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Foreword:

A Village Plan had been talked about for many years and was finally conceived in 2008 when a group of villagers and Parish Councillors came together and formulated a questionnaire which was delivered to every household in Belton and Browston in November 2010.

Changes to village life are inevitable and ours is no exception. We as a Parish Council need to be at the forefront of these changes making decisions and working for the benefit of all parishioners and the betterment of our community thus continuing to make our villages two of the finest in the country.

Many people have given hours of time and commitment to producing this document which will be used as a vehicle for future planning. My thanks go to each and everyone especially to the people who took the time and trouble to fill in the questionnaire, to those who collected and delivered it and to the committee who have worked so hard to produce a workable plan for the future.

I hope you will enjoy reading The Belton and Browston Village Plan.

J Rudrum

J Rudrum: Chairman of Belton with Browston Parish Council.

Village Plan Committee Barbara Clark, Jackie & Ken Cole, Roger & Joan Gowen, Lin Hillier, Andy Jenner, John Lynch, Elizabeth Myhill, (Chair) Bill & Sue Richmond.

Members of the Parish Council

Nathan Brown:	Youth
Peter Church:	Newly Appointed
Barbara Clark	Vice Chair/Health Care/Leisure Activities
Robert Goffin:	Health & Safety.
Margaret Greenacre	Housing/Planning/Transport
Lin Hillier	Newly Appointed
John Lynch	Village Maintenance
Elizabeth Myhill.	Chair of Village Plan & Youth Committee
Peter Nichols.	Chairman of New Road Management Committee/Sports
John Rudrum:	Chair of Parish Council/Village Maintenance/Social Inclusion.
Brian Swan	Finance/Communication
Ian Walpole	Conservation/Police
Brian Watts:	Conservation/Police

Acknowledgements: Our thanks to Hydramec Offshore for sponsorship of prize money.
Bill Richmond for the photography:
To Tesco for stationery:

Belton and Browston, a brief synopsis.



Belton and Browston was, until the 1960s, predominantly an area of market gardening of over 2,000 acres and although Browston has remained mainly unaltered massive development in the 1960's and 70's completely changed the character of Belton.

As well as the Church, Belton had a Methodist Chapel on Station Road North - built in the 1880s but closed in the 1960's and The Institute Meeting Room (now the JGI built by public subscription in 1886) whilst Browston had a meeting room built in 1899. As in other parishes there has been a Parish Council since 1894. Belton and Browston were part of Suffolk but in 1974 under local government reorganisation they were transferred to Norfolk as part of the Borough of Great Yarmouth.

Prior to the 1960's Belton only had a ring of roads, St. Johns Road, Station Roads North & South and Church Lane plus Beccles Road and Sandy Lane. There was a railway (Yarmouth to Beccles and on to London) cutting across the parish with the Belton and Burgh Castle railway station where the two Station Roads converge. All the land in and around the village was agricultural with smallholdings, many with glasshouses, with the railway allowing produce to be taken quickly to London and other parts of the country. The railway was closed in 1959.

The population was fairly stable for many years, around 500 plus but the mass development from the 1960's saw it rocket in 20 or so years to an adult total of some 3,000 on the electoral role. The development saw New Road on part of the railway track and all other roads finishing with Fern Gardens, Broome Gardens in the 1980's. The last market gardens disappeared in 1999 with the development of Nursery Close and finally Belle Of The East Way off Station Road South.

Section 1 INTRODUCTION and BACKGROUND:

What is a Village Plan?

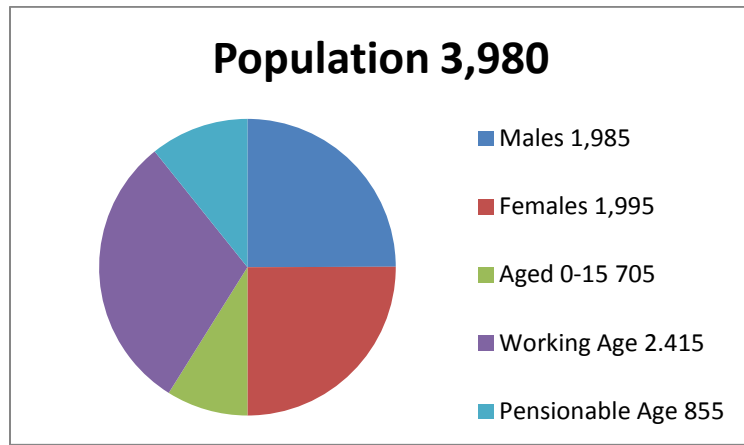
In simple terms, a village plan should outline what a community would like to see happen over a period of time. In the case of Belton with Browston, a ten year plan. There is no guarantee it will happen, but there is a better chance of success if the plans represent the views of the community. We expect that our village plan will provide the high profile needed to allow the Parish Council to ascertain and debate what the villagers needs are. It will also help when applying for funding etc.

The idea of the village plan is to establish what facilities people would like to see provided for the young through to the elderly, these include leisure, culture, transport, welfare etc. as well as ascertaining what development is required during the next ten years.

In 2010 a questionnaire was delivered to every home in Belton and Browston, a total of 1,060 altogether, of these 487 were completed. Each child attending the local school also filled in a separate questionnaire applicable to them and there was another for the twelve to eighteen year old age group.

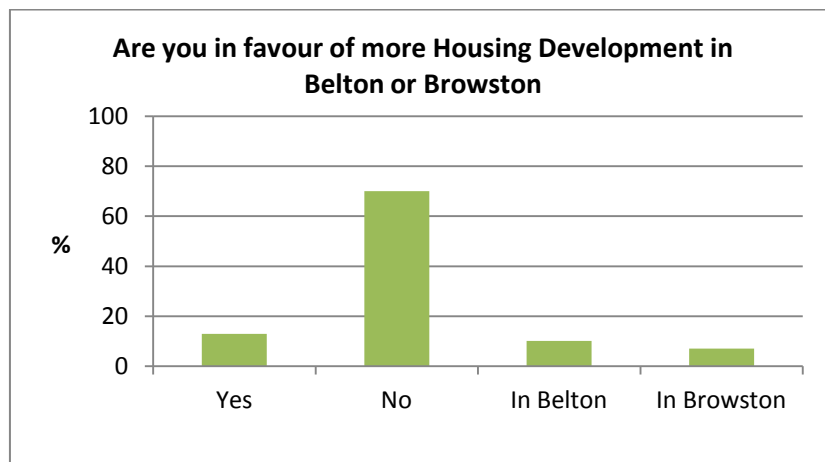
Age Distribution within the Villages

According to the latest figures (2008) of the Office for National Statistics: The population living in Belton with Browston is as follows:



Over 75% have lived in the village for longer than 10 years.

Section 2 Planning and Housing in the Parish



The findings from the survey proved interesting as the majority of residents did not want further development in the villages, but said there was a need for both starter homes and sheltered accommodation.

In the light of these answers, seemingly to contradict, there will have to be a survey on possible sites where these could take place. From the history of the village it is most likely that people who moved into the village in the late 60's and early 70's are now wanting to stay in the village in later life and will benefit from sheltered accommodation. Also within these families there are young people who wish to stay in the village and require starter homes to get onto the property ladder or they will have to move out of the village. Attention will also have to be given to updating the sewerage system. The existing pumping station is unable to cope and from time to time floods in certain areas.

The local development framework that is completed by GYBC is due in 2014. Therefore inputs to this need must be made very soon.

Section 3 Local Businesses.

