

Croscombe Community Orchard Parish Survey 2024

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Chair Croscombe Parish Council

19th December 2024

1. Introduction

In response to the Orchard Working Group’s (OWG) request to the Croscombe Parish Council (CPC), for permission to expand the size of the Community Orchard, the CPC decided that as the agreed size set for the parish survey in 2021 had already been exceeded by 30% without CPC permission, then the wishes of the parish should be sought to help inform the CPC decision-making.

A survey was developed jointly between the CPC and the OWG and with much appreciated help from Emma Boot to produce the questionnaire (see appendix A). Two copies of the questionnaire were delivered in November 2024 to each household in the parish. A target of 50% take-up by the parish for the survey was set by the CPC as an indication of the increased level of parish participation sought to better underpin the direction for the parish and to establish a stronger mandate given the mandate from the 2021 survey was only 4 votes. This report summarises the findings of this survey, shares some conclusions and makes several recommendations.

2. Summary of 2024 Orchard Survey Results

167 questionnaires were completed in the 2024 survey; this was 32% of the parish adults entitled to take part. Whilst the survey participation is a long way short of the target of 50%, it is an increase of 59 over the 2021 survey wherein previously 108 parishioners responded.

Of the total of 167 completed questionnaires, 106 parishioners voted in support of the community orchard, (63% of the vote and 20% of the parish population), and 57 voted against the orchard (34% of the vote and 11% of the parish population). Thus, increasing the mandate in support of the orchard (63% For and 34% Against), compared to 52% For and 48% Against in the 2021 survey. However, taking those who did not vote into the mix, little has changed since 2021, wherein 77% of the parish did not vote in favour of the orchard in the 2021 survey, whilst 80% of the parish did not vote in favour of the orchard in 2024.

Out of the 167 responses this year, 103 voted in favour of expanding the orchard and 60 voted against; therefore 60% of the responses were in favour of expansion and 36% voted against expansion. Again, looking in the round, 20% of the parish voted for expansion, and 80% did not vote in favour of expanding the community orchard.

The challenge for the Croscombe Parish Council remains – should it adopt the same stance as the CPC in 2022 (i.e. traditional first past the post and ignore the 80% who chose to not vote in favour of expanding the orchard), or should it consider proportional representation approaches and seek out ways to better understand and respect some of the wishes of those who did not vote for the majority – i.e. again, how to respect the wishes of all parishioners and secure greater participation from the parish?

Question 3 of the questionnaire (see section 5) sought to learn the parish’s views about events taking place at the community orchard. A table of options (see appendix A) was included in the questionnaire to gauge the level of support for events that could be held at the community orchard. Table 1 summarises the voting for and against the different events.

Event Voting	BBQs & Picnics		Apple Pressing & Picking		Raffles & Auctions		Use of Amps		Quiet time gatherings	
	Votes	% of votes	Votes	% of votes	Votes	% of votes	Votes	% of votes	Votes	% of votes
Inappropriate	57	34	26	16	90	54	137	82	31	19
Appropriate once per year	25	15	71	43	26	16	16	10	13	8
Appropriate more than once per year	81	49	65	39	40	24	14	8	113	68

Table 1: Appropriateness of some events at the Community Orchard

The following pie charts (figures 1 to 5) portray the votes distributed between the three options for each event:

- Inappropriate,
- Appropriate and to be help once per year, and
- Appropriate and to take place more than once per year.

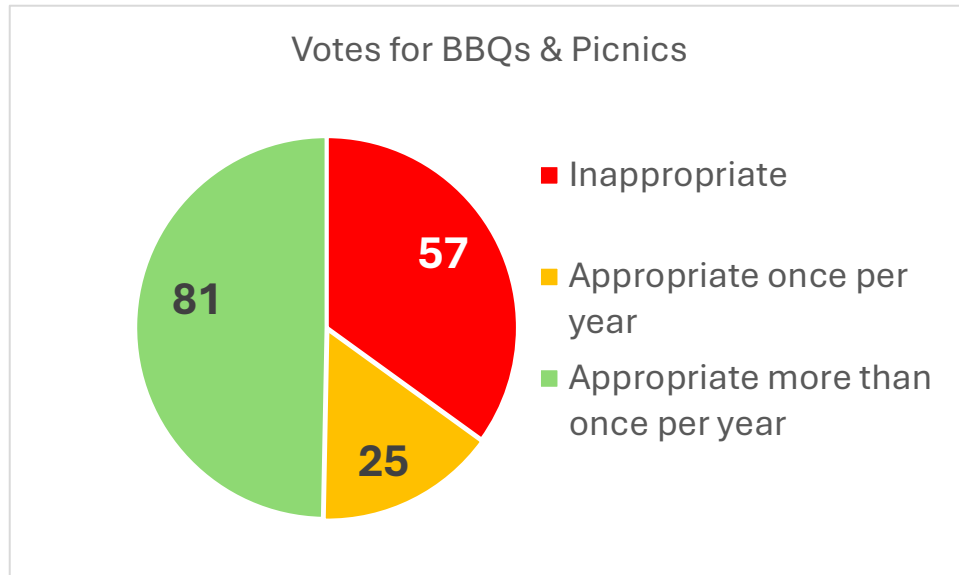


Figure 1: Votes cast for/against BBQs and Picnics

The total of 57 parishioners (see table 1 and figure 1) who opposed BBQs and Picnics (being 34% of the 167 who voted (see figure 1), whilst substantial ¹, is considerably less than the 66% (i.e. 81 plus 25) who favour holding BBQs and Picnics in the Community Orchard.

A clear majority of the parishioners who took part in the survey, voted in favour of holding BBQs and picnics in the orchard.

The results for Apple Pressing & Apple Picking (see figure 2) show that an even greater number of parishioners favour this form of event, with 74% supporting these traditional Somerset orchard events being held at the Community Orchard.

¹ The 167 total overall includes a small number of “don’t know/unsure” votes.

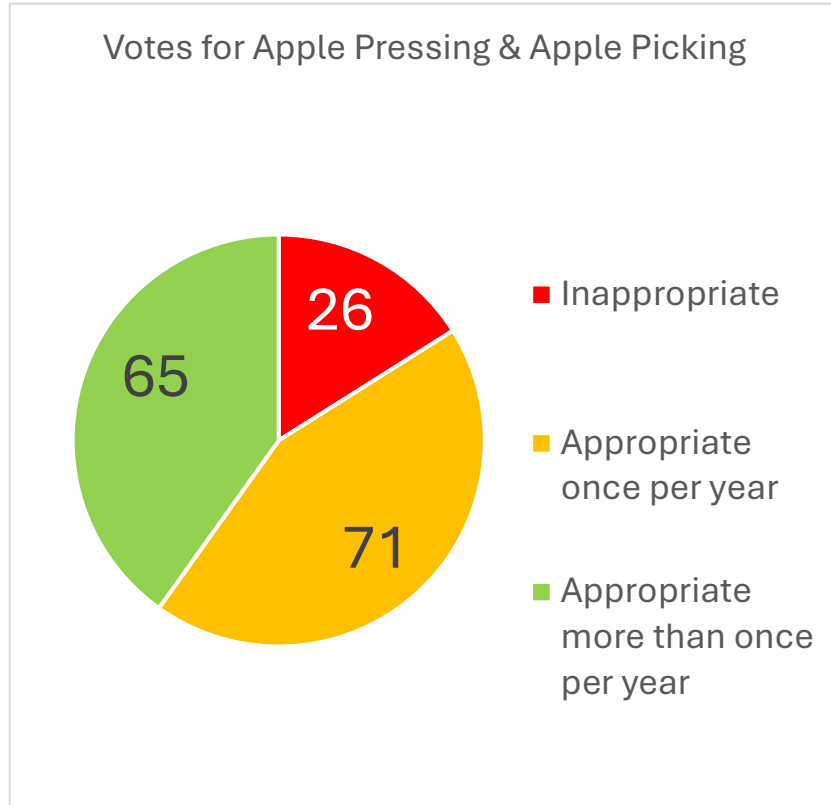


Figure 2: Votes cast for/against Apple Pressing and Apple Picking

Holding raffles and auctions in the orchard is less favoured (see figure 3) - 90 parishioners (54% of responses) opposed this form of event taking place in the orchard; however, a sizeable amount, 66 parishioners (40%) did favour this form of event being held at the orchard.

