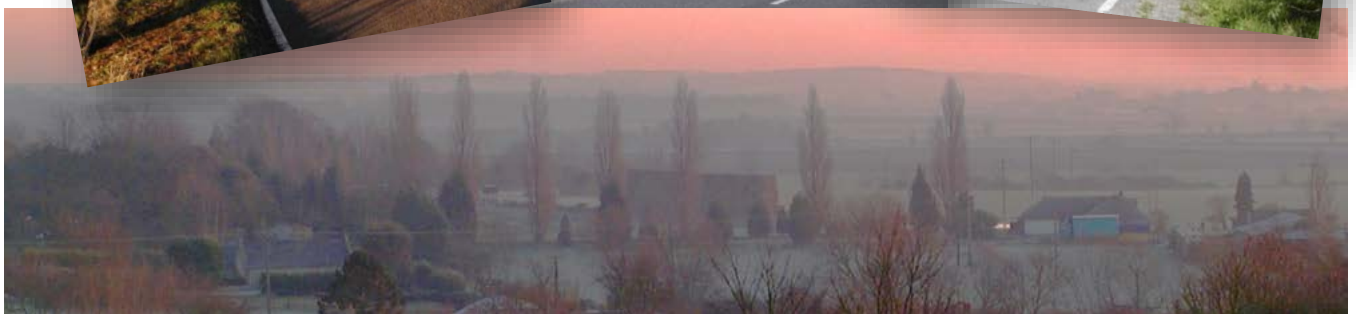




# Croydon's Community Led Village Plan 2015

The future of Croydon Village....



## INTRODUCTORY LETTER FROM THE STEERING GROUP

To All Croydon Residents,

Creating a Community Led Plan for our village presents a once in a generation opportunity for all of us as Croydon residents to express our views on what concerns us, what is good about living in Croydon and should be protected, and what changes or improvements we would like to see over the coming five to ten years.

Over the centuries much has changed in Croydon, and over recent decades Croydon has lost several amenities and many aspects of village life. These include its shop, post office, allotments, The Scratching Cat public house and currently the Queen Adelaide, and even further back its school and cricket pitch. Those actively involved in village life and organising events often comment on the difficulty of keeping things going. Nevertheless, we are fortunate to live in a quiet, peaceful and charming village and, almost without exception, all respondents wish to retain the rural nature of our surroundings. But it is also true that some change is inevitable, and necessary, if we are to secure the improvements that many villagers want to see.

The process of consulting the village, compiling a questionnaire, collating the results, reporting and developing this action plan has been a challenge and has, as predicted, taken longer than most of us would have liked. Along the way it has provided a necessary and interesting insight into the way villagers see Croydon. In particular it has highlighted the challenge we as a village face in marrying the wishes of those that want more change as against those who want less, while at the same time retaining Croydon's charm and small village feel.

We are most grateful for your support and involvement without which none of this would have been possible. Thank you to all who attended the kick-off meeting, the two consultation mornings, to all who filled in their questionnaires so diligently and to the Parish Council for their support throughout including financial support for our small administrative expenses.

We believe this report accurately reflects the range of views we received both in areas where there is broad agreement and where views differ. This report concludes with a prioritised Action Plan which has been devised to help launch the response to the expressed desires and aspirations.

We recommend this Action Plan to the Parish Council and to all residents of Croydon. Without doubt, this Report and Action Plan provides a unique opportunity to achieve some of what is frequently talked about. We urge all residents with an interest in any aspect of the Action Plan to support the soon to be created Implementation Group and to get involved so that together we can make some good things happen!

### **Croydon Community Led Plan – Steering Group**

***Co – Chairs: Cathy Brant & Malcolm Ralph, Parish Council Liaison Colin Friend, Jonathan Firth, Claire Hurst, Nikki Hurst, Roger Tomkys.***

***Also served: Vicky Davenport, Richard Farrer, Cathy Friend, Lynn Ladbroke, Jennifer Norrie***

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## 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The genesis of the Community Led Plan (CLP) for Croydon was a public meeting held in the village hall in September 2012 at which strong support was expressed and volunteers came forward to join the Steering Group. Once formed, the Steering Group (SG) hosted a half day drop-in public event in January 2013. This provided an opportunity for parishioners to highlight areas where they would like to see improvements or about which they had concerns. These inputs were used by the SG to inform the topics to be covered by a questionnaire.

Following the public event the SG spent a significant time designing and compiling a questionnaire, and once completed, copies were sent out in March 2014 to every household in the parish (85 in total). The Questionnaire was designed to provide an opportunity for completion by each person aged 10yrs and above. An assurance of anonymity was given for all responses at the individual level. A posting box was set up in the centre of the village for the return of completed questionnaires. In the event, 52 Questionnaires were returned for a creditable return rate of 61% and the rate was even higher (67% of the total parish population) when the under 10 years of age in these households were included.

The SG collated all of the numerical responses and written comments in to a spreadsheet format which greatly aided data analysis and identification of key themes. Once analysed, the data was used to underpin an evidenced-based Report and Action Plan. A second public event was held in February 2015 at which a late draft of the Final Report and Action Plan were unveiled to provide a final opportunity for public comment and reaction. This event was again well attended with an estimated 50+ attendees.

The findings in this final report and Action Plan are set out under eight headed sections which mirror the same areas of enquiry as the original Questionnaire. For each of these headed sections, this report provides key results together with a brief discussion and clearly laid out Summary Conclusions. Several themes have emerged and some of these are briefly highlighted below, though the Summary Conclusions in the main body of the report should be studied in full if a truly balanced picture is to be obtained.

Residents clearly recognise and appreciate the many positive aspects of living in Croydon and are concerned that these should be preserved. Nonetheless, many areas were identified where improvements are desired. These areas for improvement include road and footpath maintenance, speeding traffic, reduced dog fouling, overhanging trees and hedges. Additional housing is supported by the majority of respondents, though in only small numbers for any single development, and with a preference for smaller family and affordable homes. There was a strong signal that the provision of other facilities, including areas of communal land, should accompany the building of new homes. Strong support was expressed for all three community buildings (Reading Room, Church and Queen Adelaide) remaining open with several suggestions for additional uses and events. Support was evident for a number of community initiatives including help with transport and a Good Neighbour Scheme. Demand was expressed for greater access to facilities within Croydon and surrounding villages, particularly for younger residents. The desire for improved communication was a significant theme



notably in connection with safety and policing, some public services, Parish Council matters and to a lesser extent Reading Room and Church administration. The village website is seen as a worthwhile asset though continued effort is thought to be needed to keep it current. Strongly held views emerged on various aspects of sustainable living. These ranged from strong support for the supply of logs from locally responsibly coppiced woodland through to strong opposition to large scale commercial solar and wind farms in green field sites. There is less opposition to community led energy generation schemes, though for wind turbines, approaching 60% of respondents remained opposed even if community led!

The final task for the SG has been to create an Action Plan designed to begin to address the areas about which parishioners were either concerned or wished to see improvements. However, given the very small parish population, the SG kept very much in mind the need to keep the total number of actions to manageable proportions, as to do otherwise risks overwhelming any volunteers, or even worse, deterring potential volunteers. As a result, the Action Plan contains only those areas/actions where the strongest feelings were expressed by respondents and numbers 23 items in total. Obviously some of the Actions are much harder than others to achieve, and some will have much longer timescales. Some will be of a routine nature, whereas others relate far more to long term improvements and vision. Of the total 23 action items, 10 have been identified as Priorities (two of which are to be amongst the last actions of the SG before its disbandment). 5 Actions could be considered to be routine Parish Council matters but have been included nonetheless because of the strength of feeling in responses and to provide feedback and support to the PC. The remaining 8 items are ranked as Medium priority.

Representatives of the Parish Council and the Steering Group have met to discuss how best to implement the Action Plan. It is proposed that an Implementation Group be formed to encourage and assist any individuals or groups of parishioners wishing to work on any items of the Plan. It is thought the Implementation Group (IG) will be a key element if good progress is to be made. The IG should report to the Parish Council at least three times a year on progress achieved or difficulties encountered. The Parish Council's role, and it is assumed District Councillors too, will be to encourage, assist and advise the Implementation Group.

The Steering Group recommends this Report and Action Plan to the Parish Council and to all residents of Croydon. Without doubt, this Report and Action Plan provides a unique opportunity to address some of the concerns that have been raised as well as some of the improvements that are desired. Whether by joining the Implementation Group, or forming teams to take on some of the tasks, it will be for all of us, the people of Croydon, to rise to the challenge.

## 2. INTRODUCTION

The concept of the Village Plan was devised by Government in 2001. Although the preparation of a plan is not compulsory, it is a useful vehicle to enable villagers' views to be made known and registered in advance of any central or local Government action which could affect local communities.

Plans, when publicised, are lodged with the Parish Council, Local Government (in our case South Cambridgeshire District Council) and County Council. These Plans help Parish, District and County officials to take account of the views of villagers on all matters, but especially with regards to planning issues.

A Government white paper in 2001 also stated that the Village Plan would "...set out a vision of what is important, how new development can best be fitted in, the design and quality standards it should meet, how to preserve valued local features and to map out the facilities the community needs to safeguard for the future."

Croydon is a very small village in terms of population and we have arrived at a Parish Plan quite late compared with many villages (though not too late as some local villages are at a similar stage) and that makes it even more important that we ensure that our small village voice is heard. In a world where there is competition for resources, we must give the authorities a clear view of not only our concerns but also our desires and aspirations for the future.

That is the purpose of this, your Croydon Village Plan.



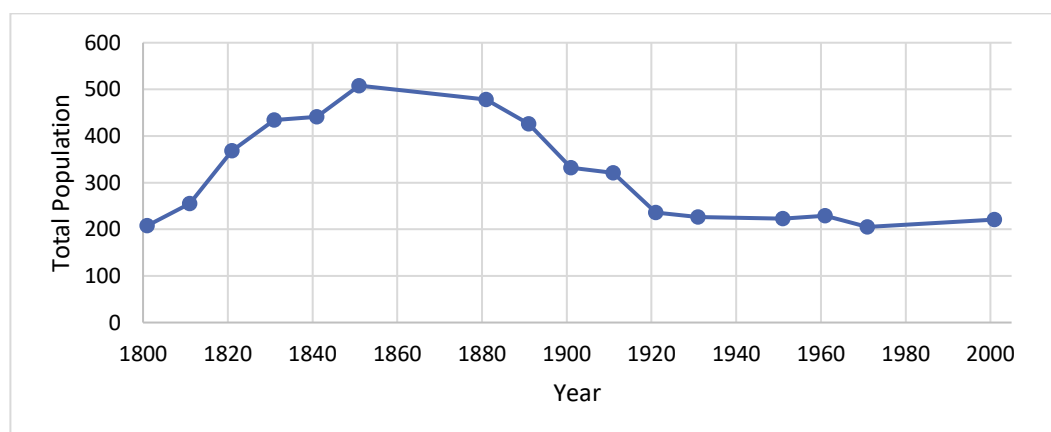
### 3. CROYDON – ITS HISTORY AND TODAY

Croydon Parish, comprising over 1000 hectares, is situated on a hillside 10 miles south-west of Cambridge and six miles north of Royston. It lies to the west of the historic Ermine Street (A1198). The Parish also includes the now deserted mediaeval village of Clopton to its west and was formerly known as Croydon-cum-Clopton.

Croydon, in its old English versions (Crawden & Crauden), meant ‘Valley of the Crows’. Croydon and Clopton were officially joined together in 1561 after Clopton declined in population largely as a result of aggressive enclosures and this merging accounts for the relatively large land area of the parish today. Clopton, now designated a ‘Scheduled Ancient Monument’, has signs of Roman occupation and a later 30-acre village was in place by the 10<sup>th</sup> century. In the Domesday book (1086) 18 peasants were in residence, and in 1292 a ‘Friday Market’ was granted to Robert Hoo, Lord of Clopton.

Archaeological excavations have revealed the existence of several buildings, including a Church, several manor houses, a cobbled market square, fishponds, a watermill and evidence of moats. After years of decline Clopton was virtually deserted in the early 1500s.

In 1086 about 28 peasants lived in Croydon, but by the early 17<sup>th</sup> century that number is believed to have grown to about 140, before falling to near 90 in the latter half of the century. Open fields were ‘enclosed’ for pasture around 1640, but in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century arable farming recommenced. Around the mid-1800s the population reached a peak of over 500 but by the late 1800s a decline had set in and the total had fallen to 426 by the 1891 census. There followed a steep population decline which continued during the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and eventually reached a low point of around only 200 residents by the 1970s. Since this low point 13 new houses have been built and the population has risen by about 10% to 220 people and around 85 households.



The Church, established by 1200, nevertheless suffered hard times in subsequent centuries and the decaying structure was rescued and improved in the 1620's by benefactors Sir John Cage and Sir George Downing (of Downing Street and Downing College fame). In fact the vault under the Chancel is the last resting place of the three Sir Georges together with several members of their families. The condition of the building again reached crisis points in the mid 1970s and again in the mid 1990s but thankfully

after some very large projects it is now in a better condition than for many centuries though further improvement works are currently in preparation.

