

# SURVEY FINDINGS REPORT

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BUCKLAND DINHAM PARISH PLAN, VERSION 1, JULY 2024

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In Partnership with:  
Buckland Dinham Parish Council  
and The Community Council for Somerset

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*(Linda Taylor)*



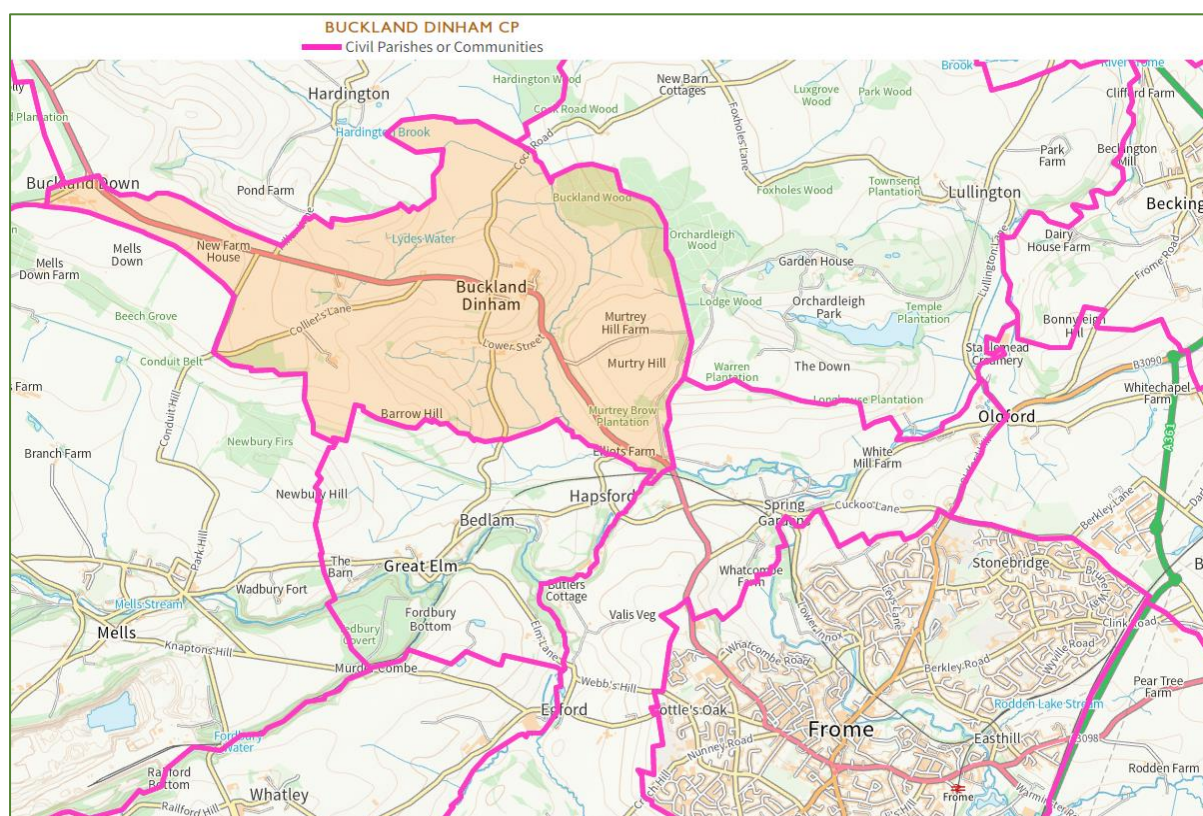
The village features three trees on the brow of the hill - historically a landmark for drovers. *(Rachel Lee)*

## Our Village Now

Buckland Dinham is a traditional rural village which dates back to 951 and the Domesday Book.



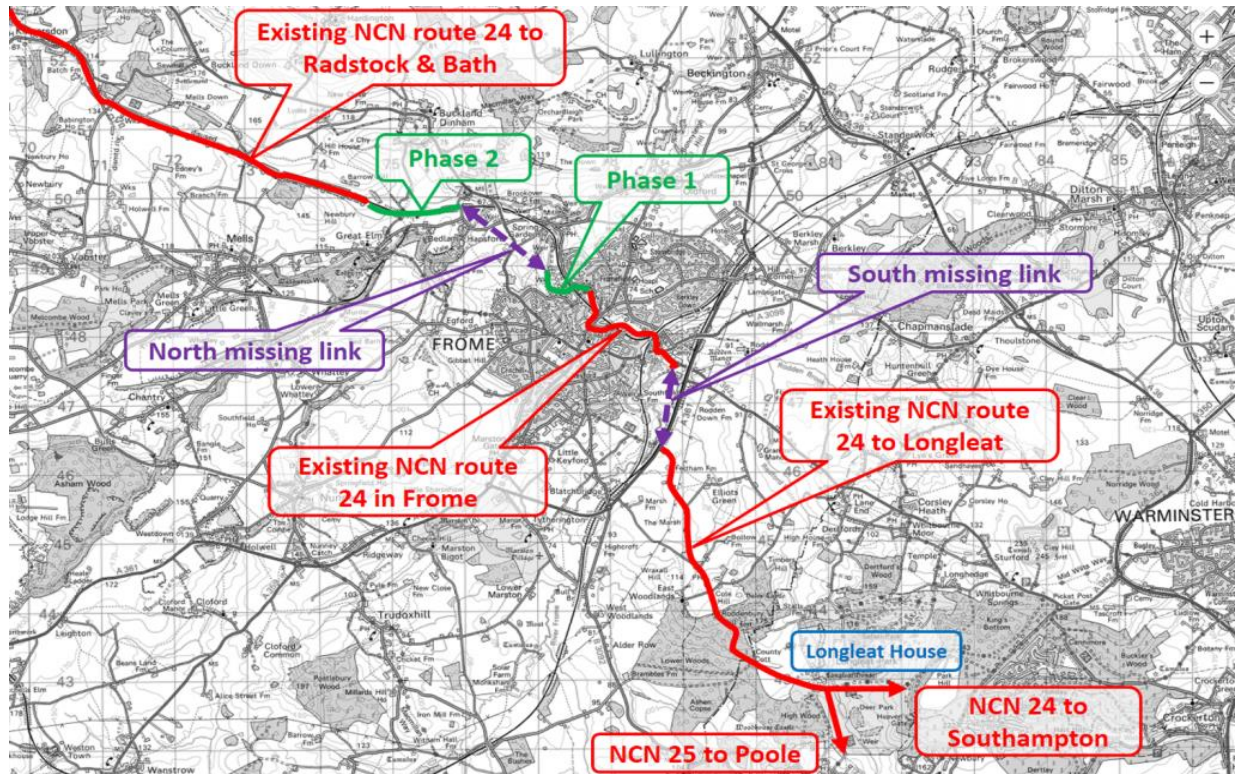
Buckland Dinham is a small village situated on the side of a steep hill known as Buckland Down, 2 miles northwest of Frome in Somerset. It looks out over a vale formed by several small streams, in particular Buckland Brook, which leads southwards towards Frome and other villages such as Great Elm and Mells. Buckland Brook skirts the north-eastern side of the village.



We have an extensive network of countryside bridleways and footpaths, and beautiful views everywhere around us. Our updated booklet of 'Buckland Dinham Walks' by Corinne King is about to be published by Buckland Dinham Parish Council.

Meanwhile, a part of Frome's Missing Links (FML) project is striving to provide a traffic-free route into the centre of Frome. This multi-user path will have gentle gradients suitable for all ages and abilities – bicycles, wheelchairs, buggies, scooters, children's small feet - and be walkable whatever the weather. This is exciting because Buckland Dinham villagers will be able to join the path where Colliers Way goes across the bridge over Elm Lane, less than a mile South of the village.

FML began in 2010 campaigning for better and safer walking and cycling routes within, around, and between Frome and neighbouring villages and towns. They are currently fundraising to complete the surfacing of a new 1.3km pathway, along the old railway track, which would connect the end of the Collier's Way path at Great Elm to Elliotts Lane.



FML says that to reach Frome from the Colliers Way link, around 2.5 miles, you'd have to travel on some pretty busy roads and some big hills – so we're trying to get rid of that.



Autumn hedgerow  
(Peter Corbett)



View from Lower Street  
(Marie Getheridge)

The village is divided by the A362 which curves up the steep hill through the middle of the village. At the bottom of the hill the single track lane of Lower Street comes off the A362 subsequently turning uphill as Sands Cross Hill before looping back to the main road at the top of the hill. Single track lanes also lead off to Lullington and Great Elm.



Misty morning (Rachel Lee)



A snowy Elm Lane

In winter, the main roads are gritted, but the lanes are not. They can be treacherous. We can be snowed and/or iced in unless we live on the High Street.

The road provides good transport links to Frome, Bath and Bristol, but there is no train line or safe walking or cycling path connecting the village to its neighbours.

This means residents rely on the use of one or more cars per household, or on the local bus service connecting the village to the towns of Frome and Radstock.



The steep hill's blind curves are dangerous



Parking spaces are scarce

## Communication

We have a monthly magazine **5Alive!** covering the 5 parishes of Buckland Dinham, Chantry, Great Elm, Mellis and Vobster, Whatley, which until 2023 comprised the Mellis Benefice. The magazine retains this coverage despite Buckland Dinham joining Hardington Vale, due to a deanery reorganisation. 5Alive! publishes local news and events as well as business information and local knowledge, and is distributed door to door within each village.

The welcome introduction of ultrafast broadband made a huge difference to the villagers' working and leisure time lives in 2021.

There are several WhatsApp groups and various village Facebook pages, including 'Buckland Dinham Church and Village' and 'Buckland Dinham Parish Clerk' where local information is shared, along with five notice boards.



Voneus Connection 2021 (Sara Corbett)

Buckland Dinham has a Parish Council website which is in the process of being updated. Buckland Dinham History Group's website has sadly been hacked. Buckland Dinham Parish Plan's website continues until December 2024 as by then the Plan's development will be complete and the Full Plan published.

## Village Amenities and Events

Buckland Dinham has a village hall, church, pub, and a children's playpark and playing field, all of which are well used by the residents.

**Whats on in Buckland Dinham**

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Village Hall	Cyclists' Pilates weekly	Lunch club monthly Buckland Buddies monthly	Pilates weekly Short mat bowls weekly	Parish Council 6 weekly		Craft Club monthly	
Church						Coffee morning monthly	Church services
Pub					BBQ 1 x week (summer)	Pub Quiz monthly	

- Other**
- Community Speed Watch
  - Frames Missing Links
  - History Group
  - Playing Field Association
  - Parish Plan Team
  - Parish Magazine
  - Ox Club
  - Village Hall Committee

## 1. The Village Hall



Our Village hall was built at the sole expense of the Rev. Henry Clutterbuck in 1882. It was originally designed as a Coffee House and Reading Room for young men, along with a private dwelling place for the manager and his family. It was enlarged by public subscription in 1924, with an extension to give the building a room large

enough to support amateur dramatics in the village.

Various groups have owned the village hall since it was built: originally gifted to Russell Duckworth to create a recreational place for the village in 1882. The Duckworth family subsequently gifted it to the Diocese of Bath and Wells in 1915. In 1978, a few years after the last live-in manager retired, the "Trustee Ownership" was transferred to the Parish Council, and in 1981 it was transferred to the Charity Commission.

Although the village hall played a very important part in the social life of Buckland Dinham for more than a century, and was the venue for many of the important celebrations of the 20th Century, by the 1980s it was in a very poor state of repair. A meeting was called to discuss its fate, including whether to sell. Happily, it was decided that a management committee be set up to oversee firstly the renovation and refurbishment, and then the maintenance of the hall. The village hall was effectively saved.

Buckland Dinham now has a spacious and well equipped hall with wifi, audio set up, hearing loop system, a screen, a stage, a large kitchen, and three upstairs rooms for smaller meetings. Its fully enclosed gardens with far stretching views, are perfect for outdoor events, marquees and bouncy castles.



(Tamsin Aston)

The Village Hall Management Committee has organised many events in the past to generate funds for the hall's maintenance and ongoing improvements, including solar panels for the roof. Events have included Barn Dances, Quiz Evenings, Story Telling, Dinner Dances, and a great variety of musical concerts ranging from Trad Jazz to Appalachian clog dancing.

The village hall is used regularly by local groups, as seen in the above list of organisations currently operating in Buckland Dinham. It is hired out for various other meetings, activities and events including the annual Christmas Fayre, and also stores the History Group's vast archive of materials.



## 2. The Village Church – St Michael and All Angels



The Grade 1 listed St Michael and All Saints Church is centrally located in our village and open every day. It is a peaceful sanctuary in our busy lives.

The Church was formerly part of the Mells Benefice, but in September 2023 became incorporated into Hardington Vale due to a deanery reorganisation. It has a small but enthusiastic and welcoming group, exploring new worship patterns.



The building dates from around 1200. The tower added in 1480 housed the belfry's six bells, which were augmented to eight in 1994, by bell-hanger Bob Parker. The new treble was the former clock bell and the second was formerly at St Paul's Bristol. The village enjoys hearing visiting bell-ringing

teams who come to experience ringing them.



The Friends of St Michael, formed in 2023, are currently raising funds to repair the Lychgate. They host classical concerts in the church and picnics in the church yard.



### 3. The Bell Inn



The Bell Inn was reopened by Roy and Clare in December 2022 to the village's delight, having been closed for the previous 18 months. The Bell Inn is our village pub serving food and drink, and hosting many special events including a monthly pub quiz and live music evenings.



**The Bell @ Buckland Proudly Presents**

**Bucks Quiz**

**The pub quiz for people who don't really like pub quizzes!**

★ **Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> July - from 7pm** ★  
£2 entry fee per person (max team size of 6)

Pub quiz 2024 flyer (Jon Evans)

It also has a campsite.

Walkers, cyclists and horse-riders frequent the Bell Inn, which also serves great breakfasts at the weekend.

### 4. The Playing Field



Buckland Dinham Playing Field Association manage the children's playpark and playing field, including coordinating a volunteer grass-cutting team. The Parish Council funded their new mower in 2023 when the previous one expired.



**New Goals 2023** (Sian Creagh-Osborne)



(Scarlett Parker)

New goal posts erected in the playing field December 2023 after children's and others' fundraising.

## 5. Other Community Events



(Marie Getheridge)

Open Gardens in June 2022 raised funds to repair St Michael and All Angels' church clock.



(Janna Rogers)



**25th  
JUNE**



Maps available at the church  
Teas, coffees and delicious cakes - venue on the map

BUCKLAND DINHAM

## Open Gardens

A glorious range of gardens with stunning views  
across the Somerset countryside



Calling all BD gardeners, come and join the fun!  
Contact Marie Getheridge - mgetheridge2011@aol.co.uk



(Marie Getheridge)

Celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June 2022



Jubilee lunch party in the Village Hall (Debbie Cary)



Riding up to the top of Barrow Hill in the tractor trailers to light our Beacon (Phil Taylor)

Gathering together in the Church Christmas 2023 and January 2024



Saturday morning cakes and coffee (Debbie Cary)

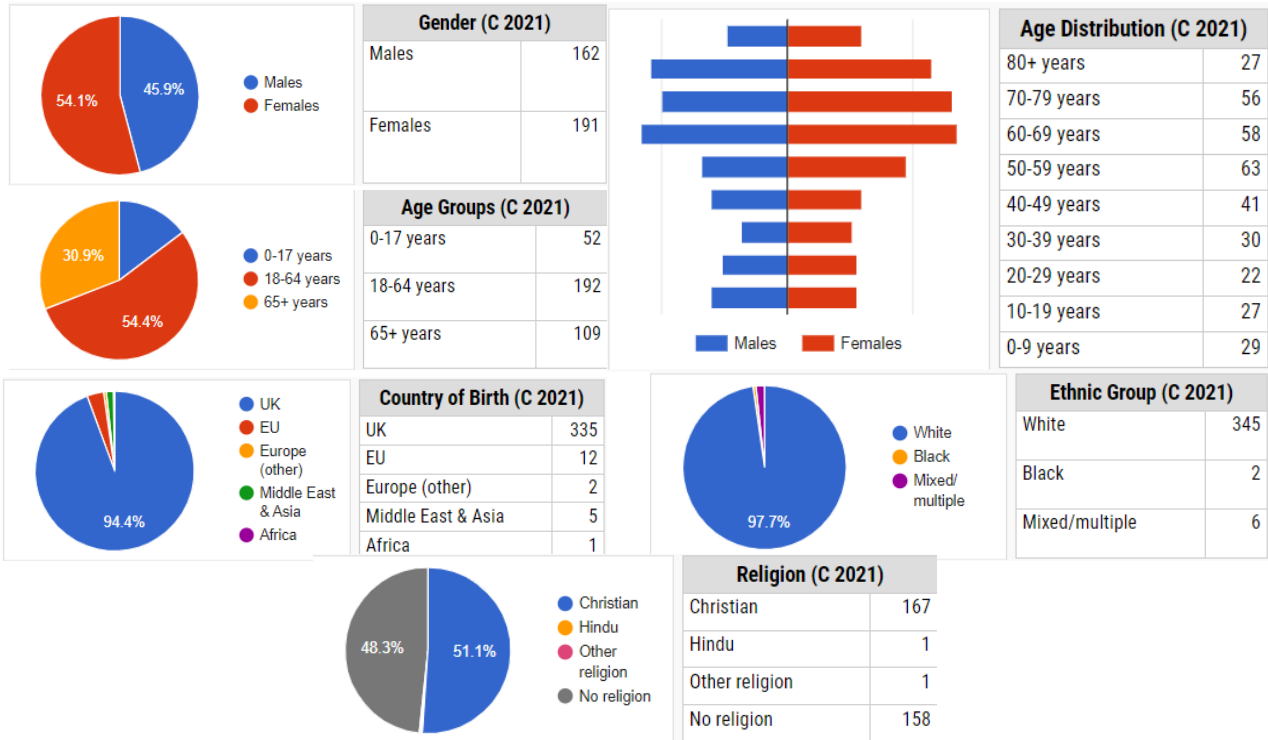


Carols by candlelight Christmas 2023 (Debbie Cary)

# Buckland Dinham Community

## Demographics

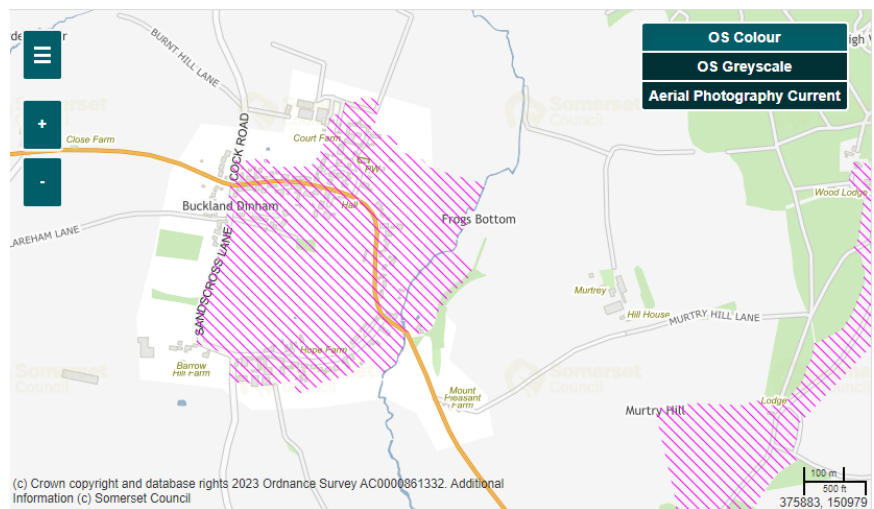
Buckland Dinham has approximately 160 households according to the 2021 Census, and a population of 353. In the ONS survey of 2011 it was 381, and in 2001 was 379. Since 2021 several younger and growing families have moved into the village.



## Planning

Much of Buckland Dinham village is in a conservation area (pink shaded area on map).

Buckland Dinham is not considered for planned rural housing distribution in the 2014 Mendip Local Plan, because it has **only two** of the **four** core facilities required (namely, a school, a shop, a meeting place, a public transport service).



We have three meeting places and a public transport system that suffices for travelling into Frome or Bath for employment purposes. However, we lost our primary school in 1969 and our last shop in 1983.

## Industry

Approximately 185 people in the village are of working age. The village's main industry is farming (arable and dairy). There are several smaller holdings with poultry, sheep, goats, and/or horses. The village is a dormitory village for those employed in the nearby cities of Bath and Bristol. It also has many self-employed people running their own small and medium enterprises, often from home.



Dairy farm fields with disused colliery chimney of Somerset coal mine and Barrow Hill (Pat Open)



(Debra Poole)  
Children come to feed the orphan lambs



An escaped calf by the cycle route  
(Lucy Gundry)



The view across the horses' paddock  
(Valentina Kemp)

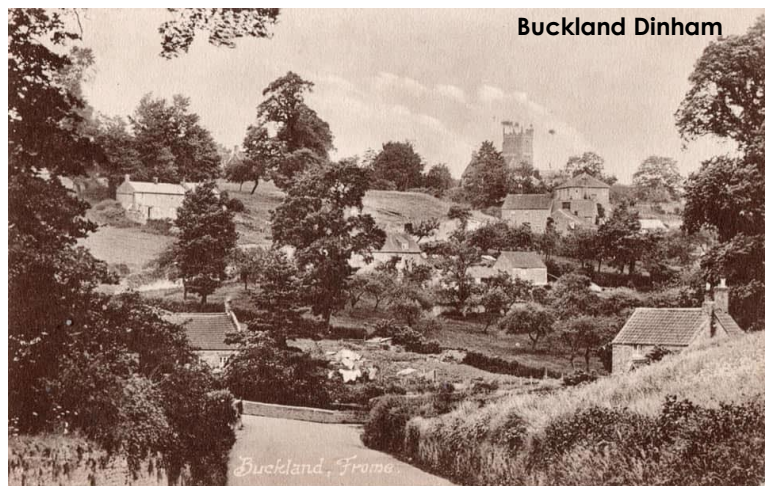


## Governance

Buckland Dinham has a Parish Council which meets on a six-weekly basis. Parish Council representatives attend the *Vale of Frome* Local Community Network meetings, now held quarterly. The *Vale of Frome* LCN was established in July 2023. This followed from the April 2023 Local Government change in Somerset, whereby Somerset became a Unitary Authority and no longer a County Council with four District Councils.

