

CHEVELEY COMMUNITY PLAN 2016

The Parish of Cheveley

Cheveley Parish is located to the south east of Newmarket and occupies an area of 10.3 square kilometres. Its neighbours are Ashley to the east, Woodditton to the west and Kirtling to the south. The Parish also shares a short length of boundary with the Suffolk town of Newmarket. The parish is split into two wards; South Ward comprises Cheveley Village, Cheveley Park and Broad Green, and; North Ward consists of those residential properties on the Newmarket fringe. Cheveley falls within the local government district of East Cambridgeshire.

Consultation

The consultation process commenced in late January 2015, when parishioners were invited to attend a planning meeting, following which a steering group was established and the process for producing the plan was agreed.

During June and July 2015, 1908 household surveys were delivered in the parish. Of those, 492 individual responses were returned; a response rate of 25.8%. 328 of all responses were from residents in the South Ward or 31.5% of all surveys distributed in the ward. 18.9% (164) of all surveys delivered in the North Ward were returned. Following the distribution, collection and analysis of the household survey, further questionnaires were completed by 14 young people aged 11-16 at Bottisham Village College and 39 pupils at Cheveley Primary School, all of whom were resident in the parish.

Of those who responded, 51% were female and 49% male; a statistic which mirrors the population breakdown obtained in the 2011 census. 5% of respondents were under 16 years of age, 55% were aged 16-64 and the remaining 40% of those choosing to complete and return the survey were over 65 years old. The comparative figures from the 2011 census were 17% aged under 16, 62% aged 16-64 and 21% over 65 years of age.



This community plan has been written following extensive analysis of the responses to all three surveys. Those responses have helped shape the detail within this plan and the next steps, of which the priorities are listed below:

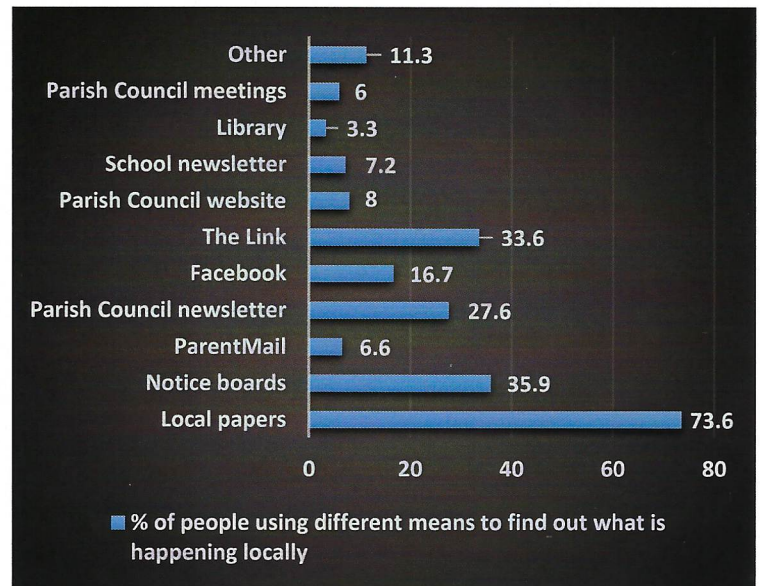
- Cheveley Parish Council to assist in identifying and determining the possibility of developing land for a mix of housing, including affordable housing.
- Establish a working group encompassing all current and potential community organisations reliant upon facilities in the parish. Carry out a feasibility study on the development of a village hall in Cheveley village with ancillary leisure facilities.
- Engage local authorities and land owners with responsibility for maintaining public rights of way and develop a coordinated maintenance schedule for footpaths in the parish.
- Cheveley Parish Council to be approached about determining a priority list for delivery of the recommendations set out in this plan and categorise them as high, medium and low with associated timescales. This process should be tied in with budget setting for the life of the Community Plan.
- In the event that funding, beyond that which can be secured through grants from public bodies and sponsorship/donations, is required to support the delivery of the priorities identified in this plan, Cheveley Parish Council should consider raising its share of the Council Tax precept by no more than the equivalent of £1 per month per household, which would equate to approximately £12,000 per year.

1: Communication

The chart below demonstrates the way in which those replying to the survey access information about what is happening locally. Local papers are clearly the most popular source and other more traditional methods are generally favoured over electronic means.

Conversely, 86% of respondents have access to the internet at home, a statistic which is surpassed by the 11-16 age group, of whom 100% have access to the internet. Significantly, of those with access to the internet, 61.6% stated they would use a website dedicated to providing information about groups and activities in the parish. This is a figure considerably higher than the 8% that use the Parish Council website.

43% of people expressing an opinion would like to receive information about activities taking place in the community by email. This gives rise to the possibility of developing a means of more accurately and cost effectively targeting people with information that is relevant to them.

