



**PARISH PLAN
AND
VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENT**



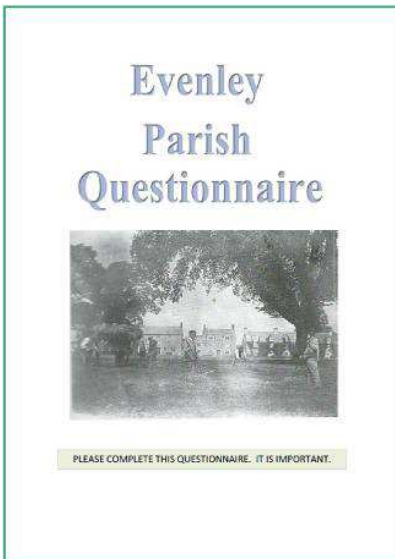
The Future of Our Community
2014 to 2029

February 2015

www.evenleypc.org.uk

Introduction

The Parish Plan project was initiated in response to the Parish Council's desire to establish a road map for the future of Evenley based so far as is possible and practicable on the wishes of its residents. Whilst a Neighbourhood Plan would carry greater weight, Parish Councillors discussed with and took advice from South Northamptonshire Council officers who explained it could be expensive to realise. With an estimated figure well in excess of £20,000, the councillors and SNC officers felt that this expenditure might not be justified in the case of a parish of our size. Though lacking in the weight attached to an adopted Neighbourhood Plan, a Parish Plan would be taken into consideration as appropriate in respect of those planning applications affecting the parish.



We are pleased to report that out of 280 questionnaires delivered in the parish of Evenley, 164 were returned, plus 15 from young people. Over 75 people attended the open evening and presentation, where they were given the opportunity to pose questions or queries. Compliments were received from the overwhelming majority of those who attended.

The Parish Council is extremely grateful to the team of volunteers who compiled, distributed, collected and analysed the results of the questionnaire on which this plan is based. The questionnaire revealed a diverse range of opinions in the parish. The contrasting views on some aspects of village life make it impossible to declare a common viewpoint on all issues. Consequently the Parish Council has where necessary endeavoured to achieve an appropriate balance between any conflicting views. The aim of the plan is to cover the period up to 2029 but will have a degree of flexibility and could be modified from time to time, with further consultation, if necessary.

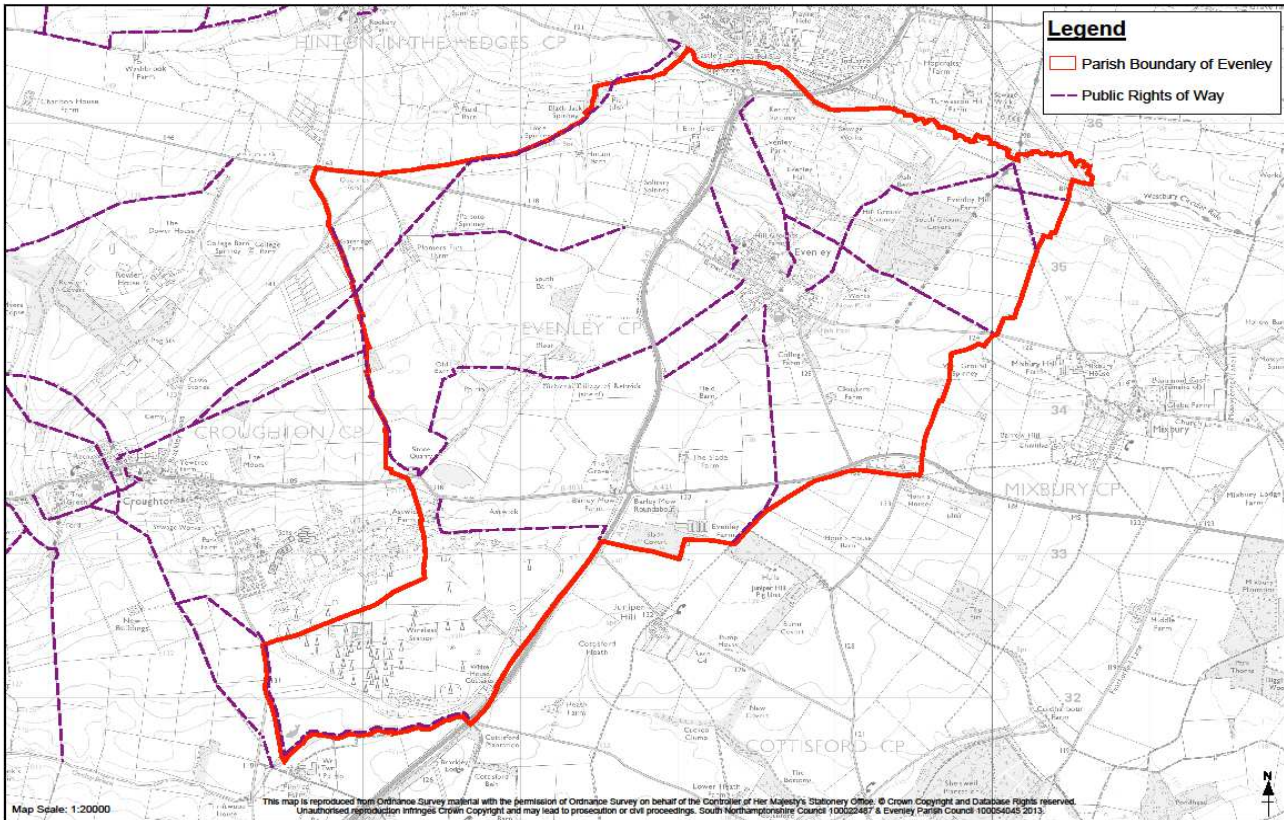
Mission Statement

As the statutory body, The Parish Council will continue to work towards maintaining and enhancing the quality of life for the people who live in, work in and visit the Parish of Evenley.

