



# MILBORNE PORT COMMUNITY PLAN 2024

## Executive Summary



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# Introduction

A previous Parish Plan was produced in 2010 based on information gathered by surveys and consultation groups from 2005 to 2009. It gathered survey responses from some 400 residents with particular focus on economic issues, and detailed views from discussions with businesses, stakeholders, and resident focus groups. It contained a brief history of the village, statistical data and an action plan and a process for taking forward the recommended actions. In 2018 the Parish Council performed a survey of residents, garnering an initial 140 responses, and producing initial results, but this never reached a conclusion. In 2019 a group of residents, supported by the Parish Council, gained approval to start a Neighbourhood Plan (more focused upon Planning issues) but despite some initial survey results this was effectively cut short by the pandemic. Reborne Church have also consulted with their stakeholders extensively in the recent past, in part regarding community needs, whilst drawing up plans for the redevelopment of their site on North Street.

With a number of new properties in the village bringing an influx of new people, the impact of Covid, the cost of living crisis, and the establishment of a new unitary authority, it is now time to establish a new Community Plan that reflects the community we have in the village now.



## Methodology

Mid-way through 2023 the Parish Council were made aware of the opportunity to bid for support from the Charity CCS (the Community Council for Somerset) in the development of a new Community Plan in 2024. In turn this support is funded by Somerset Council, following a first wave of Plans produced in 2023, so Milborne Port Parish Council's financial commitment has been limited to materials and time. The Parish Council decided to bid for that support and were pleased to be accepted.

Following guidance and support from CCS the Parish Council established a small steering group made up of members from a representative section of our community. The team produced a Communications and Marketing Plan which set out how they would engage the community. This covered establishing what should be surveyed, advertising before the survey went live and communication during its availability. This included the use of social media, posters, traditional leaflets and door to door notification, articles in the Parish Magazine, a banner on the junction of North Street and the High Street, and making personal visits to many of the active community groups. The survey was completed by 374 people representing circa fifteen percent of our community.

The steering group would like to thank all residents who completed the mini-survey and the survey proper; all businesses and community groups who helped with posters; the businesses who helped with prizes; CCS for their support; and Somerset Council for their financial investment.

We very much hope that you find the survey results and the Plan itself enlightening, and we look forward to taking the findings forward in the future.





# Key Findings

The results have now been analysed and a summary of the main findings follows:



## Demographics

The outstanding majority of respondents live in the village of Milborne Port, with only 9 living in surrounding communities. More than half of respondents have lived in the Parish for more than 11 years. A small number have moved to the community since 2021, during or since the Covid 19 pandemic. The smallest groups of respondents are those newest to the Parish. Most respondents to this question are aged 65 – 69 years. There is a good range of responses across working age and retirement ages. However, there are notably fewer responses from younger people aged under 30 years.



## Your Parish

Asked what they like most about living in Milborne Port, the local facilities are most appreciated, followed by community spirit and size of community. Comments highlight the important of access to the countryside, footpaths and local walks. A sizeable majority of respondents are concerned with traffic (volume, speed, HGVs etc) in the Parish, followed by pedestrian safety (both issues which are seen in later topics) and there not being enough local facilities.



There are themes emerging in the comments challenging the suitability of housing development and the impact of these on both infrastructure (health, education) and wildlife. 8 out of 10 respondents think that the facilities are the most important factor for a thriving community, chiming with other responses in this topic, followed by the importance of a safe environment and open spaces.





## Traffic, Travel & Transport

As recorded in 'Your Parish' above, speed and volume of traffic in Milborne Port is the top concern about traffic in the Parish of Milborne Port. Parked cars/parking and the condition of roads are also closely aligned as issues of strong concern. Safety is also highlighted and comments focus on safe crossing points around the school, introduction of 20mph speed limits and active travel options. The majority of respondents are concerned with potholes, followed by road surfaces and poor drainage.

Just over half of respondents who expressed a view would use public transport more if there was a more frequent weekday service, followed by better bus connectivity and weekend services. Around seven out of ten respondents feel that improved transport options would help them.

Most of them feel it would help them access GP/Hospital services, followed by visiting family/friends and joining local social groups. A similar number of respondents are not aware of the CAT Bus community transport in Milborne Port, suggesting there could be some improvements to promote the service (though the survey itself will have increased awareness).

Nearly half the respondents would welcome traffic calming schemes followed by more speed indicator devices and increased enforcement of existing regulations. A sizeable majority support the Parish Council in pursuing the application for Pinford Lane route (from Goathill through the Sherborne Estate into Sherborne) to be confirmed as a public right of way.



## Local Environment

The majority of respondents are concerned with dog fouling, followed by fly tipping and blocked drains. Flood defence and the River Gascoigne are also highlighted in the comments. Two out of three respondents want to see stiles, gates, footpaths maintained correctly (echoing findings in Your Parish and the importance of maintaining access), followed by waymarkers and better maintenance by landowners. When asked how best to improve the environment, biodiversity and wildlife in Milborne Port, a narrow majority would like to get involved with small scale wildlife assistance or wildlife and bird surveys. Planting trees is also a popular choice for a large number. There are several comments suggesting litter picking.





