



The Questionnaire Results, Analysis and Comments

The Questionnaire covered : -

- A. Your Household
- B. Community Facilities & Communications
- C. Shops & Businesses
- D. Safety in Your Community
- E. Leisure Activities
- F. Travel, Transport & Traffic
- G. Affordable Housing
- H. Environment
- I. Management & Maintenance
- J. Village Character & Planning Issues
- K. Young People (Their views)

(The Complete Statistical Results of the Questionnaire are also available on the Parish Website – click on the Parish Plan page - <http://www.ashurstandcolbury-pc.gov.uk>)

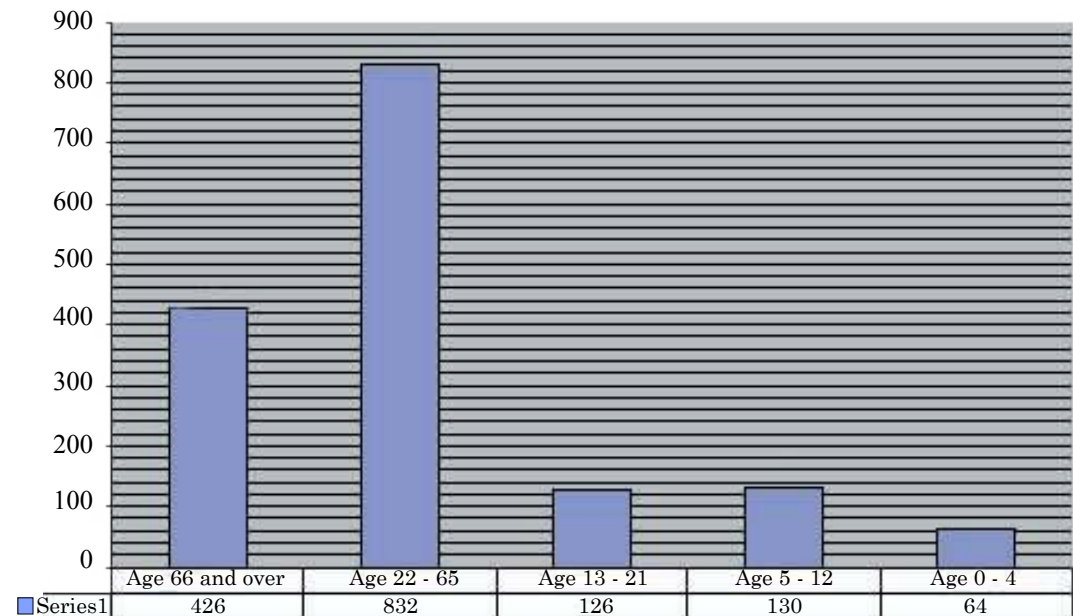
The Results are based on 77% returned questionnaires (approx. 1,600 villagers)

The following comments are the Key findings, drawn from the analysis of the Questionnaire (and links are included to the Action Plan).

A) Your Household. (Questions 1 – 3)

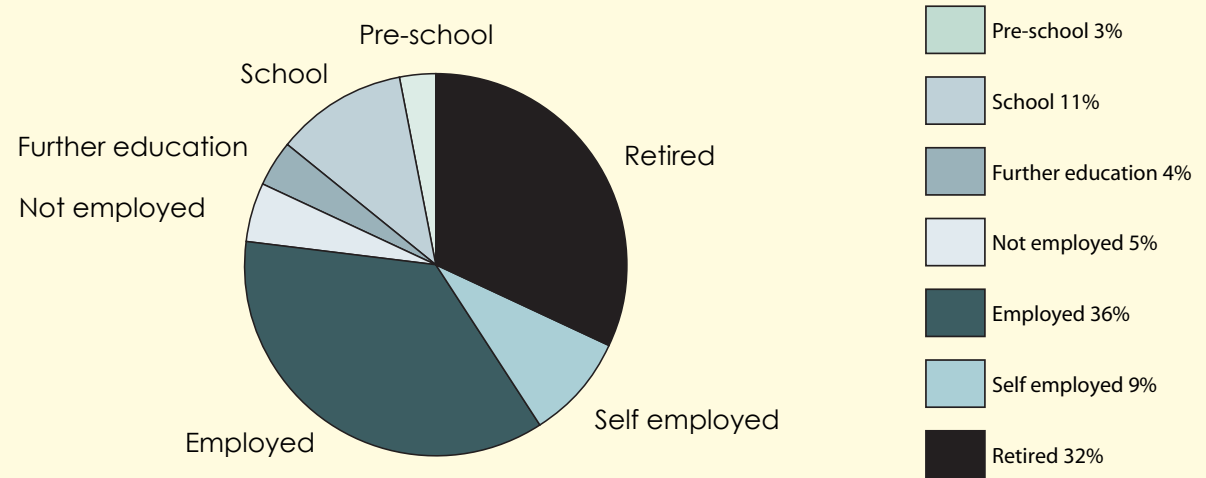
Q1. 1578 villagers answered this section. See chart.

