association (1)
- affordable, shared ownership starter / family homes – criteria to apply to buy – age, village connections etc. (2)
- NONE. The Victorian sewage system is already overloaded (1)

### *Where?*

- corner of Weston Underwood Rd where old where old farm buildings stand (10) (slow down traffic into village)
- Upper Dag Lane (4)
- Northampton end of village (1)
- Eakley lane (1) – more land greater spacing
- Opposite Spring bank (4)
- Mount Pleasant Road (4)
- Levers field (3)
- White Hart (1)
- Rear of Malting Close behind High Street (5)
- In Mount Pleasant that backs onto Malting Close (1)
- In grounds of new Rectory (1)

- Garage plot (2)
- Behind village shop (2)
- Behind Pub (2)
- West Side lane (4)
- East side of recreation ground (3)
- extend Bakers Close (1)
- centrally located for ease of access to school / pre-school (1)
- flat land near centre or quiet area on fringes (1)
- Ram Alley (3)
- little meadow off back of High Street (1)
- Long Meadow (1)
- away from High Street – cycle links & footpaths to access other parts of village (1)
- back of Town End Crescent (1)
- where appropriate with regard to flooding risk (1)
- either end of village (1)
- make village wider not longer (1)
- nowhere suitable (1)
- in fill on existing roads (1)

### *Why?*

- least impact on village environs
- minimum disruption to established areas
- sympathetic in fills
- if village school goes make flats
- keep Stoke Goldington as village (stay within envelope)
- don't want to lose "green space", or develop on farm land or enlarge village foot print
- village is very linear geographically & socially (needs more heart)
- good for Stoke to get young family members back
- envelope is not preserved in aspic
- empty field & eyesore
- avoid any form of estate development
- would bring church back into village / where old village pub was
- we feel there is adequate housing in the village

## SECTION 3 – PUBLIC SERVICES & UTILITIES

### Medical services

#### Doctors

There were 75 responses to this question spread over 7 distinct practices in 5 different locations

- Newport Pagnell Medical Centre (51)
- Cobbs Garden Olney (11)
- Hanslope (5)
- Newport Pagnell Kingfisher (4)
- Whadden House Bletchley (2)
- Olney (1)
- MK Village practice (1)

#### Dentists

There were 66 responses to this question spread over 32 practices in 19 different towns dispersed over a wide geographical distance (e.g. Hertfordshire, Bedford, Aylesbury, Buckingham) perhaps illustrating the difficulty to find a local NHS practice of good reputation with sufficient capacity to satisfy demand

To the question “Do you consider that the present district medical services are adequate for your needs?” the replies were 90 % [73%] are satisfied with the following exceptions / comments:-

- NHS Dentist
- Difficulty getting doctor’s appointment when required, lack of personal attention (not always own doctor) & reliance on own transport to get there

With regard to local hospitals, transport to get there, disability, mobility, care at home & adequacy of facilities the responses given were:-

	Yes		No	
	No.	%	No.	%
Transport Problems	3	4%	71	96%
Household occupants with disability	9	12%	66	88%
Household occupants with mobility difficulties	10	13%	66	87%
Household occupants needing care at home	4	5%	72	95%
Adequacy of facilities	57	90%	6	10%

This perhaps illustrates the issue facing rural communities in how to cope with transport problems for a significant minority as ageing and mobility difficulties make personal transport less of an option and public transport doesn’t meet individual needs.

Some comments made / suggestions offered are:-

- more walk in centres at Olney or Newport (like Broughton)
- Nurse attend VH or reading room walk in surgery once per week
- routine doctors surgery to be held in village 3 times per week
- bus shelter at Malting Close (1)

Answers received to the question “Do you see the need for any social or welfare services not already in the village?” were:-

No	2
More social activities	1
Post Office	1
Information Services	1

## Street lighting

Answers received to the question “Is the street lighting in Stoke Goldington adequate?”

