



**West Moors**



**Parish Plan**

**2007**





Gulliver's Farm

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*The cost in producing this plan have been kept to a minimum. If, when you have read this copy, if you do not wish to retain it, please pass it on to a friend or neighbour.*

*Thank you.*



The Open Day at the Memorial Hall attracted over 800 villagers

# WEST MOORS PARISH PLAN

***Looking to the future with over 50 ways to improve the village.***

*Produced by the West Moors Parish Plan Steering Committee 2007*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

### **Background to Parish Plans**

The Government's Rural White Paper "Our Countryside, the Future" (2000) proposed that all rural communities should develop "Town, Village and Parish Plans" to identify key facilities and services and to set out the problems that needed to be tackled with a view to demonstrating how distinctive character and features could be preserved.

This was followed by the Countryside Agency launching its "Vital Villages" programme in 2001. The goal of the programme was to achieve socially and economically active rural communities that address their own priorities making them better equipped to shape their own futures. Parish Plans form part of this programme and funding for this initiative came from Dorset Community Action

A Parish Plan should address the needs of the entire community and an important aspect of this is that everyone should be given the opportunity to take part in its preparation.

### **Steering Committee**

In June 2005, the Parish Council held a meeting in the Memorial Hall and a Steering Committee was formed. The members are from all sections of the community and are independent of the Parish Council who provided a representative to assist with the work undertaken.

### **Consultations**

In September 2005 the Steering Committee set up a stall at the annual Skate Fest. At that event a considerable amount of interest was shown which was encouraging.

Following a very successful promotion an Open Day took place on the 15th October 2005 at which over eight hundred people attended. This was followed by an evening at West Moors Middle School with groups of children to ascertain what the younger people in the village had to say.

At all events, many subjects concerning the villagers were discussed and their aspirations and recommendations were recorded. This information was used to draft the West Moors Parish Plan Survey and Questionnaire which was delivered to every property in the village. A full list of the statistical information and the comments received as a result of both the Open Day and Survey are held at the Parish Office and the Library.

### **Parish Plan Analysis**

When reading the Parish Plan, please note that the figures quoted are either based on the number of replies received for each question or, as a percentage of the total number of forms returned.



Station Road - 1920's

## 2. HISTORY

Before 1956, when West Moors became a separate civil parish, it was part of the Parish of West Parley. For many years West Moors grew slowly because, at a time when agriculture was very important, much of the land in the area was of poor quality with only a few pockets of land suitable for growing crops. Such arable land that existed lay along the flood plains of Mannington Brook and the Moors River. Large areas of the heath land were leased out for grazing.

One notorious landowner in West Moors was the eighteenth century smuggler Isaac Gulliver. It is believed that he became the owner of the farm, now known by his name, when he married a Dorset girl, Elizabeth Beale and that he received the farm as part of her dowry. Only the barn at Gulliver's Farm is original. This is probably the only existing pre-nineteenth century building left in West Moors.

A map of 1660, in the Dorset County Record Office, gives details of the ownership and tenancy of various plots in the Parish. There is also a record of Pennington Copse being in existence in 1339. It was notable because, as woodland, it stood out in a large tract of heath land. The Alder Bed, south of Pennington Copse, was planted in the early nineteenth century to provide high quality charcoal for gunpowder and also timber suitable for use in wet or damp conditions.

The picture of West Moors up to the coming of the railway was one of a thinly populated area. In 1847 the 'Castleman's Corkscrew' came to the Parish as part of a grandiose plan to link Bournemouth with the rest of the country. This led to the building of several large houses in the village for business people commuting to the commercial centres in the area. It also led to the building of the Railway Hotel (now the Tap and Railway) to accommodate travellers, their coachmen and servants, when they arrived too late at night to continue the journey by road to Bournemouth.



An early motorbus service to all parts



*West Moors Railway Station prior to the Beeching cuts in 1964*

West Moors was to be a pivotal part of this plan giving access to Brockenhurst, Salisbury, Poole and Christchurch. It remained an important part of the route to Bournemouth until the more direct link through Christchurch was made.



*St. Mary's Church*



*St. John's Church moved to Pinehurst Road in 1925, demolished in 2000*

This nineteenth century development was followed in the 1890s by the building of St. Mary's Church, St. Mary's Church School and the Schoolmaster's house. The low level of the land and the danger of flooding in the winter led to this area developing slowly. Development continued on the higher ground around Pinehurst and Glenwood Roads. The opening of the more direct rail route to Bournemouth through Christchurch delayed any great development in West Moors until the 1960s and '70s. Passenger traffic on the railway fell victim to 'Dr. Beeching's Axe' in 1964, although fuel was still delivered to the MOD Petroleum Depot until 1974

Between the 1960s and the 1980s the Pennington, Uplands and Woolslope estates were built and the population of West Moors grew rapidly. Since 1956, when West Moors became a civil parish, the population has risen from 2,000 to over 7,000.

This led to further developments in community areas. The original St. Mary's Church of England School was complemented by the building of Oakhurst County First School (which was rebuilt in 1983 following a fire). In 1977 West Moors County Middle School was opened. There is also independent provision for pre-school children.

St. Mary's Church has been joined by St. Anthony's R.C. Church, St. Martin's United Reformed Church and Pinehurst Chapel, all of which have active congregations meeting the needs of their worshippers.

In 2000, East Dorset District Council carried out a refurbishment of the roadway and pavements in the shopping centre, Station Road. This was followed by the redevelopment of the shops and flats above.

Plans for building on the open space known as the Petwyn, led to a large public response to prevent its development. Through the efforts of the whole community the land was purchased on behalf of West Moors, and was further safeguarded when it was granted Village Green status in 2006. The Petwyn got its unusual name from a past tenant of this part of West Moors.

