

East Farndon Parish Council

2021 Village Residents Survey Results – Nov 7th 2021

140 Hardcopy Surveys Issued, 58 Received (43 Online, 15 Hardcopy)

Appendix 1 - Survey Details Including All Comments

Question 1: Parish Council communication currently consists of the Village website at eastfarndon.org, Village pages on Facebook and Instagram, and notices placed on the Village Hall notice board. Do you think these communications are sufficient?

Total Responses: 57 **Yes: 44 (77%)** No: 13 (23%)

Comments (20) Summary: Although the majority felt existing communications were sufficient, the comments suggested that residents supported an occasional paper newsletter.

1. Especially for older residents. Could there be a monthly village newsletter now that the church magazine is no longer??
2. E-mail circulation to residents facebook etc. are too prone to interference.
3. I think the newsletter is the best communication for all, as not everyone uses social media.
4. "Farndon Matters" was excellent and reached everyone
5. We need clarification on which facebook group to use for what. We also need confidence that everything is being communicated via the facebook page - I feel that somethings are missed.
6. Email circulation list please notifying residents who don't use facebook / instagram that there is new news on the website
7. I would like to see regular Newsletters
8. Email also would be appreciated
9. An occasional newsletter through everyone's door. Not everyone has access to the internet or remembers to look at it if they have
10. Paper copy for those who don't use social media.
11. Paper newsletter for those without internet access
12. Bi-monthly print newsletter by request only for those without technical skills. Additional noticeboard OUTSIDE the Village Hall, there is insufficient room for village notices on the current one.
13. Village newsletter via email and hard copy similar to the Clipston Courier but smaller scale
14. Some form of hard copy to replace the Village Newsletter
15. Fine for me but aware that the older population may not be so compatible with on-line communications.
16. Village newsletter.
17. What if people do not have access to the internet.
18. As long as information is repeated across the different social media, please don't rely on Facebook / Instagram alone.
19. The newsletter through the door will be restarting in the new year. "No" is wrong, the more information given out helps it to stick in the mind.
20. A hardcopy newsletter would be good, but it is expensive to produce and could be a waste of paper. Maybe have a system where a neighbour will print the newsletter off the website for their neighbour if they don't have internet access.

Question 2: What Village services could the Parish Council add or improve upon and would you support an increase in the local annual council tax (precept) to fund these?

Comments (39) Summary: Around a third of those that commented did not feel there were services that should be improved. Of those that did identify possible improvements, a wide range of suggestions was received, including a park / playground, footpath improvements, streetlight improvements, social events and Spring renovation.

1. More speed reduction measures
2. Yes to increase, a playground.
3. A minibus shuttle service to Town Centre, bus and train station
4. Possibly a 'Good Neighbour Scheme'. The villagers showed their support for fellow residents when 'Lockdowns' were introduced. However, I haven't lived in the village long enough to know if there is a need for such a scheme. I would support an increase in the precept to support any service if there is a need for it.
5. The precept must meet the essential running cost of Village affairs.
6. Council tax rise was over the legal limit - so definitely no additional increase. The roads in the village need the most work and West Northants should prioritize the maintenance and upgrading of basic local services rather than investing in new projects that are not so vital. They need to pass that message up the line to National Government too.
7. Better maintenance of foot paths, especially behind the village hall. We need a play area for children.
8. More outdoor community things
9. No housing development that will ruin wildlife and environment
10. A few more street lights
11. The provision is already good. Perhaps more cutting back of hedges which overhang pavements and footpaths. The pavement along Main Street is very narrow near the top where a thick hedge grows and quite a few footpaths have a lot of stinging nettles and brambles. Could farmers be asked to keep cows out of fields with public footpaths given recent attacks?
12. I'd love to see a little park for the kids.
13. The PC precept is quite a modest part of the overall rates - but nevertheless the rates have and are due to increase substantially. I would prefer to see the PC applying more pressure to WNC for them to perform their functions properly than for the PC to take on more WNC duties
14. No
15. None
16. Nothing specific. See what crops up and raise more money as needed.
17. Maintaining the footpaths
18. More social events and yes
19. I can't think of any
20. None that I can think of
21. Support for double yellow lines (and enforcement) where vehicles are parked in dangerous positions
22. We would like to see new signs for the village and improved flowers on entering the village. Much like Clipston has.
23. None
24. Destination for families to meet, park.
25. Recreational/Children's play park.
26. None
27. Can't think of any
28. Get back to pre-Covid activities i.e. Harvest Supper, Fish & Chip Supper, BBQ, The Fete in Summer.
29. No increase in council tax.
30. Yes.B

31. Better street lighting, particularly on the unlit paths. Would support an increase in precept for this.
32. Not sure at 87 years old.
33. I think the precept will have to rise to keep up with inflation and what happened to sorting out the "Spring" and "why are we not planting trees" (why not make this a village event)
34. Develop and implement measures that help to reduce climate change.
35. More speed checks
36. No more on council tax.
37. None really.
38. Review the efficiency of the speed sign near Farrer Farm as it only appears to work occasionally.
39. Refurbish the Spring. Yes I would support an increase to support this.