Buckland Dinham became part of the newly formed Frome and East Somerset parliamentary constituency in July 2024, when the constituency boundary changes came into being at the General Election.

## Our Village History



Buckland Dinham is a traditional village which dates back to the Domesday Book.

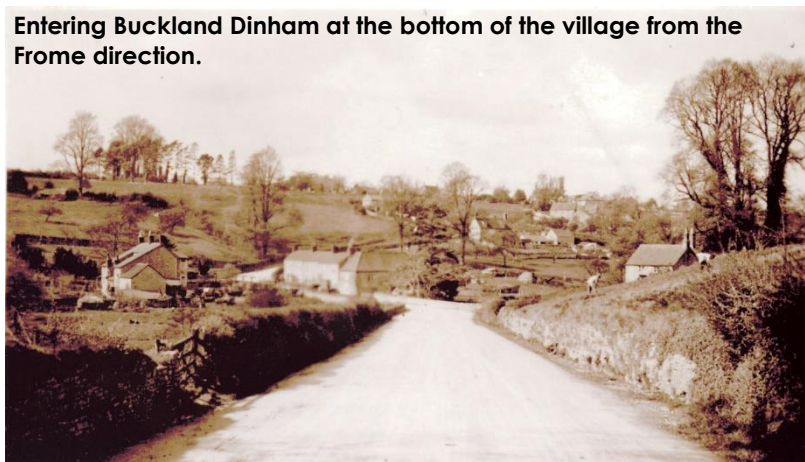
In 951 King Eadred granted land at Buckland to his relative Ælfhere.

The village used to be known as Buckland Denham. Denham is believed to be a family name whilst Buckland may refer to a former deer

population. Although Buckland Dinham itself does not have a manor house, it is close to Orchardleigh Estate.

The parish of Buckland Denham was part of the Kilmersdon Hundred, along with nine other parishes: Ashwick, Babington, Hardington, Hemington, Holcombe, Kilmersdon, Radstock, Stratton-on-the-Fosse,

Writhlington. There were 40 such hundred courts in Somerset, dating from before the Norman conquest during the Anglo-Saxon era. Their importance declined from the seventeenth century, with the establishment of county courts in 1867 and the introduction of districts by the Local Government Act 1894.





The Dorset and Somerset Canal's branch to the Somerset coalfields would have passed via the bottom end of the Buckland vale, had it ever been completed. It is now just off the route of NCR 24, Colliers Way. The Murtry Aqueduct remains. Fussell's balance locks were built on the side of Barrow Hill, an extension of the hill on which Buckland Dinham is perched.

### **Milk production in Buckland Dinham a century ago**

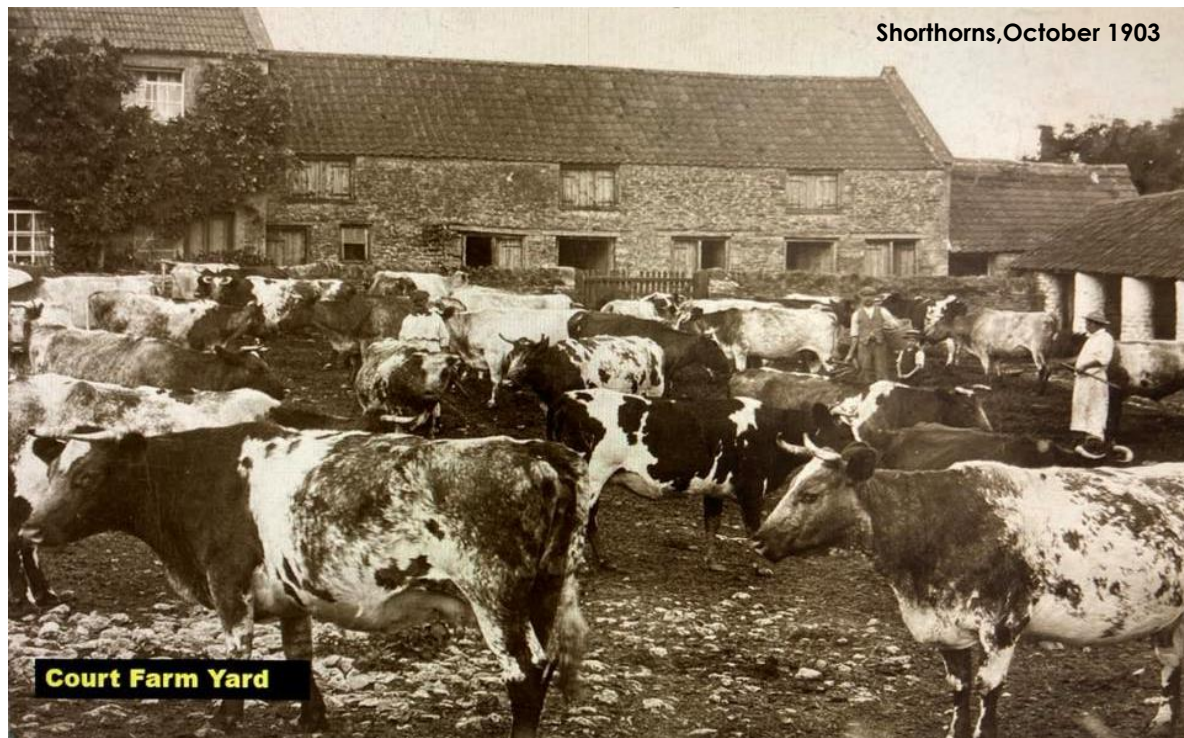
In the 1960s, before the days of bulk milk collection, there were 10 dairy farms in the village, each producing 3 or 4 ten-gallon containers per day. There is now only one dairy farm here.



Collecting milk at Glebe Farm

Two generations ago a milk-trolley used to be pushed around the village selling milk from house to house. Villagers had their jugs filled with fresh milk for the day.

Now, in 2024, we are considering whether to have a village milk vending machine installed.



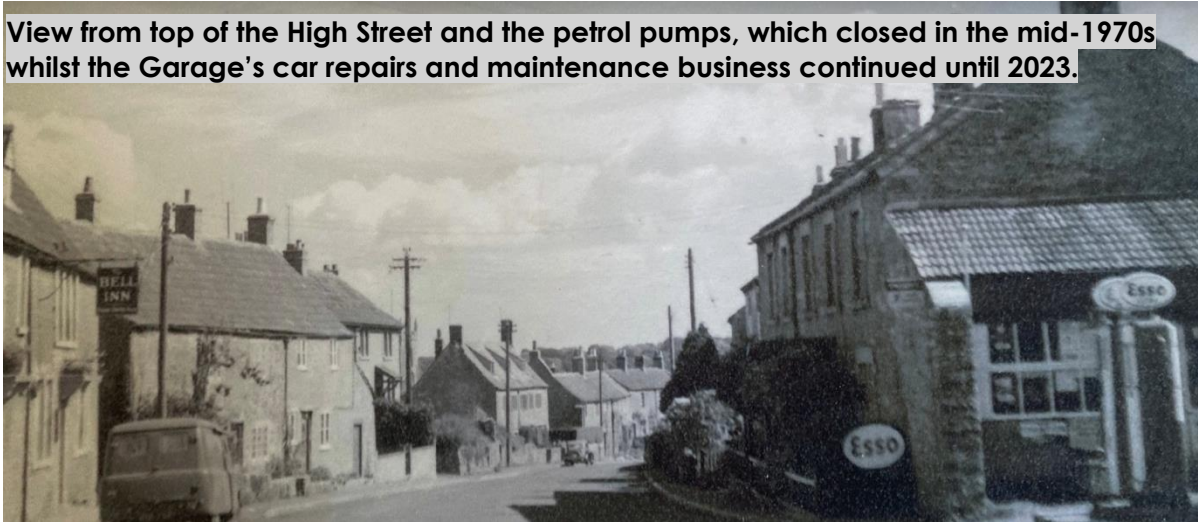
Shorthorns, October 1903

Court Farm Yard

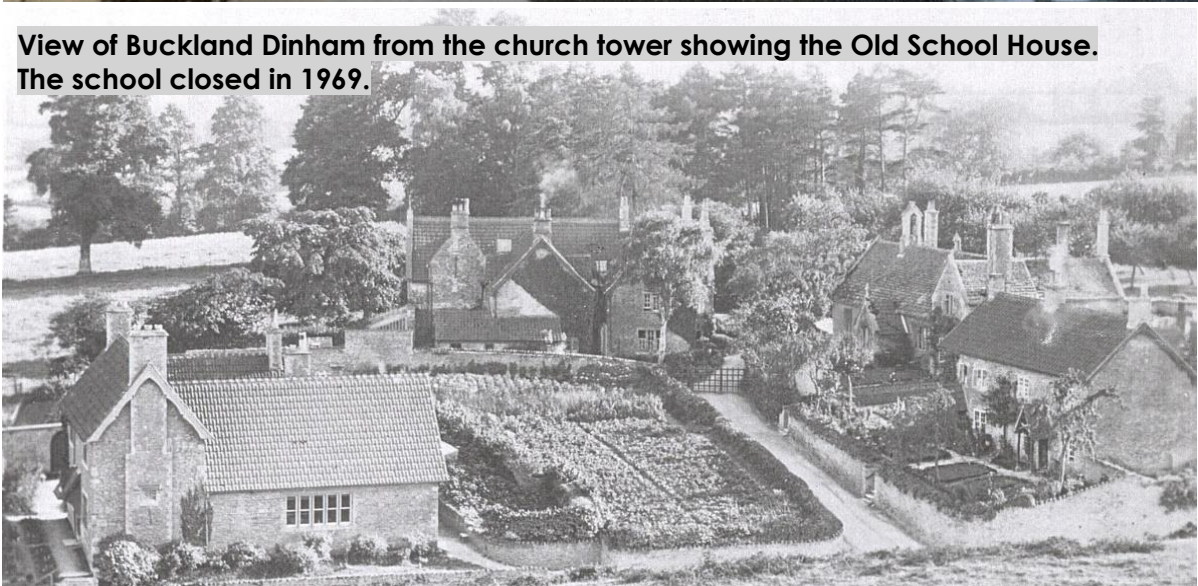
### **Buckland Dinham's past shops**

- Frog's Bottom had a bakery until the 1950s.
- Lower Street had a newsagents-and-sweets shop until the mid-70s.
- The High Street had a Post Office and its shop until 1983.
- The Blacksmith's, a repair shop for agricultural machinery, closed in the mid-1970s.

**View from top of the High Street and the petrol pumps, which closed in the mid-1970s whilst the Garage's car repairs and maintenance business continued until 2023.**



**View of Buckland Dinham from the church tower showing the Old School House. The school closed in 1969.**



**The Fountain Inn halfway up the High Street. This Cider House closed in 1984.**

The Bell 1906, at the top of High Street. The Bell is now the hub of the village.



St Michael's Day 1922

Michael's Day - 1922



Coronation Procession 1911



Children were able to play in the street without fear of being run over.

## What is the Parish Plan and why is it important for Buckland Dinham

### What is the Parish Plan?

The Buckland Dinham Parish Plan will be a statement of how our community sees itself and the village developing over the next few years, highlighting the areas that we feel are important for action in the future. It is a living document that develops over time, reflecting the views of the community as a whole and containing a community led Action Plan with practical steps to help the us achieve our vision.

The development of this community-led Parish Plan allows everyone in the village to come together to share their opinions and help create a document which is the collective voice for our community.

### Why are we developing a Parish Plan?

There have been several changes in recent years, not least the demographics within our village as we welcome younger and growing families moving here. We have changes in employment and working patterns as many of us now work remotely. Word of mouth isn't keeping up with the pace of change as social media and advances in technology provide wide-ranging communication channels for information sharing and discussion.

Meanwhile, three issues came together during 2023 drawing further attention to the importance of our community developing a Parish Plan for our village.

Firstly, there had been no previous Parish Plan or Community Review. The Parish Councillors felt they wanted a clearer democratic mandate from the community about our village's priorities, and to ensure that the thoughts, opinions and aspirations of the village are understood in making local decisions. They wanted to develop a unified vision for the village to work towards.

Secondly, Somerset's governance was significantly changed in April 2023: from **Somerset County Council** with **4 District Councils** (we were in Mendip) to **Somerset Council** (Unitary Council with no district councils). This also introduced **18 Local Community Networks** (we are in the Vale of Frome LCN – Frome and 17 villages).

This new phase of local government meant it was important that our village develop a clearer, louder voice if our needs were to be heard in Taunton. Our Parish Plan's evidence will help feed our community's priorities into the wider Plan being developed by our Local Community Network. This in turn will help inform Somerset Council decision makers.

Thirdly, Somerset Council declared a financial emergency. There are major cuts across all services. We may have to do more things for ourselves, to consider ways of doing so, as well as to develop greater resilience in the face of climate changes.

## The Process and Methodology

### Introducing the idea

On 22nd May 2023, the Buckland Dinham Village Gathering (aka *Annual Parish Meeting*) agreed that our village wanted to develop a community led Parish Plan. This decision was reported in June's 5Alive! magazine. It was then unanimously welcomed by the Parish Council and funding was agreed to support costs in developing the plan.



### Forming the Team

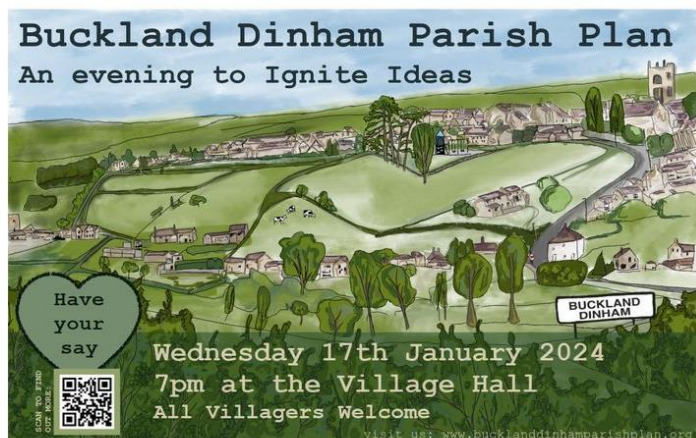
Following the Village Gathering, villagers were given the opportunity to be a part of the Parish Plan team, which had its first meeting on 6th July 2023. This group of village volunteers took responsibility for the development of the Buckland Dinham Parish Plan, giving their time and skill to the project - from conception, through consultation, this interim report on the survey findings, and ultimately to the full publication of our village's Parish Plan by the end of November 2024.

The Buckland Dinham Parish Plan team (BDPP team) worked out what to do, how to do it, and then set up the website [www.bucklanddinhamparishplan.org](http://www.bucklanddinhamparishplan.org) explaining the project.

### Ideas Generating phase

As there had been no previous village consultation it was felt that some initial ideas from the community were needed before the survey was designed. This was to help identify themes to be covered in the survey, and issues that needed to be explored in more detail. It was important to ensure everyone had chance to contribute their ideas.

We held our 'Soft Launch' at the Village Christmas Fayre on 8th December 2023. This is a particularly popular annual event with a high village turnout. There was a large screen projection outside the village hall announcing our forthcoming 'An Evening to Ignite Ideas' event, which was to be our 'Full Launch'. The BDPP Team were on hand to chat about the Plan project.



To ensure everyone was included in how to share their ideas there were two ways to submit ideas: (a) through the online submission form, and (b) through writing them on the specially handcrafted postcards with collection boxes at the village hall, church and pub.

The second part of our 'Ideas Generating' phase was our 'Evening to Ignite Ideas' event on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2024. The Bell Inn displayed the notice on their TV screen. We put up posters on notice boards, posted on Facebook and went leafletting and doorstepping to spread the word about this over the weekends beforehand.

Over 60 of us were there on a bitterly cold January evening sparking innovative ideas and lively discussion across the room. The breadth of topics and themes raised was impressive. The event began a good level of debate, and discussions continued long afterwards. The deadline for 'Ideas Generating' closed a fortnight later. The ideas collected were then sorted and resorted into themes.

## Applying for CCS Support

Meanwhile, at the end of November 2023, we heard about the Community Council for Somerset (CCS) [ccslovesomerset.org/community-review/](https://ccslovesomerset.org/community-review/) and the support they provide to Parish Councils in the process of developing a Parish Plan or Community Review. We applied and fortunately were successful; their support has been invaluable.



## Survey Phase

At the end of March the CCS provided us with banks of questions relating to the themes that had been identified in the 'Ideas Generating' phase. Selecting the 30 questions from this vast array was an iterative process. It gradually became apparent that we needed two surveys: one for adults and a shorter one for children and young people. We had ongoing support and advice from CCS during this process.

The survey was the main consultation phase, and so we decided that for ease of interpreting the results the survey would be online only. It was live for a period of 3 weeks over Easter 2024, from 27<sup>th</sup> March and closed on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2024

To ensure it was accessible to everyone, the BDPP plan team joined and hosted various village events to help spread the word and gather responses, assisting with the online element as needed.

**Buckland Dinham Parish Plan**  
**PHASE 2: The Survey**

**Family Questionnaire Afternoon**  
TOMORROW - Sunday 14th April  
3.30-4.30pm  
Holme Leigh, Lower Street  
(look for balloons)  
Snacks and Refreshments  
Prizes for children who complete  
the survey  
Inside if it's bad weather  
**Garden Games**

**Now Live**  
visit us: [www.bucklanddinhamparishplan.org](http://www.bucklanddinhamparishplan.org)

**Key Dates**  
If you need support or to discuss  
further the team will be in the:  
**Village Hall** Tuesday 9th April  
1.30pm-4.30pm  
after Lunch Club  
**Village Church** Saturday 20th April  
10.00am-1.00pm  
for Coffee Morning

Please visit the website to  
complete the survey online and  
have your say about our village.

**LAUNCH DATE: 27 March 2024**  
**CLOSING DATE: 22 April 2024**

Posters were displayed on notice boards, along with leafletting and doorstepping. The Pub Quiz team made encouraging announcements during the Quiz break. Several reminders were posted on Facebook.

The survey closed on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2024 with a response rate of 44%. This is a really good response rate and adds greater confidence to our findings. We are advised by CCS that online community surveys generally get an average response rate of 20 – 30%.

The impartial analysis team at the CCS then commenced analysing the survey responses. They managed to provide headline results in time for us to announce them at the Village Gathering (aka annual parish meeting) on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2024, one year on from when the idea was first raised at the Village Gathering on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2023.

**Welcome to Buckland Dinham Parish Plan 2024**  
Our survey has closed and results are being analysed!  
The initial results and winner of the prize draw will be announced at the  
**Annual Village Gathering**  
May 20th 7pm  
Village Hall

**Summer BBQ**  
Buckland Dinham Parish Plan  
with The Bell Inn  
FOOD & DRINK - MUSIC - COMMUNITY  
PLAN REPORT - NEXT STEPS - ACTION  
**24 JULY** | **4PM - 8PM**  
Buckland Dinham Village Hall  
All welcome  
An informal event pop by for a while or stay longer

Following the analysis of the survey results, this 'Survey Findings Report' was written and published in time for the village Summer Barbeque on the 24<sup>th</sup> July 2024, along with poster displays.

## BDPP deadlines and meetings dates

Stage	Date/Time	Location	Meeting Memo
<b>Parish Plan Intro</b>	06-Jul-23	Village Hall	Initial Meet
	24-Jul-23	LK House	How we do the plan, ideas and phases
<b>Our Marketing vision spreading the word ideas</b>	09-Oct-23	AM House	Marketing ideas and Themes, website start
	19-Oct-23	AM House	Marketing ideas and Themes
<b>Website</b>	02-Nov-23	AM House	Website edits
	23-Nov-23	AM House	Website edits
<b>Soft launch</b>	06-Dec-23	AM House	Website edits
	08-Dec-23	Village Hall	Soft Launch, Village Fayre
<b>Ideas Collection</b>	05-Jan-23	AM House	Meeting with Katherine
	05-Jan-23	The Bell	Community Review Project Partnership Review
	06-Jan-23		Leafleting
	07-Jan-23		Leafleting
	17-Jan-23	Village Hall	Ignite Ideas Event
<b>Ideas Review</b>	07-Feb-24		DEADLINE
	09-Feb-24	LK House	Catch up and general review of idead
	12-Feb-24	LK House	Themes/Council Cuts
	21-Feb-24	LK House	CCS Teams meeting/Marketing Strategy
	26-Feb-24		DEADLINE (send list of topics)
	28-Feb-24		Questions Recieved FROM CCS
<b>Choosing questions</b>	01-Mar-24	LK House	Review CCS Training ref Questions
	04-Mar-24	LK House	Families and Children
	06-Mar-24	SB House	Questions - Theme:
	11-Mar-24	LK House	Questions - Theme:
	13-Mar-24	SB House	Questions - Theme:
	18-Mar-24	LK House	Questions - Theme:
	18-Mar-24		DEADLINE (Questions Finalised)
<b>Survey</b>	20-Mar-24		Draft Online Survey ready (FROM CCS)
	22-Mar-24	LK House	Survey Refine and CYP survey
	27-Mar-24		Launch
			Leafletting
	09-Apr-24	Village Hall	Survey data input help sessions
	10-Apr-24	Playing Field	Informal Chaos Cricket
<b>Data Crunching</b>	14-Apr-24	SB House	Informal Sarah house nibbles and games
	20-Apr-24	Church	Survey data input help sessions
	22-Apr-24		DEADLINE (Survey Closes)
	20-May-24		Headlines (FROM CCS)
<b>Community Review Project</b>	03-Jun-24	LK House	Meeting with Katherine
<b>Prep and planning for final draft</b>	03-Jun-24	LK House	Outline for BBQ event and Website Updates
	01-Jul-24	LK House	Photo Selection and Review
	07-Jul-24		Leafleting
	11-Jul-24	SB House	Intro and Extro Words finalising
<b>Survey Findings Launch review</b>	15-Jul-24	LK House	DEADLINE (draft to Katherine)
	15-Jul-24	LK House	DEADLINE (draft to Katherine)
	18-Jul-24	LK House	Decide on printing etc for summary report
<b>Published Summary Report</b>	22-Jul-24	SB House	
	24-Jul-24	Village Hall	Social Summer BBQ
<b>Action Plan</b>			Action planning
	18-Sep-24	Village Hall	Action planning Action Plan Meeting



## Buckland Dinham Parish Plan 2024 Survey Findings

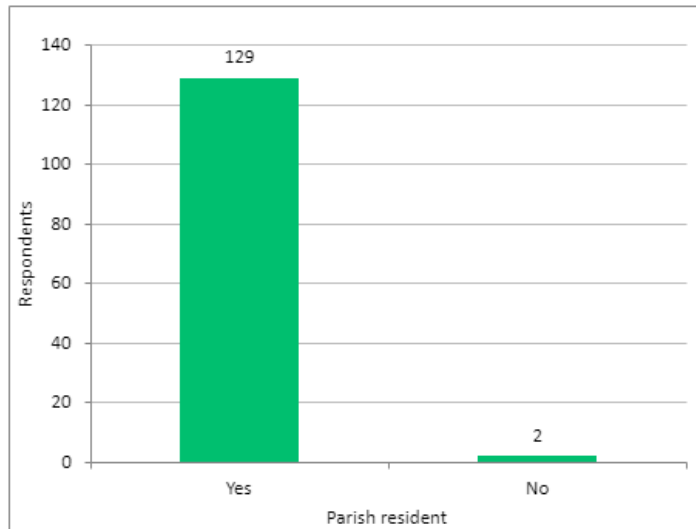
- 133 responses to the Main survey
- 21 to the Children and Young Peoples survey (CYP)
- Respondents were able to choose more than one answer option for most of the questions.

