

*...evolving and achieving...*



Frome Valley Parish Plan  
2008

**FV**  
Frome Valley  
The Heart of West Dorset

# Contents

---

Introduction	page 2
Objectives	2
The Process	3
History of The Frome Valley	3
Geographical Situation and Relationship to Nearest Towns	4
Population	5
21st Century Life in the Parish	6
Agriculture	6
Changes in Local Services	6
Wildlife, Conservation & the Environment	7
Draft Conservation Area Appraisal	8
Community Spirit and Healthcare	8
Housing, Property Ownership and Development	10
Local Plans for West Dorset	12
Education	12
Economic Activity and Employment	13
Local Services Today	14
Amenities and Community Activities	16
Transport	18
What Happens Next	22
Acknowledgements	24
Contacts	24
Reference material	24

Welcome to the Frome Valley Parish Plan. The Plan concerns the three rural parishes (hereafter referred to as ‘the parish’) of the Frome Valley Parish Council area, namely Cattistock, Chilfrome and Frome St Quintin, and their surrounding hamlets of Chalmington, Chantmarle, Sandhills and parts of Holywell and Wardon Hill.

It outlines their geographic location, demographics, relationship to one another and their nearest settlements outside the Parish.

## Objectives

The primary aim in producing a Parish Plan is to ensure that the issues and concerns of the residents are represented. The purpose of Parish Plans is to feed information back to the local authorities to give them a clear idea of what communities require, thereby allowing them to plan how budgets should be allocated in the future. To that end it has been produced with assistance, advice and funding from West Dorset District Council (WDDC), as well as the Frome Valley Parish Council (Parish Council or FVPC). The Parish Plan makes recommendations as to ways of either resolving or mitigating those concerns highlighted by the residents via the consultation process described below.

For the Parish Plan to work as intended, it needs to be revisited periodically to check the progress in attaining the recommendations it makes, and there needs to be accountability for this process. The Steering Group recommends that the Parish Council becomes responsible for this Parish Plan, and the actions within it, and that it reviews and updates it at regular intervals.

It is recognised that some of the recommendations may not easily be adopted or may be beyond the remit of the Parish Council. However, this should not prevent any recommendations that can be addressed at Parish level from being discussed and moved forward with the relevant Parish stakeholder, and by adopting this Parish Plan, the Parish Council can represent the concerns of its residents to WDDC. They, as the promoter and majority funding body of Parish Plans, must adopt this plan and recognise the aspirations of it within the emerging Local Development Framework and Supplementary Planning Guidance.

# Introduction

---

Responsibility and accountability of both Councils in adopting and working with the Plan will enable our community to be enriched for the benefit of all.

## The Process

An inaugural presentation by Dorset Community Action (DCA) to the Parish Council took place in March 2005. This was followed by an open meeting to promote the concept of a Parish Plan for the Frome Valley which was held in Cattistock in May 2005. Thirty-five residents attended the meeting and the Parish Plan Steering Group was formed from five volunteers with the addition of two Parish Council representatives.

The Steering Group decided to promote awareness of the intention to produce a Parish Plan. Grants were applied for and WDDC contributed a grant of £1,500.00 towards the cost of developing the Parish Plan, A grant of £427.50 from Dorset Strategic Partnership has been applied for, with the Parish Council contributing a further £140.

A branded newsletter was produced and distributed to all households in the Parish (see Cattistock website [www.cattistock.info](http://www.cattistock.info)) detailing the benefits of producing a Parish Plan, what the likely costs would be and who the Steering Group members were. Editorials were also placed in 'The Chimes' magazine and residents were made aware that a Questionnaire (see copy on [www.cattistock.info](http://www.cattistock.info)) would be distributed to each household in the Frome Valley enabling them to submit their views, concerns and aspirations for the Parish.

105 questionnaires out of the 291 delivered were returned (a response rate of 36%). 234 residents, including 27 children under 16, gave their input. The data was carefully analysed using specially adapted Village Appraisal Software (VAS)

and this analysis enabled the identification of the key issues of concern to the residents where further action may be required. (N.B. the percentages quoted below are based on the percentage responses for each question. Some variance therefore occurs depending on the number of responses to that question).

A complete breakdown of responses to the questionnaire is available on [www.cattistock.info](http://www.cattistock.info). The 'Frome Valley Event' took place in March 2007 with the aim of displaying the responses received to the questionnaire, encouraging discussion by residents, and allowing further comments to be made before the final release of the Parish Plan report. Some 130 people attended the event on the day.

The event was supported by both local and community organisations who are acknowledged at the end of this document.

## History of the Frome Valley

The Frome Valley has a rich and varied history. More information on this subject can be seen at [www.cattistock.info](http://www.cattistock.info) and read in the reference material listed at the end of this document.

