

Village Survey: Report Back to the Village

The village survey was conducted immediately after the first lockdown and follows the two previous surveys in 2006 and 2014 which have helped the Parish Council to identify key issues for residents and guide their responses to, for example, planning and highways issues.

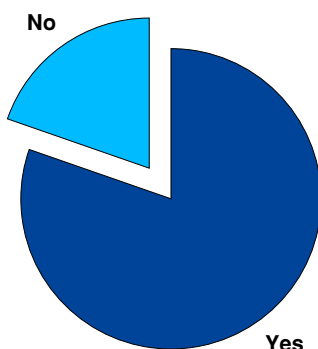
Questionnaires were delivered to every household in Gretton and Gretton Fields - 224 currently. Of these 88 were returned by the due date a response rate of 39% which is considered to be good for this type of survey.

We are grateful to everyone who answered the questionnaire, including those who posted to the village hall. Thank you also to those respondents who provided many and varied comments. We have analysed these, summarising and collating them. This can be found on the GPC web-site.

<https://grettonpc.weebly.com>

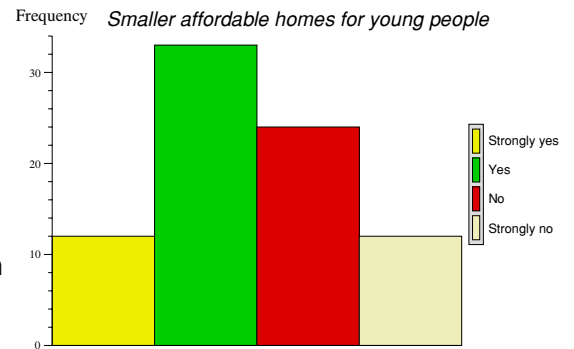
A copy of the original questionnaire and more detail on the results can also be found there.

Postcodes in Gretton vary in size but a variation in response rates was identified. Proportionately more responses were received from the centre of the village and Winchcombe end than from the Alderton end. There was a good response from Gretton Fields.

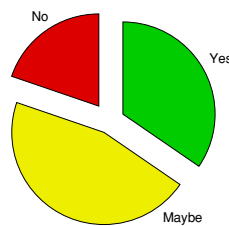


Housing need and development

Whilst 49 respondents thought smaller affordable homes for young people were desirable, 12 strongly, 37 respondents did not, 12 equally strongly. A smaller majority supported smaller homes for downsizers, though strong opposition to this diminished.



Development size under ten houses

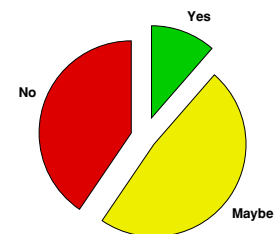


The results show that most people would at least consider a small development of under ten homes, but this is the least likely to produce smaller affordable homes. Majorities opposed all other sizes of development.

People are willing to consider infill and backland development. This will however be

subject to other planning constraints such as AONB restrictions in half the village. Twelve people commented that infrastructure was insufficient for further development. There is strong opposition to higher density housing even if well designed.

Backland and infill development



Possible Neighbourhood Plan

A cautious welcome has been given to the possibility of undertaking a neighbourhood plan. Whilst 52 respondents were in favour with 11 against, 34 of those in favour were unable to become actively involved.

Thank you to those who expressed interest and offered to help. We will contact many of you to establish full contact details in the new year with a view to an online meeting when Coronavirus restrictions are eased.

Support for undertaking a neighbourhood plan.

If you are interested but did not give contact details please contact Geoff Hanson or John Hurley (contact details on the back page).

The next steps are:

- Invitations to join a conference call with a briefing from Tewkesbury Borough officers.
- Discussion on the pros and cons and possible approaches
- Decide to go-ahead or not

National planning proposals may have an impact on our decision, when they are presented.

Traffic and Highways issues

Traffic speed and road maintenance

The majority opinion (83%) is that both the volume and speed of traffic remain a problem. There was a slightly higher proportion of people living on the main road who felt strongly about this than those in the side roads.

In the comments there was limited support for speed restrictions, 3 people wanted to see traffic calming and 2 a 20mph limit.

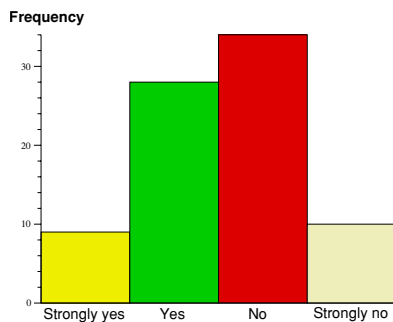
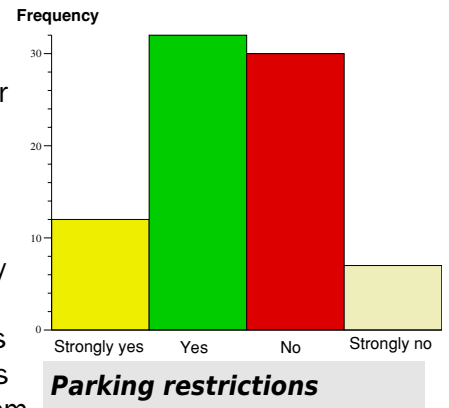
There is strong unanimity (89%) that local roads are not adequately maintained, with just a minority of ten respondents agreeing that they were ok.