Unfortunately, in modern times Croydon has suffered the fate of many small communities. In the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century we lost our school, and in the 1980s the post office, last remaining shops and the Downing Arms (Scratching Cat) public house. The Queen Adelaide, the last remaining public house, unfortunately has recently closed though hope remains that it may yet re-open. On the plus side, Croydon retains and has restored its Church and Reading Room (Village Hall).

Thankfully, life in Croydon continues to be enhanced by the hillside setting and miles of public footpaths, abundant wildlife and a vast area of unspoilt countryside to the north (Croydon Wilds) though permission has recently been granted, despite local opposition, for a field based solar generating complex to be placed in very close proximity to these footpaths.

Being close to major road and rail routes to London, Cambridge and with smaller local towns within easy reach, Croydon is a sought after place in which to live. This has not always been the case as the falling population figures demonstrate. In the latter half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century many families left Croydon and there were many instances of emigration notably to Canada. Even as late as the 1970s, several houses and cottages were unoccupied which is hard to believe today given the relatively high house prices here in the village and generally in South Cambridgeshire.





## 4. COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

The Steering Group was formed from volunteers who attended a village meeting held in September 2012 in the Reading Room.

The Steering Group held its first meeting on October 16th 2012 and announced its objective of developing a Croydon Community Plan to cover the next ten years.

It was agreed at this meeting that villagers would be consulted on their views about Croydon's future development in a number of ways, including presentations, open meetings and a questionnaire.

In early December 2012 a simple leaflet was designed and distributed to all households advising them of the formation of the Steering Group, its objectives and the need for villagers to let their views be known. Subsequently everybody was invited to attend an open coffee-morning and presentation where views could be aired.

This open meeting was held at the end of January 2013 in the Reading Room and was well attended. A comprehensive static presentation was on display and there were also charts available with various ideas portrayed on which the attendees could express their views and their new ideas by writing comments under various headings.

The feedback from this event proved an extremely useful pointer to the issues which are important to village residents. Using this information as guidance, Steering Group sub-committees were formed to consider all the ideas put forward in order to design a detailed questionnaire which households would be invited to complete. This questionnaire was distributed to all 85 households in March 2014.

Once all of the questionnaires had been returned, to aid analysis, the relatively extensive volume of data and comments were collated in to a single set of Excel spreadsheets. After careful analysis and several iterations, during February 2015, the Steering Group hosted an open breakfast event to present key findings from the Draft Report and a Draft Action Plan for final comments. This event was well attended with an estimated 50+ attendees on the day.

## 4.1 QUESTIONNAIRE - SUMMARY RETURN STATISTICS

- A Questionnaire was distributed to every household in the parish, 85 in all. Space was provided for responses from up to 5 people in any one household. Every person of 10 years old and above living in each household was encouraged to complete the Questionnaire.
- Delivery to most of Lower Road and some outlying farms was by post, all others were by hand.
- Completed Questionnaires were returned either by post or by hand to a dedicated mail box. Stamped & addressed envelopes were provided to all outlying recipients.
- 52 Questionnaires were returned representing a return rate of 61%. Questionnaires were completed by a total of 120 people which, with the addition of young children under 10 years of age living in these households, rises to 148 people. This represents about 67% of the total the parish population.
- 4 Questionnaires were completed by 10-15yr olds and 9 by 16-21yr olds.
- The response to the questionnaire was generally positive or very positive. A limited comparison was conducted which suggested that only those villages where Questionnaires were delivered and collected by hand achieved a significantly greater return rate.



## 5. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

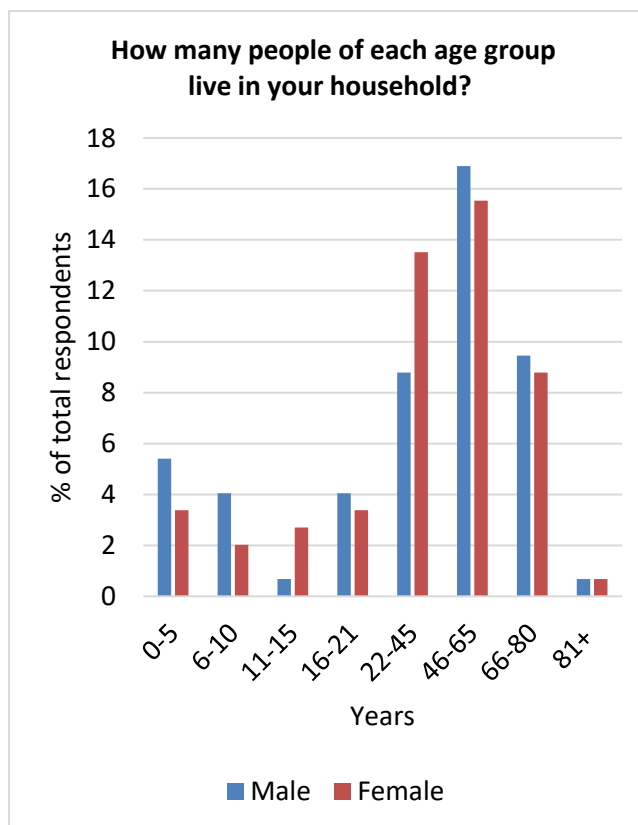
All of the answers from the returned Questionnaires, including all verbal comments, have been gathered and entered into a relatively large Excel spreadsheet with separate pages used for each major topic featured in the Questionnaire e.g. Village Development, Village Environment & Transport, Community etc. Within each of these major topics the responses to each individual question from each individual (anonymous) person have been entered and the data then gathered in to numerical outputs wherever possible. In addition, all of the verbal comments have been studied to try to ensure that no information, or indication of strength of feeling, has been overlooked.

As might be expected the resulting data set is relatively large and including here all of this detail would result in an overly long report. Therefore, this section of the report simply seeks to highlight and summarise the key messages and findings under each of the topic areas used in the original Questionnaire.

There is no intention to release the full Excel data set as it is felt this would threaten the individual anonymity initially promised, however, a full Appendix of results graphs and summary tables containing only accumulated data is available on request.

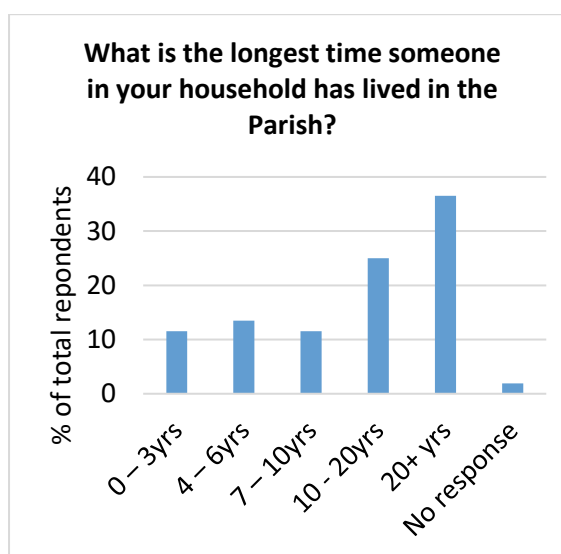
### 5.1 HOUSEHOLDS & POPULATION DATA

The first part of the questionnaire sought information on individuals and households in



Croydon to provide a foundation for later analysis. The chart shows that the largest age group in responding households was the 46-65 group though with the age bands either side also well represented. It should be noted that, for good reasons, much narrower 5 year bands have been used for the under 21 years of age, this can however be misleading. For example, adding together the four lower bands shows that Croydon has a significant number of younger residents (14% males & 11% females) – in fact when added together the under 21yrs is the second largest age group. There is little significant difference in male and female populations who responded except for the 22-45yr band where there are noticeably more females.

The responses show that many households have residents who have lived in Croydon for a relatively long time. Combining some of the bands in the chart shows that 65% of households have someone who has lived in Croydon for more than 10 yrs, and 37% (the largest group) of households have residents who have lived in Croydon for more than 20 yrs. These findings suggest that many residents are choosing to stay in Croydon.



## Schooling & Employment

Over 70% of respondents are in schooling, college or in full or part-time work. With approaching 30%, the largest group are those in full time employment, followed by about 20% who are self-employed or own their own businesses. The number at school and college combined is about 17.5% which, incidentally, is about the same percentage as those who are retired.

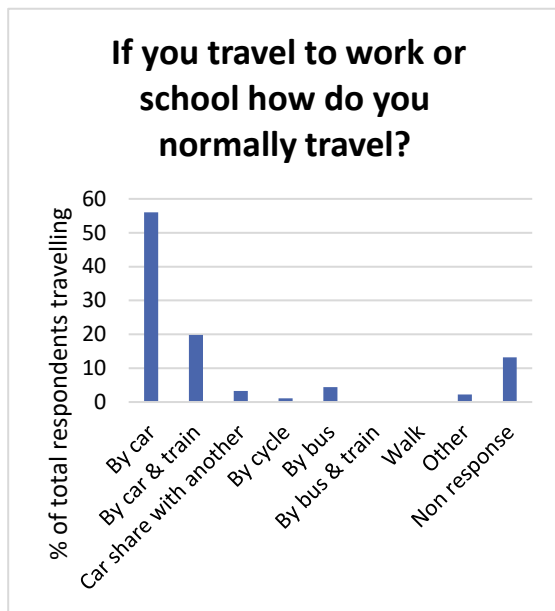
## Travel for those in work, school or college

There are two parts to this area of enquiry, firstly destinations of travel and secondly modes of travel.

Travel destinations	% of the total respondents at work /school / college
Work mostly from home	23
Cambridge	18
London	13
Multiple locations	12
Royston	5
Stevenage	4
Other/various	24
Total respondents at work/school/college	91(actual number)

Data in the table shows that 77% of those who are at work, school, or college, routinely travel out of the village, whereas, 23% work mostly from home. For those who do travel, Cambridge, followed by London are the two most frequent destinations.





When considering modes of travel, the chart alongside shows that the most common form of travel is by car alone with around 55%, followed by car & train commuting at 20%.



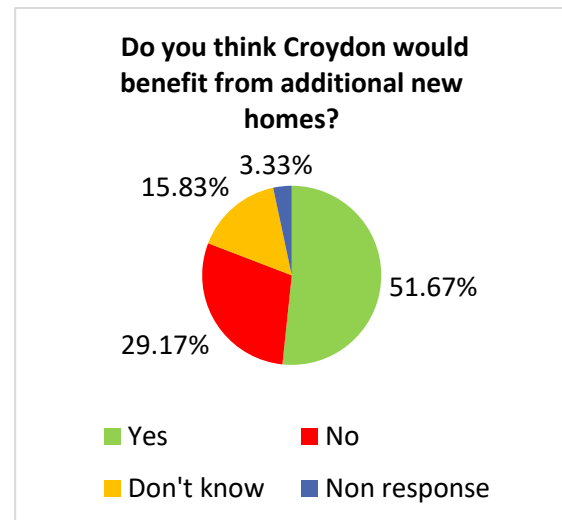
1987 – A once familiar site in Croydon – John Slater’s (formerly of the rectory) R.T. Bus ‘Nellie’ used for village trips to the coast and London lights

## 5.2 VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT

### Additional housing

There were 9 questions related to housing as it was anticipated this area of investigation would be very important to many people and therefore required a more in-depth coverage.

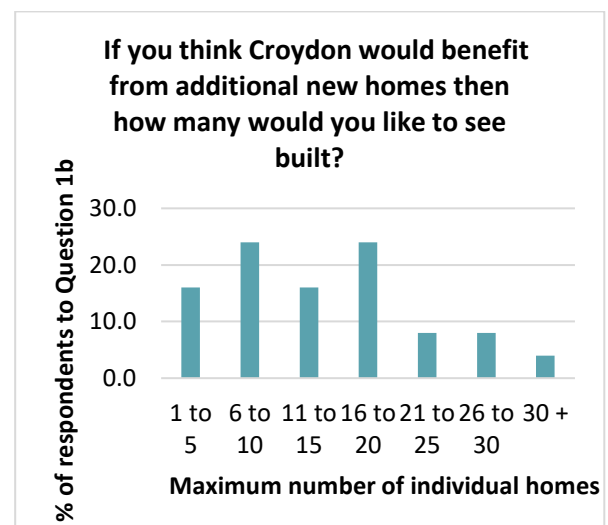
In answer to the direct question whether Croydon would benefit from new homes, close to 52% said YES as opposed to 29% who said NO, with DON'T KNOWS at just under 16%. The level of non-responses to this question was very low at just above 3%. In addition to the statistical responses, written comments received followed a similar pattern with comments in favour of more new homes outnumbering those against by 19 to 10.



### Number of new homes

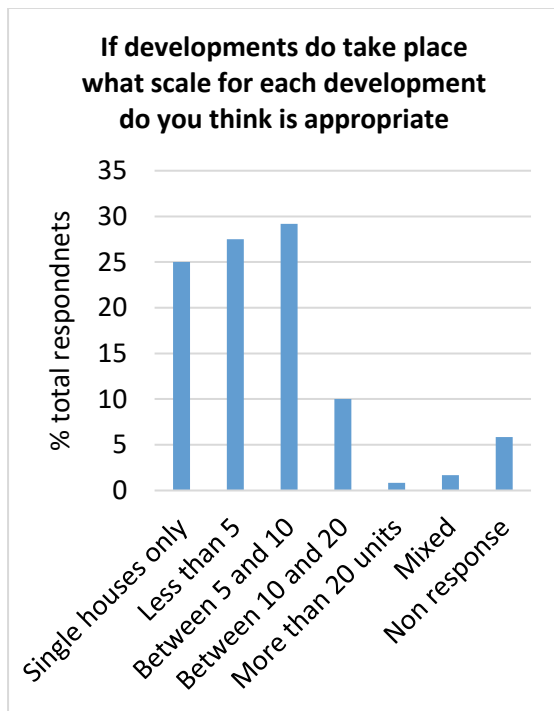
Respondents who thought Croydon would benefit from new homes were asked to write in the comments section how many new homes they would like to see built (Question 1b). To avoid undue influence no number ranges were offered as part of this question. This approach drew comments from 48% of those who thought Croydon would benefit from new homes.

