



**Report on the Verbatim Comments (Yellow Sheets)
Attached to the Community Appraisal**

Summary

The total number of separate comments was 516. These have been grouped together under broad headings below, in rank order.

It should be noted that the data in this document are ‘**qualitative**’ only - i.e. they add detailed background to the main survey, which is ‘**quantitative**’. The numbers are too small to be used for reliable statistical analysis. They are shown for interest and consistency only.

Numbers of comments, grouped.

Subject	Numbers	% of total
1) Total Roads	222	43%
<i>Made up of:</i>		
Speed	49	
Parking	47	
One-way system	34	
Traffic Congestion	30	
HGVs	23	
Pavements/cycle paths	22	
Yellow lines	11	
Repair/upkeep	7	
Pedestrians/cyclists	6	
2) Housing	31	6%
3) Youth	27	5%
<i>Made up of:</i>		
Their anti-social behaviour	14	
More facilities for them	13	
4) Criticism of the Survey	24	4.5%
<i>Made up of:</i>		
Respondent’s personal agenda	12	
Timing	2	
Technical	10	
5) Sense of Community/character of IoW	20	4%
6) Mess/untidiness	16	3%
<i>Made up of:</i>		
Eyesores dumped on farmland	7	
Dog fouling	6	
Litter	3	
=7) Against the expansion of the IoW	14	2.5%
=7) Retail	14	2.5%

=9) Appreciation of the Survey	11	2%
=9) Employment	11	2%
=9) Footpaths	11	2%
=9) Police/crime	11	2%
=13) Celebrating what we have	10	2%
=13) Village Halls	10	2%
=13) Local bus services	10	2%
<i>Made up of:</i>		
Community bus	6	
Public bus	4	
=16) The environment	9	1.5%
=16) Hedges and trees	9	1.5%
=18) Schools	7	1.5%
=18) Health	7	1.5%
<i>Made up of:</i>		
GP service	5	
Hospitals	1	
Dentist	1	
20) Wedmore Parish Council	5	1%
=21)The elderly	4	1%
=21) Bonfire nuisance	4	1%
=21) IoW News	4	1%
=24) The disabled	2	0.5%
=24) Public toilets	2	0.5%
26-45) A pot pourri of single ideas	20	*%
Grand Total	515	100%

1. ROADS (222 comments = 43% of total)

1.1 Speed

Speeding vehicles need to be stopped with traffic calming and enforced (CCTV)

Low traffic speed limits are a priority.

30 mph limit from Theale play park up Snake Lane through Bagley to Mudgley Cross and along other unclassified lanes with significant housing.

Sleeping policemen on Pilcorn Street

Traffic calming in Theale.

Traffic calming within the village is of the utmost importance allowing a safe walking environment from and to school and other facilities.

Of course the roads through Wedmore are of great concern but having been hit by a car whilst walking up Combe Batch I wonder if the solution is in traffic calming or speed limits. When I asked the police why this stretch of road never had speed traps, I was told that there was nowhere safe for a policeman to stand! The parked cars on Combe Batch acted as traffic calming – since they have been removed the speed on the stretch has increased.

Pavementless Theale definitely needs some traffic speeding control – proper 30 mph signs at ends of village would help; those large ones with big yellow backgrounds. In Othery the speed cameras work brilliantly without causing visual/physical hideousness to the village. The huge money that was spent on an impassable quagmire-of-a-footpath in Theale would have been better spent on traffic calming.

More prominent speed limit signs needed in Theale to slow traffic.

20 mph zones are good if they are limited in time to ‘peak periods’. They lose credibility otherwise.

Safe route to schools – Wedmore and Hugh Sexey. The blocking of the Wedmore scheme was irresponsible to say the least. The proposed speed limit will result in cars accelerating towards the section of Pilcorn Street that needs pavements.

speeding cars (speed bumps etc. would be useful).

I think Wedmore should have a by-pass!! Trouble is most of the farmland available for this is ‘family owned’ and has been for generations! Or reduce speed through village!?

Restrict speed in Pilcorn Street,

I would like measures to be taken to prevent Bagley being used as a 'rat run', cars are driven through the hamlet much too quickly. There will be a serious accident one day.

Traffic problem, mainly speeding but also heavy vehicles on roads into the village. We still have no prospect of speed control, monitoring cameras or disincentives save by the school. While I recognise that as a focal point other roads in, especially from Cheddar and Wells are exceedingly dangerous. I would estimate at least a third of cars are speeding and with increasing traffic the problem worsens.

The current speed limits are adequate provided that safe footpaths can be constructed.

If a one-way system evolves traffic calming will be a priority.

I am not particularly concerned about congestion as slower traffic is safer but unnecessary speed limits beyond settlement boundaries are frustrating and increase overtaking and the potential for dangerous driving.

Wedmore is a dangerous place to drive in or through. As for traffic congestion – enough said!

A 30 mph speed limit in Wedmore? Such signs would be a waste of space and money – it's unlikely that 25 mph can be achieved. Sign posts already obstruct the pavement outside of the toilets.

It is vital for the quality of life we all enjoy to be sustained that the enforcement of speed and heavy transport through our villages is rigorously undertaken by the authorities. After all, what's the point of restrictions if very few take notice. At least we are having some 20 mph limits which is a start.

No, I would not want traffic calming apart from 20 mph limit. Humps affect mainly considerate locals not outsider joy riders

Just wish Bagley was not used as a rat run or short cut from Theale to Mudgley Road traffic far too fast for road.

Extend the speed limit towards Theale – 30 mph through main part of Latcham, 40 mph to Theale, back into 30 mph in Theale.

Reduce speed limit throughout the village

No street narrowing or 20 mph limits

I believe it is of paramount importance to slow traffic down by any means on all approach roads and around the Saxon Square.

I believe there will be serious accidents (perhaps fatal) if this is not done.

Could we somehow make the PEDESTRIAN KING in our village – traffic has to make way and is secondary. I am extremely concerned about this – it's a NIGHTMARE waiting to happen.

The unending extension of road speed limits is becoming counter-productive. With the exception of school approaches, all other speed limits should be removed so that drivers can choose their speed to match the road traffic conditions prevailing.
Road signs should be limited to hazards, viz. bends, junctions, narrow bridges, etc.

I am amazed how many young mothers drive about the village well in excess of an appropriate speed. It's not all youngsters who are tearaways!

Sensible parking restrictions and traffic calming in the centre of the village

The congestion problems in the village can be solved with thoughtful planning of traffic calming and parking restriction measures without being unsightly (e.g. yellow lines), and without encouraging traffic to consider Wedmore as an easy, fast, through route. More off-road parking for example.

My main concern is for a safe route to school along Pilcorn Street and the slowing down of traffic.

Traffic calming is urgently needed in Wedmore.

Five 'B' roads converge on the village and many drivers take no notice of the existing limits.

As a resident of Blackford, with two children going to Hugh Sexey Middle School, I am very concerned about the traffic speeding through the village particularly on the main road, B3139, High Street and Redmans Hill. I would like to see traffic calming measures introduced so that children can cross the roads more safely particularly outside HSM School and the Sexeys Arms Inn.

Traffic in Pilcorn Street far too fast.

Road safety is a major problem. I live on Combe Batch, Wedmore and believe a child will be killed here or in other dangerous areas of the village if there is not an active police campaign to reduce speed as soon as possible. Traffic needs to be slowed down prior to entering the village. People need to be stopped and fined – 20 mph throughout the village is very important because of blind corners

I would like to see much stronger measures introduced for speeding on these narrow roads.

About time something was done about the traffic problem in Wedmore. It would seem that nothing is going to be done until someone is killed.

Important urgent steps are taken to reduce speeding on the Burnham – Wedmore road approach to Wedmore

It does not require a 20 mph speed limit – driver education is needed to make drivers responsible for their actions.

Training in citizenship (awareness of others) for speeding motorists – many local!

Write speed limits etc. on road – take away the silly little signs in hedges – mostly unnoticed.

I am concerned about speeding vehicles in villages especially where there are no footpaths. However, I do not see the traffic calming measures as a solution. Enforce the existing limits.

Very concerned about high speed of traffic – Wedmore to Cheddar (from old school building to Cocklake toll house)

20 mph in Wedmore is vital. Much slower speeds on surrounding lanes and main roads would all improve everyone's quality of life. But I strongly feel this is a National Government issue.

Several car accidents (4 in the last 3 weeks) have occurred on the Mudgley Road 'S' bend. 30 mph limit is too close to the corner and problems with road surface. Suggest moving 30 mph limit back towards Mudgley to give traffic time to slow down and install speed warning flashing lights (like Shipham). Also repeater 30 mph sign needed between top of Billings Hill and 'S' bend, to reduce accidents, injuries and warn motorists of dangerous corner. Why are there no 'S' bend signs in both directions?

I feel even more strongly about road safety. Something must be done. I can cope with congestion and noise, etc. but I live fearful that there will one day be an accident which will shatter our happy community!

1.2 Parking

The village needs a car park. On-road parking has increased considerably in the last 5 years particularly at Combe Batch (opposite the New Inn), outside Stones the bakers and the Post Office. This congestion is becoming a big problem.

More car parking spaces needed near to centre of village, if possible, and shop/office staff to be encouraged to use it to help decrease congestion.

Vehicles parking on the Cheddar Road by the Village Hall cause a serious hazard as they force cars on to the wrong side of the road on a blind bend.

A large car park down the Lerburne

If there is no parking or parking restrictions in the village centre more HGV vehicles will use the village. The congestion keeps them out.

Parking along The Borough and Church St. restricts flow of through-traffic so much it puts me off stopping/driving/visiting Wedmore.

Parking on the hill brow on the B3139 Wells to Wedmore is very dangerous as vision is restricted.

The parking of vehicles in the Village is now out of hand in relation to the expected movement of traffic, local and from those passing through vehicles. There seems to be an 'anything goes spin' – a system to handle it is desperately called for.

The bend near the Village Hall is being increasingly used for dangerous parking forcing vehicles into the centre of the road on a blind corner. Why no restrictive lining to overcome it?

