

WHADDON PARISH PLAN 2023



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Table of Contents

Executive Summary and Key Recommendations	P. 3
Statements of Support	p. 5
Introduction	p. 7
Review of Key Recommendations Identified in the 2013 Plan	p. 8
Analysis of Questionnaire Responses – Adults’ Questionnaire	p. 10
Analysis of Questionnaire Responses – Children’s Questionnaire	p. 36
What Next?	p. 41
Map of Footpaths in Whaddon Parish	p. 42



Whaddon Parish Plan 2023

Executive Summary and Key Recommendations

In 2022 a small working group was set up by Whaddon Parish Council and tasked with preparing a new Parish Plan for Whaddon. This Plan draws on the views of parishioners who responded to a questionnaire over the summer of 2022. Two questionnaires were prepared, one for children up to the age of 16 and a second questionnaire for adults. From the responses, it is clear that a high percentage of residents enjoy living in the Parish and regard Whaddon as a good place to live. However, things can always be improved and the following key recommendations seek to do that.

1. Community Shop

Assess the demand and potential support for a Community Shop within the Parish and, if sufficient support can be demonstrated, the Parish Council are asked to help to facilitate it. However, the frequency and number of supermarket delivery vans in the village might suggest otherwise.

2. Cardiff Place

Investigate options to better integrate Cardiff Place into the Parish and counter the perception that it is part of Bassingbourn. These might include trying to establish permissive footpath(s) to better link Cardiff Place with the village, and including content in the Whaddon News that is specifically relevant to residents of Cardiff Place.

3. Transport

- Work with the County, District and adjacent Parish/Town Councils, and others, to deliver off-road pedestrian and cycle routes to Meldreth and Royston;
- Further work to control the speed and volume of traffic through the village;
- Consideration for imposing a 20mph speed limit in parts of the village, and;
- Restrict the type of vehicles that can use the byway from Dyers Green to Mettle Hill, or downgrade it to a bridleway.

4. Housing

- Commission a new *Housing Needs Survey* to determine the local demand for Affordable Housing and the specific type(s) of Affordable Housing required;
- Over the next 10 years the village should be allowed to grow to a modest extent, though that growth should be both proportionate to the size of the existing village and respect its character – this would specifically exclude larger, estate-type developments;
- New housing should include both Affordable and Market Housing;
- Encourage any new Market Housing in Whaddon to specifically address the needs of first-time buyers and those seeking to downsize, and;
- The Parish Council to ask SCDC to include a condition on any planning permission for new housing to require a reduced carbon emission of at least 15% when compared to a similar house built in accordance with the minimum standards set out in the Building Regulations.

5. Environment

- Encourage the enhancement of the village through provision of flowers, planters and pots;
- Facilitate the setting up an 'eco-friendly group' to help encourage energy efficiency, move Whaddon towards becoming carbon-neutral, and act as a facilitator to disseminate

- knowledge, experience and best practice on environmentally-focused actions and initiatives;
- Promote biodiversity within the parish through seeking opportunities to enhance wildlife and wild flower areas, planting of trees and hedgerows, the ecological management of roadside verges and the enhancement of wildlife corridors;
- Help facilitate the installation of solar panels on the roof of the Village Hall and a communal electric car charging point in the Village Hall car park;
- Investigate the feasibility, cost, pros and cons of establishing a community solar farm or wind turbine;
- Promote greater awareness of the small things that can be done by every household to help make Whaddon greener;
- Promote further initiatives to encourage greater repair, reuse and recycling of goods and clothing, and;
- Further improve the provision of dog-waste bins in the parish.

6. Leisure, Amenities and Communication

- Undertake further investigations into the demand for allotments, both within the village and at Cardiff Place, then seek how best to address that demand;
- Review how the Whaddon News might better include Cardiff Place and whether the content of the magazine should be expanded;
- Ensure appropriate forms communications remain available for those not on-line,
- Provide additional equipment in the playground specifically for use by older children;
- Investigate the cost and practicalities of providing a small skate park or BMX track;
- Continue to ensure that the Village Hall Trust and Parish Council consider all requests for new activities as well as learning and development opportunities in the village hall.
- Seek adult volunteers to run a range of weekend or after-school clubs and activities in the Village Hall and on the rec to provide opportunities for children to meet and socialise, and;
- Reintroduce a 'Welcome Pack' for new residents moving into the parish.

7. Medical Services, Health and Wellbeing

Investigate the implications for setting up and managing a list of potential volunteer drivers to help those that currently have difficulty getting to and from the doctors' surgeries for medical appointments.

8. Employment

Further work might be done to assess whether there is a significant problem for those working from home on their own in the parish, and what might be done to improve their mental well-being. Initiatives to address this might include inviting a mobile refreshments van to visit the village at mid-week lunchtimes on a regular basis, so as to provide an opportunity for home-workers to meet and socialise in their lunchbreaks.

Some of the above recommendations might take a number of years to be brought to fruition, while others could only be delivered if suitable volunteers step forward from within the community. It is also apparent that there is now a groundswell of support for adopting a number of 'green' initiatives that would benefit biodiversity as well as residents, and it is perhaps those aspects of the plan that the Parish Council should be asked to prioritise.

Statements of Support

Congratulations to Whaddon on producing this Parish Plan – both the working group dedicated to scoping it and shepherding its formation, and the input and enthusiasm of residents who contributed their feedback to shape it. The result is a thoughtful vision for the future of Whaddon as a place to live, and to be part of a community.

It's no surprise that a thorough look at how Whaddon could evolve in the coming years should come now, when the village is already vibrant, communicative, and, as it always seems to me, 'batting above its weight.' That the wherewithal has existed to carry out the plan at what is a challenging time in the world proves the point.

While not all projects are easy to progress, Whaddon always plans for what is needed and keeps pushing until success is achieved. In this way it also has the advantage of being able to be creative rather than reactive, and this is evident to any visitor taking an amble through. Many of the aspirations expressed in the Plan would also serve to benefit Whaddon's neighbours – thereby enhancing life in Whaddon all the more.

Finally, this document is also a beautiful one to read through, as I have had the pleasure of discovering.

Susan van de Ven
County Councillor

Thank you for sharing your Parish Plan with us and congratulations to all involved in producing what can aptly be described as 'a labour of love'. We are aware of how much hard work and persistence is required to produce a village plan of this quality.

The front page 'Whaddon Word Cloud' boldly highlights the word 'Community' supported by the words 'friendly, quiet, rural and village' – what a perfect way to describe a place where people come together to celebrate what they already have and plan for the future.

We look forward to seeing Whaddon's aspirations come to fruition and doing all we can to support its vision.

Sally Ann Hart & Jose Hales
District Councillors

I am delighted that the third Whaddon Community Led Plan (or Parish Plan) has been produced for the village. As one of the very few Parishes to have produced three plans (possibly the only one in South Cambridgeshire) we are fully committed to the Plan concept. Our previous two plans have given us the evidence to push for super-fast Broadband, introduce numerous road safety schemes, carry out the village hall redevelopment and introduce the village website and email system to name just a few successful projects.

The Parish Council, as the sponsor of the Plan, is extremely grateful to the Plan team members for all their hard work over the past fourteen months and their diligent analysis of the questionnaire replies and production of the Plan. This gives us all a clear direction and a strategy to develop Whaddon, its environment and its community over the next five years or so.

It is obvious that many Whaddon folk continue to have a real passion for the village and appreciate the strength of its community. We shall take the plan forward to help us develop or facilitate as many of the outcomes as possible. In fact, some of the suggestions have already been informally discussed by the PC and some are being actively pursued. I hope that we can all work together to successfully achieve as many of the recommendations as possible.

Lee Ginger

Chair, Whaddon Parish Council



College Farm, Church Street

Whaddon Parish Plan 2023

Introduction

The first iteration of a Parish Plan for Whaddon was prepared in 2006 and was followed by a second version in 2013. Each edition of the Parish Plan was prepared following a detailed questionnaire circulated to all households and businesses in the parish. In 2022 a small working group was set up by Whaddon Parish Council and tasked with preparing a new Parish Plan for Whaddon. Once again, this new Plan draws on the views of parishioners who responded to a fresh questionnaire over the summer of 2022. Before drafting the questionnaire, the working group invited parishioners to suggest issues and ideas that they might like to see included. The working group also consulted South Cambridgeshire District Council and met with one of their officers to discuss the content of the questionnaire and what questions might be used or adapted from a model prepared by SCDC.

Three significant innovations were included in the new questionnaire compared to the earlier questionnaires. These were:

- Rather than seeking a single response from each household, responses were invited from all adults over the age of 16;
- A second questionnaire was prepared specifically for children aged under the age of 16;
- Residents were offered the opportunity to complete their returns on-line, with paper copies made available for those who preferred to complete their return in a more traditional manner.

The final version of the 2022 adults' questionnaire was divided into 9 sections covering different aspects of life in the parish, while the 2022 children's questionnaire comprised 13 questions.

Exactly 100 responses were received from adults over the age of 16, and 19 responses were received for the children's questionnaire. The vast majority of respondents to both questionnaires completed their return on-line, indicating the value in embracing new forms of communication. While the number of responses received is lower than for the previous two questionnaires, it still represents 20% of the approximately 500 adults who live in the parish, and this is both a statistically meaningful figure and is higher than the percentage returns for many other parishes preparing Parish Plans.



Review of Key Recommendations Identified in the 2013 Plan

Before considering the responses to the 2022 Questionnaire and identify the core themes that emerge from those responses, it is perhaps appropriate to first review the 8 *Key Recommendations* identified in the 2013 Plan and see if any issues need to be carried forward to the new Plan.

1. Produce a Whaddon-wide housing needs survey to ascertain true demand for any housing in the village.

A Housing Needs Survey was undertaken, but this did not show enough support or need for further affordable housing to be built in the village. However, since that survey is now nearly 10 years old, demand for affordable housing in the village may have increased and it would be prudent for the Parish Council to undertake a new Housing Needs Survey as part of the 2023 Parish Plan.

2. Seek urgent safety improvements to the A1198 junctions at Whaddon Gap and Cardiff Pace and reduction of speed limit.

The Parish Council has worked with Bassingbourn Barracks to apply to Cambridgeshire County Council for a Local Highway Initiative (LHI) to reduce the speed limit on the A1198 to 40mph. A second component of the LHI, which will improve the junction at Whaddon Gap, is still to be implemented, and was delayed pending completion of the new access to Cody Court. This work is now expected to be carried out in the early part of 2023.

3. Encourage the Parish Council to review other traffic issues within the village and ensure that any existing plans meet the required needs.

The Parish Council has reviewed a number of options and is currently working on a range of initiatives to manage speeding within the village. The *Speedwatch* programme has also recently resumed following its suspension during the Covid pandemic. Consideration should be given to carrying this recommendation forward into the 2023 Plan.

4. Investigate whether a ‘good neighbour’ scheme has any real demand.

Initially, there appeared to be little appetite for a ‘good neighbour’ scheme, but the Covid pandemic brought this back onto the agenda and the Parish Council took the lead to instigate a number of initiatives, including collecting and distributing repeat prescriptions and encouraging good use of the village e-mail system and ‘WhaddsApp’ to provide quick and accessible communication within the parish.

5. Work on major improvements to Broadband provision.

Broadband provision within Whaddon has improved significantly since the 2013 Plan. These improvements have occurred in two stages, aided by the appointment of a ‘Broadband Champion’ to lead on the initiative and provide a single point of contact within the parish. The first stage saw the installation of fibre optic cable to the BT box at the top of Bridge Street then, in 2022, County Broadband installed the infrastructure to allow fibre optic to be connected to individual homes.

