



Chelveston-cum-Caldecott
Parish Council

Village Appraisal

Results Summary

2010

Village Appraisal Supported by



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2010 Appraisal Results Summary

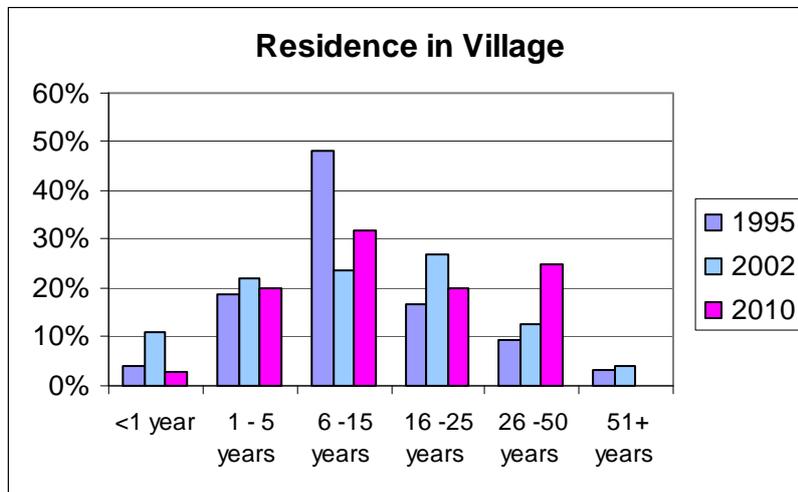
1. Introduction

The appraisal was distributed during January 2010 to 162 homes in the village. Six properties were empty at the time and responses were received from 101 of the other households. This represents 62% of the village and is therefore a fair representation of the views of the village. This turnout is slightly lower than the 74% turnout in 2002 but still represents a majority of the village, allowing us to draw important conclusions.

The complete results are available in their raw form on the Parish Council web site to allow the village residents to draw their own conclusions but a summary is presented below. Comments and questions are of course welcomed.

2. Summary of Results

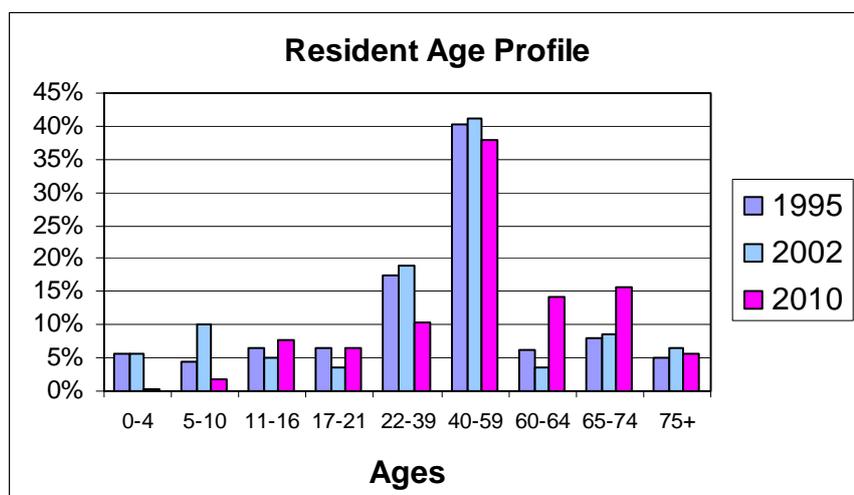
2.1 Profile of Village Residents



There has been a notable shift in the residence profile since the last appraisal. Only 25% of households have changed hands since the last appraisal, which is a marked drop in families leaving the village. 45% of the village has now been resident in the Village for 16 years or more, with 25% having been resident for 26 years or more. 70% of households have no plans

