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ODD RODE
PARISH PLAN
2006



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ODD RODE PARISH COUNCIL

AN INTRODUCTION FROM THE PARISH COUNCILLORS

“It is your Parish, and this is your Plan that will have an effect on the village where you live.”

It is with great pleasure that we present the Odd Rode Parish Plan.

The Odd Rode Parish Plan Project was launched in June 2004 and this document is the culmination of a great deal of hard work by the Parish Plan Project Team which comprised both volunteers and Parish Councillors working together.

The Plan represents the views of the Parish as expressed in responses to various questionnaires. Its main objective is to form a working document for the future, based on the aspirations, wishes and needs of the people in the Parish.

The information has been summarised into a series of recommendations and actions that will be taken up by the Parish Council and other agencies and organisations, so that, as far as possible, the Parish can move forward and develop as planned.

The Parish Council considers it essential that the momentum generated so far is kept going. We are determined to see this through and look to you in the Parish to assist us both now and in the future.

It is your Parish, and this is your Plan that will have an effect on the village where you live.

The Project Team and the Parish Council would also like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has contributed.

Odd Rode Parish Council.

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GOVERNMENT OFFICE FOR THE NORTH WEST
CHESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
ODD RODE PARISH COUNCIL

CONTACT:
PARISH CLERK: 01782 510824





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INTRODUCTION TO THE PLAN

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PART 3. ODD RODE PARISH PLAN ACTION PLAN

(Supplied separately from this booklet)

1.1 EARLY BEGINNINGS

Odd Rode Parish Council agreed to look at the interest in creating a plan for the parish in late 2003. After a well-attended public meeting early in 2004, the first meeting of the volunteers who were to become the Parish Plan Project Team took place in June 2004.

Funding from the Countryside Agency and Cheshire County Council was applied for successfully, key positions on the project team elected and work started.

1.2 HOW THE PLAN WAS PUT TOGETHER

The key to the success of a parish plan is that it represents the views of the whole community in the parish, so the plan has been built on a series of questionnaires and consultations.

A pilot survey was conducted through the distribution of questionnaires to all households and placement of kiosks in key shops in early 2005 to understand the principal areas of concern in the parish.

The results of the pilot were used to form working groups concentrating on issues highlighted, working with key authorities and organisations to build a full questionnaire that would underpin an action plan.

Distribution of the main questionnaire to around 2,400 households took place in May 2005, and resulted in a return rate of 26%. This is considered enough to give the plan credibility in the eyes of authorities.

Separate questionnaires were developed and distributed to understand specific needs of groups in the parish such as the business and voluntary communities and younger members of the parish.

Once the results were in, the working groups reformed to analyse, bring together and simply try to make sense of what was being said. While there were many different opinions voiced across the community, in most areas there was a common set of concerns that emerged.

The working groups have shared these concerns with relevant organisations and areas of local government, and worked towards a series of agreed action points that would move the parish in the direction its residents most want to see – a Parish Plan.

1.3 THIS DOCUMENT

This report is in 3 parts. The raw answers of the survey are at the back (and on CD) while the bulk of the report is a commentary on the findings and the actions that will be taken forward, and the action plan itself.

The Parish Plan Project Team would like to thank all those who took the time to share their views with us and everyone who worked with us.

We hope you feel we have interpreted and represented your views well, and we hope that we can all, as a parish, come behind the plan to help make Odd Rode an even better place to live and work into the future.

The Parish Plan Project Team

ODD RODE IN BRIEF

2.1 INTRODUCTION

Odd Rode is a semi-rural parish with a population of just over 5,500 in South-East Cheshire, just to the north of the industrial city of Stoke-on-Trent.

The parish has no real centre as such and comprises of a number of small villages and many farms, all surrounded by green-belt designated countryside.

Rode Heath and Thurlwood is a compact, and what is technically termed, linear settlement on the west of the parish, developed mainly since 1966 along the Trent and Mersey canal and the road to Sandbach.

Scholar Green is a sprawling linear settlement lying along the A34 Stafford to Manchester road and the Macclesfield canal. Scholar Green as an area includes older settlements of Kent Green and Hall Green.

Odd Rode is a semi-rural parish with a population of just over 5,500 in South-East Cheshire

Mow Cop village is a dispersed settlement of mainly old workers' cottages grouped around the summit of Mow Cop. Only part of the village lies in the parish.

Mount Pleasant comprises old workers' cottages and housing estates clustered around a village centre on the slopes of Mow Cop.

The Bank lies on the lower slopes of Mow Cop and is a mainly new development with some old cottages.

2.2 LOCAL HISTORY

The parish of Odd Rode came into being in 1864 when the Wilbraham Family of Rode Hall built All Saints Church in Scholar Green; it became a civil administrative area shortly after. Before this, the area formed part of the ancient and large parish of Astbury.

Domesday Book records show the area now known as Odd Rode consisted of 2 manors, a total population of no more than 9 people and was worth £1 annually (although these were the days when a pound really was worth a pound). Local manor names of Rode (clearing in forest) and Moreton (farm in waste land) reflect the agricultural background of the area.

Settlement really grew during the industrial revolution, with coal mining and quarrying, including millstones on Mow Cop, salt extraction in Rode Heath and the advent of the railway and canals moving the area away from purely farming. Certainly the older and more characterful buildings in the parish come from this period of major growth.

With the decline in local industries, more residents started looking outside the parish for their livelihood, and apart from a couple of small clothing and flour mills there have been very few major sources of employment in the area. Until quite recently many people found employment in the local pottery industry and in the Congleton clothing and textile mills, most of which are now closed.

The majority of inhabitants now work outside the parish in the nearby city of Stoke-on-Trent, although a growing number commute elsewhere in Cheshire and further afield.

2.3 THE AREA

Odd Rode lies on the eastern edge of the Cheshire plain, dominated by the sheer-sided millstone grit and shale ridge of Mow Cop, topped with the (now National Trust) summer house (castle folly) visible across Cheshire.

The majority of the parish is predominantly flat agricultural land with 35 mostly small farms engaged in a diverse range of agriculture.

Little Moreton Hall, a Grade I listed building cared for by the National

Trust is the parish's gem. The parish also has 33 Grade II listed buildings, some reflecting its farming and industrial heritage, as well as a number of properties within the canal conservation corridor valued and protected for their aesthetic contribution to the area.

The parish of Odd Rode boasts a dozen or more church buildings and congregations, 3 Anglican, 2 Pentecostal and 9 Methodist, reflecting Mow Cop's part in the early history of Primitive Methodism.

The parish has a number of areas recognised by Cheshire Conservation Forum as being of biological and scientific interest. There are also areas of woodland and individual trees with preservation orders.

ODD RODE IN NUMBERS

5,562	POPULATION
2,412	DWELLINGS
1,531	ODD RODE IN HECTARES
1,235	AGRICULTURAL HECTARES
121	STREET LIGHTS
35	FARMS
34	LISTED BUILDINGS AND MONUMENTS
15	PARISH COUNCILLORS (4 VACANCIES)
11	SHOPS
11	CANAL BRIDGES
9	PLACES OF WORSHIP
8	PUBS & CLUBS
4	SUB-POST OFFICES
4	BUS SHELTERS
3	PRIMARY SCHOOLS
3	GARAGES
3	VILLAGE HALLS
2	CANALS
2	TAKE-AWAYS
1	PETROL STATION
1	SILVER BAND

LOCAL AND PUBLIC SERVICES

3.1 PARISH COUNCIL AND COMMUNICATIONS

Awareness of the Odd Rode Parish Council's (ORPC) role and responsibilities across the parish is poor.

Two thirds of those who responded are unsure of what the Parish Council does and over half are unsure of how to contact a parish councillor. There were over 100 suggestions as to how communications with ORPC could be improved – the most popular ideas being: a newsletter, better use of notice-boards and a website.

Communication at a wider level within the parish is also fairly un-coordinated, with most respondents relying on word-of-mouth and the local press for news of what is going on. The exception to this is in Rode Heath, where a regular newsletter is seen as the main source of local news.

Action 1 - ORPC to develop more effective methods for improving the communication process between the Council and residents; to be reviewed regularly.

Action 2 - ORPC to implement regular parish newsletters.

3.2 WASTE DISPOSAL, RECYCLING, AND LITTER

The current weekly refuse collection service and fortnightly collection of garden waste, glass, cans, textiles and paper provided by Congleton Borough Council is seen by most as a success. However, the proposed move to fortnightly refuse collections was not generally supported unless the need for more extensive recycling collection of cardboard and plastics is addressed first. Many comments suggested that weekly collections would still be required.

Action 3 - ORPC to make Congleton Borough Council aware of the need to implement plastics and cardboard recycling before moving to fortnightly refuse collections.

The lack of street cleaning and cleaners was commented upon along with the need for better standards of self-cleanliness by the maintenance departments after they have performed their duties of cutting grass and waste collections.

Action 4 - ORPC to make Congleton Borough Council aware of the issue and agree an improvement plan and quality review.

Litter was also a major concern to nearly two thirds of respondents. It was thought that there was a need for more education in respect of this infringement as well as a need for more receptacles and better enforcement.

A large number of suggested sites for increased facilities were generated throughout the parish. Litter thrown from vehicles was seen as a growing problem as well as litter from walkers and boaters passing through the area. Fly tipping also raised attention in the comments. About one third of the respondents were prepared to participate in a "Litter Pick".

Action 5 - ORPC to use survey findings indicating where litter is an issue and to arrange initial clean-up exercises and additional waste disposal facilities.

The prevalence of dog excrement causes concern for over three quarters of those who responded from Mount Pleasant and Rode Heath and over half of those from Scholar Green. Many are concerned about the lack of enforcement for infringement and there was also concern expressed about the lack of appropriate facilities for depositing collected dog residue.

Action 6 - ORPC to use survey findings indicating where dog waste is an issue and install waste disposal facilities and signage.

3.3 POLICE PRESENCE AND VISIBILITY

Cheshire Constabulary are in the process of introducing more community based policing, but less than half (44%) of those who responded were in positive mood about this development with the remaining majority sceptical or unconvinced of its effectiveness.

