



REPORT

(Draft)

Hertford Heath

Community Event

21st May 04



Acknowledgements:

This work has been undertaken as part of CDA for Herts “Active Parishes” project. The programme only operates because of contributions from the East of England Development Agency and with the support of the Herts Rural Forum.

Introduction:

As part of its Active Parishes programme the Rural Enterprise Project (REP, a project of CDA for Herts.) were invited to assist a local group of villagers carry out a community consultation day. The aim of this event was to bring in as many of the community as possible and establish what their issues were, whether there was more than one and provide a report that could be considered by the local Parish Council for further action.

Hertford Heath is a small parish with a population of around 2,500 and it is within a few kilometers of three major towns, Hertford (2.1km), Hoddesdon (2.7km) and Ware (3km). The parish was formed in 1990 and encompasses both Hertford Heath and Little Amwell. The village has two shops, a Post Office, two garages, five pubs, a JMI, a church, a Mission Room and a village hall.

The Event:

After several meetings with the village group, starting in February 04, it was decided that a drop-in event would probably work best in Hertford Heath. Local villagers would be invited to come to the Village Hall on 21st May 04, between 2.00pm and 8.00pm, to give their views. To assist in this a number of themed questions were devised and put up around the hall, also the attendees were given the option of using post-it notes or writing their comments directly onto a questionnaire.

With REP’s assistance the event was publicised via leaflets distributed to every household with the local free paper and by distribution through the local village school. Laminated notices were also put up throughout the village and a series of notices were put up in a prominent position outside the Village Hall.

On the day members of the village group and CDA staff, including those from REP, acted as facilitators over the six hour period. 108 people came to the event and stayed from around 20 minutes up to an hour to give their views. A small children’s play area was provided to assist those with small children.

The results were tabulated by REP and they are shown in the tables at the end of this report.

Conclusions:

The numbers involved with the event were a small section of the overall community, although as the charts show they were a fairly representative cross section of the community and give a good basis on which conclusions can be drawn. Using the

information provided, there were a number of issues those attending the event believed needed to be addressed, in particular:

- Traffic and Parking: These issues came up under many of the headings and whilst there many locations mentioned it is clear that the issue needs further investigation.
- Housing: This is an issue where a small majority felt no further growth should be considered, although there is a significant minority that would be prepared to consider some development for local people, providing it was limited and did not encroach on green belt land. This suggests that it is an issue that could do with further investigation to assess the views of a wider section of the community.
- Playground/Playing Field: There is clearly an issue from the results on this area of Hertford Heath, whether it be broken glass, vandalism or feeling unsafe there and the wider community's views should be sought.
- Better Facilities/Services: There were a significant number in favour of this suggestion, such as the introduction of an off road bike facility, properly managed and sited; the provision of cycle/walk ways and an additional playground. Again consultation with the wider community would be of benefit.
- Countryside: This was clearly very important to those that attended and they agreed it needed to be protected and properly managed and the support of the wider community would assist in this.
- Litter: There is an issue with this, especially at the playing field and around the shops, and consulting a wider section of the community may reinforce this view and identify solutions that would receive most support.
- Roads/Verges: A significant number of those attending felt there were issues surrounding these, whether they were not cut often enough or cars being parked on them. The wider community should be consulted to verify this view and suggest solutions.
- Parish Councillors: The majority felt that these were doing a good job, although there was a significant minority that did not or did not know, so clearly there is still some work to be done in this area. The Parish Newsletter is a step in the right direction as it received strong support from those that attended the day.
- District Councillors and County Councillors: The majority did not think they did a good job, although the local District Councillor received quite a lot of personal praise, but there is clearly some work needed to convince the community that they are doing a good job and are staying in touch.

Recommendations:

It is clear from the results that this is not a single-issue situation and some can be addressed fairly simply, for instance:

- The provision of more bins for dog mess around the village.
- Greater use of the Parish Newsletter by District and County Councillors to publicise their understanding of the issues and their involvement in resolving these.

The other issues are quite significant and could probably do with the support of the wider community for verification and consensus on solutions. This could be done on a single-issue basis, i.e. Traffic Needs Survey or Housing Needs Survey, but is likely to result in a dilution of responses as each one is issued. Therefore, it is **recommended** that an all encompassing consultation is carried out throughout the village, either using the Parish Plan format or something similar, covering all of the issues raised and looking to formulate an action plan to resolve them.

