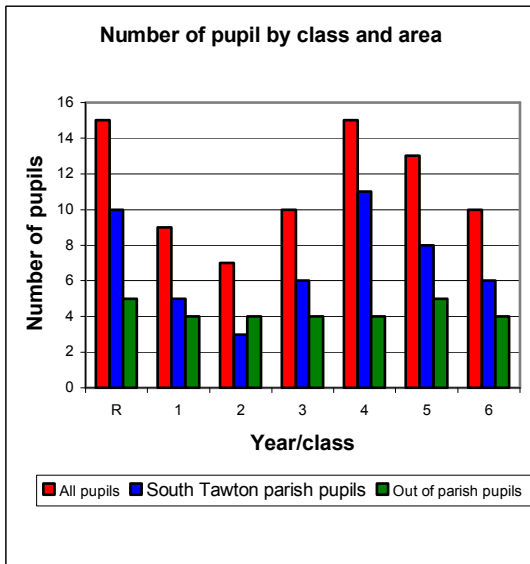


South Tawton Primary School The Pupil Questionnaire, 2008

In July 2008 South Tawton Parish Council, who had instigated a parish survey to provide the data for the formation of a Parish Plan, asked the school if they would like to help. As the Parish Council's work was mainly aimed at the age range from 11 years upwards, the school agreed enthusiastically to add a younger voice to this appraisal. Under the direction of the School Council and with help from Mrs Poustie, the Head Teacher and staff, they designed, trialed, ran and collated the results from a questionnaire of their own. The questionnaire design was similar but not identical to that produced by the Parish Council. A copy of the questionnaire is available.

This is a summary of the school's findings.

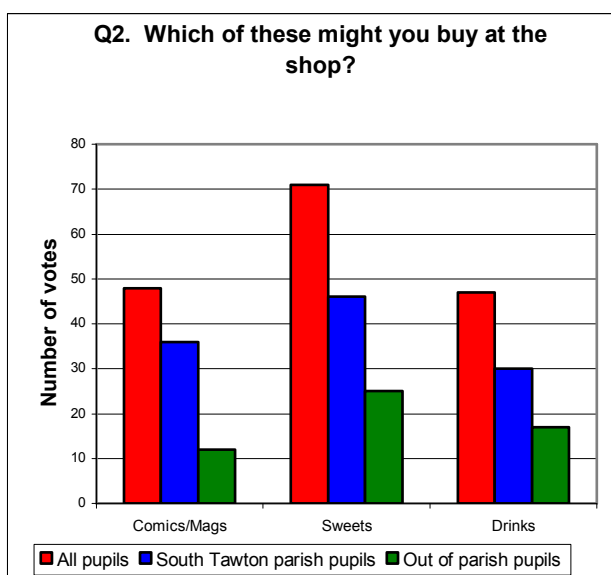
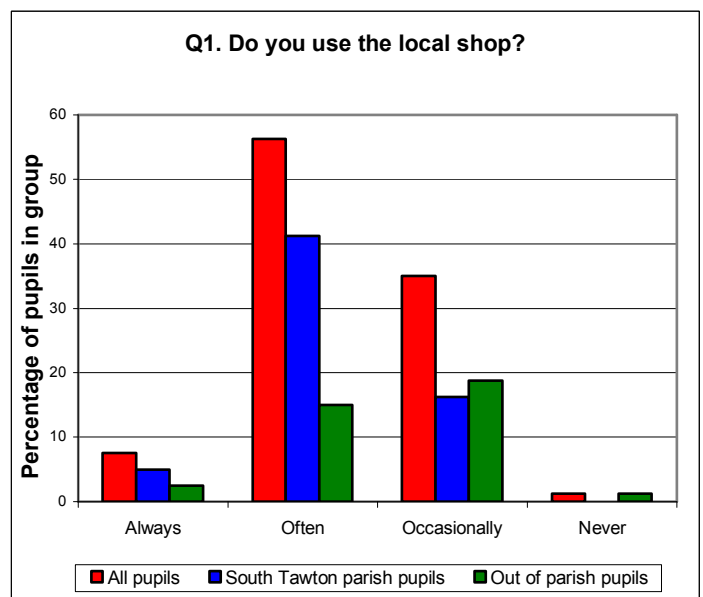


The sample of pupils was drawn from volunteers across the school. As the graph shows, there were representatives from all the seven classes, 102 in all. They were grouped according to whether or not they lived in the parish, to provide a match and contrast to the area of the Parish Council survey.

