

Reed Parish Plan



www.reedvillage.org



Foreword From The Chairman of Reed Parish Council

This Parish Plan document has been arrived at through many hours of work enthusiastically carried out by the Parish Plan Steering Group. Their work has achieved a record and rewarding response from the electorate.

The Parish Council have pleasure in adopting Reed Parish Plan as a comprehensive guide to our aspirations for the future of our community.

Peter Lawrence, September 2011

Reed Parish Plan

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Reed Parish Plan

Introduction

Welcome to the Reed Parish Plan. This document is the vision of people in Reed about what they value about their village as a place to live and about how they wish to see Reed evolve in coming years.

The Plan is a guide to villagers' representatives, particularly at Parish Council level. It will help such representatives to take decisions and respond appropriately to the outside initiatives which will influence the future of Reed. We hope it will also give a framework for action and encourage activity which will fulfil the wishes of parishioners as expressed in the consultations which produced this Parish Plan. Such action might stem from individuals, project groups or organisations in the community, not just representative bodies like the Parish or District Councils.

How The Plan Was Produced

The Parish Plan was commissioned by Reed Parish Council in 2010. A Steering Group was formed made up of one Parish Councillor and seven other residents who volunteered their services. The group worked throughout 2010-2011. It sought the views of village organisations and businesses through a programme of interviews. It then undertook a detailed survey of villagers' views by means of questionnaires aimed at all households and all individual residents in September 2010. Household data were received from 108 of 122 households circulated (89%). A return rate of 86% (183) was achieved on the 214 individual adult questionnaires distributed. Among residents under 17, 72% returned separate, completed Young People's questionnaires. In June 2011 draft details of the plan, along with data and other information, were exhibited for comment at a parish 'drop in' forum in the Village Hall. Comment and feedback was then absorbed into production of a finished draft which was passed to Reed Parish Council. The Plan was formally adopted in September 2011.

The variety of consultation involved, the length and detail of the questionnaires, and the very high response rate all mean that the Reed Parish Plan is an evidence-based document. It gives a clear picture of Reed in 2010/11 and of the views of Reed people across the age groups on matters affecting life in the community now and in the future. This confers credibility and authority on the Reed Parish Plan.



The Objectives Of The Reed Parish Plan

- To represent the views of residents, as obtained through widespread consultation, about issues and concerns which affect day to day life in the Parish.
- To identify key issues and problems and to recommend responses and solutions.
- To inform and influence those authorities, agencies and partners outside the village whose actions affect Reed, so that they take account of the views of the community in the decisions they take.
- To provide a knowledge-base and a framework for action for people and organisations in the community.

A Brief History of Reed

Reed is a parish of approximately 1480 acres, situated along a ridge which is an extension of the chalky Chiltern Hills. It is bounded on the west side by the old Roman Ermine Street, now the A10. About half a mile to the east lies the Prime Meridian Line, which defines the Eastern and Western hemispheres. Reed's name has through the centuries taken various forms: Rode, Retth, Rete, Roed and Estrede, among others. A distinctive feature of Reed is absence of a 'through road' or a linear pattern of settlement. Instead building has grown up round a cluster of central meadows in a rarely preserved pattern, thought to be Saxon in origin.



Another historic feature in the village is a number of moats, mostly now dry. There are moats at Queenbury, Fiddlers Green and Gannock Green, along with ponds, such as Goodfellows, which were at one time part of a moat. Originally the area comprised several small developments - Reed, Wisbridge, Gannock Green, Billingsgate and Fiddlers Green. By the end of the 19th century these had merged into one village, Reed as we now know it. The settlements of Gannock Green, Fiddlers Green and Billingsgate have disappeared, with little evidence remaining of their existence.



St Mary's Church is first recorded in the Domesday Book of 1085, with extensions in the 14th and 15th centuries. Recent works include the restoration of the East window and re-plastering the interior. Reed Chapel was built in the mid 19th century and served as both a chapel and a school. Other buildings of interest include the Cabinet public house which dates back to the 17th century. Other beer houses in the area were the Woolpack, the Crow, and the Red Lion. Two have become private houses, whilst the Crow has since been demolished.



Despite its proximity to Ermine Street and references to Saxon settlements, there is no evidence to date of any Roman or earlier occupation of the area apart from the moats mentioned above. Prior to the Norman Conquest little is known of Reed. The earliest documented records are from the reign of Edward the Confessor when several manors (land holdings) were formed from small parcels of land. The main manors were Challers, Chamberlains and Queenbury. Challers was owned by the De Scales family from late 11th to the 15th century. The family also had holdings in Chamberlains. In 1522 the then owner of Chamberlains also purchased Challers from which date the manors descended together. In the reign of Henry III Queenbury manor was bestowed to St Katherine's hospital in London and came under patronage of the Queen of England. The Manor remained under Royal patronage until 1900 and it is probably because of the Royal association that the property got its name.



Reed Now

Reed is completely rural in character, surrounded by cultivated fields and wooded areas. Remarkably, population figures over past centuries show little fluctuation: an estimated 200 persons in the 1085 Domesday Survey, 260 in 1841, 268 in 1991, 290 in 2001. Though there remain two large farms in the parish, modern farms do not require a large labour force or the attendant services for horses and wagons etc. so only a few Reed parishioners still work in agriculture. The advent of cars and public transport, however, allows parishioners to commute to work and still enjoy the benefits of the countryside and village life.

The village has a number of historic, listed buildings and these are interspersed with housing that has been built over the last century and more recently. The proximity of fields, of the meadows and of Reed Green provide for many residents an open outlook from their homes and a sense of spaciousness.

Public Amenities In Reed

The Village enjoys a number of public buildings and maintained spaces. These include:

The Village Hall – extended in 2009

St Mary's Church

Reed Chapel

Reed Green

The children's playground on the Green

The Cabinet Public House

Reed Cricket Club



Reed First School has a Victorian building at its core which has been imaginatively and sympathetically enlarged. Its facilities have been recently supplemented by additional accommodation provided with money raised from parents. The school was rated as *Outstanding* by OFSTED in 2009 and serves children from inside the village and beyond it. The Parish Church of St Mary's has a regular congregation between 20 and 30 and is particularly keen to attract more people under 40. It already has strong links with the school. Both St Mary's Church and Reed First School have the backing of active Friends groups who also organise village functions throughout the year. Reed Chapel holds weekly services throughout the year and the annual joint carol service is held alternately at the Chapel and the Church. Reed's surviving public house and restaurant in 2011 was The Cabinet. Like many pubs in rural areas it operates in a very challenging commercial environment. As an amenity it is valued by villagers in the Parish Plan Survey.



That an active community spirit exists in Reed is evident in a number of ways. There are social groups catering for many interests. These include a bowls club, gardening club, tea club, line dancing, cricket for adults and juniors and a keep fit club. In addition to these, the Village Hall hosts many activities during the year such as Quiz Nights, Jazz nights, The Village Christmas Party and Specialist Talks. The Village Hall Committee has instigated a Reed Festival, held every other year on August Bank Holiday Monday, incorporating stalls and entertainments by local groups. It has also organised and funded recently the extension of

the Village Hall and provision of an attractive new frontage. The Friends of Reed Church raised £90,000 with grant aid for renovation and drainage works. Reed Cricket Club has a large membership. It maintains the Green's surface and drainage, including non-playing areas, and hosts weekly coaching sessions for up to 50 youngsters on Saturdays during the season, as well as fielding several junior and adult teams. It also, on occasions, shares its pavilion facilities with other village organisations and makes them available, like the Village Hall, for hire by villagers for private functions.

