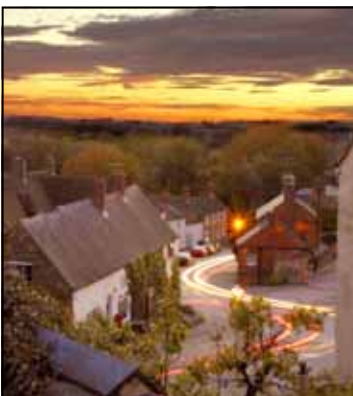


Cottingham Parish Plan 2009





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Pictured (from top): Cottingham windmill, Water Lane, The Dale, Corby Road/High Street.

Northamptonshire Village of the Year 2007
Highly Commended, Medium-sized Village category



Section 1: Introduction

About Cottingham Parish Plan

Cottingham's Parish Plan and its associated Action Plan are important documents that formally record villagers' views and aspirations for the future of Cottingham. The Plan, which was formally adopted by Cottingham Parish Council in April 2009, represents an agreement between the community and the Parish Council about how we want our village to develop. The Plan will be used to inform public policy and decision making through to 2011.

The Plan has been produced by the Cottingham Parish Plan Steering Group and is based on villagers' questionnaire responses provided between July and October 2005.

The questionnaires themselves were based on villagers' input at the 'Our Village, Our Future' event held in January 2005.

In developing the questionnaires, the Steering Group consulted with key local bodies including the Parish Council, Village Hall Management Committee and Youth Club and conducted a 'dry run' with a small group of villagers aged 11 to 65 prior to distribution.



'Our Village, Our Future' event, January 2005

The response rates were as follows:

Household Questionnaires

214 returned out of a total 368 households (58%)

Adult Questionnaires

366 returned out of a total 760 adults aged 18 to 93 (48%)

Under 18s Questionnaires

33 returned from under 18s aged 8 to 17

Additional information has been drawn from the 2001 Census for Corby's Rural West Ward incorporating Cottingham, Middleton and East Carlton, e.g. number of working people, retired people and students. To avoid duplication, this available information was not gathered through the Parish Plan questionnaires.

Basis of Analysis

Unless otherwise stated, the percentage figures provided throughout this Plan are taken from the people who have answered each specific question, not the number of people who completed the questionnaire overall, as not everybody answered all the questions asked. Unless otherwise stated, numbers of responses are for adults (18s and over).

Changing Times

In compiling this Plan, we recognise that villagers' priorities can shift over time and that the Plan needs to be dynamic and flexible to reflect this. For example, since the questionnaires were completed, the village shop and post office has closed and this is clearly a major current issue with villagers. The Action Plan will therefore be reviewed on a regular basis to ensure its continued relevance.

Parish Plan Steering Group

Jane Smith (Chairman)
Joanne Leaning (Treasurer)
Irene Beadsworth
Pete Bowman
Sue Hall
Theresa Lawrence
Jan Mears
Chris Owen
Dave Sims

Supported by Carolyn Turner and Camilla Cobb (Northants ACRE) and Peter Taylor (Clerk to Cottingham Parish Council).

Thanks also to...

All the villagers who took the time to provide their views at the 'Our Village, Our Future' event and complete the questionnaires.

The group of villagers who helped out with the test 'dry run' of the questionnaire.

The Royal George, Spread Eagle and Hunting Lodge for the free refreshments they provided for the 'Our Village, Our Future' event.

Gary Blackman, Julie Dale, Julie Grant, Bob Riley, Pauline Youngs and Dryden Phillipson (Chair of Middleton Parish Plan Steering Committee) for their help in the development of the Plan.

Funding

Funding for the Plan has been gratefully received from Cottingham Parish Council (£1,050) and the Community Champions' Fund (£1,000).



Section 2: Village overview



About Cottingham

Cottingham is a village of considerable natural beauty and antiquity, nestling in the foot of the Welland Valley and part of the medieval Rockingham Forest.

History

The village's history can be traced back to Roman times, lying along the route of the 'Via Devana' Roman Road from Leicester to Huntingdon. The village is recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086, then owned by Peterborough Abbey, and is mentioned in the Anglo Saxon Chronicle (1197).



The Parish Church of St Mary Magdalene dates back to the 13th Century. A Methodist Chapel was opened in 1808, later to become the Methodist Hall when the larger present chapel was built alongside in 1878.



Also still to be found in the village are the remains of a circa 18th Century limekiln, a late 18th Century windmill, a former clothing factory originally opened by Wallis and Linnell in 1874 and the Grade 2★ Bury House dating back to the 1690s.



More photographs and information about the history of Cottingham can be found on www.cottinghamhistory.co.uk

Environment

Cottingham is surrounded by beautiful countryside with the ancient Jurassic Way footpath running right through the village.

'The Dale' - a peaceful, secluded natural meadow which is home to a wide variety of native plants and trees - lies on the south side of the village, just behind St Mary Magdalene Church.



Houses

There are approximately 368 houses in the village, being a mixture of ironstone cottages dating from the 13th to 19th Centuries and modern dwellings mostly built around the 1950s/60s.



Pictured (from top), Cottingham Wesleyan Brass Band outside Wallis and Linnell factory (1908), Corby Road (1960s), St Mary Magdalene Church with windmill in background (1800s), annual August Bank Holiday outing - Methodist Church (1930s), Bury House (c1900), Cottingham War Memorial - Remembrance Day (c1919).

"Few villages in Northamptonshire are built on such a declivity, for it is scattered down the steep scarp above the Welland and looks a long way into Leicestershire. With its fine church, its houses mainly of stone and attractively dispersed, and its excellent situation, Cottingham has much to recommend it."

Extract from 'Discovering Northamptonshire' by Jack Gould (1969)

"Villages like Cottingham clamber up and down a hillside so steep that often your view across the deep ever-changing valley into the blue distance is over someone's chimney pots. These are the windswept villages through which a North-Easter will whistle and boom, led straight in from the Fens by the narrowing funnel of the vale of the Welland."

Extract from 'Northamptonshire' by Tony Ireson (1954)

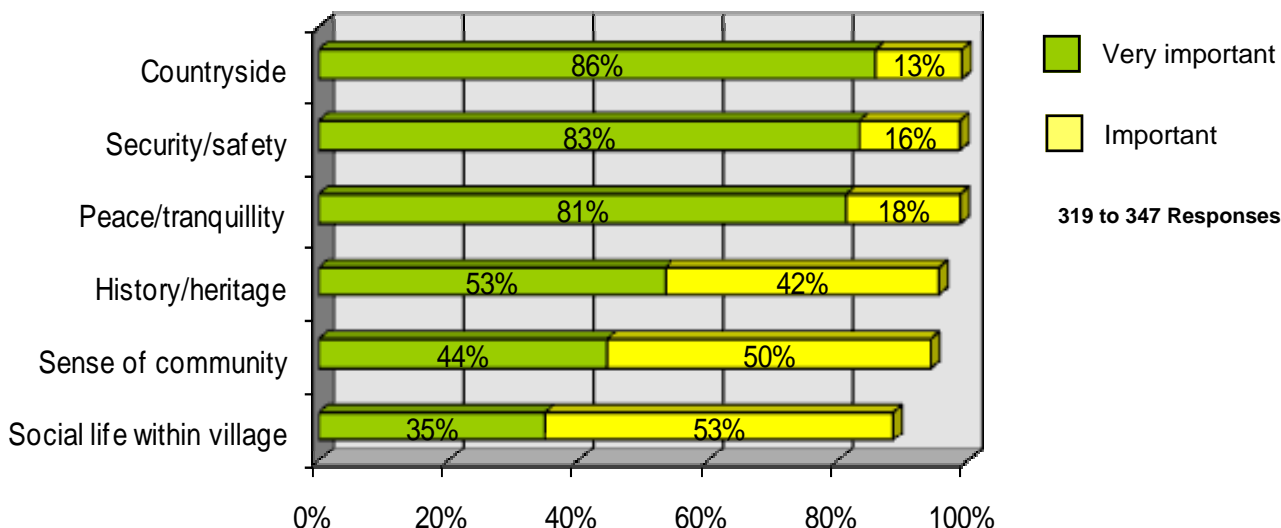
People

The 2005 electoral roll and the 2001 Census reveal that there are approximately **900 people** living in Cottingham - 760 adults and 140 under 18s. The average length of time that people have lived in the village is 21 years with just over a quarter (27%) having been born here.

The main reason for moving to Cottingham is love of village/country life (54%), followed by working within a commutable distance (35%), getting married/setting up home (26%), to be near to relatives (26%), for a period/character property (20%) and social life within village (20%).

Of the families that have moved to the village, most (65%) have moved from within a 10 mile radius. 14% have moved from within an 11 to 30 mile radius and 21% have moved from 31 miles away or more.

The table below shows the importance placed by villagers on various aspects of village life.



Work

Approximately 66% of villagers are employed, 2% unemployed, 18% retired, 5% students, 5% looking after home/family and 3% disabled (from 2001 Census). Of the adults that work, almost half (47%) work within a 10 mile radius, 28% within an 11-30 mile radius, 10% more than 30 miles away and 11% within the village.

At the time the questionnaires were completed, of the 11% of adults working in the village, most were owner/managers of locally based businesses including pubs, shop, golf range, guest house, marketing and design, construction, entertainment, home improvements, domestic services, food preparation, psychotherapy and consultancy.

Just over 2% of adults working in the village were employees - within the hotel/pub, retail and nursing/caring professions. The local shop and pubs were also offering part-time employment for under 18s.

