

## DINGLEY PARISH COUNCIL VILLAGE SURVEY April – June 2017

### REPORT

The Dingley Parish Council [DPC] Survey was undertaken in order to ascertain Parishioners' views on living in Dingley to inform the Parish Council and, or Dingley Neighbourhood Watch on the key issues needing to be addressed for the benefit of the Community.

Information was sought on:

Feelings of safety

Quality of life

Quality of Neighbourhood

Overall appearance

Services

Community activities

Leisure and Social opportunities

Vulnerable community members – number and type

Ideas on how to improve the experience of living in the Village

### Breakdown of Survey returns

Children and young people were invited to share their opinions on a separate one page form. Adults had the option of individually completing a questionnaire or in multiple occupancy households, compiling their responses onto one form.

<b>Number of Households in receipt of questionnaires:</b>	<b>82</b>
<b>Number of Households returning questionnaires:</b>	<b>72</b>
<b>Number of non residential properties in receipt/returning questionnaires</b>	<b>1/1</b>
<b>Individual Adult returns</b>	<b>94</b>
<b>Individual Young adult [17-25] form returns</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Individual Young Person returns 12-17</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Individual Young Person returns 5-11</b>	<b>1</b>

#### 1. Elders and young people living in the Village .

<b>Composition of households completing returns:</b>	<b>133</b>
<b>Adults</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Adults over 70</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Children aged 12 – 17</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Children aged 5 -11</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Children under 5</b>	

#### 2. Property owned Property rented

#### 3. How proud do residents feel about living in Dingley?

a) Extremely proud	<input type="text" value="32"/>
b) Very proud	<input type="text" value="37"/>
c) Somewhat proud	<input type="text" value="19"/>
d) Not so proud	<input type="text" value="1"/>
e) Non responses	<input type="text" value="5"/>

#### **4. What Villagers like most about Dingley**

**Villagers indicated over 32 factors that they liked about living in Dingley. These factors were associated with:**

**Community** – the people who live in Dingley, the friendships and neighbourliness, the welcome given to newcomers.

**Location** – where Dingley is positioned, the countryside, flora and fauna and wildlife, the scenery the proximity to towns, the peacefulness and tranquillity away from the main road.

**Type of Village** – Dingley’s size, the sense it was “different”, that it was a “safe community”

**Architecture/Buildings/ History** - from liking their own home and garden to appreciation of the Hall and Church architecture and the Village Hall

**Activities** – the opportunities for outdoor activities, enjoyment of Dingley Races and Village social events

#### **5. What Villagers like least about Dingley**

**The list of things that Villagers most disliked about Dingley ran to over 40 factors which have been categorised under issues to do with:**

**Road related problems** - Volume and speed of traffic and size of the heavy trucks, the associated dangers and the impact on environment in terms of noise, pollution and the way the village is split by the A427. The poor road surfaces and the state of the verges and drainage.

**Bus services/transport** – the poor level of service, cost of taxis.

**Footways** – absence of same throughout the main Village and the poor state of the surfaces in places. The obstacles – usually vehicular – that impede walkers especially those with children, prams and people with mobility difficulties.

**Cycle paths** – the absence of cycle paths to surrounding villagers and towns.

**Appearance of the Village**– spoiled by littering, fly tipping, poor condition of some gardens, and field areas, the mess created by fly tipping.

**Lack of focal point in the Village**

**Lack of facilities and amenities** – no park or play area, or meeting place for young people. No pub or shop. The prohibitions imposed on access to the woods and the Hall Park.

**Parking**- the lack of parking areas for many Villagers and for the Village Hall and Church. The consequential detrimental use of verges and pavements for parking.

## **6. Changes Villagers think would improve Dingley and address dislikes.**

- **Traffic Calming measures.** Proposals included seeking a bypass and routing traffic away from Dingley, lower speed limits particularly on the lanes, speed bumps, speed cameras, average speed cameras; enforcement of existing speeds, a pedestrian crossing controlled by lights, quiet road surfacing; banning all large haulage over a specific size apart from farm vehicles; reduced speed limits; chicane.
- **More types of housing in village** - Housing suitable for young first time occupiers and 'downsizing' older residents and for young families. <sup>1</sup>
- **Better residential property maintenance**
- **Parking** More off road [and off pavement and verge] areas including places near the Village Hall and Church. Dingley should look like a residential not commercial area.
- **More and better maintained footways linking Village** – Dog owners clearing up their animals' mess and the creation of cycle paths to nearby towns and villages
- **Better Road maintenance and drainage**
- **More Amenities** – for young and old. For example a park and social area for young people; social venue for the older Village members and those at home; a pub and a shop, allotment. A mains gas supply available to homes.
- **Environmental improvements** A pond or Village green to offer a Village centre.
- **Better Public transport** – a regular and frequent bus service

---

<sup>1</sup> **Some Villagers wanted the opposite to some of their neighbours' proposals for improvement** – no expansion in housing provision, no more development, no change at all. Some considered the Village to be a great place for empty nesters, retired and downsizers whilst others felt it wasn't the best place for them or for anyone with significant care needs, or for families with children but no transport, for teens or for first time buyers.

**7. Respondents participation in community activities in the Village**

a) Very often	20
b) Often	18
c) Not so often	40
d) Not at all	15
e) Non responses	1

**Villagers who rarely participated in community activities in the Village were asked what might interest them and told us:**

Daytime activities for young and not so young

Monthly activity/meeting in addition to Village Hall Committee arranged events

**Reasons for not attending events included**

Dislike of an “old fashioned hall over a cosy pub”; other commitments; work pressures; childcare; activities are for older residents.

**8. Strength of the sense of community and of having good neighbours in the Village**

a) Extremely strong	18
b) Very strong	34
c) Somewhat strong	28
d) Not so strong	10
e) Not at all strong	3
f) Non responses	1

**9. Villagers feelings of how safe they feel in the Village**

a) Extremely safe	22
b) Very safe	48
c) Somewhat safe	21

- d) Not so safe [Traffic]
- e) Non response

**10. Villagers' sources of *immediate* help or support if for any reason they were in need.  
[Several people indicated they had more than one option]**

- a) Family/other household member[s]
- b) Neighbour[s]
- c) Friend(s)
- d) No one

**11. Levels of anxiety regarding the threat of being a victim of crime in the Village**

- a) Not at all anxious
- b) Somewhat anxious
- c) Extremely anxious
- d) Non responses

**12 Number of households that have been a victim of crime in the preceding 12 months**

**Yes 7      No 65**

**13 Households that had been victims of crime reported the incident as follows**

- a) Police
- b) Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator
- c) Neighbours
- d) No one – did not report the incident

**14** Satisfaction with the main services provided to the Village [Refuse Collection; Recycling; Utilities; Path and Highway maintenance; Public Transport; Bridleways & Public Footpaths; Broadband]

a) Extremely satisfied	4
b) Very satisfied	26
c) Satisfied	48
d) Not particularly satisfied	10
e) Not satisfied at all*	0
f) Respondents within range of satisfaction a-e*	4
g) Non responses	2

**15** Young people's comments regarding their future residence in Dingley

Wish to stay in Village	x	11
Intention of leaving	x	4
Decision dependent on what has been changed	x	1
Possibly	x	3
(One respondent would not want new house building to provide accommodation)		
Don't know	x	2
No comment	x	2