



## **South Petherton Parish Council Community Plan 2022/23**

### Appendix 2: Public Meeting 15<sup>th</sup> March 2023

A public meeting was held in The David Hall on 15th March 2023 to present the findings from the survey. More than 70 residents attended, which is considered to be an excellent turnout, and the opportunity was taken to invite questions and comments, as well as asking those present what main priorities they felt had emerged from the survey.

#### **Questions and Comments Raised at the Meeting (and Answers where given)**

- Does the age distribution of respondents invalidate the survey results? (Not necessarily, but it was certainly reflected in the audience at the meeting)
- Was it possible to analyse the results based on where in the Parish respondents live? (No, postcodes were not included in the questionnaire because of anonymity and time restraints.)
- The survey may not have had respondents who live on the edges of the community in newer builds with young families. More intensive canvassing might have helped increase participation. (Noted)
- There was surprise that interest in a Woodland play area was so high as this had not been previously detected. A demographic weakness? (This sort of finding helps to justify the survey. It was noted again that Under 16s were not included in the survey).
- Is there a partisan interest within the Survey Group? (Yes it is acknowledged that the Community Hub Project Group has played a significant role in the organisation. It was pointed out that a Community Hub, if developed, may be able to provide facilities for many groups and organisations, including things raised within the survey)
- Was the response from lower age groups a reflection of timing before Christmas? (No, Smart Communities have noticed lower responses in surveys taking place since that time)
- House to house canvassing indicates that many people are happy with the facilities and opportunities in the parish and might not feel the need for more. (Noted - the survey does reveal good levels of satisfaction about facilities and opportunities within the parish)
- What can be done about widespread concerns on traffic such as speeding, parking and the dangers at the roundabout at the top of Knapp Hill? (This sort of issue need a focused action plan alongside other issues raised by the survey)
- Were there surprises that came out in the Survey? (Not really, except perhaps the desire for a Woodland Adventure Area)

Attendees were also asked to give their views on what **Priorities** they felt required most attention. Although many left without queuing to do it, the outcome from those who took part was as follows:

**Priority 1 - Community Hub** - To plan, resource and develop a Community Hub facility, able to house the community library and the parish council offices, and able to provide a range of services to further support the wellbeing of the community. (32 'votes')

**Priority 2 - Traffic, Travel and Transport** - To develop and implement a strategy to prioritise the concerns raised, with a delivery plan and timescales. (30)

**Priority 3 - Health & Well Being** - To raise the survey concerns with relevant agencies and partnerships. (29)

And, with fewer 'votes' -

- Community Safety - Parish Council to consider which issues it can tackle directly, and which to refer to other agencies. (11)
- Children & Young People - To review current provision and cost of any possible developments, consulting with the Youth Parish Council and local schools about the needs of Children & Young People, and access issues. (10)
- Business - To bring the business concerns to the Parish Council, the Local Community Network, and the Community Hub Project Group, in order to allow each of these to consider how they may best develop support for businesses individually, or in partnership with others. (6)
- Cost of Living - To develop and expand the range of services on offer, liaising with relevant service providers. (5)
- Communication - To encourage all those disseminating local information to review and improve their provision, taking into account the range of access desired by residents. (4)
- Retired & Older People - To encourage local providers to consider issues such as publicity and accessibility (1)

N.B. It should be noted that many of the Action Areas overlap with others, and this should be taken into account by those leading on any actions.

# Community Review

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