



## **WORLINGWORTH PARISH SURVEY 2018**

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### **Purpose of the survey and its key objectives**

The last Worlingworth questionnaire, which preceded the Parish Plan, was conducted during 2006 and consisted of delivering questionnaire forms by volunteers en masse to residents and subsequently collecting them for analysis. Similarly now, the main objective is to consult villagers' views anew on a broad spectrum of subjects. Much has changed since 2006. Currently, pressure from central government for ever more residential housing and the multiple impact from increasing traffic flows, pressure on public services such as schools and health facilities, as well as new methods of communication, mean our living environment has changed significantly. Therefore, the Parish Council took the view that now was the right time to refresh its understanding of what the residents of the village want and assess ideas for improving the quality of life within the village. Furthermore, the next key objective is to help frame the Parish Council priorities for the future.

### **Our approach to conducting the survey**

As a nod to modern communication methods and to reduce the labour intensive nature of collecting survey forms, it was decided to use the online survey vehicle of SurveyMonkey. However, a hard copy facility was also offered to those residents without internet access. Full confidentiality was assured across both types of survey responses. Part of the push for a broader view was a visit made to Worlingworth Primary School with survey forms for the pupils to partake wherever possible. This move provided an invaluable extra perspective in the survey. The questions were based on those asked in 2006 and also new ones that were considered more appropriate to the present day. The SurveyMonkey question methodology consisted of simple tick box answers, participant preference answers and free text box answers. This allowed the best projection of information by which the survey could be thoroughly analysed by the Parish Council. We also analysed the results by age and this was particularly useful in assessing what both the young and older generation thought.

*Particular thanks should go to Adrian Smith who was the main contributor in analysing the data and the writer of the survey drafts and final report. However, Juliet Pierce, Brian Smallcombe, Carol Garrett provided substantial support, input in helping check and complete this survey. Similarly, thank you to Janette Robinson for work undertaken during the preparation process. Finally, our gratitude, of course, extends to Worlingworth Parish Council for providing the funding to complete the report.*

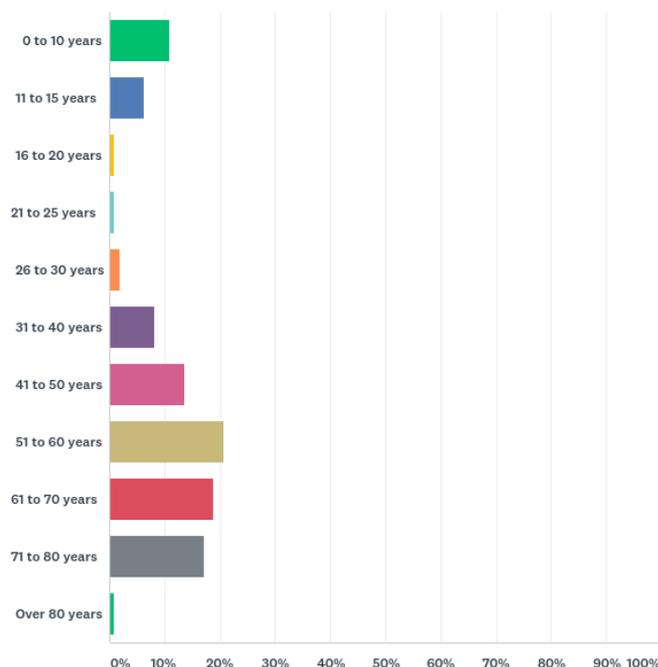
## The findings

### About yourself - questions 1 and 2

**1. Which age group matches your age?** The table below represents the overall total of respondents in age group, ranked in order of most numbers of submissions per category.

20.72%	51-60 years
18.92%	61-70 years
17.12%	71-80 years
13.51%	41-50 years
10.81%	00-10 years
8.11%	31-40 years
6.31%	11-15 years
1.80%	26-30 years
0.90%	over 80s
0.90%	16-20 years
0.90%	21-25 years

Q1 Which age group matches your age? Tick the relevant box.



Clearly, the voice of 16-30 year olds and over 80s was only represented by a handful of respondents. Further insight into this issue follows in the analysis in question 5.

