

Allington Community Plan Review July – December 2018

FINAL REPORT



**Undertaken by
Community Lincs**

Community Lincs

Community Lincs is a Lincolnshire charity working to sustain and improve the quality of life for individuals and communities across the county. Established in 1927, Community Lincs has used its extensive knowledge of Lincolnshire's communities to develop a range of projects and support services. This support helps local groups and volunteers to provide services and facilities within their communities. In addition to our general advice services we offer targeted consultancy and business support.

Community Lincs helps communities **identify** local need and implement viable solutions

Community Lincs works in **partnership** to achieve sustainable communities

Community Lincs **champions** the issues and concerns of communities across the county

Community Lincs **delivers** a range of professional consultancy services

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Client Brief

The last Community (Parish Plan) for Allington was prepared 5 years ago in 2013 based on consultations completed in 2011. The Parish Council wished this Plan to be reviewed and updated. Community Lincs were commissioned to support the community to undertake this work.

The Role of Community Lincs and the Consultation Process

Community Lincs, an independent and impartial organisation proposed to undertake the Community Plan Review in three phases with each subsequent phase being informed by the previous phase. This ensures that the work is customised to best meet the needs as they are identified.

Phase 1

Review the success of the previous Plan by undertaking a scoping exercise with the Parish Council / Steering Group.

Produce a Household flyer to advertise and engage the community with the Community Plan Review.

Phase 2

Undertake a community event gathering initial information about what people like and dislike.

Deliver young people's consultation by working through the local school to identify key development issues of concern for young people (under 11).

Provide the opportunity for secondary age young people to participate in a photographic competition identifying their likes and dislikes within the community.

Design a communitywide questionnaire in collaboration with the Steering Group to explore views on identified key themes extracted from the community consultation activities.

Phase 3

Produce a report of the findings of the consultation exercises including an Action Plan that will be used to guide the implementation of a revised Community Plan led by the Parish Council.

The consultation timescales and activities undertaken were as follows:



Methodology and Arrangements

The Action Plan compiled as part of the 2013 Community Plan document was scrutinised to identify those actions that had been addressed (48%) and the reasons why some actions had not (Appendix 1).

A flyer (Appendix 2) was sent to all households in the village to advertise the consultation that was to take place in the village hall at the time of the Macmillan Coffee morning (30th September 2018) the aim of which was as to capture and record community views through a series of activities. Alongside this activity beermats (Appendix 3) were placed in the pub and shop to provide a further opportunity for the community to have their say.

This information along with the comments collected via beermats in the Welby Arms and the village store were used to develop a household questionnaire delivered in November 2018.

Acknowledgements

Community Lincs gratefully acknowledges the assistance provided by volunteers from the community (Steering Group), the licensee of the Welby Arms, the owner of Allington Village Stores and the head teacher of Allington with Sedgebrook Church of England Primary School throughout the consultation period.

Interim Consultation Findings

Macmillan Coffee Morning 30th September 2018

37 people participated in the activities provided. A selection of the comments are listed below (Appendix 4 lists all comments collected at this event).

What would you say is good about living in Allington?

Safe place to live and great community.

Lots happening in the village, plenty of clubs, activities etc.

Excellent amenities for all ages especially pub and shop.

Has the only Square Dance Club in Lincs and been in existence for 34 years.

What is not so good about living in Allington?

Anti social behaviour at the Playing Fields.

Trees being taken down - Dead wood removed and not left as natural habitats for wildlife.

Rat run between Sedgebrook and through Allington to the A1.

Too many speeders on Park Avenue.

Lack of public transport.

What are your three top priorities for improvements to make Allington an even better place to live?

Traffic speed on Side Street should be 20 mph all the way along.

Move the 30mph sign at Sedgebrook Road past Peach Lane so traffic is slower past the end of Peach Lane.

Hedges regularly cut along Peach Lane to allow double lane access. Saves cars going on the verge when passing, also cars getting scratched.

Behaviour monitored at the Playing Field.

Speed limit stickers for wheelie bins.

Remaining priorities from the existing Action Plan

Participants were invited to identify the key priorities from the 2013 Action Plan that are still important to them. (Figure 1)

Analysis of the results used a weighted average score to identify the key priorities.

(This table also includes comments that were received from the Parish Council regarding reasons why they had been unable to action some of these priorities).

Allington Community Plan Review



Its time to review our Community Plan created in 2013.

Our aim is to create a new Action Plan to help the Parish Council prioritise what is needed in Allington.

We wish to:

- Identify new issues that may have arisen since the last Action Plan was produced 5 years ago.
- Hear your views, good and not so good about living in Allington.

The Parish Council have recruited a team of volunteers who will be working with Community Lincs* to help prepare this Action Plan.

Save the Date

We will be at the Macmillan Coffee Morning in the Village Hall on:
Saturday 29th September 2018
10.30 - 12.30pm

Please come along, get involved and have your say!

*Community Lincs is a County Wide Rural Development Charity:
www.communitylincs.com

Actions	Comments from Parish Council	Weighted Average
Request 'Turn Left' signs at exit from Arena UK.	No comment made.	1.33
The road between Sedgebrook and Allington should be gritted in icy weather.	Requested numerous times. Council say we are about 80th on the waiting list of roads in the area of priority to be gritted.	1.17
Better signage of weight and height restrictions to discourage large vehicles from entering the village.	Weight and height restriction signs can only be displayed where there is an option for a vehicle to turn around - therefore no sign can be placed along Gonerby Lane or Sedgebrook Road, they are displayed further afield.	1.08
The pavement between the shop and the church gates should be repaired.	This request is with highways and ongoing. The Parish Council has requested that the existing stone is retained.	0.83
Side Street to be a one-way street from the Village Green down to Bottom Street.	No comment made.	0.81
More bins to be provided possibly at the village end of each major footpath (e.g. Marston Lane, Peach Lane, Bottesford Lane, Lambert Road).	Council were approached, stated they were doing a survey but nothing further has happened. Emptying of further dog waste bins will have to be by contractors and paid for by Parish Council (resident's contribution).	0.72
Footpaths together with stiles should be re-instated where necessary and made fully accessible with signposts. A map could be made available within the village, possibly a reprint of the WI leaflet.	Think the WI leaflet was being looked into.	0.53
Under 20's should be invited to join a Youth Forum in the village to have a say in the future of Allington.	Don't think this ever happened.	0.53
Refurbishment or replacement of Pavilion and toilets.	New pavilion going through the process of planning at present, nothing regarding the toilets. Toilets are not in need of replacement.	0.53
Investigate the possibility of a parking lay-by on Marston Lane and request assistance to enforce the law relating to non-blocking of residential drives on Marston Lane.	No comment made.	0.5
A large majority of respondents feel safe in the village but nevertheless there were requests for an improved police presence. This should be discussed further with villagers and the local police officers.	PCSO comes to the village some Tuesday afternoons at the Post office for a drop in session for residents to go with any problems.	0.44

Actions	Comments from Parish Council	Weighted Average
Contact details of villagers willing to give lifts to residents who are otherwise unable to access services could be made available.	Not heard that this has been set up. There were questions though regarding data protection to organise this.	0.39
Ban dogs from Playing Field (apart from perimeter).	This is only possible if the matter is able to be policed - it is not. Bans/by-law cannot be implemented if there is know formal policing of it.	0.33
A large majority of respondents wanted no new development. Villagers who wanted some development requested conversion of existing buildings or infill only, to provide starter homes.	No comment made.	0.31
Wood area for dens etc.	There is a wood area in the bottom corner of the playing field that children have used since the park was first established for making dens. Obviously if they want a designated area then they are going to have to wait until the community wood has grown sufficiently to facilitate this.	0.28
Enlargement of car park.	Different options are being tried regarding increasing parking at the field ie parking at the bottom end of the field.	0.25
Cricket facilities / Tennis club / Bowling Green / Bike track.	No comment made.	0.25
Outdoor 'gym' equipment.	No comment made.	0.19
The camber on the Side Street pavement should be remedied if possible when it is next re-laid.	Side Street has not been relaid.	0.14
Investigate the possibility of a parking lay-by on Gonerby Lane or nearby.	No comment made.	0.06
Skateboard / BMX / Scooter area.	No comment made.	0.06

Figure 1

Map Activity

Participants were invited to use the prepared map as a means of identifying locations for specific concerns within the parish.

Figure 2 illustrates the comments received and identifies locations.

Location	Comment	Location	Comment
Recreation Ground	Clear fire site, lock gate.	Bottom Street	Dangerous parking issues on Bottom Street at school time.
	Wild flowers in the community wood, with a sign for info.	School area	Parking near school a problem - difficult for residents.
	Woodland shouldn't be sprayed with weed killer.	Sedgebrook Road	Repair footway and cut back hedges.
	Allington sign up to Charter for Trees, Lincoln Charter for Trees.	Gunerby Lane	Gunerby Lane - Horse boxes and school parking traffic.
	Petanque groups in village.		Barrier needs extending on bridge of Gunerby Lane.
	Toilets at field refurbished.		Adverse camber on Gunerby Lane.
	Police presence to stop drugs at field.		Rebuild Gunerby Lane completely.
Stonepit plantation	Plant more trees in open area.		Edges of Gunerby Lane.
The Green	Red phone box reinstating.	General	Whole village speed limit on wheelie bins.
	Great tall trees in open area.		Lorries from Kestrel coming into the village.
	Village cross repair.		Petanque groups in village.
Peach Lane	Move 30mph sign to other side of Peach Lane.		More trees around the village.
	Crack in road.		Dog mess around village.
			Entry points to the village are a good welcome.

Figure 2

After the coffee morning further publicity was generated to encourage community participation in the other interim consultation activities and illustrate the timeline for the completion of the Community Plan Review. This information was made available through the village website (Appendix 6).

Beermat Consultation

55 beermats were returned via the collection boxes provided. Many of the comments received mirrored those collected at the coffee morning.

What do you like about Allington?

Responders praise the village for its amenities, friendliness and peacefulness.

Picturesque well-kept village, good community feel, shop, pub, school, village hall and local walks. Friendly and loads of community events.

It has a very peaceful and friendly feel about it.

What do you dislike about Allington?

Most of the comments received relate to respondents concern over the condition of the roads, speeding traffic and inconsiderate parking.

Pot holes.

Through traffic and road quality.

The destruction of the verges. Too many cars parked with little thought.

Heavy goods vehicles and village used as a rat run.

What should be the priority for improvement or change in Allington?

