Wisborough Green
Community Led Planning Group

Parish Survey – Headlines

January 2012

Introduction

The first part of the Community Led Plan process sets out to establish as baseline of information as to what the community thinks on a range of issues that have an impact on their lives in the Parish. We have created this baseline through a community questionnaire that was distributed to all households in November 2011 and was also available online at http://wisboroughgreen.community21.org/

217 Questionnaires were completed which represents 33% of households in the Parish.
20% of these questionnaires were filled in online

This report seeks to identify the key issues that have emerged from the survey, those issues that we now wish to investigate further during the development of the Community Led Plan. The full survey results can be found at http://wisboroughgreen.community21.org/plan/

Summary

Key issues emerging from the Parish Survey are;

1. Future CLP consultation needs to reach a broader age range
2. The 'Traditional Village Setting' is the best thing about living in Wisborough Green
3. Speeding and parking are the worst things
4. Fuel poverty or Fuel Vulnerability is a problem for a significant number of residents
5. The shop/ PO is a key facility which, although most people do not depend upon, they use and value highly
6. The Green is another key facility, well cared for in the majorities opinion but perhaps its use is over dominated by special interest groups
7. Strong agreement on the need for more housing over the next 10-15 years
8. Support for small developments, phased delivery and the need to maintain the strategic gap
9. Only a fifth of respondents regularly use public transport but for those who do it is a poor service
10. The Parish Council is seen as doing an adequate job but could communicate better
11. Village communication style, changes required.
12. Faster broadband.

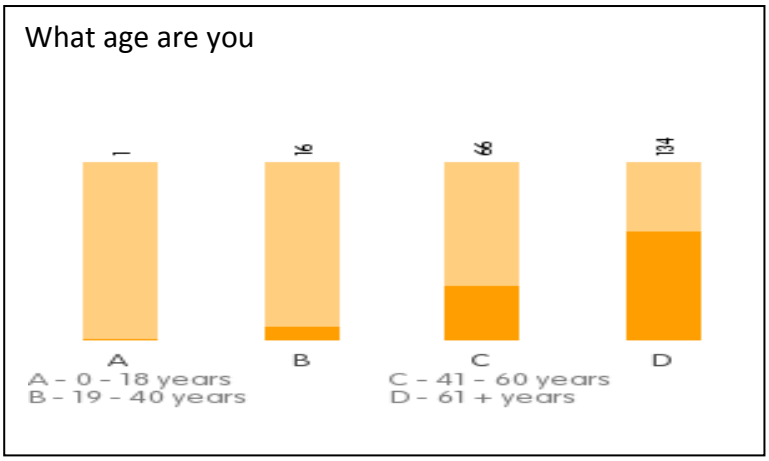
Section 1: Participation in the Survey

Headlines

217 Questionnaires were completed which represents 33% of households in the Parish. 20% of these questionnaires were filled in online

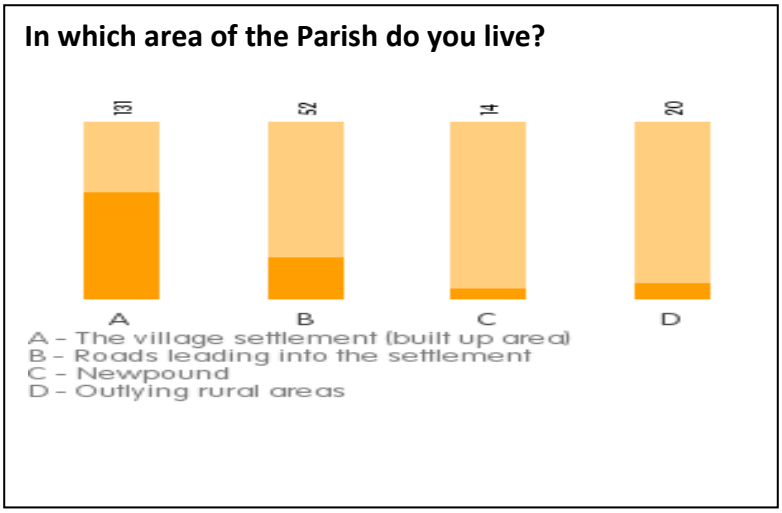
The questionnaire was predominately (92%) filled in by people over the age of 40

Outlying areas are also potentially under-represented



Issues

74% respondents told us that they completed the questionnaire in discussion with their household. It would be good to think that through this mechanism we managed to reach more younger people however, a subsequent question where we asked about the age of people in the household indicated that only 17% of responses were from households which contained any people under 18



Key message from section 1: We did not reach the younger age households in the parish, probably the ones with families, an issue that will need to be addressed by the CLP group at the next consultation stage.