In the findings presented below the Children and Young People survey results (blue charts) are presented alongside the Main survey results (green charts) for 13 of the questions asked. The Main survey had 30 questions whilst the CYP survey had 13 questions.

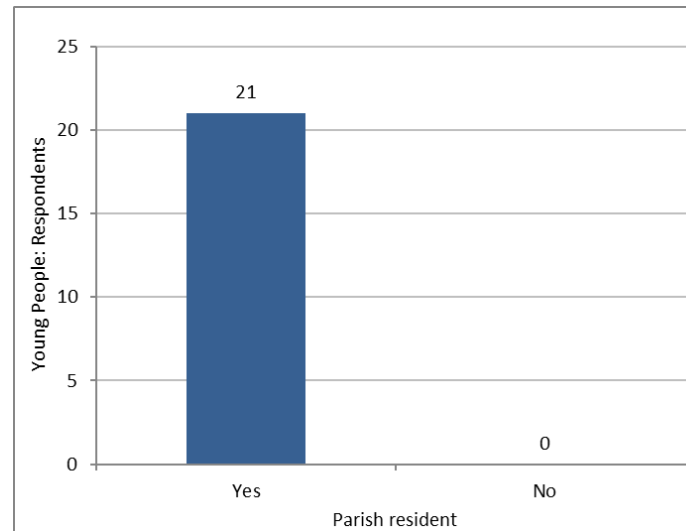
### 1. About You

#### Q 1 Do you live in Buckland Dinham?

Answered: 131  
Skipped: 2



Answered: 21  
Skipped: 0



Of the 131 respondents to this question 129 live in Buckland Dinham, and all 21 Children and Young People live in Buckland Dinham

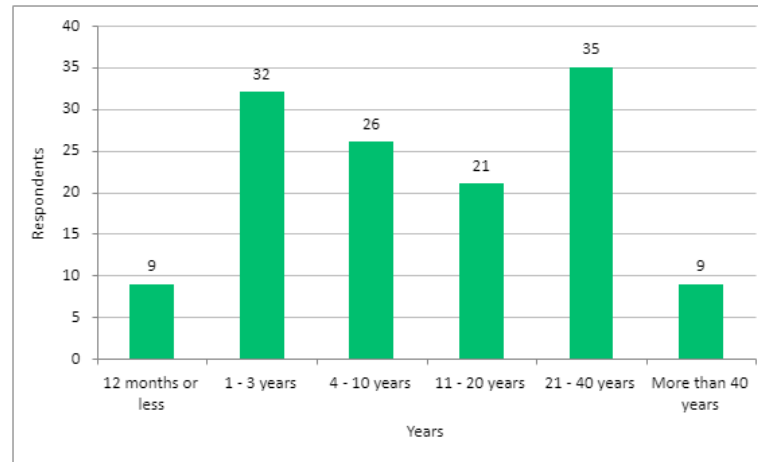
Of the 133 respondents to the Main survey there were 2 who did not answer this question and a further 2 who said they do not live in the village. On consideration we have included their responses in the results analysis because from their answers in the rest of the survey we can see that either they do live in the village or they have very strong links to the village.

## Q 2 How long have you lived in the village?

Answered: 132  
Skipped: 1

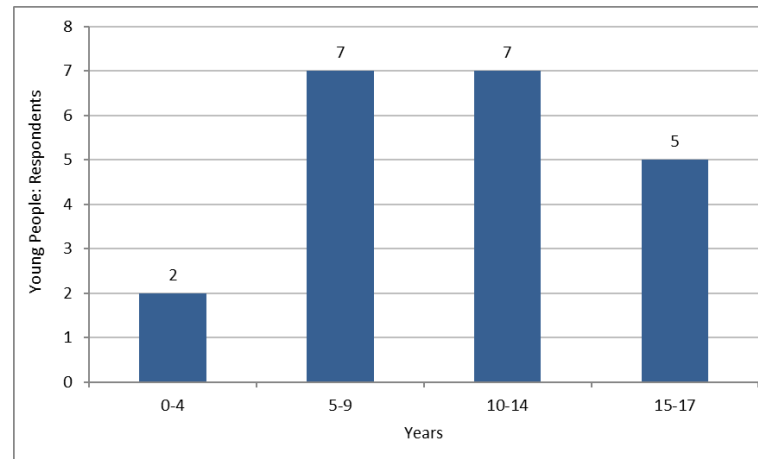
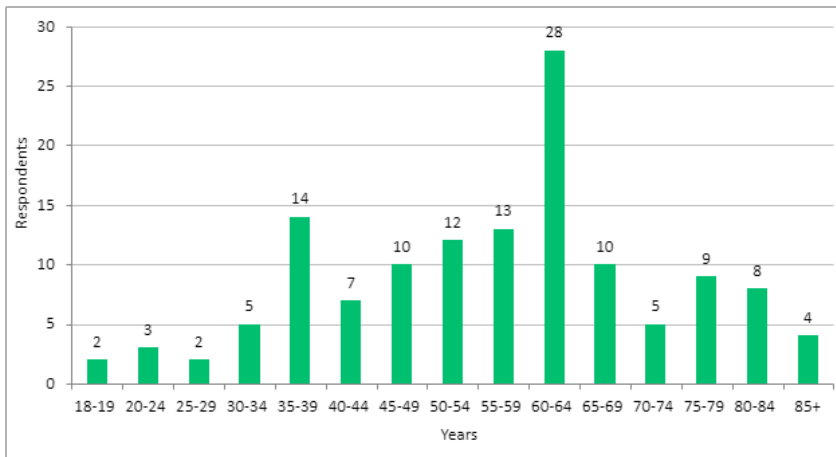
65 of the 132 respondents have lived in Buckland Dinham for more than 10 years.

41 of the 132 respondents have lived in Buckland Dinham for less than 3 years.



## Q 3 What age group do you belong to?

Answered: 132  
Skipped: 1



In the Main survey of the 132 respondents 36 are 65 years old or more, 7 are under the age of 30, and the greatest number of respondents (53) are in the 50 – 64 age ranges.

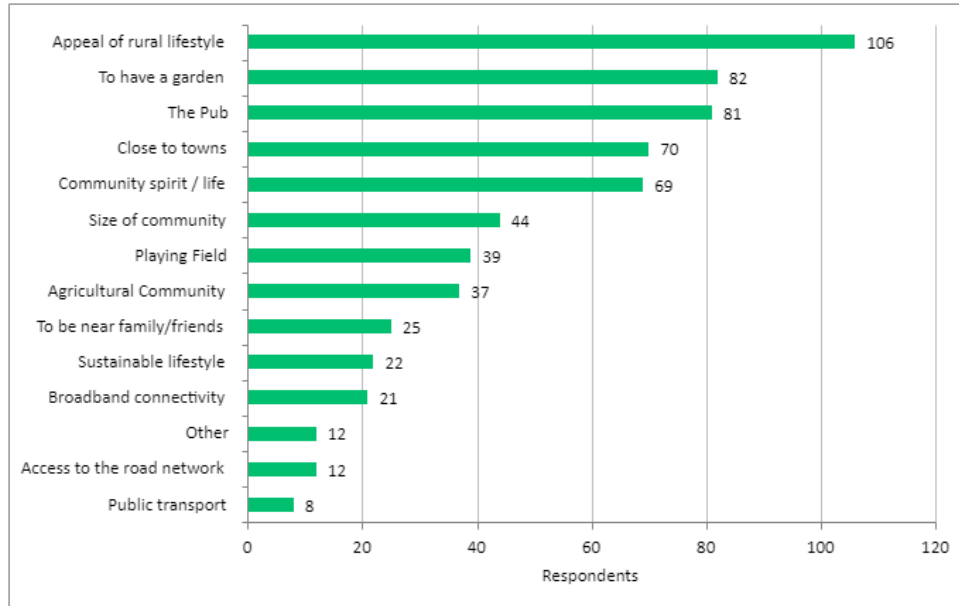
In the Children and Young People survey there is a good range of age groups including two 0 – 4 year olds.

## 2. Our Village

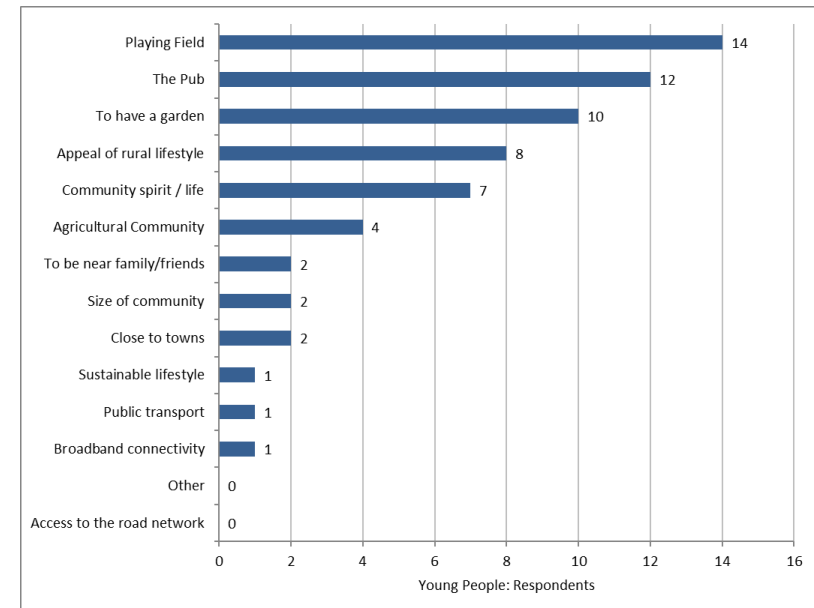
The following questions aimed to find out your views on living in Buckland Dinham – the aspects you do and don't like.

### Q 4 What do you like most about living in Buckland Dinham? (tick any that apply)

Answered: 131  
Skipped: 2



Answered: 21  
Skipped: 0



In the Main survey of the 131 respondents the highest answer was the 'appeal of rural life' (106), with the 'ability to have a garden' (82) and 'the Pub' (81) being the next highest answers.

There were 'other' comments which included:

- Access to the countryside
- Plenty of places to walk dogs near by
- Suitability/affordability of the properties

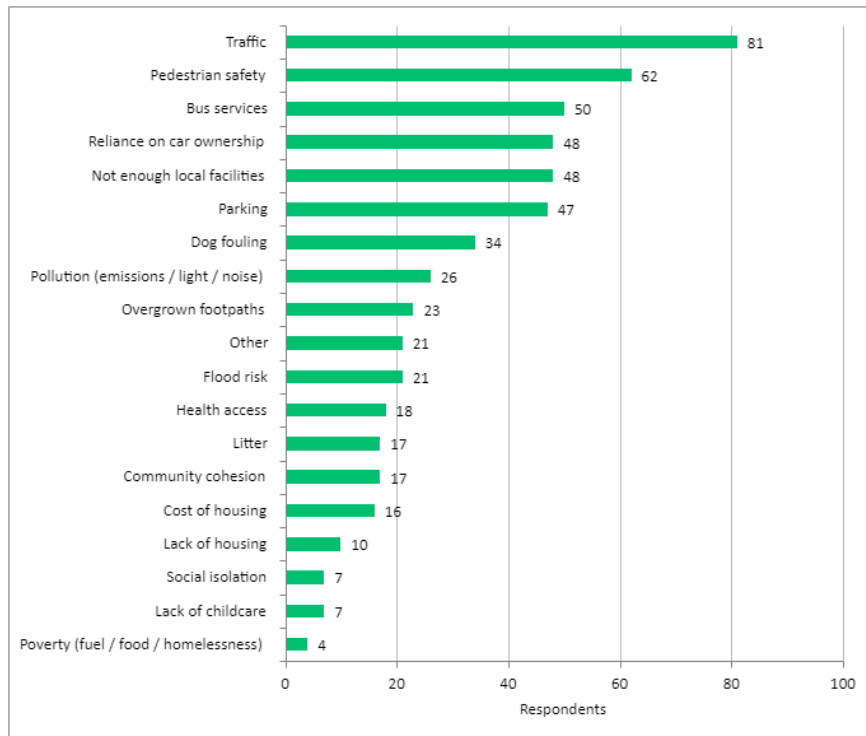
In the Children's and Young Peoples survey the highest answer was playing field (14), followed closely by the pub (12), to have a garden (10), and the appeal of rural lifestyle (8).

This largely reflects what the adults said with exception of the playing field which would not be unexpected for this age range.

### Q 5 What are your main concerns about living in Buckland Dinham ? (tick any that apply)

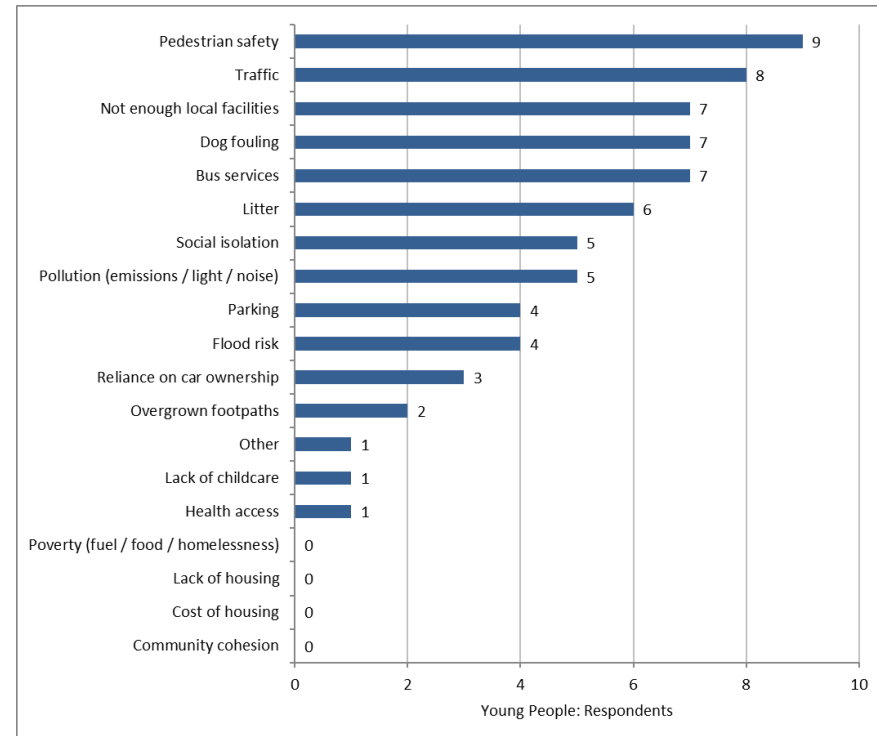
Answered: 130

Skipped: 3



Answered: 20

Skipped: 1



The main concerns about living in Buckland Dinham identified 5 of the top 6 issues being **traffic, travel and transport** related. In the Main survey of the 130 respondents the greatest concern was traffic (81), followed by pedestrian safety (62), bus services (50), reliance on car ownership (48), parking (47); the other concern was not enough local facilities (48).

There were 21 'other' comments which included:

- Concerns about speed of traffic were frequently mentioned.
- Concern of changes to footpaths/ rights of way
- Bins on pavements

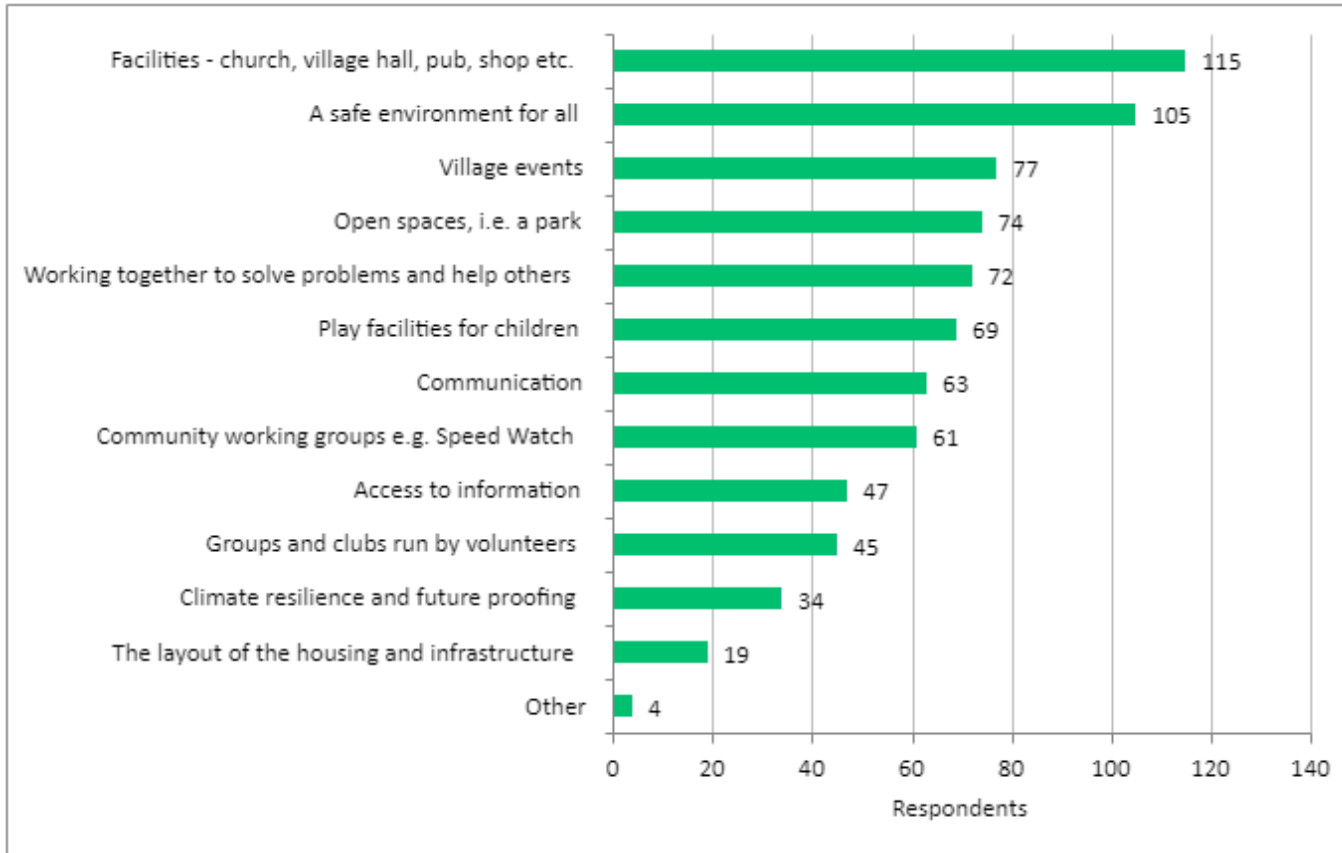
In the CYP survey of the 20 respondents concerns identified were pedestrian safety (9), traffic (8), not enough facilities (7), dog fouling(7), and bus services (7). There was one 'other' comment stating "network".

Again, this very much reflects the concerns of adults around traffic, transport, travel and transport.

**Q 6 What do you think are the most important factors contributing to a thriving community? (tick any that apply)**

Answered: 131

Skipped: 2



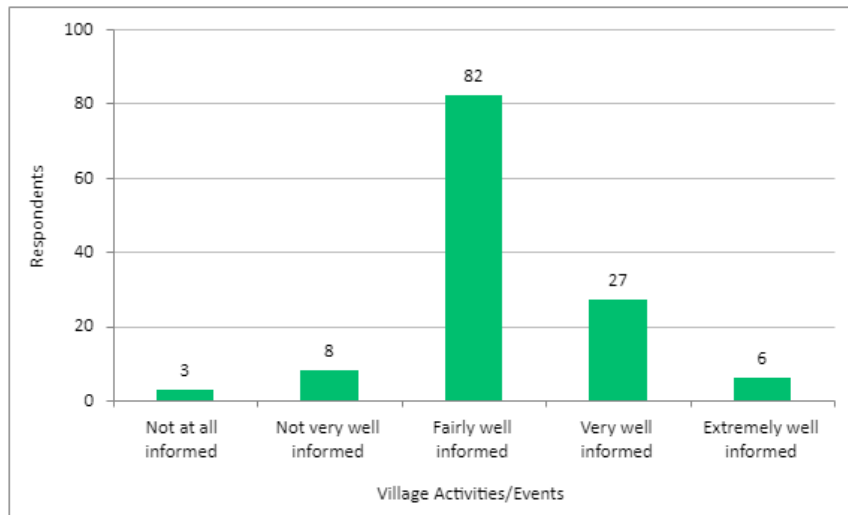
Of the 131 respondents, the most important factor contributing to a thriving community was regarded as 'Facilities – church, village hall, pub, shop etc' (115). This was followed by 'a safe environment for all' (105) 'village events' (77), and 'Open Spaces' (74). Meanwhile, 'working together to solve problems and help others' (72 ) was further elaborated on in the 'other' comments.