Education

Cottingham and the nearby villages of Middleton, Rockingham and East Carlton are served by Cottingham Church of England primary school which accommodates 114 children (*pictured below taking part in a village tree planting scheme*).





Section 3: Analysis

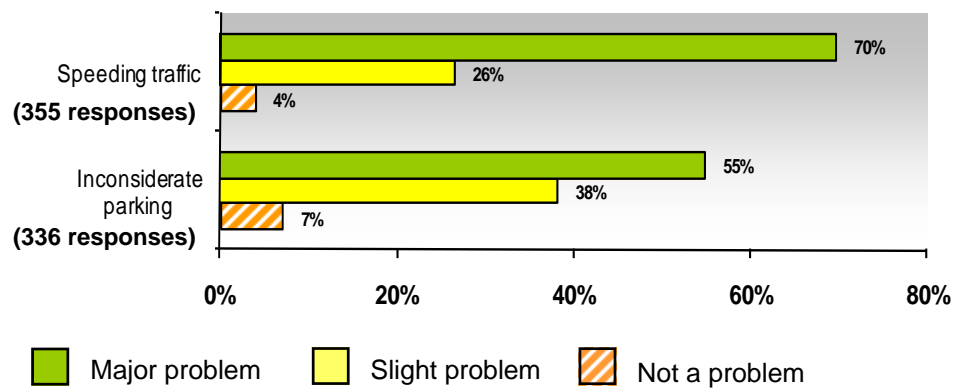
Top 10 Issues

- 1 Speeding traffic
- 2 Parking
- 3 Development
- 4 Village hall and associated facilities
- 5 State of roads and pavements
- 6 Dog fouling
- 7 Crime and antisocial behaviour
- 8 Litter
- 9 Lack of youth facilities and activities
- 10 Maintenance of country paths, verges and hedgerows

3.1 Transport and Traffic

Speeding and Parking

By far the biggest issues for village adults are speeding traffic, and inconsiderate parking - mainly outside the shop, Spread Eagle, school and on the Rockingham Road pavement. Traffic/speeding is also the second biggest issue with under 18s.



Villagers' preferred options for traffic calming are as follows:

- flashing 'slow down' signs **23%**
- reduced speed limit in the centre of the village **14%**
- stop signs/lines at the bottom of Corby Road **12%**
- white lines on Corby Road **11%**
- mini roundabout at bottom of Corby Road **8%**
- speed cameras **8%**
- chicanes/road narrowing **7%**
- speed bumps/side gates at entrance to village **6%**
- changed priorities at Millfield Avenue junction **5%**

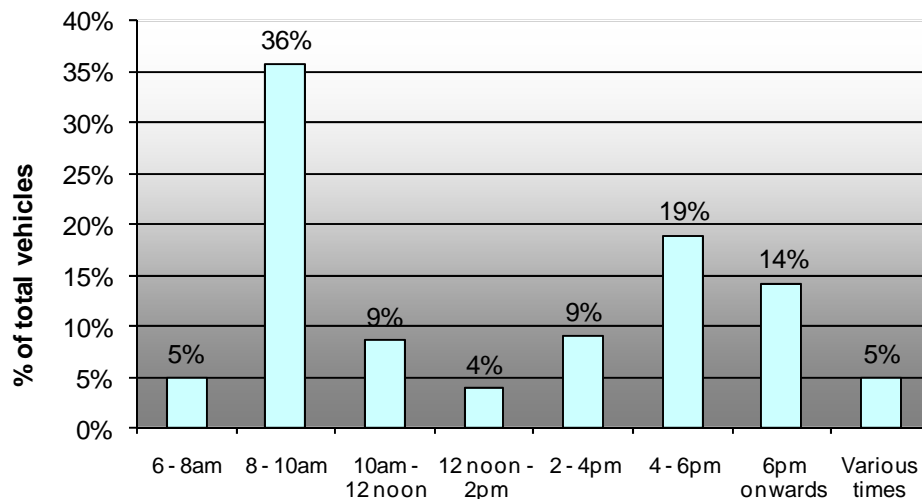
A significant number of people (20) said they would like to see changed priorities at the top of Corby Road where it meets the old A427 (Middleton Lane). A few also mentioned a 'keep left' bollard at the bottom of Corby Road, double yellow lines outside the shop and Spread Eagle, and a mirror opposite the Millfield junction. However, several villagers said that care needs to be taken to make sure that traffic calming measures do not detract from the 'village' feel.

Note: The 'Top 10' rankings opposite were taken from an open response question asking villagers to name the top three things they felt needed addressing in the village. Each villager's number one priority was allocated three points, with two points for their second priority and one point for the third.

This list should be read in conjunction with **Appendix A** (page 17) which prompted villagers to think about the specific issues brought up at the 'Our Village, Our Future' event and decide whether they felt they were a major problem, minor problem or not a problem.

Motor Vehicles

- Villagers own approximately 730 cars, vans and motorcycles (average 2.02 vehicles per household). Only 15% (approx 100 vehicles) are parked in the street.
- 67% of adults travel to and from the village by car/van every day (amounting to around 490 vehicles) with a further 15% travelling 2 to 3 times a week (around 110 vehicles). The peak travel times are indicated below.



Public Transport

- 8% of adults and 14% of under 18s regularly use the bus services to and from Cottingham with 17% of adults and 59% of under 18s using them occasionally. **Responses: 347 adults, 29 under 18s.**
- 56% of adults and 61% of under 18s feel that the bus service is good or excellent, 36% of adults and 30% of under 18s think it is reasonable and only 8% of adults and 9% of under 18s think it is poor. **Responses: 203 adults, 23 under 18s.**
- The improvement that most people would like to see is more frequent and later/earlier buses to Corby.

Voluntary Car Sharing Scheme

- 19 villagers said they would be interested in taking part in a voluntary transport scheme as a car driver and 78 said they may be interested (**310 responses**).
- 40 villagers said they would be interested in taking part in a voluntary transport scheme as a passenger and 78 said they may be interested (**330 responses**).

Selection of Individual Comments

“Speeding cars are a problem, I do a paper round and cars are too fast.” **(Under 18)**

“Speeding vehicles through Middleton/ Cottingham and up Corby Road is becoming a major problem - particularly late at night. Something needs to be done about this before an accident or even death.”

“Parking around the shop and Spread Eagle pub is dangerous. The pub has a car park - patrons should use it.”

“Parking outside the shop is often chaotic and dangerous. Is there any chance the Spread Eagle car park could be used during the day?”

“The worst place for inconsiderate parking is outside the school. This is a village school, parents should be educated to walk their children to school. I feel that it won't be long before a bad accident will take place here.”

“Indiscriminate parking and wheelie bins left about make it difficult for people to get by, particularly those with buggies, or double buggies, and blind people.”

“There is a problem with parking on Rockingham Road between the factory and shop. Mothers with pushchairs are forced onto the road. There's hardly enough space to walk past even without a buggy.”



3.2 Housing and Development

Inappropriate development in the village is the next (third) biggest issue for villagers after speeding and parking.

The expansion of Corby towards the village is a concern for villagers with 58% feeling it is a major problem and 26% a slight problem (see **Appendix A**, page 17). However, this issue only comes in at number 11 in the list of things that people feel need addressing within the village (see page 3).

24% of households contain a family member who is considering moving out of Cottingham.

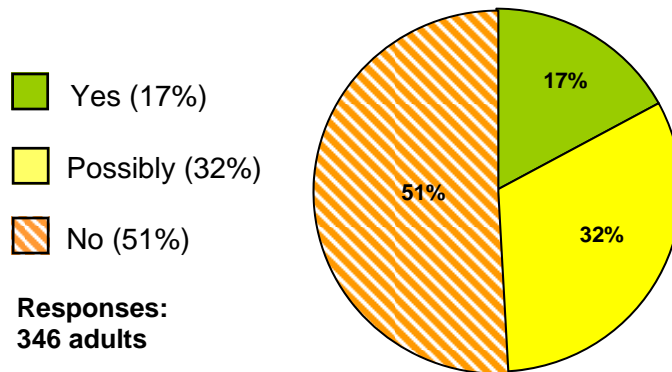
The people who are thinking of moving have given the following reasons.

Reason	No. of families
No suitable local employment/nearer to work	6 (3.2%)
To move to a smaller home	6 (3.2%)
To set up home apart from parents	6 (3.2%)
Unsuitable development	4 (2.1%)
Lack of suitable facilities	3 (1.6%)
Health/mobility problems	3 (1.6%)
Don't like living here	3 (1.6%)
To move to a larger home	4 (2.1%)
Somewhere quieter	4 (2.1%)
Prices too high	4 (2.1%)
Lack of suitable properties to buy	1 (0.5%)
Lack of suitable properties to rent	1 (0.5%)
Lack of council owned properties	1 (0.5%)
Other	3 (1.6%)

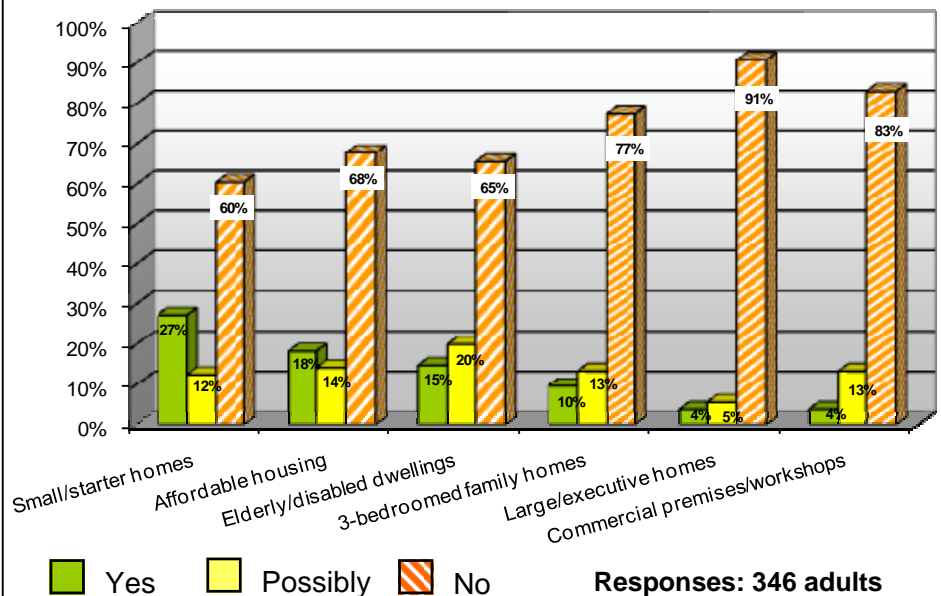
Note: based on responses from **186 families**.

