

flamstead future



Flamstead Parish Survey

Report of the Working Group

Issued August 2016

Contents

Introduction	1
Design and participation	1
Survey and analysis	1
Moving forwards	1
Things people value the most about living in Flamstead	2
Facilities available in Flamstead.....	3
Summary of free-text comments relating to facilities in Flamstead	4
Usage made by younger people of village facilities.....	5
Exploring additional development.....	6
Summary of comments relating to housing development	7
Transport, infrastructure and services.....	8
Sports and leisure facilities	10
Responses from younger people on sports facilities	11
Suggestions from younger people on how to improve the recreation ground	12
Involvement of youngsters in village events and non-village activities	12
Participation in Village groups	13
General comments about Flamstead and its future.....	14
Conclusions	15
Recommendations	16

Introduction

This report presents the findings of the Flamstead Parish Survey conducted by the **flamstead future** Working Group in May/June 2016, and the recommendations made to the Parish Council as a result.

Design and participation

The Working Group wanted the survey to be as inclusive as possible, so we designed four surveys: three to cover the different age-ranges of the youngsters in the Parish (5-7s, 8-10s, 11-15s), and one for adults (aged 16 years and over). Inclusivity also involved ensuring that the main survey was not only available online but also in printed form, either at the Village Stores or delivered to the homes of less mobile residents.

Another key objective was to achieve a high level of involvement. Posters were displayed around the village, a website was set up, and the approach was explained at the Annual Parish Meeting in April. As part of the publicity effort, postcards were delivered to every home and follow-up reminder visits were conducted. We also worked with the village groups to ensure their members were encouraged to take part, and visited the Village School and the sports clubs. A banner at the top of Chequers Hill gave details of the survey website address, and provided a countdown to the closing date.

The Working Group held its first meeting on 22nd March, and during the following 2 months designed and road-tested the adult survey, and developed the young people's surveys. Our aim was to make each survey easy to fill in without spending more than about 10-15 minutes, but worthwhile in terms of its scope and depth. The mixture of check-boxes for quantifiable answers and free-text boxes for comments meant that we could deliver clear results as well as gather a wide range of suggestions.

Survey and analysis

The surveys launched on 27th May, with a closing date of 30th June. During that period, we collected 454 adult responses (50 in hard copy, the remainder online via surveymonkey) and 123 responses from youngsters, of which 36 were from the 11-15 age group online, the remainder (44 from 5-7s, 43 from 8-10s) on paper. All hard copy responses were transcribed and the transcripts checked.

In analysing the results, check-box information can easily be tallied but the Working Group discussed how best to present the 64 pages of combined free-text replies. The survey form had confirmed that individual responses would remain confidential and only be presented in aggregate, so we decided that the fairest approach was to summarise textual responses in the associated subject areas and present this summary along with an indication of the numbers of people making each main point. This provides visibility of the kinds of sentiments being expressed without breaking any confidences.

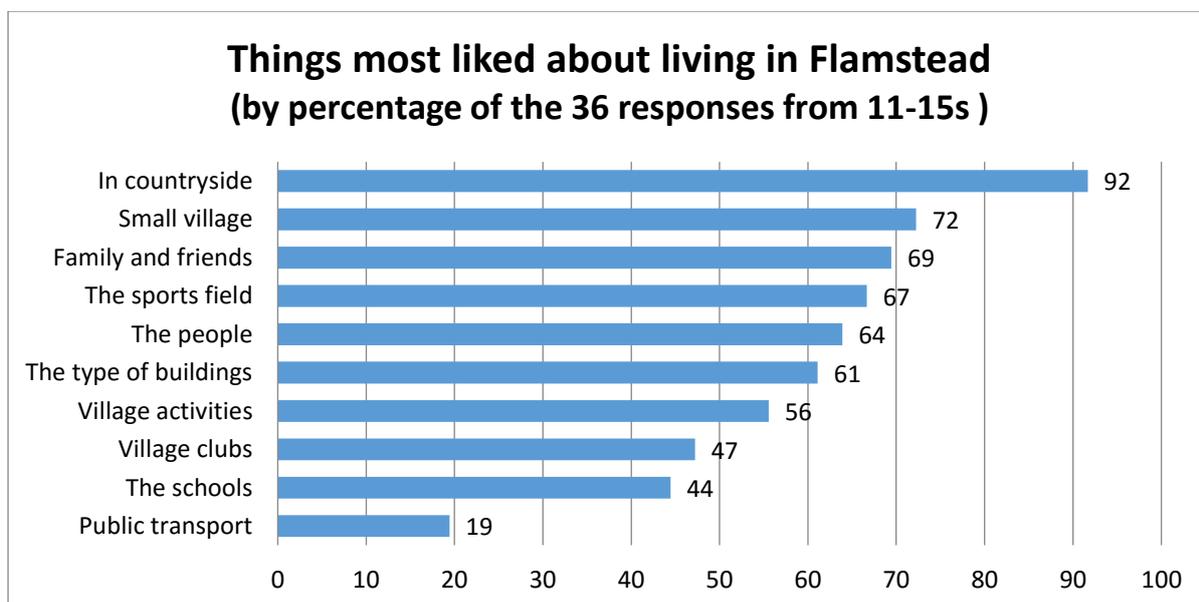
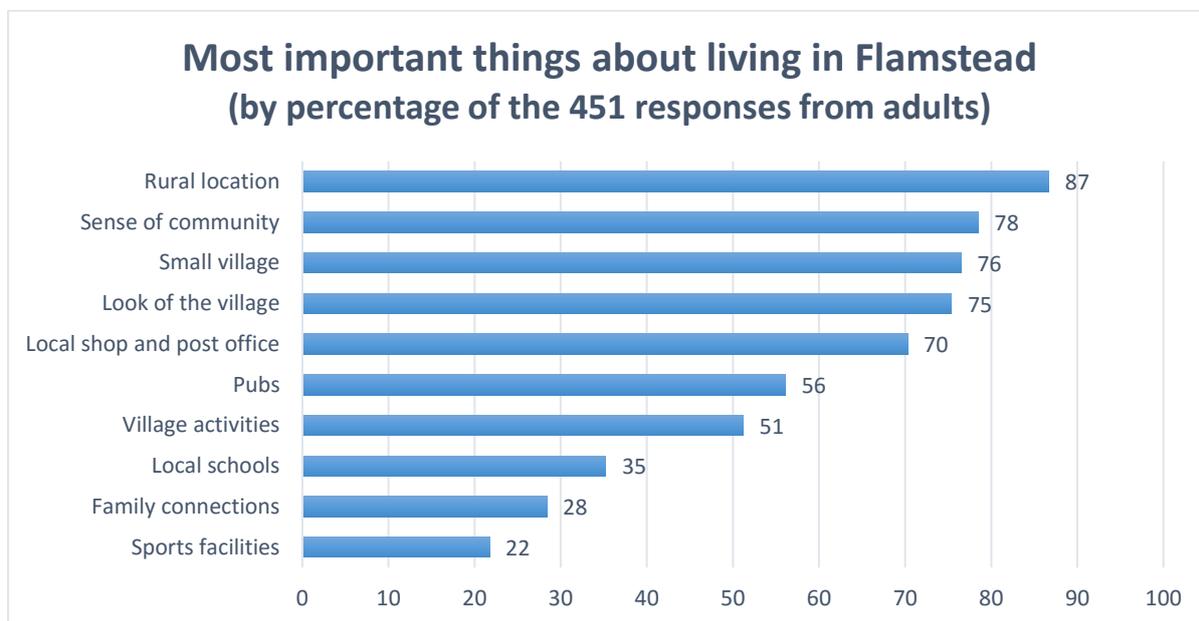
Moving forwards

The Working Group was set up following the Parish Meetings in November 2015 and February 2016, in order to give the Parish Council a better feel for the views of the community it was elected to represent. This report clearly and fairly reflects those views, and contains broad recommendations based upon them. We hope that the Parish Council will find that the survey results and report serve as an illuminating and valuable democratic mandate in guiding its future approach and priorities.