Section 2: Living in Wisborough Green

Headlines

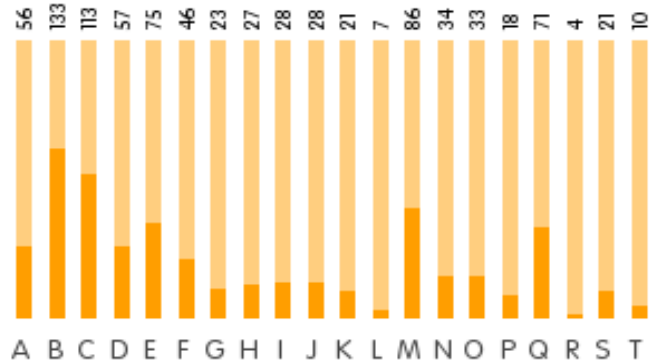
The top 3 things that make this a good place to live and need protecting/ enhancing are ;

- Traditional Village Setting
- The green and other open spaces
- Low levels of crime

The top 3 things that could be improved to make this an even better place to live are:

- Levels of speeding and parking
- Public transport
- Affordable housing

Which of these things do you think are most important in making the village a good place to live



A - Access to nature
B - Traditional village setting
C - The Green and other open spaces
D - Clean environment
E - Community activities
F - Education provision
G - Facilities for younger children
H - Activities for teenagers
I - Facilities for older people
J - Affordable housing
K - Health services
L - Job prospects
M - Low level of crime
N - Levels of speeding and parking
O - Public transport
P - Sports and leisure facilities
Q - Local shopping facilities
R - Wage levels and cost of living
S - Equalities - people being treated fairly
T - Other

Which of these things would you say most need improving?

A - Access to nature
B - Traditional village setting
C - The Green and other open spaces
D - Clean environment
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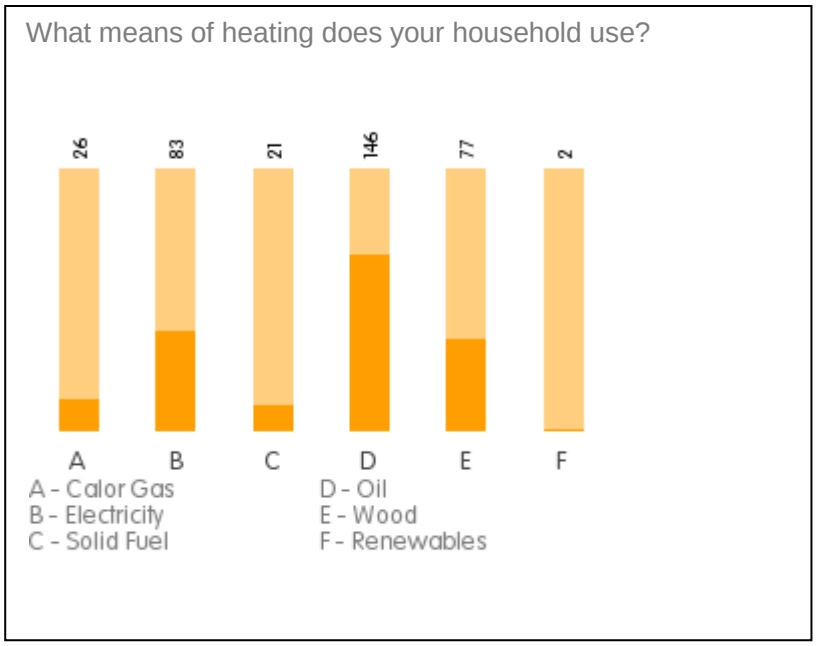
Key message from section 2: It is very clear what people like and don't like about living in Wisborough Green. These are perhaps the high level topics for further discussion at the April consultation event. We need to better understand, for example, what factors constitute a 'traditional village setting as well as the ideas people might have for dealing with the speeding and parking

Section 3: About your household

Headline

Household fuel use is predominantly Oil and Electricity

26% of respondents consider they spend more than 10% of their household income on energy, a figure that officially defines fuel poverty.