**2. How long have you lived in Worlingworth?** The spread of categories in the length of time lived in Worlingworth indicated that the majority of respondents have lived in the village under 10 years, while less than a quarter have lived here for over 20 years. This is evidenced by the following percentages:-

- 37.84% (42 residents) 4 -10 years
- 27.03% (30) 11 -20 years
- 18.92% (21) over 20 years
- 16.22% (19) 0 - 3 years

**Community and Location - questions 3 and 4**

**3. What is most important to you about Worlingworth?** The overall scores relating to the most valued aspects of living in Worlingworth saw *countryside* top the list at 9.41, as a first preferred answer. Next in ranking order were *near family and friends* 9.33, *peacefulness* 9.25, *friendliness* 9.01, *nature* 8.62, *near school* 8.30, *number and type of local activities* 8.27, *affordability* 8.13 and finally *supportiveness* 8.09. Various age groups ranked different issues the highest. Overall, however, the *countryside*, *nearness to family and friends*, *peacefulness* and *friendliness* were seen as the most important aspects. It was interesting that respondents under 10 years of age ranked *countryside*, *nature*, *village activities* and *supportiveness* highest. Older children ranked *countryside*, *friendliness* and *nearness to the school*

as important whilst 30-40 year olds ranked the *school's proximity* and *affordability* higher than *nature*. *Nearness to family and friends*, *peacefulness*, *friendliness* alongside the *countryside* became increasingly significant with the older age groups.

**4. If you indicated Other, please explain briefly why.** Several respondents noted *other* aspects of the village as important, for example, *footpaths* and *open spaces*, *smallness of the village and its atmosphere*. One person, however, noted the *historical link* due to being on a farm where the family had lived for 50 years. Another noted the *limited housing choices available*.

#### **Your Household - questions 5 and 6**

**5. How many people are there in your household? Enter by age group.** While the survey asked only one person per household to fill in the number and different age groups in each household, there appears to be some confusion in this section and some double counting may have occurred. Of the 112 participants, 19 people skipped answering so the assumption can be made a good number left this response to another member of the household who was completing the survey. Out of the 112 respondents, this section offers an interesting demographic across age groups. An analysis of individual responses reveals a number of older people living alone while one or two people in their 20s were living alone.

The age profile of the respondents' household members were 4 in 0-5 year olds, 8 in 6-10 year olds, 14 in 11-15 year olds, 11 in 16-20 year olds, 3 in 21-25 year olds, 3 in 26-30 year olds, 13 in 31-40 year olds, 14 in 41-50 year olds, 21 in 51-60 year olds, 17 in 61-70 year olds, 14 in 71-80 year olds and finally, 2 in 80+ year olds.

This age profile possibly reflects a dip in the numbers of young people in their twenties in the village which coincides with the dip in the survey's overall age profile. The small number of very young and very old is reflected in the profile too, as well as being age groups least able to fill in the survey.

**6. How many roadworthy vehicles are kept by your household?** Turning to the numbers of roadworthy vehicles. Of the 14 respondents who skipped this answer, 9 said another household member had answered this question which indicates at least 9 responses were from households where more than one person in the house responded. Of the 98 respondents who did answer this question, 91 indicated there was at least *one car* in the household. Significantly, there were *27 additional vans, lorries, farm vehicles and motor bikes*. Together, this shows a high level of vehicle activity by residents in the village. There were 13 reports of *specially adapted vehicles*, but the survey did not clarify whether these adaptations were to assist with disabilities or as changes to farm machinery. Nineteen *other roadworthy vehicles* were mentioned but not specified, so quite probably were bicycles.

#### **Water and Sewage - questions 7 and 8**

**7. Which sewage system do you use?** As far as the kind of water and sewage systems were concerned, 73.86% of respondents are on *mains drainage*, 9.09% *septic tanks*, 5.68% use *cesspits* and 6.82% have a *bio-digester*.

**8. Does your household have flooding problems?** A total of 75.51% respondents reported *no flooding problems from surface water or sewage*. Some 18.37% had

*some problems*, but only one submission reported *having many problems*. The types of problems listed featured *drains backing up, blocked sewerage systems at street level, storm drain flooding in the garage, toilets gurgling in heavy rain* and *minor surface water problems*.

### **Mobile Telephone & Internet services - questions 9 to 15**

**9. Do you own a mobile phone or smart phone?** There were 111 responses out of 112 to the question on mobile or smartphone ownership. Of the 111 submissions, 99 reported ownership while only 12 respondents reported having no mobile, most of whom were young children.

**10. Are you satisfied with your mobile phone coverage?** The subject of mobile phone coverage was a hot topic! Of the 100 respondents who answered this question, 85 were definitely *not satisfied*, one complaining of *no reception* which presumably was from the home. Interestingly, 15 respondents were *satisfied* with the mobile phone coverage, one saying the satisfaction was due to purchasing Vodafone's Sure Signal package! Four out of the 11 in the under 10 years old bracket reported having a mobile phone and more than half reported *satisfaction* with the coverage. None of the 21 users in the 61-70 year old age bracket was happy the the coverage.

**11. Do you have a land line?** On the question of land line rental, 5 respondents skipped this question. However, only one of the 107 submissions stated *not possessing a land line* even though they reported having the internet.

