

A report on a survey of Hedley on the Hill residents in respect of village social activity

The survey was undertaken by 5 village residents on a voluntary basis, and post a village meeting in the Feathers PH in Oct 2016. The meeting had been to discuss the merits of/interest in the building of a village hall, but the resultant brief from the meeting for the survey was to establish the wishes of residents in respect of activities to slow/halt the perceived decline in village social activity and with particular attention being paid to the potential of a village hall and/or a childrens play facility.

In order to be best informed, there were meetings held with a number of outlying village hall managers/trustees. These provided an insight to both the activities commonly undertaken in such halls and to the management considerations for such a facility. Notes from these meetings are available if required. Also undertaken was an investigation into the options in respect of childrens play facilities.

The understandings gained facilitated the design of a set of questions to be put to every resident of the village who was prepared to engage. Face to face interviews were the preferred approach, and each volunteer took responsibility for undertaking those within defined sectors of the village , including the outlying developments of the parish. Where contact was not found to be readily available, letters were posted inviting the subject residents to phone to arrange interviews. This process ensured that all parish households were included, albeit there were some who declined to either participate or respond to written communication. A copy letter is included in this pack.

It was agreed with the PC that the findings of each volunteer would be used to produce individual analyses and reports, together with individual recommendations as to the most appropriate actions to adopt. It would be for the PC to take the final informed decisions.

Interviews were undertaken with all willing residents in due course, and the findings resultant from those have now been summarised and analysed by each volunteer. The reports/recommendations are attached, together with a map delineating the broad split of households interviewed .

A spreadsheet giving statistical results in respect of participating households is also being produced, and will follow on shortly. This will give an overview numerical analysis of the results determined from purely those households which participated, and is better considered post the initial digestion of the individual descriptive texts. The group feels that the nature and variety of responses –as described in the texts--is probably the most significant consideration, and should be given that consideration prior to the examination of a numerical analysis.

Those participating in the interview process were:

Volunteers Mike Brennan, Claire Green, Mike Hopgood , John Renwick and Thea Watkins. Also Monica Anderton (Clerk to the PC) for advice and support.