Andrew Lambourne (Chairman) and the members of the Flamstead Future Working Group

Things people value the most about living in Flamstead

Q1 of the adult survey asked “What are the most important things to you about living in Flamstead?” and the 11-15s were also asked what aspects of it they liked the most. The results for each group, by order of preference, are as follows:

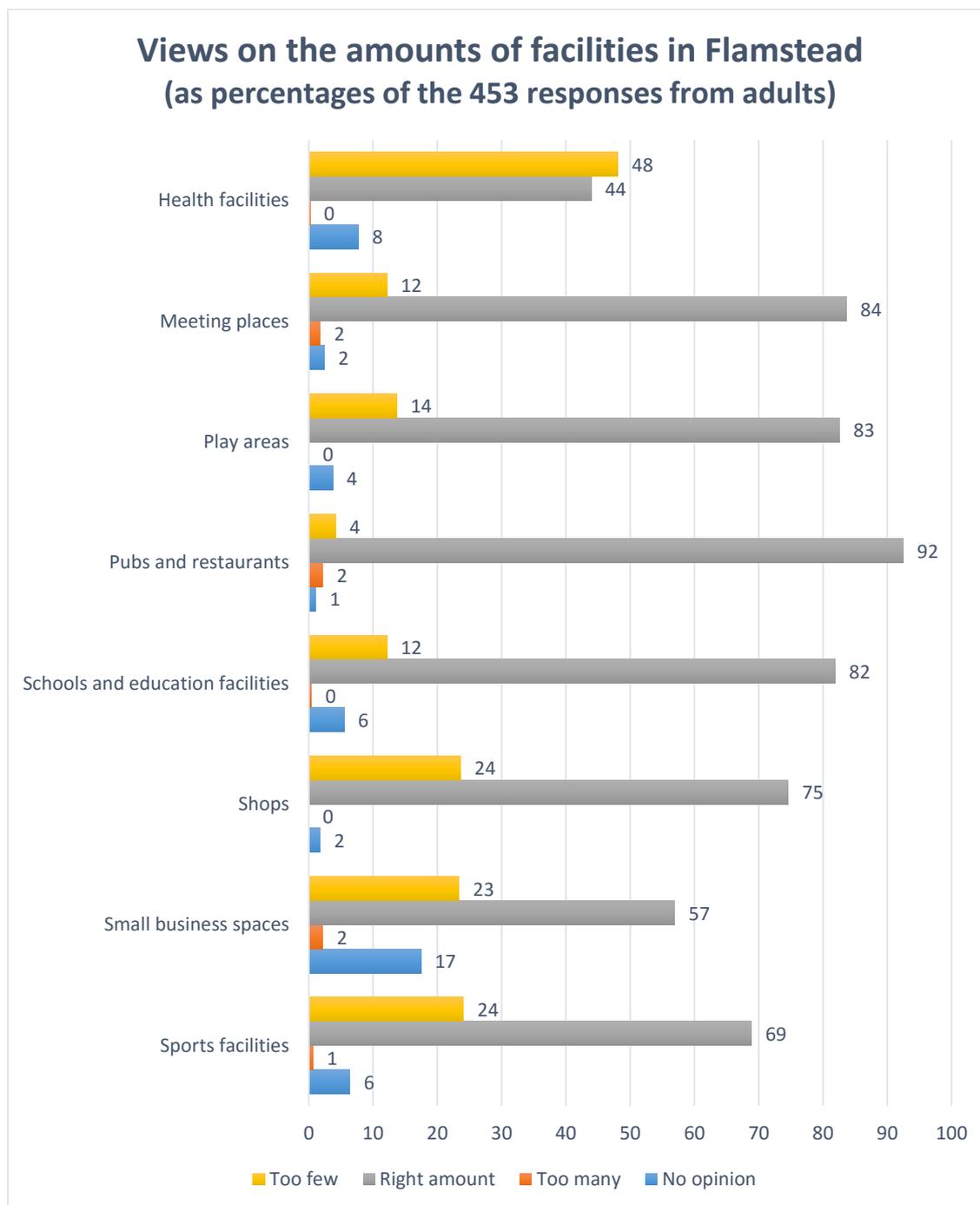


The rural setting, size and appearance of the village are important to all respondents, but also the sense of community, underpinned by the shop and pubs, and the activities which further contribute to community involvement. Family, sports facilities and schools were valued by a higher percentage of 11-15s than for adults, for whom they are perhaps of less general applicability.

In the comments made in response to a later general question, residents expressed strong affection for Flamstead not just as a place to live, but also because of its welcoming, friendly and supportive community spirit. High value is placed on the church, the shop and the pubs as well as on the groups – and the people who help to run them – which play such an important role in community life.

Facilities available in Flamstead

Q2 listed a range of facilities which are currently available; health facilities which were available but are no longer; and small business spaces as a possible future option. People were asked to give their opinion on the amounts of such facilities given the size and character of Flamstead. The results are:



The percentage of respondents who considered there to be the right amount of each facility is much higher than for those who felt there are insufficient in all cases except one - that of health facilities. There, a majority would prefer some health facilities to be available – commenting that a visiting surgery used to be arranged. Shops, sports facilities and small business spaces attracted around 25% of the “too few” votes, with small business spaces having the largest overall “no opinion” response.

Summary of free-text comments relating to facilities in Flamstead

Health Facilities: The most common sentiment was a request for a visiting GP or health professional, particularly from the 20 who mentioned that Flamstead used to have a weekly half day GP service. Even the eight who accept the status quo as the realistic option noted that residents without a car find it difficult to access health services.

Meeting Places: Whilst most respondents valued the quantity and variety of venues, there was a range of comments focussing on their upkeep and the need for better and more co-ordinated use of existing facilities, most commonly as a resource for younger people. 12 adults and three youngsters suggested a Youth Club. Seven people felt the Village Hall and Pavilion could be combined into a new hub, whereas nine highlighted the benefits of the existing Village Hall as a venue given its closeness to St Leonards – while noting that some updating would be beneficial. Three people felt the Pavilion should be reserved for sports related uses, perhaps as a smaller building, whereas eight felt it could be used as a youth club and fitness centre for all ages, as well as a sports club. A few opposed its use as a licensed social club, which would raise resourcing issues and could compete with other venues. Four people suggested more use of St Leonards as a venue for meetings, activities and concerts.

Play Areas: 21 adults and 12 youngsters highlighted the play area in the Rec as an important facility. All these comments raised the need for updated equipment and introduction of a wider offer for toddlers and older children. Better maintenance, including seven who specifically mentioned the hazardous safety surfaces, was a recurring request.

Pubs and Restaurants: Eight people mentioned that the three pubs are appreciated in number, varied character and variety of offerings – including the coffee shop venue.

Schools and Education: Access to Flamstead School was raised, with 13 people calling for greater capacity or preferential access for local children to avoid village children experiencing feelings of isolation if they have to go to schools elsewhere. Secondary school access was another, but less frequently stated, concern raised by five people.

Shops: 10 people specifically commented that they value and support the Village Stores and Post Office. Five others variously asked for a butcher, a greengrocer, more shops, a larger shop and more local produce and some suggested that a farm shop or eco shop might be useful. Two regretted the loss of the mobile fishmonger and fish-and-chip van.

Small business: Five people noted they were not aware of the supply or demand for business space, but others felt that opportunities for businesses could be of benefit to the village, for example four suggested providing small shared spaces for rent.

