

KING'S CLIFFE VILLAGE PLAN 2014





Summary

To produce the Village Plan the thoughts and feelings of the community needed to be gathered. Individual questionnaires were delivered to every household in King's Cliffe in July 2013 and produced an excellent response, we would like to thank everyone who took the time to give your views and have your say. Given the length of the questionnaires, a very broad range of issues were highlighted and included in the Village Plan, this is illustrated by the detailed Action Plan at the end of this document.

Where the responsibility for particular issues can be assigned to a local group this has been done (for example Kings Cliffe Active making funding applications for improvement to the sports facilities, or likewise Underground or Transition for the development of their programmes and services). But for many of the issues formal responsibility rests with one of the Councils (Parish, District or County) and by including them in the Action Plan it is hoped that we will have brought the issues to the fore.

A number of these issues require the wider population of Kings Cliffe to consider their own behaviour and, by highlighting them through the plan and including specific proposals, it is hoped that individuals will respond positively.

Based on all the work undertaken over the last year, the Village Plan Group considered that the following are the key points requiring action:

- Address the range of traffic (parking and speeding) issues with a number of specifically identified risk spots
- Address the issues of dog fouling and litter
- Support the excellent work undertaken by the Underground
- Investigate the frequency and means of communication with villagers and the expansion of effective web based tools, including social media
- Due to the recent and significant growth of the size of the village and with its designation as a Service Centre there is a need for improvement and development of the facilities for Activities and Services, foremost amongst which are Kings Cliffe Active and the newly acquired Village Field
- Maintaining the quality of the village natural environment



Summary cont.

- Maintaining the quality of the village natural environment
- Greater and more effective promotion and support for the services and activities undertaken by the Transition Group and others
- The continued provision of a Health Centre in the village
- The Village has expanded significantly in recent years and that further expansion is considered undesirable and will risk negatively impacting upon the other priorities identified

A number of particular issues have already progressed whilst the Village Plan has been drafted.

- The Post Office has been successfully moved to the Costcutter shop. The preservation of a Post Office service was a key issue identified and it is hoped that the move will be a long term one.
- Transition has established a weekly bus service again directly addressing a regularly identified issue through the consultation.
- The recent and significant developments regarding the education arrangements for children of the village have not been included in the Village Plan as they arose too late to be included in the Village Questionnaire, although education provision was a major concern raised by many respondents.

We hope that we have interpreted the views and identified the concerns of the respondents to the Village Plan Questionnaires of all ages. We hope you will support this Village Action Plan and we continue to welcome feedback.

Andrew Howard
Chairman
Kings Cliffe Parish Council



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Original Aims of the Village Plan

- to cater for the needs of, and involve in discussions, young people in the community who are the future of the village;
- to highlight the importance of safeguarding the natural environment of the village;
- to use the plan as a way to access funding for future developments of benefit to the village;
- to preserve our heritage and maintain the fabulous heart of the village, help local businesses, maintain essential services such as a doctors' surgery and post office, and improve public transport links;
- to encourage more use of the King's Cliffe Active sports facilities, and obtain funding to build on these;
- to get the village to work together as a community and to put the future of the village back into our hands – not to be victims of outside decisions but to take responsibility for our future;
- to give support to the Parish Council



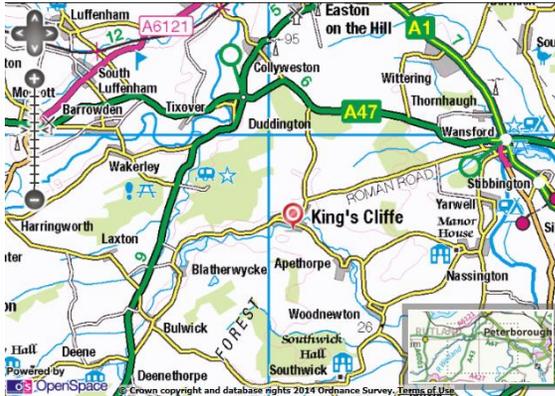
Members of the Village Plan Committee

Shaun Sannerude (ENC Advisor), Jeanne Atkinson (Chair), Chris Leuchars (Secretary), Caroline Yeo (Treasurer), Katy Weeks, Simon Fairhall, Peter Lloyd-Bennett, Ant Maddock, Kirk, Mike Henchy, Jacqueline Tapper, Louise Bowen-West, Sophie Ibbotson, Piers Rhodes-Lewis, Natalie Hicks

Thanks to Sue Trow-Smith for the Historical Background



Location





Introduction

The King's Cliffe Village Plan emerged as a result of discussions between members of the King's Cliffe Parish Council (KCPC) and East Northamptonshire [District] Council (ENC) towards the end of 2012.

Following the Localism Agenda, the ENC were anxious to encourage local communities to become more proactive and to develop Parish Plans which could then possibly turn into more legally binding Neighbourhood Plans. At the same time there was a feeling among many in King's Cliffe that the village needed greater protection. Two major planning decisions – the designation of King's Cliffe as the site for disposal of much of the UK's Low-level Radioactive (nuclear) Waste, and permission for building an extra 145 houses – which were opposed by many in the community, revealed the vulnerability of the village to outside pressures. There was a feeling that the community needed to start taking matters into its own hands and, while it was clear that a Village Plan would not be enough to prevent further decisions of this kind, at least it would give local people a feeling that they could take steps to protect and enhance the quality of life within the village and thus regain a measure of control over its future.

In December 2012, at the annual Transition Fair in the Village Hall, information was given out alerting villagers to the intention to initiate a Village Plan, and discussions were had with those visiting to see how much support there was for the idea.

In January 2013 a meeting was called, open to all villagers, to introduce the Village Plan. From this, a Committee of some 12 members was formed, which had its first meeting in February.

The initial tasks of the Committee were to decide on areas for consultation, to put together a questionnaire as the basis of this consultation, and to plan a Village Day to launch the consultation. Help and guidance were given throughout by Shaun Sannerude of ENC, and the experiences of other communities which had carried out such tasks were studied and applied.

The Village Day to launch the plan took place on Sunday 23rd June 2013 in the Village Hall. Some 15 local societies set up stalls to explain what they did and try to attract new members, as did the Parish Council and the Village Plan Committee. The idea of the Day was both to start the consultation process by encouraging visitors to fill in post-its on what they liked, disliked and would like to see happen to the village, and to encourage more community participation by displaying how much the village had to offer. Encouragingly, a number of people from the new houses came and were particularly grateful for this early opportunity to integrate into the life of the village.



The Village Day



Stalls at Village Day



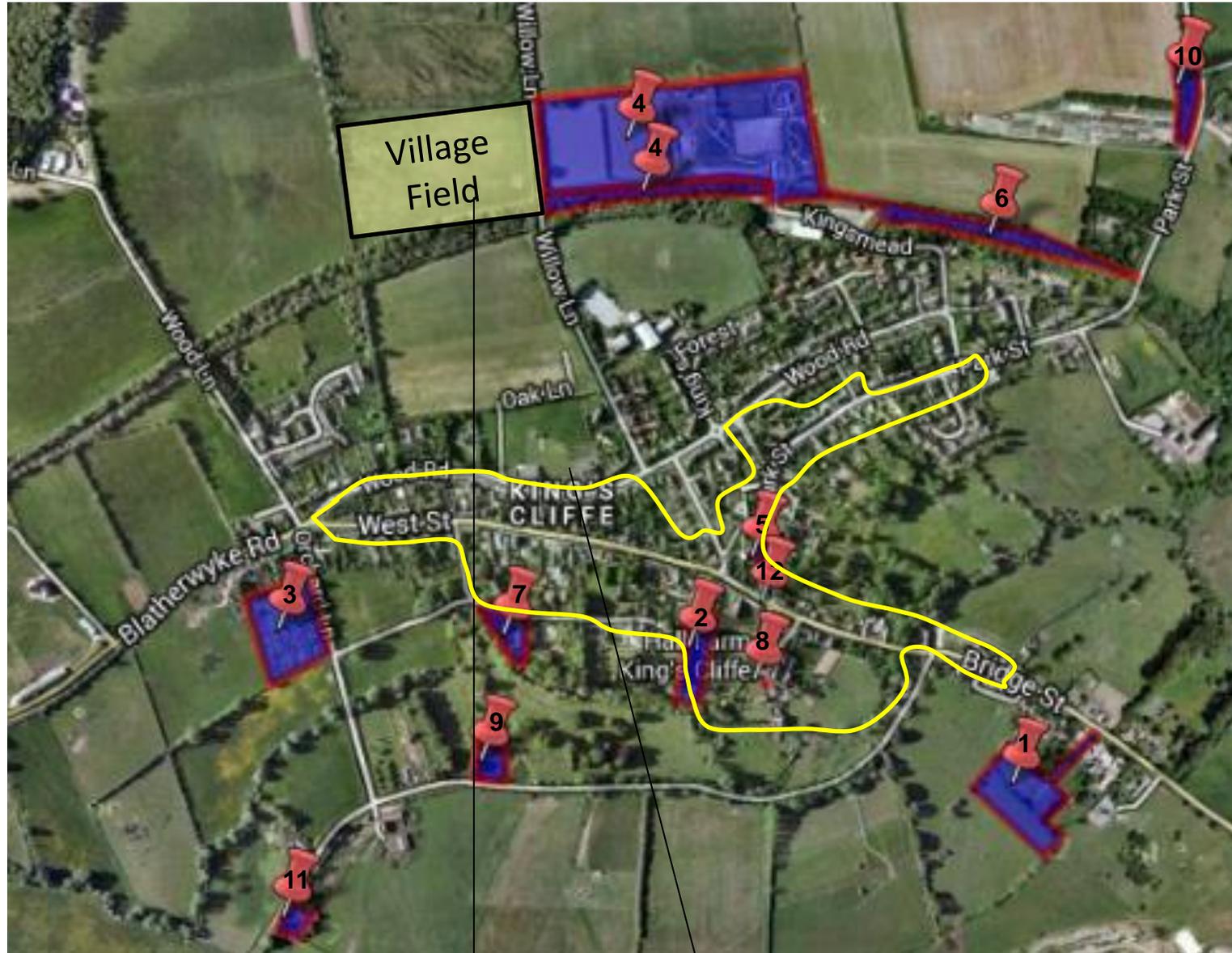
Map plotting addresses of early visitors to Village Day



Parish Assets

(Conservation area in yellow)

1. 'New' Cemetery
2. The Pitchell
3. Allotments
4. KCA sports Ground
5. The Green
6. Willow Walk Pocket Park
7. Malting's Green Pocket Park
8. Fire Station
9. Hills & Holes Pit
10. Stamford Road Plantation
11. Rush Hill Pit
12. The Cross



New Asset

'The Park' play area (to be adopted)



Historical Background

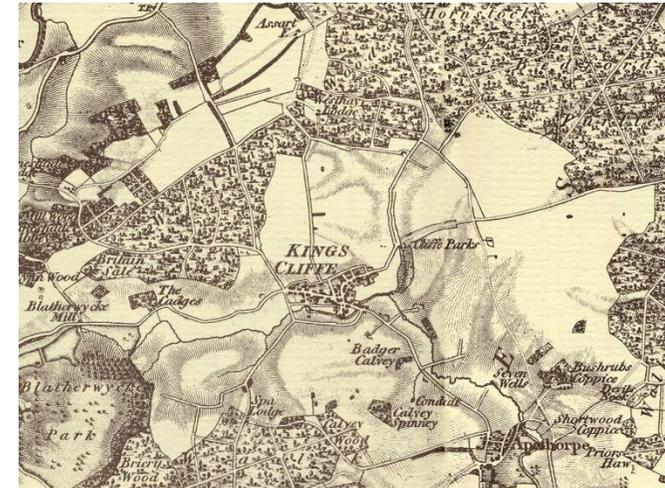


Medieval boundary marker on Blatherwycke Road

King's Cliffe – a Forest Village

King's Cliffe was in the Domesday Book of 1086 as 'Clive', Old English for 'a slope', referring to its position in the valley of the Willowbrook. 'Clive' became a royal manor under King William and was known as 'Clive Regis' or King's Cliffe. It was the principal forest village in Cliffe Bailiwick, one of three administrative areas of the Royal Forest of Rockingham. The King had exclusive rights to all hunting.