Ages in the Household - A & C Questionnaire Q.1

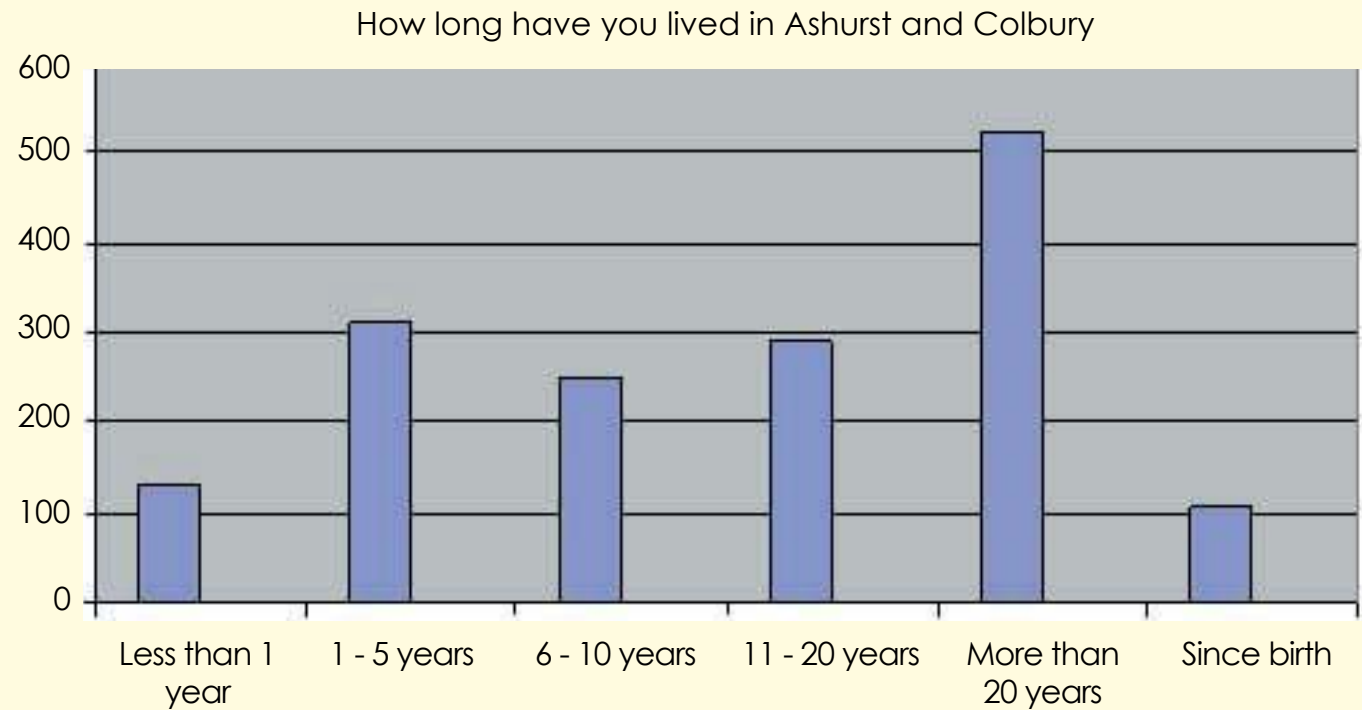




Q2. The principal daytime activity of villagers can be seen in the chart below.



Q3. This chart illustrates the length of time Parishioners have lived in the village



B) Community Facilities & Communications (Questions 4 – 11)

Results of the questionnaire sent out in support of this Plan show that the majority of residents are in the 22-65 age group at 53% suggesting an active population, however the village also has a sizeable retired group making up 27%.

