

Buckland Brewer Parish Plan 2018 to 2031



Survey Overview & Highlights

Introduction

The Buckland Brewer Parish Plan (BBPP) was created in 2008. It considered how the parish could develop over the next 10 years, documented how its existing services and facilities were used and sought views regarding aspirational requirements that would support the Buckland Brewer Community between 2008 and 2018.

Another survey has recently been distributed to refresh the BBPP, reflecting on changes since 2008 and to consider our collective requirements to **2031**.

There were 794 residents when the last census was recorded in 2011, an increase from 777 in 2001 (2.2% growth). Since then there has been some housing development around the parish, mainly infilling existing plots but significantly 44 houses were built in Hillpark in 2014 on former agricultural land. A further tranche of houses is already planned adjacent to Hillpark in 2019/20 and other similar large-scale planning requests are in progress elsewhere in the parish. In view of these major developments, as well as the ongoing possibility of ad hoc individual requests, it is estimated that population growth within the parish may increase by circa 30-40% (when compared to the 2011 census) by 2031.

Therefore it is crucial that we consider and (wherever possible) pre-empt the needs of a growing and ageing population, as well as ensuring the young are supported and newcomers are welcomed into the parish and make Buckland Brewer their lasting home.

Scope

The 2018-9 survey was similar in scope to the original 2008 one with the exception of specific questions regarding housing and development, following guidance from the Parish Council. The reason for this notable difference is a separate Settlement Plan which did not exist in 2008. (The Settlement Plan is owned and updated by the Parish Council and complies with and contributes to the Torridge and North Devon Local Plan regarding building and future services.)

In view of the standalone nature of the survey, comparisons have not been made with the 2008 BBPP. However, it is acknowledged that there will inevitably be similar concerns highlighted in both, not least due to social and economic challenges that go far beyond Buckland Brewer.

Survey Responses

The return rate of 44.2% appears to be slightly above average for this type of survey; 393 questionnaires were delivered of which 174 were returned, including 18 completed online, and the views of 335 Buckland Brewer parishioners were recorded. This document provides some context and presents the key survey highlights.