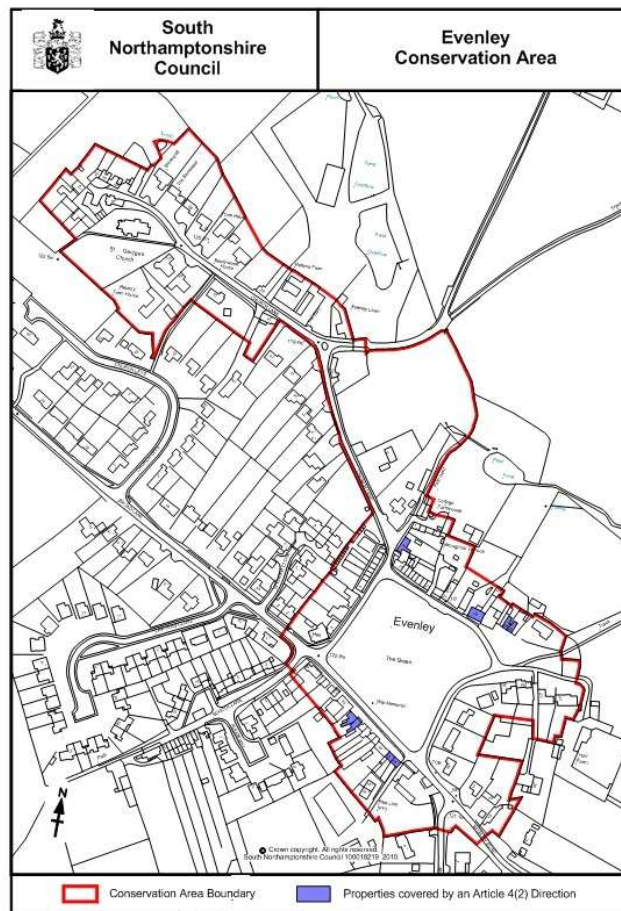
Strategic Objectives

1. Continue where possible, to ensure that the rural character of Evenley is maintained and enhanced by appropriate development that is sympathetic in exterior appearance, does not add to on-road parking problems and is environmentally friendly.
2. Promote road safety in the Parish by continuing to find ways of reducing excessive traffic speed and movement, on-road parking and by improving safety for pedestrians, cyclists and all road users.
3. Enhance the sense of community in the Parish by improving communication and opportunities for consultation and encouraging support for key amenities.
4. Enhance the sporting, social and cultural life of the Parish by encouraging the development of facilities and events.
5. Enhance enjoyment of the rural aspects of Evenley by judicious planting and encouraging more use of footpaths and sites within the Parish where there is interesting flora and fauna.
6. Emphasise the importance of protecting historic or significant buildings from inappropriate or unsympathetic change.
7. Encourage the use of existing businesses and avoid the inappropriate expansion of light industrial and commercial development.

Evenley Parish: The Context



Evenley is located approximately 1.6km (1 mile) south of Brackley on a small limestone plateau above the infant River Ouse and a short distance off the main Northampton to Oxford road (A43). The village is separated from the grounds of Evenley Hall to the north by a small shallow valley that conceals the village from this side, whereas the hall itself is sited on the edge of the plateau and is conspicuous from the Brackley bypass. The hall is a large listed Georgian stone country house built about 1740 and remodelled after a serious fire in 1897. Another shallow valley defines the edge of the village on the south and south-east sides, through which runs a stream linking a number of ponds (said to be medieval fish ponds). These ponds form the garden boundaries of houses bordering Mixbury Road on the eastern extremity of the village. The stream subsequently passed under Bicester Hill and effectively marks the village boundary. This approach to the heart of the village is fringed by small areas of post war housing in buff brick or stone. However the main approach to the village is from the A43 via Broad Lane, a long straight road flanked by a mature hedgerow on the right and post war buff brick and stone detached houses,



set in well landscaped gardens on the left. As the Conservation Area is approached these developments occupy both sides of the road until the village green is reached. This large level quadrangle is over 1 hectare (2.4 acres) in area and dominates this part of the village, with its cricket pitch in the centre and a number of mature and semi-mature trees on all sides, creating an open, attractive focal point. The Green is framed by a narrow road lined with a mixture of older detached, semi-detached and terraced houses on three sides and modern brick detached houses on the fourth (eastern) side. The majority of the older properties are Grade II listed and constructed in coursed or random coursed limestone with Welsh slate or clay tile roofs. Many of the latter roofs have distinctive contrasting bands of tiles and one roof (Number 22) has unusual bands of fish scale tiles. There are four pairs of semi-detached cottages with side entrances facing the green of similar design (three on the south side and one on the north side), There are several cottages dating from the 1860's and 70's built as part of a planned development around The Green by the Pierrepont family who lived in Evenley Hall at that time.



This redevelopment generated the two terraces of eight cottages, numbers 5 to 12 (Dormer Row) on the west side of the green and numbers 14 to 21 on the north side. During this period a number of 18th century houses around The Green were also remodelled to create a more coherent appearance, including the Red Lion public house in the SE corner. Although there have been minor detailed alterations to some of these buildings in recent years, the estate influence, the consistent use of limestone and the marked absence of any large areas of brickwork have created a particularly harmonious character around the Green. Large gabled dormer windows breaking through the eaves line are another distinctive feature to several of the houses, as are Victorian chimney pots and a number of original horizontally sliding sash timber windows. The Green was developed possibly in the 17th and 18th centuries but only number 24 The Green remains. Church Lane leads from the Green to the Church of St George, originally of medieval foundation which was rebuilt after a fire in 1867. On the south side of Church Lane considerable quantities of 13th and 14th century pottery have been discovered in the gardens of modern houses. In the period after the Second World War the number of houses in Evenley more than doubled with cul-de-sac developments along Broad Lane to the conservation area. However the population has remained fairly stable over a long period rising from 489 in the 1851 census to 571 in the 2011 census.

Summary of Questionnaire Responses

Introduction

This summary is intended to capture key issues raised by the questionnaire completed by residents of Evenley Parish in April 2013. It draws upon both statistical data using responses to specific questions as well as comments written by respondents. It cannot represent all the views but does include some ideas which, though perhaps expressed by only a small number of people, may be helpful to the Parish Council in forming the Parish Plan.

All statistics supporting this summary can be found in the Appendix. All percentages given in these tables are based on the complete number of returns i.e. 164. Where appropriate, a column showing non-responses is included as well as one for those who ticked “don’t know”.

1. Classification

- The largest age group in Evenley are the over 65s. The second largest group being the 45 – 54 year olds.
- Although not perhaps statistically significant, more people have lived in Evenley for either 1 – 10 years or over twenty years.
- Evenley’s attractive appearance, convenient location and availability of suitable housing are the main reasons why people chose to live in Evenley though proximity to family members was also a significant factor for some. Written comments detailed facilities such as the pub, church, post office and shop as being attractions which reflect responses later in the questionnaire regarding amenities.

2. Housing



- A small majority favoured an increase in housing in the Parish.
 - About half of the questionnaires returned responded to the more specific questions. The largest response was in favour of any new housing near the conservation area being in keeping with the character of the village.
 - Other significant responses were: the need for suitable (sheltered) housing to enable elderly or infirm residents to stay in the Parish; no more than a 5% increase in housing; any new houses should have off-road parking; the use of infill or conversion for new housing; more affordable housing should be built.
- Additional written comments reflect the split in view shown in the responses to the initial question above. Whilst a few responses suggested there is a need for some limited expansion, concerns were expressed about retaining the rural nature of the village and not allowing major expansion that extended the boundaries of building.