Some respondents suggested ranges rather than single figures; the ranges proposed were from 2-4 up to 20-30. Where specific figures were given the spread was from 4 up to 50. Other responses called for organic growth at a low annual rate. The accompanying chart represents, as far as possible, the proposed numbers of new homes within evenly spaced size bands.



Further analysis was conducted to establish the middle of the range of views (of those who wanted more homes). This analysis showed the mid-point (50 percentile) to be at 14 new homes.

### **Number of new homes to be built at any one time**



When respondents were asked what scale is appropriate for each new development in Croydon, around 25% said that only single houses should be permitted, 27% that developments should be of less than 5 houses and almost 30% favoured between 5 to 10 houses per development. Combining these bands shows that over 50% of respondents think that each development should be of less than 5 houses and over 80% favouring less than 10 houses. Analysis was again performed to establish the middle of the range of views (the 50% point) and in this case the result is 4 houses per development.

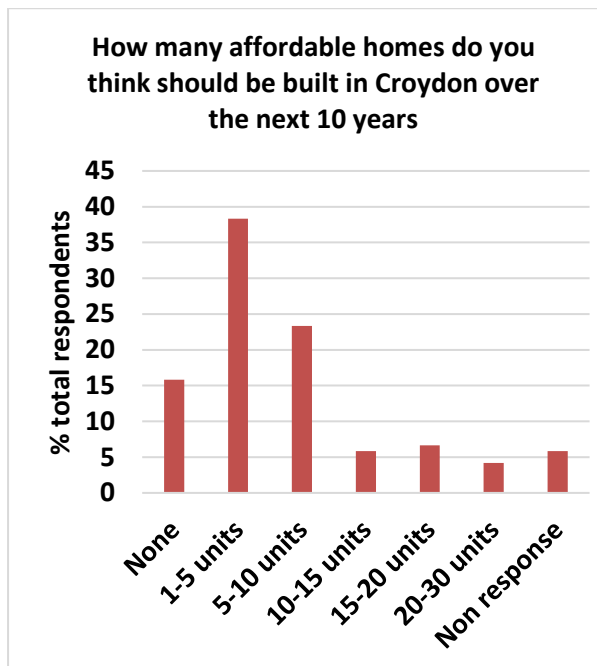
It is notable that, regardless of whether respondents are in favour or against new homes being built, almost without exception, similar concerns were expressed about the scale and nature of any developments and the need to protect the village feel and rural nature of the village.

### **Types of new developments**

Mixed responses were received to the question about what types of new developments people wish to see. A relatively high number chose not to respond to the examples offered (non-responses were relatively high at 25% to 35%). The strongest support was for the inclusion of additional village facilities within new developments and small family houses with up to 3 bedrooms, followed by affordable homes and to an extent mixed developments. There is far less support for other developments such as housing for the elderly, bungalows and large family houses.

## **Affordable housing**

A majority (72%) see no personal or family requirement for affordable housing within the next 10 years. On the other hand, just over 9% of respondents (11 people) answered that someone in their household would be likely to require affordable housing in the next ten years and an additional number approaching 17% (20 people) said it was a possibility.



When asked how many affordable homes should be built in Croydon over the next 10 years, 78% said that some should be built, whereas 15% said none. At 38% the largest band favours 1-5 affordable homes. Taken overall, these results show strong support for some building of affordable homes in Croydon though concerns were expressed about a lack of facilities and transport. Analysis was again performed to establish the middle of the range of views (50% point) which yielded a figure of 4 affordable homes in Croydon.

## **Concerns and benefits of new housing**

Key concerns centred on the present lack of facilities within the village and risks associated with potentially ruining the small scale, rural and peaceful nature of the village through the imposition of housing estate-style developments. Other concerns raised, though to a lesser degree, were loss of views, increased traffic, lack of infrastructure and a lack of public transport.

The key benefits recorded centred around greater sustainability of village life and improved social aspects of larger numbers of people moving to the village. These included greater potential for facilities, social and other activities, better services, potential for village green and communal land, increased use of public buildings, more opportunities for local businesses, improved opportunities for house ownership.

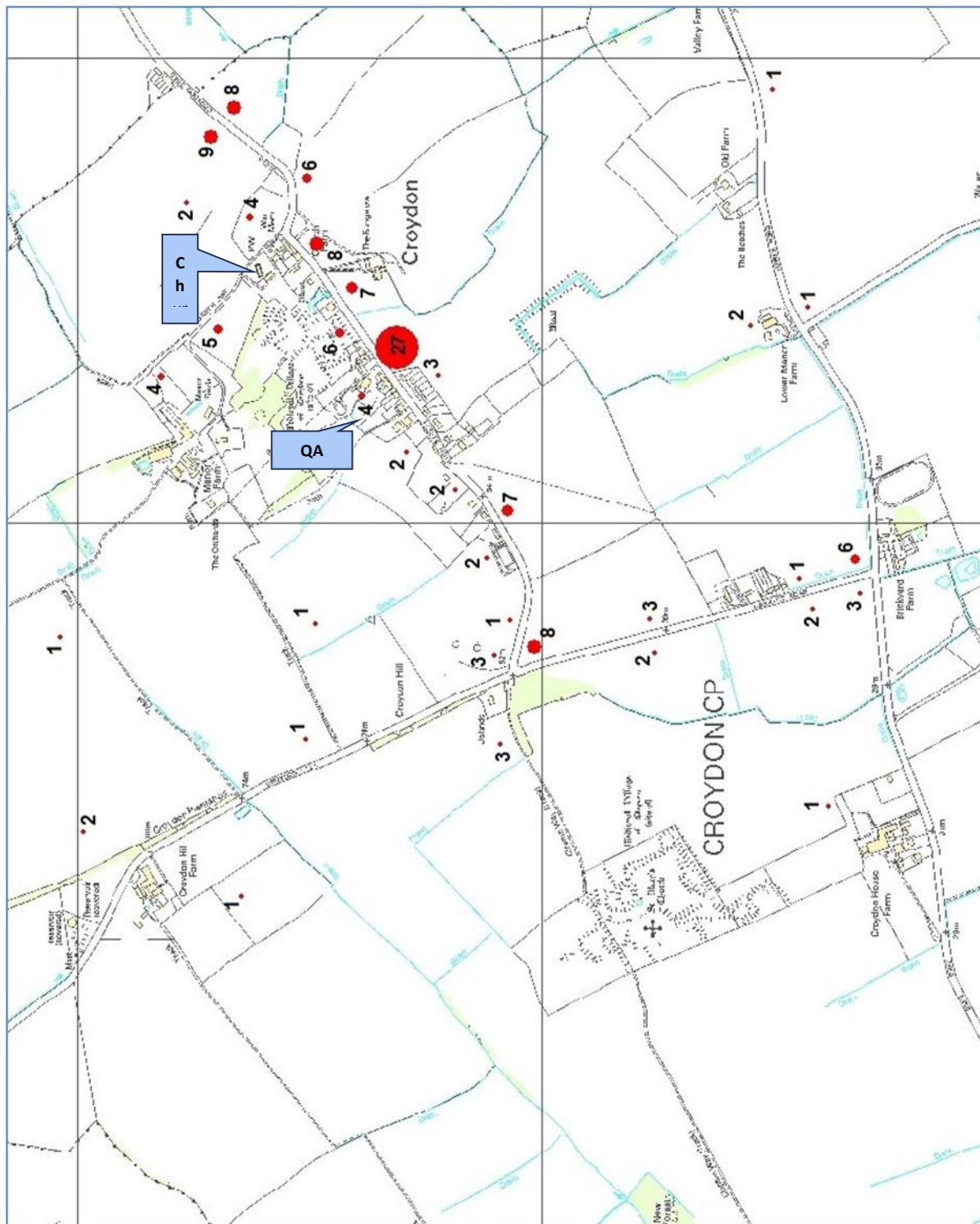


## **Potential housing locations**

In the event that new houses are to be built in the village, respondents were asked to mark no more than three preferred locations on a map of the parish supplied with the Questionnaire. The map provided to respondents with the Questionnaire did not show the boundary of the Village Development Envelope which is considered by South Cambridgeshire District Council to mark the (limited) extent of potential development. A version of the map which does include the Development Envelope is available in this Report at Appendix I.

In all 152 locations were indicated by respondents with many being in broadly similar locations. All of these individual responses have been carefully transferred on to a single map and this raw data version can be found in the full results Appendix. The map below is a simplified version with red dots indicating broadly the locations proposed by respondents and with the sizes of the dots varying in proportion to the popularity of the proposed location. It is important to note that the number shown alongside each individual red dot is the total number of times each location was proposed by individual respondents, not the total number of houses to be built at each location.

What is immediately apparent is the large spread of proposed locations with some shown appearing even in remote open fields! Despite this spread, it is clear that the most favoured locations are to the south of the High Street with a total of 76 out of 152 entries; the most favoured specific area with 27 entries being to the east of Clopton Close. Other locations on the south side include towards the east end of the High Street (15 entries) and on towards the Arrington parish boundary both north and south of the road. Clusters also appear in Church Lane, the field to the north of the High Street in the centre of the village and towards Paradise Corner at the west end. Further development along Larkins Road also finds some favour with 17 entries in total.

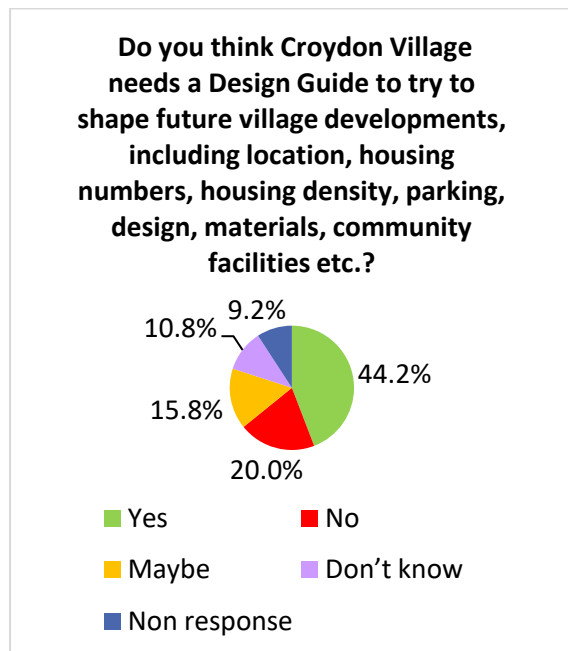


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### **Map Notes:**

1. CH = Church; QA = Queen Adelaide
2. The size of each red dot is in proportion to the number of “votes” cast for that particular potential broad area. The numbers shown within or alongside the dots are the actual number of “votes” cast for each broad area, NOT the number of houses in any development.
3. A version of the map showing the Development Envelope can be found at Appendix I

## **Design Guide**



44% of respondents were in favour of the creation of a Design Guide for Croydon and almost 16% said MAYBE; 20% said NO. There were several written comments in support and a smaller number against. A small number suggested such a guide might stifle creativity; however, a larger number suggested it could help to head off unsympathetic developments and promote the incorporation of community facilities

## **Businesses**

Just over 60% of respondents would like to encourage at least some businesses to the parish; however, almost 32% answered NO to this question which reflected that there are some concerns.

Concerns were expressed by those both for and against that new businesses should not be large, industrial, invasive, noisy, or generate significant smell or extra traffic.

Businesses working from home and farm office complexes are, in general, supported. A rather long list of possibilities was mentioned, most prominently shop/newsagents, post office, pub, cafe/tea room/baker, B&B, traditional arts & country crafts, internet businesses, even a wildlife centre!

Faster broadband was by far the most frequently mentioned factor for improving the prospects and growth of businesses in the parish. Better roads and transport links, including better public transport services, also featured relatively frequently. Also mentioned were a lack of a post office, village based advertising/newsletter/e-mail system and the need for improved local mobile phone signals. A business club for sharing experiences was also mentioned.

