

Toft Parish Plan



Introduction



The Village Green looking up Mill Lane

This report was produced initially by the Toft Parish Plan Steering Group, which is made up of volunteers from the village who were driven by a desire to maintain and develop Toft as an excellent place to live.

It is one of the key documents resulting from the initiative to produce a Parish Plan for Toft. It analyses the responses to the Toft Parish Plan Questionnaire, which was sent to every property in the parish of Toft, and draws conclusions from the results. This information will be used as the basis of an “Action plan”: a set of goals that we hope to achieve over the coming years, based on the priorities that residents of Toft have identified. It will also be used to inform local authorities of the views of the residents of Toft.

In 2007 each household in Toft was asked to complete one questionnaire, and each person over the age of 11 was asked to give some general background information about him or herself. The aim was to gain an understanding of the views of people living in Toft about various aspects of life in Toft, and how they would like to see the village develop over the coming years.

A total of 183 questionnaires were returned, giving an estimated 85% response rate.

Toft Parish Plan Steering Group

Spring 2010

Acknowledgements

The Toft Parish Plan Steering Group would like to acknowledge the kind support of Cambridge ACRE, which provided funding support for development of the Parish Plan, and the Toft Parish Council, who encouraged its development.

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2012 Footnote: The 2012 Steering Group has agreed that updates should be included in this document wherever possible, to show how the Parish Plan has contributed over the years to the projects currently being undertaken and to identify where further work still needs to be done.

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Overview of the questionnaire



The Village Green



Mill Lane Drift



The High Street



Church Drift

The Toft Parish Plan Questionnaire was divided into two sections. The first related to personal information regarding gender, age, residence in Toft, employment and views on the Village Calendar. Separate subsections dealt with young people, transport and traffic, the environment of Toft, local services and facilities, local government, planning and development and other general issues. Section 2 was about the household, the number of people living in each home in Toft, the number of children, the type of housing and whether the property had problems with flooding. Whereas Section 1 invited family members over the age of 11 to participate, Section 2 asked about all members of the household, which explains why population figures differ between the two sections.

The results give an overall impression of a village with a strong community identity, happy to be living in a rural environment but also close to Cambridge. In answer to the question, 'What is most important to you about Toft?', 78% cited location, 71% chose proximity to the countryside, 57% voted for the community and 48% chose proximity to Cambridge.

Population

The age of the population is heavily weighted towards those over 40, with 76% saying they were aged between 41 and 80+. Young people over the age of 11 were invited to take part in the survey and it was found that there were 36 young people aged from 11 to 18.

Traffic

Traffic was an issue of major concern, with 72% of respondents saying they were concerned about speed and 61% with the volume of traffic. People were divided about traffic calming measures with 42% in favour and 32% against. The details and an update are included in the section on traffic.

Transport

In response to questions on transport, statistics show that the bus service was not well used by the majority of residents. However, a number of residents said they would use the bus if services were more regular. Details are given in the section on transport.

Services and facilities

People seemed generally content with the local services and facilities in the village, with the exception of mobile phone services, 56% saying they were poor, and with local police coverage, 52% saying it was insufficient.

Local government

With regard to local government, 61% of people felt that their Parish Council was aware of local concerns and 58% felt that they were kept informed about the activities of the Parish Council. They were less satisfied about District and County Council representatives at that time. A major concern was that 43% of respondents felt that planning applications were not given sufficient publicity. On the subject of local housing development, the residents were fairly equally divided, with 36% in favour of starter homes and 34% against. 22% were in favour of housing association/rented properties and 41% were against.

Village environment

About a third of respondents expressed a willingness to volunteer to improve the village environment, with 31% willing to create a local nature reserve, 25% to look after woods and trees, 29% to create more woodland, 28% to create more footpaths, 35% to participate in village fund raising, 31% to help with projects and 20% to contribute to a project fund. 24% were willing to pay more Council Tax to help fund improvements in Toft.

The questionnaire comprised questions with tick boxes, which have produced interesting statistical information. However, in some places, there was also a box provided for free writing. An analysis of these comments provides information about how residents felt at the time about a number of issues. The comments have been gathered from the document as a whole and put together under specific headings.

A brief history of Toft

A walk around the village

The history of Toft is not just the story of its past but is still very much a part of its present. A walk around the village makes you feel very close to the past.

Start at the Church, an early version of which existed on that site in 1217.

Cross the field opposite and look at the ridges and furrows, where medieval people farmed their crops to provide food for their families

Walk around Brookside, the High Street and Comberton Road and look at the cottages which were built in the 1600s.

On the way, notice the little Chapel now celebrating 150 years since its opening in 1862.

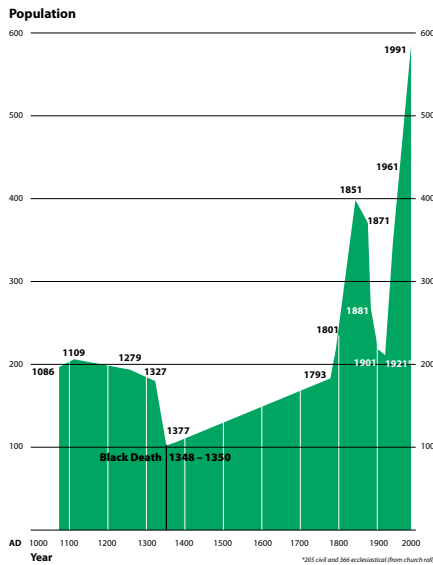
In each century and even each decade, the appearance of the village has changed as people have put their stamp on it, building houses, cultivating fields, setting up small businesses.