Shops Belton:

The survey shows that 98% of the residents support the local shops that in the main are situated in Bell Lane. These include Tesco Express with a Post Office, a Pet & Hardware Shop, a Chinese Takeaway and Hairdressers. Elsewhere in the village is a Fish & Chip Shop and Pharmacy. With the exception of the Fish & Chip Shop they are all based to the north of the village leaving those living on the south and west side a considerable walk to the main shops. Asked what other services could local shops provide? The main comments were Photocopying service, Bank/Building Society/Newspaper delivery service/Passport service at Post Office and a Petrol Station. Residents wanted to see more shops in the village away from the existing shops. The old Budgen's (formally Berry's) shop was mentioned on Station Road North which at present lies derelict. Kinds of shops were a Bakers, Butchers, General Store, Greengrocers, Café and Video

However all the main supermarkets deliver to the village from the town, Great Yarmouth five miles away and there is a van which travels the village selling vegetables and fruit. Many people now shop on line so unless more housing is built it is difficult to see how more shops can be sustained.

Other Businesses in Belton:

There are two pubs The Kings Head on New Road and The Tavern on Station Road South. Rose Farm based along the old railway track is a touring site for caravans and the Wild Duck is now a large Haven Holiday Park situated on what was once part of Belton Common. The Wild Duck provides seasonal employment for a few living in the village. and there are a number of B & B's There are many who work from home some providing services such as child minding, driving instructor, plumbing, carpentry, computer solving problems, electrical repairs, floristry, glass & glazing, roofing expertise, rubbish clearance, tree & hedge cutting, wedding services to name but a few. There may be a need for an area to be set aside for light industry or workshops in the future.



Businesses in Browston:

Browston Hall, a 17th century family home, offers a restaurant a 3 par golf course, tennis courts and an indoor bowling green.

There is also a riding centre, a care home, market gardens and a commercial sand pit.



Section 4. Transport Highways and Traffic

Transport

The survey shows that 50 per cent used public transport. important to the villagers. The car still fulfills the transport needs of a large amount of households. The routes available by bus were generally popular and most would not use the buses more even if more direct routes were available.

The most common destinations were Gorleston and Great Yarmouth followed by Beccles. Other routes involve a change at either Gorleston or Great Yarmouth to reach them. This includes the James Paget Hospital. There is no direct bus which passes Millwood Surgery in Bradwell.

From the question of whether you would support a community car scheme 45% answered yes with 20% saying no and 35% did not know. Significantly only 2% said they would be a community driver in a voluntary scheme.

Since the survey was completed a voluntary community car scheme has started in the villages in conjunction with Fritton, St Olaves and Burgh Castle.

At the time of writing this is proving reasonably successful but still requires more voluntary drivers to meet the overall need. More information is available on the website beltonandbrowston.com or from the Parish Clerk Tel. 01493 602960

Road Safety

Speeding was highlighted as a major concern by both adults and young people.

This is a problem in the Villages from time to time and has required speed checking operations by the police. Browston Lane used as a short cut from Bradwell to Lowestoft remains a problem and there are actions in place to try and get the whole road restricted to 30 mph.

In Belton, Bracon Road, New Road and Beccles Road are subject to speeding and do give concern. Beccles Road especially as there is no footpath at all along either side of the road. The stretch of New Road between Bracon Road and Deben Drive equally gives concern as there is only a grass verge for pedestrians, totally unsuitable in bad weather especially for the elderly. It is hoped that pressure through Parish Council will be brought upon highway authorities to remedy the above and make access safer for pedestrians. Also if resources allow regular speed

monitoring will take place in the village as necessary. Speed deterrent measures, such as active speed signs should be considered if the problem continues.

Parking

Even though the questionnaire came back indicating that it was not felt that there were any problems regarding parking in the village. It was clear this depended upon where you live. Main problem areas identified Moorland Way, especially at the beginning and ending of the school day, Station Road South outside and near the John Green Institute Station Road North and Bracon Road. Parish Council will continue to monitor parking in the villages.

Street Lighting

Over 90% said that present street lighting was adequate and no further lighting was required. With the probability that many street lights will be turned off between midnight and 5am it cannot be said whether the same will apply then.

The Parish Council decided that they will not take part in any decision about which lights might be switched off. It will be for Norfolk County Council to make that decision.

Regular maintenance of existing lighting and new lights installed in any future development would appear the most positive way forward. Lighting is to be improved at the New Road Sports Complex and the Bell Lane Playing Field in 2012.

Section 5 Community Services.



Police and Home Watch

It is well recognized that the villages of Belton and Browston are very safe places to live in Norfolk with a very low crime rate.

We have a good Safer Neighbourhood team within the Southern Villages area of the constabulary cover. They can be contacted either via the 101 through the non emergency police number or by email at SNTsouthernvillages@norfolk.pnn.police.uk

The above is all true at the time of writing in January 2012 but within the financial climate of the present government it is impossible to predict what future police coverage will be. Regular meetings of S.N.A.P (Safer Neighbourhood Action Panel) with all the Southern Villages and the Safer Neighbourhood Teams will keep pressure on to retain an adequate police cover of all the villages.

Within Belton there are six Home Watch groups which is way down on what would be a sensible number to cover the village. From the survey question of "Do you think the area is adequately policed" there was a three way split between Yes, No and Unsure. This is most likely due to the present very low crime rate.

As with other subjects those who think **No** or were **Unsure** will not come forward and

be involved to improve the situation. The recommendation from here is to try and form many more Home Watch groups and attend the S.N.A.P. meetings to get the area adequately policed now and in the future. It is hoped that the Parish Council will play a more active role.

Over 80% said they were not part of a Home Watch group and would not be willing to start a group. The reason behind this is difficult to assess.

During the 24 months of November 2009 to October 2011 only 20% said they had cause to call the Police for some reason and with 70% saying they were satisfied with the response they obtained.

Recycling

There is at present one communal glass bottle recycling facility in the village. (outside The Tavern pub on Station Road South.) Over 70% said they used the facility and 60% said it was sufficient. The Borough Council provides an alternate weekly collection of paper, card and some plastic (green) with general household rubbish.(black) Extra green wheelie bins are available free of charge from G.Y.B.C.

Brown garden waste bins are available but there is an extra charge for this service.

What did come from the survey was that over 70% would like to have a general household recycling centre nearer to the village and certainly west of the river Yare. This is a topic that is high on the needs list of most residents. GYBC have said they are considering the problem.

Litter and General Tidiness

Over 70% said that litter and general tidiness was of concern to them and more litter bins were needed. This has an impact on the Council expenditure as a fee has to be paid to the Borough to empty them. But as litter is a problem this needs deeper consideration.

The Council does employ a Village Caretaker whose responsibilities include litter picking and general tidiness but he can only undertake this on days he is employed.

The caretaker could perform more of his allocated tasks if he did not have to spend time picking up litter!

The community has undertaken a spring and autumn litter pick to try and keep the village free but with less than 15% support from the community.

Over 20 sacks of litter were collected on the last litter pick which covered around 60% of the village. Younger people thought that there was also a problem with litter in the village perhaps more can be done to encourage the various Youth Groups to help tackle this problem.

Dog Fouling

This is always an emotive topic with 60% saying that dog fouling is a problem and that more bins and notices are required. This problem is caused by a small percentage of dog owners and can only be solved through education.

The Parish Council will play an active role in combating this problem possibly through prosecutions, naming and shaming.



Appearance of the Village

Over 90% of people said they were satisfied with the appearance of the village and also supported the local garden initiative but sadly only 10% said they would be willing to help with the project although it is sponsored by the Parish Council.

