



- In 1944 the school became a County school and in 1957 Dorset County Council assumed responsibility.
- The school closed in 1974 and children were bussed to the enlarged school at Fontmell Magna.

Sport and Leisure Activities

Other than shooting, there is no record of recreational sport in Ashmore before the First World War, but archery may have been practised at the Butts. In the 1920s there was a miniature rifle range next to Beales Mead (now Lynchet House) and a golf course near Compton Abbas airfield. A Women's Institute, Working Men's Club, Girl Guides and Boy Scouts Groups were formed and there were Sunday School trips to Bournemouth and Weymouth.

Skating was popular on the pond once the winter ice was thick enough and on one occasion in the 1930s, a dance was held on the ice to the music of a gramophone!

When Ken Langley and Cecil Coombs returned from the Second World War, they started a football team and cricket against local village teams was revived. Ashmore joined the Dorset League and quickly became a formidable side, topping the League from 1974 to 1976. During the 2005 season Ashmore played away due to the construction of the new Village Hall. Many of the team are now from outside the village as the number of young men in the village has declined.

One event, steeped in legend and held annually, is the Filly Loo. It is traditionally held on the Friday evening nearest to Midsummer's Day. It was reintroduced as a folk dance festival by Peter Swann in 1956, with the cooperation of the Ashmore folk dance club and guests from Warminster, Westbury and other villages in Dorset and Wiltshire. In recent years, the White Horse Morris and folk dance clubs have supported the evening. The popular Folk and Celidh Band have provided the music for over 20 years and 'dances for all' are interspersed with displays of Morris and Playford dancing. The origin of the name, 'Filly Loo', is surrounded in mystery. Some say it was originally held to celebrate the end of the cultivated hazel nut harvest – proper name, Filbert nut. One of the original instigators, a Louis Rideout, known as Filbert Louis, may have given his name to the event. Whatever its origin, the evening remains one of the best local attempts to keep tradition alive in Dorset for the benefit of future generations.

Footpaths and Bridleways

Ashmore is blessed with a large number of footpaths and bridleways and sits about halfway along the Wessex Ridgeway running from Hungerford to Lyme Regis. The paths provide a variety of short and long walks with a mixture of steep climbs and relatively easy gradients. In Spring, many of the walks take one through magnificent bluebell woods and on clear days there are year round panoramic views towards the Isle of Wight, Purbeck Hills and, from linked walks, across to Bulbarrow and the Blackmore Vale.

Crime and Disorder

No description of the environment of Ashmore would be complete without an examination of its historical misdemeanours! In this rural area, poaching takes centre stage over the years. In the 18th Century, landowners employed their own gamekeepers, who were allowed to 'preserve and kill on their own land every form of game except deer'. The deer belonged to the Lord of the Chase and landowners found it increasingly hard to protect their crops from damage inflicted by deer. It wasn't until 1859 that the fields of Ashmore were enclosed, so the villagers set snares to trap deer. These would have been hastily removed when the Lord's keepers raided the village. In 1826 Samuel Hall, a tenant farmer, wrote to John Eliot, the Squire of Ashmore who lived in London, to tell him that poaching was so bad it was time someone was 'made an example of' as a warning to others. Consequently, a Richard Turner was convicted and fined £5, but on refusal to pay was imprisoned for 3 months; perhaps he was lucky not to be transported to Australia!

There is a story of a hanging at Washer's Pit. Squire Barber, who bought the Manor of Ashmore in 1634 and lived in the village until his death in 1662, is said to have dreamt one night that there was a woman in distress at Washer's Pit. A Mrs Mullins, his cook, volunteered to investigate, provided she could use the Squire's best horse. On reaching Washer's Pit, she found a woman hanging by her hair. As Mrs Mullins was cutting her down, she was set upon by men hiding in the bushes. However, she managed to mount her horse and carry the woman back to the village. Squire Barber was so pleased with her that he gave her a cottage to live in. To this day that cottage is known as Mullins Cottage.

In more recent times, thankfully, there has not been any violent crime, but poaching and some house-breaking and robbery from farm buildings have occurred from time to time.