Some present-day villagers were born here, went to school in School Lane, then some cycled all the way to Cambridge to attend secondary school.

Things have changed but the charm of the village still attracts the visitor to its quiet footpaths and unspoilt rural environment.



Some interesting dates from the records



Fluctuating populations



The village sign shows John Bunyan preaching in a barn in Toft



The Rector, Edward Powell

- 1066** At this time Toft is a settled community and most land within the parish boundary is cleared for cultivation. 'Toft' is an old Viking word meaning homestead. Before the Normans arrive, the land in Toft belongs to the Abbot of Ely, the King and a woman called Eddeva. The village is assessed along with Hardwick.
- 1086** The village is listed in the Domesday Book of 1086. When the Normans invade, Eddeva's land is transferred to Count Alan of Brittany, who may have a church in Toft because he pays part of his tithes to a French abbey in Angers.
- 1200s** Two open fields, East Field and West Field are recorded.
- 1217** First written record of a church.
- 1278** Toft pays tax of £8.00 to Pope Nicholas III.
- 1279** The Earl of Gloucester is given responsibility for bringing offenders to justice in Toft.
- 1320** A constable is elected.
- 1348-50** Black Death strikes. Population falls from 174 in 1327 to 101 in 1377.
- 1539** By law, the registers of births, marriages and deaths begin to record the important events in the lives of the villagers. They are complete to this day.
- 1553** A constable is elected.
- 1585** An ale-taster is elected.
- 1600s** Wooden bridge is built across Bourn Brook.
- 1638** A Parish Clerk is mentioned.
- 1649** William Dowsing, the iconoclast, comes to Toft and for 6/8d destroys 27 superstitious pictures in windows, ten in stone and 3 brass memorials, as well as an alabaster reredos, and other symbols.
- 1659** John Bunyan preaches in a barn in Toft and has a nationally reported dispute with the University librarian.
- 1700** A third field, Middle Field is recorded. The three fields survive until enclosure in 1812.
- 1730** William Eversden gives £6 to buy one acre of land in trust, with the income to provide bread for the poor at Easter. For some years, the money is spent on improvements to the land.
- 1756** Jonathan Page leaves £10 to buy land for the poor. The farmer entrusted with the money absconds and it is not recovered.
- 1790s** The parish produces wheat, barley, oats and peas but not clover or turnips.
- 1815** There is now only a ford across Bourn Brook.
- 1819** Sunday school is established for boys and girls and a day school chiefly for girls; 30 pupils. Parents who can afford it send their sons to school in Kingston and Eversden.
- 1833** Rev. Preston leaves money for a school in Toft and Caldecote. The accumulated interest of the Preston charity plus other funds enables a house to be purchased for a schoolmaster, a workshop converted for the girls and an additional school room built for the boys.
- 1835** The parish becomes part of the Caxton and Arrington Poor Law Union.
- 1837** Charity Commissioners recommend that the William Eversden trust should be used again to distribute bread to the poor, especially those not receiving poor relief.
- 1845** The Rector, Edward Powell builds the rectory, which is now Toft Manor.
- 1846** Joseph Tebbit leases land that comes to be known as Orchard Farm. Of 150 acres, 30 remain as permanent grass and the remainder is farmed on a four year rotation: barley, beans, peas, clover or seeds; wheat and fallow.

1861-2	Construction of railway line through Toft, on Cambridge to Bletchley line. Toft has no station, the nearest being Old North Road (Longstowe) and Lord's Bridge (Barton).
1862	Primitive Methodist Chapel is built on the High Street.
1863	St. Andrew's is largely re-built to its present look.
1894	After Powell's death, a smaller rectory of red brick is built on the north side of Comberton Road.

1900	Toft has a butcher, a carrier, two shops, a market gardener, 2 shoemakers, a coal merchant, a blacksmith, a builder, a wheelwright, and two public houses – the Red Lion and the Black Bull.
1901	Census – 210 people in Toft.
1901	Disagreement over the teaching of the catechism to which non-conformists object. The school managers dismiss Miss Veall, the schoolteacher and she becomes the new headmistress of Toft British School, established in Methodist Chapel.
1906	School re-unites in School Lane.
1911	Concrete bridge is built across Bourn Brook.
1911	Railway siding opens in Kingston parish known locally as Toft siding. Goods traffic such as sugar beet, hay, fruit, wheat (and during the Second World War, timber).
1913	Church Institute is built in School Lane.
1926	First Council houses, with preference for ex-servicemen, are built,
1933	Joseph Worboys gives £100 in trust, the income to be distributed to the poor, aged and infirm, in the form of coal in the first week of December.
1934	The Poor Law Union is passed to Chesterton Rural District.
1947	Mains water comes to Toft.
1951	First meeting of the Parish Council, chaired by Mr Macfarlane Grieve. They petition Eastern Electricity to supply electricity to Toft. There are seven members including the Chairman, just as today.
1952	December, the electricity is switched on.
1954	First combine harvester is used in Toft.
1959	School closes and children go to school in Comberton. Meridian Primary School opens in 1968.
1960	The Village College, Comberton opens in Toft parish.
1964	Toft old school is bought by inhabitants' subscriptions and a loan to become Toft People's Hall, the village hall in 1965.
1966	Toft Parish Council elects Mr Clifford Tebbit as Chairman.
1967	Proceeds of both charities are distributed in cash for the relief of poor, sick or disabled people.
1968	Railway line closes. Sleepers are removed and land returned to agriculture. Traces of the old track can still be seen.
1972	Mains drains come to Toft.
1974	Local government passes to South Cambridgeshire District Council.
1988	Modern bridge is built over Bourn Brook.
1999	Toft People's Hall extensively refurbished and has a thriving Social Club.
1999	Toft Church ancient bells restored and augmented to ring in the millennium

2003	St. Andrews and Methodist Chapel become a local ecumenical partnership.
2012	Toft People's Hall redevelopment is in progress.