During the autumn of 2011 over 5,000 daffodil bulbs were purchased by the Parish and planted around the village by volunteers. This is in keeping with the Norfolk County Council's celebrations for the Queen's Jubilee in 2012.



Allotments

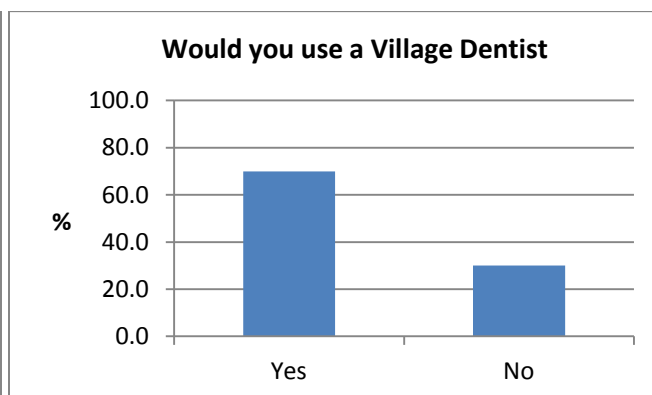
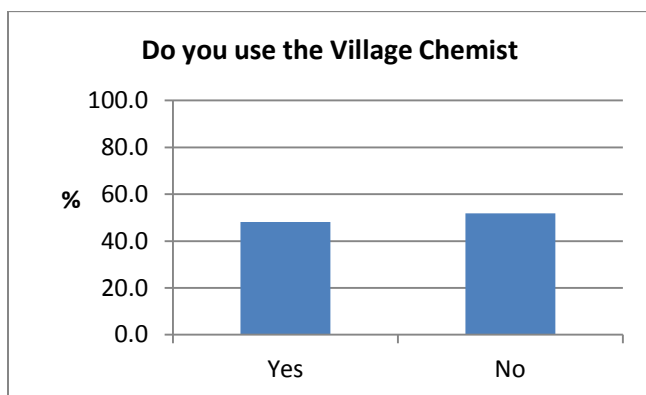
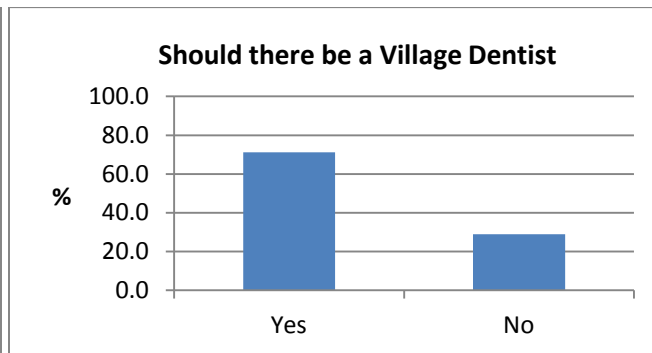
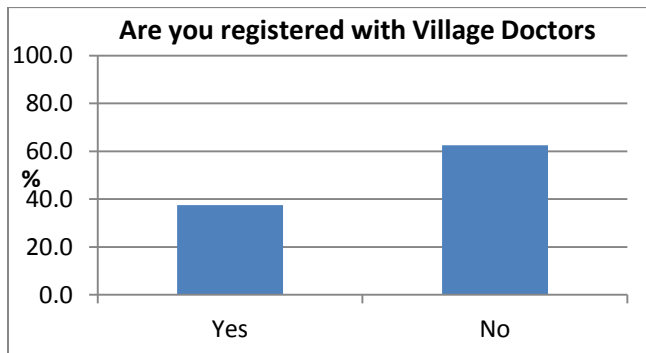
Only 5% of the villagers have an allotment and a similar number are on the waiting list. But when asked if more allotments should be provided then over 70% said yes. The Allotments are sited to the south of the existing churchyard with land leased from the church. As the churchyard fills then it will be necessary for the Parish Council to find more land.

Footpaths

Over 60% said they walked footpaths regularly and that they were well maintained. As long as these are kept in good order no further action is required. Between 70% and 80% of people said they wanted more Council money spent on footpaths, countryside walking routes, maintenance of open spaces and also creating wildlife preservation areas.



Section 6 Health Care



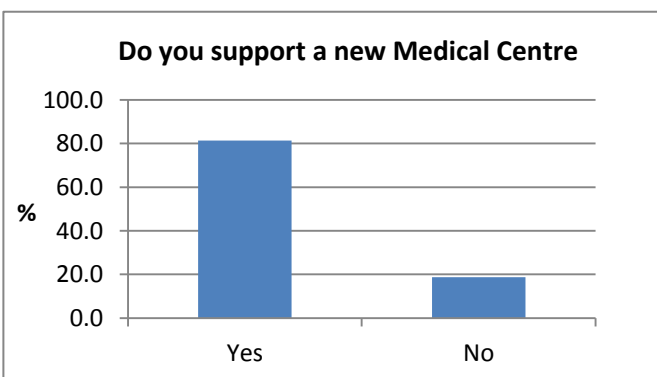
1,200 Patients registered with the village doctors received letters on March 1st 2012 telling them that the surgery on St. Johns Road is closing on 6th June 2012.

Patients will be transferred to the Millwood Surgery in Bradwell 3 miles away. The lease on the present site is due for renewal and the present facilities have been declared unfit for purpose. Other sites have been found but the Primary Care Trust for Norfolk and Great Yarmouth has deemed them unsuitable and financially unviable.

Fears have been voiced that villages are being deprived of “basic medical needs” while money is spent on facilities in Southtown and Cobholm. There are also fears being expressed that with the addition 1,200 patients the Millwood Surgery will find it difficult to cope.

The Parish Council held a public meeting on March 27th 2012 to make people’s views known.

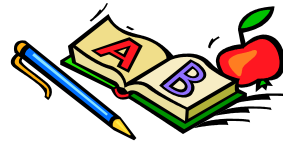
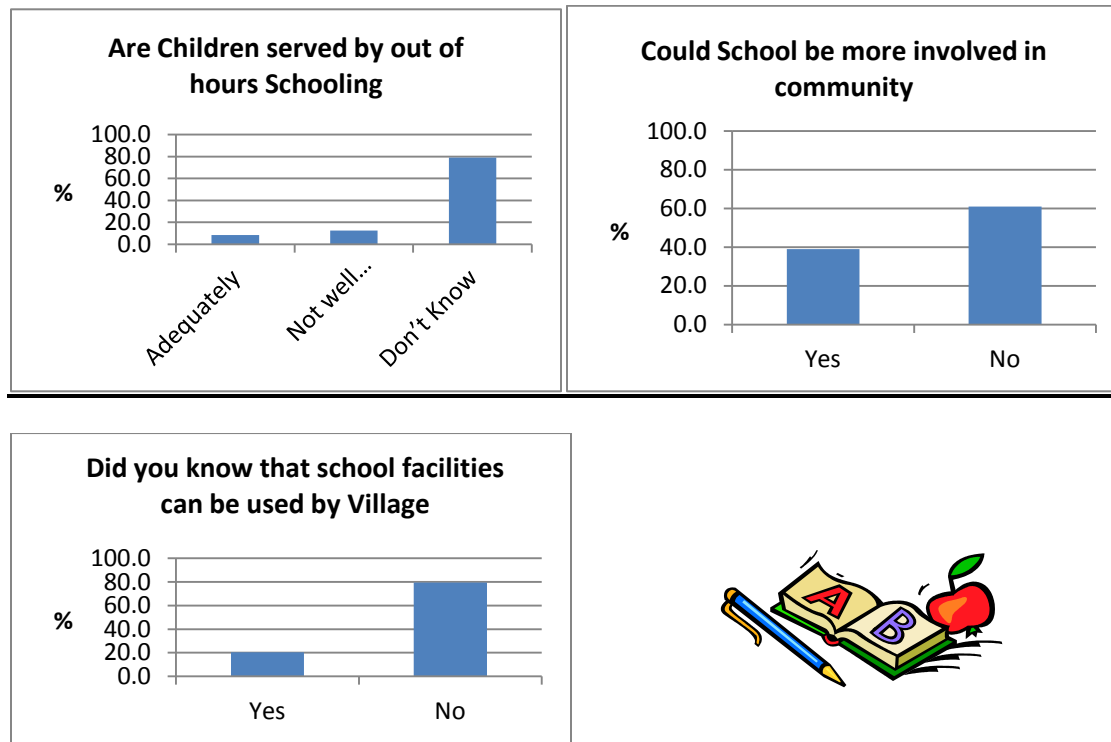
NHS bosses are possibly in discussion with the county council over public transport routes. At present there is no direct bus route between Belton and the Millwood Surgery.



