

**CHICHESTER DISTRICT COUNCIL  
COMMUNITIES TEAM**

**EARNLEY PARISH COUNCIL  
OBJECTIVES 2015**

**CONSULTATION ANALYSIS REPORT  
OCTOBER 2015**

## **Earnley Parish Council Objectives – August-October 2015**

### **Full Report**

#### **Introduction**

The Corporate Information Team carried out a consultation on behalf of Earnley Parish Council. The aim of this consultation was to gather the views of Earnley residents to inform the parish's five year plan.

Following their Annual Parish meeting and a discussion with Chichester District Council and West Sussex County Council, information was gathered by the Parish Council from a sample of residents to establish what they thought about the parish and if they had any comments or concerns. This feedback was used by Earnley Parish Council when drafting questions for the survey.

#### **Methodology**

The survey was issued online and on paper. The online survey was available to complete through the Earnley Parish Council website and paper copies were distributed and collected by volunteers, including members of the parish council.

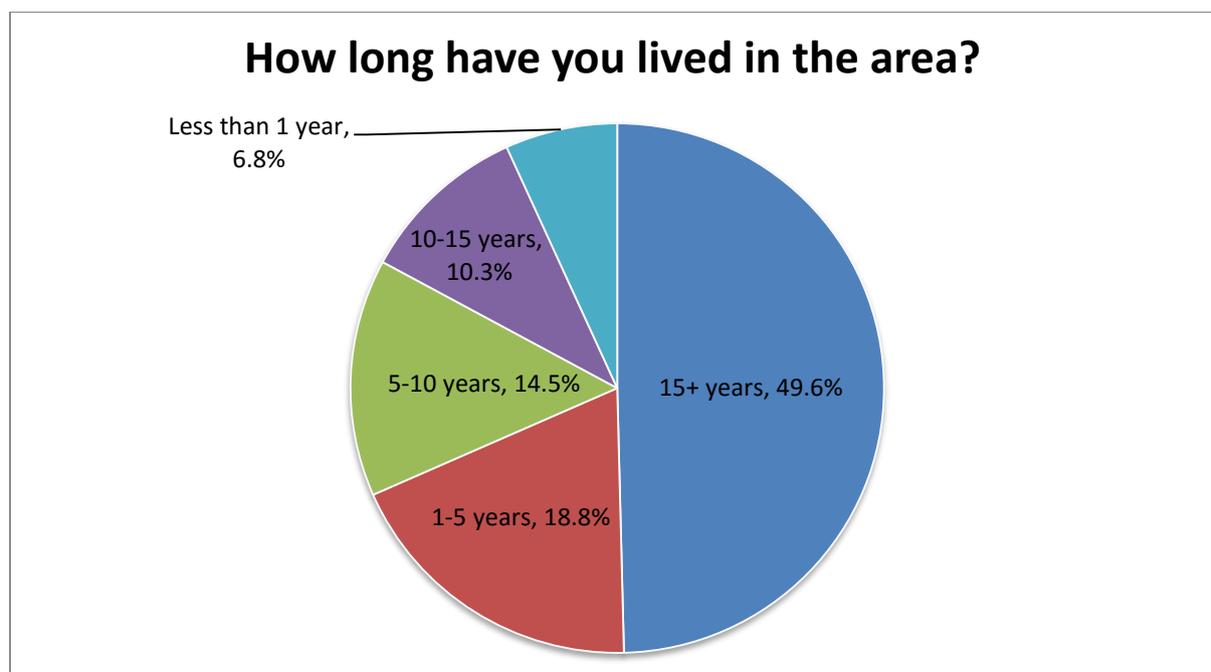
The survey was available from 14<sup>th</sup> August to 2<sup>nd</sup> October – a consultation period of 7 weeks. A total of 118 responses were received during this time, however, this number includes two from two household members. There are 186 approved dwellings (excludes caravans and holiday chalets) of which 9 are vacant or are holiday lets giving a response rate of over 65% from occupied households (including second homes).

This report presents and analyses the results of each survey question. If percentages do not add up to 100%, this is because respondents could select more than one answer. Invalid comments that are not reported could include 'No', 'Nothing' etc. or could be a repeated comment from an earlier question e.g. 'as above'. Reports giving all responses to these questions are available on request from the Corporate Information Team.