The mechanisation of farming



In 1959 Toft school closes and the children go to school in Comberton

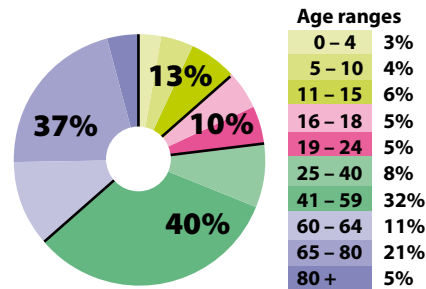


Toft Church ancient bells restored and augmented to ring in the millennium

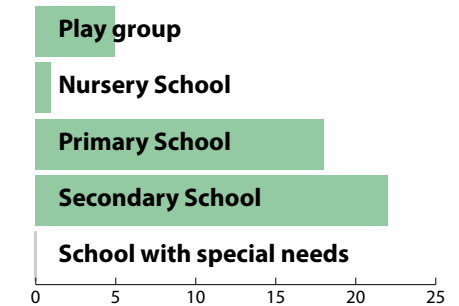
Residents and their households

There was some overlap in the information obtained in answer to the questions at the beginning of Section 1 and those in Section 2, so responses have been combined in order to pick out the salient points. Where information on housing stock is relevant to development, this has been included in the section dealing with housing.

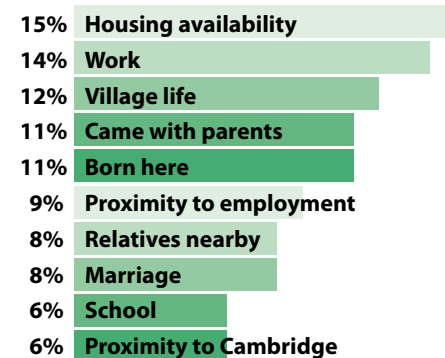
Q54 asked, 'How many people including children normally live in your household?' 440 were counted.



Q61 asked about children in education in 2007.



Q5 identified the reasons why people came to live in Toft.

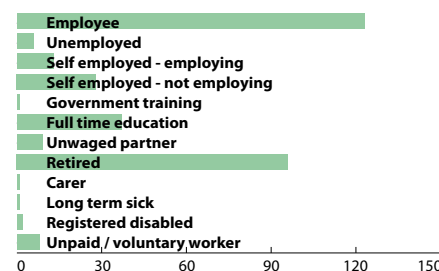


Q6 asked what people considered to be most important about Toft.

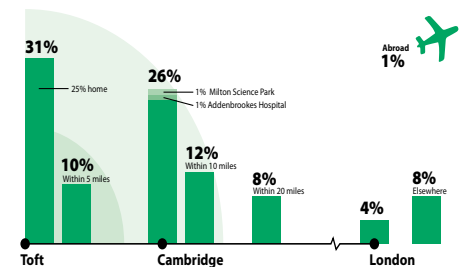


Employment

Q7 Are you at present ... ?



Q8 Where is your main place of work?



Only 11 people answered Q62 which was about the reasons why children under 16 might be unable to take part in after school activities. Lack of transport was most important reason identified.

Q51 asked about the social events people would like to see in Toft. 36% voted for musical events and local bands, 34% for drama, 27% for a sports day, 19% for organised trips to Cambridge.

Traffic was mentioned under questions about how to make Toft a better place for young people, as well as in answer to the specific question about speed control measures. Residents expressed major concerns about the traffic passing through the village, both with regard to its speed (72%) and volume (61%).

Speed

The problem uppermost in most people's minds was how to slow down the speed of vehicles using the High Street, without creating a 'rat run' through School Lane or via Brookside. Speed bumps were not popular on the whole but chicanes and interactive signs were preferred. Suggestions included, 'a red surface on the road', 'painting 30 mph on the road', 'reducing the speed limit on the bend by the shop to 20mph', and 'enforcing speed limits by use of spot checks and police speed checks'.

There were requests for crossings in different places, 'at the top of School Lane', 'opposite the Methodist Church', 'opposite the recreation ground' but mainly to give access to the shop and the bus stop.

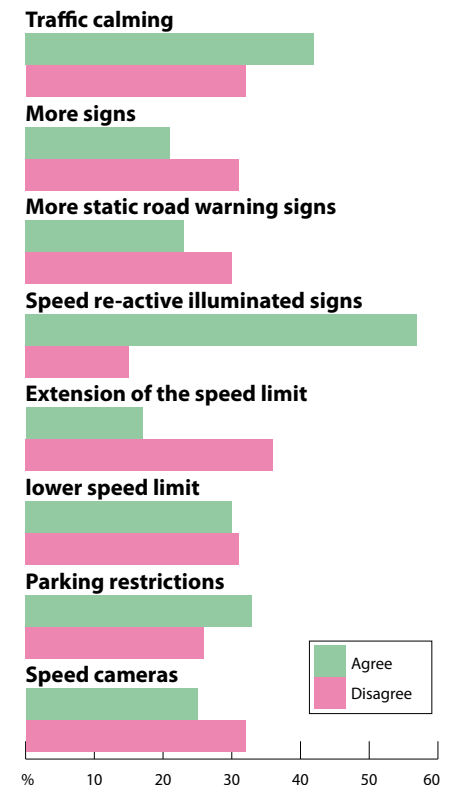
2012. Enforcement measures have since included sharing speed check equipment with Hardwick, operated by trained local volunteers. Letters were sent to those caught speeding. As a result of Parish Council requests, the police have done regular speed monitoring on the High Street. Action has been taken against those caught speeding.

