

West Ilsley Survey Results - August 2021

Andrea Cook

1 Background

Who was asked to participate in the survey?

Villagers were invited to give their views by completing the online questionnaire which was accessed by a link in the August WIN. Several reminders were sent during the following fortnight during which it was open. Paper copies of the questionnaire were delivered to those households in the centre of the village which were not on the email list.

There are residents on the electoral roll who live at Hodcott and who aren't on the email list, so unless special arrangements were made at the stables to enable these households to give input, they were not included. I am not aware of any responses from Hodcott residents.

Response

73 households out of 127 in the main area of the village (excluding Hodcott) responded, so we had a response rate of 57%. This also means that 54 households *didn't* give their views (43%). Should we regard the views of the 57% as representing the whole village? Statisticians may caution against this as the population is so small, however, as long as it is clearly understood when using the results as evidence on which to base decision making, they must still give some indication of the feelings of *some* of our residents.

Of course, the answer to any question usually raises yet more questions – here's one ...

Given that participation was easy and quick (even for those without internet access) "only" 73 households responded. Should the Parish Council treat these as the "core" group who want to be actively involved with the village, and assume that the other 54 aren't interested and don't want to join in?

Readers can probably form their own view by looking around them when attending events and gatherings – I would suggest that from my own pre-covid observations that this is probably a reasonable hypothesis.

Errors and omissions

Due to an oversight the Netball club was not included, and instead the Cricket club had three questions – one for the Cricket club overall (which should have read Netball) and separate questions for Cricket social and playing.

Highest priority for the PC?

There were additional topics raised in the last question which was: *In the opinion of your household, what do you think is the most important thing for the Parish Council to prioritise and why?*

Due to the practicalities of using a free survey to gather results, the comments are shown as prints of the results screen on the survey, the size of the prints has had to be increased so that they can be read more easily, so they do take up rather a lot of space. A full printout of all of the answers is available at the end of this report. As you will see, the answers weren't all in the simple format of "what and why" as requested, so I have analysed and summarised them further to give the number and flavour of the comments for each result in section 2.

2 Summary of the results

It seems a reasonable assessment to say that the 73 households which responded to the survey are very enthusiastic and positive about what the village has to offer.

The numbers for each answer are shown in the table in section 3 and section 4 contains the screen prints of the comments made in answer to question 5

There is a lot of information contained in the answers and everyone will make their own interpretation. As I have been immersed in this process I thought it might be helpful to pull out some facts and figures as a summary – I will be very interested to discuss any alternative interpretations of the data – it's all here for you to use.

Village facilities, Q2 of the questionnaire

The information is presented in descending order of “highly” valued by the 73 households (57%) which responded to the survey.

1 The Pub is highly valued by 78% of respondents and has a total positive score (highly plus nice to have ratings) of 96%. There were 12 comments which mentioned the pub – several comments that the pub should be the hub of the village and the central meeting place all year round.

2 Church and churchyard was the next most highly valued – 67% highly, and the total positive score of 92%. There were two comments re church and churchyard, one was a request for a gravel path up to the graveyard, the other asked that it should be prioritised as it is a meeting place for important support groups for our community.

3 Cricket club – playing was highly valued by 63% of respondents with a total of 93% positive score. There were no extra comments with regard to prioritising the cricket club by the PC.

4 Fete and Cricket club - social were both highly valued by 55% of respondents. The Fete scored 99% positively with only one responding household suggesting it is of little value, the Cricket club – social, scored 97% positively with only two respondents suggesting little or no value. There were no suggestions that the Fete or the Cricket club – social were a priority for the PC.

5 48% of respondents valued the **tennis court** highly, and the overall score was 95% positive. There were no additional comments about the court.

6 Village hall scored 42% for highly valued and an overall positive score of 89%. There was one comment which asked that it should be prioritised as it is a meeting place for important support groups for our community. There were other comments which suggested that there should be a review of the village hall but these have been included within the notes on PC priorities below.