Question 3: What events or activities would you like to see more of to bring the Village together?

Comments (43) Summary: The most popular suggestions were quizzes, pub nights and family orientated events. Many of the comments mentioned using the Village Hall as a social focal point.

1. Pub nights, quizzes, Carol singing
2. Quiz nights, charity events, festive events, summer fete, bake off events
3. More interesting presentations about local matters including history, geology/topography, events and local points of interest
4. Carol service, could be outside on Marriott Green
5. Film evenings.
6. Difficult as it requires volunteers committed to "long term" leadership
7. COVID has had an impact on local activities - perhaps more outdoor activities would be a good idea?
8. More social events aimed at families.
9. Social walks, village club
10. Late night walk
11. quizzes, summer/christmas fayre, carol singing (I appreciate COVID)
12. cheese and wine/ quiz/
13. Fun days - themes ones. Love the halloween party coming up in village hall - we will be going!
14. I think this is more the role of the Village Hall committee
15. Seasonal celebrations
16. None
17. Events not usually organised by PC. But maybe Platinum Jubilee 2022?
18. More events for children. eg. Easter Egg Hunts, Christmas party.
19. Social events - bookgroup? more village hall pub nights or quiz nights
20. Events for families and especially those with children under 5.
21. Tree planting
22. More events in the village hall eg monthly quiz nights
23. Village hall events such as quizzes etc. for all age groups
24. Christmas lights on or around the village hall with a turning on night - ticketed (presents for children attending and a bar) . Bonfire night/fireworks.
25. Better publication of what is on to reach all households without relying on village website and Facebook
26. Whist Drives in Village Hall
27. Pub nights, BBQ's, seasonal get togethers in each other's gardens?
28. Music/food festivals
29. None
30. More Pub & Quiz nights if possible
31. More community get togethers, Supper evenings, BBQ, Fish & Chips etc.

32. More Fetes and Car Boot Sales.
33. Regular pub night.
34. Organised events, Christmas, Easter, Summer get togethers suitable for families.
35. Would like to see return of village fete, more social evenings in the hall.
36. Village hall events i.e. film shows, plays, etc etc etc
37. Village fete, Christmas party, More events Village Hall
38. More quiz nights with different foods e.g. curry night, pizza night, as well as fish & chips
39. Social events in the Village Hall
40. Pub nights in the village hall. Village fete or fayre. Quiz nights. Village rounders match.
41. None really.
42. Pub night quiz etc.
43. Quiz nights, events at the Hall.

Question 4: Dog waste fouling and the littering of dog poo bags is a growing issue in the Village. Would you support investment to add more public waste collection bins, each bin costing £250 to buy and £289 per annum for it to be emptied professionally?

Total Responses: 55 **Yes: 38 (69%)** No: 17 (31%)

Comments (24) Summary: The comments indicated that residents felt dog owners should be more responsible.

1. Bin needed between village hall and bus stop
2. Un hygenic fouling is a health risk to children and other pets
3. A Council service from Precept
4. This is not a priority - I feel dog owners should be encouraged to take their waste home to dispose of.
5. However I haven't noticed this
6. Perhaps 1-2 more, but dog owners who want to clear up will carry the bag home. Suspect those who don't wouldn't pick up pooh even if there were more bins.
7. I've not noticed any to be honest!
8. I have no issue with a couple of dog waste bins though i don't think dog waste is a particular problem in the village. Dog walkers should be encouraged to take their dog's waste home and I'm not sure bins encourage this. The prices quoted to me seem about 50% too expensive.
9. Haven't personally noticed this issue
10. Doubtful about this - would the culprits use them if they don't at present?
11. Farndon residents take their own waste home. It is people walking dogs from outside of the village.
12. Plus fines to offenders.
13. Depends where they are going.
14. I haven't noticed an increase in this problem in walking through the village
15. Most people do pick up their dogs poo
16. An ongoing problem! Some people just do not care!
17. I think there are enough bins.
18. Owners should be made responsible.
19. We need at least 4 bins around the village.
20. Bin by the Village Hall bench is erroneously used as a dog poo bin but doesn't have a lid – smells horrible if you are sitting on the bench.
21. Dog owners should take responsibility and take it home, it shouldn't be non dog owners paying for this type of service and it's expensive
22. As a land owner people use poo bags then drops them by the gates

23. As a resident we have not seen this as a major problem. There are already 2 bins, dog owners should be responsible and be prepared to take it home. Where would they be sited?
24. I do not think this will help. People need educating to pick up & dispose.

