

Parish Survey 2026

Survey Analysis and Recommendations

1. Executive Summary

The 2026 Parish Survey received 26 responses, of which one was identified as a test response. This report therefore analyses 25 substantive responses. The survey was open-ended, allowing residents to describe in their own words what they value, what they would like to see improved, local concerns and what they believe is missing from the parish.

The overall picture is positive. Residents repeatedly described the parish as friendly, welcoming, community-minded, green and well served by its existing village facilities. The survey also provides a clear indication of practical issues where residents would like further action, particularly around traffic, parking, road safety and pedestrian access.

The strongest theme was traffic and road safety. Qualitative coding identified references to traffic, parking, speeding or road safety in 21 of the 25 substantive responses. Church Road, school parking, the A4/A342, Lansdowne Crescent and Studley Crossroads were repeatedly identified.

Other recurring priorities include:

- Improving footpaths, pavements and road surfaces.
- Providing better play and sports facilities for children and young people, particularly younger children on Petty Acre.
- Protecting and enhancing trees, green spaces and biodiversity.
- Exploring allotments or community growing opportunities.
- Creating more opportunities for informal community interaction, such as a community hub, café or events.
- Improving communication, engagement and links between different parts of the parish and existing community groups.

The survey should not be interpreted as a referendum or statistically representative poll. It is a qualitative snapshot of the views of residents who chose to respond. Nevertheless, the consistency of several themes provides useful evidence to inform the Parish Council's priorities and future engagement with Wiltshire Council and other partners.

2. Methodology

- Total responses received: 26.
- Test response excluded: 1.
- Substantive responses analysed: 25.

- Questions were open-ended and covered what residents value, desired improvements, local concerns, missing facilities/services and other comments.
- Responses were reviewed and grouped into recurring themes. Where a theme was mentioned by multiple respondents, the number of substantive responses containing a reference to that theme was recorded.
- The coding is qualitative: a single response may contribute to more than one theme, so theme totals do not add up to 25.

3. Key Themes Identified

Theme	Indicative mentions	What residents are saying	Potential Council response
Traffic, parking & road safety	21 / 25	Speeding, school parking, Church Road rat-running, A4/A342 traffic, Lansdowne Crescent, Studley Crossroads, crossings and traffic calming.	Use survey evidence to support engagement with Wiltshire Council; identify priority locations; pursue enforcement, traffic-calming and parking measures.
Roads, pavements & footpaths	7+	Poor road surfaces, potholes, uneven footpaths, overgrown routes and concerns about safe walking access.	Undertake a parish walking/footpath audit and maintain a prioritised list of issues for Wiltshire Council.
Children, young people & recreation	5+	Requests for under-5 play equipment, swings, equipment for older children, goalposts and sports markings.	Develop a Petty Acre improvement plan covering play, sport, accessibility, shade and biodiversity.
Trees, green spaces & biodiversity	6+	Protection of established trees, TPOs, more trees, wildflowers, biodiversity and protection of green spaces.	Climate & Environment Group to explore a parish tree and biodiversity programme.
Community hub & social opportunities	5+	Demand for a meeting place, café, community hub, film/event nights and more opportunities to connect.	Map existing facilities and groups; explore a community hub/café model and additional programming.
Allotments & community growing	3+	Requests for allotments and a possible community allotment/growing space.	Investigate land availability, demand and partnership options.
Communication & engagement	4+	Better engagement, clearer information about groups, more meaningful meetings and stronger parish-wide collaboration.	Review engagement methods, timing of meetings and how information reaches new and existing residents.

Note: 'Indicative mentions' reflects qualitative coding of the 25 substantive responses. Because responses could mention several issues, the figures are not intended to form a ranking by themselves.

4. Detailed Findings

4.1 Traffic, Parking and Road Safety

This is the clearest priority emerging from the survey. Residents raised speeding, parking, congestion, “rat-running” and pedestrian safety repeatedly. Church Road was particularly prominent, with concerns about its use as a “rat-run”, school drop-off and collection, parking outside the school and church, and traffic flow. The A4 and A342 were also described as busy and intimidating, with requests for lower speeds, average-speed cameras, additional crossings and improved traffic calming.

- Specific locations mentioned include Church Road, Lansdowne Crescent East and West, Studley Crossroads, the A4/A342 and Old Road.
- Residents suggested wider use of Speed Indicator Devices, Community Speed Watch, police patrols, enforceable speed limits, yellow lines and measures to discourage rat-running.
- Several responses specifically suggested that school staff should use the Village Hall car park to reduce congestion.
- The survey provides useful resident evidence that can support future discussions with Wiltshire Council, the school, police and highways partners.