Despite the low incidence of crime in the parish nearly three quarters (72%) are concerned about the police service currently provided for the parish, with the lack of visible police presence being the main cause for concern.

Action 7 - ORPC to pass the findings and comments on policing to Cheshire Constabulary, and request a response.

3.4 COMMUNITY WARDENS

Only 8% of those who responded have used the warden service to resolve an issue, but user satisfaction levels are mixed, with some people happy and others far from satisfied. There was also a low awareness of the role or existence of local wardens with many not knowing how to contact them.

Action 8 - ORPC to pass the findings and comments on Community Warden Service to Congleton Borough Council.

3.5 POSTCODE

Although three quarters of respondents would prefer to reflect the parish's location with a Cheshire postcode, this is a Post Office operational matter, reflecting the way mail is sorted and distributed, so it is extremely unlikely, if not impossible for the current ST7 postcode to be changed.

3.6 LIGHTING

The majority of feeling across the parish is that the level of street lighting is about right. On Mow Cop, however, half of respondents thought there was a need for additional lighting.

A number of sites were identified across the parish as locations that could benefit from an increase in street lighting.

Action 9 – The Parish Council should review the list of suggested locations with a view to introducing more street lighting.



VILLAGE HALLS AND SHOPS

4.1 VILLAGE HALLS

There are three village halls in the parish, one in each of the villages of Scholar Green, Rode Heath and Mount Pleasant. Each of the village halls are charities run by management committees and overseen by trustees, they are used in varying degrees by just under half of respondents. Comments on the facilities at the three halls varied.

IN MOUNT PLEASANT, just under two thirds of respondents were contented with their hall. A third of comments said that Mount Pleasant village hall needed refurbishment either inside or outside. Comments were also made about the isolated position and the lack of wheelchair access.

IN SCHOLAR GREEN less than half are contented with their hall. There were adverse comments about Scholar Green village hall from all areas of the parish, with many feeling that the hall was desperately in need of major refurbishment both inside and out, with more requested facilities for children and teenagers. More respondents in Rode Heath knew what went on in their village hall, and how to book it, probably because a regular newsletter containing this information is available.

Action 10 – ORPC to continue to support local Village Halls.

4.2 SHOPS

Most of the parish have access to their own transport and shop in nearby towns, although the convenience of village shops is appreciated and around half of

respondents use the local shops weekly. The biggest area of comment in all villages was difficulties in parking near the shop.

A small number of disabled and elderly respondents have great problems in shopping independently for basic goods, and rely predominantly on friends, relatives and neighbours for assistance.

There was wide interest in using alternative shopping, transport and delivery services across the parish if these could be developed further, although building trust in any new service is key for this group.

The replies in all three wards were consistent in that people appear to want a convenient local shop, but with superstore choice and prices.



HEALTH



5.1 PROVISION FOR HEALTH CARE

The villages of Rode Heath, Scholar Green and Mow Cop are serviced by one General Practice with a main surgery and pharmacy in Scholar Green and a smaller surgery in Rode Heath. Some minor outpatient and testing services are provided by a small hospital in Congleton, while accident and emergency services and the full range of medical services are provided by major hospitals in Crewe, Macclesfield and Stoke-on-Trent.

good health is central to the well being of people and communities

The GP practice, Doctor Paterson and Partners, is looking to move to new,

purpose built premises, so the Parish Plan questionnaire was structured to understand the parish's future requirements.

5.2 SATISFACTION WITH CURRENT PROVISION

The survey responses covered 1,680 of the 5,535 residents. Of these 64% were registered with Dr Paterson and Partners, the local GP, with 94% of residents being either very satisfied or satisfied with the level of service received.

The number of residents registered with GPs outside the parish was highest in Mow Cop, due probably to traditional links with Staffordshire. Only 11% of Mow Cop residents were able to walk to see a Doctor, compared with 45% of the parish as a whole, due to geographic location.

5.3 ADDITIONAL LOCAL HEALTH SERVICES

114 comments were made about future or improved services that residents would like to see the practice provide. Around a third of these were around making it easier to make appointments to see a doctor or extended surgery hours and pharmacy services.

The most requested additional health service was for chiropody, with a fifth of comments. Other services requested, in order of popularity, were local testing facilities such as blood and x-rays, well woman/well man/lifestyle clinics, physiotherapy, and alternative therapies.

Many of these services are already provided locally, indicating a need for better communication between the surgery and residents.

Action 11 – ORPC should pass the results of the survey to the Primary Care Trust and Doctor Paterson and Partners.

Although there are no Dentistry practices in the parish, only half of parishioners believe they are registered with a convenient local NHS dentist and another fifth with other NHS dentists. Only 8 comments suggested this as a desired service



HOUSING

6.1 OVERVIEW

Each of the villages and settlements in Odd Rode has its own mix and style of housing, usually with a core of more traditional buildings surrounded by a variety of more recent developments. Each village is bounded by green belt.

Much of the growth in housing in Odd Rode was in the 1960s, with large developments predominantly in Rode Heath and Scholar Green. Odd Rode consequently has a much higher percentage of semi-detached properties than either the Borough of Congleton or the rest of Cheshire. The result of this is a much lower level of smaller and more affordable housing in the parish than the County or Borough averages.

currently priced out of the market, and for older residents wishing to downsize who are looking for quality accommodation.

6.2 FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

The number of houses within Odd Rode has grown by 4% since 2001 entirely as a result of development of brown field sites or infill development within the main villages. Since 2004 the number of new dwellings approved has been significantly reduced because of restrictive planning policies introduced by Congleton Borough Council to manage the supply of new housing.

Even with the known issue of the need for more, smaller houses, the overwhelming feeling and comments from across the parish was that continued development would change the character of the villages and severely alter the rural nature of the parish.

Over 93% of residents are against building on green belt land and nearly 60% against continued infill. If building is to be permitted, residents feel it should take place on either brown field sites or through the sympathetic renovation of existing structures. Either way, development should be in keeping with the scale and style of each village, so as not to alter the overall character.

Action 12 – ORPC to ensure the feelings of residents are fed into the

relevant parts of the Borough's new Local Development Framework for the period up to 2016 as part of the consultation process.

6.3 VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENTS

There was overwhelming support for Village Design Statements, setting out clear and simple guidance for design considerations involved in all developments. A Village Design Statement is an advisory document produced by the village community, intended to help constructively in the planning application process.

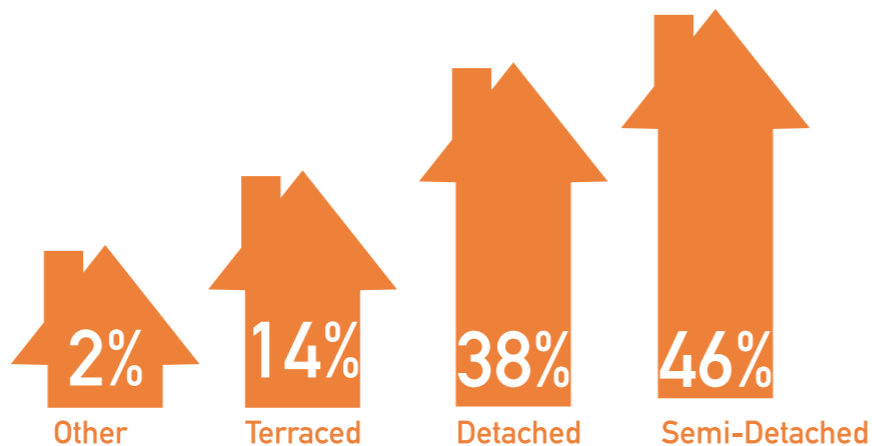
Action 13 – ORPC will work with the relevant planning authorities to develop a Village Design Statement for each of the settlements in Odd Rode.

The level of home ownership in Odd Rode is high at over 80% and the overwhelming majority of residents want to remain living in the parish

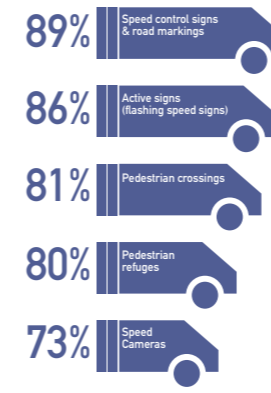
The level of home ownership in Odd Rode is high at over 80% and the overwhelming majority of residents want to remain living in the parish.

Analysis of housing requirements shows a need for more affordable smaller houses for young families

DWELLING TYPES IN ODD RODE



ROADS, TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT



7.1 OVERVIEW.

Odd Rode is a semi-rural area criss-crossed by numerous country lanes, but also crossed by 2 increasingly busy A roads; the A34 bisecting Scholar Green, and the A50 separating Rode Heath from the rest of the parish.

Car usage within the parish is growing, with 93% of households owning at least one car and most at least 2. This is above both the County and Borough average.

The parish has an infrequent and poorly used bus service. Most residents rely on their own or family's transport to travel to work, schools, doctors, shops and leisure activities.

7.2 SPEED OF TRAFFIC

The issue of speed of traffic and crossing roads safely was the single biggest area of concern for residents of Odd Rode, attracting the most questionnaire responses; 85% believe action is necessary. Since the survey was taken, additional speed control signs have been implemented on the A34 through Scholar Green, and a mobile speed warning trailer is in use across the Congleton Borough.

Action 15 - ORPC to work with the County Council, through the Joint Highways Team to address the concern with traffic speed through the parish.

Action 16 - ORPC to press the issue of the provision of controlled crossings at key locations over the major roads in the parish with the Joint Highways Team.

There was wide interest in participation in a Community Speedwatch team. Community Speedwatch enables local residents to work in conjunction with traffic police to detect and report speeding vehicles.

Action 17 - ORPC to approach Cheshire Constabulary's Community Speedwatch team to initiate a scheme within Odd Rode.

The majority of residents were in favour of designating and signing certain roads as 'Quiet Lanes' where the presumption is they are intended mainly for pedestrians, cyclists, horse-riders and slow-moving traffic.