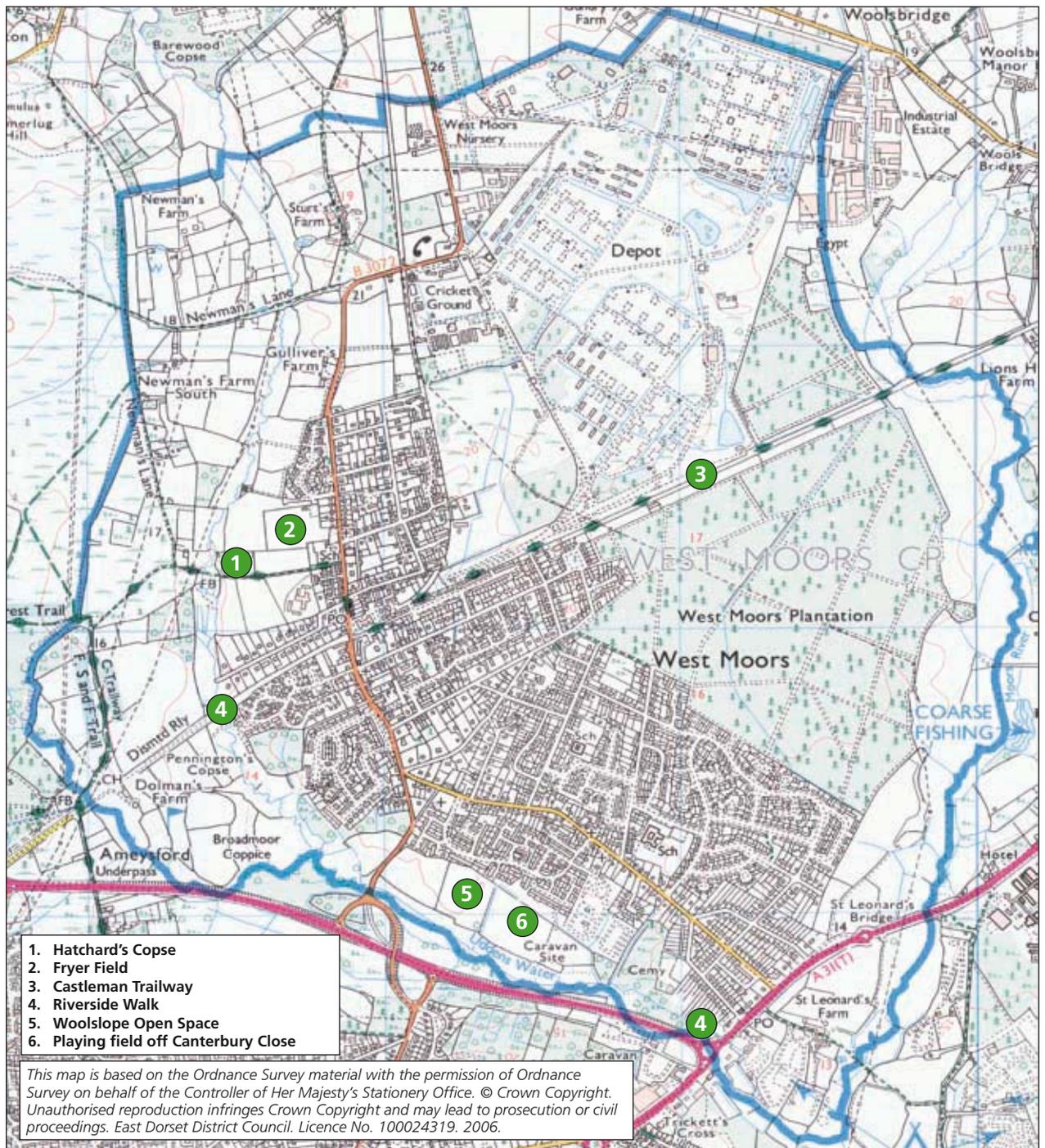
### 3. SETTING (PRESENT)

The village is situated about 8 miles north of Bournemouth; 2 miles north of Ferndown; with Wimborne 5 miles to the west, and Ringwood 5 miles to the east.

West Moors is unlikely to increase significantly in size from its current population of around 7,000 as it is surrounded by Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), green belt and The Defence Fuels Group, which is part of the Ministry of Defence. Certain parts of the village are now designated areas of Special Character and it is hoped to preserve the ambience of these in any future development.

The Petwyn continues to play a major part in village life with the Remembrance Sunday parade and more recently a Carol Service, which it is hoped will become a regular event. Recent landscaping and the addition of seating areas have created a Village Green for all to enjoy.

## Map of the Parish of West Moors

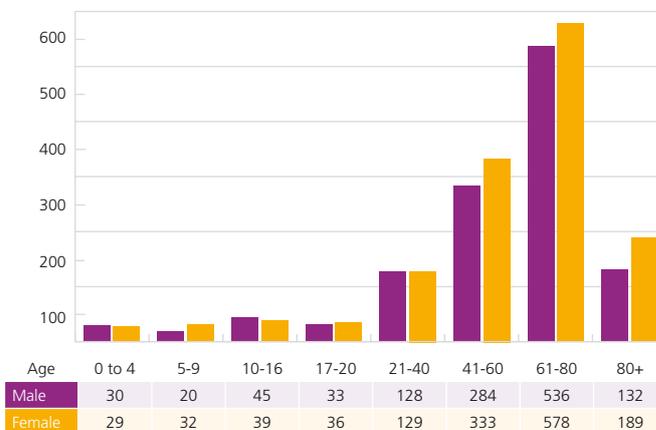


## 4. SOME FACTS & FIGURES

Nearly 3,600 questionnaires were delivered to all households and businesses in the village and 37% were returned. This accounts for 2,573 residents, which is about 35% of the estimated population. Those over 61 account for 55.8% of respondents, while the under 20s make up 10.3%.

### Age Structure Chart

According to the 2001 census West Moors had 45.4% of pensioner only households. The results from the questionnaire indicate that this figure has increased. The 2001 census also highlighted that over 61% of us enjoyed good health, while nearly 25% had a limiting long-term illness and that nearly 12% were providing unpaid care. However, a recent survey by the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy points out that people live longer in our area than almost anywhere else in Britain.