4.2 Roads, Pavements and Footpaths

Road and footway condition is a significant secondary theme. Residents referred to potholes, deteriorating road surfaces, uneven footpaths, overgrown routes, poor verges and drainage. The A4 pedestrian route towards Calne was highlighted as particularly important for people walking, cycling and using mobility aids.

- Consider a parish-wide walking and accessibility audit.
- Create a photographic evidence base and prioritised schedule of highway and footpath issues.
- Use the audit to support submissions to Wiltshire Council and relevant funding opportunities.

4.3 Petty Acre, Play and Young People

Residents value Petty Acre and the existing play area, but there is repeated demand for equipment for younger children, particularly under-fives. There are also requests for facilities for older children and sports users, including swings, goalposts, nets and pitch markings.

- Develop a Petty Acre improvement plan rather than considering individual pieces of equipment in isolation.
- Consider play, sport, accessibility, seating, shade, trees and biodiversity together.
- Engage children, parents and young people directly before finalising proposals.

4.4 Trees, Green Spaces and Biodiversity

The parish's rural character and green spaces are among its strongest assets. Residents mentioned trees, wildlife, countryside, woodland, clean surroundings and community litter-picking positively. Suggestions included Tree Preservation Orders, additional trees, wildflower areas and improved biodiversity.

- Consider a parish tree and biodiversity audit.
- Identify important or locally significant trees and investigate appropriate protection.
- Explore community planting, wildflower areas, hedging and biodiversity improvements.

- Consider climate resilience, including shade on Petty Acre and routes used by pedestrians.

4.5 Community Facilities and Social Connection

Residents strongly value the Village Hall, shop, Post Office, pubs, church, school, community groups and events. At the same time, several responses identified a gap in informal meeting space and suggested a community hub, café, film nights or additional events.

- Explore whether existing buildings could support a regular informal community café or drop-in session.
- Consider a programme of events such as film or theatre screenings and seasonal community activities.
- Improve signposting for new residents so they can quickly find local groups, facilities and activities.

4.6 Allotments and Community Growing

Allotments were specifically requested by several residents, including one respondent who described difficulty accessing allotment provision because of parish boundaries. A community allotment or growing space could also support biodiversity, food growing and community participation.

- Establish whether there is sufficient local demand for allotments.
- Identify possible landowners and sites.
- Consider a community growing model alongside traditional individual plots.

4.7 Communication, Engagement and Parish Identity

Several respondents asked for more meaningful engagement and stronger connections between different parts of the parish, particularly Derry Hill, Studley and Sandy Lane. There were also suggestions for better information about community groups and for reviewing the timing and format of the annual parish meeting.

- Review whether current engagement reaches residents who do not routinely attend meetings or belong to community groups.
- Consider an annual or twice-yearly parish-wide priorities exercise.
- Review the timing and format of the Annual Parish Meeting to maximise public participation.
- Create or strengthen a simple directory of local groups, activities and contacts.

5. What Residents Value

The positive responses are important because they identify the assets that residents want the Parish Council to protect. The most frequently recurring positive themes were:

- Community spirit, friendliness and a welcoming atmosphere.
- Green spaces, trees, wildlife, countryside and walking routes.
- The village's cleanliness and tidy appearance.
- The shop, Post Office, pubs, church, school and Village Hall.
- Community groups, volunteers and events.
- The quiet/rural character of the parish.
- Petty Acre and other open spaces.

The survey therefore suggests that residents are not seeking wholesale change. The prevailing message is to protect the character and community strengths of the parish while addressing practical problems and filling a small number of clear gaps.