This finding has already been used by the Parish Council in moves to get better maintenance of the road to Winchcombe and in Gretton Fields included in next year's highway programme.

Parking in the Village

Opinion is very divided on whether parking restrictions are required in some areas of the village with a small majority for.

Only a few feel strongly either way but this question raised many comments. Nineteen respondents felt that parking at the school was a particular problem. Other problem areas identified were the Village Hall (4), Church (3) and Working Lane (4). Whilst 5 people commented on the need for parking restrictions in some areas, 4 expressly opposed it.

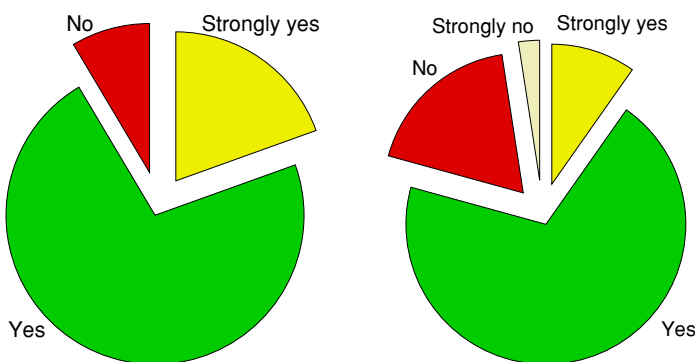


Whilst people see the parking problem they have doubts about one possible solution, an edge of village car park. Opinion is again divided with a majority against.

Environment and sustainability

Sustainability

There was general support for sustainability plans for flooding and drainage and for community green initiatives. People were also generally in favour of upgrading the village appearance by planting.



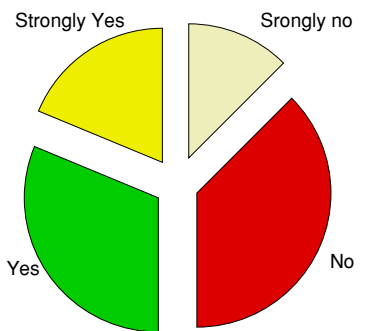
Public Open Space

A small majority opposed the creation of a space at the Alderton end of the village. Those for and against were fairly evenly spread across the village.

The cost-free proposal to incorporate the Tower grounds into our small village green space and protect neighbouring verges curiously divided opinion with a small majority for. However one comment described this no-cost endeavour as a waste of money.

Relocation of the School.

This would require future County Council support. The idea divided opinion with strong feelings both for and against. The result was a dead heat.



There was concern in the comments that such a move would detract from the rural ambiance of the village, though one respondent saw the advantages for parking and community facilities.

Environmental nuisances

The majority of comments, apart from those on the desirability of the relocation of the school refer to environmental nuisance.

Chief amongst those was dog fouling, with a particular concern about Working Lane below the bridge. This nuisance would be easily remedied if people used the dog bins. Other comments referred to street cleaning, maintenance of ditches and verges and littering. The survey results are displayed opposite.

Community Matters

Questions were of two sorts, those that reflected on the community generally and those that were of more relevance to the Village Association and Village Hall.

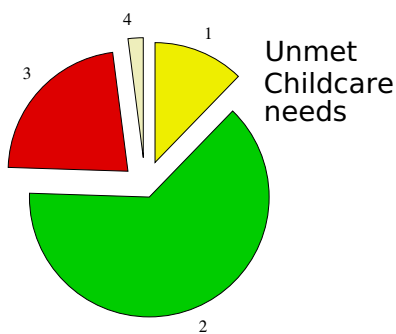
There is a divided view on community life with the (slight) minority thinking it is diminishing holding stronger views.

As with previous surveys the comments wish list includes a footpath to Winchcombe (technically infeasible in places sadly) and a shop, if anyone with suitable premises wishes to start one up.

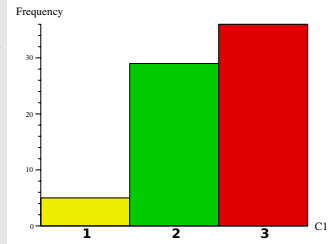
There is a small majority who think the hall fails to provide for the whole community. Those living closer to the hall felt more positively about the use of the hall than those living further from it. Some comments suggested better promotion of events at the hall.

There is more agreement that the hall does not provide for all ages. A clear majority think that the play equipment needs upgrading. Most comments centred on the need for improvement in play equipment. However slightly more people think that parking at the hall is a priority.

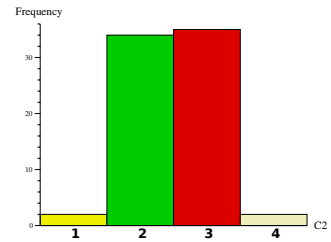
Finally there is a majority opinion that there is unmet childcare need, but as few feel this strongly there is probably little actual demand.