Reed Parish Council

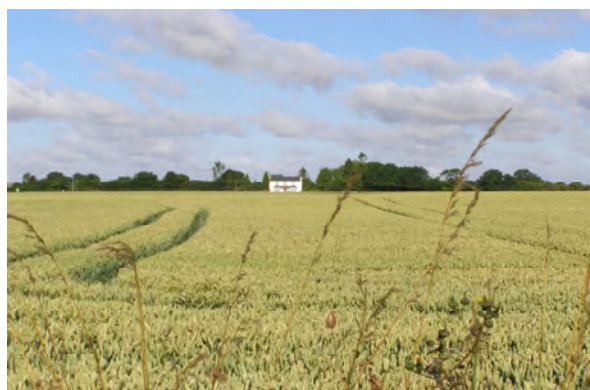
Parish Councils are the first tier of Local Government and are statutory bodies responsible for the well being of the community. Responsibilities include planning (as a 'primary consultee'), the management of open spaces and of public buildings, footpaths and rights of way, as well as communication with District and County Councils. Parish Councils have to produce an annual budget and are funded for the responsibilities they undertake by means of a precept on (an allocated portion of) the rates paid by residents.



Reed Parish Council has five councillors and a Parish Clerk. Council meetings take place every eight weeks in the Village Hall and are open to members of the public. The Parish Council holds an Annual Parish Meeting in May, at which representatives of various village organisations are invited to present a report on their activities. Minutes of Parish Council meetings are published on the Village notice board and also, on the village website at:



www.reedvillage.org.



The Reed Parish Plan Survey

Who Took Part In The Survey

Questionnaires were distributed to 122 households in the parish.

Returns

108 made a household return (**89%**).

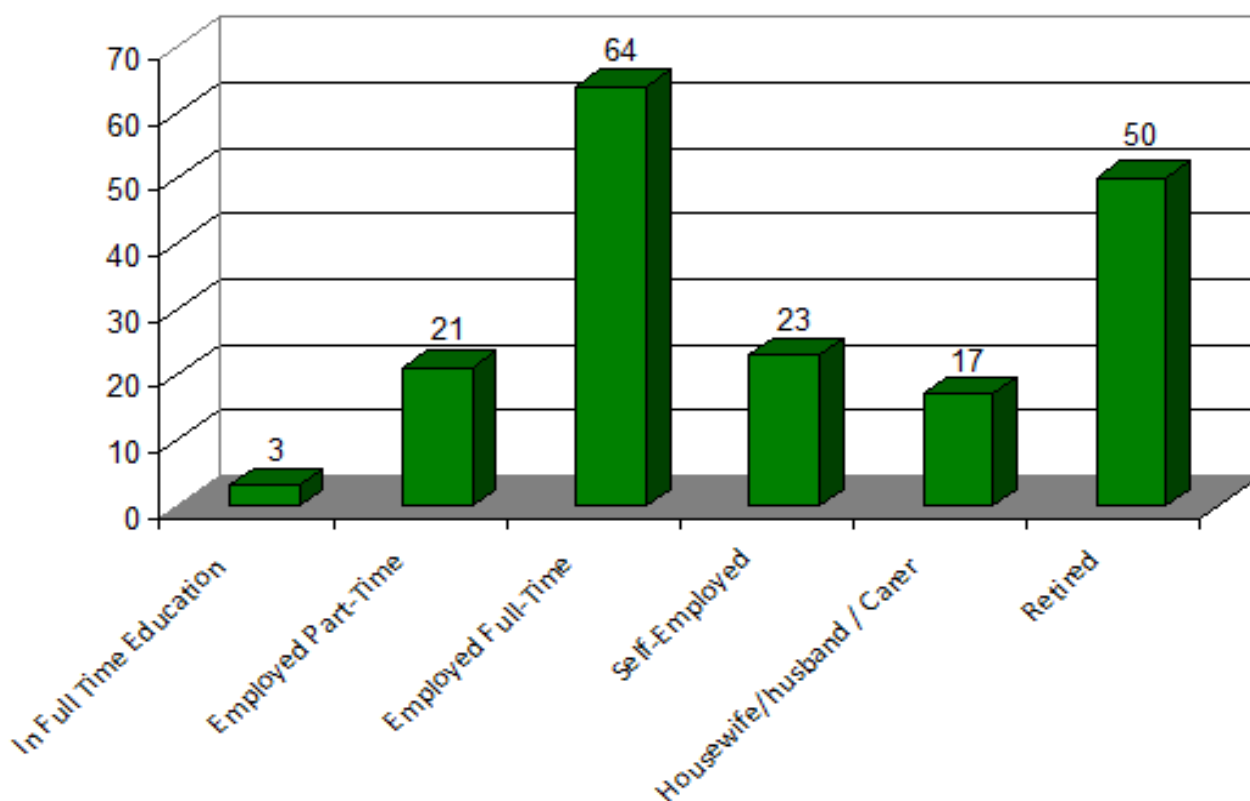
Of 214 individual adult questionnaires distributed, 183 were returned (**86%**).

Of the separate Young Persons questionnaires requested for residents under 17, **72%** were completed.

The information and views contained in responses to the survey were analysed and collated. They are presented in the Parish Plan in sections based on the questions asked. Each section also specifies the action points and recommendations which arise from parishioners' responses to the survey and from the other occasions when their views were received. An important such occasion was the 'drop in' open day held in the Village Hall in June 2011, at which the data and views from the survey were exhibited.

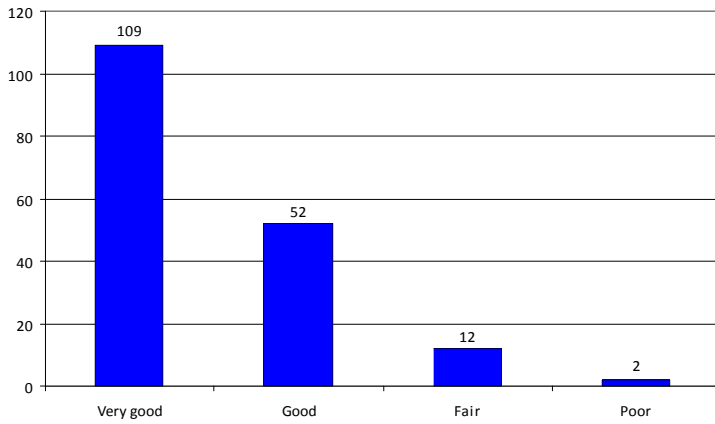
Returns from the survey show that 85 residents (**47%**) were in employment in 2010 and 50 were retired (**28%**). Of the people in employment 53, more than **50%**, worked from home in Reed, some or all of the time when the survey taken in Autumn 2010. The overwhelming majority of people travelling to work used cars (**94%**).

Reed Employment



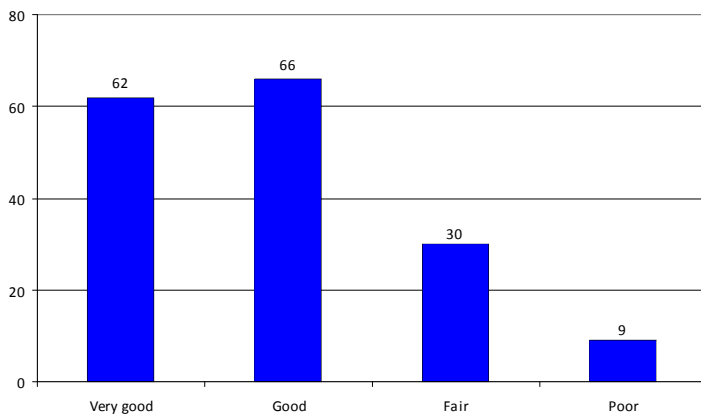
Your Village

How do you rate Reed as a place to live?



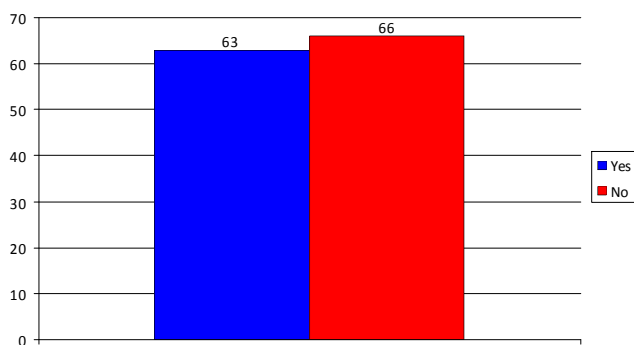
Reed is a **very good** place to live - 109
 Reed is a **good** place to live - 52
 Reed is a **fair** place to live - 12
 Reed is a **poor** place to live - 2

How do you rate the sense of community in Reed?