3. Services

A. Highways and by-ways



- A large majority of respondents said there is a need to reduce volume and speed of traffic in the Parish. The most significant responses to specific options were that there should be traffic calming measures on Broad Lane, a 20mph speed limit around The Green and safer vehicular access to the A43 at the Broad Lane roundabout. However, there were large numbers of no responses for each option.
- There was no large demand to reduce traffic noise.
- Almost half of respondents opposed any further action to reduce on-road parking in the Parish.

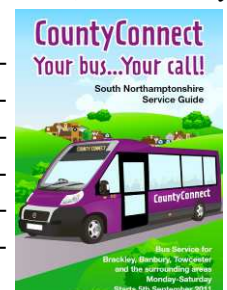


- However, a large majority were in favour of action to improve pedestrian and cycle routes especially into Brackley. There was moderate support for the other options of alerting owners when hedges encroached on footpaths, improving maintenance of pavements and encouraging access to the countryside by improving footpaths.
- There were numerous written responses in this section. The vast majority of additional comments gave suggestions for various traffic calming measures to reduce speeding, on-road parking and volume of traffic. Particular issues were the crossing of the A43 for both vehicles and pedestrians/ cyclists at the Broad Lane roundabout and by the Tesco roundabout. There was a mixed response to parking with some respondents identifying hot spots and others pointing out that several houses have no option but to park on the road and that parking is a useful traffic calming measure. -



B. Transport

- The largest statistical response to the adequacy of public transport was “Don’t know” which suggests that many people are not aware of what is available.
- This is perhaps explained by the fact that a relatively small number of respondents said they used public transport to and from the Village.
- However, half the respondents said there should be more transport provision. Of the options provided to illustrate this, all three – promotion of volunteer driver/ car sharing scheme, the County Connect Service and walking/ cycling to Brackley attracted moderate support.
- The majority of respondents said they use their own transport, some because the buses are too infrequent or do not go to the right destinations but most because they have a car(s). Some comments identified a possible need for elderly people and teenagers. Those who wanted improved bus services identified one or more of Brackley, Bicester, Banbury and Oxford destinations requiring improvements to the route. Many respondents who ticked the promotion of walking/ cycling to Brackley added the caveat that a safer crossing of the A43 is needed. -



C. Community and Communication

- Over half the respondents said that the sense of community in the Parish is strong.
- Each of the four options provided in the questionnaire to suggest improvements gained some support though none attracted a large response.

- Additional comments were divided between those who identified positive aspects of community and those who said more could be done. A small number of respondents said the Parish is “cliquey” whilst others identified a need to do more for teenagers and to have more coordination of activities.
- The question regarding communication within the Parish attracted a large majority agreeing that it was adequate.
- Not surprisingly therefore, each of the options provided attracted only very small responses with most respondents ticking the “Don’t know” boxes. However, there were several written comments that asked for one newsletter including information from all clubs and organisations and several asked for more information on the noticeboard. Some respondents commented on the fact that neighbours already help each other but one respondent pointed out that there may be some who do not like to ask for assistance.
- Just over half the respondents said that security in the Parish could be improved.
- Of the options provided, almost half agreed that Neighbourhood Watch should be relaunched, though two respondents pointed out that it still exists, and over a third wrote there should be greater contact with the Police.

D. Environment

- Two thirds of respondents said that more steps should be taken to improve the environment in the Parish.
- Of the five options listed, only two attracted significant support, preventing access/ damage to the edges of the green and entering an annual best-kept village competition. The discouragement of bonfires/ fireworks except near 5th November also attracted some support.
- Comments on street lighting were contradictory with some arguing for more light whilst others complained of light pollution. Turning off lights at midnight was a suggestion made by a number of respondents.
- Approximately a third of respondents said we should be playing a bigger part in reducing carbon emissions whilst a very similar number disagreed.
- Of the three options provided, only one, ensuring new homes are as near carbon-neutral as possible, attracted significant support whilst car sharing schemes and the development of solar farms attracted a small number of respondents. Written comments, especially on solar farms, reflected the opposing views held by some.
- A large majority of respondents felt that recycling in the Parish is sufficient. Several comments on this section looked forward to the changes planned by SNC whilst some suggested siting recycling bins in the Village but not exact locations.

4. Amenities

A. Access to amenities

- Respondents were asked to indicate how important various amenities are to them. Of those listed, very large numbers indicated the Post Office, the shop (listed separately), The Green, the Village Hall, bridleways, the Red Lion pub and the Church. Only small numbers indicated that the allotments, Evenley Wood Garden and the Pocket Park are important to them. -



- However, if the figures for “very important” and “important” are added together, all amenities listed could be regarded as valued by respondents.



- Most comments stressed the importance of the amenities listed to village life. Some comments lamented the underuse of the shop and Post Office and suggested the Church be used for more community events. Some valued Evenley Wood Garden but said it

was difficult to access and/ or a bit expensive; one suggested a special rate for residents. The comments on the Pocket Park focused on its relative inaccessibility.

B. Additional playing spaces



- This question invited a direct, written response. A few respondents said a direct “No” to additional sports fields; some said the green was adequate and a few said there were ample facilities in Brackley if access were improved. Those supporting additional spaces were at least equal in number but had very different points to make. Some said that a sports field with a pavilion would save the green from excessive use, especially by the Cricket Club which was seen as overusing it by two respondents. Some suggested tennis and badminton courts whilst others suggested

football. Several responses looked forward to the establishment of the children’s play area in the pub garden. A few comments focused on the need to offer a range of facilities for teenagers.

C. Additional activities in the Village Hall

- A few respondents said no additional activities were needed but these were very much a minority. The range of activities suggested was huge and varied. A theme that ran through them was for classes and it was suggested the Parish Council consider having discussions with Adult Education providers. A few respondents said they did not know what is currently offered. -



D. Use of footpaths

- This question attracted some humorous responses! The main issues arising were better maintenance/signage and a footpath map. Several respondents said they already use footpaths regularly.

5. Heritage and the Environment

A. Historic buildings



- Almost all respondents said they felt historic buildings in the Parish should be protected from major changes. Only one respondent added a written comment pointing out that, though major change to historic buildings is unwelcome, restrictions should not be so tight as to prevent the building fulfilling a useful modern function. Particular reference was made to the conservation of the Church.

B. Wildlife and open spaces

- Of the questions posed in this section, a large majority of respondents said that it is important to protect wildlife habitats in the Parish. Large numbers would also like to see the planting of more wayside flowers and a planned programme of tree conservation. -



- Written comments on the Pocket Park were all negative but a minority feel the Pocket Park is - important and see the need for more freely-accessible open spaces.
- There were numerous suggestions for planting sites, with edges of the green, all verges and entrances to the village being the most frequently mentioned.

