

# Hinton Blewett Parish Council

## Parish Council response to residents' survey

Hinton Blewett Parish Council would like to extend its thanks to the residents who completed the residents' survey at the beginning of the year. The responses of residents are highly valued; they have and will continue to influence the Parish Council's plans.

The survey was distributed in electronic format via the Parish Council email list and hard copies were distributed with the January Parish News. The responses received represented 25% of households in the village. Respondents were asked for their views on the newly refurbished Prospect Stile viewpoint, the new village website, the Playing Field, plans for re-establishment of "the Village Pound" and suggestions for the future. The Parish Council discussed the responses in detail at its meeting in March.

Feedback on the refurbishment at Prospect Stile was mostly positive. Although some questioned the cost of the work, the Parish Council is keen to reassure residents that Parish Council funds towards the project were earmarked over a number of years and the majority of the cost was raised in the form of grants and donations from sources outside the Parish Council. The benefactors are referenced on the sign itself. The Parish Council has arranged with the Duchy for clearance of the excess vegetation - which will take place after nesting season - and has taken on board the suggestion to signpost the viewpoint from the village. Signs are planned for the Parish Council noticeboard and for the fingerpost at the top of Coley Hill.

There were many useful suggestions for improvements to the website ([www.hintonblewettpc.co.uk](http://www.hintonblewettpc.co.uk)) which have been taken on board and are being implemented. Suggestions included an aerial photo of the village, a clearer footpaths map, more information about the church, addition of local businesses, a virtual noticeboard to highlight news.

The survey highlighted to the Parish Council that more needed to be done to promote the Playing Field. Again, concerns were raised about the cost but in fact the equipment was mainly funded by an Awards for All (Lottery) grant and by fantastic work by the Village Hall committee in holding fundraising events and activities. New members have been co-opted onto the Playing Field Management Committee and regular meetings are being held to discuss improvements, events, activities and equipment to promote use of the facility.

There was a positive response to the suggestion to tidy up the area on Litton Lane known as the Village Pound. The Parish Council was delighted by the many offers of voluntary assistance with this project and will arrange a working party once the project gets underway. In the meantime, regular strimming will be undertaken to keep the nettles down and then there will be an attempt to promote wildflowers.

Finally, residents were asked to tell the Parish Council what they felt were the most important issues for the future. There was a strong wish to preserve the beauty and character of the village and to be vigilant to future planning. The Parish Council continues to engage fully with the Planning process, holding prompt planning meetings to discuss all planning applications in detail and being vigilant to works and activities in the Conservation Area. Also promoting the wishes of the village as represented in the character assessment included in B&NES Placemaking Plan, and playing a large part in the successful adoption of the Chew Valley Neighbourhood Plan in April. The Parish Council is engaged in ongoing dialogue with B&NES about the conditions of the drains and roads in the village and was pleased at the recent resolution of long-standing issues with drainage on Lower Road, at the top of

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Coley Hill and at the west end of Upper Road. With regards to speeding in the village, the village is on a list for consideration of a 20mph limit, however, the Parish Council has recently been informed that B&NES voted against the introduction of more mandatory 20mph zones at the present time. The Highways Safety Officer said that the village could consider a 30mph limit but did not recommend this as he believed that this would give the wrong message and speeds could increase.

Many thanks again to those residents that completed the survey. The Parish Council will repeat this periodically to ensure that the views of the residents are highlighted.

Residents are reminded of other ways that they can engage with the work of the Parish Council:

- residents are encouraged to join the Parish email list to receive minutes of meetings and other information – please email the Clerk to join: [clerk@hintonblewettpc.co.uk](mailto:clerk@hintonblewettpc.co.uk);
- the website for information, news and events: [www.hintonblewettpc.co.uk](http://www.hintonblewettpc.co.uk);
- the Parish noticeboard which is in front of the Ring O’Bells;
- all Parish Council meetings are open to the public and there is time before the meeting opens for members of the public to address the council.