

SECTION 4

Transport Highways and Traffic

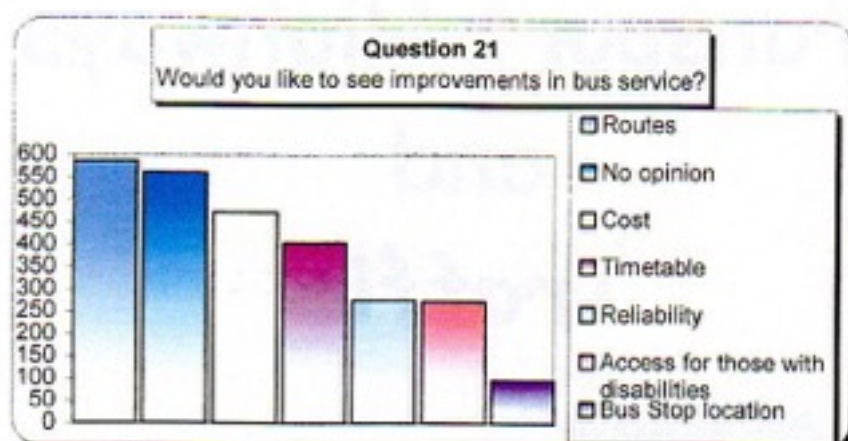


For full statistical data please see Appendix 1

There has been considerable development in Martham in recent years, hence an increase in the volume of traffic and congestion. Parking of private cars on the roadside, lack of car parking facilities, speeding and congestion are seen as concerns and potential hazards by a number of residents.

There is a 30 mph speed limit through the village, with a flashing warning sign on Rollesby Road, to reduce speeding. There is a good half-hourly bus service which operates between Martham and Lowestoft, via Gt. Yarmouth, Gorleston (stopping at the James Paget Hospital) and Lowestoft. A reduced service operates on a Sunday. There are four bus stops in Martham and 35% of respondents using public transport use the bus service (Q18), 20% at least once a month (Q19). There is one early bus to Norwich during weekdays, mainly used by students travelling to Norwich City College, which returns through Martham in the afternoon, too early to use for travelling to and from work in Norwich.

Reliability of the services and access for those with disabilities are highlighted as concerns. There is a need for more bus routes, timetables and cheaper fares, as shown by the following chart:



A bus route via Acle, which has a train service, would be very useful. It would be worthwhile investigating the possibility of parish transport grants.

The majority of residents use their car as the main means of transport (Qs.14 & 20)

and do not experience difficulty in getting from Martham to other places (Q.17). The majority, however, do occasionally have problems with parking in the village. (Q.22) and consider that street parking in the village is a safety concern (Q.23). It is noted that cars are being parked on the concrete path to the doctors' surgery, resulting in disabled patients being unable to gain access.

A large majority of respondents consider there are major danger spots on the roads in Martham (Q.24) and would support action to improve road safety in these areas (Q.26).

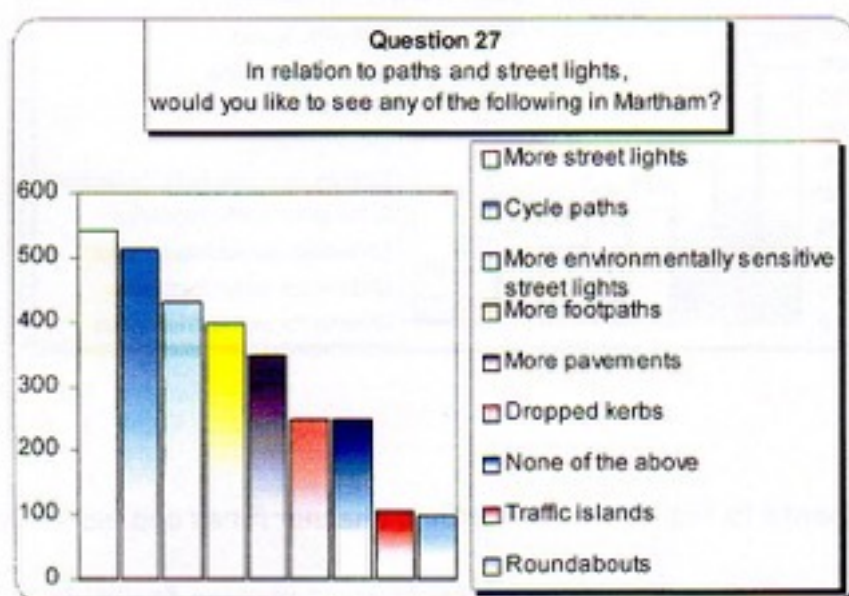
The main danger spots are considered to be White Street bend at junction with School Road, junction of White Street with Hemsby Road and Junction of Repps Road and Rollesby Road.

"I think Martham should have a one-way system going from Black Street to White Street to avoid traffic congestion".