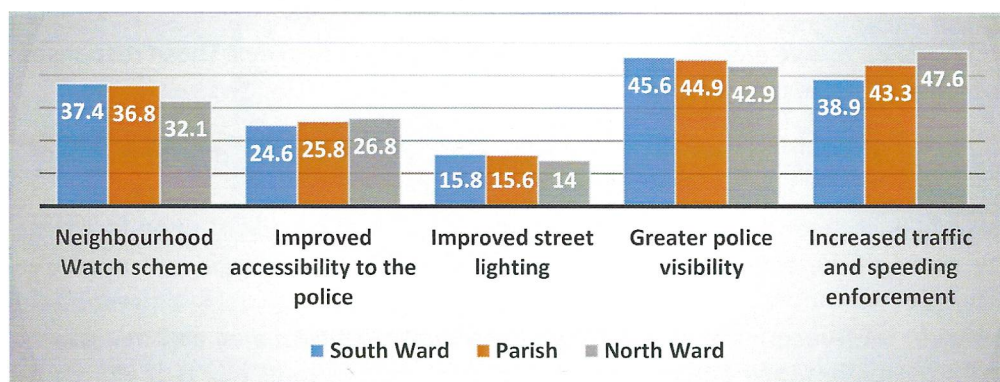


Next steps...

- 1.1 Investigate support available for assisting and enabling residents to access the internet.
- 1.2 Cheveley Parish Council to carry out a review of number and location of noticeboards.
- 1.3 Establish a working group to consider the development of a community website. Consider the establishment of a distribution list for local events and updates, and assign responsibility for its ownership and maintenance.
- 1.4 Cheveley Parish Council to re-establish positive links with the local media.

2: Community Safety & Wellbeing

92.2% of residents feel safe or very safe living in the parish of Cheveley. This is consistent with the results from the 11-16 age group (93%), but higher than those for young people aged 7-11 (69%). When asked which measures would make them feel safer, there were some discrepancies between the two wards, as depicted in the chart, below.

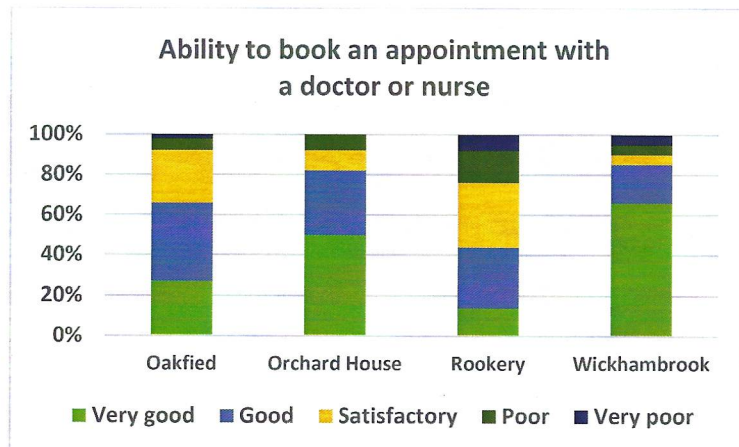
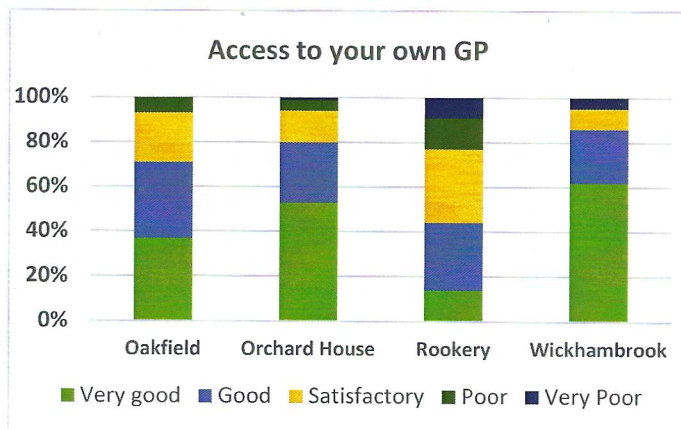


In addition, 50% of young people aged 11-16 said they would feel safer if there were a communal indoor space in which they could meet friends.