Concerns were also raised about the installation of a mobile home on land at the top of Corby Road.

Q: Do you think there is a need for any new houses or commercial premises in Cottingham?



Q: Which of the following types of property do you feel are needed in the village?

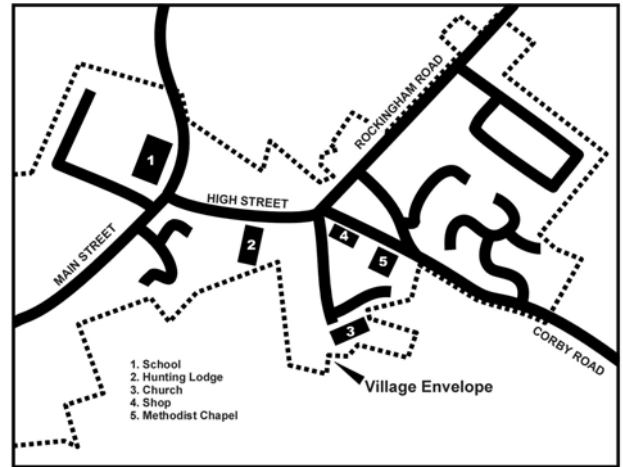


Around a third of villagers say they feel there is, or may be, a need for small starter homes and affordable housing. However, it would appear that this is more a perceived need than an actual need as less than 1% of households contain people who are considering moving from the village because of high house prices. Interestingly, double this number (i.e. 2%) say they are thinking of moving away because of unsuitable development planned for the village.

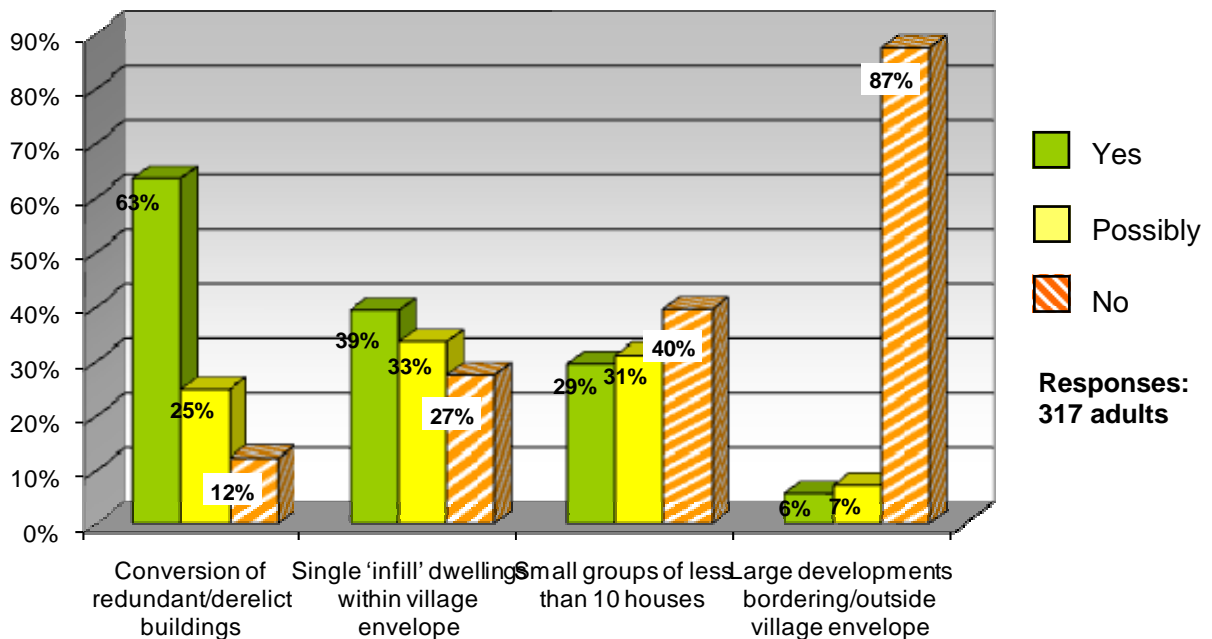
In terms of types and location of development, the majority of villagers say they would support conversion of redundant/derelict buildings and, to a lesser extent, single 'infill' dwellings within the village planning envelope.

Views are mixed on the development of small groups of less than 10 houses and commercial premises. However, 87% of villagers would not support a large development bordering or outside the village envelope.

The diagram on the right shows the current village planning envelope.



Q: Would you support any of the following types of development in the village?



Selection of Individual Comments

“We need to protect what open spaces we have. This is a beautiful village with stunning countryside - let's keep it that way.”

“It is sad that some people have been unable to get back into the village to be near their relatives due to the high cost of housing.”

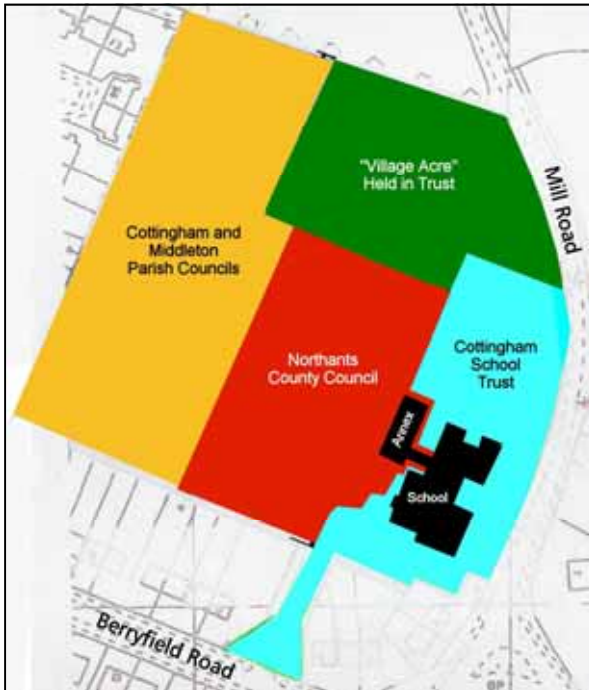
“Whilst I would like to see housing at affordable prices to allow youngsters from the village to stay here I would not like to see large swathes of housing and huge increases in traffic.”

“Most people who live in the village do so because they enjoy the rural landscape and village life. They have on the most part NOT chosen to live in a town. Over development of the village is destroying both village life and the landscape. Rather than developments being built we should be protecting what's left.”

“Encroachment from Corby - currently not too much but if further houses etc are built then this could get worse and would not be welcome.”



3.3 Village Facilities



Village facilities include two pubs (the Spread Eagle and Royal George), the Hunting Lodge Hotel, Blackthorn Wood golf course/driving range and, at the time questionnaires were completed, a village shop and post office.

There are two halls available for community activities - the recently refurbished Village Hall Annex (VHA) adjacent to the village school and Cottingham Methodist Church Hall on Corby Road. There is also a C of E Church (St Mary Magdalene) and a recreation field with play equipment for youngsters. The mobile library visits the village fortnightly.

Village Hall and Village Hall Annex (VHA)

Almost two thirds (73%) of villagers believe we should have one village hall for Cottingham and Middleton rather than separate facilities (**305 responses**). More than half (55%) felt that the VHA should be scrapped altogether so that money could be spent on a more suitable facility. 61% of villagers felt the Annex did not meet the recreational needs

of the village, 11% felt it did and 28% said they didn't know - **264 responses**. It should be noted, however, that these responses were provided prior to the recent refurbishment of the Annex and that a lot of the funding that was secured for this refurbishment was only available for existing facilities and not for building new ones.

Recreation Field

The recreation field is used by 32% of adults and 76% of youngsters. The play equipment is used by 43% of youngsters.



Village Shop and Post Office

The village shop and post office was closed in December 2005 but has recently been sold and is set to re-open as a shop and coffee shop. Prior to its closure, the shop and post office was the most highly used facility in the village, with 89% of adults and 92% of under 18s making use of it.

In terms of development for the shop, villagers would like to see longer/earlier opening hours, more fresh produce (fruit, vegetables, bread) and local produce. A couple of people also mentioned the sale of alcohol.



What facilities would you like to see in the village?

Facilities that people would like to see available within the village include sports facilities, picnic areas, a hall suitable for parties/concerts, a stage, patio area, TV/DVD room and a computer/internet café.