The sense of community is highly rated, but there is a broader spread of views than in answers about Reed as a place to live. A large majority think the sense of community is good or very good

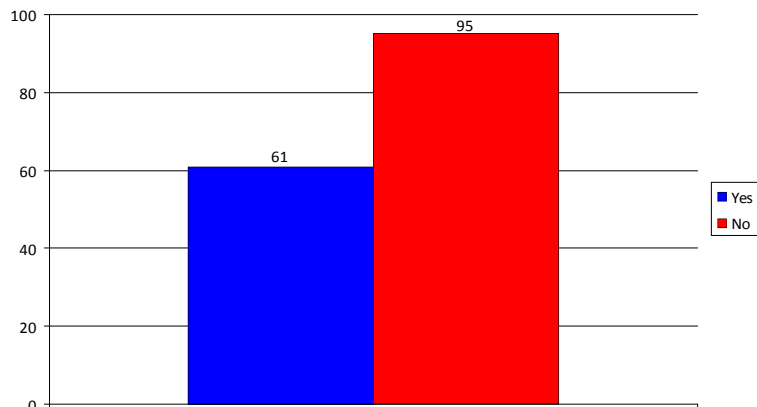
Do you think Reed, as a village community, could be improved?



63 think **yes** community could be improved in the village. 66 answered **no**.
 The most frequent suggestions were:
 More support for village events (15);
 More events in the Hall & school (8);
 A village shop (10).

Your Village

Do you think the overall appearance of the village could be improved?

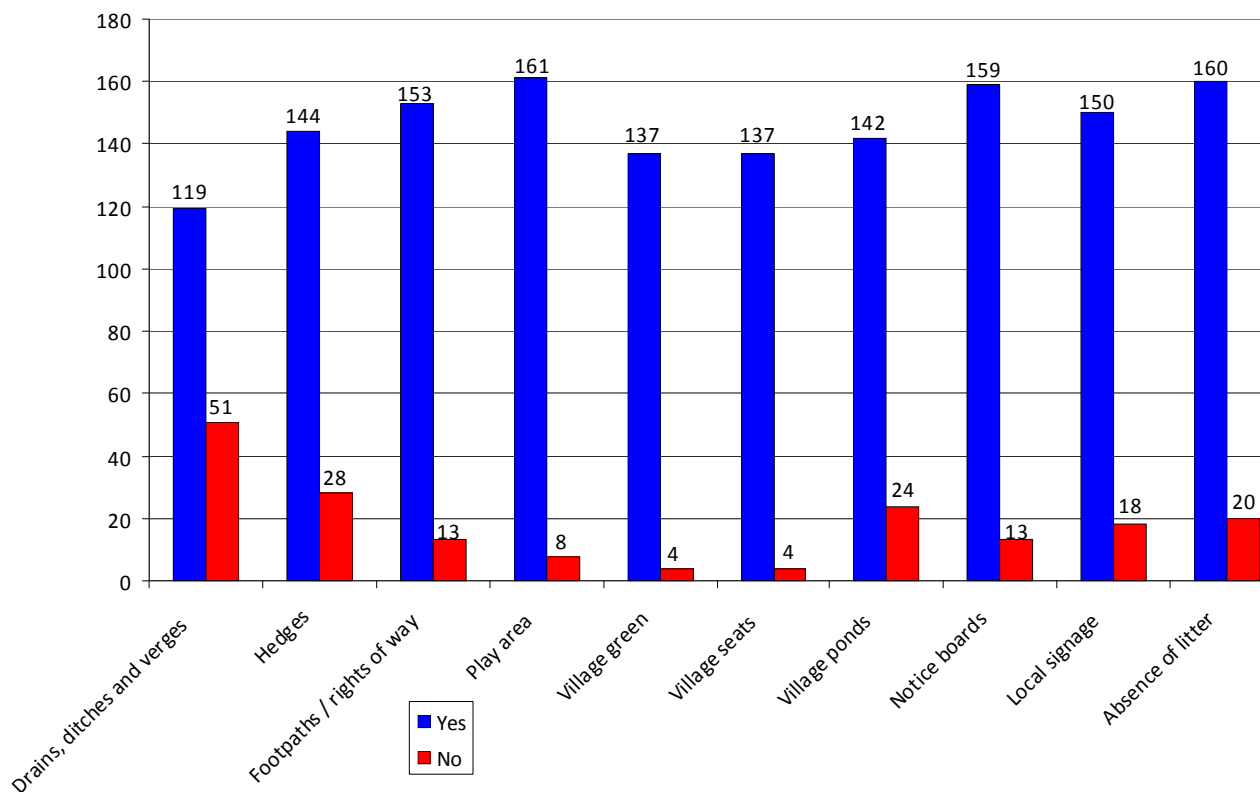


More people think **no**, the appearance of Reed cannot be improved (95) than think **yes** it can be improved(61).

Suggestions made were:

- Remove mast on Green (12)
- Improve condition/appearance of Brickyard Lane farmyard (12)
- Repair/renew village street signs (10)
- Remove white posts in Jacksons Lane (5)
- Keep gardens tidy (6)

Are you satisfied with the maintenance and fabric of the village?



Overall satisfaction is suggested by the total number of **yes** responses.

Concerns indicated relate to:

Verges (30); Damage to verges in Jacksons Lane (14); More regular cutting (12)

Your Village

Your Village: What can be done?

What	Who	When
Continue to monitor maintenance of verges & ditches with NHDC, Herts. Highways & school users	Parish Council	Ongoing
Make sure hedges are trimmed, especially to allow sight of roads & footpaths.	Residents & Landowners Parish Council in monitoring role, with occasional call on village volunteers	Ongoing
Investigate cost & logistics of Village information board	Volunteer project group/Parish Council	Long-term (next 1 -3 years)
Investigate with Euromast future of mast on Green and the possibility of removal in medium or long term	Parish council	Medium Term (next 1-2 years)



Housing and Development

The 2001 census records 126 residential properties in Reed, a number which has increased by about ten since, though not all were occupied at the time of the 2011 Parish Survey. Reed's distinctive character is a result of its open settlement form. Most of its buildings group around six central meadows, in a square pattern of roads and lanes. There is no main, through road, round which a higher density of dwellings might typically have accumulated. Hedges and trees, the central meadows and the spacious area of Reed Green, with its playground and cricket pavilion, all contribute to the open and rural quality of the village, which residents confirm in the survey is highly valued. The village housing stock contains a range of sizes and types of properties. There is a mixture of detached, semi detached, terraces and bungalows. The majority form of tenure is owner occupied (77%). Housing Association dwellings make up another 14%, with the rest being privately rented (9%).



Reed and The Planning System

In Planning Authority terms, Reed is a *selected village beyond the green belt* and much of it is a conservation area. This places limitations on development in Reed. The above terminology comes from the North Herts. District Council Local Plan. This still applies in mid 2011, though it has been undergoing review and updating since 2007 and earlier. This process has included consultation on a Local Development Framework (LDF). In summer 2011 North Hertfordshire published for consultation its latest Core Strategy document, which contains various options for the amount of housing growth in the District over the next twenty years. However, all local planning is now in a state of change following the election of the coalition government in 2010. National legislation, due in late 2011, will set out the principles and procedures which will regulate planning and development in Reed in the future. It is possible that much will stay the same. However the new legislation contains



Localism provisions. These mean that some decisions on planning and development may be devolved down to parish level. Communities are therefore being encouraged to draw up planning and development statements reflecting local wishes, so as possibly to incorporate a 'neighbourhood' tier into the statutory planning system. Such planning statements will, nevertheless, have to fit in, according to ministers, with a central government *National Planning Policy Framework*, which will be published.

What is clear is that in the revised planning context, the Reed Parish Plan will be a noteworthy document of reference in regard to any future planning and development in Reed.