Notes re Presentation of the Results

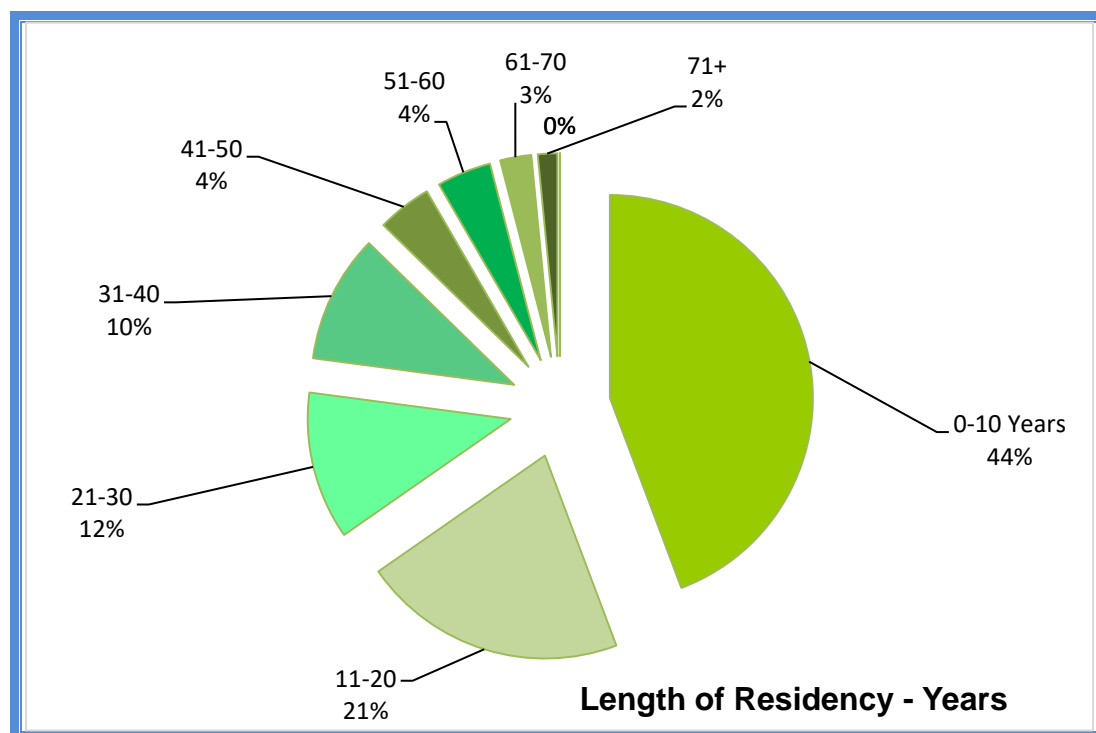
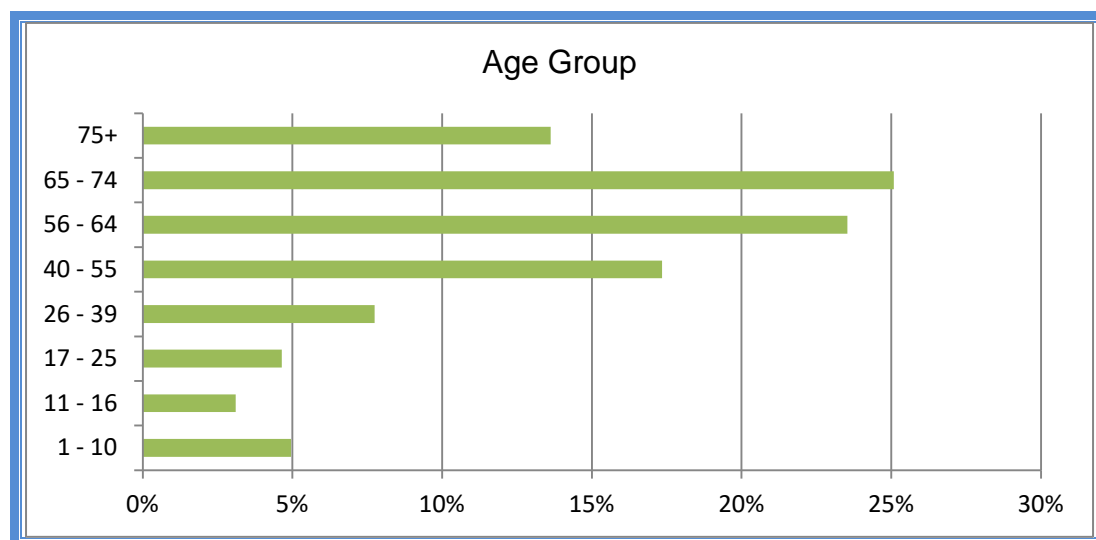
1. Not all questions were answered by every respondent. The number of missed answers fluctuated by question. (Recorded as "skipped" in the online results.)
2. For yes/no or multiple choice questions, e.g. Q3 re length of residency, the percentages quoted relate to the number of replies and exclude "skipped" entries.
3. Where respondents were asked to comment on multiple topics within one question, e.g. Q15 re services, the percentage is based in relation to the overall response rate, i.e. 335 people.

The BBPP Steering Group would like to express very grateful thanks to all residents whom attended the initial consultation events in Buckland Brewer Hall and Thornhillhead and to all of the 335 survey respondents for their time and candour when completing the final questionnaire.