Issues: The reliance on oil and electricity creates a potential vulnerability at times of power cuts and severe weather events. This area has already been recognized as one vulnerable to fuel poverty because of a lack of mains gas supply and this is borne out by the results of the survey. One way to potentially help this situation is to bulk buy oil supplies and 110 people said that they would be interested in joining such a scheme

Key message from Section 3: Fuel Poverty appears to be a substantive issue in the Parish adding to the already high level of vulnerability in terms of energy supply because of the lack of mains supply.

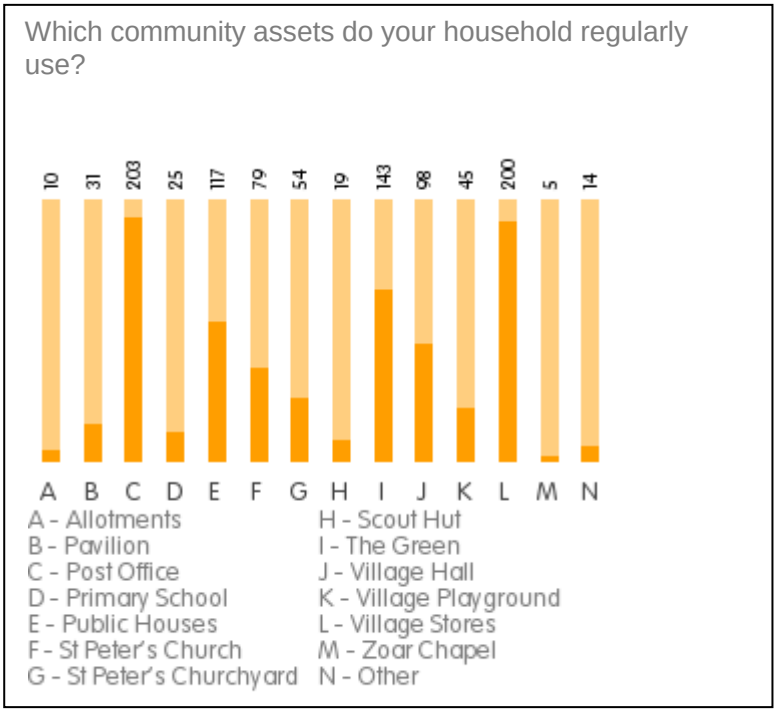
Section 4: Community Facilities

Headline

The top 5 facilities seen as important to community life;

- Post office
- Shop
- The Green
- Public Houses
- Village Hall

When asked a more detailed question about the use of the post office only 5% of respondents said they were dependent upon it, while 62% described their use as 'regular 'and 'valuable' to them.



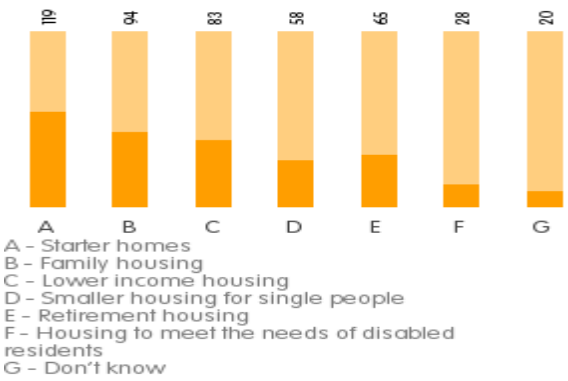
Issues: We asked a number of questions about the use of the care and use of the village green
The majority of people think that it is well cared for (80%). When asked about whether the green was used to its full potential 55% thought it was by the whole community whilst 44% thought it was by special interest groups. When asked how they rated the Playground 57% of respondents who said it was applicable to them felt that it needed improvement.

Key message from Section 4: There are a number of key facilities that are viewed as very important to community life and are claimed to be well used. The survival and ongoing care of these facilities for the whole community is therefore an important challenge of for the future.