Action 18 - ORPC to work with the County Council and neighbouring Parish Councils with the objective of building a network of quiet lanes throughout the area.

Action 19 - ORPC to work with schools, Congleton Borough Council and Cheshire County Council to reduce the number of car journeys to schools and work with the "safe routes to school" initiative to provide credible alternatives.

7.3 PARKING

Parking was seen as an issue at peak times at certain pinch-points in the parish, with parking around the school and shop in Scholar Green the biggest area of concern.

Since the survey was completed, work has started on a School Travel Plan for Scholar Green Primary School. School Travel plans look at various options including safe walking and cycling routes to and from school, with the intended result of lowering the amount of traffic at peak periods.

Two thirds of residents believe there is a requirement for additional parking and parking control measures around shops and schools in all three villages. Although there were a lot of areas identified where parked cars are an issue, there were few suggestions for possible locations for additional parking.

Action 20 – ORPC to work with Borough & County Councils to review potential locations and options for parking control measures and additional parking across the parish.

7.4 MAINTENANCE OF ROADS AND PAVEMENTS

Concern was raised across the parish with the state of repair of main roads, other roads, pavements, gutters and gullies, particularly in the Mow Cop and Mount Pleasant areas. With an increasing ageing population and lack of public transport, this could cause a growing accessibility problem.

Action 21 - ORPC to press local agencies to improve the state of repair, maintenance, and suitability of roads, pavements, gutters and gullies.



There is a sizeable minority of residents who depend on public transport.

There are Voluntary Transport schemes operating in the parish with around a fifth of elderly and disabled residents using this service. Some interest was shown in both using and contributing time to a voluntary transport scheme.

Action 14 - ORPC to approach residents showing interest in voluntary transport schemes for their consent to pass personal details on if organisations show an interest in taking this forward.



CONSERVATION STRATEGY

8.1 CONSERVATION STRATEGY

The overwhelming majority of those who replied agree that living in a rural environment is important to them, and the preservation of natural and countryside features, from the dry stone walls on Mow Cop, to the farms, hedgerows and canal settings with their traditional buildings is essential.

There is a very high level of support for the development of a Conservation Strategy for the important features of Odd Rode, with sixty suggestions received for specific features warranting future conservation.

Main features identified were canals and associated buildings, woodland and hedgerows, historic buildings, village greens and environments, wells, and old industrial sites.

There was wide support for marking the location of important features with information plaques and publishing a directory of important features.

Around eighty residents were interested in participating in a local conservation group.

Action 22 - ORPC to initiate a formal survey of the local environment to identify areas and features where protection is required.

Action 23 - ORPC to develop a conservation plan for the natural environment and important features of the parish.

Action 24 - ORPC to initiate the installation of information plaques detailing important local features.

Action 25 - ORPC to develop and publish a directory of local facilities and features of interest.

Action 26 - ORPC to raise local awareness of activities to improve and preserve the natural environments which require local participation.

8.2 PUBLIC FOOTPATHS, RIGHTS OF WAY, AND SIGN-POSTING

There is a high degree of knowledge across the parish about rights of way, footpaths and access rights to farm and private land.

Three-quarters of residents are happy with the level of sign-posting of public footpaths and over two-thirds are happy with the maintenance of footpaths. There were 118 comments received regarding areas of improvements on footpaths, mainly concerned with excessive overgrowth and undergrowth, poor underfoot conditions, poor drainage, and access difficulties caused by farming.

Cheshire County Council is currently looking at all issues regarding highways and footpaths as part of the Government's Rights of Ways Improvement Plans (ROWIP).

Action 27 - ORPC to inform the relevant authorities of concerns raised relating to footpaths and bridleways in this parish and monitor progress.

FACILITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN

ODD RODE



9.1 INTRODUCTION

It was clear from the pilot survey that many people were concerned about the lack of resources and activities available for young people in the parish. There were several suggestions that we ask the youngsters themselves what they want and the project team recognised this as a sensible approach.

The team collected information on youth issues from the three primary schools within the parish and the two secondary schools mostly used by young people within the parish, as well as using the main data-gathering questionnaire.

9.2 CURRENT FACILITIES

The facilities for young people in the parish are limited to infants' play parks in each of the main villages and a Young People's Community Centre in Rode Heath. There is an initiative by Congleton Borough Council to re-vamp the rather run-down Scholar Green play park in 2006.

Over two thirds of residents believe there should be more and better facilities for young people in the parish.

Most young people travel outside the parish for leisure activities and clubs, and most rely on their parent's cars to travel to these, although there was only limited support for the provision of safe and reliable transport with a nominal charge.

9.3 DESIRED FACILITIES

There is wide spread support across both the young and old of the community for some kind of youth club in each village. The idea of youth shelters located close to the village halls was far more popular with adult members of the parish than the young. Twenty-five residents showed interest in becoming involved in youth activities.

When asked for activities they'd like to see, secondary school students listed the trampoline, mobile cinema, a bike track, tennis and a youth club as their favourites. Our primary school children noticed relevant matters about facilities or lack of facilities for their age group and clearly articulated their concerns when given the opportunity. The younger children listed play parks, play equipment, bike tracks, and football as their clear favourites.

Action 28 – ORPC to contact the relevant agencies to take these options forward.

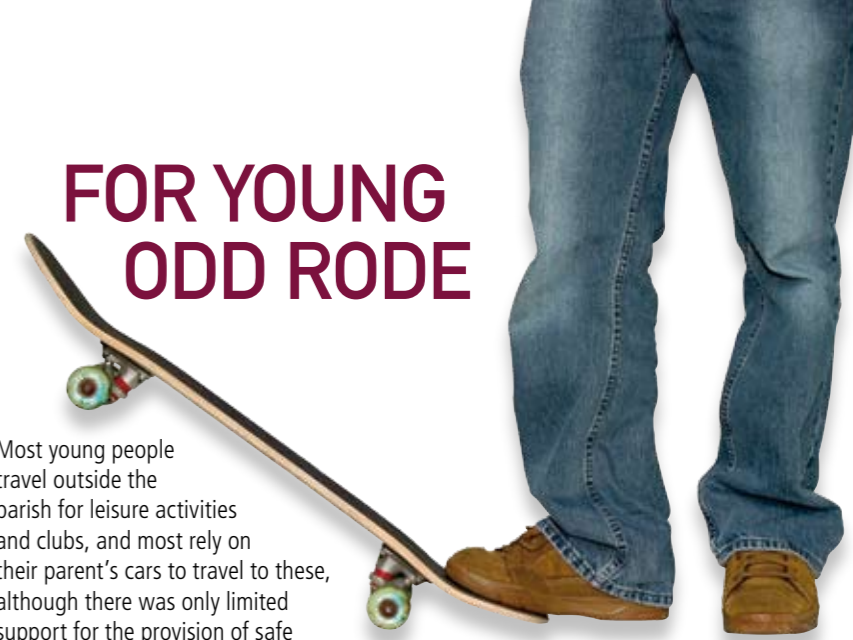
9.4 YOUNG PEOPLE'S INVOLVEMENT IN THE COMMUNITY

Young people were very positive about the natural environment, with most believing that work on maintaining the environment was important. There were 10 young people definitely prepared to join a working party.

Action 29 – ORPC to contact Congleton Hub of Cheshire County Council with a view to organising environmental working parties.

Being able to express their opinions formally appeals to around half of our young people, with 8 definitely willing to join or support a youth forum and another 28 who might be interested

Action 30 – ORPC to contact Congleton Hub of Cheshire County Council Youth Service with a view to linking in to the existing youth forum.



FACILITIES FOR ELDERLY AND DISABLED PEOPLE IN ODD RODE

10.1 ACCESS FOR DISABLED PEOPLE

Access to basic facilities for disabled people is a real issue, particularly in rural communities. The survey had 127 responses identifying households with at least one member who regarded themselves as disabled, with an even spread across the parish.

About a fifth of respondents had experienced some difficulties in participating in or accessing facilities, and whilst some had managed to resolve these difficulties, most had not.

There was wide interest in using alternative shopping, transport and delivery services across the parish

The lack of knowledge about appropriate legislation and procedures for complaint and problem resolution was thought to be the root of this.

Action 31 – ORPC to ensure they consider the needs of disabled residents.

10.2 TRANSPORT

Voluntary Transport is most likely to be used by elderly and disabled people, with around a fifth using this service.

The majority of respondents would not consider they would be able to act as an organiser or driver.

10.3 SHOPPING

A small number of disabled and elderly parishioners have great problems in shopping independently for basic goods and rely predominantly on friends, relatives and neighbours for assistance.

There was wide interest in using alternative shopping, transport and delivery services across the parish if these could be developed further, although building trust in any new service is key for this group.

10.4 COMMUNICATIONS

The elderly and disabled have heightened communication needs, but currently rely mainly on word of mouth in the absence of access to, or knowledge of, what is available.

There are specific publications available on request, which are listed in the appendix to this report.



BUSINESS AND VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS

11.1 OVERVIEW

The views of the Odd Rode Business and Voluntary Community were sought in a tailored questionnaire. A total of 116 organisations were identified in the parish, of which 31 replied to the survey.

The 2001 Census counted 5,562 people of which 2,843 were either in work or seeking work, the majority of who worked outside the parish, while 311 worked from home. Interestingly, the business questionnaire showed that most people employed by the business or voluntary sectors in the parish came from outside Odd Rode.

There were a large number of the respondents (25) who indicated that their particular activities did serve the community of Odd Rode. Of these most indicated that more than 60% of their activities was generated from the area.

About two thirds of the respondents have links with, and provide active support to, other local organisations.

11.2 VIEWS AND ISSUES

Many of the views and concerns of the business and voluntary community mirrored those of the main questionnaire (the lack of communications and information on facilities, the lack of public transport, the need for affordable housing, the

lack of police presence), but also a number of unique issues:

Crime is a problem within the business world in the parish, with vandalism, break-ins and thefts most often mentioned. Half of respondents are willing to participate in property watch schemes.