## **Village Development - Summary Conclusions**

### **Housing**

**The results reveal there is a majority view in favour of some additional new homes. Exactly how many in total and the size of each development is clearly a matter for debate and is likely to be determined by location, type, design and the potential for the inclusion of new facilities.**

**A wide range of views exists about the total number of new homes to be built ranging from 0 to 50. A total of 14 new homes represents the mid-point of the range of views expressed by those in favour of additional homes.**

**The overwhelming view is that each development should be of a small scale with 4 homes in any one development being the mid-point of the expressed range of views.**

**Though there is some support for the full range of house sizes, there is a clear preference towards smaller family and affordable homes rather than large executive homes, bungalows and sheltered housing. There was a strong signal that other facilities including communal areas should accompany the building of new homes.**

**There is clear majority support for building a smaller number of affordable homes (less than 10) over the next 10 years. A total of 4 represents the mid-point of the responses received.**

**There is support for creating a Design Guide to help inform potential housing developments including locations, numbers, density, parking, materials & community facilities.**

### **Businesses**

**Most respondents would like to encourage suitable small businesses to the parish and many examples were given although there are widespread concerns about inappropriate activities.**

**Better broadband was cited as an important factor for improving businesses and home working. Other improvements mentioned included better public transport links & roads, village based advertising and business clubs.**



### 5.3 VILLAGE ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT

#### **Positive aspects of life in Croydon**

Rural living, access to the countryside, peace & quiet and a safe environment were highlighted by a large majority of respondents (60%-80%) as being the most positive aspects of living in Croydon. Community life also featured as a positive at 30%-40%. Other aspects indicated to be of importance to some respondents were the proximity of the village to towns, employment, family and friends and local schools.

#### **Concerns (excluding speeding on local roads)**

Respondents were asked to state their degree of concern about any items on a list of 17 topics which were offered and were encouraged to note any others not already listed. The table below provides a list of concerns ranked High, Medium and Low. This ranking is based on the number of times each item was listed by respondents.

Highest concerns	Medium concerns	Lower concerns
Maintenance/repair of roads	Local noise pollution	Light pollution
Dog barking	Provision/repair of pavements	Traffic noise
Dog fouling	Condition of public footpaths	Car parking
Litter & fly tipping	Overhanging trees & hedges – See comments also under Wheeled Access	Aircraft noise

The following concerns also featured but have significantly lower levels of overall community concern than those listed above: Smoke & bonfires, Stray cats, Noise from public events, insufficient lighting and Flooding.

The items categorised in the table (above) cover approximately the top half of the full list of topics raised. The full list is available in the full results Appendix (Question 14).

It is recognised that several of the concerns, while not receiving widespread mention, might be very concerning but only in a localised area or to only a small part of the total population. It is expected that such localised impacts will continue to be raised and dealt with as part of normal Parish Council business.

### **Speeding & potential control measures**

The greatest level of concern about speeding relates to Lower Road with 40% of respondents identifying speeding as being a serious problem and around 60% thinking it to be at least a significant problem. For Larkins Road 25% think it is a serious problem and 55% at least a significant problem. There is a little less concern in the High Street though still with 23% thinking there is a serious problem and around 40% at least a significant problem.

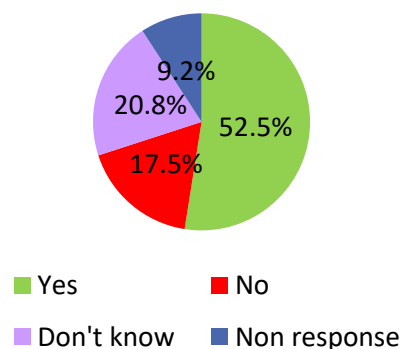
Preferred methods for addressing speeding traffic include reduced speed limits and the provision of speed cameras primarily on Lower Road and Larkins Road. The installation of speed bumps and chicanes within the village is not supported with the main reasons cited being the reduction in accessibility for emergency vehicles and large agricultural machinery. However, additional suggestions were made including the installation of flashing speed signs which are used in other villages such as Wimpole and Arrington.

### **Buses & Community Transport**

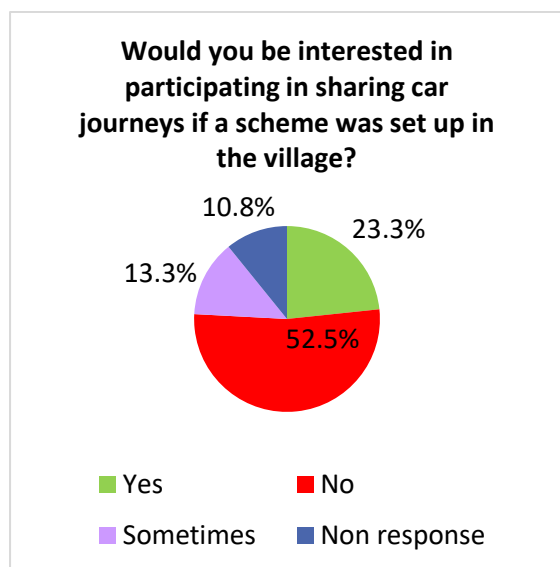
The large majority of the respondents (84%) never use the bus service through Croydon or Arrington. The main reasons cited were an inconvenient timetable (34%), journeys taking too long (32%) and wrong destinations (22.5%).

Despite this lack of use a majority of respondents (52.5%) indicated that they would be in favour of retaining some form of community transport within the village as compared with a much lower 17.5% who answered NO.

**Would you like to see some form of community transport service retained in Croydon?**



## Car sharing



When asked about potential car sharing, 52.5% expressed no interest in a car sharing scheme within the village. On the other hand 23% would be interested and 13% said SOMETIMES. Among the reasons given for no interest were travel to a variety of destinations and irregular hours often associated with a flexible working environment.

## Village Name

When asked whether to reinstate the earlier village name Croydon-cum-Clopton respondents were almost equally divided with approaching 42% against and just over 39% in favour but with 15% undecided. Some respondents commented that changing to a Cambridge postcode (and county) would be helpful.



1984  
Deep snow in Larkins Road

### **Village Environment & Transport - Summary Conclusions**

Residents recognise and appreciate many positive aspects of living in Croydon and many residents appear to choose to reside here for a long time. It is therefore even more important that the many aspects people value such as peace & quiet, safety, rural environment and access to countryside are preserved in planning decisions, developments and so on.

Despite the many positive aspects, several concerns, or areas for improvement have been raised. The issues of greatest concern have been tabulated in the body of this report and incorporated in the proposed Action Plan. Of most concern are maintenance & repair of roads, pavements and footpaths; dog barking/fouling; litter and fly tipping; overhanging trees and hedges.

Speeding is considered a problem in particular on Lower Road but also on Larkins Road and to a lesser extent along the High Street. Measures to reduce speeding such as reduced speed limits and flashing speed signs, in particular, should be investigated.

Whilst a clear majority currently do not use the public bus service, nonetheless, a majority wish for it to be retained and many wish for it to be improved, often for the benefit of youngsters in the village.

There was some interest in car sharing arrangements and to have these available would benefit the village. There may be sufficient support for a village car share system to be set up by those interested and this should be encouraged.

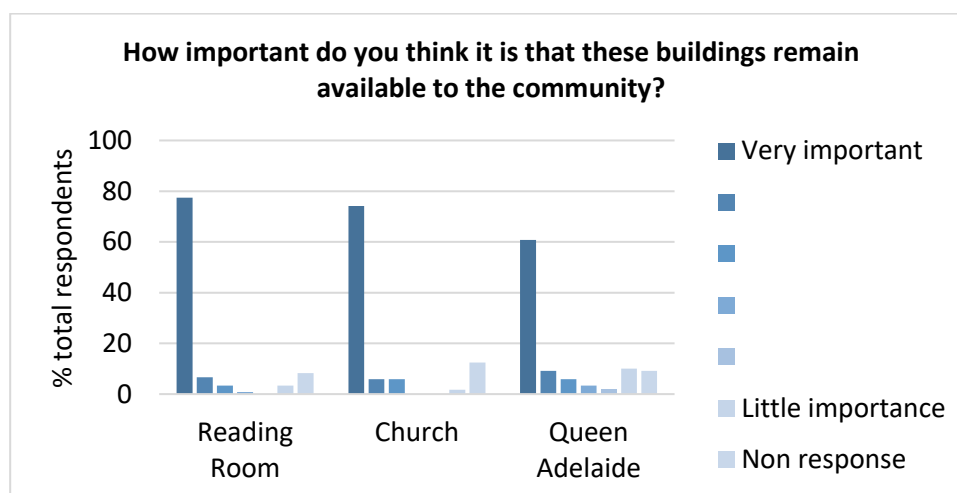
Respondents who expressed a view either way were almost equally divided on whether to reinstate the earlier name of Croydon cum Clopton. It would be helpful to further explore the practicalities, costs and benefits and then again consult residents for a conclusive decision.



## 5.4 COMMUNITY

### **Community buildings**

A very clear message is that there is strong support for all three community buildings remaining open and available to residents. Over 75% of respondents consider it to be very important that the Reading Room and Church remain available and over 60% indicated the same for the Queen Adelaide public house.



### **Reading Room**

The majority of respondents (75%) have visited the Reading Room over the last two years and over 30% have visited 6 or more times. 20% of respondents have not visited at all during this period. Popular suggestions for additional uses for the Reading Room included social and community events, playgroup/after-school, keep fit, yoga, quizzes, bingo evenings, youth evenings, cafe mornings.

### **All Saints Church**

67% of residents had visited the Church in the last two years. 33% had visited 6 or more times and 25% more than 10 times. 25% have not visited in the past two years. Visiting choirs and the holding of concerts were popular suggested events, with some indication that more social and community events would be welcomed. There was also some support for an increase in the number and variety of Church services held. It was suggested by a smaller number that improved parking, heating and seating would increase the appeal of the Church, though without spoiling the interior.

### **Queen Adelaide Public House**

The Queen Adelaide has remained closed since the end of 2013 so the opportunity to visit over the past year has been denied. Nonetheless, around 75% had visited in the last year it was open. 35% had visited between 1 to 5 times, more than 40% visited 6 or more times. 15% had not visited and a very few (3) respondents said it should remain closed. Many respondents expressed support for the pub remaining open in the village

and serving consistently good food. Numerous suggestions were offered for greater community use with the most popular being to incorporate a small shop/ Post Office. Other suggestions included morning newspaper drop off, parcel drop off & collection, music events, quizzes and market. Some respondents expressed concern that traffic and noise will increase if the Queen Adelaide reopens.

### **Wheeled access**

More than a quarter of respondents think there is a serious problem with wheeled access along pavements in the village and more than a third believe there is a significant problem. Comments included concerns about overhanging trees, garden bushes and hedges, plus the narrowness of the paths in some areas. Some respondents expressed concern about risks in the Church Lane area due to the blind bend and large, and sometimes fast, farm traffic.

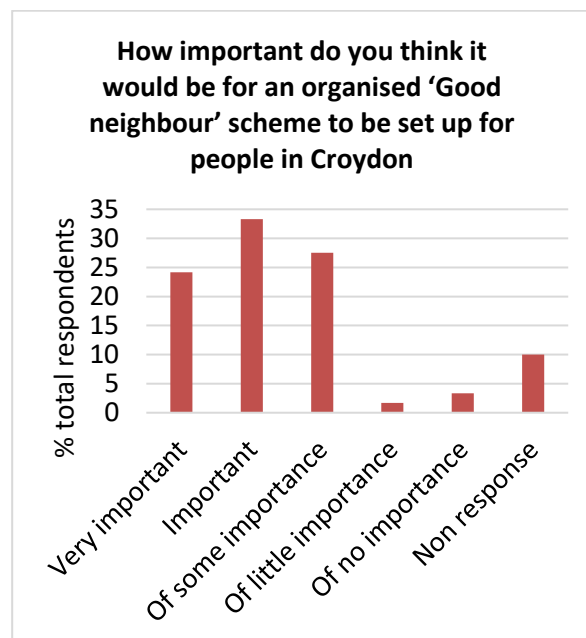
Few concerns were raised with regard to wheeled access at the three community buildings themselves, though problems were raised in connection with gravel areas at the Queen Adelaide and the slope up to the Church path.

### **Health related services/support**

Over a quarter of all respondents expressed support for the provision of a prescription collection service and/or transport to and from doctors and hospital appointments. This support was not always for themselves but on behalf of the elderly or others who might have a need.

### **Good Neighbour Scheme**

There is strong support for the development of an organised Good Neighbour scheme with over 80% feeling it is at least of some importance, and with 55% thinking it is important or very important. Such a scheme could encompass the issues relating to prescriptions & appointments raised in the preceding health section. Comments suggested that known contact points and organised volunteers would help to overcome the natural reluctance of many people to ask for help.



