

Clawton Village Survey

2012

Summary Report

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1. Background

Clawton is a village and parish on the river Claw, 4 miles South-East of the market town of Holsworthy. The main local industry is farming, most of which is dairy. There is a primary school, a Church and a Village Hall. The Post Office and village shop closed several years ago.

Local businesses include the Court Barn Hotel, F G Stacey (Steel Fabricators) and a number of Bed and Breakfast and Self-Catering establishments.

Clawton is in the area covered by Torridge District Council.

An initial survey was carried out in 2008 and was used to form the basis of the Parish Plan.

2. Objectives

To gather the views of Clawton residents on village amenities, communication, housing, transport and other matters which affect the quality of life and to determine the extent to which progress has been made in addressing issues raised in the 2008 survey. The results will inform the decisions of the Parish Council and may lead to changes to the existing Village Plan.

3. Methodology

Questionnaires were developed jointly by the contractor and the Parish Council and were distributed by hand to every household in the Parish. Freepost reply envelopes allowed completed questionnaires to be returned directly to the contractor.

The survey was carried out between February and March 2012 and a total of 126 questionnaires were distributed, one to each occupied dwelling. There were 49 completed questionnaires received, a response rate of 39% (2008 survey 42%). Not all completed questionnaires had every question answered.

4. Responses

4.1 Village Hall

Most respondents (71%) attend village social events in the hall. About half also attend group activities. 7 respondents (14%) reported hiring other locations because the Parish Hall is not suitable – significantly fewer than the figure of 21% in the 2008 survey.

Purpose	Respondents	Total	%
Attend village social events	34	48	71%
Attend group activities	23	48	48%
Attend private parties	7	48	15%
Hire for private parties	7	48	15%
Hire on behalf of club/group	5	48	10%

Do you ever hire other locations because our hall is not suitable?	
Yes	7
No	33
NA	9
Total	49
Yes	14%
No	67%

Comments regarding what the hall lacks:

- badminton court (2 comments)
- a bigger function space
- nicer outside area and parking;
- oven space and fridge space for a large party
- better kitchen facilities
- better layout in the kitchen
- committee room and skittle alley
- insulation
- larger car park
- more economic and environmentally friendly heating system
- kitchen is in need of refurbishment

Is there any improvement/change you would like to see with regard to the hall?	
Yes	8
No	16
NA	25
Total	49
Yes	16%
No	33%

Other comments included:

- too expensive for small local clubs with limited membership - it would be better if fees were flexible by negotiation - the hall would be used much more.
- just ageing!
- a new modern one
- front car park re-gravelled

Findings: It would seem that it may be worth reviewing the hall's facilities in light of the above comments and in particular with regard to the kitchen facilities, parking and heating. It might be helpful for a summary of the bookings for the previous month as well as the upcoming month to be published in the Clarion so that everyone can see how well it is used. It might also be helpful to publish the hire charges.

A request for a committee room was also made in the 2008 survey - could an area of the Hall be provided with a temporary partition, or the stage used if set up with its own lights and heater?

Specific types of event not currently held in the village hall that respondents would like to see:

- combined coffee and book exchange mornings & a book club
- more folk singing/ concerts
- no other activities - smaller and less formal activities can take place in homes
- old chapel licensed bar, couple of times/week
- weight loss & gentle keep fit for senior citizens

4.2 Clawton Clarion

Only 1 respondent reported they did not get a regular copy of the Clawton Clarion – an enormous improvement compared with the last survey. 42 respondents (88%) said their copy is hand-delivered, 4 (8%) received their copy by post, 1 by email and 1 picked up their copy from Southcott Garage. 13 respondents (28%) said they find it very useful, 27 (59%) quite useful and 6 (13%) not very useful.

Do you get a regular copy?	
Yes	47
No	1
NA	1
Total	49
Yes	96%
No	2%

If you answered YES, where do you get it from?		
Hand delivered	42	86%
By post	4	8%
By email	1	2%
Southcott Garage	1	2%
Not answered	1	2%
Total	49	100%

Clarion suggested changes and comments:

- a copy of Parish minutes or at least more information about parish issues
- feedback on traffic monitoring
- could be improved with a children's page, recipes, puzzles
- half page on our village school (numbers of pupils, outings & general updates)
- if its purpose is a list of events for the coming month then it achieves that but it needs more village news / content
- it would be nice for it to be more 'newsy' and I'd be happy to help produce it
- nice to see the bus timetable this month
- the Clarion does a good job spreading village information.