## **Respondent Profile**

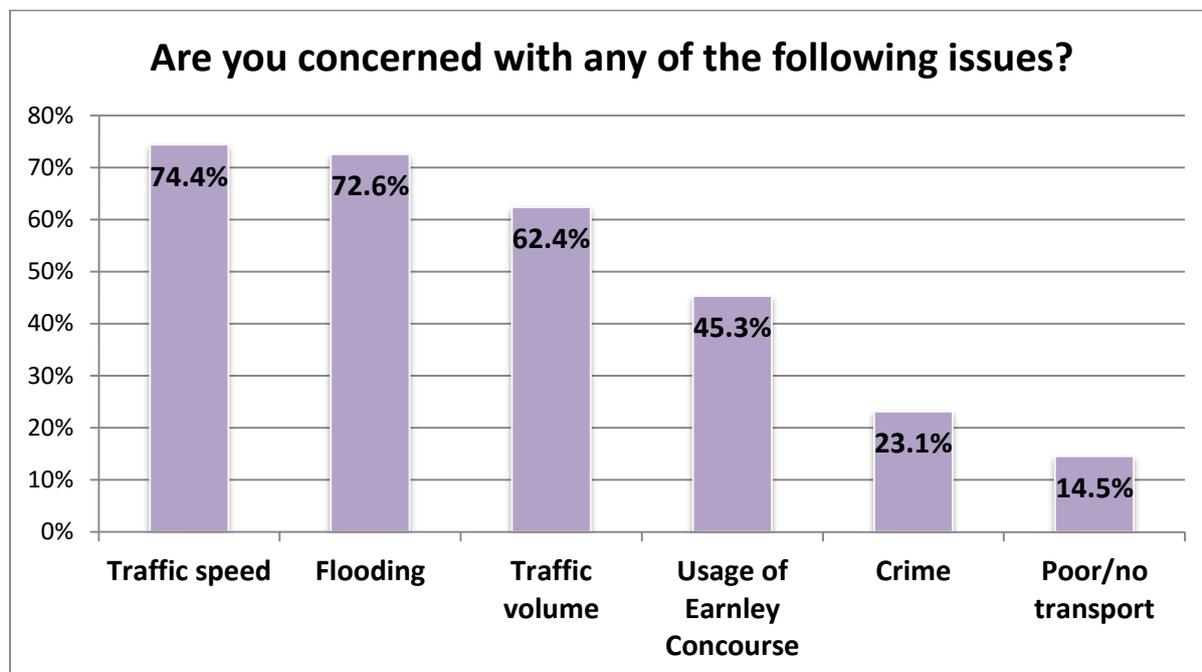
There were a total of 118 responses to this survey, 25 completed on paper and 93 online. 92 respondents provided their email address to be kept up to date with Parish Information/Newsletters and these have been given to the Parish Council for further correspondence. 83 (70.3%) respondents said they were interested in volunteering or helping out with activities such as litter picking and ditch clearing either now or in the future.

The highest percentage of respondents (49.6%) live with one other adult. 17.9% live with one or more children under 18 years of age plus other adult/s, 17.1% live with two or more adults, 12.8% live alone and the smallest percentage of respondents (2.6%) live with one or more children under 18 in a household where they are the only adult. Almost half of respondents (49.6%) have lived in the area for more than 15 years, 18.8% for 1-5 years and 14.5% for 5-10 years. 10.3% of respondents have lived in Earnley for between 10 and 15 years and 6.8% have been residents for less than one year.