Yes	78% [44%]
No	22% [56%]

Areas for suggested improvement are:-

- Dag lane (5) - more lights in lower lane nos. 2 & 3
- School to Town End Crescent (3) – either or both side of the road
- Orchard way entrance (2)
- Malting Close into High Street (1) – an extra lamp
- Bakers Close entrance (1)
- all dark spots along road (1) – to aid pedestrian safety
- TEC / bus shelter (1)
- outside first school & road up to and around it (1)
- High Street to Dag Lane (1) – extra light
- Newport Pagnell end of High Street (1) – more lights
- Ram Alley corner (1) – more lighting
- Hedges cut back (1)

In addition to the locations offered for light improvements two more suggestions were made about the style of village lampposts:-

- Lampposts like Sherington (1)
- Lampposts like Weston Underwood (1) (Conservation area)

When asked “Would you support lights being switched off at certain times e.g. 12 midnight to 5am?”

- 70% responded YES [in 1989 73% of villagers would favour that lights remain on all night]
- 1 suggested motion sensor lights like Olney

## Refuse

The people of Stoke Goldington appear to be well pleased with the weekly refuse collection service with 99% [90%] of the questionnaires returned saying it was satisfactory.

Comments made when asked for improvement suggestions were:-

- can't fault it / non it's excellent / service is very good / credit to council (4) / please make sure it stays weekly
- resume skip service (4) (Parish levy)
- more bags or more frequently delivered (2)
- new design pink & black sack are difficult to open (1)
- further separation of tins from plastic (1)
- remove charges for large items (1)

## Gas

The 2012 response was very similar to that of 1989 in that the majority of people in the village would like to be connected to a mains supply:-

	No.	%	1989 %
YES	49	64%	[63%]
NO	27	36%	[37%]

Some would be prepared to pay the initial connection charges, twice as many would not but for the overwhelming majority it depends on what the cost would be:-

YES = 4                  No = 8                  Depends on cost = 39

## Litter

In 1989 litter and litter bins were clearly an emotive subject and a majority of people thought it was a good idea for the Parish Council to employ someone to keep the village tidy. When it came to paying for the service more than a quarter were clearly reluctant to see this result in an increase in their rates.

In 2012 82% responded “YES” when asked “Are you satisfied with the level of tidiness in the village” with comments made being about specific locations & self-action to remedy issues

### *Dog mess generally (2)*

- more bins (2)
- more notices & whistle blowers (1)
- at lower end of Dag Lane (1)
- needs addressing particularly at recreation ground (1)

### ***Voluntary litter picking days (1)***

- do not walk past litter pick it up (2)
- more litter bins (1)
- particularly around tennis courts (1)
- occasionally find bits of glass on tennis courts at rec (1)

### ***Paths, verges, and roads***

- could be better maintained (1)
- better upkeep of verges (1)
- too much litter on verges (1)
- pavement untidy generally (litter good) (1)
- Weed killing (1)

### ***Comments offered were: -***

I do not want to live in a “perfect” village like Weston Underwood (1)

Village Hall car park needs clearing more frequently (1)

Recreation ground sometimes untidy (1)

Take tennis courts away (1)

Stop residents putting rubbish out before collection day (1)

Sometimes bin across from White Hart not emptied (1)

Allotments look a mess (1)

Reduce number of pigeons (1)

Instruct youngsters to put beer cans and sweet wrappers in bins (1)

Ask farmer to clear odd bits and pieces littered around his land (1)

Insist MKC asks residents of Town End Crescent clear up back gardens (1)

On entering village (1) - from Northampton OK

- from Newport Pagnell looks dirty, unkempt verges, trees overgrown obscuring 30mph sign speeding

## **Police**

The two questions in this section highlighted some difference between villagers’ expectations (perceptions) and actual incidents.

*Do you consider police coverage of the area to be adequate?*

	No.	%
YES	45	60%
NO	30	40%

- "rarely seen" (1)
- need more visible patrols, especially in evening (1)
- elderly need more support with personal/household security (1)

Has anyone in your household been a victim of a crime over the past 3 years?