Findings: The objective of getting a copy to every member of the village has been achieved. There were several suggestions for how it can be improved still further (see above). If volunteers were prepared to assist with assembling copy and getting contributions from local organisations this could be an option.

4.3 Parish Information and Planning Applications

The Clarion is by far the most frequently used method of keeping up-to-date with Parish Council activities. While 71% of respondents were satisfied with the availability of information there were still 20% who were not.

Just over half of the respondents (51%) did not feel sufficient publicity is given to planning applications which affect the parish (40% did, 9% didn't have a view).

How do you personally keep yourself informed of Parish Council activities?		
Method	Frequency	%
Clawton Clarion	39	42%
Word of Mouth	25	27%
Noticeboards	14	15%
Local Press	8	9%
Parish Magazine	3	3%
None of the above	2	2%
Not answered	1	1%
Total	92	100%

Are you satisfied with the availability of Parish Council information?	
Yes	35
No	10
NA	4
Total	49
Yes	71%
No	20%

Do you think sufficient publicity is given to planning applications which affect the village/parish?	
Yes	18
No	23
NA	4
Total	45
Yes	40%
No	51%

Planning Application Comments

- A description of the proposed plan could be included in the Clarion- to stop spreading of misinformation
- A village website would be ideal - it could have news, planning applications, events, adverts etc. and as more people use email would in part replace the printing, paper & distribution cost of the Clarion. Devon's In-Touch is a good model. But it needs a volunteer with the right skills & time.
- Could be put in Clawton Clarion
- Could the Parish Council minutes appear on village or Parish website, or attached to Clawton Clarion?
- Good planning applications should be supported but only after Clawton occupants have been fully informed of all implications and local benefit - either individually or overall
- Never seen a parish magazine
- Not everybody has time to visit the noticeboards
- Parish magazine??
- Publish Parish Council meeting minutes in Clawton Clarion
- The noticeboard should be at the Parish Hall.
- Too much input from people who do not live in proposed sites (or even near to proposed sites) or no input because it's not near to them. No time given to study plans prior to meeting - council secretive and sly!
- Torrington Council don't seem keen to publicise planning applications in local papers

Findings: Publishing Parish Council meeting minutes with the Clarion would involve the cost of extra paper and printing and extra time spent collating the two. The way in which planning applications are sent from Torrington to the Council and why it would not be practical to publicise planning applications in the Clarion have not been made clear. As one respondent suggested, a parish website might be the answer.

4.4 Derelict Buildings

Three out of four respondents with an opinion were in favour of action to take control of the derelict buildings for community use.

Derelict Buildings Comment

- as a house or shop
- both
- but without prejudice to parish hall
- for use in private ownership only
- no point
- undecided - where is money coming from?
- use for housing - we already have 3 community venues

Would you still support action to take control of one of the derelict buildings for community use?	
Yes	32
No	11
NA	6
Total	49
Yes	65%
No	22%

4.5 Shopping Facilities

28 respondents (60%) were aware of the mobile butcher, of which just 3 used the service. 18 (38%) were aware of the milkman (one respondent commented that Dunns the milkman come 3 times a week Tue/Thur/Sat) - and 6 used this service.

Are you aware of the mobile butcher?	
Yes	28
No	19
NA	2
Total	49
Yes	57%
No	39%

If YES do you use the mobile butcher?	
Yes	3
No	27
NA	19
Total	49
Yes	6%
No	55%

Are you aware of the milkman (twice weekly, has some groceries)?	
Yes	18
No	29
NA	2
Total	49
Yes	37%
No	59%

If YES do you use the milkman?	
Yes	6
No	18
NA	25
Total	49
Yes	12%
No	37%

Items which respondents would like to see available from a mobile shop:

- bread, butter, general supplies
- fish, bread, local veg

Only 3 respondents (6%) said lack of a **village shop** was a serious problem for them, though a further 25 (52%) said it would be nice to have one. Of those who would like to see a shop 20 would consider a scheme which ensured it would be viable.

