

The Farnhams Parish Plan



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FRPC, the Farnham Royal Parish Council, represents the Farnham Royal and Farnham Common villages, known collectively as **The Farnhams**.

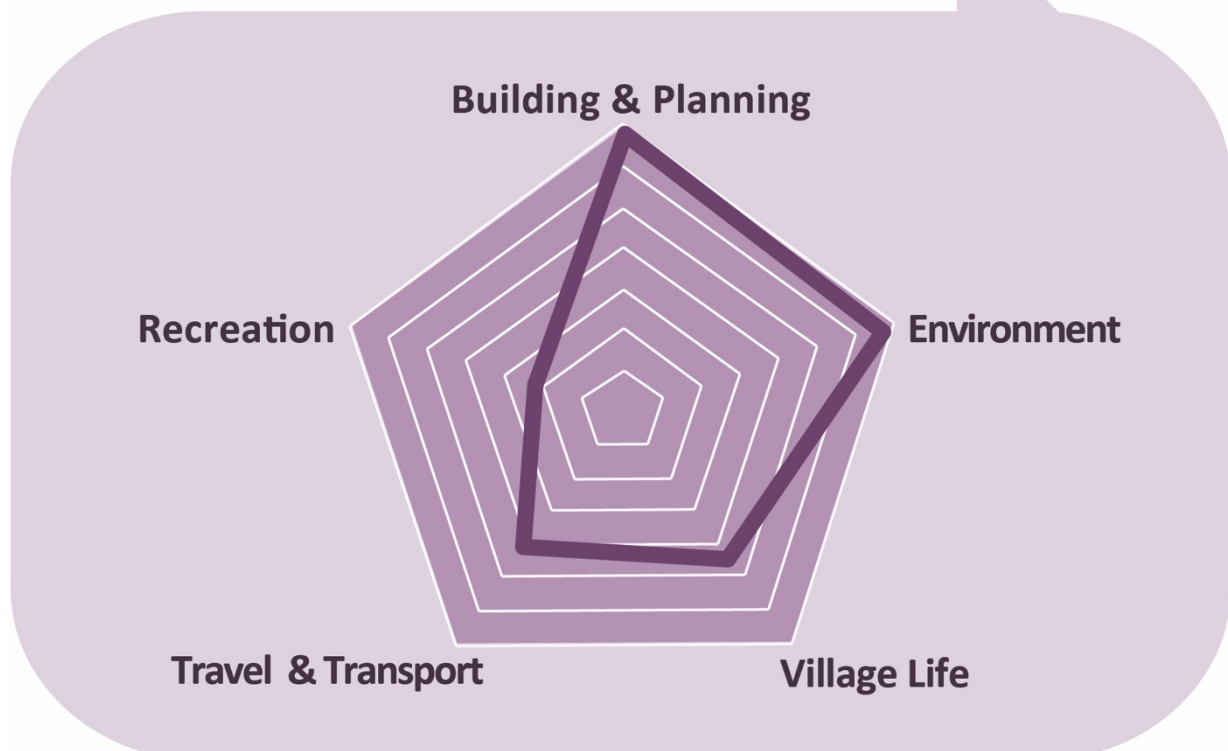
This Parish Plan will inform and guide the FRPC's policy development for the next ten years.

The Plan has been developed using the results of our 2016 survey which enjoyed a 20% response rate. Thank you to all of you who took the time to respond.

The full document is accessible on the planning page of our website www.farnhamroyal-pc.gov.uk or can be supplied on request by the Clerk.

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Your priorities



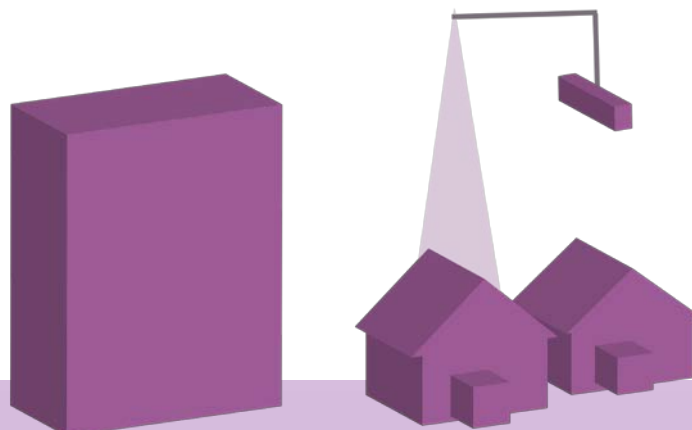
Building and Planning

From the survey:

- You asked for stricter controls on the development of the Green Belt, more control of development in general, and more facilities.
- The lack of affordable housing was also highlighted.

