

# **TRENDS AND CHANGES IN SERVICES AND FACILITIES**

**2006**

## **LEICESTERSHIRE & RUTLAND**

**Prepared by**

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## **Introduction**

For a number of years it has been the responsibility of the Rural Community Council (Leicestershire & Rutland) (RCC) to produce a "Rural Services Trends Report" as part of a Service Level Agreement with the Countryside Agency. This report has provided information of various services within rural communities such as health, retail, education, ICT, policing and transport. Each of the 38 RCCs across England produced similar reports, the findings of which were used in the production of the Countryside Agency report, "The State of the Countryside"

Due to changes in Government rural delivery, the RCC are no longer required to produce an annual report, however this presented an opportunity to continue to gather similar information and provide a comparative report for local use by statutory authorities and other service providers

The use of previous years findings can now be used to identify trends and changes in the availability and delivery of services at a local level.

Funding for the project was obtained through the Leicestershire Rural Partnership and The Leicestershire Economic Partnership for the years 2006 and 2007.

## **Methodology**

A questionnaire was sent to Parish Clerks of 184 Parish Councils across Leicestershire and Rutland. A copy of the questionnaire is attached as appendix a.

Responses including a completed questionnaire were received from 130 of these parishes, representing a response rate of just over 70%. This can be compared to a return rate of 162 or 88% in the previous year.

In addition to the number of responding parishes varying on an annual basis, so does the location of these settlements. With a 20 % decrease in the number of parishes responding to the survey there are likely to be villages and services represented in one year which are absent from another. This could have the effect of showing net gains or losses of services which could otherwise be attributed to the differing cast of respondents.

## **Chapter 1            Retail outlets and services**

### **1            Context**

- 1.1 At the beginning of the year there remained an optimism regarding the future of rural post offices and in many cases the village shop attached and dependant on Post Office revenues. Post Office Ltd have met their obligations of trying to avoid any rural closures but have found it difficult to source new sub-postmasters to take on businesses threatened by closure due to retirements or sale. Changes were made on how Post Office Ltd managed the rural network through their Rural Transfer Officers which has resulted in a less effective relationship with local partners, including the Leicestershire County (LCC) and the Rural Community Council (Leicestershire & Rutland) (RCC)
- 1.2 In mid year it became apparent that a number of significant changes were likely to be proposed which would again threaten the sustainability and viability of the rural network. Whilst car tax facilities were to remain with designated offices, the DVLA marketed heavily the ability to buy on-line and sub-postmasters reported a drop in revenues and demand. The Television Licensing Authorities removed the TV licence from the post office portfolio, preferring other methods of collecting payment and issuing licences. In both of the above cases it is not simply the loss of revenue that affects the post office. The loss of footfall and the related incidental purchases have hit the businesses hardest. Sub post offices are encouraged to offer a wide selection of services and goods for sales which will appeal to occasional users. Without these occasional users, selections are often reduced to more safer and reliable lines.
- 1.3 The debate around the Post Office Card account has raged throughout the year with no final outcome. Proposals are to axe the facility, again further reducing the appeal and offering of rural offices.
- 1.4 The largest threat however remains the uncertainty of the £150 million subsidy that is required to support the rural network. A review of how much subsidy is available and how it will be allocated is on-going through a consultation with the Department of Trade and Industry. A likely reduction in the

subsidy will result in rural and urban closures and it remains unclear how these will be selected and justified.

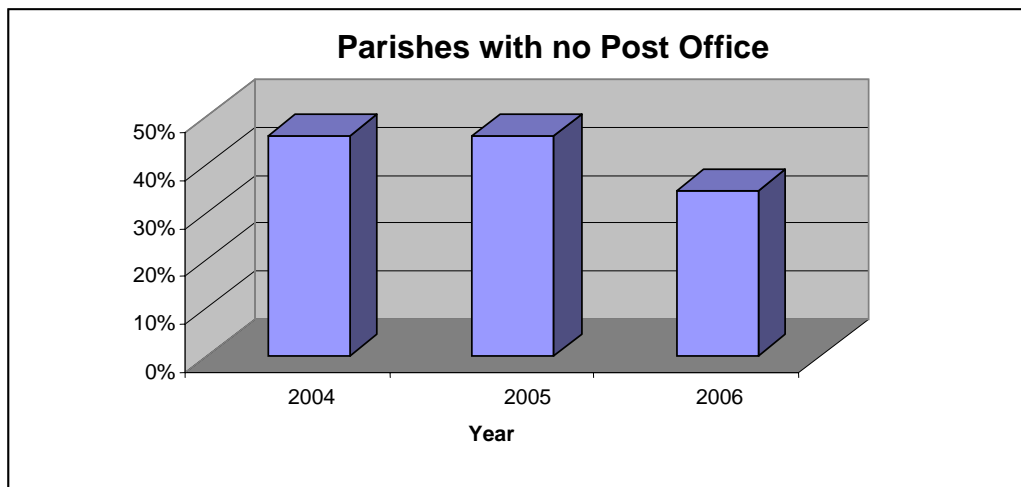
- 1.5 Over 165 shops and post offices throughout the sub region continue to benefit from the associate membership of the RCC to the Rural Shops Alliance (RSA). During its first year of independence from ViRSA, the Alliance continues to represent small retailers at government level, challenging and advising on legislative changes.
- 1.6 Supermarkets continue to have a negative impact on the ability of rural retailers to remain viable. Home delivery services now mean that shoppers do not even have to live within a reasonable distance of a supermarket to benefit from its wide ranges and very competitive pricing. This is welcomed by those who have access to internet shopping and those with busy lives with no time for shopping, however the effect is felt by those relying on local service provision.
- 1.7 Farm shops have increased in number and offering throughout the year. Some are the new initiatives of diversifying farmers' whilst others have simply expanded and improved, becoming more recognisable as retail outlets. Some parishes, especially those who previously had no food retailers, have benefited from this and we have therefore seen a reduction in the amount of villages reporting having no food retailers.
- 1.8 Farmers markets continue to grow in popularity, number and frequency. Some have been developed under the umbrella of Leicestershire Food Links whilst others remain independent.

## **2 Service Delivery**

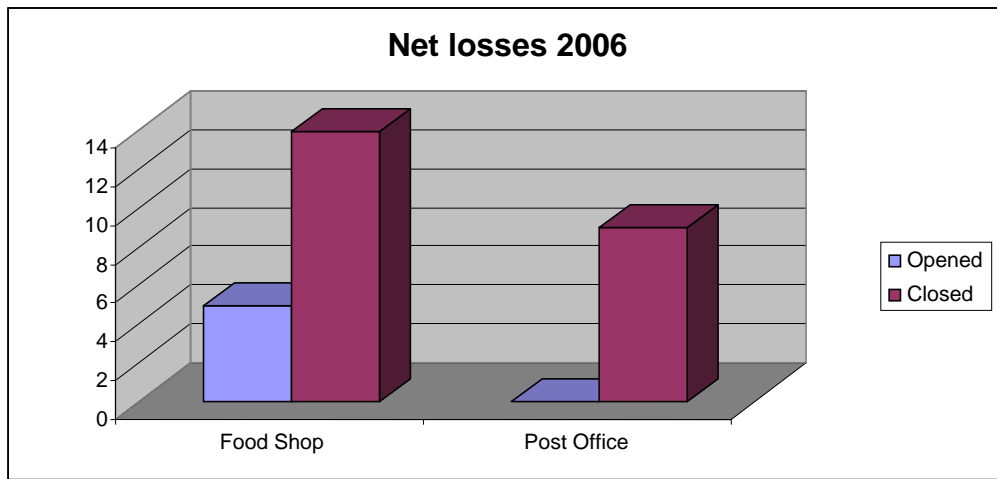
- 2.1 Parish Councils were asked to report on the range of retailers currently operating in their parish.
- 2.2 Throughout the two counties of the sub-region 35.9% report having no food shop within the parish. This represents a positive picture compared to previous years, where the survey had suggested a declining trend. In 2004 51% of parishes had no food shop and in the following year this rose to over 53%



2.3 Those parishes reporting having no Post Office also declined to a little over 34%. In the last two previous years this had remained constant at 46%.



2.4 When asked to respond on how many services had opened or closed during the last twelve months there appears to be a notable net loss as shown below.



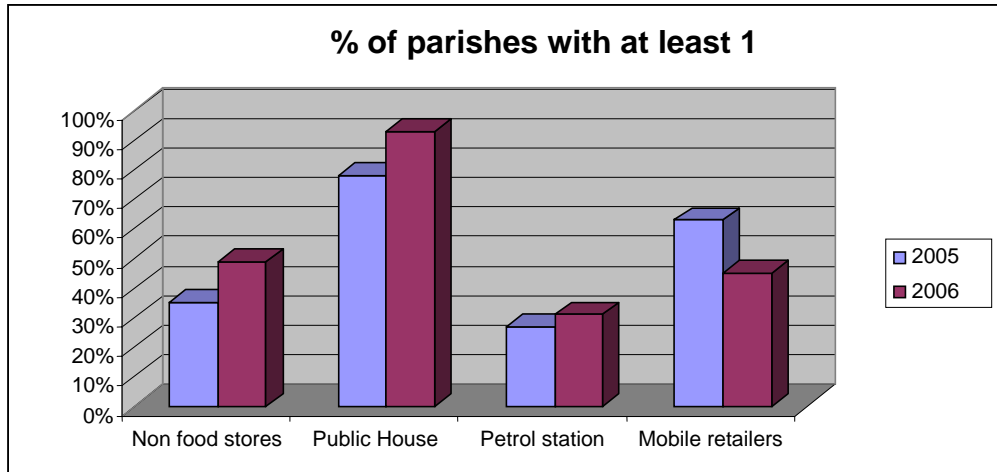
2.5 During 2005/06 there has been a net loss of 9 food shops across the sub region compared to no net losses in 2005 and 4 in 2004.

2.6 Due to 3 new openings in 2005 the net loss of post offices was reduced from 8 offices to a single loss. However 2006 saw the closure of 9 post offices without a single new opening. Over three years this shows the reported loss of 18 specialist businesses.

2.7 Looking at a broader range of retail services show a mixed picture of openings and closures. Whilst 7 non food outlets have opened during the last twelve months the same amount have closed in other parishes. Two low points are losses in both local pubs and petrol stations. 4 pubs have closed with only a single new business starting up by reopening a local.

