

COMMUNITY-LED PARISH PLAN

INITIAL REPORT

INTRODUCTION

The statistical analysis of the results from the Parish Plan questionnaires comprises a separate spreadsheet. The purpose of this report is to give details of the content of the replies and to provide an outline of the exercise and how it might be carried forward.

If it was to be a 'community-led' parish plan it was essential that the Parish Council didn't presume to dictate the agenda. Communication between the PC and the residents is sparse, occasional, and unstructured so it could not be assumed they knew what issues concerned residents or access to ideas they may have had for improvements. It was therefore necessary to give them an unfettered opportunity to express their view without asking them specific questions, which would imply that the Parish Council knew what the issues were. The return was therefore little more than a blank sheet of paper on which each household would be asked to write down their views, problems, objections, suggestions, and comments on five topics of their choosing and to place them in order or priority. The return form and the invitation that were used are shown in the Appendices below. At this point I'd like to thank this point to thank Jean Williamson for the design and printing of the returns, the covering invitation letter, and the package that was issued to every household.

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THE PILOT EXERCISE

The prototype return was issued to 21 volunteers in 2022 and they were asked to fill it in and say how long it took them to complete and how difficult they found it. The exercise showed that they had no difficulties with the concept and that it took them an average of half an hour or so to complete the form. The final design was therefore based on this with only minor tweaks. The returns were delivered to the 301 households in the parish the seven parish councillors and Michael Key, who was familiar with the farms and houses outside the village. They were delivered on the weekend of 4/5 February except for one batch which were distributed earlier. In order to encourage a good response incentives were provided consisting of three credits of £20 each for the households and one of £10 for the teenagers which they could spend in the village shop. As the returns came back they were serially numbered and an internet random number indicator used to select winners from those who had given contact details, since names and telephone numbers were optional.

PART 1 – RESULTS OF THE HOUSEHOLD SURVEY

What follows is a representative selection of the statements given on the returns. They don't include every response but I have tried to include all Suggestions and to reflect the degree of interest in each subject, which in some cases results in similar messages expressed in different ways. They are listed in priority order according to the number of responses to each topic. Those included in the 'Other' category have been moved to the relevant category where this is possible and are shown as 'O36.'

4.Roads – 52 replies (15%)

4. The state of Top Street and Low Street are poor and both need tarmac. Is there any way of preventing HGVs driving along Top Street or at least observing the speed restriction ?

4. The condition of roads from and into the village is disgraceful. Potholes, poor repairs, deep puddles.

4. Top Street the traffic goes too fast, the footpath is narrow and this road is where children cross when being dropped off the school bus. Something urgently needs to be done to stop large lorries passing through. It is dangerous

4. Slow traffic down on Top Street without resorting to numerous speed bumps or chicanes.

4. The roads need to be a lot better.
4. Roads are full of holes and poor repairs.
4. Roads are not in a good state of repair. Action is slow to be taken. This causes damage to tyres.
4. Potholes outside the village towards Shelton are a disgrace. Villages administered by Rushcliffe seem to have much wider and better roads. Has the Parish Council any influence ?
4. Traffic on Top Street has increased since the new A46. Heavy lorries above permitted 50 tons which go too fast. Traffic calming required and 20mph speed limit with ANPR cameras.
4. Top Street speeding it simply dangerous and I am surprised we haven't had a serious accident or fatality. We need to discourage the offenders with control measures.
4. Heavy traffic on Top Street. Poor state of repair is general as is inconsiderate parking on pavements. Residents wishing to protect their vehicles are endangering pedestrians, particularly those with buggies, walkers, and the elderly. The Parish Council should press for traffic calming and advise vehicle owners they are endangering pedestrians. People matter more than vehicles.
4. Pinfold Lane is currently in a very reasonable condition but it can fall into disrepair very quickly. It is subjected to a lot of heavy goods vehicles which compounds the problem. I don't see a solution other than timely resurfacing.
4. Pinfold Lane needs road widening. A permanent track on the field side of the road is evidence that cars and buses need to ride on the verge to pass oncoming traffic.
4. Potholes around the village along Mill Lane, Low Street and Top Street need to be dealt with by resurfacing, not by patches. Strict speed limit to be imposed on Top Street and mirror at the junction of Pinfold and Top Street.
4. The road is becoming a major problem. The advisory notices regarding access by huge vehicles are totally ignored and the potholes are a major danger. Whilst parked vehicles are a nuisance, they at least slow the traffic down. A legal order is required with the exception local farm traffic
4. Action is needed to deal with the increasing number of potholes in the roads around the village.