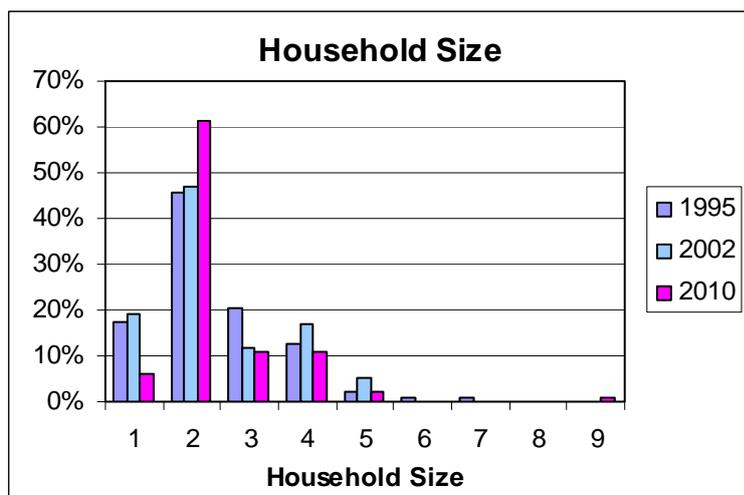
to move from the village within the next 5 years and so we can expect the residence profile to move even further towards the 26-50 year mark.

The age profile of the village has shifted markedly since 2002 with a significant drop in children under ten years (numbers have halved) and there has been a significant increase in residents aged 60+. Nearly 40% of residents are in this age group and the majority of these have no intention of moving at all. In



previous appraisals this shift was forecast and we began to consider the implications of an ageing population who wish stay in the Village. This continuing trend will have a significant impact on the amenities required by the village to meet the needs of a

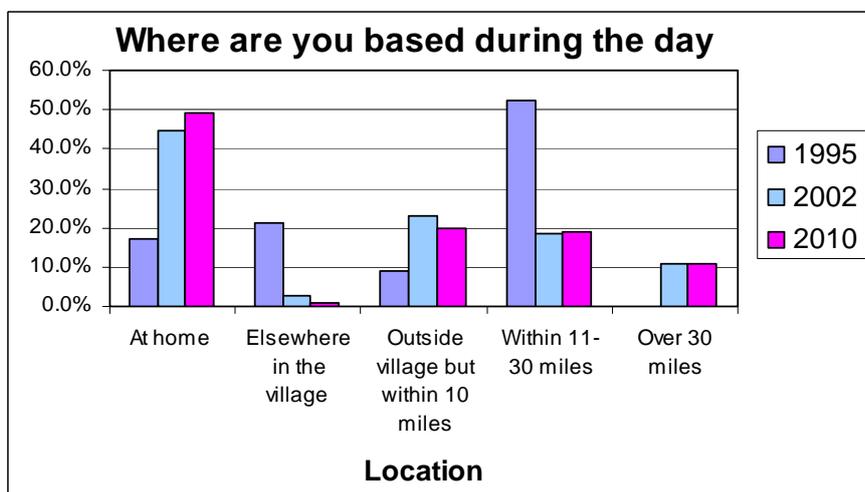
population with more leisure time. We have already increased the numbers of footpaths around the village and have developed the allotments gardens for leisure use. However, more is likely to be needed in coming years.



There has been another consequence to the changing age profile in the Village. Over 60% of the Village are now 2-person households and the majority of these have already had their families. Given that most of these 2-person households don't wish to move, it is clear that the "family" housing stock in the Village is unlikely to be available to families for many years.

However, there is an additional complication. Although there has been a decrease in the number of young children resident in the Village, more grandchildren are appearing and spending time with grandparents in the Village. Many households, now even including those without children, are requesting improved play facilities.

We have always resisted such investments in the past as the costs are too high for the numbers of children involved. However, with Chelston Rise (the new name for the RAF Chelveston housing annexe) shortly due to be re-occupied, it may be time for the play facilities there to be adopted by the Council for use by the whole Village. Clearly there are then issues of safe access to the site from Chelveston and Caldecott, but these need to be tackled anyway.



