



Millbrook Village Plan

Contents

Introduction 3
 The Parish 3
 The Community 3
 The Consultation 4

Housing and Mains Services..... 5
 Housing 5
 Mains Services 6

Transport, Roads and Parking 7
 Transport and Roads 7
 Parking 7
 Public Transport 8

Countryside & Landscape 9

Parish Environment and Village Design 10

Tourism 12

Recreation & Leisure 13

Community Services..... 15
 Crime 15
 Health Services 15
 Further and Adult Education 15

Communication 17
 The Village Plan 17
 Millbrook residents..... 17

Acknowledgements 17

How to contact us: 17



Introduction



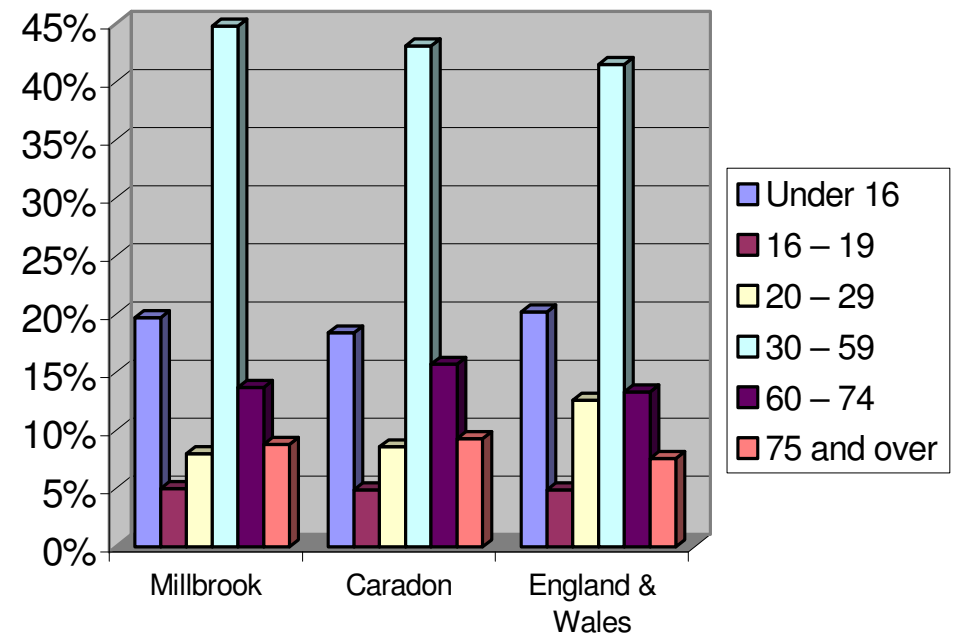
The Parish

Millbrook is the largest village in Cornwall, situated in the south east of the county and forming a significant part of the beautiful Rame Peninsula. It is a thriving community nestled between the dramatic coastline of Whitsand Bay, the picturesque villages of Kingsand/Cawsand and the rural parish of St John. The lake area forms the heart of the community as well as a focal point for visitors. Millbrook depends on good transport links to Plymouth for work, leisure and several essential services.

The Community

The population of Millbrook parish as at the 2001 census was 2033, of which 49% was male and 51% female. The general spread of population is similar to that throughout Caradon.

Population by Age Group



The Consultation

In September 2003 a public meeting was held at Millbrook School to gauge support amongst residents for completing a Parish Plan to collate their views and build a vision for the future of our village. During January 2004 volunteers and Parish Councillors formed a Steering Group and funding was obtained from Caradon District Council and the Countryside Agency to consult the whole community.

Over the first quarter of 2004, the group asked local organisations, the elderly and young people to suggest key issues of concern, which were used to develop a questionnaire to establish the concerns of the community. Approximately 30 volunteers helped with designing, delivering, collecting and collating the questionnaires, which were distributed to all of the 926 households in the Parish; each also incorporated a young person's questionnaire for 11 – 16-year-olds and a volunteer form.

