



Crowmarsh is a car-focused community

91% have access to a car, more than half of all households have more than one car, and 71% of people used them for getting to work. 161 residents had problems due to insufficient parking. This was mainly in the Crowmarsh Hill/Park View area, where 67% of respondents reported parking problems.

Children and the all-weather tennis/football courts

70% of children have never used the facility. Reasons included ignorance of their existence, problems with getting adult supervision and the hassle of booking ahead. 80 children supported the idea of time set aside (a couple of hours?) for the free and exclusive use of local kids.



New ideas for recreation

Only 45, or 7% of adult respondents have ever used the all-weather tennis/football courts, 42 adults and 12 children said they didn't even know the facility existed! The most popular new suggestions were boules (73), bowls (76), table tennis (60) and croquet (51). Children saw swings and a climbing frame as the most needed additions to the play area in the recreation ground.



More fun activities for the recreation ground, please!

The most popular suggestions were a mountain bike zone (very important to 67), more football goals (very important to 60) and a basketball net (very important to 42). Other ideas included a skateboard ramp and an obstacle/assault course.



Crowmarsh says "Slow down!"

340 people (57%) thought more traffic-calming measures were necessary. Half of all respondents wanted more measures to reduce traffic speed. The greatest safety concern was crossing the by-pass at Cox's lane. Over half of the population of North Stoke wanted traffic-calming measures in their area. Problems with traffic was said to be the biggest negative about living in the Parish.



Could more be made of the pavilion?

109 kids say they would like access to more indoor games at the pavilion including table tennis (most popular), snooker, table football and darts.



Make Crowmarsh more beautiful!

259 people, or 54% of respondents wanted more resources spent on improving the appearance of the parish. 440 people offered suggestions on where more trees or flowers could be planted. These included the village hall, the recreation ground and Riverside. Many wanted more planting around verges and entrances to their streets/roads.



Sustrans doesn't go far enough

Whilst the marked sustrans cycle route going through some of the parish had helped put cycling 'on the map', 57% thought it had not actually improved cycling safety in the parish. Some children cited lack of safe cycle lanes as one of the things they most disliked about the parish.

Dog poop is our biggest nuisance!

343 residents voted dog doings as the biggest local nuisance followed by flies (in 2001) and inconsiderate parking.

Litter, traffic noise, aircraft noise and unpleasant agricultural (manure) smells all received around 150 votes.



Local democracy



About 50% of respondents indicated that they had voted in parish, district, and county council elections.

375 people (57%) thought the parish council was accessible, 180 disagreed (27%) and 16% did not respond to the question. 361 people (55%) thought the parish council gave value for money, 155 people disagreed (24%), whilst 138 gave no opinion. Those in central Crowmarsh were most satisfied, and those in the Crowmarsh Hill/Park View area least satisfied.



The bus has lots of friends!

Although only 11 people in the parish reported using the bus to get to work, 119 people use the bus regularly, and 162 sometimes. Presumably its popularity is related not to commuting to work, but more for shopping, social activities and pleasure! 40 people would like to have a fast service to Reading, while 39 would like a return of the service to Heathrow, and another 34 would appreciate a bus to London.



What Children like about Crowmarsh

The most frequently given reason why children/young people like living in the parish is the beautiful countryside and river. The good local facilities and proximity to Wallingford come second. The third most frequently given reason is the peace and safety that they feel here. Other reasons included friends and friendly local people.



What adults most love about the Parish

The most appreciated factor is its rural location, next to the river and surrounded by beautiful countryside, plus its small size and peaceful atmosphere. The next most frequently noted feature is its friendly people and good community. The good facilities available both in the parish, and in nearby Wallingford were quoted along with its good access and transport links to other towns.

Your biggest headaches in the Parish

Traffic concerns were a worry to many people - speed and safety, as well as inconsiderate parking. 109 people wished there were more local facilities and entertainment. 68 people were depressed by local environmental issues such as dog fouling, litter and inconsiderate neighbours. Other controversial issues were a perceived East/West divide between central Crowmarsh and Crowmarsh Hill/Park View, problems with Jewson's lorries, the camp sites and, of course, the high price of housing!



Thumbs up for Wilder's Yard industrial area

500 thought it should be kept and only 103 thought it should be removed.

What children don't like about the parish

"Boring, not enough things to do," say 35 children/young people. The next most depressing factors were difficulty in crossing some of our roads safely, and lack of safe cycling areas. Dog poops get a dishonourable mention again.

What happens next?

There will be a Parish Appraisal Exhibition in Crowmarsh School Hall, to which everyone is invited, from 11 am - 4 pm on 6th and 7th March 2004. The findings will be displayed on posters for you to examine and discuss with us. If you would like to help with some of the issues which have emerged in the survey, then let us know at the event. All societies and clubs in the parish are welcome to take part in the exhibition. Children's school work about the parish will be on display and there will be free refreshments (including wine).

For more details please contact Andrew Johnson on 832266. e-mail: ajo@ceh.ac.uk

Crowmarsh Parish Appraisal

What you told us!

RESULTS IN BRIEF

- The survey was carried out in 2001.
In total 654 adults and 134 young people completed questionnaires - that's 60%!
- More than half of all households have more than one car ...
- but walking is our no. 1 recreation.
- 88% of us want to maintain employment opportunities in the parish.
- Over a third of us work either in the parish, or in Wallingford.
- Children living outside central Crowmarsh feel hard done by when it comes to play areas.
- Biggest parking problems in the parish are in the Park View area.
- Most of us want more traffic-calming measures.
- Residents in Crowmarsh Hill/Park View are most likely to be dissatisfied with Parish council performance.
- Dog poop is our biggest nuisance.

NO to new housing developments but YES to affordable housing!

Although 158 people were in favour of more developments, the clear majority, over 400 people, were against further housing developments. In contrast to this big thumbs-down for new housing developments,

357 people thought there was a need for affordable housing in the parish! We need 200 virtual affordable homes!



Crowmarsh wants its Youth club/café back!

355 people said they would like to see some form of youth club/café set up in the village. 110 children and young people said they were in favour of a youth club/café. Can we find some adults willing to help run one?

Young people say "We want our voice heard!"

Big support for youth forum!

73% of children and young people were in favour of a youth forum to discuss local issues of importance to young people.

The post office/shop is top of the pops!

The post office/shop scored highest in terms of facilities we use and was seen as very important in the village.

Over two-thirds of respondents use the Riverside facility to some extent and see it as important, with similar support for the pre-school and primary school in terms of importance.