Also the double parking of cars – making more lay-bys if possible.

Traffic congestion is now a major problem within the village; also there is still an occasional problem of cars parked on the hilltop by Combe Batch that will at some point lead to a serious accident.

Traffic and parking is an issue that must be addressed without delay.

Ref Q5 A car park is needed if double yellow lines are implemented.

Answer to Q5 would be different if there was a village car park.

A larger car park at the end of the Borough Mall.

Although living close to Wedmore, I choose to shop in Wells and avoid Wedmore as much as possible (other than the Surgery and Chemist) due to the appallingly inconsiderate parking and the danger caused by it especially outside Stones the Bakers.

No parking at Bakers as this is really dangerous

Parking – we badly need more car parking spaces. Would it not be possible to boost village hall funds by providing them an income in return for the use of their car park for public parking.

Parking in Pilcorn and Church street should be controlled – more official car parks would be useful.

Sensible parking restrictions and traffic calming in the centre of the village

A village car park close to the centre of the village would help to alleviate many of the traffic problems in Wedmore

Additional public, off-road, car parking is needed. This should be made available as a service and not seen as a further opportunity to 'milk' the motorist.

More car parking off-street – come on into the 21st century!

Many of the properties in Wedmore do not have garage facilities, in consequence on-street parking is inevitable. This acts as a traffic slowing/calming function, also the number of road accidents to cars and pedestrians is low.

Despite painting of white lines at sides of carriageway where Combe Batch narrows, opposite Tuckers Farm some parking still takes place including overnight parking!

Provision of a proper car park

Removal or lowering of the hedge on the very dangerous corner at the bottom of Manor Lane.

I would like to see all parking stopped outside Wedmore Village Hall especially on the bend,

. If a one-way system cannot be created then I think that double yellow lines should be introduced with some parking for the disabled. I also think there is a need for a village car park from which people could walk to the shops.

Parking in Wedmore is a particular problem for residents. With inadequate white road markings people daily park across our driveway to 'pop into' the shops. There does need to be additional parking somewhere that does not create an eyesore.

There should be no parking in the streets of central Wedmore and a one-way system in operation with a new car park.

cars parked without care or consideration for residents (need good concealed car parks

Car park near village centre.

provide free daytime parking off road for shop workers and office workers. At present they take up valuable shopper spaces all day.

There are two things that really need sorting out around Wedmore – one is the people who park on corners – especially by the Village Hall - and the other is all the stones that people put outside their properties – It's a country area and we need to pull onto the grass in an emergency or when meeting tractors and other farm machinery.

Car parking – future planning – does it exist?

Parking restrictions will merely drive trade from the village and should be sternly resisted. Certainly we need some long stay peripheral parking and encouragement for traders and their staff to use that instead of the street. Two suitable sites would be the land beyond The Borough Mall via The Lerburne and the lower part of the Glebe Field in Manor Lane.

1. Stopping of parking too near to corners and driving on pavements.
2. Stopping of parking at T-junctions i.e. Church St. and The Borough outside Men's shop and Estate Agents.
3. Stopping of parking outside Bakery as this obstructs vision for those coming out of The Lerburne.
4. Enforcement of observance of KEEP CLEAR at entrance to The Lerburne as this hinders access especially for the FIRE ENGINES/AMBULANCES.

Place 'Dangerous Bend' sign on entry to Borough from Cheddar road.
Prevent parking at Village Hall on Borough adjacent to this bend, which forces motorists out into middle of road in the face of oncoming traffic.

A car park outside the village (within walking distance) would help.

The parking in Wedmore is atrocious just to shop for a bottle of milk or a loaf of bread. Please hurry up with a car park to get the all day parking off the street. Most of the shops are lock-ups which mean shopkeepers are parking all day outside their shops. I can think of one, the dentist, where there are at least five cars each day – hygienist, dentist, receptionists all come by separate cars from Burnham and Weston-Super-Mare. Then they use the car park and then there could be a time limit on street parking.

Wedmore needs a decent car park. This would save a lot of the unnecessary street parking which causes heavy congestions!

Is there any chance of creating more parking space behind the Borough Mall and getting the parking off the streets?

Short section of The Borough in Wedmore should be allocated 'no parking' to create passing bays for vehicles travelling in opposing directions and deter mounting of footway on eastern side.

Parked cars help to maintain a sensible traffic speed and deters through traffic at a much cheaper cost than other traffic calming measures. These measures are unsightly and spoil the charm of places where they are installed.

Even if HGVs are banned or limited in size, the arrangements for car parking in the village centre will need sorting out and improving.

A one-way system should still allow parking down one side of the road excluding dangerous places or corners.

Of course the roads through Wedmore are of great concern but having been hit by a car whilst walking up Combe Batch I wonder if the solution is in traffic calming or speed limits. When I asked the police why this stretch of road never had speed traps, I was told that there was nowhere safe for a policeman to stand! The parked cars on Combe Batch acted as traffic calming – since they have been removed the speed on the stretch has increased.

Concerning the desire for a one-way system in the heart of the village:

- a one-way system would make the roads faster
- traffic would be diverted away from certain roads and so less inclined to stop and walk
- chaos is good for business
- parking restrictions would take away a 'natural' hazard and would also make the roads faster.

Wedmore is a much-frequented shopping village for a huge area in the South West. Adequate car parking off-street must be provided – cannot land be compulsorily purchased for this purpose – ideally at end of shopping precinct or in field off Manor Lane?

1.3 One Way System

The congestion in the centre of the village should be considered a top priority. Something as simple as a one-way system would go a great way to solving this problem and I can't understand why it has not been done already.

The village needs to get some clarity of thinking on the subject of one-way systems and traffic calming. There seems to be a view that a one-way system would 'make the traffic flow more freely – avoid gridlock'. With signage costs it would come to many, many £1000s. Then we would need traffic calming, to slow down the lorries, costing many £1000s. LEAVE WELL ALONE. The current situation goes some way towards putting the lorries off – the free flow of a one-way system would make Wedmore a more desirable short-cut for them.

A one-way system should still allow parking down one side of the road excluding dangerous places or corners.

I'm not sure about making traffic in the village one-way. It seems an obvious solution but could result in more traffic on Grants Lane which is solely residential and this doesn't seem fair.

A one-way system would be a godsend to the heavy lorries! They would no longer have to worry about being held up by congestion in Wedmore centre! Please use logic and realise that our 'congestion' protects us from speeding vehicles and even more HGVs.

A one-way traffic system in Wedmore would prevent snarl-ups and should speed up the through flow also moderate tempers of drivers.

Traffic management is a big problem but I suggest the following principles:

- The needs of the village are paramount.
- Subject to that priority other traffic has to be able to get through.
- A one-way system on the gyratory formed by the square is undesirable because:
 1. It will increase the total volume of traffic on the square (by about 50%)
 2. It will therefore increase pollution and related problems
 3. It will tend to increase the average speed of traffic on the square.
- The present difficulties of through traffic probably led to significant avoidance of Wedmore by through traffic.
- To reduce speed on the square all traffic should be made to halt at each entry point so priority at each junction is with traffic already on the square. This would have a substantial impact on traffic speeds in Church Street and avoid the need for physical obstructions such a sleeping policemen.
- Give-way points (such as at the approach to Mark) would certainly be appropriate in Pilcorn Street and probably on the Cheddar Road.

A one-way system through Wedmore is also very important but second priority to the above because of the safety aspect.

A one-way system in the village would allow a footpath to be introduced (or pedestrian zone on road) making the village safer.

Why is it that the powers that be are so anti a one-way system for Wedmore? It would provide more parking, enable better footpaths and less congestion; even large lorries would be able to navigate our small village. To the people who say it would be like a racing track, I would say to them try living here after all the cars have gone at night it is anyway. Put in some speed humps this would solve the problem day and night!

a one-way system in operation

I do not think a traffic restriction policy will improve the lot of Wedmore but I do believe a one-way system around the square would help to solve some of the problems with limited no parking restrictions on the four corners.

Please don't use a one-way system – traffic speed will increase.

Please please may we have a one-way traffic system with speed bumps. Is this too hard to organise? The cost would be small and everyone would benefit.

One way traffic system in village.

A one-way system in the square would turn it into an inconvenience and increase traffic speeds

I do not foresee any problems with parking on the streets of Wedmore providing a one-way system is implemented. If, however, a one-way system remains absent, I strongly agree with double yellow lines.

My main concern is overcrowding, over building, congestion. The school are too big, no parking, surgery too crowded, PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE can we have a ONE-WAY SYSTEM. I have been petitioning for it for 15 years.

Repeated requests for a one-way system have been ignored even though the police have suggested it.

MAKE A ONE-WAY STREET. Are you scared or frightened of traders.

Suggest we at least TRY a one-way system for, say, 6 months.

I suggest that a one-way Traffic System should be imposed in the main part of Wedmore anti-clockwise with some parking on left hand side with, if thought necessary, traffic calming 'sleeping policemen' also with some disabled places.

A one-way system is the only answer to traffic congestion in Wedmore with parking down one side of the street.

A one-way system will make it easier for the HGV vehicles to negotiate the village roads! That is not what we need.

Also remember that any restriction which involves 'controls' means a cost to employing persons to implement same. Be very careful by being very circumspect in all these matters.

It is essential to make Wedmore village a ONE_WAY SYSTEM.

The only serious problem at present is the daily traffic chaos in the centre of the village. The **obvious** and reasonably inexpensive solution would be to take advantage of the Saxon Square layout and convert this into a one-way system. Appropriate traffic calming measures would have to be installed to prevent speeding. The system of parking on one side of the roads could then continue as at present.

and the problems with parked cars through the shopping area which could be eased with a one-way systems.

If a one-way system evolves traffic calming will be a priority.

The problems which face Wedmore (and many other village) arise directly from the overcrowding of the ancient village structure by modern traffic. They will only be alleviated (but not cured) by 1) introducing a one-way circulation system and providing a large car park in the centre square, 2) by getting central government to prohibit the large lorries use of Broads in Somerset and all country districts. By improving access the village will thrive again.