Sports: Five people commented that sports activities and the volunteers who run them should be better supported by the Parish Council. The most popular sports request, from 15 adults and three youngsters, was to save the school swimming pool for village use or provide a new pool. Villagers value the Rec as a facility. Five people noted that it could be used more but is currently uninviting and needing improvement. Suggestions were also made for greater use and upgrading of the multi-surface area (not just for tennis) by seven people. Eleven commented that there are sufficient sports facilities for a village of this size, and there was concern to focus on Flamstead's proportionate needs and avoid overambitious, high maintenance schemes catering for a wider area.

However, 18 people felt it would be beneficial to provide more sports and fitness equipment at the Rec, both outside and inside the Pavilion, including outdoor fitness and gym equipment (seven), plus a range of classes and activities such as keep fit, dance, yoga and bowls that could benefit all ages (four).

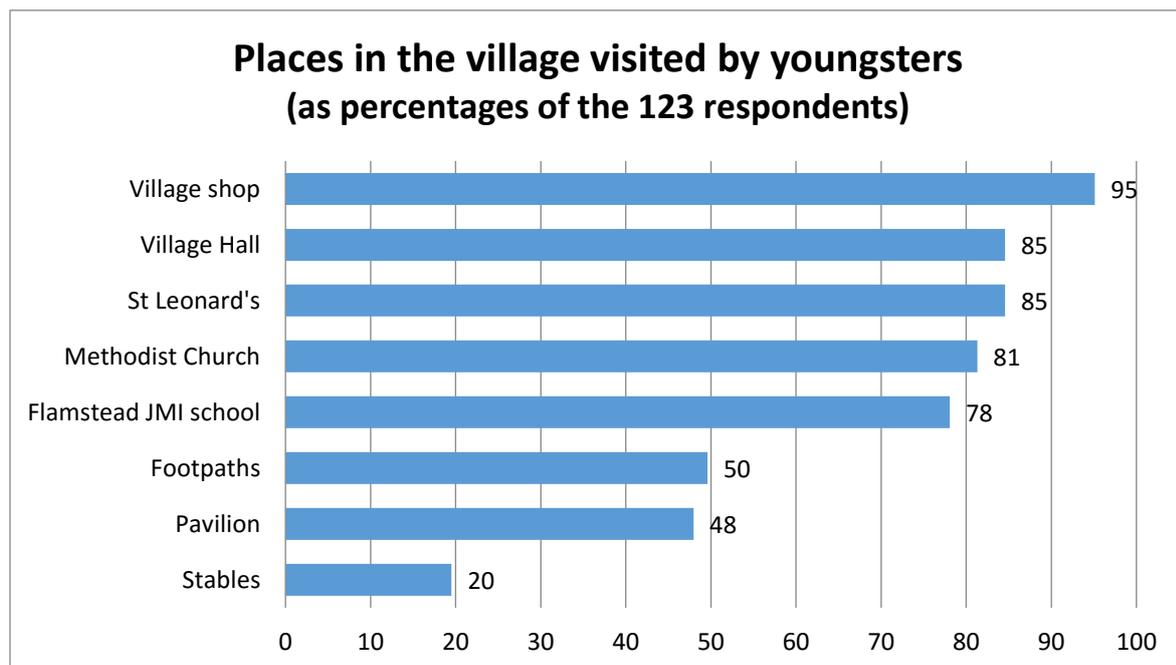
Eleven people commented that the Pavilion is an underused resource, not fit for purpose and in need of improvement and updating to fulfil its full potential. Various suggestions were made for financing improvements (e.g. grants and possible villager contributions to boost the Parish funds).

Three people specifically commented that building housing on the Rec would disregard the wishes of its benefactors, and another that they would be unhappy to see the Rec used for this purpose.

Other: Nine villagers said the facilities in Flamstead are appropriate to the size of the village and its location within reach of additional facilities in larger neighbouring settlements if required. Three suggested that more community activities for mixed ages would strengthen the community.

Usage made by younger people of village facilities

The younger people were asked to indicate which facilities and meeting places they had ever visited, and the responses as percentages ordered by popularity across all ages ranges are as follows:



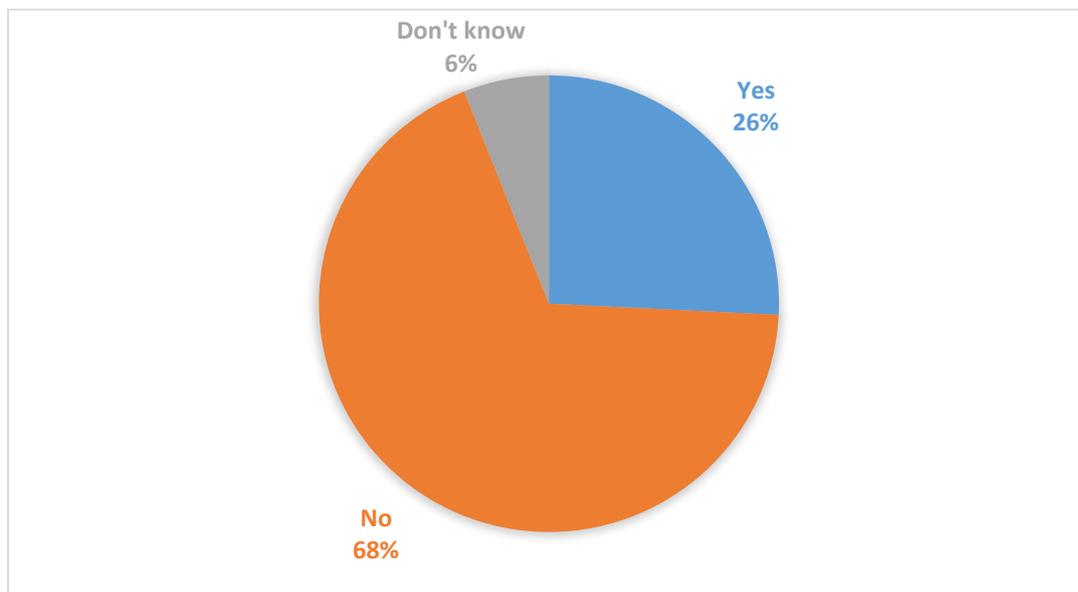
In a separate question, 92% of the youngsters also indicated they had used the recreation ground.

The comparable results for attendance at the Village Hall, St Leonards and the Methodist Church indicate that good use is currently made of all of these meeting places for activities involving younger people. In free text comments made about the availability of meeting places in the village, some people suggested that an overall view be taken to avoid the risk of any future development of one particular facility being to the detriment of others which rely on booking fees to remain viable.

Exploring additional development

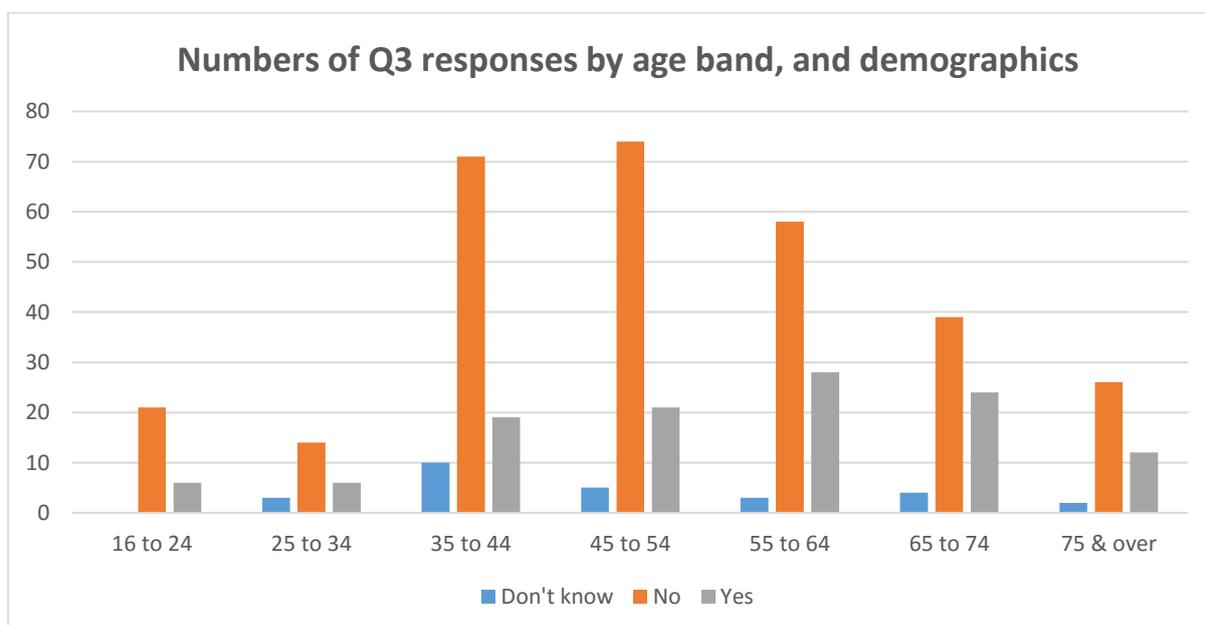
Q3 provided a summary of the planning protection afforded to Flamstead by virtue of being a selected small village in the Green Belt. It asked whether people wanted the possibility to be explored of providing more new housing than the current policy permits (ie limited to infilling of up to two affordable dwellings per project, constructed within a gap along a built-up frontage).

