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FOREWORD

Dear Villager

We would like to extend you a very warm welcome to Martham's Parish Plan 2003/2004. This plan is a result of over 18 months hard work by a very dedicated steering group and on behalf of all Martham residents we thank you for your time, energy and commitment to this project.

The idea behind "Parish Plans" came originally from the Countryside Agency who has been the main sponsors along with a small donation from Martham Parish Council. The cost to you, the villager has therefore been minimal.

After a public meeting in June 2002, a steering group was formed and a community day held in the September. During this day villagers were asked to identify both positive and negative features of Martham. The issues raised were then used in forming the "village questionnaire" which was delivered and collected to all households during April and May 2003. The results from the questionnaire have been used to produce this Plan and we hope you will find it of interest as it has been produced by the community for the community.

*A summary of the needs identified by the plan can be found on pages 47 to 55, however the terminology used probably needs some explanation. The column headed **responsibility** gives the people or body that will coordinate the suggested action; it does not imply that they are the ones who need to give permission. The column headed **when** gives some indication of how soon action is expected. Where this says short term some progress is expected within two years. Medium term means two to four years and long term is considered to be five years plus. It is the Parish Council's intention to regularly monitor the progress of the plan.*

If you would like to play a part in helping the goals set out in this plan become a reality please contact the Parish Council Clerk. Alternatively bring it to the Parish Council's attention by attending the public forum held at 7.30pm on the third Wednesday in each month in the Methodist Schoolroom.

Happy reading

Tracy Roofe and Bob Huxtable

Martham Parish Council.

Extra copies of this report are available from the Parish Clerk.
You can also download it from the Parish Council website:
www.martham.gov.uk

**A large print version of this
report will be made available
upon request
to the Parish Clerk
01493 384390**

INTRODUCTION



A Brief History of Martham

The earliest people known to have lived in the Martham area were Bronze Age people but deep ploughing in the 20th century has destroyed all visible evidence of their existence. It is possible that there was a Roman settlement here, as fragments of Roman pottery have been found as well as numerous Roman coins and pieces of jewellery. However, we do know that the present settlement of Martham dates from Saxon times. The Saxons who were seeking fresh lands on which to settle discovered, on the Island of Flegg, very fertile uplands to cultivate for crops and lush marshlands where animals could be pastured - an ideal new homeland. They organised their farming activities on the open field system with strips of land shared between the various land holders. The lowland by the river was used by everyone for 'common' pasture until the time of the Enclosure Act of 1812.

Christianity may have come to Martham in the mid 7th century, but it was probably another 100 years before the first church was built. Even before the Norman Conquest, Martham was an independent parish within the Hundred of West Flegg. When The Domesday Book was compiled in 1086, it was recorded that Martham had 36 freemen who between them owned 600 acres of land and 16 plough teams. The church is mentioned with 50 acres of glebe land. Also, a vast area of land was owned by the Bishop of Thetford; Thetford being at that time the centre of ecclesiastical administration.

It was possibly about that time that a round towered church was built. Later, in the last few years of the 14th century and first years of the 15th century, on the same site a fine 'new' church was built, which is the church that you see standing today. Parish administration, from very early times, was centred on the church with the

The Making of the Parish Plan

What is a Parish Plan?

Over the last few years, more and more communities have been involved in work to improve the quality of life in their area. Using local people and local initiative, they have discovered that it is those decisions taken in their village or parish that can be most responsive to local need. However, in order to make those decisions they require up to date and accurate information on conditions, views and lifestyles in their area. A Parish Plan is a useful tool with which to obtain such information and it has been tried and tested over the last 20 years. Well over 1500 communities in England and Wales have completed surveys (or 'Village Appraisals' to give them their official name) to take stock of the facts and opinions about their village, parish or small town.

What use is it?

