

# Willoughby Parish Council

## COMMUNITY SURVEY JULY 2022

### REPORT

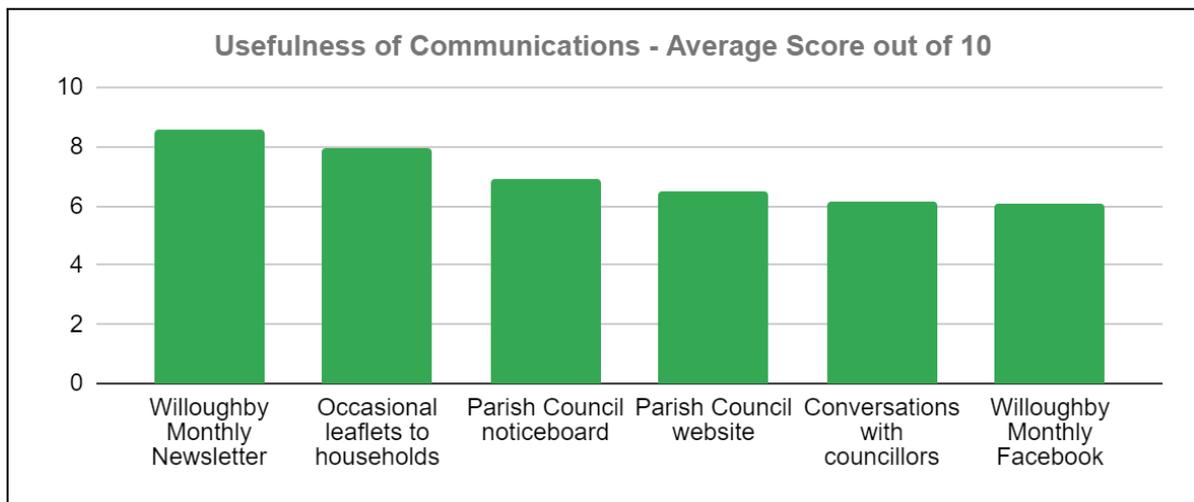
#### INTRODUCTION

In total, 198 surveys were distributed to every household in the parish in mid-July and 56 surveys were returned (30 online and 26 on paper) by the closing date of 12 August. The survey covered questions from the Parish Council about Communication, Upgrading the street lights to LEDs, Community Speed Watch and updating the Flood Action Plan. Residents were also asked for their ideas about what they would like to see happen in Willoughby Parish over the next three years.

#### 1. COMMUNICATION

##### Q1A How WE communicate with you

The different ways in which the Parish Council communicates with residents were listed and respondents asked to say how useful these were on a scale of 1 (not useful at all) to 10 (very useful). The results below are averages of the responses for each option to show which are most useful and which are least useful.



##### Q1B How YOU can communicate with us

Ways in which councillors and the parish clerk can be contacted currently were outlined and residents were asked for other ways in which they could share their ideas or concerns.

1. Make the above known (referring to types of communication described in survey)
2. It would be useful to have a specific area on the Parish Council website where one could raise issues.
3. Comments or idea box added to website
4. Email address for submitting suggestions.
5. Include the clerk's email address in The Willoughby Monthly.
6. Perhaps keep information box at B Beautiful where people could access.
7. Session to introduce councillors so we know who they all are.
8. Surveys like this to enable feedback.

9. Speak to councillors direct.
10. I think you have it all covered!
11. I can't think of any means better than to contact councillors and the parish clerk and to attend meetings.
12. I think the councillors do a great job at being so welcoming and approachable.
13. Councillors are approachable and communication isn't an issue.
14. Happy with existing arrangements.
15. Its no point attend Parish Council meeting only listen not say nothing. When you asking for a Parish Councillor the person what asked to have and eye of what goes on around the village itself. Do not take A-B-C next page to hard.