71% of adults and 65% of under 18s say they would like to see a village tea room/café and around half of the adults and a third of youngsters say they would use such a facility. The shop is the most popular location suggested for this.



For more details on the use of village facilities, see **Appendix B**.

More details of the facilities that villagers would like to see are contained in **Appendix C**.



Pictured left (from top): Ownership of recreation field, play equipment on recreation field, Blackthorn Wood Golf Club, village shop, Methodist Church Hall. Pictured right (from top): Mums & Tots, Wine Safari, Village Summer Fayre, Royal George Golf Society, Spread Eagle coffee mornings.

Youth Facilities

Lack of youth facilities is the ninth biggest issue with adults and the biggest issue with under 18s. 46% of adults feel that there is a problem with lack of youth facilities (36% possibly, 17% no).

The majority of under 18s (90%) meet up in friends' houses, 64% on the street, 41% on the recreation field, 24% outside the shop, 19% at the VHA, 16% round the Church, 12% by the Corby Road bus stop, 12% at the fields at the top of Rockingham Road and 4% by the river.

67% of adults and 61% of under 18s would like to see an **outdoor meeting place/shelter** for youngsters with the recreation field being the preferred location. However, only 21% of under 18s said they would actually use it. Almost half of the youngsters responding (48%) do not foresee any problems with a youth shelter, However, 12% of youngsters have concerns about vandalism of the shelter, 9% are concerned that it would be used for drinking/smoking/drugs, 6% are concerned about non-villagers using it and 3% about older youths spoiling it.

51% of adults and 54% of under 18s would like to see a **BMX track** in the village. However, it should be noted that only 24% of under 18s said they would actually use it. It should also be noted that the BMX track is one of only three options for new facilities/activities to which a significant number of people (22%) are actively opposed (see **Appendix C**, page 19).

3.4 Village Activities

There is a wide range of clubs and activities within the village and awareness of these is fairly high amongst adults and youngsters alike. Regular events include whist drives, coffee mornings, senior citizens lunches, dances, discos and quiz nights. Annual events include the Wine Safari, organised with the neighbouring village of Middleton, and the Village Fun Day. St Mary Magdalene and other groups also organise fundraising concerts and events such as flower festivals, treasure hunts and open gardens.

The following clubs, teams and classes are up and running in and around the village:

- Youth Club
- Mums & Tots
- Cottingham School PTFA *
- Cottingham Crafters*
- Book club
- Over 60s Club
- Minerva Group
- WRVS
- Breast Cancer Support Network
- Wesley Guild
- Church fundraising group (St Mary Magdalene)
- Sunday Clubs (St Mary Magdalene)
- 'E6' Christian Youth Group (11+)
- Kick Fit, Pilates and Yoga classes *
- Royal George Golf Society
- Blackthorn Wood Pool Team
- Cottingham Clay Pigeon Club
- Rockingham Forest Wheelers
- East Carlton Cricket Club

* Since the questionnaires were completed, the Cottingham School PTFA, Kick Fit, Pilates, Yoga classes and a craft club have started up in the village.

A list of the activities that villagers would like to see, and take part in, is attached at **Appendix C** (page 19).





3.5 Heritage and Environment

Enjoyment of the Countryside

99% of village adults feel that the countryside is an important aspect of village life and love of the countryside/village life is the main reason for people moving to the village (see page 4).

The Jurassic Way, countryside walks and footpaths are a highly used resource in the village, used by 76% of adults (50% regularly and 26% occasionally) and 83% of under 18s (45% regularly and 38% occasionally).

The Dale pocket park is used by 72% of adults (47% regularly and 27% occasionally) and 70% of under 18s (47% regularly and 23% occasionally).



Maintenance of Footpaths and Verges

Maintenance of country paths, verges, hedgerows and stiles is the 10th biggest issue with 25% of village adults saying it is a major problem and 35% saying it is a minor problem (see **Appendix A**, page 17). The main areas for attention are the hedges along Corby Road, the tall hedges on Rockingham Road that are obscuring the view across the valley and the Jurassic Way across the fields to the south of Corby Road which is overgrown with brambles.

Preservation of History

Preservation of the village's heritage, including the Church, comes in at number 16 in villagers' priority list and 95% of adults feel that the village's history and heritage is an important aspect of village life (see page 4). However, destruction of the village's history and heritage is only seen as a slight problem by village adults (see **Appendix A**, page 17).



A few people mentioned that they would like to see a museum/historical display and old photographs somewhere in the village - possibly at the Village Hall Annex?

Churchyard Maintenance

32% of villagers feel that maintenance of the churchyard is a major problem and 43% feel it is a slight problem (see **Appendix A**, page 17). 39 villagers said they would be prepared to help out with churchyard maintenance and 124 said they may be prepared to help out.



Dog Fouling

Dog fouling is the sixth biggest issue with 39% of villagers saying it is a major problem and a further 51% saying it is a slight problem. Preferences on action to tackle this problem are fairly evenly split but provision of dog litter bins has come out top (32%) followed by legal enforcement of by-laws (24%), education of dog owners (24%) and putting up notices (20%). Some villagers mentioned that dog litter bins would need to be emptied regularly so as not to become a health hazard.

Litter

Litter is the eighth biggest issue with villagers, being a major problem for 21% of villagers and a slight problem for 60%. See **Section 3.6** opposite for preferred solutions.

Pictured (from top): The Dale, War memorial, limekiln, St Mary Magdalene Church.

3.6 Village Maintenance and Street Amenities

Roads and Pavements

Maintenance of the village's roads and pavements is the fifth biggest issue with villagers, with a third thinking it is a major problem and just under half saying it is a slight problem. A number of people have mentioned that Cottingham's pavements are not finished to the same quality as Middleton's (gravel dashed). Specific areas mentioned are the state of the pavement past the Hunting Lodge and the need for a pavement on the east side of Rockingham Road.

Bins, Waste Collection and Recycling

As mentioned in Section 3.5, litter is the eighth biggest issue with villagers, being a major problem for 21% of villagers and a slight problem for 60%. 48% would like to see more litter bins with the main location being around the Church followed by the shop, top of Corby Road, school and street corners.

The most popular solution to tackle litter is education of children and adults followed by putting up notices, then regular 'litter pick' events. A fifth (20%) of villagers said they would be prepared to help out with a litter pick with 45% saying they possibly would. However, one villager mentioned we should not undertake a litter pick without protective clothing/equipment for health and safety reasons. Other solutions mentioned include enforcement of by-laws, fines and more litter bins.

At the time the questionnaires were completed, the plastics recycling bins located near the Village Hall Annex were the second most highly used facility after the shop (see **Appendix B**, page 18). Corby Borough Council has since introduced kerbside collections for plastics.

Only three people mentioned any concerns over the bi-weekly collection of household waste.

Other

23% of villagers would like to see more **salt/grit boxes**, mainly at the Cross (Corby Road/Rockingham Road junction).

20% of villagers would like to see more **roadside seating**, mainly on Corby Road, near the shop and with viewpoints over the Welland Valley.

Better **street lighting** comes in at number 19 although the majority of people (59%) say that poor street lighting is not an issue. 18% say they would like to see more street lighting, mainly in Ripley Road, Millfield Avenue, junctions and entering the village.

14% would like to see more **post boxes** with the majority of these people (12 people) asking for an extra box in Millfield/Stonepit.

14% of adults use the **telephone box** and 18% of under 18s use it. Only 3% would like to see more telephone boxes.





3.7 Crime and Antisocial Behaviour

Crime and antisocial behaviour is the seventh biggest issue with villagers. However, the level of crime is relatively low which would suggest that concern over crime is much higher than actual crime.

A third of adults are very concerned about vehicle crime, theft/burglary and vandalism with a further 50% being slightly concerned. Others mentioned drugs (8 people), noise/antisocial behaviour (5), gangs of youth (2) and pub closing times (2). However, the majority of people do not see noise and antisocial behaviour as being issues in the village (see **Appendix A**, page 17).

10% of under 18s say they are very concerned about theft/burglary (48% slightly concerned) and 7% are very concerned about vandalism/graffiti (47% slightly concerned). One under 18 said they are slightly concerned about underage drinking and drugs, and one mentioned noise.

46 adults say they have been a victim of car crime, 41 of theft/burglary and eight of vandalism/graffiti. No under 18s have been victims of crime.

Just under two thirds (76%) of adults say that an improved police presence would make them feel safer, followed by Neighbourhood Watch (11%), better lighting (5%), quicker response (3%) and CCTV (2%). Several say they would like more information about our Community Police Support Officer.

115 adults say they would take part in a Neighbourhood Watch scheme and 135 said they may be interested. 10 under 18s say they may be interested.



Fireworks and Bonfires

Appendix A shows that fireworks are not a major issue, with 59% of adults saying it is not a problem. However, for the 12% of villagers that think it is a major problem, this is an extremely emotive issue. The same goes for garden bonfires which are not considered to be an issue for the majority but which have a major impact on the 7% of villagers affected.



3.8 Communication and Consultation

There are a number of methods used by villagers to find out what's happening in the village. The most widely used is the bi-monthly village newsletter, 'Cottingham and Middleton News', followed by door-to-door leaflets and the 'Down Your Way' column in Saturday's Evening Telegraph newspaper.

62% of villagers have access to the internet and email (half dial-up and half broadband) and the village website www.cottinghamnews.co.uk is used by 46% of adults and 34% of under 18s.