Almost 60% of those who returned the questionnaire considered that Ashurst & Colbury had a good community spirit. Many local events are enthusiastically supported by the Community.
(also see section E)

There were many suggestions for additional features in the Parish Newsletter – these have been passed on to the Newsletter Committee.
(see Action Plan – number 1)

The idea of a welcome pack for new arrivals in the village was supported by 83% of respondents.
(see Action Plan – number 2)

Disabled provision

When asked about the provision for people with disabilities, many villagers expressed concerns. The following were mentioned most frequently

- Uneven and narrow pavements
- Too few dropped kerbs
- Bad lighting
- Difficult access to shops, pubs and recreation grounds
- Lack of safe road crossings, especially at the eastern end of the village
- No disabled parking bays

Many of these concerns of the villagers are also applicable to the many with young children in pushchairs or 'buggies'.
(see Action Plan – number 3)

A comment relating to the Parish Newsletter

"Focus on younger members of community"

"Medical services locally
would be useful for those who
don't drive"

C) Shops & Businesses (Questions 12-15)

Most people were satisfied with the range of shops and businesses, but the following would be particularly appreciated in the village -

Listed in order of preference :-

- Chemist
- Greengrocer
- Doctor's surgery
- Dentist
- Visiting Cinema
- Museum
- Butcher
- Baker

(see Action Plan – number 4)

Helping your community -
Please use the village shops
if you can.

Use it or lose it!

D) Safety in Your Community (Questions 16-22)

There is a low crime rate with the main offence being vandalism, particularly on Friday and Saturday evenings. (see Profile re: Safer Neighbourhoods policing.) The village is covered by two active Neighbourhood Watch groups. Despite this, in answer to a question on safety in the community, most people said they would like to see a greater police presence.

In response to the question about CCTV - 755 respondents requested CCTV in the village and 572 were against this.

- If you are the victim of vandalism or crime – be sure to report it to the Police and please get an Incident Number.
- Phone 101 to give information about an incident.
- 999 is the Emergency Number.
- 0845 045 45 45 is the Local Police contact number

E) Leisure Activities (Questions 23-26)

Although there are many well supported village clubs the response to the questionnaire revealed a wish for even more village activities, particularly for teenagers, young adults and pre-school children.

(see Action Plan – number 5, 6,12)

There was a strong feeling that more indoor and outdoor sports facilities were needed.

(see Action Plan – number 7a)

Other suggestions which featured frequently were community rooms in the village, a café, another youth club, a dance group – with different types of dance, a walking group, more equipment at the recreation ground – particularly for older children.

(see Action Plan – number 7b), 7c), 8, 9, 10, 11)

There was strong support for the village fete/fun day/children’s sports day held in recent years and a request for them to become regular events in the village calendar.

(also see section B)

Village Mobile Cinema (see Action Plan – number 13)

F) Travel, Transport and Traffic (Questions 27 – 37)

Almost all respondents are very concerned about the volume of traffic passing through the village and feel that speed limits are frequently exceeded.

(see Action Plan – number 14)

A large majority would like effective reduction of the speed limit from Colbury Memorial Hall through the village to the western boundary at the campsite.

(see Action Plan – number 15, 17)

A significant number of residents wish to see a reduction in the speed limit outside the schools and also through the side roads of the village

(see Action Plan – number 16, 18, 19)

“Zimmer frame racing”

“More after school activities for children”

“Is there a mother and toddler group within the village?”

“A youth football team”

“Flashing warning signs when vehicles exceed speed limit through our village”

“A crossing is desperately needed by Colbury (Memorial) Hall.”

" There is too much selfish parking in violation of the Highway code, on blind bends, close to junctions and even preventing emergency vehicles getting through"

"Create a route directly from Ashurst into the forest (linking with existing paths in the forest)."

"Vegetation obstructing cycle paths to be regularly trimmed".

Public transport is widely used and 62% of respondents are satisfied with the provision. Buses and trains are roughly equally used with trains generally used for social use and buses for shopping.

Many villagers requested lower fares on public transport. A majority felt a more frequent bus and train service would be beneficial. Almost a third would like a more reliable service. Improved access for disabled people was also a key issue. A significant number requested alternative routes on buses.

Most villagers felt concerned about the parking issues by the schools. Some people are concerned about parking on grass verges and pavements. (see Action Plan – number 20, 21, 22)

The majority of people are satisfied with the cycle routes in the village, but improvements were suggested in the questionnaire (see Action Plan – number 23)

DID YOU KNOW ?

