

## Headlines from Lamyatt Village Survey, April 2014

The 110 responses were mostly from individuals with a few were whole family responses. The 2011 Census recorded 183 residents in the village. This response rate shows that we have obtained a broad cross section of views across most age groups

Under 16s were 6.5% (7); 16-24s were 15% (16); 25-34s were 2.8% (3); 35-44s were 6.5% (7); 45-64s were 42% (45) and 65+ were 27% (29)

14 respondents (13.3%) said that they have a disability or long term limiting illness. Their suggestions for an improved hall to meet their needs were ramped/ wheelchair access and comfortable chairs.

### Why people live here

By far the main reason (64%) was to take advantage of the benefits of living in the countryside. Also figuring highly was work reasons (27%); a local family for generations (22%); to be nearer family or friends (15.5%) or to retire (10%)

When asked to give the 3 main things respondents **like** about Lamyatt, the most frequently mentioned themes were:-

- 71 liked the lovely small village set in beautiful countryside
- 61 the community spirit, small scale, friendly place with a good range of activities
- 45 mentioned peace quiet, open space/ fresh air
- 15 said friendly neighbours & nice people all around
- 14 liked being off the main roads, but with excellent small towns nearby
- 14 liked the great walking/ riding straight from the door
- 9 said family and friends nearby
- 8 said they ran a business here or were close to work or a train to work

When asked to list the 3 main things which were **draw backs** about living here, most frequently mentioned were

- 42 said no or limited public transport
- 30 said no shop and 28 said no pub/ café .
- Linked to this 18 mentioned no/ limited amenities and 15 said it was impossible to walk to the amenities in Bruton or Cary making a car a necessity
- 24 said the existing hall did not meet needs, some also saying that it did not currently cater for all age groups, put another way 8 said there was not a village social hub or central point
- 16 were concerned about more speeding traffic making our narrow lanes unsafe
- 10 mentioned the lack of things to do for youngsters whose friends lived in Bruton/ local towns. A further 8 mentioned the isolation for those without cars & 5 the lack of play park

### Services and Amenities

All of these lie outside the village. The ones that people used most were

- Local shops 93.5%, Supermarkets 89% Markets 37%

- Post office 72%
- Bank 64%
- Doctors/ medical 48%
- Hairdresser 46%
- Education- primary 14%,secondary 20% and college 18.5%
- Railway stations, perhaps a surprising 43.5%

Apart from school /college students who tend to use the buses provided, most people went by car to these facilities. A significant minority, up to 10% rely on lifts to many facilities

### **Social and recreational activities**

The top weekly or more, activities of respondents show how active we are

- Walking/riding/cycling 66%
- Gardening 51%
- Visiting family and friends 49%
- watching/ playing sport 32%
- gym/exercise classes/swimming 32%

Also very popular

- the pub 19% and going out to eat 18%

Individual comments revealed a big and diverse range of social, cultural and fitness activities/ sports that villagers do regularly many of these by their nature require travel outside the village.

Whilst many of you said that these activities are either very easy (28%) or fairly easy (34%) to get to, quite a high proportion said it was just average (22%) or fairly difficult (14%) to access these things.

### **Activities in the Improved Village Hall**

There was wide ranging support for both existing activities and some new ones in the improved building. In participation order (fig in brackets are would participate in)the top 10 were:

1. Film showings (46)
2. Lunch/ supper club (44)
3. Exercise/ fitness classes (39)
4. Game/quiz eves(33)
5. Indoor table sport/book club/coffee mornings/guest talks/taster sessions ( all 30)
6. Evening classes (29)

There were 32 further suggestions on types of activity that could happen in the hall, many of these were more detailed ideas for the above categories. A summary :-

- Suggestions for fitness classes including pilates, zumba & yoga
- Cooking and wine tasting club
- More regular coffee mornings with produce and plant sales/ exchange

- Regular games night with cards, whist, bridge, quizzes beetle and bar
- Indoor games that would attract younger people, pool, table tennis/ football
- Classes – dog training, gardening ,handicrafts, art
- Small scale concerts like live music or comedy
- More film and supper eves to reach wider audience
- Seasonal parties or concerts, even a small show
- Visiting services like CAB

### **Internet access and electronic communications**

There was good interest in having internet access at the hall with 21% saying they would use it and a further 39% saying possibly. 10 respondents (15%) thought they would like help to make better use of the internet & a further 14 said possibly. Of all respondents nearly 93% have internet at home or work.

Over half of respondents had visited the village web site and 70% received regular village bulletins via the e mail. Eight people not currently receiving it asked to be added to the list.

Finally we asked if respondents felt the internet facility might help residents to follow their studies or get a job. Eighteen percent thought it would, a further 61% felt it probably would help. The remainder felt it would make no difference

### **Other comments about the village hall**

Thirty comments, reflected strong support for the work. In summary the main comments:-

- The hall needs to be the hub and it will be a relief to have a place we can be proud of. People need a hub when they are growing up
- It will encourage us to meet & socialise more often
- Two respondents raised a concern about the Hall Committee staying in touch will all parts of community, 1 saying younger families and couples need to be attracted to the hall. The hall committee needs to hear what they want whilst ensuring the hall doesn't have adverse effects on its neighbours & the other felt that the committee is a "closed shop" ideas and suggestions aren't encouraged, it should be run with more consultation and appeal more to younger people
- More variety of events and clubs on the doorstep would benefit all, especially older people wanting to stay involved and wanting to stay locally
- For newcomers the hall is a great place to meet people and integrate.
- We have many talented people here. I think we could have short creative courses to make things together young and old alongside each other sharing knowledge and skills.
- The internet facility may be valued by those hiring the hall

*Helen Rutter*

*April 2014*