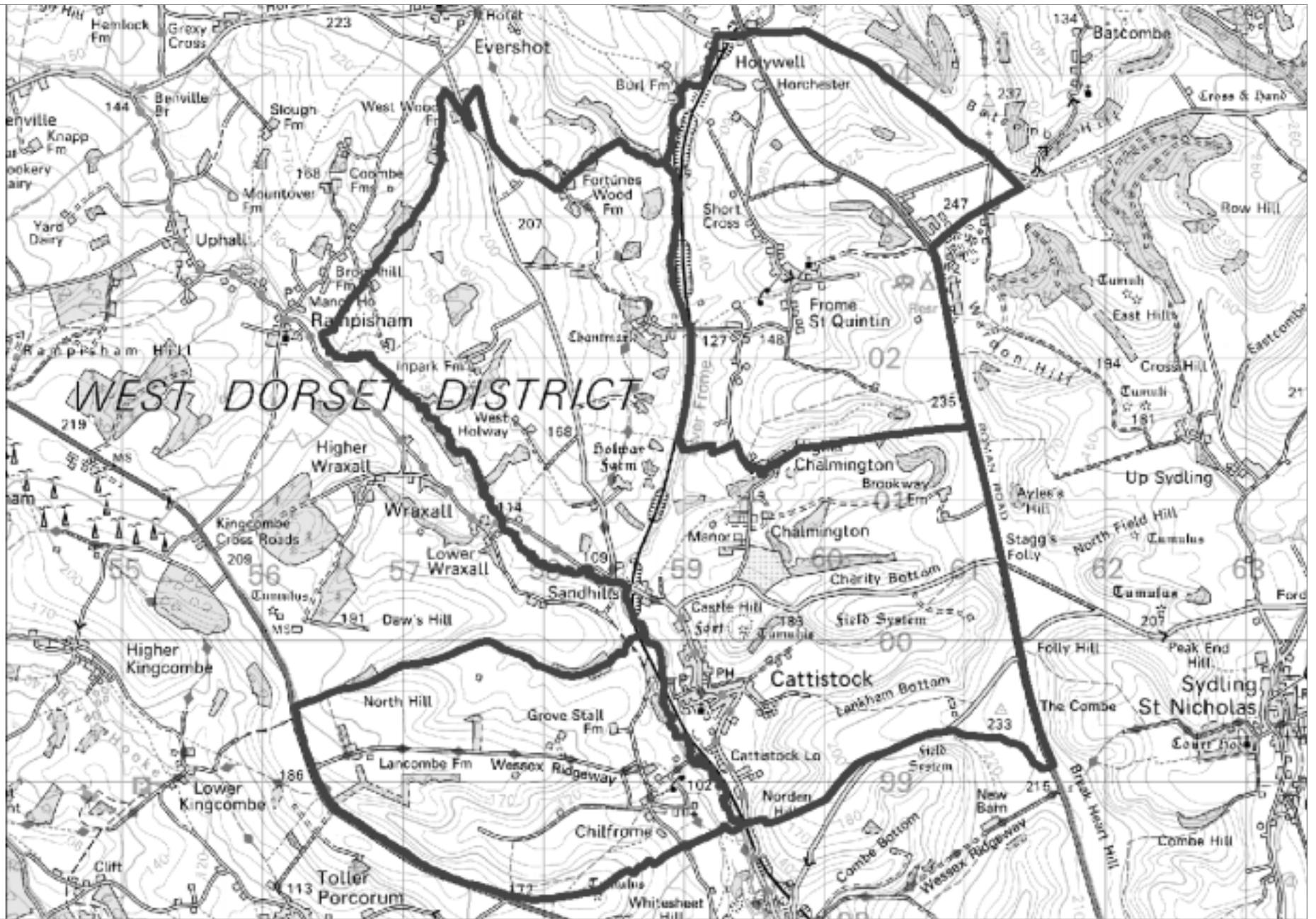
## Geographical Situation and Relationship to Nearest Towns

*(please refer to the map on page 4)*

The Frome Valley is situated around ten miles North of Dorchester and lies between the A37 to its east and the A356 to its west. It takes its name from the River Frome, which flows through the valley, and hence the parish, from North to South. A railway line also runs through the valley, following the course of the Frome.

***“..The Frome Valley  
has a rich and  
varied history..”***

Ordnance Survey map showing parish boundary reproduced by kind permission, Ordnance Survey



# Population

The population of the parish is approximately 720 people, with an estimated 500 in Cattistock, 60 in Chilfrome and 160 in Frome St Quintin<sup>1</sup>. The number of dwellings within the parish totals 298 made up from 168 in Cattistock, 9 in Chalmington, 12 in Chantmarle, 21 in Chilfrome, 41 in Frome St Quintin, 24 in Holywell, 20 in Sandhills (including Holway Lane) and 3 in Wardon Hill<sup>2</sup>.

Proportionally for the two villages represented we have fewer people aged 0-15 years, and slightly more aged 16-64, than West Dorset and Dorset as a whole. Our proportional percentage of aged 65+ is almost exactly that of Dorset as a whole.

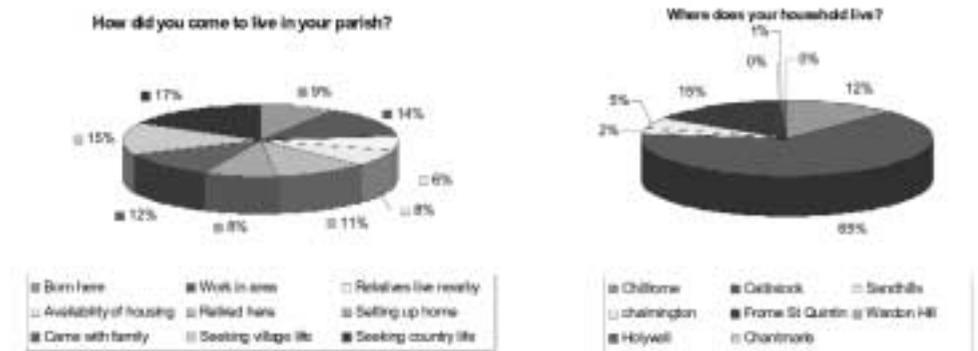
- 1 Source Dorset County Council 2004 Mid-year estimate population of Dorset Parishes
- 2 Source WDDC – Electoral Roll for Cattistock, Chilfrome & Sandhills. Totals for other settlements are based on a total count taken on 04/02/07 for Frome St Quintin, Chalmington, Chantmarle and parts of Holywell and Wardon Hill.
- 3 Source: Cattistock and Frome St Quintin 2001 census parish profile. The above analysis is not available for Chilfrome.

## Population<sup>3</sup>

Category	Cattistock	Frome St Quintin	West Dorset	Dorset
All people	440	157	92,360	390,980
% aged 0-15 years	13.90	16.60	17.70	17.86
% aged 16-64 years	60.00	67.50	57.80	58.75
% aged 65+	26.10	15.90	24.50	23.39
% living in a communal establishment	1.20	0.00	2.90	2.78

## Question 16 from the questionnaire (below).

The majority of the respondents (32%) moved to the parish seeking village or country life.



# 21st Century Life in the Parish .....

## Agriculture

Rural life changed greatly during the 20th Century and this is evident from the occupations of those living in the parish today, where only a few people remain dependent on agriculture for their livelihood, despite farming being much in evidence and contributing to the attractive landscape of the Frome Valley.

*Concern:* Support for local produce – 87.7% of respondents wanted local shops to stock more local produce.

