

# SWINDON VILLAGE COMMUNITY SURVEY

INTERIM RESULTS 16<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2016

This report comprises an analysis of the 34 responses received by GRCC up to 16<sup>th</sup> August 2016. Responses to open questions have been categorised by theme and a summary of the number of responses in each category provided followed by the comments themselves.

## 1. WHAT ARE THE THREE THINGS YOU VALUE MOST ABOUT SWINDON VILLAGE?

Please note that some respondents gave more than one answer which could be categorised in the same way, whilst others gave individual answers which could be split over more than one category. For example, one respondent wrote:

“The quiet village atmosphere. Lack of much traffic.”

as a single answer. The first sentence is included in the ‘Character’ theme, with the second categorised as ‘Traffic and Transport’

Theme	Number of responses
Character	21
Community	18
Amenities/facilities (including school, church, etc)	17
Park and green spaces	24
Location	6
Traffic and Transport	9
Other	4

The numbers (1), (2) and (3) after each comment refer to whether the respondent placed it in first, second or third place.

### Character - 21 comments

- That it still is a ‘village’ (1)
- Peace & quiet (1)
- The character of the village (1)
- Historic building (3)
- Proper village atmosphere (1)
- Village feel (3)
- Village atmosphere (2)
- Good ambience (2)
- Has a village feel to it (3)
- Peace (2)
- Village effect (3)
- Nice area (1)
- The village setting (1)
- Tranquillity (1)
- Peace (2)
- Older houses (2)
- Look of village environment (3)
- Village ‘feel’ (1)
- Village/rural feel (3)
- Peace (2)
- The quiet village atmosphere (1)

### **Community – 18 comments**

- The Community (1)
- The friendly atmosphere (2)
- Village news magazine keeps news to villages (2)
- Community (1)
- Quiet & friendly (3)
- Community as a whole (2)
- The community (2)
- Community (3)
- The community spirit (2)
- Friends (3)
- The community spirit (knowing & caring about your neighbours) (2)
- Community (1)
- Community (1)
- Community spirit (1)
- Village community (1)
- Community (1)
- Village community (3)
- Community (1)

### **Amenities/facilities – 16 comments**

- The playgroup/school (2)
- The church (3)
- Having the park and the village hall (3)
- School (3)
- The church (3)
- An excellent junior school (1)
- Village church (3)
- Playgroup & school (2)
- Village hall (3)
- Swindon Village footpaths (2)
- Swindon Village bridle way (3)
- The school (1)
- The playgroup (2)
- The playgroup (1)
- The school (3)
- Support local school (3)

### **Park and green spaces – 24 comments**

- Having the park and village hall (3)
- Park (2)
- The fields and green areas (2)
- Green fields (2)
- Playing field (1)
- Countryside around (2)
- The green belt (1)
- Green fields (1)
- Park (3)
- Swindon Village park (1)
- The beautiful green spaces & views & wildlife (1)
- Lots of green space to play and walk the dogs (2)
- The park (2)

- The countryside (1)
- Fields all round (3)
- The countryside (1)
- Green space (park) (2)
- Green spaces surrounding village (2)
- Fields and countryside surrounding it (2)
- Park facilities (3)
- Park (1)
- The surrounding countryside & its lack of development (2)
- The countryside around us (1)
- Access to the countryside (3)

#### **Location – 6 comments**

- On the edge of the countryside and yet close to all facilities (2)
- Amenities are within walking distance (3)
- Close to amenities (1)
- Close to town and local shopping (3)
- The rural life, yet close to town (3)
- Near countryside (2)

#### **Traffic and Transport – 9 comments**

- Good walking routes (2)
- Very little traffic so the children feel safe (1)
- Bus route (3)
- Bus service (2)
- Peaceful – low road noise (2)
- Fresh air not polluted by traffic etc (3)
- Quiet roads (3)
- Lack of much traffic (1)
- Small roads (1)

#### **Other – 4 comments**

- Size of village (green belt) (1)
- I love it and that's it! (1)
- Country walks (2)
- The diversity of wildlife (3)

## **2A. WHAT THREE THINGS DO YOU THINK NEED IMPROVING IN SWINDON VILLAGE?**

The question provided examples such as “particular places/sites or community services and facilities or transport related issues or anything else that is important to you.” Where appropriate, responses have been split across more than one theme.

<b>Theme</b>	<b>Number of responses</b>
Traffic	21
Amenities and Facilities	18
Flooding and Drains	6
Pavements and Roads	8
Park and Green Spaces	6
Transport	8
Sports and Activities (especially for children)	13
Other	2

The numbers (1), (2) and (3) after each comment refer to whether the respondent placed it in first, second or third place.

