

Buckland Newton Parish Plan 2022 Consultation Results

Introduction

Buckland Newton is a rural parish situated in West Dorset and lies approximately 10 miles equidistant from the county town of Dorchester and the market towns of Sherborne and Sturminster Newton. Buckland Newton Civil Parish covers an area of approximately 1,700 hectares and has a population of 661 with 314 households.

Buckland Newton produced a Parish Plan in 2013 following consultation with parishioners and the parish council agreed to update it in 2022.

A consultation exercise took place with parishioners and 314 questionnaires were sent out via the Lydden Vale magazine distribution, online via the Parish Council website, and additional hard copies were available via the parish clerk. The consultation took place in September 2022.

The questionnaire covered the following topics: employment and business, roads, traffic and transport, environment, community facilities, young person's interests, crime and safety as well as health and care. There was also a section to raise any other concerns or suggestions.

A total of 30 completed questionnaires were returned: approximately 9.5%.

Comments and feedback from the questionnaires will help inform the parish council on parishioner's concerns. The responses will form part of the discussion on drawing up the updated Parish Plan

Results of Questions

For the purpose of drawing up the Parish Plan, where issues and concerns mentioned were similar in nature, they have been amalgamated under each of the main headings.

Employment and Business

The ranked results from the questionnaire were as follows:

Lack of employment	6
Lack of public transport to be able to access employment	5
Supporting local businesses – shop, pub, care services,	5
Local businesses surviving due to increasing costs	3
Expansion of existing businesses	3
Lack of opportunities for younger people	3
Noise	2
Training/ correct skills /support of employees	2
Pollution	1
Lack of affordable housing	1
Lack of suitable labour	1
More local businesses not big companies	1
Flexible planning considerations	1
Poor broadband and services	1
More support and creative use of village hall	1
Ensure local businesses access green environmental initiatives	1
Enforcement of environmental legislation for businesses	1
Stop Ironman shutting off whole Piddle Valley. Relocate every other yr.	1

Roads, Traffic and Transport

The ranked results from the questionnaire were as follows:

Speeding (including bicycles, agricultural vehicles)	19
Lack of public transport	14
Road Maintenance (drains, potholes, surfaces)	12
Pavements (virtual pavement unsafe, lack of, vehicles parking on it)	5
Hedges (Overgrown, large vehicles damaging them)	4
Parking on roads (including congestion at school times)	3
Size of vehicles using roads and lanes	3
Reducing speed limits (50-40mph Cosmore, 20mph school and crossroads, 30mph Knapps Lane/Factory Lane)	3
Safety (walking, dangerous cyclists)	3
Crossroads (Dangerous corner by crossroads by introduction of pavement, need mirror)	2
Finger posts / signage (damage)	2
Provision of cycle routes to take cyclists off roads	2
Inconsiderate drivers (inappropriate hand signals, not stopping at church junction,	2
Ironman (rerouted every 2 yrs., object to road closures)	2
Muck spread over roads and hedges	1
Court Farm expansion	1
Cost of sending young people to 6 th form – community minibus?	1
Support for low-carbon forms of transport e.g. electric vehicles	1
Horses ridden inconsiderately to pedestrians and vehicles	1

Environment

The ranked results from the questionnaire were as follows:

Fly tipping /Litter (location of bins,	17
Flooding	13
Dogs - fouling /barking/location of dog waste bin/not under control/worrying livestock	10
Rights of way (overgrown/ stiles broken/lively cattle on them/harmed by agricultural vehicles)	8
River Lydden (maintenance so doesn't get blocked, pollution, wildlife corridor)	5
Climate change (ongoing biodiversity loss failure to support Dorset Council climate emergency,	3
Tree maintenance / planting (aids flooding)	3
More /lack of solar farms/sustainable energy	3
Impacts on ground water & surface water flows from excess agricultural nutrients / agricultural practices	2
Hedges (maintenance, cutting back wrong time)	2
Decline hedgehog/ bird life	2
Reduce need for car	2
Road drainage (lack of maintenance)	2
Lack of protection for village meadows and areas of species rich grassland /use of pesticides on verges	2