*Recommendations:*

A. FVPC should

- Publish the dates of farmers' markets in The Chimes and on the Cattistock website
- Arrange for National Farmers Union to place an article in The Chimes telling readers how they can support farming in the community
- Encourage local food producers to seek advice from a Community Interest Company such as 'f3' which is a new initiative funded by lottery money [www.localfood.org.uk](http://www.localfood.org.uk)

*Timescale:* 3 months

*Owner:* FVPC

B. All residents of the Frome Valley should

- Support local producers and cut down on 'food miles' by using local vegetable/fruit box delivery companies, fish delivery company and Cattistock Post Office and Stores
- Buy British produce, preferably locally produced
- Tell their friends and family why supporting local producers and farmers matters and enlist their support

- Find out more from [www.whyfarmingmatters.co.uk](http://www.whyfarmingmatters.co.uk)
- Ask their local supermarket what it is doing to support local producers and fill out pressure cards

*Timescale:* 3 months

*Owner:* All local residents

## Changes in Local Services

Today, the Village Stores and Post Office in Cattistock plays an important part in the life of the parish and there are many in the Frome Valley who rely on it to supply them with their needs. It is the only shop and Post Office within the parish since the village shop and Post Office at Holywell closed in the early 1960s. For more details please see the Local Services Today section below.

Police constables no longer reside in the villages and the demise of the 'village bobby' has left residents dependant on the 'neighbourhood watch' along with an occasional drive through the parish by the Police Community Support Officer. However, crime is not a concern for the majority of the parish.

Televisions, personal computers with internet access (dial up or broadband), and both fixed-line and mobile telephones, are widely used across the parish, with 12.7% of employed residents working from home.

*Concern:* 69.6% experienced difficulty with television and radio reception, 63.2% feel there is not enough local TV news coverage, 47.0% are concerned over the loss of the analogue broadcast signal.

*Recommendations:*

- Clear advice on the options regarding digital broadcasting is needed and should be made available

- Invite Digital UK's local representative Bill Taylor to provide it at a future Parish Council meeting or place an article in 'The Chimes'
- The TV & Radio lobby group for the local area is The South and West Dorset Broadcasting Action Group. Information regarding switchover and the options available are on their website [www.swedbag.org.uk](http://www.swedbag.org.uk)

*Timescale:* September 2008

*Owner:* FVPC

## Wildlife, Conservation and the Environment

Conservation areas are places of special architectural or historic interest that are given protection to ensure that they retain their character and appearance. West Dorset District Council has designated conservation areas in Cattistock and Frome St Quintin whilst areas in Chilfrome are under consideration. The Butterfly Conservation area at Lankham Bottom Reserve near Cattistock is an example of such an area in the parish. Furthermore the value of wildlife in the area was rated as the most important countryside feature by 91.9% of respondents.

*Recommendations:*

- Ask for more information on our local environment, such as the Frome Valley Trail leaflet, to be published

- Information boards on local wildlife and pathways need to be reinstated

*Timescale:* September 2008

*Owner:* FVPC

**Fact:** AONB have published a leaflet on how to get involved in wildlife conservation on your doorstep. Residents may contribute to the 'Wildlife on Your Doorstep' project, asking for observations of a selection of species found in the local area. It is organised by Dorset Wildlife Trust. [www.dorsetwildlife.co.uk](http://www.dorsetwildlife.co.uk).

From an environmental standpoint the questionnaire responses mentioned that litter was a problem in the parish and that light pollution was the most significant disturbance.

*Concern:* A number of sites were listed where litter is a problem, mainly on the road from Cattistock to Maiden Newton.

*Recommendations:*

- 'Keep Dorset Tidy' signs and more bins (unfortunately most litter is probably thrown from moving vehicles so signs are potentially a more effective deterrent)



- Encourage people to report litter and fly-tipping (and indeed any environmental issues in Dorset as a whole) to Dorset County Council on 0800 232323
- More volunteers from the community should take part in the regular "litter-picks" organised by FVPC, in all parts of the parish

*Timescale:* September 2008

*Owner:* FVPC/all residents

*Concern:* There is a need for more dog waste bins with only one being identified in the parish.

*Recommendations:*

- Education of dog owners about cleaning up after their pets, and the dangers posed by dog faeces
- Identify required locations for these bins and seek funding for additional bins

*Timescale:* September 2008

*Owner:* FVPC

*Concern:* Significant comments on the disturbance caused by various forms of light pollution. The majority of residents who live near street lights don't like them.

*Recommendations:*

- There should be no increase in street lighting
- Consult with WDDC and Magna Housing Association about what can be done for their tenants who object to street lighting
- Help to reduce the wastage of energy by having the street lighting timed to go off during the time of night that it would be seldom used by pedestrians or vehicles

*Timescale:* end of November 2008

*Owner:* FVPC

**Fact:** 83.8% of respondents support the use of solar energy, as well as 14.6% for large scale wind farms, 37.7% for Bio Fuel generators and 33.8% for water wheels.

**Fact:** Dorset Agenda 21 attended the Frome Valley Event and discussed options- see [www.dorsetagenda21.org.uk](http://www.dorsetagenda21.org.uk).

There is a weekly refuse collection and a fortnightly recycling collection. However, there is concern that plastic bottles are not collected for recycling.

*Recommendations:*

- If a new development is planned, the Parish Council and District Council should encourage the design to include renewable energy sources at the outset
- Arrange for Agenda 21 to give a presentation on the subject, and publicise the event in 'The Chimes'

*Timescale:* Ongoing

*Owner:* FVPC and WDDC

## Draft Conservation Area Appraisal

The purpose of this appraisal is to inform and guide any future development towards respecting the qualities and character of designated conservation areas which includes Cattistock (designated in 1977) and Frome St Quintin (designated in 1990) and to ensure that such qualities are not eroded by insensitive development. A copy of the draft Conservation Area Appraisal Report for the parish can be found in Appendix J on [www.dorsetforyou.com](http://www.dorsetforyou.com)

## Community Spirit and Healthcare

The Frome Valley is extremely fortunate to have retained many of the facilities that other rural parishes have lost, and this is in no small part due to the efforts

of an active, vibrant community that demonstrates a degree of concern for its residents. One extremely positive statistic from the questionnaire was that 97.1% indicated that they liked living in the parish and 96.3% feel that there is a good community spirit here. The census statistics also show that the health of residents is above average for the district and the county.

## Health

Category	Cattistock	Frome St Quintin	West Dorset	Dorset
% of all people with a limiting long-term illness	14.10	12.10	19.30	19.20
% of all people whose health was good	72.50	72.00	68.20	68.10
% of all people providing unpaid care	10.20	7.00	10.90	10.79

Source: Cattistock and Frome St Quintin 2001 census parish profile. The above analysis is not available for Chilfrome.