	No.	%
YES	3	4%
NO	74	96%

- "Theft from outside / garden" (1)
- "Car broken into outside house" (1)

**PC Note**, there have been a number of burglaries since the Village Appraisal was carried out so unfortunately these figures may underestimate the problem.

## SECTION 4 – VILLAGE AMENITIES

The favourable responses to the question "Is the Village Hall adequate for the Parish's needs?" received in 2012 <as in 1989> by definition reflects well on all the people who worked so hard to build the hall and also the many others who have devoted, still devote so much effort in maintaining, running and developing the hall

The number of responses was: -

	No.	%	1989 %
YES	78	100%	[91%]
NO	0	0%	[9%]

As well as many complementary comments:-

*e.g. Excellent facility, lucky to have it (5) – Pleasant, well-resourced facility (2) – Best Village Hall in the area (1), made cheaper for residents (1) – congratulations to all (1)*

there were a few suggestions for continued improvement:-

*e.g. needs permanent stage (3) – better heating (2) – upgrade toilets (1) – needs general upgrade (1) – a little more storage(1) – outside area could be made more attractive (1) – preschool extensions are against deed of gift of recreation ground (1) – grounds could be better maintained to attract more functions & football teams (1) – not marketed well enough (1) – rent it out more (1) – very few functions these days (1) – preschool should take care to leave clean after use (1) – salt bin for bad weather in / near car park (1)*

When asked "Are the amenities of the Village Hall adequate for the functions held?" the responses were:-

	No.	%	1989 %
YES	69	96%	[91%]
NO	3	4%	[9%]

&" how often does a member of your household attend functions?"

	%	1989 %
Weekly	14%	[28%]
Monthly	10%	[22%]
Occasionally	76%	[50%]

"Which functions are they?"

#### General

Social (4), meetings (3), fund raising (3), general village functions (2), local get together (1),

Various (1), etc. (2), social events by organisations (1)

#### Specific

Family party (inc. weddings, birthdays & christening) (9), spring lunch (9), Christmas Bazaar (7), Preschool events (8), steam rally thank you BBQ (6), Wesley Cup cricket (5), annual Garden Show (4), Summer Fete (4), Halloween (4), Church Event (4), Pilates (4), SGA Carol Concert (3), 1<sup>st</sup> school events (3), Senior Citizens' Club (3), Bowls Club (3), Quiz night (2), wind farm meetings (2), Thursday club (2), ballet (2), bell ringing (1), voting (2), Jazz (1), Harvest (1) sewing club (1), SGA (1), cycling club (1), youth club (1), dance (1), Yoga (1), coffee mornings (1)

### Reading Room

Not so many people answered the question about the reading room [same happened in 1989]. When asked "Is the reading room adequate for the Parish's needs?" The number of responses were: -

	No.	%	1989 %
YES	69	100%	[92%]
NO	0	0%	[8%]

Comments made were:-

- back yard needs to be maintained more thoroughly (2) – use for social events
- hot water supply (2)
- it's damp and cold in winter (1)
- an excellent asset (1)
- adequate for low numbers usage (1)
- could probably do without it if more use was made of village hall for meetings (1)
- parking hazard through village (1)

***“How often does a member of your household use the reading room?”***

	No.	%	1989 %
Weekly	18	25%	[34%]
Monthly	20	27%	[16%]
Occasionally	35	48%	[50%]

The comments made to the question “What activity is undertaken during their use of the reading room?” were:-

General

Meetings (5), various village clubs (4), private hire (2), committees (1), social (1), AGM (1)

Specific

Stoke Goldington Association (15), Gardening Club (11), coffee mornings (7), Thursday club (7), sewing club (5), Bridge (4), Parish Council (4), Church fund raising (2), Save our Salcey meetings (2), mums & tots group (1), preschool meetings (1), children’s birthday party (1), PCC (1), Steam Rally meetings (1), use of archive (1), rent for meetings (1)

Comments made were:-

- allocate hiring groups a cupboard (1)
- explain recycling system (1)
- set of rules required (1)

**Recreation Ground**

Comparing the responses in this section for 2012 to 1989 shows that there was and still is a strong sense of how this amenity can best be put to use for the benefit of the whole village and options change over time.