Essentially, a 'village appraisal' is a comprehensive survey carried out by the community for the community. Through a locally compiled questionnaire distributed to each household, it offers local people the opportunity to comment on issues that affect their daily life. The information gathered from the survey can be used both to celebrate local distinctiveness and put together community action plans, which can influence the way in which a village moves forward. It assists with setting priorities and helps to target limited resources. It has been used by villages with around 150 residents and more recently by towns of 3000 or more. Low cost housing schemes, good neighbour groups, transport schemes, newsletters, resource centres and work with low income families are just some of the local benefits which have come about as the result of carrying out a 'village appraisal'.

Martham Parish Council and Community Connections organised a public meeting in June 2002 to discuss the possibilities of producing a Parish Plan. Following on from this well-attended meeting a steering group was formed to devise the survey. They have met regularly ever since and they also organised the Community Open Day held to publicise the plan at the CLIP in September 2002. The group is made up of interested local people, parish councillors, representatives of local groups and community workers.

What happens next?

After the questionnaires were collected, the arduous task of entering the answers into a data processing program began. This program processes all the questionnaires and presents the data in a meaningful way such as graphs, pie charts and other statistics. When the plan is printed and distributed, the steering group will hold a public meeting to present the results.

Yes but who will listen?

In essence this is when 'the real work' begins. It is important to make the maximum use of the information in the form of an Action Plan, and to ask the Parish Council to form a 'Parish Blueprint' from the findings.

It has been known for an inspector at a planning inquiry to ask whether a 'village appraisal' has been carried out and if so, what were the results? Early approaches with copies of the appraisal report to relevant bodies such as local authorities can often open dialogues on local plans and policies and produce funding for local projects.

The results of a parish plan can be a powerful lobbying tool - and it has resulted in bringing communities back together.

Diary of Events

- June 2002 *Over 100 people attended a public meeting held in the village hall to explain what a parish plan is and do we need one. There were presentations by Community Connections and the Rural Community Council followed by a lively question and answer session. Attendees were canvassed on forming a Steering Group.*
- July 2002 *Inaugural meeting of the Steering Group Committee. Chair elected. Costs to produce the Plan were discussed. Application for Grant to produce the Plan completed. Examples of other villages' Plans, reports and questionnaires were shown with an explanation of the process of producing a Plan. It was decided to have an open day to consult Martham about the form that the questionnaire should take.*
- Sept 2002 *Steering Group meeting planned the Community Open Day at the CLIP in Martham. Arranged for September 21st.*
- Sept 2002 *Community Open Day at the CLIP in Martham. Amongst other activities, the public were asked to place pins in a map of the village to indicate various aspects of village life.*
- Sept 2002 *The process of question selection was presented to the meeting with a discussion on what type of questions should be included.*
- Oct 2002 *Draft set of questions presented to Group for discussion.*
- Dec 2002 *Collation of questions into categories. It was agreed that anonymity of respondents would be preferable.*

- Jan 2003 *Refinement of the content of the questionnaire & discussions on its layout and print requirements.*
- Feb 2003 *Draft layout and additional printers' quotes discussed. Arrangements for recruiting volunteers to deliver and collect the surveys was also discussed; a working party was formed to approach volunteers in all the roads in the village to do this. A sub-committee was formed to finalise the question options and to ensure they are Martham specific, for presentation at the next meeting with the final draft and print layout for delivery second half of March.*
- Feb 2003 *Sub-committee presented its final draft of questionnaire. Go ahead given to get it printed in time for delivery in March. Delivery methods discussed. Publicity discussed - a series of posters and an insert in the Parish Magazine. Concerns mooted over the timetable for submission of the final Action Plan. 'Questionnaire 2003' put on website for information.*
- March 2003 *Meeting of the Steering Group finalised plans for delivery. A telephone tree was set up. Questionnaire arrived back from printers and sorted into streets/volunteers along with the volunteers' delivery/collection guidelines and volunteers' official badges. Deliveries commenced 21st March.*
- April 2003 *Distribution of the questionnaire started late March. Some 30 volunteers to deliver and collect 1360 surveys in 63 roads and streets in the parish, no mean job. The Steering Group met late April to assess the campaign and to review the next step of data processing. Early forecasts suggested a survey return rate of about 60%.*
- Oct 2003 *Data processing has been completed and the compilation of statistics begun. The Steering Group was split up into two groups - "Authors" and "Stats" - Authors to prepare the report draft and the Stats to feed them statistics. It is anticipated that the draft report will be put to the Parish Council for ratification in January 2004.*
- Jan 2004 *Parish council ratify the report with a few minor amendments. Layout and proofreading continues and printer quotes obtained.*