6. Set up a formal litter-picking system with a community 'champion'.

At the time of the 2013 Plan litter was perceived to be a problem in parts of the village, especially on the approach road from the A1198. To address this, the Parish Council incorporated litter-picking into the job description of the village 'handyperson'.

7. Continue to publicise the village website at any opportunity.

The Whaddon Village Website is now well established and its content has increased over the years. It is now home to a wide variety of content on the village and its history, and is widely used, both by parishioners and others seeking information on the village.

8. Ensure that the Village Hall Trust and Parish Council consider all requests for new activities as well a learning and development opportunities in the refurbished village hall.

The Parish Council and the Village Hall Trust continue to work together to encourage new activities in the Hall and on the Recreation Ground. The Village Hall is now booked on most weekdays for a wide range of activities, and with a number of private parties making use of the Hall at weekends.



Analysis of Questionnaire Responses – Adults’ Questionnaire

SECTION 1a - Household Composition and Parking

100 individual adults completed the questionnaire from 84 different households. The makeup of each of these households is shown in Tables 1 and 2 below.

How many in each age group are there in your household?	0 – 4 years	5 – 11 years	11-18 years	18 – 25 years	26 – 44 years	45 – 69 years	70 or over
None	36	32	27	25	21	11	13
1	5	7	8	7	9	20	10
2	3	2	5	4	19	32	7
3	1	2	0	0	1	0	0
4	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
Total number of households with people in each age-group	9	11	13	12	30	52	17

Table 1: Breakdown of household composition in Whaddon

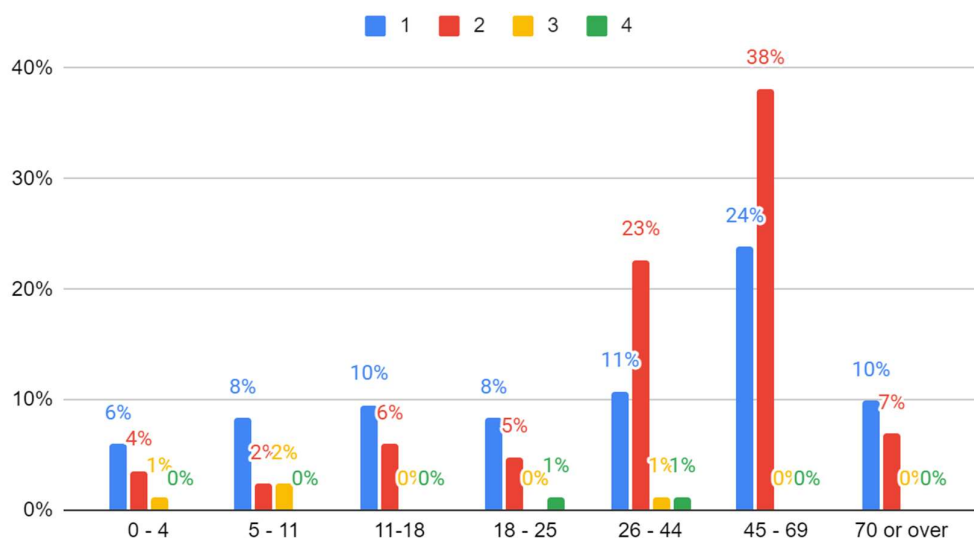


Table 2: Household composition by age group expressed as percentages

Of the 84 households represented in the survey, 11% have pre-school children, 28% have school-aged children, 62% have residents in the 45-69 age range and 17% have people who are 70 or over. While the demographic of Whaddon may have changed somewhat since the 2013 plan, the exact

demographic make-up of the parish will only be known once the results of the 2021 census are fully available. However, it is clear that the population of Whaddon remains predominantly in the older age-groups.

Parking

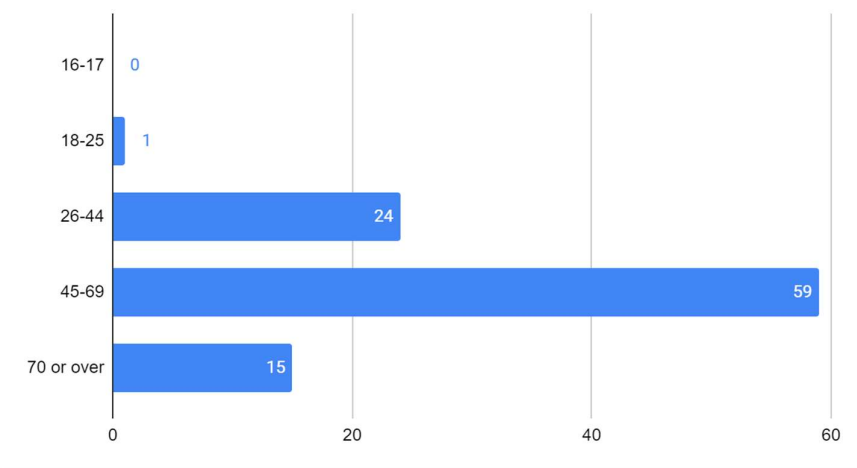
Households were also asked how many vehicles they had at their property and whether they were able to park them on their property or needed to street-park.

81 of the households responding reported having vehicles, with 10 having one, 52 with two vehicles, 12 with three vehicles, 5 with four and 2 households with five vehicles. Of these households, 10 reported having to park their cars on the road because there wasn't sufficient parking within their property. 8 of these are parking one car on the road and 2 are parking two cars on the road. One of these households (in a Cardiff Place postcode) reported having difficulty finding somewhere to park their car near their property.

In broad terms, parking is therefore not generally considered an issue. Although a number of households are having to street-park, that in itself is not a problem and, indeed, can help with reducing the speed of traffic through the village.

SECTION 1b – Individual Information

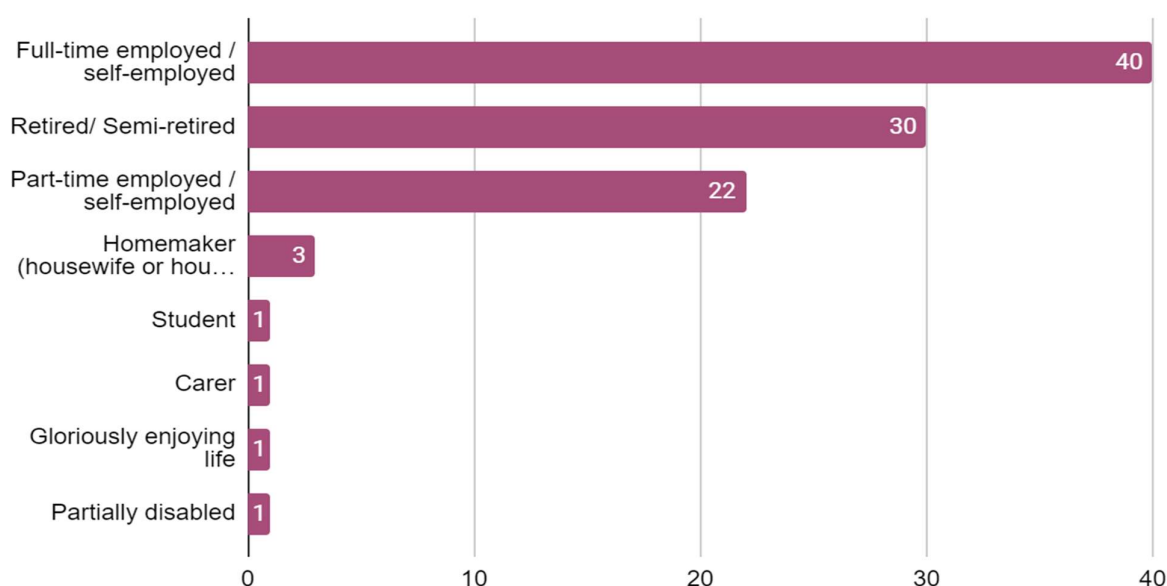
The age ranges of individual responding to the adult questionnaire broadly followed that of the households as a whole, though the younger age groups were under-represented (see Table 3).



Age range for individuals responding to the adult questionnaire

Individuals were asked how they would describe themselves. The majority of the 99 responses fell into three categories; 40% said they are in full time employment or self-employed, 30% stated that they are retired and 22% are working part-time (see bar chart overleaf).

How would you describe yourself?

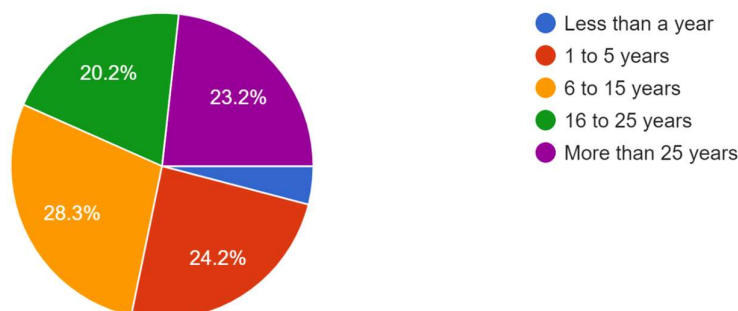


91 people responded to the question about working from home. Whaddon residents are pretty evenly split between working from home, for all or part of the week, and not (51.6% yes and 48.4% no). This is clearly a change from the 2013 and reflects a national trend to increased home-working following the pandemic.

It is also apparent that a significant proportion of residents in the parish have lived here for quite a while, with just over 43% of respondents having lived in Whaddon for more than 15 years. Aside from the small number who have only recently moved to the parish, the breakdown of time spent living in Whaddon splits broadly into four quarters, divided between those who have lived here between 1 and 5 years, those who have lived here between 6 and 15 years, those how have lived here between 16 and 25 years and those who have been resident in the parish for more than 25 years (see pie chart below).

How long have you lived in the parish of Whaddon?

99 responses



SECTION 2 – Transport

Residents were asked which of 15 issues were of a concern to them. The top 5 identified are:

1. Speed of traffic (62)
2. Large lorries through the village (58)
3. = Volume of traffic (42)
= Pedestrian safety (42)
4. Cycle safety (37)

The results in full are set out in the Tables 3 and 4 below.

	Illegal or inconsiderate parking	Wheelchair or push chair accessibility	Poor pavement condition or width of pavements	Public rights of way	Blocked road drains/ gulleys	Potholes or poor road surface	Volume of traffic
Yes	32	14	28	17	19	37	42
No	58	63	62	70	71	51	49
N/A	4	13	3	3	1	2	3
Blank	6	8	7	10	9	9	5
Total	100	98	100	100	100	99	99

	Speed of traffic	Large lorries through the village	Road signage	Damage to cars or property from traffic	Cycle safety	Pedestrian safety	Provision of pavements	Street lighting
Yes	62	58	10	3	37	42	28	16
No	36	38	79	80	50	51	63	75
N/A	1	2	2	7	3	1	1	2
Blank	1	1	9	10	9	6	8	7
Total	100	99	100	100	99	100	100	100

Comments in the subsequent free-text box were again many and varied, but the following sample represent a number of the themes raised:

‘All along the 30mph speed limit, from early morning to dusk, fast cars, ignoring current signage.’

‘Bridge Street, no pavement, no lights. Potholes present.’

‘Bridge Street is generally quiet with regards to traffic but occasionally cars speed along the road, and people sometimes park inconsiderately. Cars also speed along Meldreth road and I have been overtaken whilst doing 30 mph.’

'Byway 22 running from Bridge Street to Mettle Hill needs to become restricted access and downgraded from a BOAT [Byway Open to All Traffic]. Vehicles use it as a race track and it has been used for dumping litter in the past. All our public footpaths require ongoing maintenance ie regular surface cutting by the council and overgrowth from hedges cut back by the land user as per the regulations.'