We will:

- Use your responses as a mandate to oppose any inappropriate development, especially where it involves the Green Belt.
- Seek an appropriate mix of housing provision, including affordable housing, by:
 - identifying potential Green Belt development which does not harm its function
 - encouraging the intensification of 'brownfield' development.
- Develop, with input from residents, a Neighbourhood Plan to influence the District Council's decisions.
- Lobby for social contributions from all development and lobby the District Council to adopt the Community Infrastructure Levy.
- Continue to petition the planning authority to insist on considerate contractor terms being made a condition of planning permissions.



Environment

From the survey:

- You asked for more energy efficient street lighting.
- Temple Dell, on the junction of the A355 and Templewood Lane emerged as the most-used open space.

We have: installed LED lights in all lamp posts.

We will:

- Maintain the existing street lighting provision.
- Continue to assess the effectiveness of our litter picking regime.
We will regularly remove, where possible, all litter and graffiti from areas within our remit.
- Continue to be concerned with pavements and footpaths, particularly issues relating to accessibility. Use and seek to renew our newly acquired powers under the Devolution Contract with Bucks County Council to get hedges cut back and pavements sided out where necessary.
- Continue to improve our two play areas at Farnham Common Sports Club and Farnham Royal Sports Ground to seek to meet the needs of all age groups.
- Improve Temple Dell to encourage greater and more varied use.
- Regenerate Kingsway Green and maintain all our woodlands. Seek to bring Parish Woods and other woodland areas on our northern boundary under our control.
- Monitor the state of our public spaces and work with the District Council to keep them free of dog mess.
- Remove illegal signage on public spaces using our devolved powers.



Village Life

From the survey:

You were concerned about crime and safety in the Parish.

We will:

- Petition for greater Police presence in the Parish.
- Investigate the benefits of local CCTV.
- Encourage areas with higher levels of crime to set up community schemes such as Neighbourhood Watch.
- Audit our Parish facilities. Assess the aspirations of our clubs and societies and seek to provide the required facilities to meet their needs. Plan our facility development over a 25 year period.
- Work closely with local police community support officers and the police department to improve communications and crime prevention.
- Look closely at the issue of vehicle speed. Specifically:
 - Examine the effectiveness of our own speed indicator device
 - Assess vehicle speed near schools and on the A355
 - Encourage residents to take part in the Community Speedwatch scheme.
- Work with local groups and charities to understand the needs of local young people and promote youth activities. For example, the possible provision of a youth club.
- Seek the involvement of young people in shaping village life. For example, the creation of youth councillors.
- Develop opportunities for older people to meet.



Travel and Transport

From the survey:

- You were concerned about road conditions, particularly potholes.
- Many of you wanted improved traffic management and a reduction in the number of heavy lorries on the A355.
- You also requested improved parking facilities in Farnham Common and to keep footways passable, to make walking more attractive.
- A few people asked for measures to make cycling more attractive and an improved bus service.

We will:

- Work with Bucks County Council (BCC) to improve roads and footways.
- Ensure repair of potholes. While residents must report potholes directly to BCC, we will ensure The Farnhams does not slip down the priority list.
- Work with BCC to produce a priority list of roads requiring resurfacing and petition BCC for the work to be done.
- Find ways to reduce the number of heavy vehicles in the villages.
- Find ways to improve cycling on the main roads and raise awareness of existing cycle paths.
- Explore other avenues of travel and accessibility for people in the Farnhams, for example to lobby for public transport and ensure that pavements and roads are made safe for people with disabilities.
- Work with police and traffic wardens to implement the law.
- Assess parking provision in Farnham Common.
- Explore free or reduced cost parking in Farnham Common car park and look at possible alternatives with South Bucks District Council.
- Look at ways to keep cars off of key verges and payments and seek to educate car drivers about considerate parking.
- Make bus service providers aware of local needs. Assess the adequacy of existing bus shelters.