#### **Traffic – 21 comments**

- Traffic management around village school (1)
- Stop heavy goods vehicles transiting down Brockhampton Lane to Brockhampton (2)
- Congestion – Running Rd/Manor Rd/Kingsditch (1)
- The traffic management for the village (2)
- Traffic calming (1)
- The traffic – especially Manor Road/Kingsditch (1)
- Railway level crossing traffic congestion (3)
- Improved roads, a bridge instead of level crossing (2)
- Traffic at school times (2)
- Car transporters dangerously parked (3)
- The traffic chaos (1)
- Right of way out of village (3)
- Speed reduction/speed awareness particularly Manor Road (1)
- Traffic through village is very fast; this needs addressing (1)
- The village is used as a rat run (3)
- Some kind of restriction to heavy vehicles on route through village except in delivery (2)
- Parking by village hall (especially school times) (1)
- Increased traffic along Church Road going to/from retail park (3)
- Pedestrian crossing near village hall (2)
- Parking outside school in morning is dangerous and inconsiderate (3)
- No more industrial development causing yet more chaos with traffic (3)

#### **Amenities and Facilities – 18 comments**

- Village hall (1)
- A pub (1)
- Recycling facilities (2)
- Street light at Swindon Lodge by Quat Goose Lane (2)
- Village hall not well visited (3)
- Pub (1)
- Pub (1)
- Pub (1)
- Village hall car park capacity (1)
- Recycle point (3)
- Street lights (1)
- Pub (3)
- Pub (1)
- Street lighting (1)
- Village store/coffee shop (2)
- Pub/village hall – more accessible hours (2)
- Improving use of seasons as family bar/café? (2)
- Access to local shops (3)

#### **Flooding and Drains – 6 comments**

- Flooding in Manor Road (2)
- The drains due to flooding (1)
- Better drainage due to flooding near the school (1)
- Railway bridge road flooding & height restriction (2)
- Flooding outside school (1)
- Drains (1)

### **Pavements and Roads – 8 comments**

- Roads, where repair is obvious (1)
- Potholes – Wymans Lane (2)
- Improve pavements (3)
- The pavements especially Manor Road again but most pavements are poor (2)
- Roads need repair (2)
- Road surfaces (1)
- Pavements are not user friendly for wheelchair users (1)
- Pavements are in bad state of repair, need widening in some areas (2)

### **Park and Green Spaces – 6 comments**

- Better use of green space, e.g. improved foot path (2)
- Some of the hedges/green spaces need tidying (2)
- Footpath around perimeter of field (2)
- Better path around the park for buggies/bikes (2)
- The park – it needs a path all the way round it (1)
- The park – circular footpath to enable use in winter (2)

### **Transport – 8 comments**

- A late bus service from the town centre would be great (1)
- More frequent bus service (2)
- Public transport to town especially after 6.15pm (3)
- Cycle path (2)
- Better bus service (2)
- Transport could be better, you can't get a bus to Bishops Cleeve (1)
- Bus service route is now poor – service H (3)
- Bus service (1)

### **Sports and Activities (especially for children) – 13 comments**

- More equipment for children play area (1)
- MUGA for older children (3)
- Updated play area (2)
- Playground (2)
- 3G Football pitch (3)
- Better play equipment in the park for older children (3)
- More in the park for older children (1)
- More things going on for children (2)
- More equipment in the park (1)
- Skate park amenities for teenagers (3)
- Playground only suitable for young children (1)
- The park – increase in facilities for younger and older children (1)
- Existing play areas too busy at peak times, needs more for teenagers (1)

### **Other – 3 comments**

- Less noise from the industrial estate (3)
- Unsociable behaviour in village car park at night (2)

## **2B. PLEASE DESCRIBE WHAT IMPROVEMENTS YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE**

24 respondents answered this question, although several respondents made more than one suggestion for improvements which have been categorised individually. Where a respondent has

referred to answers to previous questions these have also been included but will be indicated by italics, e.g. (*as above*).

Theme	Number of responses
Traffic	10
Amenities and Facilities	7
Flooding and Drains	4
Pavements and Roads	4
Park and Green Spaces	5
Transport	3
Sports and Activities (especially for children)	3
Other	4

#### **Traffic – 10 comments**

- Increase the size of the car park at the village hall to allow an entrance and exit as well as enough parking for all parents dropping/collecting children from school
- Better traffic management – better getting out of Swindon Village in rush hour is very frustrating.
- Sometimes it takes 15 minutes just to go half a mile to get out of the village. Again Manor Road with car transporters & rush hour traffic
- Rat run through Swindon Village. Congestion at Swindon Village school
- Car free zone around the school
- Right of way out of village (*above*)
- Still problems with cars when pick up/drop off school
- Speed awareness signs on Church Road
- I am happy with the village as it is. The excess parking on Church Road actually provides a useful traffic calming measure
- Make lazy parents park in safer parking area & walk!