There has been a big shift since 1995 in where residents are based during the day. 50% of residents are now home based – either retired or working from home. This reflects the previously noted age profile shift and a change in working patterns. It further emphasises the need

for Village based amenities such as walking routes and cycling paths.

2.2 Transport and Highways Issues

Vehicle usage

It is clear from the results that Chelveston and Caldecott are not commuter villages in spite of the easy access to Bedford and Wellingborough stations. This is likely to change as Chelston Rise comes on stream. These private rental houses are being marketed in

the south of England as affordable family housing in a country setting with good access to the city via train.

With the absence of frequent public transport in the Village, there is still a heavy reliance on personal transport. Only **one** household (a single person household) reported that they had no vehicle.

Virtually all houses with more than one occupant have more than one car and this is a problem where insufficient off road parking is available. This is becoming a particular problem in Hillside in particular which was never designed for on road parking.

Traffic Danger Spots and Traffic Calming

67% of households still believe that there are major danger spots on the roads of the Village, the same percentage as 2002. Residents were very specific on the problem areas.

48% of households were concerned about the centre of Chelveston. The bends by the Pub and the B645/B663/Water Lane junctions by Pokas Cottages/The Green were all reported as significant danger spots. The speed of traffic and the increase in parked cars have made these junctions particularly difficult to navigate safely. Northamptonshire County Council has registered a number of accidents in this area and is consulting the Parish Council on possible traffic and parking restrictions.

Speeding on the Raunds Road is also reported as a continuing problem and it is clear that the white roadside “gates” recommended by Northamptonshire Highways as a speed deterrent after the last Village Appraisal have had no impact. Similarly the 7.5 tonne weight limit introduced has only had a small impact on reducing HGV traffic.

56% of households would like to see further traffic speed restrictions introduced in the village. Raunds Road was considered a very high priority (23%) and 15% of households are looking for speed restrictions and potentially a 20mph zone on Water Lane – extended over the ford to the Village entrance. 12% of households are also looking for further restrictions on the B645 through the Village, preferably properly enforced by the police.

In 1995, HGV traffic was perceived as a problem by 55% of residents. In 2002 this was down to 37% of residents and we hoped for an improvement with the completion of the Rushden/Higham by pass and the addition of the 7.5 tonne weight limit on the Raunds Road. We hoped that this would change in the Bedford to Raunds route forcing traffic to use the A45/A6 rather than B663/B645/Caldecott route. Unfortunately, 41% of residents are still concerned about HGV traffic – much frustratingly still using the Raunds Road.

Street Lighting

In 1995 55% of residents wanted more street lighting installed and only 26% did not. A major installation programme was therefore undertaken and we now have 44 lamps, one for every four houses. The Parish Council is responsible for the maintenance and running costs of these lamps.

In 2010, 46% of residents no longer feel that additional lighting is needed, a big increase in satisfaction. None the less, 24% of households had suggestions of where additional lighting would be useful. The ford end of Water Lane, the Raunds Road and Higham Road were all suggested as well as by the Hillside garages. However, only 21% of residents were prepared to spend money on additional street lighting so these requests will need to be considered very carefully in view of the additional running costs.

2.3 Views on Amenities and Services

Community Shop

As in previous years, support for a community shop is very strong with 99% of residents saying that they would use it often or occasionally. However, the location of such a shop would be important to ensure that it attracted passing trade as would the opening ours which would need to suit the modern “convenience” lifestyle. Locations recently suggested are within any future development of the JST Forklifts site or as part of the pub.

Police Coverage

29% of residents think that Police coverage in the village is “reasonable” and none thought it was “good”. 52% of residents thought that coverage was “poor” which although disappointing is an improvement on the 62% figure from 2002. We will be raising this figure with Northamptonshire Police, especially given the recent increase in crimes reported in the Village.

Verge Maintenance

In spite of last year’s problems with the grass cutting contract in the Village 89% of residents rated verge maintenance as “good” or “reasonable”. Only 8% of residents rated it as “poor”. This is a significant improvement over previous years and reflects the attention given to the service after the last appraisal.