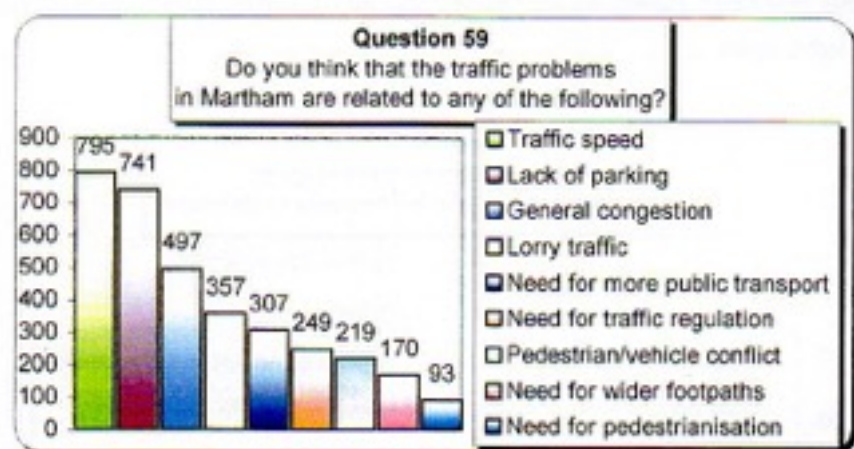
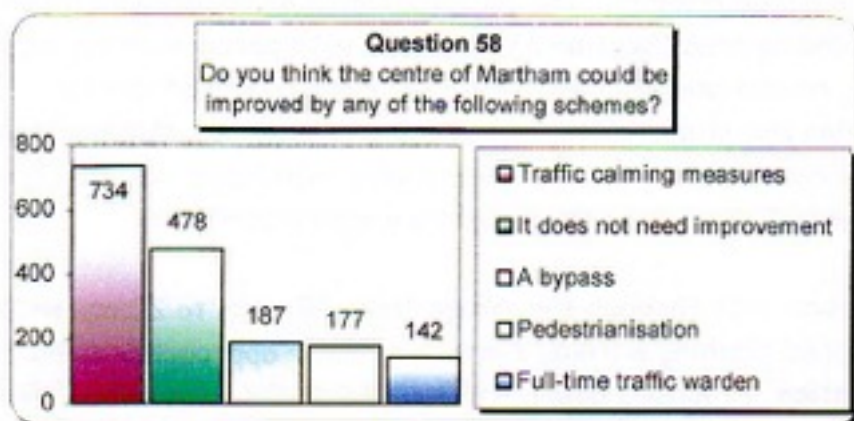
Residents have serious concerns regarding traffic speed, parking and congestion in Martham. Traffic calming in particular, as there are currently three schools in Martham, this is a high priority. The transportation of children to school by buses from the surrounding area (Section 3), together with parents conveying their children by car, causes severe congestion each morning and afternoon. 75% of the children attending the Middle School and approximately two-thirds attending the High School are conveyed by bus each day; a very significant number. Investigation of the 'Walking bus to School' scheme should be a high priority.

Reducing the speed limit through the village from 30 mph to 20 mph with strategically placed flashing warning signs on all four approaches to Martham needs urgent investigation. Proposed double yellow lines at the beginning of Rollesby Road, from the junction with Repps Road will clear congestion and make this danger spot much safer. The present flashing warning sign in Rollesby Road should be re-sited to a more appropriate spot.



There is clear indication from the above chart that residents would like to see cycle paths, more footpaths, street lights (preferably environmentally sensitive), pavements and dropped kerbs. Road and footpath signs require upgrading and there is also a need for improved discrete village direction signs (note the oversized traffic direction signs that overwhelm the view of the village sign).

The following two charts illustrate further concerns and possible improvements:

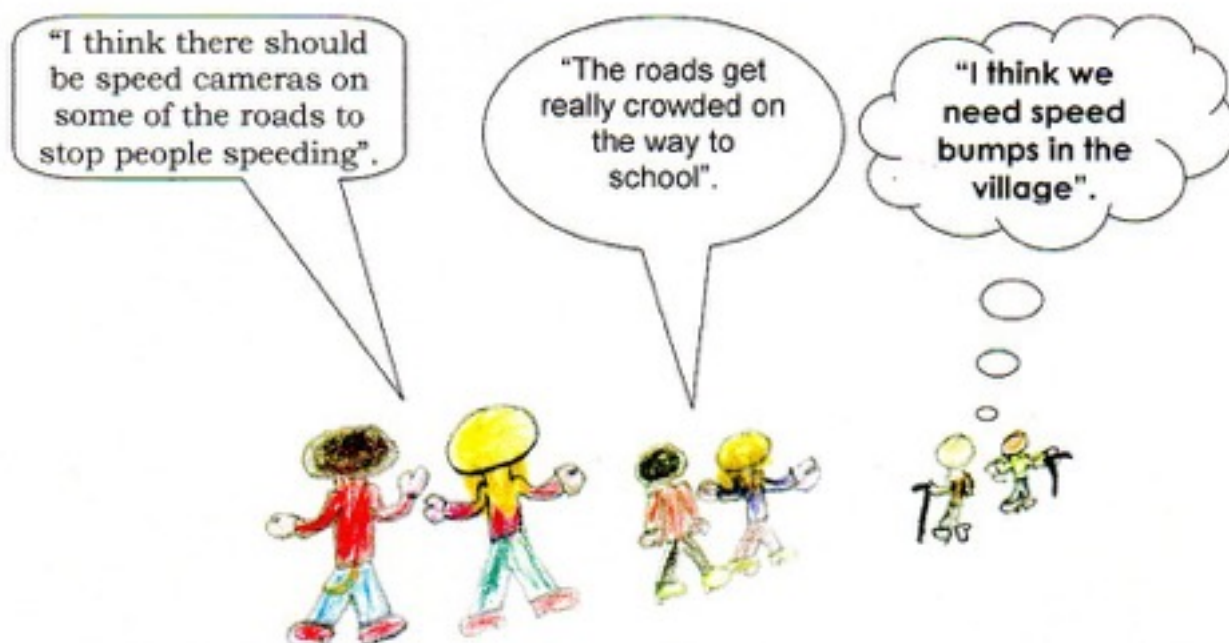


Your concerns

- Improvements to bus service, including cheaper fares and more routes.
- Safety risk of street parking and insufficient parking facilities.
- Danger spots: White Street junction with School Road, Repps Road junction with Rollesby Road, White Street junction with Hemsby Road
- Parking on surgery concrete path, blocking access for disabled patients.
- The need for a cycle path. This may not be a viable option in Martham.
- Inadequate street lighting - more environmentally friendly.
- More footpaths, pavements and dropped kerbs.
- Traffic calming measures required, speed and congestion concerns.