SECTION 1

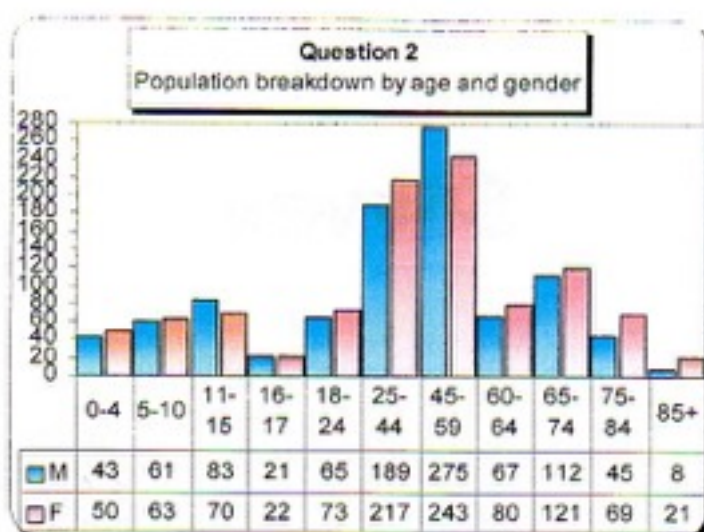
The Survey



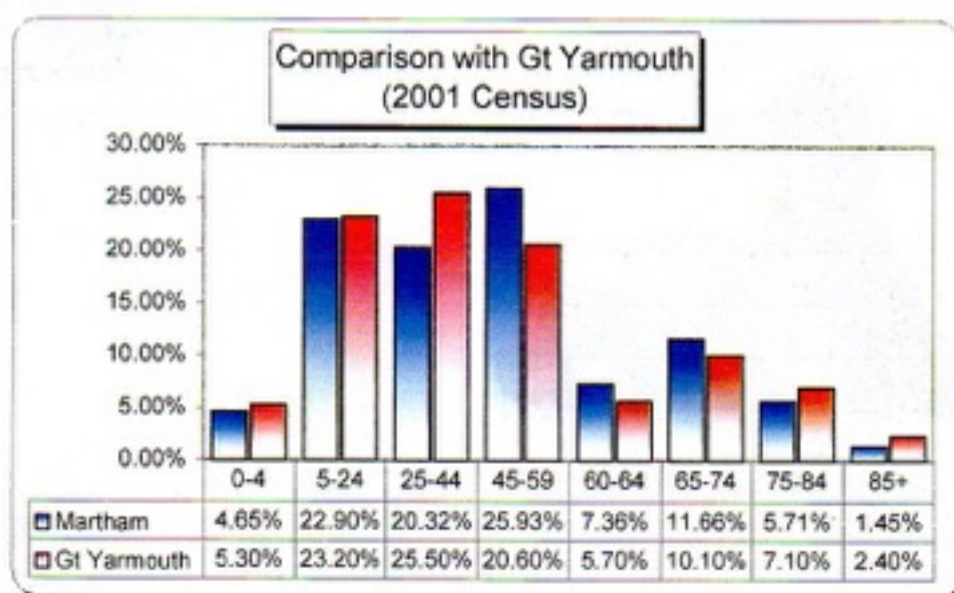
The population of Martham at the time of the mid-year census of 2001 was 3,310, with 1,300 households. The Parish Plan Survey was accepted by 1,250 households, a number being either undeliverable or refused, and 802 were returned completed, namely 64.16% of those distributed.