## Community Facilities & Services

Two out of three respondents take part in whole community events, followed by using the Playing Fields and Village Hall. A sizeable majority of respondents use the local shops, followed by the GP Surgery, Post Office and Pharmacy. The sizeable majority of respondents would welcome a community run village shop, followed by a milk vending machine and cycle paths. The majority of respondents answering the question would welcome more provision for teenagers, followed by retired people and young adults.

A large majority of respondents say that they need better knowledge of activities/events to take part, followed by more convenient times and a better range of activities. The issue of improving community communication also arises in Young People & Children, as the main barrier for them taking part in activities, as well as around awareness of the community transport offer.

The survey asked which sport that is currently not available in the Parish would you like to see available. There was virtually no support for investment in the provision of additional sports, with rugby the highest, garnering just ten expressions of interest. Comments did suggest limited awareness of the private gym facility at the old Remous Printing site.

Nearly two out of three respondents would support investment in a community café/shop (as also highlighted above), followed by improved footpaths and bridleways (the importance of which is also highlighted in Your Parish and Local Environment findings) and the proposed public right of way along Pinford Lane (also demonstrated in Traffic Travel & Transport). There were a number of comments that such a store should serve the eastern side of the village.

The majority of respondents answering the question would like the Village Hall to be made warmer and more welcoming, followed by installing a bar area and redecoration. Most respondents would like to use the new Community Hub, when built, as a community library, followed by a Warm Space and an exhibition space for the History and Heritage group. Also popular are use of the hub for health services drop in and food pantry provision.







## Young People & Children

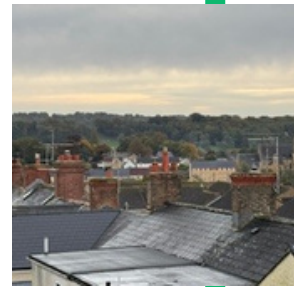
The large majority of respondents to this question with connections to young people use the playground/play area followed by bike/skatepark and library/mobile library. Responses to this question were closely matched amongst the 153 respondents with connections to children and young people. A cycle/running track was most popular, closely followed by cinema/theatre, fitness trail, Scouts/Guides etc, Forest School and Multi Use Games Area. Lack of information is cited as the biggest barrier to children and young people taking part in activities, followed by anti-social behaviour, cost of sessions and there being nothing for specific age groups.



## Housing

For those who consider their current housing situation unsuitable, many are renting and would like to buy, or feel their home is too small. The majority of respondents with a view would like to see affordable housing for local people who cannot afford the open market, followed by low cost/starter homes and 2 bedroom starter homes. A large majority of respondents say that adequate parking is important in the design of new housing (see also new development impact on parking and traffic in 'Your Parish', and 'Traffic Travel & Transport'), followed by green space between houses and being in keeping with traditional style.

For those answering the question, the most popular option listed for future housing development is the remainder of the Gainsborough Site, followed by North of Manor Road and East of Goathill. More than half of the comments do not support any future development, citing impact on infrastructure and community feel. These views are echoed, in part, by responses in 'Your Parish', 'Traffic Travel & Transport', and 'Local Environment'.



## Next Steps

The survey has identified that the leading issues for respondents were around:

- Traffic, including safety, road condition and parking
- Housing
- A Community Shop
- Village Communications

The Steering Group is now developing an action and funding plan to deliver on those issues raised by the community through this survey. Not all of the points raised are within the gift of community bodies or the Parish Council, but the views expressed will still inform lobbying, communication with the appropriate bodies, and expressions as statutory consultees, and where direct action can be taken we will work to make this a reality.

There were a wide number of additional concerns raised in the survey which attracted fewer responses, but where community action and Parish Council decisions may have a more direct impact.

Both of these themes will be the focus and priority of the Parish Council over the next couple of years as they oversee the actions which ideally are undertaken by the most appropriate community group or individuals. The Parish Council will review progress against actions on a regular basis and will include an update in its annual report.

### Privacy Statement

Analysis will be conducted by Community Council for Somerset (CCS). Data is captured for legitimate and contractual purposes. Information is collected and analysed in accordance with Community Council for Somerset's role as a Data Controller and Data Processor. Data is shared in accordance with the Data Sharing Agreement between CCS and Milborne Port Parish Council.

Milborne Port Community Plan Steering Group will enter any paper copies using standard proprietary online survey software. Once entered all paper copies will be destroyed. Digital copies are retained for 12 months and deleted after this period. Any personal data that is captured is anonymised with the report and held securely for the purposes of analysis.

No data will be published which can identify an individual without their consent. If you have provided contact details to offer help, this data is shared with Milborne Port Community Plan Steering Group. If you have entered your details to take part in the prize draw and you win, your data is shared with Milborne Port Community Plan Steering Group.

If you would like to find out more about how we use your data or want to see a copy of information about you that we hold, please contact [info@somersetccc.org.uk](mailto:info@somersetccc.org.uk) or call 01823 331222. Protecting your Personal Data is important and we fully comply and adhere to the Principles of Data Protection set out in our Data Protection / Privacy Policy visit: <https://ccslovesomerset.org/data-protection-policy/> and <https://ccslovesomerset.org/privacy/>

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