Proposed action

- ❖ Discuss with bus companies the possibility of providing more routes, particularly via Acle to link with the train service.
- ❖ Parish Council to consult with other parish councils and interest groups regarding the possibility of formulating bids for parish transport grants.
- ❖ Parish Council to undertake a review of parking to produce a strategic approach and to discuss with Highways Agency.
- ❖ Prevent parking on concrete path outside doctors' surgery, which is blocking access for disabled patients.
- ❖ Reduce the speed throughout the village to 20mph, with traffic calming measures where required.
- ❖ Provide more footpaths, pavements and dropped kerbs.
- ❖ More environmentally friendly street lighting required and used when replacing existing lights.
- ❖ Flashing warning signs on Repps Road, Hemsby Road and Somerton Road approaches and re-siting sign on Rollesby Road.
- ❖ Investigate the 'Walking Bus to School' scheme.



SECTION 5

Community Services

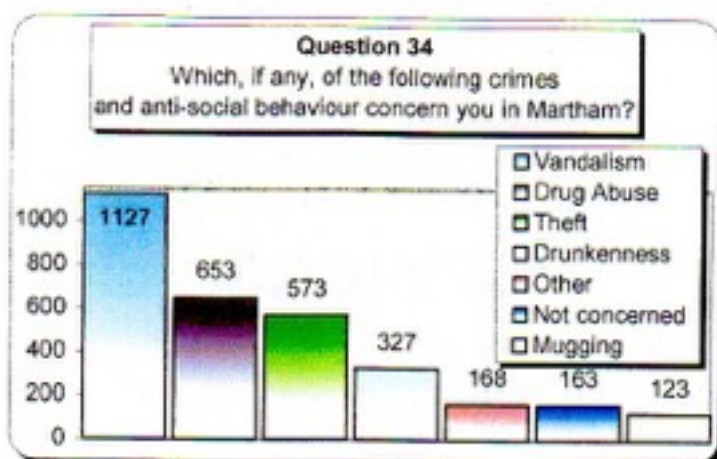


For full statistical data, please refer to Appendix 1

Crime and anti-social behaviour are shown by the results of the survey to be a major concern to the residents of Martham (Q.34); vandalism, drug abuse and theft being the most serious. In order to help tackle these problems, the majority of respondents think that a greater police presence and more activities for young people would be beneficial (Q.35).

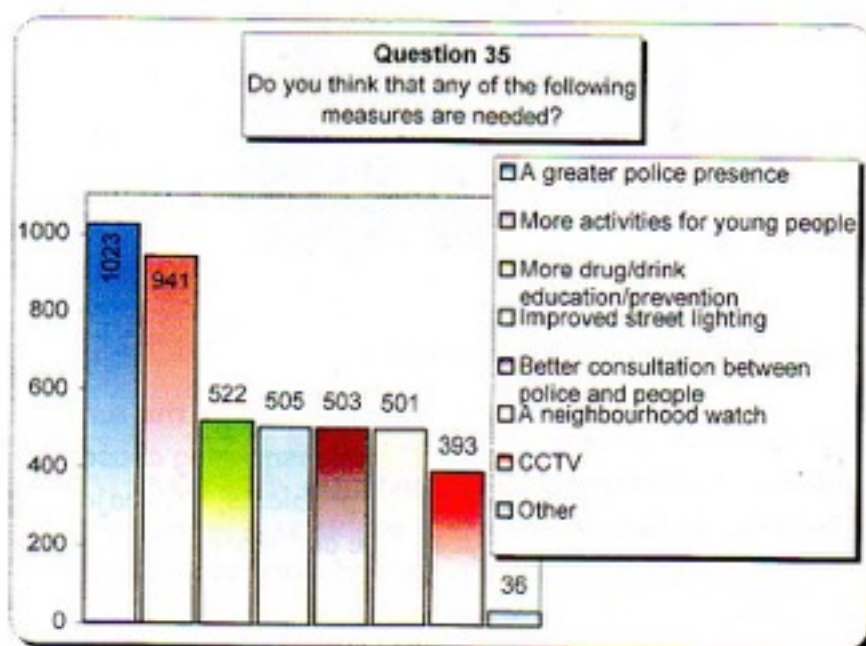
Dog fouling on pavements and footpaths is also a concern. Most dog owners are very aware of this problem and carry disposal bags when walking with their dogs. However, there are no bins provided for the disposal of these; an issue that needs to be addressed. There should be more signs and the present signs replaced with larger ones.

The following chart reflects your opinions on this issue:



Respondents feel very strongly about the behaviour of some young people in our village. Vandalism, drug abuse and theft are three of the worst problems but drunkenness is also a serious worry.

This chart shows what measures you feel should be put in place to reduce these incidents.



A greater police presence is felt to be the most important deterrent together with more activities for young people. A large percentage of residents would like a neighbourhood watch scheme, CCTV (unfortunately a remote possibility), and improved street lighting. More drug and drink education was thought to be a high priority for young people. This could perhaps involve the schools and youth café.