## 2. THE PARISH COUNCIL'S SUGGESTED PROJECTS

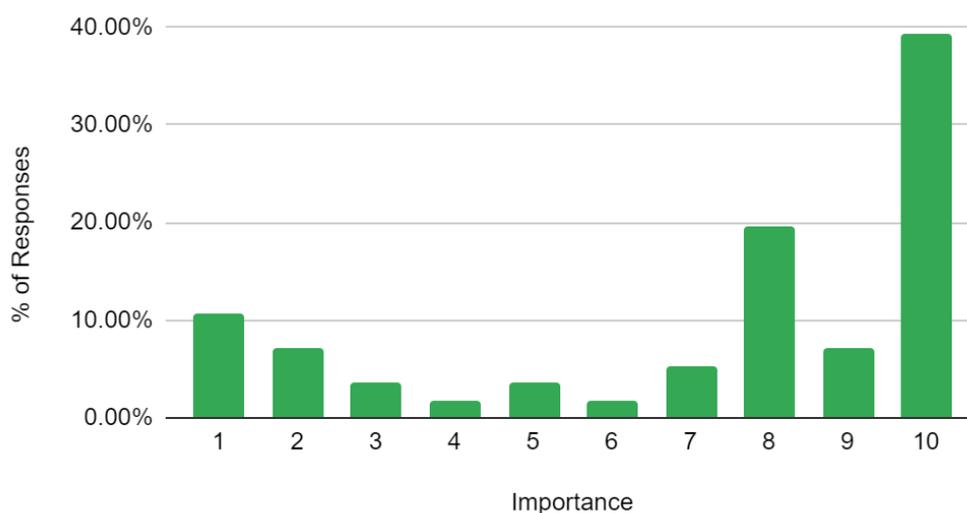
The Parish Council outlined three projects they thought would benefit the community and residents were asked to give their views.

### 2A Upgrading the street lighting in the village to use LED lanterns

Information was given about the benefits of replacing the existing lights with LEDs and an analysis of potential annual savings in Willoughby based on detailed research by another parish council.

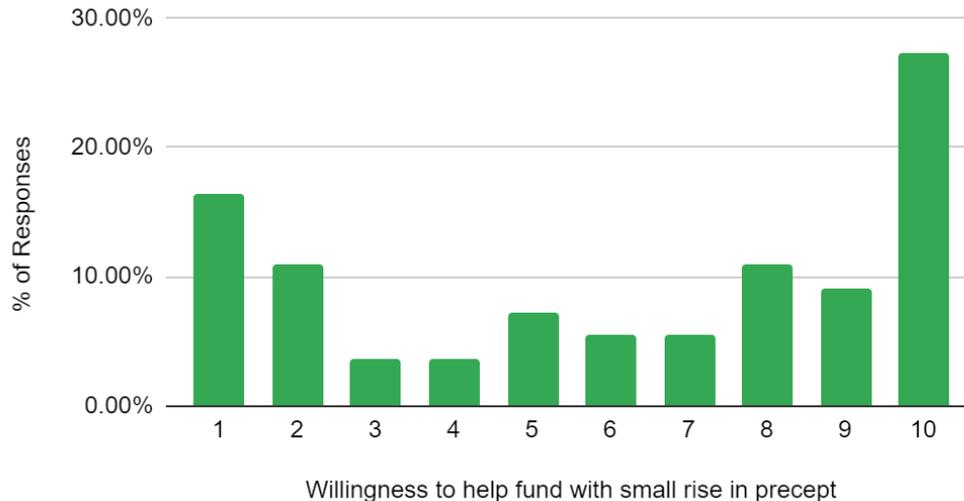
#### Q2Aa

**On a scale of 1 to 10, how important do you think it is that the street lights in the village are upgraded to LEDs where 1 is not important at all and 10 is very important?**



#### Q2Ab

**On a scale of 1 to 10, how willing would you be to help fund an upgrade through a small rise in the precept (£1 to £2 a month per household depending on Council Tax band) where 1 is not willing at all and 10 is very willing?**



### Q2Ac

**Do you have concerns about upgrading the street lights to use LED lanterns? YES/NO**

40% of people said Yes (22 respondents)  
60% of people said No (33 respondents)