Suggestions for improving communications include more information in the newsletter and more issues of the newsletter (7 people), better use of/another noticeboard (5), noticeboard in youth shelter (1), monthly village meeting for all residents (2), audio format for the blind (1), more leaflets (1) and a town crier (1).

The main areas where villagers would like to see more communication is on development plans (10 people), mobile library (3) and Parish Council (2).

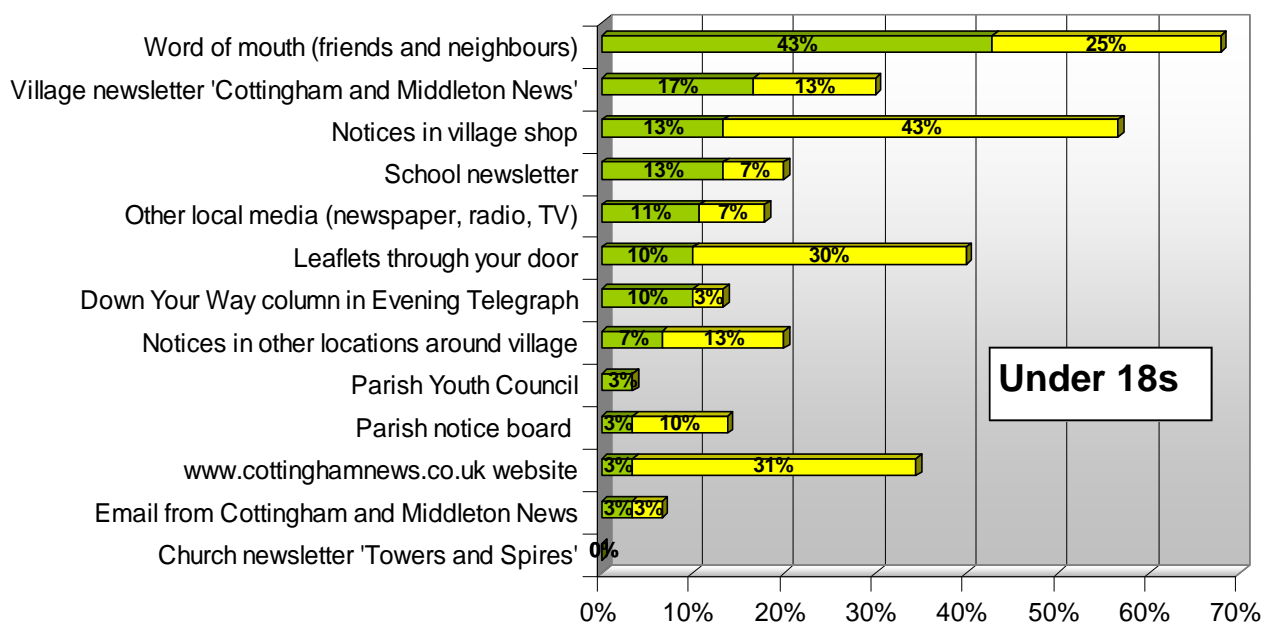
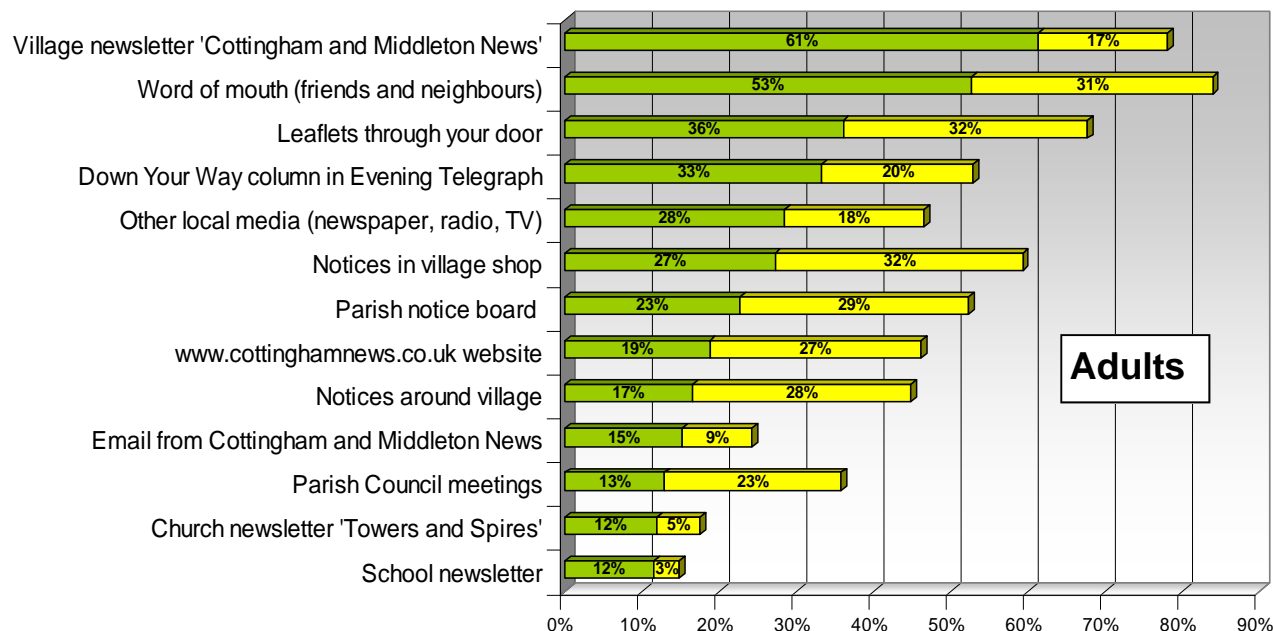
Pictured (from top): Corby Rural Safer Community Team - PCSO Peter Heyward, PCSO Phil Beckett, A/Sgt Julie Mead and PC Jonathan Meadwell; village newsletter; Evening Telegraph 'Down Your Way' column; Parish notice board.



The areas where people would like to be consulted are housing and development (25 people), speeding and traffic management (7), village hall development (6), trees/planting in the Dale (2), crime (2), future of the village (1) and maintenance (1).

41% of the business people working in the village said they would be interested in an online directory of local businesses and 45% may be interested. 23% said they would be interested in networking with other village-based business people and 48% said they may be interested.

The tables below indicate the methods used by villagers to find out village information:



■ Use regularly ■ Use occasionally

3.9 Cottingham Parish Council



Clive Ashworth
Chairman



Pete Bowman
Vice Chairman

Cottingham is represented by a Parish Council consisting of eight villagers supported by a paid Parish Clerk (pictures and names on the left).

Awareness of the Parish Council is fairly high with 40% of villagers knowing who their Parish Councillors are and a further 36% knowing some of their Councillors. Only a quarter (25%) of people don't know who their Parish Councillors are. **Responses: 351 adults**



Irene Beadsworth



Owen Davison

Almost half (46%) of villagers say they know what the Parish Council does on behalf of the village with a further 27% saying they know some of what the Parish Council does. 27% say they don't know. **Responses: 348 adults**

15 people said they would be interested in becoming Parish Councillors and a further 44 people said they may be interested. **Responses: 328 adults**



Phill Dyne



Geof Hudson

84% of villagers are aware that the Parish Council invites public participation at their meetings and 40% have attended a meeting. **Responses: 347 adults.**

Ideas to improve communication from the Parish Council include articles in the newsletter/distribution of minutes (15 people), website (7 people), better notice board (5), leaflet drop (3) and an open event (4).



Pam Moore



John Muir

Interaction between Cottingham and Middleton Parish Councils comes in at number 6 in the 'problem' list (**Appendix A**) with just over a third (36%) of villagers saying it is a major problem and 27% a slight problem.

The main areas where villagers would like to see Cottingham and Middleton Parish Councils working together are 'everything' (24%), joint village hall (24%), housing and development (16%), traffic/speeding (14%), social activities (5%) and crime (4%).



David Swallow

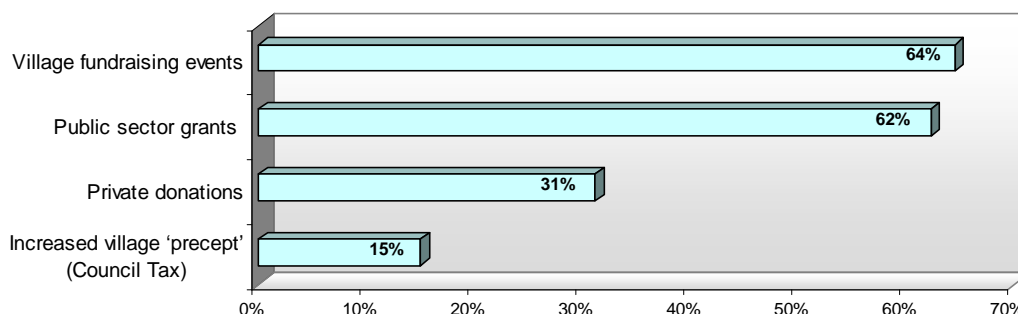


Peter Taylor
Parish Clerk

Note: At the time that the Parish Plan was carried out, Cottingham Parish Council comprised the following Councillors: Phill Dyne, Clive Ashworth, Pat Buckby, Owen Davison, Pam Moore, John Muir, George Sear, Eric Lawson (to June 2006) and Dave Sims (to May 2007). Parish Clerk: Peter Taylor.