With a population of 3,980 (2008) Office for National Statistics which is likely to increase in the coming years then the villages of Belton and Browston deserve a medical centre. Our survey showed that 80% would support a new medical centre.

THE OUTCOME WILL BE CLOSELY MONITORED BY THE PARISH COUNCIL

Section 7 Schools



The Schools

A significant proportion of the questionnaires were returned without this section being completed. Of those that were completed 60% felt that the school had no need to become more involved in the community. This probably reflects the fact that the majority of participants didn't have children of school age

However several comments that the school could do more came up on a regular basis.

- Hold fetes that the whole village could participate in.
- Have events that encouraged liaison between the young and old and therefore developing a better understanding and respect. Suggestions included shared lunches, Christmas events to involve the elderly and helping with gardening or chores.
- Provide the youngsters with a better understanding of the problems of litter,
- Set up a variety of inexpensive courses during the day or evening.

Section 8 The Church



When the Village Questionnaire was formulated our church had not undergone the great transition that it has now, so many of the results could have been different if the same questions had been asked today. In July 2011 we received a new vicar in the Parish the Rev. Rosie Bunn. Since her arrival much effort has been put in to reorder the church building with central heating, a new carpeted floor and some decoration. There is still more to be done as funds allow. The work reflects into the growing attendance at services at All Saints Belton and also to her services at Burgh Castle which she also administers.

General Comment

Thanks to everyone who took part in this survey. The results came through at a critical point in our efforts to convert the Church building from a cold, inflexible building to what we now have – a warm building which is both comfortable and flexible. The request had just been turned down by the authorities and it looked like two years of hard work may have been coming to nothing. The results of this parish survey clearly showed that there were many people in the community who would consider coming to the Church if the Church building could be made warm and comfortable for Sunday Services. The community support was invaluable and this was a significant factor in finally getting permission to develop the Church.

Since the survey, not only have we got permission, but we also managed to raise almost £50,000 and with a Herculean effort, got the Church ready for the Christmas Carol service. If you were one of the people who wanted to worship in the Parish Church, there is a standing invitation – come and see, come and worship!

The results also showed an almost equal split between those who wanted more formal services and those who wanted more informal services. Not that these two cancel each other out, but there is a call for greater variety in the type of services that the Church offers. Since December, when the Sunday services returned to the Church buildings there have been family services, carol services, cafe-style services with breakfast and a buzz of different activities around the same theme and evening celebrations with an

exuberant expression of worship. There has also been a monthly traditional communion service introduced, on the first Tuesday of every month, as well as an open offer of a lift to anyone who wants to worship in Burgh Castle but doesn't have transport.

The congregations of both Belton and Burgh Castle churches are getting steadily bigger each month, the children from Moorlands school come over and use the Church building on a weekly basis; it is used for a Parent and Pre-School Group, the Hub (a Youth group) and for various other meetings and gatherings. The intention is to further develop the activities and events that can happen in the church building and see the Church play an increasing role in the life of our village. Thank you to all of you who have supported, to the church members who have made it all possible and for Rosie's leadership as the church grows in size, in faith and in our experience of God. It's an exciting time!



Section 9 Communications

This subject was aimed at local communication within the community.

90% of the community said that fast broadband was important to them and up to the time of writing the village has very limited broadband speed and very low speeds at peak times.

There are many home based businesses in the village and good broadband communication is essential to them.

BT has stated that the village will have 20Mb speeds by 31st August 2012. This date is awaited with anticipation.

The majority of people were not concerned over existing radio masts.

The Village web site beltonandbrowston.com is used by just over 50% of people and with only 10% contributing information to it. 20% said they thought it could be improved if more people came forward with suggestions then this would be possible.

Village Voice Magazine

Background :

The Village Voice is a Community Magazine run by volunteers for the good of the Village and its residents. It is now in its 13th year of publishing and the future is looking reasonable good subject to outside economic pressures and influences.

In the recent past, times have been difficult but due to lots of hard work and perseverance by the people who run and publish the Magazine it is continuing to serve the Village.

There are four people that run the Magazine on a purely voluntary basis plus help from two members of the community. This makes up the Village Voice Board.

Funding:

The Magazine is funded purely by advertising revenue, which explains the reason that it is so subject to outside 'Market Forces'.

Surplus monies received from advertising are ALL ploughed back into the Village in the form of grants to local clubs and organizations.

Delivery:

A network of volunteers in addition to those that publish it undertakes the delivery of the magazine on a Monthly basis.

Village Plan survey results:

The results of the Survey undertaken for the Village Plan completed in November 2010 were as follows:-

Approximately **98%** indicated that they read the Magazine

Approximately **98%** indicated that they knew of the magazine.

A fairly large proportion indicated that they had contributed to the Magazine (**33%**)

As can be seen these results are encouraging and indicate that the Magazine is of interest to a large proportion of villagers

Future:

The future of the Magazine like so many community based projects lies entirely in the hands of those that run it & the support that it receives within the community.

However it does require 'New blood' to come forward to ensure the continuity of the publication. At present the future is looking reasonably bright but it is subject to outside forces and volunteer staffing/delivery.

The survey results indicate that the magazine is an integral part of the fabric of our Village & very much valued, therefore deserves special effort to ensure that it survives into the future.

Conclusion:

Every effort should be made through the publicity network within the village to encourage people to come forward to take up the baton & retain, evolve & improve an already rich publication so that future generations can benefit from this valuable recourse.