### 3. Communication

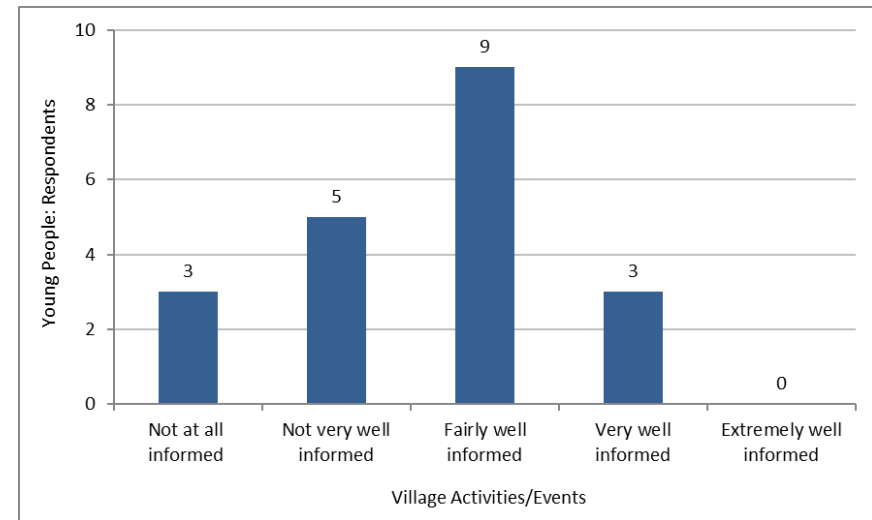
We wanted to find out which methods of communication are used a) for finding out about activities and events in Buckland Dinham, b) for keeping up to date with Parish Council matters, and c) anything around local business and commerce. The findings from these questions are to help us improve our methods of communication and to communicate within the whole community more effectively.

#### Q 7 How well informed, if at all, do you feel about activities and events in our village?

Answered: 126  
Skipped: 7



Answered: 20  
Skipped: 1



In the Main survey of the 126 respondents most responded 'fairly well informed' (82), followed by 'very well informed' (27). A few felt 'extremely well informed' (6), whilst others felt 'not very well informed' (8), or 'not at all informed' (3).

However, responses to subsequent questions suggest that overall people are not feeling sufficiently well informed.

In the Children and Young People Survey, of the 20 respondents most responded 'fairly well informed' (9), a few responded 'very well informed' (3), and none felt 'extremely well informed'. Eight responded differently: 'not at all well informed' (3) or 'not very well informed' (5).

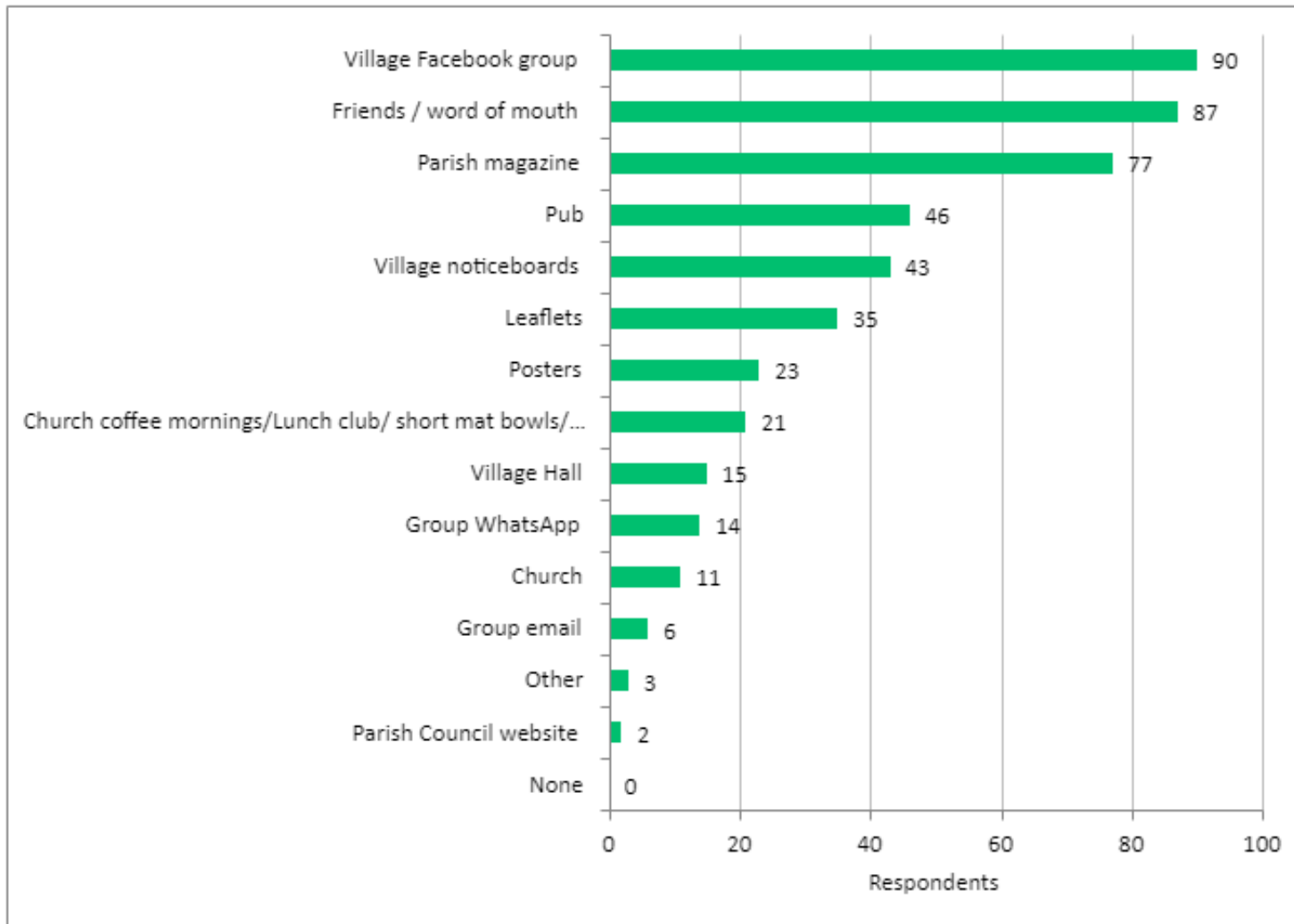
Overall Children and young people feel less well informed about activities and events in the village than the adults.

**Q 8 How do you find out about what's going on in our village? (tick any that apply)**

Answered: 129

Skipped: 4

Of the 129 respondents, the favoured methods include 'village Facebook group' (90), 'friends/word of mouth' (87) and 'Parish magazine' (77). There were 4 additional comments which re-iterated Facebook. Another comment stated "*I miss the parish council website. I look at notice boards sometimes.*"



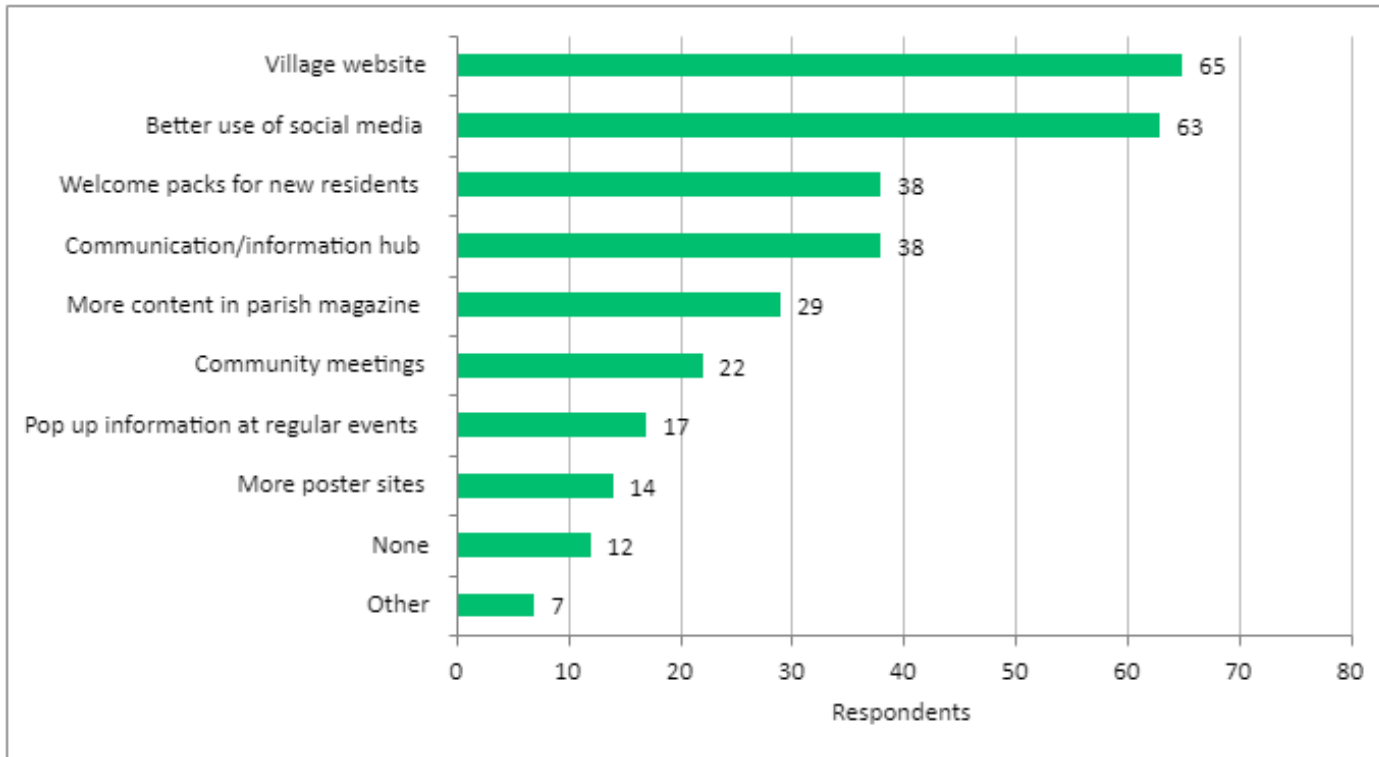
**Q 9 What improvements could be made to keep you informed about local news? (tick any that apply)**

Answered: 123

Skipped: 10

A range of improvements could be made to keep people informed about local news. 'Village website' (65), 'better use of social media' (63), 'welcome packs for new residents' (38) and 'communication/information hub' (38).

Comments in 'other' re-iterated *better use of social media, a website and welcome pack*. Another commented on difficulties reading and writing and suggested information could be provided in "pictures and symbols" to be more inclusive.

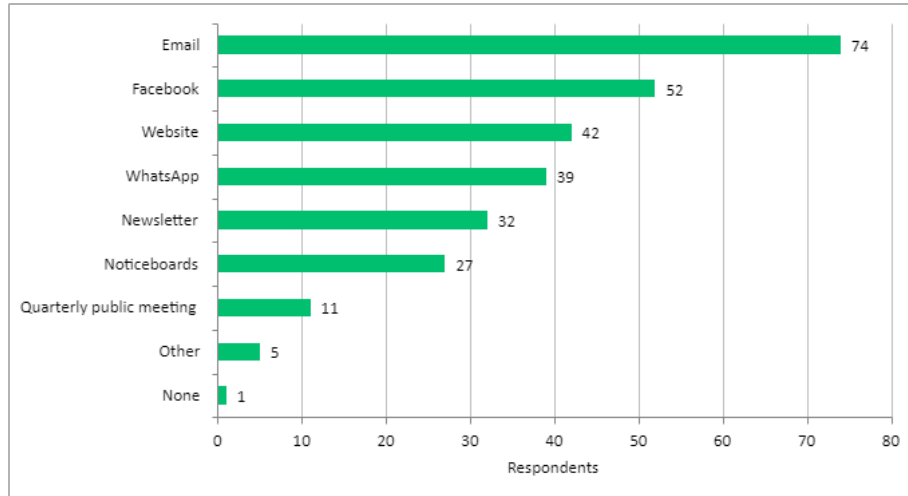




### Q 10 Which would be your preferred method of communication?

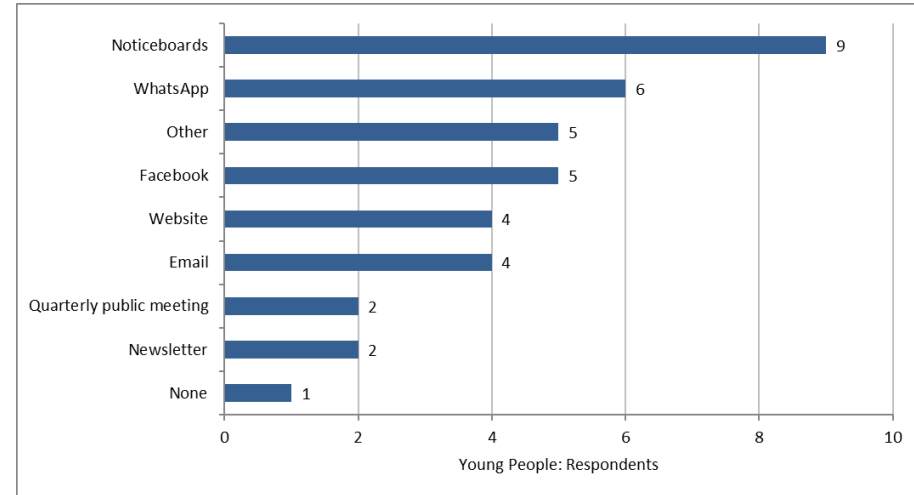
Answered: 128

Skipped: 5



Answered: 21

Skipped: 0



Of the 128 respondents to the question about people's preferred method of communication preferences were: 'e-mail' (74), 'Facebook' (52) and 'website' (42).

The 'other' comments included:

- *Parish magazine and word of mouth*
- *Word of mouth*
- *newsletter in pictures and symbols*
- *Local meetings in Pub*
- *How do I access village life via WhatsApp please?*

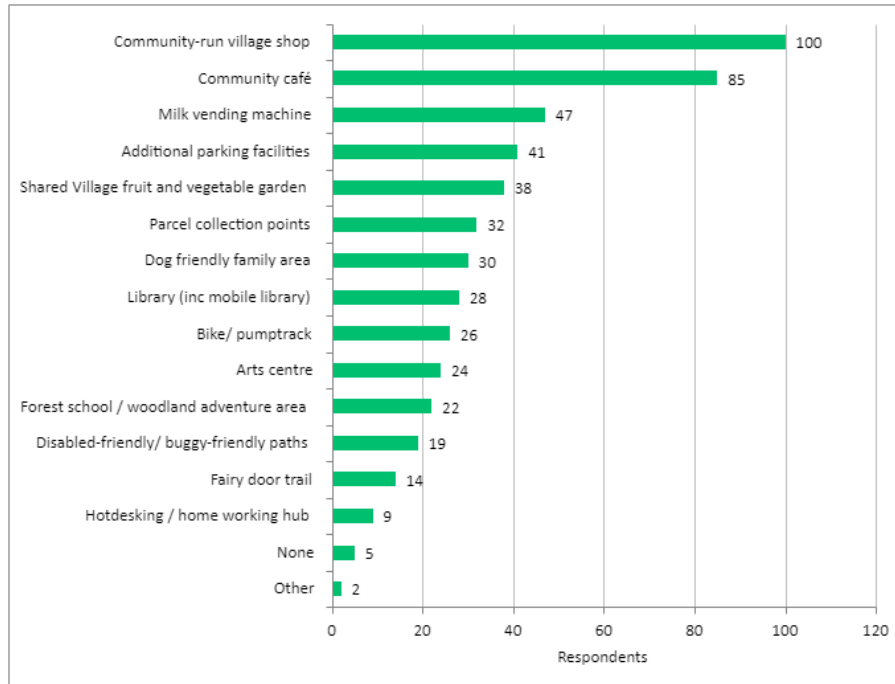
In the Children and Young Peoples survey, of the 21 respondents, preferences were: noticeboards (9), WhatsApp(6), and Facebook(5) or other(5). Included in the 'other' comments were 3 saying 'tell parents' and 1 saying "snapchat".

## 4. Village Amenities

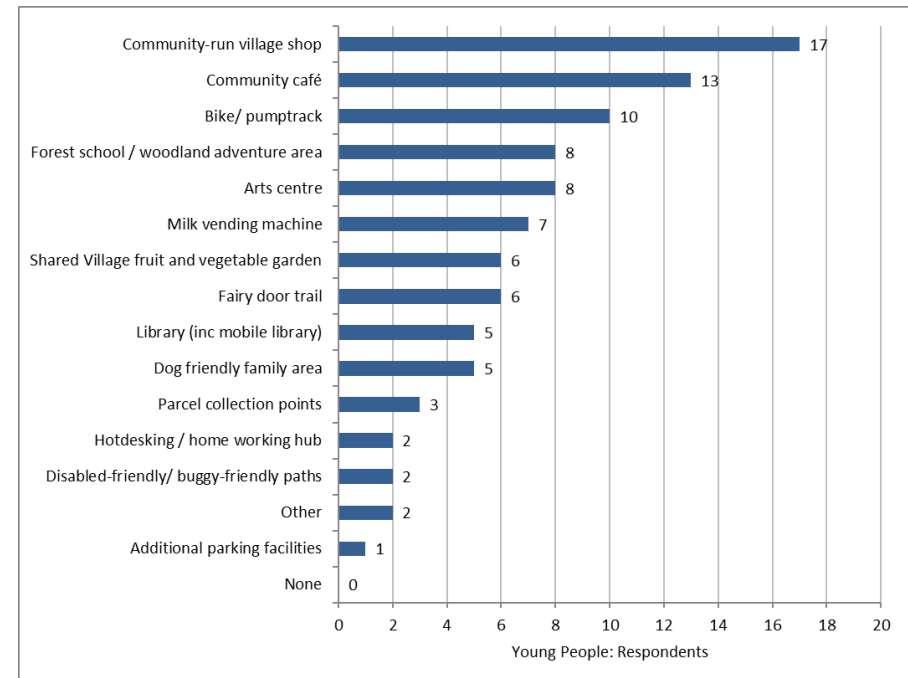
We have a number of community facilities in Buckland Dinham, by that we mean buildings, equipment for recreation and places to assemble for meetings, events and social gatherings. The responses to these questions help us understand whether the facilities are suitable for the community, where improvements are needed or if new facilities are needed.

### Q 11 Which resources would you use if they were available in our village? (tick any that apply)

Answered: 125  
Skipped: 8



Answered: 21  
Skipped: 0



Of the 125 respondents in the Main survey their highest interest was 'community-run village shop' (100), and 'community café' (85). Further interests: 'milk-vending machine' (47), 'additional parking facilities' (41), 'shared village fruit and vegetable garden' (38).

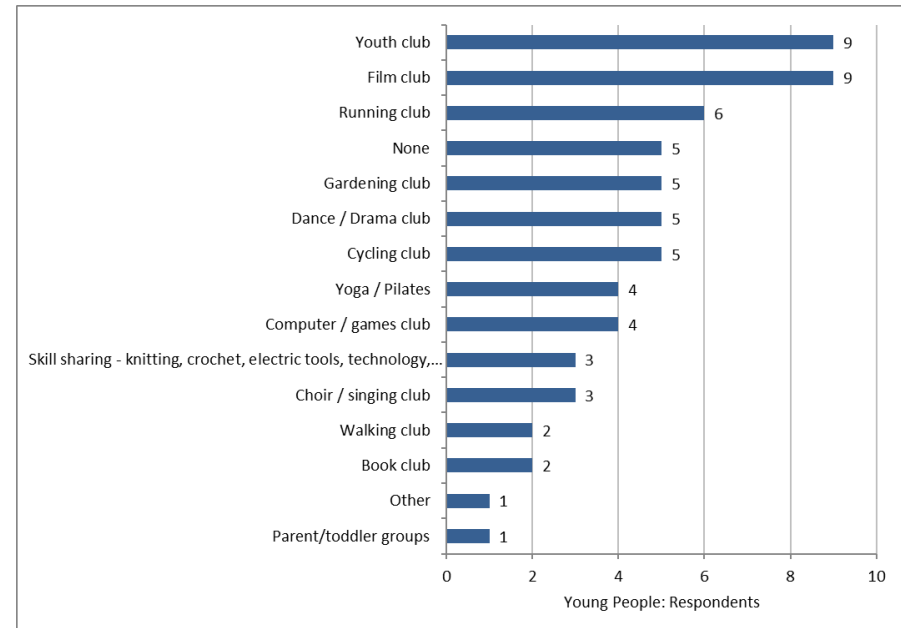
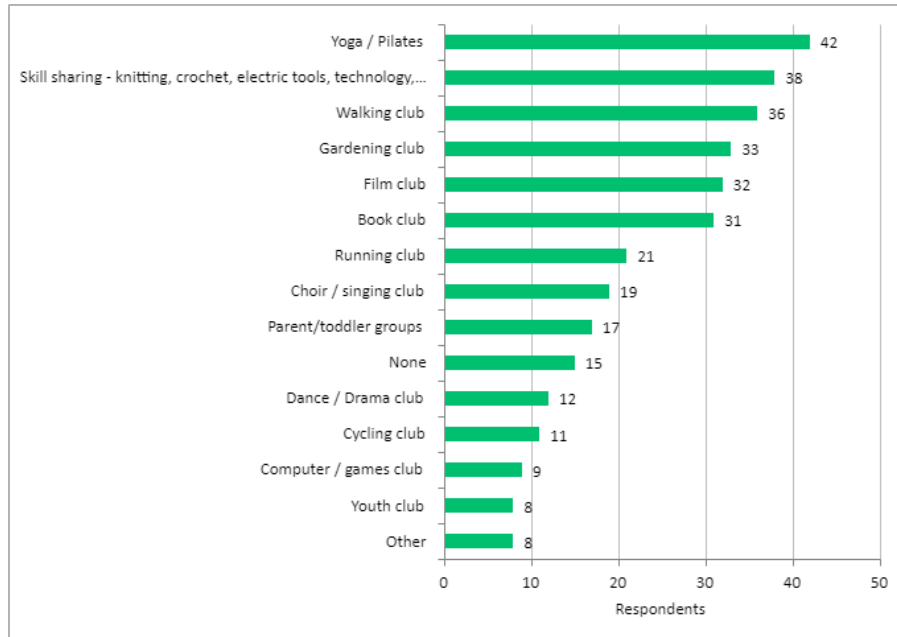
In the Children and Young People survey there were 21 respondents with highest interest in 'community-run village shop' (17) and in community café (13). [These mirror the adults' responses.](#)

Further responses included 10 bike/pump track and 8 forest school/woodland adventure area. There were two 'other' comments which were "gym" and 2 "cricket nets and equipment".