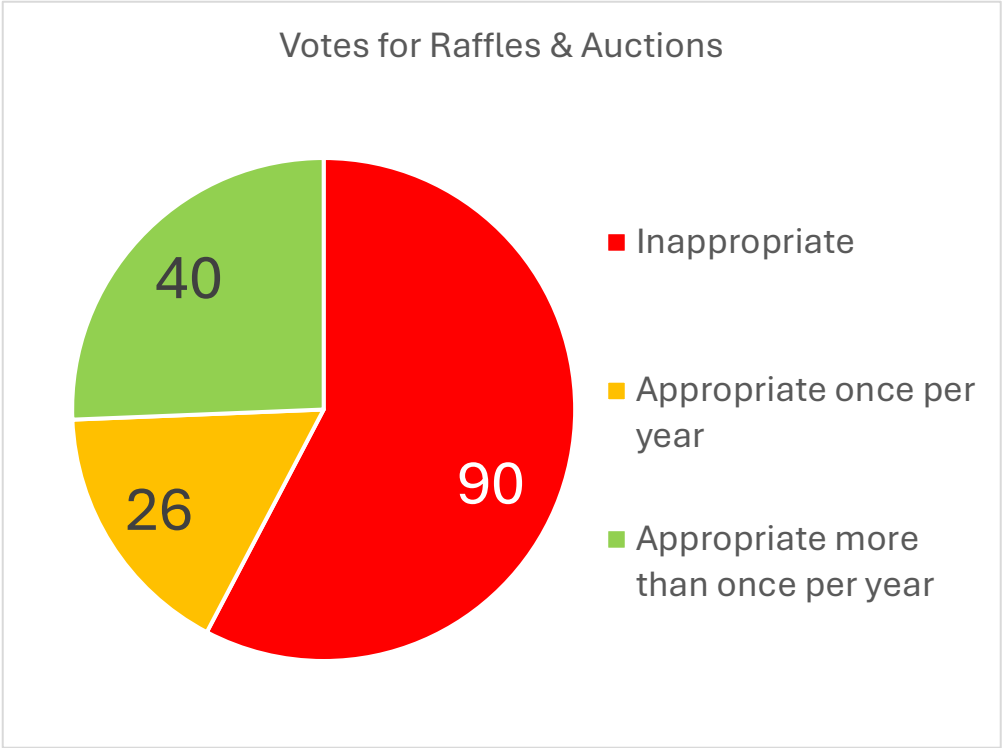


Figure 3: Votes cast for/against Raffles and Auctions

It is clear from the 2024 survey that based on those of the parish who voted, the parish does not want Amplifiers to be used at the Orchard - 137 of the 167 votes cast voted against the use of amplifiers (see figure 4).

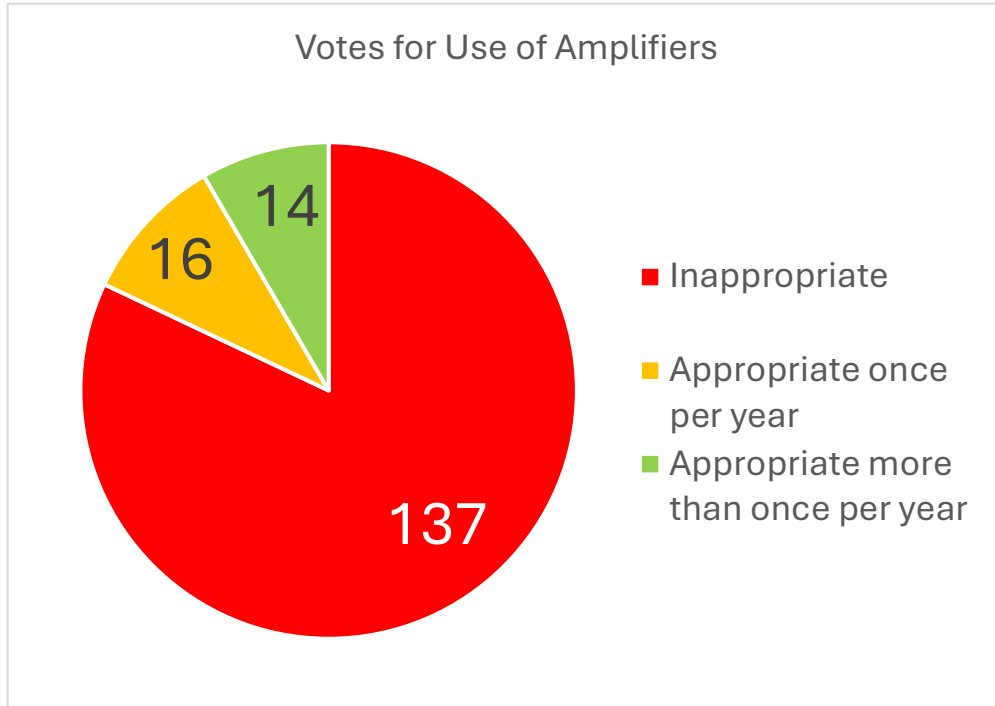


Figure 4: Votes for/against Amplifiers being used

A large majority of parishioners voted in favour of Quiet Time Gathering at the orchard. (see figure 5)

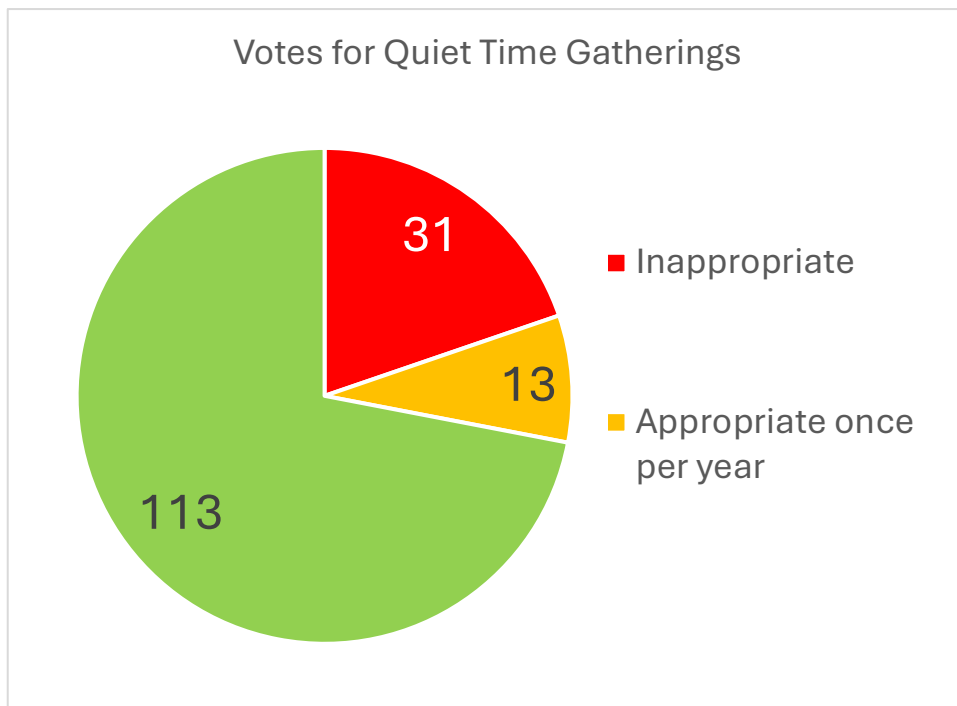


Figure 5: Voting for Quiet Time Gatherings

Voting for 'Getting Involved in the Orchard' was more balanced - when adding the total for those already involved, to the very/likely totals, it just about sways the balance; it should be noted that many of those who voted against 'getting involved' did so solely on the grounds that they believed that age prevented them.