The road system was thought to be reasonably satisfactory, though temporary road closures do have a detrimental impact on business.

The information available around grants and amount of red tape involved in applying for grants was a real issue

The planning process was seen as an issue in the much needed expansion of Rural Diversification initiatives. Looking forward, there was interest shown in the possibility of using a local website.

Action 32 - ORPC to further investigate the demand for a business forum.

Action 33 - ORPC to draw the attention of the Community Action Team and the Community Wardens to the concerns highlighted in business's responses.



Appendix 1

Acknowledgements and Thanks

The Parish Plan Project Team would like to thank the following people and organisations, without whose help this plan would not have been possible:-

PUBLIC SERVICES	Tony Potts	Congleton Borough Council Community Warden Service Cheshire Constabulary Community Policing
ROADS & TRANSPORT	Sandra Hallam Chris Jones James Wood	Communicare Voluntary Transport Cheshire Constabulary Joint Highways Agency Cheshire County Council, School Travel Team Congleton Community Safety Partnership
HOUSING	Geoff Allen Bob Grundy	Head of Planning, Congleton Borough Council Odd Rode Parish Councillor, Planning Committee
HEALTH	Heather Grocott Dr James Patterson	Practice Manager for Dr Patterson & Partners Dr Patterson & Partners Central Cheshire Primary Care Trust
ELDERLY & DISABLED	Rev. Terry Evans Helen Gardner Sandra Hallam Irene Hancock Brenda Morrall Craig Nicholson Christopher Rigby Margery Waller	Rector, Odd Rode Age Concern Communicare Voluntary Transport Resident Representative Resident Representative Congleton Borough Council Access Officer Chair of Parish Council Dane Housing Community Voluntary Service and Volunteer Bureau Central Cheshire Primary Care Trust
CONSERVATION	Matthew Axford Emma Rudkin James Taylor Dean Thompson Louise Wallace Alistair Wright	Countryside Management, Cheshire County Council The National Trust British Waterways The National Trust Conservation Officer, Congleton Borough Council Countryside Management, Cheshire County Council
YOUTH	Dan Moxon Helen Pearson Adams Julie Walker The staff and pupils of:	Congleton Hubb Leader, Sandbach Hubb Principle Community Development Officer, CBC Alsager Comprehensive School Congleton High School Rode Heath County Primary School Scholar Green County Primary School Woodcock's Well County Primary School
BUSINESS	Mr P Bailey Mr R Hulse	Business Link
OVERALL	Ann Banks Derek Blackburn Rod Brookfield Caroline Buttle Mark Chappellhow Louise Hare Frank McGuinty Peter Webb HyperHelp Ltd	Clerk to Odd Rode Parish Council Cheshire Rural Community Council Congleton Borough Council Community Futures Cheshire County Council Community Futures Cheshire Rural Community Council Software to analyse and report on the data from the questionnaires.

THE ODD RODE PARISH PLAN WAS MADE POSSIBLE THROUGH FUNDING BY
THE GOVERNMENT OFFICE FOR THE NORTH WEST : CHESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL : ODD RODE PARISH COUNCIL

Appendix 2

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HOUSING	Congleton Borough Council Draft Supplementary Planning Document 6 Affordable Housing Congleton Borough Council Housing Strategy 2004/07 Congleton Borough Housing Needs Survey Final Report 2004
ELDERLY & DISABLED	Disability News - Cheshire Disabilities Federation Cheshire Disabilities Federation, Central Office Hartford Business Centre, Chester Road, Hartford, Northwich, CW8 2AB http://www.christinepickthall@onetel.net Links – Congleton Community Voluntary Service/Voluntary Bureau Newsletter 01270 763100 http://www.congleton.cvs.org.uk Get Active – Age Concern 01606-881662 http://www.getactive.central@ageconcerncheshire.org.uk Consent – Central Cheshire Primary Care Trust 01270 415378 http://www.ccpct.nhs.uk Disability Discrimination Act http://www.Direct.gov.uk
CONSERVATION	Cheshire Conservation Forum http://www.consult-eco.ndirect.co.uk/consrvtn/chconfrm/ Countryside Rights of Way Act http://www.countrysideaccess.gov.uk Conservation of Buildings http://Congleton.gov.uk/Resident/AboutPlanning/Conservation Discover the best of the UK's inland rivers and canals with http://www.waterscape.com English Nature http://www.english-natur.org.uk Global Warming http://pages.zoom.co.uk/cosmicelk/GlobalWarming.htm and http://yosemite.epa.gov/oar/globalwarming.nsf/webprintview/Climate.html The Directory of Woodland Trust Woods http://www.woodland-trust.org.uk/woods/ourwoodsdirectory.htm Nature Conservation Strategy – Overview http://www.Congleton.gov.uk/Resident/AboutPlanning/Conservation National Trust http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk Rights of Way Improvement Plans – New Duty on highway authorities. http://www.cheshire.gov.uk/countryside/Prow/ProwAdditionalDetails/ROWIP.htm Protected Trees A guide to Tree Preservation Procedures http://www.regeneration.dtlr.gov.uk Maps available from Borough Council and Websites
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CBC	Sports Development Officer – Sue Brereton 01270 769333 Congleton Borough Council for Voluntary Service (CVS) - Opportunities for training for members of the voluntary sector. 01270 763100 Criminal Record Bureau Contact www.html://Julie.Walker Julie.Walker@congleton.gov.uk Children's Minds Margaret Donaldson (1978) Fontana Press
BUSINESS	The Link http://www.congleton.gov.uk Business Link - Congleton 01260 294500 Congleton Borough Council http://www.Congleton.gov.uk/Business Defra - Agricultural Census http://farmstats.defra.gov.uk Congleton Borough Council Key Stats by town and ward Census Results 2001

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SCHOOL

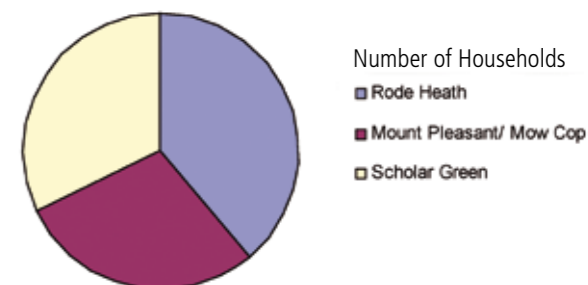
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 Published by the Alsager History Research Group (1999) ISBN 0 953636305

The team also used a wide selection of Parish Plans and Action Plans and questionnaires from other areas around the country, and would like to thank all other parish plans teams who went before for making our task easier.

Parish Plan Project Team Members past and present

Charlie Bigley
 Ann Daniels
 Terry Evans
 Samantha Hulson
 Barbara Lawton (Secretary)(Parish Councillor)
 Sheila Martin (Chairperson)
 Knud Moller (Secretary)(Parish Councillor)
 Brenda Morrell

Steve Robinson (Parish Councillor)
 Annette Scott (Treasurer)
 Geoff Scott
 Marion Simpson
 Brian Thompson (Parish Councillor)
 Diane West
 Robert West
 Gareth Williams



APPENDIX 3 Synopsis of responses

The number of questionnaires returned for each of the three wards is shown in the following table:

	Number of households	Number of questionnaires returned %
Mount Pleasant/ Mow Cop	699	175 25%
Rode Heath	934	275 29%
Scholar Green	773	247 32%
Total	2406	697 29%

In the following section, the responses have been aggregated over all three wards and the totals shown both in numerical terms and as a percentage. (**Percentage figures are shown in blue throughout.**) Please note that in calculating the percentages, we have allowed for the fact that not all respondents answered all the questions, so the percentages have been calculated from the number of responses to the particular question, and not from the total number of questionnaires returned. Wherever possible, the total number of responses to an individual question have been shown in red thus (689).

1 VILLAGE HALLS & SHOPS

1.1 Village Halls

a) **How many times has your household used your village hall in the last 12 months for social / leisure / educational purposes? (689)**

Weekly	55 8%
Monthly	32 5%
Occasionally	247 36%
Never	356 52%

b) **How happy are you with the facilities of your village hall? (464)**

Very contented	37 8%
Contented	289 62%
Not contented	71 15%
Disappointed	57 14%

c) **Comments (200)**

200 Responses – 113 shown below (**57%**) – very diverse – see CD.

(1) Need updating/refurbishment/more facilities	88 responses.
(2) Activities poorly advertised/unaware of range of facilities	15 responses.
(3) Essential part of community – good to have – committees work hard	10 responses.

d) **Do you know what goes on in your village hall and how to book it? (675)**

Yes	328 49%
No	222 33%
Not sure	125 19%

1.2 LOCAL SHOPS

a) How often do you use the Post Office / shops in your parish? (694)

Daily	223	32%
Weekly	328	47%
Occasionally	119	17%
Very rarely	24	3%

b) Do you have a problem getting your local shopping / pension / cash? (63)

Great problem	12	2%
Slight problem	40	6%
No problem	611	92%

c) Comments (124)

123 Responses – 67 shown below (54%) – very diverse – see CD.

- (1) Good – need to keep – essential 36 responses.
- (2) More choice needed – limited range 17 responses.
- (3) Shop elsewhere – don't use 14 responses.

d) If you have trouble getting out to the local shops and the following were available, might you:

	Currently use	Would use	May use
Ring a local shop with an order? (167)	5 3%	61 37%	101 60%
Ask a friend or neighbour? (212)	12 6%	95 45%	105 50%
Use elected (nominated) person or facility? (99)	6 6%	33 33%	60 61%
Use the internet? (160)	47 29%	57 36%	56 35%
Contact a shopping service? (88)	1 1%	28 32%	59 67%
Use a mobile shop? (85)	2 2%	29 34%	54 64%
Get a taxi / Dial-a-Ride etc? (117)	6 5%	55 47%	56 48%
Do without? (64)	9 14%	11 17%	44 69%

2 ROADS, TRAFFIC AND PUBLIC TRANSPORT

SPEEDING - issues arising from the original questionnaire highlighted the need to look at the speed of traffic entering our area.

