

Summary

Demographics

The results reflect the 2021 census results. Our village residents are of the older generation with 61% of respondents being 55 or over. This section was completed by all respondents giving an idea of the village demographic.

Communication

A key factor to a village community is communication, 89% of Leigh residents felt well informed, suggesting village communication is good. The main methods of communication being word of mouth and Facebook. The village website was the sixth most popular method of communication, so it is worth the Parish Council considering alternative methods to communicate.

Improvements suggested by the questionnaire suggest improving the Village magazine as well as better use of social media. A community noticeboard was also suggested.

Housing

The majority of residents in Leigh upon Mendip (86.6%) are homeowners. Leigh home-owners felt any new housing in the village should be affordable and low cost starter homes. There is opposition to new housing and luxury housing developments. The respondents felt it is important to ensure plenty of green space remains between any houses and that any housing built should be of a traditional style. The main concern with any new housing is the lack of parking and increased traffic through the village. The Parish council should keep these points in mind for future planning applications.

Climate emergency/Environmental Issues

Climate change is important to the respondents, an efficient bus service was the top priority that respondents thought would help them to reduce their carbon footprint. With more options for recycling and reusing, possibly a community compost scheme and more on street recycling also being a priority.

The Parish agrees that planting more trees, having more recycling facilities and local solar projects are climate change actions possible for the village. These are areas the Parish council could research further.

Respondents are most satisfied with the rights of ways and air pollution and least satisfied with safe cycle routes and biodiversity.

It was important to 93.4% of respondents to live in a village, with parishioners expressing that the village maintains its character when any new developments are considered. The important village factors being open spaces, the pub, the school, the hall and community events. The respondents did not necessarily feel improvements to village facilities or activities were needed but areas in the village that respondents felt could be improved were the children's play area, parking, rec field pavilion, having removable church pews and increased footpath maintenance.

Community facilities and services

The most used recreation facilities in the village are the footpaths, pub, village hall and park. Respondents would like to see a post office/village shop and possibly a repair shop in the village.

Future investments for the Parish council were seen to be parking, improved footpaths/bridleways as well as improved buildings such as the village hall and rec pavilion. Community events that the parishioners would like to attend were the village fete, local produce festival, bonfire night and live music events. A village committee not linked to the individual organisations might help with this.

The parishioners use the village hall but not the rec pavilion. Additional uses of the pavilion should be investigated.

Technology

Respondents were satisfied with the broadband in the village but dissatisfied with mobile phone reception, including 4G coverage.

Traffic, travel and transport

Speed of cars, parking and parked cars are the main areas of concern in the village with most villagers relying on cars as their main mode of transport.

Public transport concerns included frequency, times and no weekend buses. If these concerns were addressed 46% of respondents would choose to use public transport.

60% of respondents were unaware of the community transport scheme for those without access to transport and those that were aware were unsure how to access it. This is something the parish council could address by publicising the scheme.

There is a possibility to run a community Speedwatch scheme within the village with 27 respondents keen to be involved.

Health and Wellbeing

More than 70% of respondents feel they are in good physical and mental health. When questioned they were happy with what the village offers to improve health and wellbeing. However, 33 people think a community exercise area would help with health and wellbeing needs including reduced isolation.

Community Safety

Respondents felt community safety could be improved by traffic calming schemes, activities for young people and first aid training.