Listed below are some examples of Village Activities & Achievements that have been published in the Village Voice in the last 12 months:

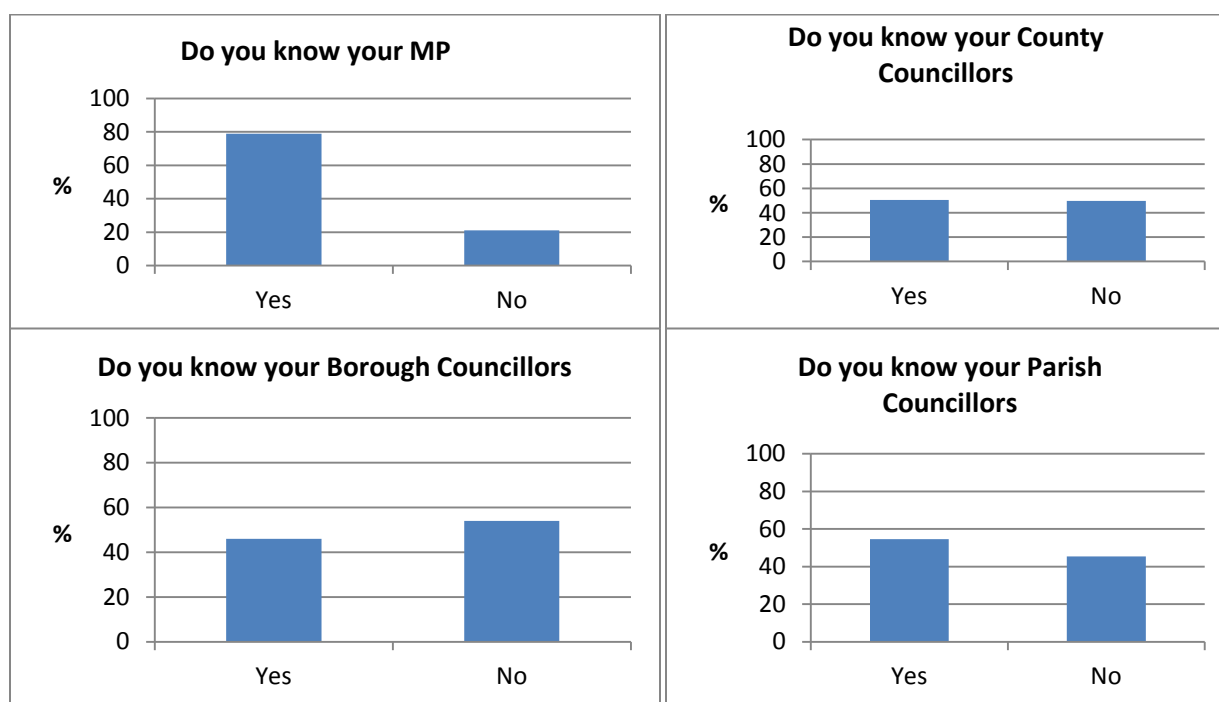
1. Formation of the Village Plan committee
2. Landmark of the raising of £10,000 by the friends of JGI since 2006 (the latest figure is now £13,000)
3. Keeping the Village informed of the progress of the New road playing field pavilion.
4. Announcement & arrival of our new Vicar Rosie Bunn.
5. 125th anniversary of the JGI
6. Annual Belton & Lothingland craft show.
7. Parish meeting news & information.
8. Litter pick & anti litter campaign
9. Transformation of all Saints church. (New heating/floor etc)
10. Formation of the Community car scheme.
11. The planting of 5000 daffodil bulbs around the village for the Queen's Jubilee.
12. The Grand opening of the Labyrinth at Moorlands School (designed by the Pupils of the school)

Section 10 The Parish Council: Other Councillors:

Most of the powers held by Parish Councils are discretionary, so they *may* do something rather than they *must* do something. Parish Councils have the right to ask for money from the Borough Council. This is known as the parish precept and is collected by the council tax for the area.

At present Belton and Browston have a full compliment of thirteen Parish Councillors .Each year a chairman is chosen from among their number, also a vice chair. There is also a paid clerk, who is the Proper Officer and the Responsible Finance Officer of the council. He/she guides and advises the council on matters of law and procedure but does not have the right to vote. The finances of The Parish Council are audited both internally and externally.

Among the responsibilities that the council can have are allotments, bus shelters, some village maintenance, playing fields, social inclusion, youth provision, aspects relating to roads & transport, conservation and community life. The Parish Council is not responsible for planning decisions. However, Great Yarmouth Borough Council is obliged to seek our views on relevant matters concerning the villages.



Although the Parish Council has a page in each month of the Village Voice this does not seem to solve the problem of informing people who they are. Very few people, less than 8% from parish attend a Parish Meeting 90% were aware of the Parish meetings. 75% of people said they were aware that there was a Parish Office but over 90% said they would not use it. Involvement of all Parish Councilors in some social events especially coffee mornings could possibly help to solve some of the above problems.

50% of those asked said they were aware of how council money is spent and also satisfied with how it was spent.

Section 11 Conservation within the Village



Belton Fen



Bland Corner



Belton Common

Belton and Browston sit on the edge of the Norfolk Broads and touch the local marshes to the River Yare and Waveney. As with the adjoining village of Burgh Castle there is a common marsh and river section. With this proximity to the marsh there are areas in Belton that are a combination of wetland and wooded areas.

With the existence of both Caldecott Hall and Browston Hall golf clubs the area has large open spaces where wildlife can exist. Within the village of Belton there are three specific areas of wildlife one publically owned and two privately owned. Bland Corner is situated at the junction of New Road and Stepshort and is a small wooded and wetland area maintained by the Parish Council open to the public. It is under used and the wildlife gains from this. Within this area lie the remains of an old war time gun emplacement.

The privately owned areas are Belton Common and Belton Fen. The Common is an area running from the bottom of Sandy Lane to Fritton Woods bounded on one side by the Wild Duck Holiday Home Park and on the other side Caldecott Golf range. The common is a mixture of open sandy area, wooded area, heather and gorse. Much wild life is present on the common especially adders during the summer. At present the public have free access to the common.

The Fen, an area of approximately 2 hectares, in St Johns Road was purchased by Mr. Andy Jenner in 2000. The aim of which was to make the area a natural wildlife haven. Much hard work has taken place over the past 6 years in managing the area. A major part of this was the development of a small lake with a central island in 2007 at the east end of the area to support both fish and bird life. This has proved very successful with many birds visiting the lake including Kingfisher and white Egrets.

The area also has several streams /dykes passing through and these have been cleared and are now maintained. The new wooded area aptly named "Jubilee Wood" (it being the Queens Jubilee Year) has had much hard work done to manage it and this year has seen a scrub area cleared and 250 new saplings planted.

In 2011 a small flock of sheep was acquired to graze the grass areas and act as a natural cutter. These have proved very successful with breeding and providing a local lady with fleeces to spin and knit sweaters from them. A true local enterprise!

The New Road Sports Field backs on to farm land and again has great potential for wildlife to exist. Saplings have been planted around the perimeter of the grounds.

Section 12 The John Green Institute



The Hall (Institute) now known as the John Green Institute, has been in the village since 1886 and is our Village Hall. It was nearly lost to the village in 2005 when it was going to be sold for building land by the previous trustees. Fortunately it was bought by the late Mr. John Green who then gave it to the village on a 25 year renewable lease as long as it was required by the community. In 2007 a working party was set up to bring the hall back into use with decoration and new windows plus central heating.

The hall is now managed by a group of Trustees as a charity under the name “The John Green Charitable Trust”. In 2009 an extra meeting room was added at the rear of the hall plus a new enlarged kitchen to allow more than one function to happen at the same time and also to provide a group to organize a monthly Lunch Club.

Many varied groups and clubs meet regularly at the hall either weekly or monthly. The Hall is now the central hub of the village for the community to meet at coffee mornings or organized functions as well as clubs and societies. It is situated half way along Station Road South and in itself has no parking facilities. This does cause problems at times. The local Tavern Inn 80 metres past the hall offers free parking in their car park at the present but there is no guarantee this will always be available.

The Future

Unless the hall stops being used it will be available for the next 20 years under the present lease and there should be no reason why it would not be extended if required by future trustees. It is recommended that the Parish Council supports the Hall in whatever way they can in keeping with their other commitments in the village. It is also recommended that thoughts are given to what meeting facilities would be available to the village if this Hall did not continue to operate as a Village hall.

Section 13 Belton & Lothingland Produce & Crafts Show

The show has been running since 1991 in its current form and before that as part of the old Belton Community Council. It is a major event in Belton held usually in July and in recent years has extended to cover Burgh Castle, Fritton and St. Olaves.