- Over 60s can travel free on Hampshire buses
- NFDC subsidises 14-17 year olds travel on buses using a voucher system
- There is a 'wheels to work' scheme available for 16-25 yr olds which loans a scooter to those in need. Contact the scheme manager on 01425 482773
- Bus and train timetables are always available through the Post Office and the Parish website (<http://www.ashurstandcolbury-pc.gov.uk>)

G) Housing (Questions 38-41)

i. Affordable housing

779 (65% of respondents) do not wish to see further affordable housing in the village. Of the 35% who said they would wish to see it, 79% said they would want it to be spread around the parish and not grouped as an entity on its own. If affordable housing were to be provided then 89% believed it should be for local people only.

The majority of the village did not know anybody who would benefit from such affordable housing.

ii. Warden- assisted housing

86% of those questioned were in favour of warden assisted housing for the retired population in the village. (see Action Plan – number 24)

"It would be very difficult to get around in a wheelchair in our area"

The owner of land adjacent to a watercourse is known as a riparian owner and has rights and duties. In general he/she is expected to maintain the watercourse and to accept flow from an upstream neighbour, and pass it on to a downstream neighbour. He/she is not liable to improve a natural watercourse. The Parish Council understands all the ditches in the side roads and the A35 belong to the owners and therefore are their responsibilities, although the Parish Council may be able to advise and liaise with other assisting authorities.

DID YOU KNOW ? (Figures - June 2007)

- Within the community Ashurst and Colbury has 6 one bedroom flats which house temporary accommodation for single parents.
- There are 54 applicants on the 'Homesearch' (housing list) of which 34 are eligible with a local connection.
- There are 17 registered for one bedroom accommodation, 14 for two bedroom accommodation, and 3 for three bedroom accommodation.

H) Environment (Questions 42- 47)

Almost half of those who replied to the questionnaire feel there is a vandalism and litter issue in the bus shelters and around the recreation ground. (see Action Plan – number 25, 26)

Other problematic areas for litter include the top of Woodlands Road and along the A35. (see Action Plan – number 27)

The introduction of more litter bins was supported by 61%. (see Action Plan – number 28a))
In addition to the litter issue, 270 people felt fly tipping is a problem around the station. (see Action Plan – number 30)

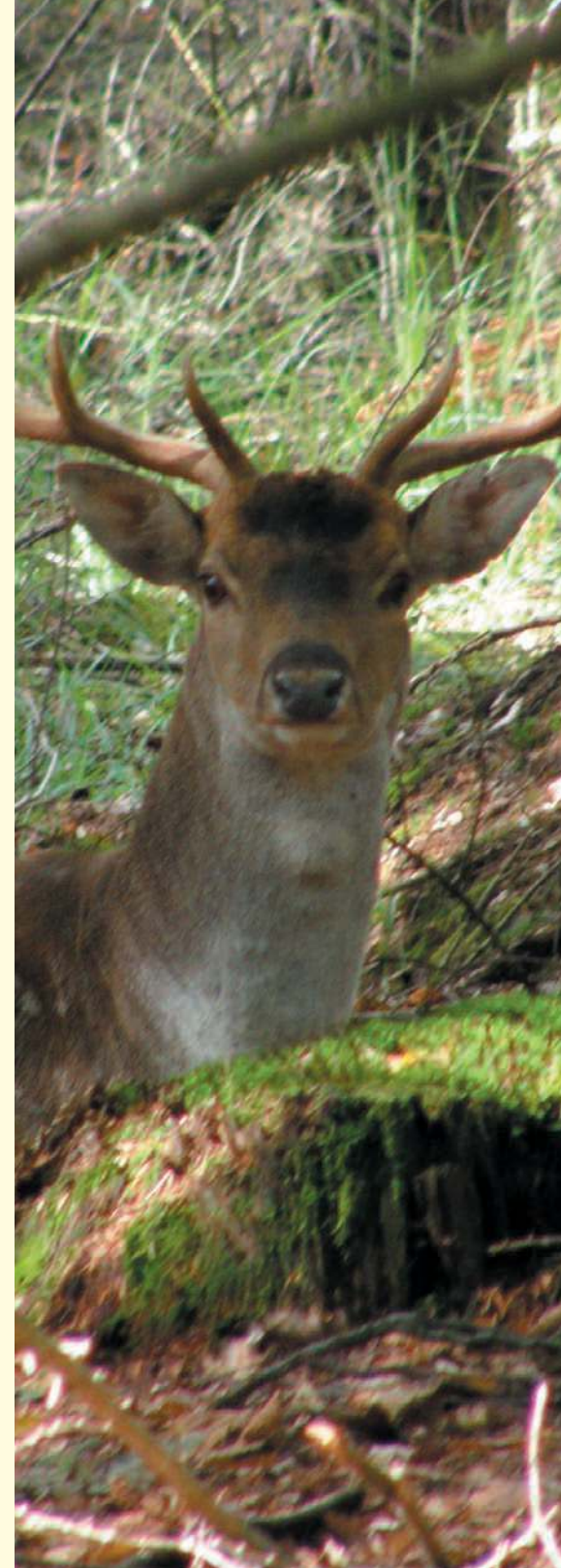
More dog bins would also be welcomed by 603 people. However, a further 447 would be against their introduction. Nearly 400 residents feel dog fouling is a problem on the grass verges. (see Action Plan – number 28b)