Refuse Collection and Litter Bins

In 2010 95% of residents were happy with the refuse collection service as currently delivered. This figure has been consistently high since the first appraisal and reflects well on the waste management service at East Northamptonshire Council.

78% of residents were happy with the provision of litter bins and 66% with the provision of dog bins. There were no suggestions as to where additional bins could be sited but the Parish Council will continue to monitor litter levels.

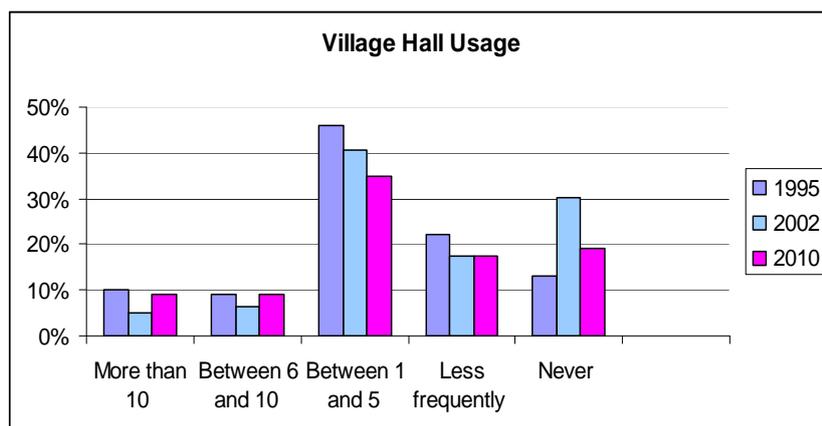
Public Footpaths

Footpath provision in the village was considered important with 68% of residents using the public footpaths at least monthly, a big increase on the 2002 result. 74% of residents know where the paths in the Village are but newcomers in particular would welcome a leaflet which shows their location. 47% of respondents want more money spent on footpath or pavement provision. This is a slight increase on the 2002 result. New paths to Higham and Raunds were requested again together with completion of two village “circular” walks. One of these would be via the Bidwell turn on the B645 and the other connecting the village hall with the ford end of Water Lane.

The Church

Only 44% of the village now attend a place of worship on a regular or occasional basis although not necessarily the village church. This is a slight increase on 2002 and may reflect the changing age profile of the Village. However, the majority of residents consider that the village church is important as a historic monument or community facility. This is good news for the new Friends of St John the Baptist charity, setup to help preserve and maintain the building for use by all.

The Village Hall



There has been a shift in the usage of the village hall since 2002. 20% of residents now use the Village Hall six or more times a year. This is an increase from the low point of 11% in 2002.

The number of residents who never use the Village Hall has fallen from 30% in 2002 to 21% in 2010. This

change reflects the increased attendance at the Parish Assemblies and an increased number of charity events – McMillan Coffee morning for example.

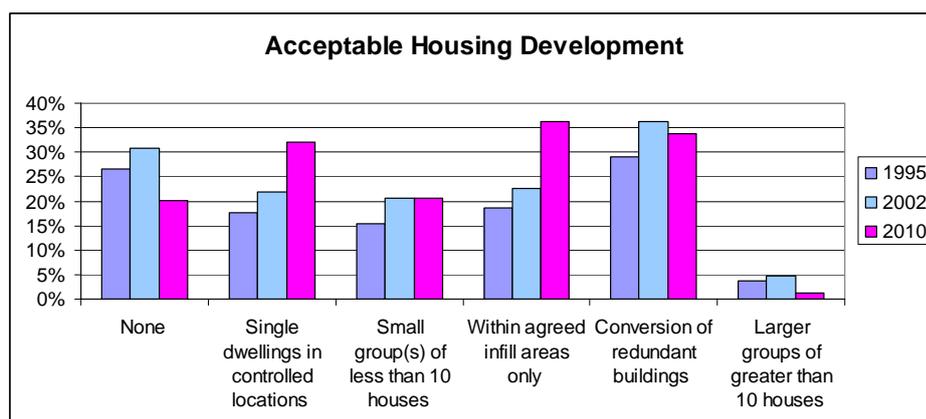
76% of residents believe that the Village Hall is adequate for the needs of the Village but there were requests for improved parking, toilets and kitchen facilities.

