

Sports and Leisure Facilities

The residents of the Parish recorded being well served with sport and leisure facilities within the community. The numerous clubs and societies made use of the three community halls, Woolacombe Village Hall, Mortehoe Village Hall and the Methodist Hall in Woolacombe. The two play areas in the two villages and the Meadow Playing Fields provided the sporting venues for other clubs and casual use. The newly completed Multi-Use Games Area offers another venue for community use.

Village Halls



The wide range of activities and societies on offer in the community reflected the diverse range of ages and interest of the participants. The most popular sporting and active activities included Jazzercise, skittles, badminton and dancing. Other popular clubs and societies included the Art Club, Pantomime Society, The Heritage Trust, Residents' Association and the two Women's Institutes. 15 respondents were members of the Woolacombe and Mortehoe Luncheon Club.

47% of respondents requested the provision of additional facilities within the Parish. A number of responses emphasised the importance of the village halls for the provision of community events, arts events and educational classes. There were requests for monthly film shows, whist and bridge sessions, more fitness classes, yoga, indoor bowling, more regular entertainment, more activities for teenagers and elderly residents.

Mobile Library

The mobile library service calls once a week in the Parish. 8% of the respondents made use of library and expressed great support for the service. There was also a call for other County Council mobile services such as the community computer bus.

Churches

72% of respondents registered their support for the three village churches and the Calvary Chapel. Other expressed the importance of the church as a venue for weddings, baptisms and funerals. There was much support and appreciation for the community related activities that took place in the churches, the value of Christian fellowship and seasonal worship.



Children's Play Areas

The majority of those who expressed an opinion thought the facilities adequate. There were however, calls for improvements and modernisation of the equipment in both Morteohoe and Woolacombe play areas.

Surfing Activities and Surf Life Saving

By far the largest demand registered in the responses was for the building of a club-house for the immensely successful surfing clubs in the Parish.



Issues to be Pursued:

- **Additional facilities and access for the disabled and younger children in both play areas.**
- **Promotion of all sporting and educational opportunities available within the Parish.**
- **Possible improvements in the cycle path network.**
- **Promotion of services available e.g. mobile library, the Luncheon Club and the clubs and organisations within the community.**

Meadow Playing Fields

The Sport England Lottery grant awarded three years ago for improvements to the drainage of the pitches has led to a considerable increase in the usage of the area as a whole. Apart from Woolacombe Primary School, two football teams use the pitches for league venues in the winter and, in the summer, an immensely popular local football tournament takes place over many weeks. The sports pavilion plays host to a very successful Family Play Days organisation with membership of over 70 youngsters all making full use of the facilities.

The Meadow also plays host to village events including the 'Fun on the Fields' and seasonal events such as Halloween and firework celebrations.

Respondents requested improvements at the pavilion and more organised sports activities for teenagers and younger children during the school holidays.

The problem of dog mess in the Meadow in particular on the pitches, provoked many complaints.

Other requests for outdoor facilities included a skateboard park, affordable swimming pool access, affordable tennis facilities, affordable gym facilities, a mountain biking trail, a direct cycle route to link with the Tarka Trail and more dedicated facilities for those with disabilities.



Issues to be Pursued:

- **Improvements to facilities at the Meadow. Possible enlargement of the sports pavilion.**
- **Enforcement of dog-fouling laws in the Meadow and other problem areas.**
- **The sourcing of funding for community facilities and facilitators.**

Natural Environment



97% of those who responded were aware of the Parish's status within the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. 38% thought that the beaches and the Blue Flag status were the most important environmental assets in the Parish. There was high praise for the National Trust stewardship of the land and general appreciation for the outstanding scenery throughout the Parish. Concerns were raised regarding future development of the area and the protection of the existing landscape.

Issues to be pursued:

- **Publicity of the activities of the Voluntary Marine Conservation Area; R.S.P.B.; the Devon Wildlife Trust; the National Trust Volunteer events and the A.O.N.B. community profiling project.**
- **Promotion of the Parish within the A.O.N.B. and the possible construction of entrance signs to the Parish.**



Footpaths



85% people thought that the paths in the Parish were in a good condition whilst 14% thought otherwise. Certain paths were identified for attention and improvements. The maintenance of County Council paths within the parish came in for particular criticism particularly the maintenance of the cycle path.

There were calls for more disabled access on paths and to viewpoints.

Village Environment – there was support for the cleaning up and improvement to the back lanes in Woolacombe.



Issues to be pursued

- **Review of path network and possible improvements.**
- **Promotion of paths to encourage pedestrians off the roads**
- **Problem of dog fouling and provision of additional bins in certain areas. More warden inspections**
- **More disabled access on popular routes and access to some viewpoints.**
- **Seek ways of improving village environment.**
- **Possible joint initiative between the school, National Trust and Parish Council for a tree planting scheme and the creation of a nature area in the Meadow.**

Leisure and Tourism



A clear majority of respondents cited the importance of the Blue Flag and clean beaches in the Parish as the most important environmental asset.

Issues to be pursued:

- **Promotion of resort.**
- **Investigation into and possible promotion of the Green Business Tourism Scheme and Discover Devon**



Youth

Youth, as opposed to other age groups, is singled out within this plan as they have a particular importance because they represent the future of the community.

Issues to be pursued:

- **Support for youth organisations within the Parish**
- **Setting up of additional youth groups and continued support for existing organisations**
- **The sourcing of possible funding for such organisations.**