The comments received were categorised under

- Traffic / Roads

*Restricting through traffic particularly with the planned expansion at Downtown.
Parking area around school at top end of Viking way alleviating blocked drives and congestion on Side Street/Bottom Street and Gonerby Lane.
Traffic too fast at Peach Lane and cannot see around corner to left when leaving Peach Lane.
Road safety.
Pothole and hedges cut down in Lambert Road.*

- Amenities and Services

*Cross needs repairing and the red phone box.
Red phone box project.
More dog bins in walking areas, i.e. Back Lane and School Lane, Park Road.
Permanent post office, surgery.
A good bus service, wheelchair ramps on all kerbs at junctions.
The path needs to be mended on the pathway down to school as lots of people trip and fall.*

- Housing

*Affordable Housing.
Some small housing.
Starter homes. (Danger of being a retiree's only village).*

- Playfield

*New full sized goals at playing field.
Continuation of work on playing field and community wood.
The sports field to be able to play cricket as we used to.
Have the toilets open.*

- Other

More community events like Christmas.

A full list of the comments can be found in the appendices (Appendix 5).

Engaging Young People

Young people (11-18 years) were invited to participate in a photographic competition via posters, word of mouth and the Allington online website as a way of gathering views about the village.

Even with a prize on offer only one entry was received (Appendix 7) which highlighted good play equipment but not liking the fact that the toilets are always locked.

Young people 8 -11 years were informally surveyed regarding play facilities by one of the volunteers assisting with the Plan Review.

Approximately 12 young people participated.

Feedback from these young people highlighted: They like going to the playing field, enjoy the equipment but find it is a bit young for them.

They asked if there could be some slightly larger pieces of equipment e.g.

- A wooden climbing frame with a slide fixed to the top (similar to the piece of equipment in the fenced area but much bigger and stronger).
- A zip wire.
- A large roundabout that are waist high and “you push then jump on and off”.
- Tennis nets for the summer and maybe a rugby goal post.

Allington Primary School children were visited by staff from Community Lincs during assembly. Children were asked to put forward their ideas on what is important in the community. The children did this through writing their ideas on a paper leaf that then formed a Wish Tree.

All the comments collected were categorised under a number of headings (Appendix 7).

Increase the types of equipment in the park, a specific area for dog walkers, a heated shelter for older children, a clock above the village hall and a cafe were some of the new facility ideas generated.



**Allington Community Plan
Review Photography
Competition**

Do you have a smart phone or camera?

If you are a **Young adult or Teenager** we are wanting **your opinion** for the places **you love and those you'd like improving** in Allington.




Don't worry if you know someone has already submitted the same place, the more we get the better we can understand what you like or don't in your village.




Please send all entries in a **JPEG format, no more than 5 Meg** to janet.clark@communitylincs.com with your name attached by **Wednesday 31st October 2018**. The winners for both categories will be announced on Monday 12th November on Allington Online.



Community safety ideas related to a bigger car park for the school and some zebra crossings to make the roads safer to cross.



Some children also suggested ideas for new facilities at the school including swings and a trampoline.



Household Questionnaire

One questionnaire per household (457) was distributed during the third week of November (Appendix 8). Additional questionnaires were made available in the shop or residents could complete the online version of the questionnaire.

138 completed paper questionnaires returned.

26 completed using the online version.

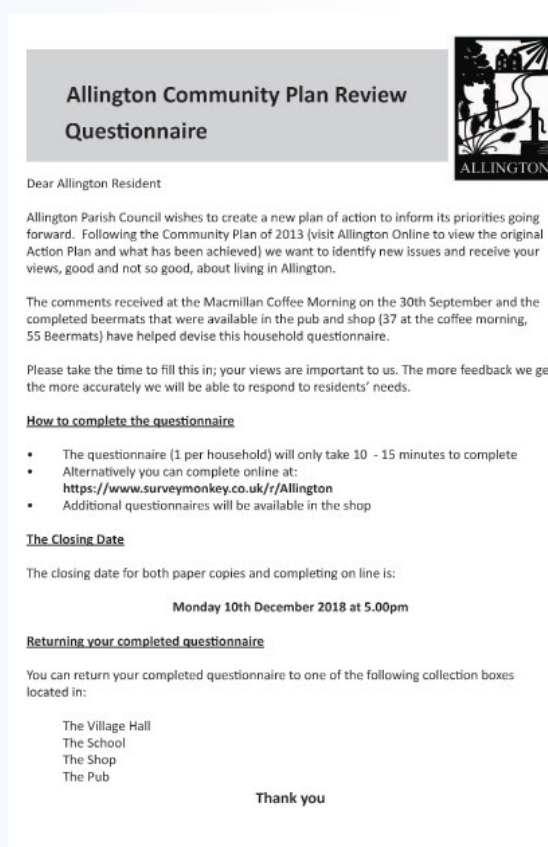
This gives an overall response rate of 36%.

Analysis Methodology Quantitative and Qualitative Data Handling

This analysis is based only on returned questionnaires and does not take into consideration 64% of the surveyed population. Whilst the questionnaire response rate was comparable with similar surveys of this type, no inference can be made that the responses wholly represent all residents of Allington. However the analysis will be used as a guide to community opinions in order to shape a new Allington Community Action Plan to support the Parish Council in its activities going forward.

Analysis of the Household Questionnaire

The design of the questionnaire was based on the need to incorporate key issues identified from the interim initial consultation activities with the community, ensuring that those relevant areas of concern to the community were addressed. The method of design involved both Community Lincs and the Community Action Plan volunteers drafting and refining the questions to ensure overall size of the questionnaire was appropriate whilst important themes were covered.



Allington Community Plan Review Questionnaire

Dear Allington Resident

Allington Parish Council wishes to create a new plan of action to inform its priorities going forward. Following the Community Plan of 2013 (visit Allington Online to view the original Action Plan and what has been achieved) we want to identify new issues and receive your views, good and not so good, about living in Allington.

The comments received at the Macmillan Coffee Morning on the 30th September and the completed beermats that were available in the pub and shop (37 at the coffee morning, 55 Beermats) have helped devise this household questionnaire.

Please take the time to fill this in; your views are important to us. The more feedback we get the more accurately we will be able to respond to residents' needs.

How to complete the questionnaire

- The questionnaire (1 per household) will only take 10 - 15 minutes to complete
- Alternatively you can complete online at: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Allington>
- Additional questionnaires will be available in the shop

The Closing Date

The closing date for both paper copies and completing online is:

Monday 10th December 2018 at 5.00pm

Returning your completed questionnaire

You can return your completed questionnaire to one of the following collection boxes located in:

- The Village Hall
- The School
- The Shop
- The Pub

Thank you

Where do you live?

Question 1: Do you live in?

The intention of this question was to identify the percentage of responders who reside in the two main areas of the community as a way of supporting the analysis should there be common threads pertinent to a specific location (Figure 3).



Figure 3

As an introduction, the questionnaire wanted to identify responders' views on the village as a place to live, highlighting important features and the length of time those responding to the questions had lived in Allington.

Question 2: How long have you lived in Allington?

Of the 163 responses to this question 95 responders (58%) have lived in the village for more than 11 years. Figure 4 illustrates the full breakdown.

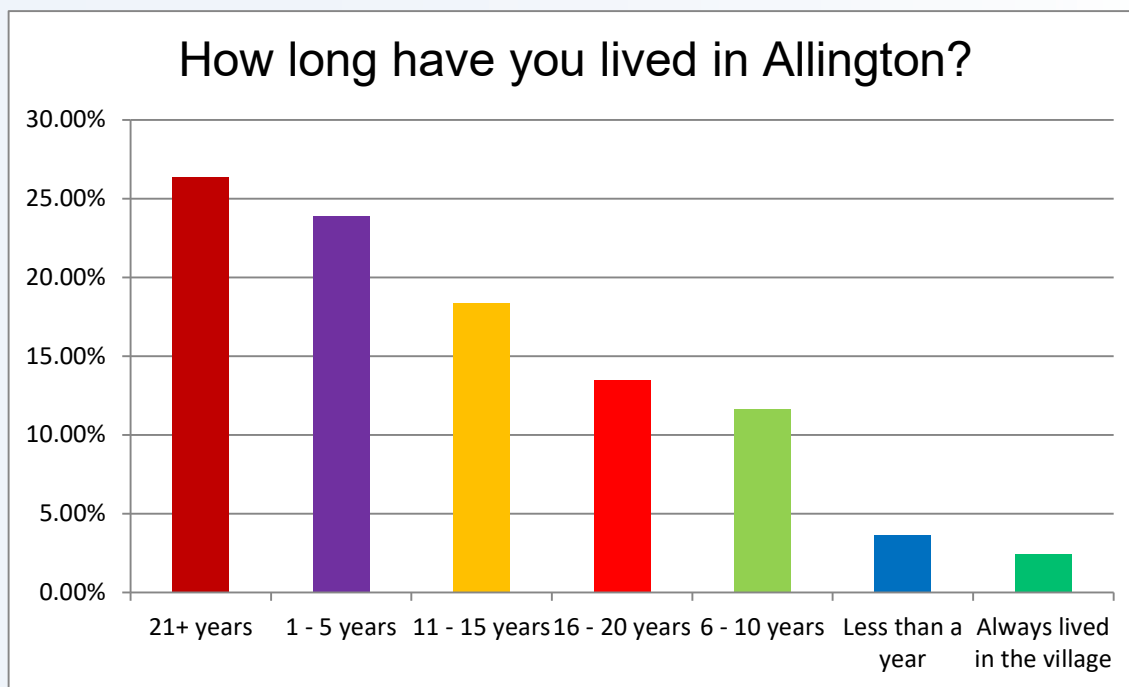


Figure 4

Question 3: From the statements below please indicate which one reflects your opinion most accurately.