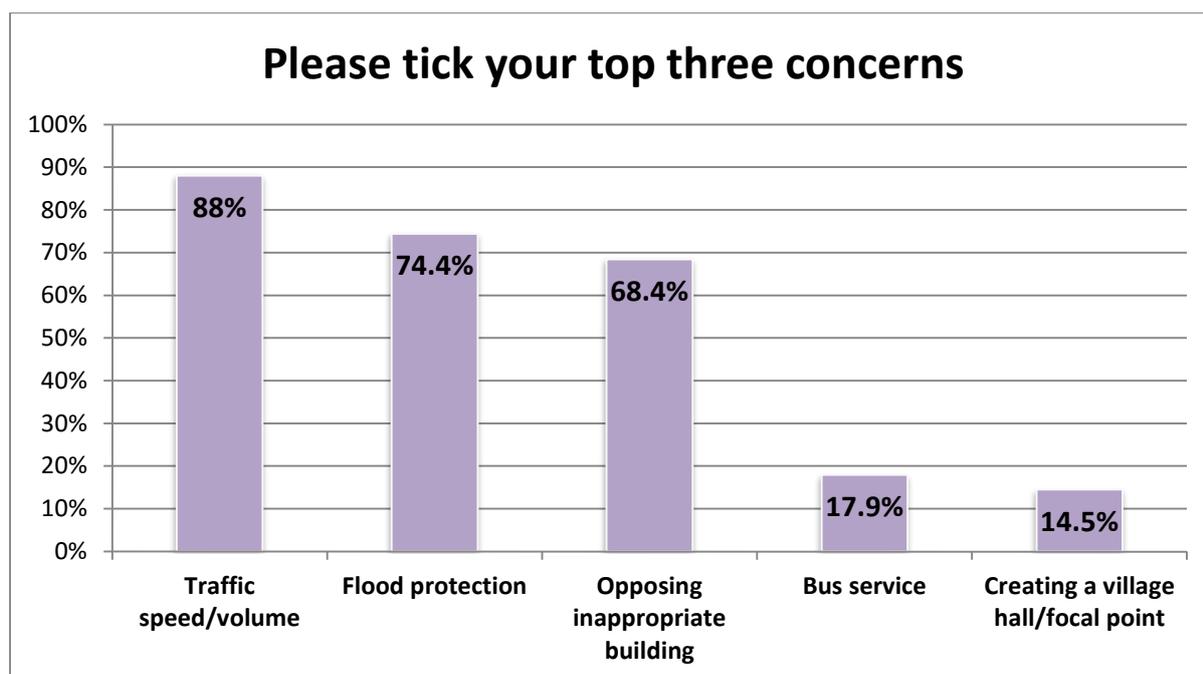
## The Results

The three main concerns for residents were traffic speed with almost three quarters of respondents (74.4%) selecting this issue, flooding (72.6%) and traffic volume (62.4%). 45.3% were concerned with the usage of Earnley concourse, 23.1% were concerned with crime and 14.5% were concerned with poor/no transport.



12% of respondents ticked other for this question and there were **26** valid responses. The overdevelopment of agricultural land was mentioned **5** times, the maintenance of bridleways and footpaths mentioned **4** times, poor road quality received **4** mentions, broadband speed received **3** mentions and litter also received **3** mentions. There were several individual concerns mentioned such as the flood relief channel, people parking on the field entrance on Clappers Lane, the traffic system from Chichester, street lights, the traveller site, noise and the lack of a community centre.

The top three priorities for respondents were traffic speed and volume (88%), flood protection (74.4%) and opposing inappropriate building (68.4%). 17.9% included bus service in their top three priorities and 14.5% included creating a village hall or focal point. The graph below shows the full results for this question.



8.5% said other in response to this question and there were **15** valid responses. There were **3** comments about litter and **3** about traffic congestion. There were **2** comments about the maintenance of roads and public spaces and **2** about the over development of the area. There were several individual concerns such as Earnley concourse, the flood relief channel, the lack of pavements and cycle lanes, traveller site and broadband.

### Other Issues

When asked what other issues respondents would like Earnley Parish Council to work on in the next five years the following suggestions emerged from a total of **66** responses:

- Road and footpath maintenance: **18 mentions**
- Maintaining rural environment/village feel: **9 mentions**
- Increasing the sense of community: **7 mentions**
- Culverts/Flood protection: **6 mentions**
- Traffic speed control features: **6 mentions**
- Internet speed: **5 mentions**
- More affordable housing: **4 mentions**
- Infrastructure services in line with demands of population: **3 mentions**
- Dog fouling: **3 mentions**
- Traveller site: **2 mentions**
- Tree planting: **2 mentions**
- Litter: **2 mentions**

There were also several individual suggestions such as transport links, fly tipping, reinstating the fete, upkeep of the church, more information from the police, helping refugees, making the bird sanctuary wheelchair accessible, promoting tourism in the area, more children's activities, neighbourhood watch, vandalism of the phonebox, privacy breached by microlights and the danger of air shows that pass over the area.

