

Working in Partnership with:



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Foreword

Mrs. Lisa Chambers, County Councillor

This Parish Plan is an extremely informative and well presented document, I congratulate the volunteers of the village who have obviously spent many hours researching and collating the evidence. I consider this plan will be of benefit to every resident of Moulton, and this document can be used by Parish, District and County Councils in driving your views forward. Truly a team effort has driven your vision on how Moulton should look over the next few years.

As your County Council representative I have been warmly welcomed at the Parish Council meetings by Councillors and residents' alike. Your Parish Council is extremely hard working and very effective at making sure everything in Moulton is first-class. I am very proud to be elected to represent the village of Moulton and it is a pleasure working for the residents of this village, I look forward to the next few years.

Roger Dicker, District Councillor

I feel privileged to be your elected District Representative and very honoured to be asked to contribute to Moulton's Parish Plan, which I wholeheartedly endorse. Much of this is down to a very hardworking, forward-thinking and voluntary Parish Council which, with the caring people of Moulton, maintains a thriving, prosperous and - in my opinion - the most beautiful village in Forest Heath. Thank you and good luck

Jennie Franks, Chairman, Moulton Parish Council

Moulton Parish Council is delighted to see the publication of this Parish Plan.

Special thanks for the preparation, planning and producing of the Plan must go to the Steering Group: Lisa and Bill Rampling, Linda Spinks and Julian Webb. They have used their considerable talents to produce a document of great value to the community. Many thanks, too, to all the other volunteers who have worked on the project in many different capacities and to those who gave their time to complete the questionnaires. The agencies that contributed in either cash or kind, with advice, leadership and guidance also deserve our thanks.

The motivation behind the Parish Council's backing for the project has been to gain a better understanding of how residents wish to see the village develop and flourish. We will take note of the opinions, preferences and action points contained here and - while results will not be immediate - with this Plan as evidence, the Parish Council's voice will now be all the more authoritative when seeking changes, improvements and funding from the many agencies with whom we collaborate.

Congratulations to the Steering Group on their hard work in producing this attractive and informative Parish Plan; we shall look forward to the next stage of implementing the recommendations with help from villagers and outside agencies alike. With all good wishes.

Acknowledgements

An independent steering group under a mandate from Moulton Parish Council completed the Parish Plan project. The work was principally funded through a grant from the Countryside Agency.

The Parish Plan Steering Group included a number of volunteers who took part in the process at some or all of its stages. Our thanks go especially to those volunteers who took many hours to deliver and collect the questionnaires. The Steering Group Members were Bill and Elissa Rampling, Linda Spinks and Julian Webb. Norman Mayes and Robert Farrar were earlier members of the Steering group Committee.

In addition we would like to acknowledge the contribution of Lisa Chambers, County Councillor, Roger Dicker, District Councillor and Jennie Franks Chairman of the Parish Council. We would also like to thank John Gunson, Village Archivist, for the history of the village and Michael Rampling for designing the cover and providing the photographs and improving the presentation of this document. The questionnaire software we used was 'Village Appraisals for windows' available from University of Gloucestershire.

We would like to congratulate Freddie Stokes for his winning picture and Lucy Frost for her winning poem, and the runners up for both competitions.

Finally thank you to everyone who took the time and trouble to respond to our leaflets and questionnaire; your responses are greatly valued and they contributed essentially to the Parish Plan process.

We should also like to thank all those people who have volunteered to take part in village activities in the future, and we will of course still be looking for more volunteers to help us to implement some of the recommendations in this plan.

Opinions expressed in this Parish Plan reflect the views that came out of the consultation process and do not necessarily reflect the views of the authors of this document or the Parish Council who have used every effort to avoid personal bias.

Throughout this document stringent methods have been used to prevent personal bias.

Disclaimer

It must be emphasized that neither the objectives nor the recommendations or the action plan items form a legal obligation on any party, organisation or individual to deliver or produce the outcomes described.

The plan is a statement of intent and is subject of continuous change. Residents, prospective residents, developers and commercial operations should under no circumstances use the plan as the basis for making decisions of a commercial nature.

Availability

Copies are available from the Local Shop, The Street, Moulton and an electronic version from elissa_rampling@yahoo.com

Background to the Parish Plan



Concept

The Parish Plan concept began in October 2003 at a meeting in the village hall, which was attended by Annette Gray, a representative of Suffolk Acre. At the meeting residents were asked to indicate areas of concern within the village. People raised issues mainly about the safety at specific junctions, dog fouling, speeding, litter and the need to retain local amenities and develop affordable housing.

Following the presentation by Annette Gray there was general agreement that Moulton should undertake a parish appraisal. A small group of volunteers agreed to undertake this work and the first meeting took place in November 2003.

In the spring of 2004 local residents and stakeholders were invited to view a display in the Village Hall. They were also given information on the village appraisal process and a questionnaire to complete identifying areas of concern.

The Parish Plan questionnaire and a separate youth questionnaire were then developed around these responses and distributed to stakeholders and residents within the parish over the summer of 2005. The village children were asked to submit either a poem or a drawing with the title 'What I like about living in Moulton'. The two winning entries have been included within this document.

The questionnaire results were collated and analysed and the Moulton Parish Plan was launched on 13th May 2006 at an event attended by 75 people in the village Hall.

The Parish Plan was presented to the Parish Council on 15th May 2006 and accepted as a working document for guidance for the future development of the village and parish.



History

The Government's White Paper of November 2000 entitled, 'Our Countryside - The Future', launched the concept of Parish and Town Plans. In July 2001 Margaret Beckett, the then Secretary of State for the Environment, officially announced this new initiative aimed at helping rural communities tackle some of the problems and challenges they faced and to ensure that people living in England's villages are able to access essential services, leisure opportunities and community facilities.

The initiative was called 'Vital Villages' and its aim was to help small rural communities assess themselves, identify what they need to revitalise, regenerate – to ensure local people have a voice in their future and to provide support to enable communities to make their own decisions and implement some of the improvements locally.

The aim of The Countryside Agency in funding local communities to undertake such broad village appraisals is to establish the issues that are most important to local residents and to assist local authorities to plan services, developments etc. for the next ten years.

Description of the Village

The charming and picturesque village of Moulton in Suffolk lies three miles to the east of Newmarket on the border between Suffolk and Cambridgeshire; Snailwell, Kennett, Kentford, Gazeley, Dalham, Ashley, Cheveley and the town of Newmarket border the parish. The northern perimeter is marked by the Icknield Way, old Roman Road¹.

Moulton has a total area of 12.92 sq.km with an average of 79 persons sq. km², compared to Forest Heath's and national averages of 147 and 380 persons sq. km², respectively.

The village has a population of just over 1030 residents and approximately 453 dwellings. Forest Heath District Council (FHDC) provides the civic services. There is a small proportion of social housing through FHDC but no housing designed for people with disabilities.

At the centre of the village and parish is a crossroads, which has the B1085 running north/south between Kentford and Dalham and a minor road from east/west from Newmarket to Gazeley.



The River Kennett runs north to south through the parish and is crossed by one road bridge, two footbridges and two fords one of which is beside the 15th century Packhorse Bridge which is only one of eight properties maintained by English Heritage in Suffolk.



The village lies in a valley between two hills, Primrose Hill to the east and Folly Hill to the west. There are currently 16 footpaths within the village. The village has maintained its rural charm and has working arable farms and studs within the parish. Two of the arable farms now have large flocks of sheep. Over recent months there has been considerable expansion of two of the equine facilities within the parish with new studs being built just off the Cheveley Road and at Moulton Paddocks.

The internationally known Animal Health Trust has its facilities at Lanwades Park in the north of the parish. Lanwades Park also contains a number of small industrial and business units. The historic Church of St. Peters holds regular services and the village maintains a thriving shop and Post Office, primary school, village hall, forge and engineering works and Public House.

¹ This ancient communications route extends from Norfolk to Wiltshire and dates from the pre-Roman times. It runs along the northern boundary of the parish, taking the path of the old Bury/Newmarket Road.

A Brief History of Moulton

Moulton is recorded in the Domesday Book, called Muletuna from the Anglo Saxon Mulan Tun (Mular's Farm); another meaning could be 'Enclosure where there are mules'. However there is no surviving record of the village in Saxon times.

It is known that there has been a church on the present site since Norman times and parts of the original structure can be seen today. A Saxon church could possibly have shared the same site.