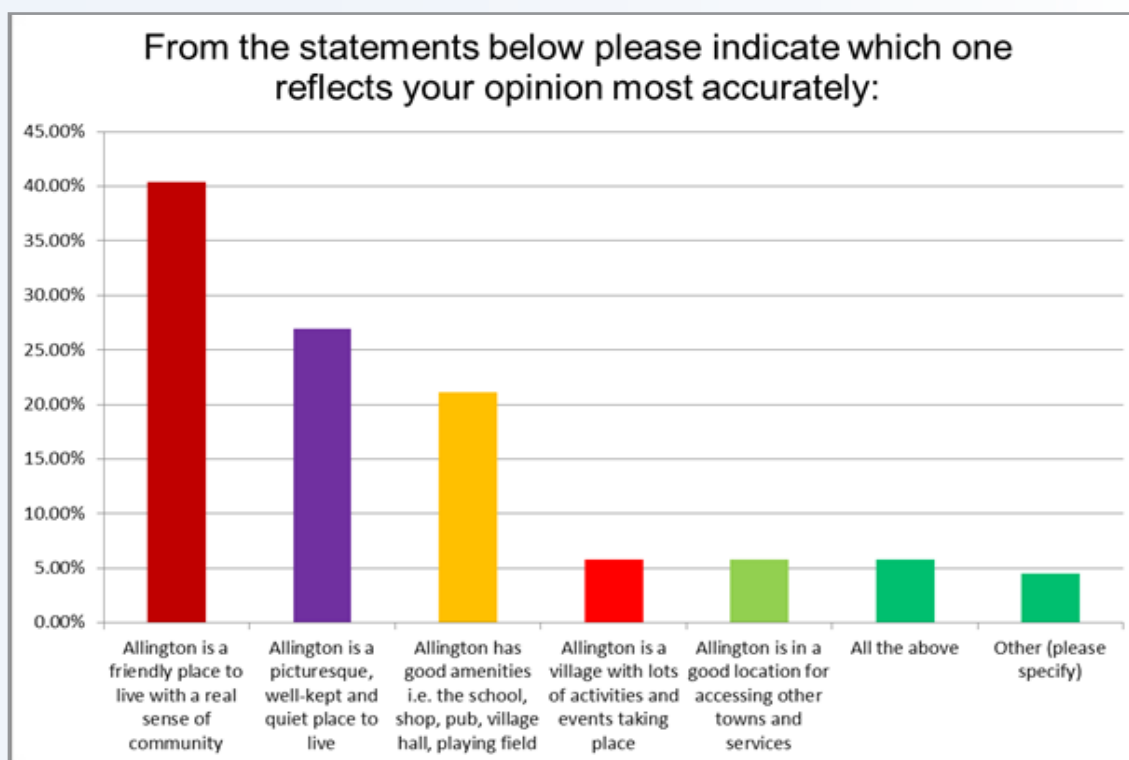


Figure 5

156 responses were collected and 8 responders skipped question 3.

Responders have high regard for Allington as a friendly village with a good sense of community. A quarter of all responders also value the visual appearance of the village, its quietness and amenities (Figure 5).

Additional related comments (other)

Allington has good amenities and lots of facilities and events taking place.

Post Office (VH). Mobile library for anyone and another service for those who can't get about easily.

Traffic, Parking and Transport

During the interim consultation activity traffic and parking remained high on the list of concerns of residents engaged in the process. As there is a correlation with public transport issues, questions related to this were included in this sub section.

Question 4: To prioritise our actions please identify if the following are very important, important, not important to you?

163 responses were collected and 1 responder skipped the question.

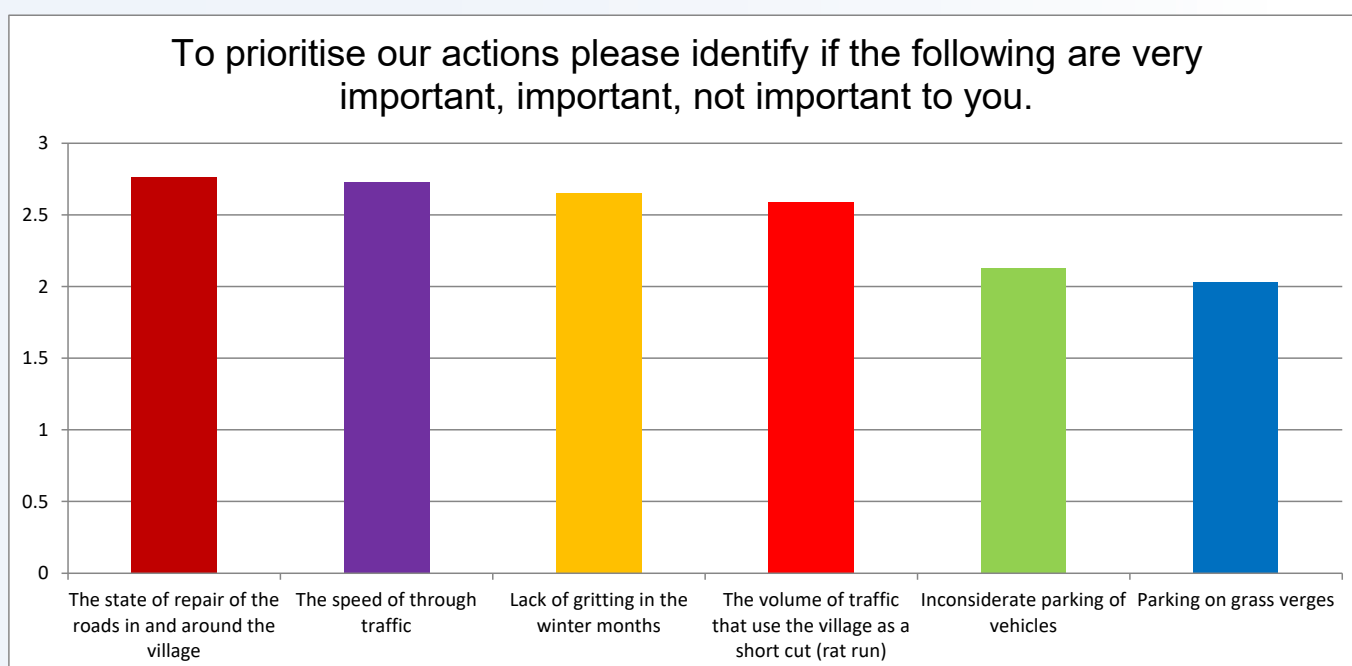


Figure 6

Weighted Average
(of those expressing a preference)

Weighting Factors - Very Important = 3, Important = 2,
Not Important = 1

Figure 6 illustrates that the highest priorities amongst responders is the state of road repairs, winter gritting and the speed and volume of traffic.

Question 5: Do you have difficulty accessing services outside of the village, e.g. GP, Pharmacy?

100% of responders answered this question.

Answer Choices	Responses	
No	79.88%	131
Yes	20.12%	33

Figure 7

Although the vast majority of responders indicated that they do not have a problem accessing services outside of the village, a significant 20% stated that they do have difficulty.

Question 6: If "Yes" what is the main reason for this?

38 responses were collected. The common problems and concerns recorded were:

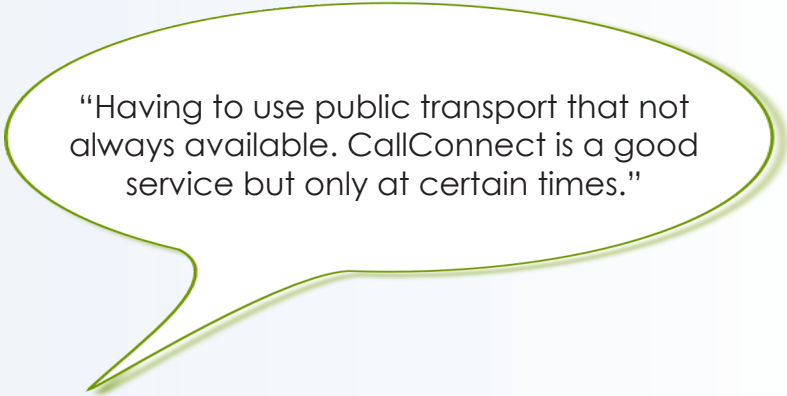
- Not having a car

"The main reason is no transport of my own."

- Age/health related concerns regarding driving

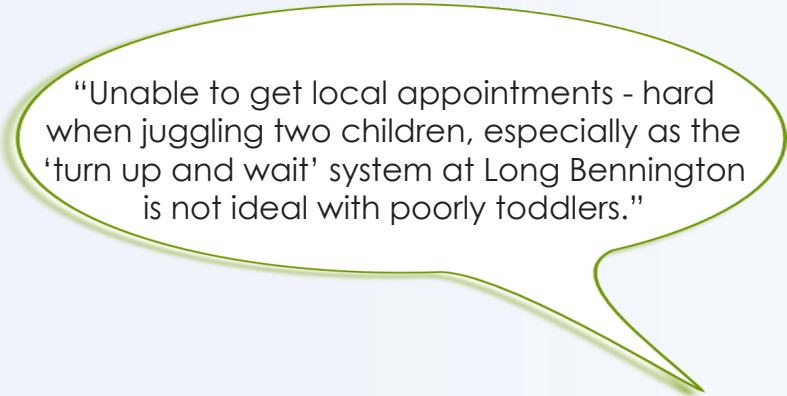
"I am disabled, my wife works shift work and I rely on her to drive"

- Lack of public transport. CallConnect times not always suitable.



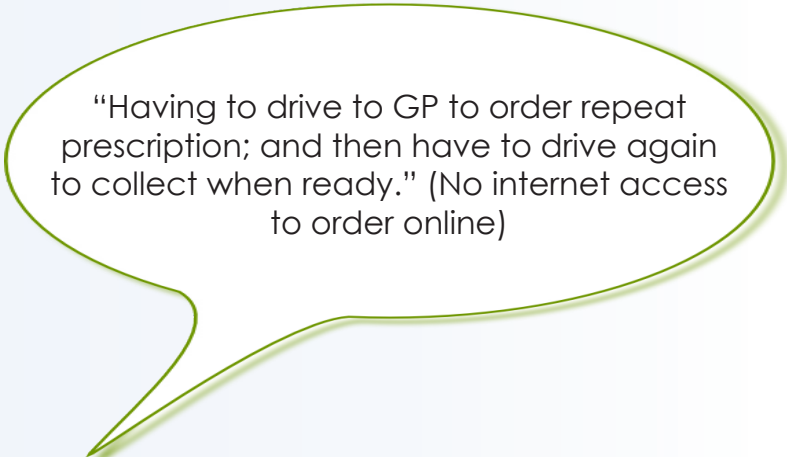
"Having to use public transport that not always available. CallConnect is a good service but only at certain times."

- Difficulty with GP appointments (Long Bennington).



"Unable to get local appointments - hard when juggling two children, especially as the 'turn up and wait' system at Long Bennington is not ideal with poorly toddlers."

- Problems ordering and collecting prescriptions.



"Having to drive to GP to order repeat prescription; and then have to drive again to collect when ready." (No internet access to order online)

Question 7: Do you know how CallConnect Works?

CallConnect is a public bus service that operates in response to pre-booked requests.

Answer Choices	Responses	
No	75.31%	122
Yes	24.69%	40

Figure 8

2 responders skipped the question.

Question 8: Do you use the CallConnect service on average:

Answer Choices	Responses	
Never	77.78%	126
Less often	14.20%	23
Weekly	5.56%	9
Monthly	2.47%	4
Everyday	0.00%	0

Figure 9

2 responders skipped the question.

Question 9: If you are a regular user of CallConnect what is the main reason for your journey?

28 responses were recorded, 136 responders skipped the question.