Would you like to see a village shop?		
Not having a shop is a serious problem for me	3	6%
Yes, it would be nice	25	51%
I can manage well without a shop	20	41%
Not answered	1	2%
Total	49	100%

6 respondents (12%) felt not having a **village post office** is a problem for them, with a further 24 (49%) saying it would be nice. Of those who would like to see a Post Office 21 (70%) would consider a scheme which made one viable.

Would you like to see a village Post Office?		
Not having a Post Office is a serious problem for me	6	12%
Yes, it would be nice	24	49%
I can manage well without a Post Office	19	39%
Not answered	0	0%
Total	49	100%

22 respondents (69% of those giving an opinion) felt this issue is one in which they would like the Parish Council to be involved and 10 said they were prepared to be involved if the Parish Council wasn't.

IF YES would you and your family agree to a scheme which ensured the post office would be viable?	
Yes	21
No	9
NA	19
Total	49
Yes	43%
No	18%

Is this something you would like the Parish Council to be involved in?	
Yes	22
No	10
NA	17
Total	49
Yes	45%
No	20%

If No, do you think a village group should work to do so?	
Yes	7
No	12
NA	30
Total	49
Yes	14%
No	24%

If Yes, would you be prepared to get involved?	
Yes	10
No	16
NA	23
Total	49
Yes	20%
No	33%

Village shopping comments

- depends on the scheme (to make a Post Office viable)
- depends on what 'ensuring viability' means
- details of scheme need to be understood before committing
- if there was solid support
- Southcott garage opened their shop because of the closure of the village shop. if one opened again in Clawton I don't think either would be viable.
- St Giles have made a real go of their PO/shop - but Clawton area is much more sparse
- suggest this be part of project for converting a derelict house to village amenity - maybe Shirley at Southcott could supply papers, cigarettes etc. so it wouldn't compete with her?
- the P.O. could be incorporated with a shop, making it more viable
- there are few people who can access a village shop without a car - therefore 3 miles to the town is a better option.
- we run a small business & have to travel to Holsworthy PO. PO shop would be excellent but understand financial liabilities. Would help to create focal point for village.

Findings: There was generally a low awareness and even lower usage of the mobile shop and the milkman. Three respondents felt that not having a shop was a serious problem and six respondents felt the same way about lack of a post office. There appears to be sufficient interest in having some form of shop and post office arrangement in the village and probably sufficient willingness to look at some form of imaginative arrangement whereby this could happen but there was also an awareness that it would not be a good idea to compete with Shirley at Southcott.

4.6 Childcare

Comments were:

- a playground suitable for young children would be nice
- if possible an additional day (at Pre-School) finishing at 1500hrs would be good.
- parent & baby group once a week

4.7 Sheltered housing

4 respondents reported a sheltered housing need, for a total of 5 persons.

Household members with need for accommodation for elderly	
Yes	4
No	37
NA	8
Total	49
Yes	8%
No	76%

4.8 Disturbances

The greatest disturbance reported was smell – by 14 respondents – followed by traffic noise (5 respondents).

Other disturbances included barking dogs (3), aircraft noise (2), shooting noise (1) and 'Other' (4) which included neighbours lighting bonfires on sunny days and using noisy power tools on Sundays,

Annoyance	Frequency	%
Smell	14	25%
Traffic noise	6	11%
Barking dogs	3	5%
Aircraft noise	2	4%
Shooting noise	1	2%
Quarry Noise	0	0%
Not answered	26	46%
Any other please specify	4	7%
Total	56	46%

Smell:

- pain with smell, can't dry clothes & sometimes have to close windows not to mention pollution
- dung spreading is part of the countryside smells with so many farms in the area

- pig farm - subject to wind direction
- biogas now all food & abattoir waste - stink is revolting & very invasive - even ruins meals indoors. also seeming unlimited supply makes it so much more frequent than muck spreading was. But not the farmers fault - biogas plant needs to keep promises re smells made at planning stage.
- smell when fields are sprayed but to be expected in the country
- the farmers who spread the fields around Clawton cause a disgusting smell that makes us feel sick, you can't have windows open as it gets into house and is gross, you can't go into the garden as it is so foul. Please for all of us get them to stop using what they use on fields.
- the spreading of slurry - and worse - the spreading of other types of slurry has resulted in two occasions of myself having to stop them. But worse still we have had to close up our dwelling and go out during the day.
- when biogas is spread the smell is dreadful!
- when farmers spread their fields with manure
- occasional overpowering farmyard smell
- no more than one would expect in the country

Traffic:

- fast traffic 0200-0500, sound of large lorries early morning
- traffic goes too fast
- traffic noise and speeding through village,
- seems to be mostly on weekend nights, racing each other
- traffic speed on A388 through village.