Pollution of natural environment – air, stream, light	2
Lack of engagement with environmental initiatives /agencies giving advice	1
Avian flu	1
Many people in community seem to feel they don't have a place to voice concerns relating to environmental matters	1
Muck spread on roads, paths and properties	1
Excessive noise from local businesses	1
Horses not ridden in courteous fashion	1
Lack of respect for countryside and ecology	1
Construction waste dumped in fields	1
Septic tank waste being put onto fields	1
Burning toxic substances causing acrid smoke	1
More diverse recycling options e.g. tetra Pak, batteries	1
Developer house building is harming village environment	1
Reduce waste and recycling	1

Community Facilities

The ranked results from the questionnaire were as follows:

Poor mobile signal	13
Poor broadband speed	8
Viability of the shop/pub/post office (shop excellent)	8
Lack of public transport	6
Running track (poor surface, dangerous, waste of £,	7
Parish room toilets (open? Can they have villagers lock code? 24hrs?)	5
Provision of additional play areas (MUGA, concrete table tennis table, outdoor gym, football nets, basketball	3
Sign posts (missing, no signposts for Duntish, scruffy)	3
Gaggle of Geese – excellent community facility /thriving	2
Post office (open 6 days week? / Only way to get money)	2
Maintenance /replacement of play equipment	1
Church & village hall (ongoing viability)	2
Village noticeboards- more of them, parish council minutes on them	1
Motivating /maintaining volunteers to help (particularly those aged 30-45)	1
Red phone boxes – repaint and look after	1
Bring more resources into village- fishmonger, library, university of 3 rd age	1
Bus shelter – possible book exchange?	1
More support for luncheon club	1
Need rapid response service to take people to surgery	1
Parish council (what do they do, election of councillors)	1
More could be done with parish field (landscape, plant trees)	1
Lack of links to other parishes/councils to share ideas, resources and initiatives	1
BBQ stands in park	1
Parish council supporting planning applications and stating no objections when clearly aware that many parishioners outlined multiple grounds for objections	1

Young Persons Interests

The ranked results from the questionnaire were as follows:

Lack of public transport (not able to attend after school club, independence	10
More sport for young e.g., tennis, basketball net, football goal, cricket net	6
Not much for them to do	4
Few or no activities for older children	3
More involvement with village activities (i.e., apple day)	2
Safety / crime /Nowhere for them to meet safely	2
Pleased youth club is so active/ vast improvement	2
Viability of youth club / need new leader in approx. 8 yrs. time	2
Would be good to see scouts/brownies/beavers/cubs	2
Volunteering opportunities that give young people the opportunity to develop social skills and interact with older person	1
Running track proved useless – resurface or re-grass	1
Maintenance of play park (roundabout not working)	1
Lack of housing for young people on low incomes especially with growth of Airbnb	1
Should not have to rely on parents to get them from A-B. Roads unsafe for them to walk	1
Constant attachment to the internet and social media	1
Lack of involvement of young people in shaping the future of the village	1

Crime and Safety

The ranked results from the questionnaire were as follows:

Speeding (need speed bumps, narrow lanes, can SID move to near shop? slow tractors and lorries down, school competition to produce signs)	14
Lack of police presence	7
Neighbourhood watch (need one, signs good idea)	5
Concerns about disregard for environmental laws and enforcement	4
Dangerous fumes – safe air from bonfires – can pc discourage use of damp wood, household and industrial waste	1
Concerns re flooding from hydroelectric scheme- parish is not kept informed	1
Cyber-crime (internet fraud)	1
Inconsiderate driving/ horse riding/dog control	1
Isolated villages are always going to be vulnerable to crime	1
Steadily increasing traffic on Hilling Lane relating to campsite, Court Farm enterprises	1

Health and Care

The ranked results from the questionnaire were as follows:

Doctors' surgery (overworked, deteriorated since covid, inability to book face to face appts, bring back to Buckland Newton, keep Cerne surgery open, no house calls, not enough GP's and nurses)	10
Ambulance response times to Buckland Newton	4
Transport to get to appointments	3
Availability of care in community	3
Negative impact of government policies relating to healthcare, social care especially for vulnerability	3
Availability of care accommodation	1