It is **recommended** that this report is published to all villagers and that they be invited to attend a meeting to discuss and agree the next steps. The aim of this meeting would be to seek support for the consultation and to identify volunteers to assist with the community consultation exercise.

Results:

AGE PROFILE:

The age profile of those that attended the event and gave information is given in the following table:

AGE	< 18	18 - 24	25 - 44	45 - 59	60 - 74	75+	Totals
Male	5	3	9	9	19	5	50
Female	2	1	15	17	19	4	58
Total	7	4	24	26	38	9	108

LIVED IN HERTFORD HEATH PROFILE:

The profile how long those attending the event had lived there is given in the following table:

Time	Don't live HH	< 1 yrs.	1 - 5 yrs.	6 - 10 yrs.	11 - 25 yrs.	> 25 yrs.	Totals
Male	1	0	5	7	23	15	51
Female	0	0	11	10	17	18	56
Total	1	0	16	17	40	33	107

QUESTIONS:

- 1) What do you like most about living in the village?

The responses to this question are given in the following table:

Comments	Number of Comments
Countryside (Woods/Walks – Easy access)	64
Friends/People/Neighbours	44
Closeness to London	20
Rural Community/Sense Community	17
Pubs/Shops/Church etc.	13
Village (Atmosphere/Rural)	10
Close to amenities	8
Lived here all/most of my life	4
(Rural) Location	4
Traditional Village (Green/Church/Pub)	3
Protected natural history	2
Quiet surrounding areas	2
No new housing Development	1
Pleasant Clean Healthy environment	1
One of the very few areas of green countryside not swallowed up by estates and shopping centres	1
Farmers Market	1
Away from ever encroaching suburbia	1
Closeness to Hertford	1
Reliable bus service	1
Familiarity	1
Its rate of growth	1
Work convenience	1

Comment	Number of Comments
Don't like closeness to London	1

2) What do you like least about living in the village?

Responses to this question are given in the table below:

Comments	Number of Comments
Traffic (Volume/Speed/Control/Rush Hour)	38
Parking (Heathgate/Dangerous to the partially sighted)	20
Vandalism (Playground/Broken Glass/Rubbish)	9
Lack of Public Transport (Bus service to 10pm/Sundays/No direct transport to Ware (Presdales)	9
Youth anti-social behaviour (probably unavoidable/put on police patrol route)	9
Aircraft noise (including Helicopter)	7
Traffic noise	4
Playground – poor quality	4
Speeding motor-cross bikes	3
Drug Abuse	3
Rude elderly people	2
Its rate of growth	2
Hertford Heath being used as a cut through	2
Lack of facilities for grown youth (Therefore have small minority that hang around in groups)	2
Cutting through Downfield Road	1
Woodland Road	1
Pathway to Hertford – Should be improved	1
Green belt being developed	1
Quad & Motor bikes in woods on bridleways	1
No phone box	1
Paint Football Hut	1
Nothing to do	1
Lack of pavement from Rush Green & Downfield Road	1
Hertford Heath reputation as being a “rough” area	1
No local bobby	1
Removal of litter	1
Constant foul language from footballers	1
Dog litter	1
Downfield Road & junction at B1502 dangerous	1
Plastic Bottles (in woods)	1
Lack of facilities for children	1
The small minority who try to change things to their own idea of what a village should be, with no regards for other villagers	1
Too many cars at houses which have no parking facilities (Because they were built before cars became a “necessity”) Downfield Road is the worst – so congested	1
Houses being squeezed in (i.e. Downfield Road – also the on road parking in Downfield Road making driving difficult)	1
Noise from field	1

Comments	Number of Comments
Motorbikes causing a nuisance – a serious accident waiting to happen	1

3) What village facilities do you use?

The responses to this question are given in the table below:

Comments	Number of Comments
Shops	90
Pubs (Silver Fox)	69
Village Hall	47
Garages	40
Post Office	37
Church	14
Mission Room	11
Haileybury Sports Complex	8
Woods/Walks	7
School	7
Park/Playing fields	5
Allotment	3
Farmers Market	3
Flea Market	2
Newspaper Delivery	1
Cubs	1

If you don't use them, why not?

The responses to this element of the question are given in the following table:

Comments	Number of Comments
Garage – Petrol too expensive	2
Pub's not brilliant!	1
Buy organic food – local shops don't stock	1
Tend to buy petrol on the way to work in Hatfield	1
Because I have a regular MOT/Serviceing Garage (Haileybury Motors – very unfriendly & intolerant)	1
Who owns piece of land opposite garage anyway?	1
Have a good "tame mechanic"	1
Play area – unsafe due to broken glass	1
Pubs – food not good enough	1
Still working – use facilities out of the village	1
Garage more expensive than elsewhere	1
We never go in Pubs	1

4) Do you think the village can accommodate more housing for local people?

