

Westbourne Parish Council Survey (Summer 2019)

‘What’s important for the future of Westbourne?’

There were 129 responses to the consultation. Depending on whether the responses are seen as being from individual parishioners or households, the response rate was 5.5% or 12%. While this is disappointing, it is not inconsistent with other, similar surveys.

“We recently carried out two public consultations for our Core Strategy and received 8% and 12% response rates. We believe these are good for a planning public consultation but the public perception is that they are poor...Anything over 10% is very good in my view - the fact is most people either aren't interested or just can't be bothered to respond.”

https://www.khub.net/web/planningadvisoryservicepas/forum/-/message_boards/message/6225978

That having been said, it cannot be claimed that the results of the survey are a true representation of what the people of Westbourne consider to be important for the future of the Parish. They may, however, give some indication of where the Parish Council’s (and those of other organisations concerned about the future of Westbourne) priorities should lie in the next decade or so.

Of those who responded to the survey, the overwhelming number (89.5%) were residents of Westbourne. The age demographic was as follows:

Age	Responses
19 or under	0.87%
20-29	2.61%
30-39	11.30%
40-49	17.39%
50-59	19.13%
60-69	20.87%
70-79	20.00%
80-89	7.83%
90+	0.0%

With regard to gender, the demographic was as follows:

Female	56.14%
Male	40.35%
Other	3.51%

In Question 4, respondents were asked to rate the importance to them of a number of items on a Likert Scale (1 = not important; 5 = very important). Ratings ranged from 4.50 to 3.05 in the following order.

Item	Score
Level of crime	4.50
Traffic flow	4.48
Environmental protection	4.44
Parks and open spaces	4.43
Health services	4.38
Roads and pavements	4.26
Shopping facilities	4.02
Education provision	3.94
Facilities for the young	3.93
Local employment	3.61
Parking facilities	3.60
Community halls	3.54

As every item scored above 3.00, it can be concluded that they are all of importance to the people of Westbourne. However, it would not be unreasonable to prioritise those scoring highest, though deliverability clearly needs to be factored in.

There were 24 qualitative comments. An attempt has been made to group these comments into two broad categories, from which it is clear that 'roads, traffic and parking', and 'the environment inc. litter/cleaning' represent people's most immediate concerns.

Roads, traffic and parking (14 comments)

- Size and speed of vehicles is primary concern currently
- Traffic through the village, too much and too fast. Pedestrian crossing?
- Traffic and wildlife should be a priority
- Good to see the speed monitor up and working
- Bike paths alongside of road to connect all villages. Many more people would then cycle! This would lower pollution and help the environment and our health! Make it easier to bike. Right now it's dangerous. For use for children getting to school, adults travelling to work and shops. See Germany and other Scandi countries.
- Bollards should be erected to protect pavements from vehicle damage.
- Divert heavy vehicles away from village
- Protection for the village from fast through traffic
- I think we must stop surrendering to the motor car.
- Please don't spoil the village feel with loads of traffic speed signs and writing on road.
- Public transport
- Affordable transport services for young people are VITAL as means of finding employment
- Parking around primary school
- Why this obsession with parking. Means more parking more cars. Encourage walking. Better for personal health and environment

The environment inc. litter/cleaning (6 comments)

- Enhancement of biodiversity and preservation of the Downs/Chichester Harbour corridor
- The parish needs to work to retain and improve its biodiversity by supporting the Chichester DC wildlife corridor proposals and lobbying for a healthier and more wildlife-friendly River Ems
- Litter awareness
- Additional litter bins esp. by the river at Commonsides.
- Fly-tipping becoming an issue :-)
- Proper in-depth street cleaning and keeping village looking smarter. The centre/Square areas are scruffy!!!

Miscellaneous (4 comments)

- The above are relevant to me personally - I also support things which matter to other people, eg teenagers
- Wine bar and Thai restaurant, sports facilities (cricket etc)
- If there were more facilities for young, instances of petty vandalism might fall
- No more gypsy/travellers sites

In Question 5, respondents were asked to identify which of a number of aims and objectives were the most important to them and the future of Westbourne? Ratings ranged from 4.31 to 3.49 in the following order.

Item	Score
Traffic-calming and pedestrian crossings at The Square in Westbourne.	4.31
Social care, including community buying of carer services for elderly and disabled residents	4.06
Public transport.	4.01
High-speed mobile and broadband services to the Parish.	3.93

Affordable housing for young people and families who cannot afford housing on the open market. Giving them the chance to continue living in Westbourne and maintain a balanced community within the village.	3.82
A viable village hub with space and facilities for community services and activities.	3.75
Support local businesses and tourism, including business starter units.	3.66
A car park, including a picnic area, near Westbourne village centre to help residents and businesses.	3.49

As every item scored 3.49 or above, it can be concluded that they are all of importance to the people of Westbourne. However, it would not be unreasonable to prioritise those scoring highest, though deliverability clearly needs to be factored in.