The open meadow in the centre of the village was originally the site of the village of Moulton. It is said that, following the ravages of The Black Death in 1348, the surviving villagers refused to return to it and built around the edges as can be seen today. In dry weather, some features of the old village can be seen in the meadows.

There is a record of a market existing in the village from the early 13th century. Moulton was granted a market licence by Edward 1 in 1298, sited around the Lark Hill/Maltings Close area, which would have been on the packhorse route that ran through the village at that time.

The Pack Horse Bridge over the River Kennet was built in the mid-15th century and served the trade route from Bury St. Edmunds to Cambridge, bringing wool from the east to the main markets of the time. It was built with low walls to accommodate the packs the animals carried.

The fortunes of the village declined with the end of the profitable wool trade and by 1828 when the Suffolk topographer Elisha Davey visited Moulton, he wrote, 'Nothing can be more wretched than the whole appearance of this village'. The census of 1841 recorded a population of 379: 83 out of the 109 men of working age were engaged in agriculture and there were more than 120 children under the age of 12.

Much of the land in the parish was owned by the Cambridge College Trinity Hall and the two big houses were French Hall Farm and Moulton Hall. At this time the houses and labourers' cottages were concentrated in Bridge Street, The Street and Church Road.

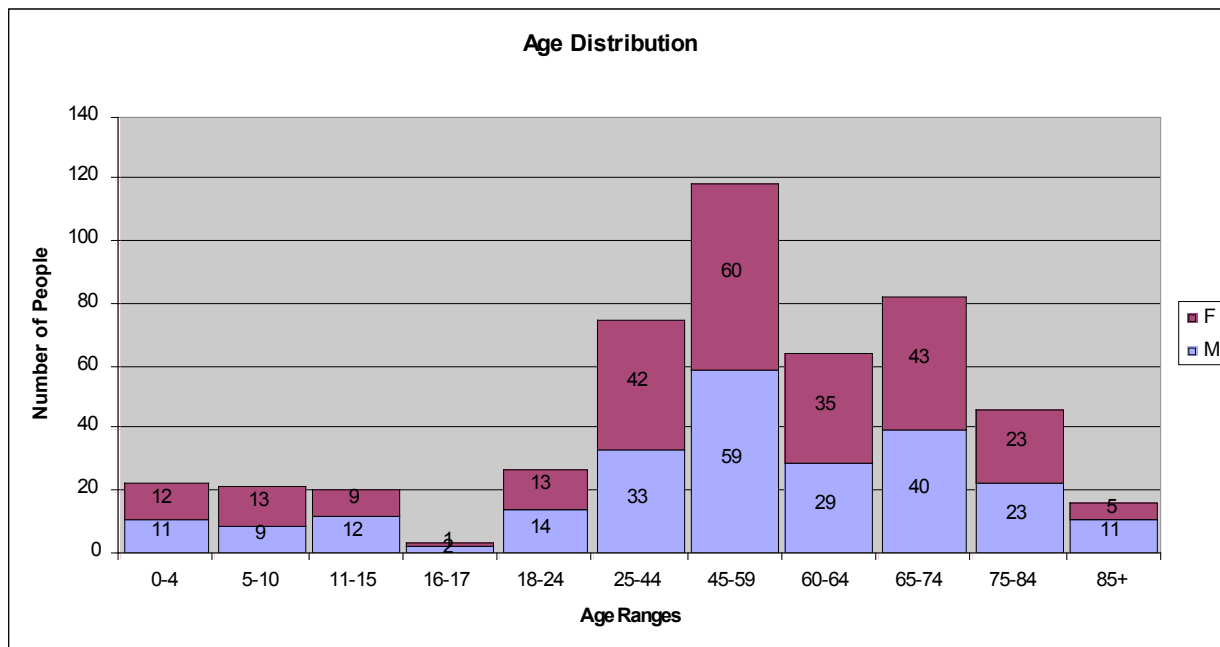
The first school was opened in Brookside in 1858 on land donated by the Rector and continued there until 1957 when the present school was built on part of a field belonging to the Churches and Bridges' Charity.

The Green was described as a Recreation Ground in the 1844 Tithe Map but in 1922 Sir Ernest Cassell of Moulton Paddocks Estate left the land for the present recreation ground to the village in his will 'for the enjoyment of all villagers'. The village hall was a wooden hut on this land near The Street and remained so until 1955 when the present hall was built by villagers on the site of the old Trinity Farm.

From the 1950s the village started to expand with the building of Benefield Road, the Church Road bungalows, St. Peter's Avenue and Close, Tweed Close, Maltings Close, Lark Hill, Park Close, Riverside Walk, Mayes Meadow and many other single houses. By the year 2001 the population was 1065.

Methodology

There were a total of 89 questions within the questionnaire and these were split into two sections: household and personal. The aim was to ensure that in the analysis of the responses a broad cross-section of the community had been consulted. Therefore some basic information about respondents was sought.



Of the 499 questionnaires distributed 221 were returned.

By looking at the total number of people in the first section of the report some interesting information came to light. Only 1 in 5 people are younger than 25 years old, just over 1 in 3 are less than 45 years old, 25% are between 45 and 60 years old. Those above 60 years old account for 2 in 5 of all people in the village.

This can be compared with national information from the 2001 census where 16% of the national population are over 65. In Moulton for the same age range it is 29% of the population. Matching national trends approximately 1 in 8 of these over 65s are aged 85 or more. Unusually, in Moulton of the over 85s, 11 out of the 16 are men when it is usually the other way round. The mean average age is 42.4 years (2001 census).

From census data this region of Forest Heath is 97.84% white ethnic origin. It is not an ethnically diverse area of Britain. From census data men live slightly longer and women approximately the same as the national average. Health is better than both regional and national averages.

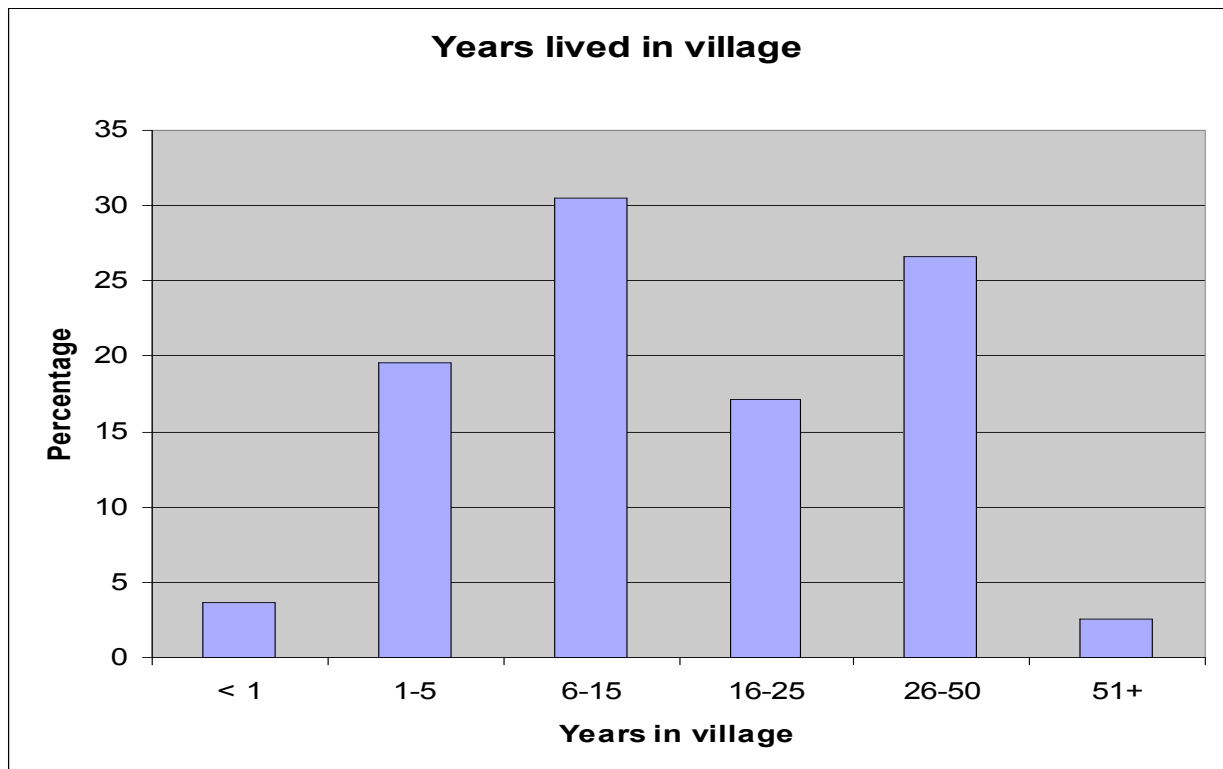
The area is in the top 15% of the country on a measure of deprivation.

