



Arsyllfa **Wledig** Cymru  
Wales **Rural** Observatory

## **A Survey of Rural Services in Wales**

March 2005



# **1. The Survey of Rural Services in Wales 2004.**

## **1.1 Introduction**

- 1.1.1 This report presents summary findings from the Wales Rural Observatory survey of rural services 2004. This survey represents the first attempt to survey levels of service provision in rural Wales apart from a similar independent academic research study carried out in 1996 (Higgs and White, 2000). The survey, in keeping with the Higgs and White study, took the Community Council (or Town Council) as the unit of analysis with questionnaires being sent to all Community/Town Clerks in rural areas of Wales. The survey has achieved a response rate of nearly 70% and a summary of the key findings from the questionnaire form the main body of this report.
- 1.1.2 Surveys of this nature, examining levels of key service provision, have been used extensively in English rural policy with the Rural Development Commission, and latterly the Countryside Agency, carrying out similar survey work in 1994, 1997 and 2000 in English Parish Councils (RDC, 1995, 1997, Countryside Agency, 2001). Comparable information for Wales has not been available over the same period and this report seeks to address this shortfall.

## **1.2 Methodology**

- 1.2.1 A first step in carrying out the Survey of Rural Services was to identify those rural Community Councils to be included in the study. Following discussions with the Welsh Assembly Government it was decided to employ the standard Unitary Authority definition of urban and rural areas used in Wales; the 9 Rural Unitary Authorities plus parts of 3 others – Flintshire, Vale of Glamorgan and Wrexham. Unitary Authorities classed as ‘Valleys’ or ‘Urban’ were excluded from the study. Community and Town Councils were then identified in the rural areas of Wales and a mailing list drawn up of Community and Town Council Clerks.
- 1.2.2 A questionnaire was compiled drawing together elements of the Countryside Agency surveys and the previous study undertaken in Wales by Higgs and White in 1996 (Higgs and White, 2000). This would allow for comparison with the situation in England at the time of the last Countryside Agency survey (CA, 2001), and an analysis of changing service levels in Wales since 1996. The questionnaire used for the rural Community Council survey is shown in Appendix One. The questionnaire primarily asks for numbers of particular service facilities within a Community Council or, in some cases whether or not a service is present or not. It differs from the Countryside Agency surveys in terms of requests for additional views on whether service levels are adequate and where they might be improved – this qualitative element to the survey is important in giving context to the raw figures on supply. The questionnaire also requests information on whether or not there have been service closures or openings over the five years prior to the survey. It is important to add a caveat at this point, the survey relies on the local knowledge of the respondent and while we may expect this to be very accurate in most cases it is possible that errors are made in determining the numbers of

a particular service in a Town & Community Council, particularly where a facility lies close to the Council boundary. Future work by the Wales Rural Observatory on GIS-based analysis of point-based data for particular services will act as an important 'checking' mechanism for the results of the survey.

- 1.2.3 Following a period of piloting the survey it was felt that the questionnaire should be more tailored for the larger Town Councils. Therefore, an alternative questionnaire was devised for those councils with a population over 4,000 which covered the same key services but could be completed with relative ease through the use of categorical questions for numbers of a particular service, for example, less than 5, 5-10, 10-15, more than 15 etc. This allowed for a good response from some of the larger settlements in rural Wales which are of key importance in terms of the delivery of services to rural residents.
- 1.2.4 Although replies to the survey are still coming in, at the time of writing the response rate stands at 69% which compares favourably with the survey response to the Countryside Agency surveys in England. Map 1 in Appendix Two displays the response rate together with those communities not surveyed and it is clear from Map 1 that the response is fairly uniform, in spatial terms, across Wales but that there are some identifiable gaps in response to the survey clearly visible in Map 1.

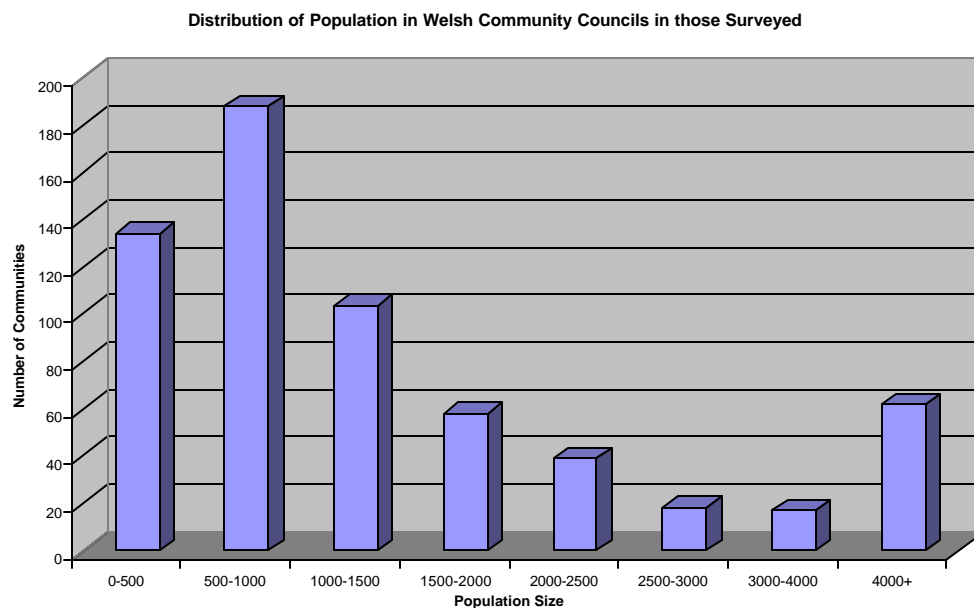
### 1.3 Presentation of Findings

- 1.3.1 The findings from the Survey of Rural Services in Wales are presented in the following chapters of this report mirroring the structure of the questionnaire survey in Appendix One, namely;
1. **Shops and Other Services** – this section includes permanent shops, post offices, farmers markets, food outlets, petrol stations, banks and buildings societies, and public houses,
  2. **Medical Services** – this section includes GP surgeries, dental surgeries, pharmacies and branch services,
  3. **Education and Day Care** – this section includes pre-school facilities, schools, and day-care services for the elderly or disabled,
  4. **Places of worship**
  5. **Information and Welfare** – including libraries, internet facilities, affordable housing information, support services for vulnerable groups and advice services,
  6. **Recreation Facilities and Community Activities** – including meeting places, play areas, sports facilities and clubs or groups for the young or elderly,
  7. **Transport** – including bus, train and community transport,
  8. **Crime Prevention**
  9. **Community Recycling**
  10. **Additional Information** – qualitative information provided by respondents on various aspects of service provision in the community.
- 1.3.2 The findings from the survey are presented as a series of tables and charts. The database has been added to the Wales Rural Observatory's GIS which allows for mapping of the results of the survey and also facilitates comparison with

other datasets assembled by the WRO in the GIS. This GIS methodology has allowed for analysis of service levels in terms of the population size of the Town & Community Councils taken from the 2001 Census.

- 1.3.3 The question of population distribution in the Town & Community Councils surveyed is an important one as the survey found that particular services are more likely to be present in areas with higher population concentrations. Figure 1.1 displays the number of Town & Community Councils within particular population bands in the surveyed communities. Clearly a large proportion of those Town & Community Councils surveyed have populations below 500 and between 500-1000 people. In these Community Council areas we might expect relatively low levels of service provision beyond the most basic service facilities (shop, pub, post office, primary school). The population distribution in surveyed Communities is also shown in spatial terms in Map Two in Appendix 2. This clearly shows the high concentration of Town & Community Councils below 1000 population across rural mid and west Wales.

Figure 1.1: Population Distribution of Surveyed Welsh Town & Community Councils.



## 1.4 Future Work

- 1.4.1 As stated previously, this report represents a summary of the survey results from the Survey of Rural Services in Wales. The future research agenda of the WRO allows for more in-depth analysis of the survey including a comparison with point level data on service provision in rural Wales which is to be assembled within the GIS. This will allow for an analysis of accessibility to key services using statistical procedures within the GIS (e.g. network analysis) coupled with the qualitative and contextual information gathered from the

Survey of Rural Services to give a more complete picture of the dynamics of service delivery across rural Wales.

- 1.4.2 The WRO will also examine the potential for comparison between the Survey of Rural Services in Wales and the Countryside Agency Survey of Village Services carried out in 2000. This is quite difficult to achieve because of the different types of areas used (the Village Parish in England and the Town and Community Council area in Wales). The Countryside Agency (CA) study also distinguished individual settlements within the parish boundaries and much of the analysis is presented in relation to these settlements rather than the aggregate parish boundaries (CA, 2001). There are, however, possibilities in terms of comparing data between the two surveys at a very aggregate level and, particularly, in terms of replicating the GIS-based access to services work contained in the Countryside Agency's 2000 Survey Report (CA, 2001). The WRO will be examining this comparison work with the Countryside Agency survey in the coming months.

## 2. Shops and Other Services

### 2.1 Introduction

This chapter outlines the findings from the questionnaire on key services such as shops (food and non-food), banks and building societies, post offices, food establishments and public houses. The findings are presented as a series of tables breaking the data into population bands for the Town & Community Councils (hereafter referred to as the ‘Councils’).

### 2.2 Shops and General Stores

2.2.1 Tables 2.1 – 2.4 detail information on the provision of shops in the rural Councils responding to the survey. Looking at all responding Councils, the overall percentages of communities with a particular type of shop are as follows:

- Shops selling food only – 68% of Councils do NOT have this service facility,
- Shops selling non-food items only – 67% of Councils do NOT have this service facility,
- General Stores (food and non-food) – 38% of Councils do NOT have this service facility.

2.2.2 The following analysis examines these overall figures in more depth in terms of variations within communities with varying population levels. Shops selling food only (Table 2.1) tend to concentrate in Councils with higher populations with 39% in the 1000-2000 population band and 46.2% in the 2000-4000 band. This still leaves a significant proportion of communities within these areas with no shop selling food only. In communities below the 1000 population band around 80-90% of communities, on average, have no shops that sell food only.

2.2.3 Comments made by respondents suggested a variety of reasons for why this may be the case. It was implied that due to the low population densities of many communities, provision in the village was not viable:

*“Recent feasibility study showed a retail outlet would not be viable” (pop. 500-600).*

*“Too close to [a] larger settlement to provide economies of scale (pop. 700-1000)”.*

In addition, it was suggested that the development of large supermarkets in the nearby towns ‘damages small retailers in rural areas, many have [now] closed’ (pop. 1000-2000); indeed, ‘village shops are being out-priced by large retail stores’ (pop.2000-4000).

- 2.2.4 Table 2.2 shows the responding communities with or without a shop selling non-food items only. The proportion of communities with such a shop in the population bands above 1000 people are similar to those for the ‘food only’ category – 56.9% for the 1000-2000 category and 37.8% for the 2000-4000 category. In the population bands below 1000 people there is more of a mixed pattern emerging with proportions ranging from 2.7% - 31.8% (Table 2.2).
- 2.2.5 Clearly the most common shop in rural areas of Wales is the general store selling both food and non-food items (Table 2.3). The presence or otherwise of these services is strongly correlated with population size with around 35% of communities having such a service in communities under 500 population, rising to 74% in the 1000-2000 population band and 83.3% in the 2000-4000 band. These figures highlight a significant proportion of Councils, even in the higher population bands, without this key service facility (38% do not have this service in total).
- 2.2.6 Table 2.4 shows the extent of shop (all types) openings or closures in the five years prior to the survey (question not included in the questionnaire for Councils with more than 4000 population). Clearly closures have taken place in this sector at a greater rate than openings across all population bands, with new openings only occurring in 10% or more of Councils in the population bands above 1000 people.
- 2.2.7 This was substantiated by the qualitative data:

*“The only village shop is about to close. No-one is interested in buying it”  
(pop.400-500).*

The importance of the village shop to the social infrastructure was highlighted. In addition to the ability to buy produce locally, which is particularly important for those without access to private transport; the shop is also an important meeting space.

- 2.2.8 Map Three in Appendix Two displays the number of General Stores in the responding communities (non-response is signified by the white areas). Clearly patterns of low response tend to concentrate in areas of lower population levels in mid and west Wales with higher numbers in settlement areas or coastal areas. The red shaded areas signify respondents who were unable to accurately answer this particular question.

Table 2.1: Proportion of Town & Community Councils with or without a Shop selling food only

Community Population Size	0-400	400-500	500-600	600-700	700-1000	1000-2000	2000-4000	4000 +	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Proportion with no shop	100	89.5	88.5	81	76.8	61	46.2	4	68
One or more Shop present	0	10.5	11.5	19	23.2	39	53.8	96	32

Table 2.2: Proportion of Town & Community Councils with or without a Shop selling non-food items only

Community Population Size	0-400	400-500	500-600	600-700	700-1000	1000-2000	2000-4000	4000 +	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Proportion with no shop	87.1	97.3	88	68.2	83.9	56.9	37.8	4	67
One or more Shop present	12.9	2.7	12	31.8	16.1	43.1	62.2	96	33

Table 2.3: Proportion of Town & Community Councils with or without a General Store (selling food and non-food items)

Community Population Size	0-400	400-500	500-600	600-700	700-1000	1000-2000	2000-4000	4000 +	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Proportion with no shop	64.5	64.1	69.2	39.1	37.7	25.6	16.7	7.5	38
One or more Shop present	35.5	35.9	30.8	60.9	62.3	74.4	83.3	92.5	62

Table 2.4: Proportion of Town & Community Councils who have had shops opening or closing in the preceding 5 years

Community Population Size	0-400	400-500	500-600	600-700	700-1000	1000-2000	2000-4000	4000 +
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Shop Openings	0	12.8	7.4	9.1	8.7	25.6	45.2	-
Shop Closures	21.9	33.3	40.7	33.3	45.9	51.8	70.5	-

## 2.3 Post Offices

2.3.1 Post offices can be considered a key service in rural areas (RDC, 1995) and information was collected through the survey on communities with a separate post office, a post office combined with a shop, or a post office combined with another service. Total percentages for the presence of these facilities are as follows;

- Separate Post Office – 72% of Councils do NOT have this service facility,
- Post Office with a shop – 40% of Councils do NOT have this service facility,
- Post Office combined with another service – 81% of Councils do NOT have this service facility.

2.3.2 Tables 2.5 – 2.8 detail those Town & Community Councils with or without post offices of various types in the population bands. Table 2.5 displays the data for Councils with or without a separate post office (not combined with another facility). Clearly quite a small proportion of communities have a separate post office ranging from 13.6% - 23.3% in population bands below 1000, and only reaching 32.4% in the 2000-4000 population band.

2.3.3 The most common form of post office is one attached to a shop and Table 2.6 displays the provision of this service across the population bands. The



proportion of Councils that have this facility is in the 62-69% range within population bands from 600 people to 4000 people. This indicates fairly good levels of provision of this particular service but still a significant number of communities with no provision. Table 2.7 displays the provision of post offices combined with another facility.

- 2.3.4 Table 2.8 shows those Councils that have had post office closures or openings over the last five years. Interestingly, there is a steady increase in the proportion of communities experiencing closures up to the 700-1000 population band (41.6% in this band), but the incidence of closure declines in the higher population bands. This may indicate a potential downward trend in terms of post office provision in the smaller, more sparsely populated communities.
- 2.3.5 Again, the comments made by respondents support the quantitative data. It was apparent that for communities with smaller populations, that there has been a loss of Post Office provision:

*“[Our] Post Office closed some years ago and has not been replaced (pop. 400-500)”.*

One community, however, stated that the functions provided by a Post Office were maintained within the locality, by the provision of a *‘Post Office held on a once weekly basis in the village hall’* (pop. 700-1000). It was suggested that the closure, or a reduction in the number of hours in which the Post Office operates, impacts on other facilities locally:

*“Once our Post Office is down-rated to mornings only, the shops don’t stand a chance. People demand a choice of time to shop”*  
(pop. 100-200).

Although there was recognition that many of the shops and services were provided in the surrounding area, some respondents felt that local provision was also required. Most of these implied that their locality needed a general store, whilst others suggested that their community would like to see the provision of a bank, petrol station and clothes shop. A couple of respondents implied that people without access to private transport are more affected by the lack of services locally

- 2.3.6 Map Four in Appendix Two displays the numbers of post offices with a shop in responding Town & Community Council areas. Provision is fairly evenly spread across the rural parts of Wales but there are a fairly high proportion of Councils with the lowest levels of population that do not have this service facility – in keeping with the trend shown in Table 2.6. The red shaded areas signify respondents who were unable to accurately answer this particular question.

Table 2.5: Proportion of Town & Community Councils with or without a Separate Post Office

Community Population Size	0-400	400-500	500-600	600-700	700-1000	1000-2000	2000-4000	4000 +	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Proportion with no post office	81.8	82.5	84.6	86.4	76.7	78.6	67.6	35.2	72
One or more post office present	18.2	17.5	15.4	13.6	23.3	21.4	32.4	64.8	28

Table 2.6: Proportion of Town & Community Councils with or without a Post Office combined with a shop

Community Population Size	0-400	400-500	500-600	600-700	700-1000	1000-2000	2000-4000	4000 +	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Proportion with no post office	83.9	58.2	57.2	34.6	32.3	37.4	30.9	13.9	40
One or more post office present	16.1	41.8	42.8	65.4	67.7	62.6	69.1	86.1	60

Table 2.7: Proportion of Town & Community Councils with or without a Post Office combined with another facility

Community Population Size	0-400	400-500	500-600	600-700	700-1000	1000-2000	2000-4000	4000 +	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Proportion with no post office	90.4	95.0	85.2	91.3	89.9	81.8	75.0	64.3	81
One or more post office present	9.6	5.0	14.8	8.7	10.1	18.2	25.0	35.7	19

Table 2.8: Proportion of Town & Community Councils who have had Post Offices opening or closing in the preceding 5 years

Community Population Size	0-400	400-500	500-600	600-700	700-1000	1000-2000	2000-4000	4000 +
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
PO Openings	0	5.5	0	5.0	5.4	6.25	8.6	-
PO Closures	25.0	28.5	29.6	35.0	41.6	30.9	19.4	-

## 2.4 Eating Establishments

2.4.1 Tables 2.9 – 2.11 show the proportions of Community Councils with or without various types of eating establishments. Overall, 49% of responding Town & Community Councils have no restaurant, 68% have no café, and 72% have no take away (all open all year around).