'It would be good to have a pavement or cycle path to Meldreth.'

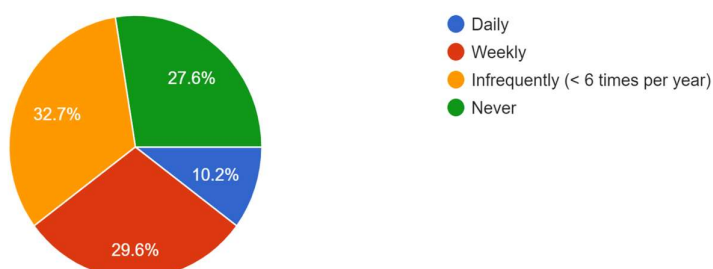
These issues then linked into the next question concerning road safety measures in the parish. Just over half (55%) of 98 responders stated that they were satisfied with current safety measures, and 95 responses were submitted for measures most likely to improve road safety in Whaddon. The top 6 measures are set out in Table 5 below.

Measure	Number
Safe cycleways/ pedestrian routes to neighbouring villages and services including Meldreth Railway Station and Royston	55
Mobile speed indicators	48
Additional traffic calming measures (chicanes/ humps)	30
Speed warning signs	28
Further reduction in speed limit	16
Parking restrictions	9

Table 5 – Highest ranked measures to improve road safety in Whaddon

The highest ranked measure concerned the provision of a safe cycle/pedestrian route to Meldreth and Royston, and further support for this measure was demonstrated in the response to the question on frequency of use of such routes. Out of 98 responses, 10% said that they would use such a route daily, nearly 30% would use it once a week and only 27% said that they would never use such a facility (see pie chart below).

If safer cycle routes were available to Meldreth and Royston, how often might you use them?
98 responses



'A cycle route to Meldreth would be fantastic.'

'A safe cycle route to Meldreth station would be a priority.'

‘Connectivity to good cycle routes and network will encourage more people to use bikes. Having to share roads with HGVs and speeding traffic can be quite intimidating.’

‘There needs to be a cycle pathway & not only for cyclists but for dog walkers & walkers generally as it is dangerous along the road where there is no pathway from Meldreth to Whaddon.’

Residents were almost equally split on whether or not on-street parking was an issue. Out of 52 responses to this question, 27 stated it was not a problem. For those who considered it a problem, a number expressed concerns over parking on pavements in various locations in the village, while parking on Church Street was most frequently identified as causing problems, particularly at peak times – though these parked cars also play a role in reducing the speed of traffic through the village.

‘Yes. Church Street - at peak times some people don't give way.’

Finally, in this section, residents were asked about their frequency and mode of transport when travelling out of the village. The responses are set out in Table 6 below.

	Walk	Bicycle	Bus	Private taxi	Own transport/ get a lift	Community car scheme	Hospital transport
Daily	8	2	0	0	78	0	0
Weekly	15	13	1	1	19	0	0
Monthly	8	14	0	6	0	0	0
Less than 5 times a year	15	13	7	22	0	4	3
Never	20	19	47	24	0	46	46
Blank	34	39	45	47	3	50	51
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Table 6 – Frequency and mode of transport when travelling out of Whaddon

As expected, most people use a car for journeys out of Whaddon, but 23 walk out of the parish at least weekly, and 15 cycle, further supporting the need for safe pedestrian and cycle routes.

The responses to Section 2 of the questionnaire suggest a number of issues that might benefit from inclusion in the new Parish Plan, including:

- **Work with the County, District and adjacent Parish Councils, together with organisations such as Sustrans, to deliver off-road pedestrian and cycle routes to Meldreth and Royston;**
- **Further work to control the speed and volume of traffic through the village;**
- **Consideration for imposing a 20mph speed limit in parts of the village, and;**
- **Restrict the type of vehicles that can use the byway from Dyers Green to Mettle Hill, or downgrade it to a bridleway.**

SECTION 3 – Education

The County Council is responsible for the provision of education, and therefore it clearly falls outside the scope of this Parish Plan. However, having an understanding of the range of schools used by residents of Whaddon helps in understanding traffic movements in and out of the village and the associated need for safe pedestrian and cycle routes.

Residents with school-aged children were asked which schools their children attended. 19 responses were received, some of which included more than one school. The list of schools attended is set out in Table 7 below.

School	Type
Petersfield, Orwell	Primary
Meldreth Primary School	Primary
Melbourn Primary School	Primary
Steeple Morden Primary School	Primary
Kingshott School, Hitchin	Primary/Middle
Bassingbourn Village College	Secondary
Melbourn Village College	Secondary
The Oakes, Cambridge (formerly Netherhall 6th Form Centre)	6 th Form Centre
Holme Court, Cambridge	Specialist Education Provision
Martin Bacon Academy	Specialist Provision – Primary/Secondary
St John's College School	Primary/Middle
Kings Ely	Primary/Secondary/6 th Form Provision
The Perse	Primary/Secondary/6 th Form Provision

Table 7 – List of Schools attended by pupils from Whaddon

A subsequent question asked if the respondent was satisfied with the education provision. Of the 17 responses received, the vast majority (82%) stated that they were broadly satisfied.

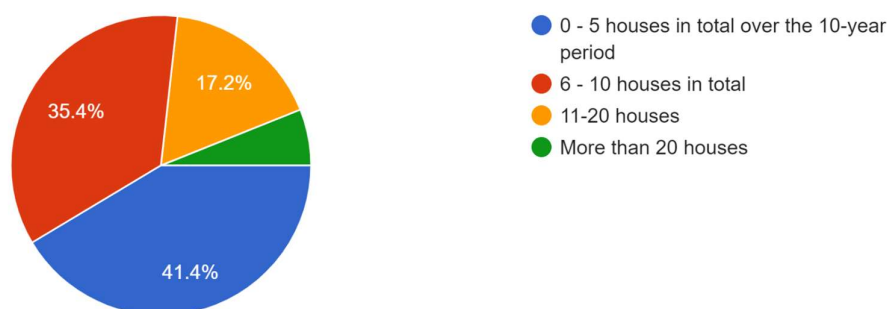
The provision of an off-road pedestrian and cycle route from Whaddon to Meldreth (as identified in Section 2) would benefit 6th Form students using the train to access colleges in Cambridge, and secondary aged pupils attending Kings School (Ely) and The Perse (Cambridge) might also benefit, along with pupils cycling to Melbourn Village College.

SECTION 4 – Housing and Development

Whilst Whaddon remains a small village, it has changed dramatically over the last 75 years, and the vast majority of houses in the village date from post 1945. Residents were asked about the further development of the village over the next 10 years and the range of responses is summarised in the pie chart below.

Over the next 10 years, how much growth would you wish to see in Whaddon?

99 responses



Clearly this suggests a wide range of views, from those that would wish to see no development to others seeking an increase of 10% (or more) of the existing housing provision. But, broadly speaking, there is a general acceptance that some growth will be needed, subject to it being both proportionate to the village and in-keeping with the its character, and just under 59% of respondents sought growth of 6 or more houses over the next 10 years. The range of responses is highlighted further in the associated free-text responses.

'I don't think Whaddon should grow bigger at all, it's called the countryside for a reason. Keep it that way.'

'I like the small, intimate feel of Whaddon but I accept that nothing stands still, and growth is better than decline.'

'Brown field development sites only. Undertake comprehensive landscape and visual impact assessments before any development. The village is unsuitable for large-scale development.'

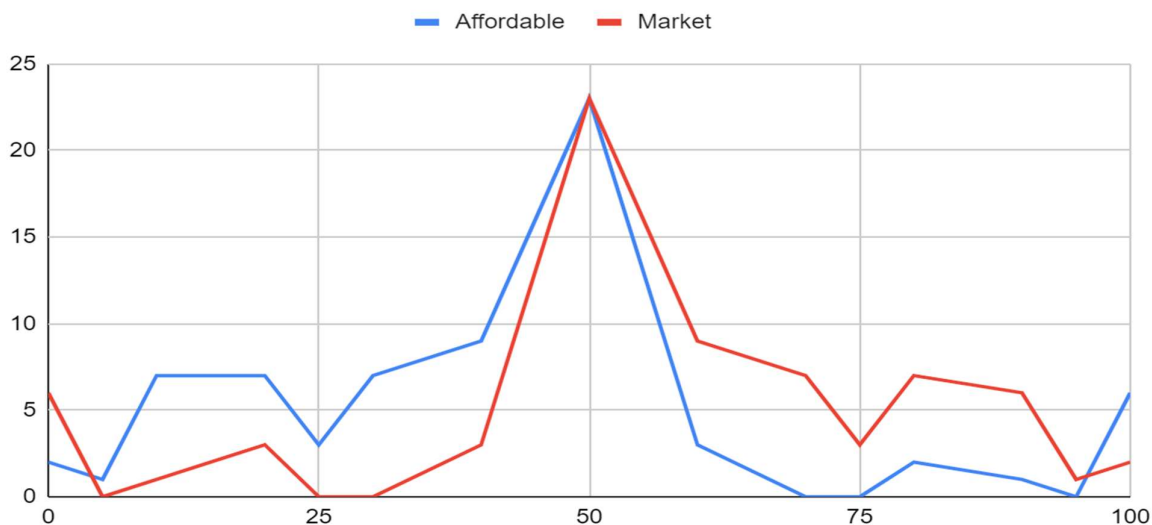
'Local need, social housing should be a priority.'

'A small increase in the number of houses seems reasonable in a small village. 6-10 would represent natural growth.'

'I am aware that the next generation of house buyers, even if they wanted to remain in Whaddon, feel that the properties available are too expensive and therefore would be interested in providing more starter homes.'

'I think in 10 years we need to support the families here growing up and wanting to stay local with family, and also the housing need nationally. I would guess in 10 years to expect to see a further 30 homes, as we are a population living longer.'

The polarity in opinions on new housing was further evident in the responses to what the percentage split should be between affordable housing (ie housing provided by a Housing Association for rent or shared equity) and market housing (housing provided for sale on the open market). Some thought all new housing in the parish should be affordable while others wished it all to be market housing. However, many respondents sought something in between these two extremes, as is evident from the graph below, with a 50-50 split being the most popular.



Graph showing preferred percentage split between Affordable Housing and Market Housing

While the type of any new Affordable Housing would be determined through a *Housing Needs Survey*, residents were asked to express their views on the type of Market Housing that they would wish to see in the parish by ranking the following 5 different types of Market Housing:

- Smaller homes aimed specifically at first time buyers
- Smaller homes/bungalows aimed specifically at those who wish to downsize
- Medium-sized family houses
- Larger 'executive' sized houses
- Serviced plots for self-build houses

The results of this ranking are set out in Table 8 below.

	Smaller homes aimed specifically at first time buyers	Smaller homes/bungalows aimed specifically at those who wish to downsize	Medium-sized family houses	Larger 'executive' sized houses	Serviced plots for self-build houses
Most like to see (1)	36%	24%	12%	18%	19%
2	17%	26%	26%	8%	11%
3	20%	30%	35%	16%	13%
4	15%	9%	13%	11%	18%
Least like to see (5)	12%	13%	11%	44%	35%

Table 8 – Ranking of different types of Market Housing

This suggests a greatest degree of support within the community for smaller homes aimed specifically at first time buyers, along with some support for smaller homes/bungalows aimed at those wishing to downsize, and least support for larger 'executive' sized houses and service plots for self-build.