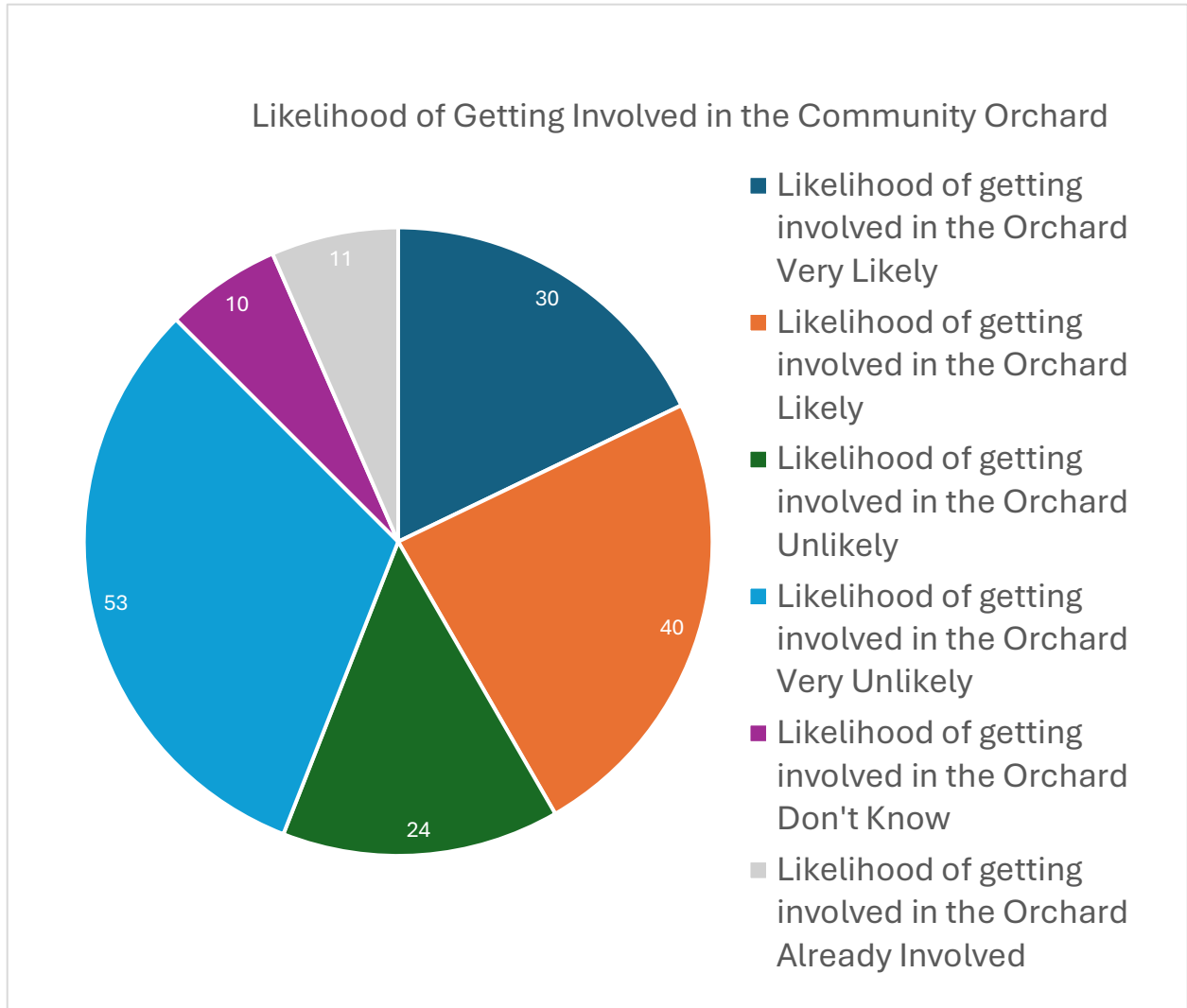


Figure 6: Those likely to get involved in the orchard

3. Conclusions from the survey

A considerable proportion, 72%, of those who voted in the 2024 survey support the community orchard and 62% favour expansion of the community orchard.

Similarly, a substantial proportion of the parish favour BBQs and Picnics, Apple Pressing and Apple Picking, along with Quiet-Time Gathering events.

However, whilst 54% of those who voted Against raffles and auctions, a sizeable number (40%) voted For raffles and auctions.

It is likely that rejecting that the community orchard is a place for auctions or raffles whilst in line with the majority view, would still cause upset to many of the 66 who favour raffles and auctions at the orchard. Similarly, whilst 66% of those who voted, favour BBQs and Picnics being held at the orchard, a sizeable percentage, 34%, voted against this venue.

Perhaps some compromises can be found to help to find alternative ways to hold events that secure more support for more of the parishioners – for example, whilst the community orchard may be the recipient for fund-raising, it need not necessarily follow that the associated fund-raising event must be held at the community orchard.

Put simply, as a fund-raising initiative there is no major need for an auction or a picnic to always be held adjacent to the parish cemetery; especially when the playing field and the Village Hall, or the George Inn would easily accommodate the fund-raising event with far less restrictions, as recently demonstrated by the successful auction in aid of the OAPs at the George, and the Parish Fun Day at the village hall and the playing field.

Most votes clearly favour most events; however, a significant percentage of the parish still does not support some events and still appear truly angry about it.

This presents a challenge for the CPC when it is asked to approve an event: the CPC must consider the wishes of the entire parish - not just those who voted, or, not just of those who voted in favour of the orchard and its expansion. It should also be acknowledged again that whilst 167 participated in the survey, circa 356 parishioners chose not to take part in this survey; that is very disappointing and should be investigated further to understand why so many seem unable to take part in the survey, and to identify what actions would change the outcome.

Some of the comments provided in the completed questionnaires (see appendix B) provide insight into the possible reasons behind the upset, but it is still not clear why so many of the

parish seem disinterested in the community orchard or are seemingly so upset because the orchard is where it is, that they seem to see little point in voting or registering their concerns.

Is there more to this division than simple marketing low norms - traditionally marketing specialist are pleased with just a 20% turnout?

Yet again, significant numbers, 68% of the parish, did not participate in the survey, and this when added to those who did not vote in favour of the orchard (26%) indicates that when observing the survey in the round, the community orchard is still a real bone of contention that has upset and continues to upset many in the parish. It seems also that ignoring much of the parish has not helped.