SECTION 3

The Development of Ashmore

Ashmore Today

Ashmore today is a village of some 80 houses of mixed architectural style, ranging from 16th Century to 20th Century designs, occupied by 138 adults and 24 school age children. Many people work away from the village and the number of retired residents is increasing. The cost of housing is expensive and difficult for the young first time buyer to afford. The village has no school, shop, post office or pub and is served by an infrequent bus service.

Despite this, Ashmore is a desirable village in which to live and its inhabitants are determined to make it an even better place. It is a prosperous and thriving community. It is well kept and there are several new houses and many of the older ones have

been tastefully and lovingly restored or converted. Although the land is well farmed, only a handful of people work on the land.

It is due to the considerable efforts of the community, in particular in the area of fund raising, that a new Village Hall was built in 2005. This has proved to be a major social centre for the village and has breathed new life into the community. There is no doubt that Ashmore is a beautiful place and is now a popular tourist attraction. The beauty of the surrounding countryside is unmatched and the planning of the Ashmore off the future is geared to preserving all that is best of the old while tastefully and carefully developing the new.



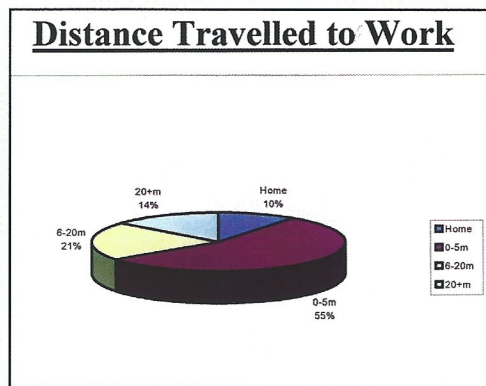
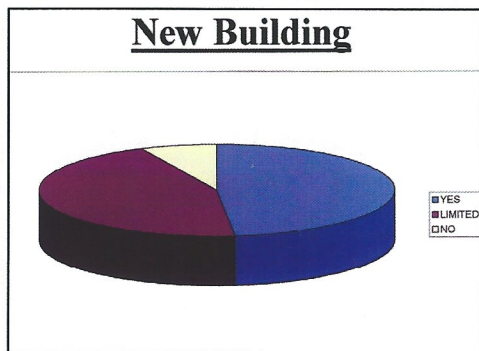
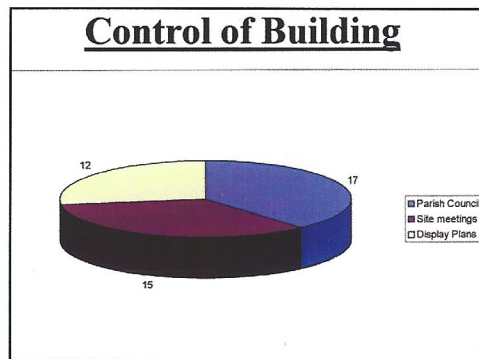
Ashmore Tomorrow

A survey carried out in the village during 2005 showed a real pride in the village but that some improvement was needed to ensure it maintained

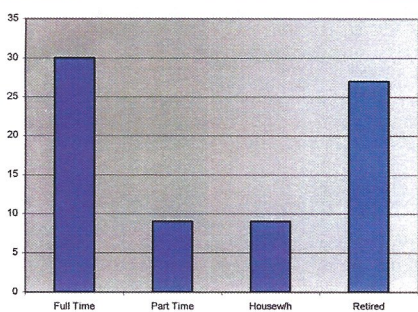


its quiet and dignified place in the North Dorset environment. The results of the survey, which have generated the Action Plan at Section 4, can be summarised as a desire to:

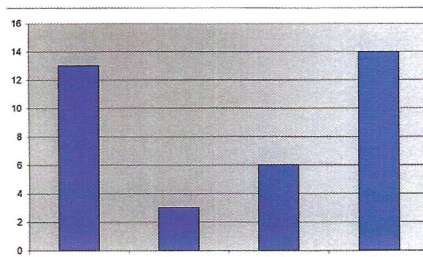
- See the village stay at approximately the same size, with no more than 10% growth over the next 15 years
- Place emphasis on affordable housing to encourage younger people to live in the village
- Enable the introduction of a sustainable village store
- Ensure all development was carefully controlled at both local and District level, and in keeping with the environment of the village
- Create more facilities for the young people of Ashmore
- Seek improvements to the local bus services to give more mobility to the elderly
- Manage the environment more actively to maintain the peace, tranquillity and appearance of the village