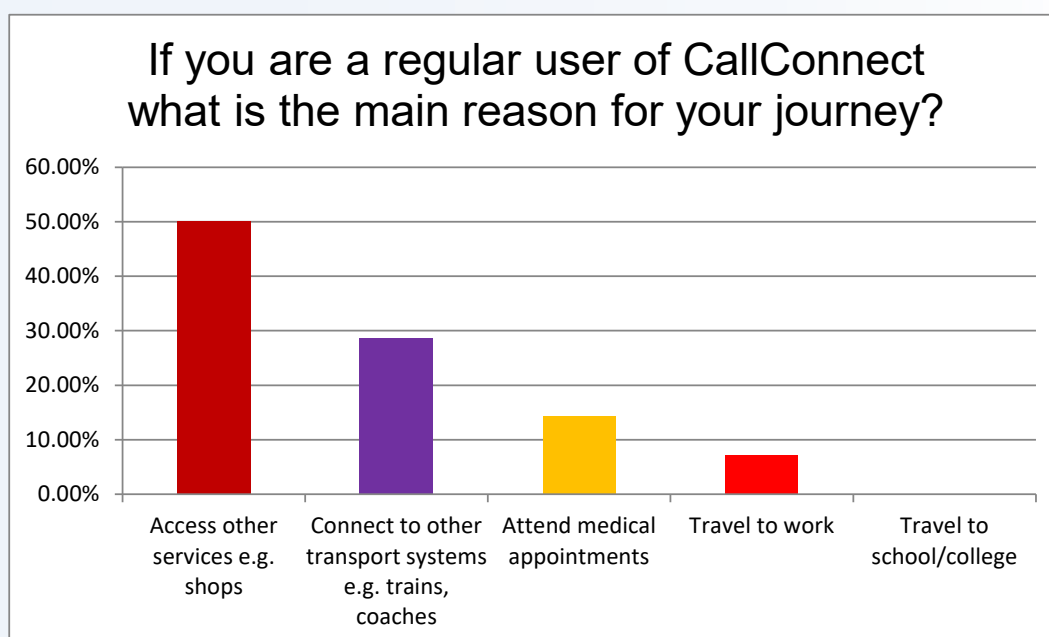


Figure 10

Questions 7, 8 and 9 illustrate that although the majority of responders are familiar with CallConnect regular usage is limited with the majority using the service infrequently.

The number of responders (25%) that do not know how the service operates is significant, although we are unable to conclude why this is the case.

Village Amenities

This section of the questionnaire wished to ascertain the support for village amenities and events and the main channel used by responders for information.

Question10: Do you attend events in the village hall?

157 responses were collected, 7 responders skipped the question.

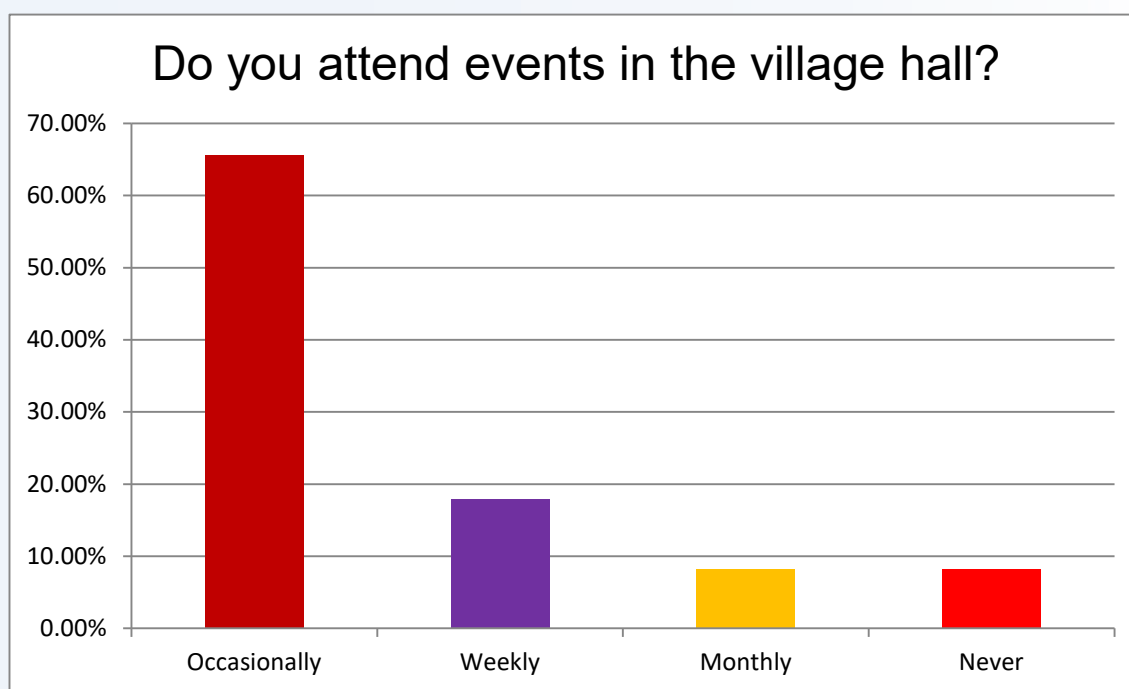


Figure11

92% of responders indicated that they attend events at the village hall at least occasionally with 18% attending activities on at least a weekly basis.

Question 11: If you answered 'never' attend events at the village hall, please indicate a reason for this.

12 responses were collected. These have been loosely categorised in Figure 12.

Time Commitments	Interests	Other
Only moved into village from Foston on 16.11.18. Will use as required.	The functions that have been put on there have not been of interest and we don't get enough notice of dates for the diary.	The village is lovely and the committee work hard to keep its community feeling but there are too many people who like to keep their 'clique' circles and this makes others feel unwelcome.
Away when events on.	No events that interest us yet. We have only lived here about three months.	As I no longer have my car I find even the walk to the village very painful with my legs and feet.
Too busy.	Lack of interest.	Only just settling in.
	No events I want to go to.	
	Nothing on I want to go to.	
	Visited at weekends for Macmillan Coffee Morning and Christmas Fair but nothing available for families with young children.	

Figure 12

Question 12: Do you attend other events in the village, e.g. fireworks festivities, 'On the Green'?

159 responses were collected, 5 responders skipped the question.

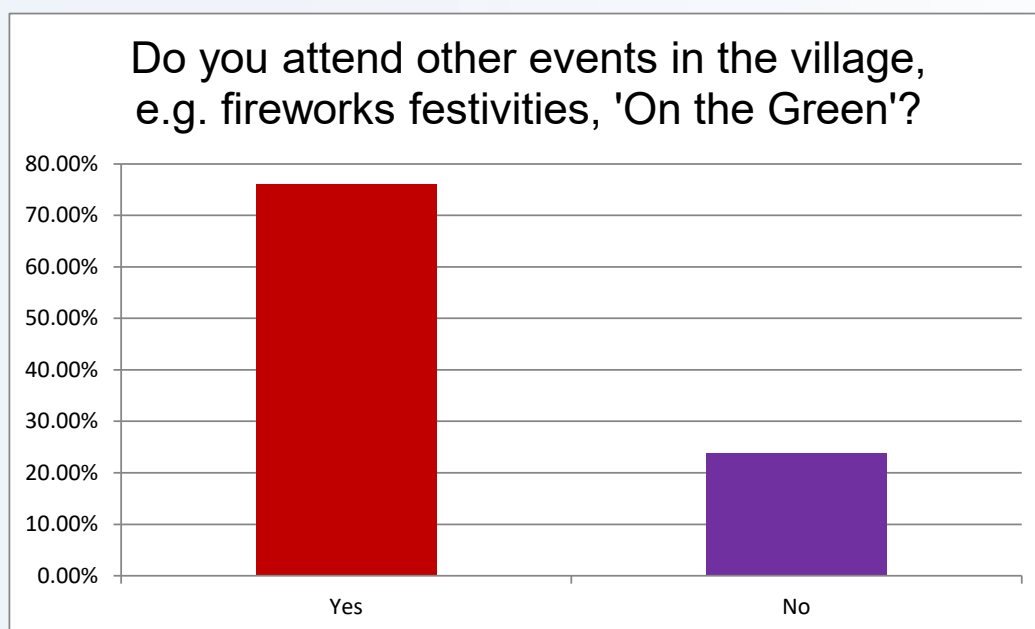


Figure13

A pleasing 76% of responders indicated that they attend these community events.

Question13: Once the community woodland has established how important are the following?

159 responses were collected, 5 responders skipped the question.

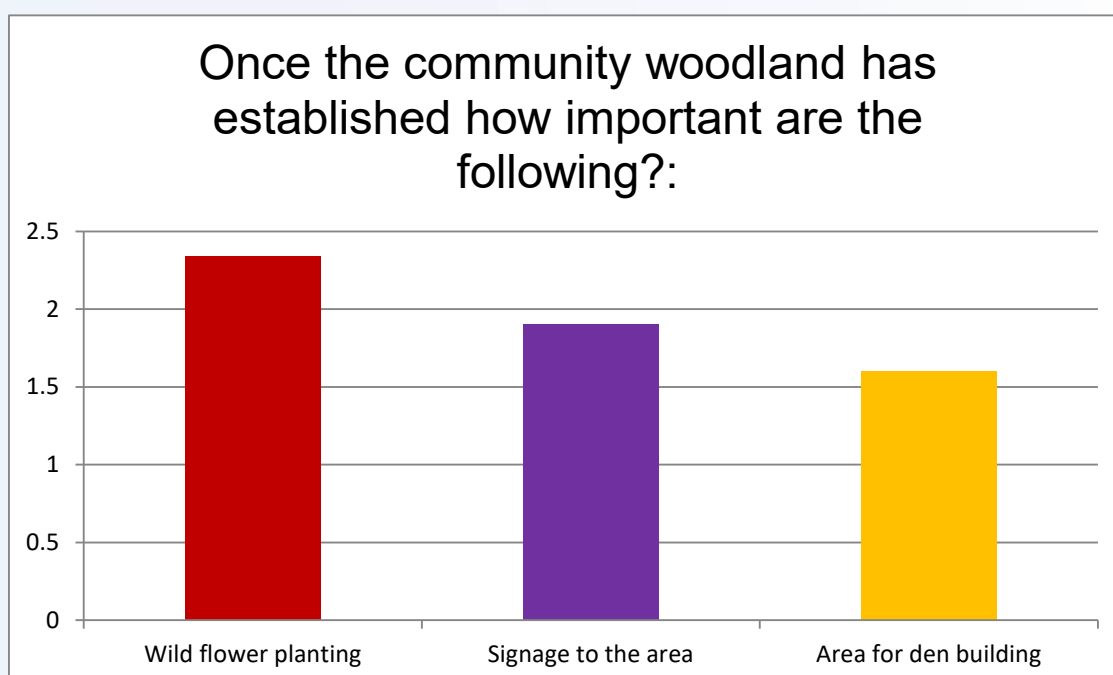


Figure 14

Weighted Average
(of those expressing a preference)

Weighting Factors - Very important = 3, Important = 2,
Not important = 1

The percentage weighted score illustrated in Figure 14 shows that wild flower planting is seen as the most important activity option. As young people are not the primary responders to this questionnaire it is not surprising that den building is seen as the least important priority from the options given.

