

Whitchurch Village Plan 2008

Questionnaire Results

Q1. What gender are you?

| | | |
|---------------------|-----|------------------|
| <i>Male</i> | 212 | Total 460 |
| <i>Female</i> | 248 | |

Q2. How old are you?

| | |
|--------------------------|-----|
| <i>16-19</i> | 16 |
| <i>20-29</i> | 18 |
| <i>30-44</i> | 112 |
| <i>45-59</i> | 128 |
| <i>60-74</i> | 132 |
| <i>75 or older</i> | 56 |

Q3. How long have you lived in Whitchurch?

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| <i>Less than 1 year</i> | 29 |
| <i>1-5 years</i> | 107 |
| <i>6-10 years</i> | 61 |
| <i>11-20 years</i> | 106 |
| <i>More than 20 years</i> | 168 |

Q4. Where do you live?

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| <i>High Street</i> | 137 |
| <i>Hardwick Road</i> | 106 |
| <i>Manor Road</i> | 79 |
| <i>Eastfield Lane</i> | 53 |
| <i>Swanston Field</i> | 52 |
| <i>Other</i> | 32 |

Q5. Where do you work (if applicable)?

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----|
| <i>From home</i> | 89 |
| <i>Reading</i> | 61 |
| <i>London</i> | 33 |
| <i>Oxfordshire/Berkshire</i> | 100 |
| <i>Other</i> | 47 |
| <i>Don't work</i> | 168 |

Q6. N/A

Village Societies

Whitchurch has a number of organisations, societies and clubs. .

Q7. Which Whitchurch societies do you belong to? (Please tick all that apply.)

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----|-------------------------------|
| <i>Whitchurch Society</i> | 130 | |
| <i>Cricket Club</i> | 11 | |
| <i>Twinning Association</i> | 26 | |
| <i>History Society</i> | 26 | |
| <i>Allotment Society</i> | 33 | |
| <i>Young Riparians</i> | 15 | |
| <i>WoTHabs</i> | 33 | |
| <i>Camera Club</i> | 17 | |
| <i>Theatre Club</i> | 37 | |
| <i>Bridge Club</i> | 20 | |
| <i>Other</i> | 28 | <i>None of these</i>271 |

Village Hall

The Parish Council is negotiating the purchase of the village hall. Three options present themselves, subject to funding, and these are listed below.

Q8. Which ONE of the following would you prefer if funds allowed? (Please tick one only.)

| | |
|--|-----|
| <i>Refurbish existing hall</i> | 145 |
| <i>New hall on existing site</i> | 109 |
| <i>New hall on new site</i> | 121 |
| <i>Don't know</i> | 77 |

Sports Facilities

Q9. Which of the following indoor and outdoor facilities would you use on a regular basis if they were available in Whitchurch? (Please tick all that apply.)

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----|---------------------------|-----|
| <i>Football</i> | 31 | <i>Tennis</i> | 90 |
| <i>Short mat bowls</i> | 19 | <i>Martial arts</i> | 31 |
| <i>Exercise class/aerobics</i> | 125 | <i>Other</i> | 70 |
| <i>Table tennis</i> | 31 | <i>None</i> | 157 |
| <i>Hockey</i> | 12 | | |
| <i>Gym</i> | 105 | | |
| <i>Netball</i> | 14 | | |

Cricket Field

The future of the cricket field has been under discussion for a long time. Negotiations are currently in progress between the owners of the field, the Parish Council and Whitchurch Cricket Club.

Q10. Do you consider that the acquisition of the cricket field by the village is desirable?

Yes.....384
No.....23
Don't know.....48

Q11. Are you in favour of the extended use of the field for other recreational pursuits?

Yes..... 361
No..... 39
Don't know..... 54

Playground and Youth Facilities

The next questions concern the playground in Manor Road and the facilities for young people, and the possible need for investment.

Q12. How would you rate the overall provision of the current playground facilities for 4-7 year olds?

Very good.....74
Good.....130
Fair.....63
Poor.....11
Don't know.....173

Q13. How would you rate the overall provision of the current playground facilities for 8-12 year olds?