The Parish Council is currently applying for grants to introduce traffic calming measures on the entrances to the village, near Hardwick Road and Brookside. These will include a red road surface and new signs.

Enquiries were made with regard to reducing the speed limit to 20mph but as the High Street is an A road, we are not permitted to do this. Enquiries were also made about a crossing but the cost was exorbitant, (£10-15,000 for a zebra and much more for a pelican crossing) and the village would have to pay a share of the cost, even with grants.

Simpler measures, such as trimming hedges to make signs more visible, should be considered by all landowners whose trees and hedges could mask road signs. Residents were also provided with 30mph stickers to place on dust bins and it is hoped more requests for the stickers will be made to Parish Councillors.

Q27 Would you support the following speed control measures in the main roads through the village?



Volume

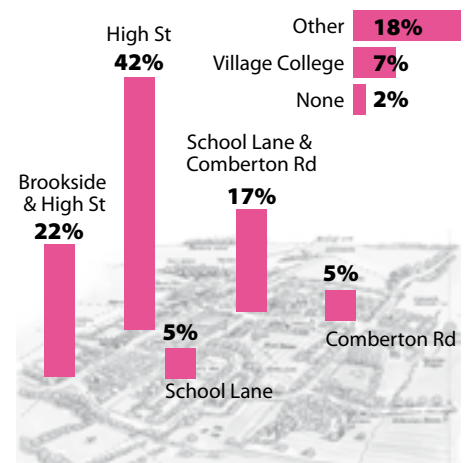
As well as wanting to see the speed of traffic reduced, many people would like to see traffic reduced in volume. There were few suggestions as to how through traffic might be discouraged but concerns were expressed that the village had become a 'rat run'. We have no evidence of where traffic is going to or from.

Danger Spots

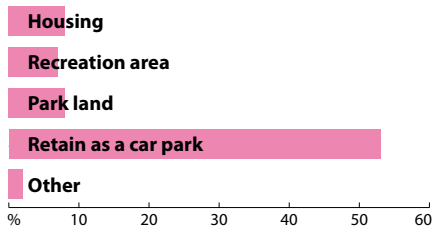
Question 28 identified where residents felt there were danger spots in Toft. In addition to the answers to this question, there were 93 other comments in the questionnaire about traffic speed and volume.

Of the 93 other comments, six related to the junction with Brookside and School Lane; seven related to the junction of Comberton Road and Hardwick Road, three specified the bottom of the High Street near the recreation ground; three did not feel safe on the road from Toft to Comberton; 63 comments identified the area around the village green, which includes a blind bend, access to the shop and post office, the junction with Mill Lane, the parking around the green and near the Chinese restaurant.

Q28 If you feel that there are danger spots on the roads in Toft, please tick where they are.



Q50 Do you think that the car park in Toft should be used for another purpose?



Parking

Restrictions on parking were suggested for the High Street, around the village green, outside the Chinese restaurant, in School Lane, on verges and pavements, at road junctions, in Church Road.

It was felt that the car park at the top of School Lane should be properly maintained, resurfaced and with spaces painted clearly, so that those residents from the High Street and School Lane who had no driveways would be able to park in the car park. Customers at the Chinese restaurant should be required to use the restaurant’s own car park. It was also suggested that signs to the car park should be renewed.



The High Street

Buses

Requests were made for a more frequent service with buses running earlier in the morning and later in the evening. A Sunday service was desirable and cheaper fares should be offered to encourage people to use the bus service. Young people use the bus for over a quarter of the journeys they make.

However, in the main section on transport, 205 respondents said they never used the bus, whilst 121 used it regularly and 162 only sometimes. The main reason for using the bus was to go shopping, with social or leisure activities being the next most significant reason for catching the bus. When asked what would encourage them to use the bus service, people replied: frequent services (32%), a regular evening service (30%), a faster route to Cambridge (24%) and Sunday buses (20%). These statistics reflected the comments made elsewhere in the questionnaire

2012: The bus service is under threat and, towards the end of 2011 and again at the end of 2012, residents were given bus questionnaires to complete and submit to the County Council. Measures are being considered to introduce community transport around the villages but no decisions have been made at the time of going to print.

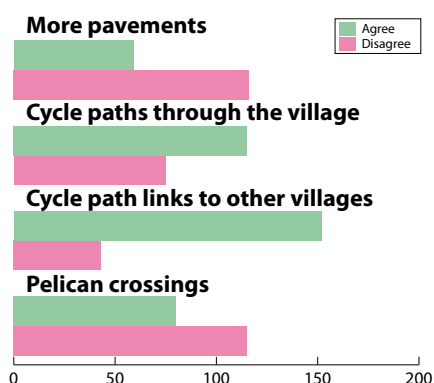
Cars and other forms of transport

It was clear that most residents use their cars for getting to work or taking young people to school and college, as well as for shopping and leisure activities.