2.8 7 petrol stations closed in 2005 and this has been followed by the loss of a further 4 in 2006. Around 21% of parishes now have local source of fuel compared to around 27% two years ago. Fuel prices continue to be between 5 and 10 pence higher than in urban outlets, often topping the £1/litre barrier during the year. This reflects the costs of local deliver and the problems of economy of scale and competition faced by these small businesses

2.9 The percentages of reporting parishes which have at least one of the above retailers has however increased as shown in the chart below. An exception to this trend is with regard to mobile retailers where we have seen a small decrease in the number of parishes reporting that they have regular visits



2.10 There was better news for those in the catering trade and those wishing to dine out. 3 new restaurants were reported as opening with no closures and 5 new takeaways have emerged, with 2 closures. However, over 70% of parishes report having no takeaway business. Half of those that do reported having 3 or more separate takeaway businesses.

### 3 District Data

3.1 The above information is given in order to provide an overall picture of the trends across the whole of the sub-region, consisting of Leicestershire and Rutland. To provide a more local picture, data collected through the parish survey is given below for each of the following districts (including Rutland). Note that no information is given for Oadby & Wigston as there were no respondents in that area.

Blaby  
Harborough  
Melton  
Rutland

Charnwood  
Hinckley & Bosworth  
North West Leicestershire

**Blaby**

**Total responses to survey 8**

Number of outlets	Number of respondents (% rounded)				
	0	1	2	3-5	More than 5
Food shops	0	0	0	4 (50%)	4 (50%)
Post Offices	0	7 (88%)	1 (12%)	0	0
Non-food shops	1 (12%)	0	0	1 (12%)	6 (75%)
Petrol stations	2 (25%)	3 (37%)	1(12%)	2 (25%)	0
Public Houses	0	2 (25%)	0	3(37%)	3 (37%)
Restaurants	2 (25%)	2 (25%)	1 (12%)	2 (25%)	1 (12%)
Takeaways	2 (25%)	1 (12%)	1 (12%)	4 (50%)	0
Mobile retailers	4 (50%)	3 (37%)	1 (12%)	0	0

Outlet type	Number during last 12 months	
	Opened	Closed
Foods shops	1	1
Post Offices	0	0
Non-food shops	2	0
Petrol stations	0	0
Public houses	0	1
Restaurants	0	0
Takeaways	2	0

**Charnwood**

**Total responses to survey 20**

Number of outlets	Number of respondents (% rounded)				
	0	1	2	3-5	More than 5
Food shops	6 (30%)	4 (20%)	2 (10%)	6 (30%)	2 (10%)
Post Offices	5 (25%)	15(75%)	0	0	0
Non-food shops	7 (35%)	4 (20%)	2 (10%)	3 (15%)	4 (20%)
Petrol stations	13(65%)	6 (30%)	1(5%)	0	0
Public Houses	0	7 (35%)	5 (25%)	5(25%)	3 (15%)
Restaurants	9 (45%)	5 (25%)	2(10%)	3 (15%)	1 (5%)
Takeaways	12(60%)	2 (10%)	1 (5%)	3 (15%)	2 (10%)
Mobile retailers	15(75%)	2 (10%)	2 (10%)	1 (5%)	0

Outlet type	Number during last 12 months	
	Opened	Closed
Foods shops	1	1
Post Offices	0	1
Non-food shops	1	0
Petrol stations	0	1
Public houses	0	0
Restaurants	1	0
Takeaways	1	0

**Harborough**  
Total responses to survey 31

Number of outlets	Number of respondents (% rounded)				
	0	1	2	3-5	More than 5
Food shops	15(48%)	8 (26%)	6 (19%)	1 (3%)	1 (3%)
Post Offices	15(48%)	16(52%)	0	0	0
Non-food shops	17(55%)	7 (23%)	1 (3%)	3 (9%)	3 (9%)
Petrol stations	24(77%)	6 (19%)	1(3%)	0	0
Public Houses	5 (16%)	11(35%)	11(35%)	4(13%)	0
Restaurants	17(55%)	9 (29%)	5 (16%)	0	0
Takeaways	24(77%)	4 (13%)	1 (3%)	2 (6%)	0
Mobile retailers	16(52%)	12(39%)	3 (9%)	0	0

Outlet type	Number during last 12 months	
	Opened	Closed
Foods shops	0	3
Post Offices	0	1
Non-food shops	1	1
Petrol stations	0	1
Public houses	0	2
Restaurants	0	0
Takeaways	0	0

**Hinckley & Bosworth**  
Total responses to survey 17

Number of outlets	Number of respondents (% rounded)				
	0	1	2	3-5	More than 5
Food shops	2 (12%)	8 (47%)	1 (6%)	5 (29%)	1 (6%)
Post Offices	6 (35%)	11(65%)	0	0	0
Non-food shops	6 (35%)	4 (24%)	2 (12%)	2 (12%)	3 (17%)
Petrol stations	11(65%)	6 (35%)	0	0	0
Public Houses	0	6 (35%)	3 (17%)	7 (41%)	1 (6%)
Restaurants	9 (53%)	3 (17%)	1 (6%)	3 (17%)	1 (6%)
Takeaways	8 (47%)	1 (6%)	3 (17%)	4 (24%)	1 (6%)
Mobile retailers	8 (47%)	5 (29%)	1 (6%)	3 (17%)	0

Outlet type	Number during last 12 months	
	Opened	Closed
Foods shops	1	3
Post Offices	0	3
Non-food shops	1	1
Petrol stations	0	1
Public houses	0	0
Restaurants	1	0
Takeaways	1	0

**Melton**

**Total responses to survey 20**

Number of outlets	Number of respondents (% rounded)				
	0	1	2	3-5	More than 5
<b>Food shops</b>	7 (35%)	7 (35%)	4 (20%)	2 (10%)	0
<b>Post Offices</b>	5 (25%)	15(75%)	0	0	0
<b>Non-food shops</b>	14(70%)	3 (15%)	1 (5%)	2 (10%)	0
<b>Petrol stations</b>	17(85%)	2 (10%)	1 (5%)	0	0
<b>Public Houses</b>	0	8 (40%)	7 (35%)	5 (25%)	0
<b>Restaurants</b>	14(70%)	4 (20%)	2 (10%)	0	0
<b>Takeaways</b>	18(90%)	0	2 (10%)	0	0
<b>Mobile retailers</b>	8 (40%)	4 (20%)	7 (35%)	1 (5%)	0

Outlet type	Number during last 12 months	
	Opened	Closed
<b>Foods shops</b>	1	1
<b>Post Offices</b>	0	1
<b>Non-food shops</b>	1	1
<b>Petrol stations</b>	0	0
<b>Public houses</b>	0	0
<b>Restaurants</b>	0	0
<b>Takeaways</b>	0	1

**North West Leicestershire**

**Total responses to survey 14**

Number of outlets	Number of respondents (% rounded)				
	0	1	2	3-5	More than 5
<b>Food shops</b>	3 (21%)	6 (43%)	2 (14%)	1 (7%)	2 (14%)
<b>Post Offices</b>	3 (21%)	10(72%)	1 (7%)	0	0
<b>Non-food shops</b>	5 (35%)	6 (43%)	1 (7%)	1 (7%)	1 (7%)
<b>Petrol stations</b>	8 (57%)	5 (35%)	1(7%)	0	0
<b>Public Houses</b>	0	2 (14%)	5 (35%)	4(29%)	3 (21%)
<b>Restaurants</b>	7 (50%)	3 (21%)	2 (14%)	2 (14%)	0
<b>Takeaways</b>	10(72%)	0	0	2 (14%)	2 (14%)
<b>Mobile retailers</b>	9 (64%)	3 (21%)	2 (14%)	0	0

Outlet type	Number during last 12 months	
	Opened	Closed
<b>Foods shops</b>	0	5
<b>Post Offices</b>	0	1
<b>Non-food shops</b>	1	3
<b>Petrol stations</b>	0	0
<b>Public houses</b>	0	0
<b>Restaurants</b>	1	0
<b>Takeaways</b>	1	1

Rutland

Total responses to survey 20

Number of outlets	Number of respondents (% rounded)				
	0	1	2	3-5	More than 5
<b>Food shops</b>	13(65%)	5 (25%)	1 (5%)	1 (5%)	0
<b>Post Offices</b>	10(50%)	10(50%)	0	0	0
<b>Non-food shops</b>	17(85%)	2 (10%)	1 (5%)	0	0
<b>Petrol stations</b>	15(75%)	4 (20%)	1(5%)	0	0
<b>Public Houses</b>	2 (10%)	6 (30%)	10(50%)	2(10%)	0
<b>Restaurants</b>	13(65%)	1 (5%)	6 (30%)	0	0
<b>Takeaways</b>	17(85%)	2 (10%)	1 (5%)	0	0
<b>Mobile retailers</b>	11(55%)	3 (15%)	3 (15%)	2 (10%)	1 (5%)

Outlet type	Number during last 12 months	
	Opened	Closed
<b>Foods shops</b>	1	0
<b>Post Offices</b>	0	2
<b>Non-food shops</b>	0	1
<b>Petrol stations</b>	0	1
<b>Public houses</b>	1	1
<b>Restaurants</b>	0	0
<b>Takeaways</b>	0	0

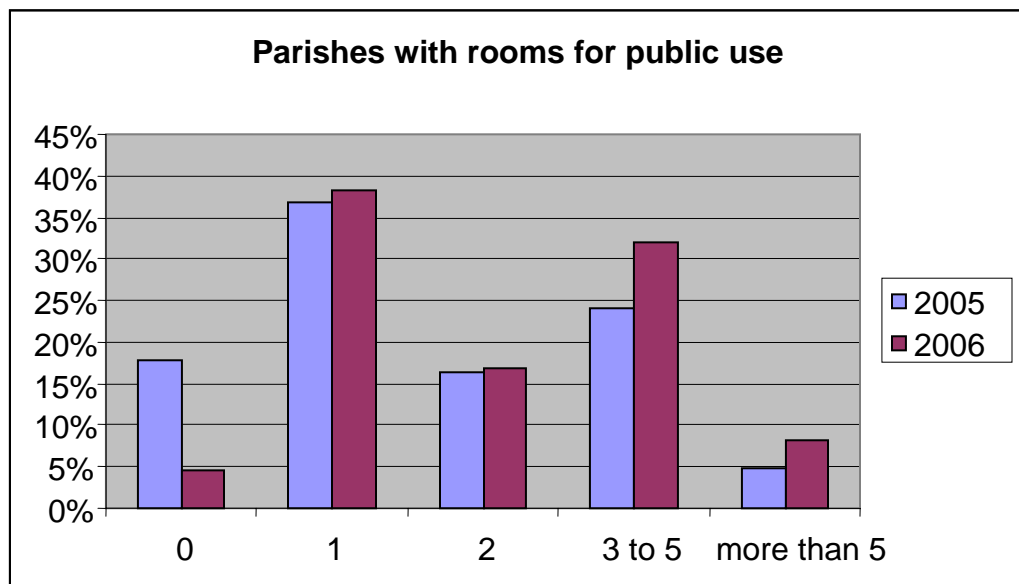
## Chapter 2            Community Facilities and Services