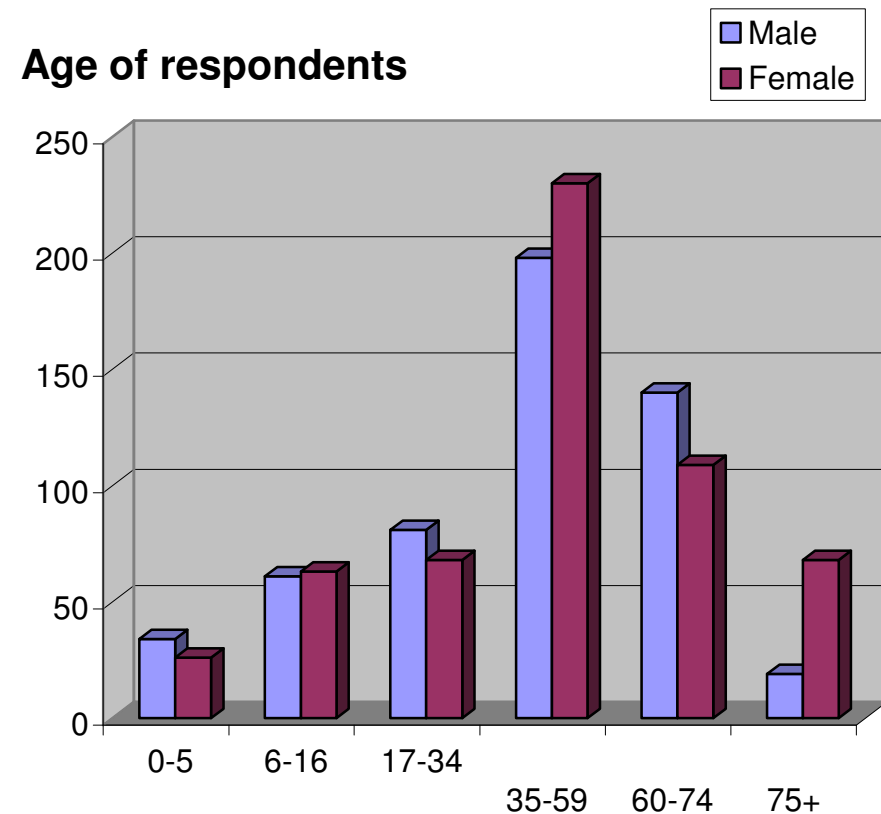
Over half of the households returned their completed questionnaires, an amazing response for a community of this size. The spread of responses accurately reflected the overall distribution of the population of Millbrook.

In the August rainy season a dedicated band of 'data input experts' entered all the replies and comments into a database using the excellent local Computer Centre.

Cornwall Rural Community Council assisted the Steering Group in identifying the top twenty issues, and co-ordinated a superb Action Fair in November 2004. We had a fun day with approximately 300 people attending to help decide the priority

concerns for both the Village Plan Steering Group and the Parish Council to address.

This document is the result of the consultation process and represents the democratic views of the residents of Millbrook as to the future of their village. It was adopted by the Parish Council in February 2005.



Housing and Mains Services

Housing

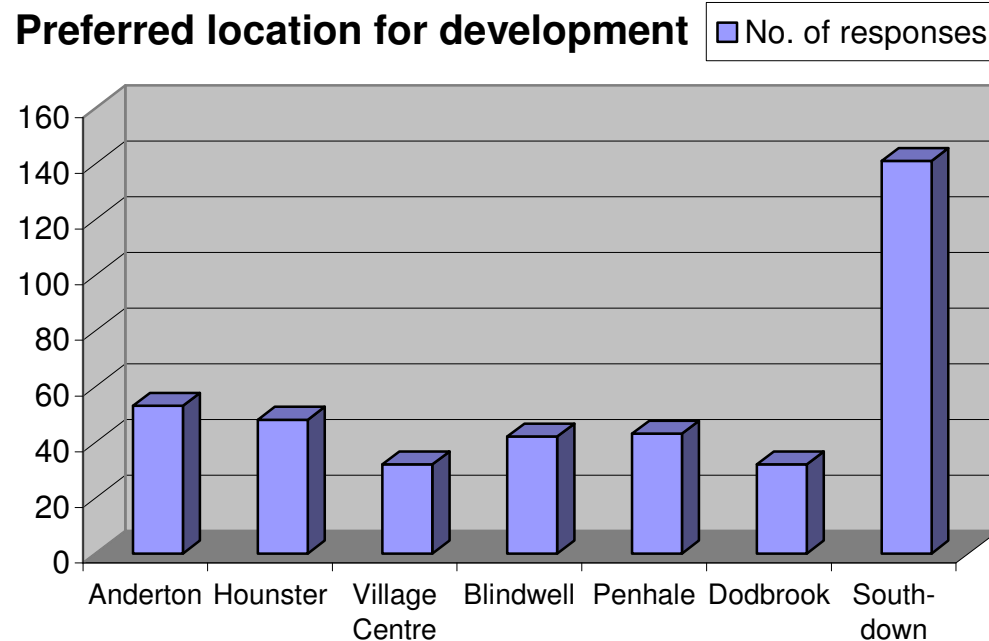
Housing is contentious, with over half of our respondents wanting no further development in the Parish. However, from the remaining replies the preference is for development to be focussed on affordable housing to rent or buy. The challenge for the Parish Council will be reflecting this position when considering planning applications that already have outline planning permission granted by Caradon District Council. In a wider context the residents are overwhelmingly determined to be included in Cornwall, as opposed to Plymouth or Devon, for the purpose of any planning decisions.