There are now over 70 classes in gardening, home baking, arts and crafts, and photography plus a young peoples and children's section.

The committee (of seven) are very satisfied with the way it operates currently using both the Hall and the Green Room at the John Green Institute on a Sunday in early July.

Entries top 360 plus but there is still room for expansion in some classes and the committee is ever mindful that it must incorporate the changing needs of the community.

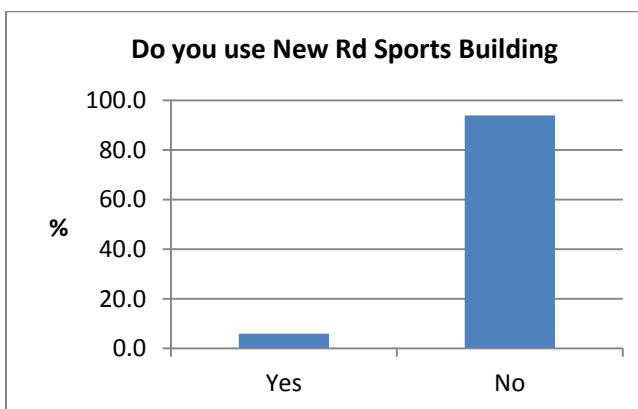
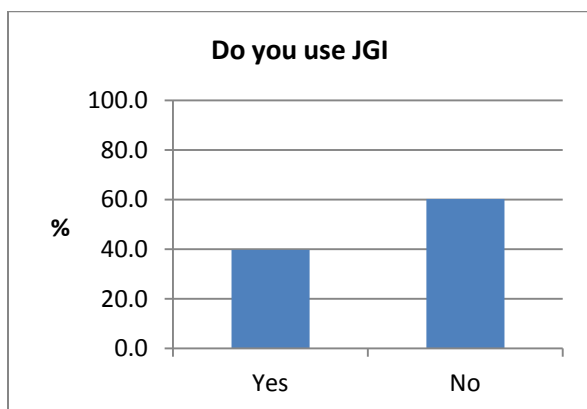
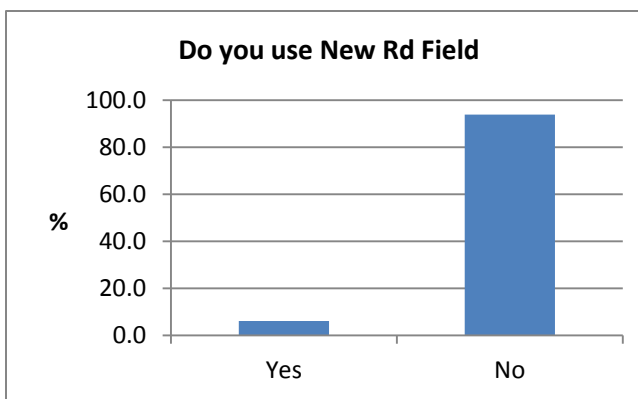
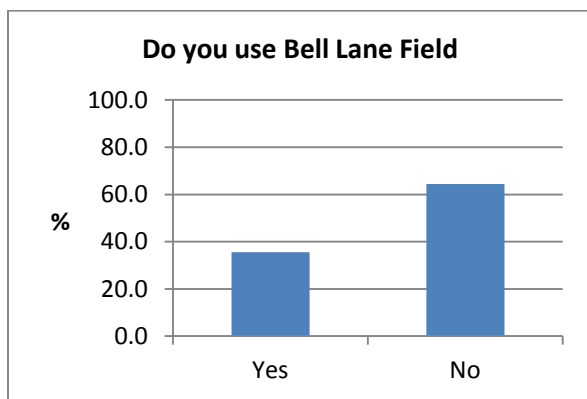


One of the aims is to encourage the children and young people to support the show with entries in their sections. Here the schools need to take a more proactive part. More adults need to be encouraged to display their talents to show the community what they can do. Belton, Browston and the surrounding villages have a wealth of talented people living in them.



The committee is anxious to receive more feedback from entrants with ideas for new classes and is always responsive to constructive criticism.

SECTION 14 LEISURE FACILITIES



From these answers one can come to conclusions of either people do not know of the facilities or are not interested in using them and what they provide.

The question could also be asked. Is the right thing being provided? Also when asked if they would help in running any club or activity again 95% said no.

From the above the overall conclusion is that no one wants any other activities in the village.

The only exception to this would be youth and young person's requirements.

We are fortunate to have two local leisure facilities close by at Caldecott Hall and Browston Hall. Both are primarily golf clubs but do offer other facilities. Browston Hall offers both indoor bowls and outdoor tennis.



Clubs and Organisations:

Bingo players are to be found on a Monday night, the camera club on a Friday and the Historical Society meet regularly over the year. The Events Committee regularly hold Quiz nights on a Friday evening and recently there has been Community Darts Matches. There is a Youth Group which meets on Thursday evenings at The Compass Centre. There is a popular Lunch Club held monthly and Coffee mornings every Wednesday where often the P.C.S.O.'s. (Police Community Support Officers) drop in for a chat and the Parish Clerk is available for anyone to see. On the second Saturday of every month there is a very popular Coffee morning where bargains are to be had at Gloria's Bric-a-Brac stall from books to china, puzzles, children's toys and much more. Weight Watchers for interested persons meet on Wednesdays at the John Green Institute.



For the more active there are exercises and walks at the New Pavilion, on New Road. There is Line Dance for interested persons. The Bohemians Football Club and Belton adult Football Club play during the football season on The New Road Playing Field.

These are a few of the diverse clubs and groups enjoyed by all and very well supported. Lists and contact numbers are on the Village Web site beltonwithbrowston.com for those interested in joining a club or group.



SECTION 15 BELTON NEW ROAD SPORTS COMPLEX



Overview

The New Road Field is leased by G.Y.B.C. and used by the Bohemians Youth Football Club. Early in 2007 the Parish Council agreed to investigate improvements of the field by fencing and a purpose built facility incorporating Changing Rooms and a 'Pavilion'. With the loss of The Institute, (the Church Trustees having decided to sell) and the imminent closure of the Waveney School the village had lost its hall and there was nowhere available to hire for village events. In June 2007 Meetings were held with the Football Foundation, WREN, GYBC and the Bohemians Youth Football Club. Following these meetings the Parish Council decided to proceed.

In June 2007 and January 2008 'Village Voice' carried articles outlining the proposed building, its uses and probable partnership agreements. A public meeting was held on July 30th 2008 and general support was given to the project. In August a questionnaire was sent to all active organizations and groups within the Parish, the majority giving support to the proposal and in February 2009 a second Public Meeting was held and voted overwhelmingly for a Pavilion at the New Road Field to be built. The majority of the funding came from the Football Foundation. However to receive this funding the Parish Council had to meet certain criteria laid down by the Foundation.

- a) Any loan would require the main usage to be in respect of Child and Youth Teams.
- b) The Parish Council's partner would need to hold the Football Foundation Charter Standard. Dog walking would not be permitted on site because of health and safety. The Bohemians Youth Football Club currently holds the Chartered Standard Award and meets all the criteria laid down by the Football Foundation.
- c) The Agreement would run for a period of thirty (30) years.
- d) Bohemians Youth F.C. has a five year contract with the Parish Council ending in 2014. At that time the contract can be renegotiated and could be awarded to an alternative club provided they also met all the Football Foundations criteria.

Report by Chairman: The New Road Management Committee.

