

2023 PARISH QUESTIONNAIRE REPORT

Approximately 23% of the adults (over 16 years of age) of the parish responded to the questionnaire. Not everyone answered every question therefore the percentages that follow this introduction represent the general response overall.

Over 75% of the responses are from residents living on the main road, on Fayreway and the Shepton side of The George Inn. 60% of respondents have lived in the village for 20 years or more. However, the age of those who completed the questionnaire were equally divided between the 45-64, 65-74 and 75+ age groups.

PARISH COUNCIL

90% of residents know how to contact their councillors and there was a general awareness of the Council's roles with the majority aware that we comment on planning decisions and the rest of the responses evenly divided across the other areas. 50% of residents found out about Parish Council activities from 'The Roundabout' magazine with 20% respectively gaining information from the dedicated noticeboards and the village Facebook Page. The website which has the most up to date information was only accessed by 10% of residents. 17% of information was gleaned by 'word of mouth' and friends' conversations.

Residents clearly wanted more engagement from the Council across all the proposed areas for improvement with one third of responses in each section. This was also reflected in the numerical response to how well-informed people felt they were about the parish council with 13% stating 3 out of 10; 18%, 5 out of 10; 17%, 7 out of 10 and 12% for the top two figures of 9 and 10 combined.

When asked whether the precept should be raised to support a range of areas, there was a 35% wish for the precept not to increase with 24% wishing the council to work on initiating a 20-mph speed limit throughout the village; all other areas were in single percentile figures.

The future investment question had 23% of responses supporting a community shop with 21% looking for investment in parking. Cycle paths were supported by 17% of respondents and improved footpaths by 15%; the other options were in single figures.

YOUR PARISH

The response to the question on what people liked most and least about living in Croscombe was particularly varied with some people answering in detail, some just ticking a few areas and some not answering the question at all. The percentages are listed below

	Like most %	Like least %
Mobile connectivity	3	16
Close to the countryside	16	
Close to towns	9	3
Communitylife/activities	7	2
Primary school	5	7

Local facilities – shop, pub	13	3
Local history and heritage	4	3
Public transport	5	17
Road network - access	1	12
Size of community	7	5
Sustainable lifestyle	2	10
Supportive community	11	1
Village hall	11	
Church and other religious facilities	3	15
Play area	3	6

COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES

Residents engage with the parish across all areas in question 12 but with the greatest activity based around the village hall at 28% and with 12% of respondents not engaging with any village area.

The majority of the leisure activities used centred around 'The George Inn 'with 19% using the pub itself and 16% using the shop it provides. 18% use footpaths regularly and 27% in total use the film night and other village hall activities.

The response to which other resources would be used if made available concentrated on a cycle track (15%), convenience store (22%), GP clinic (14%) and parking facilities (20%). Other proposals were in single figure percentages.

Facilities which could be considered for future investment/fund raising by the council concentrated on the 2 areas of parking facilities (27%), a community shop (23%) and improved footpaths (30%).

Community activities that residents would like to attend if made available was evenly divided into lower percentage figures with 20% interested in craft clubs and 19% in gardening clubs but the majority response of 32% was for no activities to be introduced.

Services or facilities that would be used if they were available in the parish was dominated by a 30% interest in a local produce market with wildflower planting at 16% and a village composting scheme at 14% the next set of figures. All other suggestions were in low single figure percentages.

COMMUNITY CENTRE/VILLAGE HUB

The need for a community hub/flexible building was relatively equally divided between 55% agreeing to a need and 45% already satisfied with existing provision. Use of any hub was split equally across all proposed areas except for a minimal response to a drop-in office and a place for those with small children to meet.

SUPPORT AND SERVICES

Very few residents answered the questions on printed information or personal guidance on a range of support topics. It appears that most are aware of existing information sources.

CLIMATE EMERGENCY /ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

75% of residents found climate change either very or extremely important with help on reducing individual/household carbon footprint equally important across all areas except for the need for electric car charging points which was approximately 10% less well received than the other choices of home energy guidance, more recycling options or a composting scheme. Over 20% of residents wanted no help with any carbon footprint reduction offered.

The section that asked for views on the parish changing due to climate change initiatives was as follows –

	Agree %	Disagree %
Local solar projects	18	13
Solar street lighting	25	4
Plant more trees	24	7
More recycling and reusing services	20	12
Electric charging points	13	12

People were split between those agreeing that parish public open spaces were well maintained and those who did not know. Rights of way, footpaths, stiles and gates over 50% felt that they were well maintained but verges, ditches and hedgerows in the parish had over 50% stating that they were not maintained as well as the other areas of the environment.

55% of people thought tipping was an issue with 45% not but the areas that have been identified in the questionnaire will be noted by the council to see if any measures can be taken by the local authority.

26% thought that the parish was not affected by pollution but 28% felt that car fumes and particulates were a problem and 20% were concerned with noise.

One of the major questions in this section was the satisfaction residents felt towards local environment issues. A majority 70% were satisfied with access to the countryside with no objections. 73% were satisfied with flood prevention measures; 83% wanted to see safe cycle routes; over 80% were satisfied with rights of way, footpaths and related areas. Equally, 72% were content with wildlife conservation and biodiversity. However, there was a much smaller percentage majority in favour of path maintenance and air and light pollution.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

As an exercise in obtaining parishioners' views on a variety of topics it has provided a range of insights and direction for the Parish Council. There are clear action points that we can investigate -

- To be more accessible to parishioners and to enable information about Council actions to be disseminated as widely as possible.
- To investigate and support the extension of the 20 mph limit throughout the entire village.
- To investigate how an additional convenience store/community shop could be created to satisfy local needs.
- To consider facilitating a regular local produce market.
- To ensure that the Parish Council website has up to date services information and links for those who may need them.
- To investigate and action better path maintenance and to consider air and light pollution areas.

We thank you for your valued comments and will endeavour over the next year to update you on our efforts on your behalf to maintain and improve the beautiful village that we live in.

Hilary Shergold
Chairman Croscombe Parish Council