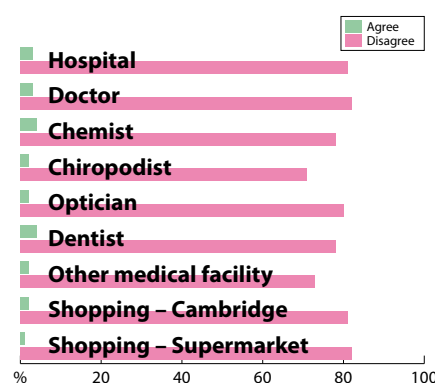
Cycling

Although the statistics show that only 5% of people use a bicycle to travel to work and 6% use one as their main form of transport, there were several comments on the subject of cycle paths which are worth consideration. Comments were made in the sections on young people, the most important changes, making the village more attractive, suggestions for Toft and the environment. Residents suggested a continuous cycle path round the village, across country, linking villages; safer cycling through the villages where roads are narrow; maintaining the cycle path to Comberton to keep it clear of weeds and overhanging branches; ensuring safer cycle routes from villages to CVC. One person suggested setting up a bike bus to take people to bus services.

Q31 Would you like to see any of the following in Toft?

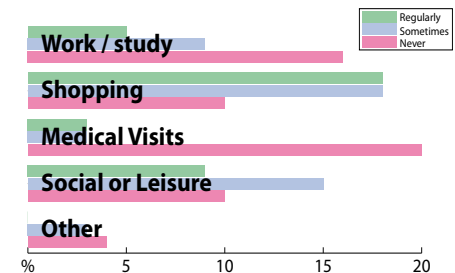


Q29 Do you have any difficulty in getting to the following?

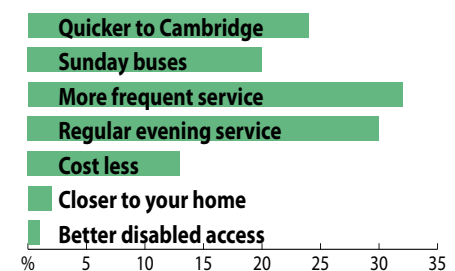


2012: For some twenty years, there has been a social car scheme which benefits those who cannot reach medical appointments by public transport. Local volunteer drivers collect patients and take them from door to door. There is a small charge for the return journey. The scheme is advertised in the Calendar.

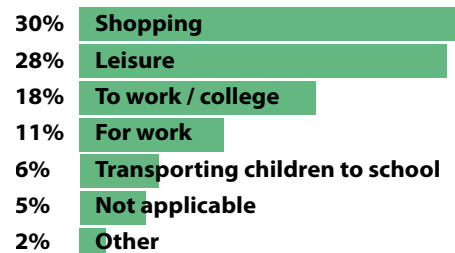
Q24 If you use the bus, what do you use it for and show how often?



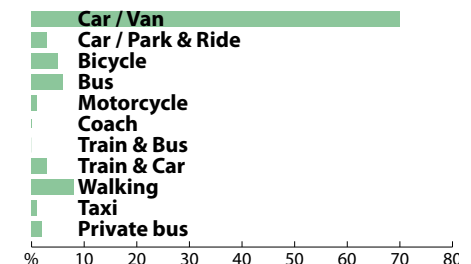
Q25 Would you use the bus service more if there were ...



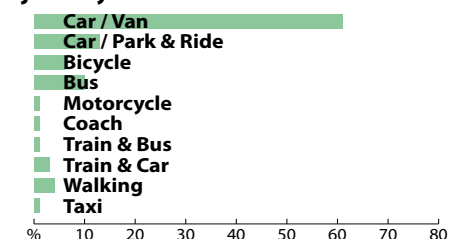
Q21 If you have daytime access to a motor vehicle, what do you use the vehicle for?



Q22 If appropriate, what is your main means of transport to work, training or study?



Q23 Which of the following are your major means of transport for other journeys?

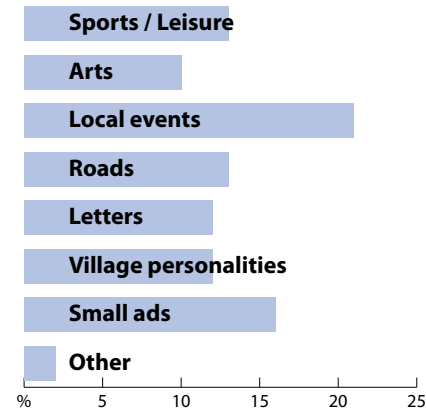


Communications

The Toft Village Calendar

The monthly publication of the Toft Village Calendar is the main form of communication with residents. Around 74% of respondents said they read the Calendar every month. The contents will have changed over the years but in 2007,

Q10 asked, '**Do you think the Calendar should include items on ... ?**' 1,235 ticks were placed beside the options.



In the comments box, topics requested for inclusion in the Calendar which attracted more than one comment included the environment, both nature notes and environmental issues, local history, local news, crime and planning applications.

2012: We now have web-based forms of communication for those who have access to the Internet. There is a Toft Village Website www.toft.org.uk and a Toft Community Facebook page. Door to door deliveries of the Calendar and other notices are still made to inform residents of forthcoming local events.