Dog barking:

- continuous barking of a dog somewhere in the distance,
- dog in local town barks a lot especially in the mornings

Miscellaneous:

- fires in gardens - every time we get a sunny day somebody in the village lights a bonfire! some people do it weekly!
- loud music and drums from village hall practice (usually summer Sunday afternoons)
- mud on roads
- roads in very bad state of repair especially from village towards Corfcott
- those who use noisy power equipment especially on a sunny Sunday

4.9 Quality of Life

This was rated Good or Very Good by 34 respondents (72%), OK by 25% and Not Very Good by just 1 (2%).

Comments on why they had not rated quality of life higher included:

- stress of affordable housing!
- the continued smell night and day of the spreading of slurry etc. especially in the summer season

How would you rate the quality of life in this Parish?		
Very Good	15	31%
Good	19	39%
OK	12	24%
Not very good	1	2%
Poor	0	0%
Not answered	2	4%
Total	49	100%

The most important changes residents would like to see:

Shop/Post Office:

- a brand new village hall/shop/PO/green and enough new housing to revitalise the village centre
- a PO/shop
- a pub
- PO/shop
- pub/licensed premises in village centre
- village community centre
- village shop
- shop/PO
- shop/post office in village centre

Biogas:

- stop local farmers using anything but dung on fields as it is disgusting what they currently use
- biogas significantly reduce stink - increased frequency of spreading means it ideally needs to be less smelly than muck.

Derelict Properties:

- derelict buildings brought back to life
- derelict properties being renovated
- renovation of derelict houses
- repair of derelict houses
- something done with derelict houses

Housing:

- I would like to see more houses
- limited affordable (local needs only) housing
- more council housing/association homes there needs to be more in the village for low income & disabled people, with fair rents.
- any changes that would enhance the village or provide local opportunity

Traffic:

- enforce speed limit through village particularly on straight Holsworthy-bound road having come through village
- increased speed reduction work
- put 5mph signs up in Claw Park as a few (naming no names) can't go slow & children, old people & pets are in danger
- speed bumps on A388!
- speed control through village
- traffic calming
- traffic speed

Transport:

- lack of buses
- more local buses
- the Friday bus to Barnstaple reinstated

Roads:

- improved road & verge maintenance
- road maintenance especially potholes
- road potholes properly mended

Miscellaneous:

- bonfires to be lit after 1800hrs not during daytime
- a central village area such as a village green
- improved internet services
- improved recycling collection as the current collection can be a bit hit and miss
- people picking up after dogs, and litter
- swift action on the eyesore derelict properties
- two derelict buildings to be restored

Things most likely to spoil the quality of village life were:

Building:

- a large council housing estate
- allowing town dwellers who do not wish to live in the countryside to be sent to any affordable housing
- more houses
- more housing
- new housing estate
- new building (unrestricted)
- non-local occupation of any future 'social' housing
- building outside village footprint
- development for wrong reasons
- too much building
- too much development/new housing
- uncontrolled / unsympathetic development

Traffic:

- increased traffic past the school.
- increased traffic/ road freight
- speed of traffic through village not being addressed
- speeding vehicles
- parking issues at school not being addressed

Roads:

- lack of general maintenance of the roads (gully clearance, ditch maintenance - local knowledge essential)
- state of our roads (potholes etc.) - they get heavy use from contractors, biogas etc.

Derelict Buildings:

- lack of effort in sorting out derelict buildings

Biogas:

- biogas stink
- smell definitely a health hazard and has affected us in the past

Other:

- lack of shop/PO amenities
- solar panel farms
- the present run-down condition of the former village PO/shop
- wind turbines
- wind turbines & solar farms
- wind turbines in prominent places

4.10 Utilities

Water and electricity were given similar ratings – around 54% 'Good', 19% 'Adequate' and 3% 'Poor'. Telephone service was somewhat poorer (41% 'Good', 48% 'Adequate' and 11% 'Poor'. Broadband was clearly a major issue – 2 respondents (6%) rated it 'Good', 10 (29%) 'Adequate' and 22 (65%) 'Poor'. 4 respondents measured their download speed at below 1mbps, 10 at between 1 and 2 mbps and 1 at more than 2mbps (only 15 respondents gave their broadband speed). For uploads 12 reported less than 1mbps and 3 between 1 and 2mbps.