Martham Parish Council had previously carried out a Survey during the Spring of 1992 and it is interesting to note that many concerns raised from that survey are still applicable today, as shown by the results of the 2003 survey. These are - housing developments, inadequate provision for young people, provision for people who are disabled, sewage problems, dog fouling, litter, improvements to ponds and greens and more street lighting. Respondents to the 1992 survey thought Martham would benefit from a chemist shop, youth club and pedestrian crossing by the post office, all of which have now been achieved.

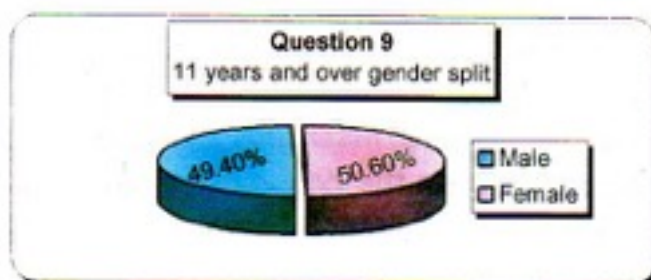
Returning to the 2003 survey, the following chart displays comparisons between gender and age:



It is interesting to note that the largest age group for both males and females is 45 - 59 years - the so called post-war "Baby Boomer" years.



Question 9 fetches up no surprises:



Ward Profile for Martham

Disclaimer

It should be noted that the information in this section has been calculated from data held on the Neighbourhood Statistics database. In some cases these data may have been rounded and hence the figures shown may differ slightly from those published elsewhere. They should therefore be used for guidance only. These data are NOT National Statistics.

Population

The resident population of Martham in mid 1998 was 3000 people, 3 per cent of the population of Great Yarmouth local authority. 21 percent of Martham's population in mid 1998 were aged under 16, 56 per cent were aged between 16 and 59 and 23 per cent were aged 60 and over. This compares with 20, 55 and 25 per cent respectively for Great Yarmouth as a whole.

Vital Statistics

A total of 32 live births to mothers usually resident in Martham and 40 deaths of residents of this ward were registered in 1998. These represented crude rates of 11 births and 13 deaths per thousand residents compared with 12 and 13 respectively across the whole of the Great Yarmouth local authority.

Employee Jobs

There were 500 employee jobs in Martham at September 1998, 2 per cent of the Great Yarmouth total.

Income Support

In August 1998 there were 150 Income Support claimants in Martham. This represents 6 per cent of the resident population aged 16 or over. For Great Yarmouth the proportion was 10 per cent compared with an average of 8 per cent for Great Britain overall.

Indices of Deprivation

The Indices of Deprivation 2000 (with rank 1 being the most deprived ward in England) gave Martham the rank of 2445 out of a total of 8414 English wards.

SECTION 2

Housing and Development



For full statistical data please see Appendix 1

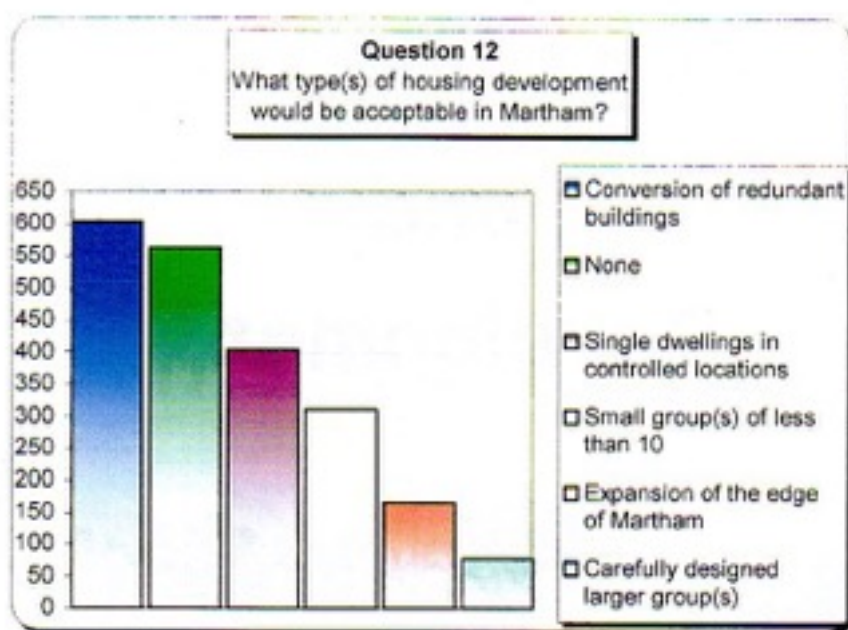
During recent years, there has been considerable housing development in Martham. Current developments include The Avenues and Jubilee Walk, with developments planned for Hall Road and White Street. The general consensus of opinion is that residents would prefer Martham to stay as it is and to be a working community. (Q.68)