C. Art and culture

- About half of respondents said that there are enough cultural and social events in the Parish, though a similar number said they would like to see a display space for the art and craft work of residents which could also be used for visiting displays. Some respondents said they would like to see closer links with arts organisations outside the Parish.
- There were many comments in this section suggesting what other events would be welcome. Four respondents suggested use of the Church for concerts and displays.

6. Business

- The number of businesses operated in the Parish is small with most of those being operated from homes.
- The Evenley Parish website would be used by only a few people to promote their business.
- Whilst some respondents favoured an increase in the number of light industrial and commercial premises/ enterprises in the Parish, about half of respondents did not.
- The business section attracted few additional comments.

7. Conclusion

- There were many comments in this section in praise of the Parish Council and some that suggested more effective consultation on an ongoing basis would be beneficial. Most respondents see Evenley as a lovely place to live and wish this to be preserved whilst many acknowledge that some enhancements are desirable. A number of comments were made about bins for dog faeces and a couple of comments about the need for greater “control” of the Cricket Club’s use of The Green.

8. Child/ youth questionnaire responses

A. Best things about living in Evenley

- The best things are the green, you have the Evenley Wood Garden, The Post Office and The Church
- It is a quiet place. It has a village green to play on

B. The worst things about living in Evenley

- That in Mill Lane they don’t allow us to walk through the fields
- There are not enough things to do

C. What would you most like to change about Evenley?

- I would like to have more shows (dog shows) on the green
- To have an adventure playground

The Parish Council has adopted the strategic objectives below for the period 2014 to 2029. These objectives will be reviewed regularly. Under each are shown more specific objectives which the Parish Council intends to pursue in the short to medium term.

- **Housing**

Continue to ensure as far as possible that the rural character of Evenley is maintained and enhanced by appropriate development that is sympathetic in exterior appearance, does not add to on-road parking problems, is environmentally friendly and preserves historic buildings from inappropriate change.

Present Situation: Extensive planned housing development in Brackley and Towcester appears to indicate that current government targets might be met without resorting to major developments in rural villages.

Action Required: The Parish Council will continue to monitor planning applications rigorously and draw the attention of the Planning Authority to applications which appear to depart from these principles. Due to the high cost of housing, it will support limited and appropriate affordable development to allow some young and elderly people to live in the Parish (land prices and village envelope constrain this); continue to oppose any large residential developments; continue to oppose any commercial developments that are not within the areas of the Parish already so developed such as Reynard Park.

- **Rural Character**

Present Situation: Arable and dairy farming together with natural woodland characterise the parish of Evenley. The village shop, Post Office, church as well as the village pub are essential elements of life in Evenley and deserve our support.

Action Required: These assets must be maintained. We welcome the consumer preference for home produced food; this benefits Evenley which houses an important chicken rearing facility whose products find their way to UK supermarkets.

- **Road Safety**

Present Situation: Vehicle speed monitoring by volunteer teams and mobile cameras together with regular displays of reminder boards endeavour to impress on motorists the need to preserve road safety by observing speed limits within the village.

Action Required: The PC will continue to promote road safety in the Parish with no let-up in the campaign to urge motorists to observe speed limits, will continue to participate in Northamptonshire Police's Community Speed Watch programme and increasing the number of volunteers involved, by finding further ways of reducing excessive traffic speed, unnecessary traffic movement and on-road parking and will seek to improve the safety of pedestrians and cyclists.

In addition there is a great need to improve the access to the A43 at the Broad Lane roundabout.

The Parish Council will continue with the County Council, to explore the possibility of introducing a 20 mph speed limit around The Green and traffic calming measures on Broad Lane.

There is also the need to establish a safe way to cross the A43 by the Tesco roundabout for those wishing to walk to Brackley without impact to any current school transport facilities.

- **Culture and The Community**

Present Situation: The Village Hall is the main venue for a diverse range of activities which are supported by residents of Evenley, neighbouring villages and Brackley.

Action Required: The village hall is able to accommodate additional activities as it is not fully utilised. To



appoint and support a volunteer arts co-ordinator to stimulate arts events in the Parish including workshops and taster sessions. The taster sessions would be arranged to gauge the demand for other activities. Occasional events take place in the village church which has a larger seating capacity and the parochial church council could be approached to increase this activity. The Parish council will continue to work with the Village Hall Committee to develop its use, maintenance and improvement; continue to liaise with ERA, the PCC, the Cricket Club, the Gardening Society and other organisations within the Parish to consider co-ordination of events and information; continue to consider ways of

helping to increase use of other local amenities such as the Pocket Park; continue to explore with neighbouring parishes opportunities for joint working for mutual benefit; continue to enhance enjoyment of the rural aspects of Evenley by judicious planting, (Evenley Gardening Society already does this and the PC planted 105 saplings last year.); encourage more use of footpaths and protect sites within the Parish where there is interesting flora and fauna.

- **Sport and Leisure**

Present Situation: Cricket on the Village Green is Evenley’s main sporting activity and the Cricket Club’s efforts to recruit young people to the game have been very successful. Coarse fishing facilities are being developed at the former Astwick Quarry. Football, Hockey, Rugby, Golf, Tennis and bowling all available locally, most with training for youngsters.

Action Required: There is apparently no current demand for additional sporting facilities in the parish as those wishing to participate in other sports seek facilities elsewhere locally. However, there could be a future demand for facilities which the Parish Council could be asked to supply in order to enhance the

sporting, social and cultural life of the Parish. To achieve this objective, the Parish Council will support and facilitate developments that are appropriate and consistent with its Strategic Objectives i.e. that do not have a detrimental impact on the appearance and environment of the village and that do not increase traffic movement such that road safety is compromised



- **To Encourage More Use of Footpaths**

Present Situation: Evenley is surrounded by a number of public footpaths.

Action Required: The Parish Council will; encourage the Footpath Warden to develop use of footpaths and monitor such things as signage; provide a regular up-date on the Parish Council website of areas which have interesting flora and fauna at the times of the year when they can be seen; continue to participate in future tree-planting schemes and allocate a small amount of money to planting spring bulbs (through the Gardening Society) in verges and some areas at the edge of The Green. There has been a request not to plant more on The Green as they look unattractive whilst waiting for the foliage to die off.

- **Transport**

Present Situation: Poor public transport provision for Evenley is a severe handicap, particularly to those residents without cars. The County Connect service and the invaluable support of volunteer drivers are insufficient to meet the needs of everyday life.