Questionnaire results:

- 174 people either need housing or know someone who wishes to return to the village.
- 42 (85%) of our young people expect to be living in Millbrook in 5 years time.
- Over 51% would prefer no more housing to be built.
- 39% of respondents would like to see affordable housing for sale and 32% wanted affordable social housing to rent.
- 463 (over 94%) of the residents believe Millbrook should be considered as part of Cornwall for all administrative purposes.

We tested these results at our Action Fair in November 2004 where the attendees voted as follows: **116 wanted more affordable housing but 79 supported the view 'No further development'**.

This result made it difficult to assess the priority for housing compared to other key concerns. Of those supporting development, most considered Southdown to be the best location.



Housing - Action plan for Millbrook Parish Council and Village Plan Steering Group:

Priority Rating	Vision	Action	Partners	Proposed date for action
20 (see note*)	Housing development in Millbrook to suit the needs of residents within limits of existing infrastructure.	Review key themes with Caradon Planning. Approach Devon and Cornwall Housing for their views.	Caradon District Council. Devon and Cornwall housing.	By June 2005
2	To ensure that Millbrook remains within the boundaries and control of Cornwall.	Parish Council to lobby at every appropriate opportunity. Consider publicising Millbrook's views as and when any proposals become clear?	Caradon District Council. Cornwall County Council. Market & Coastal Town Initiative	ongoing

** At our Action fair 185 people selected this as a priority; however, as 79 of them would prefer to see no further development, it was impossible to assess the exact priority rating. The Village Plan Steering Group feels this should be explored fully, as there is a stated need for affordable housing.*

Mains Services

Questionnaire results:

Currently, Millbrook has no mains gas and relies heavily on electricity, oil and propane for heating and/or cooking.

- 308 households would welcome a mains gas supply.



Mains Services - Action plan for Millbrook Parish Council and Village Plan Steering Group:

Priority Rating	Vision	Action	Partners	Proposed date for action
11	To enable every resident to access mains gas supply if required.	Parish Council to approach Transco and British Gas to explore possibility.	Transco/British Gas	By September 2005.

Transport, Roads and Parking

Transport and Roads

Like most rural communities, Millbrook is heavily dependent on the car, particularly as there is no public transport in the evening.

Questionnaire results:

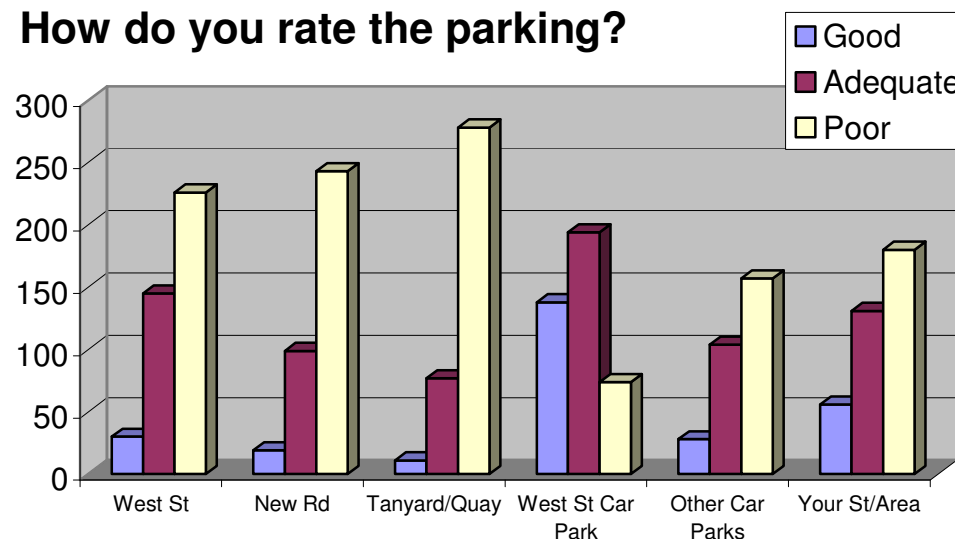
- Over 40% would like lower speed limits but 24% are against.
- Over a third of respondents would like warning signs, predominantly 'Wildlife crossing', 'Slow, Children' or 'Elderly people'.
- Whilst 50% did not express a wish for a crossing, many older residents wanted a crossing to the GPs' surgery and many parents wanted crossings on New Road towards the play area.
- 40% of households have someone who uses a cycle mainly for leisure.
- 39% of residents use their car daily to get to work. This is approximately two thirds of the working population of the village.

Traffic calming and parking were certainly two of our 'hot topics' with many people wanting to see reduced speeds, especially near play areas and the GPs' surgery.

Parking

Parking continues to be an issue for many residents who need their own transport for work and other essential trips. The proposed imposition of parking charges on people (including council tenants) who have to use West Street Car Park for their domestic parking has caused outrage in Millbrook. The lack of available on-street parking, as well as the ongoing problems of insufficient space for the unloading of HGVs serving local businesses, is of major concern. Many respondents would like to see restrictions on or even banning of HGVs; however, this would have a negative impact on the shops and businesses that provide essential local services and employment.

How do you rate the parking?



Public Transport

There is concern that current public transport provision is inadequate, particularly during evenings and weekends.

Questionnaire results:

- 70% of households have 1 car or van whilst 25% have 2 or more.
- Over 30% rely on car parks or on the highway for their domestic parking.
- Car parking facilities need improvement with 56% wanting improvements in the Tanyard & Quay, 46% in West St and 49% on New Rd.
- 54.79% of respondents would leave their car at home if public transport services were improved.
- Only 86 respondents use the Torpoint Ferry daily, while 37 use the Cremyll Ferry daily and just 26 use the First Bus every day.

Transport, Roads and Parking - Action plan for Millbrook Parish Council and Village Plan Steering Group:

Priority Rating	Vision	Action	Partners	Proposed date for action
3	Parish roads as safe as possible for all users.	Consider in conjunction with parking issues. Set up working group to review concerns and proposals. Consider holding a Village meeting before implementing major traffic calming.	Caradon District Council. County Highways. Devon and Cornwall Constabulary.	By June 2005
6	To ensure adequate parking to allow access to facilities within the parish, whilst alleviating parking problems in residential areas.	Review current available parking including designated car parks and on road. Seek advice from Devon and Cornwall Constabulary on disposal of abandoned cars and safety issues. Consider holding a Village meeting before implementing major parking changes.	Caradon District Council. County Highways. Devon and Cornwall Constabulary. Market & Coastal Town Initiative	By June 2005
13	An improved transport service and appropriate information to be available for all parish residents.	Seek advice from Rural Transport Officer on current services and scope for improvements. Advise local service providers of survey results and concerns. Publicise Community Bus timetable on every Parish notice board.	East Cornwall Rural Transport. Public transport providers. Cornwall County Council. Market & Coastal Town Initiative.	By September 2005

Countryside & Landscape

Only one of our questions fits within this Caradon Planning heading but nevertheless it was voted as the eighth highest priority at our Village Plan Action fair.

Questionnaire results:

- 392 respondents would like to see the Tidal Creek area protected.