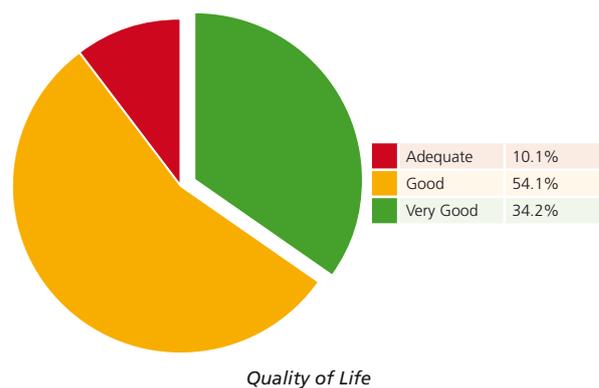
### Period of Residency

Over 56% of respondents have lived in West Moors for more than ten years and 4.5% have resided here less than a year. The 2001 census states that 0.4% of domestic properties are second homes.



### Quality of Life

There was a 99% response to the question of how the overall quality of life in the village was rated. The diagram shows the overwhelming majority consider living here is at least 'Good' or 'Very Good'. Just a few think life here 'Poor' or 'Very Poor', scoring 0.4% and 0.2% respectively. The village is generally considered to be a desirable place to reside. As one household commented, 'Very nice place to live - we hope it stays like it'. Or, if you prefer, how 60 other households said, 'West Moors is a great place to live'.



**Note:** Full details of all the statistics collated from the survey are available in the Library, the Parish Office and on the village web site at: [www.westmoorsdorset.co.uk](http://www.westmoorsdorset.co.uk)



Station Road

## 5. ECONOMY & SERVICES

### Shopping

The village has three groups of shops, two in Station Road and another in Pinehurst Road.

Recent improvements to the shopping facilities in Station Road meant that 93.4% of all respondents felt the shops were adequate. However there were requests for other types of shops, of which the most popular were for a hardware shop, a greengrocers and a bank. The recent introduction of a monthly organic street market has been a welcome addition to the shopping scene. Another positive step has been the revival of the local trade association.

### Employment

The majority of replies were received from retired persons. Of those employed, most worked outside the village but only a few wanted to see more local job opportunities. The main employer in the village is the Defence Fuels Group which employs some 180 military and civilian staff. It incorporates The Defence School of Petroleum and hosts the Dorset Fire and Rescue Services Training School.

### Health Services

The majority of opinion was that the services offered were good or very good, although many comments were made about the lack of an NHS dentist.

### Councils

Although there was some criticism of the Parish Council, villagers should realise that it is made up of volunteers and open for any resident to stand as a Parish Councillor.

It was mentioned that the Parish Council do not always receive advance notice of road works and other local government issues that affect the village. The majority of respondents considered East Dorset District Council and Dorset County Council to be at least adequate.

### The Library

This is the most popular facility in the village and has benefited from the addition of a computer room, largely thanks to the generosity of the late Daphne Harrison. Recent attempts to close other libraries in Dorset have created unease about its future and any attempts to close it would be vigorously opposed. There were also concerns expressed about the limited opening hours and measures should be taken to try and extend these.

### Public Toilets

Improvements to the toilets in Park Way are being undertaken as they were in a disgraceful state. The need is for continued regular attention to keep them clean and graffiti free. There is a need to provide public toilets at the Fryer Field and Skate Park, which can be used when the Pavilion is shut.

### Children's Care Centre

There are plans to open a Children's Care Centre in 2007. This will be based at West Moors Middle School and managed by Barnardo's. The Centre will also include outreach provision for Three Legged Cross. The purpose is to develop services in partnership with the local statutory and voluntary sector in order to provide support for children in 0-5 year's age range, and their families.



## 6. HOUSING

The results of the survey indicate that more than half the village residents are 60 years of age or older. This is reflected in that two and three bedroom bungalows make up more than 57% of the housing stock. Dwellings are predominantly owned by their occupants and rented accommodation accounts for less than 2%.

The status of West Moors as a village is a matter of great concern to most people and they would like to see restrictions on development, with any new building reflecting and respecting the character of the village. Much concern has been expressed that some buildings in the area have been demolished and replaced with blocks of flats. Opinions suggested that if dwellings were built, they should be affordable to young local people. Overwhelmingly however most villagers wanted no more flats as the infrastructure is not keeping pace with the increase in the population.

Some roads containing older and larger properties have been designated as Areas of Special Character in the hope that this will offer some protection against indiscriminate development.

There was concern from residents at not being notified when planning permission was being sought on nearby properties, and that relying upon notices attached to lamp posts was not always satisfactory as the notices were often removed. All current planning applications are available for view on the council's website [www.dorsetforyou.com](http://www.dorsetforyou.com) in the planning section. Before planning decisions are reached copies of each application are also made available for inspection in the Parish Office.

The present situation regarding planning permission being denied close to Sites of Special Scientific Interest is currently under review and the final law could have major implications upon development in this area.



*The old making way for the new*

# 7. TRANSPORT & HIGHWAYS

## Road Junctions

The overwhelming opinion of the villagers collated from the Questionnaire, the Parish Plan Open Day and Skate Fests, is that the Station Road and Pinehurst Road junction must be improved before an accident results in death or serious injury! The majority of people thought a mini roundabout would be appropriate but, as there is already provision for traffic signals in the East Dorset Local Plan (2002), there seems no reason for delay. Concerns regarding this junction were expressed in the Village Appraisal of 1976. The Parish Council is backing plans for a mini roundabout and state 'that it will take time to materialise with all the problems of planning and cost'. The villagers have indicated that they regard this as the major problem in West Moors and that if it cannot be solved then the effort taken to produce this Plan has been largely wasted. Unfortunately, the Dorset County Council-2006 Review of Highways and Transportation Improvement schemes states that 'the Pinehurst/Station Road junction improvement is one of the lowest ranking schemes' and recommended its withdrawal from the long term programme. Traffic volumes continue to increase so villagers hope it will not be another thirty years before this junction is improved!



*Dodgems at the junction of Station and Pinehurst roads - a 30 year wait for improvements*

**STOP PRESS** - Dorset County Council Highways Department has recently taken another look at this junction and the proposal to install a mini roundabout is currently under consideration. The hope is that the work can be undertaken sometime early in 2007.

## Parking

Parking on the pavement in Station Road was a cause for complaint, as was the selfish attitude of some motorists who occupy parking bays outside the shops for most of the day. Waiting time is limited to 30 minutes and should be enforced. Illegal parking on the double yellow lines outside Tesco also attracted exasperated comments as there is adequate parking within a very short distance!