A one-way system round the Saxon Square plus physical traffic calming measures are long overdue.

I think it is madness that a one-way system has not yet been introduced. It is one of the few villages with a square to make this possible. People worry that this will increase speeds. Traffic calming can easily deal with this.

A one-way traffic system in Wedmore would allow for parking while visiting shops and reduce the congestion currently experienced.

One-way system would create a race-track.

The one-way system could run clockwise around road block.

Parking cars on inside where road is wide enough for vehicles to pass easily.

All roads entering main road block can be two-way roads.

No yellow lines so no traffic warden to pay.

It would seem that making Wedmore a one-way traffic system would be the quickest and easiest way of resolving the traffic problems. However, given the position of the village it would seem impossible to exclude lorries and therefore we should be aiming at a bypass. At

present my family do not cycle or walk the roads because they are too dangerous. The school coaches were not mentioned on the survey, but if these were extended, possibly by parental sponsorship, to include children living nearer to the schools, there would be less traffic congestion/pollution.

1.4 - Traffic congestion

One-way system in Wedmore.

A very pretty village but spoiled by traffic.

Apart from completing the pavement (missing link) in Pilcorn Street and a crack-down on speeding I would prefer to see the village as it is. To introduce yellow lines in the village would destroy its character. Traffic generally sorts itself out using common sense and give and take. Leave well alone. I would be very unhappy at the introduction of urban ideas into a rural community.

Most of the people speeding through the village are local parents late for school. Most of the traffic congestion caused by people not willing to give way to others and elderly people not willing to give up driving.

Problems (mainly):

1. Traffic in Wedmore

I did not answer bus improvement questions as without an integrated transport system (fast and convenient) I will stick with my car.

Disbenefits include : too much traffic – particularly on Church Street – consequent vibration which affects buildings

Traffic congestion is a problem in the centre of the village and I am waiting for the first accident to occur. The solution to this would be a one-way system, which would considerably ease congestion.

TRAFFIC is a terrible problem in Wedmore. Anyone walking on the narrow pavement of Pilcorn Street with vehicles missing them by inches are reminded how serious it can be. A by-pass? One-way system? – great ideas but will they ever happen, probably not. Like so many other small towns/villages in England – traffic has ruined their very existence. Please do something **now** to save Wedmore.

The traffic congestion in Wedmore could be alleviated by a one-way system. As it is heavy lorries as well as most vehicles drive on the pavements to ease their way past traffic coming in the opposite direction. The danger to pedestrians is obvious.

The main drawback to living in Wedmore is the high volume of traffic. In the 18 years I have lived here **nothing** has been done to improve conditions. Large lorries and cars regularly park and drive on pavements. Vehicles have to drive on wrong side of road (due to parked vehicles) when travelling round church to Burnham or round by village hall on Cheddar

Road. The Council has refused to paint white lines at the entrance to my garage even though it is regularly blocked by parked cars.

Sometimes there is gridlock in Church St. How would emergency cars and fire engines get through on these occasions?

Regarding traffic and the environment, the centre of the village is often clogged. This situation could be improved by:

- 1 general off-street parking (not mentioned!)
- 2 discouraging street parking
- 3 cycle lanes
- 4 cycle racks
- 5 more and better footpath routes

Increase of traffic, including heavy lorries and the use of roads as car parks causing congestion and hazards to pedestrians

Congestion in Church Street intolerable.

Recently there was a traffic hold up as a bus tried to enter near the Halifax and oncoming traffic blocked it. After some angry motorists tried to move, the bus had to back on to the main road. The problem was the number of cars approaching the main road using the pavement from the George Inn back up the road. Lorries and vans were also guilty and it was a dangerous hazard for pedestrians using the narrow path as the vehicles attempted to join the road.

I believe Wedmore to be a superb place to live although being spoilt by the traffic through the High Street. Comments by our visitors from London have been that they are surprised by the amount of traffic allowed in the High Street, which is allowed to cause such congestion. Wedmore should not be allowed to become a city and lose its natural beauty. Please do not let this happen as in other areas.

The problems which face Wedmore (and many other village) arise directly from the overcrowding of the ancient village structure by modern traffic.

I am very worried about the amount of traffic in the village. Walking to the village from Combe Batch, with parked cars and no pavement in places,

Concerned about traffic and road safety within Cocklake – these are two-fold. i) Children waiting for school bus stand at busy junction on Wedmore/cheddar/Cocklake Road – proper standing shelter should be provided. ii) Traffic calming and ‘tonnage’ weight for vehicles travelling through Cocklake to Draycott. Generally attention to other villages within the Isle of Wedmore and not just focus on Wedmore village.

Traffic congestion in the centre of Wedmore is a major problem

The traffic is a growing problem, not only in volume but speed and size. It is quite clear that it takes several fatal accidents before the situation is examined. Wedmore is used as a

roundabout for, especially, motorway traffic on route to Wells. It should be treated as priority as it is the residents principal concern. The village will suffer if no action is taken.

Altho' congestion problem with parked cars this actually slows down traffic, by placing double yellow lines will only allow vehicles to increase speed through the village. By making the route through the village difficult to negotiate will discourage use of vehicles through the village and decrease traffic.

I am concerned that the exit onto the Wells Road from Snakes Lane at Theale is very dangerous and is being used much more now. Something should be done to improve the visibility in both directions or severe traffic calming measures taken. There is currently no really safe access to the Wells Road from the Mudgley/Bagley direction other than through Wedmore itself.

The traffic and the parking problems need to be resolved ASAP before anyone is killed. I have been brushed by vehicles mounting the pavements in Wedmore because of parked cars and two-way traffic!!

I moved here from central Bristol to get away from traffic congestion and risk, so would like to see less traffic, less on-street parking in centre, less heavy lorries, more speed restrictions.

This is a wonderful village but it could be better. The issue of most concern to me is the traffic. We lived in central Bristol for many years and I cycled everywhere. I find it more scary to cycle here – the traffic goes so fast and the lanes are so narrow. I want to be able to cycle between the villages and not have to use the car. I want our son who is 7 to be able to cycle on the roads. Reducing traffic speeds would help.

I would really like to see something like the Dutch 'woonerf' which is a way of transforming roads into spaces used by both pedestrians and cars where cars have to give way to pedestrians and where the traffic speeds are kept below 20 mph.

Q5: Any of these measures will only be effective if there is a means available to enforce them.

A No Entry sign at bottom of Church Street would be a low expense/low maintenance answer to congestion.

It's important to keep Wedmore 'alive'.

1.5 HGVs

Stop heavy vehicles using village as a through route – nearly all other traffic problems will solve themselves without recourse to yellow lines. Don't make us into a town!

Traffic problem, mainly speeding but also heavy vehicles on roads into the village

We already have a lot of heavy traffic using Wellsway in Blackford and we fear that any weight restrictions in Wedmore will increase this traffic in Blackford, so a weight restriction should also be applied in Blackford if one is put on in Wedmore.

Traffic congestion in The Borough, Church St. and to some extent, Combe Batch and Grants Lane is a continuing problem and is exacerbated by allowing large lorries/coaches through access to the village.

Something needs to be done about the school coaches, i.e. the 'bullish' way the drivers go through the village and the totally unsuitable pick-up points, e.g. by the chemists.

TRAFFIC – its ... Wedmore is a short cut route especially to and from Glastonbury direction, Yeovil and beyond. The size of lorries now are horrendous and the village gets grid-locked daily, causing long term damage to buildings, roads and what few pavements we have (some very narrow indeed). A simple solution would be a weight restriction on lorries plus traffic calming schemes to slow cars down.

The traffic congestion in Wedmore could be alleviated by a one-way system. As it is heavy lorries as well as most vehicles drive on the pavements to ease their way past traffic coming in the opposite direction. The danger to pedestrians is obvious.

Large lorries clog up the centre of Wedmore, particularly Church St., blocking us in our houses and creating stinking car fumes. They also make our house vibrate and I believe are causing structural damage.

How many accidents have been caused by large lorries? And how many by old ladies who cannot back their cars?

I have seen on many occasions lorries and large vehicles mounting the pavement at high speed, if there had been people there they would have been killed. These lorries are using the village as a short cut instead of using the major roads. I strongly feel they should be banned from entering the village unless they are off-loading in the village. They are also causing damage to the roads in the village because of their excessive weight causing the roads to subside.

Get central government to prohibit the large lorries use of Broads in Somerset and all country districts. By improving access the village will thrive again.

I feel very nervous, especially with the heavy lorries that use these roads. I do feel very strongly about this.

Also a ban on heavy goods vehicles through and blocking villages.

and to reduce or eliminate the movements of heavy lorries in and through the village.

a greatly reduced axle weight for through traffic; local farmers must still be allowed access.

HGVs banned!

Lorry drivers have more respect for pedestrians and cyclists than a lot of car drivers.

If there is no parking or parking restrictions in the village centre more HGV vehicles will use the village. The congestion keeps them out.

We have had our garden wall damaged because of large lorries trying to pass each other and there is a pavement between the wall and the road. My husband has had his briefcase hit while walking on the pavement by the wing mirror of a passing vehicle.

Smaller coaches for school runs

A one-way system would be a godsend to the heavy lorries! They would no longer have to worry about being held up by congestion in Wedmore centre! Please use logic and realise that our 'congestion' protects us from speeding vehicles and even more HGVs.

Even if HGVs are banned or limited in size, the arrangements for car parking in the village centre will need sorting out and improving.

The roads around Wedmore are unsafe for pedestrians and cyclists – lorries should be kept to 'A' roads.

The village needs to get some clarity of thinking on the subject of one-way systems and traffic calming. There seems to be a view that a one-way system would 'make the traffic flow more freely – avoid gridlock'. With signage costs it would come to many, many £1000s. Then we would need traffic calming, to slow down the lorries, costing many £1000s. LEAVE WELL ALONE. The current situation goes some way towards putting the lorries off – the free flow of a one-way system would make Wedmore a more desirable short-cut for them.