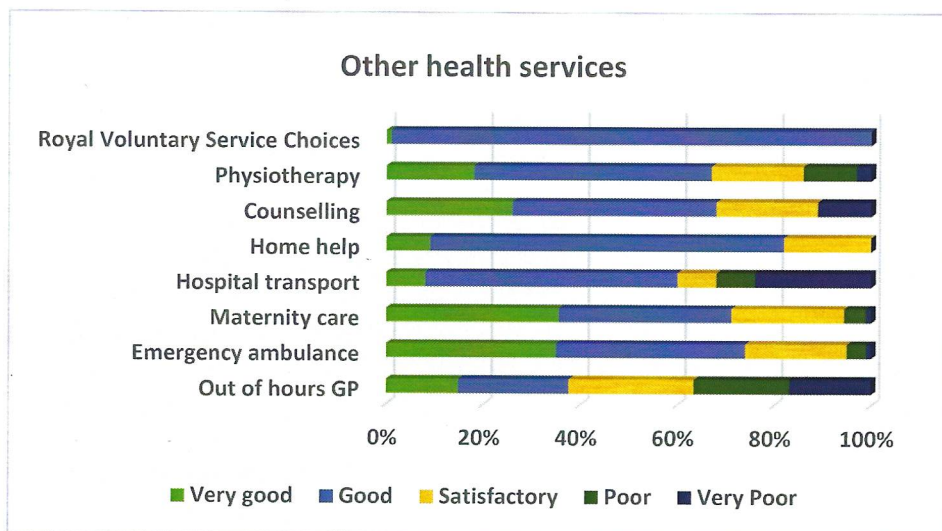
All but 4.5% of parishioners are registered at GP surgeries in Newmarket, the most popular of which is The Rookery (44%) with Orchard House and Oakfield

surgeries each attracting a little over 24% of respondents. Pleasingly, while 1% of people are not registered with a GP, nobody recorded an inability to do so. 2.1% of respondents stated they were unable to register with an NHS dentist, which is a reduction from the 6% recorded in 2005.

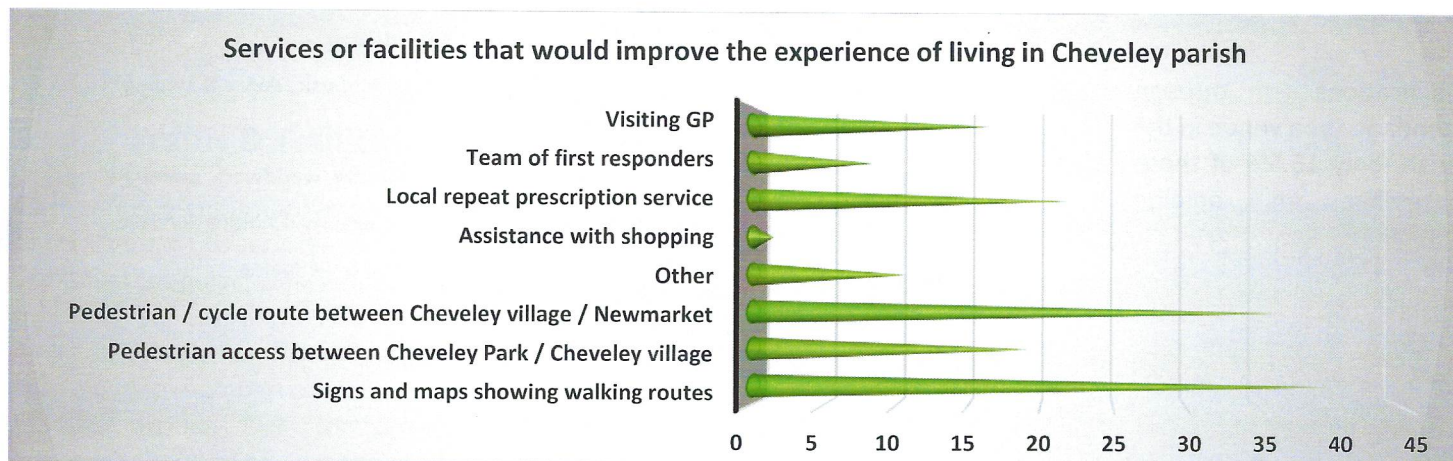
The tables below show the level of satisfaction with local services in the preceding twelve months. Those registered at Wickhambrook and Orchard House appear to experience higher levels of satisfaction than those at Oakfield surgery and, significantly, The Rookery.



Of the general health services available in the area, the majority have been determined as good or very good by more than 50% of respondents. The out of hours GP service had a mixed response with only 38% of people considering it to be better than satisfactory.



When given the opportunity to state which services or facilities could enhance wellbeing, more than 40% of respondents indicated they would like to see signs and maps showing walking routes in the parish. 36% opted for a pedestrian / cycle route between Cheveley village and Newmarket with 19% requesting pedestrian access between Cheveley Park and the village. There is also strong demand (22%) for extension of the repeat prescription service covering all GP surgeries.



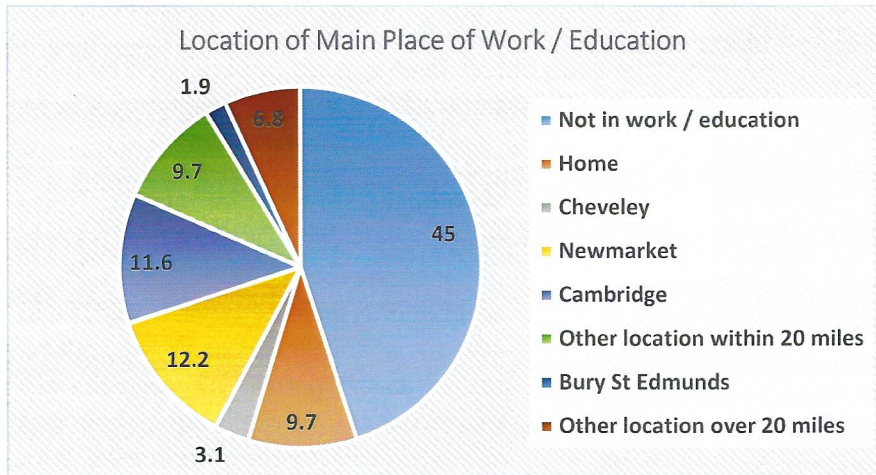
Next steps...