The following table gives the split of yes and no from those that responded to this question, but some comments fell in line with those that said yes and vice versa, also some that commented did not say yes or no and their comments were incorporated in the relevant table.

	Number of Comments
No – without comment	43
No – with comment	11
Total No's	54
Yes – without comment	3
Yes – with comment	39
Total Yes'	42
Don't know	1

Table of the “Types of Houses”:

Types	Number of Comments
Mixture of all (stop large “rebuilt” on existing sites – the balance of the village architecture is skewed – 1)	6
Small family homes	5
Bungalows (for retired people)	4
Homes for young people	3
More starter homes (Not sure where they can go)	3
Affordable housing (brown field sites/very few-local people – affordable prices/rent)	3
Detached Houses	2
Homes for people with disabilities	2

Table of comments:

Comment	Number of Comments
Not if it would encroach on green belt (there does not appear to be any free land)	6
Some local only	4
It could, but I don't want it	4
We have had enough development already	2
Very little space for further development	2
(Yes) - But limited, it's a large village & wouldn't be spoilt by a little more	2
Depends where!	2
No large development	1
If it gets too big it will become part of Hertford	1

Comment	Number of Comments
(No) – on reflection!	1
I think we are full	1
People who have moved here from outside should be prepared to “Share”	1
Long standing villagers have few objections generally	1
Use Two Tier system as Channel Islands	1
Limited extent – Pulling down large houses to build bigger ones	1
To a certain extent	1
Very little, without destroying the rural ambience as so much has been built already so little space left to infill	1
Not high priced detached property	1
Local children are unable to buy in the village	1
Foxhole housing estate is almost touching the village already – Village at risk of becoming part of Hertford suburbia	1
The village has probably trebled in size since I moved here (40 years) and is big enough. More expansion could eventually join the village to Hertford or Hoddesdon.	1

5) How important is the quality of the countryside around the village to you?

The responses to this question are given in the following table:

	Number of Comments
Very important – without comment	43
Very important – with comment	39
Total Commented	82

Comments are set out in the table below:

Comments	Number of Comments
Why I moved/live here	12
Helps keep us as a village and not an urban sprawl	5
Good to be able to walk easily in the countryside	2
Want to keep	1
Leave it alone	1
Sad that its sometimes badly abused by thoughtlessness	1
What distinguishes the village	1
Awful to lose it	1
Heath is amazing	1
Gives character to the village	1
OK	1
Somewhere to go when fed up	1

Comment	Number of Comments
Would not like Hertford Heath to become a suburb of Hertford	1
Absolutely paramount	1

Responses to “Would you be prepared to help with” are given in the table below:

	Number
Maintaining footpaths	12
Protecting wildlife habitats	15
Clearing ponds	11

Comments to this question are given in the table below:

Comments	Number of Comments
Would like to, but family/work make time limited	5
Only financially	3
Too aged!	2
I do	1
Not at the moment	1
After retirement I have just completed 13 years of voluntary work and am flagging a bit!	1
The spirit would be willing but flesh is weak	1
Medical condition prevents	1
Unable to do heavy work, but do make monthly contribution to Herts & Middx.	1
Wildlife habitats look after themselves if not intruded upon	1
Footpaths stay clear if used	1
Appreciated, but passively	1
Already have a very large garden to maintain so cannot help with maintenance	1

6) Have you found any difficulties when using local footpaths and bridleways?

	Number of Comments
No – without comment	28
No – with comment	22
Yes – with comment	37

The comments associated with this question are given in the table below and as some to the comments from both the “Yes” and the “No” were similar they have been incorporated into one table.