Some reasons have been suggested as to why many parishioners are upset about the community orchard:

- its location being on the eastern edge of the village making access difficult for those living on the other side of the village.
- safety concerns for pedestrian access via the steep climb up Thrupe Lane.
- the lack of toilet facilities.
- the limited car parking space.
- some who voted against the orchard in 2021 feel ignored because nothing has changed, nor has anything been done to address the limitations or negative views.
- some feel that the OWG has focused too much on fund-raising at the expense of finding ways to enable others to visit the orchard or to join in routine maintenance, of which there seems that little has been done.
- some consider the orchard to be poorly laid out and are concerned that the trees are planted too close together.
- some consider the OWG to be untrustworthy because it has failed to keep the commitments it made in 2022 (e.g. maintenance to be undertaken by volunteers not by contractors, exceeding the limit of 30 trees without securing prior approval from Dinder Estates and the CPC, ignoring Dinder Estate's instruction to not use the water at the site).
- perceptions that whatever the issue the OWG always gets its way and that it secured approval for the orchard based on a majority of only 4 votes when so very few (108) parishioners voted, and the results of the survey were not fully declared in 2022.
- despite protests that the field was purchased specifically for burial purposes, the orchard was established in the field immediately next to the village cemetery, and the fact that the field is used for other purposes still bothers some parishioners.

- whilst the field will not be needed for burials for many, many decades, perhaps even more than a century, some find it abhorrent and very disrespectful to hold events so close to where their loved ones are buried, and on land originally intended only for burial purposes.

Much of these concerns were expressed before and following the survey in 2021 and some were repeated in the comments made in the 2024 survey (see Appendix B); whilst views may differ, the reality is that these feelings remain and have created a clear divide within the parish.

Can the CPC find ways of squaring this circle so that the richness of the Community Orchard thrives whilst the wishes of all who voted are respected and considered? This could increase the scrutiny of the workings of the OWG and may require some compromises if other options are explored and found to be suitable.

It is clear from the survey that most of the parish favour the community orchard, but many do not want events taking place so close to the cemetery. For example, comments made in the responses suggest that not all activities have to be fund-raising events (e.g. it is suggested that tree pruning need not be an event it is *just* routine maintenance of the orchard by a small band of knowledgeable and competent volunteers).

Several comments were suggested in the responses regarding events stating that the better option for some would be to use the playing fields adjacent to the village hall and in so doing address some of the issues that prevent some parishioners attending events e.g. car parking space, proximity to the cemetery, wet weather contingency plans, availability of toilets, and the use of a more central location in the village that avoids the hazards and the climb up Thrupe Lane.

The CPC must decide whether to apply the traditional view that the ‘democratic majority rules’ and so first past the post wins and ignore those who were ‘beaten’ in the vote (sic); or instead, seek out compromises in line with ‘proportional representation’ that meet the needs of more of the parish.

An outcome could be that as the parish is split on some views and that, for example in the case of BBQs and picnics, as one third of the parish voted against them being held at the orchard, and assuming this prevents their attendance at the event, then adopting a different venue could actually help to address the distrust and actually increase attendance and spread the benefit to more of the parish.

4. Recommendations

1. Discussions take place with the leaser of the field to identify any impact orchard expansion may have on the lease to graze animals in the field, and to notify of the decision about orchard expansion.
2. The OWG provides to the CPC confirmation in writing by a reputable tree specialist that the design and spacing of the existing orchard is sound, along with said specialist's assurance that the plan and design for the proposed use of the expansion area is also sound.
3. Subject to item 2 above and prior approval from the trustees of Dinder Estates for the proposed expansion of the orchard, the CPC approves the proposal to expand the community orchard by up to 50% in size.
4. A copy of this report is posted on the CPC website.
5. Consideration be given by the CPC to the OWG working with the village hall committee to explore the potential for holding some fund-raising events for the community orchard (e.g., an annual parish picnic on the playing fields next to the village hall) and report suggestions back to the CPC.
6. A schedule for planned maintenance of the community orchard be maintained by the OWG and reviewed for approval by the CPC every quarter in advance and then posted on the CPC web site.
7. A review of the OWG's terms of reference be undertaken by the CPC and the OWG and where necessary associated changes be proposed, for approval by the CPC.
8. A schedule be developed and maintained by the OWG for the events to be held under the auspices of the OWG, and shared with the CPC each quarter, and posted on the CPC website.
9. Routine maintenance of the community orchard no longer be considered a fund-raising event that requires CPC approval, except where any financial expenditure is needed.
10. Research be carried out by the CPC into alternative access routes to the Community Orchard without having to navigate Thrupe Lane (e.g. a new footpath).
11. Maintenance of the community orchard be carried out by trained volunteers, augmented by contractors only where necessary.
12. Whilst some restrictions prevent planting close to the power lines and the gas pipe, consideration be given to other respectful uses for the unused parts of the field given it is likely to be used only for animal grazing: e.g. nature trails for children, habitats for wildlife.

5. The 2024 Questionnaire's Questions

More information about the questions and the responses are provided below.

Q1. How positive or negative do you feel about having a community space for tree planting designed to increase biodiversity, create a natural habitat and provide another quiet space for parishioners to enjoy?

There were 5 possible answers, and the voting was distributed as follows:

Very Positive (104), Fairly positive (16), Fairly Negative (11) Very Negative (33).

Adding the positive votes (104 + 16) and the negative votes (11+33) gives a majority of 120 v 44, i.e. 76 votes majority in favour of the orchard.

Q2. Do you support the expansion of the orchard? (nb. A 50% increase was proposed).

103 voted for expansion, and 60 voted against expanding the orchard, a majority of 43 in favour of expansion.

Q3. Please tick your preferences regarding Events that could be held at the Orchard.

Please see Table 1 which summarises the responses to the question concerning the appropriateness of the different events.

Q4. How involved are you likely to get with the Community Orchard?

42% of responses indicated that they would get involved, and 46% of responses indicated that they would not get involved, 7% commented that they were already involved.

Appendix A – The 2024 Survey Questionnaire

HAVE YOUR SAY ABOUT THE COMMUNITY ORCHARD.

Croscombe's community orchard was established in 2022 as part of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's Green Canopy to mark her Platinum Jubilee. The aim was to create a natural habitat, increase wildlife and provide another quiet place for parishioners to enjoy. It is located on the only available land owned by Croscombe Parish Council (CPC), on Thrupe Lane next to the cemetery. The CPC also formed the Orchard Working Group to establish and manage the orchard.

Why the need for a survey?

1. The CPC originally set a limit of 30 trees for the orchard. To date 40 young trees have been planted (with none of the expected dieback). Some parishioners are keen to plant more trees which would involve increasing the size of the land used for the orchard.
2. Following a series of successful events, the Orchard Working Group sought approval from CPC to hold further events.

This questionnaire will help the CPC gauge the views of the parish regarding an increase in the size of land used for the orchard, and the acceptability of types of events held at the orchard.

How can you help?

Please complete this questionnaire by 30th November 2024.

- Each individual aged 18 years or over who lives in the parish may complete a questionnaire.
- Please do not photocopy this questionnaire: further copies are available from any parish councilor.
- Place completed questionnaires in dedicated boxes in the porch at The George, or at the Village Hall.

Enter the prize draw to win £50 (as a voucher to The George or as a cash equivalent).