**12. Is your house connected to the internet?** Residential access to an internet connection amongst respondents was pretty well general with only three residents out of the 111 who answered saying they were *not connected*. The only other fact of note related to the age demographics of those *without internet connection*. Those with *no internet access* were unsurprisingly amongst the older generation with the three age groups of 51-60 years, 71-80 years and 80+ years all registering one apiece in each category.

**13. Are you satisfied with the speed of your internet connection?** The analysis of this question was completely uncomplicated although 5 of the 112 respondents opted not to answer. That said there is a significant level of *dissatisfaction* with the internet facility with 44 saying *no* they weren't happy with it. Sixty two were *satisfied* while 1 was *not sure*.

**14. If you know it, what is your broadband speed for uploading?** There was widespread participation in this question with 99 of the 112 respondents providing an answer. However, despite survey guidance, 34 participants *didn't know* the *upload speed*. What is clear though, is that the village is in the slow lane with 28 people (29%) reporting 0-3 mbps, 10 people noting 4-6 mbps speeds (24%). More respectable *upload speeds* were reported by only 10 respondents (24%) with 6+ mbps recorded.

**15. If you know it, what is your broadband speed for downloading?** The answers to this question reflected slightly different statistical trends contained in

question 14. *Internet download speeds* were noted at an understandably better 10+ mbps by 27 respondents (27%) , 6-10 mbps by 16 people (16%) with 20 participants (20%) registering 0-5 mbps, while what appeared to be the same group of 34 people in the *uploading* group said *don't know* in this category.

### **Employment and business - questions 16 to 22**

**16. If you run a business in Worlingworth, how many people do you employ full time?** Clearly from the survey results the incidence of those respondents *running a business on a full time* basis in the village was quite a small sample. Twelve reported *running a business*, 10 respondents classing themselves as a *one man band*. The remaining 2 stated they employed *less than 5 people full time*. There was nothing significant in the age analysis with all participants below retirement age.

**17. If you run a business in Worlingworth, how many people do you employ part time?** In this category there were only 9 replies, possibly suggesting that of the 12 respondents who reported *running a business with full time staff in question 16*, 3 businesses didn't employ *part time staff* at all. Those that were *part time* employers, 7 were *one man bands*, while 2 employed *fewer than 5 part time staff*. Interestingly, in the *part time age demographic* analysis, 6 respondents were of working age, while 3 fell within the pensionable age demographic of *61-70 years*.

**18. If you run a business locally, are you satisfied with your internet connection?** The view on this question was not unanimous with, of the 10 who were prepared to give answers, 6 reported *satisfaction* while 4 noted they were *dissatisfied*. While this is a small sample, it is unsatisfactory that 40% of local businesses are not happy with their broadband service.

**19. If you know it, what is your broadband speed for downloading?** Puzzlingly, there were 26 who answered this question which seems to suggest that businesses were keen to reveal more about the nature of their broadband service than the constituent parts of their workforce! 10 participants were able to report their *download speeds*, with 5 noting 0-5 mbps, 3 reporting 10+ mbps and 2 recording 6-10 mbps. Sixteen reported as *not knowing*. So 50% of this sample were recording unsatisfactory *internet download speeds* of 0-5 mbps which clearly is not a recipe for running a successful business long term in the village.

**20. If you know it, what is your broadband speed for uploading?** Similarly, the broadband performance noted in this question was disappointing with nearly three quarters of respondents who answered reporting poor results of 0-3 mbps (6) and 4-6 mbps (1). The balance of 3 participants encouragingly, noted speeds of 10+ mbps. There were 16 *don't knows* in this category.

**21. Where is your place of employment?** This question threw up some interesting, if entirely understandable trends. Most significant was that the majority of respondent's *place of employment* was *more than 5 miles away*. Of 101 people who answered this question, 36 reported being employed *more than 5 miles away*. The next most significant cohort were those *not in employment*. These numbered 37 answers. Unsurprisingly, the bulk of this section's total ie. 31 respondents were mostly of pensionable age between 61-80 years of age. The numbers, as to be

expected, for those of working age were small for *not in employment* at 21-40 years (3 respondents) , 51-60 years (2). The section of those employed *within 5 miles* also showed a modest head count with 31-40 years (2), 41-50 years (1) and 51-60 years (2). The under 15 years of age group (14 respondents), predictably showed all but one studying *locally within the parish*, presumably attending Worlingworth Primary School. There was one respondent in the 11-15 year group who reported studying outside the village precincts.

**22. Should the following types of business be encouraged in and around Worlingworth?** A large percentage of residents answered this question with 101 responses received out of the 112 total.