2.4.2 Although restaurants are fairly well represented across all population bands in Welsh rural communities, other types of eating establishment tend to be

concentrated in Town & Community Councils with over 2000 population. The trends based on population bands are shown in Tables 2.9 – 2.11.

Table 2.9: Proportion of Town & Community Councils with or without a Restaurant open all year around

Community Population Size	0-400	400-500	500-600	600-700	700-1000	1000-2000	2000-4000	4000 +	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Proportion with no restaurant	81.3	56.1	55.2	63.7	51.7	50.0	37.8	7.3	49
One or more restaurant present	18.7	43.9	44.8	36.3	48.3	50.0	62.2	92.7	51

Table 2.10: Proportion of Town & Community Councils with or without a Cafe open all year around

Community Population Size	0-400	400-500	500-600	600-700	700-1000	1000-2000	2000-4000	4000 +	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Proportion with no café	90.6	92.3	82.2	84.3	86.7	68.7	36.8	18.1	68
One or more cafe present	9.4	7.7	17.8	15.7	13.3	31.3	63.2	81.9	32

Table 2.11: Proportion of Town & Community Councils with or without a Take-Away restaurant open all year around

Community Population Size	0-400	400-500	500-600	600-700	700-1000	1000-2000	2000-4000	4000 +	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Proportion with no take-away	96.7	92.3	89.3	100	91.5	76.3	26.4	4.8	72
One or more take-away present	3.3	7.7	10.7	0	8.5	23.7	73.6	95.2	28

## 2.5 Banks and Building Societies

2.5.1 Banks and Building Societies are services that have started to disappear from rural villages as financial services have become rationalised and centralised (RDC, 1995, CA, 2001). The total percentage of responding Town and Community Councils with no full-time bank is 85%, while 90% of responding Councils have no building society

2.5.2 Tables 2.12 – 2.14 display the data for the incidence of banks and building societies in the responding rural Councils in relation to population size. The tables show clearly that provision of these financial services are strongly correlated with population size with little or no provision in communities below 1000 population and significant provision (over 50%) only occurring in the 4000+ population band.

- 2.5.3 There has been little incidence of openings or closures in this sector (Table 2.14) perhaps indicating fairly stable levels of provision over the last five years.
- 2.5.4 Map Five in Appendix Two displays the numbers of banks in the responding Town & Community Councils (non responding communities in white). It is clear that the patterns identified in Tables 2.12 – 2.14 are evident in the map analysis with large parts of rural mid and west Wales without this particular service facility. The red shaded areas signify respondents who were unable to accurately answer this particular question.

Table 2.12: Proportion of Town & Community Councils with or without a Full-Time Bank service

Community Population Size	0-400	400-500	500-600	600-700	700-1000	1000-2000	2000-4000	4000 +	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Proportion with no bank	100	100	96.2	100	100	90.7	73.0	29.6	85
One or more bank present	0	0	3.8	0	0	9.3	27.0	70.4	15

Table 2.13: Proportion of Town & Community Councils with or without a Full-Time Building Society service.

Community Population Size	0-400	400-500	500-600	600-700	700-1000	1000-2000	2000-4000	4000 +	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Proportion with no BS	100	100	100	100	100	96.5	83.8	36.4	90
One or more BS present	0	0	0	0	0	3.5	16.2	63.6	10

Table 2.14: Proportion of Town & Community Councils who have had Banks or Building Societies opening or closing in the preceding 5 years

Community Population Size	0-400	400-500	500-600	600-700	700-1000	1000-2000	2000-4000	4000 +
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Bank/BS Openings	0	0	0	0	0	0	2.7	-
Bank/BS Closures	0	2.7	0	0	0	7.1	13.5	-

## 2.6 Public Houses

- 2.6.1 The public house is a key service in rural areas serving as a focal point for the community and playing host to community events and, sometimes, other services e.g. post office services. Out of the responding Town and Community Councils 89% , had a public house serving meals and this figure rises to 92% if combined with those public houses that do not serve meals.
- 2.6.2 Tables 2.15 and 2.16 show levels of provision of Public Houses (those who serve meals and those who do not) in the responding Town and Community Councils based on populations bands. Table 2.15 shows clearly that the Public

House (serving meals) is one of the most ubiquitous of rural services with even the Councils in the smaller population bands having good levels of provision – 88% in the 400-500 population band have this facility.

- 2.6.3 Table 2.16 shows that Public Houses that do not serve meals are not so common but this probably reflects the fact that more Public Houses (particularly the larger chains) are providing a food service.
- 2.6.4 Map Six in Appendix Two displays the numbers of Pubs serving meals in responding Councils and here the trends identified in the Tables is revealed in a spatial sense with large proportions of responding communities having one or more of these facilities (non response is signified by the white Town & Community Council areas). The red shaded areas signify respondents who were unable to accurately answer this particular question.

Table 2.15: Proportion of Town & Community Councils with or without a Public House serving meals.

Community Population Size	0-400	400-500	500-600	600-700	700-1000	1000-2000	2000-4000	4000 +	Total
Proportion with no pub	50.0	11.9	23.3	16.0	1.5	3.3	9.8	0	11
One or more pub present	50.0	88.1	76.6	84.0	98.5	96.7	90.2	100	89

Table 2.16: Proportion of Town & Community Councils with or without a Public House that doesn't serve meals.

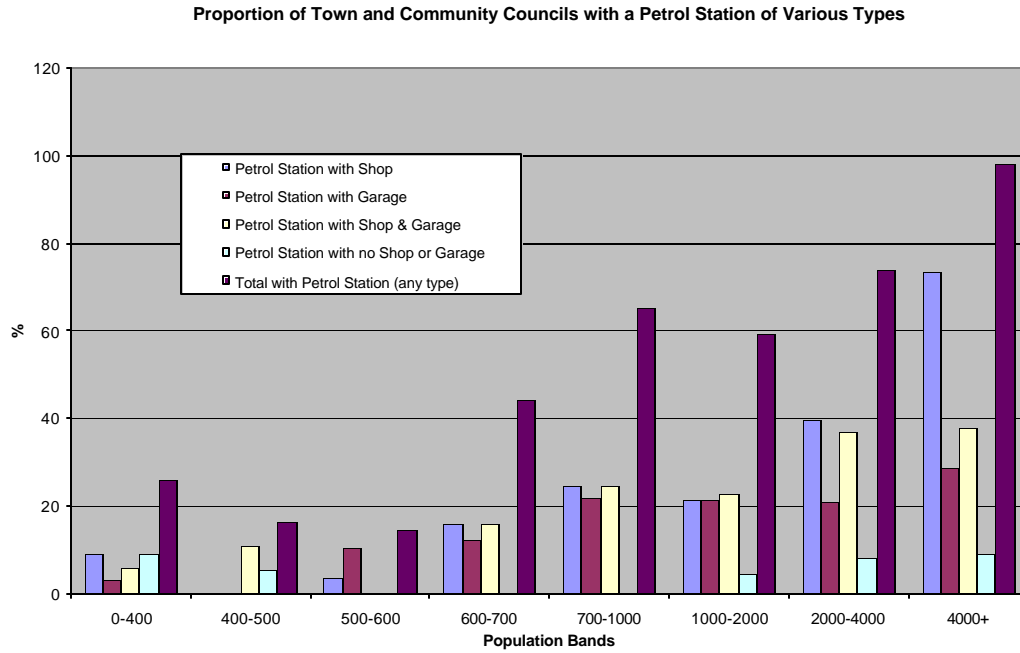
Community Population Size	0-400	400-500	500-600	600-700	700-1000	1000-2000	2000-4000	4000 +	Total
Proportion with no pub	88.3	100	76.9	88.9	90.5	73.8	43.9	2.6	66
One or more pub present	11.7	0	23.1	11.1	9.5	26.2	56.1	97.4	34

## 2.7 Petrol Stations

- 2.7.1 Petrol-filling stations often provide more than just fuel for private or commercial transport. Most petrol stations have shops selling convenience items, such as newspapers and confectionery, and many have a wider range of goods available, including basic foods. Petrol-filling stations are not only a local service as customers are often “passing-by” so location on main transport routes or the proximity of larger population bases is generally more important than proximity to smaller rural settlements (CA, 2001)
- 2.7.2 The questionnaire included questions on Petrol Stations with a Shop, with a Garage, with a Shop and Garage, or without both a Shop and a Garage. Graph 2.1 displays the rates of provision of petrol stations of these various types in the responding Town and Community Councils. Clearly the most common type of petrol station is one with a shop but the presence or otherwise of such a

service is dependent on population size of the Council. Overall 29.3% of responding Councils have a petrol station with a shop.

**Graph 2.1**



## 3 Medical Services

### 3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 Medical services are clearly of key importance and one might expect that these types of services would be centred in the main settlements in rural areas of Wales. For particular types of primary medical service – the GP surgery or dentist, a population base is essential to provide the adequate customer base, or ‘list size’. This section highlights the provision or otherwise of GP surgeries, health centres, dental surgeries and pharmacies. General levels of provision based on all responding Councils are as follows; 68% of Councils have no GP Practice, 84% have no dental practice, and 75% of responding Town and Community Councils have no pharmacy service. The following analysis considers in more detail variation in provision based on population size of responding Councils.
- 3.1.2 Table 3.1 shows Town & Community Councils with or without a GP surgery. As expected in population bands below 1000 people, less than 15% of communities have a GP surgery (as low as 2.7% in the 400-500 band). In the 1000-2000 population band (32.3% have a surgery) and the 2000-4000 band (66.7% have a surgery) there are still a significant proportion of the communities with no GP surgery. Again provision of health centres are strongly correlated with population with only the highest population bands with significant levels of provision of health centres.
- 3.1.3 A number of respondents mentioned that their communities possess branch or satellite surgeries; some suggested, however, that whilst this type of facility had been available it has subsequently closed:

*“Two GP surgeries have closed over the last six months; this [service] has been greatly missed to the community, especially those who do not have transport, or are not fit enough to travel 10 miles on a bus to get to the nearest surgery”* (pop. 0-400).

- 3.1.4 Dental surgeries are clearly customer dependent and are un-regulated (i.e. the dentists can locate where they wish). This is reflected in Table 3.3 which clearly shows that there are only dental surgeries located in communities with over 1000 people – and only significant levels in the 4000+ category. The provision of pharmacy services again follows that of GP and dental services, tending to concentrate in the higher population bands (Table 3.4).
- 3.1.5 A large proportion of respondents suggested that there was a need for the provision of local dental surgeries and particularly those operating within the National Health Service (NHS):

*“Need a dentist in the area”* (pop. 2000-4000)

*“Dental service at the local town has left [the] NHS and gone private”* (pop. 400-500)

- 3.1.6 Whilst a pharmacy may not be physically located in the community, several respondents highlighted the provision of a mobile / delivery prescription

service serving the area. Similar to the comments made in relation to the provision of shops and other services, a large number of respondents suggested that there was adequate provision in nearby towns:

*“This rural community adjoins a market town where good medical and dental facilities exist”* (pop. 2000-4000)

*“Doctors, dentist and pharmacies available 5 miles away”* (pop. 700-1000)

3.1.7 Again, it was implied that being located outside of the community, had ramifications on those people who do not have access to a car or public transport. Other comments made related to demographic issues; for example, one community respondent implied that their *‘community is increasing but facilities are decreasing’* (pop. 2000-4000), another pointed to the impacts of an ageing population on doctor’s waiting lists:

*“Expanding elderly population causes long waiting times”* (pop. 1000-2000)

3.1.8 Map Seven displays the numbers of GP surgeries within responding communities and clearly there are large numbers of Councils who are lacking this service facility in parts of mid and west rural Wales. Concentration of this service does tend to be in the Councils with larger populations (refer to Map Two for the population distribution across rural Wales). The red shaded areas signify respondents who were unable to accurately answer this particular question.

3.1.9 Map Eight displays the number of dental surgeries in responding Town & Community Councils and clearly reflects the trends identified in Table 3.3. The majority of rural Councils who responded to the survey are lacking this medical service. The red shaded areas signify respondents who were unable to accurately answer this particular question.

Table 3.1: Proportion of Town & Community Councils with or without a GP Surgery.

Community Population Size	0-400	400-500	500-600	600-700	700-1000	1000-2000	2000-4000	4000 +	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Proportion with no GP surgery	94.2	97.3	96.3	95.7	85.7	67.7	33.3	9.9	68
One or more GP surgery present	5.8	2.7	3.7	4.3	14.3	32.3	66.7	90.1	32

Table 3.2: Proportion of Town & Community Councils with or without a Health Centre.

Community Population Size	0-400	400-500	500-600	600-700	700-1000	1000-2000	2000-4000	4000 +	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Proportion with no health centre	97.1	100	100	95.7	96.7	88.4	77.8	38.6	86
One or more health centre present	2.9	0	0	4.3	3.3	11.6	28.2	61.4	14



Table 3.3: Proportion of Town & Community Councils with or without a Dental Surgery.

Community Population Size	0-400	400-500	500-600	600-700	700-1000	1000-2000	2000-4000	4000 +	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Proportion with no dentist	100	100	100	100	100	89.6	60.5	25.0	84
One or more dentist present	0	0	0	0	0	10.4	39.5	75.0	16

Table 3.4: Proportion of Town & Community Councils with or without a Pharmacy.

Community Population Size	0-400	400-500	500-600	600-700	700-1000	1000-2000	2000-4000	4000 +	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Proportion with no pharmacy	100	97.2	96.3	95.7	91.9	79.3	35.0	9.1	75
One or more pharmacy present	0	2.8	3.7	4.3	8.1	20.7	65.0	90.9	25

## 4 Education and Day Care

### 4.1 Introduction

This section details response to questions on child-care, education provision and day care provision.

### 4.2 Childcare

- 4.2.1 The provision of accessible childcare services in rural areas is of key importance given its role in allowing members of the family unit to gain employment. In terms of nursery and playgroup provision 74% of responding Town and Community Councils did not have a publicly run nursery and 78% are without a privately run nursery, however, only 38% did not have a playgroup. The following analysis considers the various forms of childcare in relation to population levels.
- 4.2.2 Table 4.1 and Table 4.2 display the proportion of Town & Community Councils with or without nurseries (private or public). Clearly large proportions of Councils in rural Wales below the 4000 population threshold have no nursery provision which could have implications for the female workforce in such locations.
- 4.2.3 Indeed, the qualitative data supports this apparent lack of provision:

*“There is a lack of pre-school activity. [There is, therefore, a] lack of an informal support for mothers/carers of young children”* (pop. 1000-2000).

As it is implied in the above quotation, the social (and economic) implications of the lack of such a facility are significant for particular sections of the community

- 4.2.4 This is off-set somewhat by relatively high levels of playgroup provision in the responding communities (Table 4.3) with 80% or more of communities having such a service in the population bands above 1000 people. Provision of Out of School clubs is fairly uniform with 18-36% of communities having this service in the population bands below 2000 people (Table 4.4).
- 4.2.5 In one community (pop. 1000-2000), however, it was felt that these playgroups were heavily subscribed and that there should be additional provision. Another community mentioned that they had been successful in obtaining funding for three years for the local playgroup, but have recently been told that *‘the funding has run out and there is not enough money available to maintain those that are already set up’* (pop. 500-600).

Table 4.1: Proportion of Town & Community Councils with or without a Publicly funded nursery

Community Population Size	0-400	400-500	500-600	600-700	700-1000	1000-2000	2000-4000	4000 +	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Proportion with no nursery	88.9	92.2	85.2	73.9	79.1	67.1	63.2	42.5	72
One or more nursery present	11.1	7.8	14.8	26.1	20.9	32.9	36.8	57.5	28

Table 4.2: Proportion of Town & Community Councils with or without a Privately funded nursery.

Community Population Size	0-400	400-500	500-600	600-700	700-1000	1000-2000	2000-4000	4000 +	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Proportion with no nursery	100	97.2	96.3	95.7	91.9	79.3	35.0	9.1	76
One or more nursery present	2.7	10.5	7.7	12.0	13.1	9.9	43.5	76.7	24

Table 4.3: Proportion of Town & Community Councils with or without a Playgroup facility

Community Population Size	0-400	400-500	500-600	600-700	700-1000	1000-2000	2000-4000	4000 +	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Proportion with no playgroup	75.7	41.1	48.2	56.6	33.4	11.5	15.0	7.7	31
One or more playgroup present	24.3	58.9	51.8	43.4	66.6	88.5	85.0	92.3	69

Table 4.4: Proportion of Town & Community Councils with or without an Out of School child-care facility

Community Population Size	0-400	400-500	500-600	600-700	700-1000	1000-2000	2000-4000	4000 +	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Proportion with no OoS	81.1	64.1	64.0	81.8	70.0	63.4	47.2	29.0	62
One or more OoS present	18.9	35.9	36.0	18.2	30.0	36.6	52.8	71.0	38

### 4.3 Schools

4.3.1 The survey gathered information on levels of school provision in rural areas of Wales and found that 17% of Councils did not have access to a school for the 5-11 age group, 74% did not have a school for the 12-16 age group, and 78% did not have a school for the 17-18 age group. Further analysis is now presented in relation to the population size of responding Town and Community Councils.

4.3.2 Town & Community Councils are well served by schools catering for the 5-11 age group (Table 4.5) with 66% and more having this service in population bands above 500 people. The proportion of communities with schools for the

12-16 age group are correlated with population size, as one might expect, with the top population bands having significant levels of provision – 76% in the 4000+ band. The same is true for the 16-18 age group (Table 4.7).