## Pedestrian Crossings

Many remarks were made about the problems of crossing the road at the junction of Station Road, Moorlands Road and Farm Road and that a pedestrian crossing is needed close to the library.

A petition was presented to the Parish Council by the pupils of West Moors Middle School and this has been passed to Dorset County Council. It outlines the danger of crossing Pinehurst Road to get to school. The hope is to have a crossing at this spot.

## Speeding and Traffic Noise

Concern was expressed about the number of people who choose to ignore the speed limit within the village boundary and the failure of the police to enforce the law, especially along Station Road and Pinehurst Road. Queries were raised about the lack of reminders to motorists that all of the village is limited to 30 mph. Measures to curb speeding are required, but the majority of people were not in favour of speed humps.

A quarter of those replying are affected by traffic noise and quieter road surfaces need to be introduced as standard.

## Cycleways

Nearly fifty per cent of those polled said they would like to see more cycleways introduced, providing that they are properly thought out to minimize dangers to all road users. The routes that attracted most support would link the village with Ferndown, Verwood and Wimborne.

## West Moors Bypass

The subject of a bypass was much debated at the public meetings. The results of the questionnaire show that two thirds of the replies are in favour of it being built. Some argued that a reduction in traffic would be of benefit to the village, whereas others thought that village shops and businesses would suffer. Time will tell. If traffic volumes continue to increase then so will public demand to have this road built.

## Public Transport

Many criticisms were made about public transport. Wistful comments came from some members of the older generation about the railways. Most villagers would like to see an increase in bus frequency, regularity and reliability, with more routes opened to the surrounding towns, especially Wimborne. Questions were asked about extending the Dial-a-Ride scheme to West Moors.



The Scout H.Q. plastered in graffiti

## 8. CRIME AND SAFETY

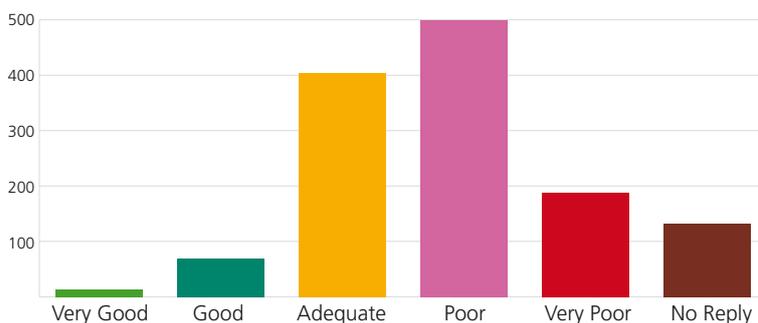
Most people who completed the questionnaire felt that the risk of crime in West Moors was low, feeling very safe during the day, but less safe at night. Whilst the risk of crime is small, many people have been affected by, or observed, speeding, vandalism, drunkenness, litter and graffiti.

### Traffic and Speeding

Station Road and Pinehurst Road are the main 'hotspots' for speeding and recently a speed trap was set up in Pinehurst Road following concerns shown at the Parish Plan Open Day. The majority of people caught were locals. A Speed Indication Device (SID) was also installed on Pinehurst Road for a period of one week. It is hoped that the village could have the use of a SID on a regular basis.

### Policing and Homewatch

*How you consider the levels of Police presence in West Moors*



*'West Moors is the only village where the police are heard but not seen'*

The above was one of many comments, at the Parish Plan Open Day and on the questionnaire, about the lack of policing in the village. Most people do not see the police and a common comment was 'What Police!' The village has a constable who patrols on a bicycle, but there is a need for police to spend time on foot throughout the village and interact with the villagers.

**STOP PRESS** - Dorset Police advise that the present Community Beat and Community Support Officers are shortly due to move on elsewhere within the force. The commitment towards community policing in West Moors is confirmed and finding replacements for both posts is a priority.

Over 50% of those who filled in the questionnaires belong to 'Homewatch'.

### Payment for extra services

A substantial number of people were prepared to pay extra local taxes for enhanced services; however the majority felt that they pay enough in taxes.

### General Problems

Vandalism and litter are seen as being a general problem in West Moors and a suggestion was made that children should be educated at school on these subjects. Although in the case of litter many adults seem just as guilty.

Anti-social behaviour was highlighted by 356 respondents as a major concern.

Graffiti is a problem in a number of locations throughout the village. The suggestion from the younger residents is for a graffiti wall to be built close to the Skate Park.

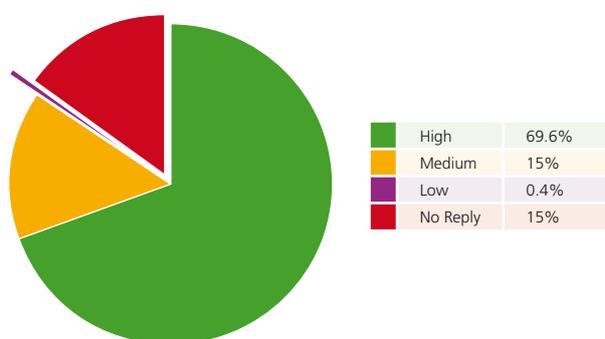


Pennington Copse

## 9. ENVIRONMENT

### What value you place on the local environment

The response in the questionnaire indicates what a large proportion of the village think of our environment.



### Waste collection and recycling service

The waste collection service is recognised as good, although some people experienced difficulties with the disposal of bulk waste and the management of waste recycling.

The Brook Road Household Recycling centre in Wimborne is seen as inadequate and not user friendly, however the site is scheduled for temporary closure to allow improvements to take place.

The system for distributing replacement bags and sacks is proving unreliable in some parts of the village and the disposal of garden refuse and cardboard is also a problem for some. There is a need for more information on Waste Management.

### Street sweeping service

Three quarters think the service rated from adequate to very good, with the remainder poor or very poor. Pavements not swept regularly and weeds growing in the gutters are the main problems listed.

### Litter and Dog fouling

The main areas where litter is seen as a particular problem are the village shopping areas in Station Road and Pinehurst Parade. There are requests for more litter bins in these areas.