The only areas that it scored low on were barriers to housing and services, where it finished in the bottom 12% of all national areas.

It is in the bottom 5% on a measure of crime affected areas.

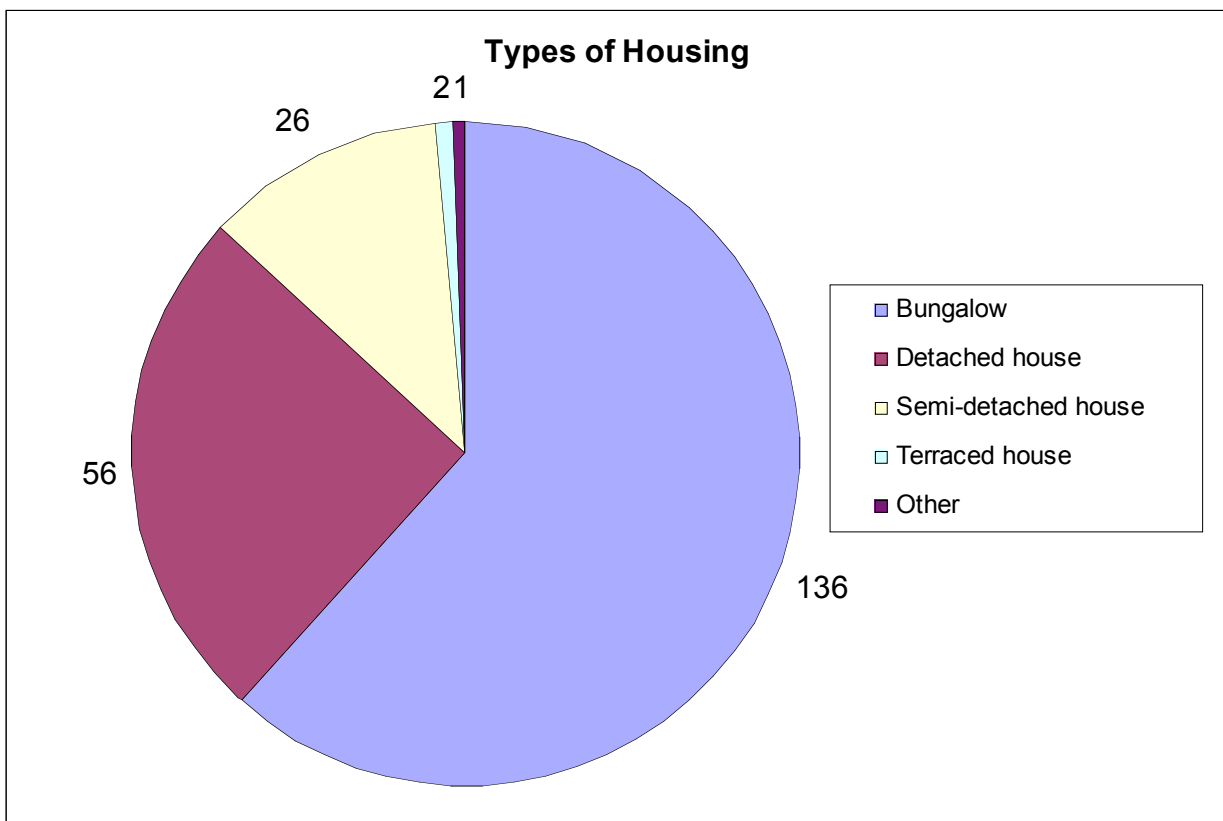
(Source (National Statistics Office of the Deputy Prime Minister))

General Bio Dem information

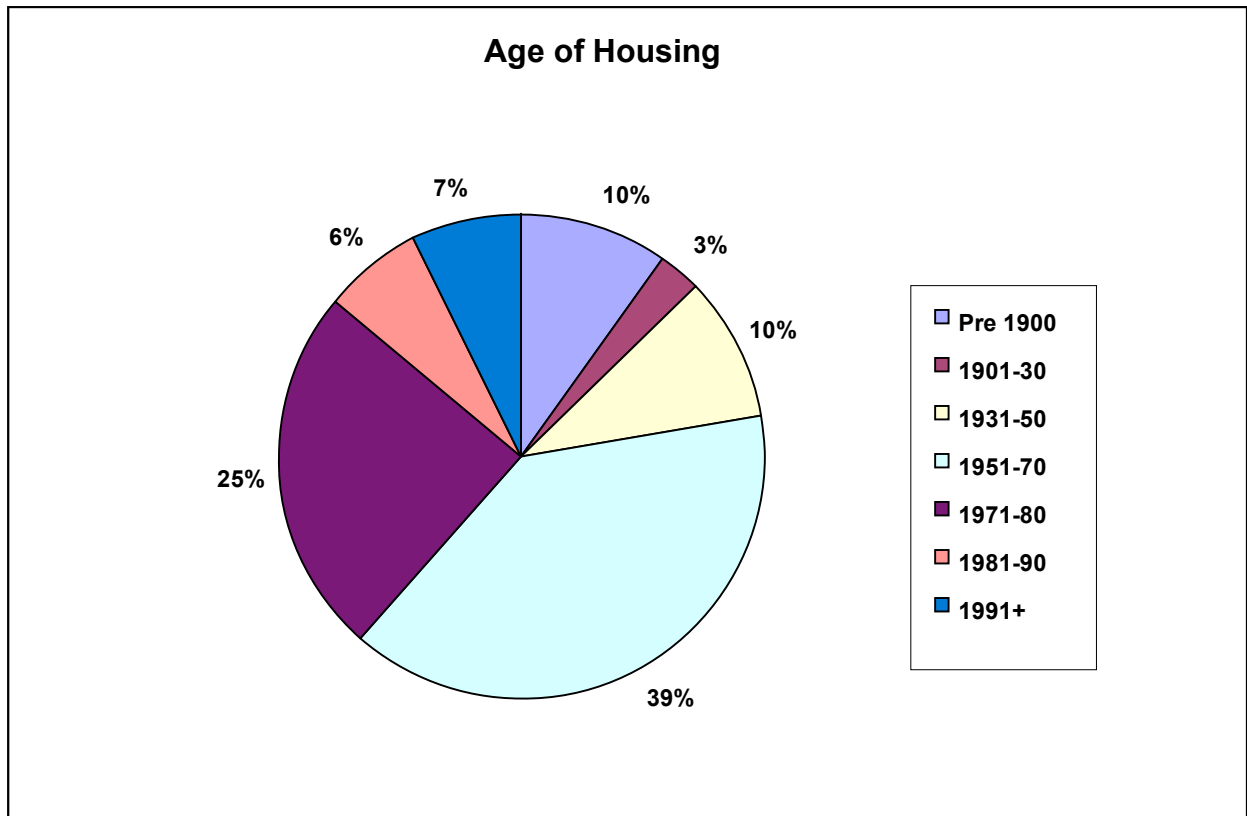


Of those over 11 years of age who answered the question; 46% have been in village for more than 16 years; 54% have been in the village less than 16 years; and 77% have been in the village more than 6 years.

Overview of dwellings



The mix of housing is unusual in that of those who responded; over 60% of the housing is in bungalows. This may explain the high proportion of people over retirement age. 25% of housing is detached and approximately 1 in 8 is semi-detached. Terraced housing represented approx 1% of housing.



The village has grown quickly over the last 100 years. Of those who returned their survey, only 10% of the houses were built before 1900 and 75% of properties were built after 1950.

Employment

Of the 407 respondents who stated their current employment status nearly 40% were retired and 48% were in employment with 10% of these self employed. 177 people gave information on the business of their main employer, and there was a wide range of employers and professions. Work with horses was surprisingly low with 7 people (4%). Local government or public sector was the largest type of business with 25 people 14.1%.

Most people did not travel far to work. Of the 201 responses relating to place of work, 15% work within the village, 53% work within 15 miles and approximately 15% work beyond a 25 mile radius of Moulton.

Transport

Moulton is a rural community and the primary source of transport is by car.

The B1085 running through the village is a particularly busy road between Dalham and Kentford. There is a 30 mph speed limit through Moulton with a 20 mph safety zone around the school.