4.3.3 In terms of the qualitative data, half of those responded felt that education provision was good, others, however, were less satisfied. They pointed, for example, to the ‘*inadequate accommodation to satisfy pupil numbers*’ (pop. 1000-2000) and the threat of primary school closures. It was suggested by one respondent that the presence of the ‘*local primary school avoids the break up of the community*’ (pop. 700-1000).

4.3.4 There is evidence of schools closing over the last 5 years in the Town & Community Councils with smaller population sizes (Table 4.8) although these rates of closure are quite small (below 10% in most population bands). Indeed, one community with a population of between 0-400 has experienced much change in the provision of primary school education:

*“The local school became a federated school in 1998, [but in] September 2003 this closed”.*

There are numerous implications for such closures: children have to be transported to attend schools; the hub of could potentially be lost; families may not choose to locate to the community because of the lack of provision. The socio-economic manifestations of these could be significant in terms of the sustainability of the village.

4.3.5 Map Nine in Appendix Two displays the numbers of primary schools in the responding Councils. The trend identified in Table 4.5 is evident on the map with a large proportion of Council areas served by this particular school service. The red shaded areas signify respondents who were unable to accurately answer this particular question.

Table 4.5: Proportion of Town & Community Councils with or without a School for the 5-11 Age group

Community Population Size	0-400	400-500	500-600	600-700	700-1000	1000-2000	2000-4000	4000 +	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Proportion with no school	53.2	29.3	33.4	15.4	11.3	2.2	0	0	17
One or more school present	46.8	70.7	66.6	84.6	88.7	97.8	100	100	83

Table 4.6: Proportion of Town & Community Councils with or without a School for the 12-16 Age group

Community Population Size	0-400	400-500	500-600	600-700	700-1000	1000-2000	2000-4000	4000 +	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Proportion with no school	96.7	97.4	100	100	93.1	83.7	73.2	23.3	74
One or more School present	3.3	2.6	0	0	6.9	16.3	26.8	76.7	26

Table 4.7: Proportion of Town & Community Councils with or without a school for the 17-18 Age Group

Community Population Size	0-400	400-500	500-600	600-700	700-1000	1000-2000	2000-4000	4000 +	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Proportion with no School	96.7	97.4	95.8	100	94.8	90.4	73.2	32.6	85
One or more School present	3.3	2.6	4.2	0	5.2	9.6	26.8	67.4	15

Table 4.8: Proportion of Town & Community Councils who have had Schools opening or closing in the preceding 5 years

Community Population Size	0-400	400-500	500-600	600-700	700-1000	1000-2000	2000-4000	4000 +
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
School Openings	2.9	0	0	0	3.9	0	3.0	10.5
School Closures	8.8	8.6	4.3	4.8	13.6	3.8	6.3	12.5

#### 4.4 Day Care

4.4.1 The survey provided information on levels of provision of day-care services for the elderly and the disabled. Of all responding Councils, 74% did not have day-care facilities for the elderly and 89% did not have day-care provision for the disabled.

4.4.2 Day care groups for the elderly and the disabled is again correlated with the size of the Community with the most significant levels of provision in the 2000-4000 and 4000+ population bands (Tables 4.9 and 4.10)

4.4.3 Indeed, comments made by respondents from communities with small populations, implied that there was a *'need for more services and events for the elderly and disabled within their own area'* (pop. 0-400). One respondent (pop. 0-400) suggested that this should include Meals on Wheels. It was implied that day-care provision, particularly in areas with a very small population base, is *'uneconomical'* (pop. 500-600). Indeed, since formal day-care in these areas is often inadequate *'neighbours and friends fulfil this role'* (pop. 0-400). This has implications on the increased role of the informal economy in rural areas. In addition, it was also suggested that day-care groups have a socially inclusive function: *'day-care groups would encourage older people to socialise and come together'* (pop. 400-500).

4.4.4 In contrast to the quantitative data that states that larger populations have significant levels of provision for the elderly, it was suggested that whilst

*"there are high numbers of elderly people living in the community; there are no day-care facilities"* (pop. 2000-4000).

It is important to reiterate here of course, that this comment reflects the circumstances of this community. Whilst the quantitative data suggests that communities of a similar size have significant levels of provision, these have not positively responded through the qualitative section of the survey.

Table 4.9: Proportion of Town & Community Councils with or without Groups for the Elderly

Community Population Size	0-400	400-500	500-600	600-700	700-1000	1000-2000	2000-4000	4000 +	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Proportion with no Group	88.6	83.4	80.8	100	77.2	70.3	48.6	11.8	66
One or more Group present	11.4	16.6	19.2	0	22.8	29.7	51.4	88.2	34

Table 4.10: Proportion of Town & Community Councils with or without Groups for the Disabled

Community Population Size	0-400	400-500	500-600	600-700	700-1000	1000-2000	2000-4000	4000 +	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Proportion with no Group	97.2	94.6	100	95.5	96.5	90.3	84.4	33.4	83
One or more Group present	2.8	5.4	0	4.5	3.5	9.7	15.6	66.6	17

## 5 Places of Worship / Information and Welfare

### 5.1 Introduction

This section details information from the survey on Places of Worship and Information and Welfare Services.

### 5.2 Places of Worship

5.2.1 A high proportion of Town & Community Councils have some provision for Places of Worship whether with a Minister resident (Table 5.1) where the highest proportions of communities with this service in the highest population bands, or with the Minister not resident which is more common in those communities with lower population levels (Table 5.2).

Table 5.1: Proportion of Town & Community Councils with a Place of Worship with the Minister resident.

Community Population Size	0-400	400-500	500-600	600-700	700-1000	1000-2000	2000-4000	4000 +	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Proportion with no place of worship	67.7	73.8	58.6	51.8	40.6	27.6	10.0	2.6	39
One or more place of worship present	32.3	26.2	41.4	48.2	59.4	72.4	90.0	97.4	61

Table 5.2: Proportion of Town & Community Councils with a Place of Worship with the Minister Not resident.

Community Population Size	0-400	400-500	500-600	600-700	700-1000	1000-2000	2000-4000	4000 +	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Proportion with no place of worship	16.7	7.0	10.4	7.7	23.4	20.0	41.5	22.3	20
One or more place of worship present	83.3	93.0	89.6	92.3	76.6	80.0	58.5	77.7	80

5.2.2 Tables 5.3 – 5.5 detail the uses to which Church Halls are put for other events ranging from arts/music events, public meetings and school assemblies. These tables are depicting all responding communities, so if a church hall is not present then this will be reflected in those without a particular service. Church Halls are used quite extensively in rural areas for various music/arts events and public meetings. School assemblies appear to be carried out on local school premises rather than through the use of Church Halls (Table 5.5).

Table 5.3: Proportion of Town & Community Councils with a Church Hall used for Arts/Music events

Community Population Size	0-400	400-500	500-600	600-700	700-1000	1000-2000	2000-4000	4000 +	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Proportion with no church hall	73.7	79.5	87.1	92.9	83.6	75.3	57.2	60.0	76
One or more church hall present	26.3	20.5	12.9	7.1	16.4	24.7	42.8	40.0	24

Table 5.4: Proportion of Town & Community Councils with a Church Hall used for Public Meetings

Community Population Size	0-400	400-500	500-600	600-700	700-1000	1000-2000	2000-4000	4000 +	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Proportion with no church hall	76.4	88.6	87.1	78.6	79.2	77.5	73.8	59.5	78
One or more church hall present	23.6	11.4	12.9	21.4	20.8	22.5	26.2	40.5	22

Table 5.5: Proportion of Town & Community Councils with a Church Hall used for School Assemblies

Community Population Size	0-400	400-500	500-600	600-700	700-1000	1000-2000	2000-4000	4000 +	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Proportion with no church hall	86.5	88.6	90.4	96.4	94.0	92.5	85.7	93.3	91
One or more church hall present	13.5	11.4	9.6	3.6	6.0	7.5	14.3	6.7	9

### 5.3 Libraries

5.3.1 The survey collected information on the presence or otherwise of permanent libraries and mobile libraries in responding Town & Community Councils. Of those who responded, 79% had no permanent library and 33% had no mobile library service. This general trend is analysed below in relation to the population size of Councils.

5.3.2 Tables 5.6 and 5.7 show data on the proportion of Town & Community Councils with a permanent library and mobile library. Clearly this is population dependent with permanent libraries concentrated in the communities with higher populations and mobile libraries focusing on more sparsely populated communities.



Table 5.6: Proportion of Town & Community Councils with Permanent Library

Community Population Size	0-400	400-500	500-600	600-700	700-1000	1000-2000	2000-4000	4000 +	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Proportion with no library	100	100	100	96.4	95.5	82.8	42.9	6.7	78
One or more library present	0	0	0	3.6	4.5	17.2	57.1	93.3	22

Table 5.7: Proportion of Town & Community Councils with a Mobile Library Service

Community Population Size	0-400	400-500	500-600	600-700	700-1000	1000-2000	2000-4000	4000 +	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Proportion with no mobile library	23.5	27.8	9.7	17.9	17.9	30.1	47.6	66.7	31
One or more mobile library present	76.5	72.2	90.3	82.1	82.1	69.9	52.4	33.3	69

## 5.4 Information Services

- 5.4.1 Tables 5.8 – 5.10 show information on different information mechanisms in Town & Community Councils and most communities are well served in terms of notice-boards or newsletters but Internet facilities are clearly an area where provision is much lower in the smaller communities (in terms of population size – Table 5.10)
- 5.4.2 This is substantiated in the qualitative data. As the quote below implies, there is adequate provision even in the smaller communities:

*“Matters are well covered by notice-boards and newsletter”* (pop. 500-600).

Table 5.8: Proportion of Town & Community Councils with a Community Noticeboard

Community Population Size	0-400	400-500	500-600	600-700	700-1000	1000-2000	2000-4000	4000 +	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Proportion with no notice board	7.8	15.8	6.5	25.0	10.5	9.7	14.3	8.9	11
One or more notice board present	92.2	84.2	93.5	75.0	89.5	90.3	85.7	91.1	89

Table 5.9: Proportion of Town & Community Councils with a Community Newsletter

Community Population Size	0-400	400-500	500-600	600-700	700-1000	1000-2000	2000-4000	4000 +	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Proportion with no newsletter	47.4	47.3	50.1	50	44.8	39.8	38.1	44.5	45
One or more newsletter present	52.6	52.7	41.9	50	55.2	60.2	61.9	55.5	55

Table 5.10: Proportion of Town & Community Councils with an Internet Facility

Community Population Size	0-400	400-500	500-600	600-700	700-1000	1000-2000	2000-4000	4000 +	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Proportion with no internet facility	90.9	86.2	91.7	85.7	80.8	75.7	55.6	18.4	72
One or more internet facility present	9.1	13.8	8.3	14.3	19.2	24.3	44.4	81.6	28

## 5.5 Affordable Housing

5.5.1 Data in Tables 5.11 and 5.12, on the numbers of Social Rented Landlords or Exceptions Policies provides information on the provision of affordable housing in rural communities. There was significant non-response to these questions but of those who did respond it can be seen that levels of this housing provision are low across most population bands – particularly in terms of exceptions policy provision. In general terms, 85% of responding Councils had not had affordable housing provision through a Social Rented Landlord and 96% had not had affordable housing provision through the Exceptions Policy.

Table 5.11: Proportion of Community Councils who have or have not provided affordable properties over the last five years through a **Social Rented Landlord** (e.g. Housing Association, Local Authority).

Community Population Size	0-400	400-500	500-600	600-700	700-1000	1000-2000	2000-4000	4000 +	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Housing not provided	100	97.1	87.0	78.9	89.4	85.3	86.7	63.2	86
Housing provided	0	2.9	13.0	21.1	10.6	14.7	13.3	36.8	14

Table 5.12: Proportion of Town & Community Councils who have or have not provided affordable properties over the last five years through the Exceptions Policy (e.g. s. 106 Agreements)

Community Population Size	0-400	400-500	500-600	600-700	700-1000	1000-2000	2000-4000	4000 +	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Housing not provided	96.6	97.1	87.1	90.0	97.9	100	96.7	100	97
Housing provided	3.4	2.9	12.9	10.0	2.1	0	3.3	0	3

## 5.6 Advice Services

5.6.1 Data on various types of advice service are presented in tables 5.13-5.16. In all cases the proportion of communities with these services is very much dependent on population size with only the most populated communities having significant levels of such services.

5.6.2 Whilst the qualitative data does to some extent support the quantitative material:

*“[We have] no information or facilities to benefit the community”* (pop. 0-400)

some respondents pointed to the fact that information and advice can be sought via Citizens’ Advice Bureaux (CAB), Job Centres and legal services in the surrounding towns. One respondent, however, felt that *‘access to information [and advice] should be available [locally] at least once a week’* (pop. 700-1000).

5.6.3 Job Centre Plus already operates a mobile ‘Job-bus’ in some parts of rural Britain<sup>1</sup>. These provide advice and training facilities to more remote communities and are an important complement to services in larger centres. This provision could be rolled-out to provide regular advice for those living in smaller communities. It was also implied by a number of respondents that there is a lack of drop-in services for young people. One respondent (pop. 600-700) suggested that this facility could, with funding, be provided in the village hall. This would thus utilise existing infrastructure.

Table 5.13: Proportion of Town & Community Councils with and without advice services – **Community Legal Service**

Community Population Size	0-400	400-500	500-600	600-700	700-1000	1000-2000	2000-4000	4000 +	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Proportion with no advice service	100	100	100	100	98.5	96.8	95.3	82.3	96
One or more advice service present	0	0	0	0	1.5	3.2	4.7	17.7	4

<sup>1</sup> See <http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/live/welcome.asp?id=958>

Table 5.14: Proportion of Town & Community Councils with and without advice services –**Counselling Service**

Community Population Size	0-400	400-500	500-600	600-700	700-1000	1000-2000	2000-4000	4000 +	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Proportion with no advice service	94.7	100	100	100	100	97.8	90.5	80.0	96
One or more advice service present	5.3	0	0	0	0	2.2	9.5	20.0	4

Table 5.15: Proportion of Town & Community Councils with and without advice services –**Citizen’s Advice Bureau**

Community Population Size	0-400	400-500	500-600	600-700	700-1000	1000-2000	2000-4000	4000 +	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Proportion with no advice service	97.4	100	96.8	96.4	97.0	97.8	78.6	44.5	89
One or more advice service present	2.6	0	3.2	3.6	3.0	2.2	21.4	55.5	11

Table 5.16: Proportion of Town & Community Councils with and without advice services –**Job Centre**

Community Population Size	0-400	400-500	500-600	600-700	700-1000	1000-2000	2000-4000	4000 +	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Proportion with no advice service	97.4	100	100	100	98.5	98.9	88.1	48.9	92
One or more advice service present	2.6	0	0	0	1.5	1.1	11.9	51.1	8

## 5.7 Support Services for Particular Groups

5.7.1 The Survey also requested information on various sources of support for particular vulnerable groups in the local community. These included support groups for the elderly, young people, the disabled, the unemployed, the homeless, those with drug problems, and those who had been subject to domestic violence.

5.7.2 Table 5.17 below displays the proportion of responding Town and Community Councils who have support services of one form or another. Clearly the most common support services are those for the elderly, young people, and the disabled with 42%, 24% and 19%, respectively, of all responding Town and Community Councils having access to these services. The other forms of support services (for the unemployed, the homeless, those with drug problems, and those who had been subject to domestic violence) tend to be concentrated in those Town and Community Councils with larger populations (4000+). The

proportion of communities with services for these vulnerable groups are below 10% overall across all responding Town and Community Councils (Table 5.17).

Table 5.17 : Support Services for Vulnerable Groups

<b>Pop.</b>	<b>Elderly support</b>	<b>Young People Support</b>	<b>Disabled Support</b>	<b>Unemployed Support</b>	<b>Homeless Support</b>	<b>Drug Problems Support</b>	<b>Domestic Violence Support</b>
0-400	15.78	7.89	7.89	5.26	5.26	5.26	5.26
400-500	27.27	11.36	11.36	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
500-600	35.48	12.90	6.45	3.22	6.45	6.45	6.45
600-700	32.14	21.42	17.85	7.14	7.14	7.14	3.57
700-1000	41.79	22.38	19.40	2.98	4.47	2.98	2.98
1000-2000	61.19	19.35	13.97	3.22	2.15	2.15	1.07
2000-4000	57.14	38.09	23.80	4.76	2.38	11.90	9.52
4000+	75.55	57.77	53.33	42.22	35.55	40.00	40.00
Total	42.20	24.00	19.10	7.70	7.20	8.50	7.70

## 6 Recreation Facilities and Community Activities

### 6.1 Introduction

This section details information from the survey on recreation facilities and community activities including sports facilities and clubs and organisations.

### 6.2 Meeting Places

- 6.2.1 Tables 6.1- 6.4 show the proportion of communities with and without meeting places of various types. Village Halls and Church Halls are well provided for in large proportions of communities with slightly less evidence of provision of School Halls and Community Centres in the Town & Community Councils with lower populations.
- 6.2.2 Whilst the quantitative data infers the levels of provision, the qualitative data highlights quality and accessibility issues. One respondent, for example, stated that *'the facilities in the [village] hall need to be fundamentally improved'* (pop. 500-600). Another (pop. 0-400) suggested that whilst the village hall is the centre for numerous activities, income levels determine peoples' participation. This has connotations for social exclusion at the micro-level.