Medieval kings visited King's Cliffe to hunt in Cliffe Park. Their hunting lodge, known as 'the King's House', probably stood south of the church at the centre of the village. To provide fish for these royal visits, fish-pools were created by diverting and retaining water from the Willowbrook to the west of the present-day Hills and Holes. The retaining dam at its eastern end was the high earthen bank still visible from Church Walk.



1824 Ordnance Survey map

In 1249 Henry III granted King's Cliffe a three-day fair in late October, and a weekly market. A market cross stood at the crossroads in the centre of the village, an area still known as "The Cross". With its fair and market, the 'town' of King's Cliffe prospered until the 15th century. Its fortunes declined as royal hunting visits dwindled. In 1462 a disastrous fire destroyed 100 houses, the 'King's House' among them. The annual fair and market were suspended and not reinstated until 1604.

King's Cliffe – 'The Wooden Spoon Village'

Records in 1600 show that many Cliffe men earned their living from the craft of woodturning in small workshops. They made a wide range of domestic wood-ware known as 'treen'— spoons, bowls, beakers, pots and containers, clothes pegs, egg-cups, etc. Itinerant hawkers came to Cliffe to buy up the treen to sell at fairs and markets around the country. In 1851 there were 37 wood-turners in King's Cliffe but, by 1900, trade was on the decline: aluminium and plastic killed the market for treen and by the 1930s only two wood-turners remained.



William Bailey, last King's Cliffe woodturner with treen in 1936



King's Cliffe railway station

King's Cliffe Stone

Building stone was another 'export' from Cliffe. Limestone was quarried from several sites around the village from around 1550 until the quarries were exhausted.

Railway

The London and North Western Railway line was opened in 1879 to goods traffic and then to passenger trains. It connected the Northampton and Peterborough line at Yarwell Junction with the Rugby to Stamford line at Seaton in Rutland. King's Cliffe station closed in June 1966 and the line closed to goods traffic two years later.



Historical Background (continued)

Famous Residents

William Law (1686 – 1761) born in King's Cliffe, studied theology at Emmanuel College, Cambridge and wrote many books, pamphlets and letters about his religious convictions. His views were widely read and became part of the great debate about non-conformist religion at the time involving, among others, the Wesley brothers.

In 1727, Law founded a charity school for 14 girls and two almshouses in King's Cliffe. In 1740 he retired to live at Hall Farm, with two wealthy companions, Mrs Elizabeth Hutcheson and Miss Hester Gibbon. The ladies' considerable fortunes paid for food and clothing given to anyone needy and in 1745 Mrs Hutcheson founded a charity school for 18 boys and four almshouses.

In 1873, the Law and Hutcheson charity schools were absorbed into the new village elementary school in Park Street, King's Cliffe Endowed School, which opened in premises bought and extended by the charity. The almshouses in Bridge Street still continue to this day.



Laws Library and Boys School in Bridge Street



Hall Farm

Rev Miles Joseph Berkeley, founder of the study of fungi, lived in King's Cliffe between 1833 and 1868. By 1833, he had become interested in collecting and studying fungi and this remained his life's work. He identified 6,000 new species and collected over 10,000 specimens, many from the woods around King's Cliffe, which he gave to the Royal Botanic Gardens in Kew in 1879.

In 1845 he concluded correctly that potato blight, the cause of the disastrous Irish famine, was a fungus that travelled down the potato plant to the tubers, making them inedible.

Parish Church

The oldest part of the Parish Church of All Saints and Saint James is the tower, built in the early 12th century, though there may have been an earlier Saxon church on the site. The broach spire was added in the 13th century and the rest of the church dates mainly from the 15th century. Burials in the churchyard stopped in 1911, subsequent burials being in the cemetery on the Apethorpe Road.

World War I

Thirty-five men from the village lost their lives in the war, and their names are commemorated in the church. One was Captain Townsend George Powell, of Manor House in West Street. As a memorial to him and all the King's Cliffe men lost in the war, his brother gave a former maltings building in Eagle Lane to be used as a village hall, hence its official name is 'King's Cliffe Memorial Hall'.

World War II

Eight King's Cliffe men lost their lives during the 1939 – 1945 war. Their names are commemorated in the church.

A wartime airfield was created on the high ground beside the road between King's Cliffe and Wansford. Initially a grass-surfaced overspill to Wittering airfield, it was improved in 1943 with tarmac runways, concrete dispersal bays and gun emplacements. Remains of these can still be seen. The memorial on the edge of the airfield, beside the Wansford road, was dedicated on 25 August 1983.



Airfield Memorial on Wansford Road

On 3rd October 1944, at King's Cliffe Airfield, Glenn Miller and his famous 40-piece American band gave what was to be their last hangar concert before Miller was lost on a flight to Paris in December 1944. A memorial stands on the spot where Glenn Miller conducted that final concert.



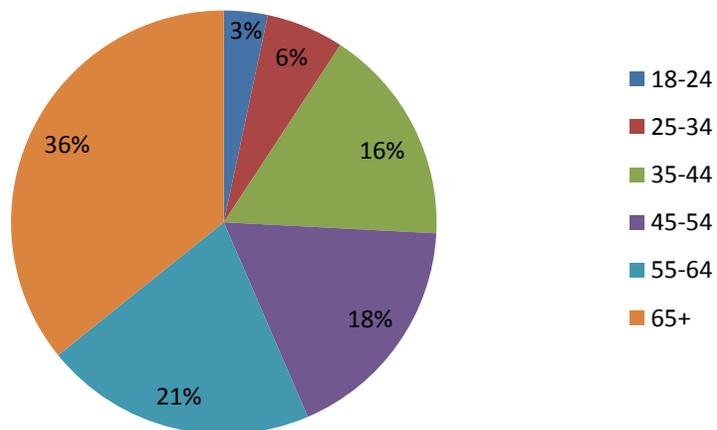
Consultation

It was always the aim that the Village Plan should emerge from the people of the village, rather than being imposed upon them by the Committee, or Parish or District Councils. Therefore, full consultation was at the heart of the process.

Information about the Plan was disseminated through fliers to every household in the Parish, articles in the Nene Valley News, and monthly updates in the Parish Gazette. Villagers were consulted about whether they wished for a Plan at the Transition Fair, about whether they wanted to play an active role at the initial meeting in January 2013, at the Village Day when both oral and written comments were noted, and in a series of questionnaires which went out to every household in July 2013. Presentations were also made to the Endowed School and Middle School to inform children about what was going on, and to invite them to be a part of the process. There were three members of the committee of 17-18 years of age representing the youth of the village.

There were three types of questionnaire: adult, young person (14 -17 year olds), and child. They were distributed and collected by a team of volunteers. Approximately 400 adult questionnaires were delivered, and 271 were completed. The responses were collated by volunteers who summarised the different viewpoints.

Breakdown of those completing adult questionnaire, by age



Village Plan Individual Questionnaire

King's Cliffe Village Plan - Individual Questionnaire

Individual form for adults 18 years plus

We do hope you will complete this questionnaire as it is important. The responses we receive will help us put together a Village Plan that is a statement of what is important to the residents of King's Cliffe.

The Village Plan will be taken into account when decisions are made about our village regarding future development, and when applying for grants to fund projects in the village.

The Village Plan Group is a working group of the Parish Council whose membership includes community representatives from a cross section of the village. The questions have been amended to take account of responses received at the Village Day.

If you would like additional copies of this questionnaire, go to: <http://forum.kingscliffe.net/>

Please answer as many questions as you can. All questionnaires are anonymous

About you

- Q1 How old are you?
- 18-24
- 25-34
- 35-44
- 45-54
- 55-64
- 65+
- Q2 Are you:
- Male?
- Female?

Activities and Services

- Q3 What is your opinion of the following services in King's Cliffe? (Tick ONE box per line)
- | | Excellent | Good | OK | Poor | Don't use | No opinion |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Bridleways & footpaths | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Church | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Play areas | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Cemetery | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Post office | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Public house/social club | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Schools | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Shops | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Takeaways | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Young people

The Plan Committee resolved that everyone in the village above the age of 4 should be consulted, and 3 teenagers volunteered to become members of the committee. Sadly, although questionnaires aimed at children aged 10-13 were distributed to the Middle School, there were not enough returns to make the survey viable. A questionnaire tailored for those aged 14-17, and compiled by those in the same age bracket, was distributed to households, but this had the same result.



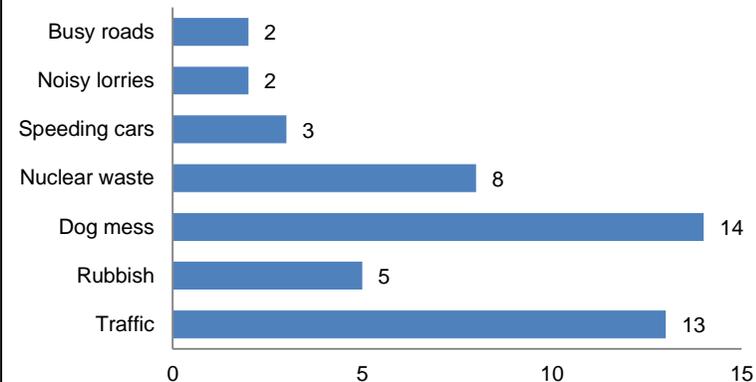
5-9 year-olds

Children at the Endowed School were given their own questionnaire, and most filled it in enthusiastically. In fact there was a return rate of over 90%, which put the adults to shame. Three questions were asked, and the replies were intriguing. Not surprisingly, play areas and shops (notably those selling sweets) came out well. What was particularly interesting was the heavy emphasis on traffic issues in the dislikes box – to this age group this is clearly more than just an inconvenience: it is a real concern.

