

Barkham Village Residents Association (BVRA)

Barkham Parish Council (BPC)

Resident survey November 2022

Survey results

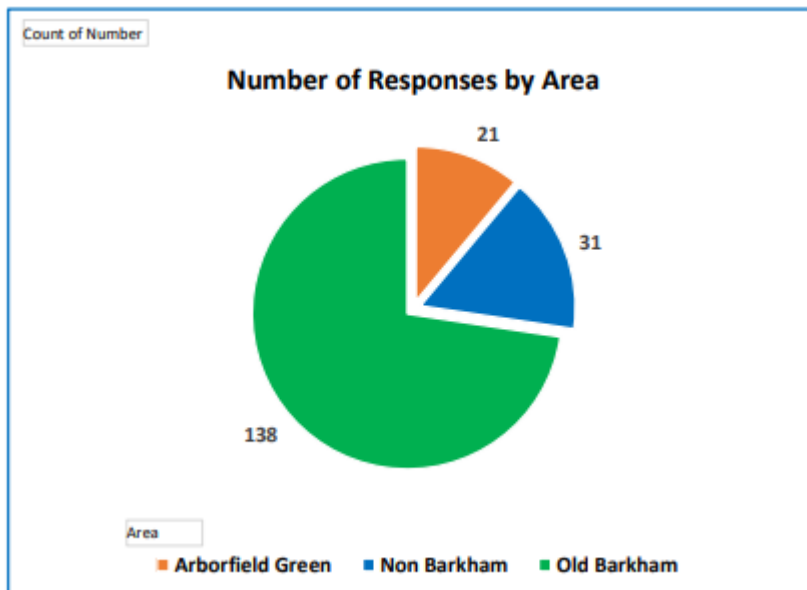
Survey distribution

A printed copy was distributed to 1,500 residents of Barkham Parish (which comprises “Old Barkham” and Arborfield Green) via the regular distribution of the BPC magazine *Village Info*. Additionally, the 1,200 residents who are subscribers to the BVRA “DevWatch” mailing list were sent a link to the survey. Distribution took place during the month of November 2022 with the survey closing date being 30th November 2022

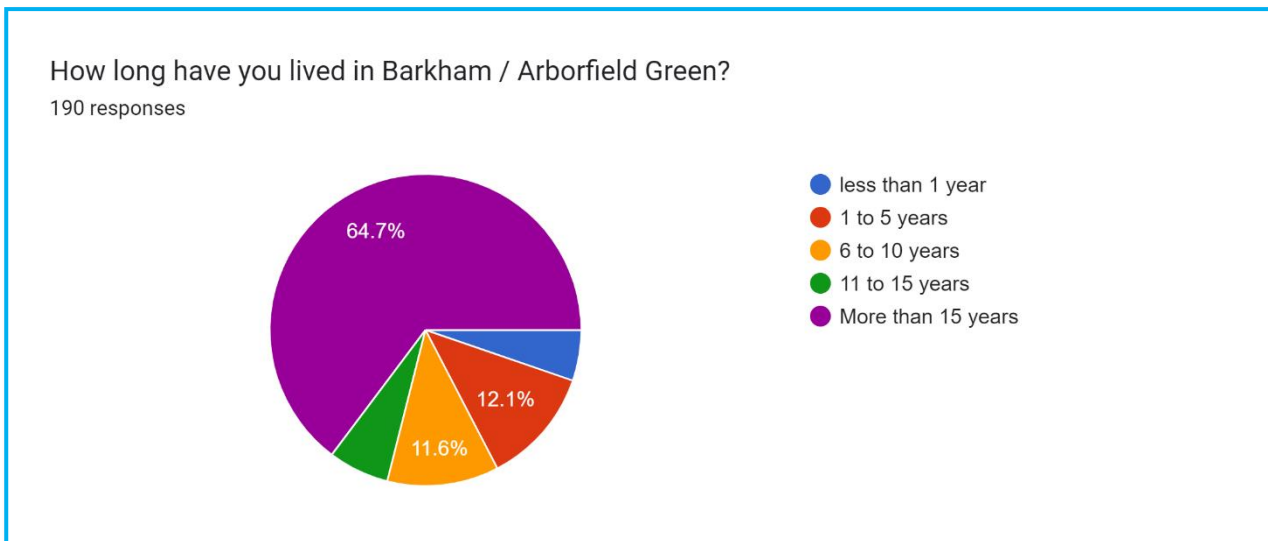
190 responses to the survey were received. Taking into account the overlap between the paper and electronic distribution, this represents approximately a 10% response rate. The response rate is inline or better than normal for surveys or this type.

