

# Education and Early Years

## Early Years

There was a strong desire to see improved provision for young children in the village. In the questionnaire, people were asked 'if provided, would they use nursery facilities in the villages? The result was that 14 respondents from the 32 families with appropriately aged children supported the provision of either Nursery or Creche facilities.

Some felt that the villages cannot be self-sufficient when it comes to providing Nursery facilities. This is the case with many of our neighbouring villages' Mums and Toddlers groups which rely on parents bringing their children from other villages, something Seavington could do for both Mum's and Toddlers and Nursery. Options could include joint provision with other villages.

However, a Nursery useful to working parents would require substantial funding, possibly a business to run it and agreement with the Village Hall for its use.

Other suggestions made during the consultation to help families with young children included:

**Building on** the existing Mums and Toddlers group that currently meets one afternoon a week in the village hall

**Community events** to help integrate new families

**Millennium Hall** should be open to, and supportive of, child-orientated events

It is interesting to note that the Seavington's have a growing population of families with young children - four families moved into the village between August 2004 and August 2005.

## Education

The questionnaire showed a moderate satisfaction with education although with only two questions specifically on children's education the results do not give us the full picture.

71% of respondents were satisfied with Infants schools, 65% were satisfied with Primary schools, and 62% of respondents were satisfied with Secondary school.

The questionnaire and the consultation days identified the following issues regarding education:

**Catchment areas** - at present the Seavingtons fall into the Ilminster catchment area yet many of our children already attend other schools (including Shepton Beauchamp, South Petherton, Barrington and Hinton). This creates the situation where children in the village don't know each other and is therefore divisive within the village community. It is proposed that discussions with the Local Education Authority on revising the

catchment areas should take place with lobbying if required.  
Parental choice should of course be kept.

**Lack of transport** for secondary school children not in tertiary system  
- could be addressed by car sharing

**Lack of holiday play schemes** or sports coaching

**The need for bus shelters** for children waiting for school transport  
and a safer crossing near the Volunteer Inn

The lack of a village school was an obvious issue; however it seems unlikely that the LEA will build a new school. An alternative could be a joint school with another village, as many other village schools have little outdoor play space, and with our excellent playing field and village hall we have something to offer. In return our village children would be allocated places and share transport to the joint school.

We should take the opportunity to use our playing field to host after-school sports, sports coaching, holiday play schemes and/or a village sports day which would also allow children attending different schools to socialise. These options could be looked at by the wider Sport working group.

## Adult Education

There is strong demand for adult education classes in the villages, and the two local providers (Yeovil College and Somerset County Council's Adult Learning and Leisure) should be contacted to discuss further opportunities. Computing courses that run in the Village Hall were popular, and courses could also be taught at The Volunteer Inn if agreement could be reached with the Landlord.

The most popular courses identified in the survey were:

Computing & IT skills (43), Health & Fitness (41), Foreign languages (33), Arts & Crafts (32), History & Culture (29) and English language studies (7).

Proposals		
No	Proposal	Proposed Actionee
D 1	Early Years Provision - consider developing Toddler group and investigate Nursery provision	PCSG
D 2	Address school catchment areas issue with LEA along with joint school concept	Parish Council & PCSG
D 3	Bus shelters and safer road crossing investigated	Parish Council
D 4	Provide sporting opportunities to village children	PCSG
D 5	Provide sports coaching and holiday play scheme for children	PCSG and SPFA
D 6	Adult Education courses developed with appropriate bodies	