Action Required: The current situation whereby the service from Weston Favell and Northampton to Bicester via the Oxfordshire villages drives round Evenley without stopping here is unacceptable and pressure on County authorities must be maintained in an attempt to restore the necessary subsidy which was terminated due to budget cuts

- **To Enhance the Sense of Community in the Parish**

The Parish Council will seek to improve communication and opportunities for consultation as well as encouraging support for key amenities. To achieve this objective, the Parish Council will; continue to mount a campaign to encourage as many households as possible to register on the Parish Council website; to deliver newsletters and up-dates by email; continue to consider ways to encourage greater attendance by residents at Parish Council meetings and ways to encourage constructive views to be expressed; seek to establish regular meetings of Chairmen with other major organisations in the Parish, especially the Evenley Residents Association (ERA) and the Parochial Church Council (PCC) to ensure coordination of effort; maintain a group of volunteers to compile and distribute the Welcome Pack and explore with the PCC the possibility for a register of volunteers to help the elderly and infirmed.

- **Expansion of Industrialisation**

The questionnaire responses show opposition to further industrial development but continue to support the light industrial commercial enterprises existing within the parish, which include the premises of the two largest employers, RAF Croughton and Mercedes AMG Petronas, both straddling the parish boundary.

Village Design Statement (VDS)

Introduction

This VDS was prepared using results from the questionnaire where a wide range of village opinions was sought; it should be used in conjunction with the parish plan. The principles set out in this section are intended to work as guidelines to preserve what we believe is valuable in Evenley as well as to be a guide to the type of new development which will enhance rather than distort the character of our village, its setting and the landscape and the character of the buildings themselves. The following statements set out what the residents and Parish Council consider to be a framework for the future.

Evenley is identified as a Restricted Infill Village in the current SNC local plan. The residential policies make provision for allowing appropriate small scale infilling within the village confines.

Development - Evenley will be expected to comply with the design principles and substance of the Evenley Village Design Statement. Future expansion in Evenley should not damage the key structural elements of the village; it should respect the importance of open spaces and not adversely impinge on important views. It is important that any new building should be designed to comply with any current guidance on scale and density. The height, design characteristics and relationship with the surrounding environment of any development should be to minimise any visual damage or adverse impact on the special character of the village. The Parish Council should periodically review the current schedule of listed buildings in the Parish.

Boundaries - There should be no inappropriate or undesirable extension of the village boundaries, confines and envelope.

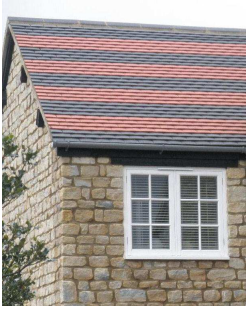
New Build - In order to preserve the character of Evenley any new building works should be sympathetic to the character of the area and employ traditional materials, except where a well designed contemporary building can be shown to contribute visually to the setting of the village. The balance between larger and smaller houses should respond to local needs.

Alterations - Alterations to pre-20th Century buildings, most notably in the conservation area, should respect the original architectural form and employ authentic materials used rather than replacing with UPVC or similar materials which could detract from the existing building. Directions made under Article 4(2) – refer to 8 properties either around or adjacent to the village green - numbers. 25/28/29/42/43/50/51 The Green and number 2 Church Lane. These properties have been identified as making a contribution to the Conservation Area and any loss of certain features could be detrimental to their characters. However this only applies to those parts of the buildings facing the highway or footpath. Extra care should be taken when alterations are planned for these properties.

Boundary Walls - Care should be taken when restoring the older boundary walls; restoration should follow traditional patterns. Boundary walls should also make use of local materials (including mortar mixes), and techniques that make reference to the locality. New boundary walls where practical should discourage the use of artificial materials. Demolition of all or parts of traditional stone walls should be resisted.

Brick Build - Alterations and additions to brick built buildings should respect the original types of brickwork as well as the original building methods and techniques, Matching materials should be used where possible. There are many types of brick used throughout the parish, varying widely in appearance, therefore any developer needs to consider the immediate surroundings before a brick is selected. This would apply to new build, alterations and additions.

Roofs/Roofscapes - For older pre-20th Century buildings, roofing should be in the red black fish tail design, or as appropriate. The traditional red/black striping of roof tiling should be retained for new



buildings, if appropriate. Roofing materials for more recent, or new buildings, should be appropriate to the building and its setting. Natural materials are always preferable. The roof design of new buildings as well as extensions to older ones, garages, other outbuildings and chimneys should be carefully considered and should respect traditional forms. Wherever possible thatched roofs should be retained. Evenley's roofscapes should be respected. Dormer windows and roof lights (or skylights) should not normally be inserted into prominent roofscapes, it is preferable that they be in a position where they will have the least possible adverse visual impact. The effect of dormer windows and roof lights at night should be taken into account to minimise light pollution.

Rainwater Goods - Traditional round section metal rainwater goods, suitably painted and supported by wrought iron brackets, would significantly improve the look of many village buildings and should be a required feature of any new development in the Conservation Area.

Architecture - Architectural details including iron railings, wooden palings, lintels and porches form part of the character of Evenley and should be respected. New developments may benefit by adopting some of these design features.

Chimneys - To maintain the character of traditional houses in Evenley, chimneys if replaced, should match existing older types and should be considered for new houses.

Lighting – Evenley benefits from a lack of light pollution and allows beautiful views of the constellations, therefore excess street lighting and other contributions to light pollution should be avoided. External security or access lights should be designed so as not to adversely affect pedestrians, drivers and residents.

Conservatories - Conservatories should where possible and appropriate be sited out of view from the public highway and footpaths and should not adversely affect the amenity of neighbouring properties; porches and canopies should be open sided and respect the shape and origins of the main building; as far as possible and they should be sympathetic with the traditional village style. - Consideration should also be given to the size of the main house and its setting. -



Satellite Dishes – The normal criteria for the siting of satellite dishes in the Conservation Area and throughout the village, should be followed. -

Solar Panels – Positioning of solar panels and photo-voltaic tiles is important to the aesthetic value of the building. Any large scale proposal for either solar or wind farms must be considered on its merits, and in accordance with current legislation taking into account any alternative uses for that particular land. - Consideration must also be given as to the visual impact on the village and its setting. -

Copings – should have regard to their surroundings and reflect one of the traditional village styles e.g. cock and hen. -

Doors & Windows - Where possible doors and window frames should be painted with heritage colours which should also be used for external rendering of buildings. The village is a place of architectural diversity; therefore, developments should not necessarily be uniform in appearance although diversity should not be introduced without proper justification. It must be relevant to traditional village architectural



forms and styles. The construction of windows and doors should where possible meet minimum security standards as outlined in the principles of 'Secured by Design' and meet Building Regulations which highlight this issue. The design of a window should be appropriate to the building and reflect the traditional village style with wooden frames, glazing bars, relatively small panes and a painted finish. Where double glazing is used, wooden framed units are still more appropriate. In older houses, replacement windows and doors should respect the original design and materials and preferably follow a pattern appropriate to the period of the house. For new building work in Evenley a traditional approach to window design and materials employed will fit in best with the village, unless a contemporary solution can be justified as contributing to the character of the village. These design details are relevant not just for new buildings but also where replacement windows are being considered for existing properties.