In answer to the 2012 question “Do you consider the sporting, playground and recreational facilities in the village are adequate?”

	%
YES	83%
NO	17%

[the 1989 question was slightly different “Are you satisfied with the condition of the ground?” 82%YES 18%NO]

***“How often does a member of your household use the recreation ground?”***

	%	1989 %
Occasionally	79%	[53%]
Monthly	3%	[2%]
Most weeks	13%	[33%]
Most days	5%	[12%]

In 1989 21 responses wanted to have a tennis court & 4 an all-weather facility

In 2012 three general comments seem to sum up the specific ones that follow: - *Pathetic waste of amenity* (1), *better use of recreation ground space to attract more families* (1), *Recreation YES / Sporting NO* (1) (adequacy?)

The specific comments fall into the following groups: -

- Improve tennis court / hard play area (4)
- Move tennis court to beside village hall (2)
- Get rid of tennis court (2)
- Go back to having a proper cricket ground (7)
- Upgrade & make playground safer (4) – larger (2)
- New facilities for older children (4) e.g. sheltered booth (1) / new wooden adventure playground (1)
- Additional seats (1)
- Secure against squatters (1)

Comments about the general upkeep of the recreation ground were: - make rec level (2), no dogs (1), concern about the large trees that line the stream (1), litter bins in the tennis court & car park (1) - clean out steam annually (1).

## Mobile Library service

	Yes		No	
	%	1989 %	%	1989 %
Do you use it?	5%	[15%]	95%	[85%]
Is it frequent enough?	90%	-	10%	-
Do you use the library service elsewhere?	59%	[53%]	41%	[47%]

### *“If yes, why do you not use the Mobile Library Service?”*

	No.
Attends at wrong times	6
At inconvenient places	0
Other	3

The comments made fall mainly into two groups: -

Lack of awareness (10) – Days, times and places need more publicity & promotion

Personal choice (10) – Better choice of books, prefer experience, more convenient to visit main libraries (NP, MK)

Lack of mobility (1)

***“What other activities would you like to see established in the village?”***

There were a variety of suggestions, nearly all singular mentions only, more sport (1) – cricket (3) – football (1) were mentioned multiple times.

The single mentions were: - Pantomime (permanent stage needed), promote kids outside play, bingo, Zumba, fitness, film nights, gentle activities for the elderly (e.g. yoga, taichi), Scottish dancing, walk footpaths to keep them open, New Year’s Day walk, carol singing (donations to church), social clubs (chess, poker, etc.)

***“Would you be prepared to help in the running of them?”***

	No.
YES	11
NO	8

## SECTION 5 - COMMUNICATIONS

### Vehicles

[The speed at which traffic passes through the village does appear to be of concern to many]

The above sentence opened the 1989 report of this section and is also appropriate in 2012. The link parked vehicles have in making a roadway restriction and hence slowing vehicle speeds is also recognised but a safe way for children to cross the road from the village hall play ground to the school is still elusively desired.

Many suggestions are put forward for reducing vehicle speeds and enforcement of existing speed limits but the responses to the first question in this section; -

***“Would you like to see further speed restrictions applied in the village?”***

	%
YES	59%
NO	41%

shows that any specific proposed measure is likely to have a significant number of objections.