### Q2Ad

**If you have answered YES to the question above, please note your CONCERNS below.**

#### Cost

1. The council will make considerable savings from LED streetlight costs, nearly half the cost of current ones. Would it not be better to recoup the funds from savings rather than expecting people to pay even more council tax when we are in a cost of living crisis?
2. Not perceived as a necessary cost at this stage. Maybe in the future.
3. With the ever increasing cost of living and many younger generations in the village that still have mortgages etc, now is not the right time to be adding additional costs to bills. Why is there not enough funds in the parish council pot ?
4. I feel that due to the rate of the increase of the cost of living, now is not the right time for needless expenditure and increasing villagers rates, utilities are due to rise again in October and base rate has increased, think of the younger generation in the village. PC can be a little ageism with their choices.
5. Cost!
6. Council tax local too high now.
7. Far too expensive.
8. Ticked NO indicating not concerned about LEDs but added to score of 4 for Q2Ab about small rise in precept: Because it would not be taken off after the first year
9. Projected additional costs over repayment years which is likely to increase.
10. Over a ten year period, upgrading should pay for itself. However is it possible that a further upgrade will be required before then?
11. Would like LED lights but not at that cost. Perhaps could look for better costings.
12. On the face of it there will be a big saving for us, however I would like the PC to check with a few other councils who already have LEDs to ensure there are no higher maintenance costs (it looks too good to be true) or any other unforeseen costs.

13. How long will the LED's last?
14. What is the payback period when savings offset the initial investment?
15. The cost of the upgrade is a substantial sum and it will take 12 years (approx) to recoup the funds. However with electricity prices rising it may be a good investment.

#### Quality and direction of light

1. Change should be based upon a full review of street lighting to determine the necessary brightness and coverage; straight swap may not be optimal. The replacements should minimise light pollution too.
2. Direction of light onto road, not gardens.
3. They can be too bright and not feel like a rural area
4. LED street lamps are extremely bright - does the village need to look like the Blackpool Illuminations? Can the lights be dimmed say after midnight?
5. Concerned if too white light or too bright
6. Only concerned if too white and/or bright
7. I believe that LED lights are brighter than the current lights. One of the things which makes Willoughby so special is being able to see the night sky.  
Could a financial and environment solution be to review the time which the current lights are left on for? Personally I'd be happy not to have any street lights.
8. How does brightness and colour compare?

#### Survey questions - additional comments

1. Related to Q2Aa Importance of upgrading to LEDs:  
LEDs use significantly less energy and output can be controlled more efficiently than traditional street lights. Therefore, LEDs reduce amount of carbon emission.
2. Related to Q2Ac: Do you have concerns? Yes/No  
No concerns if LEDs have a colour temperature of less than 3000k. LEDs greater than this temp. have a high level of short wavelength blue light. Blue light scatters more than yellow and red light and sufficient levels/exposure can damage the retina.
3. Related to questions Q2Aa - Q2Ac about LED lighting: It seems to make sound economic and environmental sense to upgrade to LED.
4. Related to questions about upgrading to LEDs:  
We reported the light is permanently on in Magdalen Road - answer was unsatisfactory as we were told that it didn't matter because the Parish Council didn't pay for electric - we would like this reported again to you.

#### Darker skies initiative

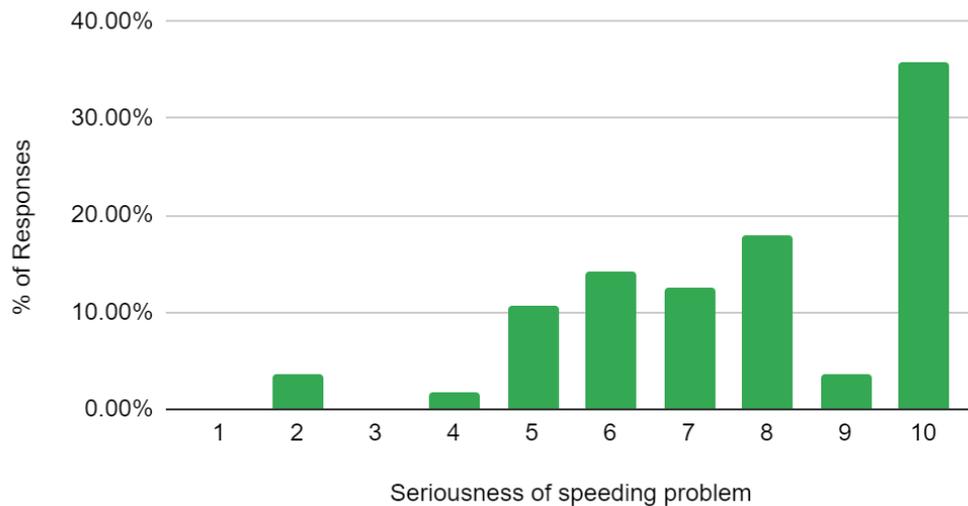
Darker skies initiative - to preserve the night's sky around Willoughby. Seeing the stars is a magical experience. Willoughby currently has a large amount of light pollution which could be reduced helping to preserve the night's sky - it would also help save money/protect the environment. Initial steps could see the parish council switching off lights earlier or reducing the number of street lights (every other) and limiting the spot lighting of public buildings. Residents could also participate by reducing their own impact.