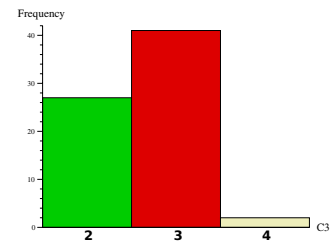
Is community life in the village diminishing?



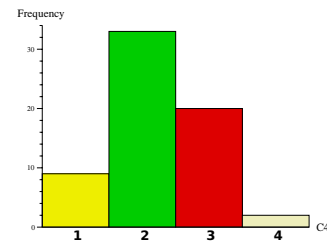
Does the village hall provide activities for the whole community?



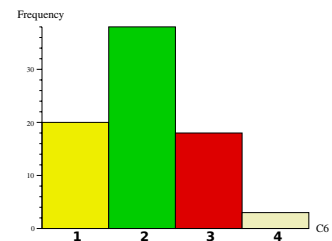
Do community activities cater for all ages?



Do childrens' play facilities require improvement?

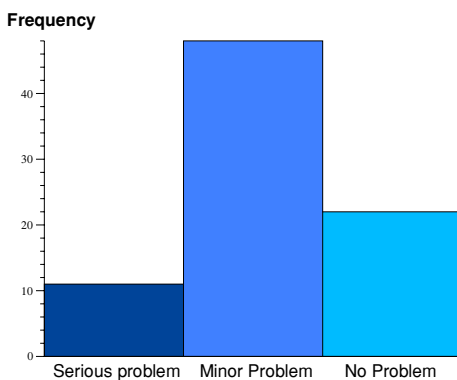


Does there need to be parking provision to service the village hall and playing field ?

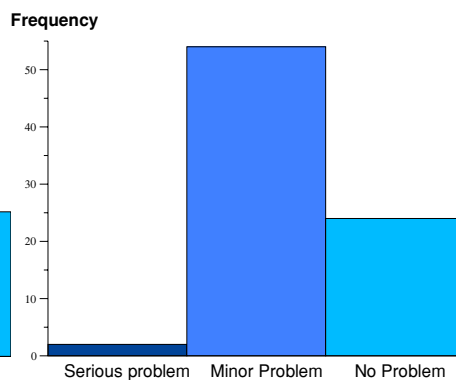


Key 1= Strongly yes 2= Yes 3= No 4= Strongly no

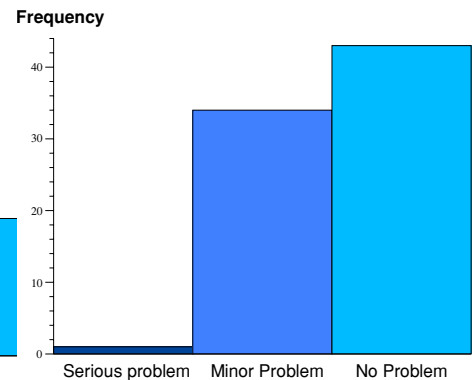
Environmental nuisances



Dog Fouling



Litter



Street Cleaning

Gretton Old Church Tower - repairs completed!



The Tower Trust has worked with the Diocese of Gloucester to secure the future of the Tower. The repairs were carried out over the summer under the direction of the Diocesan Surveyor and with the approval of the Borough Conservation Officer.

The building will be transferred to the Trust and when funds permit work will be carried out on the interior and the grounds of the Ancient Monument to create additional amenity space in the centre of the village.

The time capsule with the names of donors and trustees has been placed in the eaves of the building. Thank you to everyone who donated.

We will need to continue to fundraise to complete the works and cover insurance and maintenance costs.

The Tower Grounds will shortly be open as a village amenity space and extension to the village green

Amazon do a charity support scheme called Amazon Smile where Amazon donate 0.5% of any sale to a nominated charity. We have created a charitable account for Gretton Tower Trust at Amazon. More details at the following link:

<https://smile.amazon.com/gp/chpf/homepage?orig=%2F>

Existing Amazon account holders simply create an additional log in AmazonSmile account and make their purchase as normal. There's no surcharge and the Smile account has all the same data, purchase history etc as the regular Amazon log in, except that the nominated charity get a 0.5% donation from Amazon.

We would appreciate your support - thank you.

Village homes flooded - again

The need for a flood sustainability plan for the village was borne out again the day before Christmas Eve when a number of houses in the village and Gretton Fields were flooded.

The flooding in 2007 was said to be a once in 100 years event but the village has flooded before and

now once more people have had their lives disrupted - and in this case Christmas ruined.

The flooding caught Tewkesbury Borough out. They had anticipated river water flooding, but not the ground water flooding which inundated some homes from saturated ground.

The Parish Council will make this one of its top priorities and will seek expert help.

In the meantime if you have been subject to flooding since the turn of the millennium please contact us so we can build a detailed plan of the vulnerable areas in the village.

Contact your Councillors

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