### 1        Context

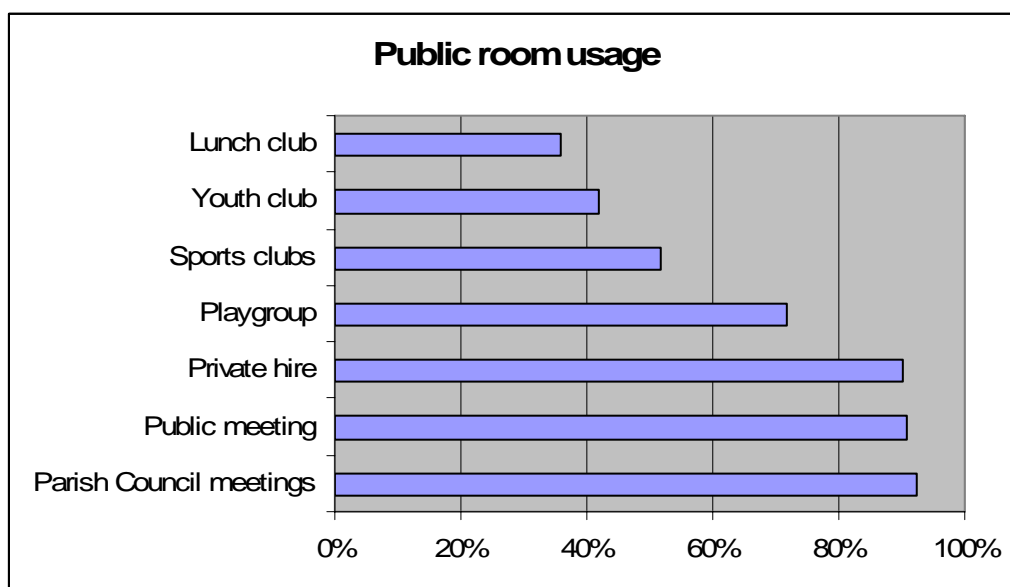
- 1.1    The provision of local facilities and local delivery of services are key elements in maintaining healthy and sustainable villages. Local delivery reduces the threat of social exclusion by ensuring facilities are available to as many within a community as possible. The need for access to transport is reduced, be it private or public, and the awareness of available services can be seen to be higher where they are delivered locally.
- 1.2    A key element remains the provision of village halls and public rooms. Whilst funding and management of these venues continue to challenge committees and Parish Councils, their usage remains buoyant, with many expanding their offering and welcoming new uses and users.
- 1.3    Many halls report that insurance costs for buildings and public liability continue to rise in line with the general cost of insurance. This coupled with legislation and training requirements continue to put pressure on limited budgets.
- 1.4    Public rooms offer the opportunity of delivering more and more services locally. This could be a Post Office or retailing business, or can be service delivered by or on behalf of statutory authorities, such as customer information for District and County councils. A key element of the potential success for this type of delivery is ensuring that fair prices are paid for the use of the facilities. A realistic income from the rental of space allows village hall committees reinvest and make for sustainable future plans. Too often, village halls are seen as a cheap option and can be expected to undertake non-viable projects on the basis that they are assisting the community. A balance needs to be struck.
- 1.5    Leisure and play facilities are another key element in local service provision. Sport and recreation for young and old continue to rate highly in what people want delivered in their own parish.

## 2 Service Delivery

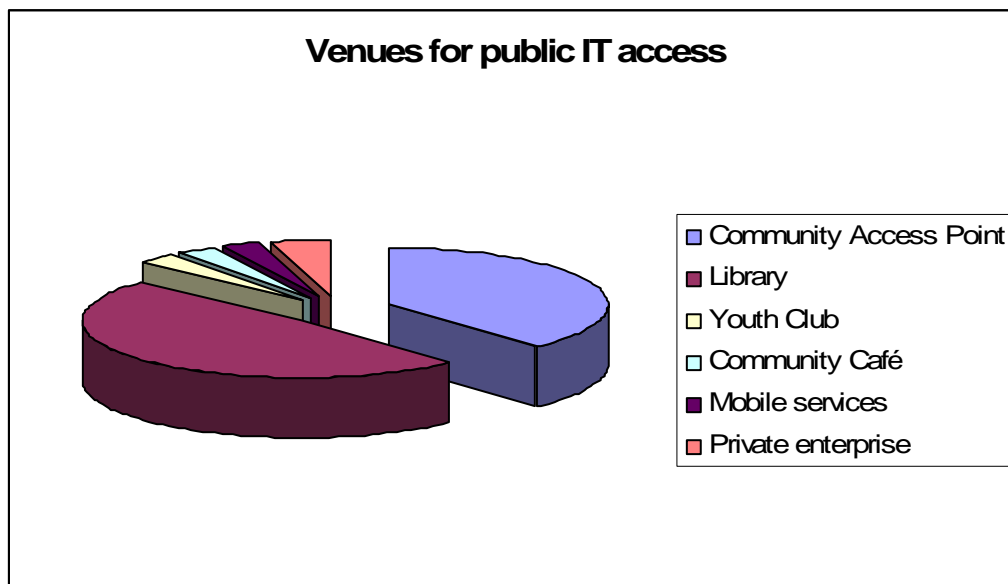
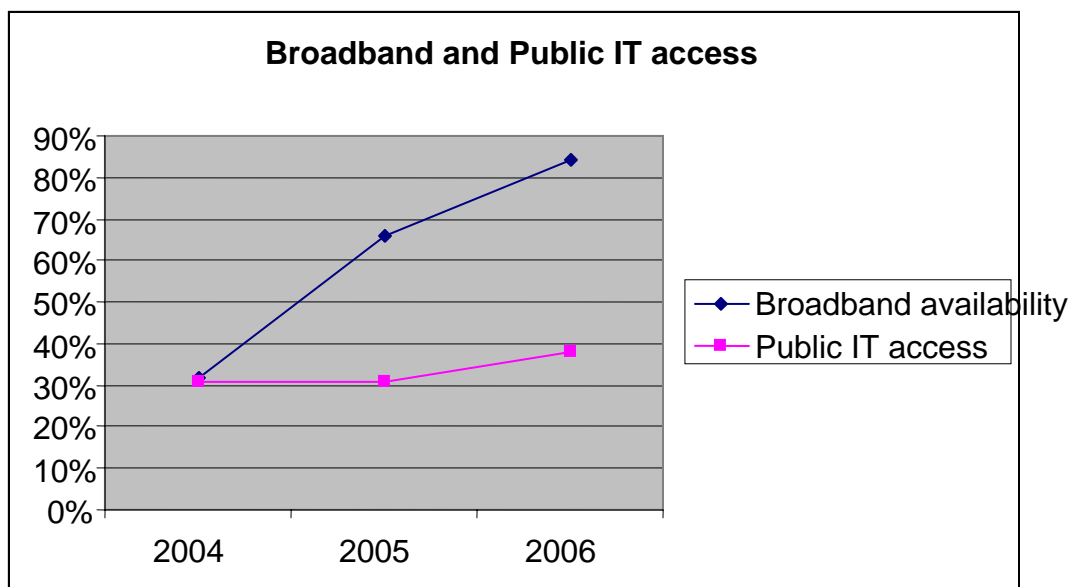
- 2.1 Responding Parishes Councils were asked to identify what facilities were available within their parishes with village halls and community meeting spaces being a key area. Over the last three years there has been a decrease in the amount of responding parishes that have no rooms or space available for public use. In 2003 this was over 20%, in 2004 this reduced to 18% and in the following year a further decrease to under 15%. In this years survey less than 5% of villages fell into this category. This suggests a positive trend of more and more community spaces being made available.
- 2.2 The majority of parishes report having at one room or space available for public use, but a growing number have more than one which may include the village hall, a church or community centre. The following chart shows these against the results of the 2005 survey and shows a positive growth in all areas.



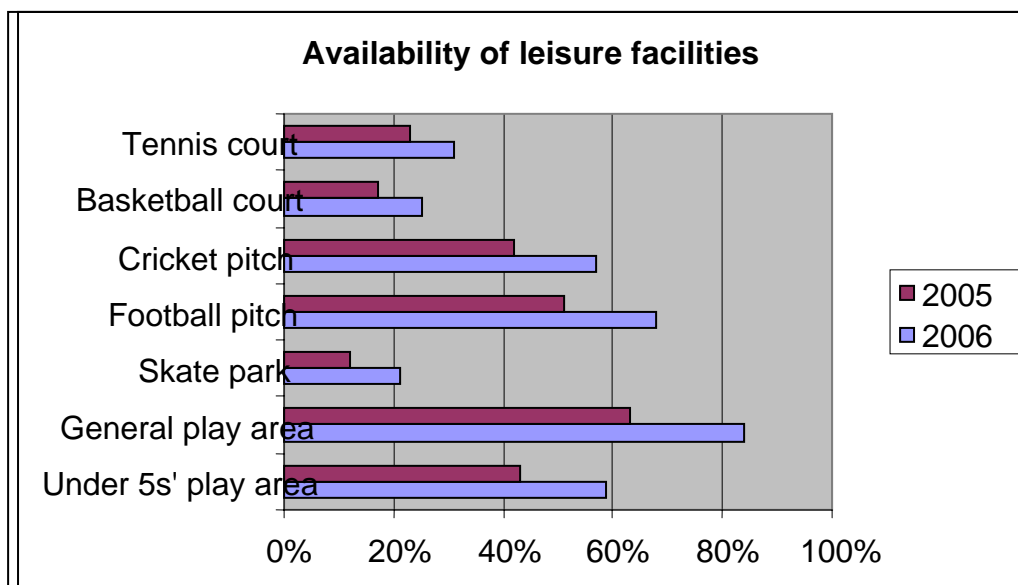
- 2.3 In previous years the survey has not asked what use was being made of the spaces. However it is useful to see what types of meeting or events are being hosted and the following chart shows the percentage of those that have at least one facility against a range of potential uses.



- 2.3 In 2004 only 32% of parishes reported having access to a reliable broadband connection. The growth the following year was almost 100% to coverage in 66% of parishes. In 2006 a further increase can be seen to 84% of parishes reporting the availability of broadband.
- 2.4 In contrast is the growth in the amount of venues available for public access to this technology. Whilst there has been an increase, with 38% of parishes having at least one venue offering public internet access, it is only an increase of 6% against the previous two years. It is not clear whether this is a result of available and suitable venues for such enterprise, or whether the current levels meet the demand.
- 2.5 The first of the following charts show the growth of both broadband and public access, the second shows the range of venue in which public access is available.