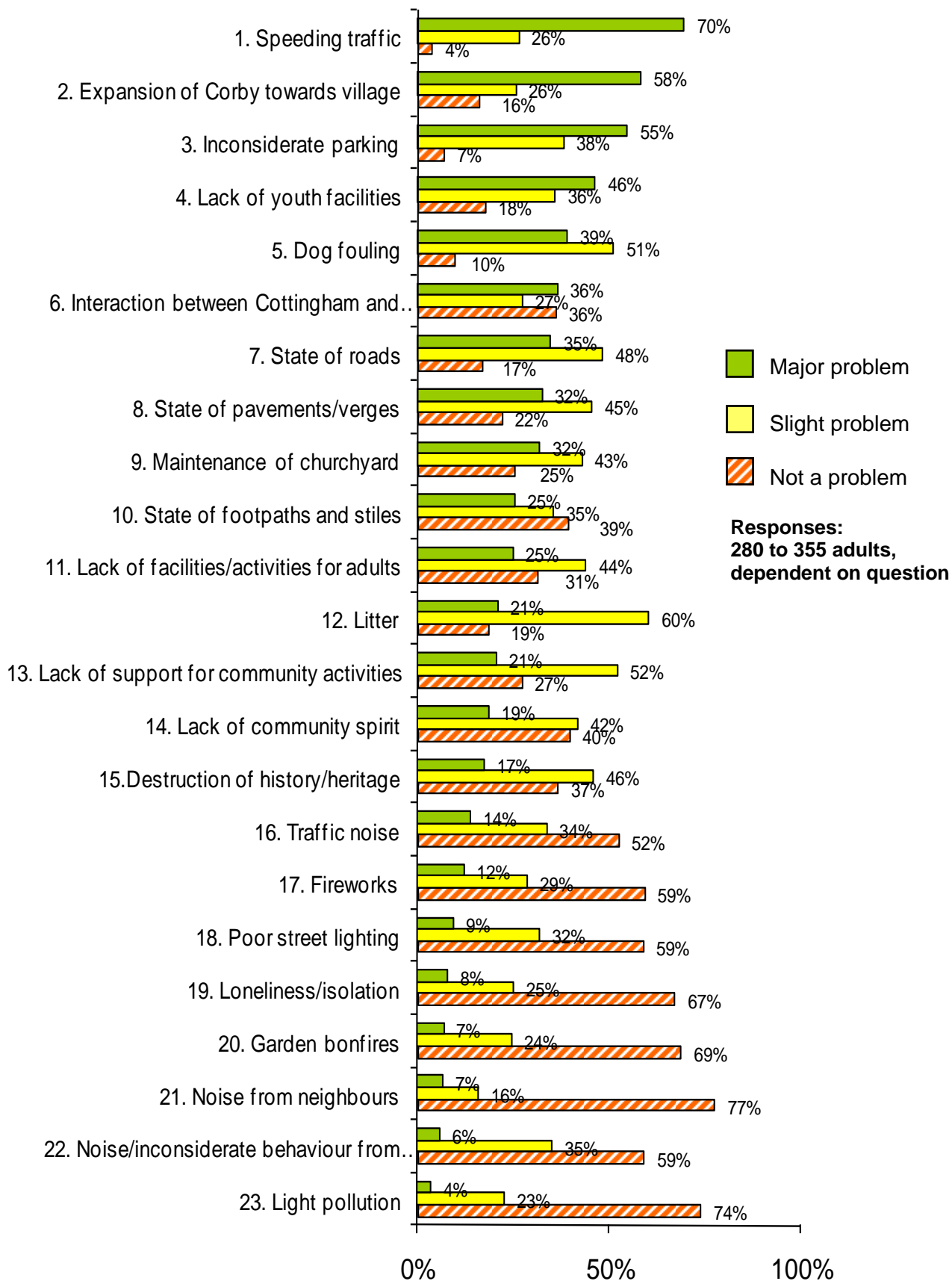
3.10 Funding

Q: If suggestions raised by the questionnaire require money for implementation, where should that money come from?



Appendix A

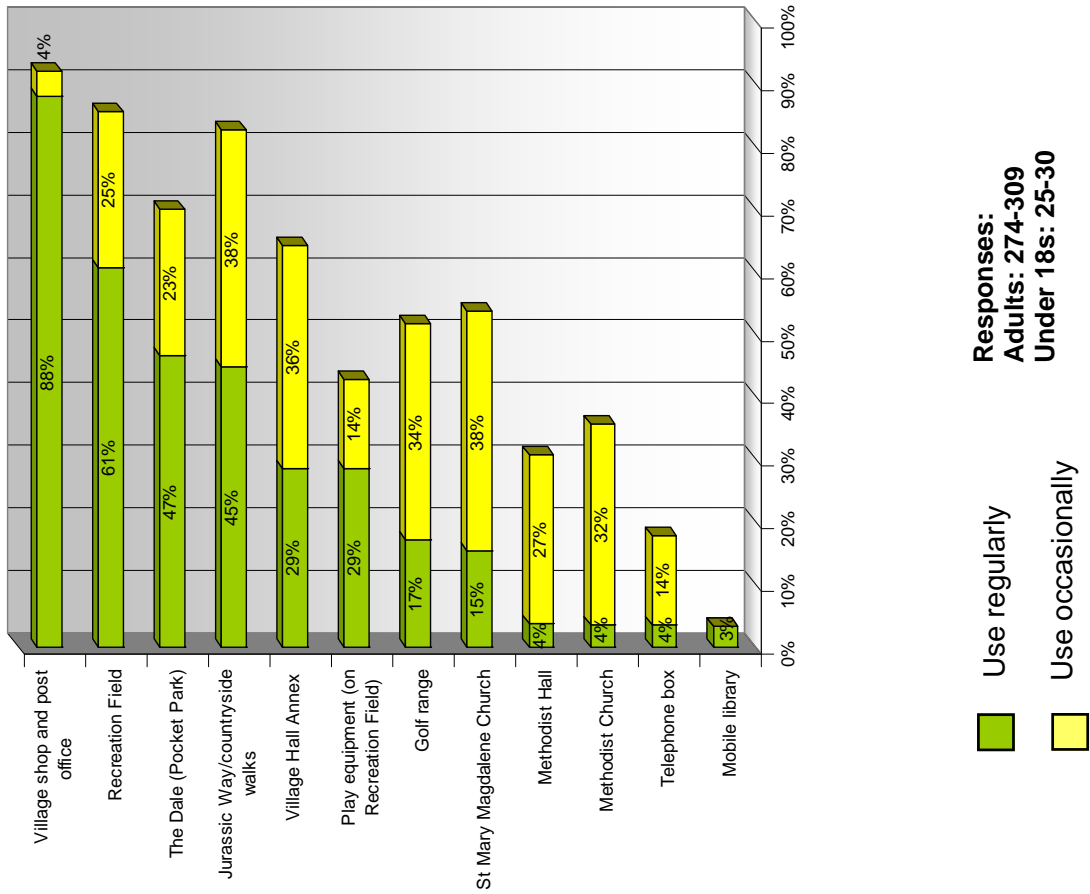
Do you think there is a problem with any of the following in the village?



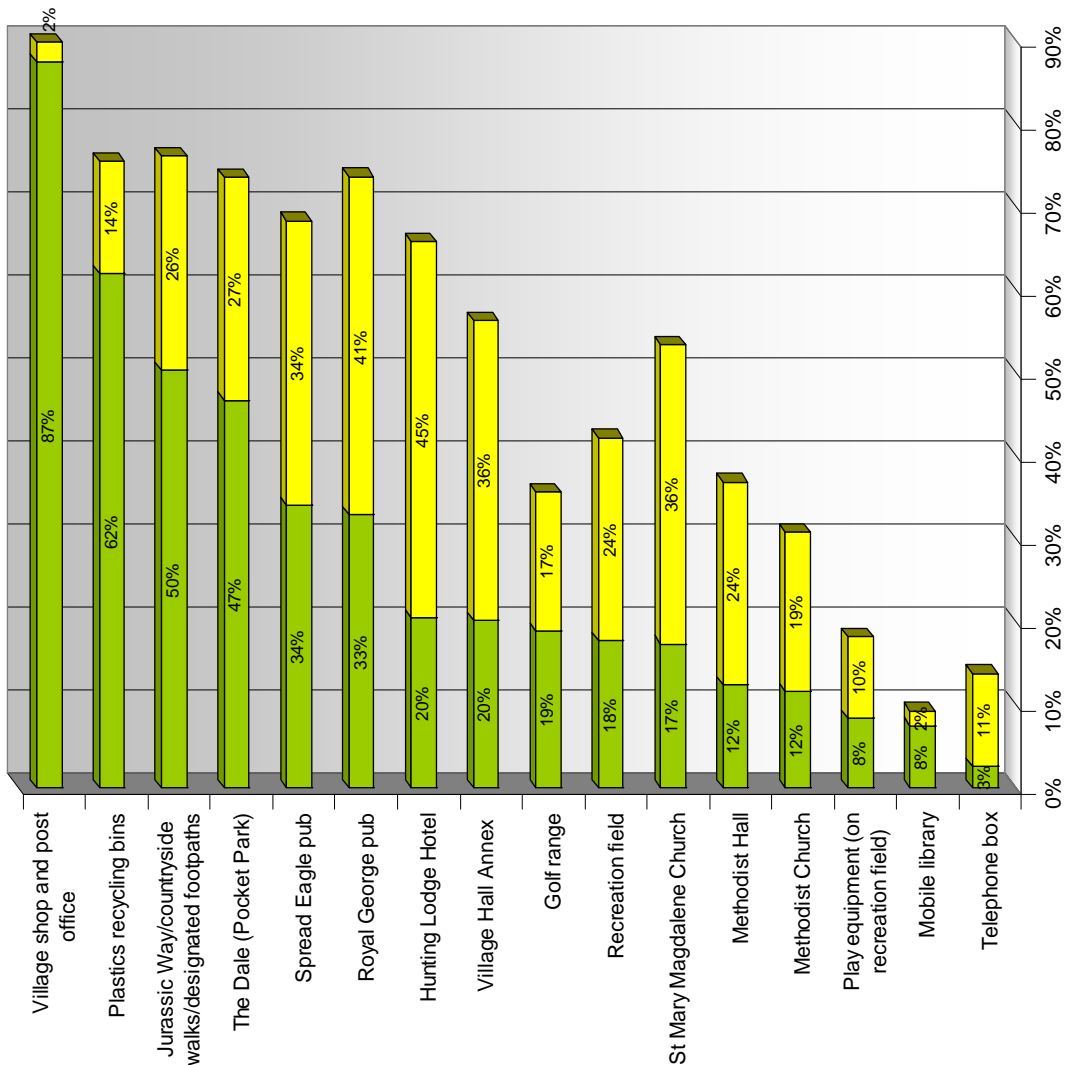
Note: All the issues included within this list were brought up by villagers at the 'Our Village, Our Future' event in January 2005.