The majority of residents do not experience difficulty getting to the medical services (Q.30), although a considerable percentage experience problems with access to the doctors' surgery. Parking on the concrete path to the surgery is blocking access for disabled people. Access to shops and shop counters being too high were also a concern and a small but significant number of respondents found schools, meeting halls and churches a problem. (Q.66)

It is indicated by Question 38 that a Citizens Advice Bureau would be useful in Martham. This is a possibility for the future, to operate from the CLIP office, if someone with the necessary training can be found. Courses are available and, if interested, you are advised to contact the Adult Education office for further details. A number of respondents to this question also indicated they would be interested in a travel information service and there was some interest in a family planning service. It is clear that information is an important issue for any community and one that the CLIP office helps to provide in Martham at the moment.

"I think Martham is a nice place because all the people help each other".

A large percentage of respondents to the above question would be interested in using a website. The village website is now up and running and is updated on a regular basis. It is full of interesting information relating to the village and to issues that concern you and is very user-friendly. The website address is: www.martham.gov.uk

Most people think that the postal services in Martham are reasonable in all the categories asked but some think the service is poor. The Post Office is mainly used for postal services, purchasing vehicle tax, TV licences and for paying bills. A small percentage of respondents use it for pensions and allowances and a smaller number for banking, information leaflets and other services. (Q 36 & 37). Wheelchair access to the post office counter is considered almost impossible.



Your concerns

- Crime and anti-social behaviour, particularly theft, drug abuse and vandalism.
- Dog fouling on pavements and footpaths.
- Wheelchair access to surgery, shops (particularly the Post Office) and organisations.

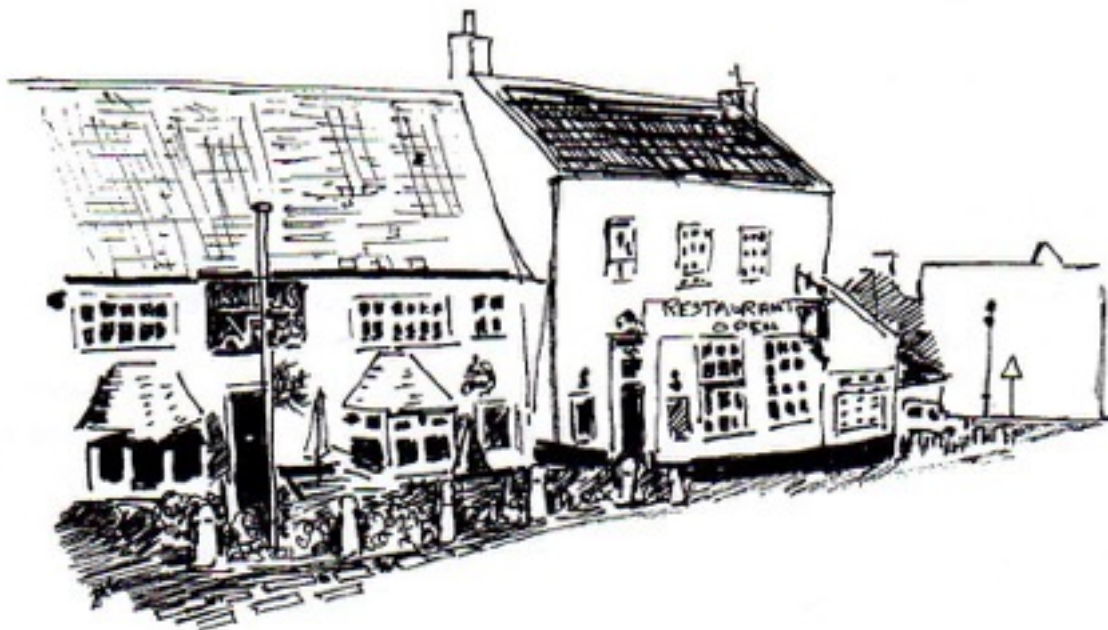
- Would like more information services, particularly Citizens Advice Bureau and Travel Information. Publicity campaign to highlight facilities available in the village.

Proposed action

- ❖ Parish Council and youth organisations in the village to discuss ways in which anti-social behaviour can be controlled. Police invited to offer advice and to make more frequent patrols of the village. To discuss with youth organisations the possibility of setting up more youth activities. Investigate neighbourhood watch scheme. To approach schools youth clubs and Norfolk Youth Community Services regarding more drug/drink education.
- ❖ Parish Council to contact GYBC and request erection of dog litter bins and large 'no dog fouling' signs.
- ❖ Parish Council to investigate problem of wheelchair access to surgery, shops and organisations and discuss possible improvements.
- ❖ Possibility of Citizens Advice Bureau, to be sited at the CLIP. Needs someone to run it that has had the necessary training, or is prepared to undertake training. If you are interested, please contact the CAB direct, or the Rural CLIP, who will give you further advice. Investigate with travel agencies the possibility of travel information being displayed in the CLIP.
- ❖ Community Connections and CLIP office to discuss with all groups and clubs who operate in the village to ensure the continuation of the CLIP office.
- ❖ Publicity campaign to highlight facilities available in the village; to involve CLIP office, public information board and all groups and clubs who operate in the village. A central person would be needed.