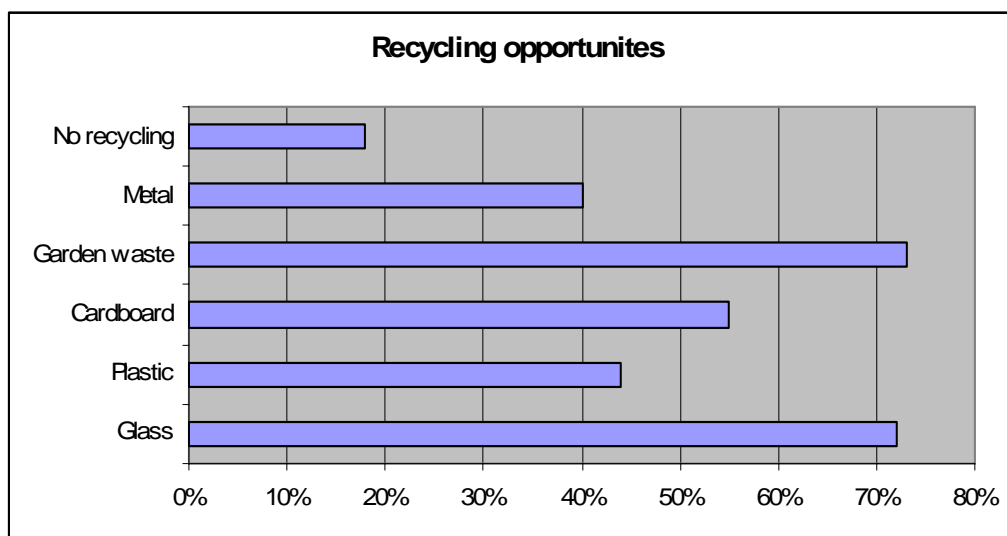
2.6 The survey records increases across a range of leisure facilities, most notably the increases in play area provision. In under 5s' play areas there has been an increase from 41% in 2005 to almost 59% this year. Even more impressive is the increase in general play area provision up to a 84% of parishes responding positively.



2.6 Additionally, respondents were asked whether they had provision for a youth club and/or a specific meeting area for young people. 41% of parishes currently have active youth clubs whilst only 26% have an area such as a youth shelter specifically allocated for the use of young people.

2.7 For the first time, the survey asked respondents to comment on recycling facilities available within the parish, both kerbside and recycling banks. A range of recyclable items was listed together with a no recycling option. It is important to note that responses came from only one person in each parish, acting for the Parish Council and therefore possible that this respondent may not have been aware of all the recycling opportunities available as they may not use them.

2.8 The picture is fairly positive with over 80% of parishes benefiting from some form of kerb side collection and with only 35% not having the facility of recycling banks. The types of waste currently being recycled are shown below



- 2.9 Many parishes continue to help themselves when it comes to sharing and distributing information. The percentage of parishes with a community newsletter or magazine has increased in the last year from under 78% to 81%
- 2.10 All responding parishes had some kind of library services, either through an actual library building or the mobile services provided by the County Council
- 2.11 The continued improvements to mobile phone coverage across the sub-region appears to have had little effect on the number of public telephone boxes available. The survey showed no change over the last 12 months with over 93% of parishes having at least one. However, this means that 9 parishes do not have a public facility.
- 2.12 Only 1 in 10 villages have a vets practise, a fact that again may cause problems for pet owners without their own transport, such as the elderly or those on lower incomes.

### 3. District Data

#### Blaby

Total responses to survey 8

<b>Rooms and halls available for public use</b>	
<b>Number available</b>	<b>Number of respondents (% rounded)</b>
0	0
1	0
2	0
3-5	7 (88%)
More than 5	1 (12%)
<b>Regular uses</b>	
Parish Council meetings	8 (100%)
Public meetings	8 (100%)
Youth club	3 (38%)
Playgroup	6 (75%)
Lunch clubs	4 (50%)
Sports clubs	6 (75%)
Private hire	8 (100%)

<b>Parish facilities</b>	
<b>Facility</b>	<b>Number of respondents confirming availability in parish</b>
Broadband	8 (100%)
Community access to IT facility	8 (100%)
Under 5s' play area	8 (100%)
General play area	8 (100%)
Skate park	3 (38%)
Football pitch	8 (100%)
Cricket pitch	7 (88%)
Basketball court	5 (63%)
Tennis courts	3 (38%)
Youth club	5 (63%)
Youth meeting area	6 (75%)
<b>Recycling</b>	
Glass – kerbside	8 (100%)
Plastic – kerbside	6 (75%)
Cardboard –kerbside	8 (100%)
Garden waste – kerbside	8 (100%)
Metal- kerbside	3 (38%)
No kerbside recycling	0
Recycling banks	8 (100%)

## Charnwood

Total responses to survey 20

<b>Rooms and halls available for public use</b>	
<b>Number available</b>	<b>Number of respondents (% rounded)</b>
0	0
1	6 (30%)
2	4 (20%)
3-5	9 (45%)
More than 5	1 (5%)
<b>Regular uses</b>	
Parish Council meetings	19 (95%)
Public meetings	19 (95%)
Youth club	8 (40%)
Playgroup	17 (85%)
Lunch clubs	10 (50%)
Sports clubs	16 (80%)
Private hire	20 (100%)

<b>Parish facilities</b>	
<b>Facility</b>	<b>Number of respondents confirming availability in parish</b>
Broadband	17 (85%)
Community access to IT facility	10 (50%)
Under 5s' play area	11 (55%)
General play area	16 (80%)
Skate park	4 (20%)
Football pitch	16 (80%)
Cricket pitch	13 (65%)
Basketball court	7 (35%)
Tennis courts	6 (30%)
Youth club	7 (35%)
Youth meeting area	4 (20%)
<b>Recycling</b>	
Glass – kerbside	19 (95%)
Plastic – kerbside	17 (85%)
Cardboard –kerbside	17 (85%)
Garden waste – kerbside	19 (95%)
Metal- kerbside	7 (35%)
No kerbside recycling	0
Recycling banks	17 (85%)

## Harborough

Total responses to survey

31

<b>Rooms and halls available for public use</b>	
<b>Number available</b>	<b>Number of respondents (% rounded)</b>
0	1 (3%)
1	18 (58%)
2	6 (19%)
3-5	5 (16%)
More than 5	1 (3%)
<b>Regular uses</b>	
Parish Council meetings	28 (90%)
Public meetings	27 (87%)
Youth club	12 (39%)
Playgroup	21 (68%)
Lunch clubs	7 (23%)
Sports clubs	14 (45%)
Private hire	28 (90%)

<b>Parish facilities</b>	
<b>Facility</b>	<b>Number of respondents confirming availability in parish</b>
Broadband	24 (77%)
Community access to IT facility	7 (23%)
Under 5s' play area	14 (45%)
General play area	23 (74%)
Skate park	4 (13%)
Football pitch	15 (48%)
Cricket pitch	13 (42%)
Basketball court	2 (6%)
Tennis courts	9 (29%)
Youth club	12 (39%)
Youth meeting area	4 (13%)
<b>Recycling</b>	
Glass – kerbside	26 (84%)
Plastic – kerbside	3 (10%)
Cardboard –kerbside	17 (55%)
Garden waste – kerbside	26 (84%)
Metal- kerbside	14 (45%)
No kerbside recycling	3 (10%)
Recycling banks	15 (48%)

**Hinckley & Bosworth**  
**Total responses to survey**

17

<b>Rooms and halls available for public use</b>	
<b>Number available</b>	<b>Number of respondents (% rounded)</b>
0	1 (6%)
1	4 (24%)
2	2 (12%)
3-5	7 (41%)
More than 5	3 (18%)
<b>Regular uses</b>	
Parish Council meetings	15 (88%)
Public meetings	16 (94%)
Youth club	9 (53%)
Playgroup	14 (82%)
Lunch clubs	7 (41%)
Sports clubs	7 (41%)
Private hire	13 (76%)

<b>Parish facilities</b>	
<b>Facility</b>	<b>Number of respondents confirming availability in parish</b>
Broadband	13 (76%)
Community access to IT facility	9 (53%)
Under 5s' play area	10 (59%)
General play area	16 (94%)
Skate park	5 (29%)
Football pitch	14 (82%)
Cricket pitch	11 (65%)
Basketball court	5 (29%)
Tennis courts	7 (41%)
Youth club	8 (47%)
Youth meeting area	6 (35%)
<b>Recycling</b>	
Glass – kerbside	16 (94%)
Plastic – kerbside	4 (24%)
Cardboard –kerbside	4 (24%)
Garden waste – kerbside	13 (76%)
Metal- kerbside	10 (59%)
No kerbside recycling	1 (6%)
Recycling banks	13 (76%)

**Melton**

Total responses to survey

20

<b>Rooms and halls available for public use</b>	
<b>Number available</b>	<b>Number of respondents (% rounded)</b>
0	1 (5%)
1	7 (35%)
2	4 (20%)
3-5	6 (30%)
More than 5	2 (10%)
<b>Regular uses</b>	
Parish Council meetings	19 (95%)
Public meetings	19 (95%)
Youth club	11 (55%)
Playgroup	12 (60%)
Lunch clubs	6 (30%)
Sports clubs	9 (45%)
Private hire	19 (95%)

<b>Parish facilities</b>	
<b>Facility</b>	<b>Number of respondents confirming availability in parish</b>
Broadband	16 (80%)
Community access to IT facility	6 (30%)
Under 5s' play area	9 (45%)
General play area	16 (80%)
Skate park	4 (20%)
Football pitch	10 (50%)
Cricket pitch	12 (60%)
Basketball court	3 (15%)
Tennis courts	4 (20%)
Youth club	12 (60%)
Youth meeting area	5 (25%)
<b>Recycling</b>	
Glass – kerbside	18 (90%)
Plastic – kerbside	17 (85%)
Cardboard –kerbside	19 (95%)
Garden waste – kerbside	18 (90%)
Metal- kerbside	13 (65%)
No kerbside recycling	0
Recycling banks	11 (55%)

**North West Leicestershire  
Total responses to survey**

**14**

<b>Rooms and halls available for public use</b>	
<b>Number available</b>	<b>Number of respondents (% rounded)</b>
0	2 (14%)
1	3 (21%)
2	4 (29%)
3-5	2 (14%)
More than 5	3 (21%)
<b>Regular uses</b>	
Parish Council meetings	12 (86%)
Public meetings	12 (86%)
Youth club	6 (43%)
Playgroup	12 (86%)
Lunch clubs	8 (57%)
Sports clubs	7 (50%)
Private hire	12 (86%)