The final question within the housing section asked whether residents would like to see a requirement for any new housing in this parish to have reduced carbon emissions of at least 15% when compared to a similar house built in accordance with the minimum standards set out in the Building Regulations (i.e. 5% greater than that currently required in the rest of South Cambridgeshire). Just short of 75% of the 99 respondents to this question supported this aspiration.

The responses to Section 4 of the questionnaire suggest that the following might be considered for inclusion in the new Parish Plan:

- **A new *Housing Needs Survey* should be commissioned to determine the local demand for Affordable Housing and the specific type(s) of Affordable Housing required;**
- **That over the next 10 years the village should be allowed to grow to a modest extent, though that growth should be both proportionate to the size of the existing village and respect its character – this would specifically exclude larger, estate-type developments;**
- **New housing should include both Affordable and Market Housing, split approximately equally between the two;**
- **Encourage any new Market Housing in Whaddon to specifically address the needs of first-time buyers and those seeking to downsize;**
- **The Parish Council should ask SCDC to include a condition on any planning permission for new housing within the parish requiring a reduced carbon emission of at least 15% when compared to a similar house built in accordance with the minimum standards set out in the Building Regulations.**



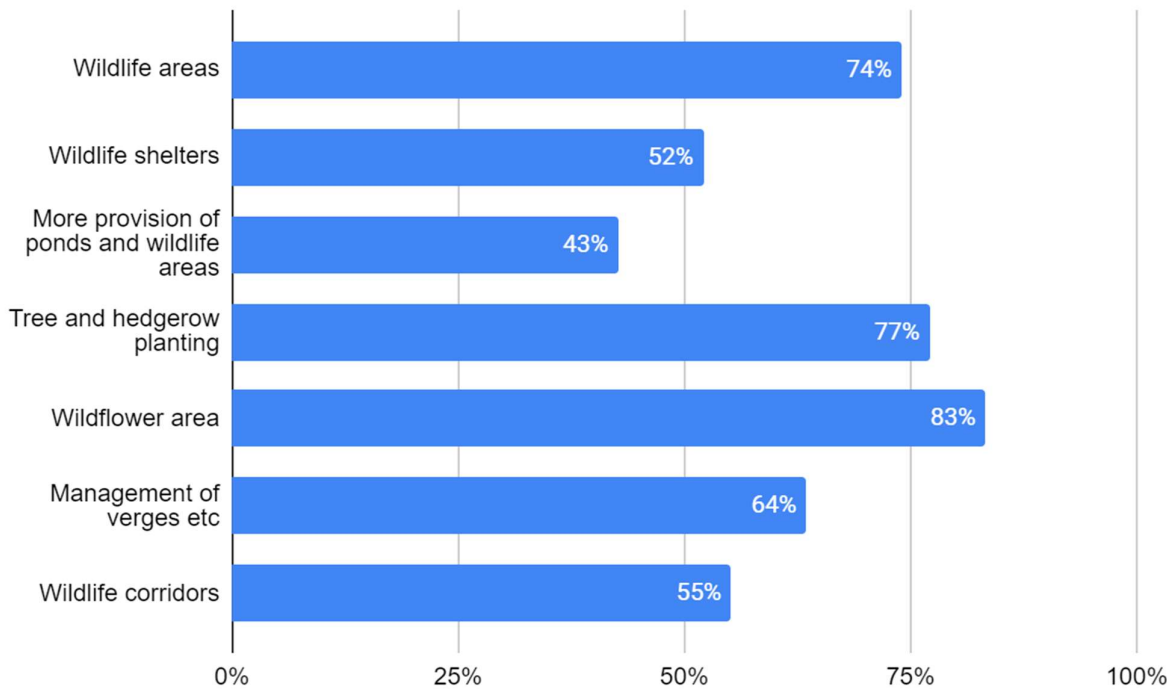
SECTION 5 – The Environment

Eco-friendly Group

Just under 60% of 99 respondents supported the idea of establishing an "eco-friendly group" with the objective of making the parish of Whaddon carbon-neutral and to encourage energy efficiency, while a third had no opinion on the matter. Just over 7% did not support establishing such a group.

Biodiversity within Whaddon and the cutting of grass verges.

Residents were asked to pick their top five measures for improving biodiversity within the parish. The results are set out in the bar-chart below and, in addition, 4 respondents thought all 7 were important, while one thought advice should be sought from an expert.



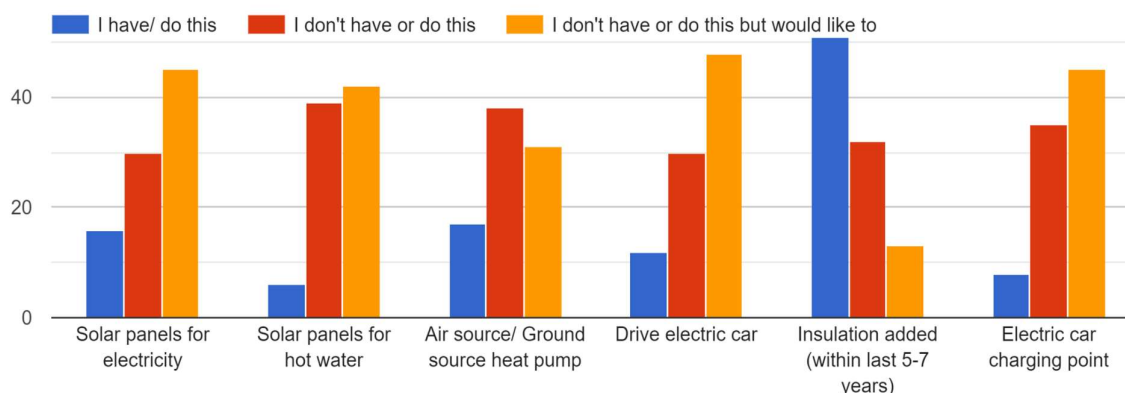
Support for measures to improve biodiversity within Whaddon

A subsequent, but related, question sought opinions on the regularity of cutting grass verges within the parish. Of the 100 responses to this question, 78% supported the principle of periodic cutting to allow wild flowers to grow on these verges, with only 22% wanting them cut neatly and more regularly.

Environmentally-focused actions and initiatives

A significant number of respondents (36) said that they would wish to see an electric car charging point at the Village Hall/Recreation Ground Car Park, though it may not be widely known that public charging points attract 20% VAT whereas private charging points only attract 5%. This may prove to be a financial disincentive to use a public charging point if one was to be provided at the Village Hall. However, it is also clear that not all houses in Whaddon have off-road parking and, as electric cars become more widespread, using a public charger at the Village Hall may be the only practical option for some.

The bar-chart below outlines the existing take-up and potential interest in a range of environmentally-focused actions and initiatives. From this it is apparent that there is a pool of knowledge and experience in Whaddon that could be drawn on to help others who are thinking of pursuing a similar course of action.



In the free-text box there was also extensive support, and some opposition, to the idea of a community solar farm or wind turbine, plus recommendations that solar panels should be added to the roof of the Village Hall and at St Mary's Church. Other ideas include a community orchard, community garden, initiatives to use the spring for watering gardens (instead of tap water), the group purchasing of solar panels and/or insulation products to gain economies of scale, and a greater awareness of the small things that can be done by every household.

'Community orchard. The village to help maintain the woods by St Mary's Close, which could be a lovely wildlife haven.'

'A community; solar farm, wind turbine, water turbine, heat pump, energy storage. Ability to use the spring water for gardening (pumped pipe or similar), scheme to add boreholes to gardens for further water displacement from taps.'

'Whaddon should consider working with its larger neighbouring parishes to see what might be achievable. It is too small to do this on its own.'

'Greater awareness of the small things that can be done by every household, perhaps via an eco-friendly group.'

'Village Hall to be an 'eco building' + local community solar grid + collective purchasing of eco initiatives eg solar panels etc. Planning approval should reflect these priorities.'

Reuse and Recycling

A range of initiatives were suggested to improve reuse and recycling in the parish. These include:

- A community skip twice a year;
- Quarterly/monthly opportunities to get together at the Village Hall for those wishing to pass on unwanted items, at no cost, to others;
- A second-hand clothes event for people to bring and swap clothes – including school uniforms etc;

- Those with large vehicles to alert others when making trips to Royston recycling centre and Triplow;
- Repair café held locally once or twice a year (or more often) to help those not technically minded, and;
- Encourage greater use of WhaddsApp for the disposal of unwanted furniture and equipment.

'A community repair shop - eg monthly in the village hall - would help those of us who are not technically capable to extend use of eg electrical equipment.'

'Community 'tip trips' to assist those with lower mobility to take their things to the recycling centre at Thriplow.'

'Hold Exchange events in the Village Hall, donate uniforms, children's clothing, DVD'S, books, puzzle's, games, boots, electrical equipment. Anything you no longer need which can be passed on to someone who needs something, with no cost. Helps out, especially with the Cost of living, but also recycling and saving the trip to the dump or charity shop'.

Litter, Fly-tipping and Dog-fouling

30% of the 100 responders thought that there was no problem in the parish with either litter or fly-tipping, while 65% thought that there was a minor problem with litter and a similar (63%) thought that there was a minor problem with fly-tipping. At times litter is visible on the verges, particularly on the road to Whaddon Gap, but it is apparent that the village handyman is managing to keep on top of the problem and preventing it from becoming more of an issue. The car park at Whaddon Gap is again seen as a focus for fly-tipping, but the removal of the hedge fronting the road has helped. Fly-tipping has also been noted on the Byway from Dyers Green.

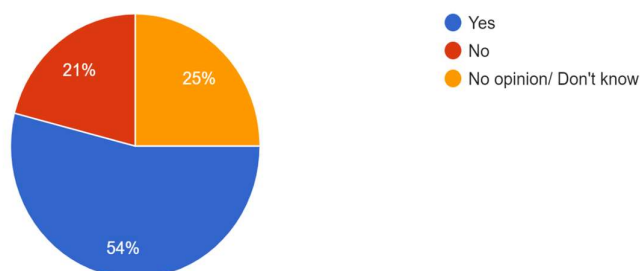
'Jonathan is doing a grand job. However, the odd family community litter pick would be good. Teaches good values at a young age.'

Exactly 50% of responders considered dog-fouling to be a problem in the parish and there is a request for a couple more dog waste bins.

Road signs and Planters

The final two issues covered under this section dealt with the cleanliness of road signs and enhancing the village with flowers/planter/pots. Just over 68% of responders thought the road signs were clean enough, while only just over half (54%) of responders wished to see the village enhance with flowers, planters or pots (see pie chart below).

100 responses



The responses to the Environment Section of the questionnaire suggest a number of initiatives that might be considered for inclusion in the new Parish Plan, including:

- Encourage the enhancement of the village through provision of flowers, planters and pots;
- Facilitate the setting up an 'eco-friendly group' to help encourage energy efficiency, move Whaddon towards becoming carbon-neutral, and act as a facilitator to disseminate knowledge, experience and best practice on environmentally-focused actions and initiatives;
- Promote biodiversity within the parish through seeking opportunities to enhance wildlife and wild flower areas, planting of trees and hedgerows, the ecological management of roadside verges and the enhancement of wildlife corridors – including encouraging the County Council to allow the hedgerows either side of the byway to regenerate;
- Help facilitate the installation of solar panels on the roof of the Village Hall and a communal electric car charging point in the Village Hall car park;
- Investigate the feasibility, cost, pros and cons of establishing a community solar farm or wind turbine;
- Promote greater awareness of the small things that can be done by every household to help make Whaddon greener;
- Promote further initiatives to encourage greater repair, reuse and recycling of goods and clothing, and;
- Further improve the provision of dog-waste bins in the parish.