SECTION 6

Sport and Leisure

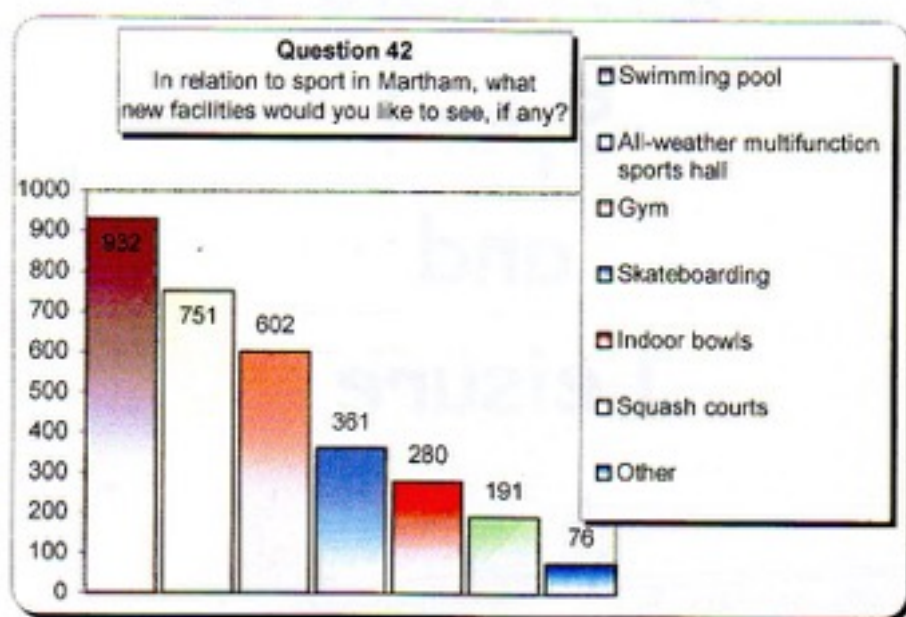


For full statistical data please see Appendix 1

Respondents showed that local sports and social facilities are an important element in many residents' lives (Q.40) and most are aware of the facilities offered at the Marina Centre in Gt. Yarmouth and Broadland Sports Club in Fleggburgh. Only a small percentage of respondents were aware of what is on offer at Martham Youth Club and Martham Sports and Social Club. A small percentage of respondents thought sports provision for people with disabilities could be improved.

An increase in publicity could extend the use of these valuable local facilities, especially as more social activities for youngsters (Q.45) are seen as part of a possible solution to the problems of crime and vandalism that occur in Martham.

The chart below illustrates new sports facilities residents would like to see in Martham:



As shown in the above chart, a very large percentage of respondents would like to see a swimming pool in Martham. Other popular options were an all-weather, multi-functional sports hall with a gym, indoor bowls and squash courts. A few residents indicated they would like floodlights on the football pitch for evening use and a skateboarding & BMX park. There were also requests for football coaching for younger children. In all, this points to a community who would be keen to use sports facilities.

"I would like to see more activities on the playing field, like a skate park, a tennis court and a bike ramp".

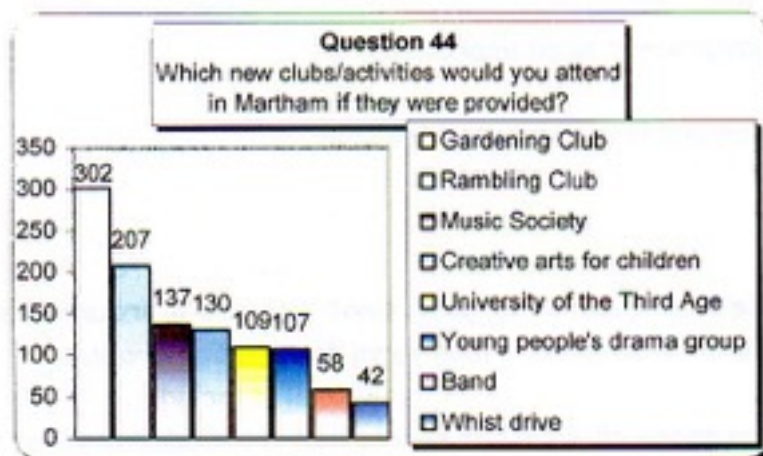
"I think Martham is nice, peaceful and tidy but could do with a park with football goals".

Social facilities for youths in Martham were not highlighted as a problem (Q.43), which probably reflects an older response group. The Guides and Scouts were considered good and the Youth Club "reasonable".

The majority of respondents to Q.45, however, felt that social facilities for young people were poor. The Youth Café was not functioning at the time the questionnaire was compiled and this is a new youth facility in Martham. Several villagers consider a coffee house or Internet café would be an asset to the village and visitors, as there are no refreshment outlets in Martham, apart from the pubs.



Considerable interest was shown in the provision of new Clubs in Martham, as shown in the next chart, indicating that there are enough people interested in a range of activities to foster the growth of such clubs in Martham. To raise the profile of the social club and use the facilities available, perhaps new clubs could be sited there.



Many respondents expressed an interest for new clubs in the village. It is hoped that those of you who have an interest or talent in any of these activities would be willing to organise setting them up. The more input, the more likely it is that new clubs will happen.

Of those who expressed an opinion on local social facilities for different age groups (Q.45) the largest number thought that the provision was poor across all age groups. The over 60's, however, were comparatively happy and thought their facilities were good or reasonable.

A considerable number of respondents consider children's playground facilities to be poor (Q.39). This clearly indicates that there is a problem in this important community facility. New regulations concerning playground equipment safety have resulted in equipment that does not conform being removed from playgrounds all over the county. The Parish Council is currently investigating this problem and the re-siting of the Rollesby Road playground on a more appropriate area on the playing field is also being considered.

Reception with T.V. and mobile phones is difficult for a significant number of people (Q.46).