15 other comments were recorded:

Bird/hedgehog nesting boxes, bird friendly planting, log piles for insects.
Seating, dog mess bins, waste bins.
Regular maintenance is very important.
Easy maintenance of the wood.
Access for disabled.
Replace trees as 90% have died.
Aesthetics.
Planting fruit trees, community orchard.
Den building in mature woodlands i.e. small copse to the south.
Maintenance and management.
Haven't heard about den building.
A peaceful quiet place to visit and sit in, an area to go for a walk. Ensure area is not subject to fly tipping and kept in good order.
A wood should be mature before den building and cycling permitted.
Multi use trail for walkers and cyclists through the area and around the playing field would be a great addition.
Keeping unleashed dogs away.

Question 14: Would you support activities that fund raise for the church?

The Holy Trinity church is a central part of the community and like all buildings requires regular maintenance and improvements.

151 responses were recorded, 13 responders skipped the question.

Answer Choices	Responses	
No	75.31%	123
Yes	18.54%	28

Figure 15

A large majority of responders would support church fundraising activities.

Question15: How often should the toilets on the playing field be open?

148 responses were recorded, 16 responders skipped the question.

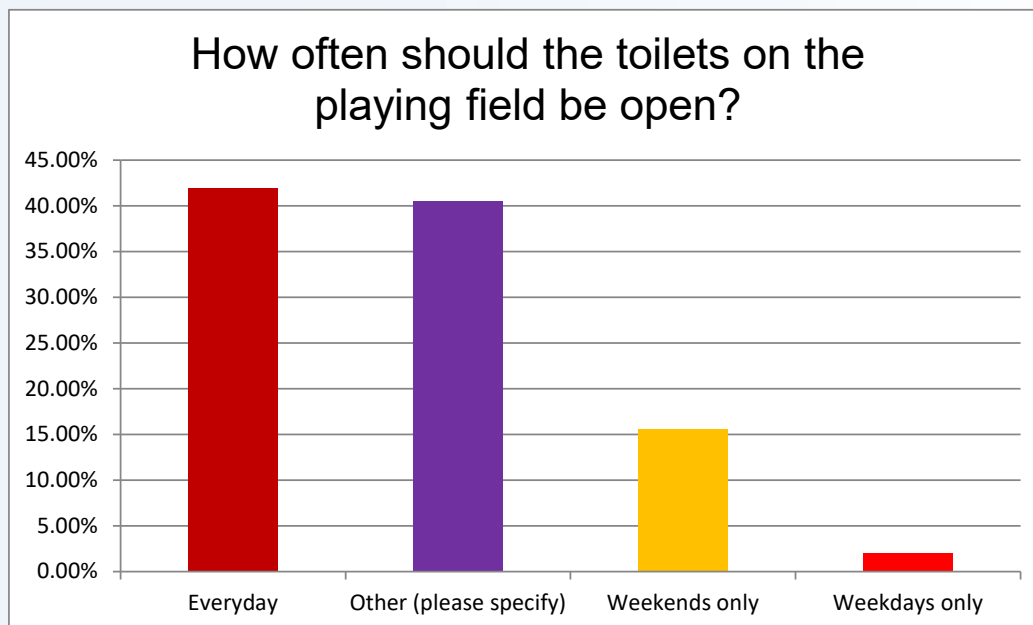


Figure 16

Figure 16 suggests that the majority of responders feel that the opening times for the toilets should have some restrictions. Although 62 responders agree the toilets should be open every day 86 responders (58%) suggested other options.

Events

Whenever an event is held at the playing field. (19 comments)

When in use for organised events. (5 comments)

Depending on events.

Events etc when supervised.

Only when the playing field is used. fireworks, etc. and sports events.

For all events on the playing field (eg football, fireworks).

Happy for them to be open for events/matches only as may encourage anti-social behaviour at other times.

Weekends only and events.

When functions are held there.

Only when visiting the fireworks.

Policing toilets would be difficult. Perhaps just open for events like football etc.

Clubs / Supervised

For regular clubs and events and maybe a key at the shop and have to leave a deposit when you borrow it.

When supervision is available.

When there is an activity/function ie football matches, etc.

When activities are taking place I was unaware that there are toilets on the playing field. Who maintains/cleans them?

When there are events on the field or it is being used by clubs.

When the field is in use.

Only when events/sports etc are on (to prevent vandalism).

Only when activities taking place. (3 comments)

Only when supervised by users are present.

Events like football matches.

When field is in use.

Normal Opening

School holidays. Events held on the playing field.

Limited times according to season.

Weekends and school holidays.

Weekends only term time and all week in Summer holidays.

School holidays would be a good idea, some of the young mum's have children playing there.

Holidays

Would be helpful if everyday for families visiting play area with pre-school children from say 9am (dusk to dawn) later if events taking place.

Open all day is ideal, but could be vulnerable for mis-use.

Its the only place in the village that can be open to the general public.

Other

Didn't realise they were open for public use.

Never been to playing field.

Potential problems appreciated.

Not important.

Really don't know.

Question 16: A fund has been established to raise money to purchase a red phone box. What would you like to see it used for e.g. house the defibrillator, a library, village information centre?

149 responses were collected, 15 responders skipped the question.

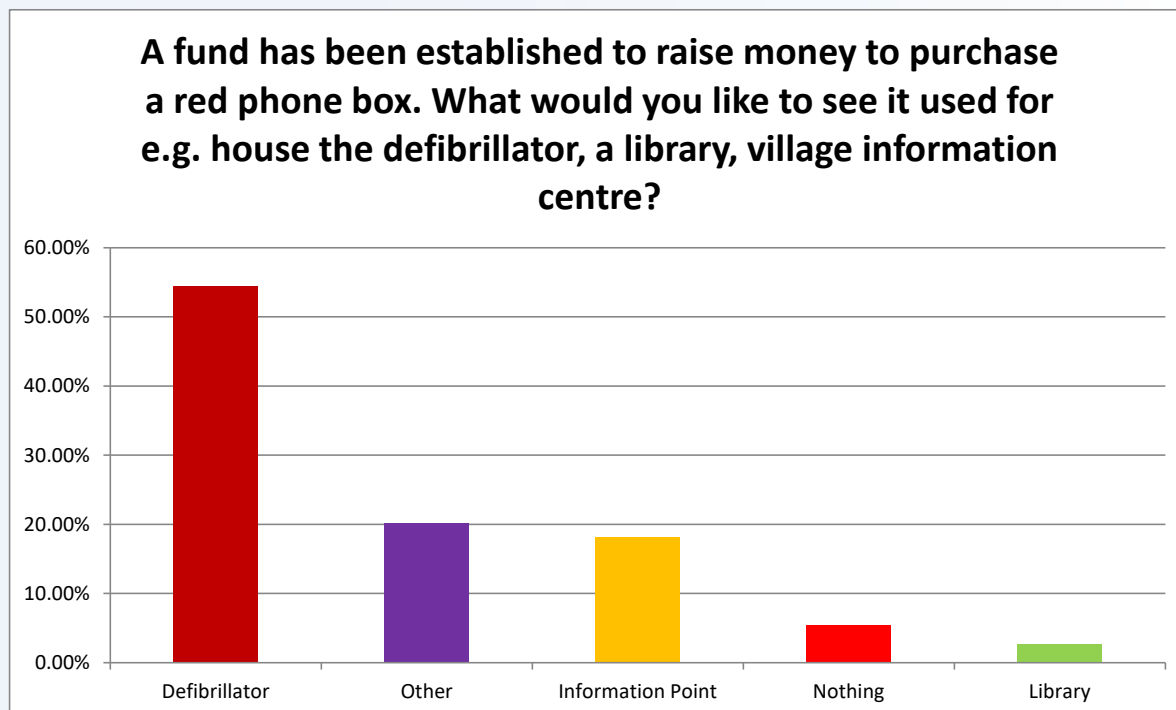


Figure 17

As illustrated in the graph (Figure 17), a large majority support a red phone box being used to house a defibrillator.

Other suggestions recorded:

Book swap

Information centre including taxi numbers.

7 responses recorded do not support the red phone box/defibrillator option.

Examples of comments:

"The defibrillator is already centrally located at the village hall which also houses the library. Use of a red phone box would need to be maintained. Unless there is a community need for purchasing it would be a pointless exercise."

"Not sure why there is a fund when Sedgebrook could purchase one for £1."

"Don't see a need for this also the library and defibrillator are already sited at the village hall and we have the notice boards at the shop and on the Green."

Question 17: How do you currently find out about what is happening in Allington?

162 responses were recorded, 2 responders skipped the question.



Figure 18

A mix of information channels are used by responders including the village newsletter.

Local Environment

Question 18: Dog Fouling has been recorded as an issue. Purchasing and emptying the bins has to be paid for.

150 responses were received, 14 responders skipped the question.

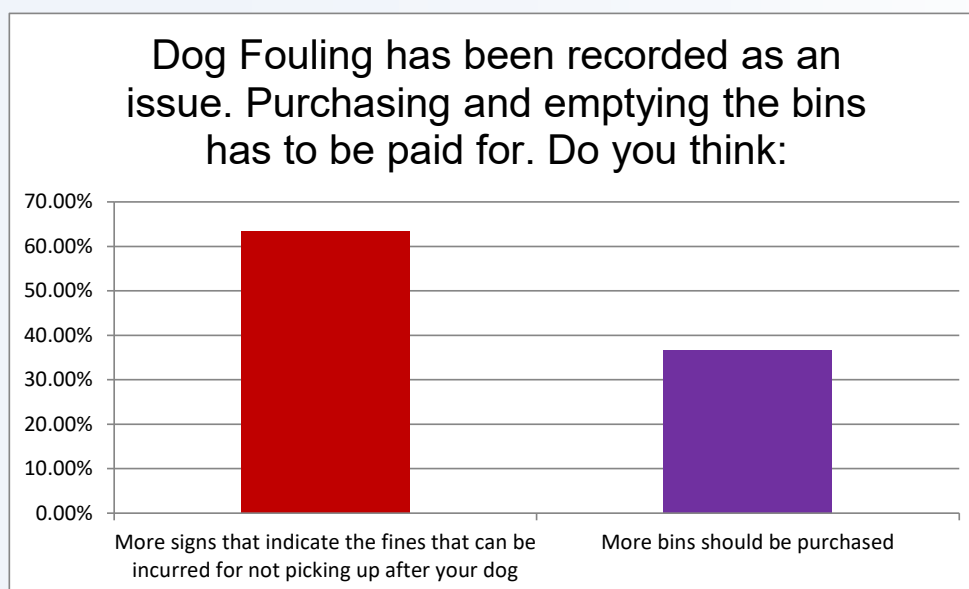


Figure 19

63% of responders favour the additional use of signage as a deterrent to dog owners who allow their dogs to foul public footpaths and spaces.