Table 6.1: Proportion of Town & Community Councils with and without local meeting rooms or halls – **1. Village Halls**

Community Population Size	0-400	400-500	500-600	600-700	700-1000	1000-2000	2000-4000	4000 +	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Proportion with no meeting room	42.9	37.5	34.5	53.8	23.4	16.5	12.8	44.2	29
One or more meeting room present	57.1	62.5	65.5	46.2	76.6	83.5	87.2	55.8	71

Table 6.2: Proportion of Town & Community Councils with and without local meeting rooms or halls – **2. Church Hall**

Community Population Size	0-400	400-500	500-600	600-700	700-1000	1000-2000	2000-4000	4000 +	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Proportion with no meeting room	50.0	36.6	53.6	36.6	39.1	27.1	21.1	20.9	34
One or more meeting room present	50.0	63.4	46.4	63.4	60.9	72.9	78.9	79.1	66

Table 6.3: Proportion of Town & Community Councils with and without local meeting rooms or halls – **3. Community Centre**

Community Population Size	0-400	400-500	500-600	600-700	700-1000	1000-2000	2000-4000	4000 +	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Proportion with no meeting room	84.5	72.5	79.2	68.2	68.9	54.8	42.5	25.6	60
One or more meeting room present	15.5	27.5	20.8	31.8	31.1	45.2	57.5	74.4	40

Table 6.4: Proportion of Town & Community Councils with and without local meeting rooms or halls – **4. School Hall**

Community Population Size	0-400	400-500	500-600	600-700	700-1000	1000-2000	2000-4000	4000 +	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Proportion with no meeting room	84.5	72.5	79.2	68.2	68.9	54.8	42.5	25.6	51
One or more meeting room present	15.6	25.0	30.8	52.2	38.1	63.6	82.1	65.1	49

### 6.3 Recreation Facilities

- 6.3.1 Table 6.5 shows the proportion of communities with play areas with equipment and generally speaking provision is good across rural Wales with only the 0-400 population band dropping below 50% on this service.
- 6.3.2 It was mentioned by one Community Council (pop. 700-1000) that they cannot to afford the costs incurred of maintaining and insuring playgrounds. This may account for the decreasing incidence of playgrounds according to population size.
- 6.3.3 Tables 6.6-6.10 show levels of provision of various sports facilities and it is clear that these are strongly correlated with community size with playing fields being the only category where there are significant levels of provision in the population bands below 1000 people.
- 6.3.4 Again, the qualitative data highlights some interesting points beyond the raw quantitative material. A couple of respondents, for example, pointed to a number of problems in trying to provide sports facilities; one implied that there is *'no land available'* (pop. 600-700), whilst another suggested that they are *'difficult to maintain and require adequate funding'* (pop.1000-2000). The closure of local schools or their facilities also takes away the opportunities to provide sports facilities locally. One community, for example, stated that they *'need a swimming pool since the secondary school pool closed two years ago'* (pop. 1000-2000).
- 6.3.5 Whilst the majority of comments stress the lack, or poor quality, of sports facilities in their community, some refer to the positive activities that take place locally:

*"The [village] hall committee raised money to buy the old school playing field in 2000 for the community"* (pop. 600-700).

*“[There is a] flourishing sports association, church activities, fetes and fairs” (pop. 700-1000).*

This would suggest that levels of provision of various sports facilities are not only related to the size of the community – in terms of what they can physically and financially provide – but is also dependent on the social capital of individuals. This, therefore, brings about a locally specificity to the provision of recreation facilities in rural areas.

Table 6.5: Proportion of Town & Community Councils with and without formal play areas with equipment for children

Community Population Size	0-400	400-500	500-600	600-700	700-1000	1000-2000	2000-4000	4000 +	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Proportion with no play area	51.4	42.5	17.9	29.6	18.7	12.1	0	0	19
One or more play area present	48.6	57.5	82.1	70.4	81.3	87.9	100	100	81

Table 6.6: Proportion of Town & Community Councils with and without recreation facilities – **1. Swimming Pool**

Community Population Size	0-400	400-500	500-600	600-700	700-1000	1000-2000	2000-4000	4000 +	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Proportion with no recreation facility	88.9	97.5	89.3	92.3	96.7	86.9	74.4	36.6	83
One or more recreation facility present	11.1	2.5	10.7	7.7	3.3	13.1	25.6	63.4	17

Table 6.7: Proportion of Town & Community Councils with and without recreation facilities – **2. Tennis Courts**

Community Population Size	0-400	400-500	500-600	600-700	700-1000	1000-2000	2000-4000	4000 +	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Proportion with no recreation facility	94.5	85.0	88.9	96.2	69.4	57.2	53.7	22.7	67
One or more recreation facility present	5.5	15.0	11.1	3.8	30.6	42.8	46.3	77.3	33



Table 6.8: Proportion of Town & Community Councils with and without recreation facilities – **3. Sports Hall**

Community Population Size	0-400	400-500	500-600	600-700	700-1000	1000-2000	2000-4000	4000 +	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Proportion with no recreation facility	94.5	97.4	88.9	80.8	93.5	76.2	60.0	20.5	76
One or more recreation facility present	5.5	2.6	11.1	19.2	6.5	23.8	40.0	79.5	24

Table 6.9: Proportion of Town & Community Councils with and without recreation facilities – **4. Playing Fields**

Community Population Size	0-400	400-500	500-600	600-700	700-1000	1000-2000	2000-4000	4000 +	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Proportion with no recreation facility	62.2	54.8	50.0	50.0	22.5	20.6	10.3	6.8	32
One or more recreation facility present	37.8	45.2	50.0	50.0	77.5	79.4	89.7	93.2	68

Table 6.10: Proportion of Town & Community Councils with and without recreation facilities – **5. Bowling Greens**

Community Population Size	0-400	400-500	500-600	600-700	700-1000	1000-2000	2000-4000	4000 +	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Proportion with no recreation facility	88.9	97.4	85.7	88.5	93.5	74.2	53.8	6.8	74
One or more recreation facility present	11.1	2.6	14.3	11.5	6.5	25.8	46.2	93.2	26

## 6.4 Youth Groups

6.4.1 Tables 6.11 – 6.15 show the proportion of Town & Community Councils who have or don't have youth groups or clubs of varying types. Provision of scouts or guide groups tends to correlate with population size (Tables 6.11 and 6.12) while groups like Urdd or the Young Farmers are more concentrated in the Town & Community Councils with lower populations.

6.4.2 There was little reference made to the facilities available for young people in rural communities. Of those that responded, the additional provision of skateboard parks and youth clubs was noted.

Table 6.11: Proportion of Town & Community Councils with and without youth groups or clubs – **1. Cubs or Scouts**

Community Population Size	0-400	400-500	500-600	600-700	700-1000	1000-2000	2000-4000	4000 +	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Proportion with no youth clubs	97.4	97.7	100	100	82.1	74.2	45.2	26.7	76
One or more youth clubs present	2.6	2.3	0	0	17.9	25.8	54.8	73.3	24

Table 6.12: Proportion of Town & Community Councils with and without youth groups or clubs – **2. Brownies / Girl Guides**

Community Population Size	0-400	400-500	500-600	600-700	700-1000	1000-2000	2000-4000	4000 +	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Proportion with no youth clubs	97.4	93.2	90.3	92.9	89.6	61.3	40.5	15.6	68
One or more youth clubs present	2.6	6.8	9.7	7.1	10.4	38.7	59.5	84.4	32

Table 6.13: Proportion of Town & Community Councils with and without youth groups or clubs – **3. Youth Club**

Community Population Size	0-400	400-500	500-600	600-700	700-1000	1000-2000	2000-4000	4000 +	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Proportion with no youth clubs	71.1	68.2	77.5	67.9	65.7	57.0	23.8	22.3	56
One or more youth clubs present	28.9	31.8	22.5	32.1	34.3	43.0	76.2	77.7	44

Table 6.14 : Proportion of Town & Community Councils with and without youth groups or clubs – **4. Urdd**

Community Population Size	0-400	400-500	500-600	600-700	700-1000	1000-2000	2000-4000	4000 +	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Proportion with no youth clubs	81.6	77.3	77.4	67.9	89.6	62.4	59.2	75.6	71
One or more youth clubs present	18.4	22.7	22.6	32.1	10.4	37.6	40.8	24.4	29

Table 6.15: Proportion of Town & Community Councils with and without youth groups or clubs – **5. Young Farmers Club**

Community Population Size	0-400	400-500	500-600	600-700	700-1000	1000-2000	2000-4000	4000 +	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Proportion with no youth clubs	84.2	63.6	77.4	57.1	53.7	64.5	69.1	75.6	67
One or more youth clubs present	15.8	36.4	22.6	42.9	46.3	35.5	30.9	24.4	33

## 7 Transport

### 7.1 Introduction

7.1.1 Transport provision is of key importance in rural communities and the following section outlines data on bus provision, whether there is a railway station in the Town & Community Council area, and various community transport services. Only 6% of responding Town and Community Councils had no bus service at any time of the week.

### 7.2 Bus Services

7.2.1 Table 7.1 indicates that bus services that run at peak hours are fairly limited in large parts of rural Wales with less than 50% of communities having such services in population bands below 1000 people. Table 7.2 shows off-peak bus service provision which shows improved levels of service at all population bands. Table 7.3 shows that this service level then drops off again in the evening period.

7.2.2 Table 7.4 shows that train station provision is dependent on population size with only the higher population bands having significant provision.

7.2.3 The qualitative data provides insights into the quality and nature of public transport in different communities across rural Wales. With specific reference to bus services, many of those that responded, highlighted its unreliability, poor frequency, expense and lack of evening services. Additionally, as the quotation below exemplifies, some respondents suggested that the transport system is not integrated:

*“The bus service is poorly planned, it fails to link to the local railway station”* (pop. 700-100).

Due to the combination of these issues, it was implied that *‘public transport doesn’t meet local needs. A car is essential’* (pop. 700-1000). Indeed, *most people have their own transport’* (pop. 700-1000).

7.2.4 It would seem that people living in rural communities are caught in a vicious circle, public transport does not meet their specific needs and, as such, usage diminishes and with it the demand and ‘need’ for extensive public transport provision.

*“An improvement in the provision could make people use more public transport”* (pop. 700-1000).

7.2.5 Map 10 in Appendix Two displays the number of days a week that responding Town & Community Councils have access to a bus service (in other words does a bus stop within the community and how many times a week does this operate). The map shows that a good proportion of Town & Community Councils have a bus service operating at least 5 days of the week – obviously this fluctuates in terms of times of provision; this is exemplified in Tables 7.1 and 7.2. There are relatively few Town & Community Councils with no

service whatsoever (6% in total) but in these areas this will have significant access consequences for those without access to private transport. The red shaded areas signify respondents who were unable to accurately answer this particular question.

Table 7.1: Proportion of Town & Community Councils with and without bus services that operate at peak times (defined as 0700-0900 and 1500-1800 Monday to Friday)

Community Population Size	0-400	400-500	500-600	600-700	700-1000	1000-2000	2000-4000	4000 +	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Proportion with no bus service	71.1	65.9	48.4	53.6	58.2	46.3	35.7	22.3	50
One or more bus service present	28.9	34.1	51.6	46.4	41.8	53.7	64.3	77.7	50

Table 7.2: Proportion of Town & Community Councils with and without bus services that operate 0900 and 1500 hours (off-peak)

Community Population Size	0-400	400-500	500-600	600-700	700-1000	1000-2000	2000-4000	4000 +	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Proportion with no bus service	28.9	50.0	41.9	25.0	31.4	32.3	31.0	20.0	32
One or more bus service present	71.1	50.0	58.1	75.0	68.6	67.7	69.0	80.0	68

Table 7.3: Proportion of Town & Community Councils with and without bus services that operate after 1800 hours

Community Population Size	0-400	400-500	500-600	600-700	700-1000	1000-2000	2000-4000	4000 +	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Proportion with no bus service	89.5	90.9	74.2	67.9	73.1	65.6	57.2	35.6	69
One or more bus service present	10.5	9.1	25.8	32.1	26.9	34.4	42.8	64.4	31

Table 7.4: Proportion of Town & Community Councils with and without a train station within the community boundary

Community Population Size	0-400	400-500	500-600	600-700	700-1000	1000-2000	2000-4000	4000 +	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Proportion with no train station	91.9	90.3	83.9	89.3	89.6	84.9	73.2	40.9	81
One or more train station present	8.1	9.7	16.1	10.7	10.4	15.1	26.8	59.1	19

### 7.3 Community transport

- 7.3.1 The survey collected information on Community Transport provision, specifically Dial-a-ride, community run Minibus/taxi, and supermarket bus services. In general terms, 79% of responding Councils had no Dial-a-ride scheme, 83% had no community run minibus/taxi, and 79% had no supermarket bus services. This is analysed below in relation to population size of responding Town and Community Councils.
- 7.3.2 Tables 7.5 – 7.7 display community transport provision of various types. Dial-a-ride schemes appear fairly popular in communities with less than 1000 population with 39% of Town & Community Councils in the 500-600 population band having access to this type of community transport. Community run mini-bus or taxi services are less common in more sparsely populated Town & Community Councils, as is the case with Supermarket buses which seem to serve larger settlements rather than the communities with low populations.
- 7.3.3 In terms of commenting on transport issues, the majority of respondents only made reference to public transport. This could be related to the relatively low levels of community transport provision in rural communities across Wales. Despite this, it was suggested by one respondent that the ‘*WRVS community cars could be used for direct journeys for some individuals*’ (pop 0-400).
- 7.3.4 In some rural parts of Britain ‘vehicle brokerage’ schemes operate<sup>2</sup>. This is essentially where one transport agency tries to match up the spare capacity of different operators with the transport needs of other organisations or individuals. In this sense, facilities such as the WRVS’ community cars could be used more efficiently. Indeed, one respondent pointed to the improvement in transport provision in their community ‘*with the advent of [their] community transport scheme*’ (pop. 700-1000).

Table 7.5: Proportion of Town & Community Councils with and without a Dial-a-ride transport service

Community Population Size	0-400	400-500	500-600	600-700	700-1000	1000-2000	2000-4000	4000 +	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Proportion with no dial -a-ride	78.9	86.4	61.3	85.7	83.6	81.7	76.2	82.3	
One or more dial -a-ride present	21.1	13.6	38.7	14.3	16.4	18.3	23.8	17.7	20

<sup>2</sup> For example, ‘Bedfordshire Rural Transport Partnership’s Community Transport Brokerage’, and other similar operations in Hampshire, Cambridgeshire, Cornwall and Lincolnshire.

Table 7.6: Proportion of Town & Community Councils with and without a Community-run minibus / taxi

Community Population Size	0-400	400-500	500-600	600-700	700-1000	1000-2000	2000-4000	4000 +	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Proportion with no minibus	92.1	95.5	93.5	85.7	89.6	81.7	69.1	73.4	85
One or more minibus present	7.9	4.5	6.5	14.3	10.4	18.3	30.9	26.6	15

Table 7.7: Proportion of Town & Community Councils with and without a Supermarket Bus.

Community Population Size	0-400	400-500	500-600	600-700	700-1000	1000-2000	2000-4000	4000 +	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Proportion with no supermarket bus	94.7	100	93.5	92.9	91.1	96.8	76.2	77.8	91
One or more supermarket bus present	5.3	0	6.5	7.1	8.9	3.2	23.8	22.2	9

## 8 Crime Prevention

### 8.1 Introduction

- 8.1.1 This section shows data on Community Safety Partnerships and Crime Prevention Advice services. Table 8.1 displays the proportions of Town & Community Councils with and without Community Safety Partnerships in operation and clearly there is significant uptake of this particular initiative in responding rural Councils. This rises with population size but is up to 25% in communities below 600 population and between 32 and 41% up to 2000 population, with over 50% of communities with population above 2000 having this form of partnership.
- 8.1.2 Table 8.2 displays those communities with access to crime Prevention Advice which shows that a high proportion of rural communities have such advice services – 36-59% have such services in communities with populations below 1000.
- 8.1.3 Of those that responded to the qualitative section on crime prevention, different forms of crime prevention advice that was highlighted. This ranged from formal schemes, such as, Farm Watch and Neighbourhood Watch, to the employment of a Community Police Officer or Special Constable.

Table 8.1: Proportion of Town & Community Councils with and without Community Safety Partnerships in operation.

Community Population Size	0-400	400-500	500-600	600-700	700-1000	1000-2000	2000-4000	4000 +	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Proportion with no CSP	75.7	76.9	79.4	64.3	58.4	67.8	46.4	34.1	62
One or more CSP present	24.3	23.1	20.6	35.7	41.6	32.2	53.6	65.9	38

Table 8.2: Proportion of Town & Community Councils with and without access to Crime Prevention Advice

Community Population Size	0-400	400-500	500-600	600-700	700-1000	1000-2000	2000-4000	4000 +	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Proportion with no CSP	50.0	57.2	23.4	64.3	40.6	36.6	30.0	14.3	38
One or more CSP present	50.0	42.8	76.6	35.7	59.4	63.4	70.0	85.7	62

## 9 Community Recycling

### 9.1 Introduction

9.1.1 This section shows charts on recycling facilities provided by the Local Authority, the Town or Community Council and Voluntary Organisations. In the following charts the population bands reflect those used previously in this report, namely;

1. 0-400
2. 400-500
3. 500-600
4. 600-700
5. 700-1000
6. 1000-2000
7. 2000-4000
8. 4000+

9.1.2 Chart 9.1 shows that recycling facilities provided by the Local Authority rise steadily through the population bands with some 80% of communities having some services in the higher population bands. In total, when combining all recycling facilities and mechanisms for provision, some 67% of responding Town and Community Councils have access to some form of recycling facility.

9.1.3 The qualitative data substantiates this. Whilst some respondents highlighted that they have to travel several miles out of the community to utilise recycling facilities, the majority stated that their community provides some form of recycling. A large proportion of these, however, suggested that this provision should be extended to include green waste, cardboard and plastic. Furthermore, a number of respondents would like to see the implementation of door-to-door recycling provision. This, as the quote below suggests, would extend access to certain sections of the population:

*“Door-to-door collection would be much better especially for elderly people or those without cars” (pop1000-2000).*

9.1.4 For a number of communities, it was highlighted that there are plans to extend the recycling provision or establish a recycling centre. The activities of County Councils, Town and Community Councils, and voluntary organisations are, of course, geographically specific; whilst some are actively extending their provision, others are not.