Your concerns

- More sports facilities, particularly a swimming pool and sports hall/gym, with access and facilities for disabled people.

- Lack of social facilities for young people.
- More new clubs and activities required.
- Children's playgrounds need improving.
- Poor television and mobile phone reception.

Proposed action

- ❖ It is probable that a swimming pool is not included in future plans for the High School; this should be made a long term fundraising project.
- ❖ A new multi-purpose all-weather sports hall is included in plans for Flegg High School, with funding from PFI (Private Finance Initiative). A provisional date for commencement of the work is June 2004 and this sports hall will be open for public use outside school hours. The plans include an all weather sports area outside, with Astra turf, and will provide two tennis courts, 5 a side football and a hockey pitch. Inside will be three badminton courts, with other sports activities to be announced, and plans for changing rooms and a canteen.
- ❖ A youth café has recently started in Martham. This commenced in September 2003 and is open on Thursday and Friday evenings, from 7.00 to 10.00 p.m. for ages 13 years upwards. If anyone is interested in helping to run this or can contribute useful suggestions for improving it, please contact the Secretary, via the Clip.
- ❖ Possibility of starting a Youth Parish Council, responsible to the Parish Council and with support from the schools. A report by the Parish Council on this is expected soon.
- ❖ To look into the possibility of starting new clubs for adults, particularly gardening, rambling and music. If anyone has the expertise and enthusiasm to help start interest clubs such as these, possibly in the social club, please contact the CLIP.
- ❖ To discuss ways of improving children's playgrounds in Martham, with a view to increasing facilities and safety issues. Possible re-siting of playground in Rollesby Road to a more appropriate area on the playing field.

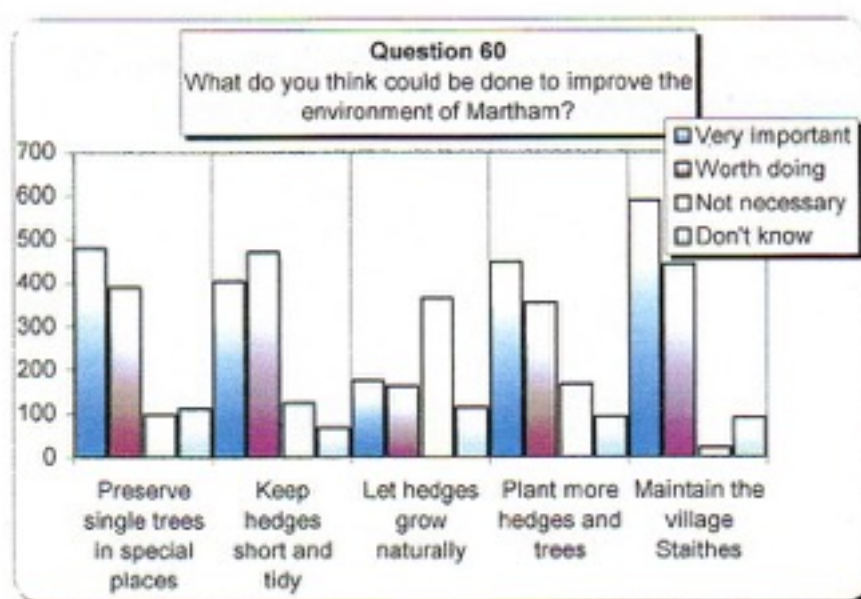
SECTION 7

Environment



For full statistical data, please see Appendix 1

From the responses to this section, it is apparent that there is a real concern for the preservation and maintenance of the village and its environment. The majority of residents are in favour of segregating refuse for recycling, if a separate collection was made (Q. 32)



Most respondents to this question think maintaining the village staithes, planting more trees and hedging, keeping hedges short and tidy and preserving single trees in special places would considerably enhance the environment.

The protection of wildlife in Martham was another concern, highlighted in Q.61. Maintaining the marshes, broads, rivers, woods and fields as well as the staithes (Q.60) is considered to be important to maintain this protection. A large number of residents are also concerned about litter and pollution in the village and wish to have more litter bins provided (Q.33). Many would be willing to support a campaign to reduce litter and pollution, by paying for a road sweeper or litter warden and entering a 'best kept village' competition (Q.63). Interest was shown in having a village spring clean twice yearly; possibly volunteers from shops, village clubs and organisations such as Scouts, Guides and Brownies would be prepared to work together to achieve this.

The appearance of the village greens are considered reasonable (Q.62) as are the playing fields, staithes and churchyards, but the ponds and play areas are considered poor, and therefore require investigation into their improvement.

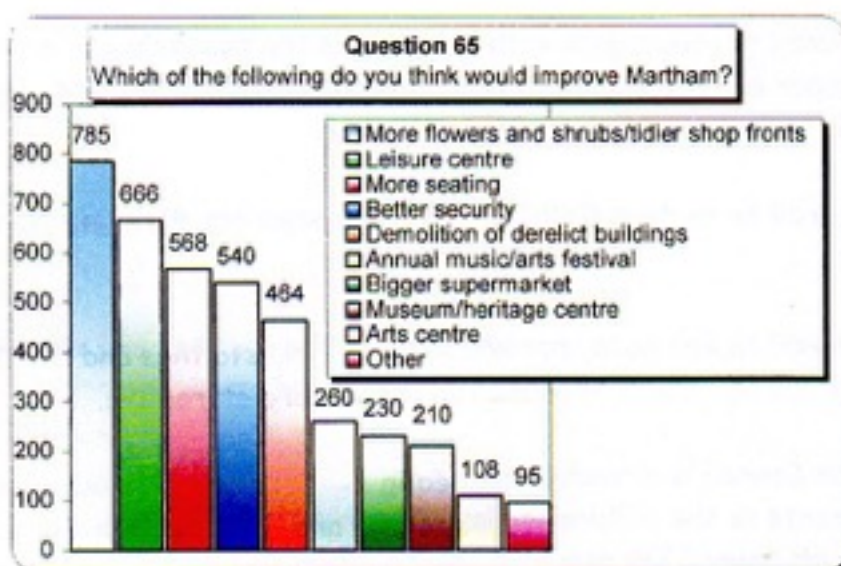
The village centre is charming but could be improved considerably, according to respondents. More flowers, shrubs and tidier shop fronts were considered the most important factor in improving the look of Martham. Perhaps residents and traders could help by contributing individually with hanging baskets, tubs and shrubs and by generally keeping the fronts of houses and shops looking tidy, especially in the village centre, to make Martham a village to be proud of.