Responses to the options “Yes”, “No” or “Don’t know” were distributed by percentage as follows:



In round terms, there is a clear majority against exploring the possibility of further development, with some two-thirds of the 450 responses indicating “No” as opposed to a quarter indicating “Yes”. 6% of those who replied indicated that they were unsure, and four people did not give an answer.

Q3 answers were analysed by age band to see whether there was a significant difference of opinion across different age groups. The graph below shows that there was a majority against exploring additional development in each age band – and also indicates the demographics of the responses:



Summary of comments relating to housing development

No more development than policy permits: The majority (68%) of respondents to Q3 indicated that they do not want the possibility to be explored of providing more housing in Flamstead than current Dacorum policy permits. There was a strong feeling that undertaking more than the limited amount of development already permitted would threaten the very things which make Flamstead special, as well as being unsustainable. People emphasised the importance of maintaining Flamstead's historic small village status and the adjoining Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty as an alternative place to live than larger villages like Markyate. The majority of comments supportive of the current Dacorum policy indicated that it already allows for sufficient additional affordable housing without destroying the character of the village or over-stretching its resources.

Additional housing: Of the minority (26%) of respondents who did want to explore additional development, 40 people indicated how many new dwellings they felt would be required. Of these, 19 people suggested that Flamstead needed to develop by 25 new properties or less over that period, 15 suggested providing 26-40 new houses, and six people suggested numbers ranging from 50 to 250 new houses. Most respondents who indicated a preference wanted any new dwellings to be "in keeping" with the village as in-fill or garden builds, rather than on new land.

Affordable/starter homes: Among those wanting additional development, the type of new housing suggested by the majority (60%) was affordable/starter homes. Some indicated the need for a mix of additional rental and properties for sale. Affordability was cited as a significant issue for many respondents, particularly those that wanted to enable both young and old to remain in the village.

Retirement homes/bungalows and alms houses/sheltered accommodation: Again for those favouring additional development, there was 25% support for "sheltered" accommodation, bungalows, flats and care homes so that older members of the village could remain in Flamstead. Some respondents suggested that if these types of housing were available, older members of the community would be able to downsize to more suitable accommodation and free up larger homes for village families. Retirement bungalows would, it was felt, provide an alternative to the limitations of the existing flats. Alms houses were mentioned by 9% of those who provided comments.

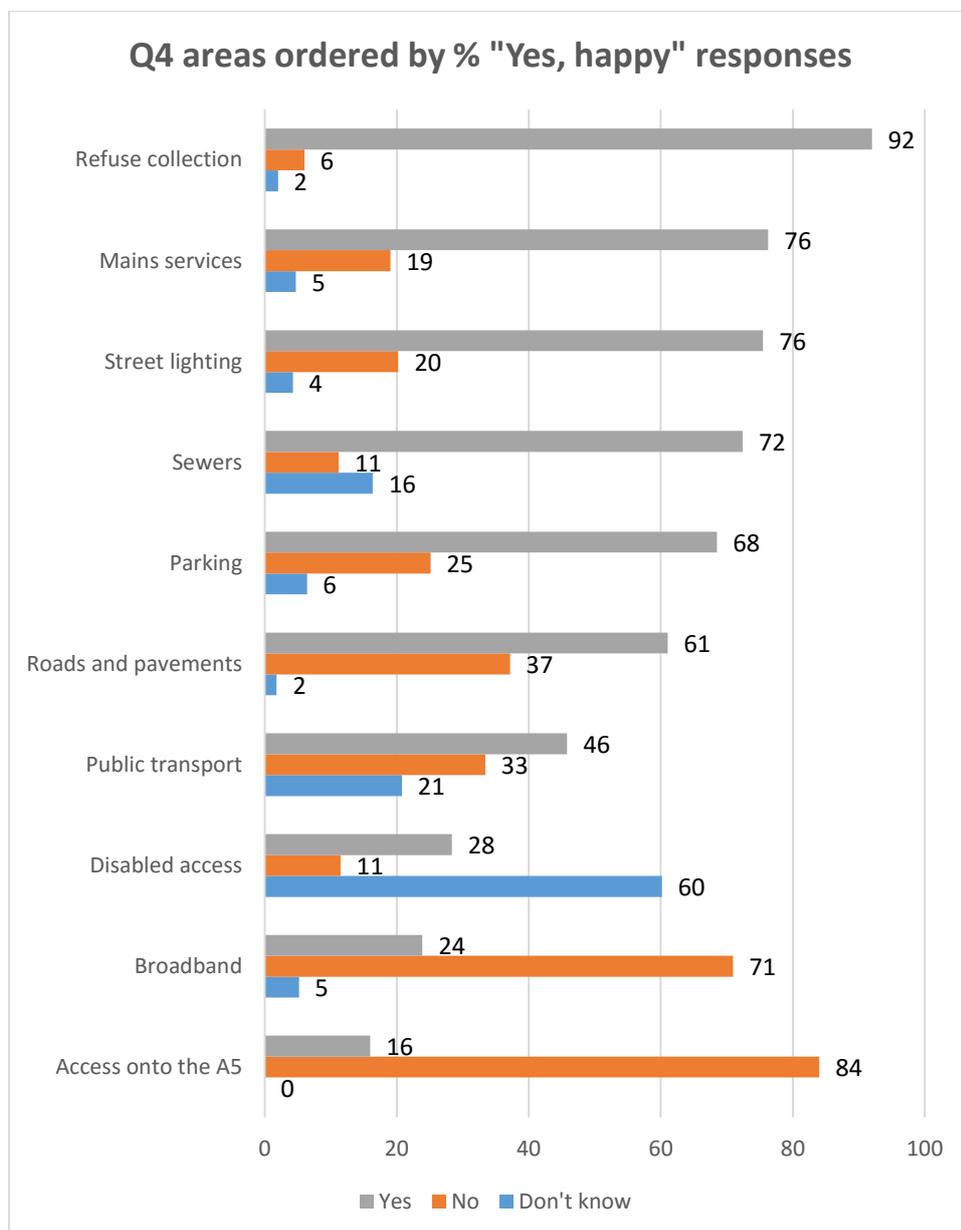
Mixed developments: A number of respondents in favour of more development stated that the village would benefit from mixed development over the next 20 years, including family homes and executive properties. There was a feeling that Flamstead's character and living community spirit would best be served by ensuring there was provision of all housing types so that there was enough housing for a cross section of all age groups. However, some of those in favour of more development were strongly opposed to more executive housing.