There were 21 qualitative comments. An attempt has been made to group these comments into two broad categories: 'traffic/parking and public transport', 'facilities' and 'the built and natural environment'.

Traffic/Parking/Public transport (13 comments)

- Traffic calming/pedestrian crossings and public transport very important.
- Public transport is urgent. Divert heavy vehicles from the village.
- Hopefully traffic calming in The Square will have a 'knock on' effect on North Street and elsewhere.
- Something really needs to be done about congestion in The Square.
- Again need to discourage even more cars.
- Measures to stop Long Copse Lane becoming a rat run.
- Re car parking - I don't feel 'out of village' parking will be useful to residents/visitors - any car park should be within 2-3 minute walk of shops/cafes/pubs/dr surgery. (Otherwise will just become a focus for night time use)/ Re public transport - not personally but in support of others.
- Parking is a huge problem, but will not be solved by creating a car park behind the Parish Hall. It is too far from the shops etc. A residents' scheme with time limitation AND ENFORCEMENT might work better.
- I would not like to see the field behind the community centre used for parking because we should not make decisions that displace wildlife, including the lovely geese living there, enjoyed by all users of the hall.
- A car park would not benefit the village. More facilities for cars mean more driving and more traffic. (Just as providing cycle parking encourages people to use bikes.) We should be reducing congestion, pollution, and climate change emissions, not increasing them. A car park would also be contrary to goal of traffic-calming the Square.
- Even without a picnic area, a car park would be great. Westbourne is a lovely, normal, straightforward kind of village which I really appreciate. I wish it felt a bit more welcoming to the young. (I'm old, with teenage grandchildren).
- Why does a car park and a picnic area go together? This is a very leading question.
- Parking already available at Monk's Hill.

Facilities (5 comments)

- Things for teenagers to do.
- Westbourne needs facilities and social activities for the elderly during more than the working day.
- Encourage empty shops to be used.
- Already have several community amenities. Parish council just needs to be more proactive in promoting one as a hub via their website, newsletter etc.
- Re social care - sounds good but not sure what this entails.

Built and natural environment (4 comments)

- Respect the village has heritage and many listed buildings. Enter TVs best kept village comp as incentive to smarten up Westbourne
- We have a lovely park for picnics and children's area,
- Bike paths OFF the road and wide as possible connecting all local villages including Emsworth up to Chichester!
- Enhanced access to river

Miscellaneous

- Noise from pub revellers disturbance at closing time.

As with Question 4, traffic and parking were a major concern. Public transport featured quite prominently, as did a village car park, though opinion regarding the latter was divided, especially when it came to location.

When asked (Question 6) if there were any other services that matter more/Should other aims and objectives be considered?, there were 21 responses. An attempt has been made to group these comments into categories.

Social facilities/activities (11 comments)

- More things for teenagers.
- Activities eg more youth clubs, etc. to stop petty offences.
- Years ago when my children were young, in the holidays the Salvation Army used to lay on a coach to take mothers and children on outings that was reasonable to have a day out (brilliant).
- Better services for younger people and more affordable bus links.
- Bus services? (Small bus, well advertised with convenient return times).
- Teenagers and the elderly need social amenities for more than the working day. The elderly need help to get out and to get home safely in the evenings and weekends as well as during the day.
- Support a village pub as community gathering area. We should have a pub with a garden area, parking for cycles.
- Certainly not picnic area in square.
- Keeping the green spaces and play parks and adding more shade to them.
- Volunteer hub for local community such as promoting volunteer drivers, food bank access, support with elderly needs. Just a few ideas. Wealth of talent in village that may wish to give up a few hours to help others. Hayling Island has a very active Volunteer community. Might be worth getting some advice of them. Realise Emsworth does also have a good volunteer community but can Westbourne really rely on them as we and they grow, and we are in West Sussex?
- Also there has been a lot of anti-social behaviour and criminal damage along North Street. CCTV and PCSO is required.

Roads and traffic (4 comments)

- Pedestrian crossing in village centre it is very dangerous trying to cross the road in The Square with children.
- Traffic levels.
- Diverting heavy vehicles from the village by 3 signs at the 3 points of access saying no access over 7 tonnes except deliveries, or some such.
- Traffic wardens to attend to illegal parking in the village which is now out of control and in some cases dangerous to pedestrians.