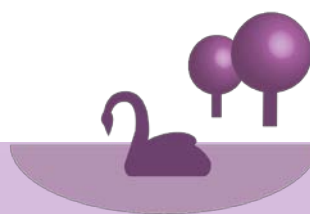
Recreation

From the survey:

Many of you stated that the social events and recreational facilities in the parish meet your needs. There was some desire to improve the facilities, especially the village halls, and to improve the promotion of existing activities.

We will:

- Continue to support existing community events.
- Facilitate new events, working with local charity groups to support residents' efforts to meet their own community and social needs.
- Build partnerships with local charities, such as the Library, to improve social provision for young people, especially teenagers.
- Work with the village halls to improve their facilities.
- Improve recreational facilities by working with the community liaison officers from South Bucks and Bucks County Council.
- Identify and work with funding sources such as the LAF (Local Area Forum)
- Promote local events via our partnership with the Farnhams Magazine and our own resources such as the Parish Council's website.
- Promote local events via cooperation with neighbouring parish organisations.
- Maintain and improve the facilities at Temple Dell to encourage more family and summer events in Farnham Common.
- Look at options for improving or redeveloping the play areas.
- Continue to support local facilities such as the Farnham Common Sports Club and Farnham Royal playing fields.
- Revisit the idea of a community forum for charitable and other organisations.



Appendix - FRPC Survey Results

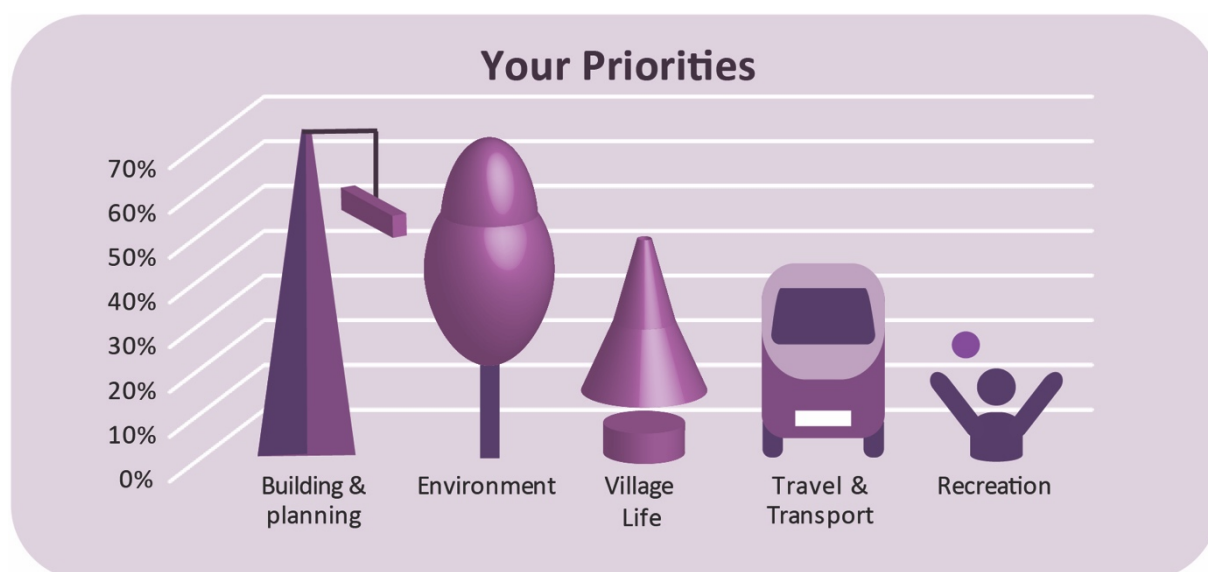
Farnham Royal Parish Council represents the parishes of Farnham Royal and Farnham Common - known locally as the Farnhams. In 2012 the council decided to seek opinions from all residents on community matters affecting them.

Following recruitment requests in the Farnhams Magazine and direct invitations to all local schools, community groups and businesses, a steering group of local volunteers was established to prepare the questions.