### **Community - Summary Conclusions**

**There is significant support for keeping open all three community buildings. All three buildings had been visited by a majority of respondents (at least 2/3) within the past 2 years.**

**Many suggestions have been offered for increased uses for all three buildings:**

**Church - Visiting choirs, Concerts, Community events**

**Reading Room - Community events, New activities and Groups**

**Queen Adelaide - Community events, Newspaper distribution, Post office, Parcel collection & drop off and Convenience store.**

**There are concerns with wheeled access notably along pavements due to overhanging and encroaching greenery. There are also some specific concerns at the approaches to the Queen Adelaide and Church.**

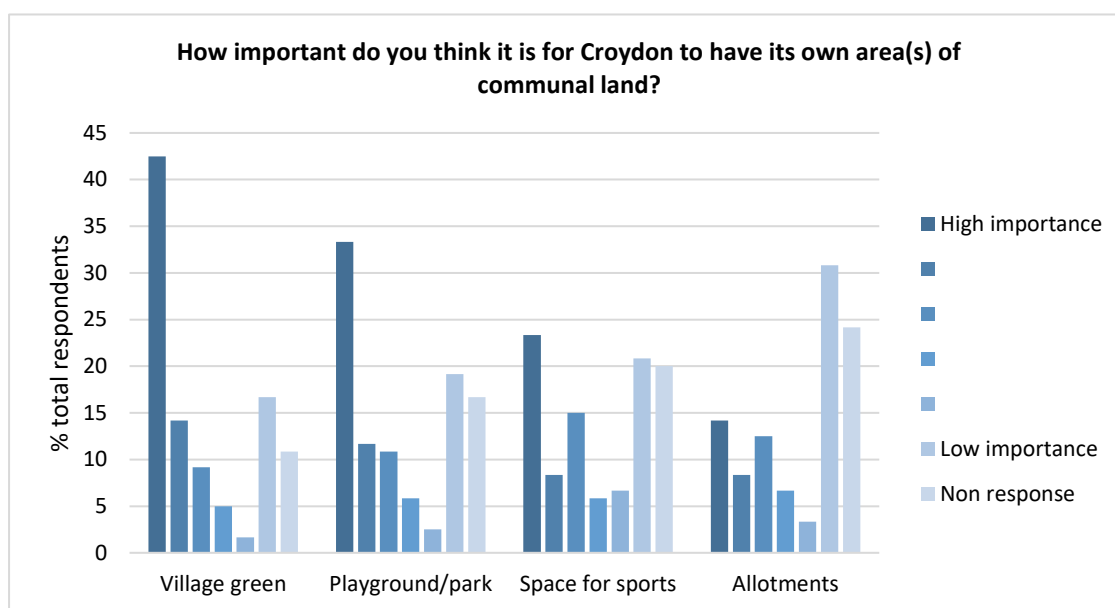
**Support was expressed for the provision of a prescription collection service and help with transport to or from doctors and hospital appointments for those who might have a need. Connected to this, there is strong support for developing an organised Good Neighbour Scheme in Croydon with known contact points and volunteers to overcome the natural reluctance of many people to ask for help.**



## 5.5 RECREATION & FACILITIES

### **Communal land**

There is support for the provision of areas of communal land for the benefit of the people of Croydon. This support also came across strongly in the qualitative comments received. Of the options offered in the questions, the strongest support was for a Village Green with 65% of responses in the most positive half of the scale and over 40% strongly positive. This was followed by Playground/Park with 55% positive and nearly 35% very positive, then a Space for Sports with 45% positive and finally Allotments with around a 35% positive though in this particular case coupled with a relatively larger group who consider this to be of low importance.



Several respondents remarked that, in practice, some or all of the above could be considered together as part of one package and with some commenting that any green communal space might need to be linked to additional housing.

### **Activities & pastimes**

There was a large response (more than 50% of respondents) to questions under this heading with in excess of 30 sports and pastimes that respondents suggested they would like to be involved with if they were available in Croydon or nearby. There was recognition by many that facilities could be shared with neighbouring villages. The most frequently mentioned were Sports (tennis, cricket, badminton, football), Keep fit/Aerobics, Talks/films/social evenings. A more complete list of suggested activities and pastimes is included in the full results Appendix (available on request).

### **Young people**

A relatively large number of responses were received to the question how can the village be made more appealing to young people. Written responses were received from 77 people (63% of respondents) who in total made just over 100 suggestions (not all different!). 13 youngsters between 10 and 21 years of age were among those who contributed answers to this question.

50 respondents expressed a need for a playing field/park and 9 of the 13 youngsters who answered mentioned a park/playing field or recorded it as a high priority in the village development questions. In addition several sports were specifically mentioned including somewhere simply to kick a ball about, tennis and cricket nets. Other suggestions included clubs of various kinds, youth/social club/outdoor activities, toddlers group etc.

Other connected comments appearing several times included better transport links to enable youngsters to independently travel more easily and that an open pub with play area would be a benefit. More affordable housing for young families was also mentioned a few times under this question.

### **Library service**

The questionnaire results indicate that only a handful of respondents use the monthly mobile library service. However, perhaps the most interesting finding relates to communication as almost three times the number who actually use the service said they did not know about it and some were potential users.

### **Other absent facilities**

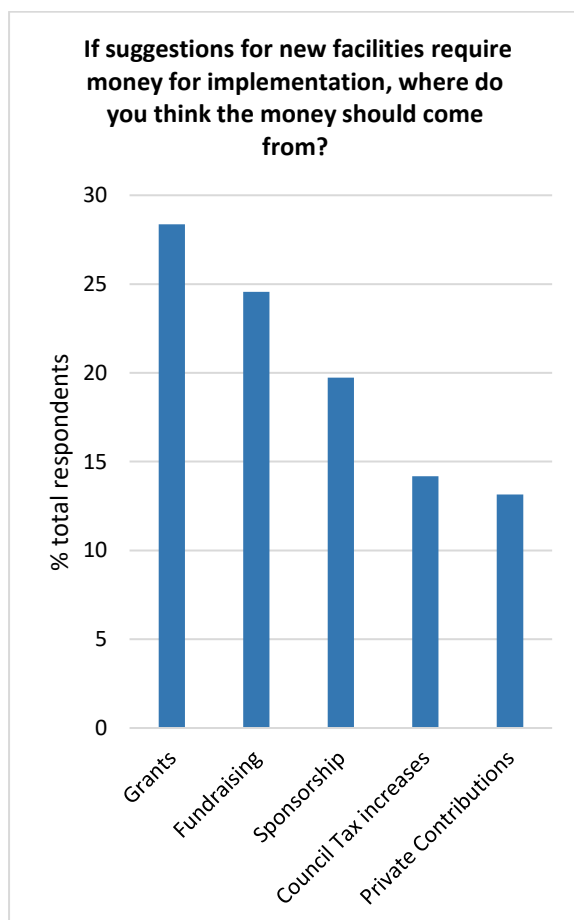
When asked which other services should be provided the most popular response (over 80% of respondents) was the need for better high speed broadband.

Around 40% expressed support for connection to mains drainage where currently it is not available and over 30% expressed support for connection to mains gas.

An oil purchasing syndicate was proposed, interestingly another example of poor communications as a syndicate already exists in the village.



## **How new facilities should be paid for**



The responses received show a measure of support for all five funding methods offered in the question. Grants and Fundraising were the most favoured with 28% and 25% support respectively followed by Sponsorship at 20%. Council Tax increases and Private Contributions were the least favoured at just below 15% support for each. Perhaps surprisingly, a very low number (7) of additional written comments were received with no strong objections raised to any of the above sources. Two respondents mentioned that developers should pay for new facilities under Section 106 funding – *a contribution from developers towards the cost of developing community facilities which may be needed as a result of increased development in the area.*



**CROYDON CRICKET TEAM - circa late 1940s**

### **Recreation & Facilities - Summary Conclusions**

The results reveal significant support for areas of communal land for the benefit of Croydon people, particularly a village green, playground/park and space for sports.

A more moderate level of support is shown for the provision of allotments. It would seem sensible to elicit further confirmation of the level of interest and, because of the likely adverse visual impact, these might require separate provision from other communal land areas.

There is the possibility at least that the provision of communal land might be linked to the building of additional housing through some contribution from developers.

A large response was received revealing considerable demand for many activities and pastimes if they could be provided in Croydon or close by. There is particular focus on sports & keep fit and social/ community activities.

An even larger response was received in connection with activities for young people with the provision of an area for play/sports being very high on the list, also clubs and opportunities for youngsters to meet. Improvements to public transport to enable youngsters to move around between neighbouring villages would be a great benefit.

With so much being demanded it will not be possible to move forward on such a wide front, nonetheless, it is to be hoped that with persistence some progress can be achieved in selected areas including in cooperation with neighbouring villages.

The poor level of knowledge about the current mobile library service is a good example of the need for new and better ways of providing information to the community.

The lack of high speed broadband features very strongly. There is some support also for the extension of mains drainage where it is currently not available and some demand for the provision of mains gas to the village (especially as the national gas main passes between Croydon and Arrington!).

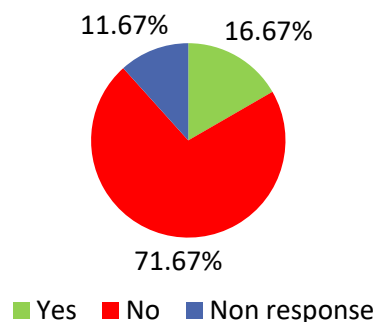
No single funding mechanism stood out as either highly favoured or greatly disliked. Naturally enough, if sources other than council tax increases could be found, then these are to be preferred though, interestingly, private donations are less liked even than tax increases.

## 5.6 COMMUNITY SAFETY

### Crime

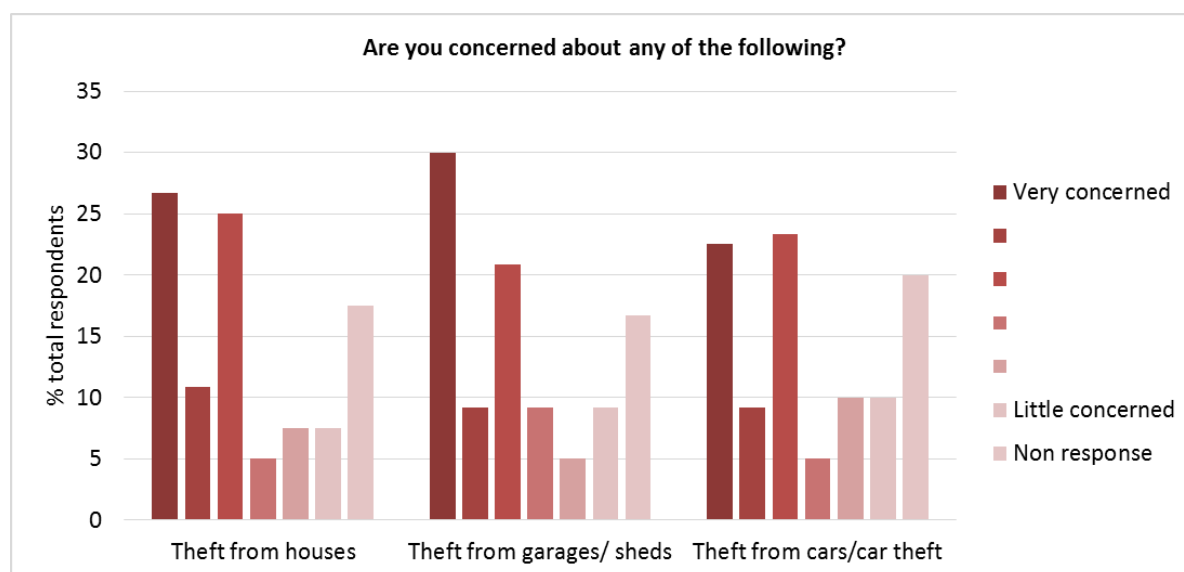
When asked whether people had themselves been victims of crime while in Croydon in the past 5 years, although nearly 72% said NO, a still significant 17% [1 in 6] said that they had been victims. Details of 8 crimes were included in the responses. Half of these related to motor vehicles and included dents and scrapes (possibly not criminal offences), theft of an exhaust, tampering with and theft of a whole vehicle. The other reported crimes involved theft from sheds/outhouses and one house burglary.

**Have you been a victim of crime (whilst in Croydon) in the past 5 years?**



### Concern about crime

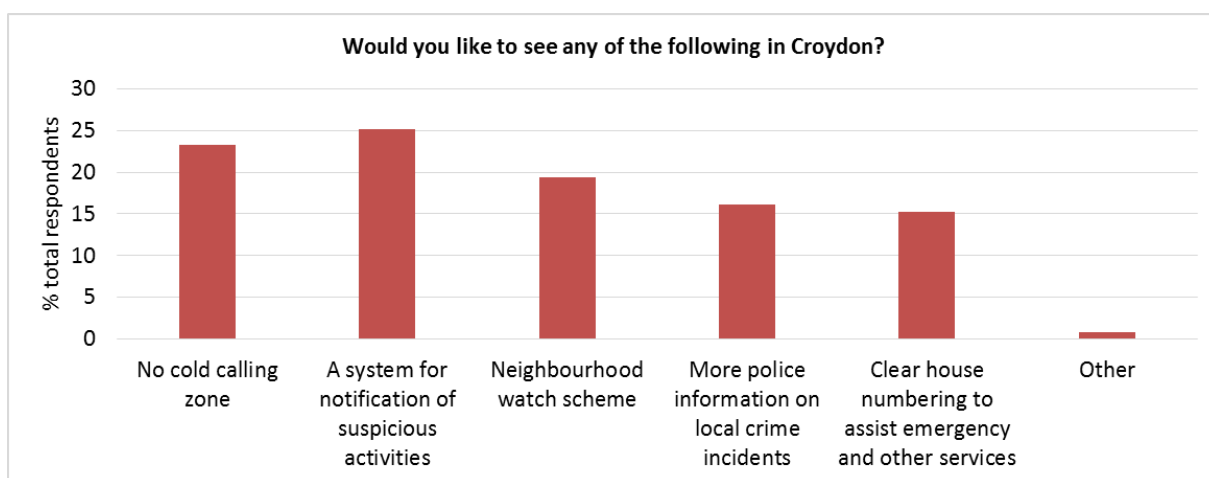
Concern about crime is much higher among respondents than actual crime itself with around 60% to 70% of respondents more than moderately concerned about theft from houses, garages/sheds, and vehicles. Concern about theft from garages/sheds is at the high end of this range, with concern about houses and vehicles at the low end.