Section 5 Housing

Headlines

The survey indicated strong agreement to the need for housing over the next 10-15 years especially for smaller and starter homes.



Issues

There is correlation of age group of respondents and a large group of households looking to have their own homes in retirement within the next 10 years.

Location of new housing.

- There was overwhelming support for smaller developments and for phasing of delivery.
- The development on 'brownfield' land was strongly supported.
- Significant support for maintaining a strategic gap between centre of village and strip developments
- Balance of housing provision

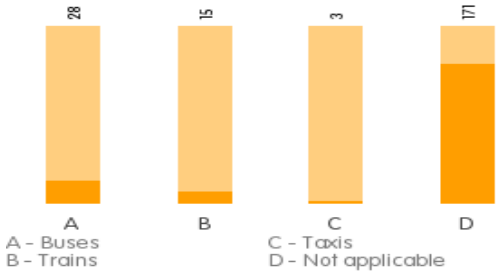
General Concerns

- Infrastructure
- Traffic and parking
- Maintenance of village character

Section 6 Getting Around

Headline

There is a strong reliance on private cars for transport.
Most households have the same number of cars as adults.
Only 20% or respondents regularly use public transport, mainly
buses.



Issues

- Bus service is limited and inflexible.
- Fuel costs are by far the greatest issue for car drivers.
- If the Village Car and BilliLinks services are to be better used, there is an opportunity for wider understanding of how to access these services.

Under 12% of respondents attend Adult Education, mostly in Billingshurst and Horsham.
The minibus is used by a significant minority but it is well respected.
The majority of respondents do not have difficulty in accessing health services.

Section 7 Community Life

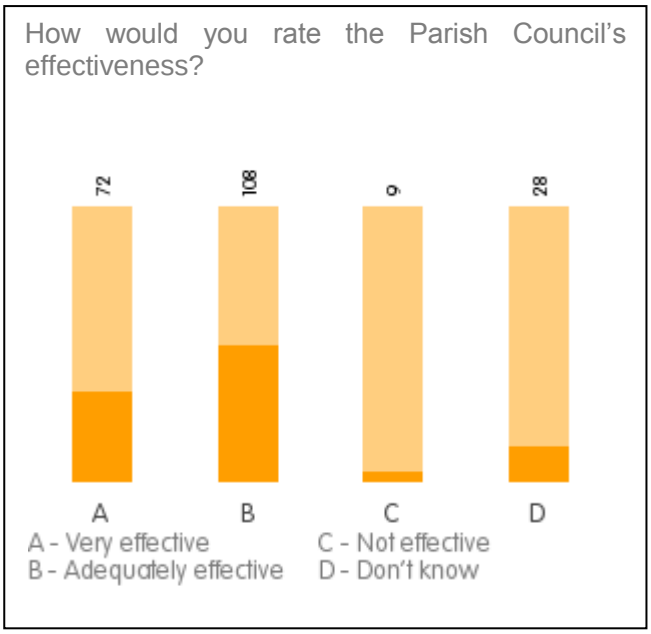
Headline 1

97% of respondents are aware of the Parish Council and what it does.

33% rate its very effective, whilst a further 50% say it is adequately effective

Issues

Although the majority has good awareness of the PC, comments included re newsletter and in the 'And Finally' section perhaps indicate that the role is not fully understood.



Key Messages: PC good awareness / profile in general. Need to clarify role to encourage recruitment onto the PC in the future. Mostly effective but room for improvement in terms of communication to make people fully aware of what is being achieved (no complacency).