This is certainly an issue that needs to be debated as the maintenance costs for the existing Village Hall are now increasing significantly and the Village Hall is making a loss.

The Pub

The pub has increasingly become a focal point for Village life and this is reflected in the survey results. Only 19% of respondents said that they “never” use the pub against 31% in 2002 and 34% in 2005. The shift seems to be in the number of residents who “occasionally” use the pub – often for meals. Given that the pub is one of the few Village amenities (along with the Village Hall, allotments and Church), its long term survival is important for the community. From the Parish Council perspective, the pub community provides a valuable source of information, resident wishes and opinion.

2.4 Housing and the Environment



68% of the village now believe that the number of houses built in the last 10 years is “about right” and only 3% “too much”. Only a small percentage (8%) believes that too little housing has been built.

Strong views were expressed about the level of development that would be acceptable in the village. 20% of residents want no development at all in the village – i.e. no new housing at all. A much larger proportion want no large scale expansion to the Village but would be prepared to see smaller scale “in fill” and conversion developments.

40% of households made suggestions of which areas in the Village could be used for in-fill or conversion. 15% of households suggested that the fields on the Raunds Road

adjacent to Sawyers Crescent could be sensibly developed to fill the gap in housing up to Meadowcroft. 8% of households were prepared to see some development of Duchy Field (at the top of Duchy Close). 6% of households suggested that the JST site would be good for development. Only the JST site is currently defined on the long term Village plan as a suitable development site.

