

MILBORNE PORT SURVEYS

THANK YOU to everyone who returned the shopping & services questionnaire that was delivered earlier this year to all households in Milborne Port and surrounding hamlets which use shops and services in Milborne Port. A total of approx. 1200 surveys were delivered by members of the Parish Council and 398 responses were received, giving a “good” response rate of 33%.

Here is a summary of the results from the responses received:

- **Where do you live?**

Milborne Port	95.00%
Milborne Wick	1.25%
Purse Caundle	1.25%
Stowell	2.00%
Elsewhere	0.50%

- **Where do you work?**

Retired	44%
Milborne Port	16%
Sherborne	11%
Yeovil	8%
Wincanton	3%
Templecombe	2%
Others	16% (29 different locations)

- **How do you travel there?**

Car	66%
Walk	19%
Cycle	6%
Bus	5%
Other	4%

- **Where do you do your main shopping?**

Sherborne Supermarkets	41%
Yeovil Supermarkets	18%
Milborne Port	16%
Other shops in Sherborne	9%
Wincanton	8%
Gillingham	4%
Charlton Horethorne	2%
Other	2% (7 different locations)

- **Do you shop in Milborne Port?**

Yes	86%	No	14%
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- **If not, could you give your reasons?**

Lack of shops/shops not adequate for needs	75%
Lack of parking	10%
Too far from home to carry shopping	5%
More convenient to shop at supermarket	4%
Not competitive	4%
Other	2%

- **How do you travel to shop in Milborne Port?**

Walk	65%
Car	30%
Cycle	4%
Other	1%

- **What would make you more likely to shop in Milborne Port (in priority order)**

No. 1 priority :

Better range of products	38%
More choice of shops	41%
Less heavy traffic	10%
Better parking	11%

- **What kind of shops are most needed? (in priority order)**

No.1 priority:

Convenience Store/small s/market	44%
Fruit & Veg shop	26%
Bakers	25%
Fishmongers	5%

Of “other” shops listed, 39% would like a DIY/Hardware store, 18% would like a bank, 9% would like a delicatessen and 5% a haberdashery

- **Where should these shops go?**

Cavanna Homes site	43%
High Street	39%
North Street area	17%
Other	1%

- **With the recent loss of commercial sites in the centre of the village, do you think an area should be allocated for commercial use elsewhere in Milborne Port?**

Yes	68%
No	27%
Don't know	4%

The shopping survey was followed by a business survey distributed to all known businesses in the village. 84 questionnaires were delivered from which 19 responses were received. A business event was also held in the Village Hall's Camelot Room.

A summary of the results follows:

- **How long has your business been located in Milborne Port?**

Over 10 yrs - 53% 5-10 yrs – 26% 2-5 yrs – 11% less than 2 yrs – 10%

- **What industry sector do you consider your business in?**

Service – 68% Manufacturing – 14% Retail 9% Other 9%

- **Where does your business mainly come from?**

Within 10 miles – 53%, Nationwide – 26%, Within 50 miles – 16%, Worldwide 5%

- 42% of respondents have a company website; the same figure has a broadband connection

- 88% would like to network more with other businesses in Milborne Port

- **What are the strengths of running your business in/from Milborne Port?**

Can work from home	37%
Close to my customers	26%
Convenient to other businesses	22%
No commuting	11%

- **What are the weaknesses?**

None	22%
Loss of facilities	11%
Distance/transport issues	11%
Not enough local customers	11%

- **If more business premises were developed in the future, which of the following would you prefer? (In priority order)**

No. 1 priority :

Shops/café/retail	61%
Light industrial units	17%
Craft/artists workshops/units	11%
Offices/office units	11%

- 63% felt their businesses can grow in their current premises
- 100% thought their businesses would still be in Milborne Port in 10 years' time
- Respondents were quite satisfied with current trade levels and premises size, very satisfied with premises location, quite satisfied with access and parking and recruitment of staff and very satisfied with the use of IT to develop their business and provision for disabled customers.

Finally, businesses were asked which three things they would change or influence to help their business - the following were listed:

- (36.36%) More small businesses, starter-units and shops, with opportunity to recruit more qualified staff; actively supported by the whole community.
- (30.3%) Improve amenities: No large container lorries in High Street; Pelican crossing on A30; Maintain ancient monument; Improve recycling; Better delivery and parking; More stable electricity supply; increase mobile phone access; Retention of post office services; More space for recreation with pets.
- (12.12%) Increase housing and business premises for purchase, with reduced rates.
- (9.09%) Improve security problems caused by unsocial behaviour.
- (6.06%) Keep necessary legislation to a minimum.
- (6.06%) Improve signage, keeping it traditional to enhance listed buildings.

The information from both surveys will now be used in preparing a Business Development Plan for Milborne Port and for supporting planning applications that match the needs found in the surveys.

MILBORNE PORT BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

In the meantime, the Parish Council would very much like to hear from anyone who would like to become involved in a Milborne Port Business Association. Please contact the clerk, Jackie Freeman, on 251268 or e-mail milborneport.pc@ukonline.co.uk to register your interest before 30th November 2005 – many thanks.