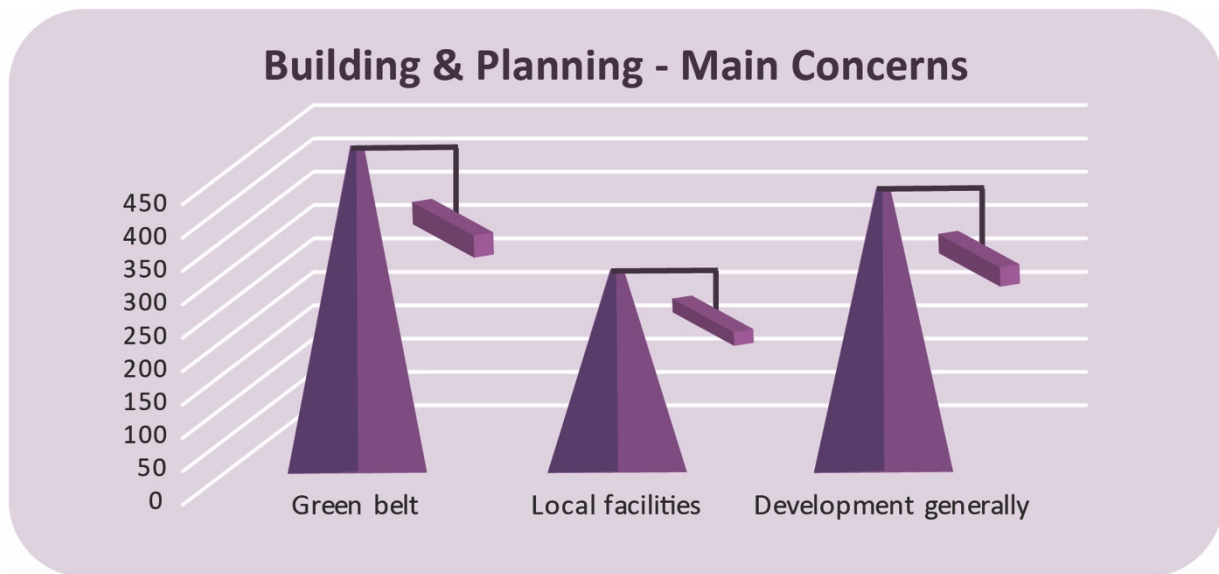
In the summer of 2016, following a poster campaign to raise awareness, a parish plan questionnaire was hand delivered as an insert with the Farnhams Magazine to every household in the villages and made available for online completion. Copies were also available in the Library and the process was advertised on the Parish Council website, village noticeboards, in successive issues of the Farnhams Magazine and on the Farnhams Community Facebook Page.

Of the 2663 households in the parish, 541 replies were received - a 20% response rate. 5% of the responses were completed online.

The questionnaire had the following sections, ranked by the importance placed on them by residents (proportion of high-priority rankings given in the responses): **Building and Planning, Environment, Village Life, Travel and Transport and Recreation.**



Building and Planning



Building and planning was top of the high priority rankings for residents who responded. An overwhelming number of responses were to do with having stricter controls on the development of the local Green Belt (433 respondents) and control of development generally (373 respondents). About half of those responding wanted more facilities (247 respondents).

Based on these responses the Parish Council has a mandate:

1. to oppose/petition the District Council on any change in the Green Belt
2. to provide input into the emerging local plan
3. to oppose any inappropriate development in the Green Belt
4. to oppose increased development elsewhere where it is not appropriate

Also based on the responses the following are outcomes which the Parish Council will also support:

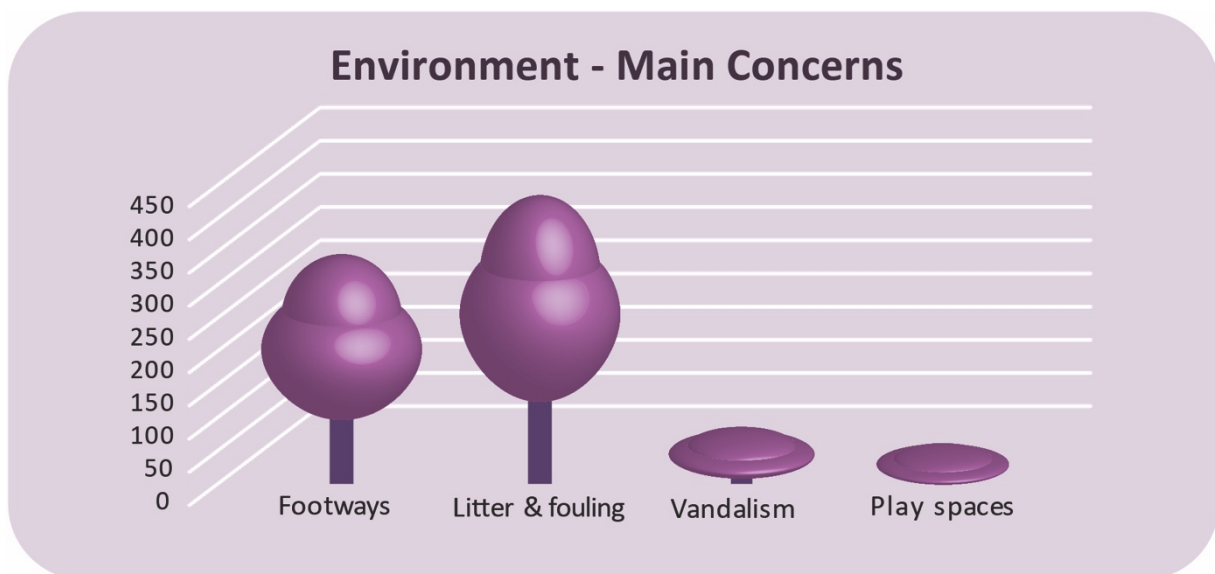
1. to maintain and enhance the sports facilities in the parish (19 respondents)
2. to maintain a good mix of shops (17 respondents)

Regarding matters which have come to its attention over recent years the Parish Council has also identified the following issues which it will also pursue:

1. to identify potential development in the Green Belt which does not harm its function
2. to encourage the intensification of development on brownfield sites
3. to lobby for social contributions from all development

4. to lobby the District Council to adopt CIL
5. to seek an appropriate mix of housing provision within the parish
6. to seek the maximum level of affordable housing provision
7. to maintain and enhance the sports facilities in the parish
8. to input into the emerging local plan to ensure an appropriate mix of retail and other uses within the main shopping frontages
9. to develop a Neighbourhood Development Plan (a NDP, once 'made' or adopted, is part of the statutory development plan for the area and regard must be had to it in all planning determinations. it increases the credibility of the Parish Council on all planning matters. This is not only significant when dealing with the LPA but in how the parish council and the area it serves is perceived by developers. In short, the parish council will be better placed to achieve wider objectives if it has a NDP in place)
10. to continue to petition the planning authority to insist on considerate contractor terms being made a condition of planning permissions

Environment

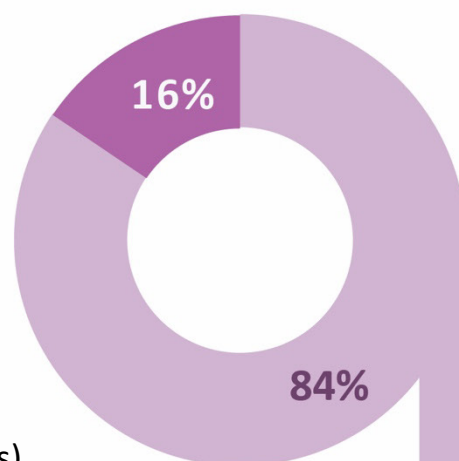


Although this was second in the high priority rankings for residents who responded, only a small number of residents responded to say they actually used the Open Spaces available to them in the parish.

Of these Temple Dell was the most popular (60 respondents). Main concerns were to improve footways (287 respondents), combat litter and dog fouling (373 respondents), vandalism and graffiti (34 respondents) and provide good quality play spaces (12 respondents). The majority of residents who responded seemed happy with the street lighting provision (255 respondents).