Breakdown by demographics

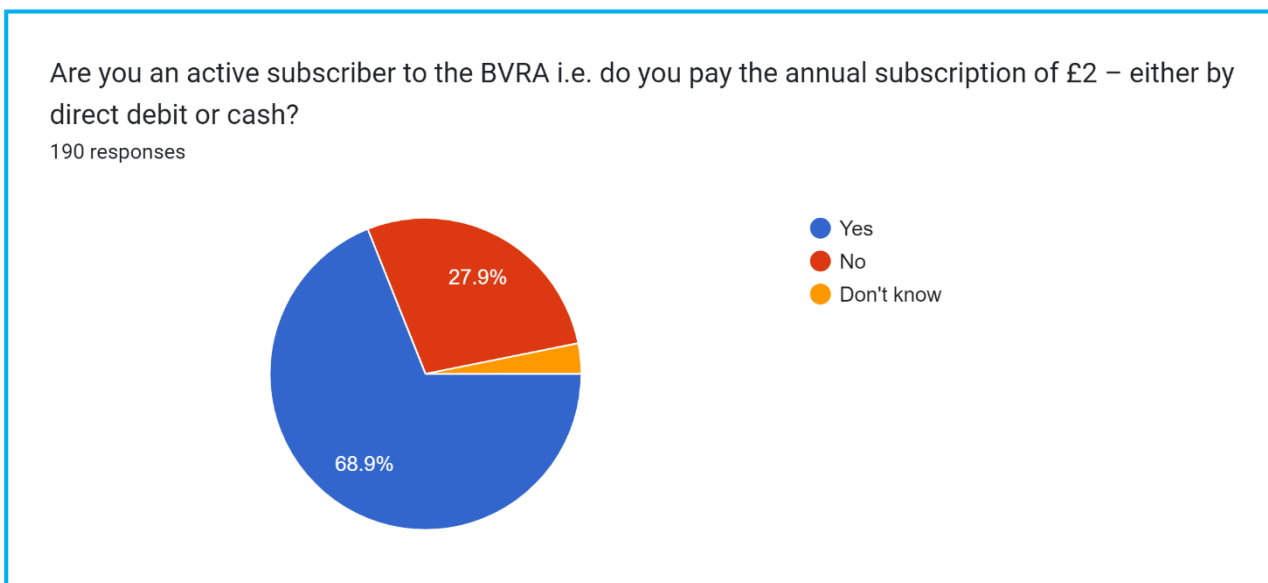
The majority of responses (73%) came from residents of Old Barkham. 11% of responses came from residents of Arborfield Green and 16% of the responses came from people resident outside Barkham Parish (mainly from DevWatch subscribers but also as a result of possible sharing of the survey link).



Many respondents have lived in Barkham/Arborfield Green for more than 15 years and fall into the 65+ age group with no children living at home.



The majority of respondents are members of the BVRA.