Of the 221 responses regarding the number of vehicles kept per household there were 333 cars and 186 bicycles. There were only a small number of vans and motorbikes. Only 13 people reported having frequent difficulties in getting out of the village to other places and 64 having occasional difficulties.

Parking of private cars on the roadside around the school has increased over recent years as the school has attracted children from villages beyond Moulton. This causes congestion in the morning and afternoon when children are dropped off and collected.

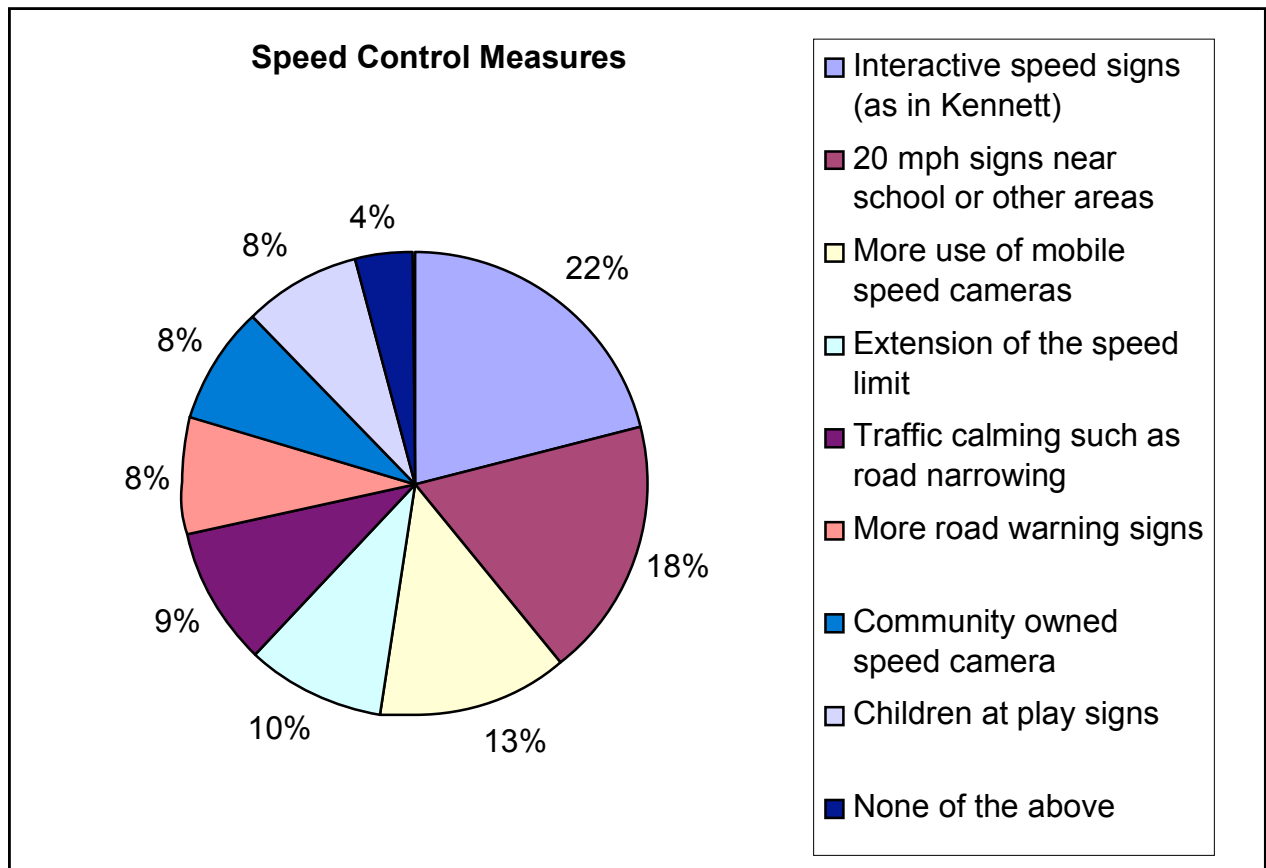
The majority of the responses were in favour of traffic calming measures, the most popular being interactive speed signs, however not everyone was of this opinion.

'Interference in the village environment by having too many road signs, or the road narrowing or ghastly electronic flashing road signs will be a complete eyesore'.

Your concerns³

- Traffic congestion around the school especially at peak times
- Parking on Chippenham Road and School Road which obscures visibility and is regarded as dangerous as children cross the road between parked cars
- No safe crossing area for children close to the school
- Insufficient pavements especially on Chippenham Road close to School Road
- Dangerous junction between Brookside and Gazeley Road
- Dangerous junction at the crossroads between Newmarket Road, Bridge Street, Chippenham Road and The Street
- Speeding traffic through the village especially around Newmarket Road, The Street, Chippenham Road and School Road
- Pavements throughout the village needed further attention

³Concerns include responses from the questionnaire and additional written and verbal comments made throughout the consultation



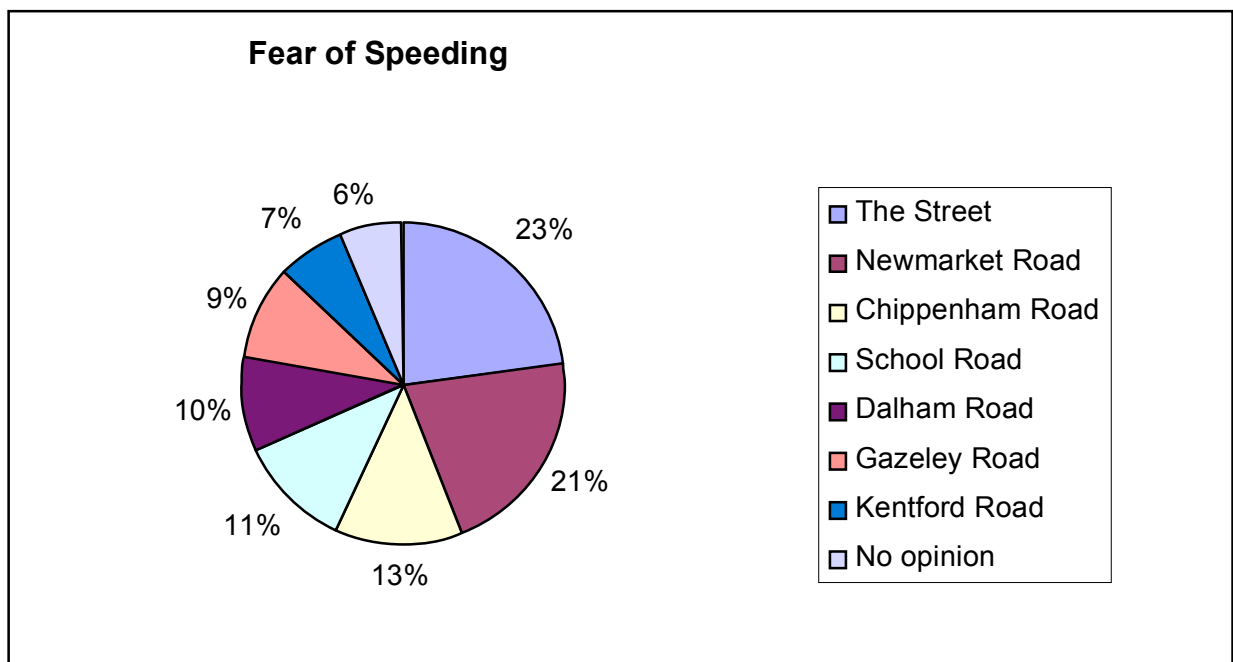
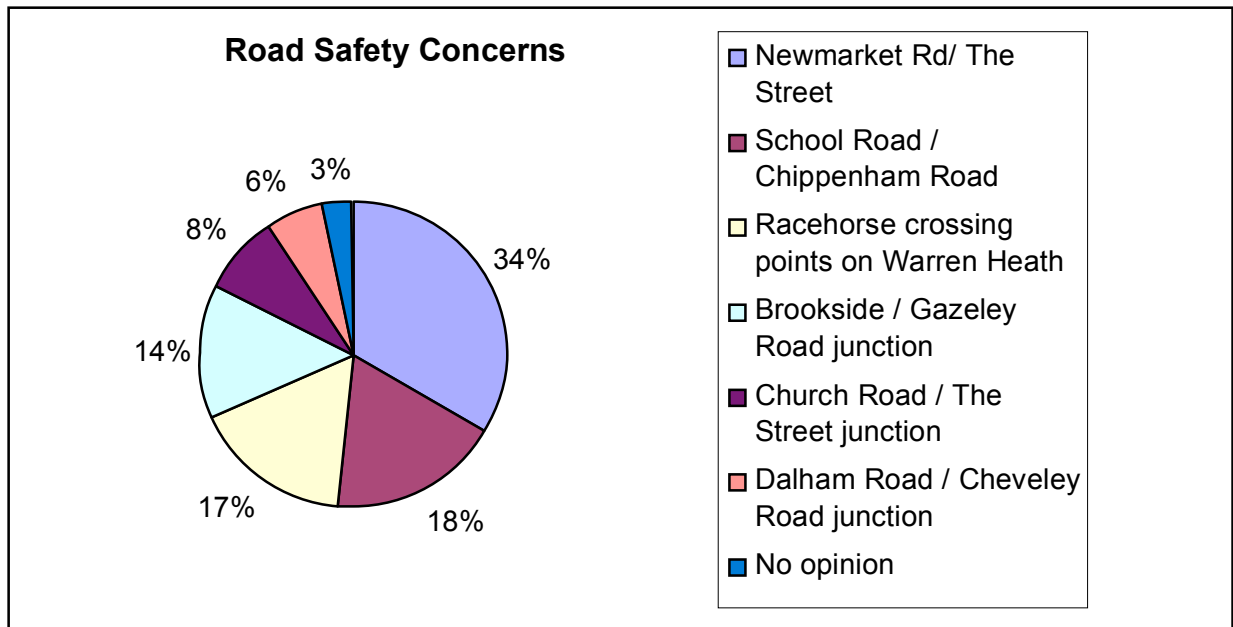
Percentages expressed are as a total of number of responses. Total responses to this speed control measures were 366.

