

“Keep schools open for arts and sport at weekends and in holidays”

“Let’s have metaphysical studies, holistic & spiritual growth”

“Let’s have ladies’ kick boxing”

Table 6

Q5 What activities/facilities not currently in Swavesey would you like to participate in?

Swimming pool	66
More sport/physical activity	33
Social club/community centre	19
More kids activity	6
Domestic clubs (cooking, gardening, allotments)	7
Dance (various)	9
Running club	6
Improve pavilion	4
New pub/restaurant	4
More shops	3
Youth group/ activities/ facilities	3
Art & craft club	4
Pre-school	2
Country pursuits	2
Toddler group	3
Skate park	2
Better bus service from Boxworth End	2
Motorbike off-road activity	2
Bridge club	2
Play barn	1
Bowls	1
Meditation/ yoga	1
Riding school	1
Farmshop	1
Takeaway	1
Better information on events	1
Petrol station	1
Model airplane club	1
Pub quiz nights	1
Coffee mornings	1
Volunteer support group	1
Already good	1
Total	192

“Sell the Memorial Hall and build a sports pavilion”

“The Playground is fantastic ... people travel from other villages to use it”

2.5 Employment

66% of respondents think shops will do more to provide employment than small businesses (55%), small industrial units or tourism (32% each). Improved roads and public transport are also seen as potentially contributing to an increase in employment locally.

21% of respondents work in Swavesey but most (51%) travel 5–20 miles to their place of work.

The main barriers to finding employment are the lack (and cost) of childcare and lack of transport, though few people are affected.

2.6 Education

Most children in the village attend the Primary School or the Village College. Table 5 shows that respondents want to see more childminders, playgroups and after-school provision for 5–11 year olds (48%), after-school provision for 11 year olds and over (32%), and holiday club activity (36%). More sport, swimming and youth club activities at the Village College are wanted, with facilities available at weekends and during the holidays.

76% of respondents actively support sixth-form provision at the Village College.

The Village College meets most of the demand for adult education, with people seeking mostly courses involving sport or physical activity, or opportunities to improve domestic skills, to find creative outlets or to learn languages. The main factors stopping people attending adult education are unavailability of the right course (37%), “other reasons” (time? – 34%) and cost (31%).

Young people want courses in babysitting and car/cycle maintenance.

2.7 Sport, recreation and social activities

Football, squash and gymnastics (including keep fit) already have very active participation, but the level of interest (compared with participation) suggests that more people would play tennis and badminton if facilities were available. Over Cricket Club and other respondents want to see cricket on the Green. The football clubs want to improve the pavilion, and 22% of respondents agreed.

Some groups (Women’s Institute, British Legion) already have high levels of participation, while others (Camera Club, History Society, Conservation Society, Ramblers, yoga) generate plenty of interest that could be turned into participation.

The activities of the RSPB at Fen Drayton Lakes are generating by far the greatest interest (27%) and are much appreciated.

35% of respondents want a swimming pool, 17% want more sport or physical activity, and 10% want another social club or centre or restaurant.

Both adults and young people want more activity for children and young people. Young people want youth club and holiday activities with their friends, and sports and physical activity in the natural environment, including opportunities to participate in the Duke of Edinburgh Awards or Arts Awards. Table 6 shows what activities and facilities people would like to see in the village.

Proposals for improving the usage of existing public buildings (from respondents including the Royal British Legion and the Over 50s) cover a wide range of possibilities, including refurbishment of the Memorial Hall (22%) and an increase in sport and physical activity at the Village College. Respondents also suggest a new social centre/ club/café/restaurant.

The provision of additional public open space is strongly supported (74%). When the transfer of the land at the Green is complete, the Parish Council will be able to plan for its use. 12% of respondents want more sport and physical activity on the Green. Most people feel that open spaces, including playing fields, are adequately maintained, but that dog fouling is a problem.

People also want better information on community facilities, including contacts, hire rates and events. Information is available, generally in The Meridian, but some activities would clearly benefit from being better publicised. For example, the Community Choir,