Dog fouling on footpaths remains a problem in West Moors and the survey shows that a significant number of people want more dog waste bins, especially at access points to the Plantation. These bins can apparently be provided upon request so details of any possible new locations need to be passed to the Parish Council.

### Maintenance of Highways

Pinehurst Road is in dire need of resurfacing. The service road and verge at Pinehurst Parade are in private ownership but in a very poor state of repair. In this case the County Council have recently issued Enforcement Notices to some owners for repairs to the road/pavement under Health and Safety legislation.

The issue that created the most comment on footways was that of hedges, shrubs and tree branches overhanging footpaths and pavements. This is a concern for the safety and welfare of both pedestrians and wheelchair users. Pinehurst Road, Ringwood Road, and Station Road were identified as being particular problem areas.

## Open Spaces

The village is very fortunate in having areas of countryside adjacent to the village which allow free public access. Survey results show that these are popular and well used amenities; however there is a need for a village map to show where these areas are located.

- The Plantation is the largest and most popular area of public access, thanks to the policies of The Forestry Commission who own and manage the land. Possible future development on the Plantation is of concern. The Commission however have confirmed that following the recent harvesting of mature trees, replanting will take place in the near future.
- Pennington Copse is woodland classified as a local nature reserve which affords it some protection from development. It is owned and managed by East Dorset District Council (EDDC).
- The Riverside Walk path runs from the A31 alongside Uddens Water to Farm Road. It should then continue to link up with Hatchards Copse and Fryer Field but rights to establish a permissive path for this section have not been obtained and further effort is required.
- Hatchards Copse is the small area of ancient woodland behind the Fryer Playing fields owned by EDDC.
- The Castleman Trailway is a permissive path administered by Dorset County Council and is one of the most utilised leisure assets in the village. It mainly follows the course of the old railway line and together with the Plantation offers a safe environment for walking and cycling. Unfortunately a lack of planning forethought allowed housing development on the old railway track bed and the route through the village is confusing. Attempts have been made to sort this out, but better signage and a more direct route around the obstacles is needed.
- Open Space adjacent to the Woolslope Farm Development. This attractive grassed area occupies the floodplain between the development and Uddens Water. It would benefit from further landscaping and seating, fulfilling the requests received for a local park.
- MOD Defence Fuels Group. Although not accessible by the general public much of the site is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest. It is an important habitat for a variety of heath land species and the DFG takes its conservation responsibilities very seriously, working closely with English Nature. A herd of British White cattle graze the site to control gorse and restore the heath.



*The Plantation a delight...*



*...all year round*

## Air and Water Quality

These are thought by most to be good although there are concerns that traffic volumes are reducing the air quality.

## Tree Preservation

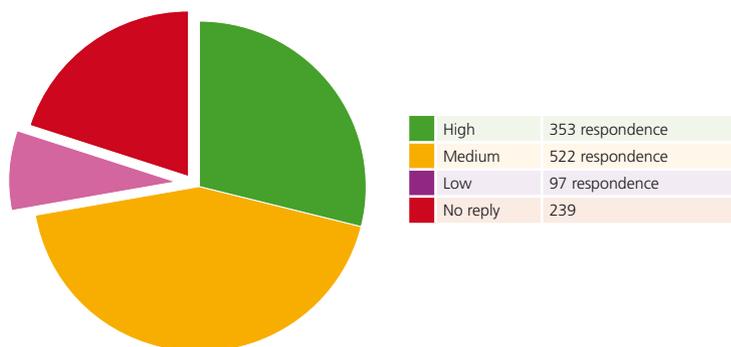
The village has suffered a loss of trees due to infill development and measures need to be taken to protect the trees that remain and encourage tree planting.



A boundary hit at Fryer Field

## 10. LEISURE

### What value you place upon the provision of local leisure facilities



#### Communication

There were many requests for a community notice board, to be placed centrally in the village, specifically for information about local events. The Parish Council have recently moved the existing board from outside the library to a site next to the Co-op., but there is still a need for a board specifically for use by local groups. A village map showing where all the open spaces and amenities are located would be a helpful addition. It was also noted that the Co-op. notice board is placed too high and suffers from condensation. The other village notice boards at Woolslope Road and Pinehurst Parade are in need of repair.

The recently created village web site [www.westmoorsdorset.co.uk](http://www.westmoorsdorset.co.uk) is a useful means of village communication.

#### Sports and Play Facilities

**The Fryer Field** area incorporates football and cricket pitches, plus a skate park and a BMX track. These are valuable and well used assets. They do, as previously mentioned, need the provision of public toilet facilities.

**The All Weather Play Area**, behind the Memorial Hall, is marked out for tennis courts, five-a-side football, and netball. The courts are available for hire on an hourly basis, but are kept locked. The surface is currently playable but does need some attention. Managed by the Parish Council, this expensive asset is grossly under used and the current arrangements for booking and access all need urgent review.

**Children's Play Areas** at Fryer Field and in Shaftesbury Road attracted adverse comments because they are graffiti targets. To prevent vandalism the Shaftesbury Road site is often locked during the day and at weekends, which defeats the reasons for providing the facility. Baby swings have recently been installed at Fryer Field, but there is no suitable equipment for the very young at Shaftesbury Road. No play facilities for disabled children are provided at either site. A play area designed for toddlers exists behind Bond Avenue, close to the **Youth Club**. Intended for use by the families of service personnel, this could possibly be made available to other village children.

**The Bowls Club** is situated behind the Memorial Hall. Although a private club two rinks are available for use by the public and bookings to use these can be made at the club, or through their Secretary.

## Meeting Places

The village benefits from a number of community halls with the Memorial Hall in Station Road being the largest. It is extensively used by village clubs and associations and is also available for private hire. Recently redecorated, further improvements/repairs will take place as funds allow. Other venues include the halls attached to St Mary's Parish Church, St Anthony's Catholic Church, the United Reform Church and Pinehurst Chapel. The Scouts and Guides have their own individual facilities, plus there is a Youth Club and a Sports Pavilion on Fryer Field. The hall at West Moors Middle School is also available for public use

Other popular requests for additional facilities/improvements:

**Additional playing field facilities.** The point was made that it is a long walk from the A31/Pinehurst Road to Fryer Field. There is a large playing field off Canterbury Close which is occasionally used by the Middle School, but this is kept locked and the possibility of opening this up for public use should be explored.