Specific suggestions offered: -

Full time physical deterrents to slow traffic

- speed bumps (sleeping policemen) (6)
- road narrowing / single carriageway at village boundary / chicane (8)
- traffic calming into village from Newport Pagnell (2)
- red tarmac outside playground & school (1)
- widen pavement by No. 8 High Street (1)

Extend current limits / more severe limits

- 20mph in village centre (4) / school term (by school) at certain times (2)
- 40mph for Eakley Lanes (2) / to Church Lane (1)
- 30mph extended to Purse Lane (2)

### More intrusive signage

- flashing 30mph sign at north end of village (1)
- speed signs painted on road in middle of High Street (2)
- “T” junction or “X” roads sign at approach to TEC & Olney Road (1)
- cut back roadside hedges at village entrance from Newport Pagnell (1)

### Actual speeding incident measurement & evidence (legal consequences)

- enforce existing limits (2)
- speed guns police & voluntary (1)
- fixed speed camera at both ends of the village (5)
- average speed camera at either end of village (1)

### Safer road crossing

- zebra crossing at school (2)
- pedestrian crossing opposite Village Hall with half way island (1)

### *“Would you be prepared to support Neighbourhood Action Group activity (Speed Watch Events)?”*

	No.
YES	29
NO	35

(Note: to date 8 villagers have come forward for speed watch training and events started in May 2012)

One comment was made re speed watch events – “they are OK but too many people alert oncoming vehicles”

### *Parking*

The overall responses to this section are clearly against parking control in the high street [note change from 1989] but detailed suggestions are offered by those in favour of where restrictions should be made.

### *“Would you like to see some form of parking control in the High Street?”*

	%	1989 %
YES	26%	[70%]
NO	74%	[30%]

### *“Have you answered from point of view of”:-*

	%	1989 %
Motorist	50%	[47%]
Pedestrian	33%	[37%]
High Street Resident	17%	[16%]

*"If you favour some kind of parking control would it be partial?" e.g.*

Confined to one side of the street = 13                      certain areas (see below) = 8

- haphazard parking inhibits speeding traffic (3)
- outside White Hart / reading room (4)
- from Malting Close to south of reading room (1)
- main part of High Street Lamb to White Hart (1)
- parking on both sides of High Street in centre School to pub (1)
- areas avoiding bends in road (1)
- one side especially by village pub (1)
- garage to Berkeley Close (1)
- opposite Lamb next to where school bus stops (1)
- one side school to garage yellow zigzag to school (1)
- the junction of West Side Lane (motorists park too close mornings and afternoons) (1)
- opposite Village Hall playground (1)
- designate safe place to cross road (1)
- no parking on footpaths (1)
- a roundabout opposite Town End Crescent (1)
- Town End Crescent one way only (1)

### **Bus Services**

The responses to the question *"Do any members of you household travel by scheduled bus service"* were: -

	%	1989 %
Daily	3%	[11%]
Weekly	3%	[15%]
Occasionally	12%	[22%]
Virtually never	82%	[52%]

*"If you are an adult bus user, is this for the purposes of?"*

	No.	1989 No.
Getting to Work	1	[8]
Essential Shopping	4	[39]
Dentist / Doctor	5	[30]
Social / Recreational	7	[13]

*“If there could be improvements to the scheduled services or changes in the times, could this be useful to members of your household?”*

	%	1989 %
YES	55%	[55%]
NO	45%	[45%]

*“What time changes would be most useful to members of your household?”*

- miss bus service to Northampton (4)
- direct service to MKC & return (3)
- more frequent (2)
- hourly services (1)
- more frequent to Newport Pagnell (1)
- after school clubs bus i.e. 4.30 to 5.00pm from Newport (1)
- later return to village, finish too early – lack of connection to MKC & Northampton (1)
- timetable on Parish Council notice board would be useful (1)

**PC Note**, since the Village Appraisal a new and improved bus timetable has come into operation with additional services and more convenient timing.