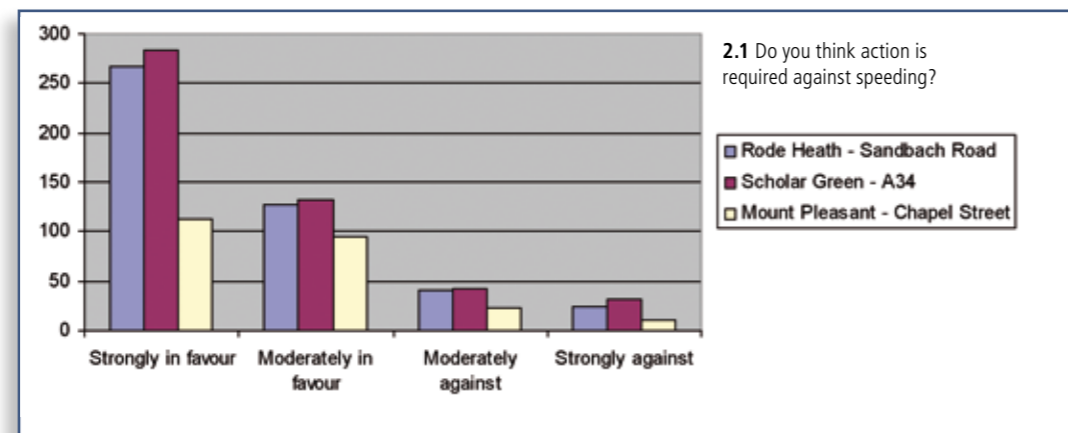
2.1 Do you think action is required in the following locations?

	Strongly in favour	Moderately in favour	Moderately against	Strongly against
a) Rode Heath - Sandbach Road (459)	267 58%	127 28%	41 9%	24 5%
b) Scholar Green - A34 (489)	283 58%	132 27%	42 9%	32 7%
c) Mount Pleasant - Chapel Street (240)	112 47%	95 40%	22 9%	11 5%

d) Other (please specify) (122)

122 Responses – 68 shown below (55%) – very diverse – see CD.

- (1) Station Rd.(Scholar Green).....20 responses.
- (2) Heath Ave. (Rode Heath).....18 responses.
- (3) Spring Bank (Scholar Green).....9 responses.
- (4) Grays Close/The Bank (Scholar Green).....9 responses.
- (5) The Hollows (Mount Pleasant).....6 responses.
- (6) Cinderhill Lane (Scholar Green).....6 responses.



2.2. What measures would you support to control speed through your ward?

	Strongly in favour	Moderately in favour	Moderately against	Strongly against
a) Speed control signs (e.g. extra markings, red tarmac) (470)	303 64%	116 25%	18 4%	33 7%
b) Safety camera (482)	270 56%	83 17%	47 10%	83 17%
c) Active warning (e.g. speed activated flashing signs) (481)	304 63%	112 23%	6 5%	39 8%
d) More pedestrian refuges (337)	155 45%	116 34%	30 9%	36 11%
e) Pedestrian controlled crossing (403)	230 57%	95 24%	41 10%	37 9%

Suggested location(s) (330)

(f) Speed Control – Other locations where you think speed controls are required.

330 Responses – 294 shown below (89%)

- (1) A34 Congleton Rd. (Scholar Green) 115 responses.
- (2) Sandbach Rd. (Rode Heath) 111 responses
- (3) Chapel St. (Mount Pleasant) 16 responses.
- (4) Mount Pleasant 21 responses.
- (5) Station Rd.(Scholar Green) 9 responses.
- (6) The Bank (Scholar Green) 6 responses.
- (7) A50 (Rode Heath) 4 responses.
- (8) A34 (Little Moreton Hall) 4 responses.
- (9) Birch Tree Lane (Scholar Green) 3 responses.
- (10) Cinderhill Lane (Scholar Green) 2 responses.

2.3 Speedwatch

Cheshire Constabulary have introduced a “Community Speedwatch” scheme that enables local residents in conjunction with traffic police to detect and report speeding vehicles. Would you be prepared to get involved in a local group? Full training and support would be given. (663)

Yes	59	9%
Maybe	189	29%
No	415	63%

2.4 Quiet Lanes

The possibility exists of certain roads in the area being signed as ‘Quiet Lanes’, where the presumption is that they are intended mainly for pedestrians, cyclists, horse-riders and slow-moving local traffic. Would you be in favour of making such changes? (673)

Yes	341	51%
Maybe	220	33%
No	112	17%

2.5 Parking

The original questionnaire identified parking as an important issue to be looked at in your ward

2.5.1 Do you find parking a problem in the following areas:

	Not at all	Occasionally	Frequently
a) Residential areas (561)	222 40%	152 27%	187 33%
b) Schools (414)	116 28%	91 22%	207 50%
c) Shops (577)	125 22%	241 42%	211 37%

2.5.2 If you find parking a problem, what measures would you support?

	Strongly in favour	Moderately in favour	Moderately against	Strongly against
a) Double yellow lines (375)	156 42%	93 25%	49 13%	76 20%
b) Residents' parking permits (364)	132 36%	99 27%	48 13%	85 23%
c) Creation of additional car park(s) (434)	207 48%	140 32%	35 8%	58 12%
d) Other (please specify) (118)				

Suggested locations (173)

(d) Parking - Other measures to restrict parking.

117 Responses – 59 shown below (50%) – very diverse – see CD.

(1) Park in own driveway/adapt garden for parking	15 responses.
(2) School to provide parking for parents	11 responses.
(3) Walk to School	10 responses.
(4) Police enforcement of yellow lines	6 responses.
(5) Need enforcement of existing/new restrictions to be worthwhile	5 responses.
(6) Part time Wardens required	4 responses.
(7) Stop parking on pavements	4 responses.
(8) Only an issue at school start/finishing times	4 responses.

(e) Parking – Suggested locations for car parks.

173 Responses – 148 shown below – (86%)

(1) A533 Sandbach Rd. (Rode Heath)	44 responses.
(2) Scholar Green School	24 responses.
(3) Mill Mead (Rode Heath)	28 responses.
(4) Mount Pleasant Post Office	19 responses.
(5) Heath Ave. (Rode Heath)	10 responses.
(6) Chapel St. (Mount Pleasant)	6 responses.
(7) Clare St. (Mount Pleasant)	6 responses.
(8) Portland Drive (Scholar Green)	5 responses.
(9) Beech Ave.(Rode Heath)	2 responses.
(10) Cinderhill Lane (Scholar Green)	2 responses.
(11) All of Rode Heath	1 response.
(12) A34	1 response.

2.6 Transport

Bus services in the Parish are regarded as poor but most buses are not fully utilised so the bus companies are not keen to increase their number and frequency.

2.6.1 Does your household have a car or other vehicle? (692)

Yes	644 93%
No	36 5%
Rely on someone else	12 2%

2.6.2 If Yes, how many vehicles do you have? (enter the number)

1100

2.6.3 How many people in your household rely on public transport other than a school bus?

0 – 5 years	4
6 – 10	4
11 – 17	35
18 – 25	21
26 – 39	8
40 – 60	46
61 – 69	36
70+	56

2.7 Voluntary transport

It may be possible to develop an existing volunteer service (Communicare), in our area that helps with transport and shopping for the disadvantaged. (This is not a free service.) Would you:

a) Be prepared to be a Co-ordinator/Organiser? (541)

Definitely 3 **1%** Maybe 74 **14%** Definitely not 464 **86%**

b) Be prepared to be a Driver? (543)

Definitely 7 **1%** Maybe 106 **20%** Definitely not 430 **79%**

c) Use the facility? (534)

Daily 3 **1%** Weekly 21 **4%** Occasionally 105 **20%** Never 405 **76%**

d) Comments (82)

2.7 Voluntary Transport – Comments.

82 Responses – 58 shown below (71%)

(1) No time or too old or too ill	39 responses.
(2) May need to use in the future	14 responses.
(3) Increase/improve bus services instead	5 responses.

2.8 Maintenance of roads and pavements in your ward

2.8.1 How concerned are you over the state of repair of the roads and pavements?

	Very concerned	Moderately concerned	Moderately contented	Contented
a) Main roads (572)	122 21%	142 25%	171 30%	137 24%
b) Other roads (577)	160 28%	158 27%	164 28%	95 16%
c) Pavements (588)	178 30%	145 25%	171 29%	94 16%
d) Gutters and gullies (542)	123 23%	128 24%	180 33%	111 20%

2.8.2 Particular concerns about maintenance of roads and pavements: (248)

2.8.2 Road/Pavements – Particular concerns about maintenance of roads & pavements. 248 Responses - Very diverse comments – see listings on CD.

3 LOCAL AND PUBLIC SERVICES

3.1 Parish council

3.1.1 Do you know what the parish council is responsible for? (687)

Yes	219 32%
No	194 28%
Not sure	274 40%

3.1.2 Do you know how to make contact with your parish councillors? (685)

Yes	302 44%
No	231 34%
Not sure	152 22%

3.1.3 Suggestions for better communications with the Parish Council (108)

108 Responses – 88 shown below (81%)

(1) A regular newsletter or utilise existing newsletters	46 responses.
(2) A website with email facility	14 responses.
(3) More and/or better use made of notice boards	19 responses.
(4) Hold regular local "surgeries"	6 responses.
(5) More use made of the local press	3 responses.

3.2 Waste collection and recycling

Congleton Borough Council are planning to cut down on landfill by expanding kerb-side recycling. This will enable them to empty wheelie-bins fortnightly rather than weekly.

a) Are you satisfied with the current recycling provision for glass, cans, paper, textiles and garden waste? (679)

Yes 589 **87%**
No 90 **13%**

Comments (195)

195 Responses – 163 shown below (84%)

- (1) More re-cycling is needed- particularly plastic 65 responses.
- (2) Against fortnightly collection and fear for health issues 40 responses.
- (3) Complaints about present system and levels of service 33 responses.
- (4) Happy with present service 25 responses.

b) In order to achieve the proposed fortnightly collection, what other kerb-side collections would you require? (308)

Waste Collection – Other kerbside collections required to achieve fortnightly collection.