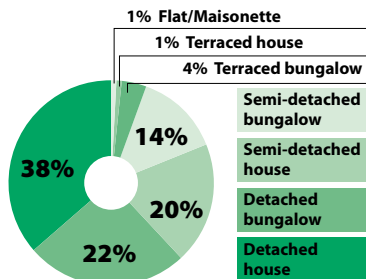


Housing and Development

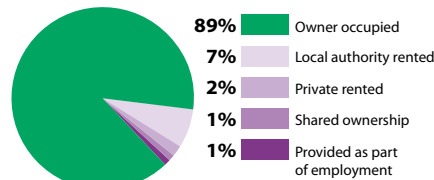
Current Housing

The current housing stock was identified in questions relating to the general background of respondents and their households.

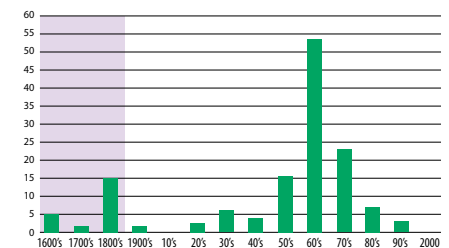
Q57 What type of dwelling is it?



Q58 asked whether the property was privately rented, owner occupied etc.



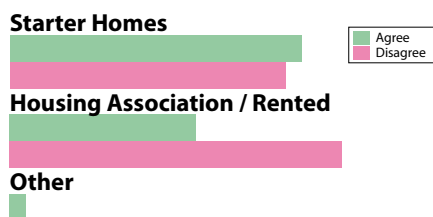
Q60 asked when the dwelling was built approximately



Development

Apart from the main question on housing development, views on housing were also expressed under the heading of the most important changes.

Q49 Would you like to see any of the following developments in Toft?



Q30 Should the following be encouraged in Toft?



Fifteen people said that they would like no changes to be made to the village, which they felt was the right size. Ten others responded to the question on change by suggesting small starter homes with two bedrooms and some specifically wanted these to be reserved for young people with connections to Toft. Some were concerned about the ageing population and the need to bring in younger families.

Two respondents suggested using all or part of the car park for affordable housing. Three others mentioned starter homes for the young under the heading of suggestions for Toft.

The question on housing development elicited six negative additional comments, with nine others preferring very controlled, infill building of small starter homes with two bedrooms. Two people suggested 'green builds', with sympathetic development and eco-friendly housing. Two others suggested bungalows for the elderly and one person wanted family homes.

The statistics show that the village is roughly evenly divided about housing development but what is clear is that any development should be on a small scale, preferably for young people with connections to Toft and with small, affordable two bedroom properties built in infill sites.

There were 37 additional comments, of which nine were in favour of a traditional village pub; four were against any further developments; four were concerned to keep the shop and post office open; three suggested a café; three suggested starter homes; six wanted better sports/play facilities; two wanted a vets' surgery. The others were single comments, including an indoor swimming pool at CVC and an artists' workshop.

2012. The current Parish Council has inspected possible development sites and most were discounted for one reason or another. Limited, affordable, infill housing will be placed on the action plan.

Young People

Young people between the ages of 11 and 16 were invited to participate in this section. Thirty young people answered the questions and some made additional comments. Of these 43% were male and 57% female.

In response to Q20, **'What would you like to see in Toft to make it a better place for young people?'** 13 comments related to sports. Some useful suggestions were made, such as finding a larger sports ground, setting up a cricket team, tennis courts, basketball/netball courts. Some were more ambitious and would like a swimming pool, ten-pin bowling and trampoline lessons.

Nine respondents wanted better facilities in the recreation ground, improved turf and football goal posts and one wanted better footpaths to reach the recreation ground. A request was made for a crossing near the playground, which has also been mentioned under the traffic section.

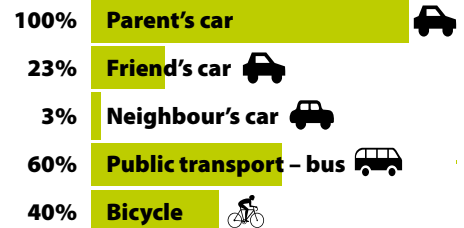
Five respondents wanted better bus services with cheaper fares and later services. Two were concerned about cycle routes, one suggesting a cross country cycle route round the village and linking to other villages.

Most of the other comments related to meeting places for hobbies, clubs, evening entertainment or social events.

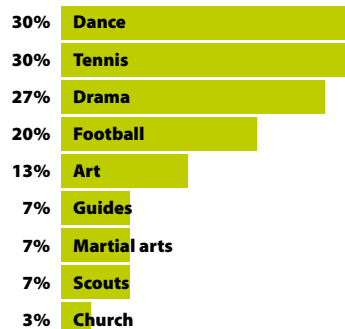
Q13 What's important to you about living in Toft?



Q14 How do you travel in and out of the village?



Q16 In which of the following activities do you participate?



Q17 What other activities would you like to see in the village?



Approximately 40% of young people expressed their intention to stay in Toft and 93% of them felt it was a good place to grow up in.

2012: The turf on the recreation ground has been re-seeded. A major refurbishment of the recreation ground has been undertaken, with generous grants awarded and an official opening is planned for Spring 2013. The Toft Lions Football Team has been established and is playing matches regularly.

The Environment

There were 47 additional comments written in this section under Q34.

Eleven comments related to the grass verges. There seemed to be a general consensus of opinion, that whilst the verges should be mown near houses, within the 30mph limit, and to define the edge of the road, elsewhere they should not be mown so that wildlife could flourish. People wanted pavements to be clear to walk on and grass cuttings to be removed. Nine comments were made about hedges. One person wanted to protect hedgerows and the other eight comments were about clearing overhanging hedges to make pavements and footpaths safer to walk on. Seven comments concerned the planting of flowers and bulbs.