Housing Needs Survey, 2008

In 2008 the Parish Council received the results of a *Housing Needs Survey* carried out in Reed by The Community Development Agency (CDA) for Hertfordshire. This survey identified "a need for some new housing in Reed to meet purely local needs". Asked what kind of housing was "most needed", respondents to the survey replied as follows: housing for families (32 votes); housing for young people (32 votes); housing for the elderly (23 votes); sheltered housing (18 votes). The report concluded with a recommendation for between one and five 2 bedroom "units" of social housing (rental or shared ownership) in the next five years, should an appropriate site or sites become available.



Housing and Development

Survey Feedback On Housing, Planning and Development

In the 2010 Parish Plan survey, a majority of respondents (70%) favoured some future housing development in the village. Sixty respondents (30%) expressed a wish for no further development of any kind in Reed. A big majority want to preserve the central meadows from any future development. As to the scale of any future development, “infill” and “small developments” of 1- 4 houses, commanded most support . Some potential sites were nominated. “Starter homes” (as accommodation potentially suitable for village families or to facilitate “downsizing” by existing residents) were mentioned frequently as a desirable part of any future building in the village.



Types of development preferred: –

No further development (60) Small development, 1-4 homes (53)
 Infill housing (41) Medium sized development, 5-10 homes (28)
 Non-Residential, commercial (10) Larger development of 10+ homes (6)



Types of Housing preferred:-

Smaller house & garden (79) Affordable smaller house/Starter homes (67)
 Larger dwelling with garden (21) Extensions (2) Bungalow (2)
 Two bed cottage (1)

Areas named for possible development : –

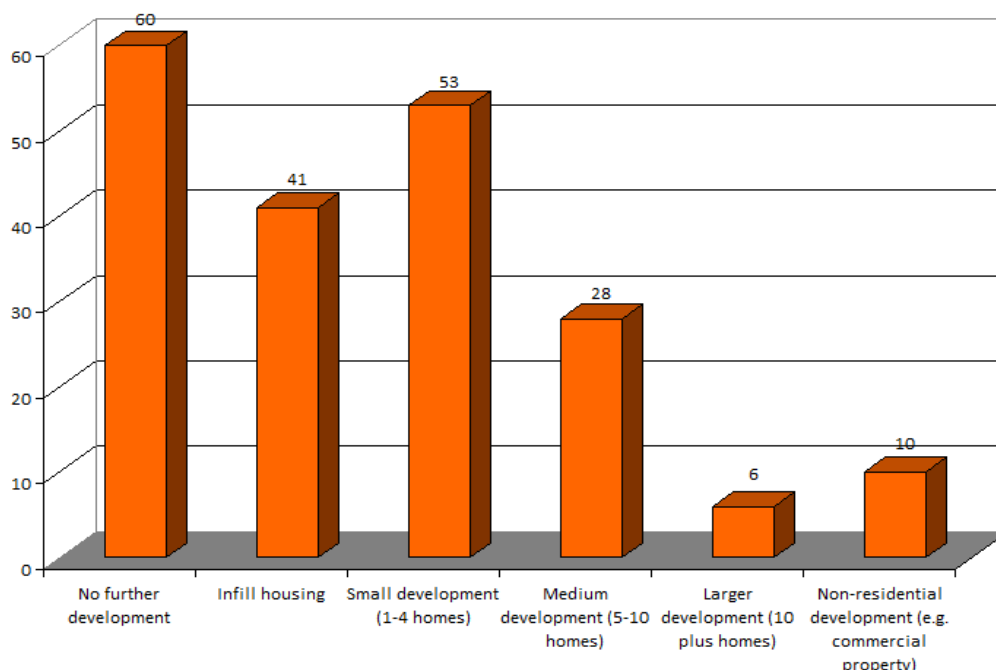
Brickyard Lane Farmyard site(7), Opposite The Silver Ball;
 Blacksmiths Lane (4) Reed House, up to the Joint(4) Hobbs Hayes (1)
 North Farm (1) Sites along the Joint (1)



Areas where no development preferred: –

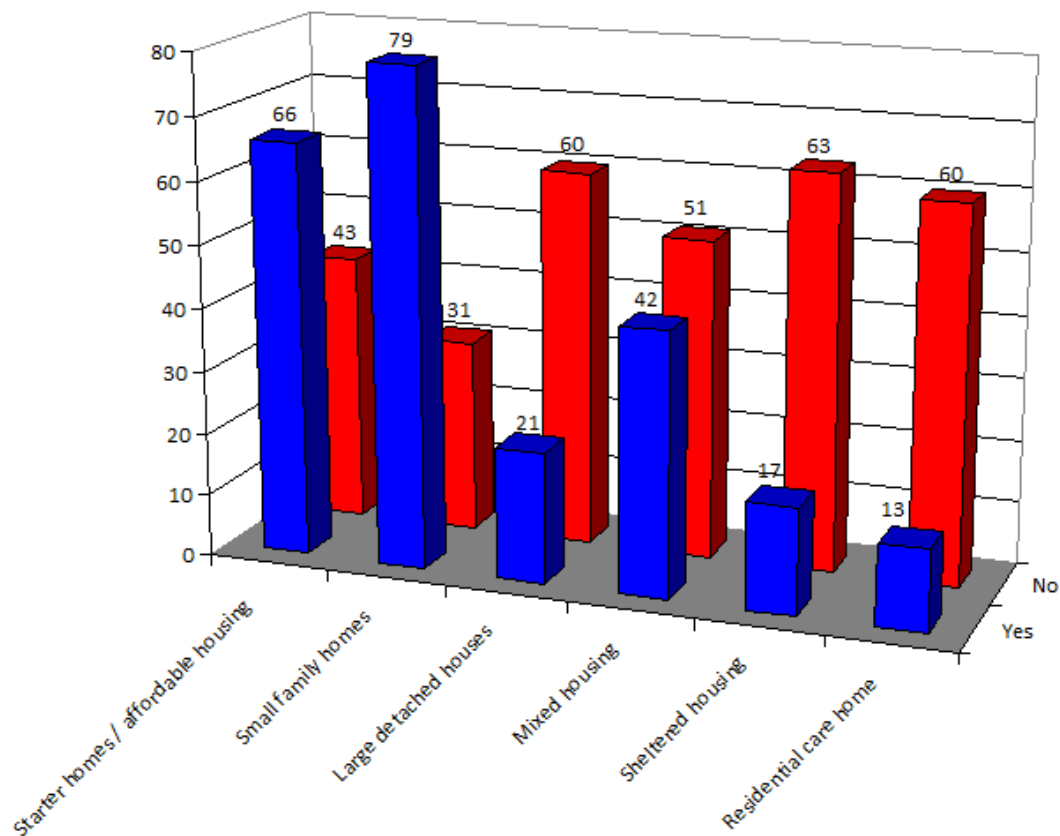
No development in the meadows (12) No back-garden developments (1)
 No residential or commercial building in ‘Brickyard Lane Field’ (1)
 Nothing outside ‘the village envelope’ (1)

With regard to possible future developments in Reed what would you like to see?



Housing and Development

What type of housing should any development include?

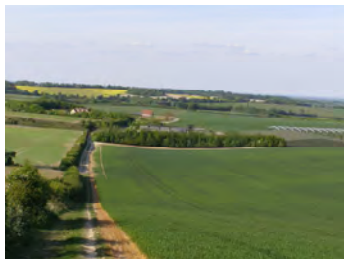


Housing and Development: What Can be Done?

What	Who	When
Ensure that land which might be available is used wisely and that any new properties proposed be appropriate to Reed and its surroundings and of a type needed to meet any identified housing needs of the village	Parish Council	Ongoing and continuously
In the light of <i>localism</i> legislation (and any stipulations concerning “neighbourhood planning groups”), establish outline parish planning and development principles for Reed, rooted in the Parish Plan consultation of residents. Use this to inform potential, planning applicants and to provide guidance to the Parish Council in making responses to planning applications. Explore the relevance or potential of “ <i>Local Development Orders</i> ”	Parish Council	Medium Term: 1 - 2 years

Environment

Reed is located 3 miles from Royston, 13 miles from Cambridge and 50 miles from London. The land round Reed is mainly arable in its use but is dotted with significant patches of deciduous woodland, habitat for the pheasants and partridges raised for the various shoots, and for other wildlife. This includes deer, fox and badger. Buzzards and Kites have become more common in recent years. The parish is blessed with many footpaths and rights of way so that access to open fields and the fringes of woodland is available within minutes from the village. The adjacent A10 provides good road communication north and south. In severe winter weather, however, roads within the village are difficult for both pedestrians and vehicles, sometimes for lengthy periods. Reed is low down on the gritting priority list of Hertfordshire Highways.