SECTION 6 – Leisure, Amenities and Communications

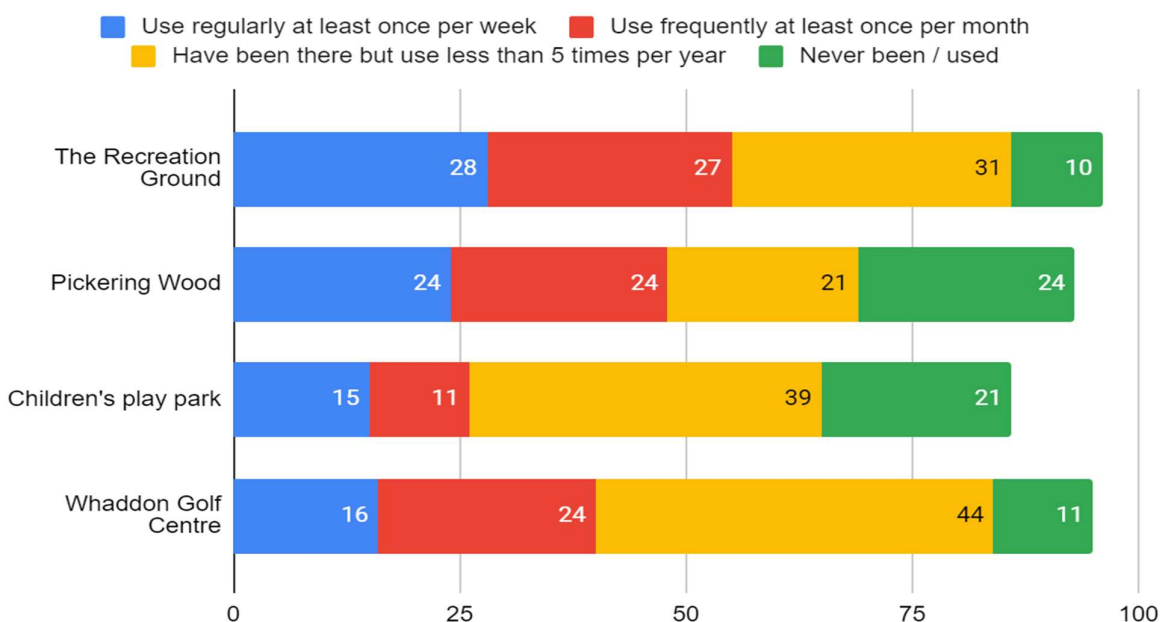
Almost exactly half of 99 respondents (49.5%) had attended a village-based club, group or activity, which were then represented in a list of both one-off and recurring events, mainly at the Village Hall, Recreation Ground or Golf Centre.

When asked what else people would like to see the list included:

- Bingo or Games Nights;
- Drama Group;
- Mother and Baby/Toddler Group;
- Food Bank;
- Walking Group;
- Salsa Dancing; and
- Cycling Group

However, it was not clear who would organise and run these new groups and, currently, there is very little spare capacity at the Village Hall for regular groups to meet (especially in the evenings).

Just over a third of 100 respondents (37%) had rented the Village Hall for a private function, suggesting a wide range of residents are making use of this community-owned resource. And it is also apparent that residents are making both regular and occasional use of other leisure facilities in the parish, as shown in the bar-chart below.



Allotments

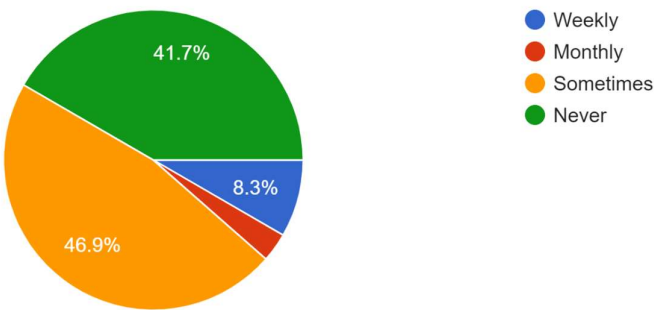
Most houses in Whaddon have relatively large gardens, with space for growing vegetables. But some have small gardens, and 22 out of 100 respondents indicated that they would be interested in renting an allotment, suggesting that there is a need that the Parish Council might seek to address.

Faith-based Activities

Almost half of 96 respondents sometimes attend services at St Mary’s Church, while just over 8% attend weekly and nearly 42% never attend (as indicated on the pie-chart below).

Do you attend services or other occasions at the Church?

96 responses

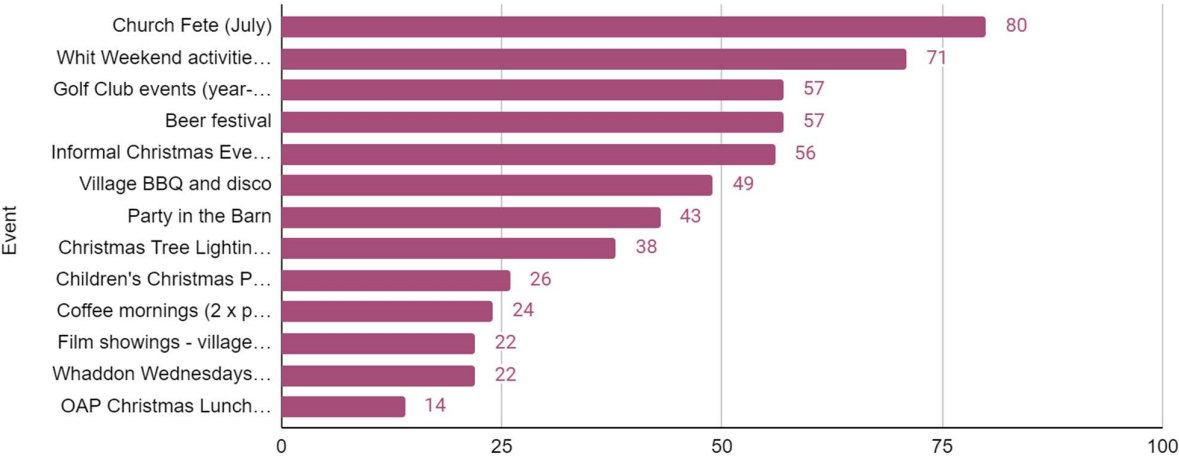


Some felt the church should be doing more, by addressing the worshiping needs of other Christian faiths or those preferring different forms of worship, and services specifically for children. Others looked to the church for the main festivals (Easter, Harvest, Christmas etc) and for life events (baptisms, weddings and funerals) along with pastoral support. For some, the church as a landmark and a building of historic interest is key, and at least one person asked if the building could be left open more often. Finally, a number of residents would like to see the church used more for non-religious events, including concerts, recitals, exhibitions, etc, though as one respondent noted this would require a toilet to be installed. All of these comments and suggestions will be passed to the Parochial Church Council, who are responsible for St Mary’s.

Community Events

Residents were asked which of a range of Community Events they had attended or might attend in the future. The Church Fete, Beer Festival and Whaddon Whit Events came out as being the most regularly attended, as indicated on the bar chart below.

Have you attended any of the following community events in the Parish of Whaddon in the last three years?



Just under half of the respondents (44.4%) would like to see more Community Events in Whaddon, and suggestions included:

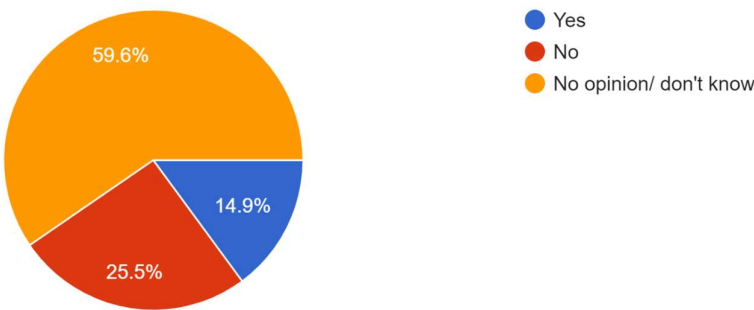
- Revamping the Church Fete and changing it to a Village Fete (this is due to happen in 2023);
- More events for children;
- Drama productions;
- Murder Mystery event;
- Tree planting;
- Open Gardens;
- A return of ‘Party in the Barn’;
- Local History and Walks;
- Litter Picking; and
- Harvest Supper.

Whaddon News

The majority of respondents had no strong opinion, or were not looking for changes to the Whaddon News, though nearly 15% would like to see some changes (see pie chart below).

If you read the Whaddon News do you think it could be improved?

94 responses



Comment in the free-text box included:

‘I have said "yes" because it could be improved. However, that would require people to contribute to it and that is always a problem with these things.’

‘For a small village, it’s a pretty good magazine. Things can always be made better, but that might make the magazine too expensive, or place too big a burden on those responsible for producing the magazine.’

‘It’s a good village magazine; maybe try to include Cardiff Place more.’

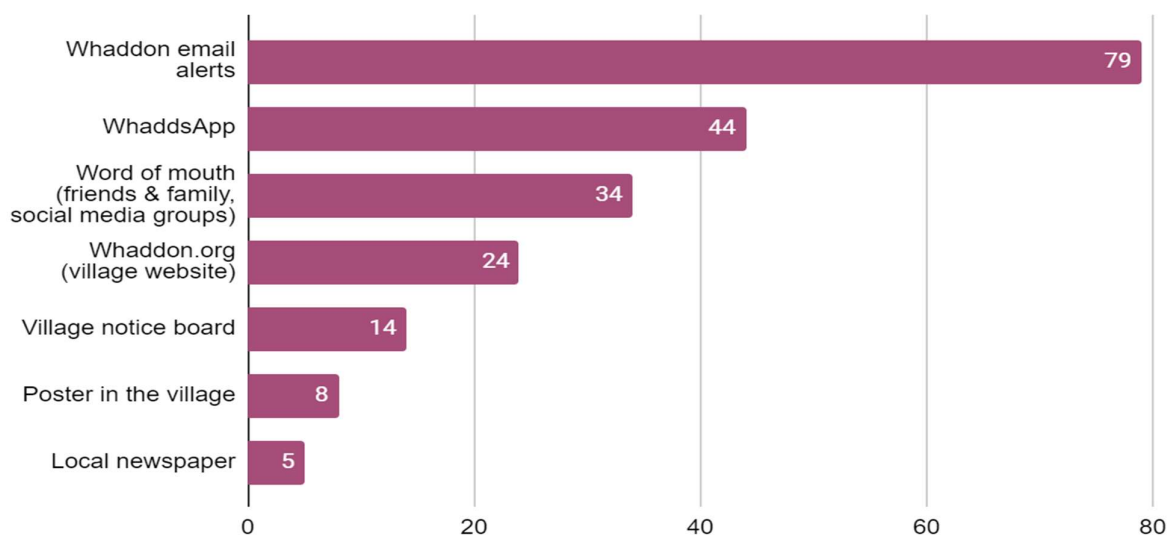
‘Make it even bigger but it is very good. The ‘history’ bit is excellent alongside Councillor news.’

Suggested additions to the magazine included; Nature Notes and what to look out for seasonally, Recipes and Puzzles, and a Children’s Section.

Communications

Residents were asked about communications within the parish. For the 95 residents who responded the clearly favoured method was via the Whaddon e-mail alerts (83.2%) followed by WhaddsApp (46.3%) and Word of Mouth (35.8%). See bar chart below. The vast majority (85.7%) stated that they were satisfied with the level of communication in the parish, and just 5% were not satisfied.