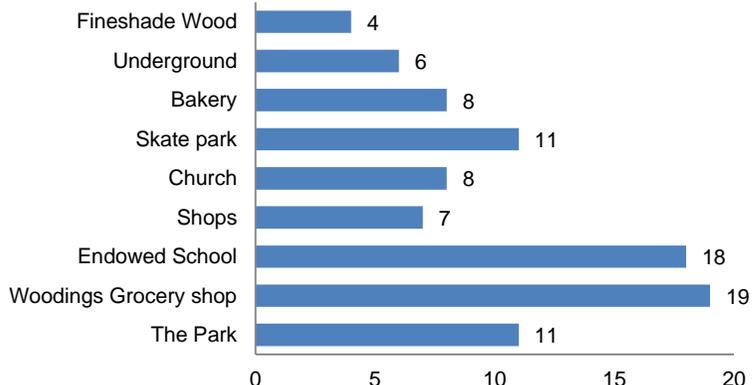


Morning congestion outside the Endowed School

What do you like least about our village?



What do you like most about our village?



Most intriguing response?

What would you like to change about our village?

“Bring back the railway”

Most charming response?

What do you like most about our village?

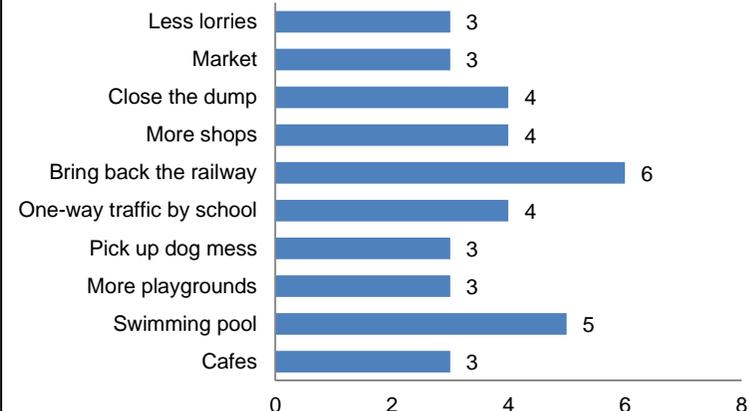
‘The fairies’

Most unlikely outcome?

What would you like to change about our village?

‘Have a castle’

What would you like to change about our village?



Key issues

- Tackling dog fouling
- Speed restrictions outside Endowed School
- Crossing lady needed for school
- Lower speed limit in village

Thanks

Our thanks to the Headteacher, Mrs Dempster, and her staff for the enthusiastic way they went about encouraging and inspiring the children with this project.



Environment Current Situation

King's Cliffe is, in the opinion of many, a notably beautiful, rural village, with an historic centre - along West Street, Bridge Street, Hall Yard and Park Street - of stone houses, many of which date back several centuries. The centre is a conservation area and many of the properties are listed. Around the outskirts there are more recent developments, especially the new houses along Oak Lane.



The rural nature of the village is enhanced by its location, which is a significant distance from built-up areas and main roads. It is surrounded by farmland and ancient woodland, with a gently undulating landscape. Within the village there are various green spaces – a pocket park, the hills and holes, the area around King's Cliffe Active, the Millennium Wood, and the Park off Wood Road, to name a few.

The recent significant increase in housing, along with the designation of King's Cliffe as a Rural Services Centre, have been seen by some as a threat to the character of the village. While the status of the village centre as a conservation area means that there is no immediate threat to its historic appearance, the growth of housing over green spaces is seen by many as a threat to the local environment.



Recent Developments

However, designated green space within the parish has recently been added to with the acquisition of the Village Field just beyond the railway line. The Parish Council are actively courting ideas for how this community area can best be used. Interest in the environment is also being fostered by Transition King's Cliffe who have created a community orchard in the grounds of the Endowed School, and developed a scheme for sub-letting allotments to ease the waiting list.



The Village Field



The Orchard

The Waste Site

Within the Parish boundary, on the northern extremity, lies the East Northants Resource Management Facility (ENRMF), currently owned by Auegan. Until the late 1990's this site was used for gravel extraction, but a proposal to bury highly toxic waste was eventually approved despite widespread opposition from the Parish Council and many residents. An even more controversial scheme to bury Low Level Radioactive Waste, mainly from the nuclear industry, was also approved by the Secretary of State despite opposition from the Parish, District and County Councils. An extension was also approved in 2013, making the ENRMF probably the largest site in the country handling these two types of waste. In 2011, the village, along with 11 others in the area, held a referendum to ask the Parish Council to oppose the disposal of LLW at the site. From a turnout of 54.7%, 98% voted to oppose disposal.

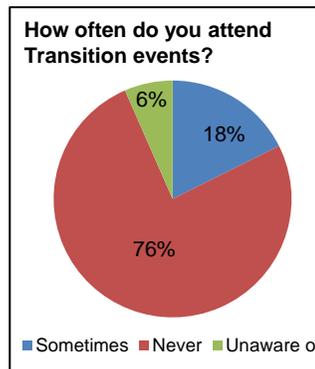




Environment (continued)

Transition King's Cliffe

Transition King's Cliffe is a group of local people committed to helping the village become a more sustainable environment. It is part of the national Transition movement and its aim is to foster small-scale, easily manageable projects that will reduce dependence on cars, encourage the production and sale of local produce, and enable villagers to rely more on the environment around them. There are only, as yet, a few dedicated committee members, and the survey results show that Transition's profile needs to be raised, but there is a steadily increasing band of volunteers, and attendance at the annual Transition Fair is evidence of the growing popularity, and use, of the concept.



New Minibus Service

Starting in March 2014, Transition will be running the first community-owned scheduled bus service out of Kings Cliffe. To start with, it will run a monthly service into Oundle on the second Saturday of each month to coincide with the monthly farmers market. This will partly compensate for the loss of the scheduled bus service and will, hopefully, encourage people to travel without their cars as well as providing a much-needed service for those who are otherwise unable to make this journey.

Endowed School Orchard

This project involved Transition volunteers clearing the patch of waste land that adjoins the school playing field, and planting an orchard filled with a range of traditional varieties of apple tree. A terracing area was constructed on the bank to enable outdoor lessons to take place. Children were involved in the planting and, subsequently, picking and eating of the first crop, and they held an 'Apple Day' to celebrate. With changes to schools in King's Cliffe, it is hoped that this valuable resource can be preserved as a Community Orchard.



Schoolchildren planting trees in the orchard

Bikefix

On the first Saturday of every month the Transition Bikefix crew can still be found on the green at the top of Forest Approach fixing bikes for free/small donation. They also accept any donations of used bikes. These bikes are serviced for re-sale or broken down for spare parts. Any major repairs or servicing jobs are referred to Transition's small business 'Kings Cliffe Bikefix' which offers a full bicycle repair service at reasonable rates. They have also produced a new series of bike ride leaflets. These detail routes for beginner cyclists who are interested in exploring the surrounding tracks, villages, fields and woodland that surrounds Kings Cliffe.



The Annual Transition Fair



Transition volunteers fixing bikes

Allotments

The mini allotments project, in which Transition negotiated with the Parish Council to sub-divide spare allotments, has proven to be a success. All plots were taken quite quickly and some bumper crops were had. The next phase is to cultivate the communal area. The project also aims to compile a directory of local food producers and growers, making it easier for villagers to source local food.

Key issues

- Raise awareness of Transition projects
- Protect Community Orchard
- Access funding for Transition projects



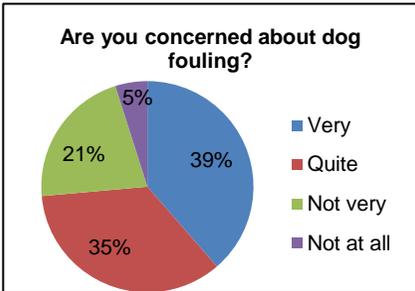
Environment (continued)

Survey Findings

Nuisances

The largest areas of concern, according to the survey, were dog fouling, rubbish and litter.

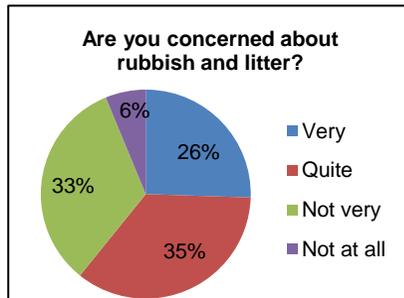
Dog fouling appeared to be a problem all over the village, with Church Walk and the Park particularly mentioned, but other streets also came under criticism. Few solutions were offered, however, apart from providing more dog bins and getting somebody to clean it up.



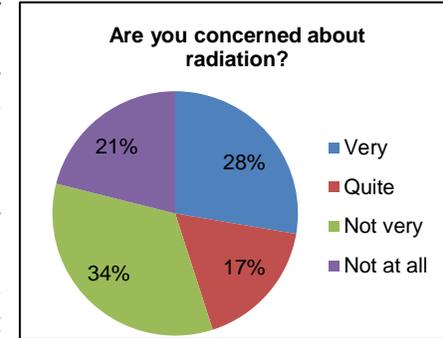
Rubbish dumping seemed to be an issue mainly at the recycling centre, but also in some fields and the Willow Brook. Suggestions for the recycling centre included drop-down bollards and CCTV.

Litter was often linked to rubbish within the survey responses. Most of this seemed to be of the casual small-scale variety but which built up to become a major issue to many residents. Places mentioned were around the Village Hall, shop, and the several little lanes which run through the

village. Again, suggestions for solutions were sparse – more litter bins the popular option.

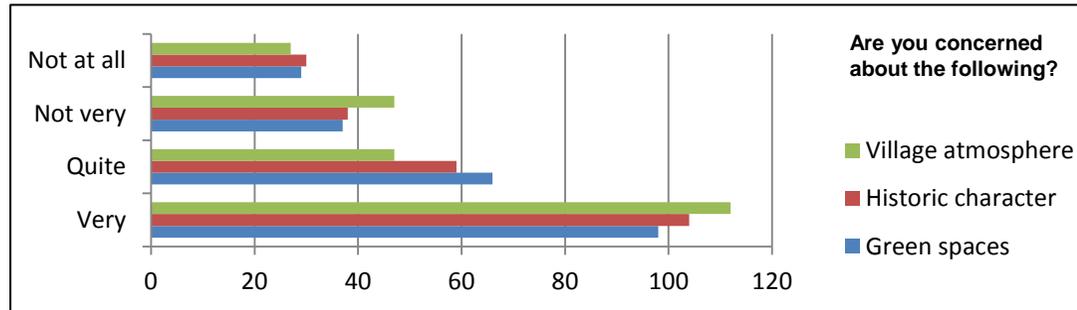


Radiation and toxic waste are still an issue for an appreciable number of residents, though the direct question on radiation found that slightly under half the respondents were actively concerned by it. There is not much that the village can do about this, and no practical suggestions were offered. Despite this survey suggesting that attitudes in general have softened, such statistics are a reminder that this is still an area of concern for a significant number of villagers.



Village character

Questions focusing on the village character show that over 50% of respondents were very or quite concerned about the historic character, village atmosphere and the preservation of green spaces in or around the village. It is also the case that not everyone values these things, and those who were unconcerned formed perhaps a surprisingly large minority.



Comments

- “The litter bin at the playground [Park] is always overflowing and litter is blown around”
- “King’s Cliffe preserves its historic character.”
- “Creeping urbanisation.”
- “Pleasant environment; good community.”
- “Retaining village character is very important.”
- “[In Church Walk] dog and horse mess a regular occurrence.”