Countryside & Landscape - Action plan for Millbrook Parish Council and Village Plan Steering Group:

Priority Rating	Vision	Action	Partners	Proposed date for action
8	The tidal creek, below the dam, to be environmentally protected.	Liaise with partners to seek advice and funding in order to undertake an environmental project at the tidal creek area. Consider in conjunction with improvements to the Millbrook Lake area.	Caradon District Council. Environment Agency. Boat owners and local businesses. Market and Coastal towns Initiative.	By September 2005

Parish Environment and Village Design

The Parish and Village design are of the highest importance to our residents as shown with the 'Improvement of the lake area' being the most important priority for those who attended our Action Fair.

Questionnaire results:

- 394 respondents would like to see the lake area improved.
- 371 are against allowing the lake to become tidal.
- 388 people think all ancient walls in the parish should be repaired in the traditional manner.
- 60% of respondents would like more litterbins especially around lake.
- 54% would like more dog waste bins.
- Over 75% would like to see the cemetery protected from damage by deer and cattle.
- 86% of respondents would like the public toilets upgraded.

Suggested improvements to the lake area:	Number in favour	% of total respondents
Improved footpaths	282	57.43%
Picnic tables	199	40.53%
Wildlife Information boards	273	55.60%
Improvement of the island	281	57.23%
More trees and shrubs	159	32.38%
Improved cycle path	144	29.33%
Barbecue sites	62	12.63%
Reed beds for wildlife	315	64.15%
More roosting and nesting sites	311	63.34%
A bigger variety of trees and shrubs	171	34.83%



Parish Environment and Village Design - Action plan for Millbrook Parish Council and Village Plan Steering Group:

Priority Rating	Vision	Action	Partners	Proposed date for action
1	A well presented lake area for use by the community, encompassing improvements and a clean up.	Consider environmental issues connected with the lake and resident wildlife. Organise volunteer clean up. Consider improvements to paths and seating. Link with protection of tidal creek, wildlife and heritage trails.	Plymouth University. Cornwall Wildlife Trust. British Trust for Conservation Volunteers. Environment Agency. Caradon District Council. Cornwall County Council.	By June 2005
7	Clean and tidy public areas	Working group to review all areas and set up a community tidy scheme. Consider placement of additional litter and dog waste bins according to needs and funding availability.	Local businesses to sponsor litter bins? Caradon District Council. Cornwall County Council. Market & Coastal Town Initiative	By September 2005
9	Residents to have access to a wide range of local produce.	Liaise with shop owners to share Village Plan findings and product requests. Consider local business' views on a monthly farmers market based in the Tanyard. Set up working group to plan and design farmers market ensuring local businesses are not at risk.	Local businesses. Objective 1 – Southeast Cornwall Regeneration Project. Market & Coastal Town Initiative. Surrounding Parishes.	By September 2005.
10	Adequate local recycling facilities appropriately publicised and well used by residents.	Review current recycling and the impact of the loss of the car park bottle banks. Ensure we have sufficient facilities for residents, businesses and transient visitors. Explore the viability and availability of recycling for electrical goods, heavy items, garden and household waste.	Caradon District Council. Market & Coastal Town Initiative	By December 2005.
14	To provide adequate public toilet facilities all year round.	Work with Caradon District Council to ensure public toilets are cleaned, maintained and upgraded to an appropriate level. Consider improvements to meet Disability Discrimination Act. Review signage to facility.	Caradon District Council. Market & Coastal Town Initiative	By December 2005.

Tourism

Although Millbrook is not known as a centre for tourism its location on the Rame Peninsula means that it provides a wide range of local facilities to supply all visitor needs.

The lake area attracts birdwatchers, walkers, and cyclists who could all benefit from a local guide to wildlife, local history and amenities.

Development of heritage and wildlife trails could form an exciting community activity bringing local schools, volunteers and experts together to publicise the history and culture of our village.

Questionnaire results:

- Over 75% of respondents think we should conserve and/or restore historic sites e.g. Lime Kiln and Tanyard.
- 365 respondents would like to see information boards at these sites.
- Over 53% would like to see a 'Heritage Trail' signposted through the village.
- 61% would like to see a wildlife trail.

