

## Goostrey Parish Council

### Proposed Village Environmental Improvement Plan Questionnaire

#### Report to Amenities Working Group 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2021

#### 1. Survey Returns

A total of 146 returns were made by residents (97 by Survey Monkey, 49 hard copy).

The returns are very much a record of the ideas and preferences of individuals with few general trends and little consensus identifiable. Different residents chose to complete a response for some or all of the areas.

#### 2. Introduction

This report summarises and reviews the Questionnaire returns for each of the eight areas considered. A number of residents included comments about issues outside of the intended scope of the Questionnaire alongside their responses to the Questionnaire. The Parish Council will group relevant issues and raise them with the appropriate authorities on behalf of the residents.

#### 3. Assessment of Individual Area Responses

##### Area 1 Church Bank – Main Road

Phase 1 works of Village Entrances project completed. Application made to CEC Highways for approval to positioning of two gabion planters.

<b>Comment From Questionnaire</b>	<b>Assessment</b>
96 respondents happy with things as they are	Support for no change
7 respondents have suggested painting of Cheshire railings	Propose - Encourage owners of railings to paint them
Provide more seating	There are also references to no more seating. Propose no change
General appreciation of daffodils and snowdrops in main verge and requirement for their retention	Noted – Spring bulbs in grass will always limit the quality of finish achievable with growing season mowing after bulbs have died off. Propose no change and acceptance of this.
There are several comments about the existing bollards	No suggestion that the bollards are unnecessary. Propose review detail of bollards when renewal required.
There are a number of other detail comments please see Appendix 1 Q. 7-12	

Area 2 Main Road – Boothbed Lane

<b>Comment From Questionnaire</b>	<b>Assessment</b>
66 respondents happy with things as they are	Support for no change
Maintain and improve tribute to Nell Jones	Fundamental requirement of any project
15 respondents have expressed views about highway safety issues	These important issues are generally outside of the scope of this project, but will be referred again to CEC Highways.
9 respondents have suggested the need for increased litter bin capacity	Consequence of area being adjacent to shop and well used by both visiting and local walkers and cyclists
6 respondents have suggested the need for increased seating	Consequence of area being adjacent to shop and well used by both visiting and local walkers and cyclists
More planting	Respondents have contradictory views on this
Improved maintenance	There will be cost implications if implemented
There are a number of other detail comments please see Appendix 1 Q. 14-19	

Area 3 Boothbed Lane Green

<b>Comment From Questionnaire</b>	<b>Assessment</b>
73 respondents happy with things as they are	Support for no change
25 respondents have suggested the benefit of more planting including trees, bulbs, shrubs, wild flowers, decorative planting	Care needed to determine best options here consistent with future maintenance requirements
There are a number of other detail comments please see Appendix 1 Q. 21-26	

Area 4 Shearbrook Bank

<b>Comment From Questionnaire</b>	<b>Assessment</b>
55 respondents happy with things as they are	Support for no change
21 respondents support introduction of environmental hedge at the top of the bank to obscure existing fences	Care needed on selection of hedging species. Probably represents the optimum enhancement here
23 respondents have suggested the benefit of more planting including shrubs, bulbs, wild flowers, replacement of grass on bank with ground cover plants eg camomile, ivy, etc.	Care needed to determine best options here consistent with future maintenance requirements
There are a number of other detail comments please see Appendix 1 Q. 28-33	

Area 5 Primrose Chase

<b>Comment From Questionnaire</b>	<b>Assessment</b>
73 respondents happy with things as they are	Support for no change
8 respondents support minor tree pruning and tidying by removal of fallen debris	This may be a sensible first step after which a further review may be undertaken to assess possible benefits of additional works
13 respondents have suggested the benefit of more planting including trees shrubs, bulbs, wild flowers	Care needed to determine what if any, planting should be undertaken here as it possible to make a detrimental impact on the character of the area
There are a number of other detail comments please see Appendix 1 Q. 35-40	

Area 6 Outside Main Road Newsagents

<b>Comment From Questionnaire</b>	<b>Assessment</b>
57 respondents happy with things as they are	Support for no change
32 respondents have expressed concerns about difficulty of using the frequently congested car park with visibility sometimes hampered by positioning of advertising signs	These important issues are generally outside of the scope of this project, but will be referred to the managers of the car park and PCSO
15 respondents have suggested that the area may benefit from provision of planter(s)/planting	Planters are probably the only realistic option for this small area, but care necessary not to have a detrimental impact on visibility issues
There are a number of other detail comments please see Appendix 1 Q. 42-47	

Area 7 Station Area

<b>Comment From Questionnaire</b>	<b>Assessment</b>
81 respondents happy with things as they are	Support for no change
27 respondents have suggested increased support for FOGS and the possibility of some planting especially wild flowers	Needs detail liaison between FOGS and GPC for GPC to understand options with a review by GPC thereafter
References to highway safety issues – vehicles exiting Station and no footpath over Station bridge	These important issues are generally outside of the scope of this project, but already form part of the on-going liaison between GPC, CEC Highways and Network Rail
There are a number of other detail comments please see Appendix 1 Q. 49-53	

## Area 8 Bogbean

<b>Comment From Questionnaire</b>	<b>Assessment</b>
66 respondents happy with things as they are	Support for no change
There is general support for trying to establish the Bogbean as a formal Village Green	GPC is currently in communication with CEC over this issue
A number of respondents have suggested creation of a pond with Bogbean plants at the margins	There are too many health and safety issues for GPC to promote the construction of a pond. A pond may introduce fly nuisance for immediate neighbours
Install stocks for all speeding motorists and cyclists travelling at more than two abreast	If only we could!!!!
For many of the suggestions different respondents have made opposing comments eg more trees / no more trees; more seating / no more seating	Await outcome of Formal Village Green communications and then review future of Bogbean
There are a number of other detail comments please see Appendix 1 Q. 56-61	

### 4. General Comments

<b>Comment From Questionnaire</b>	<b>Assessment</b>
Stop using weed killer	Worthy aspiration but not entirely practical and better to adopt a more realistic <u>minimise use of weed killer</u>
Adopt Plantlife Guidelines for Managing Road Verges	These guidelines promote mowing of verges no more than twice per year with collection of cuttings. CEC current specification for verges within 30mph areas is cutting 10 times per year. Blanket adoption of Plantlife Guidelines for all grassed areas will result in many areas appearing scruffy for large parts of the year and a better course of action is to <u>Adopt Plantlife Guidelines for Managing Road Verges where appropriate</u>

5. Prioritisation of Areas for Next Steps

Next steps for each Area will comprise:-

- i. Review of Questionnaire responses
- ii. Prepare Project Plan
- iii. Determination of any proposed works
- iv. Preparation of Plans, Specifications and programme for proposed works
- v. Obtain quotations
- vi. Implement works

Additional external resources may be required for some areas for items iii and iv

<u>Priority</u>	<u>Area</u>	<u>Comments</u>
1	Church Bank	Phase 1 works completed
2	Main Road / Boothbed Lane junction	Outstanding from Village Entrances proposals
3	Primrose Chase	Minor pruning of trees and tidying of area expected to be straight forward
4	Station area	
5	Shearbrook Bank	
6	Boothbed Green	
7	Outside Newsagents, Main Road	
8	Bogbean	Awaiting outcome of Formal Village Green application

**APPENDIX 1 - VILLAGE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS**  
**QUESTIONNAIRE RAW DATA**

See Excel Spreadsheet

6. Decision Required:-

- a) To accept the priority order of Areas for next steps in 5 above
- b) To establish a sub-group of Members to undertake next steps in 5 above for individual areas.

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