- 2.1 Identify which areas of the parish would most benefit from, and its residents contribute time towards, a Neighbourhood Watch scheme. Request assistance from the neighbourhood policing team in the development of any such scheme(s).
- 2.2 Assist volunteers in the development of a regular youth club for the 11-16 age group.
- 2.3 Determine the level of support for, and location of, traffic calming measures in the North Ward. Encourage local residents to engage with the Speedwatch programme.

Next steps continued...

- 2.4 Report levels of satisfaction with health services to West Suffolk Clinical Commissioning Group and request a positive response. Raise issue of access to NHS dentists. Explore potential for visiting GP service.
- 2.5 Investigate possible expansion of local repeat prescription service at the Post Office, Cheveley.
- 2.6 Engage landowners in discussions around possible solutions to footpath from Park Road to Cheveley Park.
- 2.7 Establish a working group to consider a possible funding application to improve signage and walking routes in the parish. Involve Newmarket Ramblers or a similar local organisation.
- 2.8 Recruit a team of first responders in addition to considering the most appropriate location for the defibrillator currently sited at the pavilion on the Recreation Ground.

3. Employment & Education

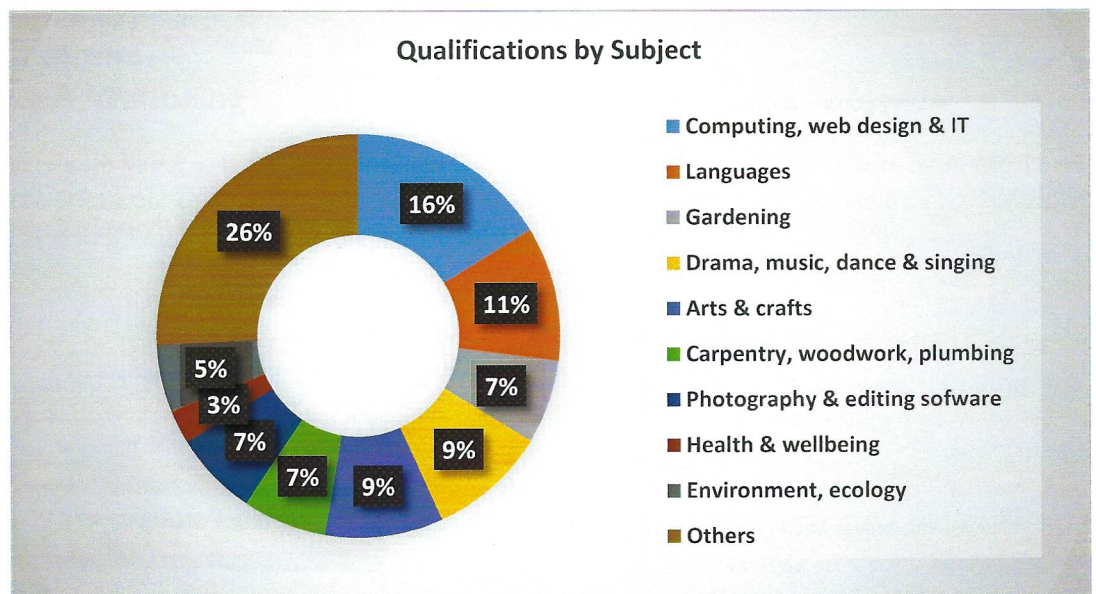


A significant proportion of those choosing to return the survey (45%) are not currently in work or education. Of those in education or employment, a combined 25% work at home, elsewhere in Cheveley or in Newmarket. Cambridge (11.6%) attracts a greater number of people than Bury St Edmunds (1.9%), while 6.8% of respondents are required to commute in excess of 20 miles.

By far the most popular mode of transport for those that need to commute for employment or education purposes is the car (60.3%). Just 2% of people use the bus service to get to

work or school/college, compared to 3.7% of people that rely upon trains. At 6.7%, walking, encouragingly, is the second most popular way of travelling for education or employment purposes.

Asked whether they would be interested in developing skills or improving qualifications through attendance at a venue in the parish, only 16.5% of those expressing an opinion replied positively. The chart, right, indicates the types of subject that were most popular among the 62 respondents.