195 people rated the Newmarket Road junction with The Street as their main junction to improve. 290 people (84%) people placed Newmarket Road/The Street in 1st 2nd or 3rd place.

The next highest rating was 91 people ranking School Road/Chippenham Road as their main point to improve.

By awarding 3 points for any junction selected as 1, 2 points if selected as 2 and 1 point if awarded 3, then the ranks are as follows

Newmarket Rd/ The Street	1 st	748
School Road / Chippenham Road	2 nd	413
Racehorse crossing points on Warren Heath	3 rd	373
Brookside / Gazeley Road junction	4 th	317
Church Road / The Street junction	5 th	180
Dalham Road / Cheveley Road junction	6 th	139
No opinion		72



Car Sharing

Although the response to the question regarding car sharing revealed that of the 268 responses, 114 (70.4%) shared a vehicle for social and leisure activities, 66 (40.7%) for shopping and 27 (16.7%) for work, very few people in addition to these would consider using their vehicles for more regular car sharing for any purpose.

Taxi

In general there were no negative comments about any aspect of local taxi service. For reliability 145 people rated it as reasonable or better and only 2 rated it as poor. 33% rated the cost as poor.

Bus

Public transport services have improved and the village has a bus service regularly throughout the day. Currently there is a return service into Newmarket three times an hour. There are other connections to Bury St. Edmunds, Haverhill, Mildenhall and Thetford. This has been well received by local residents and with car parking charges now being introduced in the town of Newmarket this service may become more frequently used. The bus service is used primarily for shopping with very positive feedback on the route, timetable, reliability, cost and bus stop location. About 68 (20%) of the 373 that responded used the bus regularly. Disabled access was the only low score in its ratings. About 20% (68) of the 373 that responded used the bus regularly. The community bus/dial-a-ride was used by 9 people.

'Good bus service to Newmarket'

'Bus services no good for taking pets to the vet!'

Rail

Of the 373 responses to method of transport, 68 (12.3%) people use rail links. However it was not possible to ascertain if this was from Newmarket or the closest station at Kennett which is situated 2 miles from the village centre. Generally the service was rated quite favourably.

Your concerns

- Poor links to local buses
- Unsafe parking facilities

Other comments were

'Although not in Moulton, the Moulton Rd/Station Rd, Newmarket junction is increasingly dangerous with cars parking on it'

'Action should be taken against cars parked on pavements.'



Next Steps

The Parish Council should be asked to discuss with the relevant authorities the following areas

- **How to make crossing points near the school safer**
- **Ways to reduce congestion on the approaches to the school**
- **School crossing to improve safety**
- **Assessment of pavements in the village generally, (including the pavement at the end of Chippenham Road**
- **Improvements to road junctions that residents consider are dangerous**

- **Feasibility of interactive speed signs; more use of mobile speed cameras and extension of the 30 mph speed limit**
- **Condition of existing pavements to ensure they are in good order and consider dropped kerbs at key crossing areas**
- **Safe parking for cars/bicycles at Kennett Railway Station**
- **Raise awareness of the community Dial-A-Ride scheme**

Environment

Residents were asked ‘what was most important about Moulton?’

This question received a large response (390) and people chose location (45%), environment (30%), community (20%) and facilities (5%). There were a number of comments made to support this question with requests for improvements to the seating around the village, an increase in the number of dog litter bins etc.

The appearance of the following areas was rated as either Good or Reasonable in the 379 responses as follows

	Good or Reasonable
Village Green	367 (96.8%)
Recreation Area	337 (88.9%)
Roadside verges	316 (83.4%)
Area around Packhorse Bridge	309 (81.5%)
Riverside	294 (77.6%)
Bottle and Can Bank	212 (56.1%)

There were 371 responses to the question ‘What do you think could be done to improve the environment of Moulton?’ The responses were spread across ‘very important’ or ‘worth doing’ with only a few people regarding further planting of trees or hedges as ‘not necessary’. The following areas are in order of highest percentages

	Very Important/Worth doing
More or better maintenance of footpaths	264 (71.2%)
Repair flint walls	264 (71.2%)
Looking after woodlands	243 (65.5%)
Making a better feature of the river	243 (65.5%)
More seats around the village	230 (62.0%)
Keep hedges short and tidy	214 (57.7%)
Preserve single trees in special places	206 (55.5%)
Plant more trees	153 (41.2%)
Plant more hedges and trees	137 (36.9%)

The large expression of interest in volunteering should be capitalised upon. A very respectable figure of 126 people said that they would be prepared to help in some projects.

- 78 people would like to protect wildlife habitats
- 68 maintain pond or river
- 44 maintain footpaths
- 37 survey trees
- 35 school or natural history group activity

Your comments

'Footpaths and Bridleways by their very nature are muddy and wild - why should they be otherwise?'

'The footpath from Moulton church to Dalham has always been almost impassable in wet weather when it turns into a quagmire. Pedestrians are forced into the verges which are thick with nettles and on one side dangerously near to a gulley leading down to the river, because there is only room for one horse. In addition the amount of horse manure dropped onto this path renders it wholly unsuitable for foot travel'

'I am concerned that the village green is being used for private parties'.

'A dog warden is needed to help prevent fouling in the village especially around Brookside and the Church'.

'I am angered by the number of cars parked outside houses actually on village green'.



Pretty Bridge, Brookside

There were a number of comments with 127 (60.8%) concerned about the poor condition of the footpaths alongside the River Kennett.

Since the questionnaire was completed the footpath between Riverside Close and the Packhorse Bridge has been resurfaced using money from the County Councillor's Locality Budget 4.

4 There is a sum of money available to be used at the discretion of the County Councillor for improvements within the village.

With regard to 'how user-friendly the pavements are for people with disabilities, pushchairs or wheelchairs', the results were as follows

Good	23 (6.1%)
Reasonable	164 (43.9)
Poor	109 (29.1)
No opinion	78 (20.9)

The policing and safety in the village was considered to be reasonably good, with only a few comments about anti-social behaviour or criminal damage.

Of the 391 respondents who expressed an opinion about whether a Neighbourhood / Farm Watch Scheme across the village would be beneficial 321 (82%) felt that this would be worthwhile.

Over 43 % wanted modern street lights with less light pollution and 22 % wanted more street lights. Clearly lighting on the streets is an issue and it should be possible to resolve the two points of more lighting with less light pollution despite the apparent contradiction.

When asked whether further "Dog Mess" bins were required within the village, 151 people expressed an opinion. Of these 36% said yes, 30% said no and 34% had no opinion. The comments received indicated that it was not the presence of bins that were the issue but the willingness of dog owners to use them. When asked about the number and location of general litter bins in the village, of the 152 respondents, 9% felt that this was good, 54% reasonable, 24% fair and 13% had no opinion.