Respondents were able to select more than one type of business and crucially, about two thirds (64%) felt *small business development* should be encouraged within the Parish. However, the main focus was on *country craft workshops, small scale workshops*, but with *tourism* scoring the least . Of those who selected *other*, the suggestions were as follows, *shop* which registered 7 respondents, *pub* 3, *retailers* 1, *café* 1, *small scale individual traditional country craftsmen* 1 and lastly, 1 for *any, we need employment opportunities for everybody*.

### Roads and Transport - questions 23 to 31

**23. Do you think there are any major danger spots on the roads of Worlingworth other than potholes?** This issue was another hot topic with 103 people answering this question out of 112 participants. A total of 62 respondents marked *yes* there were *major danger spots* while 41 ticked the *no* box. Opinions in the *if so, where?* section were crystallised around two main danger spots which were *outside the school* (26 respondents) and *by the Church* (20). However, there were other spots identified with the *Fingal street/Shop street junction* being the cited the next most worrisome (6). More generally though 1 noted *throughout the Parish* and another said *speeding is a regular theme*. Analysis of the different age ranges within the survey did not convey anything significant here.

**24. Are there any particular traffic slowing measures you would recommend?**

There were 104 respondents here and only 8 who skipped this question. Of the listed options the *Vehicle Activated Speed Sign* attracted the most popular reading with 46% of residents choosing this one. *Community Action Teams monitoring speed* and *Rumble Strips* scored 26% each while *Road Bumps* 19% were also popular. Of the 12 contributors those who ticked *other*, suggestions included:- *Public Footpath from The Cross (Swan Rd Junction) to The Guildhall, safer pedestrian walking areas especially on blind bends, road markings and 30mph zone, parking restriction lines outside school, average speed cameras, fake speed cameras, pavements, speed restrictions painted on the road surface and no parking yellow lines where appropriate*. Probably understandably, the age range that contributed the most to identifying *traffic slowing measures* were the 51 years of age until 80+ years of age which accounted for 97 of the 104 respondents.

**25. Would you like to see more car sharing?** There was a less enthusiasm for this topic with 80 respondents providing valid answers with the rest skipping the question. Only 22 people marked *yes* to *car sharing*, while a resounding 58 marked the *no* box. The groupings that showed the most enthusiasm for *car sharing* out of the 22 who said *yes* were 4 in the 61 -70 years age and 9 in the 71 to 80+ years range. Two gave responses that the idea was *not viable* or *practical in a rural village*. Of those who marked *yes* and gave suggestions as to *how* to achieve this, the most popular options were *via neighbours and friends*, *Worlingworth Car Facebook page* (6 respondents), *Suffolk Car Share website* (2 respondents), *advertisement via the village website* and *mothers on the school run*.

**26. Do you know about the destinations of the community bus?** Out of a total of 108 participants who answered this question, 79 said *yes* they knew the destinations while 29 said *no*. One respondent who said *yes* found the destinations *not useful*, however. Once again the elder generation seemed to be more aware of the *community bus destinations*. Out of the 79 who said *yes*, 57 respondents were from the 51 - 80+ years age ranges.

**27. Would anything help you to use the community bus?** Out of the 91 respondents who answered this question, a sizeable chunk of 68 stated *no* that there wasn't anything to *help you to use the community bus*. Of the submissions that reported *yes* to *would anything help you to use the community bus*, 6 respondents noted *more frequency* and *bigger variety of destinations*. Other suggestions featured *clearer bus stops*, *wider access to timetables* and *age restriction reduced to 60 years of age*. Clearly then, most respondents did not identify anything that would help them use the bus more. However, of those who left comments, the key message indicated that they felt the bus was for older people e.g. *too young, in time, not yet!*

**28. Should there be more pavements?** This question registered an almost 60/40 split in the *yes* and *no* answers in favour of *yes* amongst the 101 answering respondents. A couple of *yes* answers were qualified with specifically *near the church/Shop Street* and *in relation to new housing*. There were however, among the *no* group, those who made some strong comments to the effect that *Worlingworth is a village and not a town*.

**29. Should the roads be made safer for cyclists?** A sizeable group of 60 out of the 97 answers said *yes*, *roads should be made safer for cyclists*. When asked what could be *done to make the roads safer for cyclists*, the main points out of the 47 replies related to *drivers slowing down and being more aware of cyclists* and *removing/repairing potholes*. Several respondents suggested *cycle-ways*. However, a number of respondents also recognised that the ability to do this is *very limited if not impossible*. That said, it was not clear from the survey questioning how many respondents were actually cyclists so it is difficult to know on what basis they were making their responses.