*“The bottle bank is positioned twice a year, which is not enough. The local authority should do more to educate and encourage the local population to recycle” (pop. 0-400).*

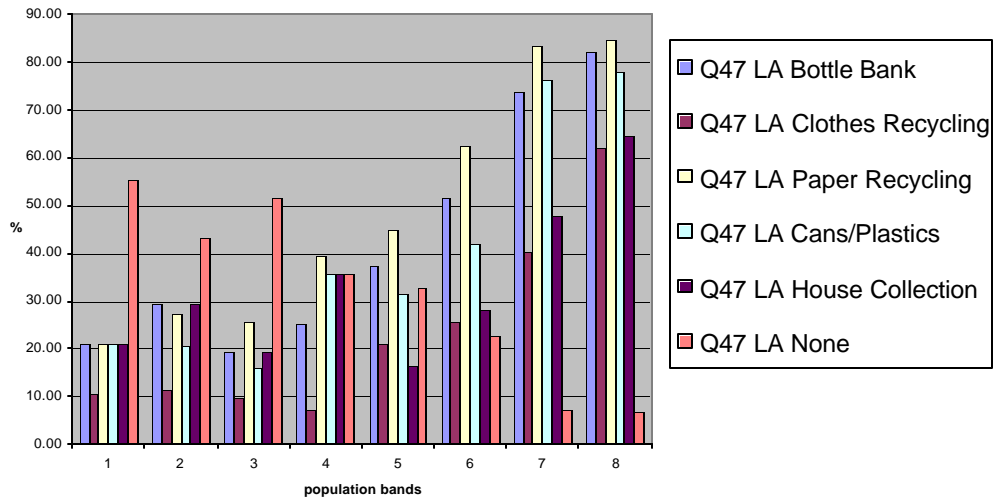
*“The local authority considers that it would be uneconomical to serve these facilities” (pop.600-700).*



The second quote implies that there is a financial cost in providing such facilities, however, as the first quote suggests, there is also a cost to society and the environment for not encouraging local recycling.

**Chart 9.1**

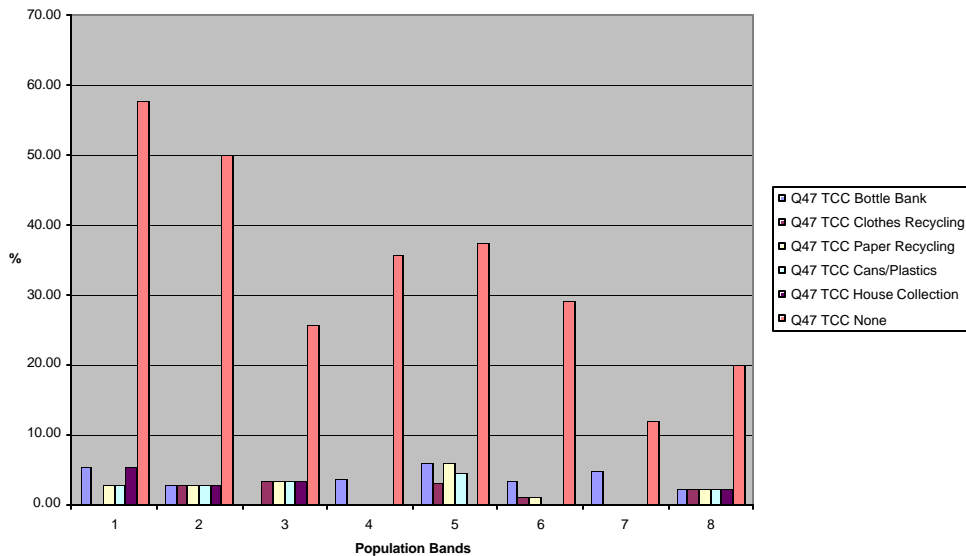
**Recycling Facilities provided by the Local Authority**



9.1.5 Chart 9.2 shows recycling facilities provided by the Community Council and clearly levels of provision are very low across all population bands.

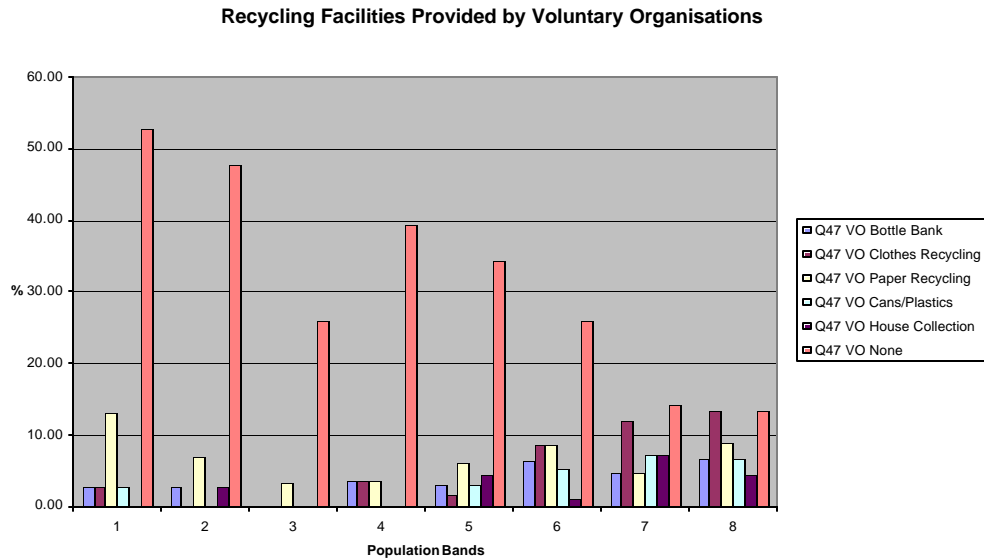
**Chart 9.2**

**Recycling Facilities provided by the Community Council**



9.1.6 Chart 9.3 shows the proportion of Town & Community Councils that have recycling facilities provided by Voluntary Organisations and this shows that, apart from in the highest population bands, there is very low provision of this type of recycling facilities in responding communities.

**Chart 9.3**



## 10 Further Analysis of Qualitative Material

10.1 The questionnaire survey (Appendix One) finished with a number of open-ended questions requesting respondents to comment on service delivery in their Town or Community Council in relation to the following themes; the impact of Openings and Closures of service facilities, the Quality and Accessibility of services, and problems experienced by particular groups in the Community. This provides interesting material beyond the quantitative data, and allows for an understanding of how the nature and quality of services provision impacts on people at the micro-level.

### 10.2 *Openings and closures*

10.2.1 As one might expect, most of the respondents to this question were from communities with a small population base. This supports earlier commentary within this report, which referred qualitatively and quantitatively to the openings and closures of different services in rural Wales.

10.2.2 The majority of respondents referred to the closure of key services in their community, for example, the local school, the post office and / or the shop. It was also highlighted that these both disproportionately affect certain groups of people, more than others, and impact on the vibrancy of community life.

*“Closing community schools devastates rural community life”* (pop.600-700).

*“Closure of the primary school has meant that pupils have to travel further to attend others – it was a great loss to the community generally”* (pop. 400-500).

*“Primary age children now have much further to travel. Parents are isolated from daily contact with school”* (pop.0-400).

*“The closure of the village shop and post office has resulted in the community losing a valuable amenity and meeting place for locals to gather and talk to each other”* (pop. 600-700).

*“Post office closure inconveniences families and the elderly”* (pop. 500-600).

10.2.3 Some respondents also highlighted the closure or reduced operation of banking facilities in the community.

10.2.4 In terms of medical provision, it was highlighted that in some communities there has been closures of doctors surgeries, in one community, however, it was indicated that there has been new provision:

*“The closure of the surgery has had a big impact on the elderly within the community”* (pop.700-1000).

*“Opening of a medical centre has been very beneficial”* (pop. 700-1000).

- 10.2.5 It was suggested by a couple of respondents that *'rural businesses find it difficult to maintain their business because of competition from [the town]'* (pop. 700-1000). One community, however, is encouraging continued use of its local shop so that it isn't forced to close:

*"We are doing all we can, by encouraging tourism etc, to ensure its continued viability"* (pop. 700-1000).

### **10.3 Quality and accessibility of services**

- 10.3.1 There were a range of services that respondents pointed to. It was suggested that accessibility and quality of services are *'limited by the size of the community'* (pop. 0-400) and as such, many services are located outside of the community area.]
- 10.3.2 Many respondents felt that public transport is inadequate, which compounds the accessibility issues faced by many people.

*"[There are] limited services in the community and poor access due to inadequate public transport"* (pop. 2000-4000).

Related to these points, it was felt that *'car ownership is essential and not [a] luxury'*. Indeed, there is *'a heavy reliance on private transport or taxi hire'* (pop. 0-400).

- 10.3.3 A range of comments were made in relation to medical services. These included the fact that *'medical and dental services are [both] overstretched and inadequate'* (pop. 600-700); there is also concern about the distance needed to travel to access a hospital, and the provision of an out-of-hours doctors service.
- 10.3.4 A few respondents felt that their community necessitated an increased police presence. Although one Police Authority has endeavoured to rectify this situation by appointing a Community Relations Manager, it was however noted that his/her ability to speak only English could cause problems.
- 10.3.5 In terms of availability of broadband, a couple of respondents stressed that their community does not have access to this facility. One respondent felt that inaccessibility to services is a requisite of rural living:

*"Lost services will never be replaced in the community; if people find their absence unacceptable they should move to urban environments"* (pop. 0-400).

### **10.4 Problems experienced by particular groups**

- 10.4.1 It is evident from the responses that there are some groups of people who are more affected by inaccessibility to services than others; notably these include elderly people, young people and those who cannot drive. Many of the comments made referred to problems connected to transport issues.

*“Lack of facility access for anyone without private car transport; this is particularly prevalent for elderly people, young people or the unemployed” (pop. 1000-2000).*

*“Anyone living in rural communities is dependent on being able to drive to work, to obtain medical treatment and to purchase groceries. The elderly and people with families suffer when higher tax is imposed on petrol and diesel” (pop. 1000-2000).*

*“Bus services don’t allow young people to have evenings out” (pop. 1000-2000).*

10.4.2 For young people, it was also noted that there was a lack of amenities available in the local community. Similarly, a number of respondents highlighted the inadequate provision of care facilities for elderly people.

## 11 Changes in Service Provision 1996-2004.

- 11.1 As highlighted in the introduction to this report a previous survey of Welsh Town and Community Councils was carried out in 1996 that followed a similar methodology to the current Survey of Rural Services (Higgs and White, 2000). A questionnaire survey was sent to the Community Clerks in each of the surveyed communities in November 1995 with questions relating to the availability of a range of publicly and privately provided services. The survey was similar in scope and methodology to the Village Services Surveys carried out at the parish level in England by the Rural Development Commission (RDC, 1991, 1995, 1997 and Countryside Agency, 2001).
- 11.2 Of the 864 communities in Wales in 1995, 615 were surveyed and a response rate of 82% was achieved. The 615 'rural' communities were defined as those with a population sparsity index of less than 4 residents per hectare, i.e. those communities considered to be sparsely or 'super-sparsely' populated (the sparsity index was based on the UK governments own guidelines for use in local government spending assessments and is calculated by taking the resident population of the authority per hectare divided by the total resident population of the authority; those communities with a sparsity index of less than 0.5 residents per hectare are considered to be 'super sparsely populated' those with an index between 0.5 and 4 are termed 'sparsely populated', all other communities are categorised as urban in nature). The surveyed communities were fairly evenly distributed across rural Wales with good coverage in most parts of the country, although there were a number of 'pockets' of non-response particularly in parts of Anglesey, parts of north-east Wales and a small part of Pembrokeshire in south-west Wales (Higgs and White, 2000).
- 11.3 At the basic descriptive level percentages of responding communities that were without a number of key services were calculated for the 1996 data. Whilst a relatively small proportion were without the most basic of services such as a post office (20.5%), a public house (10.3%), and a primary school (19.9%), it is the more specialist services such as a GP surgery (65.2%), a bank or building society (87.7%), and a dental surgery (89.7%) where provision was acutely poor in the responding communities. Also of great significance are the relatively high proportion of rural communities without access to a shop (any type) (40%), and a petrol station (44.5%).
- 11.4 A further analysis of the 1996 survey data undertaken in the GIS for the purposes of this report, was to determine population bands for the responding communities. This allows for a descriptive analysis of the proportions of communities who have, or do not have, a particular service facility within their boundary. This analysis can then be compared with data from the current Survey of Rural Services in Wales 2004. This has not been conducted for

every service facility covered by both surveys but has been performed for a selection of key services, namely;

- Primary School (5-11 age group)
- General Stores
- Post Office
- Public House (serving meals)
- GP practice
- Dental Practice
- Pharmacy

11.5 Tables 11.1 and 11.2 display the presence or otherwise of primary schools in responding Town and Community Councils in the 1996 survey and the 2004 survey. Clearly provision of this service appears to have remained fairly constant over the eight year period with only minor fluctuations in the population bands. Clearly this analysis has to be viewed with some caveats as, firstly, more Town councils were surveyed in the 2004 survey and secondly, response there will be variations in terms of which Councils responded to the two surveys, together with some minor boundary changes in Community Councils in the interim period (these caveats should apply to all the following analyses).

Table 11.1: Proportion of Town & Community Councils with or without a School for the 5-11 Age group (1996 Survey)

Community Population Size	0-400	400-500	500-600	600-700	700-1000	1000-2000	2000-4000	4000 +	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Proportion with no school	56	35	27	12	12	7	1	3	20
One or more school present	44	65	73	88	88	93	99	97	80

Table 11.2: Proportion of Town & Community Councils with or without a School for the 5-11 Age group (2004 Survey)

Community Population Size	0-400	400-500	500-600	600-700	700-1000	1000-2000	2000-4000	4000 +	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Proportion with no school	53.2	29.3	33.4	15.4	11.3	2.2	0	0	17
One or more school present	46.8	70.7	66.6	84.6	88.7	97.8	100	100	83

11.6 Tables 11.3 and 11.4 display the presence or otherwise of General Stores selling food and non-food items from the two surveys. There is evidence of variation here in the 500-1000 population bands, particularly, with more Councils having this service facility in 1996 than in 2004.

Table 11.3: Proportion of Town & Community Councils with or without a General Store (selling food and non-food items) (1996 Survey)

Community Population Size	0-400	400-500	500-600	600-700	700-1000	1000-2000	2000-4000	4000 +	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Proportion with no shop	67	56	38	18	30	18	2	11	47
One or more Shop present	33	44	62	82	70	82	98	89	53

Table 11.4: Proportion of Town & Community Councils with or without a General Store (selling food and non-food items) (2004 Survey)

Community Population Size	0-400	400-500	500-600	600-700	700-1000	1000-2000	2000-4000	4000 +	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Proportion with no shop	64.5	64.1	69.2	39.1	37.7	25.6	16.7	7.5	38
One or more Shop present	35.5	35.9	30.8	60.9	62.3	74.4	83.3	92.5	62

11.7 Tables 11.5 and 11.6 display the proportions of responding Town and Community Councils that have, or had, a Post Office (of any type) in the 1996 Survey and the 2004 Survey. Again the general trend to emerge is that in the lower population bands (below 1000 population) more Councils had this particular service than is the case in 2004.

Table 11.5: Proportion of Town & Community Councils with or without a Post Office of any sort (1996 Survey)

Community Population Size	0-400	400-500	500-600	600-700	700-1000	1000-2000	2000-4000	4000 +	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Proportion with no post office	46	38	25	21	10	14	5	3	21
One or more post office present	54	62	75	79	90	86	95	97	79

Table 11.6: Proportion of Town & Community Councils with or without a Post Office of any sort (2004 Survey)

Community Population Size	0-400	400-500	500-600	600-700	700-1000	1000-2000	2000-4000	4000 +	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Proportion with no post office	64	52	38	27	15	9	5	0	20
One or more post office present	36	58	62	73	85	91	95	100	80



11.8 Tables 11.7 and 11.8 display the proportion of Town and Community Councils in 1996 and 2004 who had a Public House (serving meals). Again there is a slightly higher incidence of this type of service in 1996 in the lower population bands than in 2004, but, generally speaking, provision levels have remained high in this service facility over the interim period.

Table 11.7: Proportion of Town & Community Councils with or without a Public House serving meals. (1996 Survey)

Community Population Size	0-400	400-500	500-600	600-700	700-1000	1000-2000	2000-4000	4000 +	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	
Proportion with no pub	34	14	13	6	1	7	1	3	10
One or more pub present	66	86	87	94	99	93	99	97	90

Table 11.8: Proportion of Town & Community Councils with or without a Public House serving meals. (2004 Survey)

Community Population Size	0-400	400-500	500-600	600-700	700-1000	1000-2000	2000-4000	4000 +	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	
Proportion with no pub	50.0	11.9	23.3	16.0	1.5	3.3	9.8	0	11
One or more pub present	50.0	88.1	76.6	84.0	98.5	96.7	90.2	100	89

11.9 Table 11.9 displays the results of this analysis for the GP Surgery or Practice in 1996. Clearly the presence or otherwise of such a service is largely dependent on the population size of the community relatively small proportions have this type of service in the 0-600 population size bands (below 20%). This figure rises to 41% in the 1000-2000 band and above 70% in the 2000 and above population categories. Of course, this analysis does not consider whether or not an alternative facility might be available in a neighbouring community for those who do not have their own. In 2004 (Table 11.10) it is clear that levels of GP practice provision have fallen significantly in the population bands below 1000 population based on the results of the survey.

