

Pre-questionnaire survey

I am sure people will be curious about the outcome of the pre-bid mini survey we undertook. The purpose of this 'straw poll' was to see what issues local people felt strongly about.

Responses ranged from the fanciful to the innovative.

It's important to remember that what we were after was a taste of the things that local people felt worth putting into the final questionnaire. That will be a separate exercise in the summer.

There were 53 responses and around 140 different views and suggestions; many had taken considerable pains with their response.

The most mentioned good things about living here were friendly atmosphere, high quality shop/PO, the rural environment, the existence of the pub, tranquillity

The most unpopular aspects were dog excrement, big lorries, traffic speed generally, poor community spirit and cohesion

Suggested changes were traffic visibility & access onto A378, a village diary, clean ditches, bus route & frequency, traffic speed on Butchers Hill, more hall-based activities for all ages, independence/co-operation of various village committees.

Fivehead Matters

The newsletter of the Fivehead Parish Plan Steering Committee

The Village Plan

Progress Report—Funding

The Steering Committee has now completed the first stage. On January 20 our bid was put in for public funding. This is to help pay for the next stage – a detailed questionnaire to all households; a launch day with exhibitions, maps, plans and perhaps a drop-in workshop in the village hall. Further meetings and discussions, production of village plan with specified action points. This, it is promised, will open the door to public and charitable funding where needed.

Stop Press: Funding fully approved! Now, we can progress to the next stage.

The Steering Committee

To date the Steering Committee has met six times, with 12-14 people being present on each occasion.

There are guide lines within which we have operated and in these we have received much support and help from the Somerset Rural Community Council and the District Council.

From the guidelines, we quote:

- Set to work with an open mind
- Get the views of everyone possible
- Work at a pace everyone can keep up with
- Enjoy it
- Keep a record of everything you do
- Accept that people's skills are different

Also:

- We set ourselves to learn from the past
- We invited responses through Fivehead Matters
- We have been in touch with all village organisations
- We have spoken to individuals
- We have set in hand the creation of a village website as a tool for this enterprise, local information and community building
- We have worked out a budget

From the Past

1994 Village Appraisal covered some of the same ground:

Areas of concern, for comparison, included helicopters at night, dogs, public transport, heavy goods vehicles, more community spirit, isolation of parish council, new village hall.

The village hall has been splendidly built. The other concerns remain.

1997 Village Map— a pictorial map of old Fivehead

1999 Village booklet history and environment: “Beyond the Map” is a valuable source of information on the village. (A limited number of copies are available from Wendy Swinburn on 01460 281346)

We have also seen the banner of the Fivehead Friendly Society, at present in the church, but in need of restoration.

Names on the committee to remember

Keith Summers	Chairman	281418
Mervyn Wilson	Secretary	281558
Richard Chedzoy	Treasurer	281811
Andrew Barrett	Webmaster	281520
Barry Knox	Data Analyst	281341

Website

Development of the Fivehead web site continues, but much work still needs to be done so we are looking for your help.

Old Fivehead - If you have any old pictures of the village, your house or business premises or of previous residents, the webmaster, Andrew Barrett, would like to hear from you.

Businesses in Fivehead – Do you run a business in Fivehead? Are you interested in having a presence on the village web site for a nominal sum or a link to your own web site? If the answer to either question is ‘Yes’, please let us know.

Clubs and Community Groups – We plan to make space available on the site for your Club or Group. If you would like an early presence on the site please email the webmaster now. If you don't, he'll get round to you eventually!!

‘Fivehead Matters’ – Missed the first issue? We've put it and Issue 2 on our web site for you.

The web site will be published shortly. Please put www.fivehead-village.org.uk in your Favourites folder and keep coming back as it is sure to have changed.

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