4. Potholes a perennial problem. Heavy lorries are restricted in the area but we have to accept some need to get to the farms and industrial units. A speed gun campaign might slow the traffic down. I'm amazed how many speed past the sign on Lodge Lane and through the village.

E6.Footpaths – 32 replies (9%)

6. We would like the footpaths in the village to be regularly cleaned. There is a build-up of leaves on the footpaths which can be dangerous to walk on in wet weather.

6. Paths leaflet on village website showing footpaths around Elston.

6. Footpaths are needed down Pinfold Lane and Lodge Lane.

6. Many of the residents enjoy the many footpaths we have into the countryside but safe access to and from the village from the A46 requires a tarmac surface which will be good in all weathers.

6. Local country walks to Syerston etc, would like to see benches on route restored. Additionally the walk down Lodge Lane to be tarmacked or hard core for walker's path.

6 the state of pathways is difficult at times

6 make routine checks on paths and widths of hedges

6. A footpath to join up from the existing footpath on Lodge Lane to the footpath over the A 46 bridge would be an excellent investment. It is currently dangerous walking out of the village that way.

6. A footpath from Pinfold to Eden Hall would also improve the safety of both pedestrians and other road users.

6. Opening of old historic public rights of way will improve walking opportunities across the area and greater pedestrian connection to the neighbouring villages. Also restoring walking heritage.

6. Footpath needed from Elston Hall to start of the bridge over the A 46 to create safe walking passage to Eden Hall bus stop. Nothing fancy needed, just compounded road stone would be sufficient.

6. The footpath from Elston Lane which goes to East Stoke needs maintaining. It's well used but the path is disappearing.

6. Maintaining footpaths and opening new ones is important for walkers, including dog walkers. Note broken footbridge by Eden Hall is dangerous.

6. The Big Scutchel needs to be swept as it is hazardous with leaves in autumn and winter, especially after rain. Perhaps some promotion of the need to keep Elston tidy could be in the Parish Plan.

6. Very uneven and narrow in places.

O36. Hedges not properly maintained by some owners.

E8. Pavements -- 30 replies (8.4%)

8. The pavement alongside the whole length of the Old Rectory needs attention as it is uneven, at an angle and, following almost incessant tarmac work on the road around the gratings and manhole covers as well as the pavement, has made things dangerous. I tripped recently crossing the road.

8. Present pavement on Lodge Lane to be extended to meet existing pavement near Eden Spa. Walking in the road is very dangerous.

8. Parking on the pavement at the junction of Toad Lane and Top Street needs to be stopped. Pub special offers once a week at lunchtime for us pensioners would be nice.

8. I would like to see a pavement on Pinfold Lane and from the Elston Hall end of Top Street a pavement extending to the bridge over the A 46.

8. Cars parking on pavements on Top Street blocking footpath for pedestrians and pushchairs.

8. Provision of a pavement along Pinfold, to connect all sides of the village with a footpath. Provision of a pavement along Lodge Lane from Elston village to Eden Hall to provide safe pedestrian route to Eden Hall and existing Nottingham/Newark bus stop.

8. There is talk of facilities for the sports and recreation field. Depending on what those facilities are to be, are they going to be available for use by people other than footballers. Some use the field for running around, others for dog walking/training. It would be nice to have somewhere to sit or shelter. How are all these facilities to be paid for and maintained in the long run. There is a form of car park for the field will that be large enough to stop cars parking on the Pinfold or entrance to the Spinney on match days.

8 some pavements are difficult to negotiate due to overhanging shrubs and hedges

8. Car parking on pavements and blocking pedestrian access evident throughout the village.

8. We need paths and pavements along the road leading up to the age old A46. This would encourage more people to use the 90 bus to Newark and Nottingham and would give more safety to pedestrians.

8. The pathways need to be clean and clear of vehicles.

8. Cars are parked on the pavement, which make it difficult for elderly residents and mothers with prams.

8. Pavement on Pinfold Lane needed. The only walkway is in the road, which is busy, especially difficult for dog walkers.

O36. This is becoming more of a problem each year. Some residents disregard for the safety of others, parking on footpaths makes it difficult for the disabled and those with pushchairs and prams to pass. Parking on, or close to, bends in the road makes it dangerous for other vehicles. Difficult, but something must be done before someone is hurt.