Restricting/controlling new housing for villagers: Views were mixed between those in favour of trying to restrict new housing for existing villagers, and those who wanted everybody to have equal access to any new homes. Some highlighted the problems of identifying the criteria for "existing villager" status and the impact on the long-term wellbeing of Flamstead by attempting to block newcomers.

Concerns about supporting infrastructure: A number of respondents expressed concerns about the ability of Flamstead's existing infrastructure to cope with increased housing. Specifically, the limited number of school places, narrow roads and associated parking issues, public transport limitations and access to the A5 were mentioned.

Transport, infrastructure and services

Q4 indicated a range of transport, infrastructure and service areas in which the Parish Council could have control or influence, even if only in a lobbying capacity, and where an awareness of the views of residents could usefully inform its priorities. The survey asked if people were happy or not about the area in question, or had no particular opinion. Results by percentage of those responding are shown below, ordered by “happy” responses:



The numbers of people responding in each area varied between 417 and 451, so there was good engagement with the question. More than 50% were happy with refuse collection, mains services, sewers, street lighting and parking. Two areas stand out as attracting the strongest negative views: access onto the A5 (84% unhappy) and broadband (71% unhappy). Biggest votes: 414 people said they were happy with refuse collection, and 379 that they were unhappy with access onto the A5.

Disabled access resulted in the largest number of “Don’t know” responses (257), with some people indicating that they did not really feel qualified to comment.

Summary of comments relating to Transport and Services

Access onto the A5: This issue elicited the largest number of “unhappy” votes in the section, with many comments highlighting very serious safety concerns. 190 people said that “something needs to be done” without suggesting specifically what. Where suggestions were made, traffic lights were mentioned by 80, a roundabout by 33, and a speed limit by 16. Possible problems with traffic back-up on the M1 were acknowledged. The hazards due to trucks parked opposite were mentioned by 13 people, visibility by 8. Overall only a handful of those who commented on the issue felt that there should be no change. Most cited Chequers Hill, but the problems when exiting from Old Watling Street, River Hill and Hollybush Lane were also mentioned.

Broadband: The second most unsatisfactory issue is the slow broadband speed, with 213 unhappy votes. It appears that Trowley Bottom and Old Watling Street experience particular problems.

Disabled access: Comments highlighted the need for improvement in accessibility to facilities such as the Pavilion and the Village Stores, and also the need for additional drop kerbs on some pavements.

Mains services: 28 respondents commented on the lack of gas in Trowley Bottom, and 32 noted that the Village experiences a relatively large number of power cuts. Two mentioned mains water leaks.

Parking: 77 comments highlighted the problems of street parking, with most citing the High Street as a particular problem. Other roads, and problems at the Rec on match days, were also mentioned.

Public transport: 51 comments highlighted the need for a regular bus service to Harpenden, including buses to take children to Harpenden schools or activities, and 48 indicated that bus services should be more frequent. Eight people raised the question of Sunday bus services.

Refuse collection: Nine people felt more bins or more frequent collections would be useful, and two that it would be good to arrange for the large bin lorry to attend more often.

Roads and pavements: 62 comments specifically highlighted dissatisfaction with pavement surfaces and the fact that some key pedestrian routes, often used by those with children, have very narrow pavements or none at all, which is identified as hazardous. Pruning overhanging trees and hedges was also requested by 12. The condition of the roads is deprecated, with 66 comments mentioning pot-holes and deterioration of the surface, and three the need for sweeping. 17 people highlighted the need for traffic calming to address speeding on Singlets Lane, and at the bottom of Trowley Hill Road. A few noted that more drop kerbs would help disabled people and those with push-chairs. Some suggested road widening, traffic calming or speed restrictions in High Street / Singlets Lane.

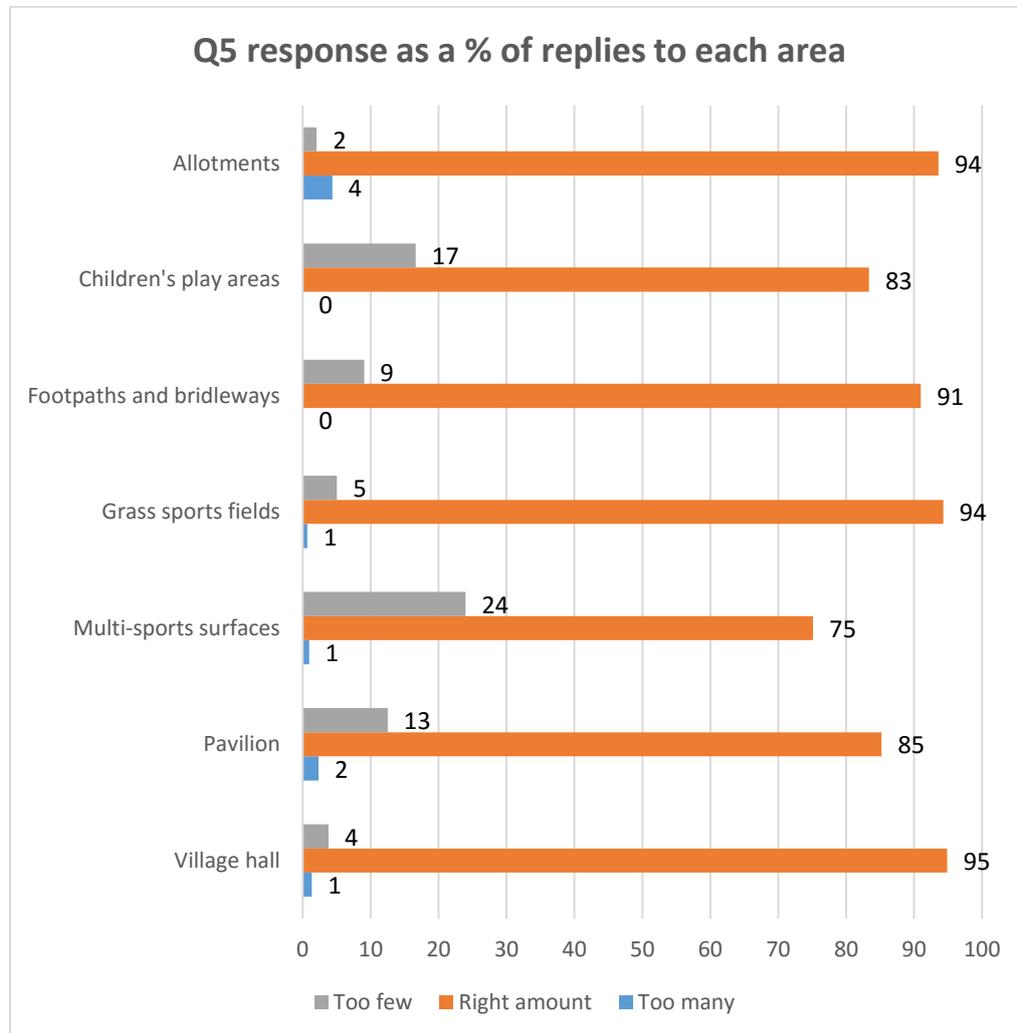
Sewers: 41 people commented that drains should be cleaned regularly and sewers repaired in order better to deal with surface water in heavy rain. Many drains are completely blocked. Problems with previous escapes of sewage were mentioned by seven.

Street lighting: Seven people commented on street lights needing repair, and that it would be better for them to remain on past midnight. More frequent comments, 44 in all, highlighted the need for more street lights to illuminate particularly dark stretches of road and pavement.

Travel to school: 50% of the 120 youngsters who answered the question said they walk to school, (the great majority of them 5-10s) and 37% go by car. The remainder, mostly 11-15s, go by bus.