6. Proposed Parish Council Response

Theme	Specific Issues Raised	Response
1. Traffic, Parking & Road Safety	Speeding. Church Road was the most frequently raised issue, but speeding was also identified as an issue on the main roads, as well as other locations such as Lansdowne Crescent East. Parking in Derry Hill. School parking was the most frequently raised issue, but outside the church and Kingston House were also raised as issues. Road junctions. Studley Crossroads and the A4/A342 junctions were both raised as issues.	Road Safety Working Group to consider and incorporate proposed response into the Council's Strategic Plan.
2. Roads, Pavements & Footpaths	Road condition. Church Road was raised as a specific issue and has now been resurfaced, but other roads in the village are also in poor condition. Pavements and Footways. The condition of footways (surface and weeds) was raised as a general issue with specific mentions of the A4. The desire for safer walking routes was also raised. Two respondents raised completion of the cycle path from the A4 to the Lansdowne Hall. Residents also suggested that the Council should seek to establish additional walking routes around the village.	Road Safety Working Group to consider and incorporate proposed response into the Council's Strategic Plan. Footpaths & Rights of Way Working Group to consider potential for additional permissive paths to complement the existing network of footpaths and bridleways.
3. Petty Acre, Play and Young	Provision of additional play equipment was raised, especially for younger children. Further suggestions were made such as nets on the goalposts, marking of pitches, additional benches and paths across Petty Acre.	Council to establish a Community Amenities Working Group to review provision and make recommendations.
4. Trees, Green Spaces and Biodiversity	Respondents made a number of suggestions, including more flowers/planters in the village, improving the biodiversity on Petty Acre, protection of iconic trees with TPOs, a community wildflower meadow and the protection of green spaces.	Community Amenities Working Group to consider suggestions for Petty Acre. Climate & Environment Working Group to consider other suggestions and incorporate the proposed response into the Council's Strategic Plan.

Theme	Specific Issues Raised	Response
5. Community Facilities and Social Connection	Suggestions included more community events, a pop-up café, film nights, a seasonal produce or craft show, a support network for the elderly or sick and improved sign-posting to local groups and activities.	Engagement and Participation Working Group to consider and make recommendations, taking account of potential for overlap with the Community Committee.
6. Allotments and Community Growing	Four residents suggested provision of allotments.	Climate & Environment Working Group to revisit the potential for allotment provision and make recommendations.
7. Communication, Engagement and Parish Identify	Several residents suggested better communication, community engagement and maximizing participation in the annual Parish Meeting.	Engagement and Participation Working Group to consider and make recommendations.
8. Other Suggestions	Other suggestions included a drinking water fountain, a cycle repair station, a post box for the western side of Derry Hill, and renovation of a dry stone wall along Old Road. Anti-social behaviour (cannabis smell) was also raised as an issue by one respondent.	Parish Council to seek a new post box for the western end of Derry Hill to replace the one previously outside the old shop. Parish Council to liaise with the neighbourhood policing team.

7. Issues Requiring External Partners

A number of the most frequently raised concerns are outside the direct powers of the Parish Council. The survey can nevertheless provide useful local evidence when engaging with partner organisations.

Issue	Likely partner	Suggested approach
Speed limits, traffic calming, parking restrictions and road surfaces	Wiltshire Council Highways / LHFIG	Submit consolidated evidence and prioritised locations.
School-time parking and traffic management	Derry Hill School / Wiltshire Council	Joint site review and agreed parking/drop-off measures.
Speed enforcement and patrols	Wiltshire Police	Share survey evidence and request targeted enforcement/community support.
Allotments	Wiltshire Council / relevant landowners	Explore opportunities.
Post Office / local services	Post Office / service providers	Support resident feedback and local service continuity where appropriate.

8. Limitations and Interpretation

- The survey generated 25 substantive responses, so the findings should be treated as indicative rather than statistically representative of the whole parish.
- Open-ended questions allow respondents to raise multiple issues; consequently, theme counts overlap.
- Residents who responded may not represent those who did not engage with the survey.

- The survey does not establish the feasibility, cost or legal powers associated with suggested actions.
- Some comments express individual preferences or concerns rather than a broad community consensus. These should be investigated before being adopted as Council policy.

9. Conclusion

The 2026 Parish Survey provides a positive but practical picture of life in Derry Hill, Studley and the wider parish. Residents value the strong community spirit, countryside, green spaces, local facilities and the work of volunteers. The principal request is not for fundamental change, but for the Parish Council to help address a number of persistent practical issues and to build on the parish's existing strengths.

Traffic, parking and road safety should be treated as the highest priority for external advocacy and partnership working. Alongside this, the Parish Council has several opportunities for tangible local projects, particularly improvements to Petty Acre, tree and biodiversity work, walking and accessibility, allotments/community growing and community activities.

It is recommended that the Parish Council uses these findings to establish a small number of clear priorities for 2026–27 and beyond, with named leads, timescales and measurable outcomes. Publishing a short summary of the survey findings and the resulting actions would also demonstrate to residents that their contributions have directly informed Council priorities.

10. Recommendations

It is recommended that:

1. The Parish Council notes the contents of this report.
2. The Parish Council establishes a Community Amenities Working Group to consider suggestions for Petty Acre and make recommendations.
3. That Parish Council Working Groups consider the survey responses and this report, and incorporate their recommendations into their sections of the Council's Strategic Plan.