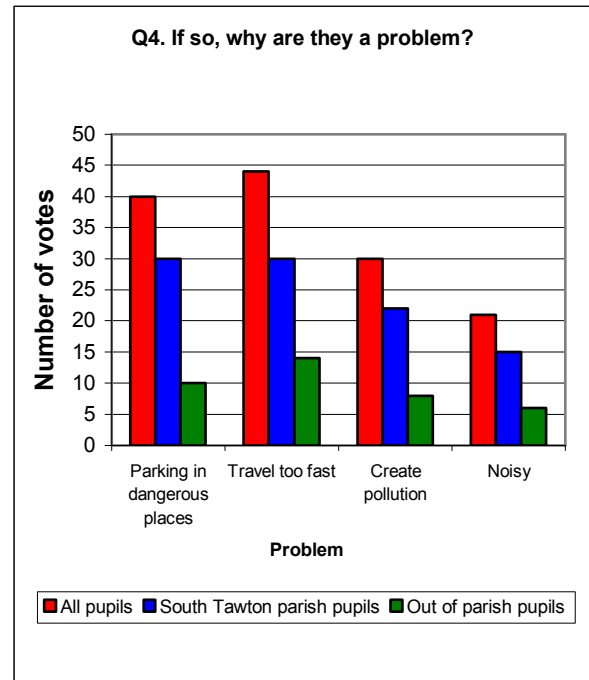
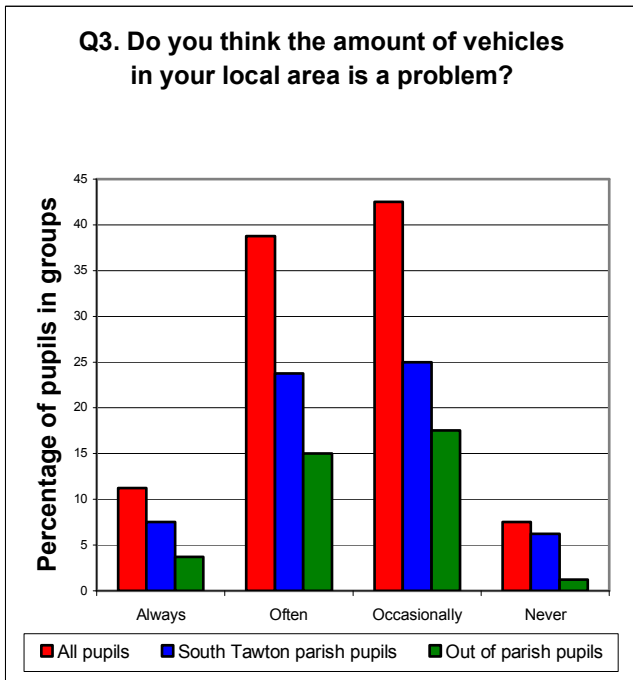
Unfortunately a number (22) did not record where they lived and are not included in these graphs, although comments that they made are incorporated in the relevant sections.

In this graph "R" stands for the Reception Class.