In the village survey, residents were asked for comments on a range of environmental issues, and to indicate priorities in their concerns. Issues included:

Aircraft noise, fly tipping, road noise, wind farms and communication masts.

Communication masts and road noise, due to traffic speed, on the A10 proved to be of particular concern in comments made. Residents suggested the removal/disguise of existing masts as potential solutions and that traffic noise and speed should be addressed by more visual signage and road markings to encourage a reduction in speed through the village.

Concerns which respondents expressed over expansion of Stansted have been partly allayed by the scrapping in 2010 of proposed Stansted runway expansion. Some concerns remain about Stansted and Luton flight paths. There was a wish that aircraft noise should be monitored for response as necessary by the Parish.



Environment: What Can be Done?

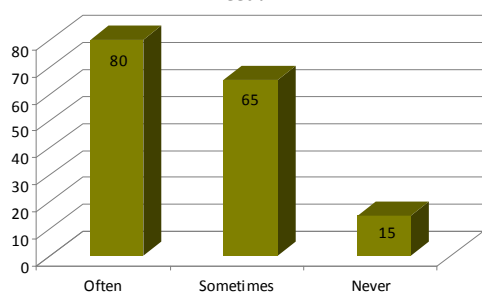
What	Who	When
Generally monitor aircraft noise and over-flight patterns seasonally for deterioration	Residents & Parish Council	Ongoing
Communicate with Euromast Ltd over current and future use of lattice mast on the	Parish Council	Short term (1 year)
Road noise (see Transport & Roads below)		

Transport and Roads

Car is the mode of transport most used by parishioners with many households running more than one vehicle. There was general satisfaction with the upkeep and appearance of roads in the village from 132 respondents (77%). However, a number of safety concerns were identified and 18 villagers felt strongly enough about these and other transport and road issues to include them as their “one thing you would change about Reed”.

With regard to off road amenities, it is clear that paths and footpaths in the parish are used and valued by a majority of residents, with 145 respondents (90%) using them sometimes or often and 94% feeling that they are sufficiently maintained.

How often do you use the bridle paths and footpaths in Reed?



Over 60% of respondents identified road safety danger spots *within* the village. School-related traffic on Jacksons Lane prompted most mention, with the junction with Brickyard Lane being singled out for concern. The three blind bends on Hobbs Hays, Church Lane and Crow Lane were also a safety concern to many. Nevertheless a majority of responses (91%) felt that the number and type of road signs in the village is adequate.

Speeding on village roads was highlighted by 36% of respondents. “Routes to school” occasioned most worry, with both Brickyard Lane and Blacksmiths Lane cited as locations where speeding occurs.



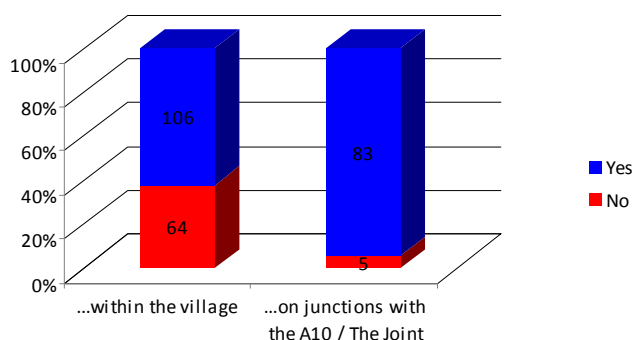
Many residents (83) also feel that there are road safety problems at one or more of the five road junctions with the A10 and the Joint. The Blacksmiths Lane/A10 and the Church Lane/A10 junctions prompted 53 concerned responses.



Several people argued for a southwards extension of the existing 40 mph speed limit on the A10 as a way of improving safety at the Church Lane/A10 junction, in particular.

Lack of gritting in winter was commented on as making village roads perilous for vehicles and pedestrians, especially bearing in mind the absence of footpaths on most of the roads in the village.

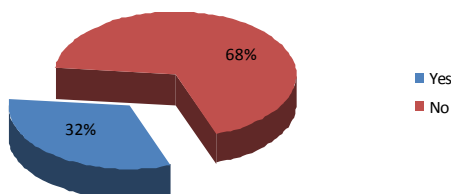
Do you consider there are road safety danger spots...



Transport and Roads

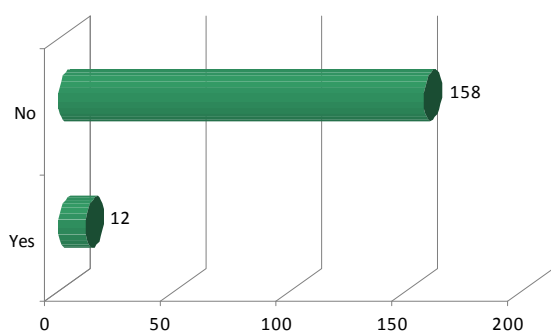
Some respondents (53/32%) feel that parking is a problem in Reed. 112 (68%) felt it was not a problem. Two main areas were cited: Jacksons Lane around the school and Blacksmiths Lane, by the Village Hall and also near to the A10 junction.

Is parking a problem in Reed?



An overwhelming majority (158 of 170 responses) were against street lighting in Reed.

Would you like street lighting in Reed?



Asked about public transport, only 10 people reported using the scheduled bus service *often* and 34 *sometimes*. This excludes those Reed children who use school transport to Royston, Buntingford and Ware. Predictably, car usage for work and leisure is high in a rural parish like Reed. 102 people use a car regularly to get to work. Cars are also used for ‘school runs’ into and out of the village. Arguably the 53 people who work from home in Reed, some or all of the time, reduce overall village traffic volume and contribute to sustainability.

Transport and Roads: What Can be Done?

What	Who	When
Monitor condition and use of village roads, liaising with appropriate agencies (Highways, Police)	Parish Council;	Now and ongoing
Encourage police in enforcement of 40mph speed limit on Reed A10 section. Investigate/lobby for extension of 40mph (Police & Highways)	Residents & Parish Council	Short to medium term (1 - 2 years)
Make an assessment of safety ‘black-spots’ identified by villagers and monitor parking in relation to safety to define the extent of problems and to seek solutions.	Parish Council	Ongoing
Investigate car sharing scheme for residents	Project Group & Parish Council	Medium term

Community Services

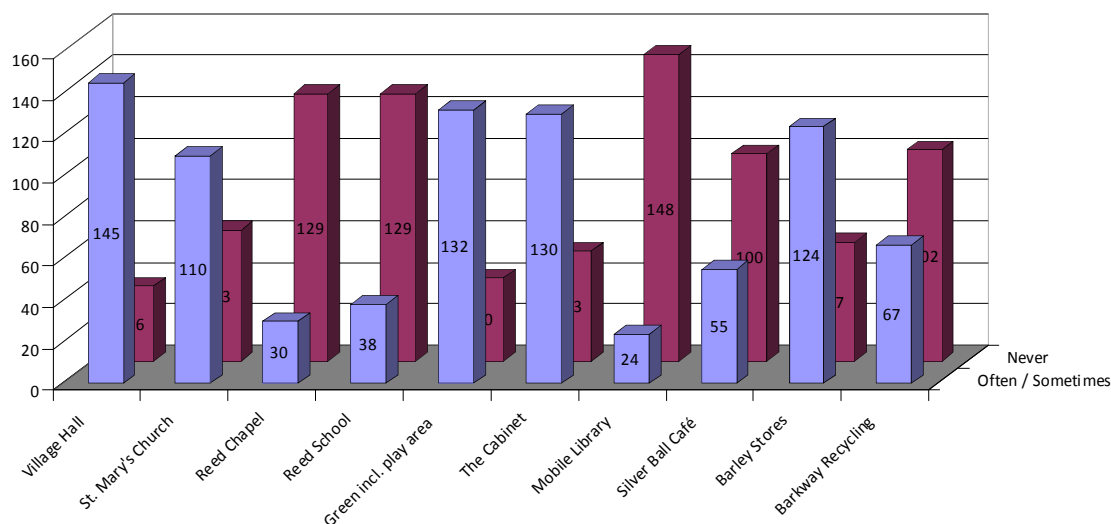
Residents were asked to state which local facilities they use and what further facilities they would use if available in the future.