## 2B Setting up Community Speed Watch in the village

Information was provided from the Warwickshire Police Road Safety Unit about the number of volunteers and the time required to undertake training, if residents considered speeding to be a problem.

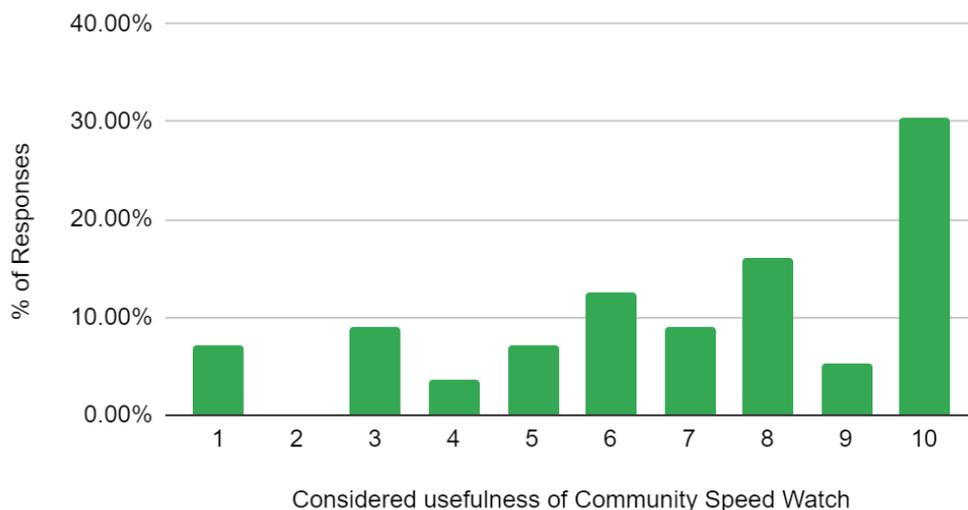
### Q2Ba

On a scale of 1 to 10, how serious a problem do you think speeding is in the village where 1 is not serious at all and 10 is very serious?



### Q3Bb

On a scale of 1 to 10, how useful do you think a Community Speed Watch initiative would be where 1 is not useful at all and 10 is very useful?



### Q2Bc

If this survey suggests that a Community Speed Watch project is desirable, would you volunteer to be trained and to carry out monitoring in the village from time to time?

15 people volunteered.

## 2C Updating our Flood Action Plan

The key areas in the village at risk from flooding were listed and residents were asked to volunteer to help update the Action Plan and/or to become a Flood Warden.

17 people volunteered to help update the Action Plan; and  
11 volunteered to become Flood Wardens + one maybe

### Survey questions - additional scores and comments

1. Q2Ba Three people scored 7 for speeding in the village and 10 for A45.
2. Q2Bb Usefulness of Speed Watch: We think the authorities should be responsible for this.
3. \* Speed cameras on the A45 would generate lots of income from fines.
4. Q2Bc relating to volunteering for Speed Watch: A younger person would be ideal.

## 3. RESIDENTS' RESPONSES FOR PROJECTS/IDEAS THEY WOULD LIKE TO SEE HAPPEN OVER THE NEXT THREE YEARS

The ideas given by residents have been organised under different headings to help analysis and consideration of what action might be taken. Traffic was the issue causing most concern to residents and included comments and ideas about possible solutions.