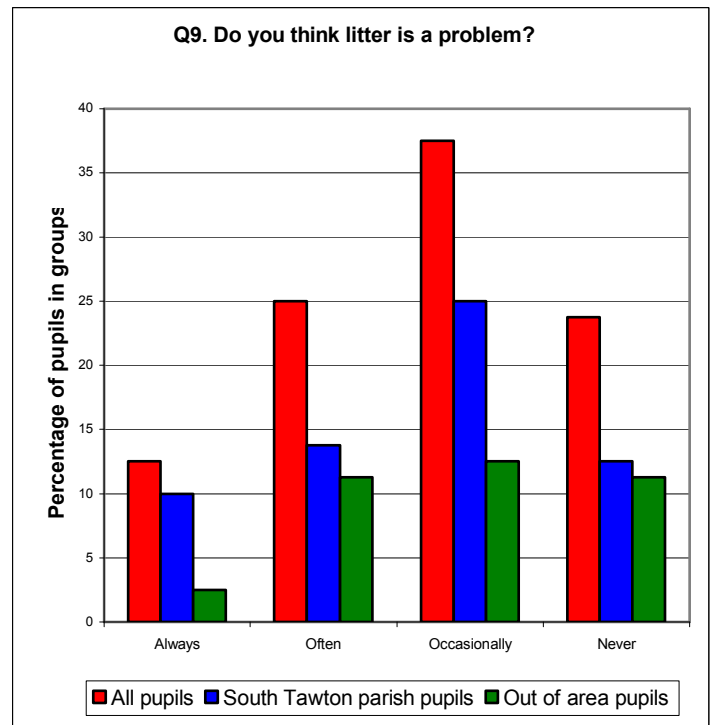
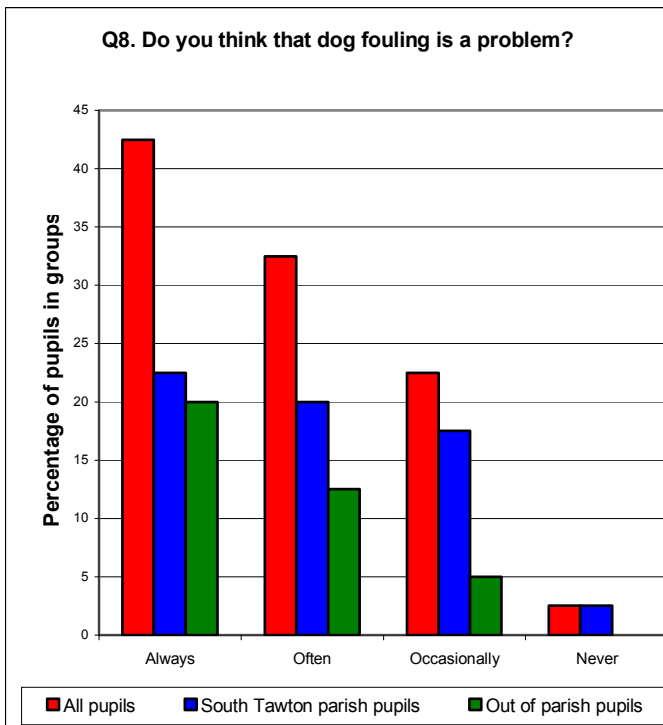
The first two questions addressed the use of the local shop in South Zeal. As will be seen there is substantial use of this important village facility. Understandably, more 'parish' pupils (from now on called "PP") use the shop more often than the "Out of Parish" Pupils, "OPP"



The next two questions concerned traffic matters.