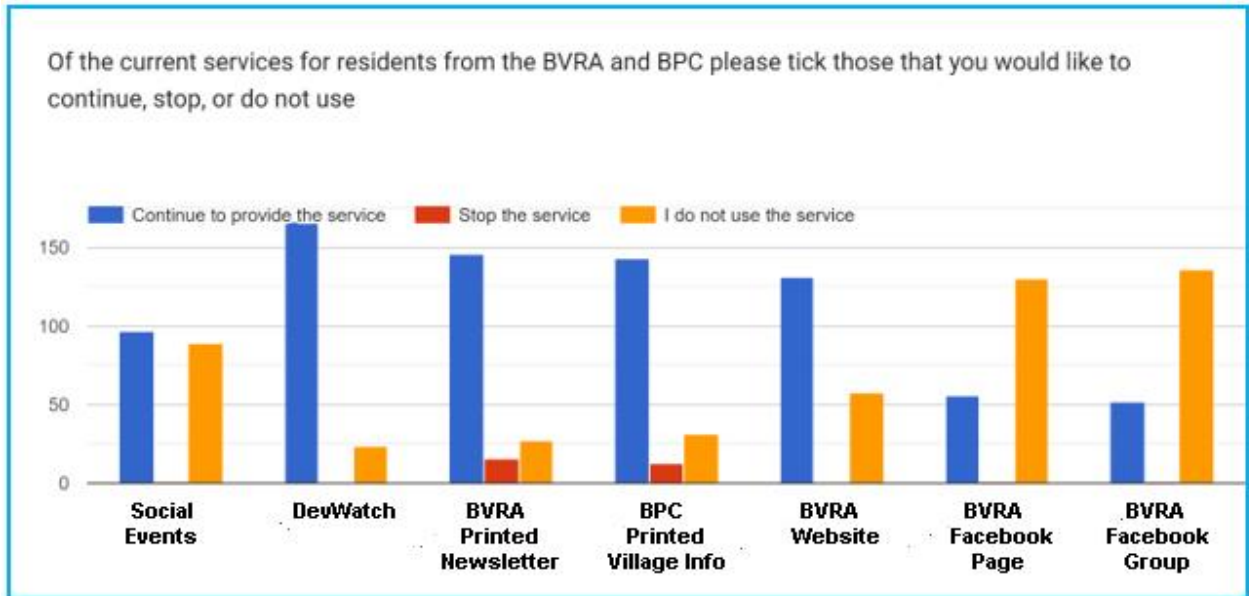


Responses by question

1. Of the current services for residents from the BVRA and BPC please tick those that you would like to continue, stop, or do not use

The most popular service used by respondents is DevWatch followed by the printed newsletters produced by both the BVRA and the BPC. Social events split roughly 50:50 with half using them and half not.

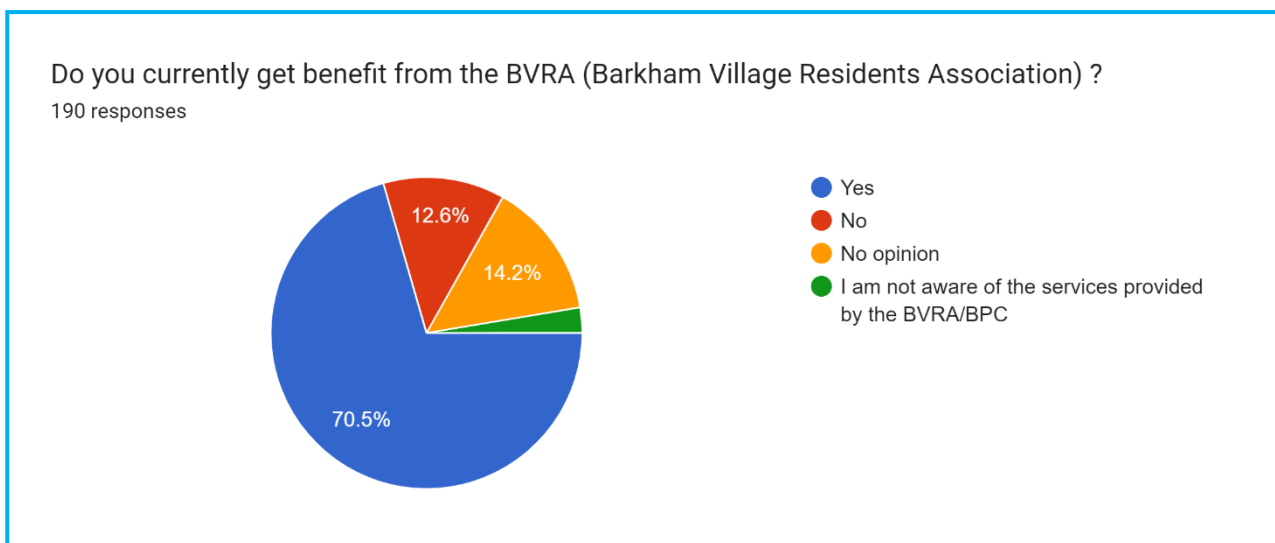
Very few respondents want any of the services to stop