Comments	Number of Comments
Speeding – Motorbikes/Quad’s/Cars	36
Horses not keeping to bridleways	14
Dog Mess	10
Improved in recent years (still a lot to be done)	9
Mud	7
Yobs/Young boys	4
Dogs off leads – where not allowed	3
Poor Maintenance	3
Where has the public footpath gone at Jenningsbury Farm	2
Ballswood footpath very muddy	2
Overgrown stinging nettles (footpath to Rush Green)	2
Very overgrown	2
Used them for 5 years	1
Would like this end of Elbow lane finished, so no mud	1
Only in the rainy season	1
Can adjust	1
New ways of conservation not acceptable to older villagers – Particularly dislike the cutting back of “Trees” etc. – not clearing up and leaving to become overgrown again	1
Poor footpaths in some areas	1
Always take secateurs when walking	1
Some footpaths are too narrow	1
Potholed footpaths due to equestrian use	1
Bull – frequently encountered on Ermine Street at Rush Green End	1
Burnt out cars	1
Footpath in Hogsdell gets very overgrown in summer	1
Some overgrown, but majority are well maintained	1
Sometimes trees fall across paths and are not cleared for a long time	1
Motorcyclists intimidation when you’ve got young children and dog running around	1
Tyre tracks	1

7) Are there any areas in the village in which you feel unsafe?

The responses to this question are given in the following table:

	Number of Comments
No – without comment	29
No – with comment	15
Yes - General	28
Yes – Specifically the Playing field	18

The comments associated with this question are given in the table below and as some of the comments from all sections were similar they have been put into one group.

Comments	Number of Comments
Greater police presence/village bobby	19
Better street lighting (All areas/Woodlands Road/War Memorial/evening/playing field)	13
More activities for young people	13
Drug/Drink – Education/prevention	9
Sometimes walking through the woods (I don't walk alone)	8
Evening/Night (playing fields)	8
Main road traffic (London Road)	4
Had arguments over motor/quad bikes in woods (discourage motorcyclists in woods)	2
Downfield Road	2
Speed Restrictions	2
Near Rec. at night	2
Obviously at risk in dark secluded places – need to be sensible	1
Not in the areas I use	1
Don't take small grandchildren (playing field)	1
In the dark	1
“Coke path” to the PO	1
Crossing main road from shops to allotments – very unsafe	1
Traffic at bottom of Church Hill	1
Young children don't like using Londis shop as youths hang around	1
Pavements	1
Cannot tolerate bad behaviour as we currently do	1
Do away with the shelter	1
Probably all of the above, but it comes down to peoples own discipline and respect for others, but that's a global issue	1

Comment	Number of Comments
Outside Hertford Heath Primary	1
Stop <u>all</u> parking in front of school during pick-up/drop off time – plus crossing or speed bumps at least	1

8) Do you think more facilities should be provided?

Only 10 responders said “No”, 3 of these with comments and no one gave a specific “Yes”, they either answered with a comment or to a specific question.

The following table gives the general comments from the responders.

Comments	Number of Comments
Better playground/roundabout	10
Cycle tracks (including into Hertford)	7
Pharmacy – Service or Collection	6
Dog waste bins	5
Better public transport	4
Doctor’s/Nurse	3
Cricket team	2
Village fete	1
Village fun day (on green/playing field/Post Wood Green/College Road) Annual event run by Pubs	1
More interaction with Village school	1
Dog waste removal doesn’t extend to Heathgate	1
Speed restrictions (Downfield Road)	1
HCC to provide safe crossing facilities from Downfield Road to Hoe Lane (mini roundabout)	1
More garages – to rent	1
See police	1
Litter bins at shop	1
When will Golf course go ahead – it’s needed	1
Youth club needed	1
Scout group – just needs a leader – asking too much?	1
Those that exist should be used more responsibly by youth	1
Back rest on the bus shelter	1

Older people:

Yes: 3
No: 1
Don't know: 1

Comments associated with this section are given in the table below:

Comments	Number of Comments
For older people anything to get them out socialising	1
I believe Beacon Court provides entertainment for older people	1

For All:

Comments table:

Comments	Number of Comments
Quiz night – couple of times a year	1
New years eve party in Village Hall	1

Where would you like them to be provided?

Comments to this question are given below?

Comments	Number of Comments
Greater use of the Village Hall	3
How about kids equipment somewhere can be always seen (to prevent vandalism) e.g. on village green, Post Wood Green – Could be fenced in & locked each evening to prevent youths congregating?	2
Don't know – it depends on what it is	1
Allotment area	1
Heath or in vicinity	1
Don't mind	1
Village school	1

9) Are there any places where litter is a problem in the village?

Only one person said “No” to this question, everyone else simply identified the areas they thought was a problem.

