

Bishops Clyst Neighbourhood Plan Young Peoples' Survey Report



Image courtesy of: HAGS-SMP

March 2014

Bishops Clyst Neighbourhood Plan – Young Persons Survey 2014/15

Introduction

This report has been prepared for the Bishops Clyst Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group. Its purpose is to provide the Group with the response and analysis to a survey of young persons from the Parish of Bishops Clyst carried out over the winter of 2014/15.

Survey Approach

Young people were invited to complete the general community questionnaire that had been distributed in October 2014. For whatever reasons, the response from young people was very poor. Only seven of the respondents to the survey, out of the 332 received were under the age of 25. It was decided by the Steering Group at its January 2015 meeting that:

- Informal conversations would be held with young people with the hope of encouraging some more to complete the community questionnaire
- The Head of Clyst St Mary Primary School would initiate ways to 'consult' with her pupils
- An approach would be made to Clyst Vale College to 'engage' with pupils that were resident in the Parish

Response

As a result of the additional effort the following response has been elicited:

St Marys Primary School – Class 2 (23 children) and Class 5 (31 children) have contributed their thoughts on the Parish today and in the future.

Clyst Vale College – 19 pupils have contributed their thoughts to the neighbourhood plan process.

Community Questionnaire – only 9 responses in total have been received from the under 25's. Only three of the respondents are aged under 18.

Acknowledgments:-

We would like to thank the following persons who enabled us to make contact with the younger parishioners of Bishops Clyst and get us such a meaningful response:

Ingrid Quick, Clyst Vale Community College

Louise Herbert, Head Clyst St Mary Primary School

Peter Cain, Winslade Park Resident

The Under 12's

The following table summarises the response from the Primary School. It is presented in two columns to allow comparison between the age groups.

Class 2 (6 and 7 year olds)	Class 5/6 (ages 10 and 11)
Things we like about Clyst St Mary	
The Shop School Village Hall Play Area	The Shop School Pub Village Hall The Environment Play Park Sense of Community Local People
Things that could be improved	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Play area and field behind Village Hall to be levelled and rabbit holes removed basketball court (MUGA) needs resurfacing and relining A nice path to walk to school safely (100%) Bigger car parks (50%) Another or bigger shop (10%) A café (100%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Village Park The School could be bigger and have more classrooms upstairs, the new classroom could have a sloping roof The football pitch at the Village Hall could be bigger or we could have astro-turf We could have more benches in the park Get rid of pot holes Have a zebra crossing outside the school Stop people using the village for a cut through and slow them down Better parking Brighter street lamps Stop letting learner drivers use Winslade Park
What facilities do you use?	
Village Hall (25) Church (2) Shop (24) Play Area (25) Pub (9)	Village Hall Church Shop Football Pitch Park Pub
Extra facilities you might like	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most popular – scooter or skateboard park/ramp (100%) Café (100%) Outdoor swimming pool (100%) More parks and nature areas for bugs (100%) Nets on tennis courts at MUGA Flat play area for races and football (100%) Other ideas – table tennis, a trampoline, a tree house, a gym for children 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A bigger shop A gym more play facilities including skate park A vets and a park to walk animals Traffic lights Tennis courts

Does the school need improving? Does it need to move?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 80% wanted school to get a bit bigger but stay where it was 20% wanted a new school on a new site 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yes - a better football pitch and a sloping roof on the new room More play equipment All the children said 'no' to moving but they said it needed more classrooms and better toilets!!!
What is working well?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More cycle routes so children could ride round safely They wanted The crossing repair Everyone wants a 'lollipop-person' 	
Comments about traffic etc.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Speed bumps and a flashing sign would make people go slower - as they go too fast (100%) Fill in potholes Railings to pavement edge (50%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We should have a zebra crossing and less traffic in the village More parking

Comment

It was pleasing to see such a constructive response from the pupils of the Primary School. There are a number of matters of interest and/or concern to younger people that can be taken into account when preparing the Neighbourhood Plan. These include:

- Protecting existing community facilities
- Providing better and more leisure and recreation opportunities
- Allowing the primary school to improve and expand
- Making play areas and their equipment more adventurous
- Addressing traffic issues

Outside the scope of the Neighbourhood Plan but for the Parish Council to take up:

- Improve maintenance of pavements and roads
- Traffic management measures
- Better maintenance of recreation areas
- More play equipment
- Address road safety issues

Next Steps

It is warming to see how many of the younger members of our community have views on the Parish and its facilities. This interest needs to be retained. The school staff has been a useful conduit for this response and discussion should be held with them to find ways that the pupils' interests and enthusiasm can be harnessed to inform and illuminate the next stages. Drawings or a model come to mind.