One disadvantage of the geographical location of the parish is its distance from hospital medical services, and this may be crucial in the event of an emergency. Statistics show that annually in the UK 275,000 people have a heart attack and coronary heart disease kills more than 110,000 in the UK every year. A person who suffers a cardiac arrest stands an 85% chance of survival if a properly trained person with a defibrillator can attend the patient in the first few minutes of collapse. These odds decrease by 10% with every minute that passes without treatment. It is an unfortunate fact that the South Western Ambulance Service cannot arrive at the scene of an emergency in Cattistock, Chilfrome or Frome St Quintin within the 8 minute time frame laid down as a government target.

**Fact:** 79.8% of residents are willing to help in the event of an emergency.

In recognition of the real practical difficulties in reaching rural communities, and concurrent with the development of the Parish Plan, a group of residents has set up a Community First Responder Scheme and raised the funds necessary to purchase the equipment. A Community First Responder scheme is made up of volunteers who attend designated emergency calls received by the NHS Ambulance Service providing first aid until an emergency ambulance response arrives.

*Timescale:* Training started in March 2008 and the launch is scheduled for June.

*Owner:* Community First Responders

*Recommendation:*

- As the group of volunteers will be dynamic, continued support must be encouraged.



# Housing, Property Ownership and Development .....

In recent years the parish has embraced affordable housing for local people to rent, with Ringers Plot in Cattistock being an example of such a scheme. The current development in South Drive will also have a percentage of affordable housing, available to purchase as part of a shared equity scheme, although it is understood these will not be exclusively for local people.

However, in response to the question 'What kind of accommodation do you think the Frome Valley needs?' residents raised concerns in respect of affordable and social housing in the parish.

*Concern:* 61.1% are concerned about the lack of homes for young people, 44% are concerned about the lack of homes for local people and 69.8% thought that there was a need for more shared equity accommodation.

No information was available on the number of people from within the parish who were seeking affordable housing. Statistics dated August 2007 were available from Magna Housing Association for the number of people on their waiting list who hope to move to the Frome Valley. These were as follows:

- 111 for 1 bedroom properties
- 180 for 2 bedroom properties
- 102 for 3 bedroom properties
- 28 for 4 bedroom properties

However, Magna's definition of the 'Frome Valley' is much larger than the Parish administrative area and includes the villages of Charminster, Bradford Peverell, Cerne Abbas, Frampton, Frome Vauchurch, Godmanstone, Grimstone, Maiden Newton, Stratton, Sydling St Nicholas, Toller Porcorum, as well as Cattistock. Hence the figures above do not reflect the total number of people looking to move into the parish, but they do show the number of people who wish to move to a rural location that is similar to that offered by the parish.

*Recommendation:*

- In order to determine the level of local need for affordable housing, a housing needs survey should be conducted. Consideration should then be given to how this need could best be met. Options available, including shared equity schemes and community land trusts, should be considered, as should the offer of help from the Dorset Rural Housing Enabler to carry out a survey and advise on "rural exception sites" that could be used for housing local people

*Timescale:* six months

*Owner:* FVPC with DCA and WDDC

*Concern:* Do local people get first preference when the Ringers Plot properties are available to rent?

Yes, under the terms of the scheme, but in order to be eligible for a vacant property, whether at Ringers Plot or elsewhere in the parish, applicants must register their interest. Currently there are two housing lists, both in Dorchester, one at the WDDC Housing Advice Centre (01305 252288) and the other at Magna Housing Association (01305 216000), and until there is a single combined list, applicants should register on both. Those interested in Ringers Plot should say so and should state any local connection. The registers are now based on time-waiting criteria – first come, first served!

*Recommendation:*

- People with a requirement for social housing need to register their interest with both WDDC and Magna, and should do so as early as possible

*Timescale:* Ongoing

*Owner:* FVPC and all those needing social housing

## Dwellings / Households

Category	Cattistock	Frome St Quintin	West Dorset	Dorset
All dwellings	225	77	44,030	178,065
% second homes	5.30	7.80	4.60	2.77
dwellings occupied	202	70	40,510	167,998

Source: Cattistock and Frome St Quintin 2001 census parish profile.  
The above analysis is not available for Chillfrome.

## Tenure

Category	Cattistock	Frome St Quintin	West Dorset	Dorset
% owner-occupied	73.30	84.30	72.50	76.28
% rented council / housing association	13.40	0.00	14.00	12.10
% other tenure	13.40	15.7	13.5	11.61

Source: Cattistock and Frome St Quintin 2001 census parish profile.  
The above analysis is not available for Chillfrome.

An idyllic rural location such as the Frome Valley inevitably attracts people who want to purchase a rural retreat to use at weekends and for holidays. Only two second-home owners completed the questionnaire so their views and concerns are not widely known. However, we believe all residents must support our local services and amenities, or they may be lost in the same way that they have been in other less fortunate rural locations. This would be to the detriment of both the full-time and the part-time residents, and the effect for the latter would be to reduce the attractiveness that encouraged them to buy property here in the first place.

The impact of having a significant number of houses in our villages being used as second homes or as holiday lets is in our view extremely damaging to the

social fabric of our communities. They are empty for much of the year, and as a result our local shops and other services are increasingly at risk of closure. There are less full-time residents available to carry out the voluntary duties on which our communities depend. And local people, especially the younger ones, are forced to leave because of the reduction in the housing stock. Having a significant number of houses empty in the centre of our villages is likely to cause them to decline and eventually die. It is our duty to raise these concerns, as they need to be considered at a national level as well as the local level. Solutions are likely to require changes of government policy, and a change of attitude on the part of those considering the purchase of rural properties.

*Concern:* 54.9% are concerned about villages becoming empty out of the holiday season and 47.8% thought there are too many holiday lets and second homes.

*Recommendations:*

- Full-time residents must try to encourage part-time residents to participate in and support community activities for the benefit of all
- Residents need to raise our concerns about the increase in second homes and holiday lets
- Residents should liaise with our local MP, County and District Councillors and others to ensure their awareness and seek changes to government policies
- Residents should be encouraged to report long-term unoccupied properties to WDDC on 01305 251010, E-mail: env.health@westdorset-dc.gov.uk

*Timescale:* Immediate and ongoing.

Owner: Community minded residents.



## Local Plans for West Dorset (Local Development Framework)

Proposals for development are judged against the relevant policies of the development plan for the area. In West Dorset this is made up of the Local Plan, Structure Plan, and Minerals and Waste Local Plan. This will change as the new system is introduced.