Parking - Cars and parking can mar the character of a village. Existing front gardens should preferably not be turned into parking space. An environmentally sustainable approach to planning, typically the use of porous hard standing in front of homes to enable water to soak away rather than enter the drainage system, should be encouraged. New housing should make adequate parking provision and use traditional garage designs. The use of local natural materials, in order to blend in with surrounding buildings, is to be preferred.

Highways and Footpaths - Any development should not encourage an unacceptable increase in volume and speed of road traffic; it should enhance the safety and comfort of pedestrians, equestrians, wheelchair and push-chair users. Ginnels (small lanes) are considered to be an integral part of the character of the village and should be preserved

Rights of Way - In general and so far as possible, all public rights of way in the parish should be protected, maintained, and kept open.

Verges and Kerbing - Grass verges should be retained and maintained. Parking on verges should be discouraged as it spoils the aesthetic appearance of the village. Any additional kerbing should be granite sets, rather than concrete kerbs.

Service Equipment – All connections to new developments should be laid underground and where possible, existing overhead power lines should be buried.

Seats – Strategically placed seating both in the village and on the pocket park need to be maintained in good condition, both for safety and appearance. Part of the Parish Council's risk management programme is the examination of these seating forms.

Trees – The planting of more trees on appropriate sites is to be encouraged. An annual survey of all the protected trees in the parish should be undertaken along with a review of the Tree Preservation Orders currently in place.

Signage – Parish Council to ensure that any replacement signs are appropriate. All signs should be sympathetic with the character of the village.

Allotments – These are located on the left hand side of Church Lane and made up of 10 full plots; some have been subdivided to accommodate more of our enthusiastic gardeners from Evenley. These allotments are an important leisure resource and source of local produce and should remain as such. They are fronted by an important stone wall and are also classed as an important open space within the Conservation area. Restrictions are in place over the size of any proposed garden building.

Grit Bins – These are strategically placed around the village. Any new bins should be of a colour and form not to detract from their surroundings.

Glebe Field - Located between the Churchyard and Church Leys, Glebe Field provides an important open space near the centre of the village, allowing the architecture of the Church of St George to be appreciated by all. The Glebe field should remain as an important open space.

Village Green – Bought by the Parish Council in 1961 and registered as a village green in 1968, this important amenity is at the heart of our community as a place of recreation for all ages. Although byelaws protect it against a whole host of situations, the village green is classed as an important open space and should remain so.

Outside the Village – Inside the Parish Countryside -

It is paramount that every effort should be made to preserve the character of the countryside around Evenley. The protection of all the open spaces with their very different characters is important to the Parish as is the protection of its flora, fauna, trees, hedgerows, its footpaths and bridleways. Every effort should be made to plant native trees, restore hedgerows and protect and enhance habitats for wild life. Retention of areas of recreation are fundamentally important to the Parish. The restoration of pasture should be encouraged, as should the Great River Ouse habitats and the medieval fish ponds. Archaeological, historical sites should be protected.



Listed Buildings and Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) - Any future development in the vicinity of these should not be allowed to detract from the quality of the visual environment or endanger the historical value of such sites. Historic countryside and agricultural features should be preserved where possible.

Agriculture - Farm buildings should be preserved. However if there is a justifiable need to adapt them to new uses, great care should be taken to preserve their architectural and historical character in a manner sympathetic to their rural environment.

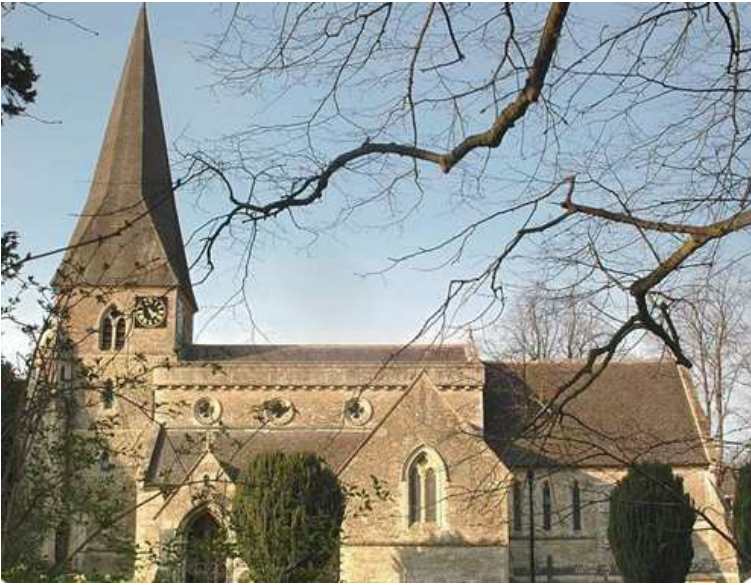


Children's Village Play Area



Heritage Colours

Message from Reverend Simon Dommett



The Parish church of St. George stands as a symbol of unity and love in the village community

It is a place where generations past and present come to celebrate and record the important moments of life.

It points not just to the past and present but also to the unseen and eternal.

It welcomes everybody to come and find a place of security and acceptance.

It welcomes those of great faith, those of little faith and those looking for faith.

It offers a place of quiet and reflection needed by so many in a busy world.

It offers warmth and welcome when so many people live isolated lives.

Its witness reminds people of the need to look out beyond themselves to others

and that the greatest gift is received in giving.

The Working Group

Keith Cousins

Alex Crisp

Paula Jermy

Katie Leetham

Kevin O'Regan

Jacqueline Simpson

Joyce Stevens

Alan Thornhill (Chairman)

Sarah Timms



Appendix

Statistics recorded from 164 submitted questionnaires

KEY - D/K = Don't Know N/R = No Response

1) Classification Information

A) Number of people in household in each age group

| | % | Total |
|---|--------------|------------------|
| 0 - 4 | 3% | 10 |
| 5 - 10 | 5% | 20 |
| 11-17 | 6% | 21 |
| 18 - 24 | 7% | 25 |
| 25 - 44 | 12% | 46 |
| 45 - 64 | 32% | 119 |
| 65 + | 35% | 130 |
| | Total | 371 |
| | | |
| B) How long have you lived in Evenley | Yes % | Total |
| 1 - 10 years | 58 36% | 58 |
| 11 - 20 years | 36 22% | 36 |
| more than 20 years | 69 42% | 69 |
| (No information on one questionnaire for this category) | | Total 163 |