The built and natural environment (6 comments)

- Wildlife conservation and protection.
- Environmental e.g., shared community wind / water power generation. Litter collection.
- Greening Westbourne is a fantastic group - more emphasis on environmental issues please. E.g. wild flower verges, bat/owl boxes. Clean up of river - the stretch by River Street. (bungalow) is littered with plastic.

- Regular road edge sweeping/clearing. Larger waste bins in vicinity of Co-op. Fix Foxbury Lane road surface (top and bottom).
- Cleaning the streets of litter and dog mess.
- Maintaining the character and unspoilt nature of the village by keeping new housing and developments to a minimum.

Road and traffic again feature but what is of particular interest here is the number of comments somewhat loosely assigned to the category of 'Social facilities/activities'. They cover a wide range of aims and objectives, many of which are clearly outside the remit of the Parish Council. However, it is worth considering whether or not certain of these facilities and activities can be realised through the efforts of various organisations that exist in the parish or could be established in the future.

In Question 7, respondents were asked how they would like to see facilities at the Common on Monk's Hill enhanced, using funding the Parish Council has received for sports and exercise. The results were as follows (respondents were free to choose more than one facility).

Facility	Support
New benches and picnic tables	53.70%
Small exercise stations, similar to a trim trail for both adults and children, around the perimeter of the Common	50.93%
New play equipment to replace the wooden monkey bars at the playground	43.52%
Two five-a-side football goals on the Common	38.89%

Since the survey was conducted, new benches, small exercise stations, and new play equipment to replace the wooden monkey bars at the playground have all been ordered. The football goals are already in place.

In Question 8, respondents were asked what else they would you like to see at the Common on Monk's Hill. It would be fair to say that the many comments demonstrated no lack of imagination. As with the responses to Question 6, many of the suggestions do not fall within the remit of the Parish Council. However, it is well worth looking at which ideas WPC can bring forward and which could perhaps be realised by others in the village. Again, an attempt has been made at grouping the 27 comments into discrete categories.

Physical/Sporting/Leisure activities (17 comments)

- Cricket nets.
- Tennis courts.
- Ninja warrior course.
- A leg press similar to the one at Rowlands Castle.
- Cafe/tea rooms so youngsters will use facilities.
- The new equipment should benefit those in Mill Road and the new development. Leave Monk's Hill as it is! A new play park was opened in 2018 by Tim Peake.
- French Boule area.
- The children's equipment is used but the other equipment is never used. Please don't waste any money on more adult facilities.
- A running footpath around the park with distance markers e.g. .25 km, 0.5 km.
- The recent new play equipment installed at monks hill is aimed at young children. My children are 6 and 8 and the park is very limited for this age. I would like further money spent to include older children. Replacing the monkey bars with something aimed for older children would be good. A trail of wooden play equipment (like an obstacle course) around the perimeter would be great! The current exercise equipment doesn't seem to get used very often in the way it is aimed to ie adults using.
- For much of the winter/spring the Common is very boggy. More regular grass cutting and picnic tables would encourage people to use the Common more - and make their own fun.

- More help and support for the local cricket team as they help do charity work all with no help and local community support would help them continue their work.
- Cricket nets and site Screens at Westbourne cricket club.
- My sister runs a charity in York focused on getting people moving more, they have recorded videos of how to use trim trails etc. Move the Masses. I think we could bring this to Westbourne.
- Cricket nets for Westbourne Cricket club who play next to Monks Hill.
- Cricket nets.
- Bicycle locks.

The natural environment (6 comments)

- Wild flower area
- Good old fashioned bench seats. Develop an 'eco park' - energy generating solar system / boost for wifi / science lave / man shed.
- A more environmental focus - good to see planting of new shrubs/trees (although one corner may block nice view of the hills in future) Does the grass have to be moved edge to edge? An approach similar to Hampshire Farm Meadows seems to be popular. More rough grass for wild flowers.
- Open space is very important to enable people to use the green as they wish.
- Native trees.
- Some landscaping and wildlife areas in the edges / corners of the park.

Miscellaneous (4 comments)

- What about mill road play area as Monks hill is way out of the central part of village. Any problems quickly identified in mill road because of close by houses. Not so at Monks Hill.
- Not directly answering the question, but it's a shame that this is a fair way out of the village.
- Information board.
- No - waste of money.

In addition to being made available to members of the public, the results of the survey will be discussed at the next meeting of the Westbourne Business Plan Group.

RH. 11th April, 2020