T31.Lorries -- 28 replies (7.9%)

31. Traffic, particularly lorries, has increased on Top Street. It can get very congested on the corner of Toad Lane. Pavements often blocked by parked cars, particularly Top Street near post box. Also Low Street and pedestrians forced to walk in road.

31. Lorries use the village as a shortcut, regardless of notices stating the weight of lorries allowed. It is constantly ignored and causes damage to the roads.

31. Traffic thundering through the village is making it difficult for us in the Ann Darwin Cottages to cross the road. The horn honkers are intimidating as are the big lorries. Maybe employ a warden to enforce violations here. 20 mph limit throughout

31. The size and speed of vehicles coming through and round the village is now so bad as to be dangerous. You take your life in your hands exiting The Pinfold every time. Worse still there is no sign of any kind suggesting unsuitability for HGVs or oversized vehicles from the other end of the village.

31. Weight restriction needed on Top Street to keep lorries from using it as a route to and from the A1 and A46.

31. A mph speed limit should be in force. There is too much speeding, parking on the roads, even though they have got driveways. It's getting worse. Too many lorries taking a short cut through the village.

31. Until a link between Fernwood area and the A 46 is built, Mill Lane and Top Street will remain a rat run. Until then lorries in particular need to slow down but also all traffic and school buses go too fast and make it unsafe to walk through the village.

31. We are very concerned by the number of lorries hurtling down Top Street. I feel a weight restriction should be applied.

31. Since the building of the new A 46 traffic has increased making Top Street particularly very congested, not aided by parked vehicles despite signs advising that the road is unsuitable for lorries.

036. Other – 21 replies (5.6%)

The 20 items tagged as 'Other' are, by their nature, diverse and, where possible, have been placed alongside an appropriate categories in priority order. The remainder, which fit no category, are listed hereunder in the order in which they were received. The number in brackets indicates the serial number allocated to the return :

The church and Methodist chapel are also meeting places and should be cherished, maintained, and preserved. (7)

Support to re-establish with ongoing assistance to maintain a village pre-school.(36)

Support to reinstate the pre-school.(41)

Our daughter is two and a half . We had planned for her to join the pre-school and then the primary school. Is it likely the pre-school will re-open ? It should be an asset to the village and it's said that lack of funds and support has seen it close.(74)

Very upset by the recent closure of the Elston pre-school. Early childhood education should lay the foundations for the future. How could this happen (55)

Firework display of QUIET fireworks is something that I would adore.(37)

The misuse of our local rates pursuing changes to the war memorial in church of relevance or interest to less than 1% of the village folk. (55)

The levy for the precept for 2017/18/19 averaged £80. In 2020 there was a significant increase of 45.3% to £115 due to the possibility of buying the pub. This never happened but the increase has become standard rate at almost £114 for each year 2020.2021/2022. (59)

More evening activities for those who work full time. (62)

A key role of the Parish Councillors is to represent the village and its residents. He PC seemed to lose sight of that over the war memorials. How will a recurrence be avoided ? (63)

More fun and exciting events/activities would be lovely. We had a good community atmosphere during covid doing things. Be great to carry it on.(67)

To maintain and improve the village graveyard.(76)

I am hoping that the Parish Council in the next few years will look at providing a new burial ground as the PCC will be looking to close the churchyard within the next 10 years.(77)

A18. Sports Field – 20 replies (5.6%)

18. Need a noticeboard on or near the football field.

18. Dogs to be on leads at all times and kept well away from areas that are being used e.g. football pitch

18. It would be good for there to be changing facilities at the sports field.

18. It would be great to see a defibrillator installed on the sports field. We look forward to seeing facilities develop further. It's good to see the teenagers using it.

18. A bench or two would be much appreciated. Is that a community field for a significant period. We should all be free to use this, especially dog owners

18. Sports field to maintain dog walking area and be developed for other sports. Possible tennis courts which could also be used for 5-a-side. Hired out to produce income. Netball baskets.

18. Would like the field to be developed more widely, not just for football. If no building then money perhaps available to make a hard surface for other sports. Building would need ongoing maintenance, cleaning and close supervision of changing. Restrict football to under-eighteen teams.

18. Full village public enquiry before developments to sports field. No investment if not at least 50% of the village votes for development and investment.

18. The sports field is a valuable asset to the village. Extending to multisports may be an option. One expects a degree of noise associated with matches. However, on occasion there is inappropriate language used.

T30. Motoring – 17 replies (4.8%)

30. The speed of cars along Top Street is of concern and Pinfold Lane (mainly village residents). Also the parking along top Street in particular directly opposite Toad Lane is becoming dangerous.