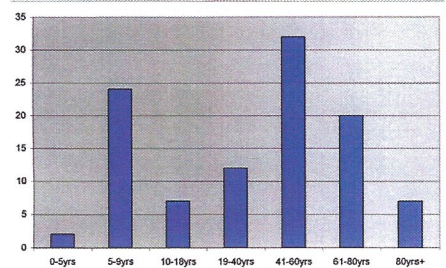
Occupations



Years in Village



Age of Household Members



SECTION 4

Action Plan

2006 - 2020

Category	Action	Timeline in Plan Years
Planning and Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure robust planning and development review process within the Parish Council • Generate close working relationship between Parish Council and District planning authority • Contain village housing growth to no more than 10% up to the year 2020 • Ensure all development is in keeping with the environment of the village • Take into account the need for affordable housing 	<p>Year 1 to 15</p> <p>Year 1 to 15</p> <p>Year 1 to 15</p> <p>Year 1 to 15</p> <p>Year 1 to 15</p>
Services and Amenities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Campaign to improve local bus services • Develop policy with District authorities for more regular street cleaning • In conjunction with major supermarkets examine potential for village shop • Work with District authorities to obtain youth leader to manage a village youth club in the Village Hall • Create plan to obtain all weather tennis court 	<p>By end year 2</p> <p>By end year 2</p> <p>By end year 2</p> <p>By end year 2</p> <p>Year 1 to 4</p>
Environmental Protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrange for introduction of serviced litter bins • Create awareness of need to protect grass verges. Target farm workers, tractor drivers, builders, oil and materials delivery firms • Liaise with District authorities to ensure roads are maintained in good and safe condition 	<p>End year 1</p> <p>Year 1 and 2</p> <p>Year 1 to 15</p>



Luke Howard: Ashmore Land Owner and The Man Who Named The Clouds

Luke Howard was born 28 November 1772 in London, England, the first-born of Elizabeth and Robert Howard. Robert Howard was a successful businessman and devout Quaker; Luke was sent to a large Quaker grammar school located at Burford, a community near Oxford, as soon as he reached school age.

While Howard was never trained as a scientist, he had a love for nature and the weather, particularly the clouds, from an early age. He became a devoted observer of the atmosphere for the rest of his life, augmenting his visual observations with readings from barometer and thermometer. For over 30 years of his life, Luke Howard maintained a record of accurate meteorological observations.

Naming The Clouds

Prior to the beginning of the Nineteenth Century, most weather observers believed that clouds were too transient, too changeable, too short-lived, to be classified or even analyzed. With few exceptions, no cloud types were even named; they were just described by their colour and form as each individual saw them: dark, white, grey, black, mare's tails, mackerel skies, woolly fleece, towers and castles, rocks and *oxes-eyes*. Clouds were used in a few instances as forecast tools in weather proverbs, but mostly by their state of darkness or colour:

"Red sky in morning, sailor take warning."

"Mackerel skies and mare's tails, make lofty ships carry low sails."

Then within a year, two cloud classification schemes were independently developed by Jean Baptiste Lamarck of France and Luke Howard of England. Lamarck was the first to present his cloud classification, publishing it in 1802 in the third volume of his *Annuaire Météorologique* in a paper entitled "On Cloud Forms." Lamarck realized the importance of clarity in observing meteorological phenomena:

He initially proposed five main types of clouds "related to general causes which are easily ascertained." They were:




- Hazy clouds (*en forme de voile*)
- Massed clouds (*attroupés*)
- Dappled clouds (*pommelés*)
- Broom-like clouds (*en balayeurs*)
- Grouped clouds (*groupés*).

Three years later, he devised a more detailed classification scheme which comprised twelve forms. Unfortunately his classification system did not make an impression on the scientists and naturalists of the day, not even his countrymen and does not seem to have been used by anyone, except himself. Two possible reasons were given, in to the "Preface" of the *International Cloud Atlas* (World Meteorological Organization, 1939): ...due to his choice of somewhat peculiar French names which would not readily be adopted in other countries, or perhaps the paper was discredited through appearing in the same publication (*Annuaire Météorologique*) as forecasts based on astrological data."