The procedure regarding objections to planning developments has recently changed. If you wish to object, bear in mind the following guidelines. Write an official letter of objection to the Department of Planning and Development, Great Yarmouth Borough Council. Quote the planning reference number of the application and list your objections (i.e. 1, 2, 3 etc.).

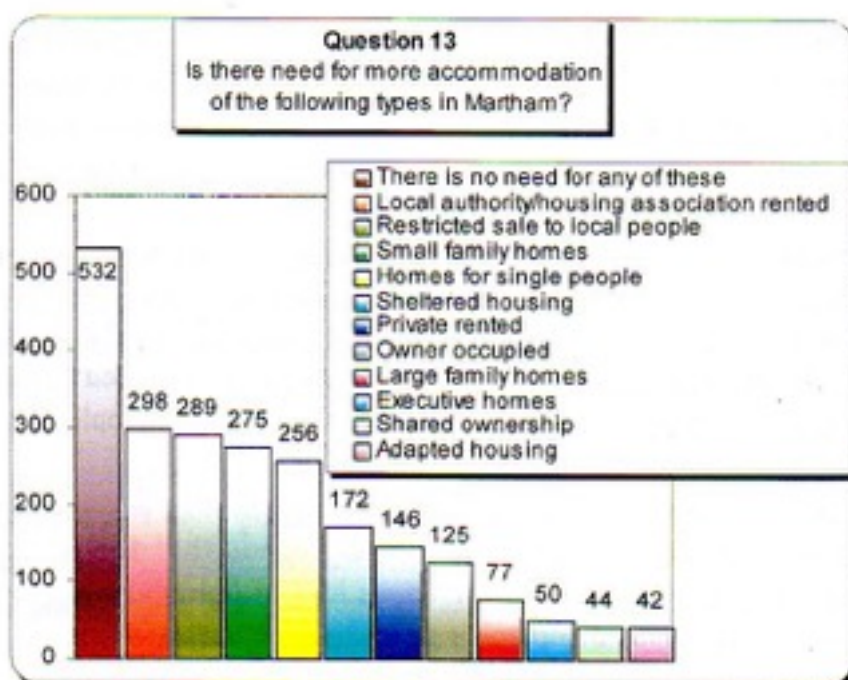
Little credence will be given if you object on the grounds that the proposed development will devalue your property or cause loss of light. Objections will only be considered if they involve loss of amenities to the area, i.e. overloading the sewage system, causing traffic problems, capacity of schools and medical services, etc. Remember, the more people who object, the more weight the objection carries.

There should be a longer period of time given by GYBC Planning Department for consultation by Parish Councils and for submission of objections to planning applications by residents.

The following chart illustrates housing that would be acceptable, if required:



As can be seen, if further housing was necessary the majority of respondents would like to see the conversion of redundant buildings in the village and, to a lesser extent, single dwellings in controlled localities and small groups of less than ten.