### **TRAFFIC**

#### **In the Village**

##### Large/oversized vehicles

1. Need to report/prevent unauthorised vehicles in excess of 7.5tons from passing through the village.
2. Large/oversized vehicles (not [double underline] agricultural going about their business) are still using our village as a 'rat run' despite the introduction of a limit to MGW permitted. This causes extreme (underlined) problems, not only in the village (Main St) but also the Moor Lane/Sawbridge access into the village. As this is a legislated limit to MGW allowed, it needs policing and monitoring.  
\* MGW = maximum gross weight
3. Perhaps the introduction of 'Speed Wardens' would help but we need to solicit the help of the Police for maximum impact and to resolve the issue before an accident happens.

##### Speeding

1. Also, with regard to speeding, the main culprits are agricultural vehicles. Massive tractors often go through at speed, skimming past cars parked on the road. I was born into farming and grew up in a farming community so I'm not some ignorant townie complaining about farmers for the sake of it, but they really do drive much too fast through the village. I've rarely seen a speeding car.
2. Attention to be given to reducing the speed of vehicles through the village.
3. Traffic-calming measures around/near the pond.
4. Reduce speed limits around and in the village due to parking/safety.
5. Camera in village recording the speed of vehicles with a thank you sign as at Kilsby on A361.

### Parking

1. Speed bumps and more yellow lines to prevent street parking in dangerous areas and blind spots
2. Sort the street parking out in the village so many dangerous blind spots
3. Groups of cyclists, motorbikes, and cars through the village are becoming more frequent and create problems for residents through lack of consideration of the impact they have e.g. cyclists who travel by car and leave the car on the village hall car park, across the road or at the side of village roads restricting parking for residents. Measures that might be considered include signage to encouraging considerate use of the roads in the parish and wider area, a residents parking scheme permitting resident permit holders, their visitors, and deliveries only to park at the roadside and car park opposite the Village Hall.
4. Improved parking in roads and provision of village car park.

### Brook in Moor Lane

1. Priority given to the managing of flood risk.
2. The vegetation in the brook from the Lower St. Junction to the Manor Farm entrance is once again thick. whilst growth in water courses before the village is desirable slowing the flow and reducing volume into the village the Moor Lane section needs to be clear or thin so that water can flow away to the flood plain quickly. If the Highways dept cannot/will not keep this clear, then WPC should consider adopting it as a step to minimise the risk of flooding in the village.
3. Brook clearance to enable viewing from Moor Lane.
4. We think the brook should be cleared, bearing in mind the wildlife resident there + would be willing to be part (underlined) of a workforce to tackle this. \*The pond culvert needs clearing regularly too.
5. We are concerned about the excessive growth in the brook which needs clearing before winter.
6. Maintenance programme to keep brook clear - even if it takes the responsibility away from Highways.
7. Q2Ca and Q2Cb related to volunteering for Flood Action Plan and Warden: Ideally younger persons to operate.

### One way system

Investigate pro's + con's of making the road between duck pond + Woolscott Rd one way subject to "referendum" if it was to be taken further.

## **TRAFFIC**

### **Outside the village**

#### Longdown Lane/A45 junction

1. Streetlights - A45 junc Longdown Lane need to be completed. When is the last lighting column next to the farm to be erected and the lights powered up?
2. The lights in Woolscott Road at the +roads with the A45 have not been connected up.
3. I know it's not the remit of a Parish Council but they could let WCC know that the street lights at the junction of Longdown Road and Woolscott Road make no difference. The main issue is people pulling out of Longdown Road turning right, believing they have priority over people turning out of Woolscott road turning left. They have no idea of Highway Code and I've had several near misses taking my kids to school in the morning. So much so that I now prefer the turn out of Main Street despite the fact you can't see traffic coming from the right very well. The junction in question really needs lights or a roundabout.

4. Highways - A45 junction with Longdown Lane. This junction requires keep left bollards to be erected at each end of the right turn Lane on the A45, and possibly continuous white lines on the approaches for 200m or so. The line of sight from the Willoughby side of Longdown Lane needs to be reviewed and then maintained.
5. The road signs (both words underlined) on the Longdown Lane A45 crossing should both read STOP approaching from Barby + Willoughby.
6. We still need to monitor the situation at the junction of the A45/Longdown Lane, as to whether the new lighting has done its job. The no. of vehicles going up to Barby is increasing all the time, and I still think more safety measures are needed.