1.6 Pavements and Cycle paths

More footpaths along lanes and main roads, safe routes to school to increase use of bicycles currently not possible because of high traffic speeds on narrow roads.

School run by car needs looking at – walking, cycling or bus surely?

The village of Theale needs pavements. The main road to Wells is extremely busy and fast and very dangerous to walk along.

I feel it is essential that safe pedestrian passage be available through out the village for all people. A reduced and enforced speed limit and pavements can be the only answer

As a walker I think attention needs to be paid to the condition of the pavements and lack of them – too many uneven surfaces.

Cycle path Theale to Wedmore.

Q5: Provide a footpath from Wedmore to Cocklake with appropriate lighting.

I think it is very important to have a safe cycle track from Wedmore to Blackford schools.

Path to Blackford needed or pressure put on Somerset CC to provide transport as route cannot be repaired as safe. SCC has a duty in law to meet this need but is allowed to ignore individual protests.

Work done in the past two years has shown the overwhelming support for a Blackford – Wedmore footpath/cycle path. The opposition by a tiny, but powerful, minority meant that this much needed local amenity has not so far been able to be provided. This should be looked at again, and the needs of the majority responded to. We want our young families, who contribute so much to the local community, to stay in the area, and their welfare should be paramount.

Also the footpaths and cycle paths are so important – many parents and children want to walk or cycle to school and this is so difficult on our roads as it is.

The concerns about speeding traffic and pedestrian safety must be fairly addressed across the whole of the Parish – not just the obvious places e.g. the vicinity of school. There are many residences away from schools where there are no pavements. These households often have young children and yet, due to the excessive speed of passing traffic, it is only safe to leave in the protection of a car!

My main concern is for a safe route to school along Pilcorn Street and the slowing down of traffic.

The roads in the village are narrow and some are without pavements.

The current sports clubhouse could be a far more well used facility if it was opened through the week, in the evenings and at weekends. The cricket, football, tennis and Young Farmers clubs all use facilities close by for their sporting activities. A village clubhouse may also provide a venue where young people could meet away from the village centre. There is ample parking and an existing building within easy walking distance of the village. Recently developed ‘Lympsham Club’ is a very popular and well used family facility.

A safe route to the primary school is vital. The pavement from the village centre must be continuous.

Pavement through village of Blackford to enable houses throughout this village to have ready access to each other without the need for cars.

Provision of pavement from school to line up with that in Pilcorn Street.

The main concerns for my family are the need for continuous footpaths through Wedmore to the school. The current speed limits are adequate provided that safe footpaths can be constructed.

Seeing that I am retired a lot of the questions not really needing answers but I am sure are relevant to lots of villagers so have to be neutral on some expansion to village. No, can't see how footpath from W to Blackford practical on present road.

I am also strongly in favour of a footpath/cycle path between Blackford and Wedmore.

Linking the villages of the Isle with:

More safe footpaths

More pavements

More cycle paths

I would walk or cycle most places if it were safe – traffic calming alone will not achieve this.

1.7 Yellow Lines

There should definitely be double yellow lines outside the Village Hall and also along the upper part of Church Street – both involve parked cars forcing people to approach a blind bend on the wrong side of the road – completely stupid and unnecessary.

Yellow lines would add an eyesore to the roads but something needs to be done at corners/hills etc. US style school buses i.e. of high quality and properly vetted staff would give parents confidence to use thereby reducing congestion.

Double yellow lines from The Borough to Worthing Close. No parking on pavement from Borough to Workington Close. No blocking entry to Workington Close.

I am firmly against the introduction of yellow lines or parking restrictions – at present the village has a perfect traffic calming scheme with no signs or yellow lines!

Yellow lines in Wedmore would spoil it

Double yellow lines on road leading to Worthington Close

I do not foresee any problems with parking on the streets of Wedmore providing a one-way system is implemented. If, however, a one-way system remains absent, I strongly agree with double yellow lines.

and yellow lines in the main street.

double yellow lines are unsightly but appear to be the only way to prevent dangerous parking on blind corners.

Whilst there needs to be consideration for the motor car in Wedmore it should not take over. Reason for saying no yellow lines is because if traffic flows more freely will there be more of it.

If there are yellow lines on brows of hills etc. surely they will have to be throughout Wedmore and a traffic warden.

1.8 Repair and upkeep of roads

Repairs and general upkeep (regularly) desperately needed on unclassified, but very heavily used roads around IofW.

The roads could do with re-surfacing in places, also widening by dangerous bends the lighting would be beneficial at cross-roads, junctions etc.

Very poor roads in Cocklake even when pot holes filled - not level.

Some road junctions are badly in need of improvements, roads generally are a disgrace.

The camber of the roads between Blackford and Wedmore needs altering to stop cars from going through the hedges!

To reduce repeated road chaos as more pipes/cables are laid. Could we not have one (or 2) main pipes with access points in the roads with the object of threading new pipes through the main ones – like ‘knicker elastic’ as and when required?

The surface waterways around the village need urgent cleaning to avert a flood if we get heavy rain in the winter.

The appalling road surfaces to the highway and byways need repairing before they revert back to dirt tracks. Much more important than spending vast amounts of money on speed limits and traffic calming. You won't need these on dirt roads.

1.9 Pedestrians and Cyclists

We must focus on pedestrians/cyclists not parking/double yellow lines/one way systems etc.

A number of small French towns are set up for pedestrians – pinch points, chicanes, brick paving, planters, etc. A similar scheme here with all or some of the points listed above could make a major difference.

It seems to be totally impossible to create a real sense of caring for the village environment. Careless parking by both old and newcomers, litter on the streets, verges and thrown into gardens. The perpetual dog foulers on pavements all around often make the whole village an unwelcome place to walk yet abroad it is so different with pride in the cleanliness and general state of village roads even in much smaller and larger communities. It is not as if we don't have bins and every driver should know the highway code regarding parking.

A confirmed pedestrian!

.Walking to school is a very stressful, hazardous experience.

Traffic calming measures in the village of Wedmore are needed. I would like to see pedestrians given more space. The petrol station has recently closed. Is there any chance that the forecourt could be purchased to make a small village square with trees and seats?

The roads around Wedmore are unsafe for pedestrians and cyclists – lorries should be kept to ‘A’ roads.

2. HOUSING (31 comments = 6% of total)

There is no employment in Wedmore and the building of new houses is not sustainable.

I feel the village infrastructure/facilities could not cope with more housing.

So far as housing is concerned the following principles need to receive attention:

- Government pressure for further development in the West makes any plan which is totally opposed to such development unrealistic.
- Considerations of access, servicing etc. probably make the West side of the Village the best able to take such development.
- The needs which should be paramount in granting applications include provision for local people to be able to stay within their village; that might be by low-cost purchase, rent, private, Local Authority or Housing Association. The vehicle matters a lot less than the actual provision.

Rather than think in terms of expanding Wedmore with housing estates, look at small sites around the village boundary and develop those which would not be conspicuous. There are infill sites at the back of houses and gardens which could be developed on a very small scale without harm to the countryside or the character of the village. Maintaining an inflexible approach to a village boundary prevents these developments which would be far less harmful to the physical future of the area.

New housing developments are needed more in other villages than Wedmore because Wedmore is already big enough to support key facilities, whilst other villages are in danger of losing Post Offices, Shops etc.

Q8: Restricted sale on all council houses/flats otherwise a free market.

1) Any expansion of housing should only take place if appropriate local employment is made available.

3) I suggest the area for any such housing expansion is best between Combe Batch and The Borough i.e. a sub-division of the eastwards extension if condition 1) applies!

If there was to be any development in the Wedmore areas it should be for the village younger generations of the village and not for people who would like to live in the country after they have made a fortune.

New affordable rented housing could benefit the community but in order to preserve the unique quality of the village it **must** be carefully sited and **very** well designed.

Eight people live in our house (5 children). Houses are so expensive; difficult for any to move out!

Any new housing in Wedmore should be in **very** small developments (max. 4 houses) and in materials in keeping with village – **not** like that carbuncle of an estate behind the doctor's surgery which will never blend in.

I think the development of the village and surrounding district should be allowed to evolve for the benefit of its residents, not for the commercial benefit of professional developers. Priority should be given in favour of those residents wishing to develop within the curtilage of their own homes for the benefit of family members or local residents in a manner sympathetic to the area, its environment and life-style, rather than the building of cramped estates eroding the rural character of the area.

Returning to Q7 'Do you think Wedmore needs any more housing' – yes, I do think so but limited housing not just for the people the categories stated in Q8 but for young families that cannot afford big mortgages like myself (not necessarily low cost renting or even houses for first time buyers but something that is just affordable!). Though I do stick to my answer on Q9 too perhaps some careful thought should be put in if there are to be new houses built in Wedmore at all.

How does any children that have been born in village expect to buy local property when we have all outsiders buying them those that earn high wages compared to local farm worker or low paid worker around our village my fathers, father who was born here going back generations my children will never be able to live here.

Wary of question agendas. More (affordable) housing is needed.

Housing development seems to take place squashed into existing built on areas thus making an impact that I feel is unsightly and too dense. These are huge houses of executive style. Why is there no increase in small sheltered bungalow developments for our elderly and infirm? Also could land around the Lerburn not be used to extend the housing there? Another similar small estate could be developed there to help our young people. Our village will only stay prosperous if we encourage the young to stay and make sure the elderly can cope here.

Wedmore village boundaries – choice not well stated. If there **has** to be any it should be to the East, off the Lerburne.

New housing should be of mixed types

Offer farmer who owns land east of Mall permission to build a few houses if he will sell or give local land to extend car park.

I consider that there is a need for a limited number of less expensive housing for renting or ownership by local people only. Also a warden controlled retirement home for local people.

Wedmore and outside does not encourage young people to live in the area. Children who have been born and brought up in and around Wedmore cannot afford to buy a house in this area, and even when we have land of our own we are not allowed to build on it, but in Wedmore newcomers can extend their houses to make them bigger and others can seem to

build anywhere in Wedmore. It seems Wedmore doesn't want a young generation, just a retirement village.

More warden assisted privately owned apartments for retired and/or widowed.

