

Village Plan Survey – Summary of results, September 2018

The Village Plan committee thanks the 143 people who have completed the recent survey. Although this is fewer than answered the last survey in 2008, it seems to be representative as the mix of ages and locations of the respondents matches both the last survey and the latest census in 2011 (see below).

The four groups working on the village plan will base their proposals on the respondents' views and here is a quick summary of the key areas:

- **Traffic** - particularly parking and pedestrian safety - is of increasing concern. The Traffic and Parking working group (TAPAG) are working on range of improvements and it is helpful to know that respondents would support both a 20mph speed limit (90% approve) and also parking restrictions to stop commuters parking all day on the high street. Rachel Hatcher is engaging a consultant to help develop a range of plans and the respondents comments identify further issues to consider, such as the safety of children walking to school on Eastfield Lane.
- People are very pleased with the **Village Green** and **Maze** and appreciate the opportunities both for Cricket and Football, for unstructured play and for enjoying being outdoors. 90% of people would like the Maze area to remain an area for picnics and for wildlife. 79% did not want to see further development of the Village Green. Of the 21% who did want some development, many suggested facilities for teenagers, however fewer than 3% of respondents wanted big facilities such as a BMX track or skatepark and this points us towards less-intrusive facilities such as a basketball hoop. By the way, the 2 people suggesting Tennis Courts, could perhaps try Pangbourne Tennis Club who currently really need more members.
- The Parish Council wants to replace the **Cricket pavilion** and also improve the **Village Hall**. 75% of people thought some improvements to the Village Hall were needed. 9 respondents suggested that, rather than improving the hall, we use the proceeds from selling it to build a new facility elsewhere, however this was considered and it is not feasible. Jean-Marc Grosfort and others are already making good progress with improvements to the Village Hall including replacing windows and re-painting. Work on the design of a new Pavilion is also progressing. We will need to coordinate raising funds for both of our two community buildings.
- There is a desire for better maintenance of the village environment. 60% are concerned about flash flooding and nearly all want a plan to maintain drainage better so as to reduce the risk. This will be part of a bigger Village Emergency Plan. Support for hanging baskets was limited (22% with some comments strongly against) but people want to see verges repaired and more wildflowers and trees planted. Amongst other things, people suggested having a group that would regularly maintain open spaces and footpaths.
- Improved **access to the river** was supported, if this can be arranged. Several ideas have been suggested, including setting up a canoeing club.
- People would like to see improvements to **pavements** and the highest priority was to make the area outside the Ferryboat safer for pedestrians. Again, the final areas for improvement must take the costs into account and we plan to get estimates.
- Additional community activities. Suggestions, such as a monthly community meal and various fitness activities will be followed up. Improving awareness of existing activities is also important.

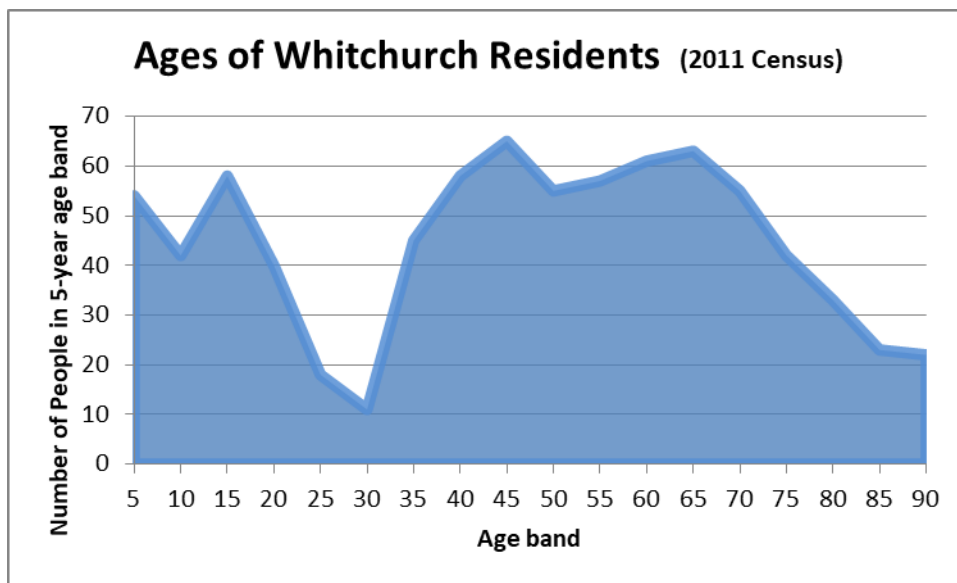
If you have any input or would like to help please get in touch with someone on the Village Plan committee or email the Parish Council Clerk on parishclerk.whitchurchonthames@gmail.com.

John Bradon, Village Plan Committee Chairman, 18th September 2018

APPENDIX - Census Information from 2011 – by age

As well as the recent survey the latest census (in 2011) also provides some background to the Village Plan.

For a start, population grew by 9% - from 758 to 824 – in the 10 years since the 2001 census. The distribution of ages in the village also tells a story:



There are relatively few people in their 20s (only 11 in the age range from 25 to 29). People may move in to the village in their 30s; their children may go to primary school and after secondary school, leave for education or jobs elsewhere. The census data shows a very wide range of occupations and household arrangements, so we need to realise that there is a correspondingly wide range of needs.

Question 3 of the survey shows that about 20% of adults have lived in the village for less than 5 years. There are a lot of long-term residents with over 38% having lived here for over 20 years.