Greater awareness of online support particularly young people e.g. Kooth	1
Waiting lists – self-help groups,	1
Waiting times in A & E	1
Greater awareness of minor injury units instead of A & E units	1
Need for 1 st responder scheme in village	1
Greater awareness of the work/accessibility of flu/Covid clinics in Buckland Newton	1
Lack of local initiatives focussed on health and exercise and mental health	1
Loneliness and isolation for vulnerable people	1
Local NHS dentist services disappearing	1

Any Other Concerns/Comments

<p>Flood Issues: In our garden, we can see where the tributaries of the R. Lydden converge. One from the Gaggle and one from the direction of Court Farm. Over the last couple of years, the Court Farm tributary has been intermittently cloudy - more often than not although currently it is clear. I have asked Martin Perrot about it and he has assured me he was fixing the 'filters'. It improved temporarily then became cloudy again. We think you must be aware of this problem.</p>	
<p>I am pleased to say that I do not have long lists of concerns relating to village life. We are, on the whole, well provisioned, feel safe and enjoy life in this parish. However, it would be remiss to not consider those wider forces beyond the parish that reach into our lives and put stress on our community and our landscape. Our responses to economic, environmental and social challenges as individuals are important but so too is the shared experience of confronting, working through and bettering our lot. The parish is lucky to retain some good quality habitats - downland, lowland meadow, woodland, hedgerow and verge to name but a few. These places hold vestiges of wildlife once more common through the parish and still very much under threat in the wider farmed landscape. My children are growing up to know and love these wilder spaces and I hope as a community we can retain and even increase the size/quality of such places for my future grandchildren to enjoy. I fear this will not happen without giving due consideration to the management of our green spaces and how we understand, access and use them - of course this is framed by a changing climate and a biodiversity crisis rapidly unfolding and clearly visible locally.</p>	
<p>The number of properties being built on farmland. It seems to start with one or two and then because the infrastructure is in place, more properties are built and within a relatively short space of time - there's an estate!</p>	
<p>Despite raising our concerns (as requested) we remain happy to live in BN and enjoy the few facilities it has and the unspoilt countryside.</p>	
<p>Until the drainage/flooding issue is sorted, there should be no further large-scale developments.</p>	
<p>More downsizing properties</p>	
<p>More affordable housing</p>	
<p>Affordable housing is key to keeping village vibrant. School/shop/pub, etc.</p>	
<p>Need for a second defibrillator in the pub area of the village.</p>	

	Emergency services used the B3143 valley road to get to the village instead of the faster top road (Alternate A352).	
	Our house was flooded last November by the torrent of water which cascaded down the road and through gardens. I would like action to be taken to divert water away from homes. This could be by physical barriers or improvements to the road like more effective storm drains, or by farms not ploughing in such a way as to channel water towards homes.	
	The remains of the so-called 'running track' around the parish field should be removed. It was a waste of money. People find it uncomfortable to walk on, they walk on the grass. I have been told that some school children have tripped and hurt themselves when being made to trot along the track.	
	Please don't think that any houses built by developers are 'affordable'. They are not affordable for those people who really need housing and this village needs some genuine affordable housing. Poor mobile phone signal. Third world African countries have better coverage!	
	It would be helpful if members of the public had an understanding of the role of Parish Councils and their powers.	
	The Parish Council needs to increase its precept annually in line with inflation.	
	The need to ensure that current (and future) housing stock is accessing all available grants/initiatives to improve insulation and efficient/green power use.	
	The urgent need to respond and prepare for the climate emergency, locally.	
	Flood management (as part of local environment strategy).	
	Thank you for this opportunity to share concerns. We are looking forward to a new, dynamic and impactful Parish Plan.	
	We would feel reassured if the PC were to declare a Climate Emergency as has the Government and Dorset Council. This should be behind every decision they make, eg. Construction - this should not be on ancient pasture land. Biodiversity should be protected. Houses should not be approved if they are built to rely on fossil fuels. And so much more.	
	So far we are very lucky at Henley and have no real concerns.	
	Thank you for helping to make and keep our village such a wonderful place to live.	