Existing public services in Wedmore – schools, doctors, dentists are already overstretched. So the building of additional housing is not desirable unless steps are first taken to extend the public services.

No more houses for people moving inside the area; property is too expensive with outsiders moving in to Wedmore.

However, it is essential to provide housing for the young and the old the village in order to preserve the community. I want to tick all options in question 9 but think some housing will be needed in the village in the future – this should be 'brown field' first if not entirely.

We must seriously try not to keep building on Greenfield sites especially in old English villages of character and beauty.

Wedmore needs to encourage young graduates back to the village. Difficult with house prices so high.

Local estate agents artificially inflate house prices.

Rebuilding could be achieved by 'infilling' without increasing the general perimeter.

Some of the houses built in recent years are on plots far too small for the size of the houses – e.g. those in Orchard Close.

Whilst wanting cheaper housing for local people, they should not be allowed to sell at inflated rates.

Where some development takes place these plots of land should be kept larger than at present – too many houses allowed per acre at present.

My family has lived in Wedmore for generations and are saddened by the way that the village has changed over recent years.

Another subject that my family are extremely opposed to is extending the village boundaries. Wedmore is a village and should remain as such. It seems to me that any housing projects that are undertaken at the moment are for higher priced housing, the conversion of Elmsett Hall to executive apartments is a prime example. Housing that local people and first time buyers cannot afford. It does not seem right that local people should have to leave the village because they can't afford accommodation here. Also, local amenities cannot support a larger population. To get to see a dentist or a doctor in the village is a complete nightmare. A new school was built over 10 years ago as the existing school was not big enough. That problem seems to have occurred again. The answer would be to stop building houses so that the population of the area stays the same. Therefore, the schools/doctors/dentists would always be able to support the community that it aims to serve. It's all well and good building bigger and better schools etc. but the local population needs to be kept constant so that you don't end

up with the same recurring problem of the amenities not being able to support the community.

Finally I would like to point out that in Q31 you refer to Cheddar as being a town, but in fact it is a village, albeit a rather large one!

3. YOUTH (27 Comments = 5% of total)

3.1 Anti-social behaviour by young people

Only constant policing of churchyard will alleviate drug/vandalism/theft problems.

I am extremely concerned about the increase in (underage) consumption of alcohol and apparent abuse in the village. Areas of particular concern are The Borough Mall and the Church graveyard (despite the gates being locked). I no longer feel safe in the village once the shops are closed and youths can be seen lurking from as early as 7.30 pm. I recently heard male voices from the female WCs and would question why they were there – and how because the gates were locked.

Every Friday/Sat night parents ‘unload’ their children (usually 14 – 16) in the village to cause trouble. Under age drinking is rife and nuisance is caused by anti-social behaviour in the Mall. Police presence is very infrequent. They should do more.

Ladies toilets seem to attract young men even if locked they climb the gate.

There is one way to stop the noise and the appalling behaviour of our teenagers in the village, and that is to put a stop to THE SWAN HOLDING THEIR ‘GIGS’ ON a Friday night. They serve under age kids drinks and then take no responsibility for their actions. A few weeks back it was appalling – a kid even went into a parked car (Trevor’s I understand from the Paper Shop) as he they all poured out of the Swan – drunks as usual – being sick – running up and down Church Street and The Borough I understand. CLOSE THE SWAN and get rid of the management, or, make sure THERE ARE POLICE OUTSIDE THE SWAN AND GEORGE.

Problem to be cleared up: there is a bench under an overhanging bush at the top of The Lerburne where it meets The Borough, on the left. This is used by teenagers late into the night, who drink alcohol, smoke drugs and create a lot of noise. There is always litter left there and the bench serves no other purpose for local residents. The bench needs taking away and the area returned to shrubs.

If the police are used to enforce minimum drinking age in pubs and thus force kids onto the street, then youth facilities would require improvement.

Future generations – I would like to see some system, in schools or community, teaching young people the basics of right and wrong and morality. Parents seem to have abrogated their responsibilities in these respects. Result – vandalism/arrogance and no respect for their elders, many of these young people hold the future of Wedmore in their hands.

too much litter outside certain pubs/shops; drunken teenagers/under age drinkers shouting outside residents’ homes;

. My main worry is traffic and noise pollution. The underage drinking at The George Hotel means noisy/swearing teenagers ruin our peace at the weekends and they leave litter/beer

cans for others to clean up. They also drive drunk from the pub, screeching their breaks, causing danger to themselves and others.

Bringing people in from outside into housing association homes or single parent will if the people come from towns increase anti-social behaviour.

Youths in churchyard
Underage drinking – The Swan

Increasing alcohol and drug related youth problems in centre of village due to lack of transport or other activity in evenings – more police presence please.

Vandalism is becoming a major problem and needs everyone's attention.

3.2 More facilities for Young People

A youth club could be run and shared on a rota system.

Wedmore needs more youth facilities – skateboard park and coffee shop. If there is nowhere else they will always go to the pub.

After school clubs are already provided for to a certain extent. The youth club facilities are already in place and being offered to teenagers but they seem reluctant to participate. So much so that trips have to be cancelled due to lack of interest.

I feel strongly that it would be an even better place to live if there were some facilities for teenagers, that gave them the opportunity to keep themselves occupied without adult supervision (which I think they perceive as interference!).

I believe there is a desperate lack of amusement/facilities for young people in Wedmore which needs to be addressed.

In view of the amount of vandalism in this village I feel not enough is done for the youth. A skateboard/rollerblade park would help also a drop-in coffee bar centre for teenagers to have somewhere to go in evenings.

Maybe a thought for teenagers would be to provide an Internet Café based at IT for the Terrified, George Hotel.

Young people's leisure needs should be addressed

The skateboard craze is nearly over. Wedmore has failed to seize the moment, and now it's past!

The need for improved provision for youth activities is great and will grow. Therefore the building of a meeting place, and sports/leisure centre is vital.

I have concerns for the young people of Wedmore. There are very few facilities for teenagers and lack of public transport, makes going out of the village especially in the evenings difficult. Also how are they ever expected to buy property – most will have to leave the village.

I would like to see a skateboard facility in Wedmore; there is nothing for teenagers to do or hang out during the daylight hours.

Also please identify the needs of young people and meet these. This is the only answer to vandalism. They are bored and have very little to do and nowhere to go be together.

4. CRITICISMS OF THE SURVEY (24 comments = 4.5% of total)

Some questions don't make sense.

There appears to be a hidden agenda behind some questions – they are leading!

This whole survey, by its format, will give some bias because of this and this is unfair.

Post by 16th – it arrived in our letterbox on the 15th!

I do think the timing of sending out this questionnaire was not thought out very well and I fear you will not have a very good response (just before Christmas).

Many questions are not about the future of Wedmore – we need a custom-built surgery/a new Village Hall/Community Centre/cyber café/centre for the elderly with accommodation.

If it's not 'broke', why fix it?

I do not think either the format or content of this questionnaire is entirely appropriate. Please note the occasional annotation.

Q10 is not very well expressed. Surely it should be 'How serious'.

Why put out a questionnaire just before Christmas?

However, a disappointing survey:

- 1) structure and organisation – guess that you have already made up your mind about the priority – TRAFFIC! Why the first question? Where is the logic in the organisation.
- 2) The 5-point answer scale – people need to be made not to sit on the fence. I hazard a guess that the majority of responses are 'in the middle'. Good practice for surveys is a 4-point scale.
- 3) Comments box – good idea to leave a space for comments under each question.
- 4) Confusing – the 'box titles' vary a lot and will confuse some people. Not accessible for all (children to adults).

I hope we haven't missed an opportunity to capture the spirit of Wedmore – what we believe our community is about and should aspire to become. How do we do this? Focus groups? General discussion? This commitment to our community and rural village life is at the heart of our appraisal. We may identify all the priorities, but why?

Why are they important to us? The appraisal should tell us:

- i) where were we as a community ? (historical context)
- ii) where are we now (current features/issues)
- iii) where do we wish to go? (future direction)
- iv) how do we reach there? *
- v) how do we know when we've arrived?

The survey needs to highlight more of this * - how? And through whom? (importance of groups i.e. parish council)

I feel this survey was too long with a number of irrelevant questions. The options were not appropriate in many cases hence a number of blanks were left.

It seems to be a survey of the current situation in the village and not looking to the future and asking what the community would like/needs i.e. purpose built Health Centre, or Community Centre which is what the government Green Paper wanted/needs to know in order for the Community to achieve its goals.

In places (this questionnaire) appears to be driven by groups who have their agenda to promote, which produces leading questions like Q20. There is, however, one significant omission. It is disappointing that there are no general questions about the many organisations, clubs and societies in the Parish that occupy the leisure activities of a large number of people. These organisations etc. are almost wholly run by volunteers, but you have asked nothing about the future of this part of village life.

It would perhaps have been instructive to know how many organisations, clubs and societies your respondents in the various age groups belong to, how many they help run, and the assessed sustainability of the volunteer structure of their organisation.

Many of these questions have no relevance to the future of the Isle of Wedmore.

The question regarding planning should have been N, S, E or W and the answer is East.

Questions or comments about the IOW News have nothing what so ever to do with the future of the IOW, it is the envy of many villages, so don't knock it!

The Questionnaire was boring but I have filled it in.

A confusing questionnaire with many irrelevant sections:

Income – totally unnecessary

IOW News – totally unnecessary with inaccuracies. We are fortunate to have such a good village magazine.

Planning – agreed until 2011 – village boundaries misleading.

Omissions – We badly need a new purpose-built medical centre and modern village hall.

Overall a waste of public money and, incidentally, fly-posting is illegal.

I hope this is not the cause of the projected £1K Band D Council Tax.

It is a badly thought out questionnaire with several loaded and closed questions.

The questionnaire seems heavily biased towards Wedmore itself rather than the outlying communities.

We (I) have attempted to complete the enclosed. It's a waste of time. You do not require a questionnaire; COMMON SENSE and active committee members know what is required. IF only!!

Panborough has not been mentioned on Q1. It should have been.