30. Speeding through the village needs to be tackled this includes both through traffic on Top Street and down Pinfold. Pinfold Lane should be made a 20 mph hour limit for the safety of residents but particularly children catching the Toothill bus.

30. Car parking outside the Darwin Cottages on the bend is dangerous and an accident waiting to happen. Could the layby opposite the church be extended to accommodate three cars or residents' parking be provided in the field opposite the church behind the cottages.

30. Concerned about the number of cars also cutting through and into the village at speed. The corner of Mill Road is dangerous. You have to listen to traffic. Some near misses with electric vehicles with no noise, Suggest 20mph limit a zebra crossing would slow vehicles down. From Mill Road to the allotments speeding traffic is sometimes 50 miles an hour.

30. Gateways or narrowing of road established at the entrances to village on Lodge Lane and from the A46 at the 30 mph speed limit sign insure cars slow down before entering the village. Cars frequently complete the distance between No3 Top Street and Darwin cottages on the wrong side of the road.

30. Cars entering the village using Top Street tend to ignore the speed limit. Sometimes one wonders if they see Top Street as a race track. At the junction of Top Street, Toad Lane, and Mill Lane, it is quite hazardous.

30. Cars going too fast round the village.

O36. Erect (open) five-bar gate on either side of the entrances to the village as a speed calming measure, one just before Pinfold Lane and the other just before the Mill to deter speeding.

T29.Bus Services – 16 replies (4.5%)

29 We need bus services. Use it or lose it.

29. A late-night bus service from Newark into Elston would open employment opportunities, reduce the need for walking up from Eden Hall in the dark, and open social opportunities.

29. We need as direct bus connection from village to Nottingham. We need later buses to go to Bingham/Newark

29. Please keep the bus going. There is a bit of a gap in the service at lunchtime. Can this be filled ?

29. Bus services are sporadic and unreliable. Could Elston be included in the call connect-on-demand bus service. I feel so sorry for anyone in Elston who is reliant upon the buses to get to Newark and Bingham. Very often they simply don't arrive.

29. Suggest an evening bus service to Newark say monthly, maybe on a Friday. One bus say 7pm and return bus at say 10.30.

29. Elderly people no longer able to drive need bus services of some description as a necessity. Good neighbours who offer to help with shopping must have a decent bus service in order to help the housebound.

29. A plea for more people to make use of the bus service 91 to avoid losing it.

29. Essential service though unused. Needs supporting for nondrivers, the young, and the old. Perhaps we should have a campaign to get people to use the bus once a week or a fortnight. Use it or lose it.

C2 Internet/Broadband – 12 replies (3.4%)

2. I understand that broadband speed, although better than before, is not particularly fast in and around Elston. This is not such a problem for me but is it likely to improve ?

2. overgrown hedges and state of an swept paths especially slippery and worrying

2. As seen in frequent dialogue on the village Facebook, the mobile signal of all service providers is poor. It's is important to residential and business users alike to have this improved.

2. On a map or satnav Top Street appears to be a straight road from the A46 to the A1 at Bennington. Many HGVs, lorries, vans, and non-village cars from Fernwood and Balderton speed through this road. The pavements are narrower than road recommendations. On a personal note, visiting friends and myself have had our vehicles damaged extensively five times in the past four years. We have a village member with the expertise to advise on the way forward with these traffic problems. We should seek his advice. More effort with councils and, if necessary, government level would be made to solve these problems before someone is injured or killed. The speed limit should be 20mph with weight restriction.

2. Elston is also a commuter village and now many people are work of working age work from home. Broadband facilities with modern IT systems are vital. Such facilities are one of the issues people interested in buying first consider.

2. The broadband signal in the village is weak and needs to be improved.

2. Footpaths in need of repair and maintenance, especially the Scotched, which is unsafe, especially at night. Irregular surface.

E12 Dogs – 12 replies (3.4%)

12. A few more dog poo bins. Dog poo gets picked up and packed in a bag and left in the hedge or grass verge.

12. Dogs should be on leader in Village Hall Field. Dogs often loose with children using the field.

12. An additional dog bin at the bottom of the bridleway onto Moor Lane urgent.

12. The level of dog excrement around the village is very concerning. The law of clearing up after your dog needs enforcing. Fines should be given out to those breaking the law.

12 Dogs to be on lead in the village Hall Field. Too many dog poos left by inattentive owners – not safe for young children.