**30. Do you think there is a significant road safety issue by the school at peak times?** This question attracted a large response with 102 participants providing an answer. A resounding 55 replies said *yes* there is a *road safety issue*. A total of 21

said *no*, while, interestingly 26 people recorded *don't knows*. Of the 55 respondents who answered *yes*, 52 reported suggestions to address *significant road safety issues*. Notably, and the most popular suggestion by 26 people, was for *yellow lines or parking restrictions outside the school*. This was followed by 12 people recommending *parking at the Community Centre then walking to school*. Of interest from the remaining suggestions were for a *flashing school sign* and *to widen the road outside the school*. One respondent said there was *no problem*.

**31. Do we need more street lighting in Worlingworth?** There was also high participation in answering this question with 107 out of 112 replies. There was a near 60/40 split in favour of *no to more street lighting* with 64 people indicating this while 36 wanted *more street lighting*. There were 7 participants who recorded *don't knows*. Interestingly, of those who said *no*, there were some quite forceful comments including *this is a village and not a town* and *the attraction of the village is the ability to see the night sky etc*.

### **Housing - questions 32 to 33**

**32. Do you think the community would benefit from more housing in Worlingworth?** Of the 106 participants who answered this question, only 19 (24%) thought *more housing* might benefit Worlingworth. Fourteen of the 19 participants who felt the community would benefit from more housing were in the 51 - 80 years age group. Three were based in the 41 - 50 years age cohort. One respondent suggested the proviso that *some more housing* might be a benefit, such as bringing *improved facilities*. Another thought *with restrictions* that new housing is permissible, *but only on single plots*.

**33. If yes, what type?** The type of development most liked as a first option was *terraced housing*. Other options that scored next highest as first choice answers were fairly equally split between *bungalows*, *semi detached* and *social housing*. There was no discernible age group in favour of terraced housing.

### **Community Activities - questions 34 to 36**

**34. Are there any activities that you would like to see developed in the village?** This question was answered by 89 respondents and produced a varied response with suggestions of clubs for football - both for the young and particularly for girls. Dancing, including line dancing, clubs for fitness, gym, running, pilates, tennis and walking were the main suggestions. Worthy mentions go to a film club, an art & crafts and photograph club. Away from these suggestions, there was a need for transportation for the elderly, provision for adult learning, a dog walking area and a coffee shop in the Community Centre. A separate request was also made to allow *dogs on the driveway so that we can use the community centre for a drink when out walking the dog (because we) feel very excluded not being able to take part and get to know villagers*.

**35. Would you be prepared to help with any community activities?** A total of 89 participants replied, but only 49% (44 respondents) said that they would *help with community activities*. Interestingly, over half of this sample ie. 29 were of pensionable age, while 21 fell within the 41- 60 years grouping.

**36. If Yes, state on what basis?** Of those who responded positively to question 35, virtually the same percentage was recorded for question 36, but qualified their commitment as *occasionally*. Only 10% said they would be prepared to help *regularly* however. The interesting statistic here is that a sizeable 40% explained they were *already involved*. The *not at all* category was a small one with just over 1% who said they wouldn't help. Four of that number came from the 51-60 age group, presumably because still being of working age, time was limited to undertake such activities. The other 3 replies were spread throughout the age ranges of the survey.

### **Communication - questions 37 to 39**

**37 & 38. Where do you usually find out about Parish Council discussions and other village meetings, events and activities? State which publications are occasionally, regularly or not at all.** Respondents to question 37 thought that each survey listed means of communicating performed almost equally well as a first choice of information. However the *Church and Village newsletter* proved to be the most popular way, as its was read by all the respondents - save 3 under 10 years of age and 1 teenager. However, 2 people admitted reading it only *occasionally*. The *Parish Council Facebook* option in question 38 attracted 81 responses, half of whom said they used it *occasionally* and 7 *regularly*. The relatively high usage of Facebook whether *regularly* or *occasionally* certainly seems to indicate that we are all beginning to embrace this modern form of communication. Looking at the age demographics, there was nothing especially significant in the scores to suggest any particular preference in the way to receive village news.

**39. If Worlingworth Parish Council had a Twitter account would you use it? Yes or No.** The view on this question was quite clear. Of the 104 respondents who answered, only 8 indicated they would use Twitter if the Parish Council had an account. Surprisingly, perhaps, was that 4 of the 8 were in the 41 - 50 years age group while 2 were from the 31 - 40 years age group. Nevertheless, the results here are not a ringing endorsement of this mode and therefore probably not a priority for the moment.

### **Local surroundings - questions 40 to 46**

**40. Which elements of the countryside in and around Worlingworth do you value?** Overall in the survey, for the category selected as first in importance was *tranquillity*. *Nature in terms of native birds, plants and insect life* and *dark skies and starlight* followed as the second most popular answers. *Local history identity* featured as being the least important. This was particularly true across all the adult age categories. Conversely, primary school participants in the 0-10 year age range scored the *local history identity* highest although they agreed with the overall priorities of *nature in terms of native birds, plants and insect life* and *dark skies and starlight* . No other age cohort stepped outside the prevailing overall views.