The table below sets out the areas identified as problem areas in the village:

Comments	Number of Comments
Playing Field (Broken Glass)	23
Shops (Londis/SPAR/on footpath from shops – snack wrappings)	15
Dog Litter (on pavements a real problem)	10
Alleyway through Heathgate	4
Downfield Road	4
Everywhere (people throwing their rubbish down)	4
Elbow Lane – field used by bikes	3
Church Hill	2
Tipping in woods	2
Haileybury Boys – dump things on way back from shops	2
Meeting point	2
Seat behind the Church	1
Yobs drop litter – along Priors Wood Road & Post Wood Green	1
Litter dumped in Heath Lane	1
Where young people congregate	1
Near nature reserve	1
Recycling area – becoming a dumping area	1
Village Hall	1
Littered Country Lanes (e.g. Hailey Lane)	1
Trinity Road	1
On the green	1
Macdonalds rubbish (make them responsible)	1
London Road	1
Woods	1
Allotment	1

What to do?

The comments to this question are given below:

Comments	Number of Comments
Extra dog bins (Village Green/football field/near school/green by Goat/Jolly Pindar/Playing Fields/Pindar Green/Mount Pleasant/Rushen Drive/Oak Tree Close/Trinity Walk/Shops/mid-London Road/Cinder Path in woods)	21
More litter bins (not sure where/shops/everywhere)	4

Signs – take your litter home	2
Skips (very useful – that they had to be stopped shows the moronic H&S laws/bottle bank site)	2
Dog fouling notices & use of the legal procedures/ fines should be used	1
National problem – Change Attitudes – Teaching in Schools/Volunteers to keep streets clean/Realistic possibility that litter droppers caught/reported & fined	1
Signs warning of financial penalties is the most effective deterrent	1

General Comments:

Comments	Number of Comments
Generally litter problem is under control	4
Bins not relevant – If someone drops litter they will even if there is a bin	2
We do have litter pickers	1
Bins are not used	1
Comments	Number of Comments
Litter pickers do a very good job, educating the dog owners is more difficult	1

10) What do you think of the state of the roads, pavements, verges and street lighting?

13 people specifically identified Downfield Road as a problem and their comments relating to this are given in the table below:

Comments	Number of Comments
Poor	4
Cars parking on verges	3
Potholes	2
No winter treatment/never swept	1
Terrible	1
Difficult to travel through	1

General table:

Comments	Number of Comments
Generally Poor	25
Generally OK	11
Terrible	1

The table below gives the general comments associated with this question:

Comments	Number of Comments
Roads very poor condition (Rush Green is in need of resurfacing/resurfacing/Hoddesdon Road awful – dug up countless times)	19
Footpaths very poor (lumpy pavements/pavements on London Road in need of replacement/many pavements should be renewed)	15
Verges need to be kept cut & hedges (walk in road/London Road/verge near Memorial needs cutting more frequently – difficult to see traffic when exiting from Vicarage Causeway/some are a disgrace (Woodland Road)/particularly towards the school/last year watched a chap cutting the verges ran straight through a large sheet of hardboard, which had been left lying there – resultant debris lay around for weeks)	12
Car parking on verges – problem for prams & wheelchairs	5
Potholes (Church Hill/outside Mission Room/Jolly Pindar)	3
Repair them	3
Comments	Number of Comments
More speed restrictions especially along London Road	2
Flashing speed signs	1
Regular maintenance	1
Grass cutting poor – some areas uncut	1
Pavement crossing at the bottom of dip on road to Hertford. Between village & roundabout – dangerous for older people in particular	1
Wheelchairs have difficulty in Woodland Road	1
Road to Hertford. Too dangerous for senior school children to consider walking/cycling to school	1
Damage caused by heavy vehicles & machinery (make damagers pay)	1
Inspection needed & contractors changed when necessary	1

Parking comments:

Comments	Number of Comments
Parking all over village is bad – on paths & verges – facing wrong way around at night	1
Parking on pavements is a problem	1
On London Road can be a hazard	1
Parking restrictions, but where would the car parking facility be?	1

Lighting comments:

Comments	Number of Comments
More lighting	5
Don't need more/look like a city	2
Very dark along Woodland Road	1

Would you like to be able to walk or cycle to Ware, Hertford or Hoddesdon?

Yes	30
No	9

Comments	Number of Comments
Walkway to Ware so child can walk to Presdales (or bus)	2
Would definitely use cycle ways	2
Footpath to Hertford	1
So I can cycle safely with my family to Hertford	1
Pavements on <u>both sides</u> of the road to Hertford from Elbow	1
Too dangerous	1
It's the hill which puts me off using my cycle	1
I walk to Ware & Cycle but would not attempt Hertford & Hoddesdon due to state of roads and traffic	1
Walk to these anyway	1

General comments:

Comment	Number of Comments
Verges seem well looked after	1
Highways respond well to complaints	1
Would HCC give the PC the money so that they are in control (verge cutting) and help keep the village tidy	1

11) Do you have any problem parking at your home?