The nature of the questionnaire distorts my views by limiting my responses; e.g. Q28 where the jump from 'often' to 'rarely' where I use a facility on a regular basis, but where neither the 'often' or 'rarely' response is appropriate. A different problem arises where the responses inter-relate e.g. Q5 where a decision to adopt ad one-way system impacts on such matters as yellow lines.

Some parts of questionnaires are not relevant to a village appraisal therefore crossed out! Parents should be responsible for bad behaviour and children punished. The Isle of Wedmore news is all voluntary contributions – not relevant to questionnaire. We are fortunate that some people are running shops – how dare we criticise their business whether it is relevant, vital or not. Any trade is good for village. Most questions concern Wedmore – what about the other 2 large villages and 12 hamlets. I find this questionnaire rather insulting. If people want all these facilities with no lorries providing the goods why not live in cloud cuckoo land.

A column for sometimes between often and rarely would have been useful.

We seriously wonder about the confidentiality of the questionnaire! We see it is a Wedmore postcode!

Are ALL the comments going to be made public?

Many are not happy about the questions.

The questionnaire is very ‘urban’ based. VERY SAD FOR WEDMORE!!

Disappointed that we had to request the appraisal form and did not receive it automatically. Believe business owners should also have been canvassed.

This questionnaire was too long – a lot of people I think would be put off.

I found several questions wording did not make for answering very easy. I found myself possibly contradicting something I had answered earlier.

5. SENSE OF COMMUNITY/CHARACTER OF IoW (20 comments = 4% of total)

Further efforts to develop a sense of community through as wide a variety of interests as feasible including links with other communities both national and international to reduce tendency to be insular and recognising that personal contacts remain at the heart of community development.

Too much building will ruin the ethos of the village where newcomers are easily absorbed into the community (Cheddar has allowed too much new housing and has lost the heart of the community – there is now an ‘us and them’ divide!).

The Isle of Wedmore is like many other parts of England – unique in itself. Any change should be carefully thought out. Change is often called ‘progress’ but often this is not so. I may break an arm, for me that is a change, but certainly not for the better i.e. ‘progress’.

Thought re ‘Isle of Wedmore News’. In a previous village of similar size I and colleagues produced Parish Mag for 7 years. Without doubt the most appreciated content was a brief note welcoming and introducing newcomers to the village. It did involve discovering and meeting all newcomers but their subsequent thanks for a) a welcome and b) enquiries as to their interests and introductions to the relevant parties.
Just a thought.

Us as a family feel that everything in and around Wedmore is centred around people who have a large income and have moved into the village. Anything that is not to do with computers, Arts, or up-market evening events don’t seem to even be considered. Also that people are allowed to extend houses to become very large houses, that local people could never be able to afford.

Very sadly, our residential house for the elderly in and around Wedmore has just closed. The closest is now Cheddar. This has removed from the village not only a much valued facility, but it has removed from our community a section whom some would prefer to put out of sight and replace with wage earners who have more disposable income. We as a community are the poorer for hiding/banishing our old age provision for our elderly. There is no day care provision for our older folk. Nowhere warm to eat or just meet for a chat. Community projects like this keep us all aware of each other and responsible for each other. It would be a very ‘caring’ facility to provide. We all have to get old one day.

I feel it important to retain the quintessential character and culture of the village but recognise the need for steady evolution to keep pace with modern development needs and challenges (e.g. introduce a one way gyratory traffic system). We really do not want to be a second tourism trap, like Cheddar. Wedmore policies should reflect and protect our separate distinct identity.

Wedmore is a village that is thriving, younger people are moving into the village. Although I would not want to lose the village feel and community spirit, often feel decisions are made

within the village by the select few. Some people want to prevent change but life is full of change. Some changes should be made for the general good. We should be allowed to voice our opinions without being sidelined especially irrespective of status/position/long standing.

This is a fantastic community which looks after one another and has developed a high level of trust and friendship. However, Wedmore village can be very elitist in its outlook and would improve by becoming more inclusive and less 'uptight' about improvements for all.

Wedmore is a pleasant village but requires more central points for groups from split factions to meet i.e. decent pubs, restaurants and maybe one or two fast food outlets to give the place a 'lived in' feeling.

Too many people live in compartments rather than the community.

An infrastructure to encourage integration is desirable for Wedmore.

Wedmore must not develop into another Cheddar! The current ethos and more laid-back character must be preserved.

Wedmore needs to become a more inclusive society not aimed at 50+ conservative up-income voters – it needs to look to the future whilst maintaining its village feel. Parish Council needs to reflect this.

There needs to be less older people moving to Wedmore pushing up house prices, as younger people cannot afford to live in the area – the area is becoming stagnant.

There is a poor attitude in the area towards ethnic minorities – for example WAG (Wedmore against Gypsies) in Bagley.

The cohesion of the Isle's community seems to be eroding. I think this is partly because of finance – shops, for instance, offer quality products but are expensive. Also commitment we need to use and extend all the communities talents.

Encourage more facilities for mixed (all ages) social events – to create greater community feel.

Create professional/grown-up drop-in centre – i.e. home workers breakout zone.

Living in the outlying villages it is hard to meet people because there are no village shops or places to bump into people, as people don't walk around villages much, especially those on main roads.

Overall, Wedmore is a very community based village with excellent shopping facilities, lovely atmosphere and local activities for all ages. A nice place to live.

Most people in Wedmore are bigoted egoists – prepared to be seen involved in the 'correct' events – unprepared to involve themselves truly in the rudiments of village life.

6. MESS/UNTIDINESS (16 comments = 3% of total)

6.1 Eyesores dumped on farmland

Clearing of rusty machinery a priority. This is the worst problem in Wedmore.

Have watched sadly deterioration in fields and hedgerows to east of village – many hedges gashed, cut tyres etc. left in fields. Foot paths mostly blocked by tied gates or growth. Softening up for conversion to building land? A great pity and relatively easily reversible.

The dumping of cars and other waste material on the Somerset levels is becoming an eyesore and a hazard. People are paid to become members of the ESA scheme whilst others dump waste and hazardous material – this should be stopped.

Please go easy on traffic signs, advertising speed cameras, etc. road calming measures. We consider these to be very visually polluting ruining many pretty countryside villages.

A general tidy up of old disused machinery and litter on the outskirts of the village would be nice.

Anything erected should comply with the rule that it should be in keeping with this lovely ancient village.

One thing that lets us down is the new look road signs - very tatty and modern.

I would like to see underground telegraph power lines installed and a lovely car park and a village green.

6.2 Dog fouling

Dog fouling is a nuisance in The Lerburne. Mess is often left on the footpath in front of gateways, garages and door-steps. There should be dog-fouling prevention signs and bins provided.

Also a stop to dog fouling on pavements and grass leading to Worthington Close; names of guilty dog owners to be printed in Wedmore News.

Stop people from allowing their dogs fouling the Church Yard and paths.

I would like to address the issue of dog fouling. Please, please can we have more litter bins to dispose waste.

Q11: Dog fouling is a problem – I would like to see stronger enforcement of regulations – but by whom?

The village always looks clean and tidy but we could use more litter and dog poop bins. None on the route to school after the church. Also from The Borough to Sand Road via Guildhall Lane, West End or Plud Street.

6.3 Litter

I would like to see the area around the village kept tidy

Re Q11 – Increase litter-clearing services. If laws against dropping litter were enforced, litter problem would not be an issue (as in some foreign countries).

The village always looks clean and tidy but we could use more litter and dog poop bins. None on the route to school after the church. Also from The Borough to Sand Road via Guildhall Lane, West End or Plud Street.

=7. AGAINST THE EXPANSION OF THE IoW (14 comments = 2.5%)

I would like to be reassured that existing village boundaries will be adhered to. I am concerned that agricultural land just outside village boundaries may be built on.

Traffic is a major problem, local expansion would make it worse.

We moved here a year ago because we wanted to be in a quiet rural village – sadly not so on a Fri/Sat evening when it can be very unpleasant – there is too much under-age drinking and also drug abuse and the police appear to pay no attention. The village should not expand but return to being a quiet, peaceful beautiful with a reputation for being just that.

Keep the character of Wedmore as it is.

Only on brownfield sites ONLY. In the area where I used to live (57 years) from the end of WW2 all the farms, their fields and farm houses disappeared in 25 years and the local council changed from a rural district council to a London borough, along with all the noise and pollution of traffic all day and most of the night. If more housing is required why not build somewhere near the motorway a new town with all that is required on land of little value. Most of the new population will commute and the new towns as the new towns around London.

Wedmore and other small villages in Somerset that have not yet been spoiled by over-development should have a preservation order on the core of the village.

I also think keeping the green belt is most important.

Wedmore should not be allowed to become a city and lose its natural beauty. Please do not let this happen as in other areas.

Please leave Wedmore as it is. England is in too much trouble as it is.

Wedmore cannot expand further, the school infrastructure cannot cope plus class sizes of 44 (2 classes sharing one room).

I strongly believe places like Winscombe, Cheddar, Street and Wells should grow before the villages.

Building planning a disgrace; people seem to do as they want, outside planning permission and get away with it, as for permission for a restaurant in Church St., as regards parking is beyond any sensibility. Parking problems before even worse now. Mail van having to park double. It's not what you know but who!

Wedmore has been a wonderful village for our family to grow up in and for the past 30 years while we have lived here has altered but not to any disadvantage (in our eyes). To preserve the village it must not alter significantly in the future.

I moved here to enjoy the countryside, so don't want a ring-road, or housing development. Don't mind farmers diversifying, but don't want new buildings on farm land, would prefer woodland.

We certainly do not, as the question implies, want to be the size of Cheddar.

=7. RETAIL (14 comments = 2.5% of total)

Bring back Lloyds Bank!

Wedmore needs a family orientated pub with decent food.

We want people to visit (in cars mostly) and enjoy our unique village.
Encourage trade and farmers markets. Our farmers have a lot to offer locally. Could they use the village hall?

Shops should be encouraged in order that the heart of the village can be retained. Farmers could sell direct and deliver to homes.