## **Suggestions for Improvement**

Where the number of suggestions does not add up to the number of responses, this is because respondents either made more than one suggestion in a single comment or did not make a valid comment, in the latter case these comments were not reported here but can be made available on request from the Corporate Information Team.

### **Traffic Speed/Volume – 93 responses:**

Traffic calming measures: **42 mentions**  
 Speed monitoring: **15 mentions**  
 Roads cannot cope with amount of housing: **13 mentions**  
 More speed signs/Maintenance of current signs: **10 mentions**  
 Safer pavements and verges: **9 mentions**  
 Police presence: **7 mentions**  
 Stricter enforcement of speed limits: **6 mentions**  
 Width/weight restrictions for large vehicles: **4 mentions**  
 Educate drivers on the dangers of speeding: **3 mentions**  
 Make Earnley a dead end at the Church roundabout: **2 mentions**

There were also several individual suggestions including introducing a levy for drivers who use their car at peak times, identifying accident black spots and targeting those areas for improvements and reducing the speed limit.

There was a widespread concern among respondents about cars racing down Bell Lane and Clappers Lane, as well as concerns regarding a high volume of large vehicles being directed down narrow lanes by sat nav systems.

### **Flood Protection – 88 responses:**

Maintain/clear ditches: **50 mentions**  
 Enlarge/maintain culverts: **13 mentions**  
 Annual inspections carried out by the Environmental Agency or West Sussex County Council: **7 mentions**  
 Update infrastructure to accommodate additional housing: **5 mentions**  
 When flooding occurs inform residents of impassable roads: **2 mentions**

There were also some individual suggestions regarding flood protection which included rediscovering the ditch on the south side of Clappers Lane, maintaining an action plan regarding flooding procedures and an ongoing awareness programme of steps to take to help with flood protection. There were also suggestions to join the drainage system in Clappers Lane to Bookers Lane, to tackle the flooding in First Avenue and Almodington Lane, to protect road verges from residents' incursions and to give advice and help to those who have ditches on their property.

### **Creating a Village Hall/Focal Point – 14 responses:**

7 respondents suggested the use of Earnley Concourse for a central community space, a few of these respondents suggested that a meeting should be held with the trustees about the possibility of Earnley Concourse as an event venue for weddings, family parties etc.

5 respondents felt that they, and others in the area, would be more involved in the community if there was a central community space or village hall.

There were a few individual suggestions such as a community hall combined with a village shop and tea room, a pub and removing the Concourse fencing alongside Clappers Lane.

### **Bus service – 20 responses:**

More frequent service: **7 mentions**

Regular service to Chichester: **6 mentions**

Reliable commuter service for those without cars: **4 mentions**

Incorporate Earnley into the 52/53 service: **2 mentions**

Buses to run later in the afternoon/evening: **2 mentions**

There was an individual suggestion to subsidise bus fares on a trial basis, to see whether people would use public transport instead of their cars every day. Several of the respondents who suggested a regular bus service to Chichester said they would like the bus to serve Almodington and Earnley.

### **Other suggestions – 23 responses:**

Maintenance of roads, verges, footpaths and bridleways: **7 mentions**

Opposing inappropriate building: **5 mentions**

Broadband: **3 mentions**

Litter collection / awareness campaign: **3 mentions**

New buildings should be in keeping with the look of existing structures: **2 mentions**