Tourism - Action plan for Millbrook Parish Council and Village Plan Steering Group:

Priority Rating	Vision	Action	Partners	Proposed date for action
18	Promote Millbrook's historical and cultural identity through information points/notice boards, heritage/wildlife trails, preservation and conservation measures.	Work with local volunteers to identify local buildings/sites of historical and cultural interest. Consider conservation status for key sites e.g. Lime Kiln, Tanyard. Prepare fact sheets to promote local history and consider heritage/wildlife trail. Work with local schools to develop trails.	Caradon District Council. Cornwall County Council. Objective 1 – (IAP team) Local schools. Local residents and historians. RSPB	By December 2005

Recreation & Leisure

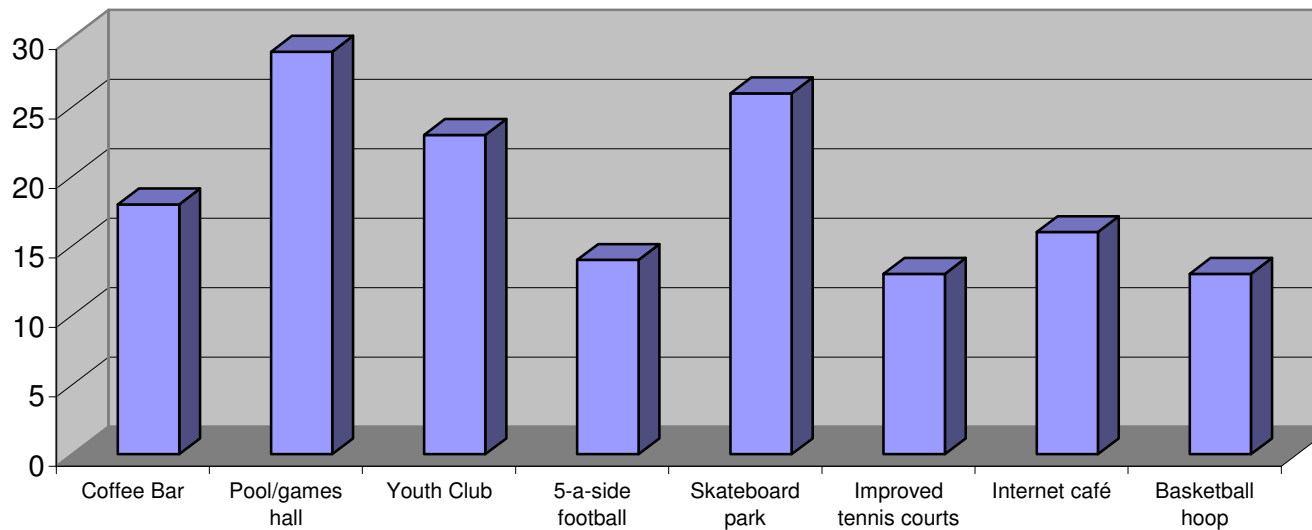
Many of our recreational activities take place in the Village Hall, the Computer Centre and various halls in the Parish although the survey findings would suggest that they are not publicised enough.

The greatest area of concern is around facilities available for our young people in the village. These facilities are seen as an essential alternative to costly trips to Plymouth or a car drive to Liskeard.

Our current 'skateboard park' (right) gives an indication of how much work is needed in this area.



Desired facilities for 11-16 year olds



Questionnaire results:

- 125 people attended activities not listed in the questionnaire.
- 119 would like to see more activities ironically many of which are already available.
- 48 out of the 49 replies from 11-16 year olds would like more to do in the evening and at weekends.



Recreation and Leisure - Action plan for Millbrook Parish Council and Village Plan Steering Group:

Priority Rating	Vision	Action	Partners	Proposed date for action
4	A youth centre with appropriate facilities to cater for the young people of the Parish.	Check feasibility of a youth centre, likely funding, attendance, format, ages and volunteers prepared to set up and run. Explore the idea of Summer/school holiday activities, projects and clubs utilising existing premises. Approach Market and Coastal Town Initiative for shared facilities e.g. A young people's fun bus.	Caradon District Council. Cornwall County Council. Local schools. Market & Coastal Town Initiative Princes Trust.	By June 2005
16	Skateboard facilities to meet the needs of the Parish.	Review existing site and equipment with users. Investigate costs of new equipment with 'Sk8' suppliers.	Caradon District Council. Cornwall County Council. Local schools. Market & Coastal Town Initiative	By September 2005

Community Services

Crime

Millbrook has a low crime rate but there is a strong desire to have a greater Police presence in the village; this may be due to the mistaken perception that incidences of crime are similar to general UK crime figures.