**Q 12 Which activities would you attend if they were available in our village? (tick any that apply)**

Answered: 119  
Skipped: 14

Answered: 21  
Skipped: 0



The 119 respondents highlighted which activities they would attend if they were available in the village with preferences including 'yoga/Pilates' (42), 'skills sharing' (38), 'walking club' (36).

The 'other' comments suggested "cricket", "photography club", "summer rugby" and "hashing". It was also suggested "How about making special encouragement to existing groups such as FAC-off (Frome and County off-road runners) and Hares and Hounds running groups...runners do like a pub post-run! Likewise, cyclists love a cafe-stop mid-cycle. Maybe room for an informal/ad hoc message board/WhatsApp group to organise runs or bike rides. Particularly good to share experience with new residents, show footpaths, etc."

In the Children and Young People Survey highest preferences included youth club (9), film club (9) and a running club (6). There were 5 responses each for none, gardening club, dance/drama club and cycling club. One 'other' comment was "cricket club".

These responses do vary from the adult responses, but this is not unexpected. Some of the activities could be considered as intergenerational such as the gardening club.

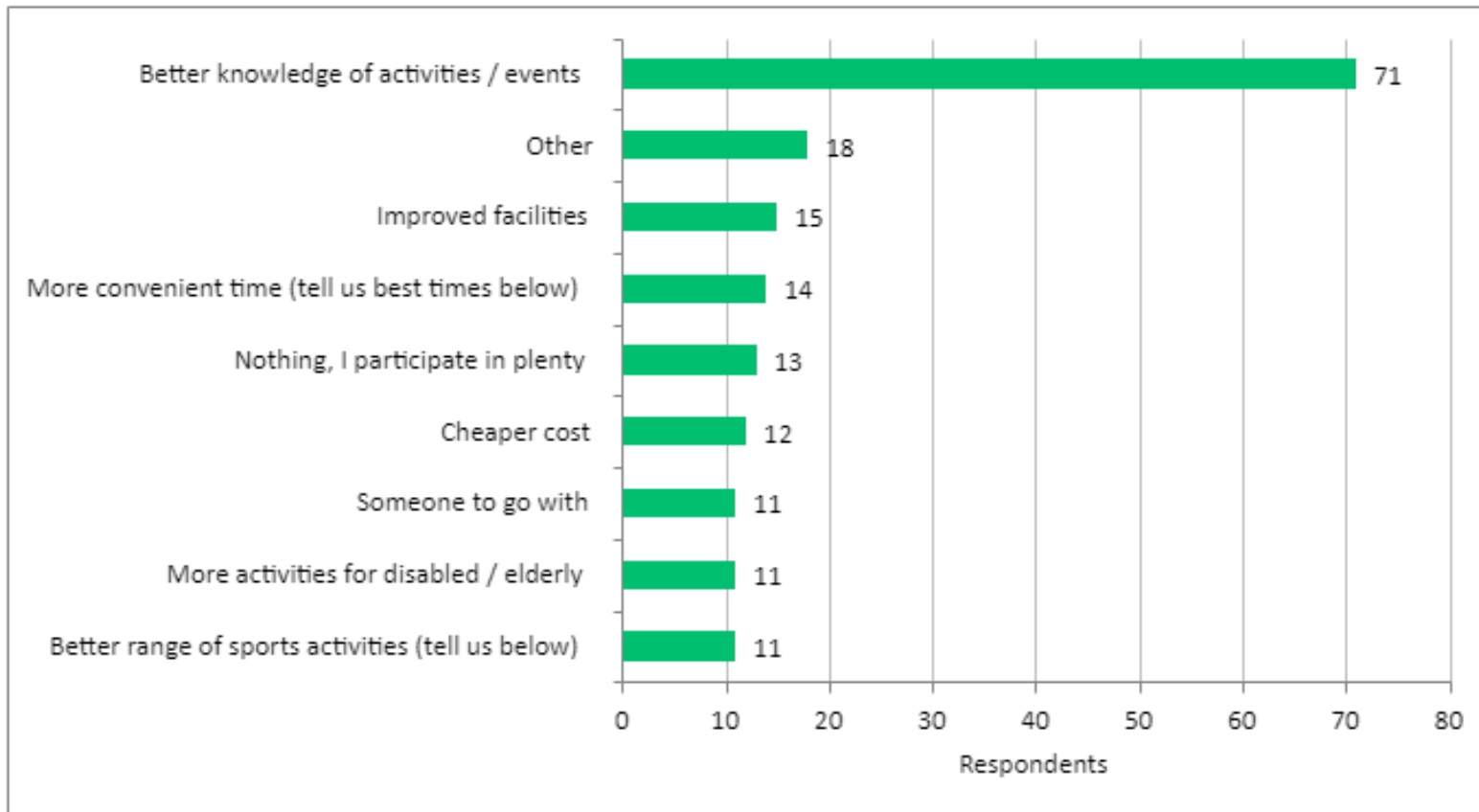
**Q 13 What would help you to take part in activities in our village? (tick any that apply)**

Answered: 107

Skipped: 26

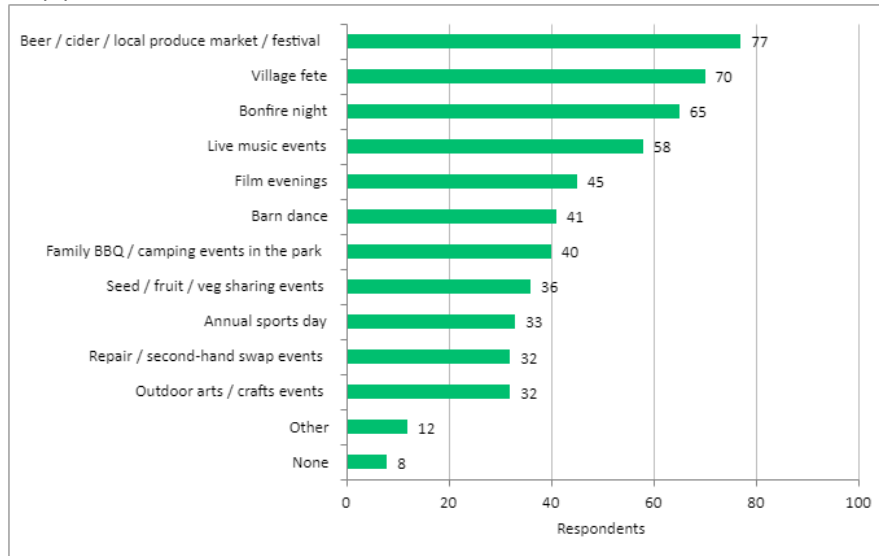
The question of **what would help you take part in activities in the village** was answered by 107 respondents. The overwhelmingly highest number of responses was 'better knowledge of activities / events' (71). [This links back to Communication \(Theme 3, Q 7-10\)](#)

There were 18 'other' comments including a number identifying the need for "activities in the evenings or at weekends", "time" and "events at places like the pub are often overfilled and claustrophobic".

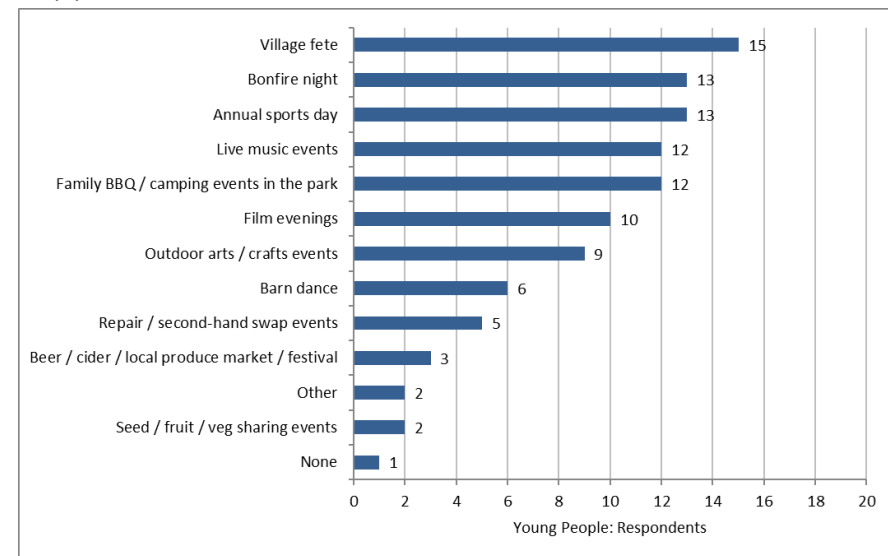


**Q 14 What additional village events would you like to see take place in Buckland Dinham? (tick any that apply)**

Answered: 123  
Skipped: 10



Answered: 21  
Skipped: 0



In the Main survey preferences for additional village events included: 'beer/cider/local produce market/festival' (77), 'village fete' (70), 'bonfire night' (65) and 'live music events' (58).

There were 12 'other' comments which included three relating to seed / plant swap or sales, and further comments included:

- "board games night"
- "classic car show"
- "definitely not bonfire night. Not great for animals"
- "I loved the history group. It would be great if it started up again"
- "I think we could combine a few of these to be more attractive to more people e.g. fete/sports day/beer festival"
- "jumble sales"
- "nature trail"
- "plant sales – could be organised by a gardening club if there was one"
- "farmers / food market with local produce"

In the CYP survey of the 21 respondents answers were: village fete(15), bonfire night (13), annual sports day (13) and 12 each for live music events and family BBQ/camping events in the park. There were two 'other' comments which were "pleasure ride (on horseback)" and "sports club".

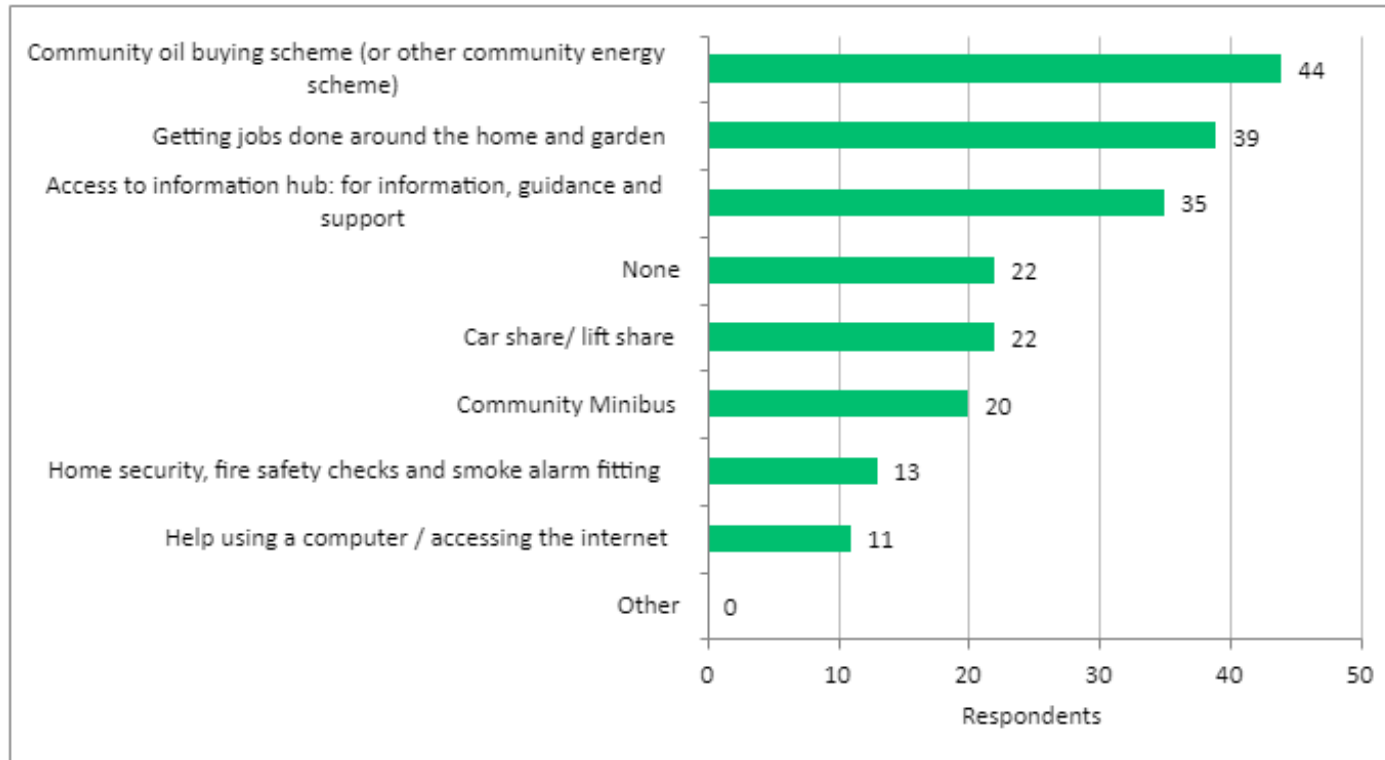
Looking at the combined responses for the adults and children's and young people surveys community wide activities would be popular choices such as the village fete.

**Q 15 Which of the following community schemes would you be interested in? (tick any that apply)**

Answered: 118

Skipped: 15

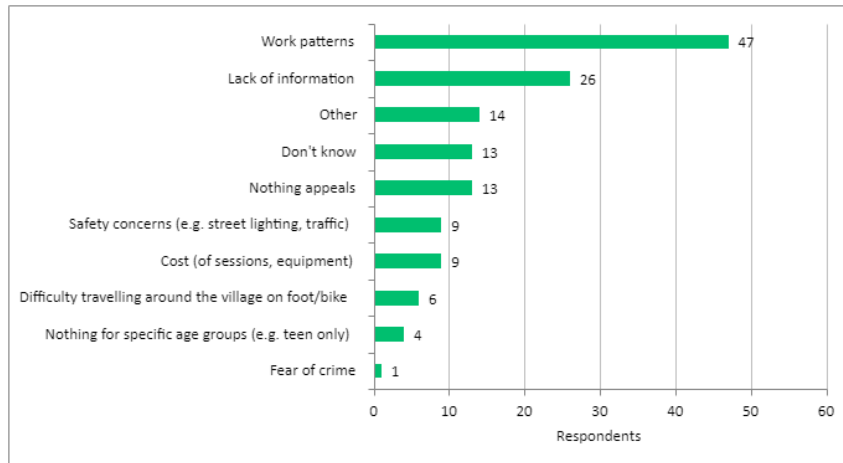
118 respondents gave their opinion on which community schemes they would be interested in: 'community oil buying' (44), 'getting jobs done around the home and garden' (39) and 'access to information hub' (35).



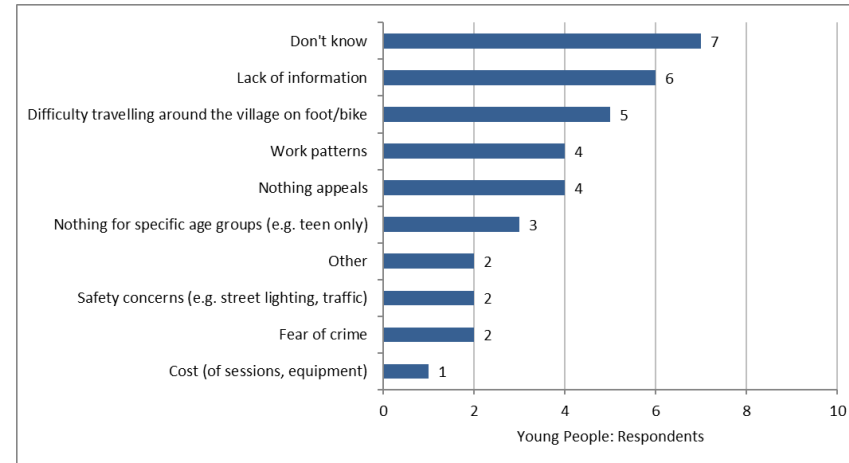
[This links back to communication again.](#)

**Q 16 Is there anything that prevents you from engaging in activities more generally? (tick any that apply)**

Answered: 98  
Skipped: 35



Answered: 19  
Skipped: 2



98 respondents answered the question of **what prevents them engaging in activities more generally** with responses including 'work patterns' (47) and 'lack of information' (26). [This latter point links back to communication again.](#)

There were 14 'other' comments including:

- *"I have to use my car to get to the village which at the moment I can do but would have to rely on friends if I can no longer drive."*
- *"Dark by the cross and dark on pathway to the church porch"*
- *"Event being oversold (causing overcrowding)"*
- *"I have to get the car out. The last time I walked to post a letter I was very scared by the speed of the cars going past me. There used to be verges to stand on in the past, but these have now disappeared"*
- *"Just a busy life, work and juggling children", "time and energy", and "young children"*
- *"Lack of events"*
- *"Not knowing early enough and then being busy!"*
- *"Plenty of my interests are catered for outside of the village. A village of this size can't be all things to all people but some areas could grow, such as a shop and cafe."*

In the Children and Young People Survey, of the 19 respondents, answers were: 'don't know' (7), 'lack of information' (6), 5 'difficulty travelling around the village on foot /bike' (5).

[These responses link to responses around communication and safety.](#)

## 5. Local Environment

It can be easy to take for granted what we value about our surroundings. Equally, we may feel we don't have a say in the changes that might happen. These responses will help us understand what's important to us about our local environment, including biodiversity, rights of way and shared space in the community.

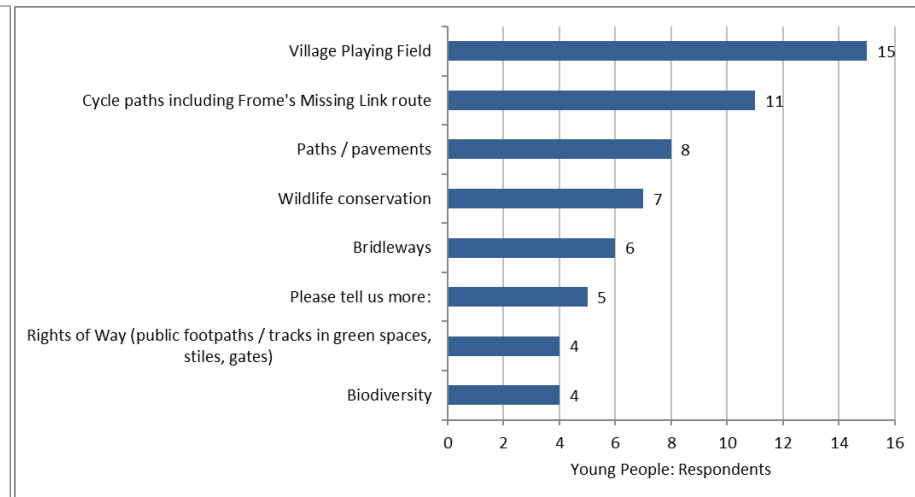
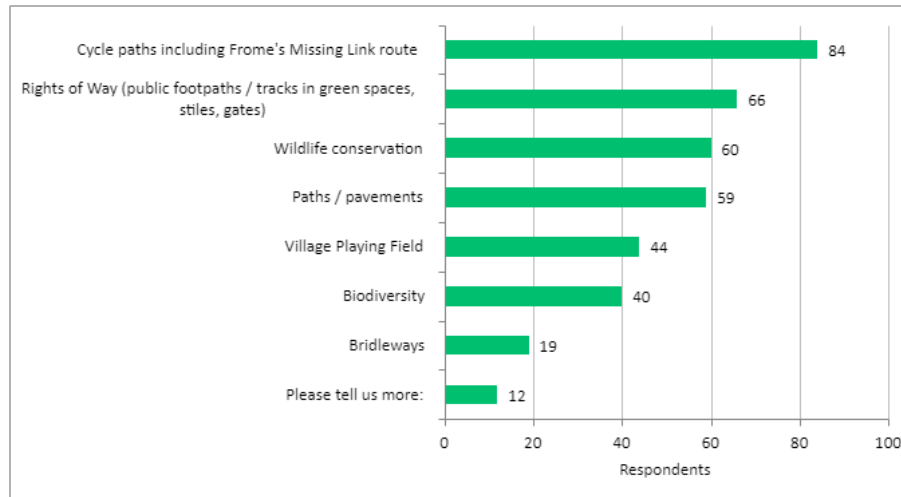
### Q 17 Which areas relating to the environment would you like to see more investment (time/money) in the future? (tick which apply)

Answered: 121

Skipped: 12

Answered: 21

Skipped: 0



121 respondents answered the question of which areas relating to the environment they would like to see more investment (time/money) in the future. Responses were 'cycle paths' (84), 'rights of way' (66), 'wildlife conservation' (60) and 'paths/pavements' (59). There were 12 'other' comments including:

- "As a village could we consider renewable energy schemes e.g. wind turbine, solar panels"
- "Bypass of village most wished for first all above to follow"
- "Cars parked on pavements"
- "Clareham Lane is often unwalkable in the winter because of mud on the end nearest the village."
- "Frome's Missing Link is very crucial to the village I believe. And the playing field is very important - it presents a great opportunity for the village"
- "Opportunity to attract wildlife in public areas like community bird feeders bug hotels"
- Two comments about "Removal of rubbish bins on the pavement causing danger to the elderly and disabled"
- "Signs so you know you're on the right track and not accidentally trespassing!"
- "Wider footpath on main road from church to lower street"



In the Children and Young People survey, of the 21 respondents answers were: 'village playing field'(15), 'cycle paths including Frome's Missing Link route' (11) and 'paths/pavements' (8).