7 Fireworks were highly valued by 41% of households with an overall positive of 94%. No other comments.

Groups Q3

Under 5s and **Evergreens** were highly valued by 40% of respondents, with overall positive responses for Under 5s of 78% and Evergreens of 82%. **Table tennis** is valued highly by only 8% of households but still scored 71% positive as 63% regard it as “nice to have”. There were no additional comments about these groups.

Amenities Q4

Footpaths/tracks and bridleways are regarded highly by 99% of respondents and 100% value them. Two comments suggested footpaths/tracks and bridleways should be a PC priority with regard to

clearing them, and there was also a mention that overhanging vegetation is a safety issue as it forces pedestrians to walk in the road.

Safety and security in the village, and the **recreation ground** are both highly valued by 90% of respondents. 99% of respondents rate the recreation ground positively and 97% safety and security. Both amenities received 2 comments each but were not specific as to why/how they felt they should be a PC priority.

Roads, speed and safety were highly valued by 88% of respondents. There were 20 comments about this, covering speed and volume of traffic, traffic calming measures and increased traffic caused by A34 problems.

The **defibrillator and usage training** are highly valued by 81%. There were no additional comments.

Rubbish/dog bins are valued highly by 77% of respondents and 95% rated them highly/nice to have. There were 2 comments prioritising this.

The **play area** and **pond** are both highly valued by 59% of respondents and, when “nice to have” was added they scored 89% and 96%. The play area attracted 2 comments – no specific reasons apart from its importance to those households and the pond 1 – mentioned cleaning and tidying of the surrounding area as a priority.

Gritting bins are highly valued by 50% of respondents, 32% said they are nice to have, so still 82% positive. There were no additional comments.

The **gazebo** is highly valued by only 26% of respondents, but another 56% rate it as “nice to have” so a total of 82% positive. No further comments re the gazebo.

The **noticeboards outside the hall and the church** are highly valued by only 25% and 22% and scored only 67% and 64% positive with respondents. There were no comments about the noticeboards.

Additional topics raised as PC priorities in Q5:

Flooding (6) – flood prevention

PC (12) – comments included getting engagement from the whole of the village, community spirit and a collaborative approach, governance and representation of the PC membership and its representation of the broader village. The minutes of the PC meetings and their value as a historical record of the meetings and issues discussed. Questions about spending village funds on village hall refurbishment without undertaking a review of which building should house the village meeting place (suggestions of a review). Community cohesion and representation. Encourage participation at every level from all interest groups. Communication. Spending the budget fairly. Keeping the peace.

General upkeep (4) of village assets

Netball (2) – already acknowledged, it was an error that this wasn't included in the questionnaire

Dog fouling (2) – address the problem on the cricket pitch and also from a safety issue

Other single issues raised as PC priorities were: war memorial repair, review of a shop, holding events, fibre broadband and parking at the pub and rec