C) Why did you choose to live in Evenley

| | Yes | % | | N/R | % | Total |
|--|-----|-----|--|-----|-----|-------|
| Attractive location | 112 | 68% | | 52 | 32% | 164 |
| Availability of suitable housing | 75 | 46% | | 89 | 54% | 164 |
| Convenient location | 90 | 55% | | 74 | 45% | 164 |
| One or more of us have always lived here | 5 | 3% | | 159 | 97% | 164 |
| To be close to a particular school | 14 | 9% | | 150 | 91% | 164 |
| To be close to other family members | 34 | 21% | | 130 | 79% | 164 |
| To live with a partner/spouse | 12 | 7% | | 152 | 93% | 164 |

2) Housing

| | Yes | % | No | % | D/K | % | N/R | % | Total |
|---|-----|-----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| A) Should there be any new housing in Evenley | 76 | 46% | 68 | 41% | 15 | 9% | 5 | 3% | 164 |
| Any housing in the vicinity of the village conservation area should be in harmony with the character of the village | 82 | 50% | 3 | 2% | 0 | 0% | 79 | 48% | 164 |
| There should be suitable (sheltered) housing built to enable elderly or infirm residents to stay in the Parish. | 60 | 37% | 13 | 8% | 13 | 8% | 78 | 48% | 164 |
| There should be more affordable housing built | 51 | 31% | 18 | 11% | 14 | 9% | 81 | 49% | 164 |
| There should be more housing built both large and small | 44 | 27% | 23 | 14% | 14 | 9% | 83 | 51% | 164 |
| There should be no more than a 5% increase in housing (14) | 58 | 35% | 11 | 7% | 9 | 5% | 86 | 52% | 164 |
| There should be no more than a 10% increase in housing (28) | 17 | 10% | 44 | 27% | 10 | 6% | 93 | 57% | 164 |
| Any new housing must provide adequate off road parking. | 76 | 46% | 6 | 4% | 6 | 4% | 76 | 46% | 164 |
| New housing should not extend the village further from the centre. | 35 | 21% | 24 | 15% | 22 | 13% | 83 | 51% | 164 |
| A suitable site could be infill or conversion of existing buildings | 69 | 42% | 10 | 6% | 6 | 4% | 79 | 48% | 164 |

3) Services

A) Highways and byways including parking

| | Yes | % | No | % | D/K | % | N/R | % | Total |
|--|-----|-----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| 1) Are further steps needed to reduce traffic speed/ volume in the Parish | 111 | 68% | 32 | 20% | 5 | 3% | 16 | 10% | 164 |
| Traffic calming measures on Broad Lane | 83 | 51% | 2 | 1% | 0 | 0% | 79 | 48% | 164 |
| Change of junction priorities | 34 | 21% | 4 | 2% | 0 | 0% | 126 | 77% | 164 |
| 20 mph speed restrictions e.g. around The Green | 81 | 49% | 2 | 1% | 0 | 0% | 81 | 49% | 164 |
| Occasional campaigns to discourage driving within the parish | 37 | 23% | 1 | 1% | 0 | 0% | 126 | 77% | 164 |
| Safer vehicle access onto A43 at roundabout | 76 | 46% | 0 | 0% | 0 | 0% | 88 | 54% | 164 |
| Road safety issues outside the village | 17 | 10% | 0 | 0% | 0 | 0% | 147 | 90% | 164 |
| 2) Should further steps be taken to reduce traffic noise | 30 | 18% | 86 | 52% | 36 | 22% | 12 | 7% | 164 |
| 3) Should further steps be taken to restrict on-road parking in the Parish | 36 | 22% | 78 | 48% | 36 | 22% | 14 | 9% | 164 |
| 4) Is action needed to improve pedestrian or cycle routes around the Parish | 96 | 59% | 37 | 23% | 14 | 9% | 17 | 10% | 164 |
| Alerting owners when hedgerows/ parking encroach, or reduce visibility | 70 | 43% | 0 | 0% | 0 | 0% | 94 | 57% | 164 |
| Improving maintenance of pavements | 58 | 35% | 0 | 0% | 0 | 0% | 106 | 65% | 164 |
| Achieving safer pedestrian/cycle access to Brackley | 80 | 49% | 0 | 0% | 0 | 0% | 84 | 51% | 164 |
| Encouraging access to the countryside by improving footpaths | 65 | 40% | 0 | 0% | 0 | 0% | 99 | 60% | 164 |

B) Transport

| | Yes | % | No | % | D/K | % | N/R | % | Total |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| 1) Do you feel that the provision of transport services is adequate | 38 | 23% | 52 | 32% | 64 | 39% | 10 | 6% | 164 |
| 2) Do you use current public transport services from/to the Parish | 22 | 13% | 131 | 80% | 2 | 1% | 9 | 5% | 164 |
| 3) Should other transport provision be made | 82 | 50% | 22 | 13% | 40 | 24% | 20 | 12% | 164 |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--|----|-----|---|----|---|----|-----|-----|-----|
| Promotion of volunteer driver scheme/ car sharing | 50 | 30% | 0 | 0% | 1 | 1% | 113 | 69% | 164 |
| Promotion of County Connect Service | 51 | 31% | 0 | 0% | 1 | 1% | 112 | 68% | 164 |
| Promotion of walking / cycling to Brackley | 50 | 30% | 0 | 0% | 1 | 1% | 113 | 69% | 164 |

C) Community and communication **Yes** **%** **No** **%** **D/K** **%** **N/R** **%** **Total**

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|----|-----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 1) Do you feel the sense of community in the Parish is strong enough | 93 | 57% | 37 | 23% | 24 | 15% | 10 | 6% | 164 |
| Enhanced welcoming of newcomers to the Parish | 25 | 15% | 0 | 0% | 1 | 1% | 138 | 84% | 164 |
| More events/ activities for children/ teenagers/ adults | 28 | 17% | 0 | 0% | 1 | 1% | 135 | 82% | 164 |
| Co-ordination schemes for e.g. borrowing tools and equipment | 22 | 13% | 0 | 0% | 1 | 1% | 141 | 86% | 164 |
| Volunteer help schemes for e.g. elderly/ disabled residents | 34 | 21% | 0 | 0% | 1 | 1% | 129 | 79% | 164 |
| 2) Do you think that communication within the Parish is adequate i.e. informative and fit for purpose | 116 | 71% | 29 | 18% | 10 | 6% | 9 | 5% | 164 |
| Promotion of email alerts and newsletters | 24 | 15% | 0 | 0% | 1 | 1% | 139 | 85% | 164 |
| A system of area reps passing on information | 8 | 5% | 1 | 1% | 1 | 1% | 154 | 94% | 164 |
| More frequent, printed newsletters | 12 | 7% | 1 | 1% | 1 | 1% | 150 | 91% | 164 |
| Promotion of Parish Council website | 15 | 9% | 1 | 1% | 1 | 1% | 147 | 90% | 164 |
| 3) Are there ways in which security within the Parish could be improved | 94 | 57% | 34 | 21% | 24 | 15% | 12 | 7% | 164 |
| Re-launching of Neighbourhood Watch Scheme | 81 | 49% | 0 | 0% | 0 | 0% | 83 | 51% | 164 |
| Greater contact with Police - i.e. more patrols | 61 | 37% | 0 | 0% | 0 | 0% | 103 | 63% | 164 |