Questionnaire results:

- 360 respondents would like to see a greater police presence in the community.

Health Services

Although Millbrook has a local General Practitioners' surgery and an excellent pharmacy, many of our local people would like to see improvements in access to health care. There is no dental care available in the village, and NHS dental practices are not accessible without a trip to either Plymouth or Liskeard. The nearest minor injuries unit is also in Plymouth. With more than 22% of our residents aged over 60 and with inadequate local public transport, access to health care is a major concern.

Questionnaire results:

- Over 26% have difficulty in accessing a dentist and nearly 20% have problems accessing the nearest hospital.
- 48% would use volunteer transport to visit the hospital if available.

Further and Adult Education

Millbrook Computer Centre provides an excellent local learning facility providing internet access and good quality IT courses. However many people would like to see a wider range of both adult education and leisure courses in the village.

Questionnaire results:

- 188 people would like to see short courses on how to use computer software at the Millbrook Computer Centre.
- 211 respondents would like to see more adult education.



Community Services - Action plan for Millbrook Parish Council and Village Plan Steering Group:

Priority Rating	Vision	Action	Partners	Proposed date for action
5	To provide a safe and relatively crime free environment for the residents of the parishes.	Explore the opportunity of Community Safety Officers either in Millbrook or shared with neighbouring parishes. Publicise Crime figures and Local Constable contact details on all Parish notice boards. Consider approaching Devon and Cornwall Police to advise on crime prevention and Neighbourhood Watch.	Devon & Cornwall Constabulary. Caradon District Council. Market & Coastal Town Initiative	By June 2005
12	Improved access for all to a range of health facilities, particularly hospital and dental services.	Work with partners to investigate health facilities and options locally. Research the options and feasibility of mobile services. Investigate and publicise transport options e.g. Transport Access Patients, voluntary car scheme.	East Cornwall Primary Care Trust. Dental & GP surgeries. Caradon District Council. Market & Coastal Town Initiative	By September 2005
15	To ensure residents have access to a range of adult education courses locally.	Investigate the possibilities of providing more local learning facilities. Explore training/learning needs both qualification-based and leisure. Work with local schools, village hall and computer centre to provide facilities.	Cornwall County Council Saltash College Millbrook school Market & Coastal Town Initiative	By December 2005
16	Stronger links between the school and community. Greater use of school facilities to improve services to both children and the wider community.	Liaise with school to investigate the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After school and holiday clubs. • Adult education on the premises. • Joint projects between the school and the parish. 	Cornwall County Council Saltash College Millbrook school Market & Coastal Town Initiative	By December 2005
19	A thriving computer centre utilised by local residents.	Work with Computer Centre and Saltash College to expand variety of courses on offer e.g. Digital camera, email, Microsoft publisher.	Millbrook Computer Centre Saltash College	By December 2005

Communication

The Village Plan

We will send copies of the full plan to all neighbouring parishes, the Torpoint Market & Coastal Towns Initiative, Caradon District Council, Cornwall County Council and the South West Regional Development Agency.

The Parish Council and the Village Plan Steering Committee will agree which other key stakeholders, government agencies and other organisations should receive a full copy of the plan and supporting information.

Millbrook residents

Every household will receive a leaflet outlining the 'Top twenty' issues for the village and details of how to join the volunteer group.

In addition the Parish Council will provide 'Volunteer updates' on the Parish Notice boards and details of our progress on the action plan in their bi-annual newsletter.



Acknowledgements

Thanks are extended to all those who have given their time and effort to help with the Millbrook Village Plan, both as volunteers and as participants in the consultation process. Without the volunteers, this project could not have happened; without the community response, this document could not have been developed.

Thanks also to:



for their support with funding and advice.

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