E9 Lighting – 9 replies (2.5%)

9. Street lighting needs upgrading as it adds to problems for pedestrians.

9. In parts of the village, lighting is very poor. Parts of Top Street are very badly lit.

9. Needs to be more street lighting in places.

9. The Big Scutchel is as well-used by all residents of the village but can be very dark, especially in the winter evenings and, although it has lighting, this is inadequate to make walkers feel safe. Improved level of lighting would benefit all.

9. Improve street lighting on low Street

S24 Safety – 9 replies (2.5%)

24. Road safety. The exits from Toad and Pinfold Lanes onto the Top Street are very dangerous. A lower speed limit and mirrors would help reduce the risk, as would reducing the width of the roads into the village to a single lane with priority to cars leaving rather than entry.

24 Road safety dangers in village with cars parked on Bends e.g. opposite Toad Lane near and Darwin cottages particular when buses and lorries come through.

24. The junction of Pinfold Lane with Top Street is acknowledged by all locals and Hall residents as an extremely dangerous spot, especially for cars exiting Pinfold Lane to make a right turn towards the A46, also exiting the Hall turning into the village.

24. The speed of traffic entering and leaving and travelling down Top Street needs traffic calming measures at the entrance and exit to the village.

24. Big Scutchel access to the recreation field is always a mud patch covering the width of the path. There's a danger of pedestrians slipping on mud and falling, causing injury, especially of concern to more elderly residents.

O36. a major concern at my age is crossing Top Street from Elston Hall as the junction with Pinfold Lane has traffic coming at me from three directions. I can use the steps on the wall of Elston Hall but have fallen off them three times so am reluctant. (13)

B21 Housing & Development – 8 replies (2.2%)

21. We are very concerned about possible large development on The Pinfold. Could the Parish Plan highlight this ? Also consider infill with small developments of smaller more affordable homes. We don't need more five and six bedroom houses for the sustainability of the village. Paddocks development are good.

21. Any future housing developments must include social housing to improve the affordability and diversity of the village.

21. Early communication and consultation regarding any proposals especially with those most directly affected. Dedicated Facebook webpage would be useful.

21/22 the Willow Rundle development is a model for the kind of housing project that is needed in the village. Priority should be given to this type of development if there is to be a further construction in the village.

E5 Village Hall Field – 8 replies (2.2%)

5. Young people in any village have to be a priority and they are our future. We are fortunate in still having a village school which encourages young families to live here. Play facilities are vital and attention to keep them occupied is important. The development of the sports field and facilities are vital

5. Dogs roaming loose, especially on the playing field around the Village Hall. This is where children and go people to relax not where the dogs can keep jumping up at them.

5. I would like to see some more benches overlooking the field.

5. Covered seating area. Well-lit area for the teenagers to meet after school. Can be used by other village residents.

5. Please do not ban dogs from this lovely community space. For some it is the closest opportunity to walk their dog in an open space due to disability.

5. There are more dangerous potholes along the edges of our roads that can damage cars or worse could kill or injure a cyclist or motorcyclist. Could something be done ?

A15 Village Shop – 7 replies (2%)

15. A larger variety of products and maybe an evening opening, even if just once a week would be great for the working community.

15. The village shop is a big thank you for being there for us customers.

15. The village shop is not open in the afternoons. More volunteers are needed to make it more useful and more customers needed to make it more viable 16. The principal meeting venue in Elston is the Village Hall, where clubs, societies, and Parish Council meet. It is the home to numerous social events, both public and private, and must be maintained for the good of the community.

S25 Neighbourhood Watch -- 7 replies (2%)

25. Neighbourhood Watch seems to have disappeared or is not communicating with the community.

25. We used to have Neighbourhood Watch. It was very active years ago when my dad ran it and it also had regular use of the hand-held speed camera which really helped him slowing speed of passing vehicles.

B22 Planning – 6 replies (1.7%)

22. We are constantly being advised by the Government that we oldies should be downsizing. There is a need when planning is granted that a number of plots should be allocated for bungalows.

22. Planning needs careful consideration for any housing development/solar farms etc in order to maintain conservation village appearance

22. I love this village. I do not want it to expand like Claypole and similar villages in the area. Small developments of a few affordable houses please.

S26 Crime – 6 replies (1.7%)

26. improved police presence within the village to deter opportunists and felons scouting for potential opportunities.

26. CCTV should be installed on all points in and out of the village to help investigate crime but also to deter it from happening.

26.Village CCTV.