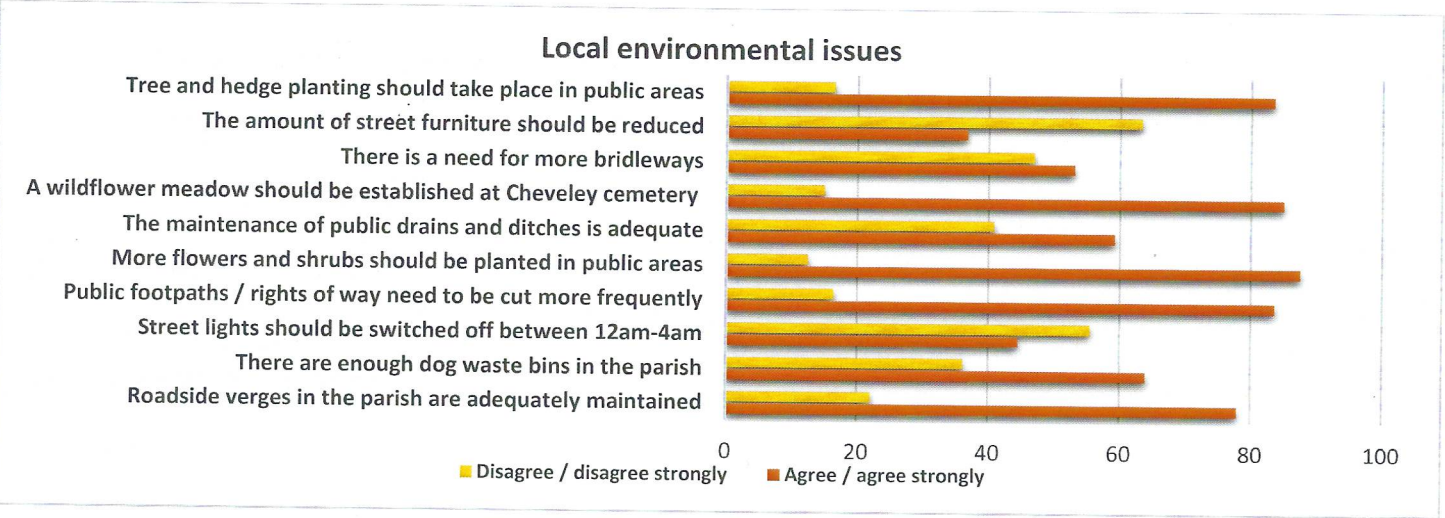


Next steps...

- 3.1 Inform Stagecoach and Cambridgeshire County Council that just 2% of those in work or education in Newmarket use the bus service. Request a review of the timetabling.
- 3.2 Inform Suffolk County Council's Adult Education department regarding the potential for hosting desired courses at Foley House, Newmarket.

4. Local Environment

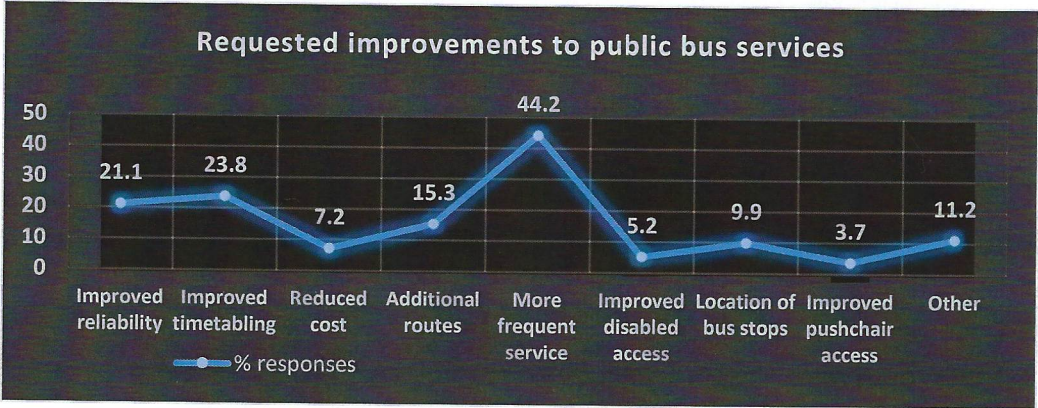
Residents of the parish were presented with a number of statements relating to the local environment and asked to state whether they agreed strongly, agreed, disagreed or disagreed strongly with the statement. There was no significant difference between the results recorded in either ward, so the chart below depicts the total of all responses across the parish.



- Next steps...**
- 4.1 Monitor the effects of Cambridgeshire County Council’s decision to switch off street lights from 2am-4am and the impact on residents of the parish.
 - 4.2 Proceed with establishing a wild flower meadow at Cheveley cemetery through the Friends of Cheveley Cemetery group.
 - 4.3 As a minimum, maintain the level of cuts to roadside verges across the parish. Consult with the Biodiversity Group regarding any additional cuts to specific areas.
 - 4.4 Empower the Biodiversity Group to consider priority projects and potential funding sources, particularly in relation to the planting of trees, hedges, shrubs and flowers in the parish.
 - 4.5 Carry out an audit of street furniture in the parish, noting its location, condition and relevance. Present the resulting plan to all tiers of local government to determine any necessary action.