This following is an attempt to project the development of the New Road Centre over the next ten years. Since the completion of the site, Parish Council now has an employed caretaker who not

only ensures the building is kept clean and fit for purpose but also carries out duties concerning health & safety. He informs council of changes to the health and safety law. Boundary fences are maintained as part of the lease agreement with G.Y.B.C. Better quality fencing that should, under normal condition, last much longer is gradually replacing the fencing currently in place thus providing best value for money. All required signage inside and outside the building is current and up to date.

Several areas within the boundary fences have been planted with daffodil bulbs and saplings to help with the general appearance of the complex. The possibility of flood lighting of at least one football pitch has been considered but it has been decided that it is not a requirement for the foreseeable future. However funding is now secured to illuminate the car park area and is expected to be installed in 2012.

We may also look at installing solar panels at New Road. Several options are available which may be considered further by the management committee.

Management is in the process of improving the field maintenance programme, to ensure that the playing surfaces improve year on year. This is in conjunction with the B.Y.F.C. and on advice from the football foundation. We have successfully negotiated with the B.Y.F.C. to allow other football teams to make use of New Road field. As part of this agreement all bookings are made through the Bohemiens and secured by the bookings clerk.

In 2012 the management committee is planning to create a grass running track on the run out section of the field to promote exercise and healthy living within a secure area. We are currently looking into how we can service this facility and also what impact it might have on the run out surface.

As Parish Council is aware there is a need to extend the present building to accommodate other indoor activities such as short mat bowls and fitness gym. The latter would fit nicely with the present led walks fitness programme. We have an estimated price of £45,000.00 to fund the project, which in the present financial situation would probably make it unwise to pursue at this time.

Suggestions as part of the ten year plan for New Road, is to construct a swimming complex which would incorporate an indoor sports area of a more practical size than the present function room and more sport orientated. This can be achieved by getting Belton and neighbouring villages to be actively involved.

We hear so much about the big society from both central and local government and as a Parish Council we too should be in the process. This is the opportunity for Belton, Browston, Burgh Castle, Fritton and St Olaves to work together for the benefit of both the young and older residents of all our villages. It could be funded:-

1. By approaching companies and various funding agencies.
2. Weekly donations of £1.00 from willing residents.
3. Requesting grants from G.Y.B.C. and County Council.
4. Possible change of use of the Bell Lane Charity.
5. Monies raised from fetes, draw tickets etc. etc.

The real key to the project will be voluntary labour. All local building trades persons will be invited to offer their services free of charge. This can be extended to retired persons who feel they are fit and able to work and any person who is prepared to do general labouring. This is a very ambitious but viable project if we are prepared to make the effort and all villages involved work together for the benefit of each other.

As chairman of The New Road Pavilion I believe this proposal will be accepted by a great many of our residents, especially the younger members of our community and most likely the Schools will also give us their backing. Changes to the planning laws will necessitate further development not

only within our villages but those of our near neighbours then a project like this would be a valuable asset to the infrastructure for a growing population.

The above are the development plans for the New Road Complex over the next ten years some of which have already taken place and other ideas not mentioned in this report will be added over the coming years.

The main objective is to deliver a healthier, happier and more fulfilling life style for all the residents of Belton & Browston.

SECTION 16 JUNIOR QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS

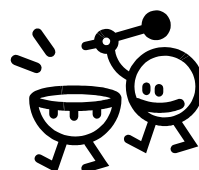
Of the questionnaires collected 87% were completed by children living in Belton and attending Moorlands Primary School. Of these 46% were age 8 years, 26% aged 9, 51% aged 10 and 2% aged 11.

The children were involved in a wide range of activities out of school hours, some social such as seeing friends or playing football whilst other were solitary activities like computers etc.

About 48% of the children travelled to clubs outside the village, mainly to Great Yarmouth or Gorleston but some as far as Norwich. Football was the most common activity but many others, mainly sport orientated, were mentioned.

Within the village 40% of the children attended clubs there were youngsters attending 'out of school hours'

Results show that over half of the children did not know of the JGI or the New Road Pavilion but those who did felt that the facilities were poor. However more children (85%+) knew of Bell Lane



offered within school but clubs on offer elsewhere.

know of the JGI or the New Road Pavilion but felt the facilities there were poor.

Obviously this could have bearing on future planning for the site and the activities to be sited there.

Over half of the children didn't like the speeding traffic within the village. This could be addressed in consultation with the children as to the use of active speed signs or even the establishment of a community speed watch scheme.

The other major safety issue for the children was their perception of teenagers and the 'druggies', 'nasty people' and alcoholics within the village. They felt the need for a greater police presence and age related playing areas.

This could be addressed with help from the head- teacher, by more visits to the school for assemblies by the PCSO's. Also the High Schools could become involved with the youngsters and encourage visits for reading clubs, play clubs etc by teenagers to attempt to establish a better understanding of each age groups needs.

Ideas for improving the village were vast, ranging from a pond, statues, toilet facilities on the field to a BMX site and Roller Skating. By far the most asked for facility was an area for skateboarding which is probably feasible with the aid of grants etc.

SECTION 17 YOUTH QUESTIONNAIRE

Stats:- 59% of the forms were filled in by males. 92% returned were filled in by young people still attending school or college and of these some 64% were aged 14 years or under. Most spare time was spent either seeing friends or listening to music although a third of the young people played football. Over 60% walked or cycled but there was a negligible interest in other sports. Interestingly very few (17%) spent time playing computer type activities.

The majority (71%) of the youth travelled outside of Belton for activities, most going to Great Yarmouth or Gorleston though Lowestoft and Norwich were mentioned. They received lifts from parents and friends though a quarter of them went by bicycle. They left Belton for mainly sport activities.

As regards village facilities (i.e. JGI, New Road, Youth Village and Bell Lane) 66% didn't know about the Youth Village or recognize it as such. Future enterprise could be the improvement of the site and a grand advertised opening. 40% rated the facilities on Bell Lane as poor. There were many ideas as to how the young people could use them more and by far the most popular were improved facilities on the Bell Lane Site. If grants became available then the youth could be targeted as to what they felt was needed there but as with the younger children, a skateboard area would be appreciated. They also felt that not enough advertising of things available was done and the Village Voice could be used for this.

The Future

Planning and Housing:

Building as appropriate e.g. Starter homes etc. Additional land suitable for Sport & Recreation: More land for Allotments. Any land of interest to P/Council.

Public Transport: Work with the bus company to keep/improve services.

Health Care and Services in Villages:

To retain long established and improve general medical facilities and to help facilitate a new modern Medical Health Centre capable of dealing with the majority of villagers, to include a Dentist, Chiropodist and Pharmacy.

Communication: Greater use of website and Village Voice.

Parish Council Interaction:

- 1) Relevant Portfolio holders or Committees to maintain a greater profile, by reporting to council, actions taken by them or others so that any problems can be sorted out quickly.
- 2) More collective attention by P/Councillors and Parishioners on improvements and loss of any services.
- 3) Value for money of our employees to justify salaries, wages etc.
- 4) Greater forward planning with regards to finance (Especially with regards to the New Road Sports and Leisure Complex)
- 5) Seeking and applying for any available grants or money from outside resource for Parish Council.

Village Environment:

More garden interest all round with tree planting/flower beds as appropriate.