26. Cameras monitoring upon entering the village in either direction would deter crime.

26. This is a constant in our lives now. Is Neighbourhood Watch relevant / active now in Elston ? If not, what will replace it ?

O36 I would like 24-hour CCTV in and out of the village to deter rogues, thieves, and fraudsters operating in our village. (80)

A16 Village Hall – 5 replies (1.4%)

16. The village hall is a very important facility in the village. Maybe it needs supporting during this difficult period of high energy bills.

16. preference should be given to improvement and maintenance of the village hall as a public amenity her over the construction of any other new building such as changing room/clubhouse on the sports field

C1 Communications -- 5 replies (1.4%)

1. More openness. The Parish Council should ensure the meeting dates are set for each year and published. The agendas should be published earlier and villagers reminded where to find the info.

1. Parish councillors to be more visible at village events. Councillors' surgery held in the month before each council meeting, so residents can informally chat to councillors regarding issues and get feedback.

1. Mobile phone coverage of the area is very poor at best.

E10.Flooding – 5 replies (1.4%)

10. We're concerned about flooding after heavy rain. The dike which borders Bonds Cottage and Appleacre has been a recurring problem since 2004. The culvert under Low Street is no longer fit for purpose and needs attention.

10. Flooding problems appear to be noticed. Necessary continuation of this.

10. The dyke which runs from Pinfold Lane to the Spinney threatened last year to flood neighbouring houses along the way. A regular manual inspection and dig-out properly organised is needed. Where the water exits from under The Spinney into the dyke, the dyke needs to be dug to a lower level than the exit pipe.

E11 Litter – 5 replies (1.4%)

11. initiate regular litter picks down Lodge Lane.

11. The litter between the A46 and the village is disgraceful, as is the fly-tipping on the mad mile and Moor Lane. Some more bins may help litter and fly tipping. Surveillance may be a good idea.

11. More litter bins around the village.

11. Huge litter problem especially on the exits from the A46 both ways

11. More litter bins around the village, maybe alongside dog bins.

A19 Pub – 4 replies (1.1%)

19. Promote the pub to the wider area. Use it or lose it.

19. support the pub which has recently reopened

B23.Conservation Area -- 4 replies (1.1%)

23. We are concerned that as a conservation village, new developments are minimising the aesthetic of the village. Weight limits don't deter large articulated lorries. We need speed cameras to record the speed of vehicles travelling through Elston.

23. We need to protect the special character of Elston by limiting frivolous development and preventing the fields around the edge of the village being further developed. Infill to existing plots with sympathetic development is OK.

F35 Walking -- 4 replies (1.1%)

35. It would be great if the Parish Council can improve or add to some of the walks around the village. My ideal would be to create a woodland walk for the children around the lake at the bottom of Elston Lane, if permission could be gained from the landowner.

F33 Health – 3 replies (0.8%)

33. Would it be possible to set up a care group in Elston where people could volunteer to drive patients to hospital appointments ? Sometimes this can be an immediate request for a patient to go into hospital.

T28 Transport – 3 replies (0.8%)

28. Better public transport or Dial-a-ride scheme to encourage more people to

forego their vehicles. Communal bus trips? Communal disability scooters/ bicycles/tricycles.

28. Poor parking. Dangerous parking need addressing.

A14 Facilities – 3 replies (0.8%)

14. What about a few car parking spaces near Eden Hall for those using the bus into town. Flintham has a parking area. I'm sure we could have a few spaces provided.

14. The village shop is a well-proven amenity and the sports field is now well established. Both need and deserve financial help -- the shop to move into the Village Hall as planned in 2010 and the football club to offer changing facilities for players and officials.

14. Elderly people are important and thought in any plan has to be given to their requirements. This must include transport, Village Shop, church, Village Hall retention and general welfare issues. The Chequers public house reopening is to be welcomed.

E3 Environment -- 2 replies (0.6%) plus some reclassified

3. Every issue addressed has to be in turn underpinned by environmental considerations. If we are not successful in achieving climate change we leave the dreadful legacy for the following generations. We need to be able to recycle more materials and more litter picking sessions encourage 'best kept village' standards

3. What more can be done to make Elston a sustainable village e.g. how can we as a village reduce food waste ? Can we have a repair shop facility where people can get things fixed rather than throwing them away ? How can we encourage reduced consumption or reduce resources rather than just recycling?

3. I'm concerned about the builders' rubble being tipped on the fields adjoining Sarah House. This is visible from the road and from the recreation field. The owner appears to be trying to cover it with garden cuttings. Someone will have to clear it all.