Again, this echos many of the adults' opinions. Further investigation with young people about what investment the village playing field requires would be useful.

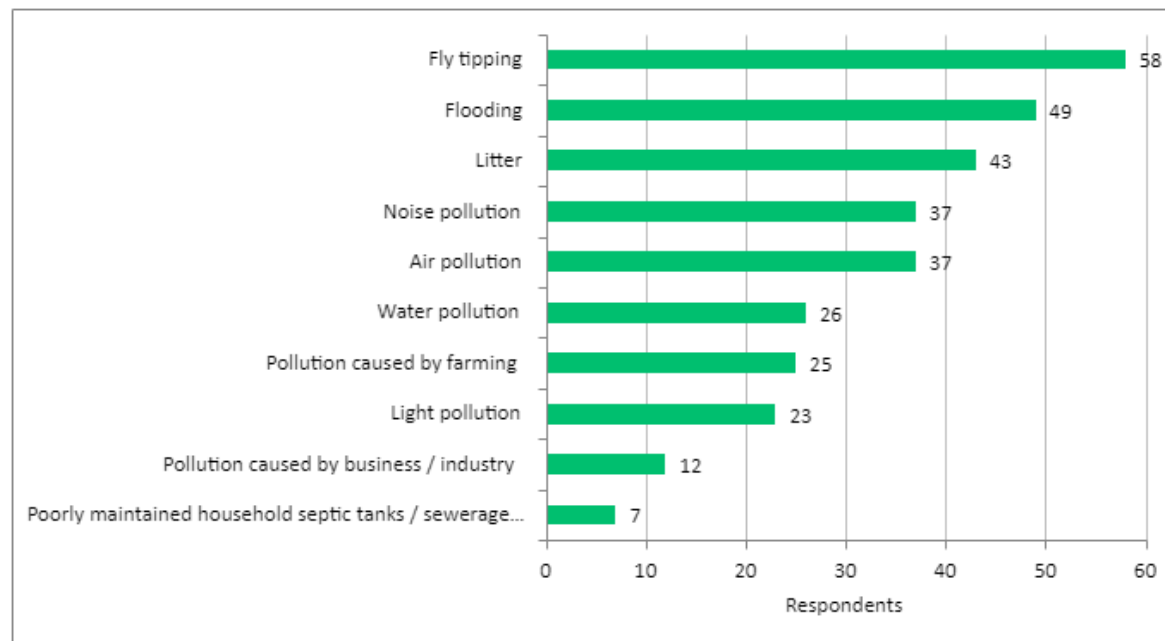
These answers link back to the question of most concerns – pedestrian safety, reliance on cars.

### Q 18 Are you concerned about how any of the following issues affect our local environment?

Answered 112

Skipped 21

Of the 112 respondents, most concerns identified were about: 'fly tipping' (58), 49 'flooding' (49), and 43 'litter' (43). The 'other' comments include many concerns about the noise and volume of heavy traffic, river water quality/pollution. See list overleaf.



### The 'other concerns' re Q18

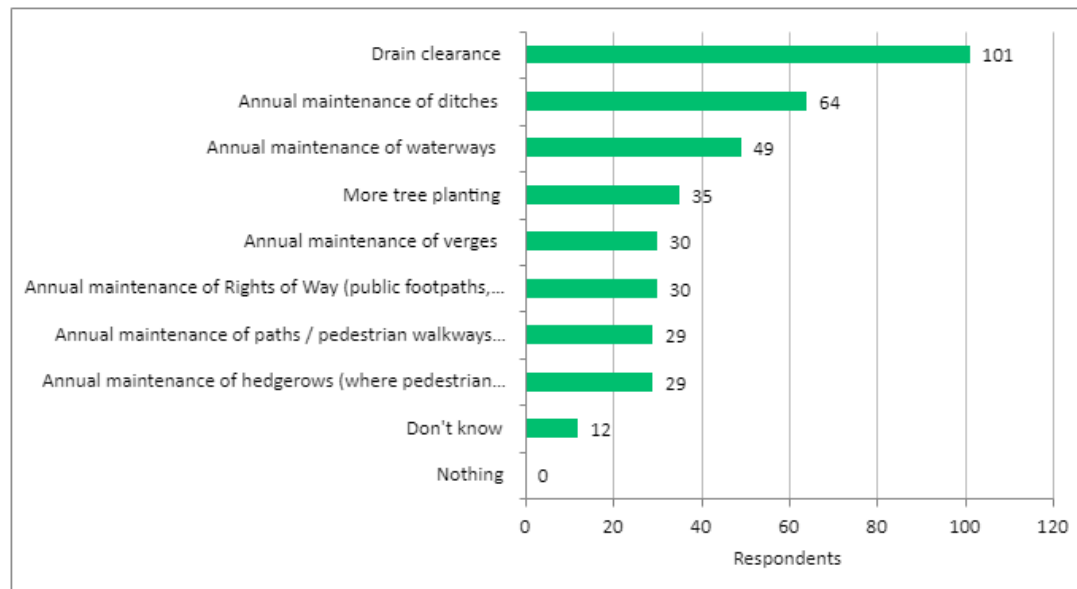
- *"Above ticks relates to the noise and traffic fume pollution from the busy road. My main concern is the flooding at either end of the village that then freezes and makes the roads treacherous in the winter for those of us setting off early for work. The mud on the road towards Ammerdown is also really treacherous"*
- *"Flies"*
- *"I am concerned about housing and land development and how it impacts on the conservation area"*
- *"I hear birds singing in the night confused by the street lights"*
- *"Rubbish bins allowed to block the pavements causing danger to elderly and parents with prams"*
- *"Sadly poor parking, (especially from people outside the village using the village hall) causes so many problems, revving, pollution and even arguments. I wish people using the village hall would use the pub car park and support the pub"*
- *"The amount of heavy vehicles cause pollution in the High Street and the bottom of the village will be more affected by flooding because of climate change"*
- *"The village could do with more dog poo bins e.g. at the start of the bridleway"*

### Q 19 In your opinion, what would help alleviate the risk of flooding in our village?

Answered 120

Skipped 13

120 respondents gave their views on what would help alleviate the risk of flooding in the village with 101 saying 'drain clearance'.



The 'other' comments also re-iterate this point and add suggestions and key locations where this is an issue, including:

- "Council drains are the main problem most of them are blocked including the one running along the side of lower street"
- "Create group that clears the drains through the village and hedgerows when flood risk warning"
- "Flooding is a result of climate change. Climate change is caused by a reliance on fossil fuels... shared electric car share scheme, community owned wind turbine, solar scheme, supporting people onto heat pumps, etc"
- 2 Installation of more storm drains on the left side of the road going down the hill. When it rains hard the storm drains on that side of the road are overwhelmed"
- "It's historic. Unless the bridge is made bigger, unlikely" and "Widen the space under the bridge so the water pass through during heavy rainfall"
- "redesign of the village drainage system, as it is no longer fit for purpose. we need a plan for future resilience in the face of climate change"
- "Residents NOT putting tarmac etc over their drives"
- "Some of those answers don't particularly apply to flooding but to access. However, pertinent to the question, a whole-system concept is desirable: riparian and flood plain restoration by replanting and 'rewilding'; plant biodiversity in woodland and areas of agricultural land that can be given to it, all with the aim to naturally manage the flow (rate and volume) into the system, coupled with clearance of drains to clear water out along the system."
- "The drain at the bottom end of Rogers Close is completely blocked"
- "The flooding at either end of the village must become a priority as it is so very dangerous and happens every year regardless. Run off is also increasing from the fields and coming across the high street which bends round, just below the church. In early mornings when frosty and icy, this is so dangerous to drivers."
- "The public rights of way in particularly behind the church, whilst owned , are now so difficult under foot"
- "Would a wetlands creation work?"

"When the top of the village is flooded – beware the bottom" January 2024



Main road at top of village becomes a river, 2024  
(Michelle Andrews)



Flood slowly recedes at bottom of village, 2024

"Last night at least 4 crashes at the bottom of the village and countless near misses! It was a sleepless night! All managed to drive away although some should not have as they left half their car around the lamp post and fluid from their car all over the road!"  
(Facebook Jan24)

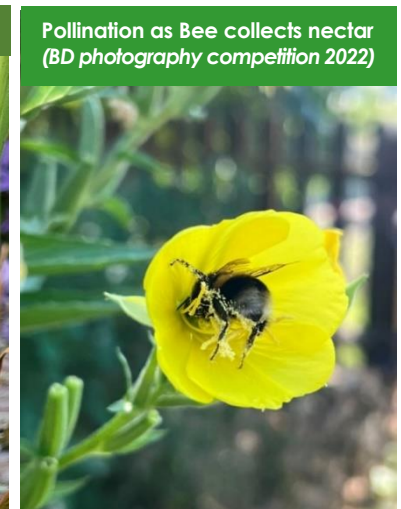
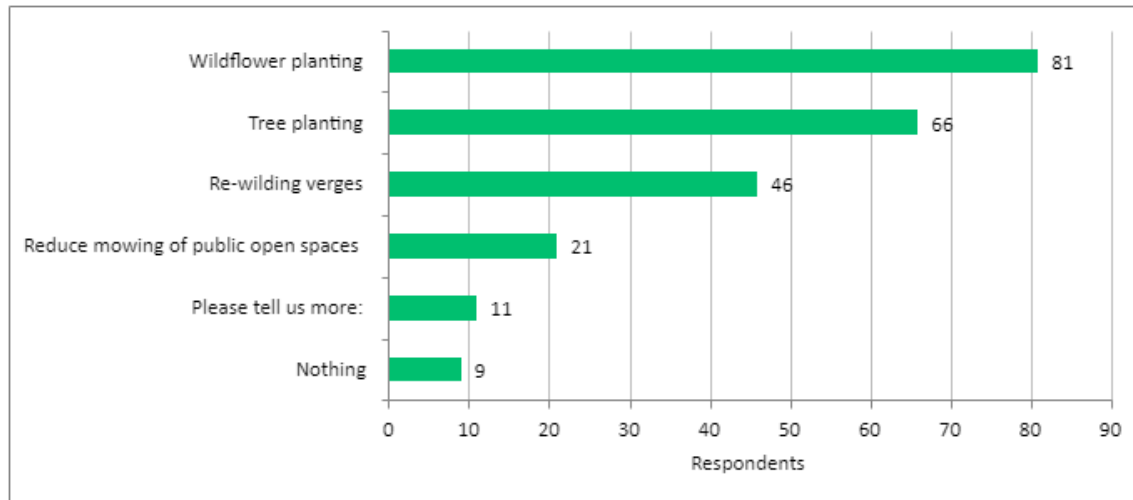
## ➤ Local Environment - Biodiversity

### Q 20 Is there more that can be done to enable a healthy biodiverse environment in our public spaces?

Answered: 111

Skipped: 22

There were 111 respondents to the question of if there is more that can be done to enable a healthy biodiverse environment in our public spaces. They would like to see 'wildflower planting' (81), 'tree planting' (66) and 're-wilding verges' (46).



There were 10 'other' comments including ensuring keeping verges clear around junctions, so visibility is not affected as well:

- "Groups like the British herpetological society and local beekeeper's associations can help with this"
- "In the right places"
- "It's beautiful here"
- "Meadow creation, restoring hedges"
- "Removal of household rubbish bins on pavement by bus stop in village, the smell is foul"
- "We've lost a couple of our beehives due to people/farmers using pesticides, so more awareness of this would be very beneficial, alongside planting more flowers as food sources"



Hare  
(Jackie Citron)



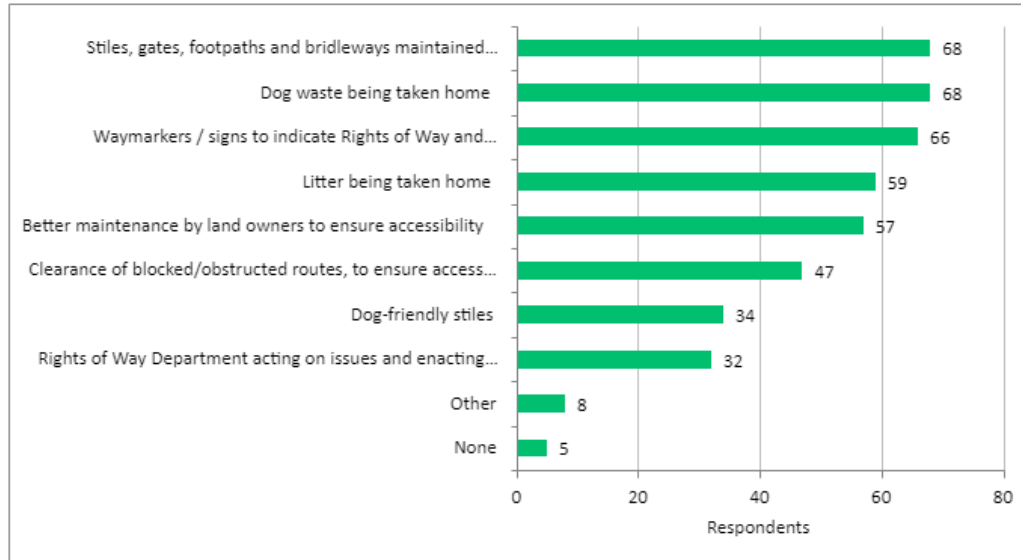
Muntjac  
(Jackie Citron)

## ➤ Local Environment - Rights of Way

**Q 21 What would improve your experience of using Rights of Way in and around Buckland Dinham? (tick any that apply)**

Answered: 121

Skipped: 12



There were 121 respondents with the responses falling into two areas:

### 1. **Maintenance/signposting:**

- Stiles, gates, footpaths and bridleways maintained correctly to British Standards
- Waymarkers / signs to indicate Rights of Way and walking routes
- Better maintenance by land owners to ensure accessibility
- Clearance of blocked/obstructed routes, to ensure access for able and disabled people

Comments indicated the frustration walkers feel about these issues.

### 2. **Waste:**

- Dog waste being taken home
- Litter being taken home

There was one comment that said "I think this is the big issue for me".



## Information

### Why dog waste matters to farmers and to parents

Dog excrement poses some serious environmental and health dangers. It is not just a nuisance, it is harmful to our ecosystems and our own health.



**Dog poo in toddler's front garden  
(Facebook)**



**Dog poo in animal pasture field  
(Facebook)**

The Environmental Protection Agency classify **dog excrement an environmental pollutant**, in the same category as oil spills, herbicides, insecticides, and salt from irrigation practices. It can cause water pollution, loss of biodiversity & habitat degradation, and be highly toxic to insects and our wider ecosystems.

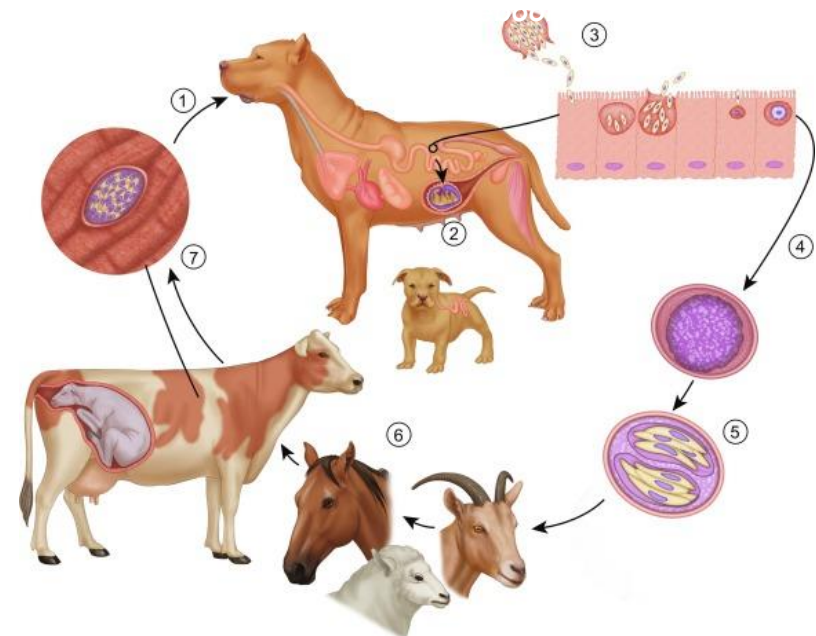
Dog excrement is hazardous not only to human health but also to farm animals. This is due to the high quantities of pathogens, including bacteria, viruses, parasites, fungi, protozoa that it contains.

Dog waste in the play park and in family gardens is concerning because:

- If humans, especially young children, come into contact with dog poo, they are at risk of contracting serious illnesses, such as toxocariasis, and even blindness.

Dog waste in animal pastures is concerning because:

- Dog poo is hazardous to horses, sheep, goats and deer.
- If cows come into contact with dog poo they are at risk of becoming infected with neosporum, which can spread throughout the herd. It causes abortions in cows.



## 6. Business and Homeworkers

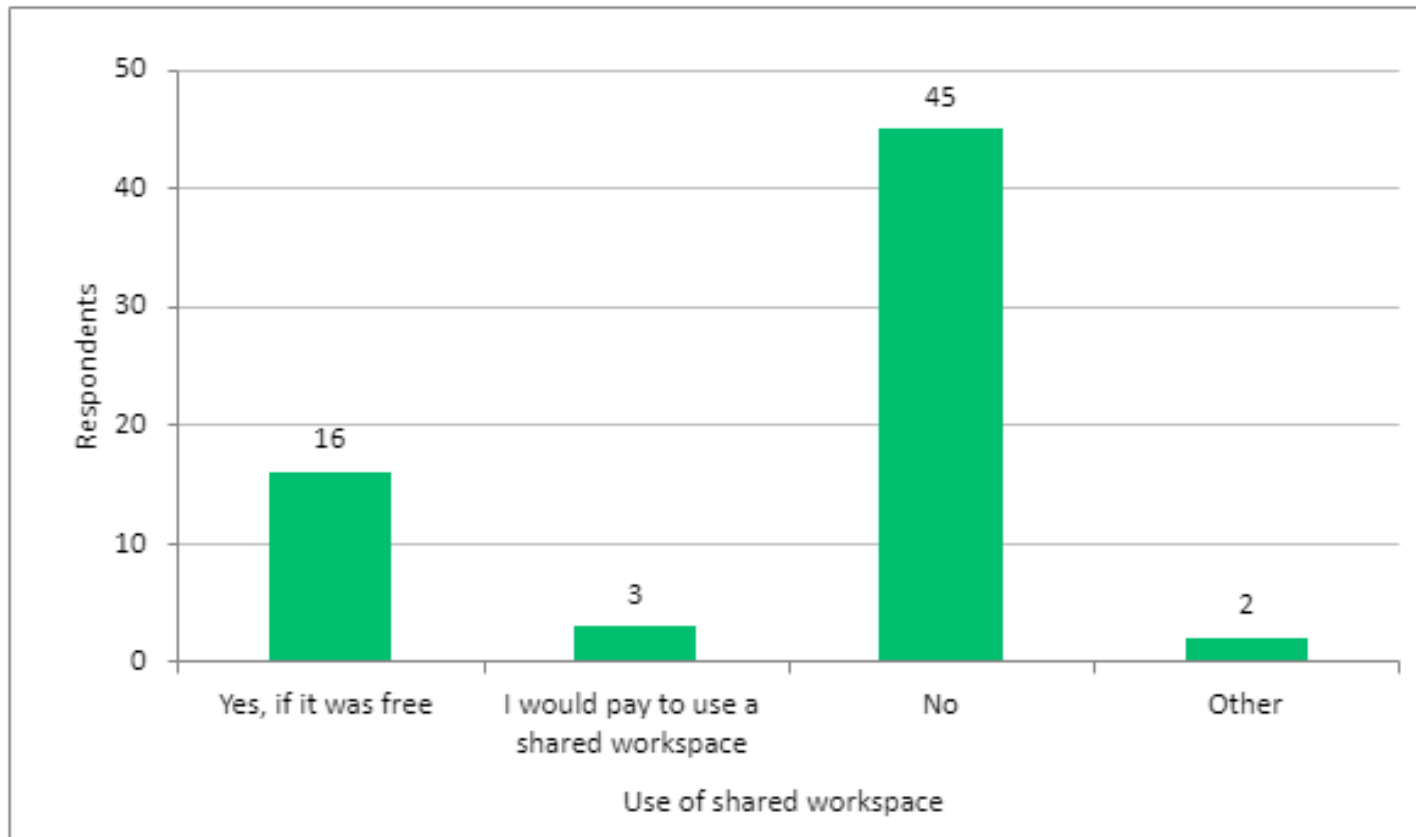
Business has changed over the last few years including how and where it takes place. It is important that we understand the types of business in the Buckland Dinham so we can ensure that a thriving business community and the needs of home workers are supported and maintained.

### Q 22 Would you use a shared / community workspace in Buckland Dinham?

Answered: 67

Skipped: 66

There were 67 respondents who answered: 'no' (45), 'yes if it was free' (16) and 'I would pay to use shared workspace' (3).



There were 2 other comments which were "it might be good for group activities e.g. first aid training but the village hall would suffice" and "perhaps".