<b>Parish facilities</b>	
<b>Facility</b>	<b>Number of respondents confirming availability in parish</b>
Broadband	12 (86%)
Community access to IT facility	7 (50%)
Under 5s' play area	11 (79%)
General play area	14 (100%)
Skate park	2 (14%)
Football pitch	13 (93%)
Cricket pitch	9 (64%)
Basketball court	5 (36%)
Tennis courts	6 (43%)
Youth club	5 (36%)
Youth meeting area	4 (29%)
<b>Recycling</b>	
Glass – kerbside	4 (29%)
Plastic – kerbside	9 (64%)
Cardboard –kerbside	5 (36%)
Garden waste – kerbside	10 (71%)
Metal- kerbside	3 (21%)
No kerbside recycling	2 (14%)
Recycling banks	8 (57%)

## Rutland

Total responses to survey 20

<b>Rooms and halls available for public use</b>	
<b>Number available</b>	<b>Number of respondents (% rounded)</b>
0	1 (5%)
1	11 (55%)
2	2 (10%)
3-5	6 (30%)
More than 5	0
<b>Regular uses</b>	
Parish Council meetings	19 (95%)
Public meetings	18 (90%)
Youth club	6 (30%)
Playgroup	12 (60%)
Lunch clubs	5 (25%)
Sports clubs	9 (45%)
Private hire	17 (85%)

<b>Parish facilities</b>	
<b>Facility</b>	<b>Number of respondents confirming availability in parish</b>
Broadband	19 (95%)
Community access to IT facility	3 (15%)
Under 5s' play area	14 (70%)
General play area	17 (85%)
Skate park	5 (25%)
Football pitch	13 (65%)
Cricket pitch	10 (50%)
Basketball court	6 (30%)
Tennis courts	6 (30%)
Youth club	5 (25%)
Youth meeting area	5 (25%)
<b>Recycling</b>	
Glass – kerbside	3 (15%)
Plastic – kerbside	1 (5%)
Cardboard –kerbside	2 (10%)
Garden waste – kerbside	2 (10%)
Metal- kerbside	2 (10%)
No kerbside recycling	17 (85%)
Recycling banks	12 (60%)

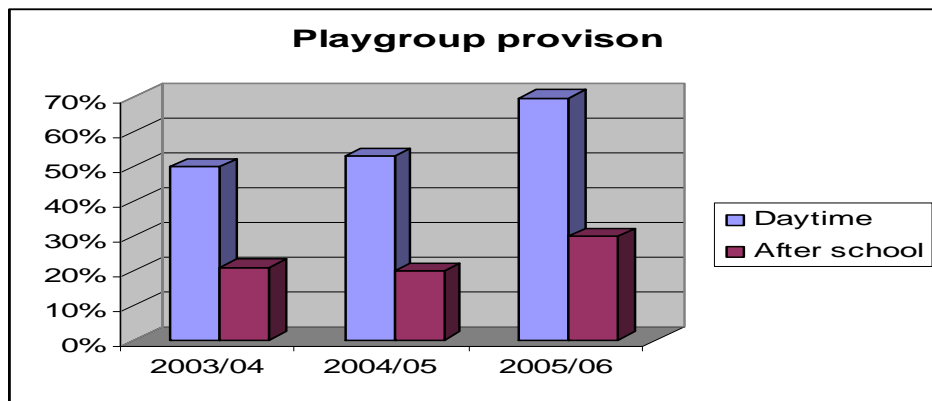
## **Chapter 3            Education and Childcare**

### **1            Context**

- 1.1 Village schools continue to be a popular choice for parents, and where housing opportunities exist, schools are an important factor in deciding where to move. However as rural homes continue inflated this may well be excluding elements of counties population from some of the best education opportunities
- 1.2 Childcare facilities to assist working parents are important in rural areas, providing support for those without private transport and those working locally. Daytime and after school playgroups are also very popular, again supporting the needs of working families.
- 1.3 Where there is a primary or secondary school within a village there is the opportunity to maximise its social and community benefits. Whilst this is happening in some areas in across the sub-region, many schools are used for no other purpose that their education role. Access to schools for the wider population can often be limited by issues such as insurance liability and caretaking. Playing fields are often fenced off and remain off limits at weekends and during the long school breaks.

### **2            Service Delivery**

- 2.1 The local provision of daytime and after school playgroups has again increased year on year. Now over 70% of parishes provide daytime playgroups compared with less than 50% two years ago.



2.2 The 2006 survey asked a number of questions regarding educational facilities for the first time and therefore no comparisons can be made to previous years. However the data shows that 68% of the responding parishes contain a primary school and fewer than 10% contain a secondary school. Almost two thirds of parishes had a dedicated bus service to the nearest schools.

2.3 Interestingly, fewer than 7% of respondents said they had a specific facility for further education; however there are further education courses run with over 28%. This suggests that many opportunities are provided in village halls and other rooms as opposed to specific designated facilities.

### 3 District Data

#### Blaby

Total responses to survey 8

Facility	Number of respondents confirming availability in parish
Daytime playgroup	8 (100%)
After school playgroup	6 (75%)
Primary school	8 (100%)
Secondary school	2 (25%)
Further education facility	1 (13%)
Further education opportunities	4 (50%)
Dedicated schools bus service	7 (88%)

**Charnwood****Total responses to survey 20**

<b>Facility</b>	<b>Number of respondents confirming availability in parish</b>
Daytime playgroup	15 (75%)
After school playgroup	7 (35%)
Primary school	15 (75%)
Secondary school	2 (10%)
Further education facility	1 (5%)
Further education opportunities	5 (25%)
Dedicated schools bus service	15 (75%)

**Harborough****Total responses to survey 31**

<b>Facility</b>	<b>Number of respondents confirming availability in parish</b>
Daytime playgroup	18 (58%)
After school playgroup	6 (19%)
Primary school	16 (52%)
Secondary school	1 (3%)
Further education facility	0
Further education opportunities	5 (16%)
Dedicated schools bus service	24 (77%)

**Hinckley & Bosworth****Total responses to survey 17**

<b>Facility</b>	<b>Number of respondents confirming availability in parish</b>
Daytime playgroup	14 (82%)
After school playgroup	4 (24%)
Primary school	14 (82%)
Secondary school	4 (24%)
Further education facility	3 (18%)
Further education opportunities	3 (18%)
Dedicated schools bus service	13 (76%)

**Melton****Total responses to survey 20**

<b>Facility</b>	<b>Number of respondents confirming availability in parish</b>
Daytime playgroup	9 (45%)
After school playgroup	16 (80%)
Primary school	13 (65%)
Secondary school	1 (5%)
Further education facility	1 (5%)
Further education opportunities	6 (30%)
Dedicated schools bus service	17 (85%)

**North West Leicestershire****Total responses to survey 14**

<b>Facility</b>	<b>Number of respondents confirming availability in parish</b>
Daytime playgroup	13 (93%)
After school playgroup	6 (43%)
Primary school	13 (93%)
Secondary school	2 (14%)
Further education facility	2 (14%)
Further education opportunities	5 (36%)
Dedicated schools bus service	11 (79%)

**Rutland****Total responses to survey 20**

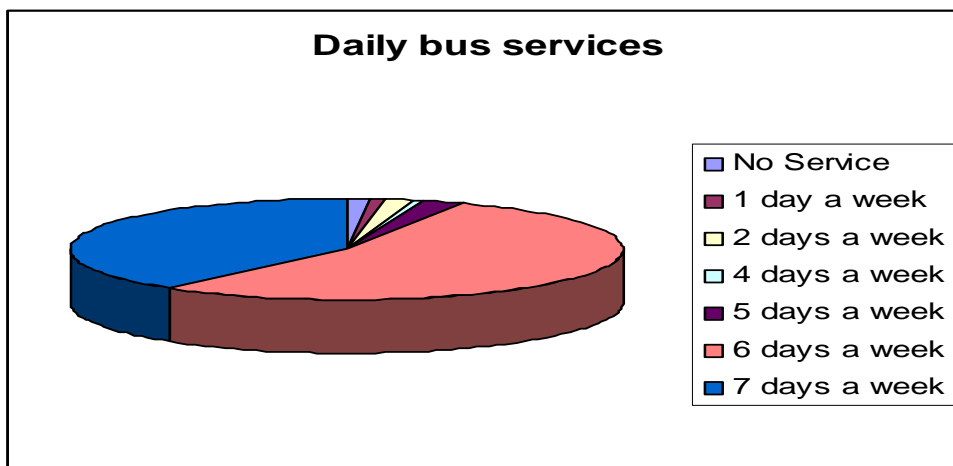
<b>Facility</b>	<b>Number of respondents confirming availability in parish</b>
Daytime playgroup	11 (55%)
After school playgroup	6 (30%)
Primary school	10 (50%)
Secondary school	1 (5%)
Further education facility	1 (5%)
Further education opportunities	6 (30%)
Dedicated schools bus service	18 (90%)

**1 Context**

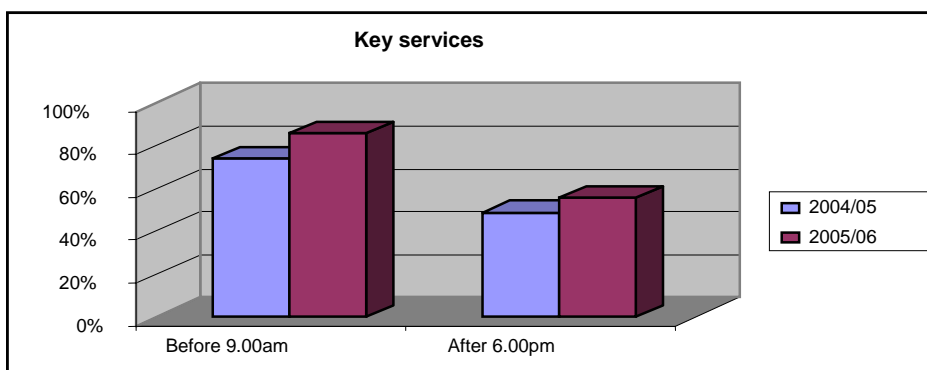
- 1.1 The reliance on private transportation in rural areas continues. Whilst there are public services available the majority of people use their own cars to get around. Those without cars remain a minority, and are mainly the elderly or those on limited incomes. It seems unlikely that for those able to afford a car would make significant use of public transport even if it were available.
- 1.2 Many living in rural areas work away from the villages, often across district and county boundaries and therefore the required levels of transport with regard to locations serviced and a sufficient timetable are unlikely to be achieved. Generally, people are reluctant to give up the independence that a car provides.
- 1.3 Often the focus of transport delivery by councils is around community transport aimed at the most vulnerable and in need elements of communities such as the elderly and those in need of health support. Whilst this is undoubtedly valuable work, the practise often restricts the uses of vehicles and limits the benefits to the community as a whole.
- 1.4 Whilst there are many community based transport schemes in operation around the sub-region there appears to be no joined up approach being adopted. Schemes often work in isolation with a defined and sometimes exclusive user group. There is has been no public mapping of this provision and potential users are often unaware of the opportunities available to them.