Key issues

- Tackling dog fouling
- Tackling rubbish dumping
- Tackling litter
- Monitoring radioactive waste site
- Maintaining green spaces
- Maintaining historic character
- Maintaining village atmosphere



Household and Housing

Current Situation

Since the 1950's, King's Cliffe has seen significant expansion with the area to the north of the village beyond Wood Road becoming the site of groups of new houses. The centre of the village is a conservation area.

The designation of King's Cliffe by East Northamptonshire District Council as a Rural Services Centre has seen the earmarking of the village as a location for current, and future, housing development. This is seen by some as a threat to the integrity of the village. Developers have already bought significant parcels of land with a view to building more housing. The current development around Oak Lane is seen by some as the start of new estates that will encircle the village and lead to a breakdown of that character that makes King's Cliffe what it is. Furthermore, the survey clearly reveals that there is little or no demand within the parish for such expansion.

Oak Lane

In 2012 work began on a development of 145 new houses on a patch of land between Wood Road and the old railway line. While most residents were not against a smaller development, this sudden increase upset some people, particularly since it implied a rise in population of up to a quarter, with concomitant impacts upon traffic in the village. The location of the new estate – tacked on to the outside of the village – has partly created a 'them and us' feel which villagers are working to dispel.



Increase in housing 1898 – 2010
(Oak Lane development outlined)



17th and 19th Century houses in West Street



Modern housing in Oak Lane

The Oldest House?

This house in West Street is thought to be one of the oldest in the village, dating back in parts to the 16th Century



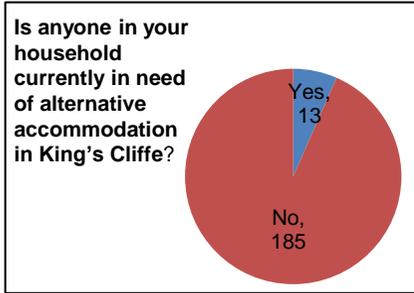


Household and Housing (continued)

Survey Findings

Need for housing

One purpose of the survey was to gain an idea of the need for housing in the immediate future. Although there was some indication of such demand among current residents, this was slight in comparison to the amount of housing stock made available by the new development, and it is clear that any future building on this scale will not be as a result of demand within the parish, but as a response to national targets. This will inevitably affect the character of the village, and some respondents felt uneasy about this.

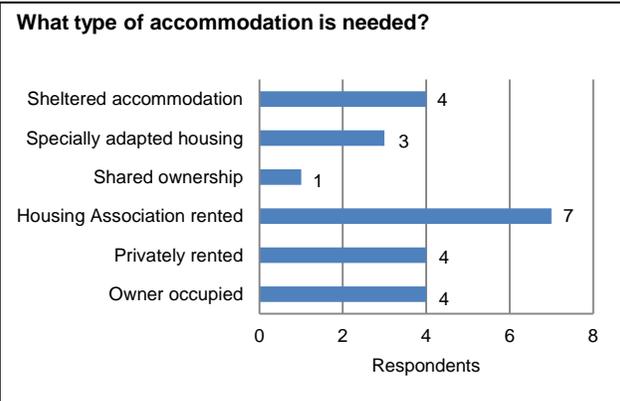


Key issues

- Houses to be integrated into, rather than tacked on to, village
- House building to reflect needs of local community
- Maintenance of character of village by limiting expansion

Type of housing required

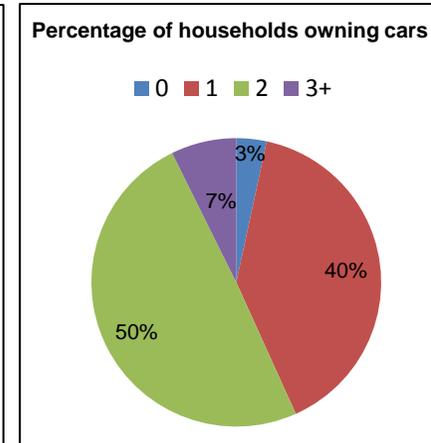
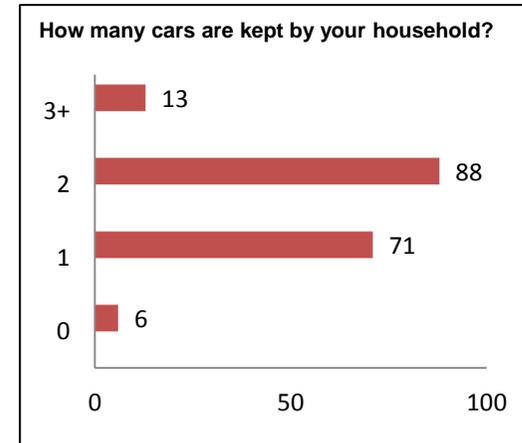
The type of housing required was also considered, and while these figures are relevant only to the present, they give an indication of possible future needs.



This graph clearly shows how limited housing needs are from within the village, and suggests that such demand can be met from existing stock without the need for further large-scale development.

Vehicle ownership

Parking is one of the major issues thrown up by the survey and questions were asked about the number of vehicles that households owned. While these figures do not take into account the number of vehicles that can be parked off-road, they do indicate that a high proportion of households own 2 or more vehicles for which parking space has to be found. Vehicle ownership also has implications for the amount of traffic and vehicle movements within the village. Added to this is the fact that people come from outlying villages to use facilities within the village, such as the doctor's surgery, shop and Endowed School, where they require parking. This has caused problems at these points.



Comments

Although the questionnaire did not ask for comments on housing within the village, many respondents chose to make observations under different headings.

- "Too many houses being built"
- "Stop building on every bit of green space available"
- "Too many big developments may turn it from village to town."



Communication

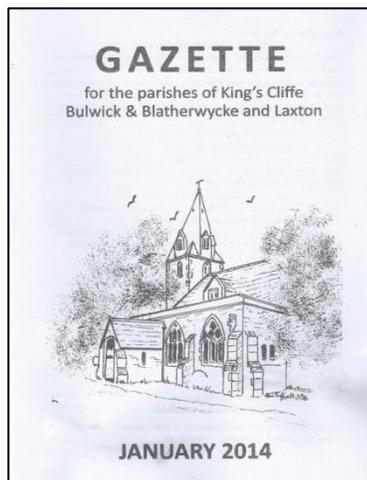
Current Situation

Currently communication about events and activities occurring within King's Cliffe is organised by the many different groups arranging the events and services. Almost all houses in the village receive the Gazette (covering King's Cliffe and surrounding villages) free through the front door each month and the overwhelming majority of respondents use it to learn about events within the village. Village residents also rely on posters, notices in shops and word of mouth to hear about local events.

Survey Findings

Respondents had a wide variety of suggestions as to how they would like to be informed about village events. A majority would like to continue to rely on the Gazette, although many suggested it be expanded, improved and could include a letters page. Other ideas included a monthly diary; quarterly magazine; and a newsletter. Respondents would also like to see digital methods used to greater effect. The Forum should be improved and more widely publicized. Some would like to receive email notifications provided they are not too frequent. Other useful suggestions included a village website; downloadable flyers; a village Facebook site; and a King's Cliffe app.

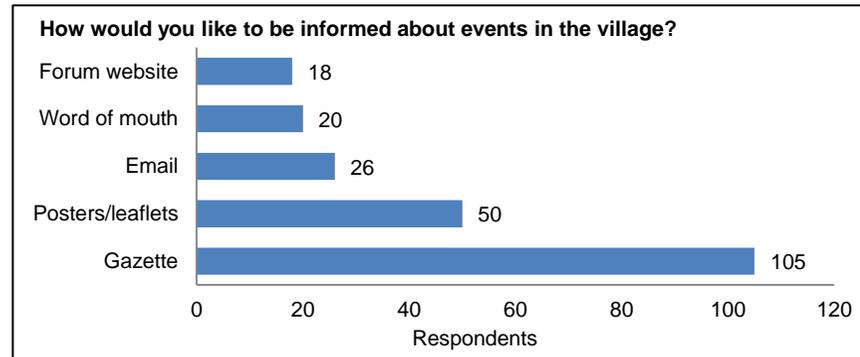
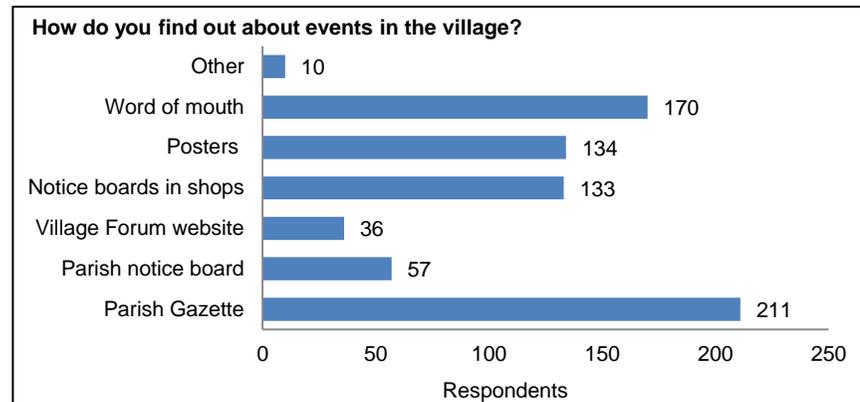
Other ideas about how events and activities could be communicated included a welcome pack for new residents, keeping the Parish Noticeboard up to date and providing information about whom to contact on the Parish Council.



Parish Council noticeboard



Parish Council website



Village Forum website

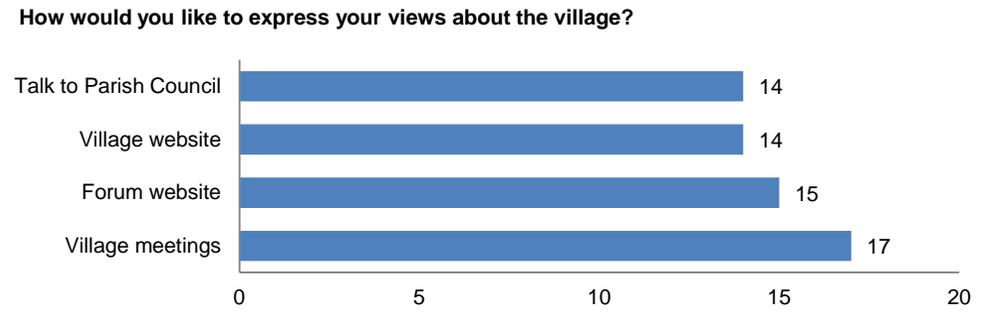


Communication (continued)

Survey Findings

Communicating views

When asked how respondents would like to express their views, many requested digital and social media. Public village meetings would be popular with some as would open days, Village Plan events and a bi-monthly coffee forum. Others proposed a suggestion/comments box, a letters page in the Gazette, a special noticeboard and surveys such as the questionnaire. Several respondents would like to talk directly to the Parish Council while others feel that the Parish Council should be more accessible, more proactive and include younger members. Some would like to talk to the District Councillor, while several felt it would be useful to have one person with whom to discuss things.