- Your responses are confidential.
- Completed questionnaires will be collected by Croscombe's Parish Clerk on the 30th November and prize draw entry sheets removed to ensure anonymity, before questionnaires are passed to the Parish Council for analysis.
- The prize draw will take place at 7.00pm on the 7th December at The George, drawn by a member of the pub staff. The results of the survey will be published on CPC website by 21st December 2024, and the results will be posted on each village notice board.
- The completed questionnaires will be kept in a secure place for 8 weeks, before being shredded.
- Your response or any personal information will not be shared or used for any purpose other than for this survey.
- If you have any questions about the Orchard, please contact Louise Tully on 07747 146 022.

Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire; your views are important and will help the Parish Council to act in line with the wishes of parishioners.

Q1) How positive or negative do you feel about the village having a community space for tree planting - designed to create a natural habitat, increase wildlife, and provide another quiet place for parishioners to enjoy? TICK ONE BOX

Very positive

Fairly positive

Fairly negative

Very negative

Don't know/not sure

Q2) Please look carefully at the diagram below.

The parish council allocated the area adjacent to the cemetery to accommodate an orchard of 30 trees. This land will eventually be required for cemetery purposes - but not for another 100 years or so. To date, 40 trees have been planted. Parishioners have asked to plant more trees.

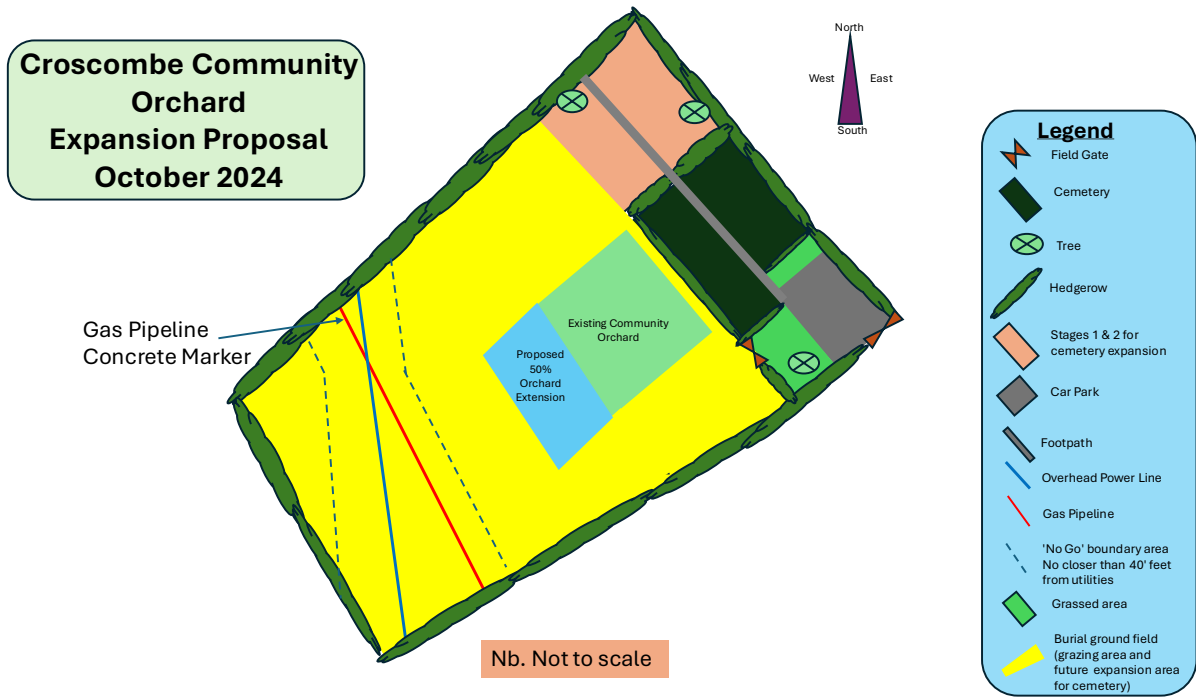
Do you support this expansion? PLEASE TICK ONE BOX

Yes

No

Unsure

Please provide more detail about why you have given this answer.



Q3) The Community Orchard has been used for fundraising events. Any event on this land must first be approved by the parish council. The parish council wishes to better understand the types of events you consider appropriate. Please tick your preferences below:

FOR EACH OPTION BELOW, TICK ONE BOX ONLY	Inappropriate: should not take place at the orchard	Appropriate: but just once per year	Appropriate: more than once a year	Don't know
Village picnic/BBQ	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Apple pressing/picking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Raffles/auctions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Use of amplified equipment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gatherings to share quiet time	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please add your suggestions for events - or any further comments you care to make.

Q4) Overall, how likely are you to get involved in the Community Orchard? This might be sponsoring a tree, helping to maintain the site or participating in parish gatherings? **TICK ONE BOX**

Very likely

Likely

Unlikely

Very unlikely

Don't know/not sure

I am already involved

Appendix B – Village Orchard Questionnaire - Narrative Responses

Some comments in the responses included text that could enable some to identify the name of the respondent - this data has been redacted to maintain anonymity.

Question One - 'How positive or negative do you feel about the village having a community space for tree planting - designed to create a natural habitat, increase wildlife, and provide another quiet place for parishioners to enjoy.'

0414 - Ticked very positive - comment - 'but not an orchard'

0027 - Biased question

0604 - Instead of 'Don't know/not sure' has said 'depends where'.

Question Two - 'Diagram - The Parish Council allocated the area adjacent to the cemetery to accommodate an orchard of 30 trees. This land will eventually be required for cemetery purposes - but not for another 100 years or so. To date, 30 trees have been planted. Parishioners have asked to plant more trees.

Do you support this expansion'

0414 - No - On grounds of cost and maintenance hours required.

0456 - It's a great community resource for the village and for wildlife. Yet, it's a shame the steep hill makes it difficult for some.

0128 - I am all for having a mix of fruit trees in the orchard, some plum trees would be good as well as apple trees. Perhaps other trees such as pears, apricot?

0490 - As long as the expansion and aftercare are self-funded and raised by the Orchard Group ie not funded by the parish council etc.

0496 - More trees will make the space nicer and will be good for the environment.

0295 - Because the orchard is a valuable community asset and should be encouraged.

0027 - An orchard is a long-established Somerset tradition, it can and should be used for village events. ■■■■■ is buried in the graveyard and would have been delighted to see children and families having fun. It is most definitely [should - sic] not be forced to be a quiet place.

0536 - Not appropriate next to a place of people's mourning and solitude. Their needs must be a priority.

0639 - Existing Orchard is adequate

0638 - Interested in ways to stop 'global warming' worried about the future of the world for the next generation, especially our grandchildren.

0432 - It has proved to be a worthwhile, successful and popular project and deserves encouragement.

0148 - Why on earth not?

0149 - It is a good use of the land and further trees will ensure all the fruit trees will thrive by similar pollinator types.

0424 - The existing orchard is a fait accompli but has already passed the original allocation of 30. Future upkeep should be considered carefully.

0409 - Great for biodiversity, community!

0503 - Only at orchard, not events with amplified equipment. Quiet place.

0352 - This has been a fantastic initiative and a great community asset. It is beneficial to combat climate change and as a quiet space. Additionally, I would add that any move to reduce or relocate the orchard would lead me not to support future plans/development by CPC because one could have no faith that ideas would be sustained or followed through.

0461 - It will further enhance the area.

0034 - 100 years of benefit to nature can only be a good thing - and the orchard could become integrated with the cemetery overtime. Win - win.

0438 - Planting more trees and creating a community space for the village, where biodiversity can thrive, is incredibly important. The more we can do the better.

0437 - I feel the orchard is in the wrong location and doesn't serve enough of the wider community, I also would not want access to the cemetery to be compromised at any time.