During the winter 1802-03, Luke Howard presented a paper to the Askesian Society, of which he was a founding member, entitled "On the Modification of Clouds." (Day remarks that the word *modification* in the title would in today's English be replaced by *classification*.)

In that paper, Howard proposed that one could identify several simple categories within the complexity of cloud forms. The great leap that Howard took was to provide his descriptive categories with Latin names, the language of scholarship, thus transcending national and language borders in its usage. Unlike Lamarck's names, these were understandable to all European-derived cultures (and in non-European lands where the Catholic Church had made inroads, bringing Latin to the local scholars). And it did not hinder the system's acceptance that it was both very simple and nearly all-encompassing.

Howard believed all clouds belonged to three distinct groups:

	Cumulus (Latin for <i>heap</i>)	“Convex or conical heaps, increasing upward from a horizontal base -- Wool bag clouds.”
	Stratus (Latin for <i>layer</i>)	“A widely extended horizontal sheet, increasing from below.”
	Cirrus (Latin for <i>curl of hair</i>)	“Parallel, flexuous fibres extensible by increase in any or all directions.”

To denote “a cloud in the act of condensation into rain, hail or snow,” he added a fourth category:

	Nimbus (Latin for <i>rain</i>)	“A rain cloud -- a cloud or systems of clouds from which rain is falling.”
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According to Howard: “While any of the clouds, except the nimbus, retain their primitive forms, no rain can take place; and it is by observing the changes and transitions of cloud form that weather may be predicted.”

Clouds could also alter their forms, thus, Howard reasoned, when cumulus clouds bunched together so that they crowded the sky, they became:

Cumulo-stratus:

“The cirro-stratus blended with the cumulus, and either appearing intermixed with the heaps of the latter, or super-adding a widespread structure to its base.”

Similarly, he defined other intermediate categories of transformation:

Cirro-cumulus:

“Small, well defined, roundish masses increasing from below.” and

Cirro-stratus:

“Horizontal or slightly inclined masses, attenuated towards a part or the whole of their circumference, bent downward or undulated, separate, or in groups, or consisting of small clouds having these characters.”

Howard’s work made a big impression on those interested in the sky, particularly after his papers were reprinted in Thomas Forster’s successful *Researches About Atmospheric Phaenomenae* in 1813. The classification system quickly gained wide acceptance both in Britain and other countries. Among its biggest supporters was the German poet, philosopher and scientist Johann Wolfgang von Goethe.

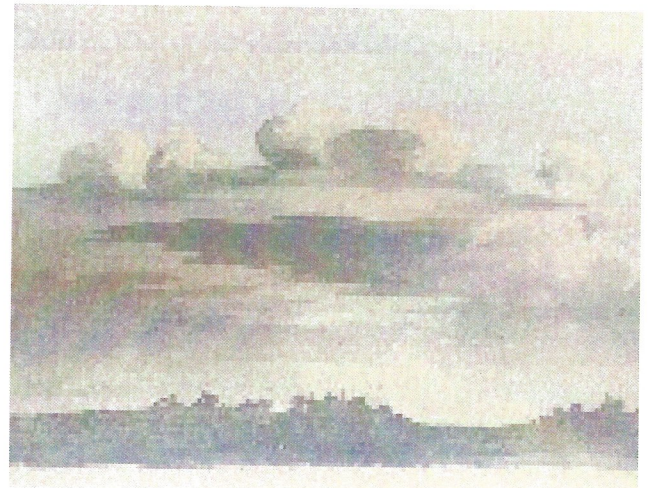
Goethe used the Howard classification in his weather journals and eventually dedicated four poems to Howard and his Clouds.

Goethe wrote:

[Howard] “was the first to hold fast conceptually the airy and always changing form of clouds, to limit and fasten down the indefinite, the intangible and unattainable and give them appropriate names.”

Howard’s work on clouds also appears to have influenced many Romantic Era painters, notably masters Joseph M.W. Turner, and John Constable of England and Caspar David Friedrich (through Goethe) in Germany. They used Howard’s descriptions to depict clouds with greater detail and accuracy. Turner first learned of Howard’s work through the second edition of Forster’s book in 1821, and it inspired him to paint a series of cloud studies. (Howard also produced a series of his own watercolours depicting the various clouds.)

Cumulostratus by Luke Howard





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