

IMPROVING FACILITIES SURVEY 2018 – KEY POINTS

- 90 households responded (13.6% of households inc. Houlton)
- 32% of those were between 31-50 years

Q1 – Most popular facilities

- Community feeling / shops / pub / playing field
- No-one disliked anything very much!

Q2 – What don't they like

- Traffic speeds, HGVs and traffic calming (around 38% of answers)
- Lack of community spirit / involvement of some people
- 4 people don't like the school
- A couple don't like the Parish Council

Q3 – Facilities that need improving

- Playing field /playground
- Street lights
- Litter and dogs bins
- Benches

Q4 – Improvements people would like to see in the parish

- Pedestrian crossings
- More footpaths
- More car parking
 - Extensive list please see spreadsheet

Q5 – Additional facilities required

- Free Parish Magazine
- Post Office
- New Village Hall
- Childrens equipment and activities
- Community events

Q6 – Projects identified by Parish Council

- Footpaths along Hillmorton Lane to the canal and by Kingston Garth
- Consider a contribution towards a community speed watch gun
- A Plan to improve/upgrade street lighting

Resident Survey - highlights of comments

Lots of suggestions for greater offer by TMH – will ask the TMH representative on the council to take these to the TMH to see how they can address the identified need outlined by residents. These range from groups to prevent social isolation by older folk to groups for youngsters.

Quite a few comments about wanting a crossing at the school – as we know, this is now in hand, thanks to our County Councillor.

Lots of comments about speeding, noise from cars and suggestions about amending the traffic calming measures. The NHW group are addressing the speeding through their mobile speed watch group. The traffic calming measures are now reaching completion and there is very little possibility of them being amended at this stage, subsequent to the extensive consultation of the local residents. There were also requests for more zebra crossings and double yellow lines – for which the same applies.

Comments about the playground and how it could be amended. The playground was refurbished two years ago, in consultation with local residents, and there are no current plans to undertake further work on the playground.

Buses was another topic raised. This of course is a current hot topic and one that is being addressed by the parish council and we intend to ensure that a bus service is retained within the village. One person did say they would like a mini bus in the village – to note that the Back and Forth service exists for such need.

Lighting issues were raised – the parish council also has issue with the lighting – which we are currently reviewing. However, with regards to issues with individual lights, we are also reviewing our contract for that work as we recognise that the service provider is not providing a service!

Requests variously for a new village hall and for there not to be a new village hall – which of course was discussed recently and won't be happening.

Comments about the weeds in the village, the need for better grass cutting service and pruning of trees and hedges. There was also comment that the parish council should sort this out and not ask villagers to speak to the relevant authorities themselves. We do speak to the relevant authorities ourselves. However, this is not a parish council function and it does cut out the middle man, and so speed the process up, if people contact either RBC or WCC direct. With regards to trees, this is something the parish council monitors and will be undertaking a review of every tree in the village next year, for which training will be undertaken.

Better or new footpaths to various locations. This is something that has come onto the priority list and will be addressed by the parish council.

Car parking – various unusable suggestions as to where that could be – unfortunately we do not own all the land in the village.

Suggestion for a regular village newsletter rather than social media or a church newsletter. It is possible we should begin to look into advertising to pay for a village newsletter.

There were no comments about the allotments, which appear to be what was identified as needing most attention to in another part of the survey. It was also identified that TMH is a

much liked facility, which would contradict the comments that have been made. It would appear that residents are not aware of the function of the TMH committee – so perhaps that could form the basis of a newsletter to residents in itself from the TMH.

There were comments about the village store not being open for long enough hours. Again, this is not within the remit of the parish council to influence this – suffice it to say that Debbie and Stan exhaust themselves with the work that they do and they keep the business open during the hours that they know sufficient people will come into the store to make it worth their while to remain open. However, the survey also shows that the residents value the store.

There were a few comments that were effectively taking a pop at the parish council and traffic calming and I'm fairly confident we will know who have provided those, which add nothing to the development of the village.

There were requests for closer doctors, dentists, banking facilities and takeaways – which the parish council has no influence over.

The highest scoring issues that residents want addressed are footpaths and lighting. We are currently reviewing the lighting and are now clear that we must investigate the footpaths as outlined in the survey.

DECEMBER 2018