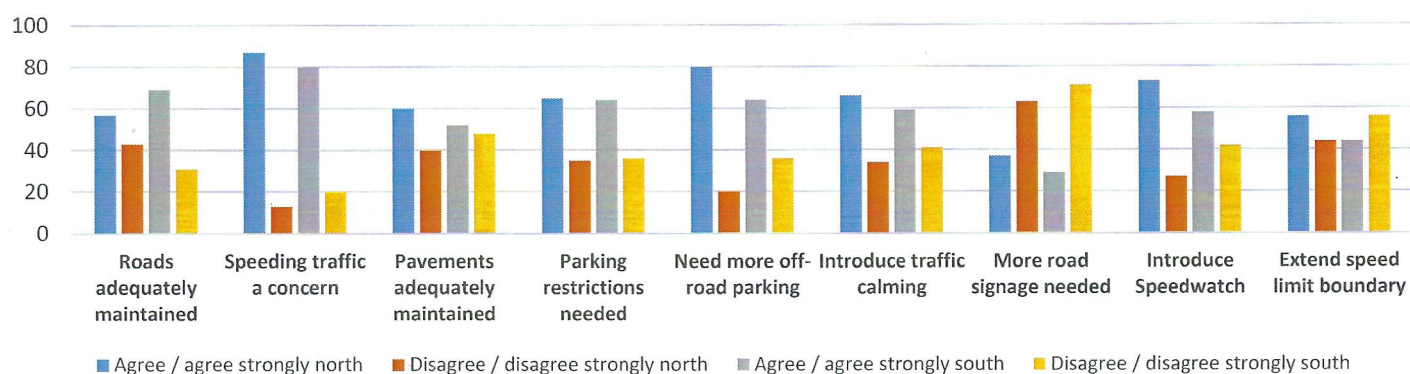
5. Traffic & Transport

Of the requested improvements to local public bus services, by far the most popular was a more frequent service expressed by 44.2% of those with an opinion. A considerable number of people (23.8%) would like to see improved timetabling, just ahead of those who would favour improvements to the reliability of the service (21.1%).



Issues concerning traffic and road safety were explored using a variety of statements against which respondents were asked to state whether they agreed strongly, agreed, disagreed or disagreed strongly. There were some marked differences of opinion expressed between people in the south and north wards as depicted in the chart, below.

Traffic and road safety concerns



Next steps...

- 5.1 Inform Stagecoach and Cambridgeshire County Council of desired improvements to local bus services. Cross reference with 3.1, above. Encourage establishment of a residents' forum to address the issues.
- 5.2 Engage the neighbourhood policing team in encouraging residents to deliver a Speedwatch programme in affected areas. Consider further measures on the back of evidence presented to police and Cheveley Parish Council.
- 5.3 Identify condition of roads when carrying out the parish audit (4.5) and report to relevant highways authority as appropriate. Incorporate assessment of road signage, especially in the North Ward.

6. Facilities & Leisure

Use of the facilities in the parish varies considerably, with the Post Office and general store on High Street, Cheveley by far the most popular. A number of facilities do not appear to experience significant foot-fall from parishioners on more than one occasion per month, if at all.

Frequency of visits to facilities in Cheveley parish (no. of responses).

(total 492 responses)	Daily	2 times + per week	Once per week	Once per fortnight	Once per month	Less than once per month	Once per year	Never
Post Office and general store, Cheveley	59	78	85	34	45	59	19	110
Newmarket URC Tennis Club, Duchess Drive	0	4	3	1	1	4	12	464
The main hall, Cheveley Primary School	0	2	12	3	9	42	61	360
Meeting Room, Somerset Court, Cheveley	2	4	4	1	6	3	3	466
United Reformed Church, Cheveley	0	0	7	2	3	10	33	434
The Red Lion, Cheveley	0	5	12	12	19	63	99	279
Community Room, Cheveley Primary School	0	5	14	12	22	24	41	371
The Royal British Legion, Cheveley	2	4	3	3	8	15	28	426
St Mary's Church, Cheveley	0	7	8	4	17	52	76	325
The Jarman Centre, Duchess Drive	0	1	2	1	2	21	26	436

When questioned which facilities or activities they would support if provided in the parish, there were some encouraging responses. The prospect of aerobics / exercise classes and a gardening club were well received among the adult population. Young people would favour an art club or classes, a video games club, skate park and multi-use games area among a range of activities and facilities, the prospect of which was well received.

Intriguingly, tennis, rambling and a multi sports club were among those that would be well supported by people of all ages and they are already in existence, which indicates a need for improving the marketing and promotion of such activities and facilities.

Level of support for activities and facilities if provided in the parish (no. of responses).

