

Business Development and Employment Report for the Parish Council

Introduction

Edington has numerous businesses based within the village and a diverse range of employment. The Edington Station Yard and various converted, mostly agricultural, buildings provide the premises for much of the business activity.

Village Survey

The village survey indicated that 35 people out of 155 that answered the question thought that the existing business and employment provision was poor. Conversely the same number thought it good or excellent.

Opinions expressed in the survey were also balanced regarding the development of business within the village. There were concerns regarding the character of the village and transport issues on the one hand and awareness of opportunities to create employment via the village pub, shop and the station yard on the other.

The survey in our opinion revealed no universal issues regarding Business and Employment.

Business and Employment Committee

Our own specific Business Development and Employment open meeting and discussions with various businesses within the village gave the opportunity to delve a little deeper into the village opinions.

Issues arising are:

- 1) Broadband and mobile phone inadequate for some businesses.
- 2) Traffic problems within the village were a concern and the view commonly held was that lorries in particular should be encouraged to access the village via the A350.
- 3) Modest development of the Edington Station Yard was generally encouraged to avoid village stagnation and create local employment. Other suitable development should also be encouraged particularly if there was little significant impact on traffic problems.
- 4) Tourism is an area that many felt should be encouraged as the facilities and general attributes of the village and surrounding area have great appeal.
- 5) The existing businesses within the village could be promoted more. The websites of businesses and the village website could develop better links and a business hub developed to mutually aid and promote village businesses.

Recommendations

Parish Council continue to press for better broadband and mobile phone coverage and improvements to road system. Parish Council to view favourably modest and sensitive plans for business development.