The replies to this question are given in the table below:

Comment	Number of Comments
No – without comment	44
No – with comment	21
Yes – without comment	2
Yes – with comment	28

The comments associated with these replies are given in the table below:

Comments	Number of Comments
Getting worse (Heathgate/parking both sides of road)	6
Use garage	4
Drive in front garden	4
Cars blocking entrance	4
Too many vehicles	4
A problem on surrounding roads (did not specify)	2
Will when children have their own cars	2
But verges could be used to take cars off the road	2
In school area	2
Every Sat./Sun. with footballers cars	2
Not enough people use their garages	2
No where to park	3
Visitors have a problem	1
But restrictions for wheelchair users	1
Have allocated space	1
Heathgate is a problem	1
Others do	1
Dropped kerb	1
Lower kerbs to access areas fully without blocking the way for others	1
Not at present, but appears likely to occur in future	1
Not really – cars at the shop do sometimes cause some difficulty	1
Downfield Road	1
Did use garage, but it was knocked down	1
People go the wrong way down Priors Wood Road	1
Trinity Road	1
Too many cars/vans with no where to park in Priorswood Road	1
Cars have been vandalised whilst parking outside our house	1
Insufficient parking in Barclay Close	1
No driveway	1
Parking on pavements	1
Woodlands Road	1
London Road	1
Outside Village Hall when flea market is on	1
Suggest Trinity Road is made one way & parking restrictions to outside circle	1
We have two cars and if we do not have one in front of our gates people often park there	1

- 12) Does the lack of Public Transport cause you any problems?
 a. Other transport issues?

Responses to this question are given in the table below:

	Number of Comments
No – without comment	38
No – with comment	21
Yes – without comment	3
Yes – with comment	17

The comments associated with these questions are given below:

Comment	Number of Comments
Car owner – would be a problem if we had to use it	10
Not at the moment	9
More buses – especially during rush hour to Ware – every 20 minutes	9
Buses from Hertford up to 10pm	6
Buses to Broxbourne Station do not run late enough & in the morning are infrequent	2
Son just about to start using bus	1
So far never had to use public transport	1
People who use the bus tell me its very poor	1
Used to be a problem for my daughter – she now drives	1
Would use a more regular service to the station	1
They're bad, don't use them	1
No car, huge problem especially in the evening	1
Public transport is a bare minimum	1
Could the garage help with a car pool	1
Buses on a Sunday	1
Public transport to pick up children from Hertford in the evening	1
Cycle track into Hertford (sensible if difficult)	1
Do not bother to use bus service because they do not keep to the published timetable and is too infrequent to be useful (not easy with two young children)	1

Were you aware of the Red Cross Voluntary car scheme?

Yes	6
No	23

Would you be willing to volunteer?

Yes	0
No	10
Possibly	6
Not yet	3

Village car sharing register?

Yes	4
No	4

Comment:

Comment	Number of Comments
Don't think it would work	1

- 13) Would you be interested in attending classes if provided in the village?
 a. If yes, give examples?

Responses to this question are given in the table below:

	Number of Comments
No – without comment	21
Unlikely	3
Yes – without comment	9
Yes – with comment	27
Possibly	3

The examples associated with these questions are given below:

Comments	Number of Comments
Arts & crafts	11
Exercise (Boxing/Aerobics/Yoga/Pilates)	8
Computer classes (for silver surfers)	7
Languages	5
Local history	2
Not sure what	2
Cookery	2
Social behavioural lessons for teenagers	1
Motor-cross Mechanics	1
Film studies	1
Digital photography	1
Photography	1
Family history	1
Various subjects	1

When would you like classes run?

Responses to this question are given below:

Comments	Number of Comments
Evenings	9
Afternoon/evenings	5
Anytime	7
Tuesday evening	1
Daytime	1

General comments:

Comments	Number of Comments
Sounds possible, depends upon what is on offer. This would be very valuable for the elderly.	2
Wonder whether village is sufficiently large enough	1
What classes?	1
Expertise might be within the village, particularly retired community. One-off talks might be possible for local people who couldn't commit to running a course.	1

14) Have you ever attended a meeting of the Parish Council?