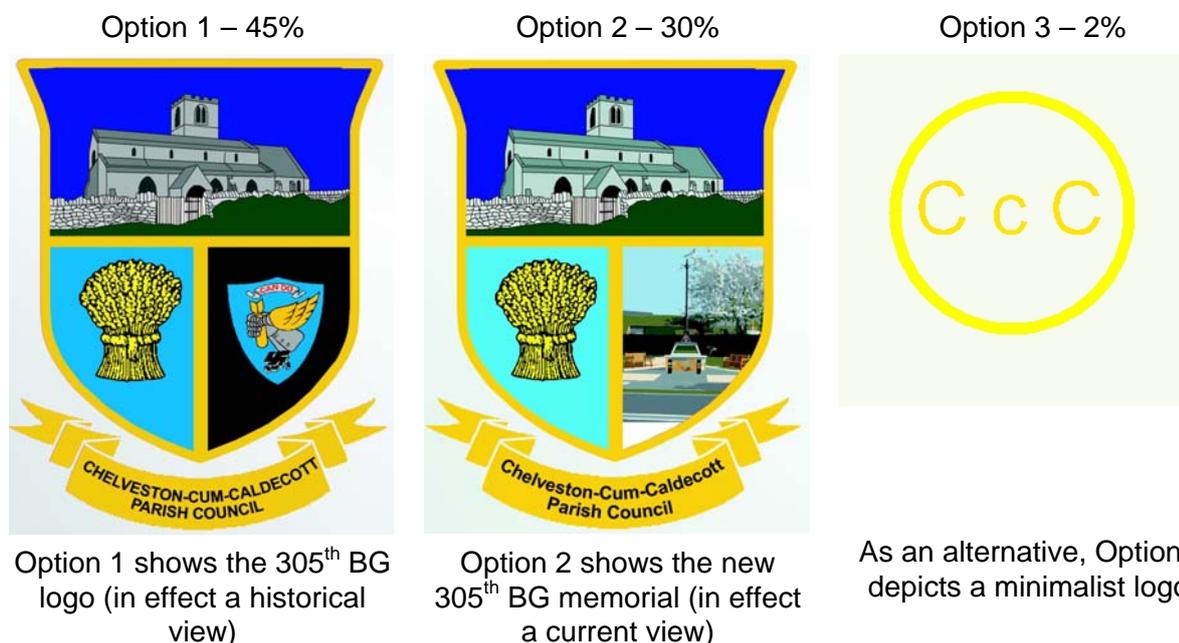
2.5 Publicity and Village Information

84% of the residents are now satisfied with the level of village information against 83% in 2002 and 65% in 1995. Only 4% of residents are still unhappy with the level of information available but almost all of these dissatisfied residents never look at the two Village notice boards and most of them rarely read the Parish Council Newsletter delivered directly to their houses. The Parish Council Newsletter is now very well received in the Village with only 5% of residents never reading it. Most of these non-readers are teenagers.

26% of the residents still believe that planning applications should have more publicity in the village to allow informed debate. This is down from 42% in 2002 after a concerted effort by the Parish Council to ensure that applications are widely publicised on the notice boards, web site and in face to face discussions with those affected. Planning applications are also publicised by East Northamptonshire Council by notices posted at the site and by an announcement in the Nene Valley News.

2.6 Village Logo

The Village was divided on the choice of logo to be used in Village communications.



Three residents produced their own designs including one with an excellent new unpublished line drawing of the church.

2.7 Parish Council Expenditure

35% of residents would be prepared to pay a slightly higher level of Council tax to fund additional expenditure in the village. This is a decrease from 45% in 2002. This is not

surprising as the Parish Council did use the 2002 appraisal result to support increases in the precept to pay for the additional Village expenditure requested by residents. Our £9,000 annual precept (our slice of the Council Tax) now averages £57 per household up from £30 per household in 2002.

The precept primarily funds street lighting and grass cutting together with village development works such as traffic management, memorials, seating and dog bins. £1,100 is spent on administration, running the Parish web site, printing newsletters, and in dealing with correspondence (planning applications, consultations etc). None of the precept is spent on salaries, as all of the Council members including the Clerk are volunteers.

47% of residents would support increased expenditure on the footpath network and also on traffic calming. However, both of these are costly projects and will need to be part of a long term plan with reserves and grants being built up over many years. It is unlikely that an increase in precept could be justified to pay for these.

2.8 ENC Waste Management Service Survey

As part of the Appraisal we asked the residents to comment on their preferences for the new waste management service that will come into operation in 2011. These results should be taken in the context that most residents are satisfied with the current service and changes need to be made with care.

53% of residents supported the weekly collection of food waste (vegetable peelings, left overs etc). 35% of residents were against this new development.

45% of residents supported the use of wheelie bins for waste collection as opposed to the self-supplied plastic bin bags used at present. However, 50% of residents were opposed to this.

85% of residents supported the principle of diverting waste from landfill by recycling, composting or alternative energy processes (bio-mass).

3. Conclusions

The appraisal has again been well supported by the Village and has provided a wealth of information which will help with long term planning, especially of housing, amenities and traffic management.

The changing age and residency profiles will be the major challenges for the Parish Council over the coming years. In Chelveston and Caldecott we need to support an increasingly home based community who are keen to be active in the Parish, using local facilities wherever possible.

The results of the appraisal have already been viewed with interest by the William Pears Group who have purchased the Chelveston Airbase Housing Annexe (now called Chelston Rise). They will be using the insights to promote the housing as an attractive, family friendly community. However, the influx of 50 new families into the Village will bring its own challenges. Fortunately the re-opening of Chelston Rise will bring some additional resources with 50 additional houses paying council tax. Some of these funds may be used to maintain the street lighting and maintaining the play equipment in Chelston Rise but the remainder will be used on both the general running costs of the Parish and will contribute to wider Village projects. As always, the Council will consult widely with residents before making any commitments on additional expenditure and your views on anything covered in the appraisal would also be most welcome.