Strip Pubco companies of owning village pubs. Pubco's only care about real estate values and do not care about village or villager needs.
Stop local pubs serving underage drinkers (Swan and George). If this happens hopefully they will go bust or change their ways to create a proper village pub!

A much more comprehensive grocery/greengrocery shop is required.
A petrol station is required that will accept credit/debit cards

Does Wedmore really need four hairdressers?

Street market in Wedmore once a month.

Wedmore would do well to remember it is a farming village.
There are too many clothes shops and 'limited appeal' shops. We could do with a café – somewhere for young people to meet not another smart restaurant.

The village lacks a good takeaway food/fish and chip shop.

Wedmore needs a quality 'Pub'.

Working full time outside of Wedmore I don't use Wedmore facilities as often as I should.
The pubs are very uninviting and so don't use them for socialising. Restaurants very expensive.

There are lots of pluses to living in Wedmore. For a village we have a good selection of shops. One may be an advantage is to have an optician.

Wedmore is half-dead on a Saturday afternoon, which is when many people want to shop or just browse. The chemist, butchers, bakers, dentist and post office are all closed and there may be others too. It's not a good impression to give people visiting the area and it's frustrating for locals! I think the Paper Shop should stock more basic essentials. You can't buy a light bulb in Wedmore! Also, it's a great shame that the petrol station has closed.

=9. APPRECIATION OF THE APPRAISAL (11 comments = 2% of the total)

Thanks to all who put this together – no easy task I'm sure.

A good effort to produce this – good luck with your findings.

Congratulations on comprehensive questionnaire.

I'm pleased to have this opportunity – thank you.

Congratulations to the 'Committee' for what has obviously been a lot of hard work. Well done.

This is a very good questionnaire

I am grateful for the opportunity to answer these (mostly) relevant questions.

Thanks for opportunity to speak out.

I trust your committee will very strongly promote the appraisal's findings at Parish and District Council levels.

I admire the intention of the appraisal and thank individuals and the appraisal group for the effort you are putting in to this.

Good luck. Thank you.

An appraisal is not easy to construct and so I applaud the efforts to get it started. It gives us all a chance to get started and discuss and hopefully move forward. I look forward to the results.

=9. EMPLOYMENT/BUSINESS (11 comments = 2% of total)

Mobile phone reception is very poor; I could work longer at home if communication was better and.....

More availability and help with information regarding grants and funding for small business. Isle of Wedmore small business IT network, i.e. database of local skills available.

I live in the Isle of Wedmore but to gain suitable employment I have to commute to Avonmouth. If there were more small businesses there would be more opportunities for local employment, resulting in a more stable and balanced community. Currently most young trained working people have to live elsewhere to find work.

When the young have to leave the community to follow the work the community loses a vital component. The youngsters are the community's future.

Broadband very important 4 diversification and biz.

Countryside needs good communications, so support broadband, so that people have rapid access to information.

I find the survey predominantly aimed at middle class families with children and a 'lip service' paid to 'local' people.

Although the notion of flower meadows and replanted orchards may have some limited appeal, I think, for many, issues of local employment to fund local housing would be more important.

There is no employment in Wedmore and the building of new houses is not sustainable.

Create more opportunities for employment so that people don't have to commute for work and can reduce car usage. It would be nice to be able to work in the same place that you live in and really be a part of the community. Perhaps the provision of small business unites would help this.

Consideration given to employment opportunities

I don't think that Wedmore should emulate Cheddar in any way. It should retain its current character, perhaps linking more closely with environmentally sustainable projects of the moorland and levels, and working with organisations such as the Woodland Trust to develop woodland areas in redundant farm land. Economic development in Wedmore might then centre around these types of projects and tourism related to them.

=9. PUBLIC FOOTPATHS (11 comments = 2% of total)

I am surprised that the question of public rights of way in Wedmore Parish does not figure in a questionnaire with the imprimatur of the Parish Council and Countryside Agency. May I suggest Q24 make public rights of way available to the public – strongly agree.

I would like footpaths signposted properly. Being slightly disabled, to have stiles on footpaths more accessible. At the moment they are very high and dangerous for some people such as myself to negotiate.

Only moved in 3 months ago. Only one major problem which is the footpaths. Most of the footpaths around Wedmore are not signed, many are impassable, and do not have adequate styles. Certain farmers still have Foot and Mouth signs up. Many of the footpaths on the OS map do not seem to exist in practice or if they do they are impossible to find. Please get someone to walk them and they will see what I am talking about!

Footpaths are unmarked, unkempt, overgrown and sometimes impassable.

Public footpaths across farmland are, in general, poorly marked and maintained throughout the IoW. I would like to see this improved and farmers obliged to fulfil their obligations.

Public footpaths more clearly marked and identifiable – landowners are not fulfilling their responsibility in defining paths across fields and/or tracks.

I would really like to see something like the Dutch ‘woonerf’ which is a way of transforming roads into spaces used by both pedestrians and cars where cars have to give way to pedestrians and where the traffic speeds are kept below 20 mph.

I would also like to see a network of footpaths around the Isle of Wedmore with a booklet/map provided to show routes. There is a wonderful path from Mill Lane to Mudgley along the top of the hill but it is impassable for much of the year as it is so muddy – could this and other paths be improved?

Public footpaths are overgrown and some styles impassable to get over especially the field in Mudgley Road Dandos Road end.

Footpaths should be much better maintained. Currently they are poorly sign-posted and typically overgrown. No path is left through crops to enable passage on public rights of way and barriers are often erected across paths. Improving footpath access should be simple to enforce and would add significantly to local amenity and visitor enjoyment.

As a person who walks around the village all the time I would like to see footpaths checked for access – two, at least, have been permanently fenced across.

=9. POLICE AND CRIME (11 comments = 2% of total)

Visible police presence is extremely important.

I would like to see a more obvious police presence.

I definitely believe that there should be more of a presence by the police force within the Isle of Wedmore.

Re Q11. Reduce crime and anti-social behaviour. Support the police by appointing two Parish Marshals – patrol the village and check out under-age drinking in the pubs and also stop drinking spirits on the street.

I have reported criminal damage being done in the Borough Mall on more than one occasion – one elderly lady is most concerned that lighted paper will be put through the letter box of the apartments where there is NO way of escape.

The two marshals should be known as Deputy Police Officers – with effective powers – these special police officers have been in Eastance in Scotland, for over four years – one can now walk in the evening without fear.

Police – why don't they prosecute drivers who park and obstruct free passage of other road users. For instance, outside the Post Office in Church St., corner outside Minstrels Gallery and Paper Shop and also in the Borough and please consider a one-way system. Also could something be done about the yobs who walk past our house Fri/Sat nights at about 12.00 midnight, shouting, throwing things all over the road and gardens. We live in Sand Road.

Fifty years ago we had our own Police Station which was on call at all times and anyone could ask the local Bobby about little problems etc. Now we pay the earth for the same service and get next to nothing. I think we are being ripped off in this respect. When you ask about this you are told we're trying to get the numbers down in high risk areas, Bridgwater, Burnham and Highbridge. If I paid for something else and didn't get it, I would have a legitimate claim for my money back.

I would like to see more policing around Wedmore as we find a lot more activity in the early hours of the morning of people larking about especially around the old folks bungalows in Grants Lane; also a lot of car break-ins

Increase of crime, much of it drug-related.

A police (or warden) foot patrol to reduce vandalism and burglaries.

Policing in Somerset has deteriorated over the past decade. When the current Wedmore officer retires this situation will only get worse.

=13. CELEBRATING WHAT WE HAVE (10 comments = 2% of total)

I believe Wedmore to be a superb place to live although being spoilt by the traffic through the High Street.

As a whole I consider Wedmore to be a great place to live – so many positive aspects.

Wedmore has so many positive qualities and needs to be kept special for the future

With a few problems, Wedmore is a very pleasant place to live.

Wedmore is a fantastic place to live and offers a great quality of life for me and my family. It is friendly and welcoming BUT TRAFFIC CALMING is absolutely necessary before there is a terrible accident.

Wedmore is a delightful community in which to live

The Isle of Wedmore is an excellent area in which to live. My only fear is that 'urban modernises' will move in and try to change it.

Wedmore and the surrounding villages are delightful

Having only lived in Wedmore since my husband's retirement, I do not feel entitled to answer the more family orientated questions. Wedmore is a lovely place to which to live.

Wedmore is a special place, with unique features – such as specialist shops – which need preserving

= 13. VILLAGE HALLS (10 comments = 1.5% of total)

It seems very sad that over the years vast amounts of money has been raised within the village either for the village hall or at the sports field and we still don't have facilities that Wedmore warrants and deserves. Sell the village hall for building and build something decent at the sports field for everyone.

Wedmore needs a new village hall.

Q18. The Wedmore Village Hall always seems well used – I am surprised it can't cover its costs.

If Wedmore Village Hall were to close I would like to see a large sports complex indoor and outdoor which could also be used for social functions and many leisure activities. All age groups would benefit from this facility.

Turn the existing village hall into a GP surgery/theatre/flats. Build multi-function hall/pavilion at the rec. (we have a design) which could be privately owned and run.

Given the number of alternative sites to the Village Hall and declining use being made of it the question must be with it ever being economically viable? Permanent subsidy by any Council cannot be expected long term.

Funds for Theale Village Hall.

The current Village Hall is old and does not lend itself to modern requirements – a new purpose-built hall could accommodate other leisure activities i.e. cinema, dance, play, etc. – preferably on a new site.

Q18:(W. Village Hall) Yes but possibly with a great deal of improvement, both in management and facilities.

I think it would be a great shame to lose the village hall and I am sure that funds for its upkeep can be generated somehow.

=13. LOCAL BUS SERVICES (10 Comments = 1.5% of total)

13.1 Community Bus

The service of the community bus is absolutely essential to the older residents of Wedmore.

The community bus is a great asset. Perhaps more drivers could be encouraged to come forward.

Increase awareness that the community bus can be hired privately.