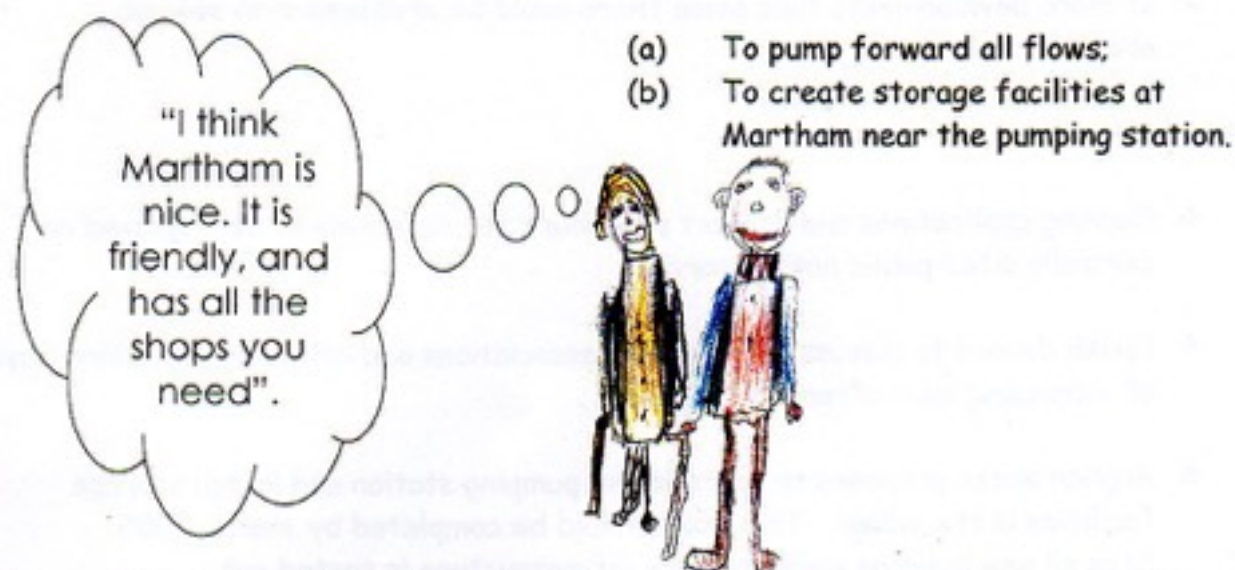
As also reflected in the chart produced by Question 13, most respondents feel there is no need for any more housing developments in Martham. However, some respondents do think there is a need for more local authority/housing association rented property, small family homes, homes for single people and restricted sale to local people.

Questions 48 & 50 - Section 8, highlight the need for more information about Martham to be displayed for visitors. A public notice board for job vacancies (see Question 15 - Section 2), if erected, could also display applications for future planning and planning permission granted, to keep residents informed of proposed housing developments.

Most properties in the village do not share amenities with other households and are connected to the mains sewage. A small percentage of households suffer from either surface rainwater or storm water flooding and some have sewage overflow problems during periods of heavy rain (Q. 6, 7 & 8). The sewage overflow problem arises from overloading of the system, and is of particular concern given the level of new building taking place and planned for in Martham.

At an Anglian Water Working Party held in September 2003, it was resolved to write to the Parish Councils for Hemsby, Martham and Ormesby to explain the following proposed scheme:

As part of an existing Obligation imposed by the Environment Agency to improve the drainage system by March 2005, Anglian Water propose the following two solutions:



Due to the wider problems with the whole area, they have created a new 'model' to include Hemsby. If an increased flow was pumped forward at Martham, problems would be increased at Hemsby and Ormesby. Therefore it is proposed to use land at the site at Hall Road as a storage facility. The improvements to the pumping station would include new pumps, a new riser and large storage tanks which would fill up during times of flood and be pumped onwards during quieter periods. These improvements at Martham would be connected to the operations at Hemsby so that when the Hemsby system was in storm, the station at Martham would go into discharge. When an expected timescale for completion is agreed, Anglian Water hopes to hold open days in Martham to invite the public to view the proposed scheme.

It was also resolved at the above meeting that The Environment Agency, as a matter of extreme urgency, write to the Borough Planning Development Officer at GYBC to clarify their request for a moratorium on any new development in the Ormesby, Martham and Hemsby Areas.

Hopefully, the above actions will solve ongoing problems and improve the sewage system in Martham.