Question 19: How should weed control be managed in the village communal areas?

152 responses were collected 12 responders skipped the question.

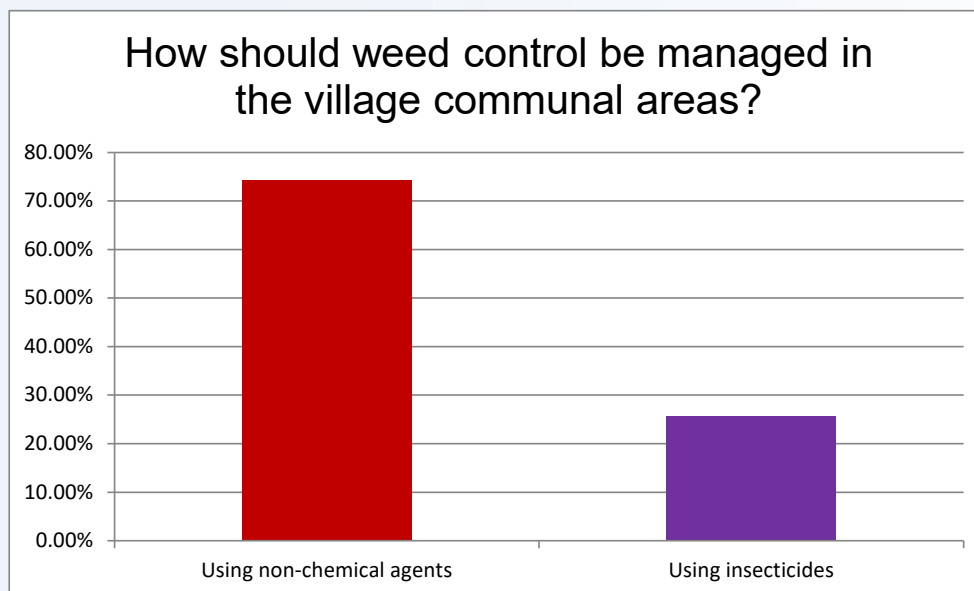


Figure 20

Over two thirds of responders favour the use of non-chemical agents as weed control for communal areas in the village.

Question 20: How important are the following in maintaining the visual appearance of Allington?

161 responses were collected, 3 responders skipped the question.

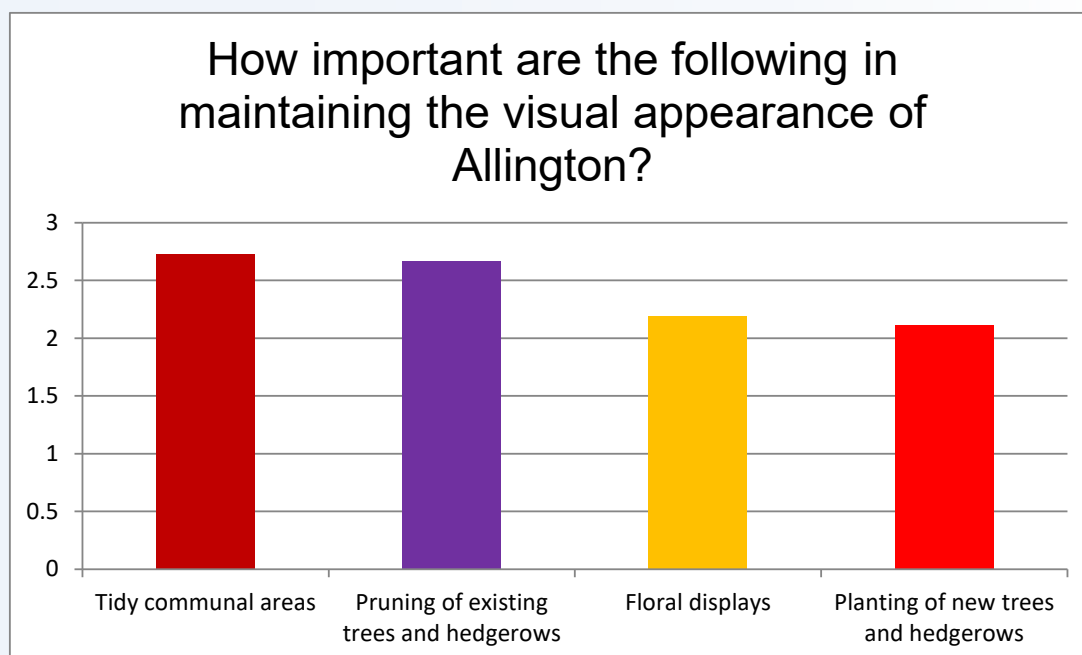


Figure 21

Weighted Average (of those expressing a preference)
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Weighting Factors - Very important = 3, Important = 2, Not important = 1

All the options offered received support from responders. Using the weighted average calculation identifies tidy communal areas and the pruning of existing trees and hedgerows as important in helping to maintain a good visual appearance in Allington.

Community Safety

Question 21: What, if any, is the biggest anti- social behaviour issue in the village?

This was an open question that received the second lowest number of responses at 87.

77 responders skipped the question.

Responses were categorised as follows with the number of similar responses shown in brackets.

A sample answer is shown under each heading. The full table can be seen in Appendix 9.

Dog fouling (25)

Dog walkers on the playing field ignoring the signs requiring them to use avenues around the periphery and not allow the animals onto the playing area.

Traffic / speeding vehicles (12)

Speed and size of vehicles through the village , throwing litter from vehicles.

Parking (11)

Parking and blocking the footpaths and damaging verges.

Playing field (11)

Playing field misuse and off road riders.

Rubbish (6)

Litter on approach roads into village and also on playing field.

Other (5)

Very concerned about the recent spate of incidents where pets have been shot or have disappeared.

Neighbours (2)

Residents letting areas look scruffy and untidy.

Question 22: How safe do you feel in Allington?

160 responses were recorded, 4 responders skipped the question.

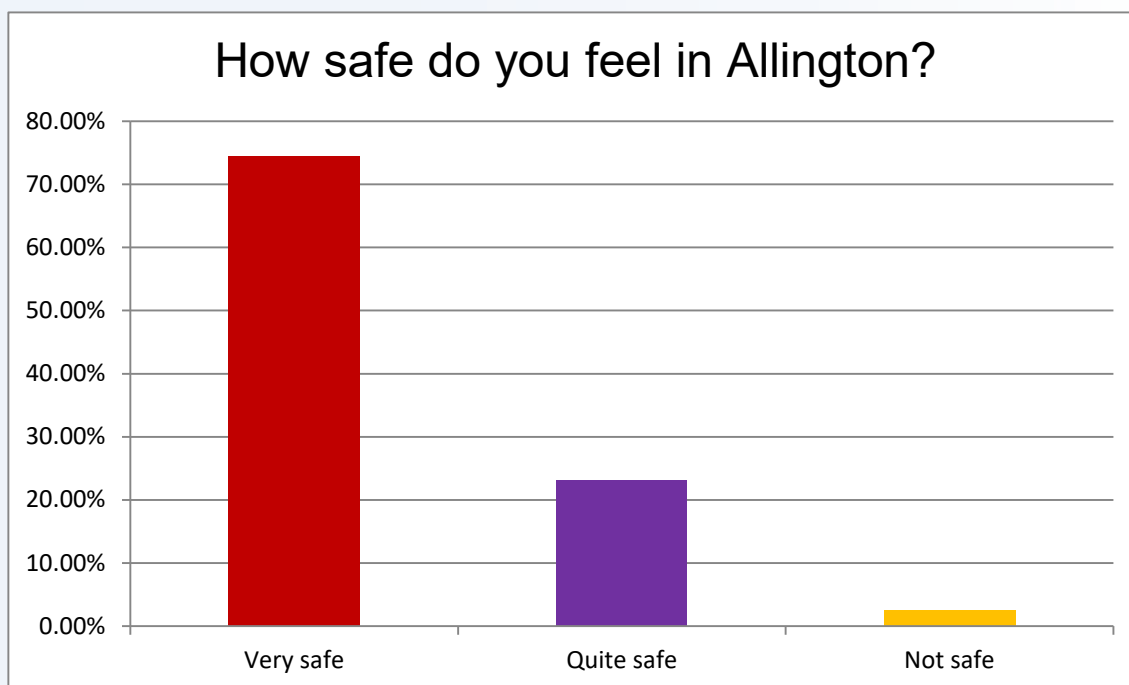


Figure 22

The graph (Figure 22) illustrates that 97.5 % of responders feel either very safe or quite safe in Allington whilst 4 responses were recorded as feeling not safe.

Question 23: If you do not feel safe, what is the main reason for this?

8 responses were received by responders who say they do not feel safe. This is twice as many recorded in Question 22.

Comments are shown in the table below.

Street lighting in some areas is quite poor. Pavements are not in a great condition and it's not easy to push a pushchair on them, hence sometimes forced on to road.	Promixity to the A1.
I walk to the pub in the dark and am aware of my surroundings. If I wear Hi viz I am identifying myself and could be a victim of attack. If I don't I could get run over. I carry a torch to see where I am going and as potential defensive weapon.	Lack of police presence.
More crime while people are away from home. Total lack of visible policing.	Bungalow break ins.
The village is quite dark during the winter months, torches are necessary to avoid injury.	Nervous when its dark where there is no lights.

Figure 23

Question 24: Do you know how to contact your local Community Support Officer?

158 responses were recorded, 6 responders skipped the question.

Answer Choices	Responses	
No	59.49%	94
Yes	40.51%	64

Figure 24

Whilst a majority of responders know how to contact the local Community Support Officer over a third of responders do not.

Volunteering

Question 25 and Question 26 aim to establish who may already volunteer in the village and who may be interested if not already doing so:

- 50 responders said they already volunteer.
- 36 responders would consider becoming a volunteer.

The questionnaire sign posted people to the Allington website and newsletter, to view the list of clubs and activities that require volunteers to run them and help out.

Other comments

Question 27: Would you like to make any other comments about living in Allington?

83 additional comments were received and can be viewed as a table (Appendix 10).

Positive (27 comments)
Ideal community.
Lovely to have a good pub shop and friendly folk.
It's a lovely place to live.
Thoroughly enjoy living here on the gardens.
We are lucky to have retained amenities shop, school etc and should use these. We are also lucky to have active community groups in the village providing entertainment, fund raising, community spirit and friendships. Enjoy support these.
We really enjoy living here in a beautiful friendly village.
Love activities and social events i.e. monthly coffee shop/cafe on the green etc . A great place to live.