Under the new national planning system introduced in September 2004, district councils will in future prepare a series of planning policy documents, which together will form the Local Development Framework. Local Development Frameworks will replace the previous Local Plans. As work on a new Local Plan for West Dorset was well advanced when the new system was introduced, the Local Plan continued to adoption and was adopted in July 2006. Further details are available on WDDC web site [www.dorsetforyou.com](http://www.dorsetforyou.com).

## Education

There are no schools in the parish since Cattistock School, whose records went back to 1863, closed in 1980. The nearest primary school to Cattistock and Chilfrome is Greenford School at Maiden Newton, some 1.5 miles by road, whilst Sticklands School in Evershot is the primary school closest to Frome St Quintin and Holywell. Neither school is served by a bus service, however children living in From St Quintin travel via taxi to school. The nearest secondary school is Beaminster School which is around nine miles from the parish, and is served by a school bus (for more details see Transport section below). On a positive note, Cattistock has retained the former school playing field, now known as the Cattistock Community Space, which is used as a children's playground and for community events such as the annual village fete. It has been one of the key factors in attracting and retaining economically active families and in doing so has helped to maintain equilibrium of age groups within the parish.

## Qualifications

Category	Cattistock	Frome St Quintin	West Dorset	Dorset
% of 16-74 years with no/level 1 qualifications	42.20	44.40	25.30	26.18

Source: Cattistock and Frome St Quintin 2001 census parish profile.  
The above analysis is not available for Chilfrome.

Concern: 73.1% wanted more local adult evening education classes in the Frome Valley.

Recommendation:

- WDDC and the Local Education Authority (LEA) to survey the educational needs of residents

Timescale: Annually

Owner: FVPC

## Economic Activity and Employment

Today's economically active residents of the parish are most likely to live in the villages and commute to work.

### Economic Activity

Category	Cattistock	Frome St Quintin	West Dorset	Dorset
All people aged 16-74	329	124	64,658	275,193
% of 16-74 years employed	63.20	66.90	60.10	60.82
% of 16-74 years unemployed	0.90	2.40	1.90	2.03
% of 16-74 years inactive	34.00	32.30	36.20	35.13

Source: Cattistock and Frome St Quintin 2001 census parish profile.  
The above analysis is not available for Chilfrome.



## Occupation

Category	Cattistock	Frome St Quintin	West Dorset	Dorset
% of workforce: managerial and professional occupations	27.40	24.20	25.70	26.06
% of workforce: intermediate occupations	4.60	4.80	7.40	8.75
% of workforce: small employers and own-account workers	16.70	24.20	11.90	10.03
% of workforce: lower supervisory and technical occupations	8.20	8.90	6.80	7.22
% of workforce: semi-routine and routine occupations	17.60	16.10	19.00	19.50

Source: Cattistock and Frome St Quintin 2001 census parish profile.  
The above analysis is not available for Chilfrome.

## Local Services Today

Cattistock, winner of the 'Best Kept Small Village' award in 2006, is the best-served village in the parish in terms of amenities. The Village Stores is open all day Monday to Saturday and on Sunday mornings, and incorporates the village Post Office.

*Concern:* 96.4% believe we need to retain the Post Office; it is losing its main source of revenue e.g. it no longer sells TV licences. What can be done to make the service viable, and can we do anything to influence the decision as to which sub Post Offices will be closed?

### Recommendations:

- Seek advice from the National Federation of Sub Postmasters who are "committed to ensuring that all rural and urban communities throughout the country are able to access post office services through a viable sub Post Office network, achieved by lobbying successive Governments"
- If the Post Office is regarded with such value by the community then use the statistics from the Parish Plan questionnaire to support a campaign to save this valuable facility, and the Stores of which it is a part

*Timescale:* Ongoing, with bi-annual update

*Owner:* FVPC and DCA (Simon Thompson)

*Concern:* 95.4% believe we need to retain the Cattistock Village Stores. The owner of the Village Stores has stated that it will not survive if the Post Office is closed.

### Recommendations:

- Seek advice from the Village Retail Services Association [www.virsa.org](http://www.virsa.org)  
ViRSA is part of the Plunkett Foundation, an educational charity based near Oxford, which supports the development of rural group enterprise world-wide. The Foundation draws on 80 years' practical experience of working with partners from the private sector to promote and implement economic self-help solutions to rural problems [www.plunkett.co.uk](http://www.plunkett.co.uk)
- Notwithstanding the fact that the future of the Stores may be in the hands of those who decide the fate of the Post Office, it would appear to be a case of 'use it or lose it'. Residents need to review their shopping habits if they wish to retain this facility

*Timescale:* Ongoing with bi-annual updates

*Owner:* The residents of the Frome Valley

There is also a popular and historic 16th century inn, The Fox & Hounds, which has been extensively refurbished in the last few years. 88.8% of residents felt that it was important to retain the pub. This view is likely to reflect the use of the pub for local committee and social group meetings, and for fund-raising activities such as quiz nights, in addition to the value placed on it as a place to eat and drink.

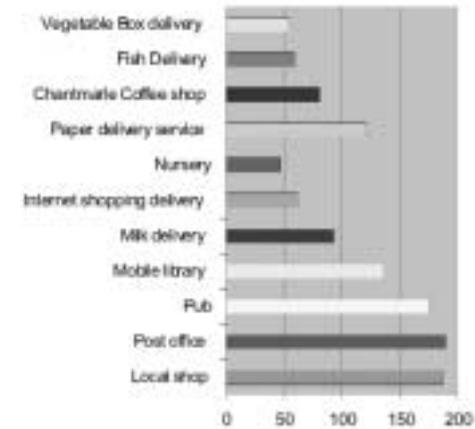
The nearest Doctor's and Veterinary surgeries and fire station are in the larger village of Maiden Newton which lies just outside the southern boundary of the parish, where there is also a filling station, two convenience stores, a bakery, newsagent, hardware shop and hairdresser.

There is also a village shop and Post Office and a bakery in Evershot, also just outside the parish, which is closer for residents living in Holywell.