**Swimming Pool.** Provision and maintenance of a village swimming pool would be a very expensive venture and there are facilities in Ferndown. A Holiday Park alongside the A31 offers a pool, gym and fitness centre on a year round basis to those who wish to purchase membership.

**Sports/Leisure Centre** this would require a comprehensive review of all existing facilities, followed by a major fund raising exercise. It could provide a venue for a Gym/fitness area, Skittle alley, and Badminton courts, which were other popular requests. Proposals to build a new Scout HQ on Memorial Hall land are already under consideration, and some sort of shared arrangements with the Scouts might be the way forward.

**Various requests for extra clubs or activities were received.** These included Allotments, Archery, Bridge, Computer classes, Music Groups and Yoga. Some of these activities have existed within the village in the past, and may do so again if enough people show an interest and are prepared to volunteer their services to organise and run such ventures. The village web site, lists in the library, or on a community notice board, could be used as a method of bringing people with like interests together.

**More Village events.** The success of the recent West Moors Jubilee celebrations and the Carol Service/Christmas Fair is an indication of support for these events. There was some criticism of the Christmas lights with an appeal to the Parish Council to provide something a bit more impressive. However the display for 2006 showed a marked improvement

**Provision of a park/picnic area.** The requests are for somewhere peaceful, but not too far from the village centre. There are a number of existing open spaces, mentioned previously, where seating and/or picnic tables could be installed.

**A Community/Drop in Centre.** This would need premises in or near the heart of the village. This could be a dual purpose building, catering for older residents during the day and younger people in the evening. Taking over an empty shop might be the solution if funding could be found for such a venture.





Spot the ball?

## 11. YOUTH

In addition to completing a section in the questionnaire the views of younger people were also sought at meetings held at the Middle School, the Youth Club, and a Youth Forum. The latter included members of church youth groups, scouts and guides. The number of views expressed were proportionately in line with the responses received from the rest of those replying to the questionnaire.

### Education - work - housing

Results show that over 75% attend school in West Moors or Ferndown, and of these 81% expect to be able to attend some form of further or higher education. A quarter of them hope to be able to work locally and want to be able to live in the village. Less than 20% expect to be able to afford to buy property locally, with a further 5% hoping to rent. This seems a realistic reflection on the lack of work and housing available to young adults in the village.

### Clubs

Three quarters of those asked regularly attend local youth groups/sports clubs.

### Likes and Dislikes

The most popular facilities are the Fryer's Field and the Library, especially the computer room. Other well used venues are the Plantation, Playgrounds, Youth Club and the Skate Park. The use of the All Weather Sports Area seems to be confined to occasional football training. There were also requests that the existing open spaces be retained.

Dislikes largely mirrored the responses from older members of the community. A lack of meeting places, anti-social behaviour, vandalism, too much traffic, and a disappointing array of shops were all items mentioned frequently. An overall village bias in favour of the older generation was also mentioned, as was a lack of play equipment for the disabled.

### Future requirements

The 11-14 year old age group were asked to anticipate their requirements over the next five years. These are listed below:

Bank in village	Counsellor
Cheap/late buses	Drugs education centre/help line
Club house	Financial advice on loans/mortgages
Driving school/help with tuition	Fitness club/dietician
Drama club	Help with careers/University
Flats to rent/buy	Moped schemes for getting to work
Help needed for council homes	Sexual health clinic
Cinema	Smoking education
Part time jobs	Village hall for discos
Sports club	Transport to night clubs in Bournemouth

## General Observations

The following is the complete list of the suggestions received, which it was felt should be printed in full as it represents the wide variety of interests and concerns. Some of these facilities may already be available but insufficiently advertised.

<b>Education:</b>	<b>Leisure:</b>
Bigger library	A chance to dance
Better computers	Book shop
Homework club	Car mechanic course
	Fashion show/catwalk
<b>Sports:</b>	Film club Memorial Hall/Middle School
Abseiling	Graffiti wall
Archery	Model shop
Astro turf at Fryer Field	More discos
Basketball	Murder mystery nights
Better play area	Music club
Climbing wall	Pod meeting place
Dance competitions	Shows to raise money for community
Dance workshops	Sound bust
Drama club	Summer concert/battle of the bands
Football	Swop shop
Girls football	Young peoples garden
Girls hockey	Youth club open during school holidays
Horse riding lessons	Youth club open nightly for different age groups
Leisure centre	
Martial arts club	<b>Community:</b>
More sports clubs	Street lights Bond Avenue to Youth Club
New tennis courts	Nature sanctuary for owls and lizards
Rifle range	New barbers shop
Rugby	Kids newsletter in village
Smaller goals at Fryer Field	Monthly parades
Sports shop	Cleaner smarter public toilets
Swimming pool	More/active police
Trampoline club	More dog bins
Volleyball	Safer junction at Glenwood Road
Young peoples gym	Footpath West Moors to Three Legged Cross
	Enforce speed limit in Station Road
	Music shop
	Garden/allotments for kids
	Voluntary help group for community
	Pelican crossing at library
	Video shop/library
	Library games for hire
	Kids restaurant cheap healthy food
	Kids drop in centre
	Milk shake bar/music bar
<b>Skate Park:</b>	
Better ramps	
Board and equipment hire	
Disabled use	
Indoor skate park	
Lessons for different abilities	
Mini ramp	
Redesign dirt ramps	
Toilets	
Water pipe (drinking fountain)	



Professional Graffiti artists workshop at work at the local Sound Music festival



A skateboarder shows the others how it's done

#### Transport:

Community bus

Trips out of West Moors

#### Health

Sexual health clinic

Encouragement for healthy lifestyle

#### Employment:

Jobs for young people

Work experience groups

### Conclusions

The responses from the household survey seem to accurately reflect the feeling of the young. They use and want to retain the Fryer Field area and other open spaces; they appreciate organised activities and the library. In a similar manner to the adult responses, they also do not like the traffic, graffiti, vandalism, or the minority element that loiter and cause intimidation.

The results from the Youth Forum and question sessions re-enforces these findings. The immediate requirements are for adequate drink and toilet facilities at Fryer Field/Skate Park. They also suggest a possible solution to the graffiti problem in the provision of a purpose built graffiti wall, which can be used, then painted over and reused. This would allow them to express their more artistic talents.