308 Response – 260 shown below (84%)

- (1) Plastics collection 166 responses.
- (2) Cardboard collection 52 responses.
- (3) Stay with weekly/opposed to fortnightly collections 42 responses.

3.3 Health services - GPs

In the pilot survey, some concerns were raised about the service provided by our GPs within the parish. These are already being addressed, as can be seen in a newsletter available at either surgery. In this section we are widening the scope of our research.

3.3.1 How many of your household are registered patients:

	Number
a) Registered with Dr Patterson & Partners in Rode Heath? (201)	433
b) Registered with Dr Patterson & Partners in Scholar Green? (275)	641
c) Registered with another practice outside the Parish? (258)	595
d) Not registered with any practice? (19)	11

3.3.2 How do you normally travel to the doctor's surgery?

	Yes	No
a) Walk	300 90%	33 10%
b) Drive	468 97%	16 3%
c) Bus	15 22%	54 79%
d) Other (please specify) (17)		

17 Responses – 9 relevant shown below (53%)

- (1) Disabled Scooter 4 responses.
- (2) Cycle 2 responses.
- (3) Taxi/Volunteer driver 3 responses.

3.3.3 In the last 12 months, how many times have you seen each of the following at the surgery?

	1	2	3	4	5	More
Doctor	89 15%	87 14%	96 16%	94 16%	63 10%	176 29%
Nurse	129 26%	139 28%	77 16%	44 9%	28 6%	77 16%
Pharmacy	38 9%	35 9%	26 6%	35 9%	26 6%	245 60%
Other	14 33%	8 19%	2 5%	3 7%	3 7%	13 30%

3.3.4 How satisfied are you with the range of services currently provided by your surgery? (648)

Very satisfied 299 **46%**
Satisfied 312 **48%**
Unsatisfied 29 **4%**
Very unsatisfied 8 **1%**

3.3.5 Are there any other services you would use if made available at your practice? If so, please specify. (113)

115 Responses - 103 shown below (90%)

- (1) Chiropody/footcare 23 responses.
- (2) Out of hours service 15 responses.

- (3) Well Woman/Well Man/ Lifestyle clinics 12 responses.
- (4) Improved waiting times for appointments 11 responses.
- (5) Improved prescription/pharmacy services 10 responses.
- (6) Physiotherapy 9 responses.
- (7) Dentistry 8 responses.
- (8) Blood tests 7 responses.
- (9) Alternative therapies – acupuncture – reflexology etc 6 responses.

3.3.6 How would you like to be kept informed of future development at your doctor's surgery?

a) Newsletter	451	d) Local press	102
b) Public meeting	41	e) Website	73
c) Posters in the surgery	208	f) Other (please specify)	3

3.4 Health services - Dentists

How many from your household are:

	Number
a) Registered with a convenient local NHS dentist?	819
b) Registered with another NHS dentist?	344
c) Registered with a private dentist?	288
d) Not registered with any dentist?	183

3.5 Disability

Does anyone in your household have a disability? (673)

Yes 127 **19%**
No 546 **81%**

If you have answered YES, have you encountered any situation that prevented you/them from participating in or accessing any service or facility in your locality? (129)

Yes 26 **20%**
No 103 **80%**

If YES, where and what was it? (27)

27 Responses – Very diverse – see listings on CD.

How was it dealt with? (9)

9 Responses – Very diverse – see listings on CD.

3.6 Communications

How do you find out what is happening locally?

	Yes	Yes
a) A church magazine	152	e) Newspapers 313
b) A local newsletter	353	f) Noticeboards 210
c) Libraries/Information Centre	64	g) Don't know where to find out 41
d) Word of mouth	430	

3.7 Police Presence & Visibility

Police in Cheshire are aiming for a new higher profile look from April 2005. The intention is that there will be more officers visible on the streets, in close contact with local people and working to provide long-term solutions to crime and disorder problems. Implementation of the new structure will be completed over the next few years.

Comments (326)

326 Responses – 277 shown below (85%)

- (1) Pleased with the initiative 145 responses.
- (2) Not seen a policeman in our area in ages 57 responses.
- (3) Sceptical that there will be any change 44 responses.
- (4) Bring back the Local Bobby 31 responses.

3.7.1 How concerned are you about the service provided by the police? (665)

Very concerned 182 **27%**
Concerned 301 **45%**
Satisfied 166 **25%**
Very satisfied 16 **2%**

3.8 Community wardens
The Community Warden service works closely with the local community and the Police.

a) Have you ever called on the Community wardens? (681)

Yes 55 **8%**
 No 358 **53%**
 Don't know how to 268 **39%**

b) If you have ever called on them, how do you think they performed? (194)

Arrived in a reasonable time 124 **64%**
 Resolved the problem, kept us informed 0
 Followed up with daily checks 18 **9%**
 None of these 52 **27%**

If you answered "None of these" please describe below your experience of the Community Warden Service (80)

80 Responses – 66 shown below (83%)

(1) Disappointed or dissatisfied with the service received 24 responses.
 (2) Unaware of Community Warden Service 20 responses.
 (3) Happy or satisfied with the service received 7 responses.
 (4) Never seen one around 15 responses.

3.9 Post codes

Currently all post codes in Odd Rode begin with ST7. Would you like to see this changed to a Cheshire code? (681)

Yes 503 **74%**
 No 108 **16%**
 Don't know 70 **10%**

3.10 Local village design statement

Villages where we live are our homes. We need to have positive views on their present and future development and the qualities we need to maintain.

a) The overall character of where I live should be maintained. (683)

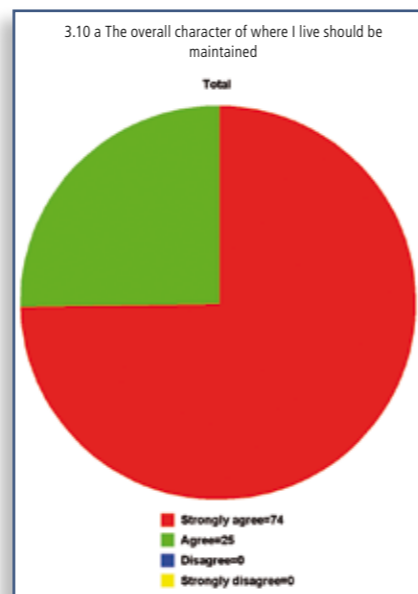
Strongly agree 508 **74%**
 Agree 170 **25%**
 Disagree 2 **0%**
 Strongly disagree 3 **0%**

b) The village where I live should not increase in size. (671)

Strongly agree 423 **63%**
 Agree 183 **27%**
 Disagree 54 **8%**
 Strongly disagree 11 **2%**

c) Do you agree that the Parish Council should continue to guide the future developments in your village, by means of a Village Design Statement? (601)

Yes 565 **94%**
 No 36 **6%**



4 HOUSING

In the pilot survey, New Housing Development was an area which caused a moderate level of concern, with comments that local services may not be able to support many more developments. However, the need for more affordable housing for first time buyers was seen as a requirement. All areas of the parish are tightly curtailed by green belt, so future development would be within current boundaries. There is currently a moratorium on new building within the Congleton Borough, so we are looking to collect information about future demand which can help plan for the future.

4.1 What kind of dwelling do you currently occupy? (670)

Detached 248 **37%**
 Semi-detached 281 **42%**
 Terraced 60 **9%**
 Bungalow 81 **12%**
 Other 37 Responses. (Mainly variations on categories in main questionnaire).

4.2 How many bedrooms are there? (681)

1 17 **2%**
 2 170 **25%**
 3 352 **52%**
 4+ 142 **21%**

4.3 Do you (675)

Own the property? 610 **90%**
 Rent the property? 65 **10%**

4.4 Are you likely to move within (385)

5 years? 87 **23%**
 10 years? 79 **21%**
 Other 219 **57%**

4.5 Would you prefer to remain in the area? (631)

Yes 576 **91%**
 No 55 **9%**

If not, where would you prefer to live, and why? (62)

(1) In a nearby town 16 responses.
 (2) Abroad – warmer climate 10 responses.
 (3) To be nearer family 10 responses.
 (4) Area with better/more facilities 8 responses.
 (5) Quieter area (retirement) 8 responses.
 (6) Nearer to my employment 3 responses.

4.6 Is anyone living in your property likely to want their own independent property in the area within 10 years? (604)

Yes 160 **26%**
 No 444 **74%**

4.7 If you, or a member of your household is likely to move locally, what type of property would you/they most likely be looking for? (391)

a) Rent 298 **76%**
 Buy 93 **24%**

b) Would you/they seek sheltered/managed accommodation (375)

Yes 60 **16%**
 No 315 **84%**

c) Detached 128 **40%**
 Semi-detached 60 **19%**
 Terraced 41 **13%**
 Bungalow 93 **29%**
 Other (70)

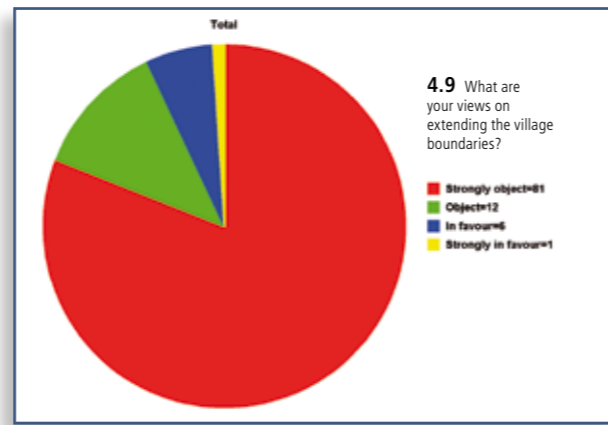
(1) Semi-detached 33 responses.
 (2) Detached 19 responses.
 (3) Flat/apartment 13 responses.
 (4) Bungalow 12 responses.
 (5) Terraced 11 responses.

(d) Housing – Move Locally – Type of property required.
 70 Responses – 93 shown below. (Note; Some gave multiple answers).