Very good.....18
Good.....45
Fair.....86
Poor.....82
Don't know.....224

Q14. How would you rate the overall maintenance of the current playground facilities?

| | |
|-------------------------|------------|
| <i>Very good</i> | 50 |
| <i>Good</i> | 123 |
| <i>Fair</i> | 71 |
| <i>Poor</i> | 10 |
| <i>Don't know</i> | 192 |

Q15. How would you rate the overall safety of the current playground facilities?

| | |
|-------------------------|------------|
| <i>Very good</i> | 70 |
| <i>Good</i> | 128 |
| <i>Fair</i> | 34 |
| <i>Poor</i> | 2 |
| <i>Don't know</i> | 213 |

Q16. Which additional outdoor play facilities for under-11 year olds would you like to see? (Please tick all that apply.)

| | |
|----------------------------|------------|
| <i>Play house</i> | 114 |
| <i>Picnic tables</i> | 149 |
| <i>Other</i> | 30 |
| <i>None</i> | 145 |

Community

Many people have indicated a wish for further community activities in Whitchurch, some of which might be provided in a refurbished or new village hall. We would like to know which ones, if any, you would support if they were provided.

Q17. Which activities would you take part in on a regular basis if they were available in Whitchurch? (Please tick all that apply.)

| | | | |
|---|------------|------------------------------|------------|
| <i>Mothers & toddlers group</i> | 35 | <i>Fitness classes</i> | 115 |
| <i>Lunches for senior citizens</i> | 45 | <i>Evening classes</i> | 119 |
| <i>Art & craft classes</i> | 103 | <i>Tabletop sales</i> | 36 |
| <i>IT classes incl internet</i> | 88 | <i>Quiz nights</i> | 93 |
| <i>Book club</i> | 80 | <i>Other</i> | 23 |
| <i>Film club</i> | 110 | <i>None</i> | 97 |
| <i>Tea and board games</i> | 24 | | |
| <i>Music playing/appreciation</i> | 52 | | |
| <i>Yoga/pilates</i> | 128 | | |

Church

St Mary's Parish Church is the oldest building in the village (even giving Whitchurch its name) and has had a major influence on our heritage and sense of community. St Mary's is currently working to improve the service it offers in a modern society.

Q18. Which of these are important to you personally? (Please tick all that apply.)

| | |
|--|------------|
| <i>Christian teaching</i> | 86 |
| <i>Opportunities for worship</i> | 134 |
| <i>Baptisms, weddings, funerals</i> | 214 |
| <i>Help for those in need locally</i> | 263 |
| <i>Help for others in need</i> | 169 |
| <i>Historic preservation</i> | 302 |
| <i>Other</i> | 12 |
| <i>None</i> | 40 |

Q19. What would make you want to be more involved in church life?

| | |
|-----------------------------------|------------|
| <i>Making new friends</i> | 55 |
| <i>Belonging</i> | 62 |
| <i>Someone to turn to</i> | 46 |
| <i>Learning about faith</i> | 41 |
| <i>Being prayed for</i> | 28 |
| <i>Social events</i> | 77 |
| <i>Personal growth</i> | 55 |
| <i>Other</i> | 27 |
| <i>Nothing</i> | 229 |

Community Safety and Social Problems

Q20. Have you been the victim of any of the following crimes in Whitchurch? (Please tick all that apply.)

| | |
|--|------------|
| <i>Burglary</i> | 80 |
| <i>Car crime</i> | 54 |
| <i>Criminal damage/vandalism</i> | 31 |
| <i>Physical assault</i> | 7 |
| <i>None</i> | 317 |

Q21. Which of these do you, personally, find a problem in Whitchurch? (Please tick all that apply.)

| | |
|-----------------------------------|------------|
| <i>Vandalism.....</i> | 34 |
| <i>Litter.....</i> | 107 |
| <i>Dog-fouling.....</i> | 168 |
| <i>Anti-social behaviour.....</i> | 30 |
| <i>Inconsiderate driving.....</i> | 327 |
| <i>None.....</i> | 73 |

Q22. Would you support a Neighbourhood Watch scheme in your area?

| | |
|---|------------|
| <i>Yes - would act as road coordinator.....</i> | 33 |
| <i>Yes - would display sticker in window.....</i> | 303 |
| <i>Already involved.....</i> | 48 |
| <i>No.....</i> | 86 |

School

Some parents have said that they would like to see greater access to the facilities at Whitchurch Primary School, in the evenings, weekends and during the holidays.