D) Environment **Yes** **%** **No** **%** **D/K** **%** **N/R** **%** **Total**

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|----|-----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|
| 1) Should further steps be taken to improve the environment in the Parish | 108 | 66% | 25 | 15% | 14 | 9% | 17 | 10% | 164 |
| Best kept village competition(s) should be entered annually | 55 | 34% | 0 | 0% | 0 | 0% | 109 | 66% | 164 |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|----|-----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Street lighting levels increased / decreased | 31 | 19% | 2 | 1% | 0 | 0% | 131 | 80% | 164 |
| Preventing vehicle access/ damage to the edges of the green | 84 | 51% | 2 | 1% | 0 | 0% | 78 | 48% | 164 |
| Bonfires/fireworks should be discouraged except near 5th November | 51 | 31% | 2 | 1% | 0 | 0% | 111 | 68% | 164 |
| Noise levels should be reduced | 13 | 8% | 1 | 1% | 0 | 0% | 150 | 91% | 164 |
| 2) Should we be playing a bigger part in reducing carbon emissions | 56 | 34% | 57 | 35% | 35 | 21% | 16 | 10% | 164 |
| Car sharing and other schemes to reduce traffic should be encouraged | 26 | 16% | 1 | 1% | 0 | 0% | 137 | 84% | 164 |
| Development of alternative energy plants e.g. solar farms in the Parish should be welcomed | 25 | 15% | 5 | 3% | 0 | 0% | 134 | 82% | 164 |
| New houses should be as near carbon neutral as possible | 55 | 34% | 0 | 0% | 0 | 0% | 109 | 66% | 164 |
| 3) Do you think that re-cycling in the Parish is sufficient | 122 | 74% | 17 | 10% | 16 | 10% | 9 | 5% | 164 |
| 4) Do you know where your nearest recycling or refuse disposal sites are | 154 | 94% | 4 | 2% | 1 | 1% | 5 | 3% | 164 |

4) Amenities

A) How important is it for you to have access to the following amenities

| | Very | % | Important | % | Not | % | N/R | % | Total |
|----------------------|------|-----|-----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| Bridleways | 94 | 57% | 42 | 26% | 15 | 9% | 13 | 8% | 164 |
| Red Lion | 90 | 55% | 50 | 30% | 17 | 10% | 7 | 4% | 164 |
| Village Shop | 127 | 77% | 34 | 21% | 1 | 1% | 2 | 1% | 164 |
| Post Office | 136 | 83% | 26 | 16% | 0 | 0% | 2 | 1% | 164 |
| Village Hall | 96 | 59% | 52 | 32% | 7 | 4% | 9 | 5% | 164 |
| Green | 115 | 70% | 39 | 24% | 4 | 2% | 6 | 4% | 164 |
| Allotments | 25 | 15% | 39 | 24% | 81 | 49% | 19 | 12% | 164 |
| Evenley Wood Gardens | 21 | 13% | 59 | 36% | 67 | 41% | 17 | 10% | 164 |
| Pocket Park | 24 | 15% | 53 | 32% | 67 | 41% | 20 | 12% | 164 |
| Church | 78 | 48% | 55 | 34% | 21 | 13% | 10 | 6% | 164 |

5) Heritage and the Environment

A) The Historic Environment

| | Yes | % | No | % | D/K | % | N/R | % | Total |
|---|-----|-----|----|----|-----|----|-----|----|-------|
| Do you think our historic buildings are important to the appearance of the Parish, and should be protected from major changes | 150 | 91% | 2 | 1% | 8 | 5% | 4 | 2% | 164 |

B) Wildlife and Open Spaces

| | Yes | % | No | % | D/K | % | N/R | % | Total |
|---|-----|-----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|-------|
| Is the Pocket Park on Bicester Hill an important Parish amenity | 65 | 40% | 53 | 32% | 42 | 26% | 4 | 2% | 164 |
| Is there a need for more freely-accessible open space in the Parish | 29 | 18% | 79 | 48% | 49 | 30% | 7 | 4% | 164 |
| Is it important to protect wildlife habitats in the Parish | 145 | 88% | 3 | 2% | 11 | 7% | 5 | 3% | 164 |
| Would you like to see more wayside flowers in the Parish, for instance by the planting of suitable bulbs or wildflowers in grass verges | 119 | 73% | 15 | 9% | 24 | 15% | 6 | 4% | 164 |
| Would you like to see a planned programme of tree conservation/planting | 106 | 65% | 22 | 13% | 30 | 18% | 6 | 4% | 164 |

C) Art and Culture

| | Yes | % | No | % | D/K | % | N/R | % | Total |
|---|-----|-----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|-------|
| Are there enough cultural and social events in the Parish | 74 | 45% | 22 | 13% | 57 | 35% | 11 | 7% | 164 |
| Would you like to see a display space for residents' art, photography or craft, which might also be hired out for exhibitors from elsewhere | 76 | 46% | 35 | 21% | 41 | 25% | 12 | 7% | 164 |
| Would you like to see closer links with arts organisations and events outside the Parish | 43 | 26% | 42 | 26% | 66 | 40% | 13 | 8% | 164 |

6) Business

| | Yes | % | No | % | D/K | % | N/R | % | Total |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| Do you operate a business from your home- If so what is it | 18 | 11% | 144 | 88% | 0 | 0% | 2 | 1% | 164 |
| Do you operate a business in Evenley - If so what is it | 6 | 4% | 153 | 93% | 0 | 0% | 5 | 3% | 164 |
| Do you employ anybody living in Evenley | 6 | 4% | 154 | 94% | 0 | 0% | 4 | 2% | 164 |
| How many employed | | | | | | | | | 9 |
| Would you use The Evenley Parish website to advertise your business | 19 | 12% | 82 | 50% | 14 | 9% | 49 | 30% | 164 |
| Would you be in favour of more light industrial premises within the Parish if they were appropriately sited | 42 | 26% | 88 | 54% | 16 | 10% | 18 | 11% | 164 |
| Would you be in favour of more commercial enterprises operating within the parish | 46 | 28% | 79 | 48% | 21 | 13% | 18 | 11% | 164 |
| Do you think there are sufficient employment opportunities in the immediate area | 38 | 23% | 35 | 21% | 72 | 44% | 19 | 12% | 164 |