**41. If you marked Other in question 40, please specify.** A total of 13% of respondents on this topic in question 40 marked the *other* option, and the most popular answer for a valued element was the abundance of *marked footpaths* in and around the village. Clearly, the presence of access to *wildlife, surrounding countryside and the visibility of agricultural pursuits* featured highly in this category. One further observation from the survey came from the 11-15 years age range where *circular dog walks through the footpath network were particularly valued*. That said the *other* section was populated mostly by the 51 - 71 years age groupings.

**42. Do you think the countryside around Worlingworth has changed in recent years?** The highest total here was for those that thought for the *worse* at 32%. However, there was some level of optimism amongst 41-50 age cohort with only 7% considering the village has changed for the worse. The *no change* and *no opinion* categories were evenly split at approximately 30% each. Significantly, only 9% thought the village had *changed for the better*. Helpfully, 40% of all respondents to this question ticked the box inviting them to *explain the thinking behind your answer*. The overwhelming view in the *for the worse* category featured complaints about *overdevelopment in residential housing* (41%) . Other highlighted issues were *inappropriate new housing eating away at the countryside, poor design coupled with lack of off road parking provision, indiscriminate "infilling", strain on infrastructure and increased volume of cars on the village roads*. Next came disquiet that was caused by loss of village amenities (*such as the Swan Pub*) followed by the *destruction of wildlife along with hedges and trees by residential overdevelopment*. There were however, some optimistic views in the *for the better* category, but these were very much in the minority. The key observations here were that *new housing would bring new blood into the village*. Additionally, *more facilities and services may arrive due to increased residential presence*, this coupled with the *opening of new footpaths as a result*. Looking at the younger elements of 0-10 years and 11-15 years, they registered higher percentages for the *no change* category of 55% and 43% respectively.

**43. How important are the countryside features?** *Meadows and green fields* by far received the highest score being ranked first as the most important to all respondents. *Open spaces* and *woods* were also highly valued. Significantly lower scores, though no less important, were for *hedges, traditional historic buildings* and *ditches*. This trend was uniformly reflected across all age ranges.

**44. Do you think landscape features need to be protected?** *Open spaces* and *woods* scored particularly highly in this question. *Meadows, groups of trees* and *historic buildings* came next, followed by, in scoring order, *ponds, hedges, rare plants* and *ditches*. The age ranges of 0-10 years and 11-15 years attached a higher priority to the protection of *ponds* although all other answers reflected the trend in overall survey sentiment.

**45. What could be done to improve the natural environment of Worlingworth?** There was a reasonably unified view about what could be done to improve the environment of Worlingworth amongst all adult age groups. The first group which scored the highest included *save existing woodlands, plant more trees, maintain ditches*. These were followed by *preservation of wild areas* and *less use of*

*pesticides*. The second set of issues, based on similar scores, were *plant more hedges, more natural hedge growth, new ponds, more woodlands* and *cut verges less*. The 11-15 year cohort pretty much reflected adult age groups although the 0-10 years attached the highest priority to the use of *more energy saving measures*.

**46. If you marked Other to question 45, please briefly explain why.** Under the section marked *other* that relates to question 45, the two suggestions were *preservation and upkeep of paths across fields* and *trees & hedges to be managed better to improve road safety*.

### **Footpaths - questions 47 and 48**

**47. Do you use the local footpaths regularly?** An overwhelming number of respondents, namely 75%, said that they used this network. Understandably, only 62 % of the 0-10 year age range said they used the *local footpaths* while all 11-15 year respondents said they used them

**48. If No, what prevents you from using them?** The main reasons were *lack of time, limited mobility, too overgrown, dog fouling* which all featured with high scores. Other points mentioned, albeit with much lower scores were, *farmers' crops, stiles too high* and *bridges over ditches too slippery*. Significantly, the 0-10 year cohort chose *stiles too high* and *dog fouling* as the main reasons for not using them.

### **Possible future improvements not mentioned so far - questions 49 to 52**

**49. What are your top five priorities?** A significantly high proportion of respondents ie. 93% listed suggestions. By far the highest score as the primary answer was *the revival of the Swan Pub*. This view was reflected amongst all age groups. The next big scorer was the desire to *retain green gaps* in the village. A high priority was for *better mobile phone connection*, as was an *open space at the heart of the village*. Bunched closely together on much lower scores were *church kitchen & toilet, more provision for allotments, better internet connection* and lastly, the desire for a *skate park*. The 0-10 year age range agreed with these priorities. However, the 11-15 years age group gave the highest priority to a *kitchen & toilet at the church* and followed by wanting an *area for allotments* along with a greater *focus on green energy measures* .