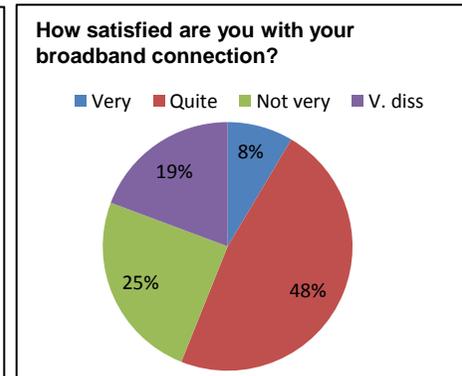
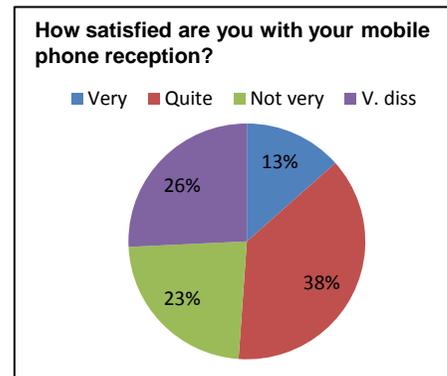
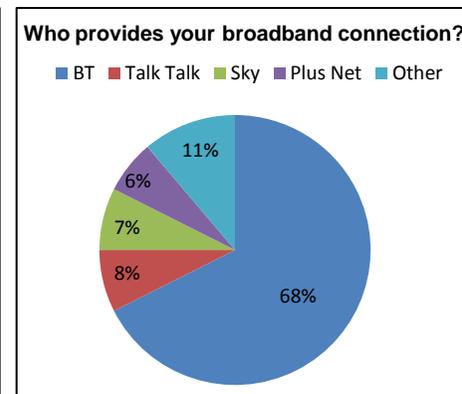
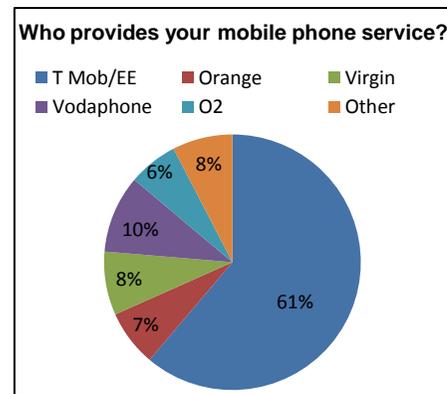
Communication is a vital function in any village. While the existing methods, the Gazette in particular, are effective, the respondents to the Village Questionnaire produced a number of additional ideas. It is important that new digital methods are used. A centralised location for the number of groups, societies and organisations operating within King's Cliffe to publicise their events would be very well received.

Comments

- "Knowing who to contact"
- "Village Hall meetings twice a year"
- "[We need] funding for a more comprehensive website"
- "A website calendar of village events and activities"

Mobile phone/Broadband

King's Cliffe is not in an ideal location for either of these services. As a rural village, it has not yet been prioritised for improved phone signals or broadband. Although superfast connectivity has been promised by the end of the decade, villagers recently faced the inconvenience of having local roads dug up for cables which effectively bypassed them. The dissatisfaction with both services is notable, and this impacts on those attempting to set up businesses in the village as well as those who need efficient communication for daily needs.



Key issues

- Need for improved phone/broadband services
- Need for improved communication within the village



Activities and Services

Current Situation

There are a number of organised sporting, interest, and social clubs in King's Cliffe, as evidenced by the table below. Facilities in the village for these groups include the Kings Cliffe Village Hall and Kings Cliffe Active (KCA) (www.kingscliffeactive.co.uk) the operating name of the charity Kings Cliffe and Area Community Sports Project. The volunteers of the latter have since 2006 raised £1.4 million of grants to create a facility consisting of two full sized football pitches, a multi-use games area, playground areas for children and older young people and a Pavilion including Club Room, equipped kitchen, changing facilities storage and toilets.

Survey Findings

The response to the survey around clubs and activities was very factual rather than opinionated, with a very broad range of clubs and activities in which residents engage, both within Kings Cliffe and elsewhere, including a strong reference to walking. Whilst lots of club and society activities were referenced there was little in the way of a consensus as far as future priorities are concerned, although there was some demand for tennis. There is, however, a very strong case for existing groups needing to promote themselves far more than is clearly apparent now.

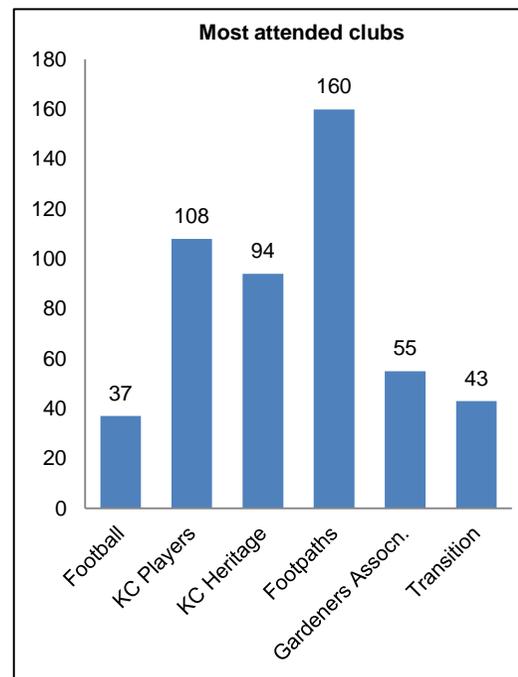
How often do you, personally, attend the following clubs in King's Cliffe?					
	Weekly	Monthly	< 10 times a year	Never	Unaware of
Cricket	2	1	7	215	18
Football	18	4	15	204	7
Hockey	3	0	3	202	31
KC Players	8	8	92	130	10
KC Heritage	0	10	84	141	12
Zumba	6	0	8	200	29
KC Flyers	5	1	4	190	41
Dance	3	1	3	197	41
Footpaths	83	52	25	70	20
Laid Back Ladies	0	6	4	206	24
Old Blokes Club	0	11	6	205	19
WI	0	0	1	216	24
Book Club	0	5	6	172	60
Film Club	0	0	1	160	82
Transition KC	2	6	35	185	16
Womens' Fellowship	0	12	2	206	26
Evergreen Club	0	3	1	206	34
Extend	4	1	3	185	49
Yoga	9	2	12	198	21
Gardeners' Association	1	17	37	158	16



Football at KCA



Zumba at KCA



KC Players rehearse in the Village Hall



Activities and Services (continued)

Current Situation

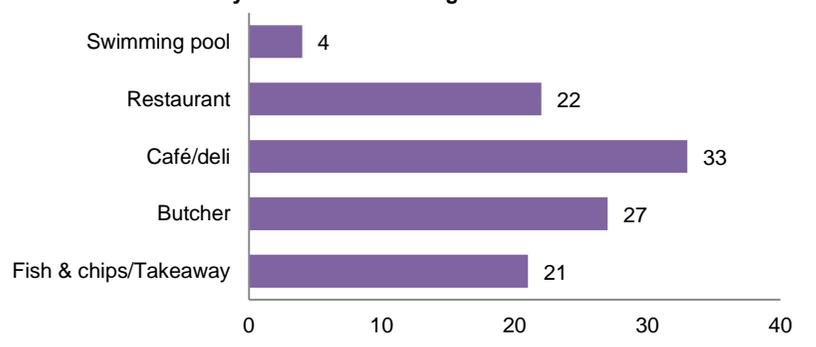
The village has been categorised as a Local Services Centre, but it sometimes struggles to hang on to its services. In recent years it has seen the loss of the bus service, a butcher's, a restaurant – all of which are missed by many of the respondents. While many suggested new services for the village, some were anxious that the village character be retained and that it not be swamped with new facilities.

Survey Findings

There was though very positive feedback throughout of the youth club, the Underground, both in terms of positive comments about the activity it delivers as well as its role in engaging young people away from potentially disruptive activity and thereby a recognition of the importance to continued support and potentially extending its provision. There was a regular reference to improving the current facility provision – which included the quality of the Village Hall facilities (including the space for the Underground) and developing the Kings Cliffe Active facility to provide opportunities for more women's sports (netball) and for the provision of tennis.

What is your opinion of the following services in King's Cliffe?					
	Excellent	Good	OK	Poor	Don't use
Bridleways & footpaths	22	116	80	20	17
Church	72	112	10	1	58
Play areas	33	75	53	7	74
Cemetery	26	82	33	1	89
Post office	108	106	33	8	5
Public house/social club	29	77	61	43	41
Schools	41	67	23	16	105
Shops	102	127	28	4	0
Takeaways	14	47	36	43	81
Village Hall	62	119	44	1	24
Sport spaces	55	76	25	0	80
Pre-school facilities	21	37	15	2	135
Doctors surgery	43	100	76	20	12

What services would you like to see in King's Cliffe?



King's Cliffe Village Hall



Volunteers from Underground plant trees at KCA

Key issues

- Better promotion of (existing) activities
- Support for the youth club
- Improvement to facilities
- More female sports facilities (netball, rounders) and tennis

Comments

- "My daughter goes to youth club every week – what an asset to the village, absolutely phenomenal!"
- "More info needed about these clubs and more advertising"
- "More kids activities and clubs"



Travel and Transport

Current Situation

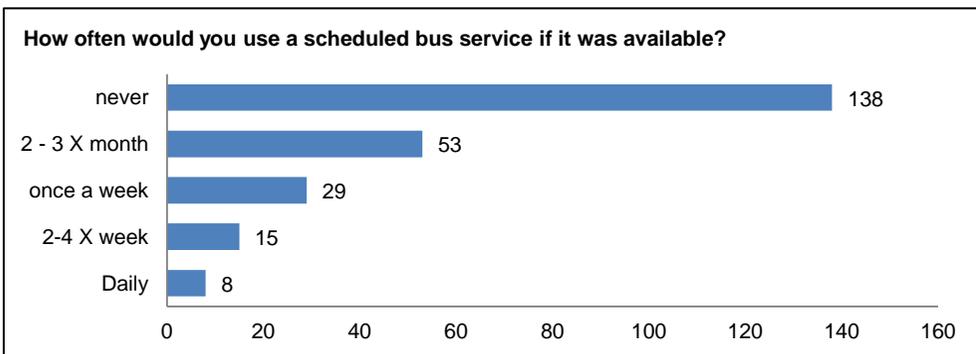
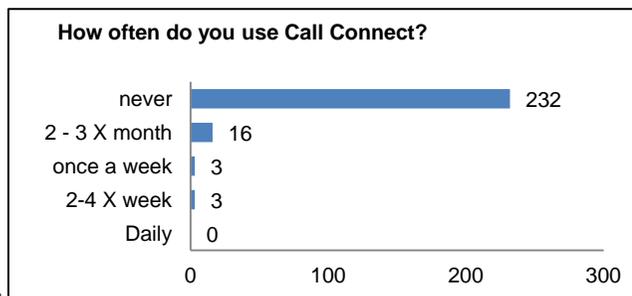
Public Transport

The bus service which was run by Mark Bland connecting us to Oundle, Stamford and Peterborough no longer operates, which means that people who use the bus now have to rely on Call Connect. This is an on-demand bus service that operates only in response to pre-booked requests (on a 'dial a bus' basis). There is no fixed timetable as the route the bus takes is defined by passenger demand and can differ each day. The Transition group in Kings Cliffe are promoting alternative means of transport such as bicycles, footpaths, sharing lifts and a minibus.