#### **Amenities and Facilities – 7 comments**

- Community orchard and wildlife spaces
- A larger function room
- Our recycle point from Seasons has now gone, another would be good
- Pub. Local shop (bread, milk etc)
- A pub! Better street lighting
- A local hairdresser
- Gates to village hall could be closed at night

#### **Flooding and Drains – 4 comments**

- Drains kept clean and road cleaning generally on a regular basis
- Flooding
- Drains (*above*)
- Further investigation into water leakage along Church Road

#### **Pavements and Roads – 4 comments**

- Roads are slowly improving which is good
- Better quality pavements
- Road surfaces (*above*)
- Footpaths too narrow, unsafe or close to roads – wider footpaths needed i.e. to Kingsditch/Gallagher retail park

#### **Park and Green Spaces – 5 comments**

- More wild flower areas in the park

- The footpaths from Manor Road out to Elmstone Hardwicke could be improved with stiles & fences
- Our park although nice does not have much for older children
- We need to turn old factories into houses/flats and keep the fields
- Footpath in park would enable pushchairs and walkers to use the park more in winter

#### Transport – 3 comments

- Better public transport
- A cycle path leading into Honeybourne line would be great
- Buses
- More local bus services

#### Sports and Activities (especially for children) – 3 comments

- Season's to have a 3G Football pitch or school
- More facilities in park – football, play area enlarged. More community events (like today). Would have been nice for Queen's birthday to have street party
- Extended or new play area for older children

#### Other – 4 comments

- Bell ringing too much on Sundays
- No factory or business near village
- Litter bins especially in Manor Road – liaise with local food/drink takeaways for sponsorship supply & empty
- Buffer zone between LGS and house building

### 3. WHAT IS YOUR OPINION ON THE FOLLOWING IN SWINDON VILLAGE?

Respondents were asked to give a rating of 'Excellent', 'Good', or 'Poor' on a variety of aspects of Swindon Village along with any suggested improvements. Not all of the 34 respondents gave a rating for each aspect. The ratings are set out in the table below, along with the number of respondents to each part of the question and suggestions for improvements.

	Excellent	Good	Poor	Total	Suggested improvements
Play facilities	4	22	5	31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More disabled access</li> <li>• More equipment</li> <li>• Need a bigger play area</li> <li>• More for older children</li> <li>• Needs swings and slides</li> <li>• More for older children</li> </ul>
Village Hall	12	17	3	32	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not well utilised</li> <li>• Needs updating, no lights</li> <li>• More inclusive activities</li> <li>• Gates to village hall could be closed at night</li> </ul>
Getting around Swindon Village by car	8	18	5	31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stop shortcut through village, widen path/road 'Manor Road'</li> <li>• Sort flooding in Manor Road</li> <li>• Better traffic control</li> <li>• Few pot holes need filling</li> <li>• Traffic at school times</li> </ul>

					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 20 miles signs</li> <li>• School times are bad</li> <li>• Need sleeping police</li> <li>• Except main route through village at peak times (<i>rated car travel 'Good'</i>)</li> </ul>
Getting around by foot/bicycle	8	15	8	31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Currently no cycle links so anything safer</li> <li>• Hedge cutting</li> <li>• Wider paths</li> <li>• Bad pavements</li> <li>• Traffic calming</li> <li>• Needs a bicycle lane</li> <li>• Pavements bad condition</li> <li>• Pavements could be improved</li> <li>• Better pavement surface</li> <li>• Pavements need improving</li> <li>• Less cars</li> </ul>
Sports facilities	5	16	9	30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All weather MUGA</li> <li>• Not aware of many</li> <li>• Not very much apart from football</li> <li>• Gym equipment in park</li> <li>• Park could benefit from drainage improvements – fields</li> <li>• ? Tennis court</li> <li>• Only football though</li> </ul>
Buildings – condition &/or design	8	19	2	29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drainage on Church Road</li> <li>• Apart from newer builds (<i>rated as 'Excellent'</i>)</li> </ul>
Employment opportunities	3	13	12	28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Could be better</li> <li>• Only retail</li> <li>• N/A</li> <li>• ??</li> </ul>
Other – please specify					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Renewable energy</li> <li>• Wildlife &amp; green spaces</li> <li>• Bus</li> </ul>

#### 4. HOW DO YOU THINK PEDESTRIAN AND CYCLE LINKS COULD BE IMPROVED AROUND SWINDON VILLAGE?

26 respondents answered this question and their responses have been divided into themes. Where more than one suggestion was made by a respondent, the answer has been split across the relevant themes, or duplicated across both. Where reference has been made to an earlier answer the response has been duplicated here and is indicated by italics.