**50. Would you like to add your own ideas?** Overall, there was a broad spectrum of new ideas in the section where respondent's own views were sought. However, there were repeated references to the need for a *village shop & coffee shop*. Other popular ideas were *fenced area for dog training, one stream for dog paddling, dogs allowed on the Community Centre field*. Steering away from pet owner requirements there were requests for more *development of safe circular walks for children, litter bins, multi-use games area (MUGA) for basketball, tennis, hockey and football*. Requests were also made for a *regular bus service, better information on where footpaths are* and a *classical music club*. There was no major deviation to these views amongst adult respondents or the youth cohorts.

**51. Which activity would like to see revived or developed?** Thoughts on those

wanting to see the revival of certain listed activities saw *introduction of a film club (43.8%)* as a priority, *Worlingworth football team (31.4%)* with this last point being reflected amongst all age groups including 0-10 years and 11-15 years. *A good neighbour scheme (28%)*, *visiting theatre groups* and *the youth club (both 23.6%)* were also a priority among all respondents. In the *other* section, of course the revival of the *Swan Pub* gets several mentions. Further suggestions were *dog training & handling courses*, *more differing Friday night entertainment*, *repeats for a girl's football team* and *revival of neighbourhood watch scheme*.

**52. Future ideas not mentioned in this survey.** There was a good spread of *ideas* for this question. There were a couple of requests for a *supermarket/shop*, one came from the 0-10 year age range. Other suggestions included *peaceful garden & open space*, *Community Centre bar open on Saturdays*, *fence holes cut for hedgehog movement*, *regular first aid training* and *better heating at the Community Centre*. There were also suggestions for *better parking facilities at the church*, *solar energy on public buildings* and *games nights for all*. The overall trend here was closely followed by the different age categories and therefore there was no stand out issue for any one specific age range.

## Conclusions

Was our approach successful? How can one measure success? The first fact is that there were 112 survey replies out of a potential total of 800 plus residents. This was a bit disappointing given the effort made to publicise its purpose and encourage wide participation. While the survey's audience was primarily the villagers of Worlingworth, an important consideration might be its use in substantiating Parish Council responses to, for example, Suffolk County Council in relation to planning matters. One thing is for sure the Worlingworth Parish Council has a much better grasp of the hopes, fears and thoughts of villagers who did take part in the survey. This will provide the Parish Council with a foundation of new ideas by which to guide future spending decisions and Parish strategies. So what specific conclusions can be drawn from these statistics? The age demographics studies, housing requirements, living environment both socially and countryside aspects, road safety and employment conditions, all give a good indication to the Parish Council where residents' priorities lie. However, whilst some things are within the Council's power to change, other issues can only be lobbied to the institutions responsible.

## Summary

### *About yourself*

Participants' age demographics followed an uneven spread as can be seen by the chart at the beginning of the survey. There was a high level of participation between 41 - 80 years, along with significant input from the 0-15 years age range. Disappointingly, there were very few submissions from the 16 - 30 years range with only a limited level of interest from the 31 - 40 years demographic. Residency analysis showed there is an almost even split of those who have lived in the village up to 10 years of 54%, the balance of 46% from 11 to 20 years and over.

Households who submitted surveys consisted of mostly two person households. These were largely registered in the 51 years and above group, however. Of the overall cohort, households with more than two residents comprised a much smaller sample.

### *Community and Location*

The most important things about Worlingworth that respondents listed, were the countryside as the number one trait. Near family and friends, peacefulness and friendliness also scored highly. Notable inclusions here were also nature, near the school, varied local activities, affordability and supportiveness. Other reasons of no less importance, featured footpaths and open spaces followed by smallness of the village and its atmosphere.

### *Your household*

Responses to the question relating to the number of people in the household, revealed a number of older people living alone, while there were very few in their 20s who lived alone. Survey data illustrated that residents mostly lived in two or more person households. However, the survey respondents' age profile is reflected by the dip in the overall age demographics so the reported picture is rather incomplete. Understandably, given Worlingworth village's countryside location, 93% of residents owned at least one car. Significantly, there were also a number of vans, lorries, farm vehicles and motorbikes listed.

### *Water and sewage*

Public utility services that residents have access to revealed most were on mains drainage, with a high number reporting no problems. However, there was a significant number of residents of nearly a fifth of respondents who experienced flooding problems of some description.

### *Mobile telephone & internet services*

There was much dissatisfaction with mobile phone coverage, as 85% of submissions recorded complaints. Opinions on the quality of internet connection were only slightly more positive, but still weighted towards dissatisfaction. Additionally, apart from a few exceptions, download and upload internet speeds were clearly inadequate. This statistic was similarly reflected amongst the businesses that participated in the survey.