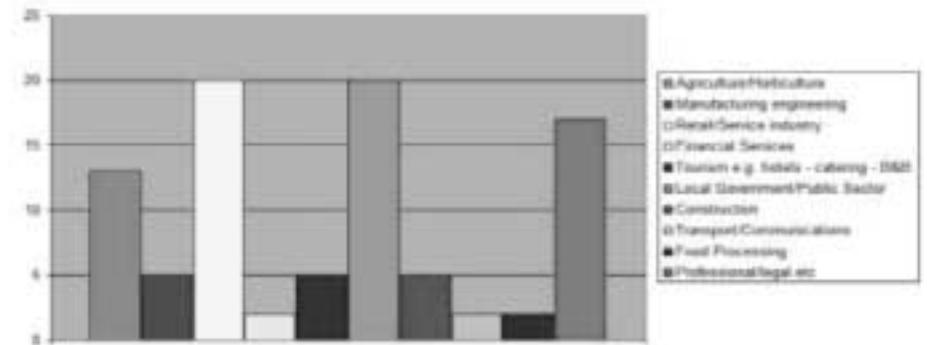
The privately run Barn Owls Nursery at Barn Hayes Farm in Frome St Quintin provides an excellent service for pre-school children from within the parish and beyond, as well as after school and holiday clubs for 5 to 8 year olds.

The re-opening of the swimming pool at the former police training college at Chantmarle has been of benefit to local people.

Do you feel it is important to retain existing local services



What is the business of your employer



## Amenities and Community Activities .....

The mobile library visits the parish fortnightly and newspapers are available for daily delivery to most householders from a number of sources.

*Concern:* 69.5% of respondents believe we need to retain the mobile library.

*Recommendation:*

- Libraries are currently under review by DCC and so we should campaign to keep the mobile library
- Publish dates and times of visits in 'The Chimes', [www.cattistock.info](http://www.cattistock.info) and on village notice boards

*Timescale:* Monthly from 1st June 2008

*Owner:* FVPC & existing users

Cattistock's focal point is the Savill Hall, built in 1926, which is well used by community organisations for social and fund raising events, and is available for hire for private functions including wedding receptions and parties. Indoor games such as Short Mat Bowls and Badminton, and Keep Fit classes, also take place here. It is the venue for Parish Council meetings as well as the Frome Valley drama group's annual pantomime.

The Community Space in the centre of the village incorporates the children's playing field, and is used for the annual village fete as well as other fund-raising events and for outdoor church services. This excellent communal facility is

owned by the parish and is managed by the Community Space Committee. A football pitch, cricket pitch and tennis courts lie on the edge of the village, each of which is run by an individual club dedicated to those sports.

Cattistock Cricket Club, Maiden Newton and Cattistock Football Club ('The Hunters'), Cattistock Community Space Committee and The Savill Hall Committee each have representatives on the Cattistock Fete Committee. This partnership committee arranges the village fete week along with other activities throughout the year to raise funds, which are then distributed equally between the four groups. These events have been crucial in ensuring the survival of each organisation.

***“..These events have been crucial in ensuring the survival of each organisation..”***

Although Frome St Quintin does not have a village hall, social activities organised by its Parochial Church Council are well attended and viewed as a meeting point for the residents. Frome Farm House hosts musical events and cream teas. The plant, produce & preserve sales are hosted in residents' gardens. Family services at St Mary's Church are also well attended.

With regard to Holywell, where residents live in one of three different parishes, depending on the location of their dwelling, no social activities are organised in the village. The fact that only one completed questionnaire was returned from Holywell may well indicate a feeling of the lack of a parish identity for residents in that area.

Chilfrome residents generally attend events at either Cattistock or Maiden Newton, as they are located between these two villages.

Social and fundraising events are published in both 'The Chimes' and local newspapers, as well as on village notice boards and in the Village Stores in Cattistock.

*Concern:* 28.6% of respondents are concerned that generally the facilities for children (0-16 years old) are poor. They are, however, better for the younger children, and the Cattistock Community Space Committee, with support from the Parish Council and DCA, are going ahead with their project to replace the old playground equipment and improve the Community Space overall.

The facilities for teenagers (13-16 years old) are more of a concern, exacerbated by the problem that there are currently not many people in that age group in the parish.

*Recommendation:*

- Setup a Young People's Parish Council (YPPC) to allow the teenagers to have a forum for issues that are of concern to them.

*Timescale:* September 2008

*Owner:* FVPC

*Recommendation:*

- Club Committees to promote the sports facilities (football, cricket and tennis) that we have in the parish and in local secondary schools to encourage use by young people who may not be aware of them or may be travelling further than they need to use similar facilities. This could be achieved by putting a link on the school websites

*Timescale:* May 2008

*Owner:* Sports Club Committees



## Transport

The Yeovil to Weymouth section of the Wiltshire, Somerset & Weymouth Railway, which follows the River Frome throughout the parish, was opened in January 1857. The railway had halts at Cattistock/Chilfrome and Holywell but reverted to a single-track line and the halts were closed in October 1966. The nearest station to the parish is now at Maiden Newton on the Bristol to Weymouth (Heart of Wessex) line.

Bus routes continue through the parish allowing travel to Dorchester, Yeovil and Bridport. Cattistock and Holywell are served by bus service 212, which is subsidised by Dorset County Council. In April 2007 this service was revised and a new bus service arrangement was introduced for journeys between Dorchester and Yeovil on Monday to Friday (excluding Bank and Public Holidays), with the majority of journeys being run by Sureline. On Saturdays, journeys are run by NORDCAT as service D11 on behalf of the DCC, the majority of which are operated on a pre-booked (demand responsive) basis. Journeys to Bridport are possible from the parish on the Door to Dorset demand responsive route service 73. Currently Chilfrome has no bus service to either Dorchester or Yeovil and although it is possible to travel from Frome St Quintin to Dorchester by changing to the 212 bus at Maiden Newton, the return journey can only be made by travelling via Bridport and then using the 73!

*Concern:* 55.1% would like to see improvements to bus timetable. For example, bus times vary according to whether it is a school day or not, but this disrupts people who may want to use the bus regularly to get to work regardless of it being a school day or not.

### *Recommendations:*

- Need to ensure retention of essential journeys between the parish and its nearest market towns
- Need to increase publicity; a timetable showing the location of bus stops, outgoing and return times, destinations and connections could be submitted to the editor and published in 'The Chimes'
- Encourage DCC Public Transport Unit to introduce further demand responsive services such as "Door to Dorset" for those times when demand is low but when the ability to be able to travel is essential. This is of particular concern for those who are either unable to drive, or have no access to a car, for example the young and the elderly.

Timescale: Ongoing with bi-annual review

Owner: FVPC & DCC Passenger Transport



Young people have grown up to expect a degree of flexibility. A demand responsive service, which they can access via mobile phone or internet may be more suited to their needs than a regular bus service.

*Concern:* Most children in the parish rely on their parents for transport.