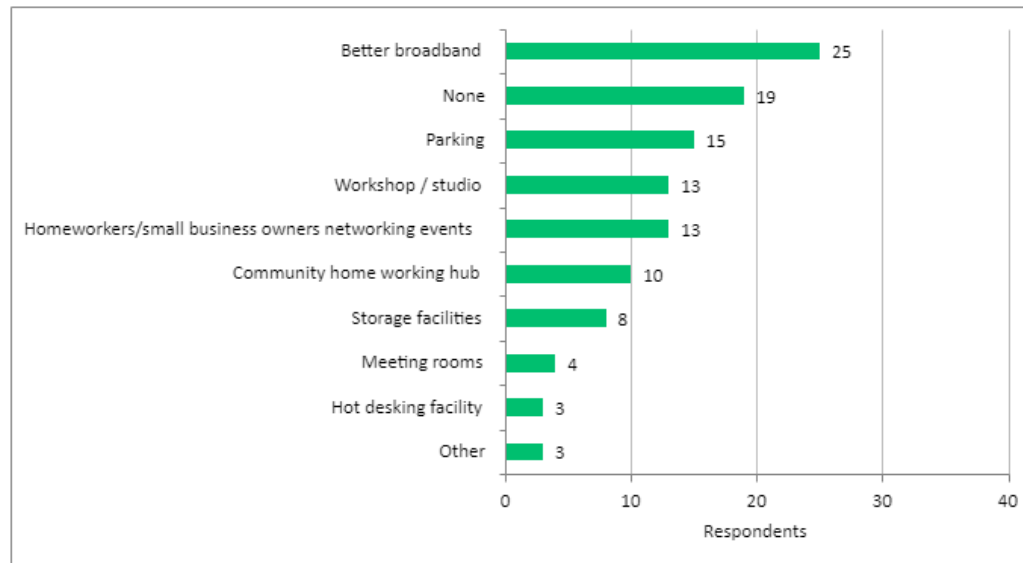


**Q 23 What additional resources would you use in the next 5 years? (tick any that apply)**

Answered: 63

Skipped: 70

Looking at **what additional resources would people use in the next 5 years**, there were 63 respondents with 'better broadband'(25), 'none' (19) and 'parking' (15).



Despite the smaller numbers responding this warrants a bit more exploration of potential resources such as workshop/studio (13), homeworkers/small business owners networking events (13), and a community homeworking hub (10).

There were three 'other' comments:

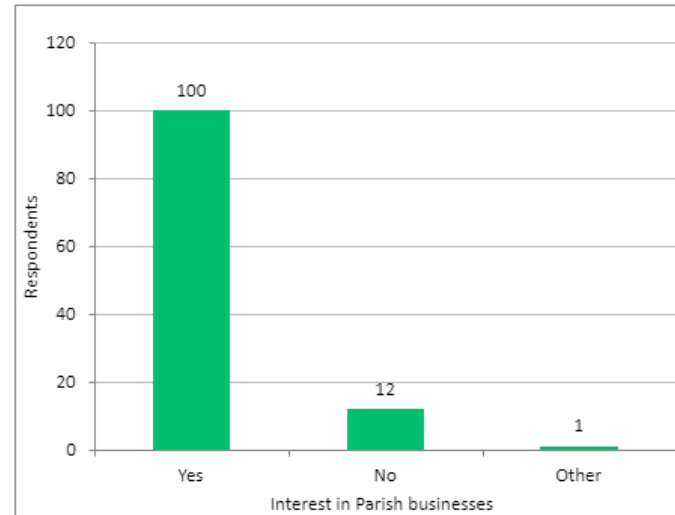
- *"Car share"*
- *"I find broadband pretty good"*
- *"We have what we need but again I'm very interested favour of community activities and facilities"*

**Q 24 Would you be interested in knowing which businesses operate in Buckland Dinham and how to contact them?**

Answered: 113

Skipped: 20

Of the 113 responses 100 said 'yes', and 12 said 'no'.



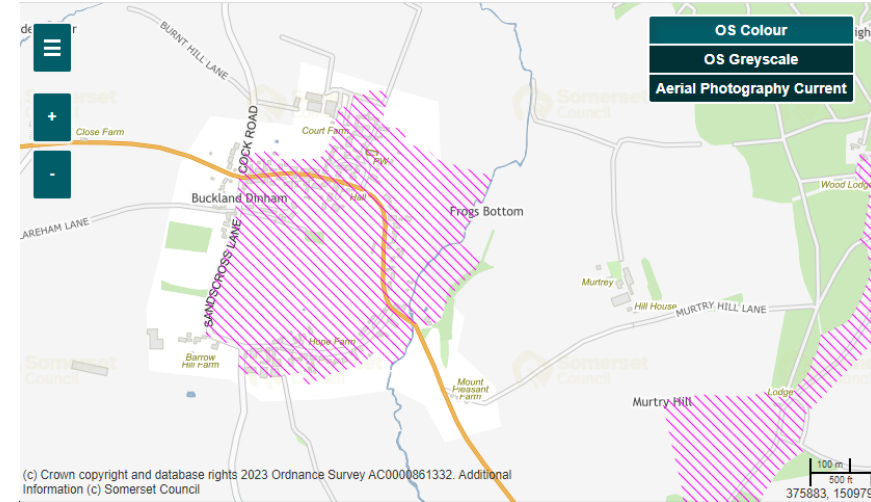
There was a further 'yes' in the comments: *"yes please, a directory of service providers in the village would be brilliant"*.

## 7. Housing

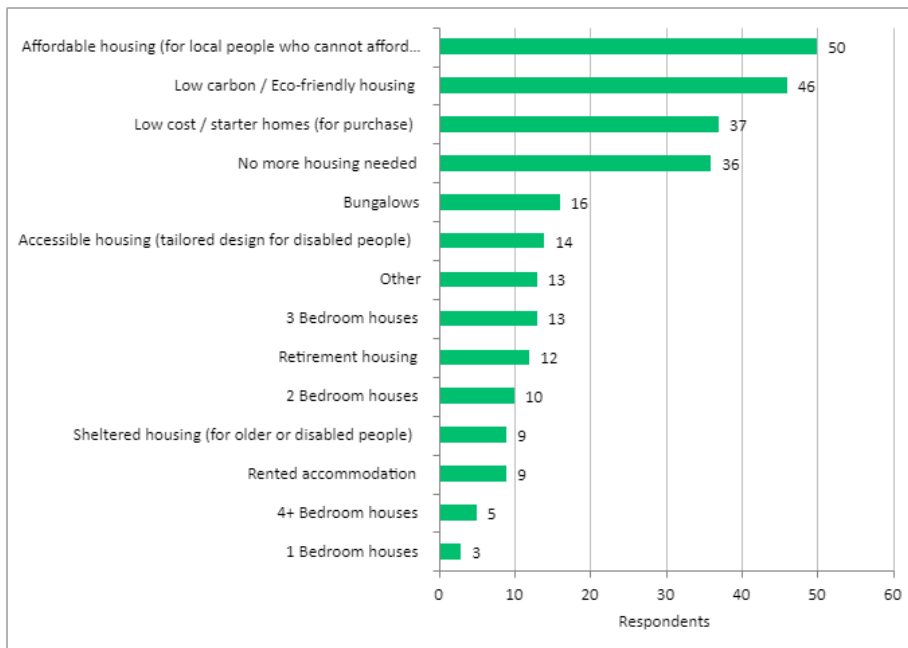
Much of Buckland Dinham village is in a conservation area (see pink shaded area in map below).

Buckland Dinham is not considered for planned rural housing distribution in the 2014 Mendip Local Plan, because it has only two of the four Core facilities required (namely, a school, a shop, a meeting place, a public transport service).

This overview of your needs and current housing situations will help inform the decisions made by the Parish Council on planning applications for both large and small developments. Please note this is not a housing needs survey so it provides only indicative information.



### Q 25 What types of housing and development do you feel our village needs most in the next 10 years?



Answered: 120  
Skipped: 13

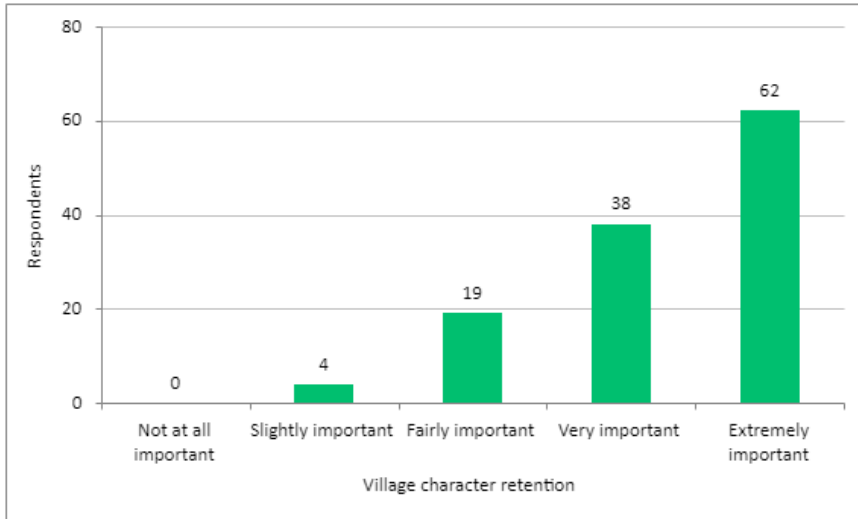
There were 120 responses with 'affordable housing (for local people who cannot afford to buy or rent on the open market)' (50) being at the top of the responses.

This was followed by 'low carbon/eco-friendly housing' (46) and 'low cost/starter home (for purchase)' (37). 36 respondents said no more housing needed.

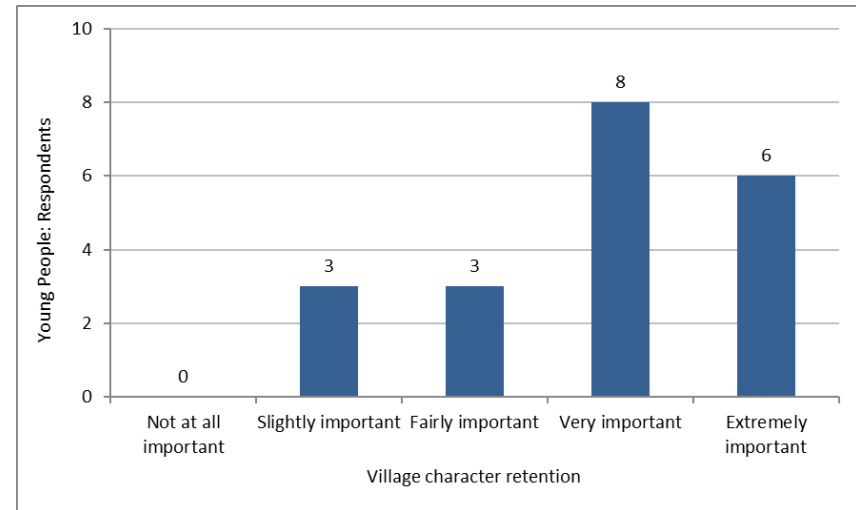
There were 13 'other' comments including those relating to energy efficiency, ensuring the village has appropriate infrastructure, housing in keeping with the village aesthetic and the need for a variety of housing. Some stated "no more housing" and one specified the need for "old people's bungalows (council run)".

**Q 26 How important is it for you that Buckland Dinham retains its village character if there were to be any surrounding development?**

Answered: 123  
Skipped: 10



Answered: 20  
Skipped: 1



There were 123 responses to this question. With 100 stating either 'very important' or 'extremely important', and 23 stating Slightly or fairly important'.

In the Children and Young People Survey, 14 of the 20 respondents said either 'very important or extremely important' and 6 said either 'slightly or fairly important'.

The CYP survey findings echo those of the Adults' survey findings.

These link back to the first question about what people like most about living in Buckland Dinham where 'appeal of rural life' was the main factor.

## 8. Traffic, Travel and Transport

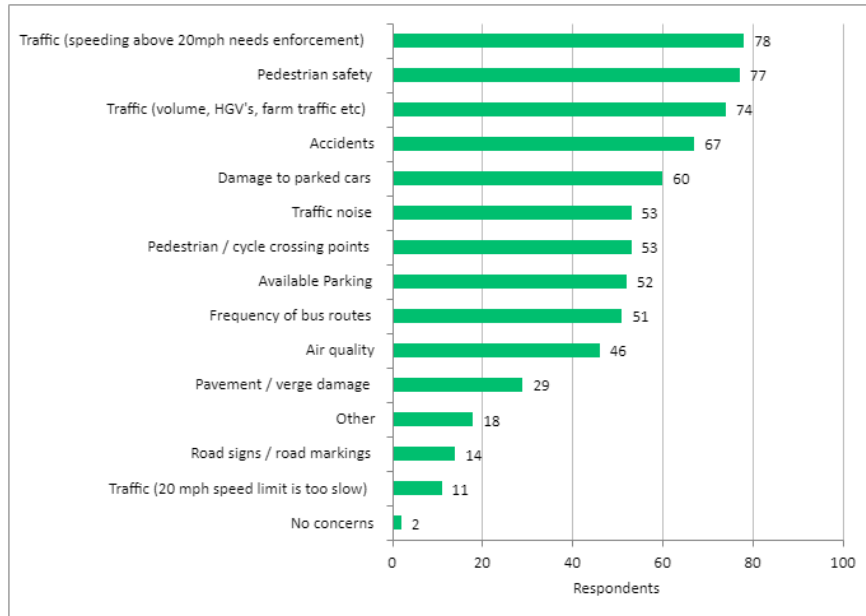
Cars are essential for many people in rural areas, but to address the challenges of congestion and climate change, we can look to improve the provision of public transport, car-sharing, and encouraging walking and cycling to reduce car journeys.

*This is a key issue in the questions about concerns about living in Buckland Dinham and is re-iterated in the responses in this section.*

### Q 27 What concerns, if any, do you have about traffic in our village? (tick any that apply)

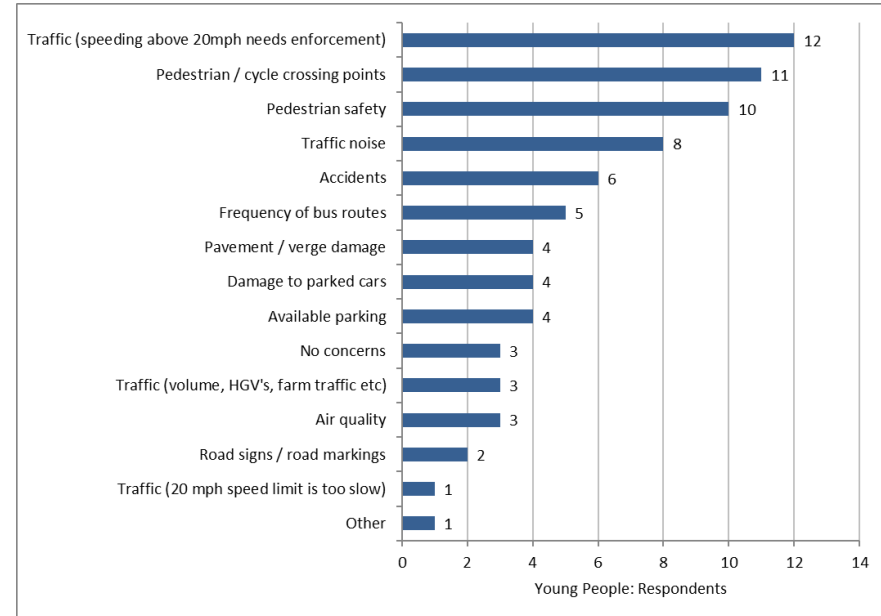
Answered: 121

Skipped: 12



Answered: 21

Skipped: 0



121 respondents answered the question of what concerns, if any they have about traffic in the village, highest concerns were 'traffic (Speeding above 20mph needs enforcement)' (78), 'pedestrian safety' (77), 'Traffic (volume, HGV's, farm traffic etc)' (74).

There were 18 other comments expanding on the issues including speed of traffic, speed enforcement, parking and pedestrian issues.

The Children and Young People Survey received 21 responses: 'traffic (speeding above 20mph needs enforcement)' (12), 'pedestrian / cycle crossing points' (11), pedestrian safety (10). There was one 'other' comments which was "big trucks speeding".

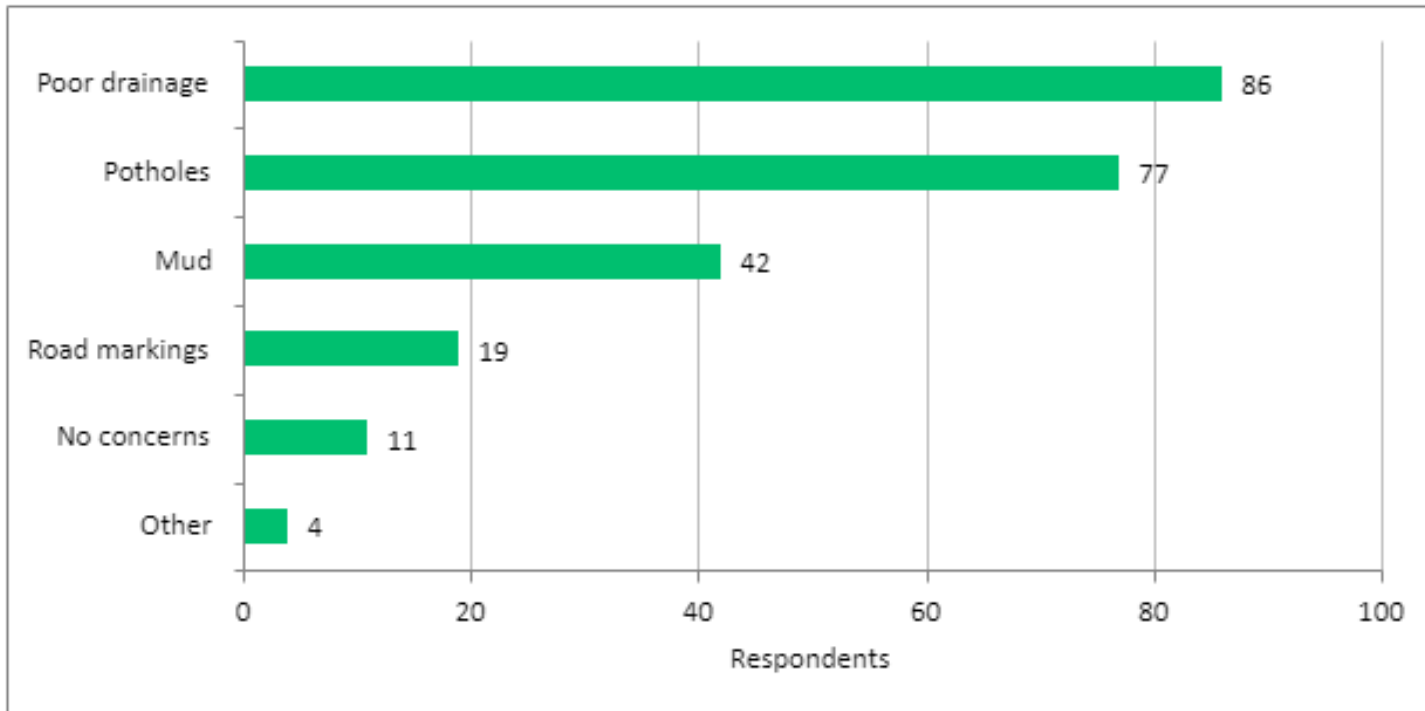
*Again, these concerns are similar to those of the adults.*

**Q 28 What concerns, if any, do you have about the condition of the local road surfaces? (tick any that apply)**

Answered: 122

Skipped: 11

Of the 122 respondents, highest concerns were poor drainage (86), which links with the flooding concerns, and potholes (77).



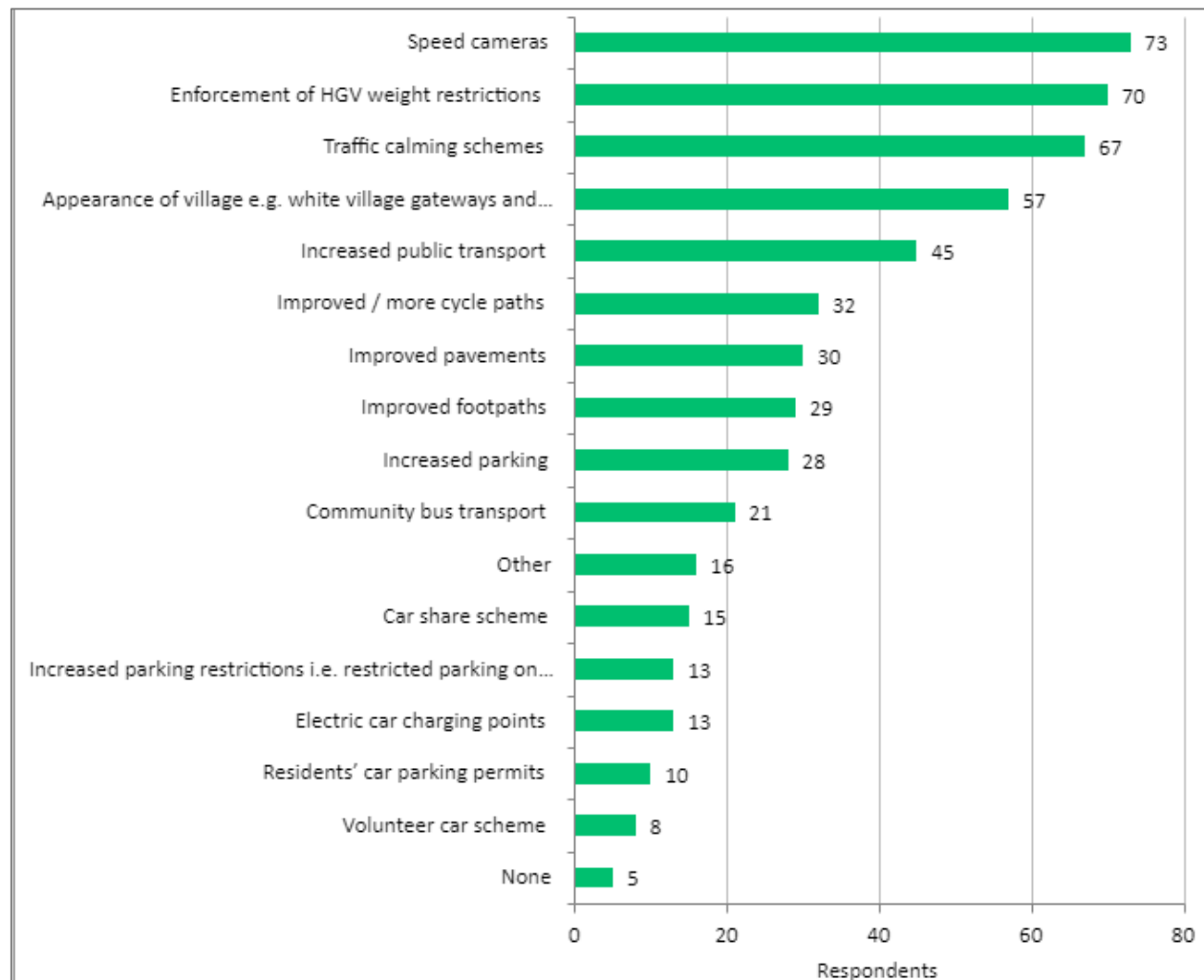
There were four additional comments:

- "HGVs on Sandscross lane"
- "It seems that near constant roadworks do nothing!"
- "Maintenance of verges, hedges, walls & fences by the property owners adjacent to main & side roads & footpaths. Potholes now on Cock Road. Flooding as lack of drains at A362/Cock Road/Sandscross Lane junction"
- "The roads local to Buckland are excellent"

**Q 29 What do you think are the best ways to reduce traffic problems in Buckland Dinham? (tick any that apply)**

Answered: 120

Skipped: 13



There were high preferences for 'speed cameras' (73), enforcement of HGV weight restrictions (70), and traffic calming schemes(67). [Other suggestions link to responses in local environment section, e.g. improved/more cycle paths, improved footpaths/pavements](#) 16 'other' comments mentioned *parking for residents and how this helps to slow down traffic yet causes some parking issues*. Two commented on *not wanting planters/gates at the entrance to the village*.