Question 5: The Parish Council has taken many actions to try and limit vehicles speeding through the Village. What further actions, if any, should we take in relation to this ongoing issue?

Comments (50) Summary: The most popular suggestions were speed bumps and permanent / average speed cameras. Other suggestions included pinch points, chicanes and 20 mph speed limit.

1. Flashing sign indicating speeds at top and bottom of hill
2. Humps
3. Try to get a 20mph limit along the main road through the village including speed bumps, these should ensure that cyclists slow down. They are quite often travelling at in excess of 35-40 mph at the lower end of the village. This is very dangerous, as it easy not to see them when there are parked cars etc.
4. Get a police camera van, maybe once a month which would act as a deterrent to stop speeding as it does through Maidwell
5. Fine as it is. All the cars parked on the left hand side as you come up the hill can be very dangerous with a particular bad area on the corner. It's and accident waiting to happen.
6. A 20mph speed limit. then it may reduce to 30mph. Cyclists seem to be some of the worst offenders.
7. Pinch Points at various positions on main road.
8. This is difficult - keep up the good work.
9. Permanent speed camera, speed bumps.
10. Speed bumps or chicane
11. Speed camera
12. A speed camera would be beneficial. Cars speed down the hill
13. Average speed cameras like in Walcote, three chicanes (top/ middle/bottom)
14. Move the '30' sign into the village from Harborough down the road a little more so vehicles approach slower. By the time they reach the 30 sign they are pretty much in the village
15. Speed camera's or speed bumps
16. Get WNC to install Average Speed cameras top and bottom of the village
17. Continue to encourage mobile police vans to come to the village
18. None
19. Further investigation of pinch points, speed bumps or other obstacles.
20. Speed camera.
21. Pinch points either end of village
22. Speed camera, hazard lines painted on the road, speed bumps and sleeping policemen
23. More police involvement with camera vans
24. Sign that advises exact speed at bottom end of the village
25. Push for a chicane at the bottom of the village.
26. Double yellow lines through Main Street to remove risk of collisions and blind spots that aggravate the situation.
27. Reduce the speed limit from Harborough to East Farndon
28. Average Speed Cameras. More signage
29. Installation of speed humps
30. More cars parked on the road, cameras would be a dream.
31. Avg. speed cameras
32. Speed camera

33. Obviously the best thing would be to have averaging speed cameras but as this is not a major main road and the cost is very high for this, that's not possible. Good to hear the Police are attending every now and then and catching some of the Perpetrators.
34. More publicity about the problem and the response to it
35. Main Street narrowing and/or preference flow as per Welland Park Road.
36. Speed humps and stop parking on the road.
37. More prosecutions, make drivers attend court.
38. Change 40mph on Clipston Road to 30mph. Harborough Road section near bus stop is the worst for speeding – installation of speed bumps would really help.
39. 20 MPH ??
40. Traffic calming, particularly given the proposed increase in housing mentioned in page 2. Also more consideration to increased HGV vehicles using village roads. Also speed limit reconsideration between East Farndon and Market Harborough.
41. Cannot think of anything.
42. The “only” thing that works is “average speed cameras” Walcot has them, it has the road covered both ways through the village and it has been a great success. (we know the van is not working as motorist yip each other off)
43. Chicanes, Speed Bumps, One way system down / round Back Lane / up Main Street to stop speeding down hill.
44. The only real answer is average speed cameras like in Walcote
45. Speed checks at the top of the village. Drop speed to 30mph as cars enter Village from Clipston. Drop speed to 20mph as cars enter Village from Lubenham Road, Children do play
Here
46. Chicanes at the top and bottom of Main Street
47. Chicanes, speed cameras and, if possible, noise meters to deter the motorbikes revving their engines
48. the cars parked on main street slow the traffic down money is the problem county will not do a thing until there is a death sadly
49. Community speed guns where volunteers monitor vehicle speeds. Flashing sign at the top of the Village (near church) before bend.
50. Charge a toll at each end of the Village !!

Question 6: The Parish Council has discussed the possibility of providing a Kids Playground in the Village. Would you support investment and fundraising for this initiative?