I) Maintenance (Questions 48-56)

367 people feel the condition of the surfaces prevents them from walking in the village. The majority of roads in Ashurst and Colbury have pavements with street lighting. 967 feel the street lighting is adequate.

"Upkeep of A35 pavements - extremely poor" (see Action Plan – number 29, 31a), 31b), 32)

Flooding can be an issue with the number of ditches and watercourses. 640 people are concerned there is a rat problem in the village with a significant 915 wanting a community pest control scheme. (see Action Plan – number 33)



J) Village Character & Planning Issues (Questions 57-61)

The questionnaire responses showed that villagers value their surroundings, in particular 960 residents agreed that the number of major oaks is the most important characteristic enhancing the village. (see Action Plan – number 34)

Fields and meadows also feature well along with green spaces and gardens and proximity to the Forest gives Ashurst its rural character. Footpath access to the Forest is only at the western end. Another footpath gives further access to countryside next to Foxhills. Despite these paths 778 residents would like to see more footpath access and the majority specifically identified ‘from the centre of the village to the Forest’ as the preferred route. Action (see Action Plan – number 35)

Over half the residents considered diversity of wildlife, field hedges and local woodland pockets to be important. (see Action Plan – number 36, 37)

Of the 1450 responses about the recreation ground: 32% would like to see future investment in the play area; 28% ball games; 34% Creation of wildlife habitat; and 30% landscape enhancement. (see Action Plan – number 40)

On building development, 453 residents felt extensions were a negative contribution to the village. (see Action Plan – number 38a),b), c), 39)

The results for this section did not provide sufficient data to gain an opinion – possibly due to the recently formed National Park planning department. 641 villagers are unaware local planning applications can be viewed in the Lymington Times and on the website. (see Action Plan – number 42)

Did you know?

Ashurst & Colbury Planning information can be found in the Lymington Times each week, and also on the New Forest National Park Authority website:

<http://www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/index/planning.htm>

*Also - A planning ‘surgery’ is held at the Cottage, Queen’s House, Lyndhurst
on Thursday mornings, 9.00 am – 1.00 pm.*

(Reference: <http://www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/>)

K) Young People's Questionnaire (Questions 62-73)

A separate questionnaire section was included for young people (18 years and under). 207 responses were received, of which 50% were aged 11 and below, and 50% aged 12-18 years.

The new village facilities most requested - from those listed were :-

- Sports / play facilities (55%)
- Café (open in evenings) (37%)
- General indoor meeting area (28%)
- Equipment for older children in the park (43%)
- Extra youth club (26%)

(see Action Plan – number 40, 41, and 7a), b), c), 8, 9, 10)

There was clear indication that extra clubs were wanted, but existing organised activities were well supported. When asked what they liked about living in Ashurst & Colbury, the main points were :-

- Rural position and proximity to the Forest
- Tranquillity
- Nice people
- Local shops
- Accessibility to Southampton

What they didn't like was :-

- Traffic (speed, danger, dangerous to cross the road)
- School parking
- Vandalism
- Lack of activities/ meeting place

Suggestions from young people. New facilities they would like :-

- A) "Speed cameras near to the Park & Whartons Lane"
- B) "Football team"
- C) "Outdoor seating area"

Helping your Community – suggestions from the questionnaire responses

Can you walk or cycle with children to school rather than driving?
(It would ease the vehicle congestion)

Please don't park on the verges – it makes a mess!

Use your driveway when parking at home – it helps your neighbours.