Theme	Number of responses
Pavements and Road Surfaces	12
Cycle paths	12
Parking and Traffic	5
Signage and Lighting	1
Other	5
Don't know	2

### **Pavements and Roads – 12 comments**

- Better path on Manor Road – too narrow and hedge forces pedestrians to edge of path
- Improved pavements – especially Manor Road
- Making pavements safe to walk on
- Wider paths for pedestrians
- Footpath at level crossing needs to be widened to cope with school pedestrian traffic
- Better paths
- For pedestrians, cut back hedges etc and make sure the pavements are not like a series of lakes!
- We need a better/wider bridge and Footpath over the railway line to link up to the Honeybourne line footpath to town. Cycle and improved footpaths at Topps Tiles area and towards Sainsbury's
- Footpaths are good
- Improve pavement conditions
- Footpaths generally extended and surface improvements
- The addition of both pedestrian and cycle paths to allow villagers access to amenities in a safe and pleasant environment. Access to Kingsditch and Gallagher currently feels unsafe due to proximity to traffic and lack of continuous foot/cycle paths

### **Cycle paths/links – 12 comments**

- Currently no cycle links so anything would be better
- Better cycle lane
- Cycle routes marked out
- Need a cycle path from the village to link with Honeybourne Line
- Cycle path runs from Tewkesbury Road up to Swindon Road. It could be extended to Swindon Lane/Park
- Cycle path to Cleeve and Cheltenham
- Cycle paths could be made to link to Honeybourne
- Cycle paths on the paths
- Better cycle links with Cheltenham, Bishops Cleeve, railway station
- Cycle lane would help on Hyde Lane
- The addition of both pedestrian and cycle paths to allow villagers access to amenities in a safe and pleasant environment. Access to Kingsditch and Gallagher currently feels unsafe due to proximity to traffic and lack of continuous foot/cycle paths
- Some cycle lanes and less car drivers who think it's ok to turn into cyclists because they are bigger.

### **Parking and traffic – 5 comments**

- Road and pathway 'Church Road' is downright dangerous at school pickup/drop off times
- Increase the size of the carpark at the village hall to allow an entrance and exit as well as enough parking for all parents dropping/collecting children from school (see 2b above)
- Less traffic
- With difficulty because of insufficient road space and amount of traffic
- Some cycle lanes and less car drivers who think it's ok to turn into cyclists because they are bigger. Stop parents parking/driving on pavement at school pick up time

### **Signage and Lighting – 1 comments**

- Street lights to improve safety and visibility

### **Other – 5 comments**

- Especially around the park
- Clipping hedges in Manor Road

- Yes
- Hedges need to be cut back especially Church Road/Maor Road (this includes private households not maintaining their own hedges)
- The right of way on the south of the Swilgate through the industrial estate is always overgrown. Nettle elimination or new surface?

#### **Don't know – 2 comments**

- Can't really see how they can be improved. I cycle and walk and have not encountered too many problems. It is obviously more busy at school time but this is inevitable
- Cycling – I cannot comment on as I do not cycle

### 5. SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL HAS MADE A FORMAL APPLICATION TO DESIGNATE SWINDON FIELDS AS LOCAL GREEN SPACES. IF SUCCESSFUL, HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE THESE SPACES USED FOR THE BENEFIT OF YOUR COMMUNITY?

28 respondents provided an answer to this question. The answers have been divided into themes. Where more than one suggestion has been made by a respondent, the answers have been split across the appropriate themes.