Q23. Would you be interested in using the school facilities for any of the following? (Please tick all that apply.)

| | |
|-----------------------------------|------------|
| <i>Adult evening classes.....</i> | 210 |
| <i>Sports facilities.....</i> | 112 |
| <i>Holiday play scheme.....</i> | 62 |
| <i>Other</i> | 12 |
| <i>None.....</i> | 167 |

Information

A number of residents have said that they would like more information about the village, local organisations, facilities and what is going on. Currently the Bulletin and the Parish Magazine are the main sources of information but we would like to develop others.

Q24. Which of the sources that you use have you found the most useful? (Please tick all that apply.)

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|------------|--------------------------------|------------|
| <i>Bulletin.....</i> | 339 | <i>Village website.....</i> | 85 |
| <i>Parish Magazine.....</i> | 342 | <i>Word of mouth.....</i> | 195 |
| <i>Notice boards.....</i> | 211 | <i>None/don't use any.....</i> | 23 |

Q25. If you don't use the village website (www.whitchurchonthames.com), please tell us why not. (Please tick all that apply.)

What website? **84**
No computer **43**
No internet access **38**
Website isn't up to date **38**
No need for it **107**
Other sources are better **62**
Other **27**

Q26. Would you like to receive information about events in the village by email?

Yes **197**
No **190**
Don't have email **58**

Q27. Would you support a campaign to upgrade the broadband facilities at the Pangbourne exchange?

Yes **330**
No **67**

The River

Access to the river by Whitchurch residents is limited to the use of the slipway adjoining the bridge.

Q28. Would you support efforts to gain greater access if the opportunity arose?

Yes **313**
Not concerned **133**

Footpaths

The next question concerns the public footpaths, bridleways and byways in and around Whitchurch (referred to here as footpaths).

Q29. Which footpaths do you use regularly?

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|------------|---|------------|
| <i>Muddy Lane (HR-EL)</i> | 291 | <i>Hardwick Road Jubilee Path</i> | 209 |
| <i>The Cut (SF-EL)</i> | 211 | | |
| <i>Manor Rd Links</i> | 59 | | |
| <i>Hartslock Bridleway</i> | 197 | | |

Street Lighting

Some people would like more lights to make it safer to walk after dark, while others would prefer fewer lights to reduce light pollution so that they can enjoy the night sky. What do you think?

Q30. Would you prefer to have more, the same amount, or less street lighting in Whitchurch?

| | |
|--------------------------|------------|
| <i>More</i> | 130 |
| <i>Same amount</i> | 274 |
| <i>Less</i> | 38 |

Q31. If you would like to have more lighting, please indicate where you would like the extra lighting. (Please tick all that apply.)

| | |
|------------------------------------|------------|
| <i>No changes</i> | 144 |
| <i>High Street</i> | 85 |
| <i>Manor Road</i> | 39 |
| <i>Eastfield Lane</i> | 36 |
| <i>Hardwick Road</i> | 28 |
| <i>Swanston Field</i> | 11 |
| <i>The Cut (SF to EL)</i> | 52 |
| <i>Muddy Lane (HR to EL)</i> | 34 |
| <i>Other</i> | 19 |

Traffic, Roads, Pavements

The next questions concern the relationship between traffic and pedestrians. Some people consider that pedestrians are not well catered for in Whitchurch.

Q32. Do you ever feel uncomfortable or unsafe as a pedestrian for any of the following reasons? (Please select all that apply.)

| | |
|--|------------|
| <i>Narrowness/absence of pavements</i> | 251 |
| <i>Uneven pavements</i> | 161 |
| <i>Traffic speed</i> | 303 |
| <i>Other</i> | 41 |
| <i>I feel safe</i> | 72 |

Q33. Some people consider that traffic speed is a problem in Whitchurch. Please indicate whether you agree:

Speed is a problem.....379
Speed is not a problem.....69

Q34. If you think that traffic speed is a problem in Whitchurch, please indicate where you consider the problem to be most serious. (Please tick all that apply.)

High Street.....360
Manor Road.....22
Eastfield Lane.....73
Hardwick Road.....209
Other9

Q35. If you think that traffic speed is a problem, which of these traffic calming measures would you consider appropriate, particularly for the road where you live? (Please select all that apply.)

20 mph speed limit.....219
Better signs/markings.....105
Speed indicator devices.....236
Chicanes/islands.....44
Speed bumps/ramps.....83
Other (please specify).....24

Q36. Do you think cycling is safe through Whitchurch?