Sports and leisure facilities

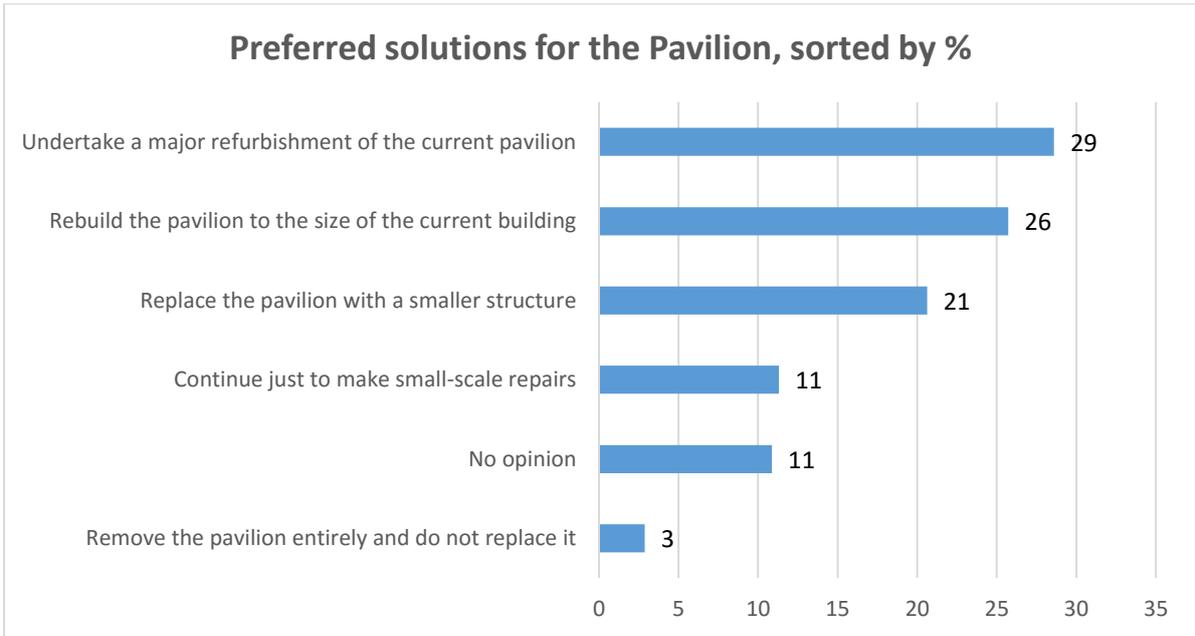
In Q5 some village sports and leisure facilities were listed, and people were invited to indicate their view on whether there were too few, the right amount or too many of these given the size and character of Flamstead. Results are shown below as a percentage of responses for each facility:



Between 430 and 448 replies were received for each category, so again a high engagement. The majority opinion in each case was that the village has sufficient of the given facilities, which ties in with the responses to the general sports category in Q2. However, the most frequently mentioned deficiencies were in multi-sports surfaces and children's play areas. This corresponds with the free text comments provided in response to Q2 and Q8, summarised previously, where suggestions were made in support of providing additional facilities for youngsters in particular.

The largest opinion expressed about whether we have too many of a given facility was the 4% who feel we have too many allotments, though 94% said we have the right amount.

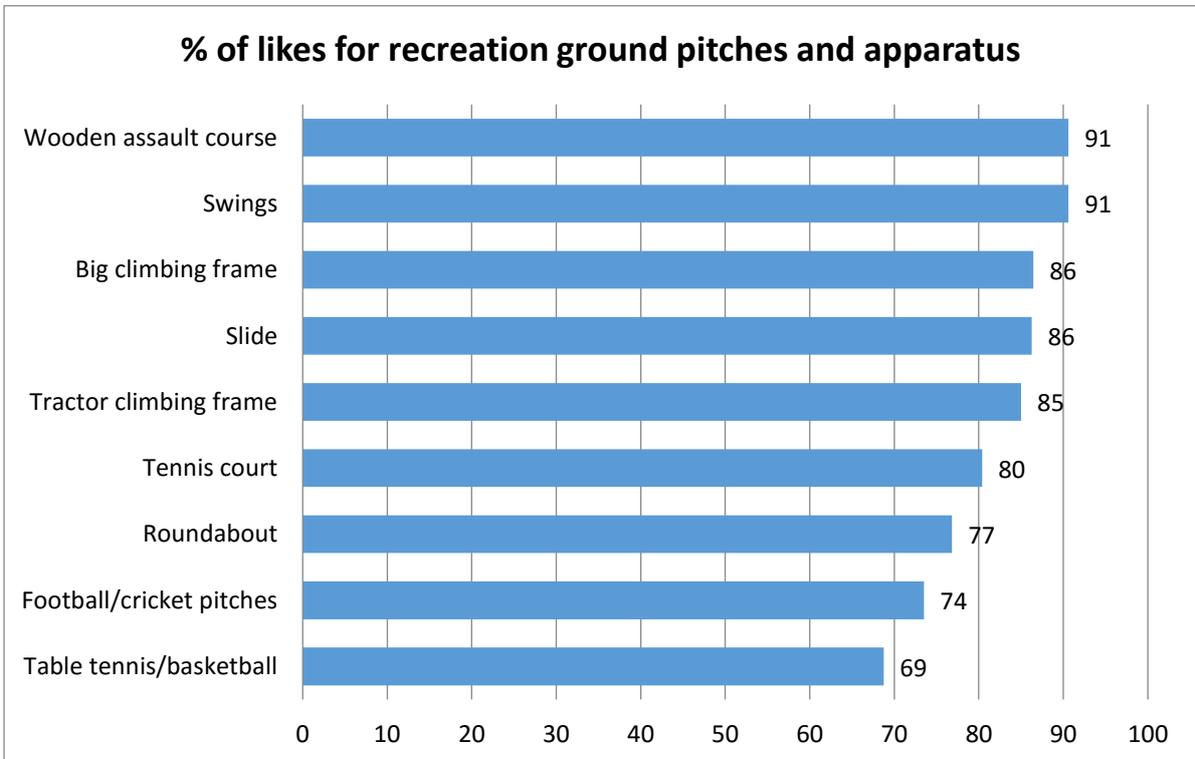
The subsequent question concerning what to do about the Pavilion attracted 451 responses, with a clear majority in favour of doing something more radical than just make-do-and-mend. Rebuilding, replacing or undertaking a major refurbishment garnered 75% of all the responses between them, supported by comments indicating that a more proactive approach was needed to find ways to make the Pavilion pay its way. Results are shown overleaf by percent of the responses received.



Free text comments relating to the Pavilion were summarised above under question 2 on facilities.

Responses from younger people on sports facilities

The youngsters were asked to indicate whether they liked the pitches and pieces of apparatus in the recreation ground. Results for which were liked by percentage commenting on each item from the 123 responses in total are indicated below, sorted by order of votes preference:



Suggestions from younger people on how to improve the recreation ground

In free text comments, the youngsters aged 8-15 were asked to suggest what would make the park better. There were 72 responses mentioning 31 different possible improvements, so most of these only attracted low numbers. The most frequent comment, and probably the cheapest to implement, was that the park should be cleaned up (particularly of dog poo on the field and the smell of the mini roundabout). The most popular suggestions for new equipment were:

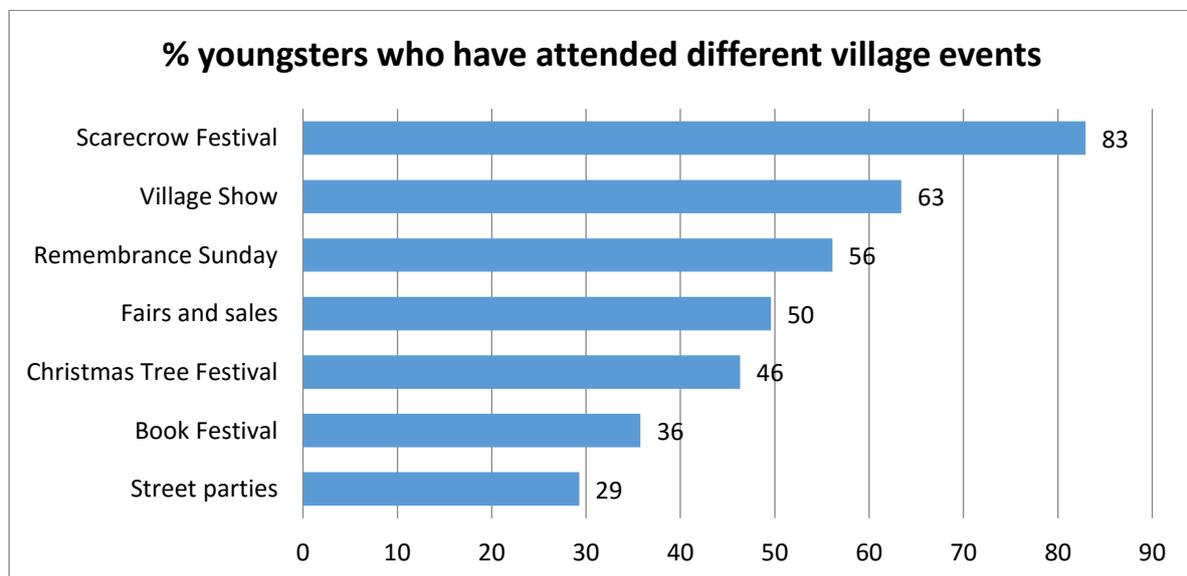
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|------------------------------------|--------------------|
| zipwires (6) | dens (3) |
| skateboard park/ramp (5) | better slides (3) |
| more swings for older children (5) | football goals (3) |
| monkey bars (4) | |

There were several comments that related to the playing surfaces, highlighting that loose tiles need replacing in the children's play area; the desirability of an astroturf or all-weather playing surface; the surface of the tennis court needing attention; and another court being needed so that tennis and netball could each have their own.

Other requests related to non-play facilities, including: more picnic tables; to re-open the pavilion; for some vending machines; for an outside toilet open during the day; and for more shelters.

Involvement of youngsters in village events and non-village activities

The young people of all ages were asked to indicate which village events they had been to, and the results indicate good involvement across the range of different activities, with the Scarecrow Festival being the most popular:

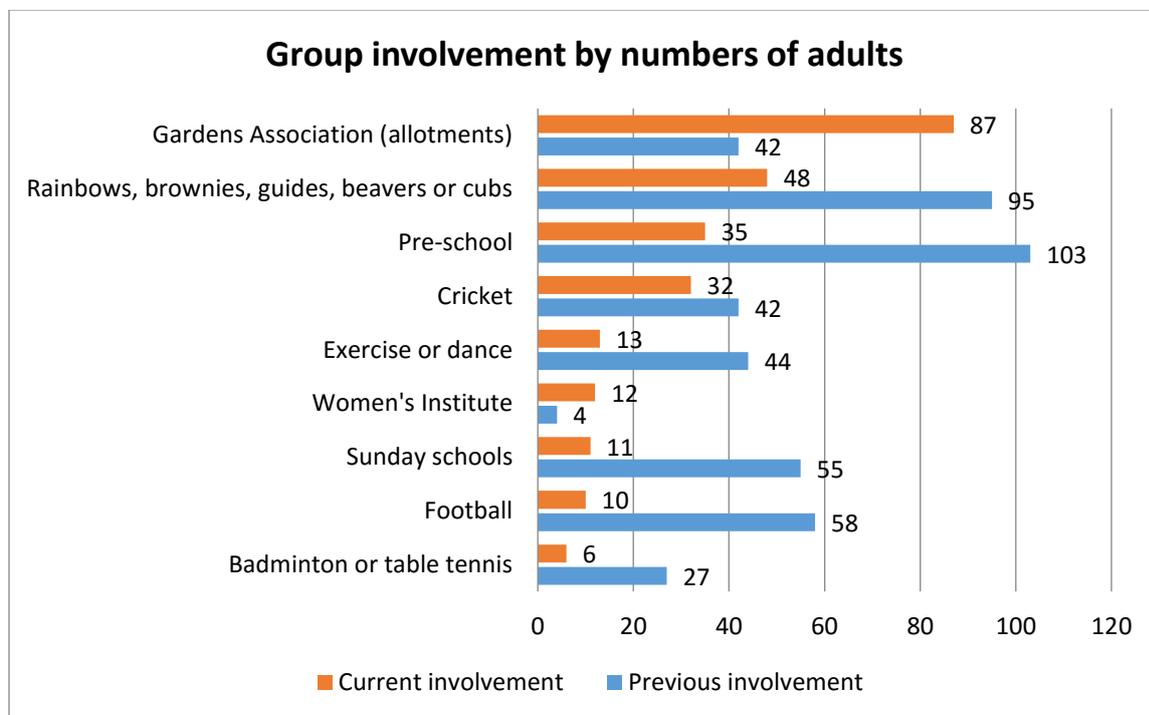


The survey responses also indicate that 82 of the 87 5-10s attended Flamstead JMI school, as well as 14 of the 36 11-15s, which suggests at least some youngsters are newcomers to the village.

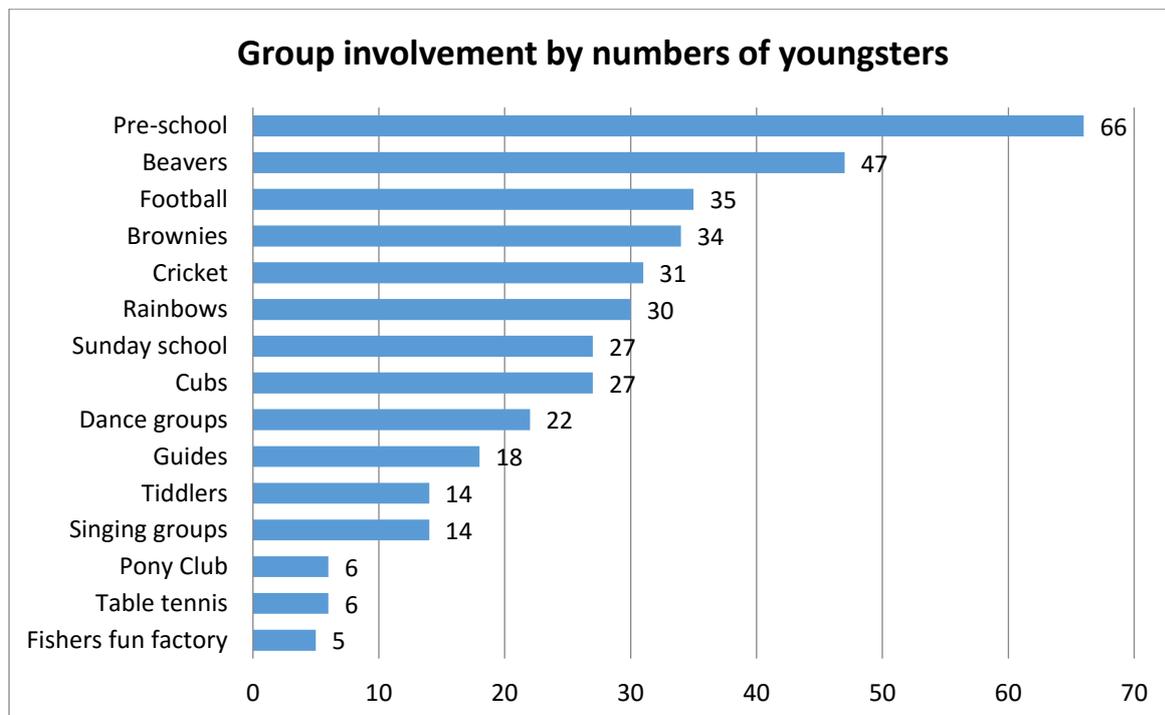
Of the 11-15s, 34 attend clubs outside of the village, covering 18 different types of activities. Most of these relate to sport, though the largest single category was five who attend scouts. We understand that a scout troop is possibly starting in the village soon.