Improvements to Bell Lane Playing Field:

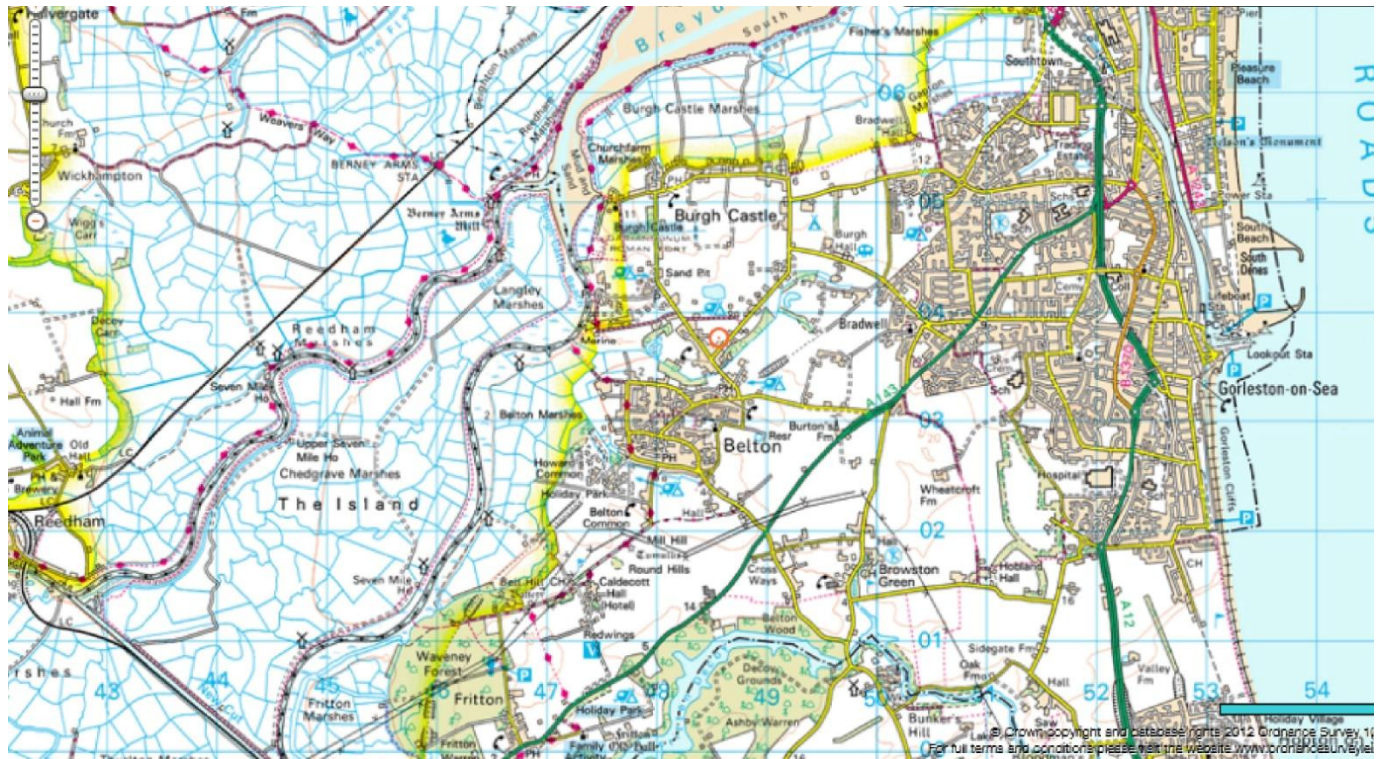
Improve Bell Lane Field with Picnic Benches, Flower Beds, Play Equipment Street Furniture. Make it more of a Park.

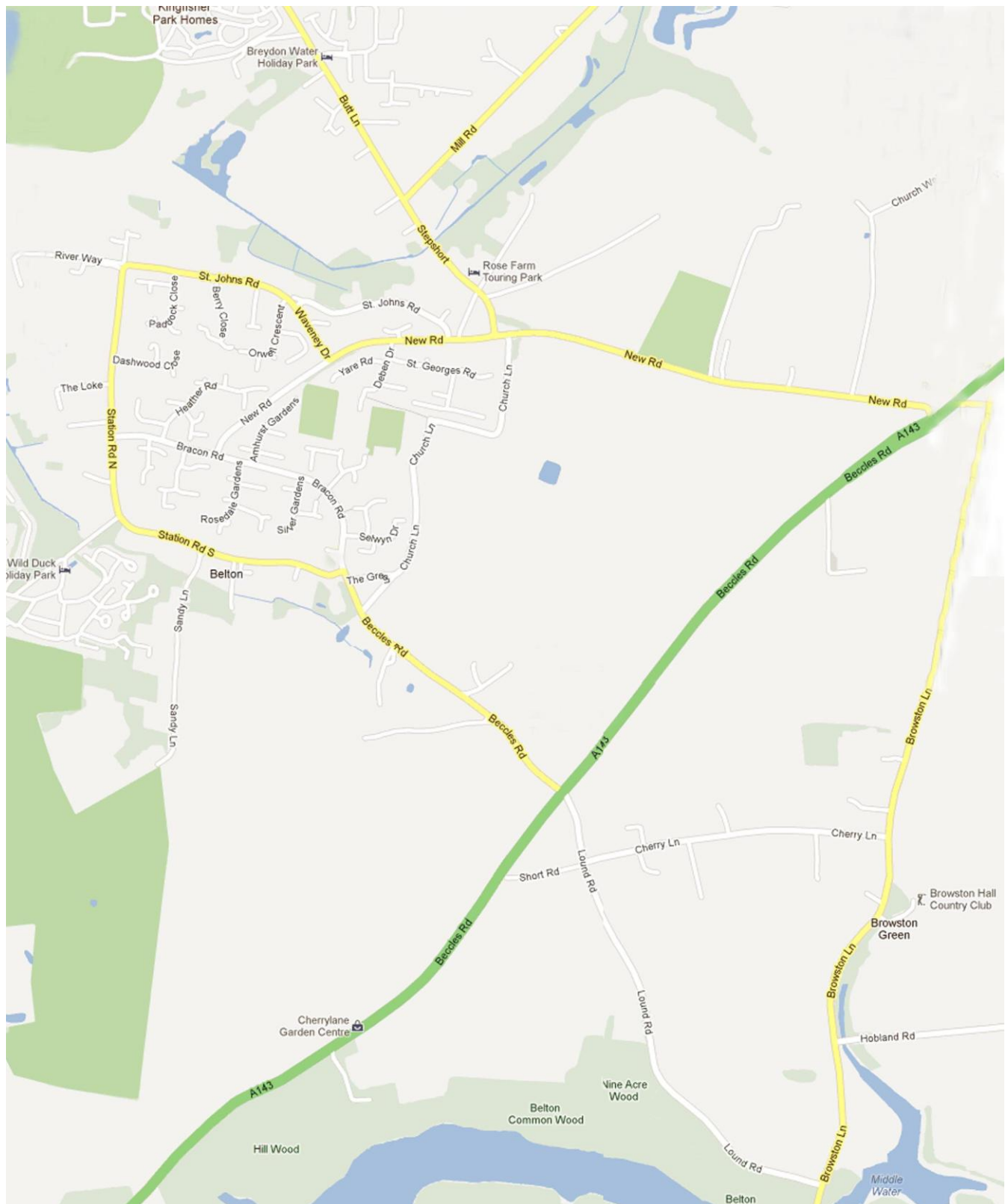
Young People

Support an established Youth Group with more facilities.
Skate Board Park and BMX track location and facilities.

Additional Village Requirements.

- 1) To provide footpaths along Beccles Rd./St John's Rd/ and Sandy Lane.
- 2) Traffic Control (Speed Signs)
- 3) CCTV in Public Areas.
- 4) More rubbish and dog bins in village.





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