#### Longdown Lane

1. I would like to see enforcement of the 7.5T limit on Longdown Lane. Many horseboxes and commercial vehicles use it when I am sure they shouldn't be. Could Rugby Borough Council be persuaded to put up a CCTV camera by the canal bridge and junction with the A45?
2. Litter along Longdown Lane is a real problem. I am sadly short of bright ideas how to solve the problem although notices encouraging people to take their litter home with them is a possibility. In this terribly dry weather broken glass in the verges is a fire hazard. I am willing to participate as a volunteer as part of a group to do periodic litter picking which I do from time to time off my own bat anyway.

#### Speeding

1. I would ask that the parish council work and help those within parish but not in village to challenge the 60mph speed limits outside of the village. How can you allow a road where 2 cars cannot pass without one pulling over to be within our lovely village parish.? Outside of this area, you will find speed limits on roads wider than ours is 30mph. Try Barby to start. As a nation we are encouraging cycles, walking, and new regulations to protect these people on the roads, then rural roads, nationwide should be relevant. Be a leader not a follower.
2. Reduce traffic speed on the A45 between railway bridge and Dunchurch side of the Longdown Lane crossroad - one takes their life in their hands walking along the footpath and the speed of the traffic makes it very scary. Need to have double white lines and place a speed camera midway between the above points. The 'Thank You' signs for driving carefully through the village need to be repositioned to include the distance between the above points.
3. I would like to see greater speed control on Longdown Lane with a reduction to 20 mph from the junction with the A45 to beyond Navigation Cottage, Navigation House and Navigation Bungalow.
4. Speed limit on A45 from station bridge to Onley Prison turn of 49mph as in all the other villages along the A45.
5. Travelling along the lanes it is a frequent event to encounter cyclists, motorcyclists and drivers cutting the bends. Near misses are frequent.

#### **PAVEMENTS**

The pavements in some parts of the village are quite narrow and travelling along them can be quite hazardous when hedges/shrubs are allowed to overgrow, restricting safe passage. As it is unlikely that the pavements will be widened, can a notice be issued asking people to give a thought to pedestrians, pushchair and wheelchair users.

## **VILLAGE POND**

1. A shelter by the duck pond as a lot of people like to sit and watch the wildlife.
2. The interpretation boards by the village pond and amenity garden need some maintenance as visibility has become restricted through grime and condensation.
3. Pond board walk - the narrowness of the road next to the pond puts ducks and pedestrians at risk. A board walk could be constructed over the edge of the pond in parallel to the road providing a way for pedestrians to walk safely; a viewing platform for people to view the ducks; and a safer place for the ducks to sleep
4. Improving the island in the middle of the pond so ducks do not sleep in the road. Or extending the concrete edge into the pond so they have somewhere to sit.

## **FOOTPATHS**

### Map

Detailed map of all local footpaths.

### Footpath maintenance

1. Better maintenance of path and gates through the shrubbery.
2. The access to the footpath that leads diagonally from near the cricket club to the A45 is often blocked;
3. The bridge to near Leam Farm is broken (this may be outside of Parish Boundaries but something that villagers would benefit from if fixed).
4. Whilst I think it may be beyond the immediate parish area - I would appreciate the parish investigating the repair of the bridge on the footpath from Sawbridge towards Willoughby so the footpath can be used again.
5. Maintenance needed:
  - a. Thro' Haywood Lodge, especially at the stile onto A45.
  - b. From Brooks Close to Pye Court.
  - c. Across the newly planted triangle.
  - d. The bridge behind Leam View has been awaiting repair for about 4 years now + is restricting walking - recommended for good health.
6. Footpath alongside A45 (in capital letters) between Willoughby + Dunchurch is in a terrible state of repair - in some places dangerous, and does not encourage residents to walk or cycle, which we are repeatedly being encouraged to do. It is also spoilt with litter.
7. We are concerned about the uneven surface of the access lane leading from Main St. to the playing fields, School House and Shrubbery footpath. Maintenance of this area is long overdue. It has now become unsafe.