Your concerns

- Poor condition of the Roadside Nature Reserve along Newmarket Road
- Poor condition of the footpath alongside the River Kennett
- Bushes /nettles, horses and mud /water along the footpaths and bridleways
- Horses using footpaths
- Dog fouling
- Street lighting in certain areas and light pollution generally



Next Steps

The Parish Council should be asked to liaise with the relevant authorities regarding

- **A further consultation to identify where facilities need to be improved e.g. additional seating, dog bins etc.**
- **Implementation of a 'good neighbour' scheme, and Neighbourhood Watch scheme.**

- **A review of the street lighting in the village to identify opportunities for improving the lighting while decreasing light pollution.**
- **Review of footpaths and bridleways and specifically the problem of mud on the bridleway between Moulton and Dalham.**
NB. This footpath forms part of the 'Three Churches Walk, which is a significant visitor attraction to the village.

Housing

Only 8 (3.6%) people are in need of alternative accommodation but the responses to why people have left the village was more interesting in that 10 people left to live independently and 10 also left to set up new households.

The village sits in a prime position close to the A14 and A11 roads, and within 20 miles of Cambridge, Bury St. Edmunds and Ely. It is also close to the towns of Newmarket, Mildenhall and Haverhill.

Of the 166 responses to the question

'What kind of accommodation do you think Moulton needs?' the results were

Homes for young people	105 (63.3%)
Small family homes,	85 (51.2%)
Homes for single people	52 (31.3%)
Homes for people with disabilities	20 (12.0%)
Large family homes	22 (13.3%)

(This appears to be almost the reverse of recent developments)

Of the 232 responses to the question

'What type of housing development would be acceptable in Moulton?' the results were

Single dwellings in controlled locations	91 (39.2%)
Conversion of redundant buildings	90 (38.8%)
None	63 (27.2%)
Small groups of less than 10	56 (24.1%)
Expansion on the edge of Moulton	47 (20.3%)

It appears that infill and conversion is preferred to growth on edge of village however 27.2% of respondents do not want any housing development.

The results to the type of development that would be supported in Moulton were as follows

Light industrial workshops	63 (49.2%)
Shared office units	62 (48.4%)
Sheltered workshops	49 (38.3%)
Other	11 (8.6%)

It is not possible to conclude how many would be willing to use such facilities if they were developed.

Other comments were

'Homes for the elderly 1 - 2 bedroom bungalows needed'

'Sheltered dwellings for the elderly'

'If built by council should not be sold as has happened before'

'Transport facilities will need to be in place and accessible housing needed'

'I like Moulton the way it is. I don't want development'



Next Steps

The Parish council should liaise with the relevant authorities regarding the housing needs and types of development for the village and communicate the findings in this report.

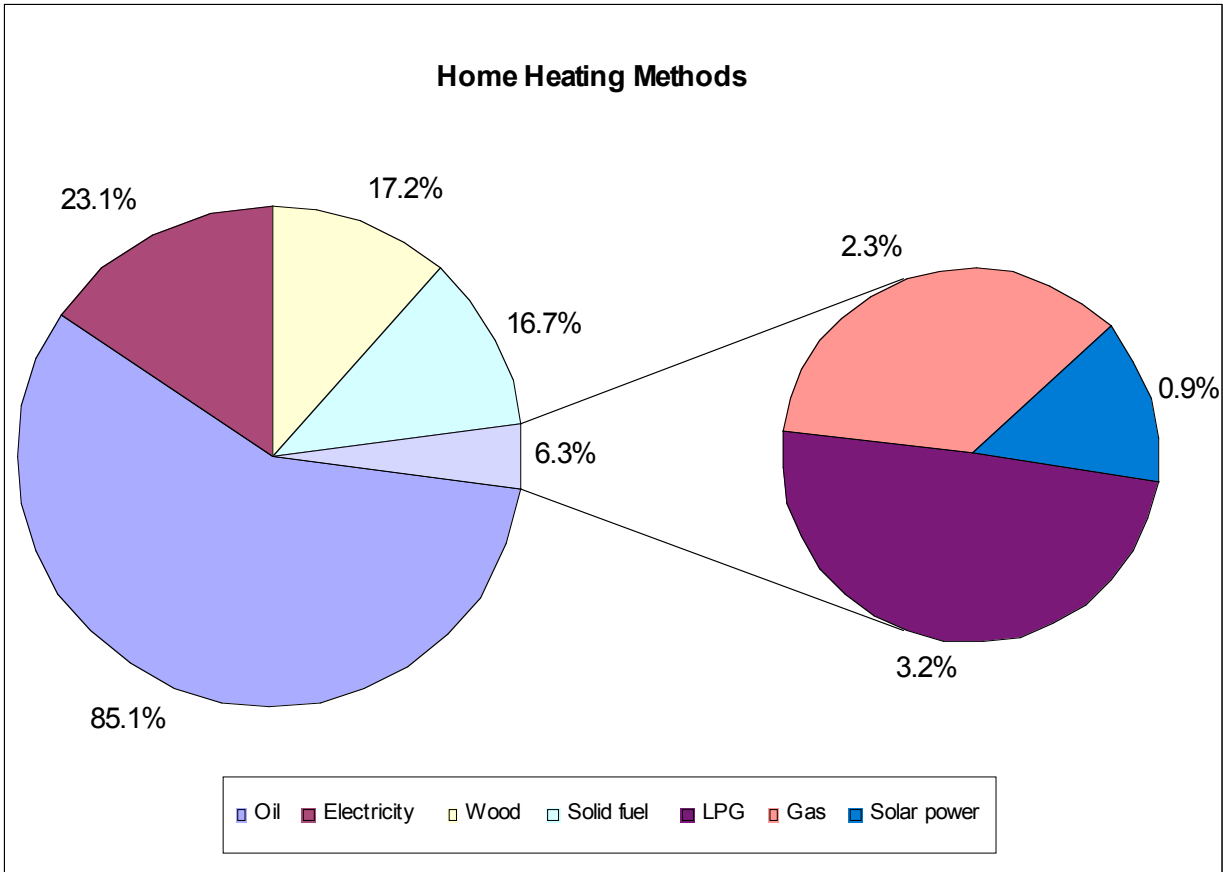
Flooding

Although over recent years there has been occasional flooding along certain areas within the village, only 35 (15.8%) reported a 'few problems'.

Energy

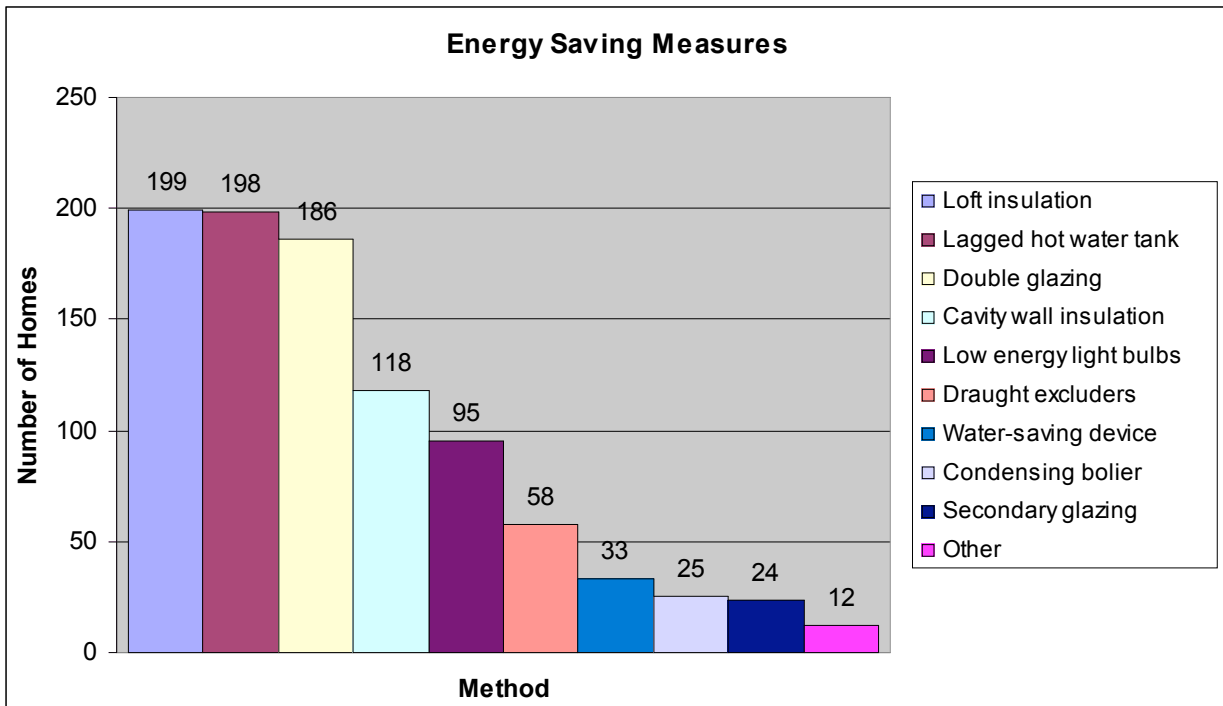
Oil is the main fuel for heating with 23% (51) using electricity, and around 16.7% (37) using solid fuel and 17.2% (38) using wood. A large proportion of the residents now take advantage of the quarterly bulk oil fuel purchase. This reduces the traffic within the village as well as keeping costs low. There are only a few properties on the periphery of the village that are able to access main gas.