Your concerns

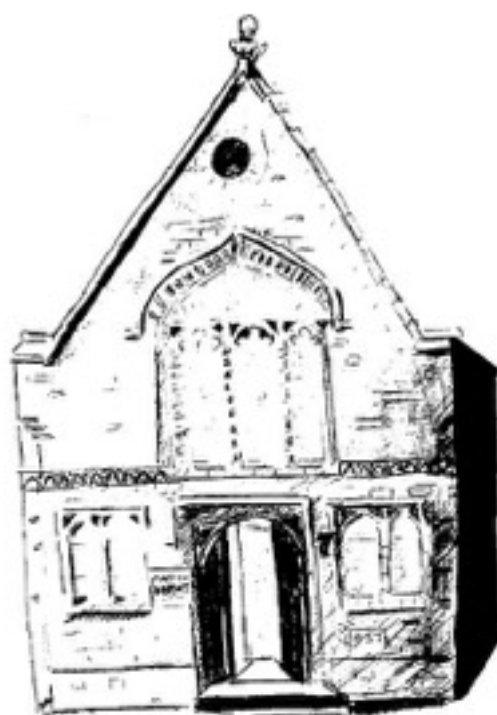
- Residents are generally opposed to any new developments.
- If further developments are necessary, the preference would be for the conversion of redundant buildings, single dwellings, small family homes, with perhaps restricted sale to local people, and local authority/housing association rented property.
- If more developments take place there could be problems with sewage overflow.

Proposed action

- ❖ Planning applications and correct procedure for objecting to be displayed on centrally sited public noticeboard.
- ❖ Parish Council to discuss with housing associations and other organisations ways of increasing local affordable housing.
- ❖ Anglian water proposes to upgrade the pumping station and install storage facilities in the village. This work should be completed by march 2005. Stop all new building work until the infrastructure is sorted out.

SECTION 3

Education and Employment



For full statistical data, please see Appendix 1

Martham is fortunate, at present, in having three schools; Martham First School & Nursery, West Flegg Middle School and Flegg High School. The Schools Reorganisation Plan will result in Martham having two schools; a primary school and nursery on the site of West Flegg Middle School and the High School. Thus, the first school will close and the building will become redundant. Plans for its future use are not known, as yet.

The first school & nursery has 213 children on roll, and caters for children from 3 to 8 years; West Flegg Middle School, has 500 children on roll, and caters for children from the age of 8 to 12 years and Flegg High School caters for ages 12 to 16 years, and has 720 children on roll (Q.3). Three-quarters of the children attending the

middle school and two-thirds of those attending the high school are bussed in each day. The proposed PFI scheme at the middle school has plans for an off road drop off and pick up point which might alleviate some of the congestion

"I think Martham is a nice place but could do with a bookshop"



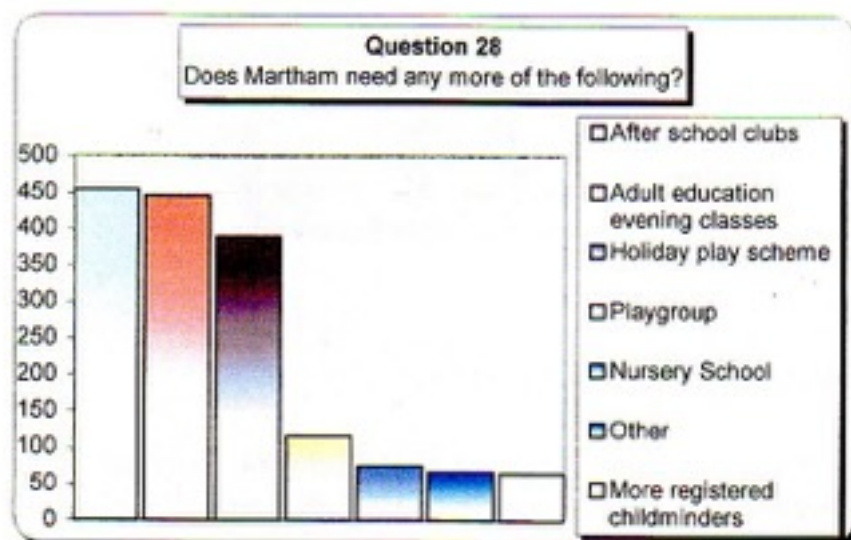
outside at peak hours.