Utilities	Water	Electricity	Telephone	Broadband
Good	25	24	19	2
Adequate	18	20	22	10
Poor	2	1	5	22
Not answered	4	4	3	15
Total	49	49	49	49
Good %	51%	49%	39%	4%
Adequate %	37%	41%	45%	20%
Poor %	4%	2%	10%	45%

Download	Upload
1.32	0.52

Utilities comments:

- broadband is a joke - speed varies but figure below is average
- broadband is very slow
- broadband speed is terrible
- broadband speed of less than 1mb unacceptable in 2012!
- broadband very slow
- less than 1mb at times
- low broadband speed, dropouts etc.
- mobile phone reception is very very poor, broadband is very slow
- noisy phone line that BT are unable to resolve. very slow and unreliable broadband
- North Tamerton exchange might as well be at the north pole as far as broadband speed is concerned
- poor at times - there seems to be a problem at the North Tamerton exchange at times of heavy rain, also affects phones in the Tetcott area at times
- poor bandwidth
- poor phone & internet
- very slow at times
- water & BT poor response to problems. broadband far too slow
- water pressure very low.
- broadband is slow.
- we all should by now have at least 3-5mbps broadband - far too slow at present.

4.11 Transport

Only 2 respondents reported often having difficulty, 9 occasionally and 32 (74%) never.

Does any member of your household experience transport difficulties getting out of the village to other places?		
Often	2	4%
Occasionally	9	18%
Never	32	65%
Not answered	6	12%
Total	49	100%

Transport comments:

- always use car
- bi-monthly, to Holsworthy, to Exeter coach /train station, to Exeter/Bristol airports
- car always required
- Friday bus to Barnstaple was useful - monthly
- Holsworthy-Launceston-Tavistock
- ice or snow on hill
- infrequently use bus/taxi services
- lucky to have 2 cars
- nice to have regular shuttle bus (e.g. hourly) to Holsworthy or Launceston - sometimes 3 hours is too long
- once a week - but bus stays too long in Holsworthy
- to Holsworthy once a week on average
- ungritted roads make driving dangerous in Winter
- whilst still able to drive - would have to relocate otherwise

4.12 Footpaths and Bridleways

48% of respondents reported knowing where local footpaths and bridleways are, but nonetheless 66% would like maps to be made available. Currently 38% of respondents never use a footpath, 23% about once a year, 8% twice a year, 21% monthly, 4% weekly and 6% daily.

Do you know where most of the local public footpaths and bridleways are?	
Yes	23
No	25
NA	1
Total	49
Yes	47%
No	51%

Would you like maps of public footpaths and bridleways to be available?	
Yes	31
No	16
NA	2
Total	49
Yes	63%
No	33%

How often does a member of your household use the public footpaths/bridleways?		
Daily	3	6%
Weekly	2	4%
Monthly	10	20%
About once a year	11	22%
About twice a year	4	8%
Never	18	37%
Not answered	1	2%
Total	49	100%

Of those who use footpaths and bridleways 69% can usually follow them without much difficulty. 14 respondents would be prepared to help maintain and manage the public right of way network in the village.

Can you usually follow the footpaths/bridleways without much difficulty?	
Yes	18
No	8
NA	23
Total	49
Yes	37%
No	16%

Would you be willing to help maintain and manage the public right of way network in the village?	
Yes	14
No	20
NA	15
Total	49
Yes	29%
No	41%

Footpath difficulties:

- footpath from bridge in village heading east
- local owners don't encourage use
- need to have level access
- not all are clearly defined
- one that goes through Riverside Cottage badly signed pathways behind church towards Sellick
- pathways by church - warning signs of bull in field is off-putting!
- farm or pet dogs on roads nobody with them they run out of houses barking at you.
- some of the signs are a bit ambiguous - paths can be muddy even in 'dry' months
- Tetcott Lane bridleway

4.13 Voluntary service

14 respondents said they would be prepared to help provide a voluntary transport service (for hospitals, doctors, dental appointments etc.).