Facilities within the village which scored highest are the village hall (80%), village green (76%) and the Cabinet (71%). All indicated as used 'often' or 'sometimes' by residents, with the church (64%) being the next most mentioned. The mobile library is apparently sparsely used. (14%).



A facility that residents find useful outside the village is Barley Stores and residents suggested a shop/newsagent, or access to a mobile shop, would be a useful improvement to village life. There was also enough interest in a Babysitting Circle to indicate scope for an initiative by residents concerned.

How often do you use the following local facilities?



Residents were also asked if they had difficulty accessing a range of services outside the village. For example, dentists'/doctors' surgery, hospital, physiotherapy or chiropody clinic. The overwhelming response was 'no'. This suggests Reed currently has a mostly mobile population, with access to means of transport, whether public or private, when these services are required.



Community Services

Residents also showed interest in joining the existing syndicate for oil supply, suggesting its availability is known only to its current users. The village is heavily dependent on fuel oil and suffers the penalty of most rural areas in being denied access to the best discounted dual electricity /gas tariffs from energy providers. Oil syndicate membership is one of few means to fuel economy for Reed villagers.



Community Services: What Can be Done?

What	Who	When
Publicise and promote the oil syndicate with a view to its expansion	Action group based on existing members and use of the village website to help with publicity & scheduling	Now and ongoing
Share survey feedback with village organisations & interested parties to facilitate initiatives self help: Specifically: Babysitting circle Shop	Action Groups	Short term - Now
Make call upon and organise those in the community who have offered themselves for occasional community service (for eg pond or ditch maintenance) as need presents itself .	Parish Council	Short term and ongoing

Crime and Public Order

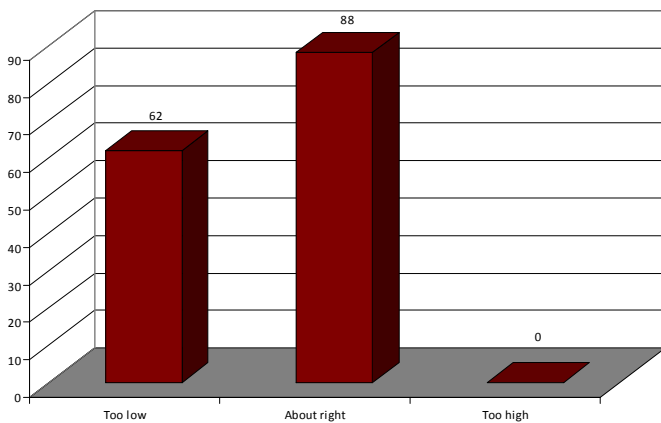
The 2010 village survey shows that the level of crime in Reed is very low with 17 incidents reported over the past 5 years (an average of 3.5 crimes per year). None were crimes against the person, six were vehicle crimes. The remainder related to property.



Despite this low incidence of crime, 40% of the village population feel that the police presence in the village should be higher. This may be because residents want greater reassurance or that they wish to ensure that the low crime rate is maintained.

The local community police officer and the CSO usually attend the Annual Village Meeting or a Parish Council meeting annually. Their attendance might be further publicised via the Diary and village website. Alternatively, (or in addition) a dedicated policing open forum each year would be an occasion for concerned residents to seek information and advice, particularly about crime prevention. Neighbourhood Watch has existed in Reed, but is dormant at present. Its reactivation is another measure that could reassure those parishioners concerned about low police presence in the village.

How do you rate the level of police presence in the village?



Crime and Public Order: What Can be Done?

What	Who	When
Invite the Community Police Officer & CSO to the Annual Village meeting or other open forum to enable residents to share concerns and seek information advice	Parish Council	Ongoing & reinforced by responses to Parish Plan survey
Investigate revival or re-animation of Neighbourhood Watch in Reed, in the light of interest/concerns shown in Parish Plan survey returns.	Parish Council, Community Police Officer and residents	Short term (1 year)

Leisure and Recreation

The most popular village leisure organisation in terms of membership is the Gardening Club, with 25 residents participating and at least four young people expressing an interest in participating in their survey responses. There is a broad range of sporting activities, but relatively low levels of participation, with the carpet bowls club attracting most village residents (up to 16 regularly attending). Many people travel outside the village for aerobics, dance, yoga and similar exercise. Twenty residents would like some or all of these activities to be available in Reed.



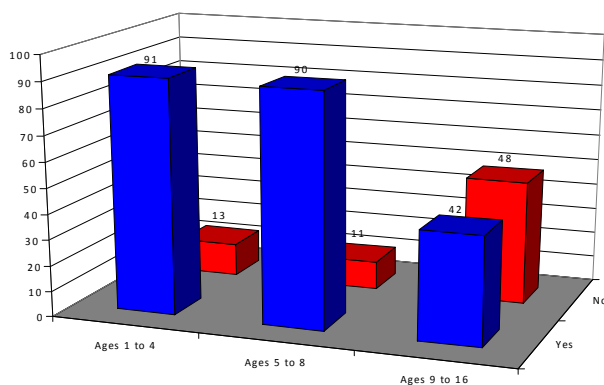
There is interest (10%) in tennis facilities in the village which would be supported by at least 18 adult residents and a number of young people. Reed Cricket Club fields three colts and three adult teams weekly in the season. Most participants come from outside Reed, but some village youngsters are involved and for them the club is a quite exceptional provision.



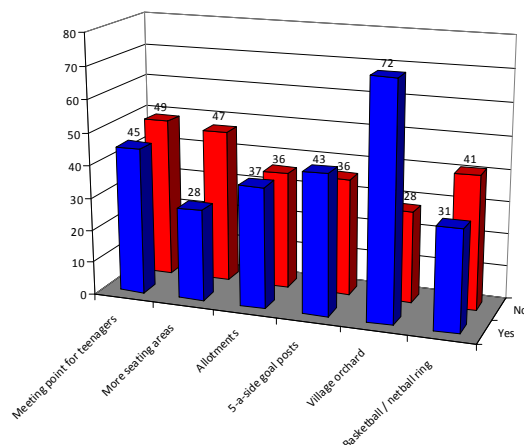
In both the adult and Young People's surveys a large majority felt there is sufficient play and sports equipment for younger children. However, a 54% majority of Young People responding believe that more needs to be provided for older children (9yrs +). This is underlined by 40% wanting a meeting point for teenagers and 54% supporting the provision of 5 a side goal posts.

Generally, the interest in gardening is reinforced in the adult survey by 72% interested in establishment of a community orchard and 37 people expressing an interest in allotments.

Do you think there is sufficient play / sports equipment for each of the following age groups in the village?



Are there any other leisure / recreation facilities you would like within the village?



As with all results of the village survey, the way forward in regard to the interests expressed in this section is to facilitate contact between people in the community so that "champions" may be found to make progress in developing appropriate activities and/or facilities in Reed. An important function of the Parish Plan is to identify needs and promote such contacts. And already as a result of the June 2011 drop in forum parishioners have been able to sign up for a number of contact groups. Initial meetings have been convened to establish a Village Orchard working party and a Reed Book Group which is up and running. Initiatives are also underway in connection with other interests flagged up in the survey. The Parish Council is already considering, as part of its renovation and enhancement of the children's play area on the Green, play and sports provision for over 9s and teenagers.

Leisure and Recreation

Leisure and Recreation: What Can be Done?