Responses to this question are:

No	46
Yes	24

Comments associated with this question are given in the table below:

Comments	Number of Comments
Unaware where & when they were being held	9
In the past	4
Didn't think that the issues discussed concerned you	4
Thinking of attending in the future	2
Laziness	2
Due to family constraints I have been unable to attend but would like to	2
Once	2
Lack of time	2
Not regularly	1
Twice	1
To enable the meeting to report	1
Not in this Parish	1

Comments	Number of Comments
Not really sure what issues are under discussion	1
Ought to attend more frequently	1
Do you take concerns seriously	1
Dates come out late	1
Monday evenings are busy for us	1
Entitled to attend?	1
Already involved in too many activities	1
I am too idle	1
Time also as I have other voluntary commitments	1
Went once – did feel a real outsider however, no introductions were made – no welcome to the few public attendees	1

15) Local concerns and feelings?

The responses to the question are given in the table below:

No – with comment	2
No – without comment	10
Yes – without comment	28
Yes – with comment	17
Don't know	18

Comments associated with this question are given in the table below:

Comment	Number of Comments
Not really	4
Think they do their best – can't always get everything done due to restrictions	3
Little sensitivity towards the needs of younger people	2
Some are	2
Younger people needed/stuck in their ways	1
People do not report their concerns & feelings	1
Rarely consult villagers – do not encourage views to be given – to many people on PC not from village, who feel they know about it, better than the people who lived there all their lives	1
Only approached one once – not met with enthusiasm	1
Totally self interested	1
We should talk to you	1
Encourage people to give their views/complaints to councillors	1
The feedback from these questionnaires should give some information	1
I think so	1
Publicity & Parish News, Mercury & new news letter	1

Comments	Number of Comments
First class Chair & Clerk – powerful combination	1
Rarely act	1
Know councillor – not afraid to ask questions	1
Sometimes	1
Councillors need to make themselves more visible – like today	1
I would hope so	1
This should help	1
Seem to be, but not sure if action is being taken	1
Didn't get a Newsletter needs to be delivered – not in Newspaper	1
I think they must be aware of the problems	1
But ability to make real changes very limited	1
They are approachable	1
People don't go to Parish Meetings	1

Comments associated with the “Don't Knows” are shown in the table below:

Comments	Number of Comments
More forums like this	2
Only lived here one year	1
Don't attend meetings	1
Not much feedback – until recent Newsletter	1
Like to think so don't know	1
No contact	1
Hopefully	1
But guess most concerns are out of their remit i.e. anti-social behaviour etc.	1
I have no knowledge on which to base my reply	1

Parish Council Newsletter a good idea?

The responses to this question are as follows:

Yes	49
No	1

The comments associated with this question are given in the table below:

Comments	Number of Comments
Helps keep people up to date	1
Should not rely on Parish Mag. to reach all villagers	1
I had no idea I needed a Parish Mag. & so I missed out on information	1
If free – how often	1
Excellent idea – clear & informative	1
More Newsletters/meetings like this	1
Would make people more aware of what’s going on & perhaps encourage more participation	1
Very	1
Once a month probably difficult to sustain	1
A summary of the years achievements is excellent	1
Might stimulate interest	1
As long as it reaches <u>all</u> of the village	1

16) Do you think District & County Councillors are sufficiently aware of local concerns and feelings?

The responses to this question are given in the table below:

No – without comment	12
No – with comment	6
Yes – without comment	14
Yes – with comment	13
Don’t know	18
Possibly/Hopefully	5

Comments associated with the above responses are given in the table below:

Comments	Number of Comments
William Ashley is good - Good supporter of the village - Not met any other DC - Amazingly conscientious - Does seem very aware/when met	12
Rarely act/not bothered	2
The DC attends PC meetings	1
Tell them	1
Had nothing to do with them	1
This exercise will assist	1
Concerns fed from PC	1
I’ll let you know after next weeks meeting	1

Comment	Number of Comments
Joint surgery with PC	1
Only if a particular issues is brought to their attention	1
Weekend surgery 2-3 times per year would be helpful	1
Encouragement for younger involvement	1
Never met any of them	1
Do they meet local people	1
Where does this take place	1
Perhaps they should attend the Parish Council meetings	1
Not always aware of what is going on, but when they get involved things do get done	1
We should tell you and you should tell them	1
Keep hustling them	1
County Councillors' Probably not	1
A councillor should be available invite village occasionally to hear people concerns	1
It would be nice for them to circulate on a regular basis around the village possibly questioning people at random	1
Talk to the people	1
Encourage people to give their views/complaints to councillors	1

17) Do you have another comments that you would like to make?