**2 Service Delivery**

- 2.1 Less than 2% of responding parishes have no bus service at all, this indicates an improvement over previous two years where the figure was 9% and 10% respectively. There has also been an increase in the amount of parishes serviced on a Sunday to 39%.
- 2.2 Over 90% of parishes now have a bus service serving the area on at least 6 days of the week compared to 75% in 2005.



2.3 Improvements have also been made in the services running at key times. 86% of parishes have a weekday service running before 9.00am and 56% have a weekday service after 6.00pm. These figures represent significant increases over the previous years figures of 74% and 49%.



2.4 Further increases have been made in the number of parishes having some form of community transport schemes, such as a community bus or taxi voucher system. 34% now have some provision compared to 24% two years ago.

2.5 The above information suggest improvements across a range of transport issues, however when asked whether their service had been enhanced or reduced in the last 12 months, parishes did not give such a positive picture. As in the previous year 15% said they were receiving an enhanced service whilst 36%, up from 21%, said that the service in their area had been reduced.

2.6 Rail services remain constant with just 3% of parishes having a rail service.

### 3 District Data

#### Blaby

**Total responses to survey 8**

<b>Bus Service</b>	<b>Number of respondents</b>
Provided less than 5 days a week	0
Provided 6 days a week	0
Provided 7 days a week	8 (100%)
Weekday service before 9.00am	8 (100%)
Weekday service after 6.00pm	8 (100%)
Enhanced service in last year	0
Reduced service in last year	4 (50%)
Community transport available	6 (75%)

#### Charnwood

**Total responses to survey 20**

<b>Bus Service</b>	<b>Number of respondents</b>
Provided less than 5 days a week	2 (10%)
Provided 6 days a week	7 (35%)
Provided 7 days a week	11 (55%)
Weekday service before 9.00am	17 (85%)
Weekday service after 6.00pm	13 (65%)
Enhanced service in last year	1 (5%)
Reduced service in last year	5 (25%)
Community transport available	8 (40%)

#### Harborough

**Total responses to survey 31**

<b>Bus Service</b>	<b>Number of respondents</b>
Provided less than 5 days a week	5 (16%)
Provided 6 days a week	18 (58%)
Provided 7 days a week	8 (26%)
Weekday service before 9.00am	24 (77%)
Weekday service after 6.00pm	14 (45%)
Enhanced service in last year	5 (16%)
Reduced service in last year	11 (35%)
Community transport available	11 (35%)

**Hinckley & Bosworth****Total responses to survey 17**

<b>Bus Service</b>	<b>Number of respondents</b>
Provided less than 5 days a week	1 (6%)
Provided 6 days a week	4 (24%)
Provided 7 days a week	12 (71%)
Weekday service before 9.00am	15 (88%)
Weekday service after 6.00pm	12 (71%)
Enhanced service in last year	4 (24%)
Reduced service in last year	9 (53%)
Community transport available	3 (18%)

**Melton****Total responses to survey 20**

<b>Bus Service</b>	<b>Number of respondents</b>
Provided less than 5 days a week	0
Provided 6 days a week	16 (80%)
Provided 7 days a week	4 (20%)
Weekday service before 9.00am	19 (95%)
Weekday service after 6.00pm	11 (55%)
Enhanced service in last year	4 (20%)
Reduced service in last year	5 (25%)
Community transport available	6 (30%)

**North West Leicestershire****Total responses to survey 14**

<b>Bus Service</b>	<b>Number of respondents</b>
Provided less than 5 days a week	0
Provided 6 days a week	9 (64%)
Provided 7 days a week	5 (36%)
Weekday service before 9.00am	13 (93%)
Weekday service after 6.00pm	8 (57%)
Enhanced service in last year	4 (29%)
Reduced service in last year	7 (50%)
Community transport available	6 (43%)

**Rutland****Total responses to survey****20**

<b>Bus Service</b>	<b>Number of respondents</b>
Provided less than 5 days a week	1 (5%)
Provided 6 days a week	17 (85%)
Provided 7 days a week	2 (10%)
Weekday service before 9.00am	16 (80%)
Weekday service after 6.00pm	7 (35%)
Enhanced service in last year	2 (10%)
Reduced service in last year	6 (30%)
Community transport available	5 (25%)

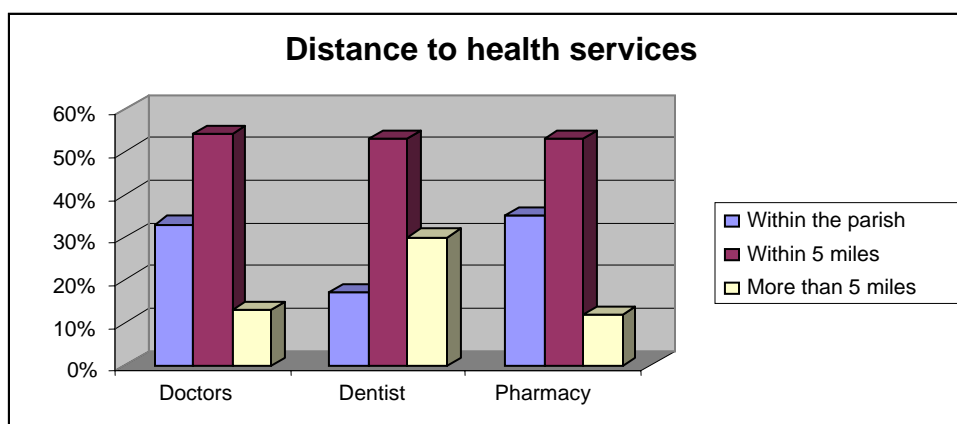
## **Chapter 5            Local Healthcare**

### **1        Context**

- 1.1    Important issues for end users in rural areas are the availability and quality of locally delivered services rather than the rather complex national policy and direction.
- 1.2    There remain concerns over the provision of NHS dental services. Many dentists will not take on new NHS patients and those that do can often be inundated with potential patients. In rural areas there are less dental surgeries and therefore less choice unless you are prepared to travel. The result of this can be that people can be left with no choice but to subscribe to private treatment, and more expensive, treatments.

### **2        Service Delivery**

- 2.1    The issues of accessibility and transport to services are highlighted with only 33% of parishes having a doctor's surgery. This represents an increase on 2005 but still exposes many people to difficulties in receiving medical treatment and support.
- 2.2    Numbers of dentist surgeries have again declined. In 2005 20% of parishes had dentists, in 2006 this was only 17%.
- 2.3    Access to pharmacy services are very similar to that of doctors' surgeries. Some doctors now house a pharmacy or can arrange for collection of prescriptions. However there are many non-prescription items which they do not carry and are less available in some rural areas.
- 2.4    The vast majority of health services offer a full time service rather than part-time hours. This is the case in 89% of doctors and 90% of dentists.
- 2.4    Parishes were asked to indicate how close their nearest services were and the results can be seen in the following chart.



### 3 District Data

#### Blaby

Total responses to survey **8**

Nearest Service	Number of respondents		
	In parish	Within 5 miles	Over 5 miles
Doctor	6 (75%)	2 (25%)	0
Dentist	7 (88%)	1 (13%)	0
Pharmacy	8 (100%)	0	0

#### Charnwood

Total responses to survey **20**

Nearest Service	Number of respondents		
	In parish	Within 5 miles	Over 5 miles
Doctor	6 (30%)	14 (70%)	0
Dentist	4 (20%)	14 (70%)	2 (10%)
Pharmacy	8 (40%)	12 (60%)	0

#### Harborough

Total responses to survey **31**

Nearest Service	Number of respondents		
	In parish	Within 5 miles	Over 5 miles
Doctor	8 (26%)	20 (65%)	3 (10%)
Dentist	3 (10%)	19 (61%)	9 (29%)
Pharmacy	9 (29%)	19 (61%)	3 (10%)

**Hinckley & Bosworth**  
**Total responses to survey 17**

Nearest Service	Number of respondents		
	In parish	Within 5 miles	Over 5 miles
Doctor	8 (47%)	9 (53%)	0
Dentist	5 (29%)	10 (59%)	2 (12%)
Pharmacy	6 (35%)	11 (65%)	0

**Melton**  
**Total responses to survey 20**

Nearest Service	Number of respondents		
	In parish	Within 5 miles	Over 5 miles
Doctor	8 (40%)	4 (20%)	8 (40%)
Dentist	0	4 (20%)	15 (75%)
Pharmacy	8 (40%)	5 (25%)	7 (35%)

**North West Leicestershire**  
**Total responses to survey 14**

Nearest Service	Number of respondents		
	In parish	Within 5 miles	Over 5 miles
Doctor	6 (43%)	8 (57%)	0
Dentist	11(79%)	2 (14%)	1 (7%)
Pharmacy	4 (29%)	9 (64%)	1 (7%)

**Rutland**  
**Total responses to survey 20**

Nearest Service	Number of respondents		
	In parish	Within 5 miles	Over 5 miles
Doctor	2 (10%)	12 (60%)	6 (30%)
Dentist	0	12 (60%)	8 (40%)
Pharmacy	3 (15%)	12 (60%)	5 (25%)

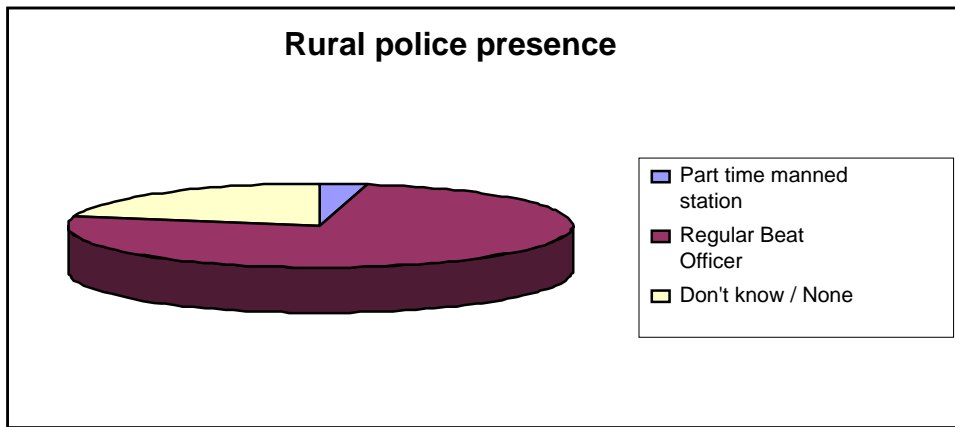
## **Chapter 6            Community safety**

### **1        Context**

- 1.1    Rural communities continue to perceive that levels of service delivery are poor. Many Parish Plans make reference to the lack of a visible police presence
- 1.2    Not surprisingly, neighbourhood watch remain but very popular and are now being joined with other community based safety initiatives such as community speed watches, which use portable speed cameras to control traffic speeding through villages.
- 1.3    Traffic issues in villages always feature heavily in parish consultations and there are now a number of issues being delivered by the police, the county councils and the communities to address these. Speed and red light cameras are generally there to assist in enforcing the laws, whilst traffic calming measures, electronic speed warnings and community speed watch projects are specifically aimed at improving road safety.