The statistics for Q35 do not reflect the comments made in the last question with regard to tidiness. Also people's views about hedges are not the same as those on grass verges. In both questions, people vote for more trees.

With regard to easier access, 45% were in favour of replacing stiles with gates and 73% requested regular maintenance of footpaths.

2012 Toft Parish Council in partnership with Cambridgeshire County Council is in the process of replacing several stiles with gates. It is hoped this work will be complete by the end of the year.

Although the percentages of volunteers in Q32 appear small, 31% represents 105 people, which is a considerable force of helpers.

With regard to litter bins and dog waste bins, the votes were almost equal for both types of bin, with 54% saying there were enough and 46% saying there were not enough.

2012: In 2011, the litter bin on the village green was replaced with a covered bin as a result of Toft Parish Council's lobbying SCDC and with the support of the Councillor.

Q63 asked about flooding problems affecting dwellings. As many as 182 people responded but only 12 said the property occasionally suffered from flooding, mainly in the gardens. Brookside is most vulnerable when the brook occasionally overflows but the tributaries were also cited as causing problems when the ditches were overgrown.

Q34 'Which do you think are important relating to the local roads, lanes and paths to make the village more attractive?'



Q35 Which do you think are important to improve the environment of Toft?



Q32 Would you assist with the following initiatives if they were taken in Toft?



Local Services and Facilities

Services

This section asked about local services, including policing, health services, refuse collection, telecommunications and other services. Villagers listed services as good, reasonable or poor.

Q37 Please state your views on the standard of the following services in Toft and the surrounding area, over the last twelve months.

The three most highly rated services were mains water (84%), the doctors' surgery (65%) and the telephone service (62%).

The three rated as most reasonable were verge cutting (53%), roadside care (52%) and the postal delivery (43%).

The three poorest were the mobile phone service (56%), verge cutting (27%), and roadside cleaning (22%).

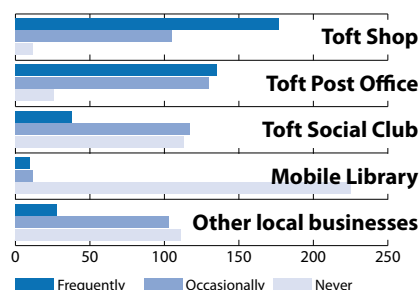
With regard to recycling, 82% were in favour of plastic recycling.

2012: Toft now has fortnightly collections with a three bin scheme, black bins for waste which cannot be recycled; green for vegetable and food waste; blue for glass, tin, paper and plastics.

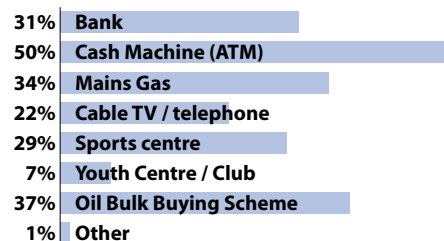
In 2007, 54% of residents had home broadband; 12% had home dial up and 23% had internet access at work.

Facilities

In Q42, villagers were asked how often they used local facilities.



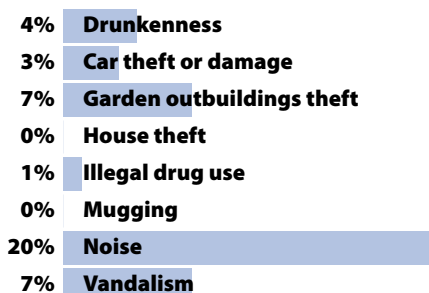
Q44 Would you use the following if they were available in Toft?



2012: Both sets of figures for Q42 and 44 are likely to be very out of date, given changes to the shop, post office, social club and mobile library visits, as well as the increase in internet users of all ages.

There is now a bulk buying scheme in operation for the purchase of oil.

Q39 Have you experienced any of the following criminal or anti-social matters in Toft in the last three years?



Crime

Questions 38, 39 and 40 dealt with local crime.

Some 52% of respondents felt that there was not sufficient police coverage whilst 28% felt there was.

Q40 Do you think that any of the following measures are needed in order to reduce crime?

In answer to this question, 33% voted for a neighbourhood watch scheme; 31% for a greater police presence; 31% for a village special constable.

Q41 asked about street lighting. In reply, 49% wanted the lighting left as it was and 23% thought lights should be on from sunset to midnight.

Local Government

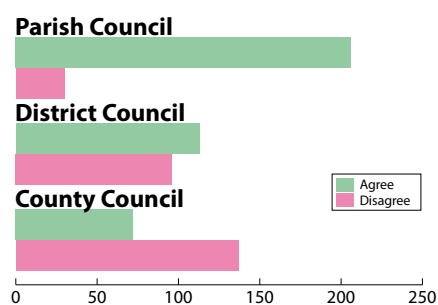
Planning

One question in this section was about publicity being given to planning applications. This also came up as a topic which might be included in the Calendar. Some 43% of people thought that insufficient publicity was given to new planning applications whilst 32% thought the information was sufficient.

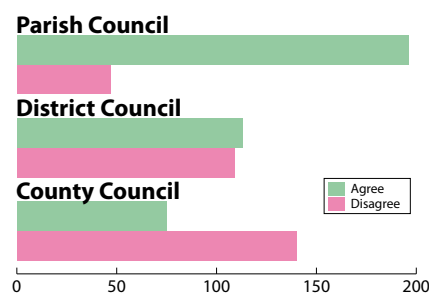
2012: As applications for planning permission are not necessarily received in time for monthly meetings of the Parish Council, additional meetings have to be advertised on the Council noticeboard near the bus shelter. SCDC informs immediate neighbours of any site where permission is requested and interested parties should then watch the notices to find out when the application is to be considered.