3 The figures

Q2: How does your household value the following village facilities?	Highly	Nice to have	Little value	No value	Number		Highly	Nice to have	Little value	No value	% positive
Village hall	31	34	5	3	73		42%	47%	7%	4%	89%
Church and churchyard	49	18	5	1	73		67%	25%	7%	1%	92%
Tennis court	35	34	1	3	73		48%	47%	1%	4%	95%
Cricket club	51	17	2	0	70		73%	24%	3%	0%	97%
Fireworks	29	37	3	1	70		41%	53%	4%	1%	94%
Cricket club social	40	31	1	1	73		55%	42%	1%	1%	97%
Cricket club playing	45	22	2	3	72		63%	31%	3%	4%	93%
Fete	40	32	1	0	73		55%	44%	1%	0%	99%
Pub	57	13	2	1	73		78%	18%	3%	1%	96%
Q3: How does your household value these groups from which villagers can benefit?											
Under 5s	29	28	5	11	73		40%	38%	7%	15%	78%
Evergreens	29	31	4	9	73		40%	42%	5%	12%	82%
Table tennis	6	46	12	9	73		8%	63%	16%	12%	71%
Q4: How much does your household value these amenities within the PC remit?											
Recreation ground	66	6	0	1	73		90%	8%	0%	1%	99%
Play area	43	22	6	2	73		59%	30%	8%	3%	89%
Pond	43	27	2	1	73		59%	37%	3%	1%	96%
Gazebo	19	40	9	4	72		26%	56%	13%	6%	82%
Village noticeboard outside the hall	18	30	16	8	72		25%	42%	22%	11%	67%
Noticeboard outside the church	16	30	16	10	72		22%	42%	22%	14%	64%
Footpaths/tracks and bridleways	72	1	0	0	73		99%	1%	0%	0%	100%
Rubbish/dog bins	56	13	2	2	73		77%	18%	3%	3%	95%
Roads, speed and safety	64	6	3	0	73		88%	8%	4%	0%	96%
Gritting bins	36	23	11	2	72		50%	32%	15%	3%	82%
Defibrillator and usage training	59	10	4	0	73		81%	14%	5%	0%	95%
Safety and security in the village	66	5	1	1	73		90%	7%	1%	1%	97%

4 Comments in answer to Q5 *In the opinion of your household, what do you think is the most important thing for the Parish Council to prioritise and why?*

From paper responses:

Footpaths in the village

Shingle or similar path to graveyard to provide safer and easier access to graves

☐

Dog poo bins

8/16/2021 4:56 AM

☐

Ensure the future of the village pub, as this should be the hub of the village

8/15/2021 10:01 PM

☐

The pub - we need an all year round meeting place for everyone

8/15/2021 8:03 PM

☐

the pub - a central meeting place for everyone throughout the year.

8/15/2021 8:02 PM

☐

Control speeding through the village and maintain the recreation/playground for the children in the village

8/15/2021 6:55 PM

[View respondent's answers](#)

☐

Speed in village as concerned for safety of us all

8/15/2021 5:40 PM

[View respondent's answers](#)

☐

Flooding

8/15/2021 5:20 PM

[View respondent's answers](#)

☐

Commission a review of the main village meeting place - which building it should be and where funds should be directed. There must be residents who are able to produce a thorough and unbiased report for consideration by all of the village and the way forward agreed.

8/14/2021 2:50 PM

[View respondent's answers](#) [Add](#)

☐

Cleaning and tidying the pond and surrounding area

8/14/2021 1:18 PM

[View respondent's answers](#) [Add](#)

☐

Traffic safety owing to A34 accidents

8/14/2021 12:30 PM

[View respondent's answers](#) [Add](#)

☐

A Parish plan which can help influence planning decisions in the future and protect the village from over development.

8/13/2021 7:16 AM

[View respondent's answers](#) [Add](#)

- ☐ Community cohesion and representation. Encourage participation at every level from all interest groups. Be more diverse and democratic. Work on Pub/Cricket Club cooperation. We have a meagre church congregation, we have an under-used village hall and a failing pub. But we have a thriving cricket scene.
8/12/2021 12:59 PM [View respondent's answers](#) [Add to list](#)
- ☐ Flooding - this has not been mentioned, surprisingly, but due to climate change we need to protect the village. So a tidy 'dredged' duck pond, clear gulleys, verge cuts and slips and investment/maintenance in all aspects of flood management.
8/12/2021 12:46 PM [View respondent's answers](#) [Add to list](#)
- ☐ Pub. Can't be substituted
8/11/2021 7:14 PM [View respondent's answers](#) [Add to list](#)
- ☐ Safety and value to the village community
8/11/2021 1:52 PM [View respondent's answers](#) [Add to list](#)

