

Business - Conclusions

The number and variety of businesses within the parish indicates a much more active and vibrant society than the outward appearance of the area would indicate. Despite the number of trading premises and four separate light industrial areas there is little or no impact on the essentially rural nature of the area. This is a tribute to sensitive planning controls by the local authority and parish council in recent years.

Additional small business units have been created recently from redundant farm buildings. Local planners encourage this trend since this results in no additional intrusion into the rural built environment.

The large number of people employed in our local businesses is also surprising, although of course many of these would come from outside the immediate area. The responses on employment indicate that more information about the availability of skills and the needs of businesses could usefully be made available to all.

Although around half of the businesses cater to local needs, it is reassuring that a substantial number of businesses trade outside the area. Had we asked for and obtained turnover figures this might have revealed an even greater income from beyond the Parish than the simple count of businesses indicates.

Very few businesses are planning to leave the parish and the majority of moves would be the result of personal circumstances rather than business considerations. This is inevitable given the significant number of home-based enterprises.

Businesses are clearly making greater use of modern information technology, and as with many rural areas there is frustration with the lack of Internet Broadband provision.

A number of respondents commented about the lack of value for business rates. Business rates are determined entirely by central government and the Inland Revenue and local government has no control at all and acts only as the collections agency. Therefore this matter is not included in the Action Plan.