Would you or a member of your household be prepared to help occasionally to provide a voluntary transport service? (e.g. for hospitals, doctors, dental appointments, etc)	
Yes	14
No	27
NA	8
Total	49
Yes	29%
No	55%

Would you or a member of your household be prepared to help co-ordinate a volunteer transport service?	
Yes	3
No	36
NA	10
Total	49
Yes	6%
No	73%

Would anyone in your household use a voluntary car service if one were available?	
Yes	7
No	24
NA	18
Total	49
Yes	14%
No	49%

One respondent commented that the Holsworthy ring & ride (259001) do regular supermarket shopping runs - free for seniors. Door to door service is excellent.

12 respondents would be prepared to volunteer to help with home visits, gardening or shopping for residents who would like such help but there were no volunteers to co-ordinate such a service.

Would you or a member of your household be prepared to take part in a voluntary service which would provide home visits, help with gardening, or help with shopping for people who are living on their own or are infirm or disabled?	
Yes	12
No	26
NA	11
Total	49
Yes	24%
No	53%

Would you or a member of your household be prepared to help co-ordinate a volunteer home help service?	
Yes	0
No	31
NA	18
Total	49
Yes	0%
No	63%

Help offered	Frequency	%
Home visiting	9	15%
Help with shopping	13	21%
Administration	3	5%
Help with gardening	1	2%
Not answered	36	58%
Total	62	100%

Help needed	Frequency	%
Home visits	2	4%
Help with shopping	1	2%
Help with gardening	5	10%
None of these	18	35%
Not answered	25	49%
Total	51	100%

4.14 Church/Chapel

About one-third of respondents said they never attend church or chapel and 19% said they attend regularly (once a month or more). Most go to Clawton Church. More than half the respondents said they attend church or chapel.

Church attendance	Frequency	%	Where you worship		
Frequently (weekly or every other week)	7	15%	Clawton Church	22	45%
Regularly (about once a month)	2	4%	Chapel	3	6%
Periodically (about twice a year)	18	38%	Elsewhere	8	16%
Marriages, Christenings and Funerals only	8	17%	Not answered	16	33%
Not at all	12	26%	Total	49	100%
Not answered	2	4%			
Total	47	100%			

It seems as if services offered do largely meet local needs and apart from a couple of individual issues which might be able to be addressed no changes would seem to have potential to increase attendance.

Do services (types,timings) meet your household's needs?	
Yes	22
No	2
NA	25
Total	49
Yes	45%
No	4%

Would you go more frequently if something were done differently?	
Yes	2
No	27
NA	20
Total	49
Yes	4%
No	55%

Comments:

- unable to get to church as path is too steep & no longer drive a car
- do not like the modern ideas/ways
- more family services

4.15 Other village comments:

- As a humanist would welcome more non-religious events which are also community-based. Launceston runs a cafe scientifique which provides interesting & stimulating talks.
- As I no longer drive I rely on ring & ride services & Holsworthy cars taxi - both give an excellent service
- Clawton lacks a real focal point for all age groups. A pub would be good but failing that a PO/Shop.
- I like the fact that this is a small rural village & hope it stays that way. Loads of houses being built in Holsworthy - 4 miles away which are not selling. Also 4xproperties for sale in Clawton been on market for a while & not selling - why build more?
- Disagree with fields being covered in solar panels!
- Dog awareness - owners need to clean up poo! Householders need to keep dogs under control - farm dogs run out onto road barking at you.
- I would like to see Clawton village developed so that it is more viable as an independent village - at present it is just an outlying part of Holsworthy
- Provision for learning difficulties?
- Quality, clarity and (in particular) size of temporary signage promoting village events by the roadside are poor. Far too small to read whilst driving and thus ineffective and dangerous.
- Road, verges & drains urgently require attention from War Memorial up past church and hall. It would be nice if residents exchanged pleasantries while passing like 20 years ago
- How many seniors are in the area - how many feel isolated, how many are frail?
- The doggy bin at the Post Office car park entrance is in a dangerous position blocking views to oncoming traffic.
- To obtain maximum benefit from this type of survey it would be useful to have a return date printed on the form
- What is being done to control unauthorised change of use on buildings?