Councils and Council Tax

Q46 Do you feel your elected representatives in local government are sufficiently aware of local concerns and feelings?

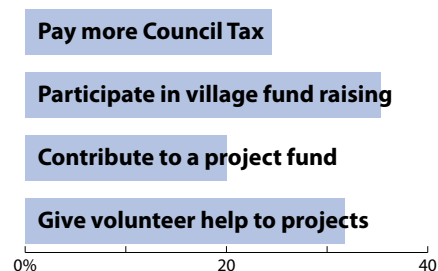


Q47 Do you feel you are sufficiently informed about the activities of your elected representatives in local government?



A related question referred to the possibility of paying more Council Tax to fund improvements in Toft.

Q52 Would you be prepared to help fund improvements in Toft?



2012: Changes in elected representatives and awareness of local issues will have changed since 2007. However, perceptions may not have changed and this is why the figures should still be included.

Action plan

The priorities expressed in the 2007 questionnaire are reflected in the proposed Action Plan below. Some of the issues raised are already being dealt with and others need to be considered.

Page	Topic	Action	Date	Priority	Partners
8	Social events	To consider suggestions made for social activities, drama, concerts, organised trips, sports day etc.	2012-2014	2	Social Club Friendship Club IW Church Others
8	Lack of school transport for after-school activities	To ascertain if this is a problem and consider whether it can be resolved	2012-2013	2	Stagecoach Toft PC Meridian School Comberton Village College
9	Traffic	To investigate measures to reduce speed of traffic entering village at both ends	2012-13	1	CCC Toft PC
9	Speed Watch	To extend the team to operate speed watch	2012-2013	1	Speed Watch Team
9	Danger Spots 1	To consider options for danger spots	2012-2014	1	CCC Toft PC Affected residents
9	Police 1	To encourage more police presence to control speeding (currently in progress)	2012-2013	1	Toft PC
9	Danger Spots 2	To liaise with Restaurant to encourage customers to use car park	2012-2014	1	Toft PC Restaurant
10	Car park	To negotiate with current owners to get car park re-surfaced and spaces drawn	2012-14	2	SCDC Toft PC
10	Parking	To consider parking restrictions at various places in consultation with other people	2012-14	1	CCC Toft PC Others
11	Buses 1	To continue to lobby to keep bus service	2012-2013	1	Toft PC Stagecoach
11	Buses 2	To investigate feasibility of community transport systems	2012-2013	2	Toft PC Others
11	Cycling 1	To consider state of cycle path to Comberton	2012-2014	1	CCC Toft PC Cyclists
11	Cycling 2	To liaise with Kingston over state of cycle path towards Kingston	2012-2014	2	Toft PC Kingston PC
11	Transport	To review whether people have difficulty getting to work and other places	2012- 2014	2	Toft PC Calendar
12	Communications	To refer to Editor of Calendar suggestions made; to use Facebook and website regularly (Currently in progress)	2012-13	2	Toft PC Editor
13	Infill housing 1	To consider impact of Localism Bill on housing development; to establish level of need and subsequent actions arising	2012-13	1	SCDC Toft PC Landowners Residents
13	Infill housing 2	To consider options for starter homes for young people with Toft connections	2012-13	1	SCDC Toft PC Landowners Residents

Page	Topic	Action	Date	Priority	Partners
13	Small businesses development	To consider ways of encouraging small businesses to take up vacant premises in Toft	2012-13	1	Toft PC Business Community
14	Young People	To create a working group to consider needs of young people	2012-2014	1	Volunteers
14	Playground	To complete refurbishment (Currently in progress)	2012-13	1	Suppliers Toft PC Local children
15	Footpaths 1	To complete installation of wooden kissing gates (Currently in progress)	2012-13	1	CCC Toft PC Landowners
15	Footpaths 2	To remind landowners about maintenance of footpaths	2012-13	1	Toft PC Landowners
15	Open space	To make plans for the use of the open space gifted to Toft, in consultation with volunteers who were keen to manage natural environment	2012-13	2	SCDC Toft PC Landowner Volunteers
15	Bourn Brook	To consider possible management plan for Bourn Brook and its tributaries	2012-14	1	CCC Environment Volunteers
16	Mobile phones	To investigate with mobile phone providers the poor reception in Toft	2012-2013	1	Volunteers
16	Higher speed Broadband	To register need with BT and investigate other options for Toft	2012-2013	1	Volunteers
16	Neighbourhood Watch	To consider setting up a neighbourhood watch scheme	2012 - 2013	2	Volunteers
16	Police 2	To liaise with police on current crime issues (currently in progress)	2012-2013	1	Toft PC
16	Bulk buying scheme for oil supplies	To set up bulk buying scheme.	Already done		Peter Johnson
16	Cash machine	To consider having cash machine. Toft Post Office offers bank withdrawals service over the counter except for HSBC; cash back available in shop with purchases over £10. Insurance for cash machine exorbitant.			Ingrid Van Rooyen
17	Planning Applications	To improve on communication of planning applications in Calendar and on web site.	2012-2013	1	Toft PC Calendar Web Manager
17	Local Government	To inform people about the particular responsibilities of the County and District Councils	2012-14	2	CCC SCDC Toft PC Calendar
PC - Parish Council CCC - Cambridgeshire County Council SCDC - South Cambridgeshire District Council					