## **Policing**

A relatively high number (62) comments were received on policing. Many (around 30) felt current levels of presence and visibility need to be improved. Other suggestions for better communications (16) included police meetings/surgeries for villagers and an e-mail/telephone alert system for suspicious goings-on. Also mentioned were OWL (on-line watch link), E-Cops (e-mails) and Cambs Countryside Watch, these should be investigated and possibly publicised.

There is some support, though not a majority, for a No Cold Calling Zone (23%) and a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme (19%).



## **Community safety – Summary Conclusions**

The perception of crime is clearly higher than crime itself, nonetheless, for so small a community, there have been a worrying number of incidents over the past five years.

People are particularly concerned about theft from houses, garages & sheds and only slightly less concerned about vehicle theft.

There may be measures that could be put in place that might help people feel safer though support remains rather weak for a No Cold Calling Zone and a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme.

More support is shown for effective systems to help keep people better informed about local crime and particularly for timely information on suspicious activities.

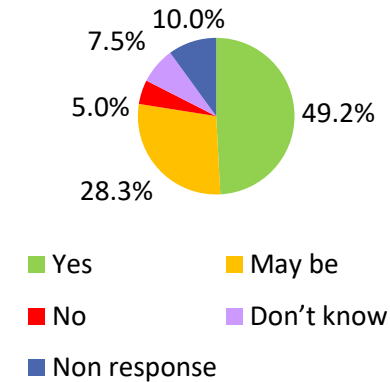
Existing schemes appear to need better publicity and further investigation.

## 5.7 SUSTAINABILITY

Close to 50% of all respondents supported exploring ways for Croydon to become more sustainable together with an additional 28% who answered MAY BE and remain to be fully convinced. Only 5% said NO.

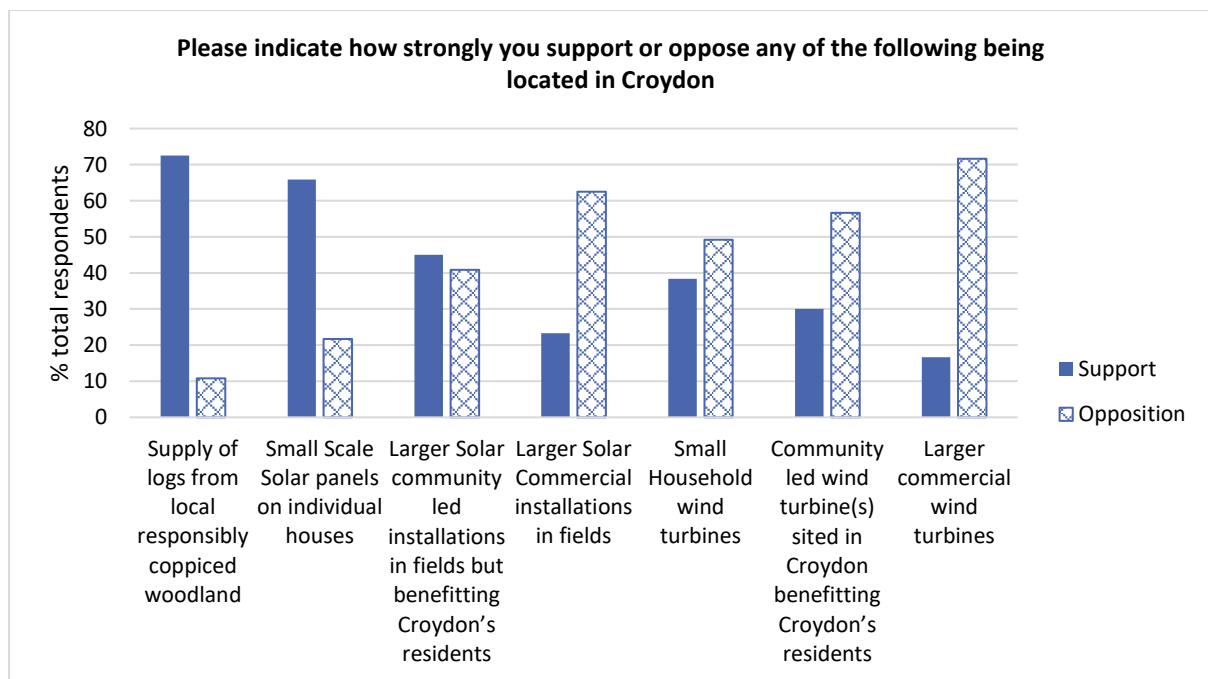
35% supported the selling of home grown produce and 40% supported garage sales. It was suggested that The Queen Adelaide and the Reading Room might make good venues for sharing home grown produce.

**Do you think Croydon should explore ways in which the village as a whole could become more sustainable?**



### Renewable energy schemes in Croydon

The chart below is a simplified version of the full information received on strength of feeling for and against renewable energy schemes. A more detailed version of this chart is provided in the Results Appendix which is available on request.



Respondents were invited to comment on a range of green energy options and it should be noted that the Questionnaire preceded the construction of the solar complex at the top of Church Lane. The most strongly supported of the green energy options listed (in



the chart above) is locally sourced logs from responsibly coppiced woodland, with over 70% supportive (and almost 50% strongly supportive). Around 10% are opposed.

There is general support for small scale solar installations fitted to houses in Croydon with 66% supportive against 22% opposed. This compares with strong opposition to large commercial solar installations in fields with over 63% showing opposition as against 23% supportive. When the question is changed to community led solar projects in fields with benefit to Croydon residents, interestingly the result switches round with 45% supportive as against 41% opposed (though even in this case 31% are strongly opposed as compared with only 20% who strongly positive).

In general, the level of opposition to wind turbines being located in Croydon is much greater than the level of support whether on the household scale or the commercial scale, and irrespective of whether or not there are benefits to the local community. Even on the small domestic scale 49% are opposed as compared with 38% who are supportive. On the large commercial scale 72% are opposed as against 16% in favour.

### **Sustainability - Summary Conclusions**

**There is support for Croydon exploring ways to become more sustainable. It seems essential that this is done in cooperation with other villages and organisations.**

**Clear preferences for green energies have emerged. Two options have received strong support, namely, the supply of local sustainably sourced logs and small scale solar panels on individual houses.**

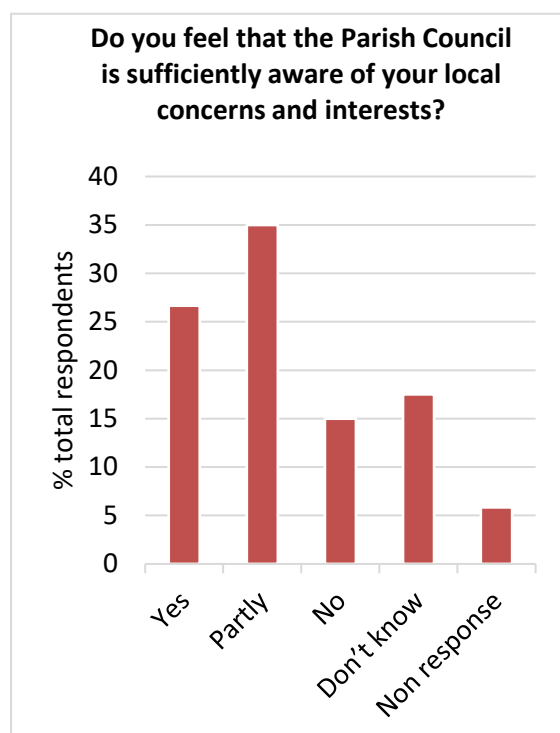
**There is strong opposition to large scale commercial solar installations in fields. However, when the question is changed to community led schemes benefitting Croydon residents then overall support and opposition are more evenly matched though, even in this case, considerably more people are strongly opposed than strongly in favour.**

**There is strong opposition to wind turbines at any scale and regardless whether or not Croydon residents benefit.**

**There is support for occasional garage or driveway sales and a reasonable level of support for selling home grown produce. Both the Reading Room and the Queen Adelaide have been highlighted as possible locations.**

## 5.7 DEMOCRACY & COMMUNICATIONS

### Parish Council – Awareness

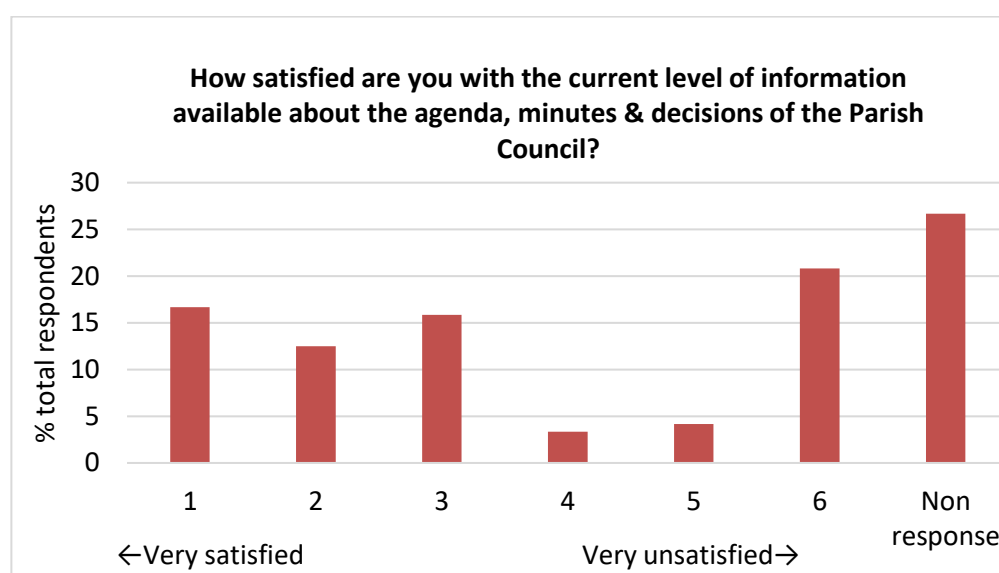


Just over 25% of respondents feel that the Parish Council is sufficiently aware of local concerns and interests and a further 35% felt the PC was partly aware. 15% felt it was not sufficiently aware.

Over 60% of respondents answered that they have never been to a PC meeting.

Just over 60% of respondents answered that they know how to contact a parish councillor but over 30% say they do not know.

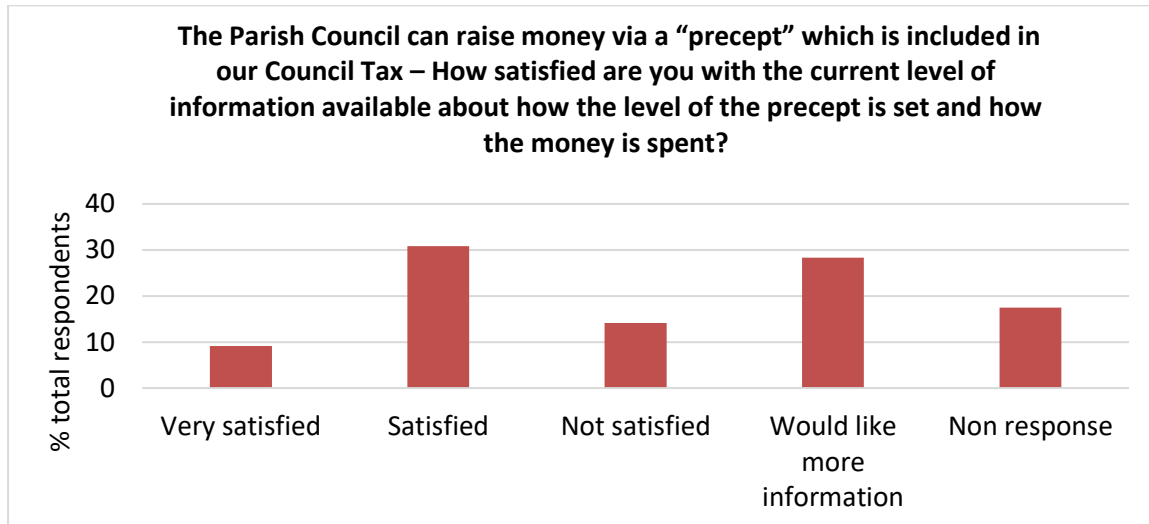
### Parish Council – Communication



Close to 17% of respondents said they are very satisfied with the current level of information available about the agenda, minutes and decisions of the Parish Council. Pooling the first three columns in the chart above indicates that almost 45% of

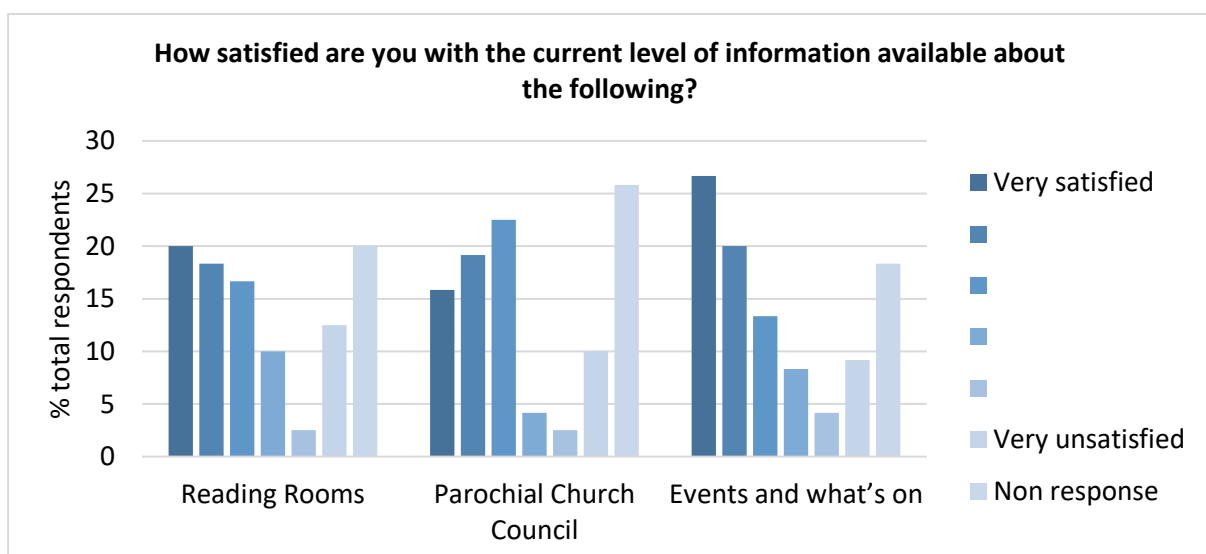
respondents indicated some measure of satisfaction with the current level of information. At the other end of the scale 20% are very unsatisfied and 19 individual comments were received about the need for better and timely communications. 2 respondents did not know that Parish Council meetings were open to the public.