(1) Semi-detached.....33 responses.
 (2) Detached.....19 responses.
 (3) Flat/apartment.....13 responses.
 (4) Bungalow.....12 responses.
 (5) Terraced.....11 responses.

4.8 With how many bedrooms? (375)

1	20	5%
2	183	49%
3	132	35%
4+	40	11%



4.9 If low-cost or mixed housing developments were proposed, what are your views on their location?

	Strongly object	Object	In favour	Strongly in favour
Infill (on unused land within village confines) (522)	183 35%	120 23%	171 33%	48 9%
Brownfield sites (reusing land within village) (563)	136 24%	68 12%	253 45%	106 19%
Green belt (extending the village boundaries) (555)	447 81%	68 12%	34 6%	6 1%

4.10 Looking to the future, what kind of housing development would you like to see, to maintain your community and make it thrive? Your ideas: (328)

328 Responses – 300 shown below (91%) (Note; Some gave multiple answers)

(1) No More Developments	107 responses.
(2) Affordable/first time buyers	115 responses.
(3) Accommodation for elderly	32 responses.
(4) Only limited developments	46 responses.

5 THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

5.1 Public footpaths

A network of public footpaths exists that should be open and accessible to all.

	Dissatisfied	Contented	Very contented	Don't care
a) What are your views on the level of provision and sign-posting? (629)	139 22%	421 67%	56 9%	13 2%
b) What are your views on the standard of maintenance of these paths? (615)	196 32%	371 60%	37 6%	11 2%

Comments

118 responses – 92 shown below (78%)

(1) Many paths are poorly maintained	44 responses.
(2) Problems with dog fouling	17 responses.
(3) Problems with inadequate and damaged signage	16 responses.
(4) Some paths blocked or inaccessible	12 responses.
(5) Poor or unsafe access for disabled and children	3 responses.

5.2 Where do you believe you have rights of access?

	Yes	No	Not sure
a) Signed footpaths? (528)	518 98%	0	10 2%
b) Designated public areas? (500)	485 97%	2 0%	13 3%
c) Privately owned land without a signed footpath? (463)	20 4%	357 77%	86 19%
d) Farmland without a signed footpath? (465)	23 5%	335 72%	107 23%

5.3 Conservation

5.3.1 Conservation and protection of our environment is seen as important to many. Of the following features, which are important to you?

Feature	Important	Not important
Trees, woods and orchards (527)	525 100%	2 0%
Hedges (510)	495 97%	15 3%
Dry stone walls (491)	449 91%	42 9%
Ditches, ponds and streams (504)	490 97%	14 3%
Footpaths (513)	500 97%	13 3%

Traditional farm buildings (481)	407 85%	74 15%
Open spaces (520)	514 99%	6 1%
Grazing land (490)	460 94%	30 6%
Cultivated land (463)	405 87%	56 12%

5.3.2 Is there a feature, currently overlooked, that you think should be conserved? If so, what and where? (65)

65 Responses – 31 shown below (48%) - Very diverse - See listing on CD.

(1) Canals and associated buildings	14 responses.
(2) The Mow Cop wells	6 responses.
(3) Rode Heath woods	4 responses.
(4) Streams and rivers	3 responses.
(5) Rode Heath – the Rise	3 responses.
(6) MowCop – Brake Tunnel & Tramway	1 response.

5.4 Do you think the Parish Council should develop a Conservation strategy? (495)

Yes	472 95%
No	23 5%

5.5 Do you think Odd Rode would benefit from:

	Yes	No	Not sure
a) Information plaques/ boards? (456)	318 70%	63 14%	75 16%
b) A printed directory of local facilities? (470)	371 79%	48 10%	51 11%
c) A Tourist Information Centre? (429)	93 22%	241 56%	95 22%

5.6 Would you be interested in participating in:

	Yes	No	Not sure
a) A conservation interest group? (478)	80 17%	261 55%	137 29%
b) A survey of conservation issues? (453)	123 30%	203 45%	115 25%

6 YOUTH ISSUES

6.1 Do you feel there ought to be more facilities for children and young people? (503)

Yes	356 71%
No	42 8%
Not sure	105 21%

6.2 Which if any of the following facilities/organisations in your ward do children and young people in your household use? These replies to this question could not be analysed – the question seems to have been misunderstood by many, and the responses seemed confused and erratic.

6.3 Do you feel that the range of facilities provided at the Borough Council's children's playgrounds are: (462)

Good?	30 6%
Reasonable?	162 34%
Poor?	182 39%
No opinion?	98 21%

6.4 Would you support the provision of a shelter where small groups of young people can meet safely? (458)

Yes	316 69%
No	142 31%

Suggested location? (155)
155 Responses – 97 shown below (63%)

(1) Near Mount Pleasant Village Hall	21 responses.
(2) Near Scholar Green Village Hall	20 responses.
(3) Near Rode Heath YPCC	18 responses.
(4) Near Rode Heath Playground/Woods	13 responses.
(5) Near Rode Heath Village Hall	11 responses.
(6) On Scholar Green Playing Fields	6 responses.
(7) Utilize Mount Pleasant Chapel Halls	6 responses.
(8) Ask the Young People	2 responses.

6.5 Would you like to become involved in the establishing or running of any new or existing clubs or facilities? (459)

Yes 25 **5%**
No 435 **95%**

If yes, which ones?

38 Responses – 11 relevant shown below. (29%)

- (1) Help at a Youth Club 8 responses.
- (2) Football activities 2 responses.
- (3) Cricket activities 1 response.

7 KEEPING THE AREA CLEAN AND TIDY

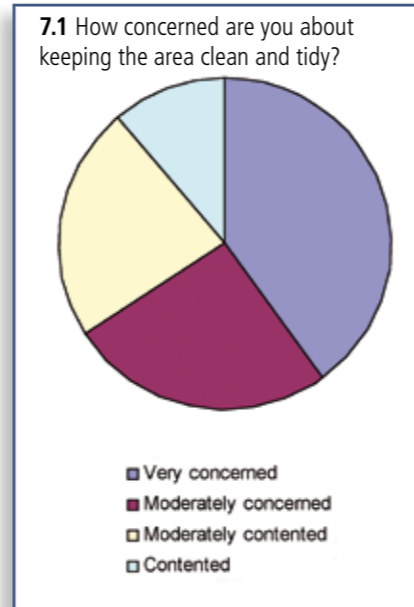
7.1 How concerned are you about:

	Very concerned	Moderately concerned	Moderately contented	Contented
a) Cleanliness of pavements? (503)	209 42%	124 25%	121 24%	49 10%
b) Cleanliness of gutters and gullies? (487)	180 37%	137 28%	124 25%	46 9%
c) Prevalence of dog-dirt? (516)	282 55%	126 24%	80 16%	28 5%
d) Collection of cut grass? (471)	126 27%	108 23%	136 29%	101 21%
e) Pavements overgrown by vegetation / hedges? (505)	194 38%	145 29%	112 22%	54 1%

Comments (101)

101 Responses – 80 shown below. (80%)

- (1) Dog fouling - lack of bins - enforcement 31 responses.
- (2) Overgrown hedges and pavements 19 responses.
- (3) Litter 17 responses.
- (4) Grass cutting debris 13 responses.



7.2 Do you think there is a need for more litter bins? (526)

Yes 337 **64%**
No 104 **20%**
Not sure 85 **16%**

a) If you think more are required:

Suggested location (163)

163 Responses – 100 shown below (71%)

- (1) Rode Heath – Along the main road 37 responses.
- (2) Mount Pleasant – Along Chapel St. – Bus stops 21 responses.
- (3) Rode Heath – Canal areas 18 responses.
- (4) Scholar Green – Late Shop area 9 responses.
- (5) The Bank area 8 responses.
- (6) Mow Cop Castle area & High St. area 8 responses.
- (7) Mount Pleasant Village Hall area 6 responses.
- (8) Scholar Green – Cinderhill Lane area 5 responses.
- (9) Kent Green – Wavertree Ave/Drenfell Rd. Chip shop area 4 responses.

7.3 Do you think there is a need for more bins for dog waste? (516)

Yes 361 **70%**
No 71 **14%**
Not sure 84 **16%**

a) If you think more are required:

Suggested location

207 Responses – 161 responses shown below. (78%).

- (1) Rode Heath – Canal towpath 44 responses.
- (2) Rode Heath housing estates 24 responses.
- (3) Mount Pleasant – Village Hall area 20 responses.
- (4) Scholar Green – Canal towpath 17 responses.
- (5) The Bank area 13 responses.

- (6) Mount Pleasant – Clare St. /Church St. areas 10 responses.
- (7) Scholar Green – Congleton Rd 10 responses.
- (8) Mow Cop – Castle and High St. areas 9 responses.
- (9) Mow Cop – Woodcocks La. And Halls Rd. areas 8 responses.
- (10) Kent Green – Cinderhill and Drenfell Rd. areas 6 responses.

7.4 Particular concerns about keeping the area clean and tidy: (158)

158 Responses – Mainly litter and dog fouling - see listings on CD.

7.5 If you are concerned about the tidiness of your parish, would you be prepared to undertake occasional litter collection, within a group of residents provided with suitable equipment and insurance? (496)

Yes 80 **16%**
No 282 **57%**
Not sure – would like more information 134 **27%**

7.6 Lighting

7.6.1 Do you think there is a need for additional lighting? (517)

Yes 146 **28%**
No 371 **72%**

7.6.2 If yes, where would you wish to see additional lighting? (119)

119 Responses – All areas of the parish are suggested – see listings on CD.

7.6.3 Do you think there is a need for less lighting? (462)

Yes 36 **8%**
No 426 **92%**

7.6.4 If yes, where you would wish to see less lighting?

29 Responses – Most suggestions are very specific – see listings on CD

8 Any other comments

208 Responses – Very diverse comments – see listings on CD.

ABOUT YOURSELF

How long have you lived in Odd Rode Parish

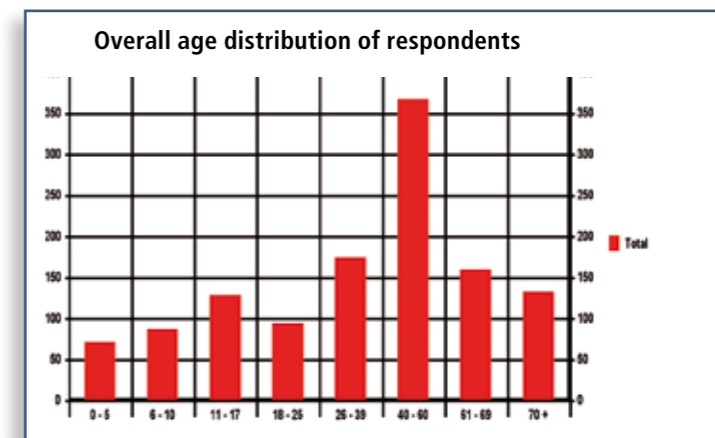
Area	Years on average
Mount Pleasant/Mow Cop	25
Rode Heath	20
Scholar Green	20
Overall	22

How many in your household work in Odd Rode?