- ☐ Ensuring an environment conducive to our community survives and grows and takes more note of the netball club and it 20odd members mainly from the village.
8/11/2021 12:17 PM [View respondent's answers](#) [Add to list](#)
- ☐ Speeding and the current dog poo issue as these are important for people's safety. Following that it would be the village hall and church as these are meeting places for important support groups for our community.
8/11/2021 10:05 AM [View respondent's answers](#) [Add to list](#)
- ☐ Sorting out the pub
8/11/2021 9:06 AM [View respondent's answers](#) [Add to list](#)
- ☐ Fair financial support around the village for social cohesion.
8/10/2021 9:32 PM [View respondent's answers](#) [Add to list](#)

- ☐ Flood elevation to prevent homes being flooded.
8/10/2021 9:21 PM [View respondent's answers](#) [Add to list](#)
- ☐ upkeep of village areas and general maintenance
8/10/2021 9:17 PM [View respondent's answers](#) [Add to list](#)
- ☐ Traffic and reduction of speeding through the village
8/10/2021 8:59 PM [View respondent's answers](#) [Add to list](#)
- ☐ Speeding through the village as only a narrow footpath on one side of main st
8/10/2021 8:41 PM [View respondent's answers](#) [Add to list](#)

- ☐ Pub - a thriving pub will bring the local community together, better support villagers working from home eg. take away coffees, lunches, pizza/bbq/curry/steak nights. A good pub will also increase the value of our houses!

8/10/2021 8:09 PM

[View respondent's answers](#) [Adc](#)

Adc

- ☐
- Preservation of the pub as a pub

8/10/2021 7:44 PM

[View respondent's answers](#) [Adc](#)

Adc

- ☐
- Road Safety

8/10/2021 7:26 PM

[View respondent's answers](#) [Adc](#)

Adc

- ☐ Traffic calming measures. This is a danger to all residents in particular children

8/10/2021 7:24 PM

[View respondent's answers](#) [Adc](#)

Adc

- ☐
- Speeding through the village

8/10/2021 7:16 PM

- ☐ Communicating with the village in order to clearly understand what people want. The PC simply is affective at using the considerable funds available to it.

8/10/2021 12:29 PM

[View respondent's answers](#)

- ☐ ensure amenities of the village are properly cared for and maintained. Also to ensure we retain the pub. Admiral Inns have just purchased the pubs owned by Hawthorn Leisure, latest

8/10/2021 11:45 AM

[View respondent's answers](#)

- ☐ Maintaining the village facilities, eg pathways; gritting bins; recreation ground and pond area.

8/10/2021 11:42 AM

[View respondent's answers](#)

- ☐ The Pub is the heart of any village

8/10/2021 11:26 AM

[View respondent's answers](#)

- ☐ Roads, speed and safety - there are many children in this village and as part of the cricket club. Cars travel too fast along Main Street.

8/10/2021 11:13 AM

[View respondent's answers](#)

- ☐ And why no mention of the netball which has enough for two teams regularly and training evenings too Community life in our village with a safe environment for everyone to enjoy together.

8/10/2021 11:00 AM

[View respondent's answers](#)

- Pub

8/10/2021 10:42 AM

[View respondent's answers](#)

- ☐
- Road safety, footpath etc clearing organisation

8/10/2021 10:39 AM

[View respondent's answers](#)

☐ Keeping the peace!

8/10/2021 10:20 AM

[View respondent's answers](#)

☐ Dog poo bins so we don't keep getting emails about dog poo

8/10/2021 10:10 AM

[View respondent's answers](#)

☐ Coordinated village plan - to maximise fund raising and use of community assets.

8/9/2021 9:48 AM

[View respondent's answers](#)

☐ Speeding - so that children/walkers/horse riders are safe in the village

8/9/2021 9:20 AM

[View respondent's answers](#)

☐ Drainage. Preventing flooding.