2. Do you currently get benefit from the Barkham Village Residents Association?

Almost three quarters get benefit with only a small number saying no benefit.

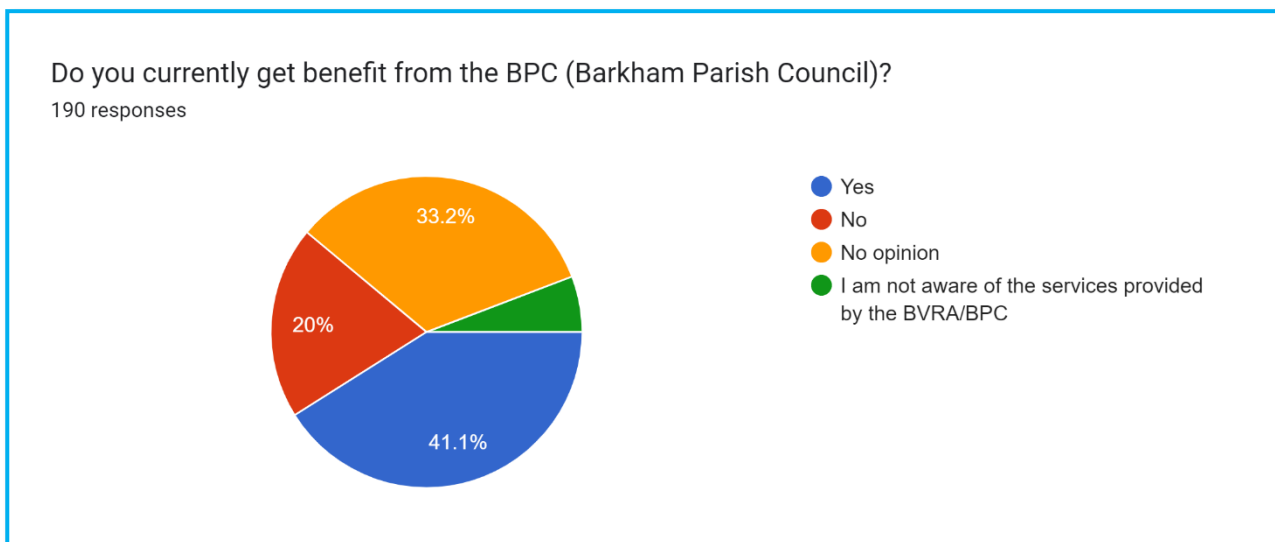
Key reasons are being kept informed/made aware of planning and development issues and other community matters including social events. Only a few are not aware of the services offered.



3. Do you currently get benefit from the Barkham Parish Council?

Fewer residents get benefit from the BPC compared to BVRA, with a higher percentage stating they do not get any benefit.

There is some small confusion between the identities and services provided by the BVRA vs BPC.