In the longer term the requirements appear to be for more organised sports and leisure activities/groups. The youngsters also appreciate the problems related to health, smoking and drug issues. They are aware of the financial pressures that await them as they get older and as such are seeking help in dealing with these issues in a constructive way.



Autumn in the Plantation



Our very popular village Library

## 12. YOUR COMMENTS

### Examples of the funny, outrageous and mostly sensible comments...

*'Please tell the Council that the magic white paint round the potholes isn't working.'*

*'Can someone cull these \*\*\*\*\* wood pigeons!'*

*'It is quieter in Beirut with all the police sirens.'*

*'West Moors is delightful; I hope our next service posting is as nice.'*

*'Instead of moaning people should get out and do something about it.'*

*'Hurrah for the Petwyn.'*

*'Thanks for the opportunity to give our opinion.'*

*'A waste of time, Politician's don't listen, they do just as they please.'*

*'No more Housing Association Development.'*

*'The Tennis Club play in Ferndown because our courts are rubbish.'*

*'Where is the library?'*

*'Congratulations to those responsible for the way West Moors has improved over the past 2 years.'*

*'We need a Casino!'*

*'How do I find out what is happening in the village?'*

***You made us laugh,  
You made us sigh,  
You made us blink,  
But most of all you made us THINK.***



Children enjoying the playground at Fryer Field



West Moors Horticultural Society Show

## 13. THE FUTURE

From the information gathered by the Steering Committee, over fifty issues/suggestions have been identified and incorporated into the Action Plan. Action Plans are not set in stone and may need to evolve due to changing circumstances.

The Parish Plan is available on the village website [www.westmoorsdorset.co.uk](http://www.westmoorsdorset.co.uk) and information will be updated as necessary.

Throughout the consultation period the most important factor that has become apparent is that the villagers wish to see the village retain its character and sense of community. One way in which this could be achieved would be to re-establish a Community Association made up of representatives from all aspects of village life.

It is important to ensure that the things we value in the village such as the shops, existing services and leisure facilities are used to ensure that we do not lose them.

It is this sense of community that will help achieve the actions identified in the Parish Plan. The intention is for the Parish Plan Steering Committee to evolve into the nucleus of a Local Action Group in order to monitor the progress being made to implement the following Action Plan. If you would like to join this group, or feel able to assist in any other way, please contact the Parish Office on telephone no. 861044. Support will also be sought from Themed Action Groups which have been set up throughout East Dorset as a result of other Parish Plans.

By all working together we can make a difference. As one household said:

*"A very nice place to live - we hope it stays like it".*



The only way to go



## 14. THE ACTION PLAN *or 50+ Ways to Improve West Moors*

Action		Ownership	Timescale
<b>Economy and Services</b>			
1	Encourage opening of a bank, hardware and greengrocer.	PC, Traders	2 years
2	Encourage provision of a NHS dentist.	Health Authority	1 year
3	Safeguard the Library and improve opening times.	DCC	6 months
4	Improve communication to and from the Parish Council.	PC, EDDC, DCC	Immediate
5	Better maintenance of the toilets on Park Way.	EDDC	6 months
6	Providing public toilets on Fryer Field.	PC, EDDC	1 year

Action		Ownership	Timescale
<b>Housing</b>			
7	Keep West Moors as a village.	PC, EDDC	Ongoing
8	Limits to the building of flats.	PC, EDDC	Ongoing
9	Maintain and increase the areas designated as Special Character.	PC, EDDC	Ongoing
10	Prevent multiple dwellings being built on single sites.	PC, EDDC	Ongoing
11	More emphasis on affordable housing.	PC, EDDC	Ongoing
12	Better public notification of planning proposals.	EDDC	6 months

Action		Ownership	Timescale
<b>Transport and Highways</b>			
13	Improvements to the Pinehurst/Station Road junction.	DCC	2 years
14	Pedestrian crossing in Pinehurst Road.	DCC	1 year
15	Move pedestrian crossing in Station Road.	DCC	1 year
16	Enforcement of parking restrictions.	EDDC	Immediate
17	Measures to reduce traffic noise.	DCC	Ongoing
18	Push for building of by-pass.	PC, EDDC, DCC, Regional Govt.	Ongoing
19	Improve bus services.	Bus Co/Transport TAG	1 year
20	Explore introduction of Dial a Ride.	PC/Transport TAG	9 months
21	Establish more cycleways.	DCC/Transport TAG	Ongoing

**Key:** PC - Parish Council, EDDC - East Dorset District Council, DCC - Dorset County Council, TAG - Themed Action Group, LAG - Local Action Group, MOD - Ministry of Defence, CSP - Community Safety Partnership.

	Action	Ownership	Timescale
<b>Crime and Safety</b>			
22	Higher police presence on foot in village.	Police	Ongoing
23	Speed limits to be painted on main roads.	DCC, CSP	6 months
24	Regular use of Speed Indication Devices and speed traps.	Police, CSP	Ongoing
25	Measures to eliminate graffiti.	PC, Police, Schools, CSP	Ongoing

	Action	Ownership	Timescale
<b>Environment</b>			
26	Community organised litter pick.	PC, Volunteers	6 months
27	Improvements to Brook Road Recycling waste site.	EDDC, DCC	1 year
28	Improve collections and information on recycling.	EDDC	Ongoing
29	Improve distribution of replacement recycling/waste bags.	EDDC	6 months
30	Improve street sweeping and weed control.	EDDC	Ongoing
31	Provide more dog waste bins.	EDDC, PC	6 months
32	Resurface Pinehurst Road.	DCC	1 year
33	Repair Pinehurst Parade service road and improve verge.	Landowners, PC	6 months
34	Action to cut back overhanging hedges and trees.	Landowners, EDDC	Ongoing
35	Produce a village map showing open spaces.	PC	1 year
36	Join Riverside Walk up with Fryer Field.	EDDC	5 years
37	Better signage for the Castleman Trailway.	EDDC	1 year
38	Better use of the open space beside Woolslope Development.	PC	1 year
39	Better protection of trees.	EDDC	Ongoing

