

SUMMARY QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS ITEMS 1.2.3.9

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KEY FINDINGS

- **Traffic speeds** and **pedestrian safety** are critical concerns.
- **Maintenance of Post Office** is very important across all age groups.
- **Youth facilities** must be a top priority – no age group is satisfied with current provision.
- Strong support for **further limited residential development**, especially where the parish receives **planning gain**.
- Lower level of support for further **commercial development**.
- Parish policy of **protecting open spaces** overwhelmingly supported.
- **Environmental issues** are a high priority for two-thirds of respondents.
- There is dissatisfaction with **healthcare facilities**, with the lack of a **local chemist** seen as the major issue.
- **Bus services** are not considered satisfactory.
- Biddenden is thought to be a **safe place to live**, though security of property is questioned.

METHODOLOGY

During the period 28th June – 16th July, c.1,500 questionnaires were distributed to each household in the parish (2001 Census – 1,008 households), and were also hand-collected. 978 responses were received (65% response rate).

Questions were asked on the following topics:

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|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Residential development | Public transport |
| Commercial development | Sport and leisure |
| Open spaces | Neighbourhood security |
| Traffic management | Youth |
| Post Office | Environment |
| Shops and businesses | Healthcare |
| Pedestrian safety | |

Respondents were asked whether they were satisfied with current arrangements, and were given a list of options for improvement. For most topics, they were also asked to rank the priority – high, medium or low. Measured by largest percentage of high priority responses, the most important issues are Post Office (81%), Open spaces (79%), Traffic Speeds (74%) and Environment (67%).

Questions attracting the most responses were:

				TOTAL
Are you concerned about traffic speeds in the parish?	YES 838	NO 103		941
How important are the open spaces in the centre of Biddenden?	VERY 728	QUITE 156	NOT 36	920
Are you in favour of further residential development within the parish?	YES 592	NO 320		912
Are you happy with the current level of pedestrian safety in Biddenden?	YES 282	NO 624		906
Is Biddenden a safe place to live?	YES 656	NO 245		901

The question attracting the largest majority of responses was:

Do you agree that Biddenden will need a post office after the temporary building closes in 2006?	YES 848 (96%)	NO 39 (4%)	TOTAL 887
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Breakdown of responses as follows:

AGE GROUP	NO. OF RESPONSES	PERCENTAGE
Under 11	9	1
11-18	56	6
19-25	36	4
26-40	170	17
41-60	358	36
Over 60	319	33
Not disclosed	30	3
TOTAL	978	

According to the 2001 Census, the age ranges of the population of Biddenden are as follows:

AGE GROUP	PERCENTAGE	NUMBER
U16	19.6	476
16-19	3.0	73
20-29	6.9	168
30-59	43.1	1,048
60-74	18.2	443
Over 75	9.3	226
TOTAL		2,434
Average age		42.8

SUMMARY RESULTS

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT		
Total votes cast	941	
High Priority	74%	
Total concerned	838 (89%)	
Improvements (top 3 only)	Flashing speed signs	576
	Pedestrian crossings	352
	Extension of 30mph limit	319

OPEN SPACES		
Total votes cast	920	
High Priority	79%	
In favour of more parish council land	713 (84%)	

RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT		
Total votes cast	912	
High Priority	47%	
Total in favour	592 (65%)	
Type of development (top 3 only)	Starter	397
	Sheltered	292
	Mid-sized	246
Location	Village Infill	389
	Outskirts of village	281
	Outskirts of parish	70
Volume	21-50	311
	<20	153
	51-100	146
More likely to support if parish gains	655 (75%)	

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY		
Total votes cast	906	
High Priority	57%	
Total concerned	624 (69%)	
Improvements (top 3 only)	Pedestrian crossings	430
	Pavement from Woolpack Corner	354
	Renewal of south pavement in High Street	247

SPORT & LEISURE		
Total votes cast	805	
High Priority	25%	
Total concerned	348 (43%)	
Improvements (top 3 only)	Cycle paths	199
	Upgrade of footpaths	172
	Community centre	146

COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT		
Total votes cast	750	
High Priority	36%	
Total in favour	441 (59%)	
Type of development (top 3 only)	Small business centre	237
	Leisure-related	234
	Light Industry	185

PUBLIC TRANSPORT		
Total votes cast	677	
High Priority	34%	
Total concerned	403 (60%)	
Improvements (top 3 only)	Frequency	259
	Weekend services	220
	New routes	179

YOUTH FACILITIES		
Total votes cast	673	
High Priority	42%	
Total concerned	468 (70%)	
Improvements (top 3 only)	Transport to sports centres	322
	Youth centre/club	314
	Supervised activities	239