Positive continued

We moved here 3 1/2 years ago from Great Gonerby and we are more involved in the village than in the 16 years we lived in Gonerby. Allington is a friendly welcoming village with a real sense of community.

Can drivers stop using the service road on The Green as a cut through, bus turning point and pub car park.

The shop and pub are also important parts of our village community. Will and Lottie have done an excellent job in rebuilding the shop since taking over.

Having lived here for 44 years it is a nice village. People fall out now and then but nothing drastic. We have a good community and luck to still have a pub, school, shop and village hall thanks to the people who keep them running.

We appreciate the provision of a good school, pub/restaurant, Allington Manor venue, shop, village hall and clubs, playing field, litter pickers and all the people supporting our various other village amenities including the parish council and the playing field and village hall committees.

We think the parish council, playing field committee and the village shop owner give an excellent service to the village. We wouldn't want to live anywhere else.

The village benefits from the shop which encourages a community spirit.

Love living in Allington! IT has so much to offer as a community. Just a shame that there are no transport links to Bottesford and on to Nottingham. You definitely need to be a drive to live here and take advantage of surrounding area facilities.

My late wife and I moved into our new park home at Christmas 2000 and have had a very happy nine years until sadly she died at Christmas 2009. However I am happy to stay here as I live on the edge of the park with lovely views. A well stocked and friendly shop and likewise Inn with very good food and company and my neighbours are the most friendly that I have encountered. So after 3 years in the army and 25 years in the police I am happy to see out the rest of my years here.

Love Allington and proud to say.

I was born in Woolthorpe so I know Allington and have just moved to Allington Gardens and so far I am enjoying living here as the people are friendly and knowing surrounding area helps a bit.. The pub is friendly though I don't use it a lot also the people in the shop.

Lovely lively place to live with plenty to do. Great to see younger villagers like Will at the shop and Leo at the Manor doing so well with their businesses. Good to see that Gonerby Lane has been sorted and nearly all the potholes filled. A place to enjoy coming back to and the Green is always neat and tidy and also the horses grazing in the meadow.

A good place to live.

Positive continued

I have been in Allington for three and a half years and love it. A lot goes on and I enjoy the conversations and debates. I meet in the pub. My vision for retirement is to be able to still get out and about easily without my car. I would love it if the pub would open Christmas day as visiting the pub is a tradition for me and a good time and place for those who live alone and get out and enjoy others company. I know there are many more people in the village who don't centre around the pub. I feel there is a good community attitude around. Thank you for listening to my views.

Moved here 2 - 3 years ago to the gardens park, love the village and surrounding towns and villages.

We cannot emphasise enough how valuable the shop and pub are to the village. Both Will (shop) and Matt (pub) go out if their way to support village activities and the people living in Allington.

Not really, Allington compared to many other villages is a safe and peaceful place to live.

It is a very nice village to live in with all the present amenities.

There are plenty of opportunities for people to get involved in activities if that is what they want. Thankfully there are several who are prepared to take the initiative for new ventures, as well as others who are supporting. Because of the age range and variety of opportunities it is an active, lively village and at the same time it accommodates those who prefer to withdraw to peace and quiet. It is a caring community.

I have lived in Allington Gardens 13 years. It is safe environment, most of the people are very polite and friendly. The village shop owners are very helpful and accommodating, it is a nice area to live in.

Facilities (21 comments)

Love it but the village could do with modern facilities at the playing field which incorporates a new village hall with changing rooms and toilets. Existing Village Hall site could then be redeveloped for housing to fund it.

Post Offices, Medical Center, dogs park. Repair of surrounding roads, more illumination in the roads.

Why have you asked the 1st question in that way? Allington Gardens is part of the village. Trying to stop the us & them sonario Why was the Allington News not mentioned as a source of information?

It would be good to see more activities specifically aimed at families with toddlers and young children.

Could do with a better bus service.

Children playing attracts negative comments about noise/sometimes there is an undercurrent that children aren't welcome, no play equipment on playing fields for teenagers or any child over the age of 5.

Facilities continued
A regular bus service to include the gardens park.
I have lived in Allington for almost 30 years and am very happy here. Issues mentioned here are relatively minor which happen in most places. the lack of public transport and lack of Doctors Surgery are an increasing concern as old age approaches but overall Allington is a great place to live.
I access the GPs surgery by car so I am fortunate. The loss of this facility in Allington is of major concern.
Main concern for older people is lack of transport to doctors and Grantham.
I love Allington. My only complaint is lack of public transport. Cannot understand why Sedgebrook has a regular bus service and we don't. Allington must have more residents.
Disappointed at loss of outreach surgery.
Would be nice to have a bus service.
Great place to live unless transport issues.
Something to do for Allington park residents who can not get out much. Something on site for residents of the park only !!
Bus service that travels between the A52 and green stopping at the end of Peach Lane where a shelter is situated would be useful. and going to Long Bennington and Bottesford where there are more amenities.
Living in Allington means you always have a happy and caring community around you. The shop is good and you always have someone to ask for information if you need a Tradesman they will suggest local ones. Our post office running in the village hall means access to financial things otherwise it means a 15 minutes drive to Gonerby or Longs Bennington.
The general population of the village is middle aged to elderly. In order to keep amenities in the village we need to make the village accessible to young families and pursue research/services to provide the teenage/young generation to want to stay here. Such public transport/group for young people.
One of the things that bugs me about living in Allington is the increasing onset of old age and its implications. Like, as one gets older and more infirm its quite possible that driving will have to be given up - then what? I can't image living here without a car, but I would most certainly not want to move elsewhere. Are there any plans for community groups to help with this? Always bearing in mind that this is going to affect us all, eventually.
Allington is a wonderful village to live in but it is slowly becoming isolated for the part of the older community, with no bus service and now the doctors have stopped coming to the village hall and you can no longer order prescriptions over the phone it is now a necessity to travel to Long Bennigton very difficult for older residents who do not drive or use the internet.
Its great living in Allington people are so friendly, they say hello even if they don't know you, but transport is a problem. If you've no car of your own. What is needed is a proper bus service, even it its only now and again. You shouldn't have to book a bus. Also some voluntary drives to take you to GP appointments.

Traffic (20 comments)
Too many horse boxes going through the village, they should be made to use the A1.
Traffic calming with regards to the proposed development at Downtown / monitoring of air quality safe crossing point for the school around Marston Lane.
I have lived in my house in Allington longer than I have lived anywhere else in the world and I have no regrets however I would support any effective traffic calming system on Sedgebrook Road.
Sedgebrook Road should be gritted in icy weather.
None gritting of the road between Allington and Sedgebrook. Speed of traffic passing Peach Lane from Sedgebrook which makes it dangerous when turning right from Peach Lane into village. It is dangerous at normal times and very when road is icy. 30 mile limit needs moving to Button Hole Cottage. It is an accident waiting to happen and it might involve a school bus. Needs attention.
Yes the Sedgebrook end entry desperately needs the 30MPH signs moved to the other side of Peach Lane as pulling out and turning into the village cars come around the bend at such speed its so dangerous.
Are the Parish Council considering contingency plans if the Downtown proposal goes ahead? For example establishing a 20mph zone and requesting the county council to introduce a one way system around the village square to discourage through traffic.
Over the years the village has been spoilt by the following: Cut through traffic speeding to the A1 flyover which results in damages road surfaces. It is no longer safe to cycle around the village and its roads because of the traffic. Heavy traffic to the Arena UK eg horseboxes and heavy lorries should not be allowed through the village. The state of trees overhanging the pavements is a real problem - residents with mobility scooters are badly affected in general the village is still a lovely place to live but it has been spoiled by selfish people.
For the residents of Bottom Street there is a REAL problem (referred to earlier) with rat run, speeding and dangerous parking at home times.
The 30 mph sign should be put back to the village sign on Sedgebrook Road.
Car owners not using their driveways in consideration to parking by visitors. Improvements to street lighting along Park Road.
I would like to highlight the poor state of the road surface on a regular basis of that same street. Both are particularly bad coming from the A52 - Sedgebrook direction.
Parking/school traffic is very poor/stupid. Three roads in the village become single file, Single Lane and cars park on corners along with across peoples driveways. Hedgerows around the village have been left, untouched to grow out of control and they look an eyesore. Events in the village are mostly adult based so if these events could do something for all ages (children) then you would see more people and mainly more families at more events that happen around the village.

Traffic continued
Inconsiderate parking. Police should come and see the parking around Gonerby Lane side street and school. I have informed the community police but never seen them come and look.
Very safe and secure place to live 30 mph as far a Peach Lane up to Park homes is vital Library is wonderful must be some way of small pavement being made.
Erosion of grass verges on Side Street is a concern suggest re-instating the verges and stopping HGV access.
The hedges along Peach Lane are a cause for concern. Also the blind corners towards Sedgebrook is a hazard when turning into the village from Peach Lane especially as there are no speed restrictions on that part of the road.
A need for safe parent parking at the school. eg top of Marston Lane as a parking area. Signage to inform heavy good drivers that left turning (from Main Street) onto Bottesford Road is (no through road).
Speeding along Sedgebrook Road - lower speed limit. 30 mph speed limit singing moving to other side of Peach Lane as exit is dangerous. There have been many near misses. 20mph sign at bottom of Peach Lane on entry into Allington Gardens. Farmers reluctant to cut hedges at the side of roads discussing signs/ pathways leaves. On a positive note, Allington Village has a good reputation and social mix is good.
Bottom Street needs resurfacing. Sedgebrook road should be gritted, public transport could be improved. Market Cross must be repaired - Lottery Funds? Could a certain house in Bottom Street and its yard and garden, please be tidied? Apparently its untidiness lost us points in the tidy village competition. Bottesford Road footpath need attention as there several trip points with raised slabs.
Housing (3 comments)
There is a need for some development with starter homes.
Very concerned with plans to re-develop Downtown potential increased noise and pollution from this proposed and possible negative impact on maintaining Allington as a great village to live in.
Lived here for over 30 years and have no desire to move. Village has changed a great deal over that time. Community spirit seemed greater before the millenium but the place certainly looks better since the environs of the playing field are now quite wonderful. Too many high iron gates on new properties say we don't want to know.....pity.
Lighting (3 comments)
Street light needed adjacent to corner house on Side Street.

Lighting continued

It would be nice if we were able to take our well behaved dog into an area of the Welby Arms pub, particularly during the cold winter months. There are a number of very dark areas in the village, particularly near the playing field. Could additional street lighting be secured to improve visibility and enhance security in these areas?

Bottom Street needs another street light on it. Village street lights could be turned off after 12 am.

Other (11 comments)

Better public transport links.

I feel very privileged to live here, and very much appreciate the playing fields events, Will's efforts in the shop, and socialising in the pub. I am very disappointed in the village school and it's ability to deal with issues that affect our children when they arise.