What	Who	When
Following the survey, the drop in forum and publication of the Parish Plan, invite people to set up project groups to pursue particular objectives.	Steering Group and residents as facilitators	Now
Invite Gardening Club and others to consider initiatives in response to interest in Village Orchard & allotments.	Gardening Club & residents	Short and Medium term (1 - 3 years)
Pursue provision of some sports/leisure equipment for older (9+) children in the village (including in liaison with Reed CC)	Parish Council and Project Group	Short and Medium term (1 - 3 years)

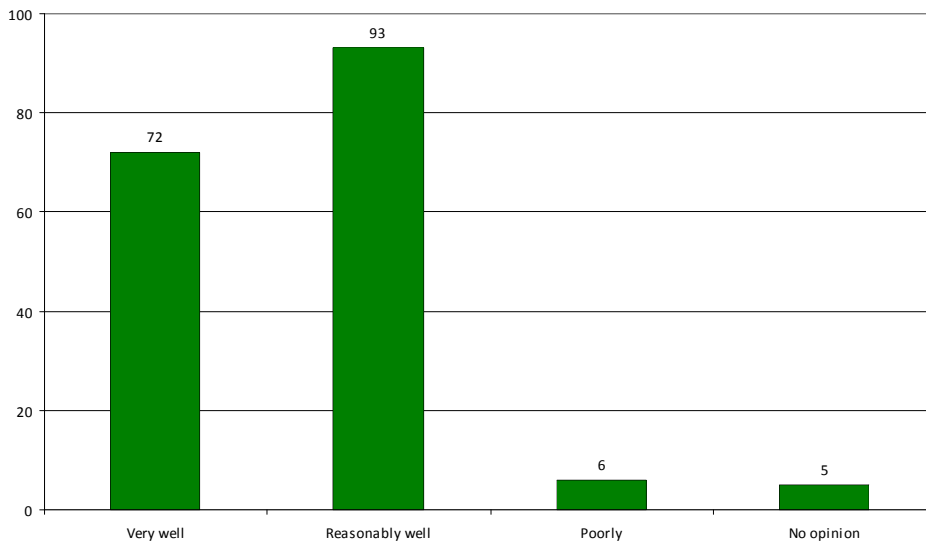


Communication

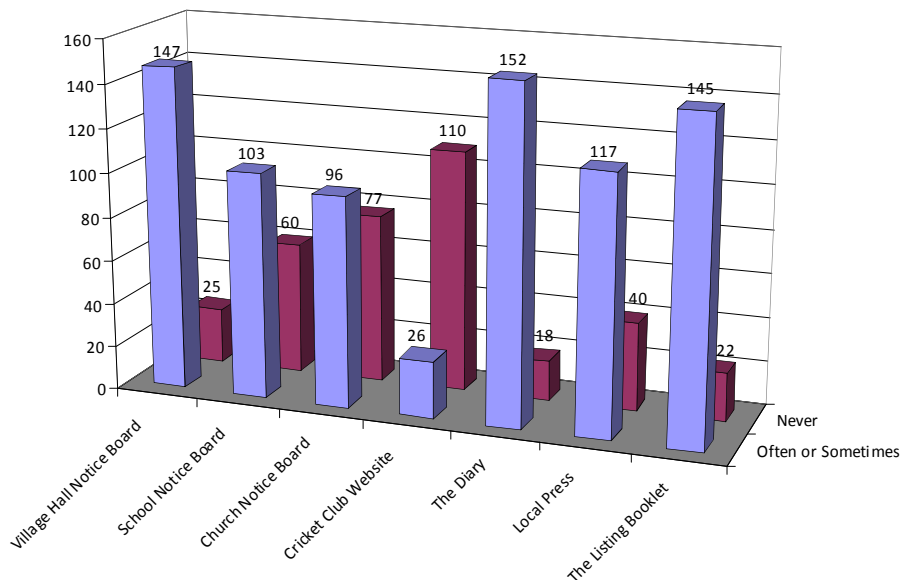
An important method of communication in the parish continues to be by word of mouth (*the grapevine*). This, however, is most effective for people who meet frequently and of less use to people who commute. The parish magazine *'The Diary'* is taken by most households in the village and is valued for containing parish news, notices of forthcoming events, for sale information and contacts for tradesmen/women and services. There are two notice boards in the village, one outside the village hall and the other outside the school. These are used for notices of events and for minutes of the Parish Council meetings. There is strong support for a Reed village website. The majority of respondents (94%) did feel that they were *well* or *reasonably well* informed about social and other events in the village. A majority (65%) also reported that they felt the Parish Council communicated *well* or *reasonably well* its activity and decisions. Perhaps predictably, villagers felt that awareness by their elected representatives of the concerns of people in the parish was inversely proportionate to distance from Reed. Parish Councillors were felt to be more in touch than District and then County Councillors.



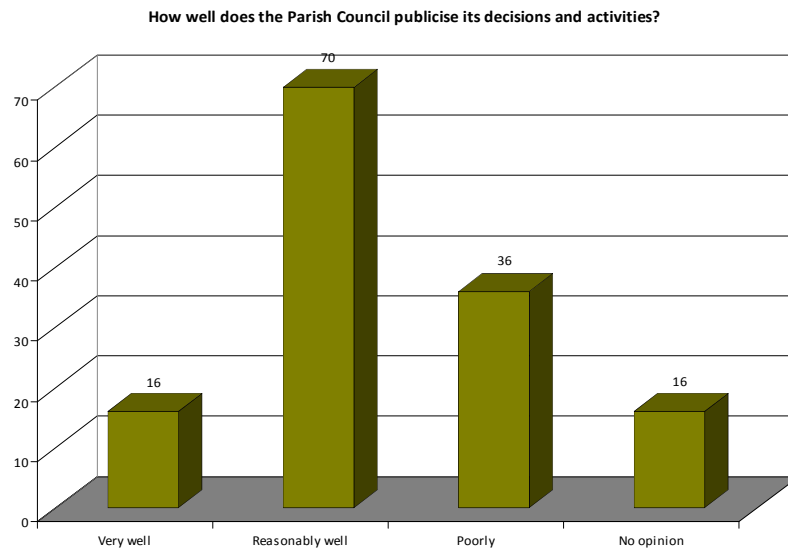
How well informed do you feel about social and other events within the village?



How frequently do you consult the following sources of information about what's happening in Reed?



Communication



The main suggestions for improving communications were:

- A village website, in which 118 respondents expressed an interest
- More notice boards, one at the Knole and one at the Church.
- More widespread circulation of ‘The Diary’ in Reed.

Ideas for content of a Reed Village website included the following:

Recycling information, pub menus, Neighbourhood Watch information, church services, bus and train timetables, Barley Store times, a link with a *Facebook* page enabling interaction with Reed residents old and new, items for sale or to donate, Parish Council minutes, and news of forthcoming events, which would help spread social events more evenly and avoid calendar clashes. A monthly newsletter was also suggested, though such a publication could conceivably be achieved through the village website.



The Reed Village Website

Since the survey in Autumn 2010 a village website has been established: www.reedvillage.org. It now requires a progressive development of its use and content by parishioners and others, along with protocols to ensure its maintenance and oversight.

Communication: What can be done?

What	Who	When
Establish management and maintenance arrangements for the Reed village website, to develop and promote its use and to achieve gatekeeping	Parish Council and Project Group	Short term (Now & over 1 year)
Consider a notice board at the Knole in a review of Communication with parishioners; also investigate the feasibility of a Notice Board at the church	Parish Council VCC	Short to medium term (1 - 3 years)
Promote further circulation in the Parish of ‘The Diary’	Distributors and Editorial team	Short Term

Young People

In the distribution of survey questionnaires to households, 36 individual Young Person's questionnaires were requested. Of these 26 (72%) were returned by Reed residents under 17.