3. Sewerage and drainage is a big problem. Smell from our drains and sewers is disgusting, particularly during the summer.

3. I love the new trees planted in Old Chapel Field. What about a row of trees on this the side of the football pitch to avoid pollution and noise from the A46

F34 Keep Fit Classes – 2 replies (0.6%)

34. Would be great to see a few classes on offer at around 6 pm when people are home from work rather than just during the day.

A17 Play Areas – 1 reply (0.3%)

17. Clarification needed on dogs on leads in play areas. Presently dogs are allowed off leads and this makes people, particularly children, vulnerable and also dogs are more liable to pass faeces without their owners knowing.

A20 Clubs & Societies – 1 reply (0.3%)

20. They should be encouraged in social interaction. The latest sport for all ages is pickle ball, a cross between tennis, badminton, and table tennis, played indoors or out on a badminton-sized court. Could we have this in the hall ? We also need a youth club.

E7 Cycling (0.3%) – 1 reply (0.3%)

7. No more cycling events please. It is annoying to be told we are not allowed to enter or leave the village at certain times on certain days. Time trials on A46 is, or should be, illegal.

E13 Refuse Collection – 1 reply (0.3%)

13. Elston has a primary school, nursery school, home for the disabled adults and OAP accommodation with no traffic calming. Huge lorries and farm traffic hurtle through the village with parked cars. Empty buses hurtling round the village -- maybe a pre-booked minibus would be more cost-effective.

13. The large volume of traffic using the village is affecting our quality of life. The 30mph speed limit is inappropriate for the village. Drivers are antisocial and inconsiderate the times. The volume of traffic has caused a significant deterioration of the road from Top Street to the allotments. The multiple potholes pose a risk to the safety of road users.

13. Please can we have a kitchen waste collection. This would stop the bins smelling in the summer and is better for the environment.

F32 Wellbeing – 1 reply (0.3%)

32. limit HGVs from powering through Top Street

S27 Burglary – No replies (0.0.%)

PART 2 - RESULTS OF THE TEENAGER SURVEY

It was considered important to poll teenagers for their views as it was by no means certain that the householders would necessarily include their views. Teenager returns were identical in form to those issued to householders except for the colour of the print to make them easily distinguishable. It would have been uneconomical to issue teenager returns to every household as most will not have included teenagers, so they were invited to ask for returns at the shop. They were also offered an incentive £10 voucher to be drawn by a random number indicator and were given a later return date than those issued to households. However, disappointingly, no teenager responses were received.

PART 3 – RESULTS OF THE INFANTS’ SURVEY

Elston All Saints School have a parliament of elected pupils and they were invited to participate in this exercise. They discussed their ideas and produced a list of 22 items in the form of a wish list which will be considered alongside the household returns when the final plan is produced. They are :

A17. Play Area

| | |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| Shelter for when it rains | Rock climbing wall |
| Football pitch markings | More swings |
| Mini trampolines | Better lighting |
| Monkey bars | New football goal |
| Obstacle course | |

E5 Village Hall Field

| | |
|---------------|-------------------|
| Club house | Basket ball court |
| Fitness trail | Den |

Equipment sheds

Long jump pit

Tennis court

Parkour (an athletic training discipline or sport

in which practitioners attempt to get from point A to point B in the fastest and most efficient way possible.)

E3 Environment

Litter picking club

O36 Other

Decorate park for Christmas

Winter wonderland in the Village Hall

Miniature houses for children to play in.

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE ?

The questionnaire is merely the starting point to identify and to prioritise the issues and suggestions. The Parish Council will need to follow up with meetings on the main issues in order to collect more opinions and suggestions from interested parties and perhaps to set up focus groups or to issue questionnaires on specific issues, particularly where funding may be needed from other agencies and where the volume of support is a material factor in determining whether the application is successful.

APPENDICES

January 2023 Octave and Facebook item

COMMUNITY-LED PARISH PLAN

Your chance to make a difference

It's been twenty years since we compiled a parish plan and we're long overdue for another. The 2023 parish plan will form a 'to do' list for the Parish Council over the next few years. Previous plans have been based on a list of questions issued to every household. In other words, residents have been guided to concentrate on issues that the Parish Council thinks they ought to be concerned about. But, while the Council gives you the opportunity to ask questions at their bi-monthly meetings and at the annual open meeting in May, they aren't well-attended and, aside from receiving occasional complaints or having casual conversations, councillors may not be adequately aware of what people in the parish expect in the way of services and facilities. This is exacerbated by changes in the composition of the Parish Council from time to time. So this year's survey will be radically different.