Theme	Number of responses
Nature reserve	10
Community orchards/allotments	6
Walking/recreation	16
Other	8
Don't know	1

#### **Nature reserve – 10 comments**

- A wildlife place for wildlife flowers and wild insects that could be used by school
- Nature areas
- Wildflower meadows, nature reserves
- Wildflower meadows
- Natural section, paths, trees
- Wild/natural meadow
- Wild meadow area where we can play and fly kites and have picnics
- More wild flower planting
- Trees
- Ideally left wild as this is for enjoyment of nature which needs no human 'help'

#### **Community orchard/allotments – 6 comments**

- Community orchard
- Allotments/wildflowers/composting/orchards/nut groves
- Allotments/community orchards
- Community orchard, community composting, community wildlife areas and more allotments
- Community orchard
- A community orchard managed by the allotment users? Allotments for people in the new development

#### **Walking/recreation – 16 comments**

- Fields for public walks
- Walks
- Better footpaths to and from to encourage their use. Perhaps a festival or picnic event also to encourage their use

- Just to be easily accessible to all who want to use these green spaces whether it be for dog walking, recreation for families or relaxing. Plenty of seating and maybe picnic tables would be nice
- More community events/children's clubs
- A circular foot and bridle path around the village
- Dog walking area
- Wild meadow area where we can play and fly kites and have picnics
- General park area but secure from travelling people and undesirables
- Maintained in a natural way for family walking, cycling, dog walking, horse riding
- Park on open land
- Benched, outdoor fitness/play areas, cycle route
- Another park
- Footpaths – with gates for walks – with disabled/elderly access
- Yes, walks, picnic areas, tarmacked walkways for wheelchairs and prams. Pleasant walk to shops instead of feeling you are going to be run over
- As green spaces for people to walk on and exercise

#### Other – 8 comments

- Renewable energy – solar farm/wind farm
- It seems to be ok at the moment as it is. Walking area, cricket/football pitches and children's play area
- Sport, children's play area
- Bigger play park
- Affordable housing for younger families
- Affordable housing for first time buyers
- Emphasise stream/brook
- Green spaces around Swindon Village are of the utmost importance

#### Don't know – 1 comments

- No map. I have yet to see the definitive designated Swindon fields

### 6. PLEASE DESCRIBE THE CHARACTERISTICS (SUCH AS PARKING, DESIGN, GARDEN PROVISION, INFRASTRUCTURE) THAT YOU FEEL ARE IMPORTANT IN ANY NEW DEVELOPMENT IN OR AROUND SWINDON VILLAGE

22 respondents provided an answer to this question. The answers have been divided into themes, with answers providing multiple suggestions being divided across the relevant themes.

Theme	Number of responses
Parking Provision	12
Design Considerations	10
Traffic and Transport	10
Infrastructure	8
Other	2

#### Parking Provision – 12 comments

- Adequate parking for 2-3 cars per household
- Proper parking and traffic flow so that any new development does not spill over into the existing village
- Would not like to see too much structure but parking is probably essential
- Plenty of parking, green space, transport links improved to cope
- Impact on traffic and sensible parking need to be considered
- Three car parking bays off the highway

- New houses should have parking spaces
- Parking for school drop offs/pick ups
- We need cycle paths and large garages. Builders need to enlarge garages so cars can get off roads
- Cars must be parked off the road also not parked on pavements
- Houses need provision for at least 2 off road parking sites and pavements for pedestrians
- New houses should have enough space for 2 cars

#### **Design Considerations – 10 comments**

- Suitable space on each property to store recycle and waste bins out of sight of front of houses
- Housing design to reflect a village and not a town/city
- Village feel needs to be echoed
- Plenty of parking, green space, transport links improved to cope
- Three storey maybe
- A park in the middle of any development
- Front and back gardens
- Gardens and green spaces
- Buildings should be sympathetic to 'rural' environment
- New houses should have storage space for recycling

#### **Traffic and Transport – 10 comments**

- Traffic calming/one way by school AM & PM
- Plenty of parking, green space, transport links improved to cope
- Impact on traffic and sensible parking need to be considered. I don't think any more industrial sites or motor trades are needed. Too many of the later anyway causing congestion problems on main and side roads
- Adequate footpaths and cycleways
- We are already at a critical breaking point with roads towards Tewkesbury Road/Sainsburys and to town. We must improve access to Gallagher Retail Park. We must change the level crossing into a bridge and widen the bridge at Swindon Road. Thank you
- We need cycle paths
- Transport (public) is good but because of road parking the bus does struggle to pass without coming very close to the pavements
- Infrastructure must be in place first – Tewkesbury Road is very congested at certain times of day
- It is important that increased traffic should not be taken through village
- Restrictions imposed to prevent parking of caravans/trucks/large vans at any of the new houses to be build

#### **Infrastructure – 8 comments**

- More community engagement/places to go
- Social club for all ages
- Improved foul drainage and stormwater drainage
- Adequate provision for health services and schools
- Community areas for playing, allotments and social meetings
- Some shops to serve the new people. A doctors surgery
- Shops; play area; footpaths; green, flat, well maintained picnic/community areas
- With schools/health facilities and play areas

#### **Other – 2 comments**

- Poo bins useful!

- Energy efficient