0347 - It's a positive use of the ground, and productive. I contributed one of the original batch of trees, and if more people now want to participate, I think they should have the opportunity to join in.

0173 - Fruit trees are a traditional part of Somerset and beneficial for the environment.

0021 - It is a beautiful community asset that brings lots of pleasure to the village.

0110 - It is a community asset and good use of the land for the next 100 years.

0320 - There is clearly enthusiasm for the orchard project. Adding 20 more trees seems like a modest expansion. The trees will have lived and died by the time the orchard is needed for burial purposes.

0319 - I think this is a very positive community-based initiative. Once there were extensive orchards across Somerset, including where Fayreway is, and redressing their distribution, on however a modest a level, is to be praised.

0288 - More areas for wildlife, natural habitat etc. is always a good thing.

0431 - I feel the orchard has not been accessible to the majority of the community.

0212 - I think it is an amazing space which I use at least once a week. I do not have a garden, so it is perfect. Personally, I think the whole field should be planted with a nature walk around the site.

0217 - Private space does nothing but good for those that do not have access to garden.

0278 - Beautiful quiet space, can be enjoyed by all.

0558 - Need more trees in the environment and natural spaces within the community for people to meet.

0465 - It will improve the space. The trees can always be removed should it be required in 100 years.

0102 - Helps make the area an asset to the community.

0349 - Impossible for me to get there.

0567 - Site in wrong place.

0592 - I still feel this orchard is in the wrong place for all the villagers some can get there!! Unsure what benefit this is to the village. Only a small group of the village seen to gain! ?Monetary.

0100 - It is a great space to be enjoyed by the community.

0459 - More trees need to be planted to replace the many dead trees around the village.

0139 - Enough room currently (Had ticked Doesn't support more trees)

0138 - Current space adequate (Had ticked Doesn't support more trees)

0441 - Basically, this area should be for cemetery use only.

0446 - It seems to be a modest increase in footprint. Good (temporary) use of the space.

0359 - Given the information provided there is no reason to object.

0382 - [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] However, I wouldn't want to stop villagers from planting trees and increasing the orchard if required.

0150 - Ticked No ... unless, see below.

When required for cemetery purposes, it would be rather controversial felling 100-year-old trees. This is the wrong place, on the basis of it being cemetery allocation. If cemetery allocation was somehow removed, then I would support expansion.

0253 - I think the village should be incredibly proud of this project. I know people that have been inspired to come here because this exists. Prunus trees are not subject to TPOs so can be removed in the future. What is not to like for environmental, social, aesthetic and other reason you can think of?

0081 - The orchard is a great asset on land owned by the members of the Croscombe community. It makes sense to optimise its use in a manner that will not conflict with its position next to the cemetery. A peaceful orchard where the community can join in with the upkeep, sponsor a tree, gather to socialise is a benefit to Croscombe, and the more people from the village that can become involved can only enhance its role within the village's social landscape.

0077 - So more people can enjoy the planting of their own trees.

0074 - I want to plant a tree in memory of my parents.

0075 - It appears that there is plenty of space for the orchard to expand with little impact on the current cemetery or stage 1 and 3 expansion areas.

0351- Planting trees is of great ecological benefit. As the land will not be needed for 100 years at least many years are available for villagers to enjoy this larger space and gain from communal activities.

0258 - More village amenity. Food production (community). Can be taken down when cemetery needs to be expanded. 100yrs is a long time.

0462 - Always need more trees

0087 - This is consecrated ground - not for entertainment.

- 0069 - As it stands, I feel this community orchard should not have been established on a burial site in the first place, very disrespectful.
- 0571 - Always good to plant more trees.
- 0083 - Nature is the most important aspect of life on this planet. Apple juice and cider helps in that process.
- 0198 - Having to cut trees down in the future as the land becomes needed for burials will have a negative effect on the environment.
- 0417 - To make sponsorship available to more villagers.
- 0541 - Great also for wildlife.
- 0453 - An increased benefit to wildlife and a larger area to enjoy
- 0601 - We always need more trees and there is still plenty of room to expand the cemetery.
- 0201 - Good for the community.
- 0203 - Can't see a good reason not to!
- 0360 - Trees are good for the environment.
- 0221 - Trees represent life, fruit represents life. It is comforting to know that amidst these hard times there is a positivity.
- 0483 - There are a number of community spaces already, this is a burial area, not appropriate to have gatherings, there is village hall, Griffens Green for this.
- 0501 - No toilet facilities
- 0604 - I feel the area by the cemetery is inappropriate. Also, and a huge factor, is who will pay for the maintenance of the trees in years to come. The council/village is always low on funds that can be served in other areas.
- 0353 - As long as there is a large enough group of people to maintain it.
- 0067 - This is disgusting and a complete lack of respect for cemetery users paying respects to their dead relatives, if the orchard were to be used as a place of reflection or a memorial garden that would be fantastic and an asset to the village. Anyone involved in partying or holding events in/next to cemetery should be ashamed of themselves and also through using the limited parking are stopping people using cemetery.
- 0215 - It is a wonderful opportunity to plant more trees to support the environment.
- 0612 - It's not community space this burial area. Orchard is not tidy grass 18 inches long.
- 0216 - On an ecological stance alone we cannot plant too many trees.
- 0066 - Don't agree with this being so close to the cemetery. There are a lot of people that have relatives in the cemetery that do not live in the village, are their opinions being considered in this survey.
- 0343 - I would support a small expansion to accommodate a few more trees. Very good for pollinators.
- 0344 - I believe that the current space is adequate.

0265 - I like trees

0032 - Definitely not an expansion!! It shouldn't have happened in the first place!

0531 - More trees good.

0254 - We see it as a positive addition to have more trees planted.

Number blocked out - There are enough trees

Number blocked out - There are already sufficient trees!

0562 - It's in wrong place. Who will pay for it when the current people get bored, infirm or die? Cannot give apples away. Take a lot of pruning when trees get big.

0228 - What a wonderful community asset.

0033 - Impractical' too far out of village, up a steep, dangerous lane.

0625 - A space near village hall would be better.

0255 - The existing orchard is a lovely communal space and there is plenty of space for it to expand.

0433 - Alcohol and auctions near/next to a crematorium (sic) is heinous in its purest sense! A spot for reflection and quiet reflection like this is essential for all persons involved with the crematorium (sic) no matter what the capacity.

0537 - It's a cemetery. Don't plant trees that will need removing in future.

0594 - Consecrated ground - no go, no facilities.

0363 - It will give more people the opportunity to have a tree and be involved in the community.

0331 - The original limit was 30 trees yet 40 have been planted, what is to stop the group again exceeding the limit. If they are expanding why not a line across the field not down the middle.

0428 - Good to have more fruit trees to encourage wildlife and to provide quiet place for parishioners to enjoy until the land is needed to expand the cemetery

0430 - Good to encourage wildlife and enhance environment but understanding cemetery will need to expand for future.

0629 - Because it's not that deep.

0631 - What's the harm in more trees

0078 - We need as many trees as we can plant if we are to protect our environment and diversity. It's a lovely place to be and to gather. *Why only a small expansion in the land won't be needed for 100 plus years

0630 - More trees are a good thing.

0206 - More trees have already been planted over the 30 original agreed upon.

0399 - I've answered yes because increasing tree planting will absorb atmospheric carbon, have marginal benefit on road noise, improve soil quality in what is currently a desert of grass, improve biodiversity in the field and surrounding fields, improve the atmosphere or the view, create a more pleasant experience

for people visiting the cemetery. I can't see why additional planting measures would have a detrimental effect.