I believe that Allington is not unusual in being a village where newbies are not particularly made to feel welcome it is a national village issue. I think it's well kept and tidy.

The security of the post office in the village hall, customers to use the main doors so others are aware of this. At present side door used therefore anyone can 'call' in. Safety of post office person a concern?

We would like to preserve the village as a rural community. We would not like it to become part of suburbia - full of unwanted signage.

Taking into account how long it has taken to devise this questionnaire, it is hard to see how any of the questions will benefit the community. A simple suggestion box in the shop, school, community hall or pub would have been more useful, or submitted online at any time. The suggestions could be dealt with by a group of community volunteers who could instruct the parish council of the community concerns. The suggestions could be anonymous or request a reply depending on the preference of the instigator. Any suggestions that are referred to the council should be listed in the Allington newsletter or online, so that the community can be kept up to date of progress or lack of. Once the community is aware of other people's issues, a forum could be set up to resolve any aspects that cannot be dealt with by the parish council.

There is a fine line between community responsibility and busy body. There seems to be an element in the village that think their opinion carries more weight than others and tell them how to behave to suit their own needs. Longevity in the village should not carry anymore privileges than someone who has moved to the village. Sometimes people should keep their personal opinions to themselves and not stir trouble.

Your haven't mentioned Allington News a vibrant informative paper to every household here and in Sedgebrook.

Q 19. Insecticides are not used for weed control.

Other continued

Concerned about the amount of trees disappearing from the village. More needs planting.

Having lived in several areas of England during my working days I have found Allington to be one of the best places to live. Peaceful, friendly, and access easy to any part of the country. However, having only lived here 1yr and 2 months I have found the numbering of Allington Gardens living bungalow to be rather confusing and hopefully will take this up with the owners of the site through AGRA. Many visitors find the same problems even with SAT NAV help.

The highest numbers of responses were positive comments about Allington being a good place to live.

Question 28 : As part of gathering data trends we are interested in knowing the age group you belong to?

157 responses recorded, 7 responders skipped the question.

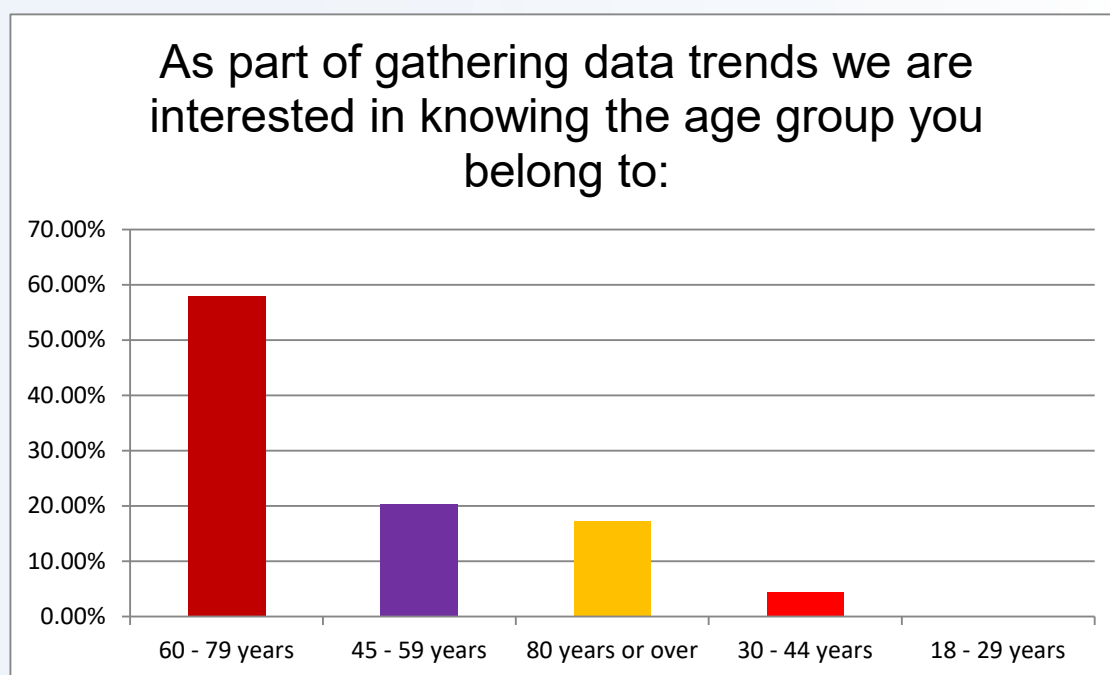


Figure 25

Collectively 95% of responders are recorded as being aged 45 years and over.

Conclusions and Recommended Actions

The broad conclusions that can be drawn from the interim consultation and household questionnaire are:

1. Questionnaire response rate

The response rate of 36% is satisfactory and above average for similar consultation activity (25%-30%).

2. Allington as a place to live - Positive endorsements

A picturesque, friendly, well-kept and quite place to live are comments inherent throughout this consultation. Question 27 of the household questionnaire invites respondents to add any additional comments. Of those 83 comments the highest number of responses recorded (27) were positive comments about Allington as a place to live.

The village amenities, services and range of community activities and events are also highly valued.

Action Recommendations

Use the positive endorsements from consultees to develop a vision or a strap line for Allington to promote its assets i.e. people and facilities.

Continue to enter the Best Kept Village Competition.

1. Traffic parking and transport

Road safety is recorded as being a key issue for those that have engaged in the community consultation activities including children at the school who mention the need for better parking facilities. The general state of repair of the roads, the perceived speed of traffic and inconsiderate / dangerous parking remain a top concern. Particular hotspots are Peach Lane and the parking of cars in the vicinity of the school.

20% of responders have difficulty accessing services outside of the village and find the public transport system does not always meet their needs. Particular problems recorded relate to attending doctors' appointments and collecting prescriptions. Questions related specifically to CallConnect show that it is not regularly used by the majority of responders who have travelled on the service and a significant 25% of responders do not know how this transport system operates.

Action Recommendations

- *Roads, traffic and parking*

Whilst acknowledging that the powers of the Parish Council are limited in terms of road conditions, speeding traffic and dangerous parking the results of this consultation can be used as a mandate to continue dialogue with appropriate services i.e. Highways and Police. Consideration could be given to a public meeting involving these services and the school to look at potential community measures that could support the reduction of these negative activities.

- *Transport and access to services*

Promote public transport information in particular how to use the CallConnect service.

Investigate and Promote alternative transport schemes that operate in Allington e.g. Grantham Area Community transport
(visit <https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/transport-results?locationid=20&letter=A>).

Investigate whether a Volunteer Car Scheme (see advice from LCC) or Good Neighbour Scheme (Community Lincs) could be viable in the village or in partnership with neighbouring communities such as Sedgebrook.

Promote free online prescription ordering for people who have access to the internet.

Provide relevant consultation analysis information to Doctors surgeries to see if there are workable options for those people who struggle with prescription ordering and collections.

1. Village Amenities

This section relates to the facilities that are operated and run by volunteers including the Parish Council. The majority of responders support community events such as 'On the Green' and activities at the village hall at least on an occasional basis. The few comments received from responders who do not attend events at the hall cite 'nothing that interests them' as the primary reason. Support for fundraising for church improvements recorded a high percentage return.

Through the interim consultation activities the development of the Community Woodland was mentioned by a number of people hence a specific question being included in the main questionnaire. Wildflower planting is seen as a top priority as part of the woodlands development, but good signage to the area and den building should not be discounted.

The red phone box instillation fund is underway therefore the questionnaire did not seek to see if there was community support for the fundraising, although several comments were received suggesting that money could be better spent.

However what the questionnaire did seek to establish was what this phone box should be used for. The majority of responders support it accommodating a defibrillator.

Young people would like to see an increase in the types of play equipment available and suggestions were put forward as part of the interim consultation activities.

A number of comments were collected during the interim consultation activities regarding the locked toilets at the playing field and requesting they be open for public use. The questionnaire established that responders would agree but feel that a restricted opening timetable would be the most appropriate.

Disseminating information regarding activities, services and parish business within communities is always a challenge. The questionnaire established that responders use a variety of information channels to keep abreast of village news.

The questionnaire did ascertain that 31% of responders would consider volunteering in the village.

Action Recommendations

- Share the results with facility and event's organisers as a way of a positive endorsement and to support the increase of volunteer numbers.
- Continue to promote the red phone box fund.
- Specific consultation with young people to identify types of play equipment needed, could involve the school.
- Is it possible to have the playfield toilets open to the general users of the playing field? Feedback to the community.
- Given the level of local interest consider engaging a group of volunteers who could actively support the continued development of the Community Wood land.
- Continue to use the support and advice provided by the Community Lincs Community Buildings Advisor in respect of Village Hall activity and fundraising.

5. Local Environment

Keeping tidy communal areas and the pruning of existing trees and hedgerows are seen as the most important activities in maintaining a good visual appearance in the village. In order to manage weed growth a high majority of responders favour the use of non-chemical agents.

Responders would like to see more signs referring to the potential consequences for dog owners who allow their pets to foul in communal areas.

Action Recommendations

- Consider communal litter picks to control rubbish on roadsides and verges. District Council may have litter picking equipment loan scheme? It may also be possible to apply to the South Kesteven Community Grant Scheme to put on a litter picking event such as a breakfast or lunch as a way of encouraging community involvement.
- Is it practical and affordable to use non chemical agents as a way of controlling weeds? Feedback to the community.
- Look at increasing the number of signs regarding the consequences of allowing dogs to foul footpaths and other communal areas.

1. Community Safety

The majority of respondents feel safe in Allington. A small minority of residents do not feel safe after dark. One of the main reasons given is the lack of street lighting. The examples of anti-social behaviour recorded relate mainly to low level nuisances (dog fouling/litter), speeding vehicles and inconsiderate/dangerous parking. Potential drug misuse at the playing field and off road riders were mentioned by several responders and the concern that reduced police presence does not support the reduction in this behaviour. One respondent also mentioned their concern over a recent spate of incidents of pets disappearing or having been shot. Over a third of responders to the questionnaire do not know how to contact the local Community Support Officer.

Action Recommendations

- Ensure Police receive a copy of the community consultation results.
- Consider investing in speed indicator signs to help reduce speeding traffic.
- Work with school, parents and local police to reduce problematic parking.

- Promote safe parking areas in the village.
- Produce community safety advice literature in conjunction with local police.
- Investigate whether the of lack of street lighting is a contributing factor in reduced community safety and publicise results.

General Recommendations

- The age breakdown of respondents to the household questionnaire should be a factor when considering the responses made throughout the questionnaire.
- Feedback to residents on the main results of the survey should take place as soon as is possible, using a variety of social media and traditional forms of communication.
- As part of the monitoring process ensure the recommended actions contained in this report are an agenda item at Parish Council meetings.