	Action	Ownership	Timescale
<b>Leisure</b>			
40	Provide a community notice board and repair existing boards.	PC	3 months
41	Improve booking for the All Weather Play Area.	PC	Immediate
42	Improve children's playgrounds.	PC, MOD	1 year
43	Open up Canterbury Close playing field.	PC, Middle School	2 years
44	Better Christmas lights.	PC	1 year
45	Park/seating area on an open space.	PC	2 years
46	Community/Drop in Centre.	PC, EDDC	5 years
47	Re-establish a Community Association.	PC, local clubs, volunteers	2 years

	Action	Ownership	Timescale
<b>Youth</b>			
48	Drinking fountain and toilets at Fryer Field/Skate Park.	PC	1 year
49	Provide a Community bus.	PC, volunteers/ Transport TAG	2 years
50	Establish a graffiti wall.	PC, volunteers	1 year
51	Better indoor sports facilities.	EDDC	10 years
52	Better lighting on approach road to Youth Club.	MOD, DCC	1 year
53	Establish a youth Drop In Centre.	PC, EDDC	5 years

Overall progress to be monitored by a Local Action Group.

**Key:** PC - Parish Council, EDDC - East Dorset District Council, DCC - Dorset County Council, TAG - Themed Action Group, LAG - Local Action Group, MOD - Ministry of Defence, CSP - Community Safety Partnership.

# 15. USEFUL CONTACTS

West Moors Associations, Clubs and Societies	Contact Name	Telephone No.
Brownies	Mrs Lyn Whitfield	876754
Brownsea Island Scout Fellowship	Brian Beek	874230
Busy Bees Pre-School	Mrs Rachel Clifford	07704 107692
Coping with Chaos (for disabled children)	Mrs Tessa Masterman	873201
Craft Club	Miss Doreen Mulford	893276
Crane Moor Scout Fellowship	Mrs Betty Raymond	874260
Cricket Club	R Fenwick - <i>Chairman</i>	892622
Dance Academy	Andrea Knowles - <i>Organiser</i>	01425 477256
Dorset Village Hall Association	Baird Oldrey - <i>Secretary</i>	877458
Evergreens	Alf Goff - <i>Chairman</i>	861034
Ferndown & West Moors Philatelic and Postcard Club	Terry Kirkham - <i>Secretary</i>	572711
Guide Group	Mrs Lyn Whitfield	876754
K9 Dog Training	Ms Toni Lethbridge - <i>Organiser</i>	885565
Line Dancing	Mrs J Forse	581489
Memorial Hall Booking	Mrs Kath Hounslow	876572
Mobile Petz	Sue & David Lindsey	891690
Mothers' Union Afternoon	Mrs Veronica Morgan	861773
Mothers' Union Evening	Mrs Joy Wye	871982
National Trust	Connie Moody - <i>Membership Secretary</i>	871566
Painting For Pleasure	Mr R Alley - <i>Organiser</i>	855668
Parenting Alone	Jane Edwards	897856
Pinehurst After Eights	Heather Orman	896401
Pinehurst Anyone with Kids	Heather Orman	896401
Pinehurst Homemakers	Mrs J D Williams	892448
Pinehurst Covies Club	Dave & Julie Bradshaw	890347
Pinehurst Ladies Fellowship	Mrs Agnes Flewitt	01425 476620
Pinehurst Men's Group	Keith Orman	896401
Pinehurst Sunday Children's and Youths' Activities	Helen Stevens	870552
Pinehurst Vision	Phil & Verity Wareham-Mews	854687
Pre-School Playgroup	Carol Liversidge	828905
Rainbows	Mrs Lyn Whitfield	876754
Rangers	Mrs Lyn Whitfield	876754
Reike Healing	Mrs Christine Gibbs - <i>Organiser</i>	871808
St. Martin's Under 3s+	Mrs Muriel Moore	872045
Scout Group	Fran Leach - <i>Representative</i>	876494
Skate Park Committee	Steve Hunt	892172
Tea Dance Group	Marna/Peter Williams - <i>Organiser</i>	871495
The Fitness League	Mrs Moya Botterill - <i>Teacher/Organiser</i>	861601
Townswomen's Guild	Mrs Chris Pentelow <i>Secretary</i>	875311
Unison Theatrical Choir	Scott Price	692036
West Moors Art Society	Mrs E Saunders	897909
West Moors Drama Society	Janet Price - <i>Secretary</i>	861090
West Moors Flower Group	Mrs Kath Hounslow	876572
West Moors Football Club BFA Div 1	David Richardson	872393
West Moors Homewatch	Mike Shine - <i>Chairman</i>	892353
West Moors Horticultural Society	Mrs Sue Hamlett - <i>Secretary</i>	871536
West Moors Memorial Bowls Club	John Price - <i>Secretary</i>	861090
West Moors Singers	Mrs Janet Roberts	892810
West Moors Social Club	Mr D Eyles	877414
West Moors Trade Association	Simon Dixon - <i>Secretary</i>	877511
West Moors W.I	Miss Doreen Mulford	893276
West Moors Youth Football Club	David Maidment - <i>Chairman</i>	896582
Youth and Community Club	Mo Shearing	894312
Other Useful Numbers		
Bee-keepers Association Dorset South	Mrs Elizabeth Duffin - <i>Chairman</i>	01425 474552
Children's Information Service		0845 3552099
Dorset County Council		01305 251000
East Dorset Bee-keepers Association	Mrs Jenny Wellman	873292
East Dorset County Council		886201
Library		873272
Parish Office	Parish Clerk	861044
Sturts Farm Office		854762
Wimborne, Ferndown and District Past Rotarians	A Billingham	870843



The Parish Plan Steering Committee would like to thank everyone who gave their support, time and assistance without which this Parish Plan could not have been completed.

The Parish Steering Group: Irene Clements, Fran Leach, Pamela Long, Donna Marlborough, Kath Money, John Bartley, Pete Holden, Roger Long and Barry Wye.

Front Cover -  
(above) Remembrance Day 1975 at the Petwyn  
(below) Remembrance Day 2006

Thanks to Bryan Stacy for designing and providing the covers. Thanks also to Martyn Leach of Anchor Business Computing and the Parish Archivist for supplying photographs.

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