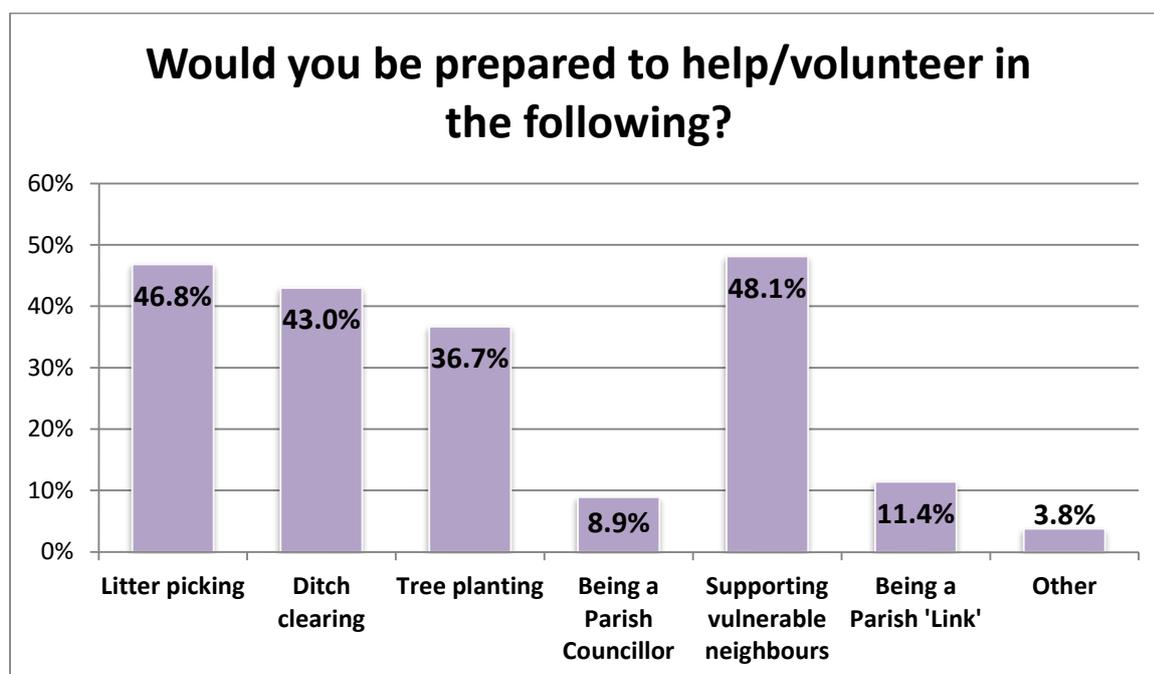
There were several individual suggestions such as 'sorting out' the entrance to West Wittering car park, maintenance of relief channel, heaviest road users to pay more (e.g. horticultural traffic) and a regular bus service to Chichester.

### **Earnley Parish Council Website**

6 in 10 respondents (60.2%) have visited the Earnley Parish Council website and there were **3** valid comments regarding potential improvements for the website. **1** respondent suggested having a more social aspect on the website (social media etc.), **1** respondent said that the details of the next meeting should be easy to see on the homepage and **1** respondent said 'make proper links'.

## Volunteering

The respondents were asked if they would be prepared to help/volunteer in a selection of activities. The three activities with the most residents willing to volunteer were supporting vulnerable neighbours (48.1%), litter picking (46.8%) and ditch clearing (43%). The following graph shows all the percentages of those willing to volunteer.



The respondents most likely to volunteer were living with one other adult (51.3%) and living in the area for 15 years or more (46.8%). Those least likely to volunteer were living in households with one or more children under the age of 18 in which the respondent was the only adult (2.6%) and those who have lived in the area for less than a year (5.1%), although, this finding may be skewed due to the respective high and low response rates from these groups.

## **Conclusions**

The main concerns highlighted by the residents of Earnley were traffic speed, flooding and traffic volume. The top three priorities of residents is a very similar list; traffic speed/volume, flood protection and opposing inappropriate building. Two concerns that were mentioned frequently throughout the survey were the overdevelopment of agricultural land and various comments about the footpaths and bridleways around the parish, including comments that the footpaths are not safe and need more frequent maintenance.

When asked for suggestions on how to improve the flood protection systems in Earnley the majority of respondents suggested the regular clearing of ditches and culverts as well as reminding property owners to clear ditches that are on their land.

In terms of creating a village hall or focal point the majority of respondents suggested the use of Earnley Concourse for community events as well as weddings, family parties etc.

Many respondents said that they would like to see a regular bus service to Chichester, which included suggestions to run a commuter service for school children and those who do not have cars/can't drive i.e. early in the morning and after 5pm.

6 in 10 respondents said that they have visited Earnley Parish Council's website and the suggestions for improvement included being more connected in terms of social media and making the Parish Council meetings more visible on the front page of the site.