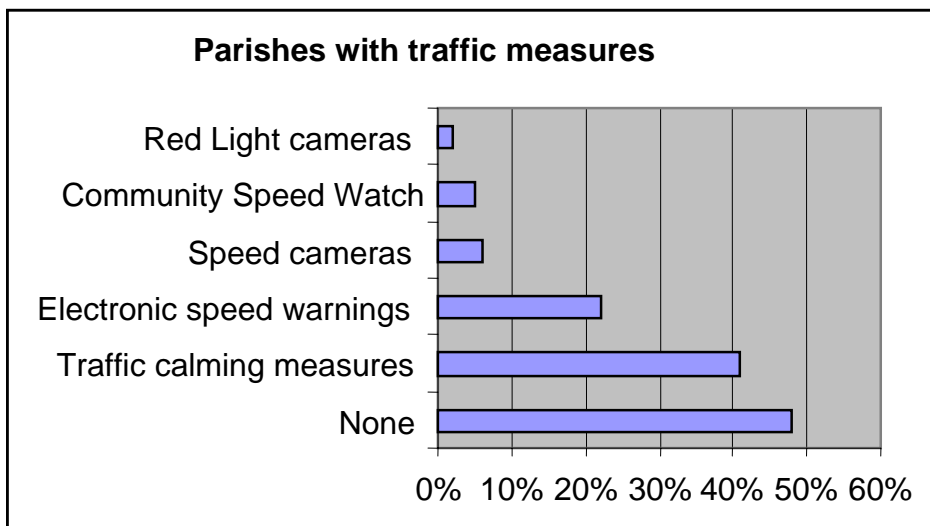
### **2        Service Delivery**

- 2.1    In previous years surveys, community input regarding policing and community safety has been limited to verbatim comments. This year some statistics have been gathered in order to capture local measures and projects.
- 2.2    No responding parishes advised that they now have a full time manned police station and only 3% said they had a part time station that was manned. Over three quarters were aware that they had a regular beat officer. The remaining 21% were either unsure of local policing provision or said they had none.



2.3 Levels of Neighbourhood Watch schemes are at an all time high with 81% of responding parishes having at least one scheme.

2.4 48% of parishes had no form of community safety projects or devices when it came to traffic issues. Over 41% had some physical form of traffic calming and 21% had electronic speed warnings for local speed limits, schools or sharp bends. Smaller percentages had speed and red light cameras and community led projects.



### 3 District Data

#### Blaby

**Total responses to survey**                      **8**

<b>Facility or service</b>	<b>Number of respondents confirming availability in parish</b>
Neighbourhood Watch	8 (100%)
Part time police station	1 (13%)
Regular beat officer	7 (88%)
Speed cameras	2 (25%)
Red light cameras	1 (13%)
Traffic calming measures	8 (100%)
Electronic speed warnings	6 (75%)
Community Speed Watch	1 (13%)
No traffic measures	0

#### Charnwood

**Total responses to survey**                      **20**

<b>Facility or service</b>	<b>Number of respondents confirming availability in parish</b>
Neighbourhood Watch	18 (90%)
Part time police station	0
Regular beat officer	17 (85%)
Speed cameras	1 (5%)
Red light cameras	0
Traffic calming measures	9 (45%)
Electronic speed warnings	3 (15%)
Community Speed Watch	3 (15%)
No traffic measures	9 (45%)

#### Harborough

**Total responses to survey**                      **31**

<b>Facility or service</b>	<b>Number of respondents confirming availability in parish</b>
Neighbourhood Watch	26 (84%)
Part time police station	1 (3%)
Regular beat officer	23 (74%)
Speed cameras	2 (6%)
Red light cameras	0
Traffic calming measures	13 (42%)
Electronic speed warnings	6 (19%)
Community Speed Watch	1 (3%)
No traffic measures	14 (45%)

**Hinckley & Bosworth**  
**Total responses to survey**

**17**

<b>Facility or service</b>	<b>Number of respondents confirming availability in parish</b>
Neighbourhood Watch	13 (73%)
Part time police station	0
Regular beat officer	11 (65%)
Speed cameras	2 (12%)
Red light cameras	1 (6%)
Traffic calming measures	7 (41%)
Electronic speed warnings	1 (6%)
Community Speed Watch	0
No traffic measures	8 (47%)

**Melton**

**Total responses to survey**

**20**

<b>Facility or service</b>	<b>Number of respondents confirming availability in parish</b>
Neighbourhood Watch	14 (70%)
Part time police station	1 (5%)
Regular beat officer	12 (60%)
Speed cameras	0
Red light cameras	0
Traffic calming measures	6 (30%)
Electronic speed warnings	4 (20%)
Community Speed Watch	0
No traffic measures	14 (70%)

**North West Leicestershire**

**Total responses to survey**

**14**

<b>Facility or service</b>	<b>Number of respondents confirming availability in parish</b>
Neighbourhood Watch	12 (86%)
Part time police station	1 (7%)
Regular beat officer	12 (86%)
Speed cameras	1 (7%)
Red light cameras	0
Traffic calming measures	6 (43%)
Electronic speed warnings	2 (14%)
Community Speed Watch	1 (7%)
No traffic measures	7 (50%)

**Rutland****Total responses to survey****20**

<b>Facility or service</b>	<b>Number of respondents confirming availability in parish</b>
Neighbourhood Watch	14 (70%)
Part time police station	0
Regular beat officer	16 (80%)
Speed cameras	0
Red light cameras	0
Traffic calming measures	5 (25%)
Electronic speed warnings	7 (35%)
Community Speed Watch	1 (5%)
No traffic measures	11 (55%)

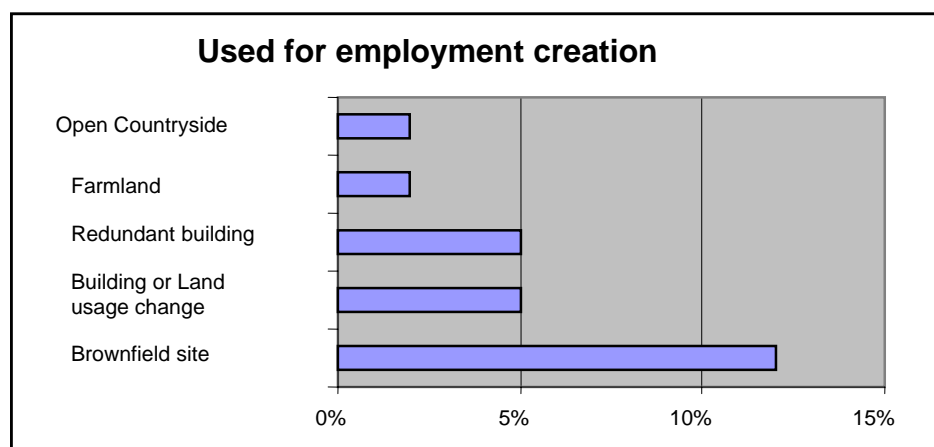
## Chapter 7      Employment and Land use

### 1      Context

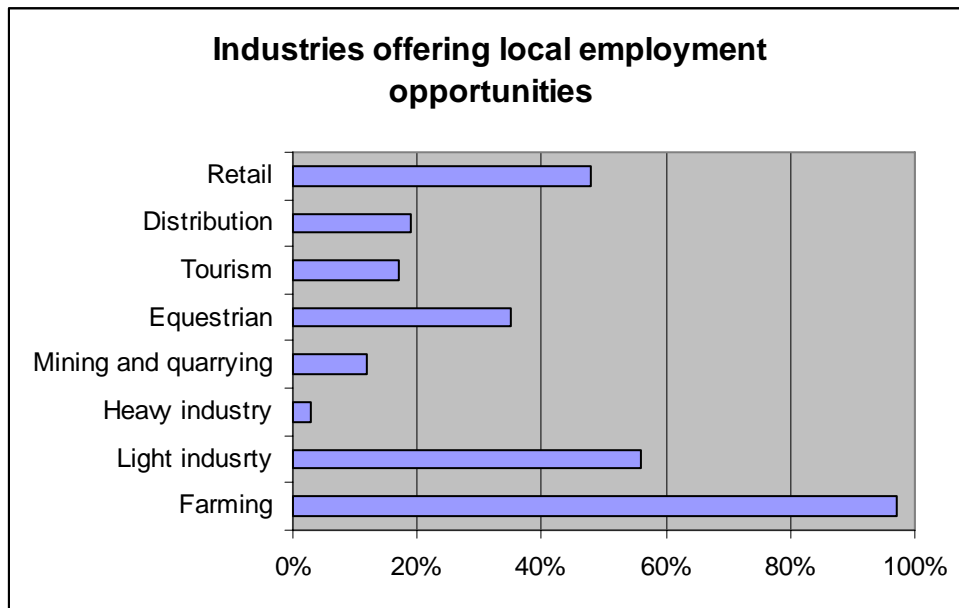
- 1.1    The economic development of the sub region is a vital component to its overall success and sustainability. Investment in urban areas has an impact on the rural areas and vice versa. Much work has been completed and significant amounts continue looking at ways of developing the overall economy of the area.
- 1.2    Separate business studies reveal investment, success and output rates and are more likely to provide an in-depth study of the sub-regional situation.
- 1.3    The purpose of this short chapter is to capture information regarding any opportunities for employment bought about by use of land or property, and to ascertain the main employment and industrial opportunities in responding parishes.
- 1.4    Responses from parishes in regard to this subject were very limited and it therefore difficult to draw any specific conclusions. In addition, this area has not been explored in the rural trends report in previous years so comparisons are not possible.