When questioned about the current level of information on how the Precept is set and spent, 40% of respondents were satisfied or very satisfied. 14% are not satisfied and 30% said they would like more information.



### **Other communications within the village**

Respondents were asked to state their levels of satisfaction with the current level of information available about the Reading Room, the Parochial Church Council and events in the village.

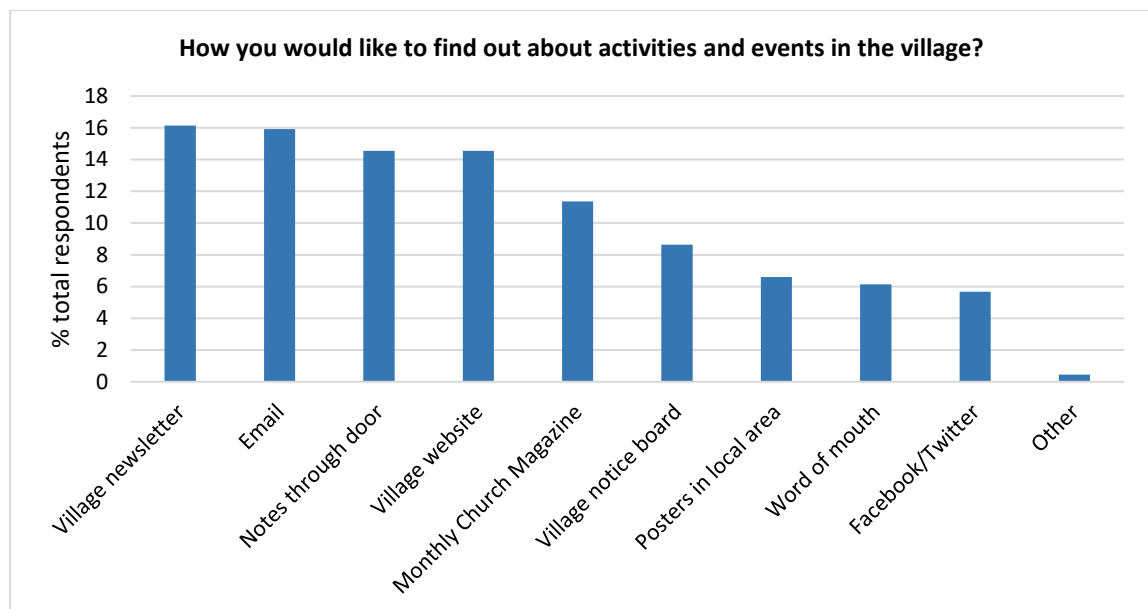


Around 55% of respondents said they were satisfied (in the satisfied half of the scale) with the levels of information received for both the Reading Rooms and the Church. At the other end of the scale, for the Reading Room about 25% answered in the unsatisfied half of the scale though only 12% were very unsatisfied. For the Church Council around 16% answered in the unsatisfied half and in this case only 10% very unsatisfied.

When questioned on information flow about events in the village 60% of respondents answered in the satisfied half of the scale and with over 25% very satisfied. 20% answered in the unsatisfied half of the scale and with just under 10% very unsatisfied.

It was noted that there was a relatively high level of non-response for all three areas.

When asked how people would like to find out about activities and events in the village no one method dominated. The chart below shows the wide spread of desired methods indicated by respondents.

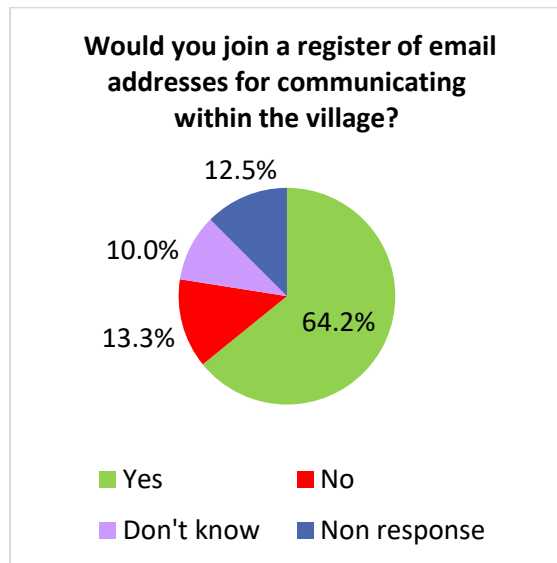


### **Village website**

When asked whether respondents find the website useful, 15% said YES and almost the same number said NO. 26% said occasionally useful and 30% said they do not know! A relatively large number of written comments (27) were received, many reporting that keeping the website up to date is an issue; 7 respondents said they did not know there is a village website.

Some commented that, if it were possible, some kind of alerting system would be very helpful to let people know that new information had been added to the website rather than needing to rely on regular but random viewing.

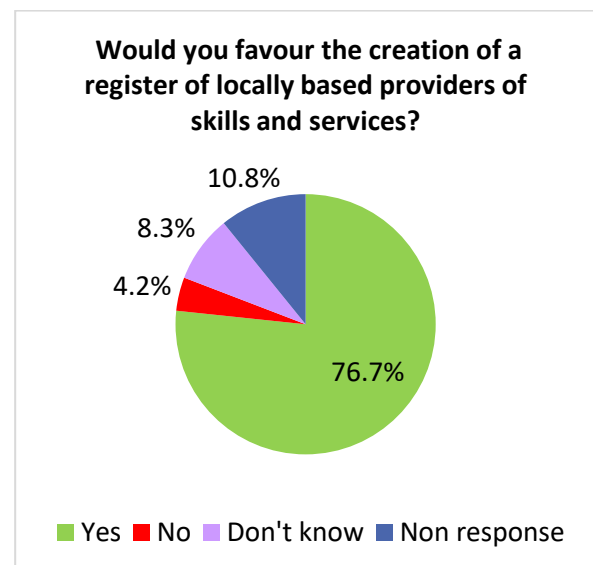
## **Creation of e-mail list within the village**



When asked about the creation of an email list for communicating within the village, 64% of respondents said that they would join a register as against 13% who said they would not; 10% are undecided.

## **Register of local providers**

This question attracted a very high positive response with more than 75% of respondents favouring a register as compared with only 4% against (and 8% DON'T KNOWs).





## **Democracy and Communications - Summary Conclusions**

**The majority of people think that the Parish Council is aware, or partly aware, of their concerns. Most people do know how to contact a Parish Councillor although almost one third said they did not.**

**When asked about information on the Parish Council, around 45% of respondents placed themselves in the satisfied half of the scale as against 30% in the unsatisfied half, however, at 21% the largest single group are those who are very unsatisfied. These findings indicate that consideration should be given to improving the flow of information on the agenda, minutes and decisions.**

**The majority of respondents are satisfied with the level of information about the Reading Room but a relatively small number are very satisfied. Around one quarter registered some measure of dissatisfaction. Again consideration should be given to improving the flow of information.**

**The levels of satisfaction with information from the Parochial Church Council are generally positive and dissatisfaction levels are relatively low though again relatively few are very satisfied and further improvement could be considered.**

**There is a relatively high level of satisfaction with the information flow about events and what's on. The difficulty in this area is that no one method of communication stands out as being preferred.**

**There is majority support for the creation of a village e-mail list for internal village communications – though the above conclusion indicates strongly that this must not be seen as a replacement for all other methods.**

**A supplementary conclusion is that thought should be given about how best to coordinate the flow of information from the different bodies perhaps through additions to the Church Magazine and the village website or a new alternative.**

**Most people support having a village website though many think ways need to be found to improve the currency and flow of information to the website.**

**There is very strong support for the creation of a register of local traders and providers.**

## 6. VILLAGE ACTION PLAN – Issue 1

The following four pages contain an Action Plan for Croydon. This has been created to begin to address both the aspirations and the concerns of residents as expressed in the returned Questionnaires. More than the final report itself, the Action Plan is the key output from this community led exercise as the intention is, not simply to find out and record villagers views, but much more importantly to try to change and improve things in the directions guided by the responses.

The format and headings used in the Plan are the same as those used by many other parishes. The items are listed under the same main headings as used in the Questionnaire and follow the same order of appearance as in the main body of this report.

To keep the Plan to within sensible limits, for now, only those issues which received the greatest responses have been included in the present version of the Plan – (High and Medium priority items). Lower priority items, although having been covered in this report, have been left off the Plan for now but could be picked up in future versions as progress is achieved on some of the items currently listed.

The Plan lists a total of 23 Actions which, on the face of it, might seem a rather large number; however, this is a lower number than for other local villages which have been used for comparison.

- 10 Priority Actions are coloured in red text (1, 2, 3, 5, 10, 14, 17, 18, 21, 23). These have stirred the greatest strength of feeling and/or have the most potential impact. In many cases easy solutions are not available and will require long-term effort if they are to be accomplished. 2 of these actions (1 and 14) represent the last duties of the present Steering Group before its disbandment.
- 5 Actions in blue text (6, 7, 8, 9, 11) are considered to be routine Parish Council matters (e.g. overhanging branches, dog fouling etc) and are included because of the strength of feeling in the responses received and to provide feedback and support to the Parish Council.
- The remaining 8 Actions in black text (4, 12, 13, 5, 16, 19, 20, 22) are all ranked Medium priority.

If some success can be achieved, particularly in the above mentioned key areas, then there is the prospect of improved and more sustainable village life without risking what is good about living in Croydon. However, for any of this to happen will require residents to step up and get involved in areas which interest them (see the next section of this report entitled “The way forward - What happens next”).

Croydon Community Led Action Plan – Issue 1 – April 2015						
Notes: 1. Only High and Medium priority items are listed in this Issue 1. Later editions may include lower priority items. 2. Items shown in red are considered by the Steering Group to be Top Priority based on strength of feeling and/or potential impact. 3. Items shown in blue could be considered more routine PC matters but are included because of the strength of responses received. 4. Items shown in black are the remaining Medium priority items. 5. PC = Parish Council, DC = District Councillors, SG = Steering Group, IG = Yet to be formed Implementation Group, PCC = Church Council. SCDC = South Cambridgeshire District Council, CCC – Cambridgeshire County Council						
MAIN HEADING/ISSUE	ACTION	PRIORITY	WHO	DATES	RESOURCES	LOCAL AUTHORITY INVOLVEMENT
<u>Village development</u>						
<b>Additional homes</b>	1. Brief District & County Councillors, SCDC Planning and local MP on the key findings notably number, scale of developments, types of new homes, desire for communal land	HIGH	SG led and PC reps.	By end 2015	Contributors' time. Possibly a small budget for presentation materials.	YES - SCDC
<b>Design Guide</b>	2. Create a Design Guide to try to shape future developments including locations, number, density, parking, materials, community facilities & businesses.	HIGH	IG led, PC, Volunteers	Commence Q4 2015. Complete Q3 2016	Contributors' time. Possibly small budget for materials/report.	YES - SCDC
<b>Community led Developments</b>	3. Investigate examples of community led developments and their potential application to Croydon	HIGH	IG led, PC, Volunteers	Commence Q3 2015. Complete Q2 2016	Contributors' time. Possible small travel budget.	YES - SCDC
<b>Businesses</b>	4. Encourage small, suitable, non-invasive businesses through planning and other decisions.	Medium	PC, SCDC, DC	Q2 2015 and on-going	PC, DC time.	YES
<b>Fast Broadband</b>	5. Investigate options for fast broadband including proposed use of Church Tower, as against the current BT Openreach schedule	HIGH	IG, PCC, Volunteers	By end Q3 2015	Contributors' time. Possibly some village funds	NO