Essentially we will be asking you to nominate your own issues and to say how important they are to you; it's not for the Parish Council to tell you what you should be concerned about. We will provide a list of 35 topics, culled from the previous parish plan, to give you some indication of the range of issues that have been raised in the past. Otherwise you can nominate any other topic you wish. We will ask you to list your five highest concerns in priority order and indicate which of the categories they fall in. This will give the Council an up-to-date picture of your concerns and how importantly you regard them.

One return will be issued to each household in the parish and put through your letterbox on the weekend of 4/5th February, and we are asking you to send it back by 19th February. As an added inducement those arriving back by the due date will be numbered and a random number indicator will pick three winners, who will each receive a £20 credit to be used in the Village Shop. Returns received after that will still be recorded but will not be included in the draw. Residents of The Pinfold, The Spinney, and Tudor Oaks were issued with their returns in error in January, but rest assured this will not give them any greater chance of winning a voucher as the random numbers will not be selected until 20th February along with those arriving up until the 19th.

We also keen to get the views of the younger generation but, rather than issuing extra returns to every household, which won't necessarily include any young people, we have a separate return for teenagers. So if you have teenagers in the family who are willing to give their opinions please ask for a teenager's form at the Village Shop or phone Cllr. Jean Williamson on 525636. Their deadline will be 28th February. Again, as an inducement to participate, all responders will be entered in a separate draw for a £10 Village Shop credit.

And we haven't forgotten the infants. I would like to thank Elston All Saints School for providing twenty-two suggestions for improvements from their school parliament, which will form part of the Parish Council's deliberations.

We have given this novel concept a trial run by twenty volunteers and the questionnaire was shown to work very well, took much less than an hour to complete, and the results were easy to analyse. To make it easy for you, four householders at the corners of the village have agreed to act as collecting points so that you don't have to go very far to return your completed form. You can also drop it off at the Village Shop but don't trouble to put it in the envelope it arrived in.

We suggest that you draft your answers on a piece of scrap paper before attempting to fill in the return as the results will need to be input to a spreadsheet and be more difficult to interpret if the questionnaire has been amended or written hastily. We would also appreciate it if you could limit each suggestion to no more than 50 words. If you took part in the pilot you can save yourself the trouble of filling in the form again by merely writing 'Pilot' on the return plus your name. Your previous responses will then be copied, unless you wish to make different suggestions this time around.

Of course, the collection and analysis of the returns are just the first step in the process. We will publish the statistical outcome after the first analysis and we will then invite you to attend open sessions in the Village Hall on the most popular topics, at which you will be able to exchange views and suggestions and which will add to the information. It may be desirable to set up focus groups of volunteers to study new suggestions or improvements to existing facilities. In due course the Parish Plan will be published, stating what the Parish Council is proposing to do, and also what it may be unable to do, and giving a timetable for implementation.

Please don't miss this opportunity to let the Parish Council know what you think and what you want to see happen. We are here to serve your interests and provide what you want as far as possible.

Dave Sankey

March 2023 OCTAVE AND FACEBOOK

ELSTON PARISH COUNCIL COMMUNITY-LED PARISH PLAN

It's not too late to give us your views. The invitations for you to complete a return for the Community-led Parish Plan were issued to every household in the parish on or before 4th/5th February. However, disappointingly few responses have been received, despite the offer of three £20 vouchers from the Village Shop for early respondents. It's very important that the Parish Council knows how you feel about the village and we are keen to hear your views on any problems, issues, or suggestions for improvement. All returns will be counted and included in the report on the results and will be considered in the drafting of the Parish Plan. If you haven't got around to filling in the return, it's not too late. It's important that we get as many views as possible as, if we need to ask the District or County Council or another agency for something, the more residents we can say expressed concern, the more it will strengthen our case. Please dig out that return and drop it in at the Village Shop or at one of the four addresses shown on the invitation. If you have children who are now attending secondary school, please ask at the shop for a teenager's return. For this purpose a 'teenager' will be regarded as anyone of 11 years or over, attending secondary school. The infants of Elston All Saints School have already provided twenty-two suggestions for improvements from their school parliament, which will also form part of the Parish Council's deliberations. Please don't miss this opportunity to let the Parish Council know what you think and what you want to see happen. We are here to serve your interests and provide what you want as far as possible. Dave Sankey