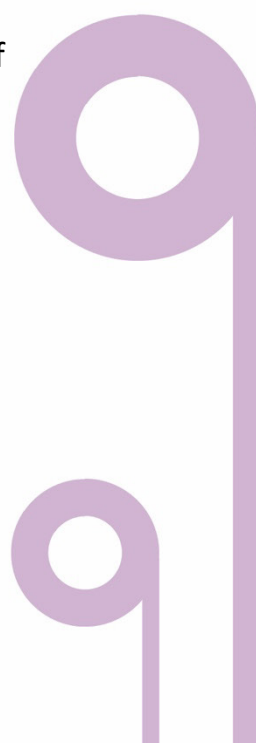
Based on the responses the following are outcomes which the Parish Council will support:

1. to improve street lighting energy efficiency where possible (163 agree, 30 disagree)
2. to monitor and remove where possible litter, vandalism and graffiti on a regular basis (34 respondents)
3. to look at disability access of footpaths within the parish (24 respondents)
4. to continue to seek to contract with BCC for devolved power to maintain footways free from obstructive vegetation (20 respondents)
5. to assess and plan for improvement of the children's play spaces (12 respondents)
6. to continue to assess the effectiveness of the litter picking regime within the PC's remit (10 respondents)
7. to continue to maintain right of way footpaths and identify works required by other authorities (10 respondents)

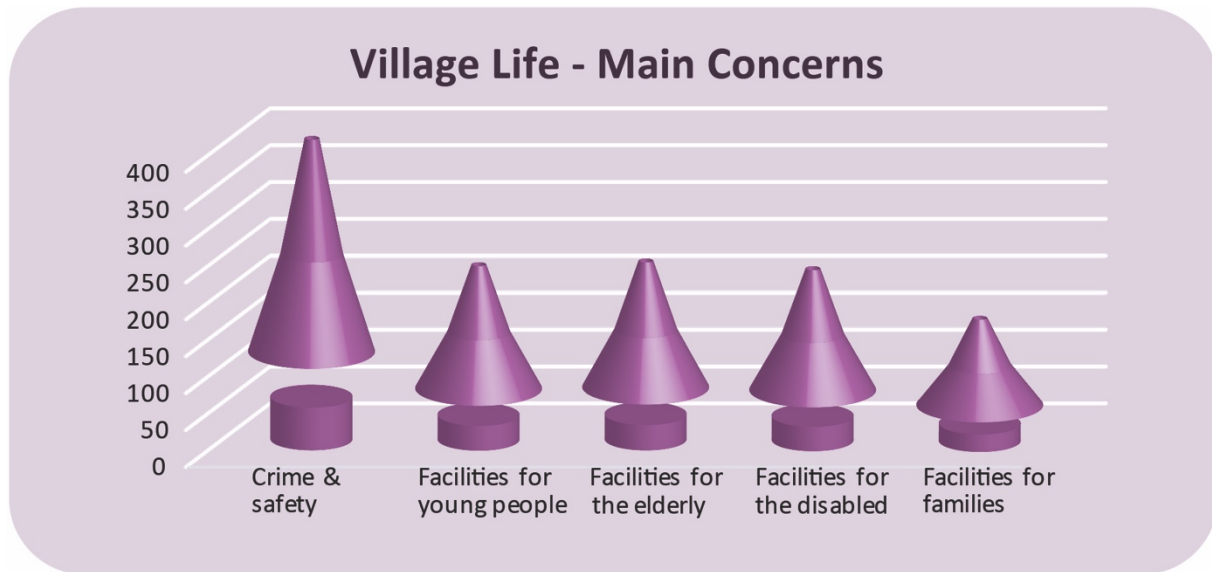


Regarding matters which have come to its attention over recent years the Parish Council has also identified the following issues which it will also pursue:

1. to develop an ongoing strategy for improvement and management of Temple Dell to encourage greater and more varied use
2. to develop a landscaping scheme for regenerating Kingsway Green
3. to continue to assess and maintain woodlands in a safe and accessible manner
4. to monitor and assess the compatibility of access to public spaces for dog walkers
5. to maintain existing street lighting provision



Village Life



Socialising and recreation were less of a priority than open spaces and the built environment. Concerns were expressed for crime and safety issues (388 respondents) and a desire to improve facilities for young people (214 respondents with 218 neutral), the elderly (218 respondents with 228 neutral), the disabled (206 respondents with 233 neutral) and families (144 respondents with 284 neutral), however there were no costs applied or suggestions of how this was to be achieved.