### **Personal Transport**

The 2012 appraisal returns were 79 compared with 157 in 1989 (roughly twice as many in 1989 – so the reader may wish to multiply some of the 2012 numbers by 2 to get a closer comparison with 1989)

*“Please state the number of each type of vehicle possessed by your household?”*

	Cars	Vans	Motorcycles	Bicycles
2012	125	4	8	58
2012 x 2	250	8	16	116
1989	[222]	[17]	[10]	[63]

(a comment was made asking about mobility scooters!)

*“Where are your cars and vans usually parked?”*

	%
Roadside	7%
On Drive	63%
In garage	30%

*“Are your cars / vans / motorcycles used to travel to work / school / college / university?”*

	%
YES	56%
NO	44%

*“Does anyone in your household need to connect with other transport systems to reach their workplace?”*

YES = 7      Daily = 4      Weekly = 3      Rail = 7      Plane = 1      Coach = 0      NO = 58

*“What is their average daily travel time to reach their workplace?”*

Daily connecting with rail = 1hr 40min      Daily non connecting = 39min

Weekly connecting with rail = 1hr 30min

Weekly connecting with rail & plane = 1hr 30min

(averaged over relevant responses)

*“Does anyone in your household?”*

	YES	NO
“work at home”	20	49
“work within walking / cycling distance”	5	54
“travel to work by public transport”	3	53

## Telephone & Internet

*“When at home do you rely on landline or mobile voice communication?”*

	No.
Landline	30
Mobile	1
Both	48
Neither	0

*“Is there good mobile coverage at your house?”*

	No.
YES	28
NO	46

(depends on provider – O2 is OK (& THREE?) – Orange / T mobile / Vodaphone are not OK)

(had to change provider to get coverage = 2)

*“If NO, which street do you live in?”*

Malting Close = 12      High Street = 11      Mount Pleasant = 3      Orchard Way = 3  
Eakley Lanes = 3      Hollow Brook = 2      Dag Lane = 2      Berkeley Close = 1  
Town End Crescent = 1      Ram Alley = 1      Church Lane = 1

*“When at home do you use the internet with a landline or mobile connection?”*

	No.
Landline	59
Mobile	0
Both	14
Neither	8

*“If you could influence an improvement in Broadband speed which type of connection is important to you?”*

	No.
Landline	47
Mobile	1
Both	16
Neither	7

(one response asked about when we get fibre optics.)

*“Do you access Village websites?”*

	No.
Often	5
Occasionally	47
Never	24

*“Which websites are they?”*      SGA (29), Steam Rally (28), Parish Council (21), Village Hall (13), Lamb (8),  
First School (8), SOS (2)

## Television

*“Do you receive television signals via aerial or satellite dish?”*

	%
Aerial	59%
Satellite Dish	12%
Both	28%
Neither	1%

## Local Communication

"Do you read the Gate Group News?" YES = 100% NO = 0%

"Do you ever read the Village notice boards?" YES = 80% NO = 20%

"Do read local newspapers / magazines?" YES = 87% NO = 13%

"If so please state" :-

Citizen = 43 Phone box = 30 MK News = 28 NP Town Crier = 10

MK Pulse = 1 Olney (?) = 1 All = 1 Both = 1

"Does anyone from your household attend a religious service regularly?"

	No.
YES	22
NO	32
Not answered	25

"If so where?"

St Peters Stoke Goldington = 14 Gate Group Churches = 4

Olney Baptist = 1 NP Parish Church = 1 Northampton RC Cathedral = 1

Sutcliff Baptist Olney = 1 Newport Pagnell = 1 Northampton = 1 Olney = 1 Catholic Church Olney = 1  
(one comment – "no but strongly believe Church should be supported financially")

"Does anyone from your household use the village pub?" YES = 57 NO = 20

"Do you know who your Parish Councillors are?" YES = 62 NO = 16

"Do you know when & where the Parish Council meets?" YES = 65 NO = 14

"Do you feel your representatives on the Parish Council are sufficiently aware of local feeling?"

YES = 51 NO = 19 (comment- "never been asked - wind farm info very biased" = (1))

"Do you feel your representatives on the Milton Keynes Council are sufficiently aware of local feeling?"