Table 11.9: Proportion of Community Councils with or without a GP Surgery. (1996 Survey)

Community Population Size	0-400	400-500	500-600	600-700	700-1000	1000-2000	2000-4000	4000 +	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Proportion with no GP	81.5	86.0	85.4	75.8	70.7	58.7	29.6	11.5	65
One or more GP surgery present	18.5	14.0	14.6	24.2	29.3	41.3	70.4	88.5	35

Table 11.10: Proportion of Town & Community Councils with or without a GP Surgery. (2004 Survey)

Community Population Size	0-400	400-500	500-600	600-700	700-1000	1000-2000	2000-4000	4000 +	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Proportion with no GP	94.2	97.3	96.3	95.7	85.7	67.7	33.3	9.9	68
One or more GP surgery present	5.8	2.7	3.7	4.3	14.3	32.3	66.7	90.1	32

11.10 Table 11.12 highlights the proportion of communities with or without a Dental Surgery in 1996 and, clearly, there is little or no provision of this service below the 1000 population band. Dental services are unique in the healthcare sector in terms of their un-regulated locational characteristics. This would suggest that Dental Surgeries are likely to locate in areas of higher populations, or customer base, and this would appear to be confirmed from Table 11.2. The trend identified in Table 11.12 is mirrored in Table 11.13 with little or no provision of this service in Councils below 1000 population in the 2004 Survey.

Table 11.12: Proportion of Community Councils with or without a Dental Surgery. (1996 Survey)

Community Population Size	0-400	400-500	500-600	600-700	700-1000	1000-2000	2000-4000	4000 +	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Proportion with no dentist	100	98.2	100	100	100	90.5	70.4	19.2	87
One or more dentist present	0	1.8	0	0	0	9.5	29.6	80.8	13

Table 11.13: Proportion of Town & Community Councils with or without a Dental Surgery. (2004 Survey)

Community Population Size	0-400	400-500	500-600	600-700	700-1000	1000-2000	2000-4000	4000 +	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Proportion with no dentist	100	100	100	100	100	89.6	60.5	25.0	84
One or more dentist present	0	0	0	0	0	10.4	39.5	75.0	16

11.11 Table 11.14 displays the proportion of communities with or without a Pharmacy service in 1996 and again the provision of this service is strongly correlated with the population size of communities. Below the 1000 population band less than 10% of responding communities had a pharmacy service. This rises to 23% in the 1000-2000 population band, 61% in the 2000-4000 band, and 77% in the 4000+ population band. The results are broadly comparable with those gained from the 2004 survey (Table 11.15). The slightly higher rate of provision in the 4000+ population band could be a result of larger Town Councils being surveyed in 2004.

Table 11.14: Proportion of Community Councils with or without a Pharmacy. (1996 Survey)

Community Population Size	0-400	400-500	500-600	600-700	700-1000	1000-2000	2000-4000	4000 +	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Proportion with no pharmacy	98.6	98.2	91.7	90.9	96.3	77.0	38.9	23.1	90
One or more pharmacy present	1.4	1.8	8.3	9.1	3.7	23.0	61.1	76.9	10

Table 11.15: Proportion of Town & Community Councils with or without a Pharmacy. (2004 Survey)

Community Population Size	0-400	400-500	500-600	600-700	700-1000	1000-2000	2000-4000	4000 +	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Proportion with no pharmacy	100	97.2	96.3	95.7	91.9	79.3	35.0	9.1	75
One or more pharmacy present	0	2.8	3.7	4.3	8.1	20.7	65.0	90.9	25

11.11 In general terms it does seem that levels of provision across a range of key services have fallen in rural areas between the two surveys 1996-2004. This is particularly evident in the Town and Community Councils in the lowest population bands (below 1000 population).

## 12 Conclusions

- 12.1 The preceding analysis has hopefully shown what a rich data source the 2004 Survey of Rural Services in Wales can be. Although useful and interesting in providing a set of baseline data for rural Wales on service provision a large part of its utility will come from further comparison with previous surveys, for example the 1996 survey, as shown in chapter 11, and the Countryside Agency surveys in England. The real value of the survey will also emerge in the future as the survey is updated through the life of the Wales Rural Observatory every 2-3 years. This will allow for a valuable time-series analysis of changing levels of service provision across rural Wales, informing policy debates and decision making across rural Wales.
- 12.2 As mentioned in the introduction to this report there are problems in comparing the current survey with the surveys carried out in England by the Countryside Agency. These problems are largely to do with differences in the geographical unit studied. It is possible to perform some crude aggregate analysis of provision of services in English Parishes and provision in Welsh Town and Community Councils. An initial analysis of this type is presented in Table 12.1 but this should be treated with some caution given the differences in methodology and the different time periods of the two surveys. The table does serve as a concluding summary of some of the key aggregate statistics to emerge from this first Survey of Rural Services in Wales.

Table 12.1: Percentage of Responding Communities or Village Parishes with a service in the 2004 Survey of Rural Services in Wales, and the 2000 Survey of English Village Services (CA, 2001)

<i>Service Facility</i>	<i>2004 Survey of Rural Wales</i>	<i>2000 Survey of English Village Services</i>
Post Office (with shop)	60%	54% (all types of PO)
General Store	62%	22%
Petrol Station (with shop)	29%	No data
Primary School	83%	52%
Public Nursery	26%	No data
GP surgery	32%	14%
Dental Practice	16%	No data
Public House (with meals)	86%	75%
Bank	15%	9% (Bank & Building Society)
Bus service	89.5%	71%

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## Appendix One – The Survey Questionnaire

# Rural Services Survey

# Wales Rural Observatory

Dear Town / Community Council Clerk,

Please read through the whole of the questionnaire before starting to complete it. Please give an answer for all items on the questionnaire. Most questions require a number to be entered in relation to how many service facilities of particular types are in your Community Council area. If the number is zero, please put 0 in the box allocated to that item. Some questions simply ask you to put a tick in the correct box. There are also a small number of short answer questions – please write in the space allocated for these questions.

We are most grateful for your co-operation.

**Please fill in the name of your Town or Community Council in the box below and the settlements within your area.**

Town / Community Council name

**Names of settlements within your community area included in your response:**

1 ..... 2 .....  
 3 ..... 4 .....

## Section 1 – Shops and Other Services

Q1 Please indicate the number of the following types of **permanent shops** within your Town or Community Council area. **If there are 10 or more**, please tick the appropriate box.

Food Only	10 +	Non-food Only	10 +	General Stores (food and non-food)	10 +
.....1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	.....3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	.....5	<input type="checkbox"/> 6

Q2 Please indicate the numbers of shops that have opened or closed in your Town or Community Council area over the last **five years** (1999-2004).

Openings	Closures	Don't Know
.....1	.....2	<input type="checkbox"/> 9

Q3 Please indicate the numbers of the following types of Post Offices that are present in your Town or Community Council area.

Separate Post Office	Post Office combined with a general shop	Post Office combined with other facility	What is Post Office combined with?
.....2	.....3	.....4	_____

Q4 Please indicate the numbers of post offices that have opened or closed in your Town or Community Council area over the last **five years** (1999-2004).

Openings	Closures	Don't Know
.....1	.....2	<input type="checkbox"/> 9

Q5 Does your Town or Community Council area hold a farmers' market? If so, **how regularly** are they held?

Yes	No	More than once a week	Weekly	Fortnightly	Monthly	Less than Monthly
<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 7

Q6 For your Town or Community Council area, please **write in the number** of the restaurants, cafés and take-away / fast food outlets which are open all year and the **number** which are seasonal. **These should be recorded according to their main business activity.**

Numbers of Restaurants		Number of Cafés		Number of Takeaways (include vans)	
Open all year	Seasonal	Open all year	Seasonal	Open all year	Seasonal
.....1	.....2	.....3	.....4	.....5	.....6

Q7 Please specify **the number** of different types of petrol stations that exist in your Town or Community Council area.

With shop	With garage	With shop and garage	Without shop or garage
.....1	.....2	.....3	.....4

Q8 **How many** banks and building societies operate full-time and part-time in your Town or Community Council area?

Banks		Building Societies	
Full time	Part time	Full time	Part time
.....1	.....2	.....3	.....4

Q9 Please indicate the number of banks and building societies that have opened or closed in your Town or Community Council area over the last five years (1999-2004).

Openings	Closures	Don't Know
.....1	.....2	<input type="checkbox"/> 9

Q10 Please write in the number of the pubs in your Town or Community Council area, which fit the following descriptions.

Numbers of pubs serving meals	Numbers of pubs not serving meals	Of these, please state numbers that are small independents or free houses (i.e. not part of large brewery chains)
.....1	.....2	.....3

Q11 Do you feel that the levels of retail provision are adequate in your Town or Community Council area?

Yes	No	Don't Know
<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3

Please use the space below to provide any additional comments.

.....

.....

.....

## Section 2 – Medical Services

Q12 Please indicate the number of the following medical services that are provided in your Town or Community Council area.

Main GP Surgeries	Community Health Centres	Dental surgeries	Pharmacies
.....1	.....2	.....3	.....4

Q13 How frequent are the local arrangements for seeing doctors or other medical staff at clinics away from the main surgery, and for obtaining prescriptions away from the main surgeries or chemists?

	More than once a week	Weekly	Every Fortnight	Monthly	Never
Seeing doctors	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 9
Obtaining prescriptions	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 9

Q14 Please indicate whether your Town or Community Council area has experienced openings and / or closures of the following medical services over the last five years (1999-2004).

Pharmacies			GP Surgeries			Dental surgeries		
Openings	Closures	Don't Know	Openings	Closures	Don't Know	Openings	Closures	Don't Know
<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 7	<input type="checkbox"/> 8	<input type="checkbox"/> 9

Q15 Do you feel that the levels of medical service provision are adequate in your Town or Community Council area?

Yes	No	Don't Know
<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3

Please use the space below to provide any additional comments.

.....

.....

.....

## Section 3 – Education and Day-care

Q16 Please specify the number of groups for children that exist in your Town or Community Council area.

Public nurseries	Private nurseries	Parent and Toddler Groups / Playgroups	Out of school groups
.....1	.....2	.....3	.....4

Q17 Please indicate the number of nurseries (public and private) that have opened or closed in your Town or Community Council area over the last five years (1999-2004).

Openings	Closures	Don't Know
.....1	.....2	<input type="checkbox"/> 9

Q18 Please specify the number of different types of schools that exist in your Town or Community Council area.

Private	Grant Maintained	Local Education Authority
.....1	.....2	.....3



Q19 Please indicate the number of schools (all types) that have opened or closed in your Town or Community Council area over the last **five years** (1999-2004).

Openings	Closures	Don't Know
.....1	.....2	<input type="checkbox"/> 9

Q20 Please specify the number of schools that provide education for the following age groups. *If a school caters for more than one age group, count it more than once. E.g. for a school catering for 12-18 year olds, count it in both '12-16 year olds' and '17-18 year olds' categories.*

5-11 year olds	12-16 year olds	17-18 year olds
.....1	.....2	.....3

Q21 Please specify the number of day-care groups for the elderly and people with disabilities that exist in your Town or Community Council area.

Groups for the elderly	Groups for people with disabilities
.....1	.....2

Q22 Please indicate the number of day-care groups that have opened or closed in your Town or Community Council area over the past **five years** (1999-2004).

Openings	Closures	Don't Know
.....1	.....2	<input type="checkbox"/> 9

Q23 Do you feel that the levels of **education and day-care** provision are **adequate** in your Town or Community Council area?

Yes	No	Don't Know
<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3

Please use the space below to provide any additional comments.

.....

.....

.....

**Section 4 – Places of Worship**

Q24 For places of worship in your Town or Community Council area, please **write in numbers** for the following.

Places of worship with minister resident in the community	Places of worship with minister resident <b>outside</b> the community
.....1	.....2

Q25 Please indicate how many places of worship that opened or closed in your Town or Community area over the past **five years** (1999-2004).

Openings	Closures	Don't Know
.....1	.....2	<input type="checkbox"/> 9

Q26 Please **tick the appropriate boxes** to indicate whether places of worship in your Town or Community Council area are used for any other purposes.

Arts/music	Public meetings	School assemblies	Other Uses (please specify)	No other uses
<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	..... ..... .....	<input type="checkbox"/> 9

**Section 5 – Information and Welfare**

Q27 For your Town or Community Council area, please indicate **which** of the following facilities available.

Permanent Library	Mobile Library	Public / Council Noticeboard	Newsletter / Papur Bro	None of these
<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 9

Q28 For your Town or Community Council area please indicate the **numbers** of community internet facilities available for **public use**. If possible, **write in** the location for each (e.g. pub, shop, school, village hall, community centre).

Community Internet Facility	Location of Internet facility (write in)
.....1	_____
	_____

Q29 Please indicate the number of affordable properties that have been provided in your Town or Community Council area over the last **five years** (1999-2004). Indicate those provided by a **Social Rented Landlord** (e.g. Local Authority, Housing Association) and those provided through the **Exceptions Policy** (e.g. through Section 106 Agreements).

Social Rented Landlord	Exceptions Policy Housing
.....1	.....2

Q30 Please indicate whether **support services** are available for the following types of people or social groups within your Town or Community Council area.

Elderly People	Young People	Those with Mental Health or Physical Disabilities	Unemployed
<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
Homeless	People with Drugs/Alcohol Problems	Those experiencing Domestic Violence	Others (please specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 7	..... ..... .....

Q31 Please indicate which of the following advice services are available in your Town or Community Council area.

Community Legal Service	Counselling Service	Citizens' Advice Bureaux	Job Centre	Others (please specify)	None of these
<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	..... ..... .....	<input type="checkbox"/> 9

Q32 Do you feel that the levels of **information and welfare** provision are **adequate** in your Town or Community Council area?

Yes	No	Don't Know
<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3

**Section 6 – Recreation Facilities and Community Activities**

Q33 For your Town or Community Council area please **write in the number** of local meeting rooms / halls available for public use.

Village Hall	Church / Chapel Hall	Community Centre	School Hall	Other
.....1	.....2	.....3	.....4	.....5

Q34 For your Town or Community Council area **write in the number** of formal play areas with equipment for children.

Number of formal play areas with equipment

.....1

Q35 For your Town or Community Council area, please indicate **how many** of the following Local Authority and privately-owned facilities are available for use by local residents.

Swimming Pool	Tennis Court	Sports Hall	Playing Field	Bowling Green	None of these
.....1	.....2	.....3	.....4	.....5	.....9

Q36 Are any of the following sports events, tournaments or other community activities **regularly held** in your Town or Community Council area? (tick as appropriate)

Football / Rugby	Pub Games	Art or Music Events	Eisteddfodau	Shows (agricultural / horticultural)	Others (please specify)	None
<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	..... ..... .....	<input type="checkbox"/> 9

Q37 Do any of the following **youth groups/clubs** operate within your Town or Community Council area? (tick as appropriate)

Beavers / Cubs / Scouts / Venture Scouts	Rainbows / Brownies / Guides / Rangers	Youth Social Clubs	Urdd	Young Farmers Club	Others (please specify)	None
<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	..... ..... .....	<input type="checkbox"/> 9

Please use the space below to provide any additional comments.

.....

.....

.....

Q38 **How many** recreational clubs for the **retired** or **over 60s** operate in your Town or Community Council area, and **how frequently** do they meet?

Daily Weekly Monthly

.....1 .....2 .....3

Q39 Do you feel that the levels of provision of **recreation facilities and community activities** are **adequate** in your Town or Community Council area?

Yes No Don't Know

<sub>1</sub> <sub>2</sub> <sub>3</sub>

*Please use the space below to provide any additional comments.*

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**Section 7 - Transport**

Q40 **Please provide** information about local bus services operating in your Town or Community Council area.

How many days each week do local buses operate? (enter number 0-7) At peak times\* (tick box) Between 0900 and 1500 hours (tick box) After 1800 hours (tick box)

.....1 <sub>2</sub> <sub>3</sub> <sub>4</sub>

\* Peak times are defined as 0700-0900 and 1500-1800 Monday to Friday

Q41 **Is there** a train service and station within your Town or Community Council area?

Yes No Don't Know

<sub>1</sub> <sub>2</sub> <sub>3</sub>

Q42 For your Town or Community Council area please **tick the appropriate boxes** to tell us about other transport services operating in your area

Dial-a-ride Community-run minibus / taxi Supermarket bus Other (write in) None

<sub>1</sub> <sub>2</sub> <sub>3</sub> ..... <sub>9</sub>

Q43 Do you feel that the levels of transport provision are **adequate** in your Town or Community Council area?

Yes No Don't Know

<sub>1</sub> <sub>2</sub> <sub>3</sub>

*Please use the space below to provide any additional comments.*

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**Section 8 – Crime Prevention**

Q44 Now that every Unitary Local Authority has a Community Safety Partnership under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, are there partnership links with communities in your Town or Community Council area? **Please tick the appropriate box.**

Yes No Don't Know

<sub>1</sub> <sub>2</sub> <sub>3</sub>

Q45 Do people in your Town or Community Council area have access to crime prevention advice? **Please tick the appropriate box.** If yes, please list how this information may be obtained (e.g. leaflets in library, police officer visits, internet etc).

Yes No Don't Know

<sub>1</sub> <sub>2</sub> <sub>3</sub>

1..... 3.....  
 2..... 4.....

Q46 Has your Town or Community Council used its powers to introduce crime prevention measures, e.g. special constables, town / village wardens, CCTV? If yes, **please** list the measures introduced.

Yes No Don't Know

<sub>1</sub> <sub>2</sub> <sub>3</sub>

1..... 3.....  
 2..... 4.....

**Section 9 – Community Recycling**

Q47 Please indicate if your Town or Community Council area has any of the following recycling services **provided by the Local Authority, Town or Community Council, or voluntary organisation**. Tick all that apply.

	Bottle Bank	Clothes Recycling	Paper recycling	Cans and plastics	Regular door-to-door collection of any of these	None
Local Authority	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>9</sub>
Town or Community Council	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>9</sub>
Voluntary Organisation	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>9</sub>

Q48 Do you feel that the levels of provision for community recycling are **adequate** in your Town or Community Council area?

Yes	No	Don't Know
<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>

*Please use the space below to provide any additional comments.*

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**Section 10 – Additional Information**

Q49 Please **list the** major item(s) paid for by the Town or Community Council precept during the financial year 2003/2004 (please rank in order of highest expenditure).