Appendix B: Use of village facilities

Under 18s

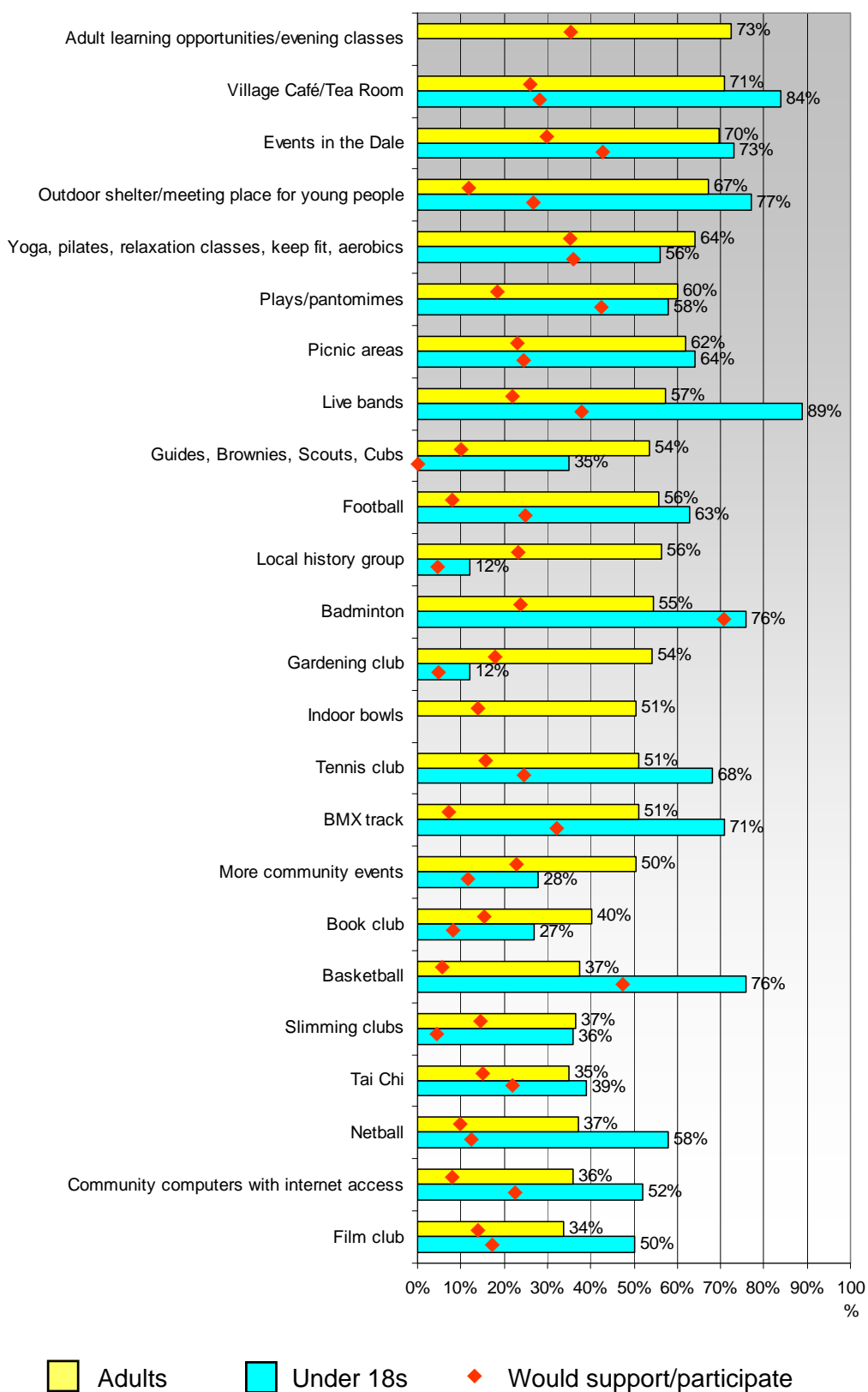


Adults



Appendix C: Social facilities and activities

The table below shows the social facilities and activities that villagers would like to see, with the options having been based on a list compiled from feedback at the 'Our Village, Our Future' event in January 2005. However, it should be noted that the number of people saying they would participate in these activities/use the facilities is much lower than the people that would like to see them available.



Other activities mentioned include children's Christmas party, school holiday play scheme, BBQ, wine club, fetes, socials, get-togethers for older people, a gym, help with exams and cheese rolling!



Section 4: Action plan

4.1 Transport and Traffic

Reference/ Project	Policy	Specific Actions	Responsibility <i>Key stakeholders</i>	Priority/ timescale
4.1.1 Speeding Traffic	The potential danger caused by speeding traffic is taken very seriously and all necessary action will be taken in an attempt to combat this	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to liaise with appropriate authorities regarding introduction of traffic calming measures with a priority on flashing 'slow down' signs and introduction of a voluntary 20 mph limit in the residential areas of the village 	Parish Council <i>Northants CC Northants Police</i>	High Ongoing
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate stop lines and/or stop sign at bottom of Corby Road 	Parish Council <i>Northants CC Northants Police</i>	High Ongoing
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to liaise with appropriate authorities regarding moving the 30 mph signs on Corby Road, Rockingham Road and Mill Road further out of the village 	Parish Council <i>Northants CC Northants Police</i>	High Ongoing
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to run Community Speedwatch on annual basis and to publicise results 	Parish Council, Newsletter <i>Northants ACRE</i>	Medium Annual
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure speed limit and 'slow down' signs at all entrances to the village are clearly visible 	Parish Council <i>Private landowners</i>	High Ongoing
4.1.2 Parking	Action will be taken to combat inconsiderate parking in the village whilst being mindful of the commercial interests of the businesses in the village	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liaise with Spread Eagle (and shop owners) regarding possible measures to reduce parking on corners 	Parish Council <i>Northants Police Spread Eagle (Village shop)</i>	Medium Feb 2010
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate placement of notices outside Spread Eagle and on illegally parked cars 	Parish Council <i>Northants Police</i>	Medium Ongoing
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education of villagers regarding parking by-laws and responsibilities 	Parish Council Newsletter	Medium Feb 2010
4.1.3 Voluntary Car Sharing Scheme	The environmental and community benefits of a voluntary car sharing scheme are recognised and its implementation will be supported	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contact villagers who expressed an interest to see if they would be prepared to get involved/help to run a scheme 	Peter Taylor <i>Corby Voluntary Community Services</i>	Low Nov 2010
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liaise with Corby Voluntary Community Services regarding setting up a scheme 	Peter Taylor <i>Corby Voluntary Community Services</i>	Low Nov 2010

4.2 Housing and Development

Reference/ Project	Policy	Specific Actions	Responsibility <i>Key stakeholders</i>	Priority/ Timescale
4.2.1 Local Area Development	Action will be taken, on villagers' behalf, to ensure the distinctive nature of the village is not negatively impacted by inappropriate development in the surrounding area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Actively respond and input into local area reviews to encourage continued adherence to planning policy that respects existing village confines and environment 	Parish Council <i>Corby BC Northants CC Northants JPU EMRA</i>	High Ongoing
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resist any proposals for development outside the village envelope, or for extension of the current village planning envelope 	Parish Council	High Ongoing
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liaise with village Copyholders regarding plans for 'New Haw' field on A427/ A6003 junction 	Parish Council	Low Nov 2010
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adopt the Rockingham Forest Trust village design statement to ensure local character and distinctiveness is protected and enhanced in any new developments or renovations 	Parish Council	Completed
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raise awareness of the 'conservation area' status in the old part of the village and its implications for development and renovation 	Parish Council <i>Newsletter Village website</i>	Low Nov 2010
4.2.2 Housing	Villagers' feedback demonstrates that the quantity and mix of housing in Cottingham is sufficient for present and future needs Any proposals for large scale developments will be resisted on the grounds that this conflicts with the majority views of villagers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resist any proposals for large scale developments on the grounds that this conflicts with the majority views of villagers 	Parish Council	High Ongoing
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider proposals for single infill dwellings and small groups of less than 10 houses on an individual basis 	Parish Council	High Ongoing
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look favourably on proposals for the conversion of derelict or redundant buildings 	Parish Council	High Ongoing