The responses to this question are given in the table below:

Comments	Number of Comments
Bottom of Downfield Road is always a hazardous junction – A10 traffic does not stop before turning right towards Stansted Road. It is currently a <u>Give Way</u> but needs to be a <u>Stop</u> to make people check for traffic from Rush Green before pulling out	1
Believe that Village Hall activities & events could be improved (e.g. very pleased with new Farmers Market)	1
I am a WI member & a member of the flower club who meet at the Village Hall	1
It's a great village <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - get to London by public transport - bus & train which is excellent - there are many kind helpful folk who work <u>vy</u> hard for the rest of us 	1
Like Voltaire, I find it expedient to cultivate my garden. The PCC etc. taken up much of my spare time.	1
As a mother of the next generation of teenagers. The playing field & Play area concern me now. The teenage drug problem/anti-social behaviour concerns me for the future youth.	1
Parish Council to contribute (hopefully oppose) to the expansion of air traffic.	1

Comments	Number of Comments
Traffic in Downfield Road is dangerous when combined with parking on kerbs. For the elderly (my mother for instance) this is dangerous.	1
Sad that the air on many summer evenings smells of bonfires – could there be a voluntary code regarding when they are used? (or better still, compost stuff instead).	1
Football played on the green is dangerous. Many times I have nearly missed a boy running after a ball (not to mention that my car was hit by a football kicked by young teenagers).	1
PC should strongly campaign against Stansted expansion (as far as it is in their power)	1
Speeding cars are a real menace – both in London Road & Downfield Road	1
Why aren't the playing field cut regularly	1
Why have a goal post on the most uneven part of the playing field	1
Why not provide an area for basket ball or ball games generally	1
How about consulting with the people that plan Hartham fields and ask their advice	1
It is a testimony to the village that this is taking place, I applaud the incentive	1
Broken glass on the football pitch	1
Main concern is the speeding vehicles in Mount Pleasant – an accident waiting to happen – don't think speed humps are the answer – more police enforcement	1
I really enjoy living in HH my 3 main concerns are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Parking Heathgate - Lack of Dog Waste Bins - Motorbikes – associated noise spoils surrounding countryside 	1
Well done Parish Councillors	1
<u>Heavy Traffic</u> through village in spite of weight restrictions	1
<u>Speed</u> although speed limits have been reduced, is there any control on the traffic passing through	1
Lack of police control in village – is there any chance of improvement in the near future, before problem behaviour gets much worse – perhaps police control would help	1
Would enjoy more village events like the “scarecrow” day etc. Appreciate need people to organise these things, but do think they create a “real sense” of community	1
At present the road leading down to London Road (part of Woodland Road) is an eyesore – land that I think has been bought by the council(?) is being left to become totally overgrown	1

Comments	Number of Comments
Perhaps the exercise can be repeated when new road plan implemented	1
Road works plans to be expedited please!	1
Fly-tipping & large quantities of garden rubbish/plastics etc. on entrance to Elbow Lane & some distance ahead	1
I have thought always that a cycle track to Hertford would be a good idea. If teenagers had more mobility they would be less of a problem	1
A crossing of the London Road between Church Hill & Woodland Road would open up the use of the wild-life meadow	1
Improved access (i.e. surfacing of footpaths) leads to teenager litter increasing & temptation to use wheels	1
The <u>meeting point</u> needs to be away from properties and policed if necessary – unsociable behaviour should be brought to parents attention if possible	1
The area outside the school; in Woodland Road is a <u>death trap</u> . The Head Teacher is continually asking people to stop, but to no avail. Something has got to be done or a child is going to get seriously injured.	1
The Parish Council magazine should be publicised to Haileybury staff – most people don't know it exists!	1
I would like to see more collections from the houses for recycling – particularly garden refuse.	1
The main problem is getting people involved.	1
More lay-bys are required to help relieve congestion on the roads.	1
This is a very nice village in which to live.	1
The young people are not interested in the village.	1
Speeding problems on the London Road	1
Lack of village functions, e.g. fete	1
Lack of village policeman	1
I never thought that I would see a drugs problem in the village and it is a shame.	1
The meeting point is in a good location on the playing field and should stay where it is.	1
The young adults do need more activities/somewhere to go/do. We can't keep moaning about it and saying "not in my back yard".	1
The Horticultural Society should be supported, as should all the societies in the village.	1
Thank you to everyone who arranged this event.	2