1..... 3.....

2..... 4.....

Please use the space below to make any additional comments about the impact of service **closures or openings** within your community.

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Please use the space provided below to make any additional comments regarding the **quality and accessibility** of services in your area.

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Please use the space provided below to make any additional comments about the **types of problems** experienced by **particular groups** in terms of accessing services in your Town or Community Council area.

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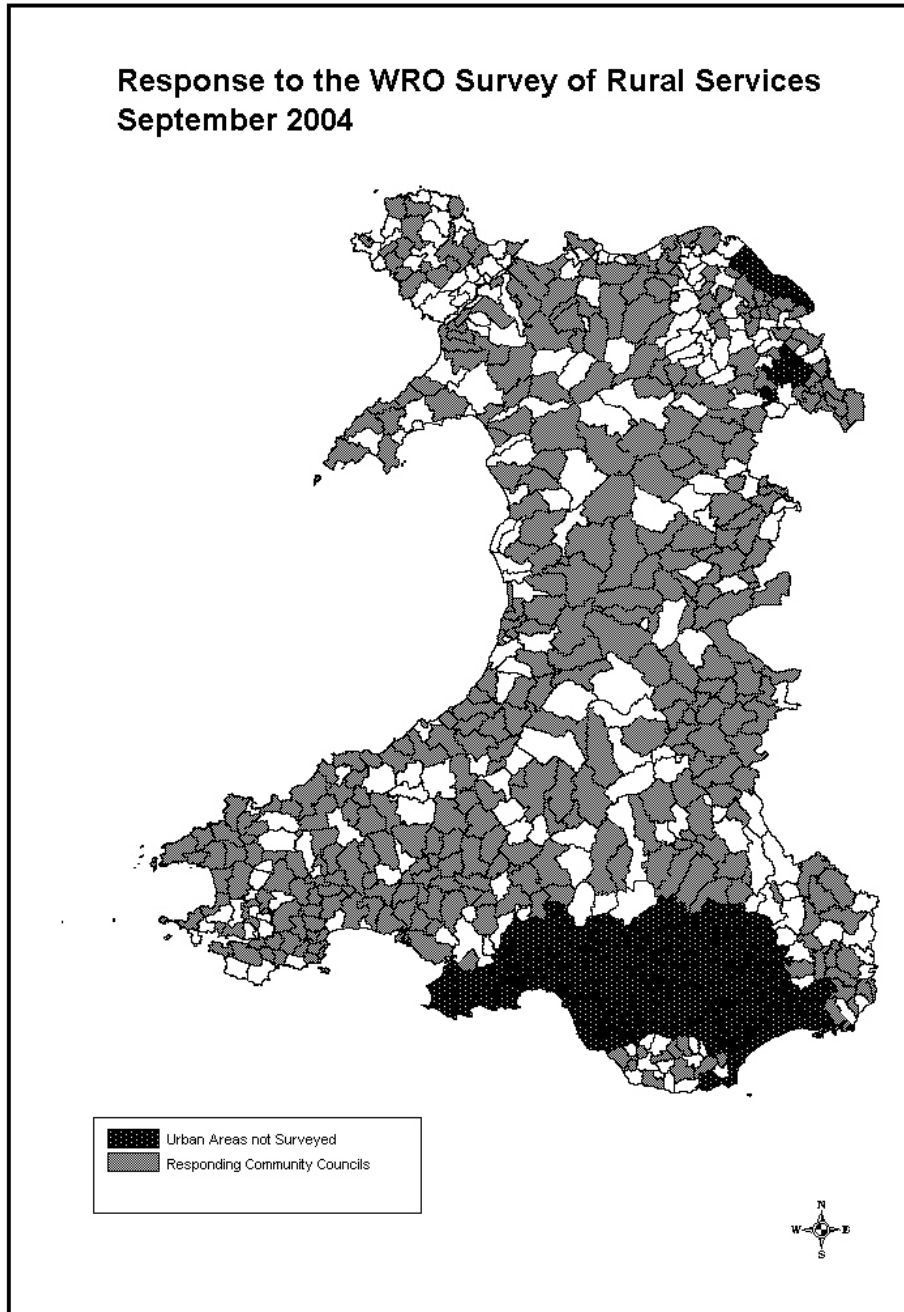
Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire.

Now please send it to Wales Rural Observatory, FREEPOST NAT15222, Cardiff, CF10 3ZQ in the reply-paid envelope provided.

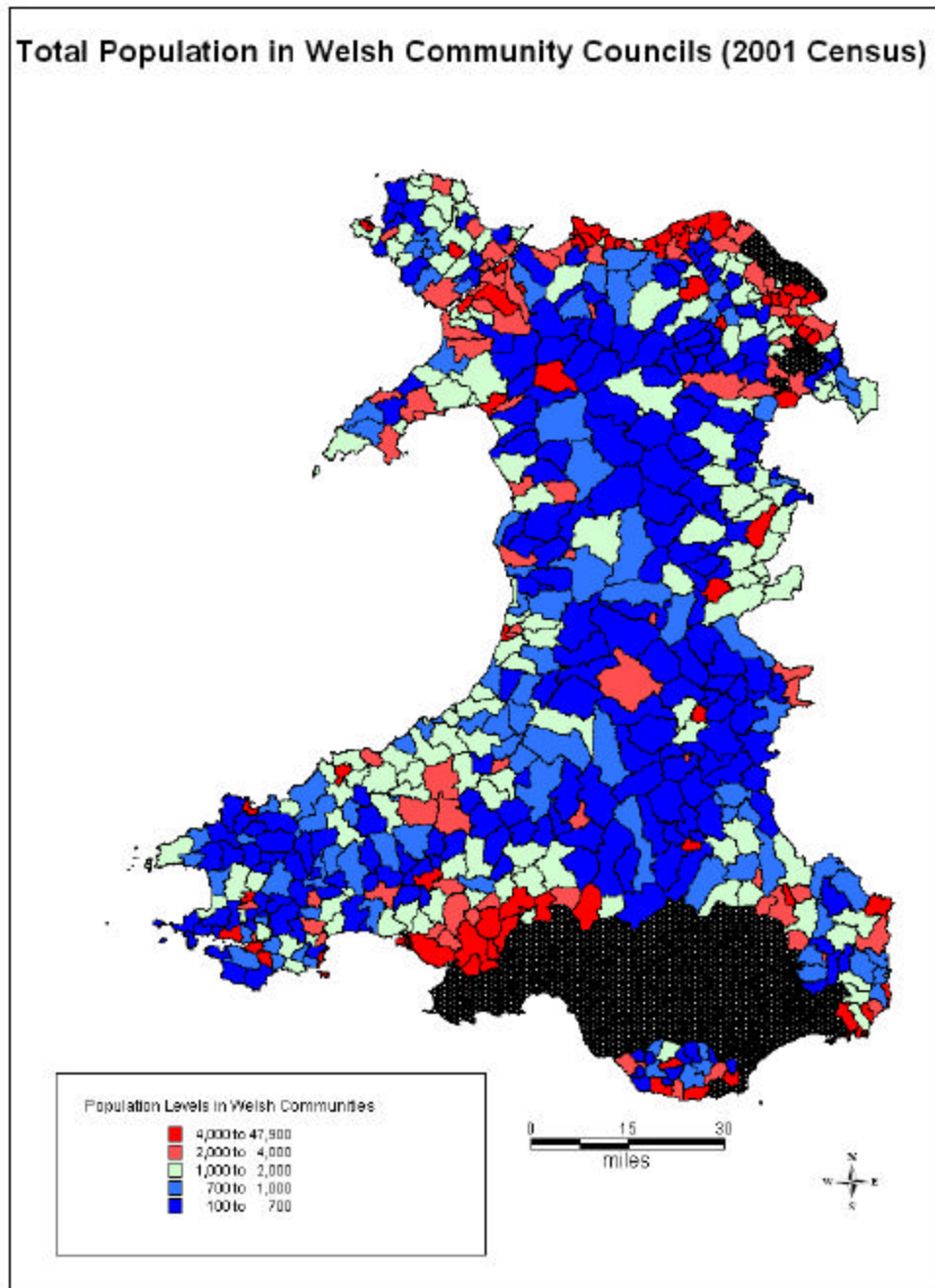
If you have any queries when completing this form please ring Rachel Gwenllian Hughes on 029 208 74970 (answer phone outside office hours) or email [hughesr@cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:hughesr@cardiff.ac.uk)

# APPENDIX TWO - MAP ANALYSIS

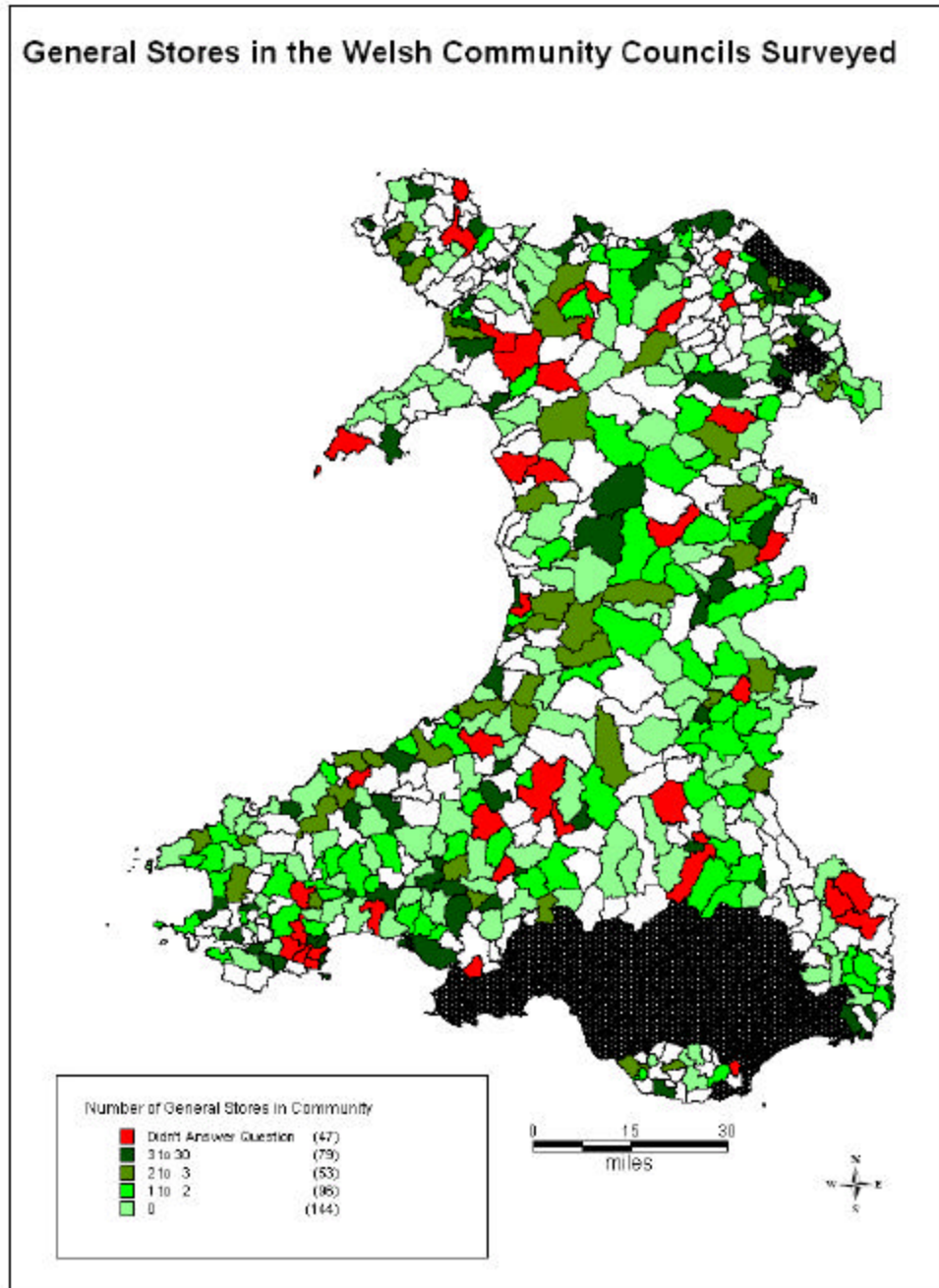
Map One – Response to the WRO Survey of Rural Services. September 2004



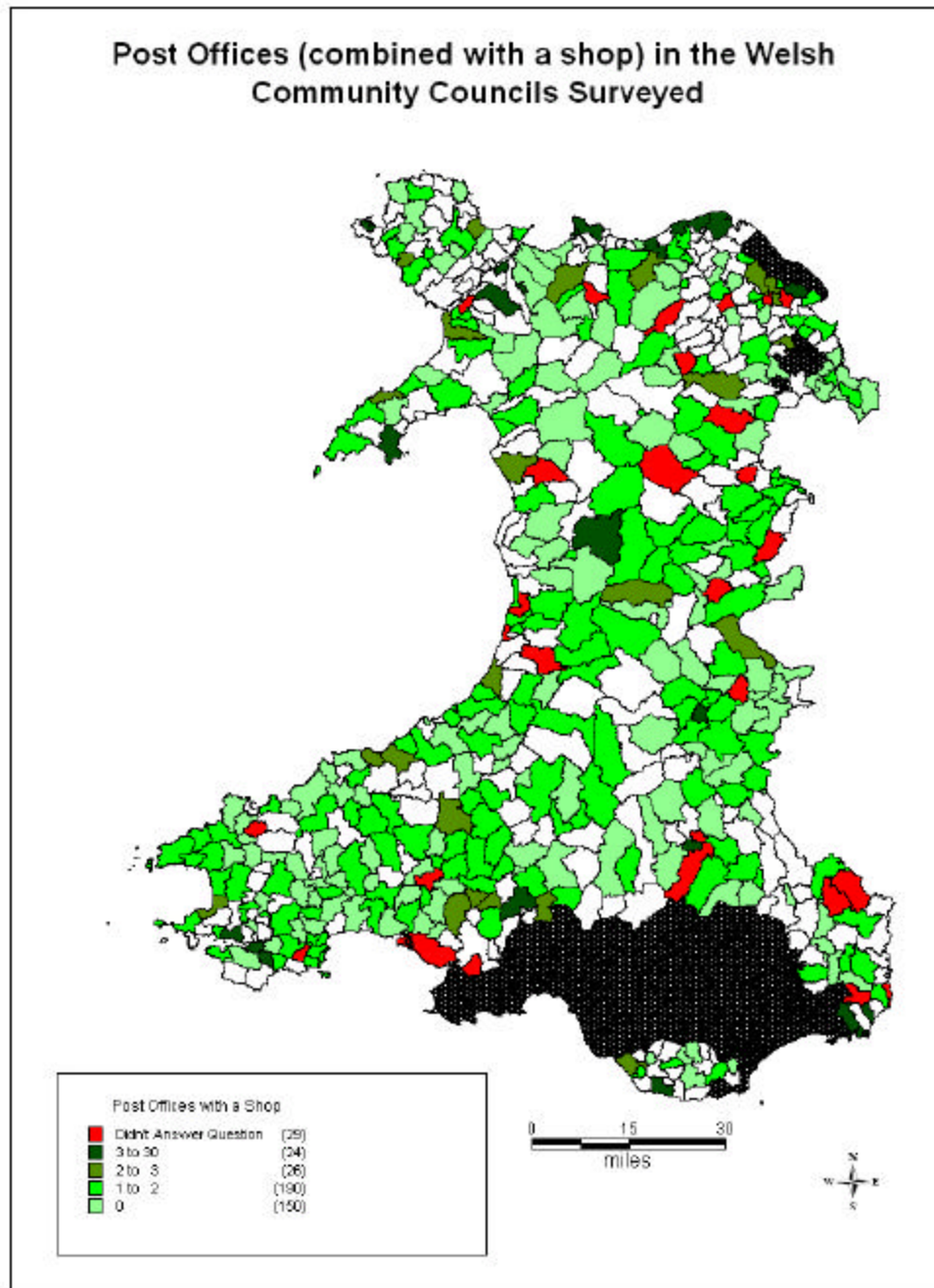
Map Two – Total Population in Welsh Community Councils (2001 Census)