What communication methods do you prefer using to find out about important issues affecting the Parish of Whaddon? Please select up to THREE choices.



Issues from Section 6 that might feed into the new Parish Plan include:

- Undertake further investigations into the demand for allotments, both within the village and at Cardiff Place, then seek how best to address that demand;
- Review how the Whaddon News might better include Cardiff Place and whether the content of the magazine should be expanded. Then, if the decision is to pursue expansion, seek volunteers prepared to contribute on a regular basis to cover areas such as *Nature Notes*, *Seasonal Recipes*, *Puzzles* and a *Children's Section*, and provide the funding to cover the cost of the resulting additional pages;
- Ensure appropriate forms communications remain available for those not on-line;
- Reintroduce a 'Welcome Pack' for new residents moving into the parish, and;
- Continue to ensure that the Village Hall Trust and Parish Council consider all requests for new activities as well as learning and development opportunities in the village hall.

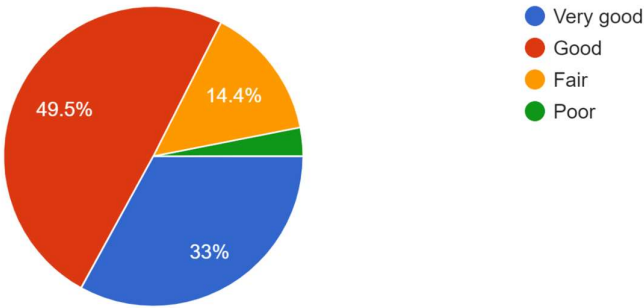


Section 7 – Medical Services, Health and Wellbeing

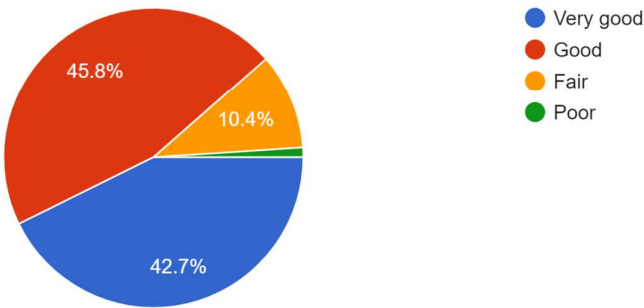
Since there are currently no medical services located within the parish, residents were asked if this had resulted in difficulties accessing medical services. Of the 100 responses received, 89% had not experienced any difficulty. For the 11% who had had problems, this was primarily down to the need to have access to a car and drive, though some also highlighted issues in getting appointments, particularly at the Melbourn Surgery. Just under a quarter of responders (23.3%) currently make use of the prescription collection/delivery service, with one person not aware of its existence.

Over three-quarters of responders (82.5%) described their physical health as good or very good, and an even greater number (88.5%) described their mental health and wellbeing as good or very good (see pie charts below).

How would you rate your physical health?
97 responses



How would you rate your mental health and wellbeing?
96 responses



Consideration might be given to include within the new Parish Plan a recommendation to investigate the implications for setting up and managing a list of potential volunteer drivers to help those that currently have difficulty getting to and from the doctors’ surgeries for medical appointments.

Section 8 – Employment

As part of building a picture of the parish, residents were asked if the Covid Pandemic had impacted on their employment. 38.9% of respondents said it had (though from Section 1b we also know that nearly 30% of respondents are retired). For most the impact of the pandemic had been the introduction of home-working (both for all or part of the week), but for some it had resulted in unemployment, while some self-employed residents had also lost significant amounts of work for varying periods of time.

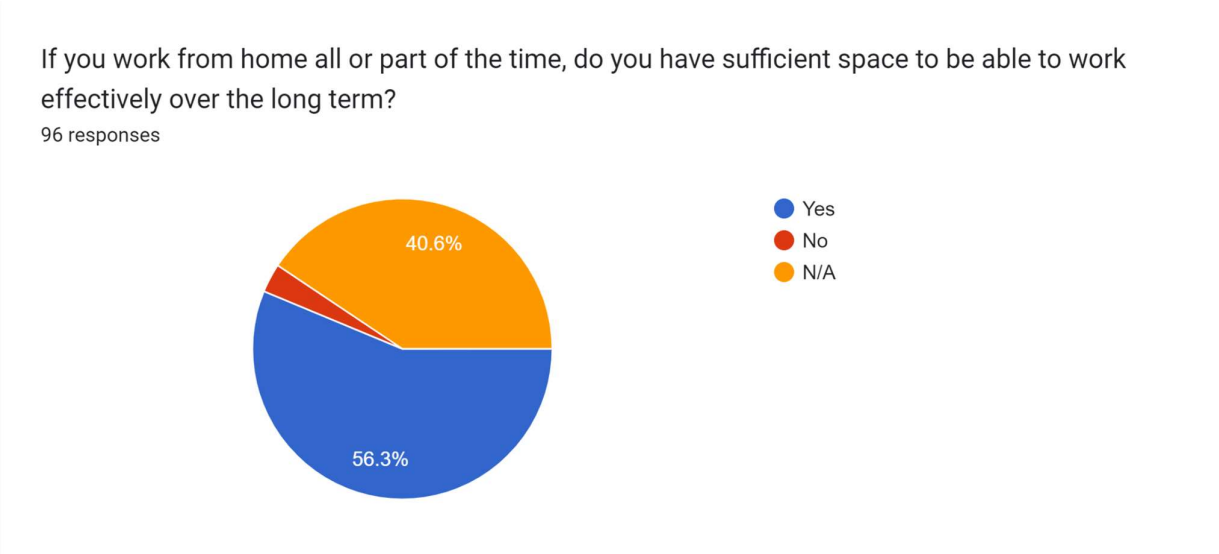
‘I work at home 90% of the time now instead of full time in the office. It's become a way of life. Working all day on Teams is a bit relentless.’

‘I taught from home while home-schooling my children with my husband also working from home. He now works from home full time.’

‘It was a positive experience. Working from home worked well for our family.’

‘Self-employed, no work for 3 months.’

For those now working from home either full-time or part-time, most do not have a problem due to lack of space within their homes, and only 3.1% had an issue with this (see pie chart below).

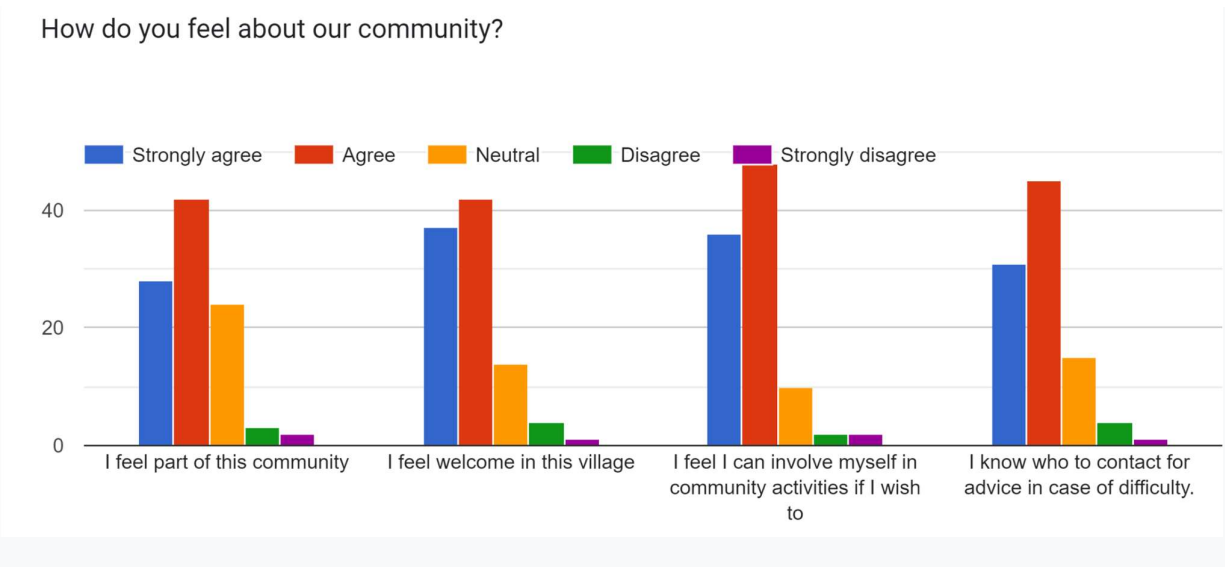


Further work might be done to assess whether there is a significant problem for those working from home on their own in the parish, and what might be done to improve their mental well-being. Initiatives to address this might include inviting a mobile refreshments van to visit the village at mid-week lunchtimes on a regular basis, so as to provide an opportunity for home-workers to meet and socialise in their lunchbreaks.

Section 9 – Community, Governance, Crime and Antisocial Behaviour

Community

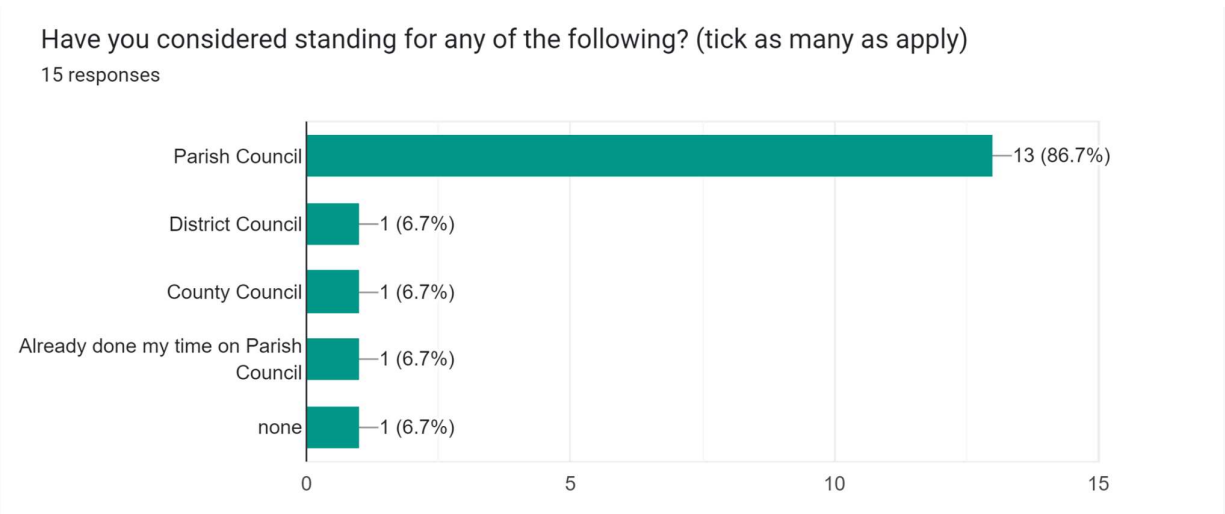
When asked about ‘our community’ the majority of responders agreed or strongly agreed with a series of statements about feeling part of this community, feeling welcome, feeling able to get involved if they wished, and knowing who to contact in case of difficulties (see bar chart below). However, a minority disagreed, or strongly disagreed.