YES = 29 NO = 31 (comment- "never been asked - wind farm info very biased" = (1))

"Do you view the opportunities of "LOCALISM" positively?"

	No.
YES	31
NO	7
Don't know	23
Depends	9

Comments – “If theological views taken into consideration” = 1 / “People willing to commit to do so” = 1 / “The village (we) have to move at least in a small way – more housing” = 1)

*“Are you willing to participate in these opportunities?”*

	No.
YES	25
NO	22
Depends	23

Comments – “others doing so and sticking to it” ( 1), “participation not welcomed by PC” (1)

## SECTION 6 – VILLAGE & LOCAL SERVICE CENTRES

### Local Services

*“Do you use the Village shop?”*

	No.
Most days	27
Most weeks	23
Occasionally	28
Never	2

*“Where do you do your main weekly grocery shopping?”*

Tesco Wolverton = 17      Co-op Olney = 13      Sainsbury’s MK = 7      Waitrose MK = 5  
 Tesco Kingston = 8      Aldi / Sainsbury’s MK Hub = 3      Waitrose Towcester = 1  
 Aldi = 1      Morrison’s Northampton = 1  
 Tesco online home delivery = 3      Sainsbury’s online = 2      Waitrose online = 1  
 Not specific: - MK = 3 / Bedford = 1 / MK or N’hampton = 2 / NP = 3 / Online = 3 (Sainsbury’s / Abel Cole)  
 Tesco Northampton / butcher Hackleton = 1 / Sainsbury’s, Budgens, Co-op, Tesco = 1  
 Tesco / Parkins = 1 (local greengrocer / Green’s farm shop - butcher)      Fruit & veg local shop every Thurs = 1

*“Do you have any groceries delivered?”*      YES = 19      NO = 57

*“Where is the Post Office(s) you normally use located?”*

Newport Pagnell = 49      Olney = 27      Hackleton = 5      MKC = 2      Hanslope = 2  
 Hartwell = 1      Bozeat = 1      N’hampton = 1      Internet = 1

*“Where is the Bank(s) you normally use located?”*

Newport Pagnell = 38      Olney = 14      NP / Olney = 12      MK = 7  
Internet & any cash machine = 5      MK or N’hampton = 1      N’hampton = 1  
Phone & internet or N’hampton = 1      London & Newcastle = 1      London & N’hampton = 1

*“Where are the petrol / diesel station(s) you normally use located?”*

Newport Pagnell = 33      Tesco Wolverton = 20      MK = 11      Tesco Kingston = 8  
H3 / V10 = 7      N’hampton = 8      Olney = 1      Bedford = 1      Tongwell = 1  
NP / Kingston = 1      Tesco = 1      Blakelands = 1      Stacey Bushes = 1  
Hertfordshire (where fuel is much cheaper) = 1

## **SECTION 7 – FOR THE YOUNGER MEMBERS OF THE HOUSEHOLD**

### **School**

*“Which School / College / University do you attend?”*

Ousedale NP = 1      St Pauls Catholic School MK = 1      Thornton College Oak Grove Campus = 1  
Uppingham = 1      Newcastle = 1      Cambridge = 1

*“Are you able to take part in after school activities?”*      YES = 9      NO = 1

*“How do you travel home from these activities?”*

	No.
Walk	1
Car	9
Bus	0
Cycle	0

*“Are there buses at convenient times?”*      YES = 2      NO = 3

### **Leisure**

*“Do you use the bus to travel to meet friends outside the village or to go to the cinema or other activities?”*

	No.
YES	2
NO	9

*“Does the bus service meet your needs?”*

YES = 0

NO = 2

*“At what time would you like buses?”*

- bus to N’hampton if only once or twice per week = 1
- connection to MK centre = 1
- late return to Stoke in the evening = 1