The 12 to 18 Year Olds

The following response was contributed by a group of 19 pupils from Clyst Vale College.

Things we like about Clyst St Mary

Quiet, peaceful, open spaces, green (63%)

The shop, school, park and play area (37% listed one or more of these)

Things that could be improved

More clubs/activities/facilities (32%)

Faster broadband (26%)

More/better parking (16%)

Improve roads (16%)

Reduce traffic (5%)

What Facilities do you use?

Shop (95%)

Pool/gym – now closed (79%)

Play area (74%)

Garden Centre (58%)

Pub (32%)

Other – Footpaths/fields for walks (16%)

Garage

Village Hall

Football pitches

Extra Facilities you might like

More cycle/footways (53%)

Youth club (53%)

Internet café (42%)

Library (42%)

Skateboard park (32%)

Swimming pool/gym (32%)

Bigger car park (16%)

Basketball court (16%)

Dance studio (11%)

Badminton (11%)

Other – squash, tennis courts, outdoor gym, full size football pitch, shaded seating in park, nature reserve.

Does the Primary School need improving?

6 (32%) responders thought the school should get bigger

6 (32%) thought it should stay the same

The remainder either didn't go (1), didn't comment (3) or commented on other aspects of the school not related to size e.g. better IT facilities.

Local traffic

Only 3 respondents (16%) thought that traffic was acceptable

The remainder commented about:

Excessive speed

Problems in rush hour

Difficulty in parking

Danger to pedestrians

New developments up to 500 houses

All 19 (100%) respondents were unanimous in their opposition to development because of the impact on the village

Comment

It was pleasing to see a response from the older school pupils of the Parish. There are a number of matters of interest and/or concern to these young people that can be taken into account when preparing the Neighbourhood Plan. These include:

- Protecting the setting and rurality of the Parish
- Protect community facilities
- Improve access to the countryside
- Increase recreation and leisure facilities and opportunities

Outside the scope of the Neighbourhood Plan but for the Parish Council to take up:

- Address road safety issues
- Better parking arrangements
- Improve broadband speed
- More activity areas/spaces specifically for youth
- A youth club

Next Steps

The response from this age group has been most welcome and enlightening. It is important to keep this group informed as to what is being done with their response, how it is being interpreted and how it will inform the next stages. Arrangements need to be made to 'engage' with this group at the next stage and now, perhaps, is the time to make such arrangements i.e. well before the exam season starts and before the school-term finishes. Part of this discussion could be about the best methods and medium to use for future consultation e.g. social media. The experience and contacts made during the recent successful consultation on the outdoor gym proposal should also be taken into account.

The 18-25 Year Olds

The Census 2011 reported that there were 33 persons (5% of the parish population) aged 18-24 years old resident in Bishops Clyst. Only 5 persons in this age group completed the Community Questionnaire 2014 at the time of survey (November – December 2014). For this reason we endeavoured to increase the response through direct contact. As a result of this effort a further 6 persons aged 18-24 completed the survey form, at least in part. We have heard therefore from approximately a third of persons in this age group that reside in the Parish. The following statements summarise where opinion seems to most concur amongst this particular age group:

About Housing:

There are sufficient houses in the pipeline

About Business

We should protect existing employment areas

We should encourage local small business development

About the School

The primary school, if it needs to expand, should be re-built on a new site

About Leisure and Recreation

Leisure and recreation facilities should be improved

Recreational areas at Winslade Park should be preserved

About Traffic

Traffic volume and circulation is an issue of concern

Pavements, footways and cycleways should be improved

Comment

The additional response from the 18-25 year olds has been included in the total response to the Community Survey and reported in the Community Survey Report¹, which is why we shall give some 'weight' to the opinions above.

It is intended to continue to consult everybody in the same manner as neighbourhood planning progresses, however it is clear that the more formalised approaches to consultation have not been particularly successful in getting a response from the younger adults in the Parish and may not be sufficient. A different approach needs to be considered that can run in parallel and therefore be included in the overall analysis.

PW/BCNP/Mar2015

¹ Bishops Clyst Community Survey Report 2014 <http://www.bishopsclyst.btik.com/NeighbourhoodPlanParishPlan>