

though flourishing, was not mentioned in Question 3, and some respondents are looking for a choir to join.

13% of respondents regard hire rates for the Memorial Hall and the Village College as expensive, and feel that local residents should have preferential rates. (These are already available to local people, but clearly this needs to be more widely known.)

While many support the provision of more allotments in the village, relatively few people express interest in holding one. At present there are 13 allotment holders and a waiting list of 9.

People express interest in organising and participating in community support and activity groups. The questionnaires are confidential, so efforts are needed to identify these people and put them in touch with each other.

The Bridleways Group suggests the creation of safe links and bridleways between droves, villages and Fen Drayton Lakes, including using the Guided Bus maintenance track, and a bridleway crossing over the A14. The Women's Institute also supports the expansion of bridleways, and the planting of new woodland.

Although it was too late to include questions about the Swavesey Festival in the questionnaire, the festival's reception has encouraged the Festival Committee to plan to repeat it every two years.



2.8 Community facilities

The newsagent's is used by over 90% of respondents and is clearly important to the community. Many people want more shops, a wider choice of goods, more fresh food and longer opening hours. Some shop services are considered inadequate, and items expensive.

The Post Office is important to over 90% of respondents, and people stress the importance of keeping the Post Office open. Again, people want longer opening hours.

The libraries, though used less than the shops and Post Office, have an enthusiastic following, but many respondents want better choice and facilities, and longer opening hours.

The visiting food vans are valued, and people want more frequent visits and more stopping points.

2.9 Young people and the over 60s

Young people think Swavesey a good place in which to grow up. Their friendships and the environment here are important to them. What they want are more structured activities – more sport, holiday activities, a Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme – and, above all, more Youth Club activities. Travelling out of the village for entertainment is difficult, being dependent on parents or public transport (costly, poor service). Young people want more information about activities and Action for Youth, and would like to receive it via email and a youth newsletter. They have concerns about bullying and anti-social behaviour, and can feel unsafe, especially around the Green.

The over 60s represent 27% of respondents and play an important part in village clubs and organisations, including the Over 50s and the Women's Institute. Many retired residents take an active role in promoting and supporting village activities. Older residents in Boxworth End expressed concerns about public transport and access to hospitals and clinics, shops and entertainment. Older residents generally express concerns about care and support for the frail and less mobile.

2.10 Environment and recycling

The risks of flooding (27%) and litter and fly-tipping (15%) head the list of environmental problems. 79% of respondents are concerned about flooding on footpaths and at Boxworth End, more than those concerned about the risk from the River Great Ouse (69%) or Covells Drain (58%). (The effects of groundwater flooding are more visible, but flooding from the river would be much more widespread and damaging – see 1.16.)