*“Does anyone in your household attend a youth group / club?”*

YES = 7

NO = 2

*“Are there any activities you wish to follow that you think would interest other people and could be organised within the village?”* Scottish Dancing = 1

## **The Village**

*“What improvements would you like to see in the village?”*

- Welcoming newcomers, packs & street wardens
- Paths & roads better maintained & hedges cut (if not private dwelling)
- Safe children’s’ play area for bikes, scooters, skates. Better equipment
- Parking area within Town End Crescent made available / cheaper garage rental
- exercise classes for over 50s
- policies to sustain shop, pub & school so the village doesn’t become a “ghost village”
- I like it the way it is
- Better bus service
- another project like Leaside shared ownership / long term sustainability community houses
- More community events – Olympic / Jubilee street party / New year’s eve celebration / New year’s day family walk
- lamp posts & road signs like Weston Underwood – Gate Group Villages same style

## **AND FINALLY**

*“Do you enjoy living in Stoke Goldington?”*

YES = 76

NO = 1

*“Do you have any comments on the life in this community or suggestions for improvement?”*

- Best village community in North Bucks, best village archive in UK, care of elderly best – Guntrip fund, spring lunch, support for senior citizens club – low cost housing for young couples a priority – keep bus service for those without own transport & pensioners bus passes OK before 9.30am
- Householders need to be encouraged to better maintain properties & boundaries
- nice signs and flowers both ends of village like Hackleton & Haversham
- I wish the PC would have explored and discussed wind farm with the community

- We must rigorously oppose the windfarm as this will wreck the village
- hate the thought of the wind farm / village shop could be better
- enlarged, better stocked shop with tea room attached
- Stop dangerous parking – on bends –on pavements
- Stoke Goldington has a good community spirit that's not always taken up by newcomers
- if more people used the businesses in the village we would be less likely to lose them
- to sustain school, shop, pub, village hall village needs to grow
- recreation ground so sadly not used for any form of sport
- plenty of opportunity to get involved in community, steam rally opportunity for community to get together, need effort to retain shop, pub, garage
- good sense of community & amenities need little improvement / would like gas
- we find it a very friendly and supportive village
- due to national economy & house price inflation not possible for many adults with families to put in as much effort as before
- Steam Rally excellent thing (event & knock on effect) long may it continue
- like larger house but too pricey / better parking in TEC / cheaper garage / kids outside use of bikes & scooters no good as pavements too bumpy / playground needs updating / need to encourage professional families with young children / market Stoke Goldington promote preschool & first school
- a few more village functions 80s / 90s disco dance / more quizzes
- the road sweeper to follow grass cutting activity
- sustain & improve – “Best kept” village
- safe, relaxed village life
- reopen White Hart pub
- we have always enjoyed living in Stoke Goldington (28yrs) most people friendly, happy to come home to
- ban dogs from recreation ground
- the PC should have powers to say who rents council houses
- Stoke is a very friendly, supportive village and we would like to keep it that way
- need sand and grit bins e.g. footpath in front of Ram Alley
- new safety floor for rec playground
- speeds of Eakley Lanes too high – difficulty getting out – accident with horses waiting to happen
- monitor traffic to ensure it does not divide the village
- it's a very nice community, long may it continue, that's why no more houses should be built
- plenty of clubs and associations up to individual to get involved or not, villagers are very lucky

- love living in village – wind farm worrying – fantastic preschool & first school
- farmers should tidy & clear local ditches (flood prevention) / average speed cameras & mini roundabout TEC & Olney Road / better signage at either end of village welcome to SG floral small fence / count down markers to 30 mph / bypass to east of village
- community lunch one day a week cooked and served in Lamb, school children invited / village needs growth to be sustainable
- pleasant, vibrant interest activities – Thank you
- village needs more balanced population (age & social mix)
- fee from council tax for social co-ordinator to arrange functions Village hall & Lamb “Bring life back into village”
- village makeover shop / pub / garage, if no budget then village volunteers with skills / pathways very poor state