‘I have always been part of Bassingbourn but suddenly found I am now part of Whaddon’

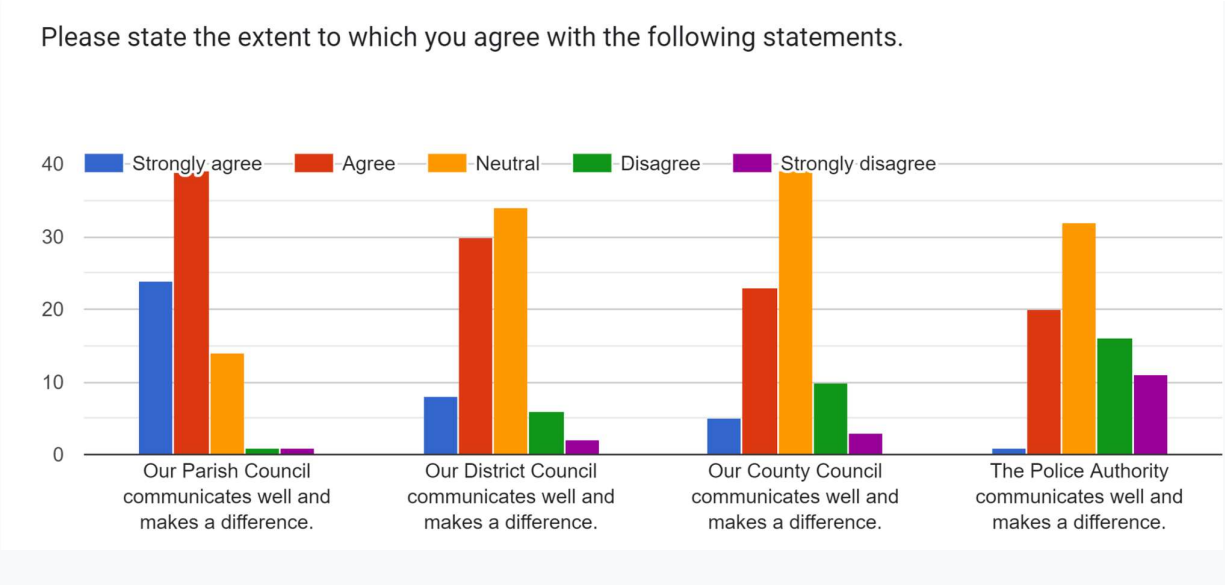
Governance

Only 15 residents answered the question concerning standing for the County, District or Parish Council, with the greatest interest expressed in being elected as a Parish Councillor (see bar chart below). A majority (over 60%) believed that they understood the differing roles and responsibilities of County, District and Parish Councils.



However, it is apparent that only the Parish Council is thought to communicate well and make a difference (see bar chart below). The District Council is considered to be less good at

communicating and making a difference, while the County Council is considered to perform less well than the District Council and the Police Authority is held in least regard.



Crime and Antisocial Behaviour

Overwhelmingly, (99%) respondents felt safe in Whaddon.

‘After having a break in to our shed within 4 months of moving we are concerned about security and do not feel particularly confident about the security of our property.’

‘Hare coursing is an intimidating occurrence.’

Just under 80% of respondents are aware of the Neighbourhood Watch scheme that operates in the village, and nearly 40% expressed a willingness to participate. Slightly fewer, (67.5%) are aware that the Speedwatch Group is restarting, and just over 20% expressed a willingness to get involved.

The majority of respondents (84%) had not had to report a crime or antisocial behaviour in Whaddon in the last 3 years and, of those who had, 70% were satisfied with the response. Reasons for not feeling satisfied by the response from the police include:

‘No follow up.’

‘Still waiting.’

‘Police could do more to tackle hare coursing.’

‘Felt concern was not taken seriously.’

‘The usual problem--they give you a crime number and that's it. No attendance or anything.’

Section 10 – Final Comments

At the end of the questionnaire, respondents were offered the opportunity to add any final comments. Some took this opportunity to reinforce the issues that they feel most strongly about, others repeated their general satisfaction with Whaddon as a place to live, or expressed their thanks for the opportunity that the questionnaire had provided for them to raise concerns and issues. One person used this opportunity to criticise the questionnaire and express their disappointment at its scope and content. A selection of the comments are as follows:

‘Any green initiatives I would be massively in favour of supporting.’

‘Already mentioned, but more facilities in the village would be great. I feel people (including us) will eventually leave the village to go to more resourced villages otherwise.’

‘Additional NO THROUGH ROAD signs needed in Dyers Green.’

‘This was covered - but there is a strong need to enhance our village with environment projects as I don’t feel this has been done at all. Wildflower areas, enhance Pickering Wood, plant more trees on agreed land. Likewise, I feel that footpaths and any paths should be maintained to a greater degree and I think most villagers would agree and be happy to help with this.’

‘I wonder if an ‘new arrivals sheet’ would be useful for people who come into the village. I found it tricky to figure out the what’s-what of Whaddon when I first arrived and was working full time outside of the village, hence, I wonder if it could be worth considering providing a short document through the door when a property changes hands explaining the village council, the bins app, who to contact to get onto Whaddsapp/village email etc.’

‘As a father of a small child, we don’t use the playground on weekend mornings due to the large number of dogs off lead in a lesson. These are often not fully controlled and it puts us off using our playground sadly as my son became scared. Too many dogs and not a suitable place for commercial classes in my opinion.’

‘Am very grateful to all those who give of their time to make Whaddon such a well-run and friendly community.’

‘Thank you for organising this survey and all the time you are devoting to it.’

‘Would love to be more involved in village life when my present commitments allow (currently caring for elderly parents and still have teenagers at home).’

‘We love living in the parish. The key issues are lack of regular public transport links to Royston. A cycle Lane to Royston could be very beneficial as I suspect the bus operators are reluctant to invest in a frequent bus route.’

‘Having lived in many different locations in the last 10 years, I am confident that Whaddon is a very strong community. There will always be things to improve and disagreements about change, but as a relative newcomer it's clear that many people care about the village and this is very inspiring.’

'I have been impressed with a lot of the communication we receive about bins, recycling, road resurfacing and similar matters. They are very useful to know and clearly people are using a lot of their own time to benefit the village.'

'The community spirit is a true, huge, plus to living in Whaddon. After all the negatives above, they're only small improvements on an already great place to live. A big hand to those that put their time, effort and abilities to the community. I hope to repay the debt in the years to come when I have some free time again. Thank you.'

'I feel very privileged to live in Whaddon. Where else can you see amazing sunrises and sunsets, the Milky Way at night, almost bump into a heron one minute, and be in Tesco or a mainline railway station 5 minutes later? There is a very strong sense of community, and some very talented and generous residents helping to run the Village Hall, the church, and other local groups. The residents really care about their village, and the Parish Council do a great job.'

The 'word-picture' below was generated from these free-text responses.



Respondents – overall numbers and age range

19 responses



celebrations
calm Playground lots
ground like training
Living golf nice house
park walks icecream
go rec family sure centre
Dog neighbours hoop
basketball near club
wildlife community
peaceful

36 | Page

Number of children in Whaddon

There was a wide range of responses to the question on the overall number of children living in Whaddon. Five respondents thought that there were under 10 children living in the parish, while eight respondents suggested a range of 11 – 50 children, a further four respondents were in the range of 51 – 100 children, and one suggested 110 children. One respondent said that they were not sure. Once the population data from the 2021 Census is made available, the actual number of children in the parish will become known.

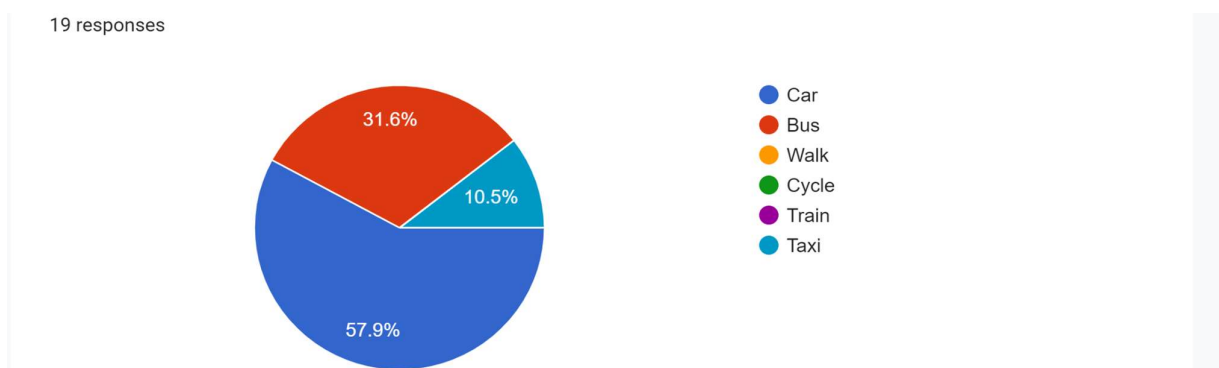
Schools, transport and school friends

The children responding to the questionnaire attend a range of schools, broadly similar (but not identical) to those listed in Table 7 of the analysis of the Adults' Questionnaire.

School	Type
Rainbow Day Nursery, Trumpington	Early Years
Petersfield School, Orwell	Primary
Bassingbourn Primary School	Primary
Steeple Morden Primary School	Primary
Meldreth Primary School	Primary
Melbourn Primary School	Primary
Bassingbourn Village College	Secondary
Kingshott Independent School, Hitchin	Prep School
Holme Court, Cambridge	Specialist Education Provision
Martin Bacon Academy	Specialist Provision – Primary/Secondary

Table 9 – List of Schools attended by pupils from Whaddon as identified in the Children's Questionnaire

Given the range of schools attended by children in the parish, it is probably not surprising to learn that the majority travel to school by car, with just under a third using a bus and two children are transported by taxi. Unsurprisingly no respondents are able to walk to school and none cycle or use the train (see pie chart below).



Nearly 85% of respondents said that their school friends did not live in Whaddon, which suggests a clear sense of isolation. For those children, having access to their friends out of school requires their parents to transport them by car, limiting the number of opportunities to socialise and sometimes limited to just during the school holidays. This was reflected in the free-text responses.

‘It’s hard to walk to Meldreth where some of my friends live as there is no pathway and I have to walk in the road or along grassy verges with my mum.’

‘My parents have to take me.’

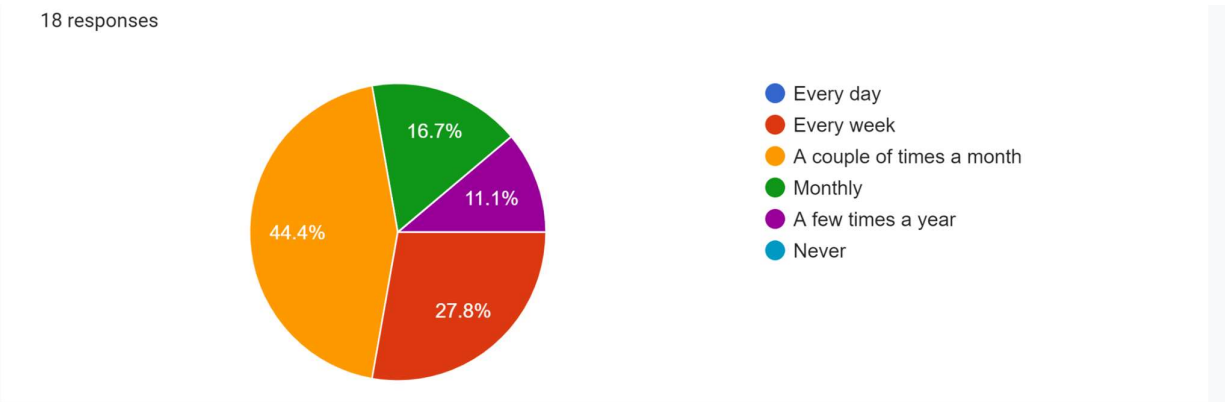
I can’t see them as often and I have to go in the car to see them which I don’t like.

Can’t see my friends when I want to.