*Recommendation:*

- A bus service that could take them to swimming pools and activity days would be a big step forward. This would be the sort of issue that could be discussed and progressed via the proposed YPPC

*Timescale:* over a 12 month period following formation of YPPC

*Recommendation:*

- Investigate the possibility of drivers providing the equivalent of a local service by using a car share facility, like the one currently promoted by DCC

*Timescale:* end of September 2008

*Owner:* DCC

There are concerns about the level of bus service provided if people are to be encouraged to switch use from the private car for at least some journeys. For example, the free school bus provided by the Education Authority to Greenford Primary School was withdrawn in 1990, although it was still possible until July 2005 for children to travel to Greenford School by using the Beaminster Secondary School bus in the mornings and the 212 service, which diverted to the school, in the afternoons. Since July 2005 it has not been possible to send children to Greenford School by public transport, forcing people to make this journey by car.

There is now an absurd situation in which the Beaminster school bus drives through the parish every morning collecting a limited number of secondary school age children. It makes its way to the bus stop at Greenford School where it picks up the secondary school pupils who are resident in Maiden Newton to take them on to Beaminster.

*Concern:* There is plenty of room on the bus for the primary school children as it drives through the parish. Instead it travels with many empty seats followed by passenger cars full of Greenford school children, who are not allowed to take up the places on the bus for that part of its journey because the distance between their home and the school is less than 2 miles.



*Recommendation::*

- The Parish Council requires the Local Authority to address this wasteful and environmentally harmful situation
- Concessionary (spare seat) transport schemes also needs reviewing. Currently children from the age of 16 who live over 5 miles from the appropriate or designated school and whose family are not in receipt of Income Support are not entitled to free transport. The Concessionary schemes were introduced to help those pupils not entitled to free school transport, however, the availability of spare seats is limited. Families living over 5 miles from the designated school are unfairly penalised.

*Timescale:* Immediate

*Owner:* FVPC

Whilst the car continues to be the most commonly used form of transport in the parish, this inevitably has given rise to many concerns. The primary concern relates to speeding both within the settlements themselves, with its implications for safety to pedestrians, and between the communities and neighbouring villages. The current 30mph zone is limited to Cattistock itself with effective enforcement being difficult to achieve as this is a resource issue for the police. Prevention by means of speed reduction measures to change driver behaviour could be considered. In other areas this has been achieved by careful location of street furniture and highway realignment. In Somerset communities have successfully used a safety camera partnership to raise awareness and reduce speeds.

There are also significant concerns regarding parking, especially near corners and generally on the street in the proximity of turnings etc. This also has safety

implications from a visual perspective, especially with regard to access for emergency vehicles. In addition there are general concerns about both the frequency and standard of street cleaning, and the condition of the road surface, in particular during the winter months with blocked drains and the lack of ice prevention and snow clearance.

## Car Ownership

Category	Cattistock	Frome St Quintin	West Dorset	Dorset
% of households with no car	10.40	0.00	16.90	16.96

*Source: Cattistock and Frome St Quintin 2001 census parish profile.  
The above analysis is not available for Chilfrome.*

*Concern:* 75.8% were concerned about speeding in villages

*Recommendations:*

- Suggest street furniture and flowerbeds to reduce speed
- Quality and design of signage to be improved to be effective but in keeping with a rural area

*Timescale:* end of November 2008

*Owner:* FVPC

*Concern:* 55.8% were concerned about speeding between villages.

*Recommendations:*

- Lobby for extension of speed limit from Cattistock to Maiden Newton
- Consider lobbying for a Safety Camera Partnership as has been done successfully in parts of Somerset

*Timescale:* end of November 2008

*Owner:* FVPC & Dorset Police

*Concern:* 55.8% were concerned about parking on corners.

*Recommendation:*

- Encourage better use of garage space and more responsible parking
- Not enough garage stock. Identify additional garages – either new sites or existing ones for rent
- Potential to reduce parking at pinch points through location of street furniture
- Consider lobbying DCC Highways about the potential for Traffic Regulation Orders in areas where safety is paramount i.e. on corners, with enforcement through the new Civil Parking Enforcement measures (i.e. by DCC/WDDC parking attendants instead of the Police). However, residents would have to be prepared for double yellow lines and increased road signage in the parish

*Timescale:* end of November 2008

*Owner:* FVPC

*Concern:* 52% were concerned about the condition of road surfaces.

*Recommendation:*

- Surface dressing *all* roads in the Frome Valley

*Timescale:* Every 5 years

*Owner:* FVPC & DCC Highways Department.

*Concern:* 47.4% are concerned about snow/ice clearance from roads, 35.5% are concerned about cleaning of public drains, which if not done regularly leads to flooding, and 34.2% are concerned about street cleaning.

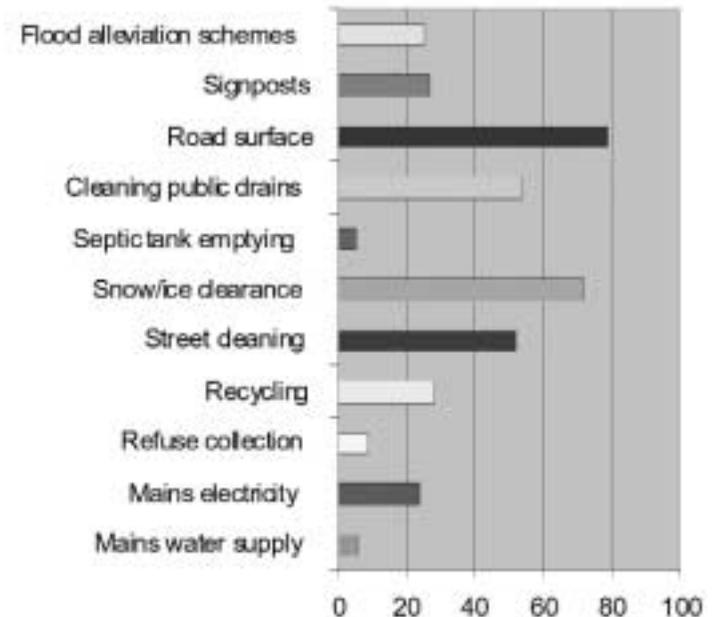
*Recommendations:*

- Lobby DCC highways to deliver effective gritting through the villages and on the road up to Stagg's Folly on safety grounds
- Lobby WDDC for more regular street cleaning, with dates published in 'The Chimes' to give people the opportunity to move their vehicles before the sweeper arrives
- The Parish Council must take up these issues with the evidence drawn from the Parish Plan statistics

*Timescale:* end of November 2008

*Owner:* FVPC

### Standard of environmental services which need improvement



## What Happens Next? .....

Our Parish Plan makes clear recommendations based on the questionnaire survey of residents, comments and suggestions from the Frome Valley Event held in Cattistock in March 2007, and further evidence submitted to our Steering Group between the Plan's inception in 2005 and its subsequent publication.