Over 85% of all properties have some energy saving features with lagged hot water tanks, loft insulation and double-glazing. Only 53.4% (118) of the 221 responses have cavity wall insulation.



Next Steps

The Parish Council should be asked to liaise with FHDC and other appropriate agencies for advice regarding energy efficiency and grants available.



Services

Health

Around 90% of respondents were registered with a dentist within 25 miles of Moulton. And over half are with NHS dentists.

Of the 196 people who expressed an opinion the GP service was rated as 'good' by 80% of people, as 'reasonable' or better by 96% and as 'poor' by only 4%. This appears to be a very high rating for this service. By comparing these services most scored above 85% for 'reasonable' or 'better'.

There were 42 people who stated they were 'registered disabled'.

Suffolk County Council (SCC) Mobile Library Service

The van visits the village on a Sunday every two weeks and stops at Tweed Close, Newmarket Road and Church Road. There is a wide range of books and videos available. This has grown in popularity over the last year and SCC is looking to extend the range of services offered.

Schooling

The earliest school in the village was opened in Brookside in 1858, the site for the old school and the adjoining school house was built on glebe (Church) land. It closed in 1959 when the present Moulton Church of England Voluntary-Controlled Primary School was built in School Road. The school takes children between the ages of 4 to 9 years of age.



Over the last year three new classrooms have been added to the school. The school has good facilities, which includes an outdoor swimming pool, interactive whiteboards and Information Computer Technology (ICT) suite. The school has a weekly newsletter.

In the 1950s Dalham Primary School closed and the children transferred to Moulton. In 2003 Gazeley Primary School closed due to falling numbers and the children transferred to Moulton Primary School. An interesting point to note is that the number of primary age children in village (22) is relatively low considering the number of pupils at the school 110. A number of children attend from many of the surrounding villages as well as from Newmarket itself.

The questionnaire showed that only a very small number of children attending Middle and Upper Schools are unable to take part in after school activities due to transport difficulties.

Of the 380 people who responded to a question about the importance of the school to the village, 84.7% stated that it was at least 'important', 70% stated 'very important'.

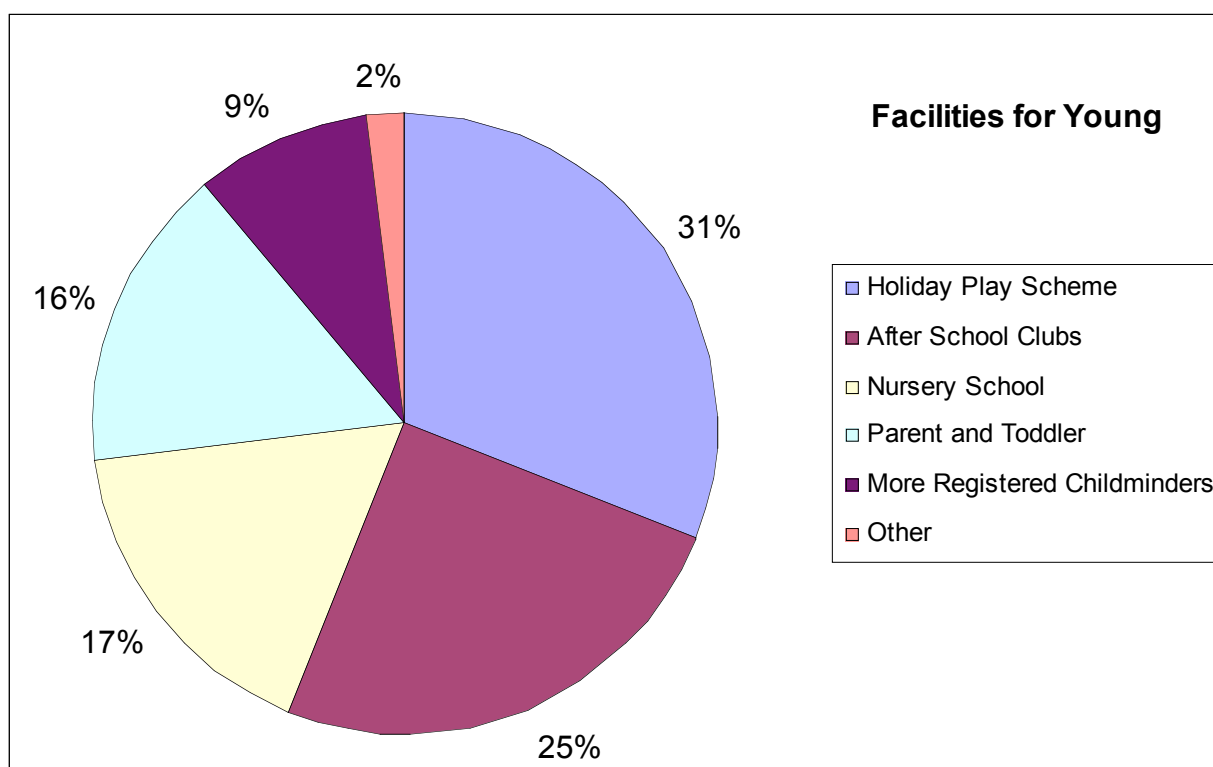
Other Facilities for the Young

It was interesting to note that a number of respondents stated that they would like to see both a parent and toddler group and a nursery school. Unfortunately the Parent and Toddler Group closed at the end of 2005.

Moulton Pre-School operates in the Village Hall on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings. This is a well-attended pre-school managed as a charity by a committee of parents. There are currently 19 children on the books, and a managed waiting list for when places become available.

Some interest was shown in the possibility of After School Clubs and Holiday Play Schemes.

The results show that the number of primary age children in the village is relatively low considering number on role.



Next Steps

Further investigation is required into the feasibility of

- **Hosting a holiday play scheme in the village**
- **After School Clubs**

St. Peter's Church

The memorial altar within the church commemorates the 27 villagers who lost their lives in the First World War, the Second World War and the Korean War. The village war memorial stands outside the North door of the church. Services are held every fortnight. 103 (28.6%) of respondents stated that religious groups contribute to village life. 268 (72%) of the 368 responses stated that they value the Church as an historic building, and a focal point for the community.

Post Office and Shop

The village has a well stocked shop and Post Office and 335 (94%) use the Post Office services. The Post Office provides banking services as well as the usual postal services. The shop sells a good range of general provisions including locally baked fresh bread, cakes, fresh fruit and vegetables, dairy produce, newspapers and greeting cards. It also attracts passing trade through the village especially at lunch times when freshly-made sandwiches and rolls are available. The shop will also deliver to any housebound residents.



Next Steps

The Postmaster could make the range of services offered more widely known to local residents.

King's Head Public House

The general consensus is that the overall atmosphere of the pub could be improved with an increase in the social activities such as quizzes, BBQ's and an evening menu. Of those who made a comment, the most common suggestion was that smoke free environment would benefit the pub's overall atmosphere. The lay-out of the pub and in particular the approach to the saloon bar past the toilets was commented on as being 'off-putting'.