I don’t get to see as much especially in the holidays

Playground and recreation ground

Almost all (just under 95%) of respondents make use of the playground. Nearly half of those use the playground a couple of times a month, and a further quarter use it every week. See pie chart below.



Just over two thirds of the respondents make use of the recreation ground; primarily using it for football, but also making use of the basketball hoop and space for games such as frisbee.

‘Sometimes instead of playing in the garden I play catch there with my family.’

When asked what changes they might like to see at the playground and recreation ground, eight suggested additional equipment – including more swings, a tree house, trampoline, fitness equipment and bigger equipment for older children, monkey bars and a big climbing frame. Four asked for a skate park and one requested a swimming pool. Other suggestions included a football pitch, tennis court and more trees for shade. But one just wanted to see it maintained as it is, and another would like to see the gate to the golf centre re-opened.

‘A football pitch would be really cool to practice on and there could maybe be a club for the kids.’

'Fitness equipment, bigger equipment for older children, tennis court, skate ramps and a splash pad.'

'No, just keep it maintained as it is a great playground.'

Socialising an Activities

70% of respondents said that they would like to meet other children in the village. With so many children attending different schools the opportunities to meet other children are clearly limited and 72% said that they would like some groups or activities to be made available at the village hall, the recreation ground or the church. These might include:

- An art or craft club;
- A Lego club;
- A play group;
- Youth club;
- Scouts/Guides/Brownies;
- Football/Judo/Tennis, and;
- Films, specifically for children.

Just over half (52%) of respondents said that they would be interested in litter picking in the village, while half also indicated that they would be willing to get involved in bulb-planting.

Two respondents over the age of 14 have part-time jobs, one delivering newspapers and the other helping on a farm.

Final comments

At the end of the children's questionnaire, respondents were offered the opportunity to add any final comments. These (in full) are as follows:

'It is hard to get to know other children in the village the same age as me.'

'Book club or sewing club or cooking classes.'

'I think it would be great if we could have a cycle path to other villages so I could go to school in greener ways.'

'I would like a shop.'

'To have more trees and wildflowers. I also would like to update the equipment.'

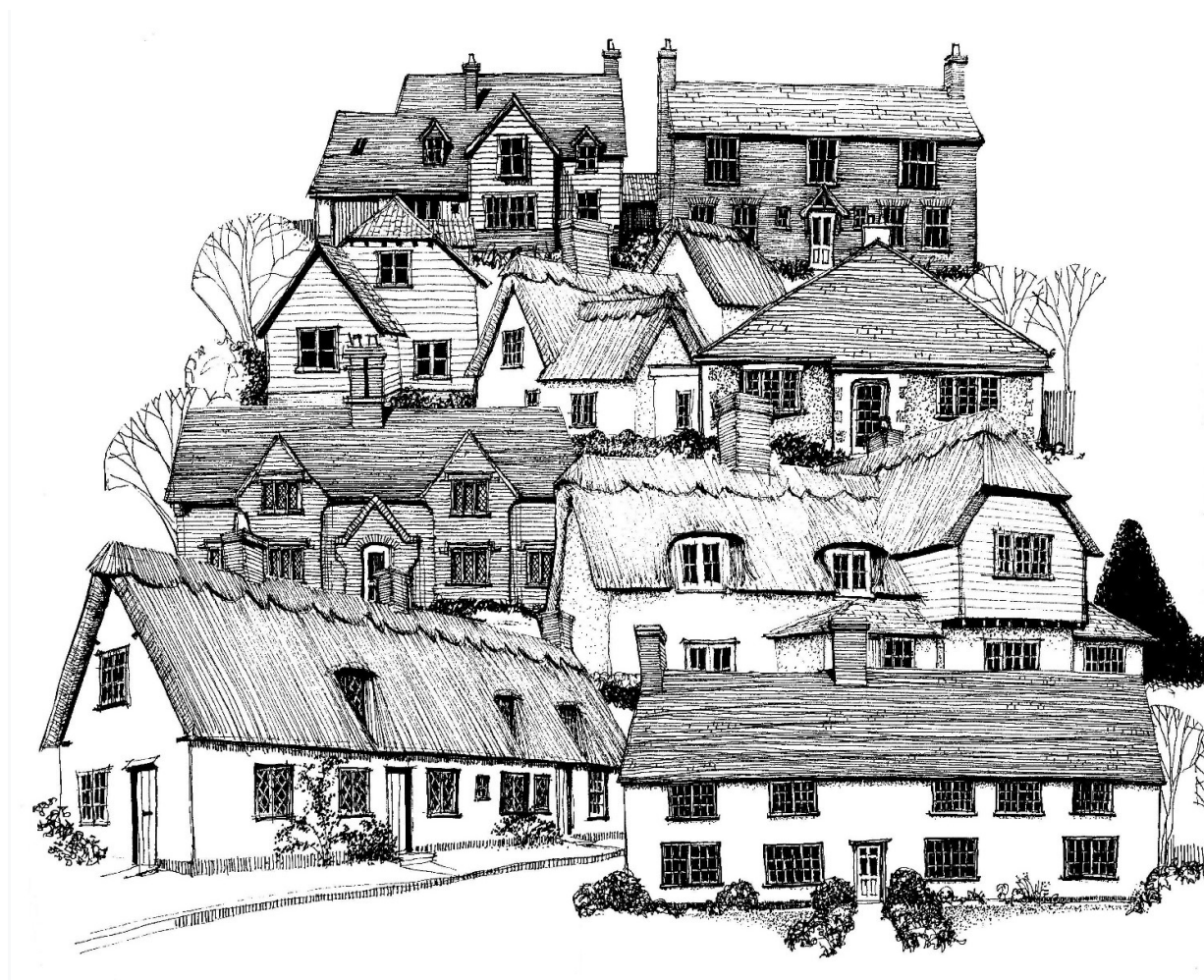
'I really want a skate park in the park.'

'Please can we plant a tree on the recreation ground.'

'Bonfire Party, live animals at the fete so you can meet them and stroke them.'

Responses to the Children's Questionnaire clearly raise a need to provide more opportunities for children to meet and socialise. These might include seeking adult volunteers to run a range of weekend or after-school clubs (art/Lego/youth club) and/or activities (football/judo/tennis/scouts and guides) in the Village Hall and on the recreation ground, along with other, less regular activities such as bulb-planting and tree-planting on the recreation ground. The village handyman currently keeps the problem of litter under control, but involving children in an annual litter-pick could be of value for their education, as well as providing a further opportunity for children to meet and socialise.

The provision of a safe, off-road pedestrian and cycle route to Meldreth, as already identified within the Adults' Questionnaire, is also seen as important. Expanding the range of play equipment, and specifically including equipment for older children, would again help address a perceived need, as would a football pitch, or maybe just a child-size goal – located well clear of the area used for dog training. The Parish Council may also wish to investigate the cost and practicalities of installing a small skate park on the recreation ground, or creating a BMX cycle track.



What Next?

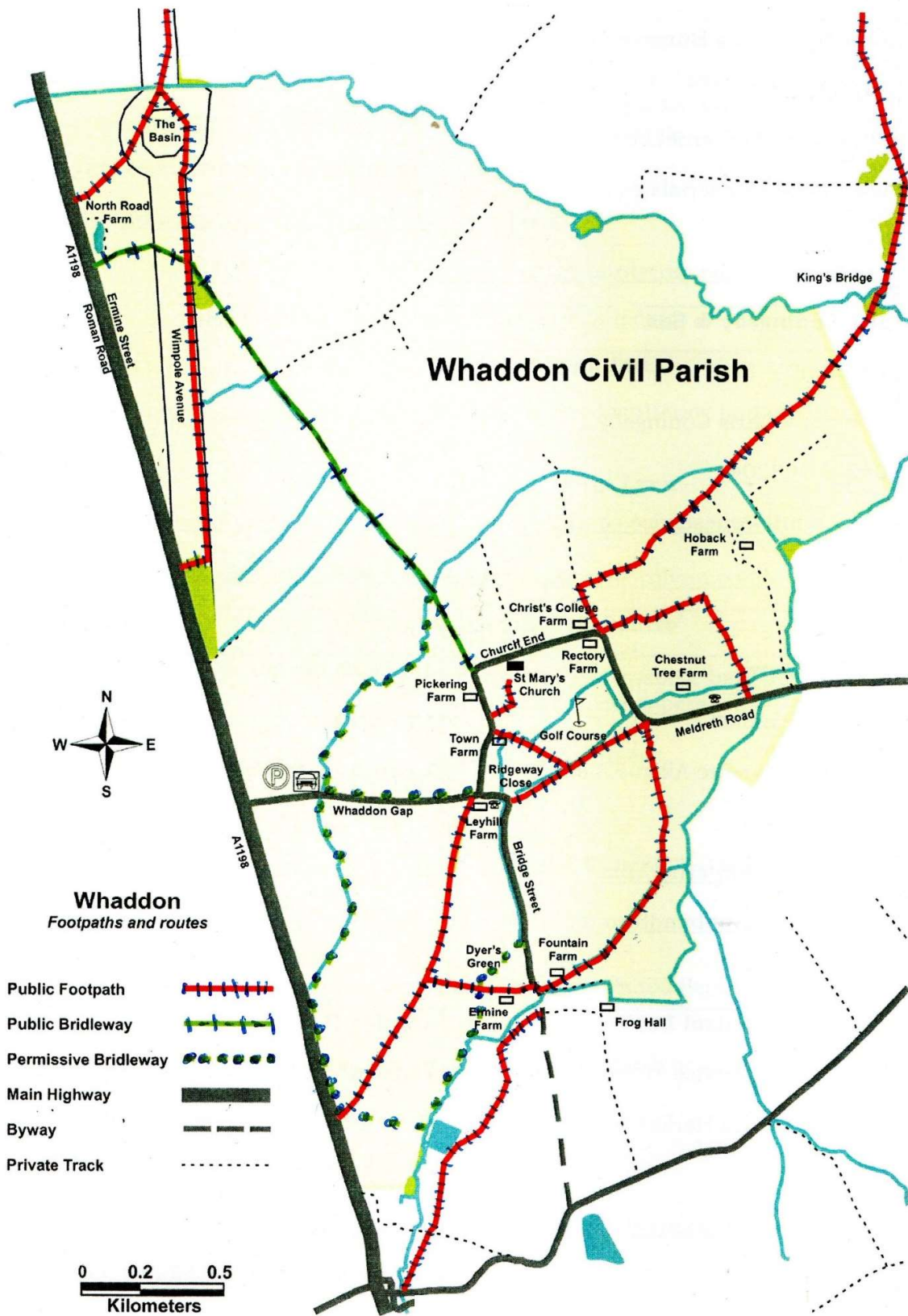
This Plan has been circulated to all relevant groups in the Parish for their consideration, including Whaddon Parish Council, the Village Hall Trust and the Parochial Church Council for St Mary's Whaddon.

We request that the Parish Council adopt this Plan and uses it when setting their priorities for the next five or so years. In particular, we would wish to draw their attention to the groundswell of support for adopting a number of 'green' initiatives that would benefit biodiversity as well as residents, and it is perhaps those aspects of the Plan that the Parish Council should seek to prioritise. We hope too that the Village Hall Trust will use the responses to the questionnaires to help identify the leisure and recreational needs in the parish that they might then seek to address through their activities.

Clearly, some of the recommendations have significant cost implications and others will require cooperation across parish boundaries to deliver. We request that the Parish Council, District Council and County Council look for all opportunities that might arise over the coming years where action might be taken to deliver all or part of these more difficult and expensive recommendations.

The Whaddon Parish Plan Working Group
March 2023





The Footpaths of Whaddon