4. Regarding the respective printed newsletters currently produced by the BVRA (BVRA Newsletter) and the BPC (BPC Village Info)

4.1 BVRA newsletter

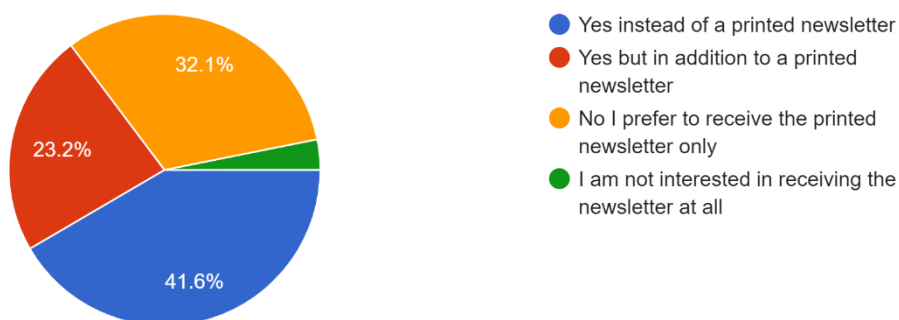
42% would prefer to get an electronic copy of the BVRA newsletter instead of the printed version with an additional 23% wanting both. This makes two thirds that would like the electronic version.

Over the coming months we will be reviewing how the newsletter is distributed in future.

Use of an electronic version will allow us to cover all Barkham, including Arborfield Green.

I would prefer to receive an electronic newsletter from BVRA

190 responses

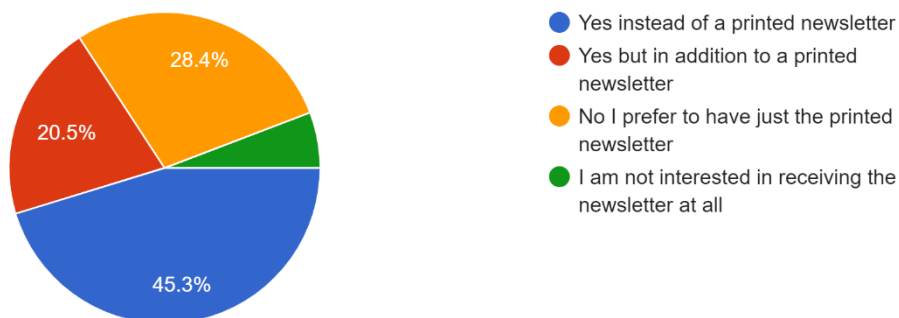


4.2 BPC Village Info

The numbers are similar for the BPC with 45% preferring an electronic copy of Village Info and an additional 20% wanting both printed and electronic versions totalling 65% in favour of an electronic Village Info.