Respondents felt other improvements could be achieved by having a leisure centre (see also Q.42), better security (see Q.35, Section 5) demolition of derelict buildings and the provision of more seating.

"In Martham
the trees are
beautiful".



Various other improvements were favoured, as shown in the following chart:



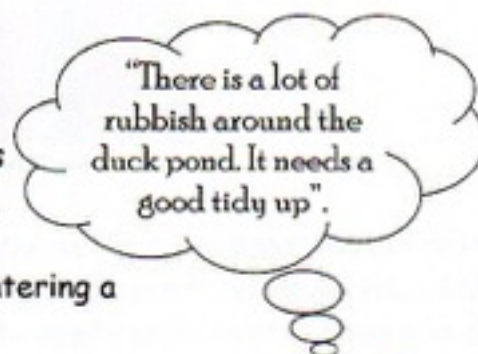
Most respondents are familiar with, and use, local pathways without too much difficulty, but feel these are not well signposted (Q.64). Many would like to be able to buy maps in the village shops of local footpaths and leaflets of walks and would be interested in guided walks and website guides.

Your concerns

- Litter and pollution.
- A separate doorstep recycling collection.
- Improvements to village staithe, ponds and children's play areas.
- Improvements to appearance of Martham.
- Protection of wildlife.
- Provision of more seating.
- Demolition of derelict buildings.
- Provision of leisure centre.
- Footpaths and pathways not well signposted. Need for maps of local footpaths, leaflets of walks and website guides.

Proposed action

- ❖ Parish Council to investigate with authorities the possibility of employing a road sweeper or litter warden and provision of more litter bins. Involvement of schools to reduce litter around the village.
- ❖ Parish Council to contact GYBC to request a separate doorstep recycling collection.
- ❖ Parish Council to instigate improvements to the staithes and the cleaning of the ponds and surrounds to make the area more attractive.
- ❖ The Parish Council is already involved in improvements to the children's play areas and the Borough Council has removed unsafe items from the playgrounds. This matter is ongoing.
- ❖ Parish Council to obtain details on Martham entering a 'best kept village' competition.
- ❖ The Parish Council has already discussed the need to improve the centre of the village and it is hoped traders and villagers will be willing to enhance their own shop/house fronts personally, by displaying hanging baskets, tubs, etc. to make the village centre more attractive. Parish Council to instigate the planting of more shrubs and trees in the village.
- ❖ Protection of wildlife by regular inspections by Parish Council of marshes, broads and rivers, woods and fields. Advice to be sought by Environmental agencies on best action.
- ❖ Parish Council to investigate more seating for the village. Local businesses may wish to contribute to the purchase of these.
- ❖ Parish Council to contact Planning Department regarding possible demolition of derelict buildings. It may be possible for some to be renovated and used for housing, as requested by the majority of respondents to Q.12, Section 2.
- ❖ A leisure centre would be very desirable, but realistically a long-term objective. Plans for improvements and extensions to Flegg High School include a new sports hall, which would, when completed, be open to the public outside school hours.



- ❖ Footpaths and pathways. Local shops and library to be encouraged to sell footpath maps and walk guides. If a rambling club is forthcoming (Q.44 - Section 6) it may be interested in arranging guided walks of the area, especially for visitors on holiday. Martham website to include information on local walks (see Q.38 - Section 5). Map of Martham to be displayed on public noticeboard, showing footpaths.

SECTION 8

Local Government and Information



For full statistical data please see Appendix 1

Most residents in Martham obtain information about events taking place in the village from the free paper, Parish Magazine or the local paper and, to a lesser extent, notice boards, the library, the CLIP window and word of mouth (Q.47). Information has been received that the free paper is not delivered to all parishioners. There needs to be a pick up point in a shop or the CLIP where they can collect one.

Martham website appears to be used very little; perhaps more information concerning this is necessary. Most people think the amount of information available about local events is 'reasonable', rather than 'good' (Q.48), but a fairly large percentage think it is 'poor'.

The response to question 49 clearly shows that a good number of residents use the local library, with all the facilities it has to offer. A voluntary service is provided for disabled and housebound people; for further details contact the library. A small number use the Citizens Advice Bureau; would more people use this facility if there were a branch in Martham? Less than 20% of respondents use the CLIP; could this be because of inappropriate opening times?

A considerable number use the World Wide Web. If at least 450 residents sign to request Broadband in Martham there is a possibility of achieving this service. Registration of interest applications are available in the CLIP and online at www.bt.com/broadband and www.martham.gov.uk.

Information about these facilities and village events should be easily accessible in the village itself. Use of the CLIP and providing a large central information board could be the answer and has been discussed in previous sections of this Plan.