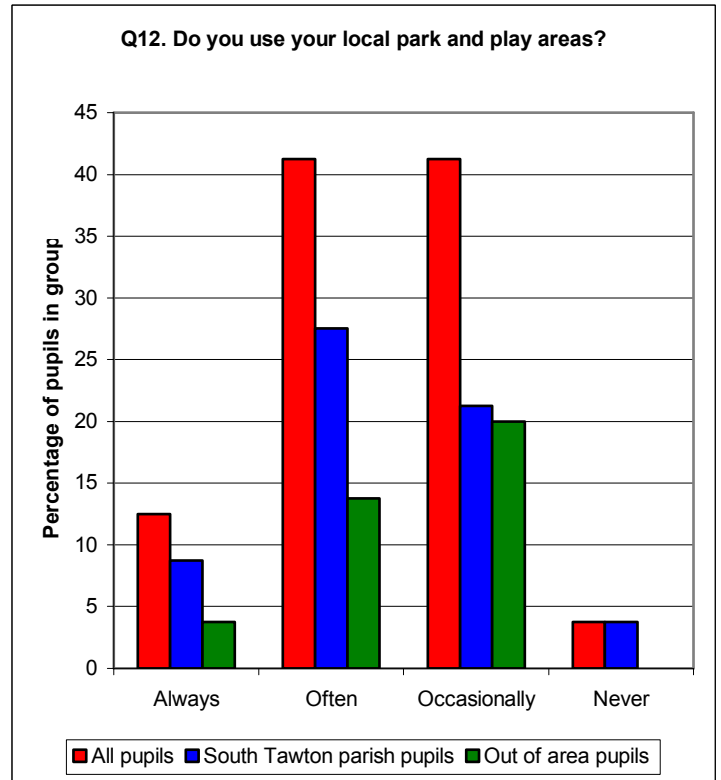
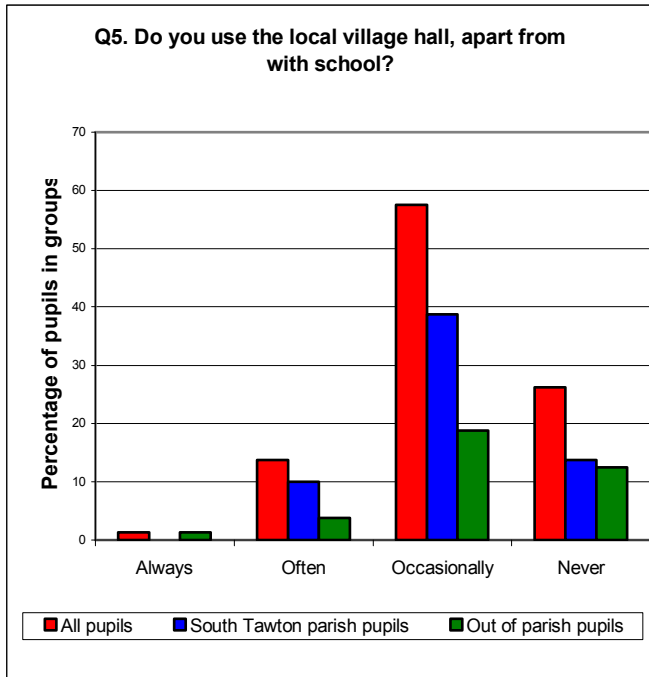


In this topic it would seem that pupils agree with the findings of the Parish Appraisal that the number of vehicles in our community is a problem, mainly because they park in dangerous places and travel too fast. There is also a theme common to both in the responses when asked about dog fouling and litter problems:

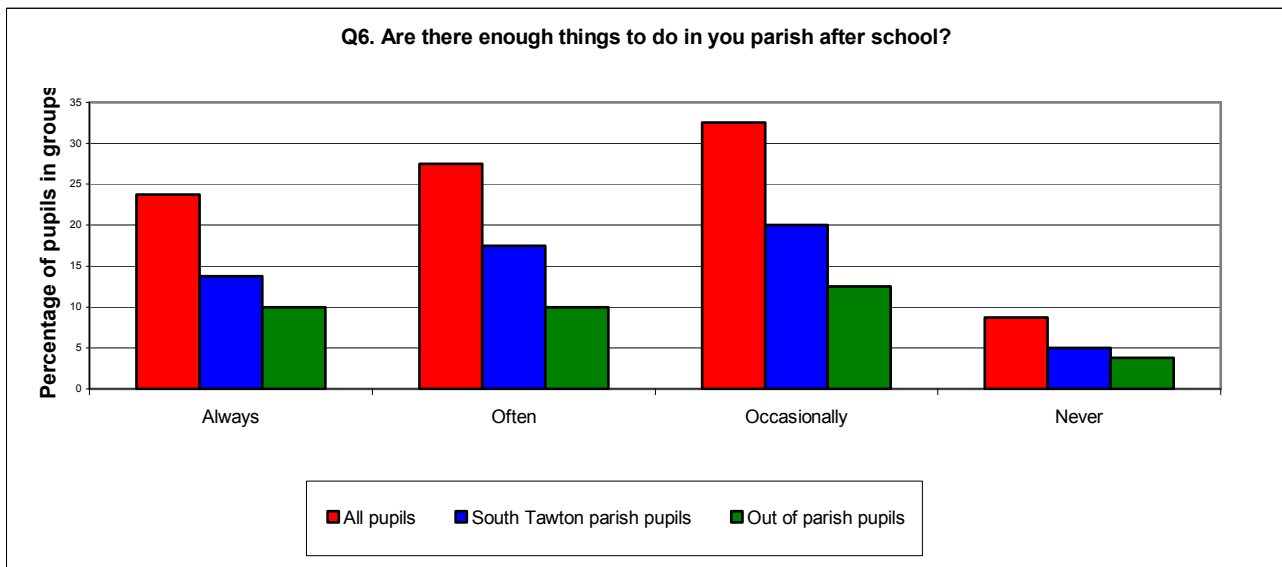


Pupils obviously think that dog fouling is a major problem and that littering is occasionally a problem.