I would prefer prefer to receive an electronic newsletter from BPC

190 responses



5. Future Focus

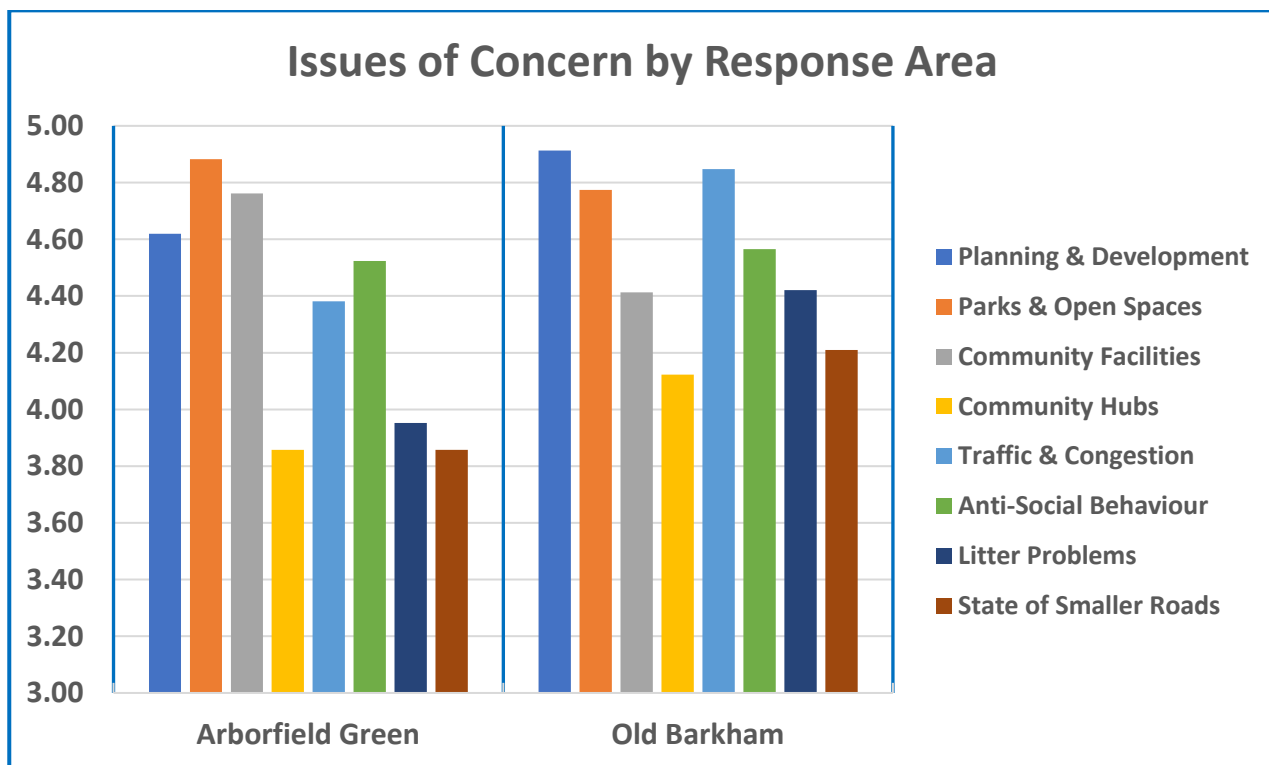
The overwhelming priority of importance for 90% of residents is planning and development, e.g., the number of houses being built in Barkham or illegal developments without planning permission. Correlating to this is having plenty of parks and open spaces and this has been clarified by some residents to mean green spaces, fields, woods etc. Traffic and congestion are a natural concern as the infrastructure is not available to accommodate the increasing number of houses.

Community facilities follow in second place and community hubs third.

Comments complain about the increasing development applications and plans, roadworks, traffic and congestion including speeding controls. The state of the roads is also mentioned.

It does not appear that the key concerns of Barkham residents are much different from those of other areas within Wokingham that are experiencing similar issues and pressures impacting quality of life.

Average response score to the question regarding issues of concern (5 – very important, 1 – not important)



6. Are there any new social activities you would like to enjoy in the future?

Not surprisingly the social events are mostly supported by long-term Old Barkham residents who are members of the BVRA.

There is support to continue staging the existing activities organised by the BVRA and, in the case of the popular quiz and skittles evenings, to increase their frequency.

Residents have suggested a large number of new social activities which the Social Committee will review to see which might be suitable for future BVRA events. The full list of suggestions is shown in Appendix 1.

7. What is the ONE thing that would make your life better in the area?

Not surprisingly decreasing/stopping housing development tops the list of nearly all residents' wish lists.

Speed limits, roadworks, bus services and road conditions are all of key concern.

8. BPC has access to funds that can be used for local development projects to improve the infrastructure and facilities in Barkham Parish. Please suggest one project that you think would help

Although not of direct action to the BVRA it is very interesting to review the residents' wish list for investment by the BPC CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) budget. There are some very good suggestions.

The full list of suggestions is shown in Appendix 2.