## **PLAYING FIELD**

1. Playground- the new playground equipment and play rangers activities have seen young and old enjoying the green space of the village together. If car parking space for the village hall is required it shouldn't be at the expense of our green space that is so very much valued. The Parish Council could allocate the playground area as an area not for development and help ensure the future of this great village asset.
2. My kids have loved using the new playground equipment, attending Play Rangers and going to the village Sports Day. If it isn't already could the council review whether the entire playground can be designated as a green space for the village.
3. Area in playing field which is dog friendly.
4. Install 2 additional benches on playing field - 1 alongside football pitch and 1 near the slide.
5. Skate board park for older children.

## **ADULT FITNESS EQUIPMENT**

1. Installing adult gym equipment in the playing field, a selection of equipment that would be of use, I think such equipment during Covid would have been great benefit, provides a way to keep villagers healthy and can be social able - both aid mental health.
2. Would like to re-visit the Fitness Equipment for adults.
3. Sometime ago, we were asked our opinion on exercise equipment (in the playing field or somewhere similar). The results as I remember it were 22 against + 24 in favour - What happened?
4. Would like the suggestion of adult exercise equipment reconsidered i.e. just 2 or 3 pieces (steps as there are a number of older people living in bungalows)

## **OTHER COMMENTS AND IDEAS**

### Area adjacent to playing field

The planting adjacent to playing field means I can no longer mow the 'triangle' and area alongside footpath. An alternative is needed if these areas are not to be permanently overgrown.

### Road maintenance

Road maintenance is woeful consider publishing and register of outstanding Maintenance tasks and Highways prioritisation, estimated repair date and actual repair date so that WPC can hold them to account on behalf of residents.

It would be great (underlined) if you could continue to pester the highways so that Moor Lane (from Willoughby House to the bridge) could be re-surfaced! Pot holes galore!

### Village boundary signs

Upgrading the village boundary signs like Dunchurch.

### Notices on telegraph poles

We often find notices attached to telegraph poles on Lower Street hanging off and try to reattach them, but also regularly find them in our garden, and have seen at least one at the bottom of the pond.

As they are laminated notices, they do not biodegrade, so we think they need to be placed inside contained noticeboards like the one in the Amenity Garden on Main Street, as this is the only way you can ensure that they do not end up littering.

So could more contained noticeboards be put up and used rather than the telegraph poles? This would also mean the notices would not need to be laminated which presumably would use less energy, cost less and reduce unrecyclable waste.

### Village sign

Improve planting around village sign.

### Animal friendly village

Help make Willoughby an animal friendly, 'Greener' village.

### Litter picking

Perhaps organise litter picking.

### Volunteers

With regard to many of the jobs that need attending to in the village, I think we have a fairly large core of people who would volunteer to help in one way or another. A full list of all possible volunteers would be good, and the village improved in many ways.

### Housing

No more housing development.

### Planning applications

Adopt a more robust response to planning applications to preserve village character and protect interests of existing residents.

### Buses

Buses to and from village.

### Various responses

- a. The Parish Council do a very good job for the village, it is not all Village Hall + the Playing Field. The village itself seems to me is neglected.
- b. The Parish Council should have a walk around the village and note hedges growing over pavements. Where we had floods on main A45 ditch filled in. Back of College Road a disgrace. A couple of benches you can't get near.
- c. Some of the Parish Councils I do not know. I've lived in the village for the past 35 years or so. I hope there interest is for the village not there own. I must admit the church yard is 10 out of 10.

### Funding

Don't fund committee ideas by putting up parish rate i.e. parishioners council tax!!

### Village Hall

Application for government funding which has recently become available to update or refurbish the village hall. I would like to be involved and help with a community project for something like that. It would be good to have a proper bar area, ability to split off bar from main hall and to open up to allow more at music events. (Emily 07790 436393). A sub committee to create a vision for the village hall, to oversee and help implement.

### The Rose Inn

I support the application for The Rose to be considered as an Asset of Community Value and run properly it could be an important facility and social space for the village.

### Enjoying life in the village

I am very happy with my quality of life in Willoughby and have no burning issues that I feel need to be addressed. I consider myself fortunate to live here and try to join in with village life as best I can.

As a newcomer to beautiful Willoughby it's just perfect to me. Will have a think for next year! Ty.

### Encouragement for the Parish Council

Thank you for all the work you all do and for putting the survey together!

Just keep up the good work.