Reasonably safe.....182
Not safe enough.....120
I don't cycle.....156

Some who use Eastfield Lane have expressed concern for safety with regard to access to the school and parking nearby at drop-off and pick-up times. A pavement has been suggested to alleviate this, though some disagree, fearing the loss of the rural environment.

Q37. Do you think we need a pavement along Eastfield Lane?

Yes.....95
No.....219
Don't know101
Other solution.....30

Local Bus Service

The 142 bus service to and from Reading, which is heavily subsidised by Oxfordshire County Council, needs regular support if it is to be retained.

Q38. How often do you use the 142 service to/from Reading?

Every day.....3
At least once a week.....15
At least once a month35
Less often/never.....398

Q39. What would make you use the service more often? (Please tick all that apply.)

Lower fares.....41
More buses at peak times.....62
More buses at off-peak times...81
Extended hours of service69
Nothing/no need to use more often.....278

Housing and Development

Whitchurch is valued as an attractive and peaceful village and a great majority of its residents have expressed a wish that it should remain so.

Q40. Do you think there is any scope for the provision of further housing in Whitchurch?

Yes.....21
Limited.....149
No.....256
Don't know.....34

Some properties in Whitchurch have gardens which are big enough to allow one or more new houses to be built in them.

Q41. Do you think that the construction of new houses in the gardens of existing properties should be allowed?

Yes.....108
No.....285
Don't know.....51

The views of the Parish Council, as your representatives, are one of the factors taken into account by SODC Planning Dept. when considering planning applications. However the Parish Council's views may not necessarily prevail.

Q42. Do you think that the present planning arrangements give adequate control over the design of new buildings in the village?

Yes.....117
No.....190
Don't know.....143

Toll Bridge

Toll bridge charges have increased significantly and further increases are planned to pay for the rebuilding of the bridge in 2012.

Q43. Approximately how many paid crossings (single way) do you make per week?

0-10.....177
11-20.....166
21-30.....56
Over 30.....39
Don't know.....12

Q44. Do you agree or disagree that Whitchurch residents should have a greater discount than non-residents of the village?

Agree.....411
Disagree.....14
Neither agree nor disagree.....29

Village Environment

A quiet and attractive village atmosphere is highly valued by residents of Whitchurch. Some people believe that every effort must be made to protect that character in terms of its buildings and landscape.

Q45. Which FOUR measures do you consider would most benefit the village environment? (Please tick FOUR only.)

| | |
|---|--|
| <i>Remove litter</i>242 | <i>Plant flowers and shrubs</i>186 |
| <i>Tidy up roadside verges</i>219 | <i>Provide more street bins</i>114 |
| <i>Develop wildflower areas</i>158 | <i>Improve street benches</i>106 |
| <i>Stop vehicles damaging verges</i> ..203 | <i>Improve street signs</i>61 |
| <i>Remove unnecessary roads signs</i> ..136 | <i>Other (please specify)</i>51 |
| <i>Plant more trees</i>135 | <i>None</i>15 |

Prioritisation

It is unlikely that all the extra facilities considered in this questionnaire (and listed below) can be provided, at least in the short term. There are several possible sources for funds to cover the costs of development, but running costs might have to be subsidised from council tax.

Q46. What would you most like to see in Whitchurch? (Please tick your TOP THREE priorities)

| | |
|---|------------|
| <i>New village hall.....</i> | 167 |
| <i>Extended use of cricket field...</i> | 160 |
| <i>River access.....</i> | 169 |
| <i>Pavement in Eastfield Lane.....</i> | 36 |
| <i>Traffic calming measures.....</i> | 257 |
| <i>Improved pavements.....</i> | 123 |
| <i>Youth club.....</i> | 46 |
| <i>Extra social activities.....</i> | 55 |
| <i>Extra play equipment</i> | 19 |
| <i>Improved street furniture (eg. signs, benches, bins).....</i> | 67 |
| <i>Environmental improvements eg. planting trees, wildflowers..</i> | 147 |
| <i>Other</i> | 28 |
| <i>None.....</i> | 10 |

Q47. How much would you be prepared to see the Council tax rise to fund specific village improvements?

| | |
|--------------------------|------------|
| <i>Not at all.....</i> | 148 |
| <i>£20 per year.....</i> | 102 |
| <i>£40 per year.....</i> | 59 |
| <i>£60 per year.....</i> | 59 |
| <i>Don't know</i> | 72 |