Appendix 1 – Suggestions for social activities

- Some new activities and some endorsing the existing activities by doing more of the same
- Cycling group for beginners or elderly slow pace over easy terrain for short distances up to 1 mile. The current cycling group does a minimum of 5 miles at a time.
- More quiz nights
- Bingo
- Any sports but realise this needs careful consideration.
- Skittles, barn dance, fun runs, fete, arts and crafts
- Winter social night
- Possibly a gardeners' club.
- More frequent quiz nights
- A summer fayre?
- Arts and crafts
- Tea dance or barn dance for beginners
- Family events like scavenger hunts or scarecrow events
- Theatre group
- Quiz 4 times a year, very popular but only run once, why not more, could raise funds for the village hall funds, maybe to buy a new heating unit to save money
- Anything aimed at younger residents
- Keep going with the ones we have! We particularly enjoy the quiz, the skittles and the Christmas carols.
- Maybe something like a scarecrow trail?
- Organised Walking trips
- Yes. Those that allow groups interact. For example - the Skittles Evening - a very enjoyable event that brings together the same group of people who sit in their little sub-groups at their 'bagged' tables.
- Local craft/social group for older residents who are lonely
- Live music events. Barn dance with BBQ outside
- Family friendly all age activities
- Nature walks, seasonal activities easter egg hunt, Halloween Christmas etc
- A summer fete/event at The Junipers.
- Family treasure hunt/ orienteering
- More for children aged 10-14, more skittles type evenings.
- local walking group, local nature group
- How about an annual party in the local park like the junipers. Everyone brings their own picnic and drinks. You could have a sound system with music.
- History walks around the area, for a couple of miles. Perhaps an arts trail.
- Coach outings
- Pottery & a bigger gym
- Tennis courts and bowling green
- More skittles
- A local monthly Book club would be great
- Wildlife or country walks. Perhaps something to merge the communities in Arborfield Green and the older parts of Barkham.
- Bird identification and bird song identity

Appendix 2 – Suggestions for BPC to use CIL money

- Wild Park for strolling and sitting in, not just grass like so many "green spaces"
- Continuous shared footpath/cycleway along Bearwood Road to link Barkham & Sindlesham
- Local transport. Its currently useless
- More park equipment for youngsters
- Foot and Cycle paths
- Community cafe
- Doctor's surgery.
- Community Orchard
- Facilities for youth and youth activities
- Better bus service
- More footpaths etc to encourage walking instead of driving
- Improve amenities for teenagers
- Maintenance of the open spaces
- Village hall as a keep warm space for arts and crafts, games, coffee mornings for the over 65s and meeting space for new mums etc, Christmas fare, summer fete etc.
- Safer footpaths/cycle way along Barkham Ride
- Footpaths along roads without pavements
- Local policing
- Understanding what BPC can do when WDC control
- the smaller local roads
- Bollards to stop 4 x4 s in The Coombes
- More facilities for teenagers
- A pavement from Highlands Avenue to the National Grid so commuters can cycle to Winnersh Train Station and pupils can cycle to The Forest School.
- Is there anything you can do to promote the signage of local footpaths? Encourage walkers, so they can enjoy the local countryside.
- Local celebrations e.g., King Charles coronation and maintenance of Elizabeth Park/. Village hall
- Community Garden
- A village centre with shops and cafés to support an expanding community
- Safe walking routes along roads where none currently exist.
- EV charging points
- Allotment facilities possibly at Rook's Nest as now no housing is occurring it might be useful to have some sort of community plan for the area in question.
- Encourage small businesses/ pop-up shops to provide services
- Probably not within your remit, but a GP surgery in Barkham would be fantastic
- A safe crossing for Bohunt schoolchildren on the end of Biggs Lane near Commonfield Lane.
- Off road cycle paths
- Improvement to the Village Hall. New kitchen, possibly adding on another hall or meeting rooms. Electric points in the car park of the village hall. At least 10 to benefit the residents of the village and outside the church. What is happening with the solar farm?