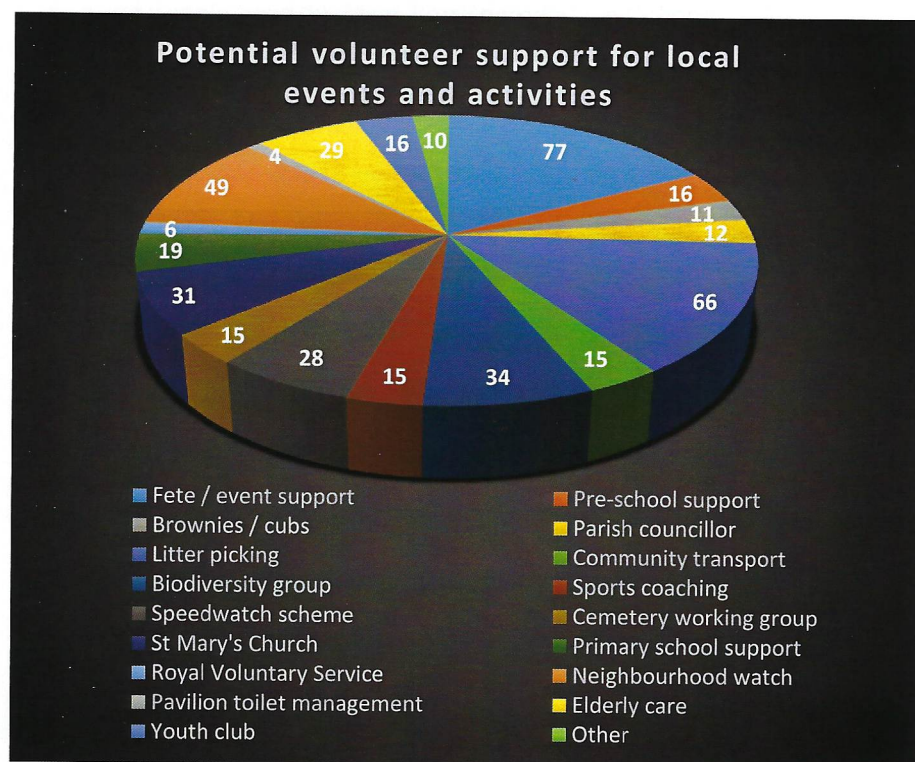
	O16	YP		O16	YP		O16	YP
Senior citizens group	46	-	Football	26	21	Rambling club	71	-
Art club/classes	64	24	Board games club	12	16	Multi Use Games Area	25	20
Cricket	34	15	Tennis	41	21	Cubs/scouts	27	13
Drama club	26	14	Music club/classes	32	4	Aerobics / exercise classes	121	14
Indoor bowls	34	-	Mobile library	50	-	Gardening club	94	11
Multi sports club	52	29	Dance classes	59	11	Skate park	-	26
Youth Club	-	15	Brownies/guides	-	15	Video games club	-	28
Other	51	16						

O16 – Adults

YP – Young People

15.3% of those people responding give their time to volunteer on behalf of groups and organisations in the parish. This figure is lower than the national average (39% once per year according to the National Council for Voluntary Organisations), but does not account for those who give their time freely to causes outside the area. The beneficiaries of the largest amount of volunteer support appear to be St Mary's Church, including the annual Cheveley village fete, Cheveley Primary School and The Link.

The chart, below, indicates the number of people that would consider volunteering for the purposes identified. The figures suggest that there would be some merit in empowering local groups to recruit and develop volunteers for their benefit.



Next steps...

6.1 Identify opportunities to raise the profile of local facilities, community groups and organisations among residents of the parish. Refer to 1.3 (community website).

6.2 Recognise the contribution that volunteers make to the wellbeing of residents in the parish.

6.3 Host an open forum for clubs and organisations as a means of recruiting volunteers. Write to all respondents that gave permission for contact to invite them to attend.

6.4 Ask Cheveley Parish Council to introduce and promote a small grant scheme that encourages the establishment of local community groups with a recognised demand.