0564 - General expansion means more pressure on car parking. There are no toilet facilities there for gatherings. Its next to a cemetery - I would feel awful if there was something like a music event there if I wanted to visit relatives or friends at peace - seems somehow disrespectful.

0553 – Any expansion of green land can only be a positive idea, providing a quiet space is essential.

0550 - Needs to be the right place for people to mourn

0568 - I'm not convinced that it will be 100 years before the land is needed as a graveyard. Happy for more trees to be planted there though as long as people understand that it will become a cemetery at some point in the future, possibly in their lifetime.

0043 - Now that the existing fruit trees have established, why not expand the orchard if people want to plant a tree.

0603 - This is an inappropriate location to have functions and not inclusive for the whole village. Music, auctions, selling drinks without licenses etc. etc. To put a questionnaire out you must know that it is totally wrong

0327 - I will probably not use the community orchard but believe it to be a positive thing for the village if it is 'kept together and used'.

0599 - Not an appropriate location due to the proximity of the cemetery.

0602- I think 30 is enough.

0293 - Traditional orchards have declined especially in the southwest of England. They Are important for wildlife, perfect for pollinators and create essential deadwood habitats. For these reasons I feel the expansion of Croscombe Community Orchard can only be a good thing.

0292 - Anything which increases the tree population and reverses our ever-dwindling orchard stock is a very good thing.

0116 - When the orchard project was first mentioned we were told that it would be at no cost to the village, yet, I have heard that there is a proposition to charge the council £50 a month!! [Author's note – there is no proposal nor has there ever been a proposal for the OWG to charge the Parish Council for the use of parish land]

0117 - Despite earlier reassurance I note from the parish council minutes that this is now incurring a cost to the parish. [Author's note: all money spent by the OWG is that which has been raised by the OWG for the orchard]

0640 - I totally agree with the objectives.

0229 - Planting trees are good for the environment and people's well-being.

0332 - More trees generally good thing. Needs a proper management plan though.

0460 - Not enough parking, no more trees.

0400 - this has been a project for the chosen few and still is.

0401 - The parking is bad enough now without extra cars. If was a space for 30 trees and 40 more put there without permission, I assume.

0475 - The more trees we have, the better, especially fruit trees.

0072 - More trees always a good idea.

0464 - I think it is big enough plus the surely ???? for would toilet facilities

0491 - Its wholly inappropriate place for it. Totally unnecessary as plenty of fruit trees in village and people can't give the fruit away.

0597 - Enough trees already. Don't agree with parties in the cemetery. How much will it cost the PC in the long run?

0487 - Not necessary

0130 - Croscombe is surrounded by trees, fields and hedges. A lot of habitat and quiet places.

0463 - Not needed, crazy idea in the first place, stupid place for it.

0457 - Following an auction being held at the cemetery it is preposterous to allow further events and expansion. A cemetery and its land are not for mass public meeting BBQs and cider, utterly disgusting.

Question Three - The Community Orchard has been used for fundraising events. Any event on this land must first be approved by the parish council. The parish council wishes to better understand the types of events you consider appropriate.' Suggestions

0414 - I think it inappropriate to hold noisy events next to cemetery. No toilets.

0496 - It is a nice space to use for ALL events.

0054 - Village picnics should take place in an easily accessible place for everyone to be able to attend. The Orchard is not easily accessible. Side of village hall is more appropriate.

0456 - Gatherings with some music either amplified or singing and guitar playing etc. Mix of instruments.

0490 - A working group for the upkeep and maintenance of the area and trees.

0128 - Wassail? Village scrumping session! Cookery competitions create the best recipes using the orchard produce.

0596 - Nothing that involves large gatherings for social events. Working parties only but where will they park? I don't feel the car park for cemetery should be used for the Orchards purposes.

0027 - Rather than wasting time on questionnaires like this I would propose you spend more time improving access via a footpath rather than up a road. This would probably get a lot more people visiting/using the space.

0536 - The land was purchased for a burial ground not a playground. Be it now or in the future. (Please have some respect) [REDACTED] reading your Facebook comments, I was [REDACTED] at the time of purchase, and it was bought solely for a burial ground for now and the future not a playground.

0639 - Village Hall is very suitable for village events.

0149 - Having an event every quarter or every other month would be practicable.

0504 - Very inappropriate for somethings suggested, it would only be thoughtless for anyone to consider * above after all it's a cemetery up there.

- Raffle/auctions
- Use of amplified equipment

0461 - Amplified music, auctions, raffles? What next ... car boot sales / burger van!

0034 - Why does it need fundraising if people sponsor a tree?

Any events need to be sympathetic with the location of the cemetery but also to those who live nearby. Quite small gatherings are appropriate. We have the village hall after all.

0438 - Getting people involved in the seasonal care of the grounds. I understand the sensitivity to the location of the cemetery but feel that church fetes and all sorts of events regularly occur in religious sites and places of rest. I struggle with the view that any event that is politely run in the support of a community can be viewed as disrespectful. The family events have been lovely.

0437 - There are no toilet facilities at the orchard and limited parking. It seems to serve the needs and wishes of only a few people in the community. The fruit trees need to be harvested and produce shared out fairly for all. I feel 'normal' trees would be better.

0606 - There are no facilities. It is a very steep climb for those with mobility problems. Maintenance and future care of trees is concern.

0613 - The orchard continues to be a bone of contention due to its poor location and lack of facilities! Why can we not use the playing fields next to the village hall? A far better site?

0173 - Access at the bottom of the field would make the walk to the orchard more pleasant.

0021 - Children's story time / children's events. Wassail.

0320 - I've not been to the orchard - but if there are benches and good views I would go up there for personal quiet time. Good resources for the school to visit for learning about nature / biodiversity / where cider comes from! Could the parish council look into ways that the orchard site could be accessed via footpaths rather than using Thrupe Lane?

0431 - We have a recreation field in the heart of the village where I feel community events are far more appropriate. I like the idea of a 'quiet space' occasionally there.

0212 - Group yoga, tai chi classes, seminars with guest speakers

- More benches, seating, picnic stands
- Mowed walkway through the orchard/field
- Staired access in bottom corner of field to street.

0278 - Availability for family picnics? Easter egg hunt?

0465 - It is a nice public space and there should be no cap on events.

0592 - Thank you for sending me this questionnaire! (For the council's transparency). Last time only certain houses received one!!

0446 - Bees

0382 - Not intending to get involved as [REDACTED]

0253 - I do appreciate that this is next to the cemetery and so think, in deference to people who have a negative view to the proposed expansion, loud gatherings should be kept to a minimum.

0081 - Wildlife talks

Fruit tree care talks

Events/auctions are sensible ways to raise funds that cover maintenance costs of the orchard. They also provide an outdoor activity for the village to enjoy.

0074 - The community orchard is a wonderful space for the benefit of all. Events are very important for raising funds for its upkeep.

0075 - The orchard is a lovely space for the benefit of the community. Upkeep is important and without fundraising this is unlikely to be possible.

0351 - Any event would be well publicised and those wishing to have 'quiet time' in the cemetery would be able to avoid these occasions if they wished. Those who have been part of Croscombe's village life and now buried in the cemetery would no doubt wish others to enjoy the opportunities this expansion offers.

0020 - A wassail is very important for the trees

0571 - It is a truly wonderful space to be enjoyed in the appropriate manner. Fantastic for our community.

0083 - What types of apples are there in the orchard? Enough of all 3 sorts?