The Sixth Form College is located in Gorleston.

After-school activities are well attended, but a few pupils are prevented from participating, mainly due to expense. (Q.5)

There are two parent and toddler clubs; one held in the first school on Friday afternoons between 1.30 and 3.00 p.m., during term times, and one held in the Baptist Church on Thursdays afternoons between 1.45 and 3.15 p.m. These clubs are well attended. (Q.3)

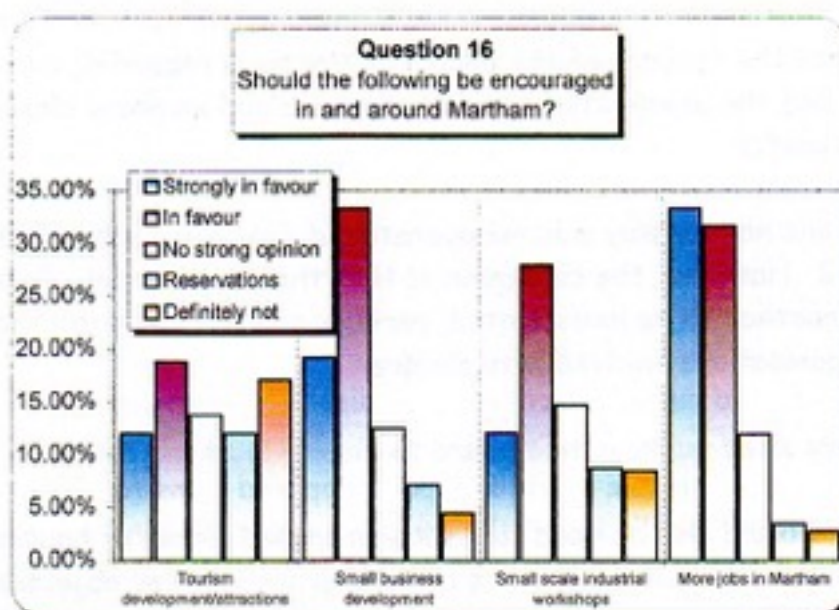
Strong opinions were expressed regarding the need for further educational facilities, as can be seen by the following chart:



This chart clearly shows the need for more after-school clubs, adult education evening classes and holiday play schemes. A number of people would like adult education classes held during the day, particularly during school hours, or on Saturdays.

Non-attendance at adult education classes was mainly due to inappropriate classes or lack of interest. (Q.29)

The majority of respondents considered a local job vacancy board would be very useful in Martham. (Q.15)



It is noted from the above chart that there is little interest in the promotion of tourist facilities. The majority of respondents are, however, strongly in favour of more jobs within the village, to be generated by small business development and small-scale industrial workshops.

Your concerns

- More after-school activities, which are less expensive.
- More appropriate adult education classes, daytime classes for parents with children at school and classes held on Saturdays.
- A need for more holiday play schemes.
- Would like to see small business development and small-scale industrial workshops to generate more jobs for Martham.
- Local job vacancy board.

Proposed action

- ❖ Parents to liaise with schools, outside volunteers and sports agencies.
- ❖ To bring to the attention of the Adult Education and Further Education committees the feelings of the people of Martham regarding current classes on offer and the possibility of running daytime and weekend classes. A forum would be useful.
- ❖ There is one holiday play scheme operating during some school holidays - MASH 2. However, the consensus is that this is expensive. Possibility of starting another to be investigated, perhaps suggestions from the Church and other organisations involved with children.
- ❖ A centrally sited public notice board to display local job vacancies.
- ❖ This board could also be used to display proposed plans for housing development in the village and the correct procedure for objections (Section 2, Proposed Action), information for visitors (Section 8, Qs. 48 & 50); bus timetables (Section 4, Q.18), forthcoming events in the village and notices regarding clubs and organisations (Section 8, Q.47).
- ❖ Encouragement of small business developments, possibly through the Regeneration Plan of GYBC. Discuss with Enterprise Agency.