Survey Findings

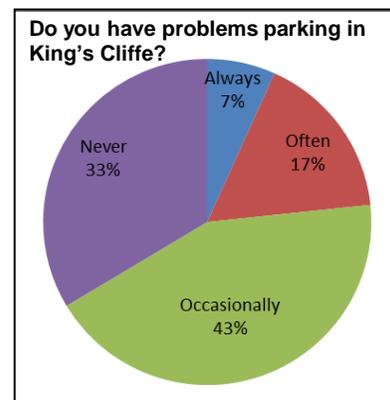
The survey found that 207 out of 230 respondents use a car as their main means of transport, and that most of these would never use a regular bus service even if this was available.

However, perhaps there is a sufficiently large minority to justify a weekly service, with Stamford (38%), Peterborough (37%), Oundle (14%) and Corby (11%) being the preferred destinations.

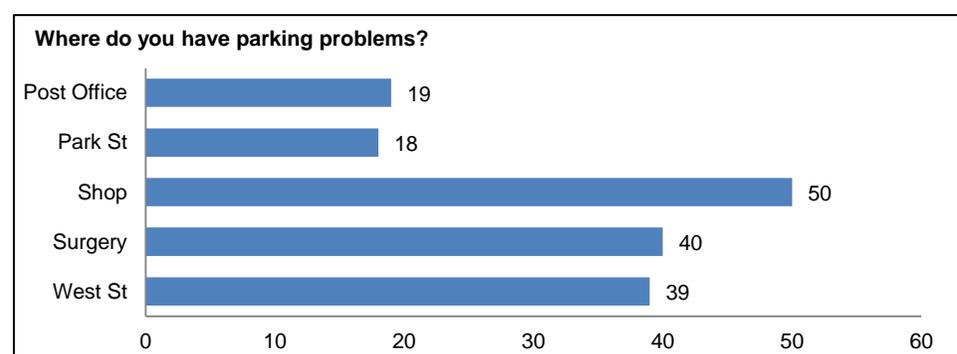


Parking

There is heavy congestion in Park Street at school drop-off and pick-up times. Not only does this cause difficulty for traffic, and school buses, but also creates a hazard for children coming into and out of the school. The pavement is narrow at the school exit, and Park Road narrows as it approaches the Cross, which means that vehicles often mount the pavement. There is also a lot of traffic on West Street which, together with parked cars all along its length, creates difficulty of movement and potential danger. There is little room for parking at the surgery, KC shopper and Village Hall, and congestion results at these points with pavements becoming blocked.



Congestion near the Endowed School



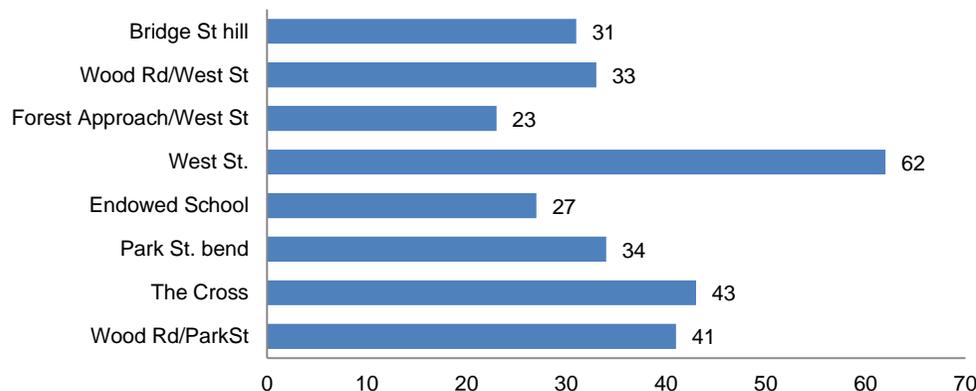


Travel and Transport (continued) Survey Findings

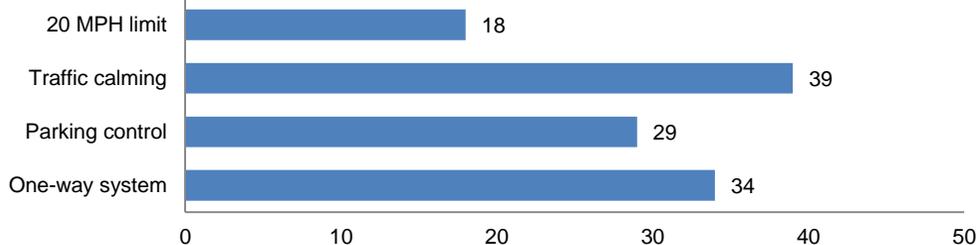
Danger spots

Dangers posed by traffic are a major issue, especially where children and old people are concerned. The questionnaire asked villagers to identify the areas of particular concern, and also to suggest remedies. The accompanying tables show the most common responses, but there were many more.

Where are the major danger spots in the village?



How can these problems be solved?



Key issues

- Better parking at identified locations
- Traffic flow and speeding to be regulated
- Promote walking to school and shop to avoid parking problems



Congestion on the Park St. bend



Congestion at the Shop

Concerns were also raised regarding our reliance on cars as our main means of transport, considering the problems of speeding, traffic and noise. Many respondents urged that people walk within the village, and use a bus service (if available) for journeys outside. It has been noted that many in the village are keen cyclists, and the bike repair service offered by Transition King's Cliffe is helping encourage people to leave their cars at home.

With regard to traffic flow a number of solutions were suggested including reduced on-street parking, speed bumps, one way streets, weight limits for lorries, yellow lines, traffic calming, priority traffic in one direction, warning signs, a local taxi service, car sharing and somewhere safe to cross the road.

It was also noted that bridleways and footpaths needed more signposts and maintenance.

Comments

"Around school, shop and post office, disabled spaces would be appreciated"

"People should use their garages rather than park on the road"

"Ban large lorries 'cutting through' the village"

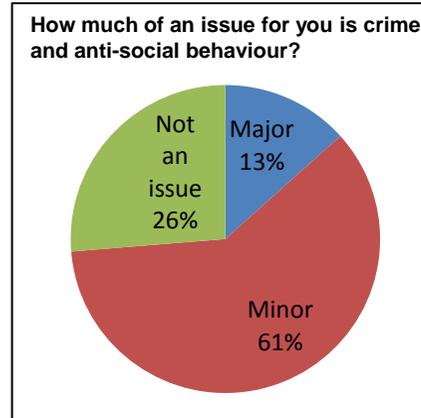
"Road users should act in a polite, courteous and tolerant fashion"



Safety and Well-being

Current Situation

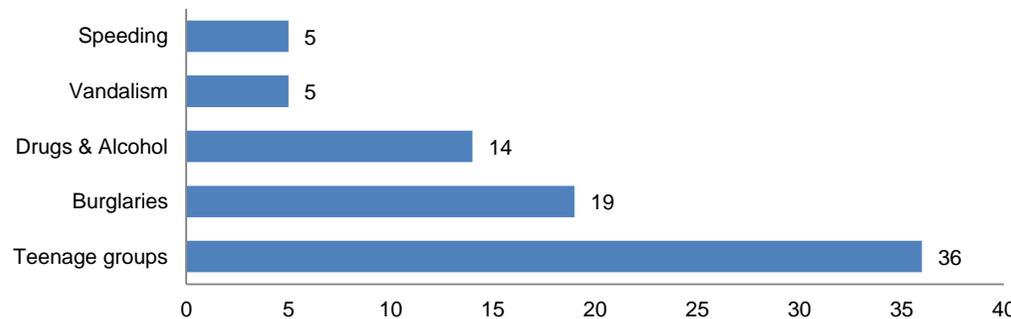
Kings' Cliffe is a small and relatively well-off village. Residents are generally familiar with each other (although there has been a recent large influx of people) so would not be expected to have the high levels of crime of larger towns or cities unless the perpetrators came from outside the village. The survey revealed that safety is not a major issue for most respondents, nonetheless, it indicated that there are several issues that could be considered to address the needs of residents.



Survey Findings

The major perception of anti-social behaviour involves teenagers (25%) who form gangs, are bored and drink alcohol. It is acknowledged by some that there is little for slightly older teenagers to do in the village. There is however, strong adult support for the work done in the 'Underground' but this is geared more towards the younger teenagers. It is clear from this that the village should continue to encourage and support the work done by the Underground. However, dealing with bored older teenagers is a perennial concern with which parents have grappled through the ages.

Major (perceived) issues of crime and anti-social behaviour in King's Cliffe

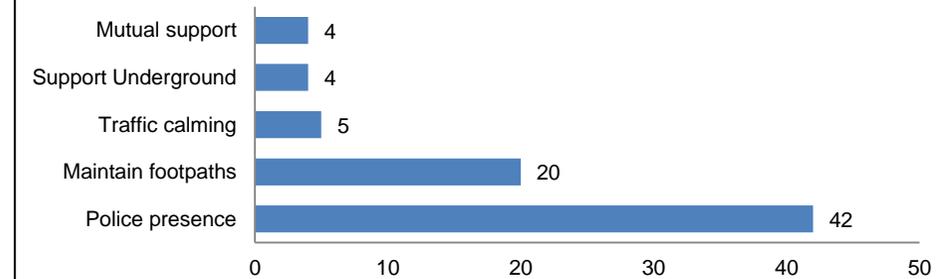


The need for police presence and a general increase in police action was mentioned by 37% of the respondents. Closely associated with this were 10% who called for a Neighbourhood Watch.

Fixing public pathways was important (14%). This issue involves a range of ages including the elderly, either walking or using mobility scooters, and parents or carers using prams.

Speeding issues provoked irritation in 6% of the respondents who thought that addressing this issue would improve village safety.

What can be done to improve community safety in King's Cliffe



Key issues

- 'Underground' needs to be supported by the village
- Report anti-social behaviour to police
- Report problems with footpaths to Parish Council Clerk
- Working with teenagers, not demonising them

Comments

- "Perhaps some form of parental organised transport network to and from local towns may alleviate this problem [bored teenagers]"
- "Underground is doing a terrific job in training our young people"
- "[We need] a visible police presence like we used to have"



Health

Current Situation

Kings Cliffe has a surgery in the village that is linked to the main surgery in Wansford. The Kings Cliffe surgery is well used but has parking issues due to lack of space on West Street. Naturally, many patients, especially the elderly and those from outside the village, rely on a car to reach the surgery. Recently, it has become clear that the present building is feeling its age, and the Parish Council has been considering an alternative location. A patient group – Communicare – liaises with the health authority over these issues. It is clear that, despite the drawbacks, the King's Cliffe surgery provides a vital function for those incapable of getting to Wansford.