Map Three – General Stores in the Surveyed Communities

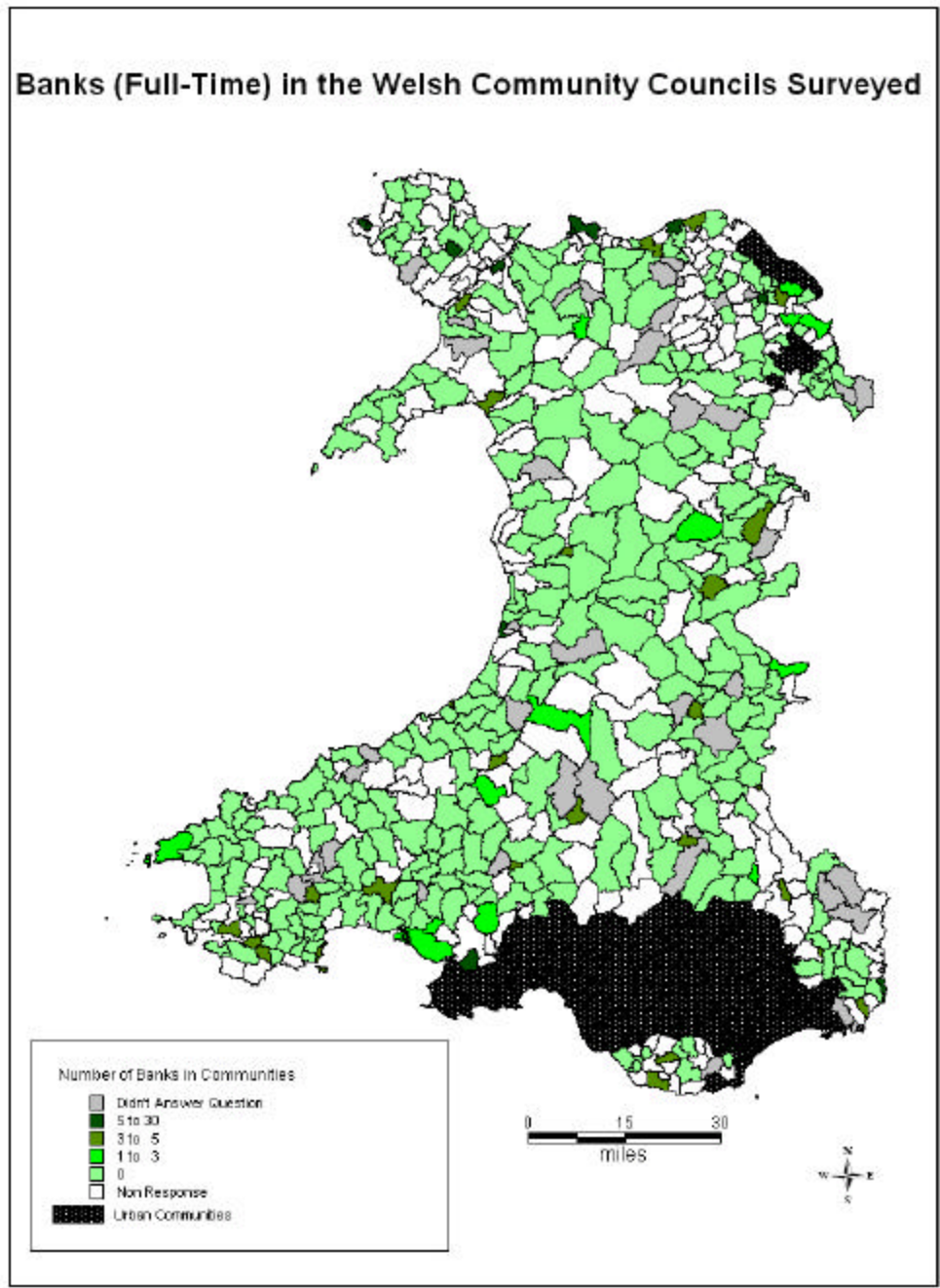


Map Four – Post Offices in the Surveyed Community Councils

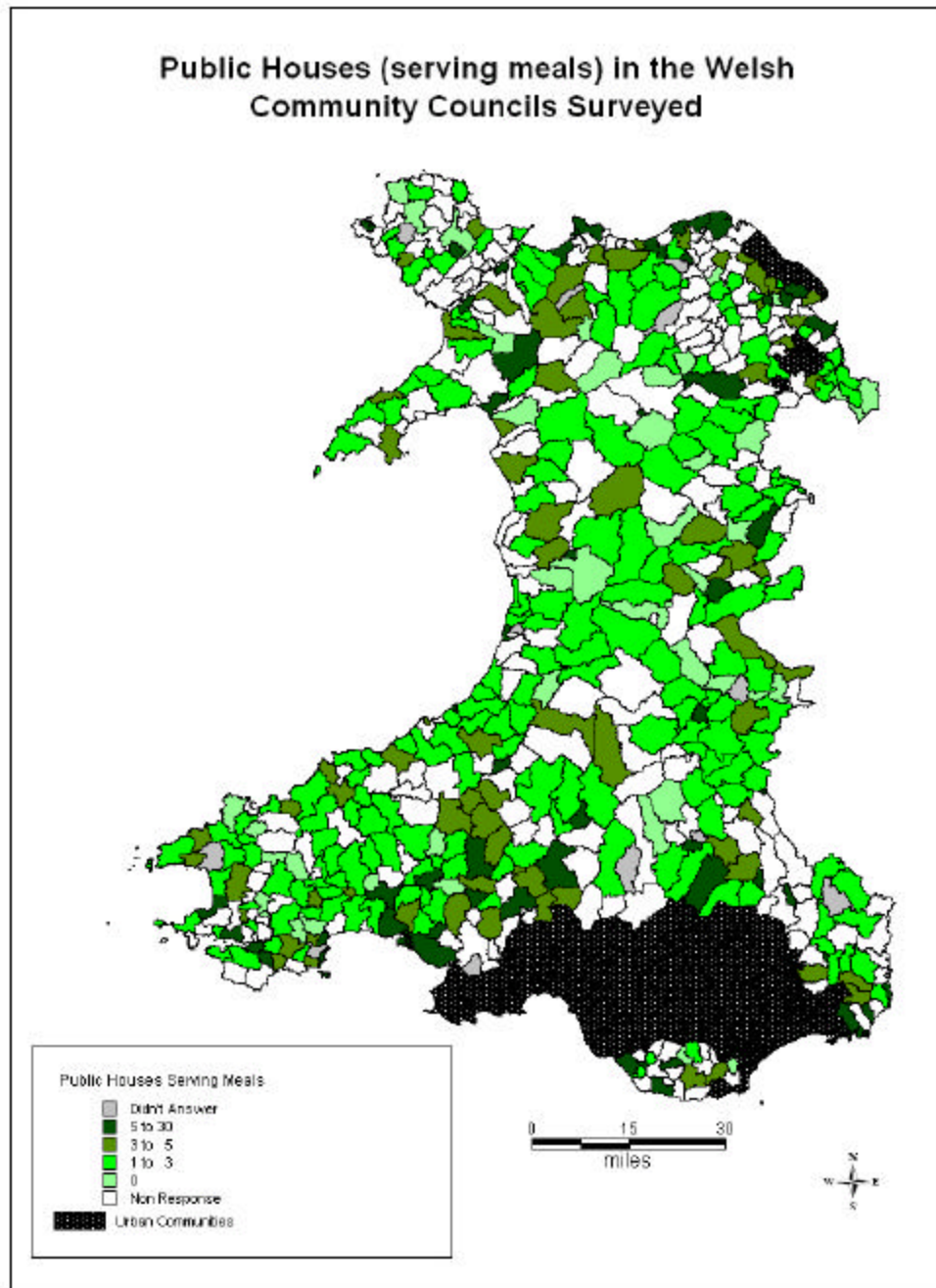




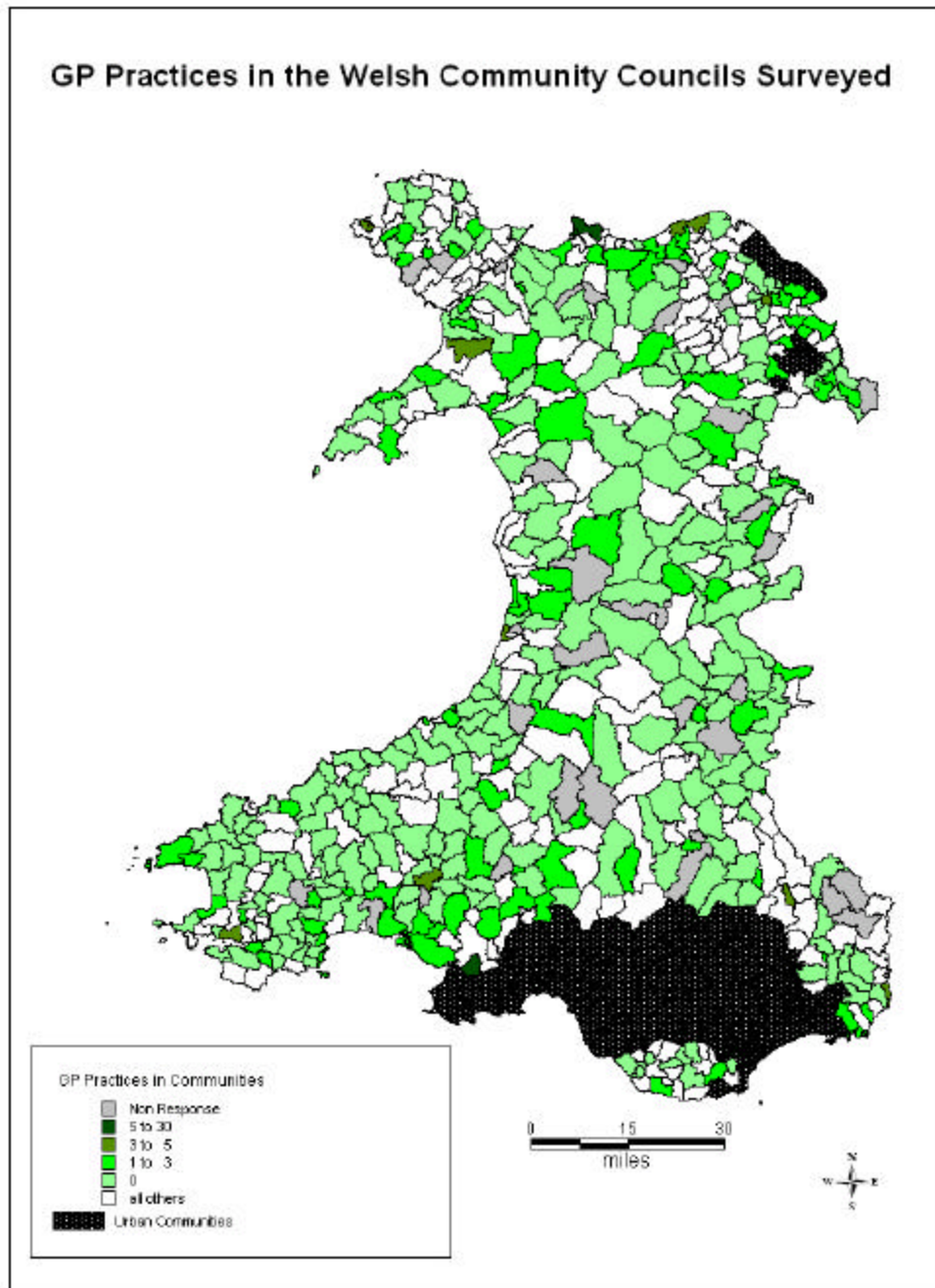
Map Five – Banks in the Surveyed Welsh Community Councils



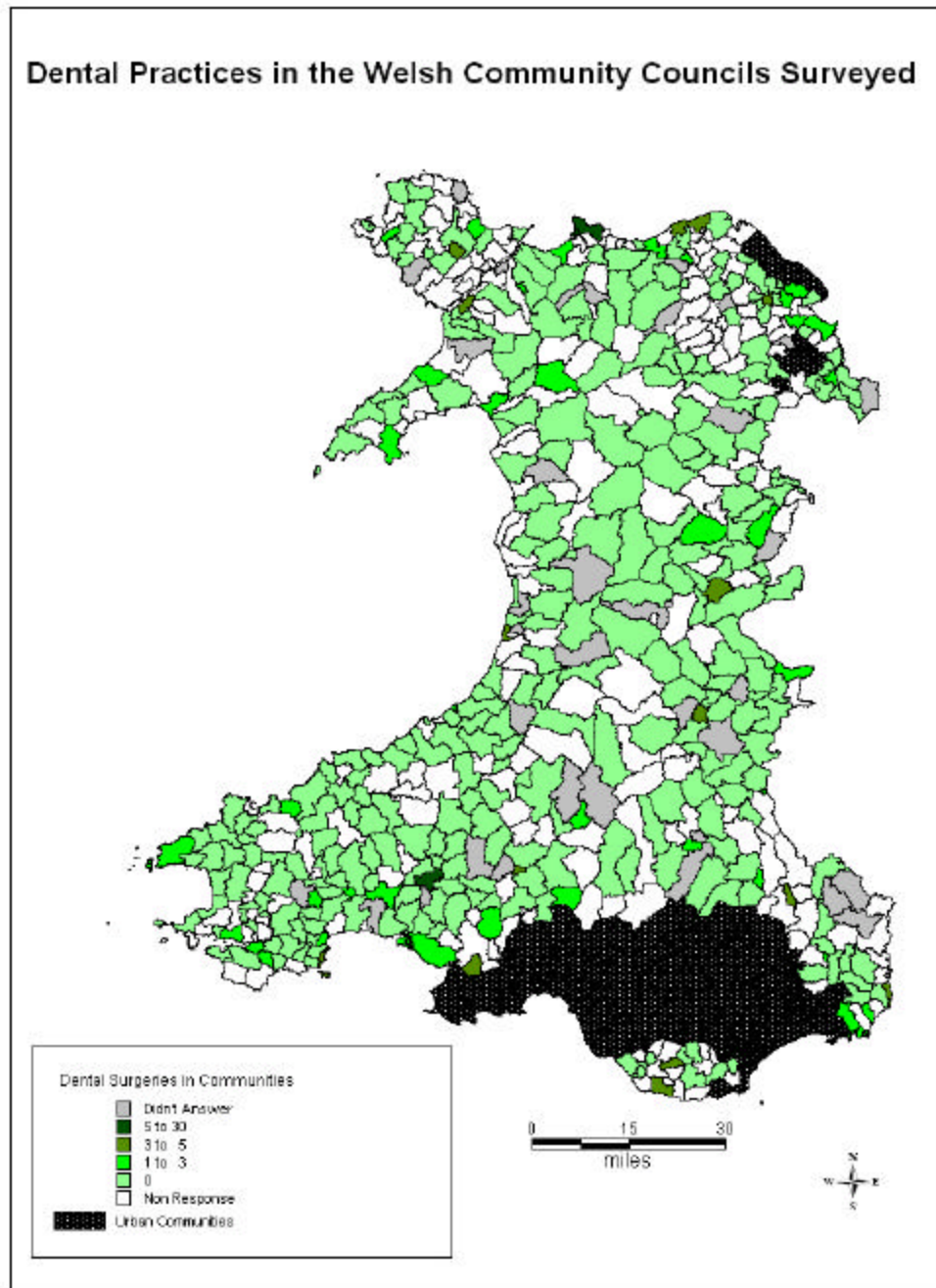
Map Six – Public Houses in the Surveyed Community Councils



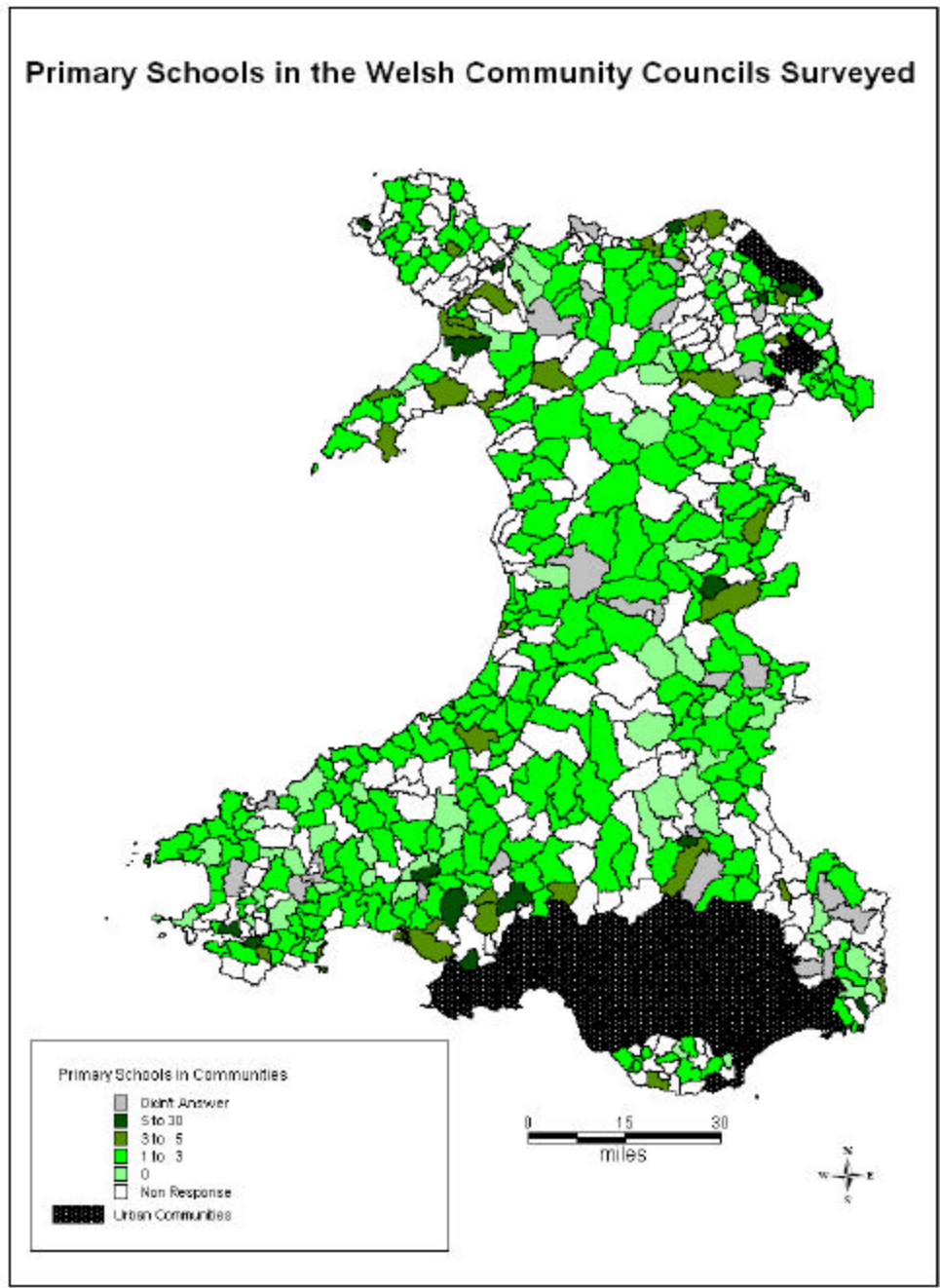
Map Seven – GP Practices in the Surveyed Community Councils



Map Eight – Dental Practices in the Surveyed Welsh Community Councils



Map Nine – Primary Schools in the Surveyed Welsh Community Councils



Map Ten – Number of Days a week that Responding Welsh Community Councils have a Bus Service