5. Summary

Fewer respondents said that they hire other locations because **the village hall** is not suitable (14% compared with 22% in 2008). There were a number of suggestions for improvements especially the kitchen and parking.

The **Clawton Clarion** is now regularly received by all except one respondent, an enormous improvement compared with the last survey. Suggestions included the addition of parish meeting minutes or information about parish issues, as well as a greater emphasis on village news.

Approximately one in five of the respondents were not satisfied with the availability of **parish council information**. In particular, respondents would like to see more publicity given to **planning applications**. Possibly in recognition of the practical difficulties of including planning application information in the Clarion, one respondent pointed out that a village website would be ideal for this purpose.

Three out of four respondents who gave an opinion were in favour of action to take control of the **derelict buildings** for community use.

There was generally a low awareness and even lower usage of the **mobile shop** and the **milkman**. Three respondents felt that not having a **village shop** was a serious problem and a further 25 (52%) said it would be nice to have one. Six respondents felt the lack of a **Post Office** was a serious problem and a further 24 (49%) felt it would be nice. There appears to be sufficient interest in having some form of shop and Post Office arrangement in the village and probably sufficient willingness to look at some form of imaginative arrangement whereby this could happen. There was also an awareness that it would not be a good idea to compete with Shirley at Southcott Garage.

Four respondents reported a **sheltered housing** need, for a total of five persons.

The greatest **disturbance** reported was smell (by 14 respondents) followed by traffic noise (five respondents). Other disturbances included barking dogs (3), aircraft noise (2), shooting noise (1) and 'Other' (4) which included neighbours lighting bonfires on sunny days and using noisy power tools on Sundays.

Many respondents identified the use of biogas by-product as being the key issue, and that this is now derived from food and abattoir waste rather than farm waste and as a result the smell is significantly worse than muck. Also, muck spreading appears now to take place much more frequently than has historically been the case, possibly because there seems to be an unlimited supply. One respondent commented that it's not fault of the farmers but of the biogas plant which at the planning stage made firm promises in response to fears about increased smell.

The **quality of life** in the village was rated Good or Very Good by 34 respondents (72%), Okay by 25% and Not Very Good by just one (2%).

Key issues which affect the quality of life include provision of a Post Office and shop, some licensed premises in village centre, use of biogas by-product and the need to tackle the issue of the derelict properties. The provision of more housing for local needs is balanced by the concern that providing housing beyond that would have a negative effect. Speed of traffic, lack of public transport, the condition of roads and Internet speed were also important issues.

Things which are most likely to spoil the quality of village life included use of biogas by-product, housing allocated to people from outside the local community, solar panel farms and wind turbines in prominent places.

Water and **electricity** were given similar ratings – around 54% 'Good', 19% 'Adequate' and 3% 'Poor'. The **telephone** service was rated somewhat lower. But **Broadband** was clearly a major issue – 2 respondents (6%) rated it 'Good', 10 (29%) 'Adequate' and 22 (65%) 'Poor'. 4 respondents measured their download speed at below 1mbps, 10 at between 1 and 2 mbps and 1 at more than 2mbps (only 15 respondents gave their broadband speed). For uploads 12 reported less than 1mbps and 3 between 1 and 2mbps.

Only 2 respondents reported often having difficulty with **transport**, 9 occasionally and 32 (74%) never.

48% of respondents reported knowing where local **footpaths and bridleways** are, but nonetheless 66% would like maps to be made available. Currently 38% of respondents never use a footpath, 23% about once a year, 8% twice a year, 21% monthly, 4% weekly and 6% daily.

14 respondents said they would be prepared to help provide a **voluntary transport service** (for hospitals, doctors, dental appointments etc.). One respondent commented that the Holsworthy ring & ride (259001) do regular supermarket shopping runs - free for seniors. Door to door service is excellent.

12 respondents would be prepared to volunteer to help with **home visits**, gardening or shopping for residents who would like such help but there were no volunteers to co-ordinate such a service.

About one-third of respondents said they never attend **church or chapel** and 19% said they attend regularly (once a month or more). Most go to Clawton Church. More than half the respondents said they attend church or chapel. It seems as if services offered do largely meet local needs and apart from a couple of individual issues which might be able to be addressed no changes would seem to have potential to increase attendance.