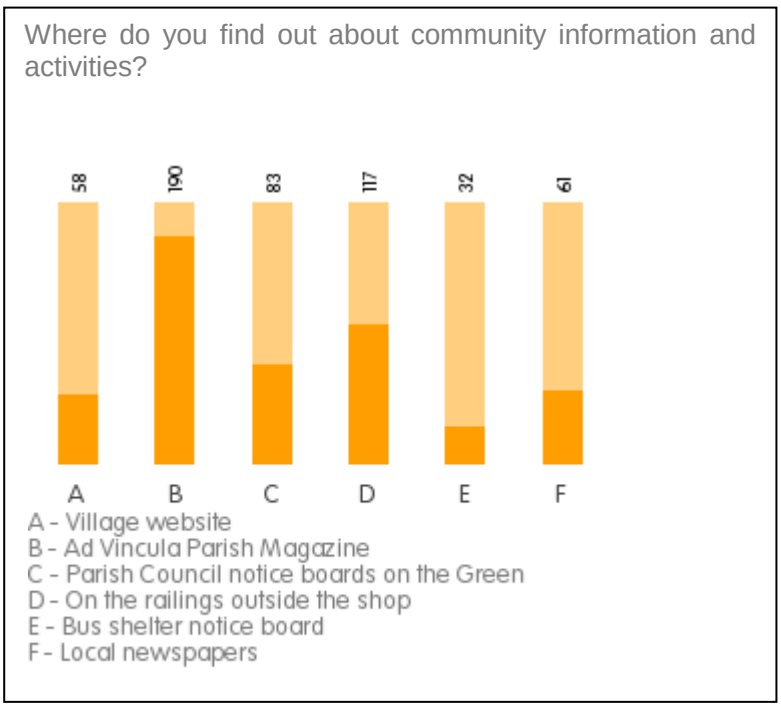
Headline 2

Ad Vincula is where most people get their local information

Issues

Ad Vincula is obviously a popular and well established publication. It is however, not delivered to every household and there is a religious association. Railings outside the shop a popular form of advertising.
Parish Newsletter is well received but additional comments confirm ambiguity of role of PC

94 people said that they would be interested in receiving Emails updates from the PC



Key Message: Issue to address re communication, possible change in approach to village magazines and contents. Consideration of monthly village publication – re-vamp of Ad Vincula without religious bias – sections for all community organisations to contribute.

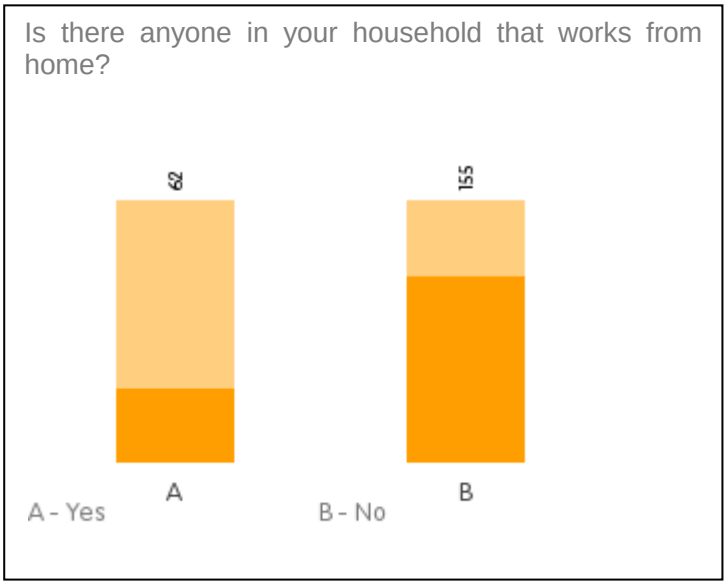
Section 8: Employment & Business

Headline

28% of Households have someone who works from home

Issues

When asked what issues they faced, the key one was Broadband. A similar question was asked of people who ran local businesses and they reiterated Broadband and additionally felt mobile signal, parking for staff and use of structured PR and advertising exclusive to Wisborough Green were additional issues



Key Message: Broadband, mobile signal, use of structured PR and advertising exclusive to WG. Post Office also valuable to village businesses. Idea given - use of Ansells as village business centre.

And Finally (Section 9 of 9)

Please state any concerns or issues not mentioned in this questionnaire:

speeding again
flooding/ditching/hedging
pavement parking again
distinction needed between emergency plan and winter plan
specialist grants advisory/support person for village organisations
more linkage of pavements/footpaths eg Luth and estate
newsletter again
concern re new housing styles
disturbance late at night eg excessive music from pubs/fireworks etc
elderly services lonely/housebound/dog walking etc (links to volunteer recruitment) Some issues for church in this section
Vegetable planting scheme – Incredible Edible Todmorden