4.3 Village Facilities

Reference/ Project	Policy	Specific Actions	Responsibility <i>Key stakeholders</i>	Priority/ Timescale
4.3.1 Village Hall	The need for a larger village hall is recognised, as is the fact that the majority of villagers would like a joint facility to be developed with the neighbouring village of Middleton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to work with Middleton Parish Council and the Cottingham and Middleton Village Hall Trust (Northants) to ensure that any future facilities are developed jointly to the benefit of both villages 	Parish Council <i>VHMC Middleton PC Cottingham and Middleton Village Hall Trust (Northants)</i>	High Ongoing
4.3.2 Recreation Field	The recreation field will be maintained as a valuable resource for villagers, especially under 18s	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain the recreation field and encourage people to use it 	Parish Council	Medium Ongoing
4.3.3 Play Equipment	The play equipment will be maintained as a valuable resource for young children in the village	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The play equipment has recently been replaced and upgraded Continue to liaise with Corby Borough Council to ensure equipment is appropriately maintained 	Parish Council	Medium Ongoing
4.3.4 Village shop/ post office	The village shop/post office was the most highly used of any village resource and all possible steps will be taken to reinstate this valuable facility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The village shop and accommodation has recently been sold. The Parish Council will support the new shop owners where appropriate. 	Parish Council	High Ongoing
4.3.5 Youth Facilities	Measures to remedy the current lack of outdoor meeting places and facilities for young people will continue to be investigated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the new village youth club 	Parish Council	Medium Ongoing

4.4 Village Activities				
Reference/ Project	Policy	Specific Actions	Responsibility <i>Key stakeholders</i>	Priority/ Timescale
4.4.1 Social Activities	The importance of social activities for people of all ages within the village is recognised, and community events will be supported wherever possible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support and encourage the provision of activities appearing high on villagers' 'wish list' (Appendix C, page 19) Ensure continued promotion of activities and groups through all available channels 	<p>All</p> <p>Newsletter, Website, 'Down Your Way' column</p>	<p>Medium Ongoing</p> <p>Medium Ongoing</p>

4.5 Heritage and Environment				
Reference/ Project	Policy	Specific Actions	Responsibility <i>Key stakeholders</i>	Priority/ Timescale
4.5.1 The Dale	The Dale will be maintained, both as an environmental asset and an amenity for villagers and visitors to Cottingham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to maintain The Dale to ensure the protection of its native plants and trees Protect from overgrazing Consider events in the Dale to widen the enjoyment of this amenity 	<p>Parish Council</p> <p>Parish Council</p> <p>All villagers</p>	<p>Medium Ongoing</p> <p>Medium Ongoing</p> <p>Medium Ongoing</p>
4.5.2 Footpaths and verges	All necessary steps will be taken to ensure villagers' enjoyment of the countryside is not hampered by overgrown paths and verges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Put appropriate pressure on landowners and relevant authorities to ensure that footpaths are kept clear and verges maintained 	<p>Parish Council <i>Private landowners</i></p>	<p>Medium Ongoing</p>
4.5.3 Trees	Maintenance and protection of trees within the village's conservation will continue to be supported	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raise awareness of rules relating to felling, pruning and planting of trees within the conservation area 	<p>Parish Council Tree Warden <i>Newsletter</i></p>	<p>Medium Feb 2010</p>

4.5 Heritage and Environment...*continued*

Reference/ Project	Policy	Specific Actions	Responsibility <i>Key stakeholders</i>	Priority/ Timescale
4.5.4 Heritage	The village's listed buildings and monuments will be protected for future generations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that the village's listed buildings and monuments are maintained and protected 	Parish Council <i>Private landowners</i>	High Ongoing
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage participation in the 'People of the Forest' project which aims to record non-listed buildings and monuments of interest in the village 	Rockingham Forest Trust	Medium Ongoing
4.5.5 Churchyard maintenance	The importance of maintaining the churchyard, particularly for those with relatives buried there, is recognised	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to contribute financially to churchyard maintenance 	Parish Council	Medium Ongoing
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to involve villagers in churchyard clearance 	Churchyard Working Party	Medium Ongoing
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liaise with local livestock owners regarding grazing of sheep to keep grass down 	Churchyard Working Party	Medium Ongoing
4.5.6 Dog fouling	All possible steps will be taken to combat dog fouling, recognising that this is a major issue with many villagers which constitutes a significant health hazard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liaise with Dog Warden at Corby BC to investigate possibilities 	Parish Council <i>Corby BC</i>	Medium Feb 2010
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enforce Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005. Powers include banning dogs from certain areas, levying fixed penalty fines and prosecution through Magistrates' Court 	Parish Council	Medium Feb 2010
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to publicise the dog fouling issue to remind dog owners of their responsibilities 	Parish Council, Newsletter	Medium Ongoing

4.6 Village Maintenance and Street Amenities

Reference/ Project	Policy	Specific Actions	Responsibility <i>Key stakeholders</i>	Priority/ Timescale
4.6.1 Litter and recycling	The need to keep Cottingham clean and tidy for the enjoyment of all villagers, and to provide litter bins in suitable locations, is recognised	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to liaise with Corby BC to ensure bins are repaired/replaced and new ones installed as required 	Parish Council <i>Corby BC</i>	Medium Ongoing
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support litter pick event, if led by villagers. Possibly get school involved. 	Parish Council	Low Nov 2010

4.7 Crime and Antisocial Behaviour				
Reference/ Project	Policy	Specific Actions	Responsibility Key stakeholders	Priority/ Timescale
4.7.1 Fear of crime	<p>Crime is not a major issue, but everything possible will be done to reduce fear of crime and make villagers feel secure in their environment</p> <p>The importance for all crimes to be reported is recognised, in order for the Police to build a picture of the pattern and incidence of crimes in the area</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to invite local beat officer to Parish Council meetings • Encourage crimes to be reported through reminders in newsletter • Investigate possibility of drop-in session with local constabulary • Raise profile of local beat officer and CPSO through articles in newsletter 	<p>Parish Council <i>Northants Police</i></p> <p>Newsletter editor</p> <p>Parish Council <i>Northants Police</i></p> <p>Newsletter editor <i>Northants Police</i></p>	<p>High Ongoing</p> <p>Medium Ongoing</p> <p>Completed: Attending VHA every other Tuesday from 2-4pm</p> <p>Completed: Regular articles now included from Rural Police Team</p>
4.7.2 Neighbourhood Watch	The contribution of NHW schemes to reduction of opportunistic crime is recognised and their implementation in the village will be supported	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to support NHW schemes in village • Publicise crime stats in newsletter 	<p>Parish Council <i>Northants Police</i></p> <p>Newsletter editor</p>	<p>Medium Ongoing</p> <p>Medium Ongoing</p>

4.8 Communication and Consultation				
Reference/ Project	Policy	Specific Actions	Responsibility Key stakeholders	Priority/ Timescale
4.8.1 Existing methods of communication	The importance of regular, open and honest communication and consultation on all issues is recognised, and the continued development of the village's communications vehicles will be supported.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to provide financial support for village newsletter • Continue to produce and distribute village newsletter • Continue to build and develop village website and email list • Continue to write 'Down Your Way' column in Evening Telegraph • Ensure that information placed on Parish noticeboard is reinforced/communicated through other channels 	<p>Parish Council</p> <p>Newsletter editor</p> <p>Website editor</p> <p>DYW correspondent</p> <p>Parish Council</p>	<p>Medium Ongoing</p> <p>Medium Ongoing</p> <p>Medium Ongoing</p> <p>Medium Ongoing</p> <p>Medium Ongoing</p>

4.8 Communication and Consultation...*continued*

Reference/ Project	Policy	Specific Actions	Responsibility <i>Key stakeholders</i>	Priority/ Timescale
4.8.2 Local businesses	There is a growing number of small businesses and self-employed people working from home in the village and all efforts should be made to support and unite this community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop village website to include village business directory 	Website editor	Low 2010
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish opportunities for networking with other local business people 	TBA - volunteers sought	Low 2010

4.9 Parish Council

Reference/ Project	Policy	Specific Actions	Responsibility <i>Key stakeholders</i>	Priority/ Timescale
4.9.1 Liaison with Middleton Parish Council	The advantages of working in tandem with Middleton PC on issues affecting both villages is acknowledged	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure open, two-way communication with Middleton PC on all issues of importance affecting the two villages 	Parish Council <i>Middleton PC</i>	High Ongoing
4.9.2 Representation	The Parish Council recognises the need for its membership to match the profile of the community which it represents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proactively encourage villagers to take an interest in and get involved with Parish Council activities 	Parish Council	High Ongoing
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make villagers fully aware of election processes and procedures 	Parish Council	Low Nov 2010
4.9.3 Communication	The Parish Council recognises the need to communicate its aims, activity and intentions with villagers on a regular basis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proactively provide newsletter editor and DYW correspondent with updates on Parish Council activity 	Parish Council	Ongoing
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Produce minutes, agendas and other papers electronically to enable them to be easily posted on the village website 	Parish Clerk	Completed April 2009
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create new Parish Council website 	Pete Bowman	Completed April 2009

Glossary

BC	Borough Council
CC	County Council
DYW	'Down Your Way'
EMRA	East Midlands Regional Assembly
JPU	Joint Planning Unit
PC	Parish Council
VHA	Village Hall Annex

Cottingham Parish Plan

Published September 2009

Copies of Cottingham Parish Plan can be downloaded from
www.cottinghamnews.co.uk