The King's Cliffe surgery on West Street

Survey Findings

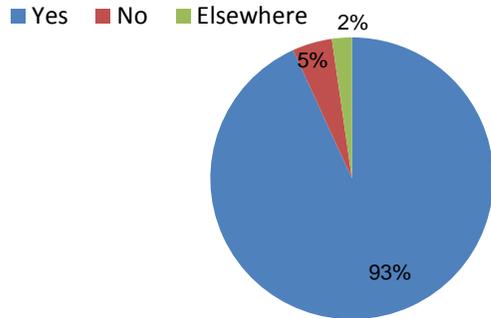
Registration of Kings Cliffe residents with the Wansford/Kings Cliffe surgery

There is tremendous support for the Wansford/Kings Cliffe surgery with most respondents registered with it (93% N=264). Only 12 respondents were not registered and 6 were registered elsewhere. The survey also revealed that most concerns, or suggestions were less about parking or a new surgery, but mainly about medical service matters, such as extended appointment times, evening consultations, and improved facilities.

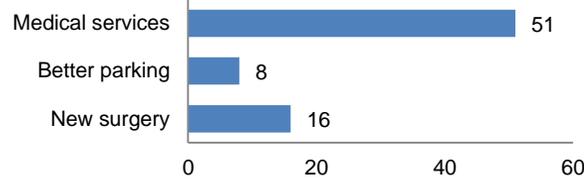
Should a surgery remain in King's Cliffe?

More respondents than were registered with the surgery wanted it to remain in Kings Cliffe (98%) suggesting that those not registered with the surgery may be considering to do so on the future. Only five respondents out of 264 said they were not bothered if the surgery remained in the village or not.

Are you registered with the Wansford/King's Cliffe surgery?



What improvements would you like to see to the surgery?



Would you like to see a doctor's surgery remain in King's Cliffe?

Yes	259
No	0
Not bothered	5

Key issues

- Parking situation outside surgery
- New site for surgery
- Surgery to remain in King's Cliffe
- Improvements to medical services



Parking problems outside the King's Cliffe surgery

Comments

- "[I have no problems travelling to Wansford] but others would so we need to do all we can to keep a surgery here"
- "As this village is getting bigger perhaps normal surgery opening hours could be considered"
- "[We need a] better surgery building/ more fit for purpose"
- "Just keep it open"



Shops and Shopping

Current Situation

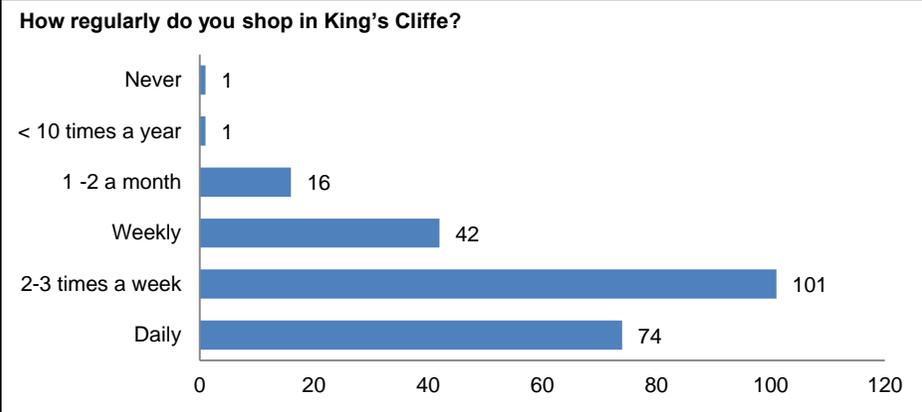
Historically, King's Cliffe boasted a variety of shops, including a butcher's and a hardware store but the current range, i.e. Woodings, the Post Office, the bakery and the supermarket has been in existence for some considerable number of years. The village also benefits from the services of the mobile butcher, Nelson's, twice weekly, a mobile fish monger every twelve weeks selling frozen fish and the mobile library calls on the third Saturday of each month.



The Bakery



The old Butchers and Post Office

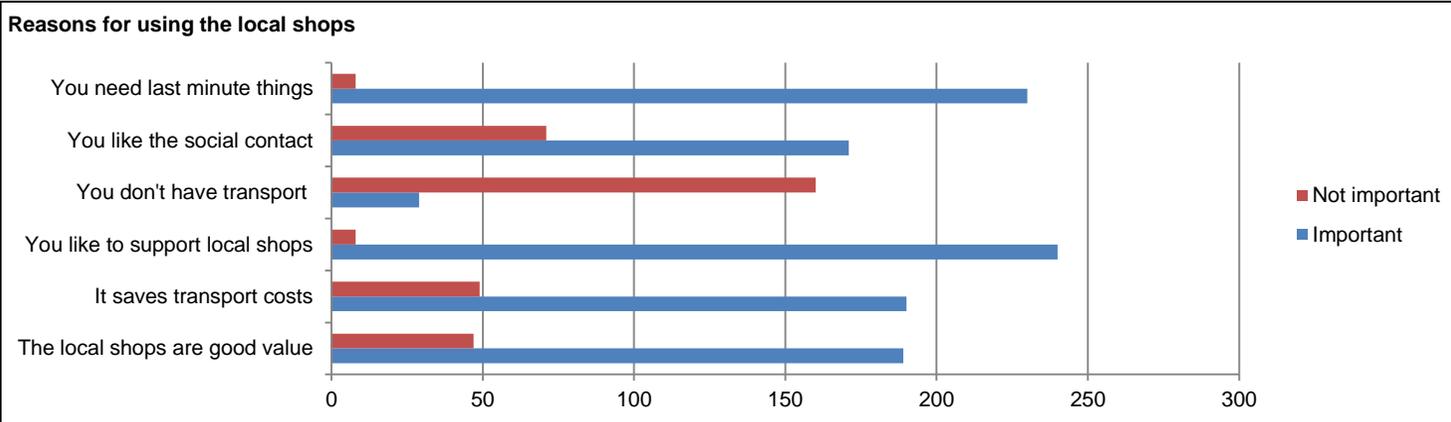


Survey Findings

The tables on this page reveal that a very large proportion of respondents use the village shops. Although sentiment plays a part, necessity is the major motivation. With no bus service, and 8 miles distant from the nearest supermarket, many rely on local stores to provide essential needs. As the village population grows, this need is unlikely to diminish.



The Shopper and new Post Office



Wooding's the Grocer



Shops and Eating

Current Situation

A number of pubs existed in the village at one time but now there is only the Cross Keys in West Street and the Ex-Servicemen's Club on Wood Road. The Cross Keys serves food at lunchtimes and in the evenings, apart from Sunday evening. A take-away van for fish and chips etc. comes to the village on a Saturday evening and there is a limited Indian take-away once a week. Recently a community café serving tea, coffee, biscuits and cake has opened in the church on Friday mornings.

Cross Keys, family & Park street commercial hotel, special accommodation for cyclists & tourist; first-class family & commercial apartments, fly traps (rubber tyres) at moderate charges trains met at five minutes notice; hearses & funeral carriages for hire; Kelly's Directory, 1910



The Cross Keys

Survey Findings

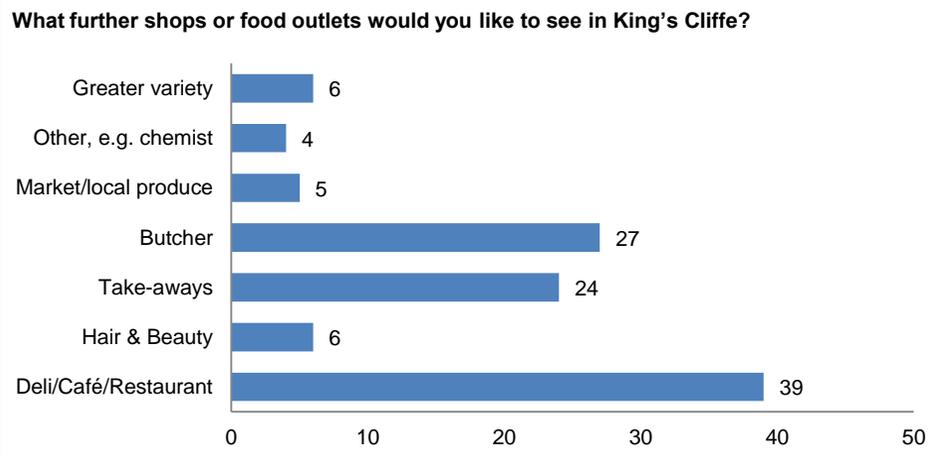
A significant number of people who responded to the survey, wanted a wider range of both shopping and eating outlets in the village as shown below, as well as the facility to buy/share local produce and craft items. A few residents also asked for an ATM and one or two were interested in re-instating a more regular mobile fishmonger selling fresh fish and a small number asked for the dry-cleaning facility to be restored. There were also one or two requests for a better library service.

The main reasons for people **not** shopping in the village were given as:

- Cost
- Limited range of goods on offer
- Preference to shop on the internet



The Ex-Servicemen's Club



Key issues

- Support planning applications from small shops
- Keep the Post Office (now situated at the Shopper)

Comments

- "[I like] the daily services like post office, baker, shops"
- "The shop serves an important social function"
- "Local shops are handy for top-ups"
- "I miss the fishmonger coming"

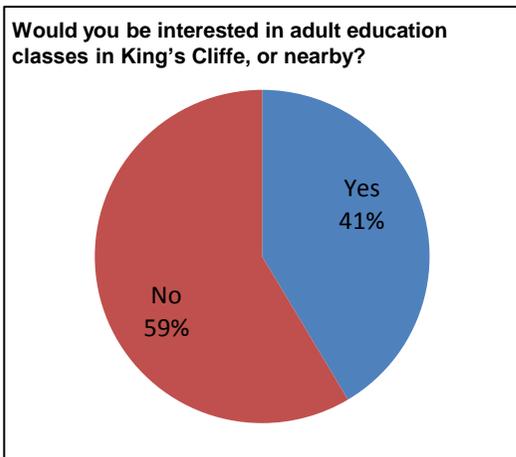
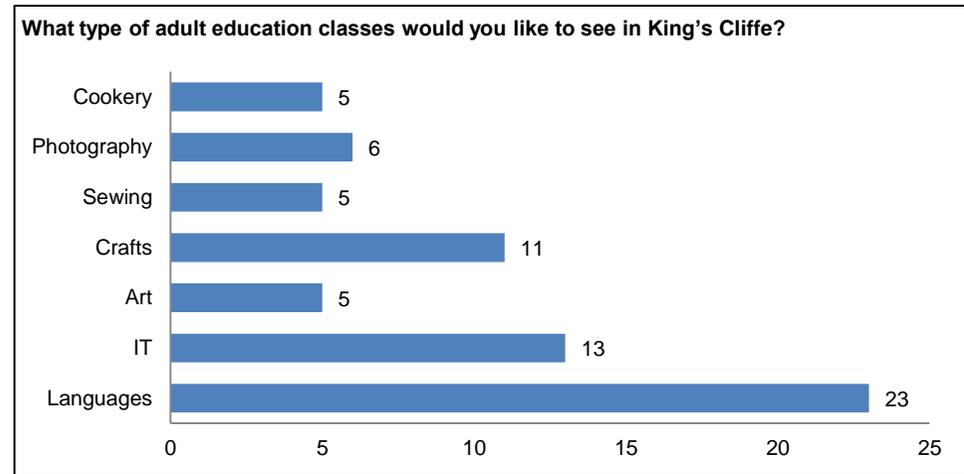


Adult Education Current Situation

Since the scaling-down of the County's Adult Education service, and particularly its removal from Oundle, residents now have to travel a significant distance to access a full range of classes. There are still occasional art classes offered in the village, and a variety of independent fitness sessions take place at the KCA sports centre, with basket-making in the village, pottery offered by one villager in Woodnewton, and Zumba at Nassington.