Total Responses: 57 **Yes: 38 (67%)** No: 19 (33%)

Comments (25) Summary: The majority of comments supported the creation of a playground and some expressed concerns about cost and finding a suitable location.

1. Make it a pleasant safe play and adults rest area
2. There is a wonderful playground at the bottom of the hill
3. Perfectly good park/playground in Harborough
4. I would support the investment and fundraising.
5. This has been looked at before and found too expensive for the demand
6. I like the open field for children's play and playgrounds cost money and need maintenance. The village is small and it would be underused. There is an underused one on the new Farndon Estate - behind the Farm Shop - we have walked the grandchildren to.
7. This is a priority and I would be happy to support this in any way.
8. Provided there are enough children. the playground in Harb is so close and so good, perhaps a survey to see if parents would really use one in EF
9. Not enough children to support funding
10. Unsure

11. This would be most welcomed as feel this is what the village is missing and would help bring the community together.
12. Not sure about this. Previous efforts found insurance an expense. Also village being so long-drawn out makes location difficult. And crossing road is no joke. Have we enough children here to make it viable?
13. Lovely to have but very expensive to provide (even with grants) and maintain.
14. Only because I have no kids....
15. This would be fantastic and really help to draw young people into the village
16. Could add extra traffic to village . We have dog walks coming up from Market Harborough to walk their dogs on the marriott by car
17. Desperately needed
18. Suggested for many years, but a suitable site acceptable to most people has never been found!
19. Yes, yes, yes !!! There is nowhere that children can safely play in the village. Also no provision for any sporting groups.
20. There are playgrounds in Harborough, Clipston and Naseby. We have the amenity land which has insurance and could have a swing or two.
21. There's a good one at Welland Park, it doesn't seem necessary.
22. Will take lots of effort but it would be worth it.
23. We would support this as long as it is a very safe area.
24. Where
25. The cost of installing, maintaining, insuring playground equipment would be excessive for the small number of resident children. There are green spaces such as Marriott Green and an excellent fully equipped playground in nearby Welland Park.

Question 7: The Parish Council has discussed the possibility of renovating the Spring on Main Street to turn it into a Village feature. Would you support investment and fundraising for this initiative?

Total Responses: 56 **Yes: 42 (75%)** No: 14 (25%)

Comments (19) Summary: The majority of comments supported the Spring renovation and some mentioned that this would be a lower priority for them versus other initiatives.

1. It always was a village feature in my youth (1950's) and I was told that it was a key feature of the village
2. Would need to see the plans and cost before agreeing
3. Like more information
4. I would support the investment. Anything that improves the look and history of the village will be beneficial.
5. Too dangerous
6. I think the money could be raised by coffee mornings etc...
7. Only because I think there are more pressing things that the money could currently be used for
8. More important things for funds to be spent on !!
9. However a park would take preference.
10. Shouldn't prove expensive and it's a bit of our history.
11. Anything to make the village pretty
12. This has been talked about for many years but nothing has been done to improve it in a sustained way
13. Would love to see ongoing maintenance / cleaning.
14. It would come below playground in terms of priority for the village.
15. A simple tidy up would be ok, not sure that spending a lot of money on this is a priority.
16. This is a very good idea.

17. No unless it has particular historical interest.
18. I have done some work but no follow up.
19. We support it being cleaned and tidied but feel it is in too dangerous place on the main road to make it a frequently visited feature.

Question 8: The Parish Council has recently received complaints about Microlites flying over the Village at low level. Does this activity cause you concern? If concerned, what further action do you think should be taken?

Total Responses: 58

A Great Deal: 6 (10%) A Lot: 7 (12%) A Moderate Amount: 10 (17%) A Little: 15 (26%)

None At All: 20 (35%)

Comments (27) Summary: 61% of respondents were only a little or not at all concerned about microlites and 65% of respondents expressed some concern.