I would just like to say the Community bus is a life saver. We are truly grateful to the council and volunteer drivers who provide us with this wonderful service. Long may it continue.

Very, very grateful for the community bus.

With regard to the community bus service, it would be an asset to have it available on a Monday (after the weekend) for those unable to shop without transport.

13.2 Public Bus Service

A bus time-table that can be more easily read

Need buses after 6.00 pm for young people.

The bus service is pretty inadequate; definitely a need for more frequent buses to major centres e.g. Taunton, Wells, Street and Cheddar.

Better bus service to Weston Hospital and Station.

=16. THE ENVIRONMENT (9 comments = 1.5% of total)

The recycling facilities provided by Sedgemoor DC are appalling compared to other local authorities.

No recycling from door

Re Q24 (Environment). The many retired and semi-retired people in the area could be encouraged not to use their garden machinery, such as lawn mowers, at weekends and bank holidays.

The idea of placing all overhead cables underground is very attractive but economically would be unlikely.

More respect for the environment should be engendered

I would like to be able to recycle cardboard, plastic and tins locally.

I would like to see facilities for further recycling of waste locally i.e. collections for cardboard, glass, etc. as well as paper – or maybe collection points added to those already available.

I feel very strongly that the refuse collection and recycling system be improved as soon as possible. We move some years ago from an area where we had weekly bins and blue smaller weekly bins for recycling all plastic, cans, cardboard. Here we have black sacks which are messy and a hygiene risk encouraging the ever increasing rat population. Recycling should be made easier.

Emphasise problems of noise pollution from barking dogs and lawn mowers which can be very irritating.

=16. HEDGES AND TREES (9 comments = 1.5%)

AND PLEASE, PLEASE WE MUST PLANT MORE TREES. I would consider looking after trees planted in any scheme in Wedmore as after care is most essential.

The erection of ugly fences should not be allowed! Walls or hedges are much more 'in keeping'. The type of hedging should be stipulated by the Council.

Trees grow onto the pavements causing the pedestrians to step into the road to pass and especially along The Borough and Church Street vehicles not only mount the pavement but continue to drive along it!

No maintenance of hedges or road sizes I often wonder what we get for the high community tax we have to pay.

Could BT be prevailed upon to trim overhanging trees (Dungen Lane). The loss of phone and IT lines would be a great nuisance – prevent loss rather than repair later.

The hedging on Billings Hill is steadily forcing vehicles to make it a single rack road. Is there not a legal requirement to trim hedges to a legal line adjoining major roads?

Trimming of private and other dwelling's hedges – quite dangerous for poor sighted pedestrians!

Reduce amount of tree felling, pruning that seems too easily allowed.

The owners of all the overgrown hedges that overhang the paths and highways should be requested to cut them. They should also be made to clean up their mess afterwards and not leave it upon the highway to create a major safety hazard as they often do.

=18. SCHOOLS (7 comments = 1.5%)

As the headteacher of Wedmore First School I feel we need to consider the role of the school in the community. The community also needs to consider how it can support the school – particularly with the increase in the village population of younger age children.

I am concerned about the ever increasing number of children attending Wedmore First School. The school is full to bursting point which cannot be good for the education of the children and for staff morale.

If the villages around Wedmore are to grow, then more money and facilities should be put into the local school, to enable smaller classes and poor accommodation. How about re-opening a school at Blackford?

As the Isle of Wedmore is expanding the First School should also expand in size to accommodate additional children that move into the area.

LEA should be more realistic about the effect on schools of an increase in young families moving into the Cheddar Valley.

The District/County Council needs to be more acutely aware of the growing school age population and the severe strain this is putting on educational provision at Wedmore and Hugh Sexey's Schools.

The local school is over-subscribed and bussing children in from far and wide is not sustainable.

=18. HEALTH

Hospital – you go where sent. I have been to Taunton, Bridgwater, Weston and Bristol!

Health Centre should be improved

I use a dentist in Wells but not for NHS so I answered ‘No’.

I would use a dentist in Wedmore if it offered NHS treatment to people NOT on income support.

We need to keep the Health Centre in Wedmore.

By the way, what has become of the plans for the new surgery also in the Glebe Field?)

Medical services in particular seem to be overstretched at times

Other local services are also over-subscribed i.e. Medical/GPs.

20. WEDMORE PARISH COUNCIL (5 comments = 1%)

Wedmore Parish Council failed to get a lorry ban some years ago and were persuaded by other councils to band together to fight a joint battle. This was stupid because Wedmore was almost there and should have continued its own individual fight. We are on 'B' roads.

The Parish Council has too many members who are elderly and have been in office for donkeys' years. They have no doubt done their share of good service to the parish in their day, but now it's time for them to 'call it a day' and stand aside for some bright, young professional people who know about the world outside Wedmore and have not lived here all their lives.

The Parish Council is all from farming or trading families (except one of two) even the younger ones. So naturally there is a bias towards more and more development. The Council should be more balanced.

This Parish Council should concede that it has utterly failed the village when it comes to the traffic problem. Let's have some professionals on the Council who know what they're doing.

Why no question about the Parish Council? They have achieved nothing on the lorry ban. We need some clever new councillors who know how to deal with the Highways people. Other villages are getting what they need on traffic management while our councillors always say 'it can't be done'.

=21. ELDERLY PEOPLE (4 comments = 1%)

Provision for the elderly to continue and improve

Some elderly and infirm are experiencing problems with cars being vandalised and people or a person walking about in the early hours. This is quite disturbing leaving tenants feeling more vulnerable than they should be.

There are many aged folk living on the outskirts of Wedmore, especially Plud Street, Westend. PLEASE PUT SEATS SOMEWHERE NEAR (THE HALL) walking from the shops back home is exhausting and the only seat by the Chapel is so overgrown that it has been impossible to use it.

With the closure of the old peoples home in Wedmore as a community we are failing that age group.

=21. BONFIRE NUISANCE (4 comments = 1%)

We are made miserable by the constant clouds of bonfire smoke from some gardens nearby – could we have a bye-law limiting this activity please!!

I am very against people having bonfires

Pollution from bonfires is a serious problem. I would like to see definite restrictions - suggest no bonfires before 7.00pm, commercial or private.

Also thoughtless lighting of bonfires early evening and weekends.

=21. IOW NEWS (4 comments = 1%)

IOW News – poorly researched. Bad omission – Wedmore chronicles – would like a little more letters/obituaries, etc. Already included as requested. No gardeners calendar for months.

I am baffled and cross to see reference to the Isle of Wedmore News – potentially this could well put off contributors who give heir time voluntarily and should not be subject to criticism. Because the village gives a great deal of time and energy to the magazine it is one of the best of its kind – why meddle with it. If it's not broke don't fix it!

Thoughts for the month in Wedmore magazine could be written by a wider authorship from purely a Christian Base.

Wedmore News to expand to some degree, but not beyond the capacity of the services available to support such 'bigness'.

=24. THE DISABLED (2 comments = 0.5%)

More thought given to disabled e.g. low kerbs, no parking at low kerbs and certainly no parking at junction in Borough.

There is but one invalid parking place in Wedmore. A further one can be easily added by removing flower tubs and adequate white lines – but even 2 or 3 more would be appreciated.

=24. PUBLIC TOILETS (2 comments = 0.5%)

The toilets in Wedmore village are horrible – stark, damp, and ugly. I would like to see them made more attractive **inside**.

In keeping with this being a village for tourists some up-market toilet facilities would not go amiss.

26 - 45. A POT POURRI OF SINGLE IDEAS (20 in all)

Although Wedmore has a mobile library, the village would benefit from a permanent library located in or near the centre.

There is a need for drainage ditches to be checked and re-dug regularly in the Stoughton area – also the summer verges need to be cut at Stoughton Cross for safety reasons.

I think the questionnaire should have been made available to complete online. A facility should be included in the Wired Wedmore Website for residents to register their email address for newsletter purposes and to encourage similar surveys/information gathering etc. to be obtained online.

No nurseries for under 3 year in Wedmore

We need proper drainage and sewerage, we do not have adequate sewerage and drainage of roads.

I'm currently a childminder and hoping to open a nursery in Blackford in 2003. I am looking for premises and possibly land to erect a portacabin. Any suggestions? I have 39 children mainly from Blackford. I think expansion is a necessity in the near future. (Sandra Lane 713403)

I would like to see street lights at Crickham at the moment there is none at all

A monthly report from Neighbourhood Watch to appear in the Wedmore News

Churches need to get involved in helping.

How about an 'experience register' – great dog walks, best pubs in area, excellent days out, best place to source various things – to welcome new people. List of babysitters etc. Could be updated regularly.

Appoint someone to research and publish (perhaps in the IoW News) a listing of grants and funding available from local and national organisations.

Skills register of parishioners so that individuals and businesses could source and contact skills available in the parish and increase employment opportunities for local people in their local area.

Set up horse-drawn community transport or taxi service around the parish area connecting pubs and social events and hosing – more flexible for repeated stops and less environmental damage than buses. Would also be appealing to tourists and visitors.

I feel very strongly that for the very high community charge we pay in Theale we get absolutely nothing for it – no lighting, pavements, good transport service etc. I think perhaps Sedgemoor should start to consider how they should serve the community and improve facilities.

As a widow I would like to see a club for those people on their own – rather like the Working Men’s Club open at weekends and evenings.

Also the church bells should be stopped ringing for long lengths of time.

Some better security and lighting facilities should be considered near bungalows in Grants Lane.

I would like Sand to be included in Wedmore news/activities much more

The dykes on the sides of some of the roads are extremely dangerous especially during the dark winter nights. Surely, especially on bends, these should have protective barriers to prevent vehicles crashing into them resulting in possible drowning. Also these dykes seem very ‘green’ with weed which is blocking oxygen to fish life. Can anything be done to clear this?

Wedmore should supply a decent children's playground (not a tiny strip of land next to a main road). It is the worst play area I have ever seen.

Local babysitting group would be a real bonus.

We do not want nor do we need a travellers camp in such a small hamlet i.e. Bagley. We do need sewerage and more drainage on our roads and lower speed limits on the rat runs.