Survey Findings

There was a good level of interest in adult education with perhaps evenings marginally the preferred time, but so many different adult education classes requested for there to be no clear activity preferred, languages and crafts themselves encompassing a range.



Pottery studio in Woodnewton



'Old Brewery' art studios in West Street

Key issues

- Need to make prospective tutors aware of level of interest
- Need to raise possibility among residents of more classes in King's Cliffe
- Raise awareness of classes available locally

Comments

- "For young people in village"
- "All our [classes] seem to be in Thrapston or Rushden – too far away"



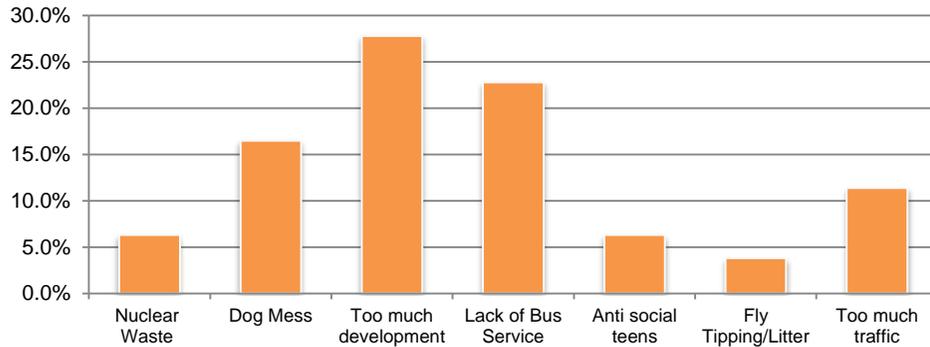
Quality of Life Current Situation

Kings Cliffe is a friendly village set amongst lovely countryside and we can see from the survey findings below that these attributes are what villages who responded to the survey like most about living in Kings Cliffe. The “Village feel and atmosphere” is also important.

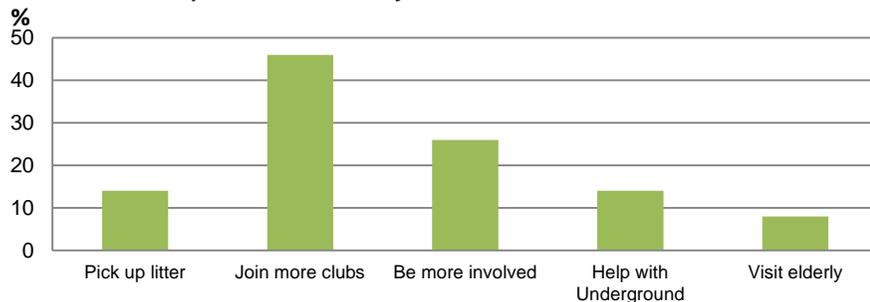
Survey Findings

The aspect that came out at top of what people like least about living in Kings Cliffe was “Too much development”, closely followed by a lack of an adequate bus service and dog mess.

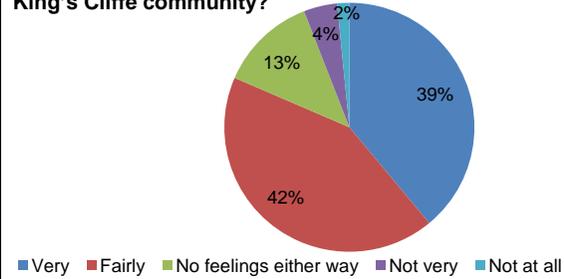
What do you like LEAST about living in King’s Cliffe?



What could YOU do to improve the community?

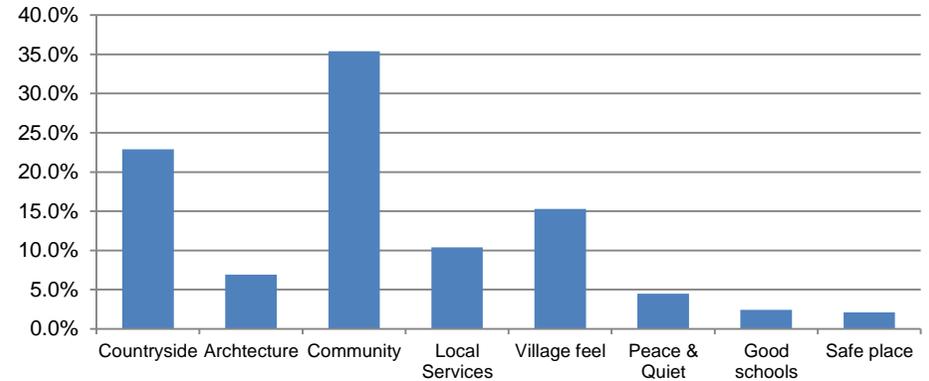


How strongly do you feel that you belong to the King’s Cliffe community?



A village depends on its sense of community, and one of the questions asked was the extent to which respondents felt themselves part of the village community. The results (left) would appear to give cause for optimism over the resilience of this community.

What do you like MOST about living in King’s Cliffe?



Key issues

- Maintain the village character by limiting size of any future development

Comments

- “It is a village with a heart”
- “It is a safe community; friendly and socially mixed”
- “[Least like] failure of village organisations to work cooperatively”
- “Peace and tranquillity with very pleasant people”
- “[I could] keep the area around my house tidy and the grass cut”



Action Points

Aspect	Issue	What needs to be done	How it will be done	Partners/ Responsibility	Priority	Resource implications (where identified)	Time-scale
ENVIRONMENT	1. Dog fouling	Review of problem areas and possible solutions	Awareness campaign; penalties to be stressed; get help of dog owners	Action Group, PC + Dog Warden	High	Money for bins, bags, notices	0 -12 months
	2. Rubbish dumping	Sites of dumping to be noted & monitored	Awareness campaign; get help of local residents; help from ENC	Action Group, PC + ENC	High	Money for notices, CCTV	0 – 12 months
	3. Litter	Sites of litter to be noted & monitored	Awareness campaign; help from Underground to do litter pick	Action group, PC + Underground	High	Money for more bins	0 – 12 months
	4. Radioactive/ toxic waste	Monitoring of activity at ENRMF	Through Liaison meetings, Augean and Environment Agency information	Liaison Group (PC, NCC, ENC, EA, Site operators)	Medium	None	On-going
	5. Green spaces	Existing green space within village to be protected	Oppose any attempt at development on green space. Carefully review applications for extensions into gardens	PC; ENC	High	None	As required
	6. Historic centre	Character of conservation area needs to be protected	Carefully review any applications that might affect historic character	PC; ENC	High	None	As required
	7. Village atmosphere	Limit development to that suitable for a village rather than a town	Oppose future applications for large-scale housing, or other inappropriate development	PC; ENC	High	None	As required
	8. Endowed School Orchard	Keep the orchard as either a school or community resource	Contact stakeholders in the land and push for support	Transition King's Cliffe & PC	High	Not yet known	3 – 6 months



Action Points (continued)

Aspect	Issue	What needs to be done	How it will be done	Partners/ Responsibility	Priority	Resource implications (where identified)	Time-scale
HOUSING	9. Need	Future housing to be assessed according to needs of local area	Planning applications to be assessed according to need	PC; ENC	High	None	As required
	10. Style	Maintain the look and character of this historic village by ensuring new housing is appropriately designed	PC to draw up checklist for assessing new house applications, or changes to existing houses	PC	High	None	0 – 12 months
	11. Parking	New building applications to allow for adequate parking space	Assess applications according to parking criteria	PC, ENC	High	None	As required
COMMUNI- CATION	12. Information	Central directory for villagers to access information about the village	- Directory of village information for each household - Develop village website	Action Group	High	>£1000	12 – 24 months
	13. Phone	Phone signals to be improved	Mobile companies to be informed/lobbied about improving poor signals	Action Group	High	<£50	0 – 12 months
	14. Broadband	Superfast connectivity	Installing cables, etc.	NCC	High	None	Promised by 2017
ACTIVITIES & SERVICES	15. Promotion	People to be made aware of clubs and activities available	Directory of clubs & activities for each household	Action Group	Medium	None (included in '12' (above))	12 – 24 months
	16. Support for Underground	Financial support for Underground	Underground trustees to apply for funding. PC to support	Underground Trustees, PC	High	>£100k p.a.	1 – 3 years



Action Points (continued)

Aspect	Issue	What needs to be done	How it will be done	Partners/ Responsibility	Priority	Resource implications (where identified)	Time-scale
ACTIVITIES & SERVICES (Continued)	17. Sport for all	Improve awareness; develop access for all ages and abilities; expand facilities	Open Day; leaflet households	KCA	High	Not known	1 – 5 years
TRAVEL & TRANSPORT	18. General issues	All issues concerning traffic in the village need to be assessed	PC to set up traffic sub-committee to investigate issues and report	PC	High	None	12 – 18 months
	19. Heavy lorries	Lorries need to be diverted from West Street unless delivering	Larger signs on Park Street diverting Corby-bound lorries along Wood Road	PC, Highways	High	Not known	0 – 12 months
	20. Speeding	Cut speeding through the village	Push for speed humps, 20MPH limit, electronic + ordinary speed limit signs	PC, Highways	High	Not known	1 – 3 years
	21. Parking	Relieve congestion at shop, surgery, school	Investigate parking restrictions; raise awareness of inconsiderate parking	Action Group, PC, Highways	High	Not known	1 – 3 years
	22. Encourage fewer vehicle movements within village	Encourage walking, biking instead of car use	Campaigns	Transition KC	High	None	1 – 3 years
SAFETY & WELL-BEING	23. Anti-social behaviour	Report all instances of such behaviour	Campaign; get support from PCSO; facilitate public meeting	Action Group, PCSO	High	None	1 – 3 years
HEALTH	24. Surgery	Provide new location for surgery	Work with doctors & PC to identify new site	Doctors, PC, Communicare, PCT	High	Not known	1 – 5 years



Action Points (continued)

Aspect	Issue	What needs to be done	How it will be done	Partners/ Responsibility	Priority	Resource implications (where identified)	Time-scale
SHOPS	25. Maintain and improve range of shops	Try to maintain present level of shops, and be open to applications for more small enterprises	- PC to look favourably on such applications. - PC to try to maintain Post Office long-term	PC	High	None	1 – 5 years
ADULT EDUCATION	26. Improve access to Adult Education	Provide local classes	Encourage local people to develop adult education classes	Underground, KCA	Medium	None	12 – 24 months