MAIN HEADING/ISSUE	ACTION	PRIORITY	WHO	DATES	RESOURCES	LOCAL AUTHORITY INVOLVEMENT
<u>Village Environment</u>						
Maintenance of roads and pavements	6. PC to continue to press CCC Highways for speedy repair of roads and pavements especially High Street & Larkins Road.	HIGH	PC	On-going	PC time.	YES - CCC
Vegetation and overhanging branches encroaching on pavements	7. Regular communication and pressure for owners to cut back where problems exist. CCC involvement possibly.	MEDIUM	PC & Land/Property owners.	Campaign each Spring & Autumn	PC/ Magazine Reps/ Leaflets	YES - CCC if owners remain uncooperative.
Condition of Public Footpaths	8. Enforce proper access where difficulties exist; long term serious issues with both footpaths to south from High Street.	MEDIUM	PC & SCDC footpath officer, Landowners.	Q4 2015 & on-going.	PC, SCDC (footpath officer & Parish Paths Partnership), CCC time.	YES - SCDC & CCC
Dogs – Barking & Fouling	Advertise for Footpath Warden. 9. Campaign to reduce dog fouling & barking. Obtain 2 <sup>nd</sup> dog bin.	HIGH	Volunteer PC, SCDC, Dog owners	Q4 2015 Q3 2015 & Annual reminder	Volunteer PC	YES
Litter and fly tipping	10. Volunteer clean up days including for High Street and Larkins Road	HIGH	IG to encourage volunteer days	Two per year; April & Sept	Volunteer time	NO
Speeding	11. Continue to work towards practical solutions for Lower Road, Larkins Road and High Street	HIGH	PC, DC, CCC, Police	On-going	PC & DC time. CCC funds. Police Speedwatch.	YES
Community transport/Car sharing?	12. Investigate current CT schemes and explore practicality & costs. Consider options, probably combined with local villages	Medium	IG, Volunteers	End 2015	IG & Volunteer time. Funding sources.	Possibly

MAIN HEADING/ISSUE	ACTION	PRIORITY	WHO	DATES	RESOURCES	LOCAL AUTHORITY INVOLVEMENT
Village name & postcode	13. Explore practicalities, costs & benefits then canvas opinion again.	Medium	IG, Volunteers, then PC	Q2 2016	IG & Volunteer time.	YES
Community Buildings Reading Room, Church, Queen Adelaide	14. SG to provide full feedback to enable responsible bodies to consider wider uses & any communication issues.	Church & QA (HIGH) Reading Room (Medium)	-SG -PCC for church. -Owner for QA. -Trustees for Reading Room	Q2 2015 for Church & QA. Q3 for Reading Room	SG & representatives time	NO
Queen Adelaide	15. Strategy for minimising noise and disturbance when re-opened	Medium	Parish Council/QA owner	Q2/Q3 2015	PC Reps & QA time	SCDC Planning possibly
Good neighbour scheme	16. Investigate scope and practicalities of a Good Neighbour Scheme – possibly with neighbouring villages	Medium	IG plus Volunteers	Q2 2016	Contributors' time. Possibly some funding.	NO
Facilities & Activities	17. Investigate feasibility of providing some of the desired activities and pastimes possibly in cooperation with other villages. Include youngster needs.	HIGH	IG, PC and Volunteers	2015/16	Contributors' time. Eventually some funding is likely to be needed	Eventually
Communal Land	18. Exploration of opportunities and funding possibilities including grants and leasing	HIGH	IG, PC, Landowners & Volunteers	2015/16	Contributors' time. Land, Grants, local funds	YES
Community Safety						
Police liaison	19. Explore ways to improve presence, awareness, & crucially communication. To include attendance and feedback from existing Police briefings.	Medium	IG, PC & police liaison, Volunteers	End 2015	Contributors' time. Possibly volunteer time plus funding to set up communication system.	No



MAIN HEADING/ISSUE	ACTION	PRIORITY	WHO	DATES	RESOURCES	LOCAL AUTHORITY INVOLVEMENT
Sustainability	20. Explore how Croydon might become environmentally more sustainable taking account of villagers' expressed views	Med	IG, & Volunteers, other outside bodies & individuals.	Commence Q4 2015 Report by end 2016	Not known as yet	Possibly
Democracy & Communications						
Communications within the village	21. Explore how better to inform villagers including on PC matters, Reading Room & Church activities & other events. To include new Transparency Code.	HIGH	IG, and reps from PC, Webmaster Reading Room, PCC, Church magazine	Q4 2015	Contributors' time. Possibly funding.	No
Register of local providers	22. Explore and develop register	Med	IG & Volunteers	End 2015 and continuing	Contributors time	No
Periodic reviews of progress with Action Plan	23. Minimum thrice yearly reviews with PC and ad-hoc as issues arise. Annually with parishioners	HIGH	IG, PC, Volunteers and groups	Beginning Q3 2015 and continuing	Contributors time	Hopefully!

## 7. THE WAY FORWARD – WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

This Report and Plan is to be passed to the Parish Council for endorsement. Once endorsed it will be made available to District Councillors and also lodged with South Cambridgeshire District and Cambridgeshire County Council where it will represent the considered and expressed views of our community and will inform planning and other considerations which fall within District and County jurisdictions.

It is clear that it is not appropriate, nor fair, to expect the Parish Council to take on all of the areas listed in the Action Plan. The Plan covers many matters of direct interest and importance to individuals and groups within our community. It presents an opportunity for people and groups to come forward and pursue feasibility studies and activities in their own areas of interest.

Representatives of the Parish Council and the Steering Group have already met to discuss how the Action Plan might best be implemented. It is proposed that an Implementation Group (IG) be formed to help coordinate, encourage and assist any individuals or groups of parishioners wishing to work on any Actions in the Plan. It is thought the new IG will be a key element if significant progress is to be made. An event is to be hosted jointly by the Parish Council and the Steering Group to launch the IG and it will then report quarterly to the Parish Council on progress or difficulties encountered. The Parish Council, and it is assumed District Councillors too, will assist, encourage and advise the Implementation Group in any way they can.

As detailed previously in Section 6 of this report entitled Village Action Plan, the Plan lists a total of 23 Actions:

- 10 Priority Actions are shown in red text (1, 2, 3, 5, 10, 14, 17, 18, 21, 23). These stirred the greatest strength of feeling and/or have the most potential impact
- 5 Actions shown in blue text (6, 7, 8, 9, 11) are routine Parish Council matters but included in the Plan because of the strength of feeling in the received responses as well as to provide feedback and support to the Parish Council.
- The remaining 8 Actions in black text (4, 12, 13, 15, 16, 19, 20, 22) are all ranked Medium priority.

It is clear that this initiative offers a once in a generation opportunity for the residents of Croydon to come together to address some concerns, to better protect what is good about living in Croydon and to improve village life in areas where this is desired.

However, for any of this to happen will require residents to respond to future opportunities to get involved in areas which interest them whether by joining the new Implementation Group, or by forming teams to take on some of the tasks.

**The Steering Group recommends this Report and Action Plan to the Parish Council and to all residents of Croydon.**

## 8. Acknowledgments and Thanks

**Parish Council:** for encouragement given to the Steering Group and financial support for administrative expenses.

**South Cambridgeshire District Council:** for advice and practical support including document printing.

**People of Croydon:** above all, the Steering Group wishes to thank the people of Croydon parish without whose input none of this would have been possible.

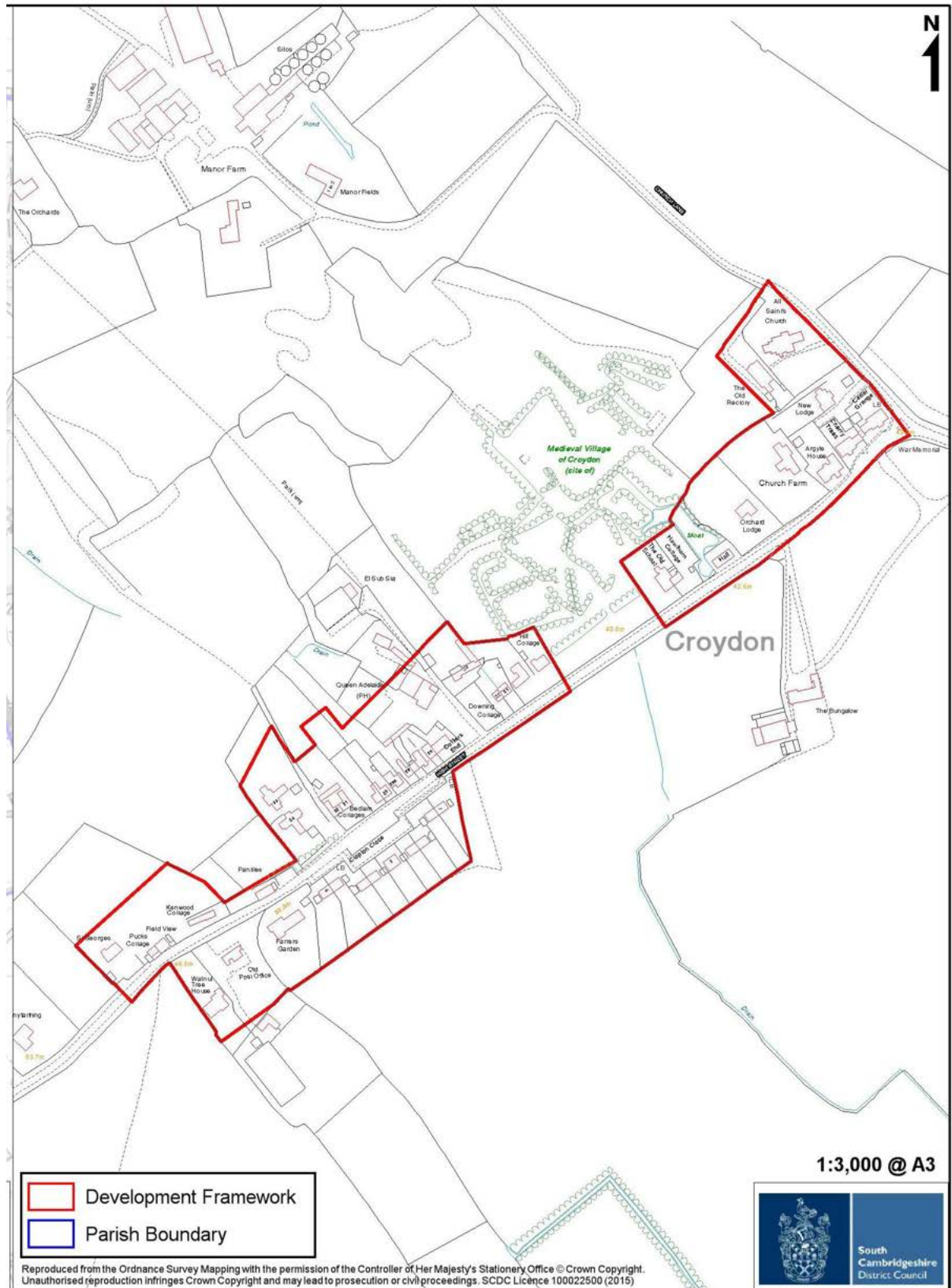
**County & District Councillor Sebastian Kindersley:** for support to the SG and community throughout this process and for a final letter of support (available in full in Section 9.2 of this report).

**District Councillor Bridget Smith:** for support to the SG and community throughout this process and for a final letter of support (available in full in Section 9.2 of this report).

**Members of the Steering Group:** from the Steering Group Co-Chairs, our warm personal thanks for the support and forbearance of all members of the Steering Group who have served at any time.

## 9. APPENDICES

## 9.1 MAP SHOWING EXTENT OF CURRENT VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT ENVELOPE



## 9.2 LETTERS OF SUPPORT

### 1. Sebastian Kindersley – County & District Councillor

*Residents of Croydon are really lucky. They live in a community that is not only very attractive to look at but is also full of vibrant, interested and engaged people who want to see the Parish prosper while retaining all that is good about living here.*

*The work that has already been done by the Steering Group is brilliant – it recognises the positives about Croydon and has identified – with the enthusiastic support of residents – what needs to be done to keep it one of the best places to live in South Cambridgeshire. Actions do speak louder than words so it's great to see a proposed Action Plan which engages everyone. Every village faces issues and it is inspiring to see how cheerfully and positively Croydon people are engaging with the future.*

*I very much hope to see the aims and ambitions of the Plan coming to fruition over the next few years and wish you the very best of luck. I will be enthusiastic about doing whatever I can to help.*

*Sebastian Kindersley*

*County & District Councillor*

## 2. Bridget Smith – District Councillor

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South  
Cambridgeshire  
District Council

24<sup>TH</sup> April 2015

Dear Members of Croydon Community Led Plan Steering Group,

As one of the District Councillors for Croydon I would like to record my wholehearted support for the recently completed Community Led Plan. This is a most impressive document which a much larger community than Croydon would have been very justly proud of.

The plan is aspirational and ambitious and is far more than the 'wish list' that Parish Plans often are. The Steering Group has been diligent in identifying those areas of greatest concern but realistic in setting out their action plan. I am most impressed with their intention of producing a design guide to ensure that future development fits in comfortably with their beautiful village. I am also pleased to see that the majority of the residents acknowledge the need for more housing but that they are taking a sensible approach to the numbers required and their sizes and location.

This is a very useful document indeed and will be of great value to the community for years to come. It has obviously involved many hours of work and I congratulate all those involved.

Yours,

CLLR BRIDGET SMITH

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR GAMLINGAY WARD