Next Steps

The landlady could consult with Greene King to

- **market the pub to a wider client group**
- **investigate the feasibility of improving the interior layout**
- **improve the range and availability of 'Good Pub Food'**
- **increase the social events**
- **Extend Smoke-free area**

Utilities

When asked about the quality of utilities within the parish, the 383 people who responded gave the following feedback

	%				
	Good	Reasonable	Poor	No Opinion	N/A
Mains water supply	66	23.2	4.7	1	0.3
Mains Gas Supply	1.3	2.1	3.7	4.7	51
Mains Electricity Supply	44	37	14.1	0.5	0.3
Refuse Collection	61	27	5.7	1.8	0.3
Street Lighting	21.1	56	17.2	1.3	0
Road, Pavement and Verges	18	58	18.3	1.6	0
Gritting and Snow Clearance	7.3	33	43	7.3	0
TV / Radio Reception	14.1	26	54	0.8	0.3
Mobile Phone Coverage	6.5	14.6	65	3.1	3.4
Broadband	13.1	18.5	11.7	12.3	22.5
Bus Shelter	18.8	38	8.9	17.2	5.7
Public Phone Box	11.5	31	8.1	30	6

Gritting and snow clearance was rated by respondents as one of the worst services. TV and mobile phone reception were also poorly rated. Terrestrial TV reception may improve as the plans for digital broadcasting increase.

Refuse collection has very high support as does mains water and electricity supply.

Social

Moulton Millennium Club was formed in 1999 to plan the highly successful village Millennium Ball. Subsequently it has continued and its new aim is to raise money and to support village initiatives/activities. The first village Fun Day was in 2004 and the following participating groups which included the Church, Pre-School, Brookside Club, Badminton Club, Cubs, Brownies, Petanque Club etc. all received substantial donations. The remainder raised was given to the new Village Hall Fund. The event was a huge success and the highlight of the day was the Moulton Cork Race along the River Kennett. This event will be repeated in May 2006.

Village Hall

The current village hall, which was built in 1954/55, has very limited space and facilities. The Village Hall Committee has developed a new design, which has been approved by Forest Heath District Council, and the committee is now raising the funds for the new building, which will provide improved facilities and access. Results from the questionnaire concluded that parishioners think the design for the new village hall would meet their needs. The aim will be to complete the project over the next two years.

When asked to comment on how sports facilities in the village could be improved, 17 people felt that the new village hall would in itself improve the facilities.

Sports/Leisure

Moulton Panthers Football Club has two youth teams that compete in the local youth leagues, using the village playing field for their training and home games. Badminton, Bridge and Whist are popular activities within Moulton and take place at the village hall. Golf, gym and swimming are available and popular in Newmarket and Mildenhall.



Play Area, Village Green

Overall 49.4% of those who expressed an opinion felt that social facilities were poor across all age bands. A number of people reported that social facilities were reasonable for residents in the age ranges 26 – 60 and over 60, but 70% of those who expressed an opinion said they were poor for children and young adults up to the age of 25. The facilities in the children's playground were considered to be reasonable.

In terms of improving sports facilities, 15 people commented that tennis courts would be an asset; other sports mentioned for inclusion in the village were cricket, bowls and volleyball.

Local News

Within the village there are a number of methods for distributing information, with the Village Newsletter being the most popular and effective. Other methods include local papers, flyers and word of mouth. Over half of the respondents stated they had access to a PC and of that half, 75% said they would like to receive or access information online.

In terms of the accessibility and communication of the Parish Council numbers were low from under 45s. Of the 105 out of 387 respondents (27%) had attended a Parish Council Meeting. Of these 80 (76%) stated that there had been adequate opportunities to participate.

When asked to rate whether they felt that councillors were aware of village concerns the following results were obtained (based on 350 respondents):

	Fully Aware (%)	Quite Aware (%)	Not Aware (%)	No Opinion (%)
Parish Council	21.4	34	18.3	24.3
District Council	4.9	32	30	28
County Council	1.4	19.7	39	34

Clearly, the Parish Council is felt to be more in touch than other levels of government and can play a vital role in communicating the concerns of residents to other levels of government or external bodies.



Next Steps

The Parish Council should be asked to

- **Consider improving the circulation of minutes from their meetings**
- **Investigate the feasibility of developing a village website. This could incorporate links to all current websites as well as providing up to date information on all events, activities and clubs. It could also include information on local walks, history of the village, pub menus, church service times and Post Office services**
- **Review the siting and condition of the current Notice Boards at the following locations:
Church gates; Post Office; Maltings Close; Village Hall;
Newmarket Road and High Street Crossroads and Primary School**

Youth Survey Results

In order to canvas the particular issues affecting the young people in the village, a Youth Questionnaire was distributed with the main questionnaire for completion by any 11 – 18 year olds.

Of the 24 11 – 17 year olds indicated as resident in the village via the main questionnaire, 14 submitted feedback via the Youth Questionnaire.

Recreation Ground

When asked to rate the facilities on the recreation ground the following was recorded

<i>Rating</i>	<i>Number</i>
Good	4
Bad	9
No Opinion	1

Comments surrounding this were as follows

“Tennis Courts would be good”

“More Sports Clubs - e.g. Cricket Pitch / Nets”

When asked whether a youth club was needed 7 said yes, 4 said no and 3 had no opinion.

On the question of the formation of a Youth Council for the village 10 thought this would be a good idea, 2 thought not and 2 had no opinion.

Most of the suggestions made by this age group revolved around improving the sports facilities to enable the playing of cricket, tennis, rounders and more football.

Changing and showering facilities were seen as important in the new village hall.

These comments were in line with the findings of the main questionnaire. Computer facilities were also seen as a requirement for the new Village Hall.



Next Steps

The Parish Council should be asked to

- Investigate the feasibility of a Youth Council
- Investigate the possibility of a Youth Club in the village
- Consider the availability of sports facilities.

Colouring Competition – ‘What I like about living in Moulton’



Winner

**Freddie Stokes
Age 5**

Runners Up were ...

Elisa Frost, Oliver Osterburg and Grace Stonham

Moulton



Moulton is exciting, Moulton is cool,
Moulton has a school and a village hall.
Moulton is quiet, Moulton is nice,
Moulton has a pub with lots of ice.
Moulton is pretty, Moulton is Great,
Moulton is a place where you can play
with your mates.
Moulton is friendly, Moulton is fun,
Moulton is a place for everyone!

Winner

**Lucy Frost
Age 10**

Runners Up were...

Rebecca Spinks, Annabel Murphy and Laura Hall

Action Plan

It is the recommendation of the Parish Plan Steering Group that the Parish Council formulate Action Teams (where appropriate) to address some of the activities shown in the summary below. In this way, those residents who have strong feelings about particular issues can be encouraged to participate in resolving them.

At the current time it is not possible to complete this Action Plan until further discussion has been undertaken with the Parish Council.

Page No.	Description	Lead Agency	Date
15/16	<p>The Parish Council should be asked to discuss with the relevant authorities the following areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to make crossing points near the school safer • Ways to reduce congestion on the approaches to the school • School crossing to improve safety • Improvements to road junctions that residents consider are dangerous • Feasibility of interactive speed signs; more use of mobile speed cameras and extension of the 30 mph speed limit • Condition of existing pavements to ensure they are in good order and consider dropped kerbs at key crossing areas • Safe parking for cars/bicycles at Kennett Railway Station • Raise awareness of the community Dial-A-Ride scheme 		
18	<p>The Parish Council should be asked to liaise with the relevant authorities regarding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A further consultation to identify where facilities need to be improved e.g. additional seating, dog bins etc. • Implementation of a ‘good neighbour’ scheme, and Neighbourhood Watch scheme. • A review of the street lighting in the village to identify opportunities for improving the lighting while decreasing light pollution. 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of footpaths and bridleways and specifically the problem of mud on the bridleway between Moulton and Dalham 		
20	The Parish council should liaise with the relevant authorities regarding the housing needs and types of development for the village and communicate the findings in this report		
21	The Parish Council should be asked to liaise with FHDC and other appropriate agencies for advice regarding energy efficiency and grants available		
23	<p>Further investigation is required into the feasibility of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hosting a holiday play scheme in the village • After School Clubs 		
24	The Postmaster could make the range of services offered more widely known to local residents		
25	<p>The landlady could consult with Greene King to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • market the pub to a wider client group • investigate the feasibility of improving the interior layout • improve the range and availability of ‘Good Pub Food’ • increase the social events • Extend Smoke-free area 		
27	<p>The Parish Council should be asked to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider improving the circulation of minutes from their meetings • Investigate the feasibility of developing a village website. This could incorporate links to all current websites as well as providing up to date information on all 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • events, activities and clubs. It could also include information on local walks, history of the village, pub menus, church service times and Post Office services • Review the siting and condition of the current Notice Boards 		
28	<p>The Parish Council should be asked to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Investigate the feasibility of a Youth Council ▪ Investigate the possibility of a Youth Club in the village ▪ Consider the availability of sports facilities 		