It should be noted that other than crime and safety issues, the majority in the other issues were 'neutral'.

Based on the responses the following are outcomes which the Parish Council will support:

1. to petition regularly for a greater police presence in the parish (61 respondents)
2. to examine the benefits of local CCTV cameras (12 respondents)
3. to target areas of greater crime to encourage them to set up a neighbourhood watch (12 respondents)
4. to produce a scheme of works to cut back vegetation from footways, particularly in terms of disability and mobility scooters (12 respondents)
5. to work with local groups in the provision of a youth club (9 respondents)
6. to work with local groups and charities on the promotion of opportunities for older people to meet (5 respondents)

Regarding matters which have come to its attention over recent years the Parish Council has also identified the following issues which it will also pursue:

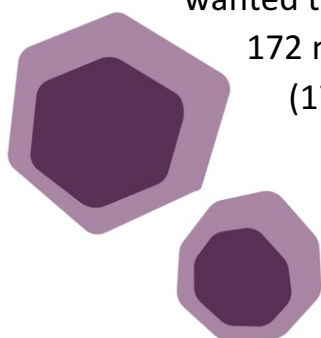
1. to work more closely with local PCSOs and the police department
2. to actively work with local police to better communicate with the village and improve crime prevention
3. to look at the issue of speeding and speed reduction
4. to examine the effectiveness of the speed indicator device and its agreed locations
5. to work with local groups and charities in the provision of youth activities to help raise awareness
6. to work with young people to discover what their needs are
7. to look at how young people can participate in the positive development of village life e.g. young councillors
8. to actively seek areas where cutting back of vegetation is needed and make a plan of works over a three-year period
9. to look at the condition of footways and footpaths and produce a three-year scheme of priorities
10. to continue to look at issues around play areas
11. to continue to proactively seek to have great play areas for all ages

Travel and Transport

Many wanted improved road conditions (355 respondents with 73 neutral) with the biggest issue for residents under this heading being repairing potholes (105 respondents). Many wanted to improve traffic management (323 respondents with 121 neutral) with a reduction in the number of heavy lorries on the A355 (35 respondents). Most respondents wanted to improve parking facilities in Farnham Common (288 respondents with 136 neutral).

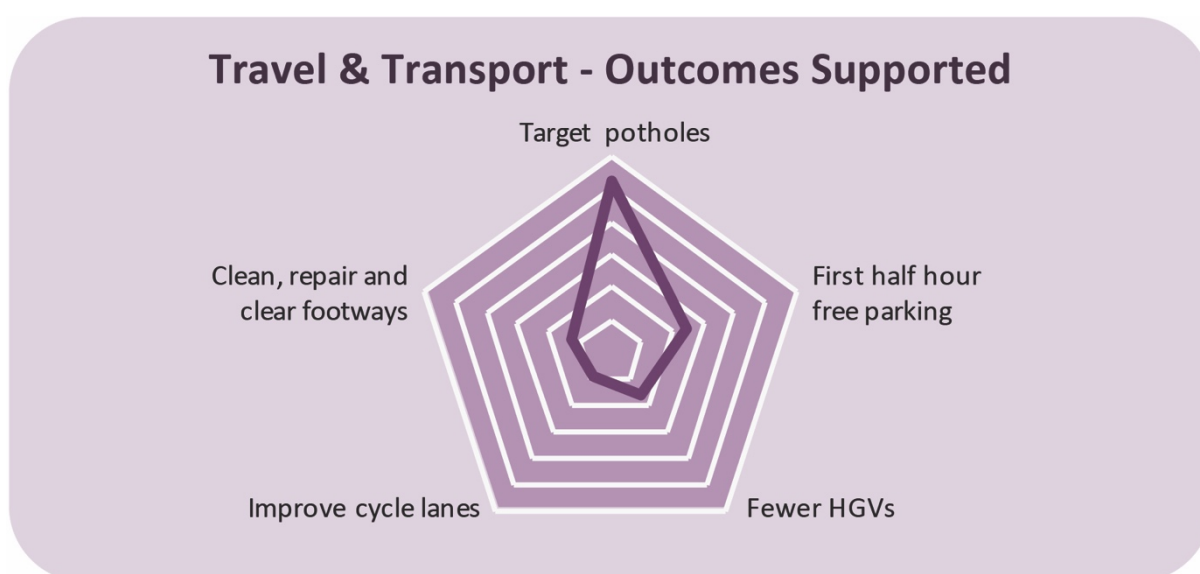
Over half wanted to ensure that footways remained passable to make walking more attractive (243 respondents with 182 neutral). Just under half wanted to make cycling more attractive (229 respondents with 172 neutral). About a third wanted to improve the bus service (177 respondents with 250 neutral).