0198 - The environment should remain quiet, tranquil and accessible to families with relatives laid to rest in the cemetery. Activities and events in neighboring land will be disruptive and essentially disrespectful.

0417 - Consider providing pedestrian access where marked on Plan D Question 2, preferably disability friendly, would reduce distance walking on the road that is without a pavement. Suggest an information board at the entrance detailing information about each species of tree. Consider allowing private hire of the orchard for family BBQs.

0453 - Consider providing additional bench seating.

0601 - Picnic and BBQ, raffles and auction and amplified equipment can be held and used at village hall, that's what it's there for. The orchard would work well doing easter egg hunts for the kids and outdoor wedding ceremonies, things like that.

0221 - My partner with whom I live agrees with all responses throughout this questionnaire. Amplified music - music (guitar/violin etc.) Apple pressing/picking during season.

0483 - If tending / visiting family members' graves I don't want to hear people partying this is not the place, village hall is accessible to everyone for social functions.

0501 - Too far to walk if you are an OAP.

0604 - This is too close to the cemetery where people go to reflect.

0067 - Why is this even a question, the only reason you are asking this question is because you know its wrong!!

0215 - Open air sessions / lesson on the environment - identifying plants and tree and wildlife.

0216 - We attended the picnic in 2024 which was a successful event. I think the community orchard has been a great idea. There should be more events held there, but with tight control kept by CPC.

0343 - We could have a village picnic twice a year with a raffle to provide funds. Also once a year a gathering to prune the trees.

0265 - Talks regarding creating wild meadows and bee-keeping

0032 - This is no place for a certain few to have a 'jolly'. The land is for cemetery purposes, and should be kept as that, no matter how long. Every property in Croscombe has a garden and we live in a lovely rural area, surrounded by trees and vegetation. If it was in a city-town it would be more acceptable. Please do not allow this to happen. Have respect for the dead and those who mourn.

Number blocked out - No events, totally inappropriate. Thorpe Lane is unsuitable for pedestrian access. No facilities. I do not want people running amok around the cemetery. Totally disrespectful.

562 - No events, it's a cemetery. Should never have been planted where are the toilet? Parking? Disgraceful and disrespectful in a cemetery.

0035 - Feel village hall and school field the 'hub' of village appropriate venue for above activities.

0625 - No, this is a graveyard not a place to party!

0255 - Ignore the moaning minnies on social media. If land near graves could never be used for social occasions lots of hours near the churchyard would have unusable gardens.

0433 - Any village picnic or BBQs should be held at the dedicated village hall.

0537 - It was wrong to plant an orchard in the first place. It's a cemetery for future burials.

0594 - This plan should never have been initiated. What happens if a village function is arranged and there is a burial that day.

0363 - It is a wonderful place for the community to get together as well as the opportunity to connect with nature. As the trees mature it will provide much excitement to compare the yield.

0331 - The area behind the orchard is a reflective space for people to come and remember their loved ones. It is not appropriate to hold parties, events and certainly not loud music in the field next door.

0629 - Supper clubs/dinner/cooking events!

0631 - Seance, sledging.

Groups aimed at children to be outside together, nature lessons. Yoga groups. A church service of remembrance once a year to remember those gone before. Why only a small expansion in the land won't be needed for 100 plus years.

The comments about the location being too far from the village are invalidated by it being the only available location - it's not in the cemetery it's not compulsory to visit the orchard.

0206 - I am 100% against events held in the orchard. People go to the cemetery to visit their loved ones expecting quiet NOT the hubbub and noise created by such events. We have a perfectly good village hall and field to hold such events which is far more accessible on foot with plenty of parking and toilets.

0399 - Annual community slip and slide tournament.

0553 - You could spread the word across the village to help maintain the orchard a couple of times a year - harvest and planting for example

0484 - Surely the village hall and playing field is better suited, parking, WCs, central and more accessible

0598 - Access if very limited especially for older or disabled people

0568 - We have a very well-equipped village hall, with a lovely field adjacent to it. I know this is used primarily by the school, and I think groups need permission to gather there but it would be a far more appropriate place to gather than next door to the cemetery.

0603 - The orchard group have been let loose with doing what they want in a space which is owned by the village as an extension to cemetery. The last festival up there took up the whole car park and if anyone who wanted to visit a loved ones grave couldn't park. Shameful and not respect (sic).

0328 - The field should be a quiet, respectful and reverent place, for relatives to visit and remember their loved ones. The village has sites for functions etc. (e.g. village hall field).

0327 - One reservation that I have is that it appears not to have toilet facilities which is a must at my age.

0602 - Not much parking space - steep incline to access.

0168 - Needs to stay respectful to those buried and those with loved ones in the cemetery.

0116 - I think it is inappropriate for picnics, BBQ etc. as it is hard for some people to walk up to the orchard, also there is adigla (sic) car park and no toilet or running water for washing.

We already have a great facility - the village hall, it can be used if it rains, has toilets and electricity. There is a large car park and a playground.

0117 - It is an inappropriate venue for events as it is inaccessible for many and there are no facilities available. The village hall and adjoining field is a far more appropriate venue.

0640 - Great space for Croscombe School children to do outdoor related lessons. Fantastic location for artists.

0228 - Gathering for a village picnic strengthens the bone of local community

0332 - Proximity to cemetery problematic for 'fun' events. Alternative site would be better.

0460 - This is place for the chosen few not the village.

0401 - This is adjoining the cemetery, the parking is BAD not everyone would be able to use it and the orchard group doesn't know what quiet time means.

0475 - Don't know whether its the right place for 'events' as you call them. What's wrong with the village hall? So much more accessible too. 'Event' means lots of car parking up there and noise. In any case, your very first paragraph on page talks about providing another 'quiet' place for parishioners to enjoy.

0464 - Would have to drive, older people cannot walk.

0491 - Any events should be held elsewhere- what's wrong with the village hall? It has parking, toilets and is central and not part of the cemetery. The cemetery should be for people to visit graves.

0598 - Should have been planted there. Fruit should be harvested once a year. Events should be held in appropriate place - pub / village hall.

0487 - The orchard is in the wrong place.

0130 - Although my response is negative probably because I'm old. I wish the project well for those who support it and enjoy the orchard.

0463 - Stupid - not needed. Just for the few to have drinks with friends - use your own garden.

Question Four - 'Overall, how likely are you to get involved in the Community Orchard? This might be sponsoring a tree, helping to maintain the site or participate in parish gatherings?

0034 - Created a further box ... 'possible'.

0347 - Too old

0431 - Very unlikely (to be involved) 'except for quiet time'.

0150 - Ticked unlikely as has own orchard space to maintain [REDACTED].

0417 - [REDACTED] has sponsored a tree and I also wish to sponsor a tree.

0067 - Created a column title NEVER and has added DISGUSTING!

0067 - Is nothing sacred anymore? I am most definitely not against change or events in the village and I welcome new ideas and improving what we have in Croscombe.

[REDACTED] are buried in the cemetery gives me strong feelings of disgust that events will be going on right next to their graves [REDACTED].

You have now sent out two surveys, so you must know this is the wrong thing to do.

Have you contacted the members of the families outside of Croscombe to inform them of events next to their loved ones' graves. Would it not be better to use and support the village hall and playing fields? Would this be a better place for a gathering/party than a cemetery?

I am very hurt and upset by this and I hope you make the right choice to stop all events for the respect of all the people buried in the cemetery, most of whom gave so much to the village, and for the respect of their family.

Thank you and please note this is not a personal attack against an individual, just an idea!