Conclusions

For the purpose of drawing up the Parish Plan, where issues and concerns mentioned were separate headings but had a similar theme the responses have been amalgamated and the top areas for comments were:

Lack of public transport	38
Speeding	33
Flooding	18
Litter and Fly tipping	17
Poor mobile signal	13
Road maintenance	12
Dogs (fouling, out of control, barking etc)	10
Doctors' surgery	10

The Next Steps

The Parish Plan, where it is feasible, will deal with the major concerns and issues raised by you in the questionnaire as well as at parish council meetings, where it is possible to easily find and implement a solution. Some areas of concern are outside the remit and control of the parish council however they will be taken into consideration when producing the Parish Plan. Also, the Parish Council has a limited budget so decisions may have to be made as to what is reasonably practical.

The Parish Council hopes you will all become involved in helping address some of the issues raised – this is for all of the community.

Appendix 1

Buckland Newton Parish Council

Parish Plan Questionnaire 2022.

The current Parish Plan for Buckland Newton was published in 2013 following a public consultation. It identifies the major concerns of the parishioners on a number of key topics, and action plans to address those concerns where possible.

The key topics of the original plan were housing, employment and businesses, roads, traffic and transportation, environment, community facilities and services, young people's interests, crime and safety, health and care.

The purpose of this questionnaire, is to ask you and your household about your views on what should be included in a revised Parish Plan. The actions taken as a result of the 2013 Parish Plan can be found on the Buckland Newton Parish Council website.

The separate Neighbourhood Plan, which deals with planning issues, is not being updated at this time. A revision has been considered, but we have been advised it should be left until after the new Dorset Council Local Plan (under preparation) is adopted. This will avoid any revised Neighbourhood Plan being immediately deemed out of date if it conflicts with new policies in the Local Plan.

Please either return your questionnaire to special parish plan boxes in village shop, pub or scan and email to bucklandnewton@dorset-aptc.gov.uk . Deadline for return is 2 nd October 2022.
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Your replies will remain confidential – only a summary of the findings will be published to help us put together our updated Parish Plan.

Name:

Address:

Please enter the number of people in your household in each age group helping to complete this questionnaire. (We need feedback from all age groups)

Age:	Under 11	11-18	19-44	45-64	65+
No. of males					
No. of females					

Additional copies of this questionnaire are available from bucklandnewton@dorset-aptc.gov.uk or via any of the councillors (see contact details in Lydden Vale Magazine).

Employment and Business

Concerns raised previously included supporting existing businesses, encouraging local employment, minimise detrimental effects of increased business and employment.

What are your current 5 concerns relating to employment and business?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Roads, Traffic & Transportation

Concerns raised previously included speeding, public transport, safety, road maintenance, non-vehicular access, pavements etc, finger posts.

What are your current 5 concerns relating to roads, traffic and transportation?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Environment.

Concerns raised previously included rights of way, dog fouling, fly tipping and litter, recycling, flooding.

What are your current 5 concerns relating to the environment?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Community Facilities and Services

Concerns raised previously included mobile signal, bus shelter, viability of pub, shop & post office, internet speed, toilets at parish rooms, sign posts.

What are your current 5 concerns relating to the community facilities and services?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Young People's Interests

Concerns raised previously included lack of transport, nothing much to do/lack of variety/no Scouts or Guides, more sport for the young e.g. tennis, more involvement in village activities, safety/crime

What are your current 5 concerns relating to the young persons' interests?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Crime and Safety

Concerns raised previously included no police presence, speeding and inconsistent driving, neighbourhood watch not in evidence, anti-social behaviour.

What are your current 5 concerns relating to crime and safety?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Health and Care

Concerns raised previously included transport and distance to medical facilities, availability of medical services, care in the community, response to emergencies, need for better information.

What are your current 5 concerns relating to health and care?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

5.

Housing

Concerns raised previously were provision of property to enable downsizing (both open market and affordable), provision of smaller open market housing, Provision of affordable housing for local people.

Buckland Newton Neighbourhood Plan deals with concerns relating to housing so won't be covered in this questionnaire. If you want to make any non-planning comments regarding housing, please do so in the section below.

Are there any other concerns that you would like to raise that aren't covered in the areas above?

Please use rest of this page for any other comments or observations you wish to make

Thank you for your participation.

26/2/2023