The biggest 'dislike' was the number of pot holes/ traffic/ A355 (30 respondents).



Based on the responses the following are outcomes which the Parish Council will support:

1. to work with BCC to target potholes (105 respondents)
2. to reinstate the first half hour free parking in Farnham Common car park (49 respondents)
3. to work with BCC about measures to reduce the number of heavy vehicles coming through the villages (32 respondents)
4. to work with BCC to improve cycling (cycle lanes) on the main roads (17 respondents)
5. to clean and repair footways (14 respondents)
6. to clear litter, branches, and leaves from footways (11 respondents)



Regarding matters which have come to its attention over recent years the Parish Council has also identified the following issues which it will also pursue:

1. to petition BCC to ensure potholes are being repaired and that the Farnhams don't slip down their list
2. to increase awareness of the need for residents to report potholes and how they should do so
3. to work with BCC to examine priorities for road resurfacing within the parish/ produce a priority list of roads to be resurfaced and petition BCC for the works to be done
4. to re assess the parish council's own speed reduction policy including reassessing the locations of the speed indicator device
5. to assess speed, particularly around schools
6. to look at speed along the A355

7. to look at alternative ways to provide half an hour's free parking in Farnham Common
8. to look at parking as a whole in Farnham Common and produce some feasibility suggestions
9. to produce an ongoing assessment and action plan over 3/5 years for footways in the Farnhams
10. to produce an assessment and action plan for disabled access in terms of footways
11. to reassess the need for litter picking
12. to look at key verges and how cars can be kept off them
13. to raise awareness of existing cycle paths in the Farnhams
14. to explore with bus transport providers how to make them aware of local needs
15. to explore travel and accessibility for people in the Farnhams
16. to assess the adequacy of existing bus shelters in the Farnhams
17. to explore the possibility of additional bus shelters in the Farnhams

Recreation

This was the lowest priority for residents. Almost all respondents were generally happy or neutral with the provision of social events and recreational facilities particularly commenting on events at Burnham Beeches, the village halls, the Library events, and Carols on the Green.

Based on the responses the following are outcomes which the Parish Council will support:

1. to improve recreational facilities (200 respondents with 238 neutral)
2. to improve the village halls (132 respondents with 280 neutral)
3. to promote activities (179 respondents with 232 neutral)

Regarding matters which have come to its attention over recent years the Parish Council has also identified the following issues which it will also pursue:

1. to continue to support and facilitate community events
2. to actively seek to work with SBDC and BCC community liaison officers
3. to actively seek to work with and support local and charitable groups to facilitate community and social events
4. to support residents to meet their own local community and social needs

5. to work with the Farnhams Magazine to seek wider promotion of local events
6. to use Parish Council promotional opportunities including website to promote local events
7. to co-operate with neighbouring parish organisations in promoting local events
8. to maintain and improve the facilities at Temple Dell to encourage more family events/summer events in Farnham Common
9. to continue to look at improvement or redevelopment of play areas
- 10.to continue to support local facilities e.g. Sports Club/ Farnham Royal playing fields
- 11.to consider usage of the outdoor fitness equipment and next steps
- 12.to work closely with the LAF and other funding sources to improve recreational facilities in the parish
- 13.to support more initiatives to support teenage activities in the parish
- 14.to actively seek to work with local groups and other local authorities to improve facilities and opportunities for young people
- 15.to work with the local library on youth provision
- 16.to look at opportunities for building partnerships with local charities and groups to improve youth provision
- 17.to work with local village halls to improve their facilities
- 18.to revisit the idea of a community forum for charitable and other organisations

How did we communicate?

The Farnhams Magazine was the main source of information for residents (390 respondents) followed by social media (115 respondents) and the notice boards (113 respondents)