Participation in Village groups

Q7 asked people which of the various groups using parish facilities they are, or have previously been, involved with as a member or a helper. 299 people responded. The distinction between members or helpers may not have been useful, and so the results shown below are by total numbers indicating any current or past involvement, including by virtue of being parents of children in the groups:



The corresponding responses from the youngsters across all age ranges are:



The survey unintentionally omitted the Flamstead Society and FoSL from the question about groups.

General comments about Flamstead and its future

Q8 of the adult survey gave people an opportunity to contribute general thoughts about Flamstead and its future, and the younger people's survey also asked what they particularly liked and disliked about the village, what would make it better, and where they might like to live when they grow up.

The village and the community: Many respondents commented either that they grew up in Flamstead and have strong family ties, or they chose to move here because it is such a charming small village in a lovely setting, with a friendly, supportive and genuinely caring community. In the comments made by youngsters, three strong themes emerged across all age groups (though the 5-7s unsurprisingly had least to say): the size and quiet character of the village (20); the rural location with its landscape, footpaths and spaces to play (12); and the friendliness and caring nature of the community (16). Seven of the 72 general comments from the young people also referred to friends being here, and 15 to the value they place on various village facilities: the shop, school, pubs, Rec and clubs.

81% of the youngsters like living in Flamstead, and 74% of the 5-10s would like to live in the village when they grow up. For the older group, 53% of 11-15s would like to live in "a village like Flamstead" when grown up, whereas 22% would prefer to live in "a big city like London".

Of the items most important to adults about living in Flamstead, the top five by a clear margin are: rural location, sense of community, small village, look of the village, and local shop and post office. These, as well as the general character of the built environment, are some of the key aspects which 30 people commented that they want to see preserved into the future. Eight people highlighted the key value of the church and the activities centred on it, as being core to the community.

Negatives: On the downside, the issues raised by adults (other than those previously covered in Q4) include some negative comments about the behaviour of a few visitors to the Scarecrow Festival, and a plea for focus on quality rather than on quantity in village facilities. The play area in the Rec is considered tired and in need of refurbishment, as is the Pavilion. Pot-holes in roads, lack of road sweeping and drain cleaning, overgrown hedges and poor pavement surfaces are all things which people would like see dealt with. Two mentioned the need for better maintenance of God's Acre. Even starting with the entrance to the village at the bottom of Chequers Hill, four people are saddened by the poor state of the common land, and unhappy about the uninviting look of the hire yard. Some comments encouraged a greater focus on defending the protected status and ambience of the village and better maintaining what we have, rather than creating what were described as "grandiose plans", whilst others noted that the village would need to evolve in the future.

For youngsters, there were only 11 negative comments about the village, with 10 of these from the 11-15 age group. Of these, 6 concerned the lack of things for young people to do, and 13 suggestions included providing more activities and clubs in general, such as a youth club (three), swimming pool (three), and better bus services to Harpenden, Hemel or St Albans, with Sunday services (eleven). Two referred to older residents disliking the riding of bikes and scooters in the road, and suggestions had been made in the sports section about having an area to cycle and scoot. A few felt the school was too small. More colourful suggestions included a having museum, a reptile house, a cinema, a duck pond, a street party for children and a fair! There were also 13 calls for a bigger shop or more shops (one for a chip shop); two wanted traffic lights and two wanted the village to be cleaner. Three youngsters indicated that they wanted an increase in the population or size of the village.

Other general comments: A few people indicated that they were not aware of some of the groups, which suggests that general information about what is available in the village might be improved.

The aircraft noise from Luton Airport was mentioned by a handful of people as an issue, one noting that lobbying needs to continue, although another person drew attention to the noise from the A5 and M1 as being potentially more of a problem.

Finally, a small number of people raised rather mixed views about the question of a Neighbourhood Plan. There is uncertainty about whether having such a Plan in the light of current planning policy would help to ensure any development was in keeping with the character of the village, whether it could defend against unwanted development, or if it would lead to unwanted major development.

Conclusions

577 of the approximately 1300 people who live in Flamstead responded to the surveys. Of the views expressed both in quantitative and qualitative responses, the predominant picture is of a village and a community both loved and valued by its residents. In physical terms the setting, size, character and surroundings of the village all matter a great deal to residents, and a friendly, supportive community with its associated groups and activities create a community spirit and sense of belonging.

Given the opportunity to indicate issues of importance, the strongest views concerned the hazards of access to the A5, the slowness of the broadband, and the general need for better maintenance of roads, pavements, drains and the village amenities such as the recreation ground. By including the younger people of the village in the survey, it was possible to identify a sense of needing more for youngsters to do and useful suggestions for other apparatus, facilities or groups were made. Overall, the village has a number of meeting places, including the Church, not all of which are fully utilised but some of which rely on bookings revenue for sustainability. A rather more coordinated overview may be beneficial. And as with any community, the few who volunteer to run groups and clubs for youngsters in particular need to feel valued and supported by bodies such as the Parish Council.

Regarding additional development, the clear majority is against exploring development in excess of that which is already permitted by the local plan, and many regard it as part of the responsibility of the Parish Council to support and defend the protected status of the village. Even for those who feel that additional housing is necessary to enable young families or older people to remain in the village, the sense of not wanting to spoil the character of the village is expressed in many cases.

Comments recognise that the village has a limited number of school places, pubs and only one shop. These are very much valued by people, with almost nobody indicating that we have too many of these facilities. This indicates that the community would significantly regret the loss of any of them. As far as the Pavilion is concerned, most people recommend a significant intervention to restore it to a usable condition in order to enhance the value already provided by the recreation ground, without threatening other amenities such as the pubs and Village Hall.

The members of the Working Group who have been hands-on in designing, conducting and analysing this survey feel privileged to report on the heartfelt views of residents, and have presented these as clearly as possible for the benefit of the community and the guidance of the Parish Council. We are pleased to note that 96% of respondents said they would be willing to participate in a future survey.

Recommendations

These are the recommendations of the Working Group to the Parish Council given the results of the survey and bearing in mind its powers and resources:

- 1) To engage with Hertfordshire County Council and the local MP to exert maximum pressure for a rapid, appropriate and effective solution to the problems of access to the A5 from Flamstead
- 2) In its planning and development-related activities, to respect the majority opinion in the village against development over and above that already permitted by the existing local plan, to be mindful of the types of housing favoured where development is permitted, and to seek independent professional advice on whether a Neighbourhood Plan would enhance or potentially undermine the protection enjoyed by the village
- 3) To defend where possible the aspects of the village valued most highly by residents, namely the rural setting, size and appearance of the village and also the sense of community, and to continue to encourage and where appropriate support the shop and pubs, churches, groups and activities which contribute to community life
- 4) To focus on what can be done to maintain and improve the village facilities already available, for example the apparatus, quality of surfaces, range of activities and overall cleanliness of the recreation ground, the repair of street lights, the broadband speed and the appearance of the common ground at the bottom of Chequers Hill
- 5) To bring pressure to bear to improve the quality of roads, pavements including a review of any need for more drop kerbs, and to ensure road and drain cleaning is undertaken regularly
- 6) To consider how the availability and utilisation of meeting places could be coordinated in a sustainable way so as to encourage best use of the facilities available, with some investment where needed - and to stimulate some fund-raising effort for major work on the Pavilion so it better serves the community and adds to the range of activities available to youngsters
- 7) To be mindful of concerns such as speeding in Singlets Lane, parking in the High Street, lack of bus services to Harpenden, availability of school places, lack of a visiting surgery and to consider what influence the PC might bring to bear on ameliorating these
- 8) To hold a further public meeting before the end of the year at which the Parish Council indicates how it intends to move forwards in light of the survey findings