- Walk-in/mobile medical unit available for a limited period two or three times a week for the over 65s.
- Improved cycle routes on main roads if that is possible
- Anything aimed at younger residents
- Pavement up Bearwood road
- Footpath along Bearwood Road from near Coombes Lane all the way to St Catherine's Church
- Traffic calming on Bearwood Road particularly near the post office.
- A coffee shop would be nice
- Medical centre
- A frequent Shuttle bus service between garrison and Wokingham (that does not go via Finch) as a quicker alternative to Leopard 3
- Greenway between Barkham and Arborfield Green adjacent to Langley Common Road
- More cycle routes - improvement of safety for cycling along the Barkham Road
- Litter is a terrible problem, I would love to see more bins
- More swings suitable for teens at park in the Lilacs
- Provide a footpath/cycle way along all of Bearwood Road to Sindlesham
- Lots of elderly people in the area who are susceptible to modern scams based around technology. Setting up a local volunteer group, who are DBS cleared and tech savvy, to assist local residents (particularly the elderly) to avoid scams.
- Widen Commonfield Lane
- Upgrade the Village Hall
- No comment.
- Policing to enable residents to feel safe
- Take the 30-mph limit further up the Bearwood Road small hill to Highlands Av and make a footpath between Hayes Lane and Coombes Lane.
- Better access for pedestrians and vehicles to the BVH. The single-track road would benefit from improved passing places. Perhaps low-level lighting for pedestrians triggered by movement. Facelift to the Village Hall which has seen few obvious improvements for over 20 years. Improve footpaths in the Coombes especially the area around the Dips which has become quite treacherous. The steps built some 20 years ago have worn/rotted away.
- More speed limit signs
- Improved cycleways - and continuous path along Bearwood rd
- Tree planting
- Speed control cameras on Barkham rd in area of housing numbers 350 upwards
- Pub cafe or nature / wildlife initiatives
- Better footpaths and cycleways
- I think we are adequately provided for as we are, we have the necessary post office shop, village hall, and are close enough to Wokingham for anything else generally needed.
- Resurface roads in the area
- Maintenance of paths through woods
- Better roads
- Reopening school road
- Speed awareness digital units I think traffic did slow down except A1 lorries.
- Speed awareness

- Speed awareness units
- Reduce speed limits. Road humps. Chicanes.
- Improve waterlogged countryside pathways by wooden planks and footways.
- Clear vegetation, weeds and rubbish from all the small areas of land that don't appear to be claimed by house owners, WBC or anyone else, e.g., junction of Thorn Close/The Lilacs.
- A dentist and coffee shop. Better use of Barkham Village Hall & Green: a football pitch with some facilities; Warm place for people to go; outreach programme for older residents, better cycle routes to The Holt or more local buses.
- Improvement to some of the public footpaths
- Better cycle ways
- Speed cameras and traffic calming
- More defibrillators
- Some type of crossing on Barkham Rd. I worry about children trying to cross and older people. Near the junction of Doles and Sandy Lane where people try to cross for the bus would be good.
- Protection of green areas and encouragement of wildlife diversity
- Reduce the speed of cars and remedy narrow pavements along Barkham Street
- Continue the good work on countryside footpaths etc
- Probably would not be funded by Parish Council but as residents of Barkham Manor, we are affected badly by traffic noise on the section of road outside the manor wall. This is due to heavy lorries, mostly from A1 off Bearwood Rd but this section of road from Bearwood Rd to the Bull needs resurfacing too & speed restrictions need to be enforced.
- History boards
- Clubs for young adults and teenagers
- Some place for the youth to meet.
- Build a supermarket
- Placing build-outs along Barkham Road between its junctions at Doles Lane / Sandy Lane and Bearwood Road
- Making Edney's Hill safer - maybe one way or an enforced speed limit. It is extremely busy now that GPS directs cars to the road, plus the thriving school in Evendons and businesses, all of which attract increased traffic movements.
- A good farm shop
- More playground facilities
- A community cafe that can encourage young people to gain work experience
- Beautify the pond near the church
- Sufficient parking at the Arborfield Green community centre, so it can be used by those that do not live at Arborfield Green. Signage so that people know that they are in Barkham when at Arborfield Green and Rooks Nest Farm.
- Pedestrian route from Sandy Lane into Wokingham by access over field behind Leathern Bottle so that path joins footpath off Limmerhill Road leading into Woosehill and Wokingham