These recommendations cover:

- Wildlife, Conservation and the Environment
- Community Spirit and Healthcare
- Housing, Property Ownership and Development
- Education
- Economic Activity and Employment
- Local Services Today
- Amenities and Community Activities
- Transport

Our Action Plan specifies actions required under the above headings, plus suggested timescales. Some responsibility for action lies within our own community, and in some instances, for example the Community Space and Community First Responders, action is already under way. Some recommendations point to the need for further research, and others are within the remit of the West Dorset Partnership and its stakeholder members to whom the Parish Plan will be sent for comment and action.

Our recommendations should be seen in the overall context of the Frome Valley, which is a collection of small communities surrounding Cattistock and its central amenities, with an overall population of approximately 720. The only major amenity to have been lost since the 1970's was the village school. However, the Parish Council's wisdom in retaining the former school playing field has enabled us to develop this area as a children's playground and Community Space, which has been and still is a major factor in maintaining a wide age-range, a vigorous community spirit, and levels of employment and self-employment above the

average for West Dorset and Dorset as a whole. In the same way the Savill Hall, local sports clubs, Post Office and Stores and the Fox and Hounds inn all contribute to the fabric of the community of the parish.

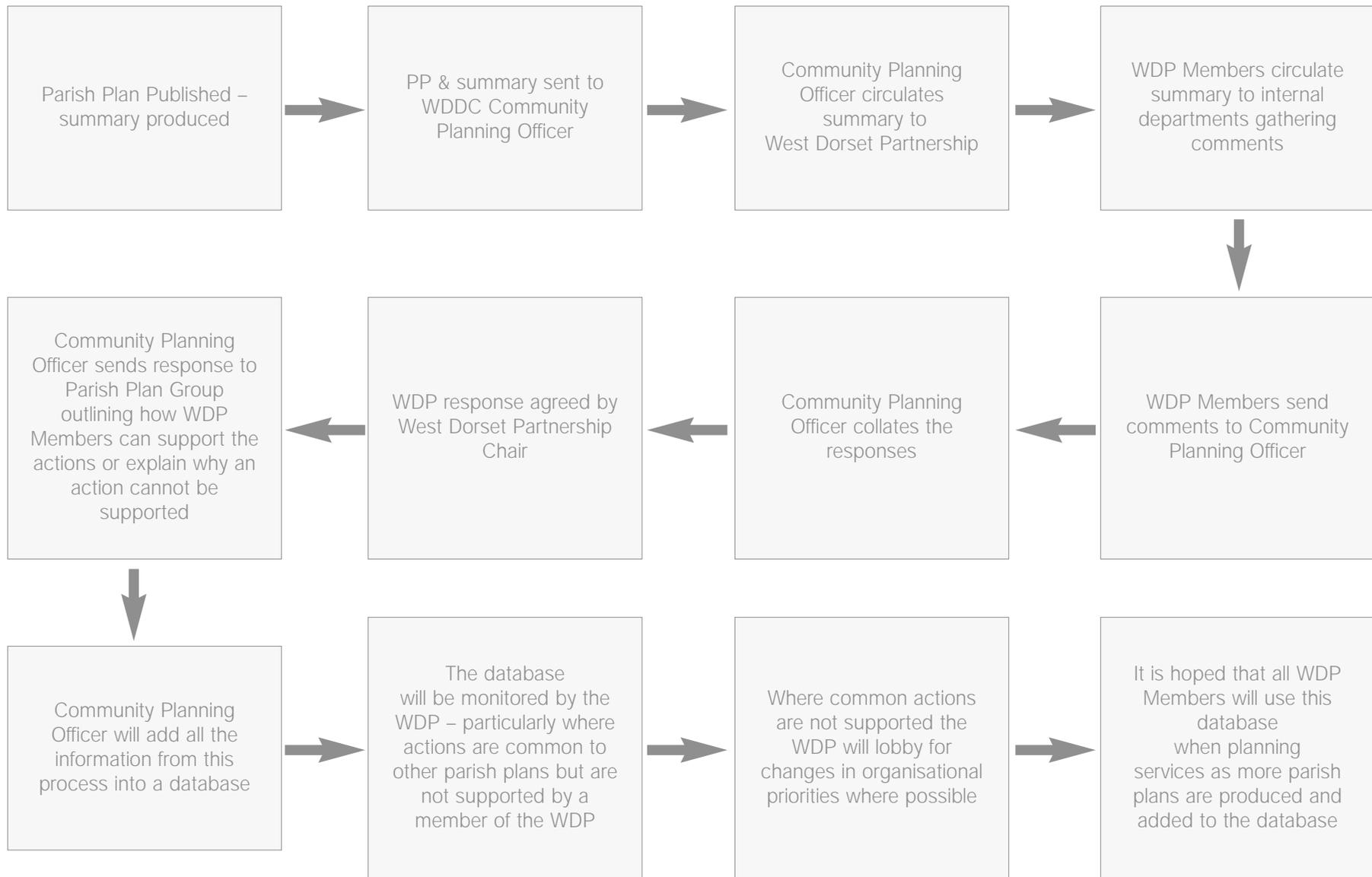
In common with many other parishes in Dorset, we acknowledge and mostly welcome the inevitable demographic change. However, we believe that decisive

and sustained action will be needed to retain the community that we have in order that it evolves for the benefit of all.

We would like to thank the local agencies and community organisations which have helped us to prepare this Plan, in particular Dorset Community Action and West Dorset District Council. We realise that preparing a Parish Plan is only a beginning, and we look forward to making our recommendations happen, with the help of all these stakeholders.

***“..we believe that decisive and sustained action will be needed to retain the community..”***

# Progress of Parish Plans once adopted by the Community: Response from the West Dorset Partnership



For more details about the West Dorset Partnership contact Maria Clarke, West Dorset District Council: [m.clarke@westdorset-dc.gov.uk](mailto:m.clarke@westdorset-dc.gov.uk) or 01305 252305 or [www.dorsetforyou.com](http://www.dorsetforyou.com)