### 2      Service Delivery

- 2.1    Very few respondents were able to identify where employment had been created by using land or property within the parish, in the last 12 months



2.2 Parishes were asked to identify any industries which offered employment opportunities.



### 3 District Data

#### Blaby

**Total responses to survey** 8

Facility or service	Number of respondents confirming availability in parish
<b>Employment Creation in</b>	
Open countryside	0
Farmland	0
Redundant buildings	0
Land or building usage change	3 (38%)
Brownfield site	2 (25%)
<b>Employment opportunities in</b>	
Retail	8 (100%)
Distribution	5 (63%)
Tourism	0
Equestrian	4 (50%)
Mining and Quarrying	0
Heavy Industry	0
Light Industry	7 (86%)
Farming	7 (86%)

## Charnwood

**Total responses to survey**                      **20**

<b>Facility or service</b>	<b>Number of respondents confirming availability in parish</b>
<b>Employment Creation in</b>	
Open countryside	1 (5%)
Farmland	1 (5%)
Redundant buildings	2 (10%)
Land or building usage change	2 (10%)
Brownfield site	0
<b>Employment opportunities in</b>	
Retail	11 (55%)
Distribution	3 (15%)
Tourism	3 (15%)
Equestrian	6 (30%)
Mining and Quarrying	1 (5%)
Heavy Industry	1 (5%)
Light Industry	14 (70%)
Farming	19 (95%)

## Harborough

**Total responses to survey**                      **31**

<b>Facility or service</b>	<b>Number of respondents confirming availability in parish</b>
<b>Employment Creation in</b>	
Open countryside	0
Farmland	0
Redundant buildings	0
Land or building usage change	1 (3%)
Brownfield site	1 (3%)
<b>Employment opportunities in</b>	
Retail	11 (35%)
Distribution	2 (6%)
Tourism	4 (13%)
Equestrian	8 (26%)
Mining and Quarrying	3 (10%)
Heavy Industry	0
Light Industry	13 (42%)
Farming	30 (97%)

## Hinckley & Bosworth

**Total responses to survey 17**

<b>Facility or service</b>	<b>Number of respondents confirming availability in parish</b>
<b>Employment Creation in</b>	
Open countryside	0
Farmland	1 (6%)
Redundant buildings	1 (6%)
Land or building usage change	4 (24%)
Brownfield site	0
<b>Employment opportunities in</b>	
Retail	8 (47%)
Distribution	3 (18%)
Tourism	4 (24%)
Equestrian	7 (41%)
Mining and Quarrying	3 (18%)
Heavy Industry	0
Light Industry	9 (53%)
Farming	16 (94%)

## Melton

**Total responses to survey 20**

<b>Facility or service</b>	<b>Number of respondents confirming availability in parish</b>
<b>Employment Creation in</b>	
Open countryside	2 (10%)
Farmland	1 (5%)
Redundant buildings	0
Land or building usage change	3 (15%)
Brownfield site	1 (5%)
<b>Employment opportunities in</b>	
Retail	9 (45%)
Distribution	5 (25%)
Tourism	3 (15%)
Equestrian	12 (60%)
Mining and Quarrying	1 (5%)
Heavy Industry	1 (5%)
Light Industry	10 (50%)
Farming	20 (100%)

## North West Leicestershire

**Total responses to survey** 14

<b>Facility or service</b>	<b>Number of respondents confirming availability in parish</b>
<b>Employment Creation in</b>	
Open countryside	0
Farmland	0
Redundant buildings	2 (14%)
Land or building usage change	2 (14%)
Brownfield site	2 (14%)
<b>Employment opportunities in</b>	
Retail	8 (57%)
Distribution	4 (29%)
Tourism	6 (43%)
Equestrian	3 (21%)
Mining and Quarrying	7 (50%)
Heavy Industry	2 (14%)
Light Industry	8 (57%)
Farming	14 (100%)

## Rutland

**Total responses to survey** 20

<b>Facility or service</b>	<b>Number of respondents confirming availability in parish</b>
<b>Employment Creation in</b>	
Open countryside	0
Farmland	0
Redundant buildings	1 (5%)
Land or building usage change	0
Brownfield site	0
<b>Employment opportunities in</b>	
Retail	8 (40%)
Distribution	3 (15%)
Tourism	2 (10%)
Equestrian	5 (25%)
Mining and Quarrying	1 (5%)
Heavy Industry	0
Light Industry	12 (60%)
Farming	19 (95%)

## Summary

The intention of this report is to provide an indication of the services and facilities provided throughout a range of settlements in Leicestershire and Rutland. Due to the nature in which the information is gathered it should only be seen as a snapshot in time. However comparisons against previous years research can and has been made in order to track changes in provision and trends.

The information and statistics provided must be seen in the context in which they have been compiled and are subject to the fact that not all settlements across the sub region responded to the questionnaire and therefore not all services and facilities have been recorded.

There is no indication of further decline in the provision of retailing services, including Post Offices and village shops, although specialist shops and petrol stations have suffered net losses.

Support has been provided to retailers by the Rural Community Councils and Leicestershire County Council over the last three years in the form of grants and business advice. It is likely that this support has strengthened the position of many retailers, allowing and encouraging them to invest locally and developing new and improved services for local people.

The pressure from supermarkets and home delivery services continue to have an impact on local retailers but many are succeeding in offering the quality and local produce that many of their customers want. Specialist production of meat and dairy products, together with organic and locally grown vegetables and fruit are among the success stories.

Post Office closures are likely to have an impact on local retail provision in the next twelve months and whilst this will affect some amongst the community it is not clear what the likely affect will be on the retailer sector as a whole.

There are more rooms available for public uses in more parishes than in previous years. This is good news for end users, with a widening reported range of activities taking place in them.

Funding pressures will continue however for village hall committees as the County Council are forced to make further cuts in the grants available for improvements and upkeep.

Increases in availability have been seen across a wide range of leisure facilities in reporting parishes, hi-lighting the desire and demand for local delivery.

There appears to have been significant improvements in the delivery of public transport with fewer villages than before having no bus service and

an increase in those having services during key times. In addition more community based transport solutions have been reported, perhaps reflecting the efforts of the voluntary sector and of local people finding and developing their own solutions.

A number of areas, including recycling and the local economy were investigated for the first time within this report. It is hoped that in future years it will be possible to continue this work and use the information gathered to provide comparative data to help inform policy and decision makers across a widening range of services and facilities.

## Appendix A – Copy of Parish Questionnaire

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**Q1. Name of Parish**

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### SHOPS AND PUBS

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**Q2. How many food shops are there in the parish? (Please enter number in box)**

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**Q3. How many post offices are there in the parish?**

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**Q4. How many non-food stores are there in the parish? (eg newsagent / hardware)**

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**Q5. How many petrol stations are there in the parish?**

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**Q6. How many public houses are there in the parish?**

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**Q7. How many restaurants are there in the parish?**

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**Q8. How many take - away outlets are there in the parish?**

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**Q9. How many mobile retailers are there in the parish?**

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**Q10. Have any retail services either newly opened or have closed down during the last 12 months?**

	Opened	Closed
Food shops	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Post office	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Non-food store	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Petrol station	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Public house	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Restaurant	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Take - away outlets	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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**COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES**

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**Q11. How many halls or rooms are available for public use? (eg village hall / community hall / church hall)**

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**Q12. Which of these activities commonly take place in public rooms or halls?**

	Yes	No
Parish Council meetings	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Public meetings	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Youth club	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Playgroup	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lunchclubs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sports clubs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Private Hire	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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**Q13. How many facilities offering community access to IT and/or internet facilities are available in the parish?**

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**Q14. Which of the following venues offer IT and/or internet facilities?**

Community Access point	<input type="checkbox"/>	Library	<input type="checkbox"/>	Youth club	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cafe	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mobile services	<input type="checkbox"/>	Private enterprise	<input type="checkbox"/>				

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**Q15. Is Broadband widely available throughout the parish?**

Yes  No

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**Q16. Is there a 'Neighbourhood Watch' Scheme in the parish?**

Yes

No

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**Q17. Does the parish have a community magazine or newsletter?**

Yes

No

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**Q18. Does the parish have any of the following facilities?**

	Yes	No
Daytime playgroup	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
After school playgroup	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Under 5's play area	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
general play area	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Skate park	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Football pitch	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cricket pitch	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Basketball court	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tennis courts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Youth club	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Youth meeting area	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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**Q19. Are the following services available within the parish?**

	Yes	No
Library services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mobile library	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vets surgery	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Public telephone	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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### HEALTH

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**Q20. Is there a doctors surgery in the parish?**

Yes

No

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**Q21. If no please state where the nearest doctors surgery is?**

within 5  
miles

5 - 10 miles  
away

11 - 20  
miles away

more than  
20 miles  
away

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**Q22. Is your nearest surgery open?**

Full time

Part time

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**HEALTH**

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**Q23. Is there a dentist's surgery in the parish?**

Yes

No

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**Q24. If no please state where the nearest dentist's surgery is?**

within 5 miles

5 - 10 miles away

11 - 20 miles away

more than 20 miles away

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**Q25. Is your nearest surgery open?**

Full time

Part time

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**Q26. Where is your nearest pharmacy?**

At your doctors surgery

Within the parish

Within 5 miles

More than 5 miles away

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**Policing and safety**

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**Q27. With regard to the police, does the parish have**

A full-time manned station

A part-time manned station

A regular beat officer

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**Q28. Are there any of the following in the parish?**

Speed cameras   
A community speed watch project

Red light cameras

Traffic calming measures

Electronic speed warnings

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**Education**

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**Q29. Does the parish have any of the following?**

Primary school

Secondary school

Further education facility

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**Q30. Are there further education courses run within the parish?**

Yes  No

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**WASTE MANAGEMENT**

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**Q31. Does the parish have a kerb side recycling collection for any of the following?**

Glass  Plastic  Cardboard  Garden waste   
Metal  No recycling

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**Q32. Are there recycling banks within the parish?**

Yes  No

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**Q33. Is there a dedicated bus service available to the nearest schools?**

Yes  No

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**TRANSPORT**

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**Q34. On how many days of the week is there a bus service to / from the parish?**

**Q35. Is there a bus service on a Sunday?**

Yes  No

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**Q36. Is there a weekday (Mon to Fri) service available before 9.00am?**

Yes  No

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**Q37. Is there a weekday (Mon to Fri) service available after 6.00pm?**

Yes  No

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**Q38. Has the bus service been enhanced or reduced over the past twelve months?**

Increased  Reduced  No change

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**Q39. Are there any types of community transport schemes in the parish? (eg Community bus / Community Car share)**

Yes  No

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**Q40. Does the parish have a rail service?**

Yes  No

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**Q41. Has the train service been enhanced or reduced over the past twelve months?**

Increased  Reduced  No change

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**ECONOMIC AND BUSINESS**

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**Q42. Which of the following industries / employment opportunities exist within the parish?**

Farming	<input type="checkbox"/>	Light industry	<input type="checkbox"/>	Heavy industry	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mining and quarrying	<input type="checkbox"/>	Equestrian	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tourism	<input type="checkbox"/>
Distribution	<input type="checkbox"/>	Retail	<input type="checkbox"/>		

**Q43. Within the last 12 months, have any of the following been used to create employment opportunities?**

Redundant buildings	<input type="checkbox"/>	Brownfield sites	<input type="checkbox"/>	Property changing use	<input type="checkbox"/>
Farmland	<input type="checkbox"/>	Open countryside	<input type="checkbox"/>		