## COMMUNITY EVIDENCE

We have an active **Community Speed Watch team**, which has and continues to gather considerable evidence.



The Speed Limit is 20mph. (Sara Corbett)



(Ian Blair)



(Ian Blair)

SIDS (Speed Indicator Devices) were installed at the top and bottom of the village May 2024. These are gathering further evidence.



(Sara Corbett)

Drivers still drive too fast.



Villagers' parked cars are frequently damaged by speeding drivers.

*Adele Lawson, High Street, 20<sup>th</sup> June 2024*



*Jessica Taylor, High Street, 4<sup>th</sup> June 2024*

There is very little space for parking near the church and village hall. Access for emergency vehicles can become obstructed and pavements can be impassable, particularly for those with wheelchairs and buggies.



## Summary

There are common themes throughout both the Adults' survey and the Children and Young People's survey which are around:

- Traffic Travel and Transport issues
- Communication
- Local environment
- Community activities and events



## **Next Steps**

This survey-findings reports will subsequently be published on the Buckland Dinham Parish Plan website along with bound hard copies for those who request them. This is to ensure all villagers have an opportunity to absorb and consider the findings over the Summer.

On Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2024 we will hold the Action Plan meeting. Here the village will decide on the prioritisation of our community's ambitions, and consider how we collectively wish to set our identified goals in motion. This forms the basis of our Action Plan.

After this meeting, smaller groups will form to move our aspirations forward, with further support and advice from the CCS team during October 2024 including identifying sources of funding as needed. By the end of November 2024 we will then publish our Buckland Dinham Parish Plan, to steer us to towards an evidence-based vision with community-led agreed outcomes for our village.

## Comments from Main Survey

### **Q 4 What do you like most about living in Buckland Dinham?**

- Views
- Access to the countryside
- Going for walks at the bottom of the village. I can't walk very far
- Dog walks on the doorstep
- Good dog walks nearby
- Plenty of dog walks
- Places nearby to walk my dogs
- House is suitable for multi-generational living and was near to workplace before retiring
- Our house - it's what we wanted for a price we can afford
- It used to be peaceful
- Mix of people with similar and diverse interests and backgrounds
- Village Hall and Great community

### **Q 5 What are your main concerns about living in Buckland Dinham?**

- Not having a small village shop
- No open reach fibre optic
- Changing of footpaths (i.e. Barrow Hill- erection of fences that prevent access to footpaths)
- Footpath alteration or closure before due process or consultation
- Community awareness of correct footpath use (especially with dogs) in fields with livestock
- Inconsiderate dog owners
- Lack of dog poo bins
- I am frightened of the dog up the road, so I don't walk there anymore. Sometimes tractors can't get by the parked cars in the street. The traffic is too dangerous. You have to be very careful crossing the road. We need a zebra crossing and lights to make it safe
- Safety of children coming out of play area
- Drivers ignoring the speed limit
- Vehicles speeding
- Speeding of cars through the village
- Speeding on High Street
- Speed of cars on high street
- Speed through the village and lack of concern from the Police
- Speed through the village and lack of concern from the Police, rubbish bins on pavements
- Refuse Bins (Last count 10) allowed to block the pavements causing problems with smell, danger
- Lack of safe path to walk/cycle to and from town, and lack of taxis/late night bus service
- The bus no longer stops near my house. I have to get the car out to get to the bus stop, so I might as well drive into Frome. But I would prefer to use the bus - especially as I have a free bus pass. I can't afford to take taxis.
- Concerns about creeping development of additional housing and commercial activities which might endanger the rural and quiet nature of the village
- The fact that we are currently a tertiary village and this means that no new houses can be built. Therefore there is no chance of any affordable housing for local youngsters to stay in the village when they grow up unless they live with parents. There are local villages ( Great Elm, Faulkland and Kilmersdon which have fewer facilities than Buckland Dinham and are having new houses built

### **Q 6 What do you think are the most important factors contributing to a thriving community?**

- A culture of 'give and take' that is workable, responsive and respectful of others' needs. Small group forums (e.g. Parish Council surgeries or an identified 'resolver') where an individual or

handful of individuals can informally voice thoughts on matters to a responsible person before they inflate to become issues or problems in a culture of "both sides matter". Essentially, growing from the point above: "Working together..."

- I can't read and write, so I can't read information on notice boards or on leaflets. I need information in pictures or symbols.
- A platform for communication between different villagers is paramount
- New bypass of village please

**Q 8 How do you find out about what's going on in our village?**

- Facebook
- I miss the parish council website. I look at notice boards sometimes.
- Church and Village Facebook page

**Q 9 What improvements could be made to keep you informed about local news?**

- The website Mells Matters keeps our neighbouring village very well informed. We need a BD Matters
- Simple website publicising key information channels such as WhatsApp groups, email lists, etc. Not everyone wants to be on Facebook, so WhatsApp would suit me better with right type of channels
- Better Facebook group or WhatsApp group, as posts take too long to be allowed
- Emailing events perhaps monthly
- The church used to provide Welcome Packs to newcomers but this stopped during Covid because we had no information as to the newcomers arriving
- We had a welcome pack when we moved here in 1996 - it was VERY helpful
- Information using pictures and symbols to include everyone

**Q 10 Which would be your preferred method of communication?**

- Parish magazine and word of mouth
- Word of mouth
- Newsletter in pictures and symbols
- Local meetings in Pub
- How do I access village life via WhatsApp please?

**Q 11 Which resources would you use if they were available in our village?**

- Lack of parking puts some people off from coming to events. How could we do a village shop???. I think we used to have a mobile library up at the garage. I'd need to use the car to get there now.
- Beer festival/village fair

**Q 12 Which activities would you attend if they were available in our village?**

- Photography club
- Cricket
- Summer rugby 7's / touch rugby
- Hashing club...
- There are several really good options above that I could tick but are kind of served in other ways. I'm already part of a cycling club, I occasionally run in groups. How about making special encouragement to existing groups such as FAC-off (Frome and County off-road runners) and Hares and Hounds running groups...runners do like a pub post-run! Likewise, cyclists love a cafe-stop mid-cycle. Maybe room for an informal/ad hoc message board/WhatsApp group to organise runs or bike rides. Particularly good to share experience with new residents, show footpaths, etc.
- I'm so busy with all the things I already do in and for the village

- I do knitting at home
- I work unsocial hours so can't do clubs, but I think they are wonderful and very much support them

**Q 13 What would help you to take part in activities in our village?**

- How about a zebra crossing with lights to keep our children safe
- We'd love to be involved in anything cricket related.
- Village sports activities such as football, rounders village games. more time being linked to work life balance.
- Evening / weekend events
- Evenings after 6.30pm
- Most convenient times: After 6pm weekdays or weekend
- I work full time like many people, so events after 5pm are best for me during week
- Lots of times are during weekdays when people are at work... evenings post 6pm is more ideal
- Something for working parents that can't do daytime Pilates for example hold an evening class
- Just something I wanted to do at a time I could do it around other things
- Time to attend in busy diary!
- Time and energy
- More free time!
- Not sure as I've not been here long enough
- Better health
- Events at places like the pub are often overfilled and claustrophobic
- We are not always home when events take place but enjoy them when we do
- Better range of non-sports activities, I've already got sports activities covered

**Q 14 What additional village events would you like to see take place in Buckland Dinham?**

- Board games night
- I think we could combine a few of these to be more attractive to more people e.g.: fete/sports day/beer festival
- I loved the history group. It would be great if it started up again!!
- Nature trail
- Especially the seed swap!
- Plant sales - could be organised by a gardening club if there was one
- Plant swapping event
- Farmers / food markets with local produce
- Classic car show?
- Jumble sales
- Need better health
- Definitely not bonfire night. Not great for animals

**Q 16 Is there anything that prevents you from engaging in activities more generally?**

- Dark by the cross and dark on pathway to the church porch
- I have to get the car out. The last time I walked to post a letter I was very scared by the speed of the cars going past me. There used to be verges to stand on in the past, but these have now disappeared. Verges
- Deaf
- Curmudgeonly tendencies
- Age
- Poor health currently
- I have to use my car to get to the village which at the moment I can do, but would have to rely on friends if I can no longer drive

- Time and energy
- Young child
- Just a busy life, work and juggling childcare.
- Not knowing early enough and then being busy!
- Lack of events
- Events being oversold (causing overcrowding)
- Plenty of my interests are catered for outside of the village. A village of this size can't be all things to all people but some areas could grow, such as a shop and cafe

**Q 17 Which areas relating to the environment would you like to see more investment (time/money) in the future?**

- As a village could we consider renewable energy schemes e.g. wind turbine e.g. solar panels
- Opportunity to attract wildlife in public areas like community bird feeders, bug hotels
- Bypass of village most wished for first all above to follow
- Wider footpath on main road from church to lower street
- Cars parked on the pavements
- Removal of rubbish bins on the pavement causing danger to the elderly and disabled
- Removal of rubbish bins on the pavement causing danger to the elderly and smell, poor work by council
- Clareham Lane is often unwalkable in the winter because of mud on end nearest the village
- Signs so you know you're on the right track and not accidentally trespassing!
- Frome's Missing Link is very crucial to the village I believe. And the playing field is very important - it presents a great opportunity for the village

**Q 18 Are you concerned about how any of the following issues affect our local environment?**

- Above ticked relates to the noise and traffic fume pollution from the busy road. My main concern is the flooding at either end of the village that then freezes and makes the roads treacherous in the winter for those of us setting off early for work. The mud on the road towards Ammerdown is also really treacherous.
- The amount of heavy vehicles cause pollution in the High Street and the bottom of the village will be more affected by flooding because of climate change
- Heavy traffic through village
- The roads are constantly damaged by heavy farm vehicles
- Noise from main road
- It's ridiculously loud by the road, especially with lorries and it wakes me up at night. There is a drain near my house (high street) that people drive over which causes a massive bang every time as it is loose
- The 20mph speed limit increases air and noise pollution
- Traffic- need a permanent camera down the hill
- Sadly poor parking, (especially from people outside the village using the village hall) causes so many problems, revving, pollution and even arguments. I wish people using the village hall would use the pub car park and support the pub.
- Flies!
- Agricultural run-off polluting our waterways
- Pollution in our river ways
- I like to paddle in the river but I worry about the water quality. I hear birds singing in the night confused by the street lights
- I am concerned about housing and land development and how it impacts on the conservation area
- The village could do with more dog poo bins e.g. at the start of the bridleway
- Rubbish bins allowed to block the pavements causing danger to elderly and parents with prams

**Q 19 In your opinion, what would help alleviate the risk of flooding in our village?**

- Create group that clears the drains through the village and hedgerows when flood risk warning

- Drain clearance is a must they are never cleared
- Council drains are the main problem most of them are blocked including the one running along the side of lower street
- The drain at the bottom end of Rogers Close is completely blocked
- It would seem that the last floods were caused by drains at the top of the village being blocked, causing the road to be a river!
- It's historic. Unless the bridge is made bigger, unlikely.
- Widen the space under the bridge so the water passes through during heavy rainfall.
- Installation of more storm drains on the left side of the road going down the hill. When it rains hard the storm drains on that side of the road are overwhelmed
- Flooding is a result of climate change. Climate change is caused by a reliance on fossil fuels... shared electric car share scheme, community owned wind turbine, solar scheme, supporting people onto heat pumps, etc.
- Residents NOT putting tarmac etc over their drives
- I'm lucky enough to live higher up the hill so I'm not very knowledgeable about this
- Not got enough knowledge really, would like more knowledge
- The flooding at either end of the village must become a priority as it is so very dangerous and happens every year regardless. Run off is also increasing from the fields and coming across the high street which bends round, just below the church. In early mornings when frosty and icy, this is so dangerous to drivers.
- Would a wetlands creation work?
- Some of those answers don't particularly apply to flooding but to access. However, pertinent to the question, a whole-system concept is desirable: riparian and flood plain restoration by replanting and 'rewilding'; plant biodiversity in woodland and areas of agricultural land that can be given to it, all with the aim to naturally manage the flow (rate and volume) into the system, coupled with clearance of drains to clear water out along the system.
- Redesign of the village drainage system, as it is no longer fit for purpose. We need a plan for future resilience in the face of climate change

**Q 20 Is there more that can be done to enable a healthy biodiverse environment in our public spaces?**

- It's beautiful here
- Younger and fitter members of village to choose
- In the right places
- Meadow creation, restoring hedges
- Groups like the British herpetological society and local beekeeper's associations can help with this
- We've lost a couple of our beehives due to people/farmers using pesticides, so more awareness of this would be very beneficial, alongside planting more flowers as food sources.
- Not using herbicides and pesticides.
- Removal of household rubbish bins on pavement by bus stop in village , the smell is foul.
- Re-wilding verges would be fine but first they need to be cleared of litter and kept clear
- As long as any of the above doesn't affect visibility when coming out of a junction in a car
- Regarding verges, keep them clear around junctions and road signs for safety

**Q 21 What would improve your experience of using Rights of Way in and around Buckland Dinham?**

- All dog walkers to be responsible and considerate to others
- Farmers ensuring that cattle are within an electric fence in fields that have Rights of Way
- Human friendly stiles
- I don't use them
- I think this might be the big issue for me!
- I'm continually in touch with Clare Haskins at (was) Mendip about broken stiles. She is very helpful

**Q 22 Would you use a shared / community workspace in Buckland Dinham?**

- It might be good for group activities e.g. first aid training but the village hall would suffice

- Perhaps

**Q 23 What additional resources would you use in the next 5 years?**

- Car share
- I find the broadband pretty good
- We have what we need but again I'm very interested in favour of community activities and facilities

**Q 24 Would you be interested in knowing which businesses operate in Buckland Dinham and how to contact them?**

- Yes please, a directory of service providers in the village would be brilliant

**Q 25 What types of housing and development do you feel our village needs most in the next 10 years?**

- Affordable housing for anyone who needs it and wants to live here
- Old people's bungalow (council run)
- We need a variety of housing
- Small developments only of mixed housing of high quality, eco-friendly, in keeping with the village & conservation area
- Energy efficient housing to greatly reduce carbon emissions, including much better insulation - plus flood proofing where that's a risk
- Building energy efficient homes and allowing sensible infill development is best, as currently there is a lack of facilities and public transport so the village should not grow too much.
- I'm not convinced we can support more housing with the current infrastructure and local facilities
- Without further infrastructure the village can't support more housing. The road is already busy with insufficient public transport and we don't even have a local shop
- No houses built here please
- No more housing - there is plenty modern housing and anymore will take away the older nature of the village
- The most important thing is the quality and appearance of the houses to maintain the village aesthetic
- I don't really know what the village is lacking in this respect so find it hard to answer
- I have no particular view on housing, however, I believe it's incumbent on us all to make reasonable adjustments to the needs of the community at large

**Q 27 What concerns, if any, do you have about traffic in our village?**

- EV charging facilities for all
- Amount of traffic
- Volume of traffic, especially larger vehicles
- Would like a pavement as unsafe to leave front of house onto main road
- Twist your foot over going up that hill – too much pavement damage
- Loading family in the car on a busy road, I have no parking
- Sadly it is an A road so HGVs etc can't be reduced but it is terrifying trying to cross the road sometimes. People drive through like lunatics. A man once overtook us (we were doing 20 up the hill) handbrake turned to block the road, exited his car and threatened us! Parking is becoming more and more of a problem. As van owners we are a major part of that problem, but a village car park for our happily successful hall would be a boon. I have no idea where to magic one up from though!
- Main issue is the persistent speeding particularly on lower part of the hill and lack of appropriate enforcement of the 20mph limit
- More attention by Police in the High Street and payable fines. Too many cars travelling way over 20mph
- Avon & Somerset Police need to change their opposition to AutoSpeedWatch devices and follow other forces. A&S Police with Somerset Unitary Authority need to install & operate a fixed permanently operating camera & prosecute speeders. The A&S PCC needs to have much more frequent mobile camera motorcycle officers operating in Buckland Dinham. We need pedestrian crossings at the Playing Field, at the Village Hall, & at Lower Street
- More attention by Police in the High Street and payable fines



- Screaming motorbikes clearly breaking all speed limits
- 25mph would be better but enforcement is key whatever speed is set
- 60 mph on the Sandscross Lane. Should be 20 or 30
- I feel that speed limit reduction is feebly asking speeders to slow with a contentious side effect of finger-pointing at village residents who drive above 24mph. I feel other means (that have capital outlay!) could be considered, such as marked out parking and pull-in spots allowing opposing traffic to pass, priority in one direction, suitable pedestrian crossings which would impact traffic speed, psychological nudge using persuasive rather than instructive signage/road markings
- Living in a village, I don't think farm traffic is an issue
- The drains need more work to reduce flooding and ice issues due to lack of surface water drains, incorrect drain placement and poor maintenance

**Q 28 What concerns, if any, do you have about the condition of the local road surfaces?**

- Maintenance of verges, hedges, walls & fences by the property owners adjacent to main & side roads & footpaths. Pot holes now on Cock Road. Flooding as lack of drains at A362/Cock Road/Sandscross Lane junction
- HGVs on Sandscross lane
- It seems that near constant roadworks do nothing!
- The roads local to Buckland are excellent

**Q 29 What do you think are the best ways to reduce traffic problems in Buckland Dinham?**

- Some hedges and narrow pavements force me to be vulnerable to passing traffic
- Thoughtful parking measures: space for residents to park, space for traffic to pass and pull in.
- Reducing parking on the high street will increase speeds
- Get parked cars off the main highway
- Residents car parking permits is a must
- Don't want restrictions on parking as some of us don't have the luxury of a private driveway
- Parked cars on the high street, me being one of those acts as traffic calming and slows vehicles
- Parking restrictions on main road unfair to main road residents and any restriction of car parking on A362 would increase speed and risk - leave cars as 'mobile chicanes'. Car share/community bus/public transport are fine but will do very little in volume terms for the main road. EV charge points good - but where? - (pub carpark an option if price for use can be kept down with small fee for pub). Why residents' permits - it is residents & their visitors who park - we do not have Frome (etc.) commuters parking in the village for the day!
- The cars parked on the high street slows the through traffic down. When cars are parked near the village hall it makes turning out of Old Vicarage Lane really difficult and dangerous due to lack of visibility and having to be on the wrong side of the road
- People who park their cars in an inconvenient place when away several days
- Move A362
- Mines and stingers to be used on the High Street!
- Traffic warden
- Please, no gates / planters...look awful
- White flower planters and village gateways are too modern and will take away from the nice older nature of the village
- Difficult time of year and having a year's worth of rain in 3 months has left the village looking drab. We clear litter as we walk in the village, unfortunately drivers like using the window as a bin. It would be good to encourage everyone to litter pick too

## Partners

### Buckland Dinham Parish Council

The Parish Council has allocated and approved a fixed budget for both the financial year 2023/24 and 2024/25 to support with marketing, printing and event costs to allow the Parish Plan team to reach the whole community and make a success of the project.

### The Community Council for Somerset

The CCS is providing the team with support and advice on survey design, independent data analysis, presentation of results and potential funding partners for the future.

Established in 1926, The Community Council for Somerset (CCS) is a charity working in all corners of the County. They believe everyone in Somerset should be able to live a healthy, independent, and safe life and be part of a strong and thriving community. As part of this, they have a long history of supporting Parish and Town Councils, groups and organisations to consult, develop and achieve local projects.

They have worked with dozens of communities to create Parish Plans (also known as Community Reviews or Village Appraisals), and other consultations such as Housing Needs Surveys, Neighbourhood Plans, and bespoke issue consultations. In 2023 they supported 19 Parish and Town Councils to complete their Community Review Projects. CCS work in partnership with Somerset Association of Local Councils (SALC) and are funded by Somerset Council.



## Privacy Statement

Analysis has been conducted by Community Council for Somerset (CCS). Data was captured for legitimate and contractual purposes. Information was collected and analysed in accordance with Community Council for Somerset's role as a Data Controller and Data Processor.

Buckland Dinham Parish Plan Group entered any paper copies using standard proprietary online survey software and sign a nondisclosure agreement to protect your personal data. Once entered all paper copies are destroyed.

Digital copies are retained for 12 months and deleted after this period. Any personal data that is captured is anonymised with the report and held securely for the purposes of analysis.

No data will be published which can identify an individual without their consent. If you entered your details to take part in the prize draw and you won, your data was shared with Buckland Dinham Parish Plan Group.

If you would like to find out more about how we use your data or want to see a copy of the information about you that we hold, please contact [info@somersetccc.org.uk](mailto:info@somersetccc.org.uk) or call 01823 331222. Protecting your Personal Data is important and we fully comply and adhere to the Principles of Data Protection set out in our Data Protection / Privacy Policy visit: <https://ccslovesomerset.org/data-protection-policy/> and <https://ccslovesomerset.org/privacy/>

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