### *Employment and business*

Whilst the sample of businesses that responded to the survey was understandably small, it seems that most appear to be "one person bands" that work full time. A couple of the listed remaining groups of businesses did report employing less than 5 staff full time. Interestingly, however, of the businesses that employed part time workers, almost all were below pensionable age. The location of villagers' employment showed over a third of respondents travelled more than 5 miles away. Those not in employment, however, totalled a similar sample size. This group's

respondents appeared mostly to be of pensionable age. Therefore one can assume then that Worlingworth has a high density of people living here of pensionable age. Secondly, those of working age who are employed are mostly required to travel to their place of work. This is presumably all done by car given the dearth of public transport facilities. The returns from the survey seem to reflect this idea without contradiction. Clearly, if the answers to questions 16 & 17 are to be accepted, then the opportunities for truly local employment are extremely limited currently. Therefore it is likely that any influx of new residents generated by new build housing will mostly have travel to their place of employment. This will of course bring with it significant increases in motor car traffic through the village along with the attendant risks of on-road parking where adequate parking space requirements are mostly ignored by residential developers. Around two thirds of respondents favoured development of small businesses. The survey further showed residents put a significant focus on encouraging country craft work shops and small scale work shops. Data also revealed the desire for a pub, cafe and shop to provide more employment.

### *Roads and transport*

There was uniformity amongst villagers about where major road danger spots were located. Aside from the obvious problem we have with many potholes, parking on the bend outside the school, on the bend near Church Street featured strongly. Favourite traffic calming measures were VASS speed signs, speed limit signs and interestingly, Community Action teams with speed guns, all found favour. Clearly, while there were a range of suggestions for traffic slowing measures, some do already exist. That said, it would seem that despite a number of traffic slowing measures already in place, the issue of speeding remains of concern to many respondents. The issue would therefore appear to be how to encourage drivers to comply with speed limits, warnings and general road conditions. Additionally, car sharing was not a popular option, while the Community Bus and its limitations as to regularity and diverse destinations appeared to make it less attractive to younger respondents. Opinions were divided on the need for more pavements with a 60/40 split in favour of the yes grouping. Over half of respondents who answered, said the roads should be made safer for cyclists, citing traffic slowing measures, cycle lanes/cycleways and repairing potholes. The possible need for more street lighting also drew a mixed response with two thirds saying that they didn't want any more.

### *Housing*

This was a major hot topic as evidenced by the returns on housing issues. Over three quarters of respondents thought the community would **not** benefit from more housing. Of those who did see benefits, terraced houses, bungalows and low cost rentable residences seemed to be favoured most.

### *Community activities*

Activities that villagers would like to see developed drew a varied response with overall no strong favourite. Clubs for football, male and female were suggested. Dancing, tennis and gym facilities were also mentioned by respondents. Film clubs, art and crafts and photography club were also popular. Only half of respondents indicated they would help with community activities, these appear to come from the

older generation groupings. However, most answers offered only occasional help, although this seems to be tempered by the statistics which show nearly half of helpers were already involved. The data seems to suggest, understandably, young adults perhaps with families have little free time to undertake *community activities*.

### *Communication*

By a large margin the Church & Village Newsletter is the favoured means of communication. The Parish Council Facebook page was also popular along with Parish noticeboards. There was virtually no support for a Parish Council Twitter account.

### *The local surroundings*

There was an unsurprising unanimity in the countryside section with tranquility, presence of birds, plants and insect life along with dark skies and starlight particularly valued. Important countryside features starred meadows and green fields, open spaces, woods and hedges as the key preferences. Areas for protection were open spaces, woods, groups of trees, meadows and hedges in the main. Village improvement requirements saw planting more trees, looking after existing woodlands, maintain ditches, less use of pesticides respectively in the top places. A third of villagers thought Worlingworth had changed for the worse, while the “no change” and “don’t know” were split evenly at a third each.

### *Footpaths*

Around 75% of respondents use the local footpath network. That said, those who didn’t cited lack of time, limited mobility, overgrown paths and dog fouling.

### *Possible future improvements*

This question saw a large survey response wanting the revival of the Swan pub with a shop/micro brewery. Retaining green gaps, better mobile phone connectivity, an open space or nature reserve at the village heart were the other stand out choices. Favourite subjects for revived community activities were in scoring order, a film club, football team, good neighbour scheme, and encouraging visiting theatre groups.

## **Next Steps**

The first step is to hold a public meeting on March 12th at 7.30pm at the Community Centre to present the survey findings. Clearly, part of the evening will allow for a question and answer session with members of the Parish Council on hand to give answers. Further on, much of the survey’s findings will be discussed at length during upcoming Parish Council meetings. This will enable the Council to consider how to support, develop and respond to the survey’s main conclusions.