It is apparent that Reed School remains a vibrant part of Reed as a community and contributes in an important way to making Reed a 'living' and sustainable village. It currently serves a pleasingly large number of children from within the village, while also drawing on the significant numbers of pupils from beyond the parish which are needed (and have been for many years now) to make the school viable and effective. Numbers are currently very healthy, a reflection of the quality of provision which has been attested by an *Outstanding* assessment in the last OFSTED inspection. Reed School is supported by a very active *Friends* group which contributes financially, socially and in other ways. Upgraded classroom accommodation in a new building opened in 2011 was expedited by the *Friends'* fundraising.



Young people travelling beyond Reed to school do so mainly by car (54%). Others walk or use school buses. Reed pupils go on to middle and upper schools in Royston and Buntingford and also to schools in Letchworth, Ware and Cambridge. In the village survey most young people say they seldom use the scheduled village bus service.

Asked what they 'liked' about living in Reed, young people mentioned the fields, wildlife and the open spaces, including the Green; also that Reed is a safe and friendly community to live in. Sixteen of the respondents also indicated that they felt Reed had *good facilities* for young people. Young people pursued a variety of interest and leisure activities outside of the parish. There were several things young people said they would be interested in doing in Reed, were they available in the village: horse riding, chess, rugby, tennis, garden club. The sporting equipment most requested to supplement play facilities in Reed were: tennis court (14); a basketball/netball ring (11); 5 a side soccer goal (11). Some village youngsters already take advantage of Reed Cricket Club's cricket training sessions on Saturday mornings.

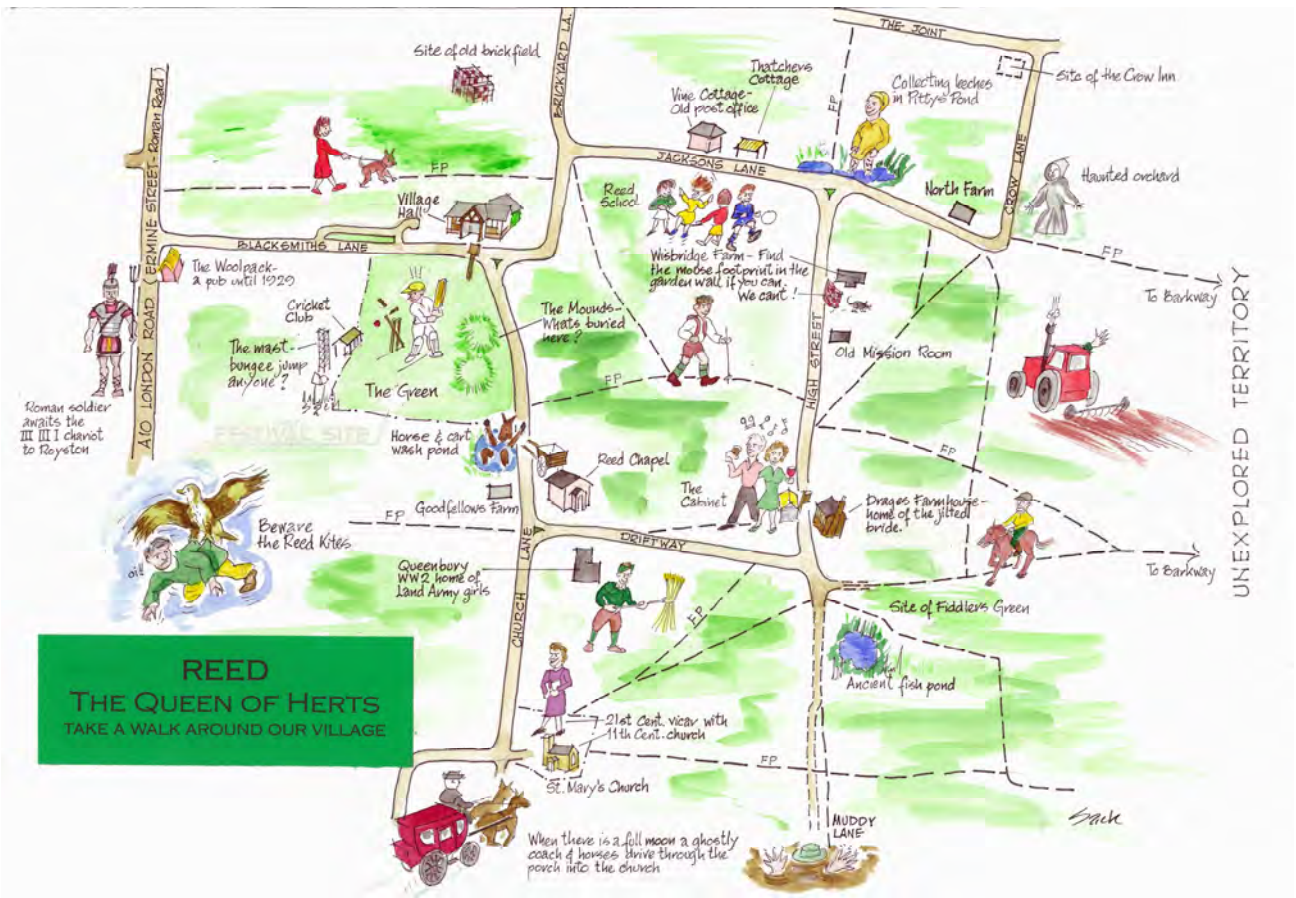
The main drawbacks to living in Reed, as reported by young people, were distance to school friends; travel and public transport limitations; lack of things to do in the village for teenagers.

Young People: What Can be Done?

What	Who	When
As part of renovation and enhancement of play facilities on the Green, investigate some apparatus for older children and the provision of 5 a side and netball/basketball areas.	Parish Council with residents	Short term (Now - 1 year)
Invite the establishment of a Project group, to include involvement or consultation with young people, to investigate provision of sport/play equipment for older young people (see also Leisure section above)	Parish council, Residents, young people and Reed Cricket Club	Medium Term (1-3 years)

Location Map: Reed





Appendix



Village Organisations Consulted

Reed Village Hall Committee
Reed Church
Reed Chapel
Reed School
The Cabinet
Reed Cricket Club
The Gardening Club
The Silver Ball
Euromast Ltd

Members of the Reed Parish Plan Steering Group

Ken Langley Chair
Steve Dunn Secretary
Malcolm Tyrie Treasurer
Eric Addicott
Paul Harrison
Hazel Hewett
John Kershaw
David Tait

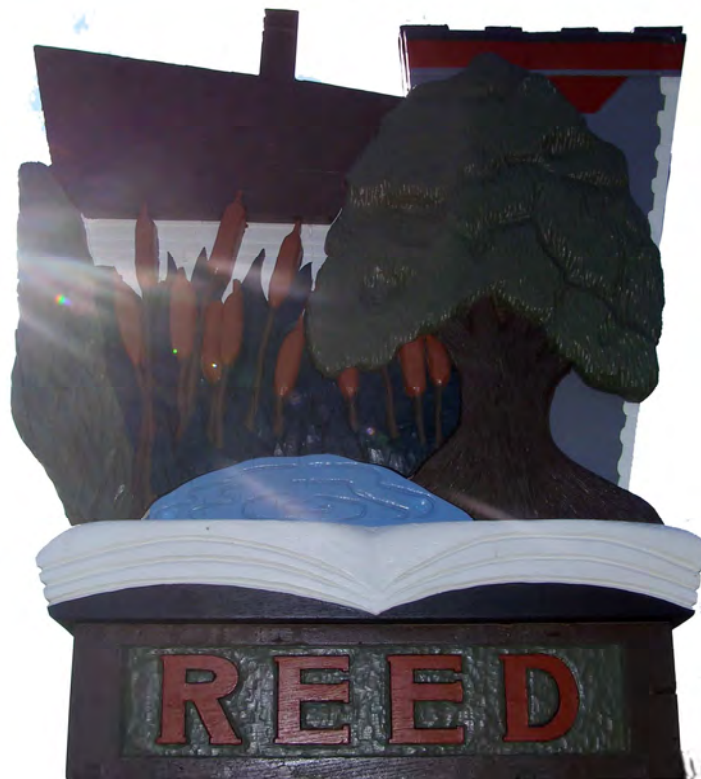
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Reed Parish Plan



www.reedvillage.org