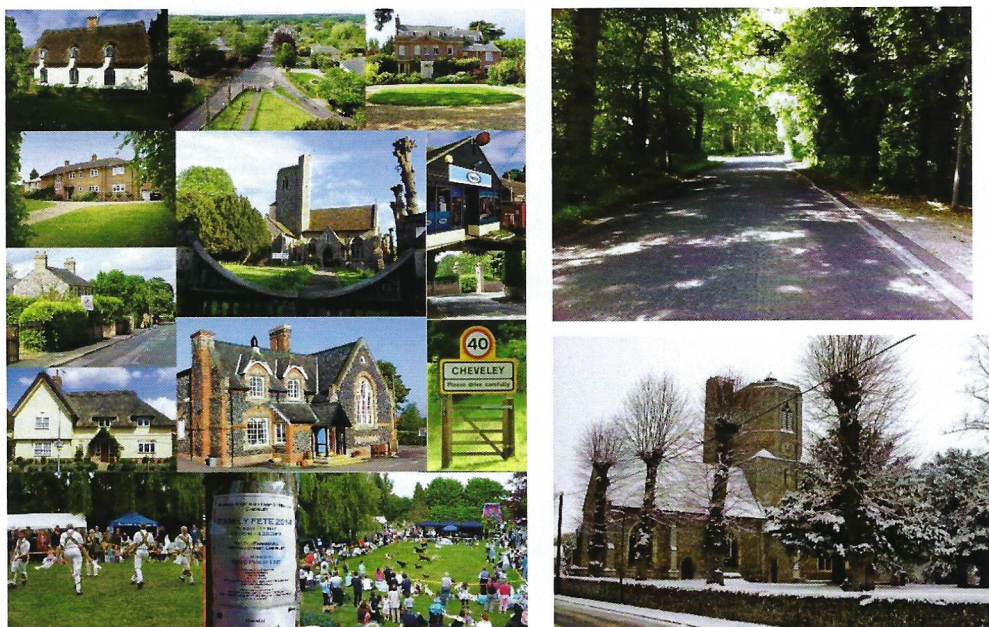
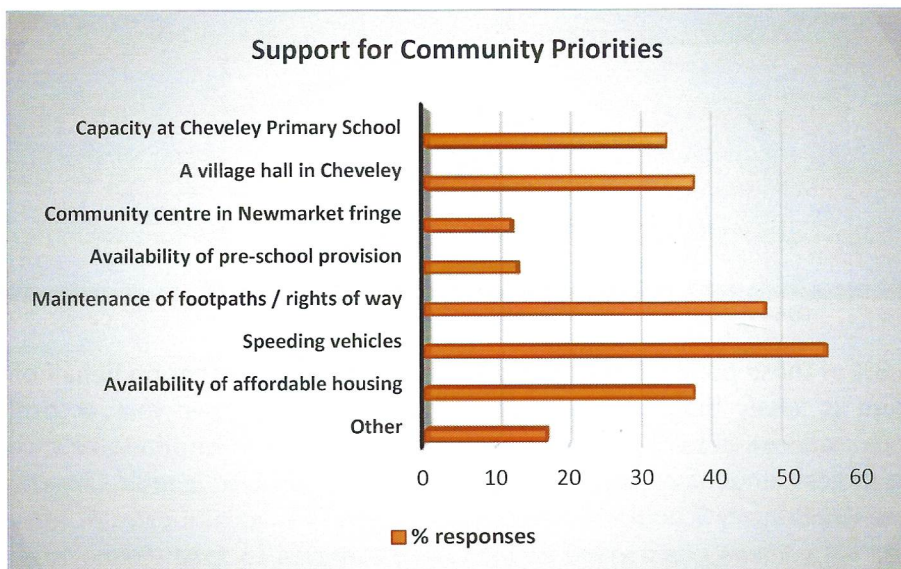
7. Community Priorities

An independent Affordable Housing Strategy for Cheveley Parish was produced by Cambridgeshire ACRE, assisted by Cambridgeshire Housing Society in January 2015. It identified a lack of necessary and appropriate housing and will seek to address the identified shortfall of 23 houses. This survey attempted to assist the process by asking for suggested locations where affordable housing could be built. There were very few appropriate responses (33) of which 18 made reference to land at Little Green, Cheveley. Reference was also made to a number of properties that spend a considerable proportion of the year as unoccupied and the impact on the community (5).

A number of community priorities were identified through the open workshop held at the start of the consultation process and, through the survey, residents were asked to list their top three for consideration.

Measures to tackle the issue of speeding vehicles is clearly the highest priority in the parish and recommendation 5.2, above, looks to address the concern. Beyond that, there is considerable support for improving the maintenance of footpaths and public rights of way, and addressing the availability of affordable housing, which polled the same number of responses as those requesting a village hall in Cheveley.

In recognition of the cost associated with addressing the community priorities, parishioners were asked to indicate how much they would be prepared to pay each month in an effort to address their identified priorities. The percentage of people in favour of making an additional contribution through their council tax was 55.3% and the median average taken from all responses was £1. The recommendations associated with the community priorities appear on the front page of this report.



This Community Plan has been developed over a fifteen month period during which time more than fifty volunteers have contributed their time, experience and knowledge to aid the production of a blueprint for the parish and its resident community that will leave a legacy well into the future. The Cheveley Community Plan Steering Group is grateful to all those who have given their time whether directly or behind the scenes; to Cheveley Parish Council and Cambridgeshire ACRE for their support; to Marilyn Jackson for allowing the use of her photographs; and to those individuals who commenced this process back in 2005, laying the foundations for what we hope is an accurate reflection of life in the community. The focus must now be on continuing to engage as many people as possible to help progress the various ideas, projects and initiatives that have been identified within this plan.

For further information on any aspect of this plan or to request a copy by email, please contact Ian Jackson, Chairman of the Cheveley Community Plan Steering Group, on 01638 730760 or at cheveleycommunityplan@gmail.com.