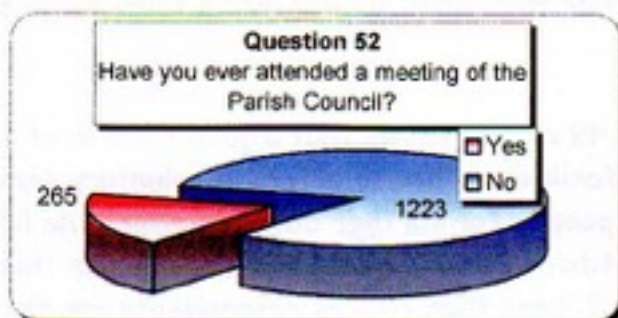
"Martham has most things but could do with a nearby park and the duck pond is rather dirty".

A large double-sided display board in the centre of the village, perhaps on the Green near the Co-op, could be used for displaying information about clubs and organisations in the village, local events, notices from Parish Council meetings (including applications for planning), local job vacancies and information for visitors, including a large map of Martham showing footpaths and interesting areas.



Your opinions on public services varied; most respondents indicated that road sweeping was good, street lighting reasonable and car parking poor (Q.51). Street lighting is an issue, as some areas of Martham have none and some are well lit. There may be a case for more in areas where there are elderly people or children walking home from schools on dark winter nights.

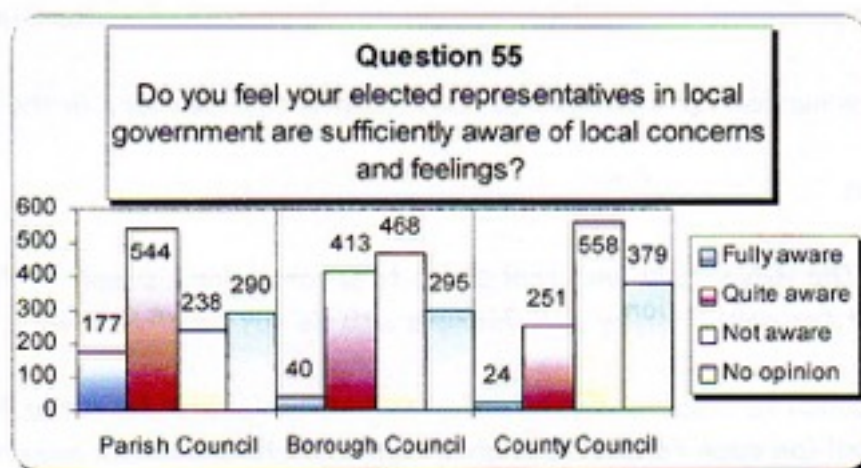
With regard to car parking, the building of new houses in the village has added to this problem and will, in the future, worsen if more housing developments are planned. Where would a larger car park be situated? The majority of respondents think visitors do need more information about Martham (Q.50) but obviously if more visitors were forthcoming the parking situation would become another issue for discussion. A new car park is likely to put pressure on the green areas in the village. Are there areas within the village that would be appropriate? The solving of this problem would require involving people with the ability to implement solutions and would relate to other traffic problems in the village.



It is surprising to note how few residents attend the Parish Council meetings. This may indicate that: they do not have time to go, do not see that the meetings are relevant to them, only go when there is something of interest to them or do not know about the meetings. It is important for residents to know what is said at these meetings therefore the agendas and minutes need to be advertised, as discussed previously. There is a ten-minute forum before the commencement of each Parish Council meeting when residents may speak on matters that concern them relating to village and the small percentage of residents who do attend these meetings make full use of this time to air their views.

It is obvious from the results of the Survey that residents of Martham are very concerned about life in their village and have strong views on some issues.

It is therefore important for councillors to have feedback from the village in order to resolve as many of these issues as possible. It would be good to see more of you attending the Parish Council meetings - the third Wednesday in every month, in the Methodist Sunday school room - in order to find out exactly how your representatives are working to solve your problems and improve life in your village. Your attendance would be very welcome.



It is clear that a considerable number of people in Martham feel that the Borough and County councils are *not* aware of local concerns or feelings, and that the residents are not informed enough to make a comment. It might be beneficial if information could be made available, or an open forum held, to explain the function of the Parish Council, how it operates for the benefit of the whole village and also how it works in conjunction with the Borough and County Councils.

During the compilation of the Survey and Plan many interested and committed people were brought together to make this a real village project. It would be a shame not to build on this good foundation and suggestions have been made to form a Martham Community Association.

If you are interested in improving life in Martham and would like to help form such an association, or becoming a member, please go in the CLIP and fill in an application form.

It is hoped that this survey will go some way to addressing some of the issues that Martham residents have concerns about, and hopefully more residents will become involved with areas of concern or development. Already money generated by this project has been used towards addressing some of the issues concerning young people. The completed Plan will be available to both local and national government.

Your concerns

- More information required about local organisations - already dealt with elsewhere in the Plan.
- Pick up point for the free paper.
- More information needed about the Parish and Borough Councils.
- More car parks and street lighting - already dealt with elsewhere in the Plan.
- More information for visitors - already dealt with elsewhere in the Plan.

Proposed action

- ❖ Contact *The Advertiser* and local shops to arrange for a supply of free papers to be left for collection by parishioners who do not have a delivery.
- ❖ Parish Council to discuss ways of informing parishioners about the function of the Council (an open forum?) and give them the chance to ask questions and meet the individual councillors, to promote a more open and accessible Council.
- ❖ Parish Council to utilise the village website more fully.