1. Not so bad this year but perhaps going forward the landowner allowing take offs and landings could agree to a limited number of flights
2. There isn't just microlites, there were large aircrafts flying very low over the summer
3. Very low flights are noisy and an intrusion on people's privacy
4. It is very annoying when these are flown over gardens. Is it possible for them to be restricted to flying over fields only? Are microlites registered so owners can be identified?
5. Flying days from a given site are (I think) numbered by the permissions granted. The Club then has to move to another of their flying grounds
6. They are lovely...
7. Not allow over property
8. should be limited to one day per calendar month to try to meet everyone's needs
9. Just a bit irritating at times but not a significant problem.
10. Whatever action is allowed within the law.
11. Tell them to stop
12. They are a nuisance and shouldn't be allowed to fly so close to housing
13. We actually wave at them from our hot tub
14. They are relatively infrequent but are very noisy when they come over
15. Stop it.
16. Don't fly over houses rule, privacy, they don't have to.
17. Haven't been many this year
18. Doesn't really affect us but maybe they could be asked to fly over the fields away from the village perhaps
19. A difficult problem to solve, but it really is a nuisance that you can't be private in your own garden and the noise is disturbing.
20. They fly really low on 'nice' sunny days – they are a nuisance ! Problem with noise and invasion of privacy.
21. Low flying over gardens can feel intrusive on occasion.
22. Microlites have a min and max height at which they can fly. If not happy report them. PS they are not allowed to fly over a town or village of a given size.
23. No fly zone, force them to comply with lower noise engine regulations.
24. Doesn't bother me at all.
25. Do not know what can be done
26. Depending on the numbers. Not too many this summer but if numbers increase it would be of more concern.
27. Microlites are very noisy and should be flown away from residential properties as far as possible.

Question 9: The Parish Council is always looking for volunteers to help with community projects. Would you be interested in becoming involved?

Total Responses: 39 Very Interested: 15 (38%) **Not at all Interested: 24 (62%)**

Comments (31) Summary: Most people who did not want to get involved said this was because they were too old or did not have the time. 16 people volunteered to help and kindly gave their contact details. Names are not published for privacy reasons and the Parish Council will be getting in touch as appropriate.

Question 10: Do you have any other comments, questions or concerns?

Comments (36) Summary: The main two themes were thanks to the Parish Council for its work, and concern about the potential housing development between the Village and Market Harborough. There were also some concerns about drains, roads and pavements.

1. Well done for all your hard work, particularly keeping us updated on the major housing development proposals. Can we have a village petition or examples of objections to send?
2. Improving and developing the village's self interest can be very rewarding. There is much to be recorded and explained especially about the civil war period and WW2
3. The potential housing development increasing the traffic through the village massively
4. I have not lived here long enough to make any further comments. Thank you for what you do.
5. Keep up the good work!!
6. Thank you very much for you wonderful work - very much appreciated!
7. Parking on the main roads and the war memorial end if back lane - its dangerous for drivers and obstructs pedestrians.
8. Stile maintenance
9. Concerns about new housing development.
10. We only moved to the village in June so still not well connected or know much of what the parish council do, but we look forward to meeting more people into the future. We love living here so far!
11. Electric cars will mean we cannot hear traffic due to our poor visibility on Main Street, which is why we would like speed cameras installed, however I do agree with electric cars!
12. Only really concern would be the proposed housing development.
13. I wish the road drains would be unblocked. Also I would like the potholes in back Lane be repaired.
14. More power to the PC for trying to involve the whole village - well done!
15. Parking on the road up the hill is really very bad and dangerous - I think it is only a matter of time before there is a serious accident - double yellow lines should be put in place as soon as
16. I think the Parish Council does a wonderful job. Thank you.
17. Interesting g that the consultations on the proposed developments are in parts of Northants quite distant from the site.
18. No
19. Can someone please open a pub in the village 😊
20. No
21. Very much appreciate the hard work and commitment made by the members of the Parish Council on behalf of the Villagers.
22. Thank You!
23. The state of the pavements. They haven't been cleaned and the drains alongside the path into Harborough and your shoes get filthy.

24. Concerned that the new development between Farndon and Harborough should be stopped. No information provided on village website on what villagers can do.
25. No instructions where to send survey back ?
26. Thank you for the concern of the planning and the newsletter.
27. Thank you to all of the PC for the work they do for the village – it is much appreciated.
28. Property development – houses 1,000+ should be associated with East Farndon. If on Farm Shop side all property will become part of Market Harborough.
29. A field gap to ensure East Farndon remains a village and not dragged into Market Harborough by close proximity of new houses.
30. Yes, how many people will leave the village when it becomes part of Market Harborough?
31. The proposed housing development would decimate the village. Please could we find a way of forming a campaign group (maybe with residents of Farndon Fields and Watson Avenue) to oppose this development.
32. Must do whatever we can to stop the proposed major housing development between East Farndon and Market Harborough.
33. Very large lorries using Lubenham Road.
34. Bus shelter needs painting badly. Hedge of Spring Cottage needs cutting back below drive. Hedge near Village needs cutting on bend, belongs to Home Farm. Drainage needs sorting.
35. I think the Council has hit all the hot points.
36. We are very grateful for the work the Parish Council is undertaking for the Village in maintaining, preserving and improving existing facilities.