When asked about village facilities the following patterns emerge:

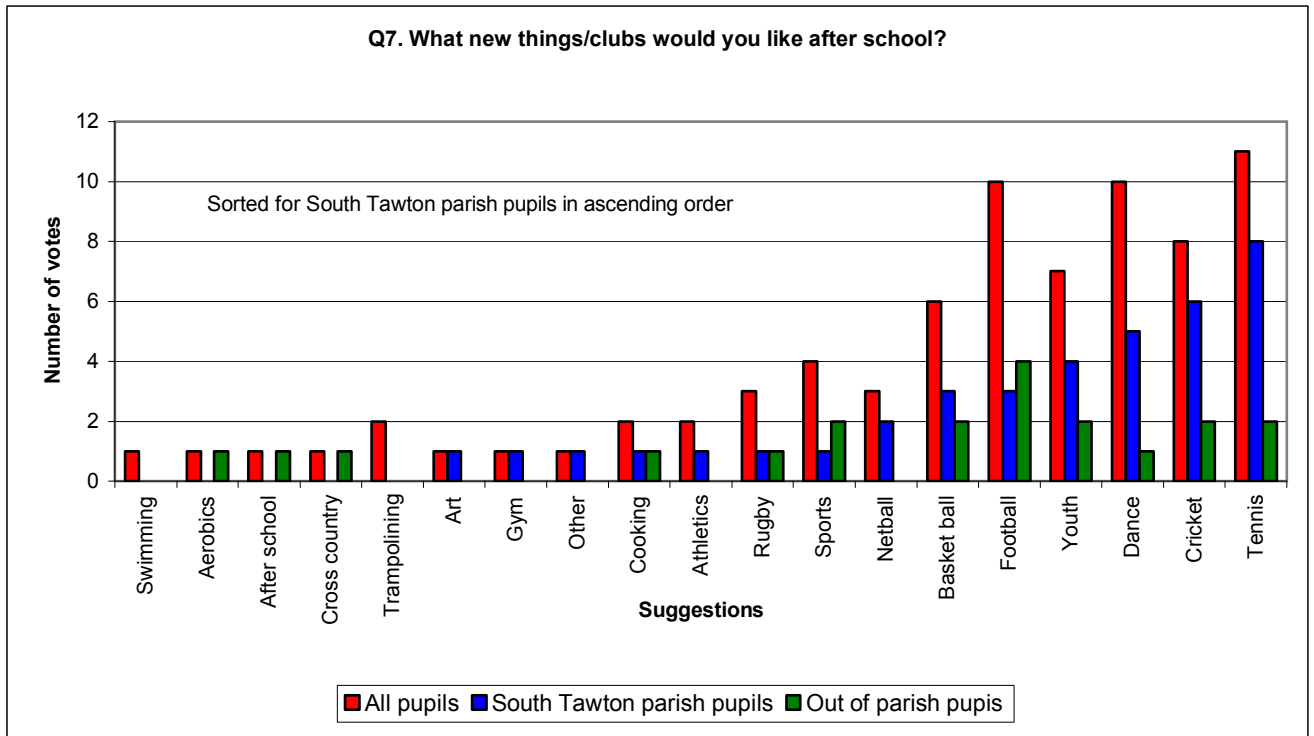


There are interesting comments associated with the use of the village Recreation Ground and its play areas. For instance, whilst a few PPs saw this area as a benefit, 34% of PP had criticisms of the specific facilities, such as “more play equipment in the park”, “more things to do – a better park” and “make the park have better stuff”. This feeling also received some support from the response to a question about things to do after school:

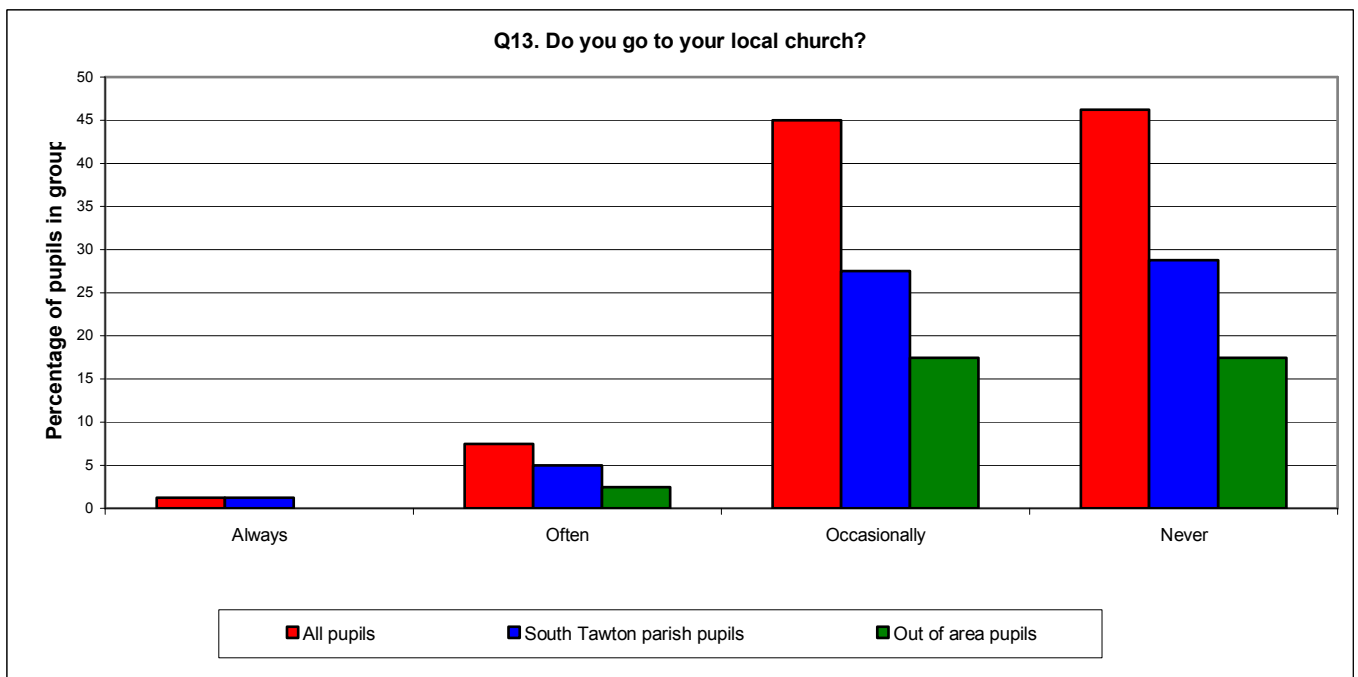


South Tawton Primary School Report on a pupil survey conducted in July 2008

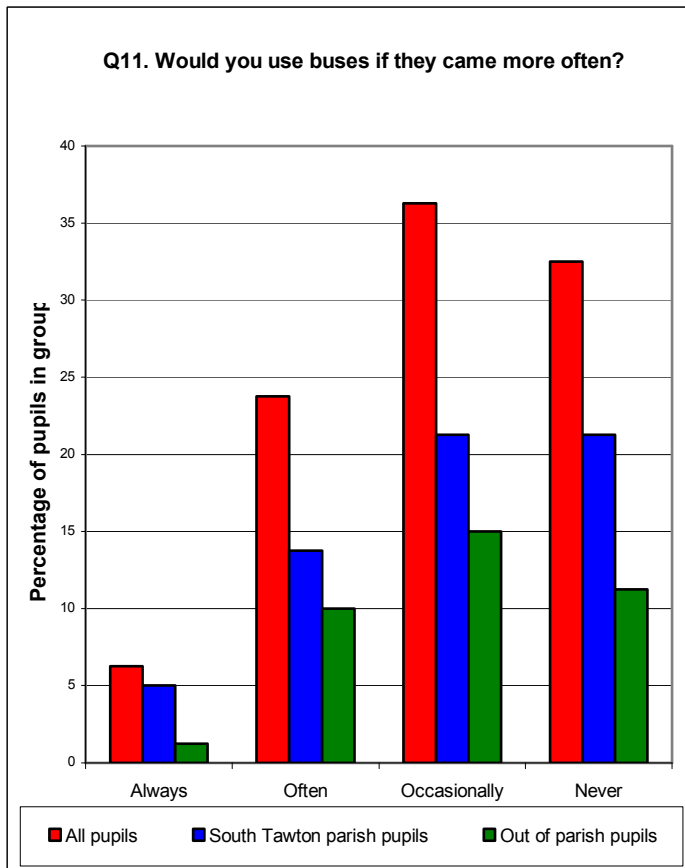
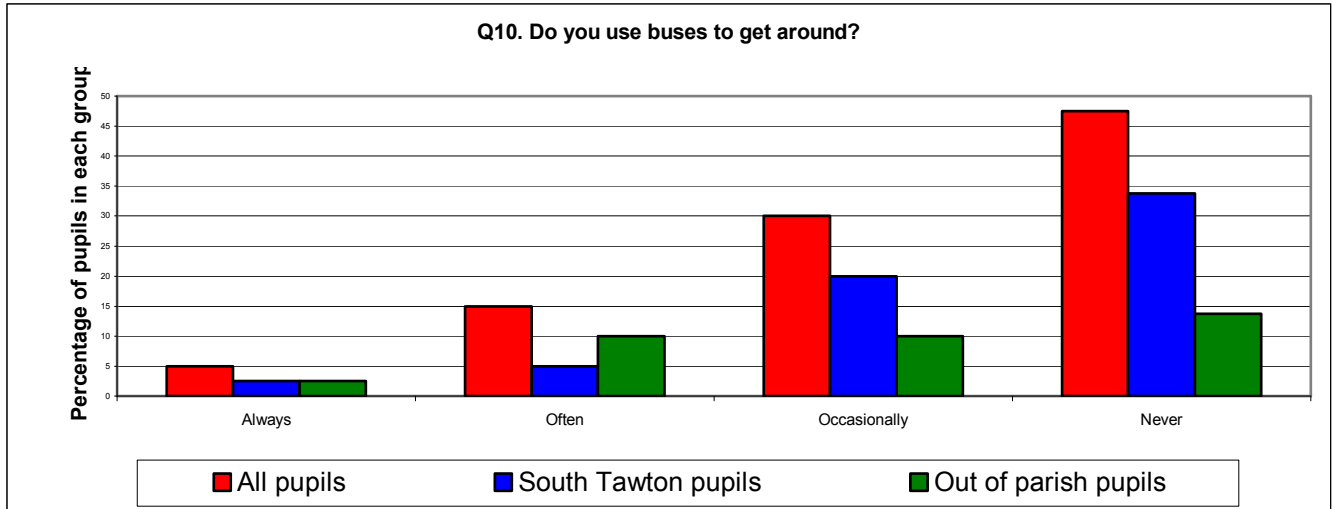
The response to question 7 provided ideas about what facilities pupils would like to see available after school:



A question about their attendance at “the local church” evoked the following response:



The use of public transport did not seem to be very popular, perhaps partly because of the usual strong parental support?! Perhaps disquiet about various aspects of this service, as shown in the Parish Appraisal, is shared by our pupils as well.



Pupils were also asked to respond in free text boxes to two further questions; “What is the best thing about where you live?” and “Are there any improvements you would like to suggest for the village?”

Most of the answers to the later question have been reported in the sections on village facilities.

Answers to the former question were most interesting. Over 40% of all pupils thought that various aspects of their environment, such as; “beautiful countryside”, “space to walk and play”, “always quiet”, “the moor” and “view of the sunset” rated highly in their appreciation of where they live.

However, there was another very strong strand that ran through this part of the questionnaire, a feeling of community and friendship. Almost a quarter of all pupils made some comment along the lines of; “safe and lots of friends nearby”, “nice people”, “the friendly community”, “fantastic community I am happy and safe” and “its brilliant close to school”

The Parish Council and the Parish Appraisal Steering Group would like to thank the school staff and all the pupils who took part in organising and replying to this questionnaire. We would also like to thank parents who must have spent a lot of time discussing these matters with their children and hope that these findings will help to add another dimension to the Parish Appraisal and Plan.

South Tawton Primary School.
September 2008