Mount Pleasant/Mow Cop	32
Rode Heath	60
Scholar Green	47
Overall	139

How many in your household belong to each age group?

	Male	Female	Total
0 – 5 years	37	34	71
6 - 10	43	44	87
11 - 17	75	53	128
18 - 25	55	39	94
26 - 39	107	67	174
40 - 60	246	121	367
61 - 69	101	58	159
70+	74	58	132
Total	738	474	1212



DATA CD

A CD is available on request containing a comprehensive analysis of the data returned. For users of Windows, it loads a database containing all the raw data, together with a program that allows question by question analysis. For each of the 150 questions which had a multiple choice answer, the responses are shown in tabular form and also in the form of a bar chart. For the 33 questions where a free-text response was invited, the program brings them all together in an easy to read format. Extensive options are provided to "drill-down" through the data to the underlying raw data, and analyse the age profiles of respondents to any particular questions. In most cases it is quick and easy to produce pie charts to more easily visualise the spread of responses between wards. In addition, any of the analyses can readily be exported to Excel, Powerpoint etc. Also on the CD are a series of Word documents, one for each question. These also show the data as tables, bar charts and pie charts but without the facility to restrict by age profile or to analyse by Ward. These can be read using Windows or Mac. It is hoped and expected that the website www.oddrodepc.org.uk will soon be available, and that from there it will be possible to download analyses of the data.

APPENDIX 4

Facilities for Young People

Summary of Base Data

Discrete sets of questions aimed at specific groups were devised and distributed in the manner described below.

(1) Questions incorporated as part of the main (coloured) questionnaire and delivered to all parish households - answered by adults. (These results are shown in the main Synopsis of Responses).

(2) A “Young Peoples Survey” questionnaire - distributed to the children of Rode Heath via Alsager secondary school, and to the children of Mow/Mount Pleasant and Scholar Green via Congleton – Heathfield secondary school. These are eleven to sixteen year old students. 100 questionnaires were distributed to each school. Twenty one were returned from the Congleton school and forty eight from Alsager school. There was also one returned by a St Thomas More (Crewe) student and one by a Sandbach High School student - both of these students are parish residents. (The results from this questionnaire are shown below)

(3) A Primary Schools Questionnaire. (The information gathered from this survey is presented elsewhere in the plan).

YOUTH ISSUES - SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENT’S RESPONSES. (THESE ARE THE RESPONSES FROM THE YOUTH QUESTIONNAIRE)

1. TRANSPORT

Getting to and from regular activities:

1.1 Is finding transport to and from regular activities a major problem for you?

	Yes	No
M.P/S.G	67%	33%
R.H.	20%	80%
Overall	34%	66%

1.2 How do you get to and from regular activities now?

Inside the Parish:

Bus	Cycle	Walk	Parents/Adult Car
M.P/S.G	2/21	4/21	8/21 11/21
R.H.	4/50	17/50	27/50 25/50
Overall	6/71	21/71	35/71 36/71

Outside the Parish:

Bus	Cycle	Walk	Parents/Adult Car
M.P/S.G	5/21	2/21	0/21 18/21
R.H.	9/50	11/50	8/50 44/50
Overall	14/71	13/71	8/71 62/71

1.3 If safe & reliable transport could be provided (maybe for a small fee) for organised trips to regular activities inside and outside the Parish, would you use it?

Yes	No	Maybe
M.P/S.G	33%	10% 52%
R.H.	40%	6% 54%
Overall	38%	7% 54%

2. ACTIVITIES & FACILITIES

2.1 From the list below, please tick any activities or facilities you would like in your Village or local area of the Parish.

“Wish List” Activities Ranked in order of Popularity

Overall	Mt Pleas/Schol Green	Rode Heath
1 Trampolines	1 Trampolines	1 Trampolines
2 Mobile cinema	1 Mobile Cinema	2 Mobile Cinema
3 Bike Track	3 Football Pitch	3 Bike Tracks

4 Tennis	4 Tennis	4 Youth Club
4 Youth Club	5 Badminton	5 Skate Board
6 Football Pitch	6 Parks with play equip.	5 Tennis
7 Badminton	6 Youth Club	7 Football Pitch
8 Parks with play equip.	6 Youth Shelter	8 Badminton
9 Table Tennis	9 Bike Track	8 Parks with play equip.
10 Basket Ball	10 Basket ball	10 Table Tennis
11 Youth Shelter	10 Table Tennis	11 Basket ball
12 Skate Board	12 Local Website	12 Rugby
13 Rugby	12 Net ball	13 Youth Shelter
14 Local Website	14 Rugby	14 Local Website
15 Netball	15 Skate Board	15 Netball

Other suggestions were as follows;

Mount Pleasant/Scholar Green

Golf
Shooting
Karting
Shops
Water Skiing
Swimming
Arcade
Roller Skating

Rode Heath

Food Restaurant
Athletics Track
Corner Shop
Playgroup
Computer Club
Mobile Library
Volleyball
Places to Hang Out

3 HELPING WITH THE ENVIRONMENT

3.1 Do you think it is important to maintain and improve the Natural Environment?

Yes	No	Maybe
M.P/S.G.	57%	5% 29%
R.H.	76%	6% 16%
Overall	71%	6% 20%

3.2 If you answered yes, would you be prepared to join a Work Team to undertake environmental maintenance/ improvement tasks?

Yes	No	Maybe
M.P/S.G.	5%	48% 24%
R.H.	18%	34% 38%
Overall	14%	39% 34%

4 HAVING A SAY

4.1 Do you think Young People should have a local Youth Forum?

Yes	No	Don't know
M.P/S.G.	43%	10% 38%
R.H.	58%	8% 32%

4.2 If you answered yes, would you be prepared to join in and support such a Forum?

Yes	No	Maybe
M.P/S.G.	10%	14% 43%
R.H.	12%	24% 38%
Overall	11%	21% 40%

5 GENERAL INFORMATION

Returned Questionnaires

M.P/S.G. 21/100 (Congleton)(Sandbach)
R.H. 50/100 (Alsager)(Crewe)
Overall 71/200 = 36%

6 ABOUT YOURSELF

Sex	M.P./S.G.	Sex- R.H.
Male	38%	58%
Female	43%	36%

APPENDIX 5

Primary School Children's Opinions

Summary of Base Data

QUESTIONNAIRE DISTRIBUTION

School	Number distributed	Number of responses
Woodcock Wells	78	50
Scholar Green	200	51
Rode Heath	168	14
Total	446	115

TOP 9 REQUESTS

	Woodcocks Well	Rode Heath	Scholar Green	Overall
Park/Playground	6	6	20	32
More Activities	7	1	13	21
Play equipment	0	8	8	16
Bikes/tracks	9	1	5	15
Football	4	0	9	13
More children/people	8	1	3	12
Clubs	2	2	4	8
Skateboards/tracks	4	2	2	8
School Issues	4	0	4	8

When compared to the older age group opinions it is to be noticed that there are correlations in these themes

APPENDIX 6

Business & Voluntary Organisations

Summary of Base Data

1. Does your business/group serve the community of Odd Rode?

Yes	25
No	6

2. If Yes, please give an approximate percentage of your business generated from Odd Rode.

Less than 30%	8
Between 31% and 60%	2
More than 60%	12

3. How many staff/volunteers work for your organisation from:

	Number of Full-Time	Number of Part-time
Odd Rode	23	30
Outside of Odd Rode	97	162

4. Has anything Happened in the community or surrounding area that:

a) Had a detrimental effect on your business/group in the last 2 years?

Yes	11
No	18

b) Had a beneficial effect on your business/group in the last 2 years?

Yes	5
No	20

5. To what degree are you satisfied with the local road system and how it effects your business/group?

Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied
1	23	5	0

6. To what degree are you satisfied with the local bus services and how they effect your business/group?

Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied
1	2	8	8

7. If a parish council website were to be developed, would your business group:

	Yes	No	Not Sure
a) Like to have brief details included?	17	4	4
b) Like to have a link from it?	6	6	5
c) Like to have a link to it?	4	8	5

8. Would you be interested in supporting any community-centred projects such as flower beds, litter bins or charity events?

Yes	18
No	13

9. Do you already have links with organisations in the local community?

Yes	20
No	11

10. Rural diversification initiatives The Borough sees rural diversification initiatives such as providing job opportunities and maintaining the rural environment as important. Do you consider that they should be continued?

Yes	No	Not heard of them
24	2	8

11. Some grants are already available:

a) Do you know how to apply for these grants?

Yes	No	Not heard of them
12	8	8

12. Do you think it would be helpful if applications for these grants were processed at a more local level?

Yes	No	Dont know
13	7	7

13. Has your business/group recently suffered from any of the following

	Yes	No
a) Vandalism?	11	15
b) Break ins?	5	19
c) Theft?	6	17

14. Would you be prepared to help form a Property Watch scheme in Odd Rode?

Yes	No	Maybe	Not needed
7	14	19	1

NON PRINTING PAGE