☐ Speeding/road safety/over-hanging branches forcing pedestrians to walk in the road

8/8/2021 2:59 PM

[View respondent's answers](#)

[Add to](#)

☐ Repair of war memorial before it causes any harm

8/7/2021 7:50 AM

[View respondent's answers](#)

[Add to](#)

☐ Sorting out dog fouling on the cricket pitch

8/5/2021 12:10 PM

[View respondent's answers](#)

[Add to](#)

☐ Spending the budget as wisely as possible to provide the residents with a safe, secure and pleasant environment with the many of the facilities we have and enjoy, so that we all feel very lucky to live in this wonderful village.

8/5/2021 10:59 AM

[View respondent's answers](#)

[Add to](#)

☐ Road safety

8/4/2021 3:15 AM

[View respondent's answers](#)

☐ Ensure West Ilsley remains a safe and friendly village. Make sure both younger and older residents are supported. Maintain buildings, roads, drainage etc. and allow only limited additional building work to preserve its village qualities

8/3/2021 2:43 PM

[View respondent's answers](#)

☐ Speeding through the village

8/3/2021 2:05 PM

[View respondent's answers](#)

☐ Retention of the pub as a pub.

8/3/2021 12:54 PM

[View respondent's answers](#)



Communication

8/3/2021 12:45 PM

[View respondent's answers](#)

A



Recreation ground and play area - it's what we use the most

8/3/2021 12:02 PM

[View respondent's answers](#)

A



Road speed and safety

8/3/2021 11:57 AM

[View respondent's answers](#)

A



Holding events for the community to come together

8/3/2021 11:48 AM

[View respondent's answers](#)

A



Speeding through the village and speeding on entry into the village. Drivers coming off the A34 tend not to adjust their speed sufficiently before they start to enter the village. So anything to help slow them down sooner would be excellent. Thanks

8/3/2021 11:37 AM

[View respondent's answers](#)

Add to



Getting engagement from whole of village with village life

8/3/2021 11:15 AM

[View respondent's answers](#)

Add to



The future of the pub, undertake review of a shop especially as working practices are changing etc.

8/3/2021 10:38 AM

[View respondent's answers](#)

Add to



Retain and maintain the remaining village assets - without these the village ceases to be a living village. With limited assets it will be increasingly difficult to maintain a living village and the remaining assets and with no assets the village ceases to be a living village and is simply a dormitory.

8/3/2021 10:26 AM

[View respondent's answers](#)

Add to



Flood defenses. We know the village will experience flooding again and everything possible should be done to protect land and property from the devastating consequences of flooding.

8/3/2021 10:24 AM

[View respondent's answers](#)

A



Road safety and keeping rural environments safe as a heritage area for people and wildlife

8/3/2021 10:24 AM

[View respondent's answers](#)

A



Community spirit and collaborative approach

8/1/2021 10:34 PM

[View respondent's answers](#)

A



Speed through the village

8/1/2021 3:46 PM

[View respondent's answers](#)

A



Fibre broadband as online speed is below national basic standard

8/1/2021 2:11 PM

[View respondent's answers](#)

[Add](#)



Road safety. The speed at which some vehicles enter the village is frightening at times. Current measures don't seem to stop some people. In the past, there was discussion about having speed humps (sleeping policemen) on the approaches to the village. Maybe, this could be considered again.

8/1/2021 2:02 PM

[View respondent's answers](#)

[Add](#)



Parking at the pub/cricket club

8/1/2021 12:54 PM

[View respondent's answers](#)

[Add](#)



The governance and representation of the PC membership. Its membership is no way represents the broader village. The co-option mechanism is a total disgrace and makes a farce of transparency. Similarly, the minutes now published are incomprehensible and next to useless in terms of providing an historical narrative of the issues discussed at WIPC meetings. Finally, the WIPC needs an urgent review of the viability of the Village Hall. This village needs to think big and look to future proof the Village Hall facility by considering merging it with the Cricket Club pavilion in some way. It is shameful that our money is being spent on Village Hall refurbishment without this review taking place.

8/1/2021 12:31 PM

[View respondent's answers](#)

[Add](#)