Survey Responses & Highlights

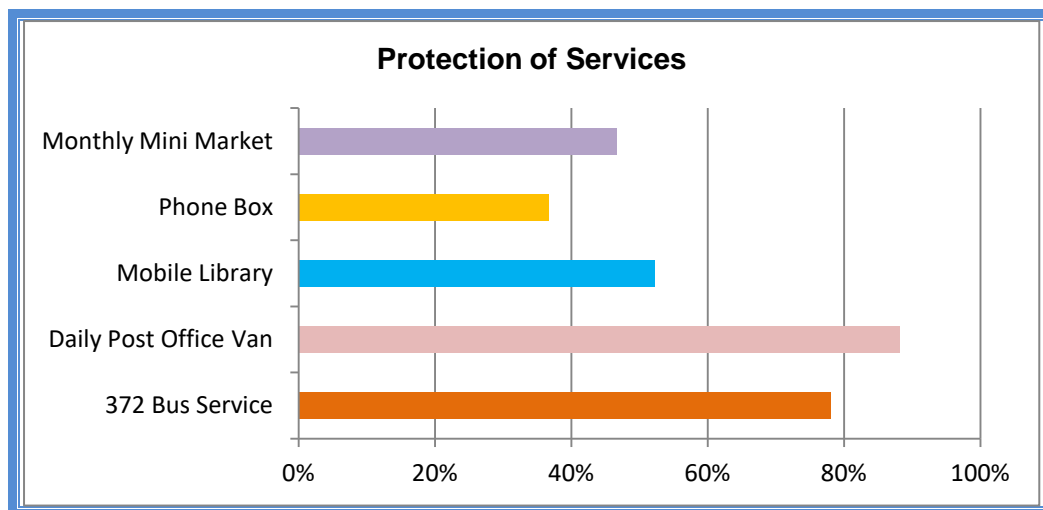
Responses & Age Demographic

- Over 79% of respondents are aged 40+; 60% are aged 56+.
- Over 44% have been resident in the parish for less than 10 years; only 35% have been resident for more than 20 years.
- 44% are employed or self-employed; over 50% are retired/not employed/not job seeking.



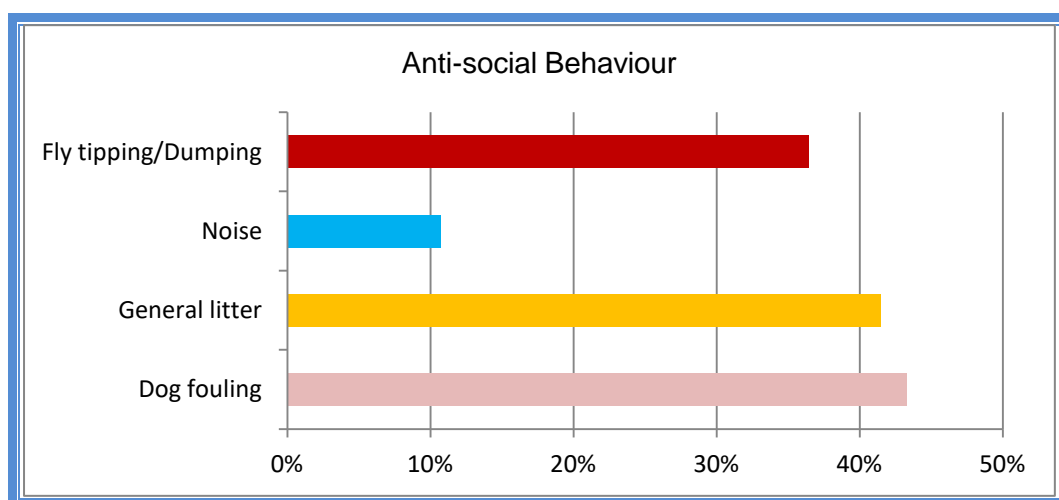
Use of Services

- Bus: Only 8% of respondents ever use the bus service with many comments citing the poor timetable as a factor; over 99% of people working outside the parish have access to alternative transport. Despite this 78% of all respondents want a bus service to be preserved.
- Community Shop: It is pleasing to note that nearly 88% use the village shop, albeit 57% only sporadically. Most suggestions regarding potential improvements related to opening hours and the range of goods available.
- There is a clear desire to retain existing services with particularly strong support for the Post Office van (88%):



Antisocial Behaviour

- Dog fouling was highlighted as a concern by 43% of respondents; general littering by 41%; fly tipping 36%; only 11% cited noise as an issue (obviously still a concern for those affected).
- 56% cited Parking as a major concern within the village. With more vehicles per household there is increasing pressure to find suitable parking and to park considerately.
- 49% cited speeding as a problem. Concerns are borne out by the initial results from the automated speed sign at one end of the village. (Additional signs are recommended - see Appendix.)
- Over 67% were in favour of a Neighbourhood Watch scheme and 52% Farm Watch.

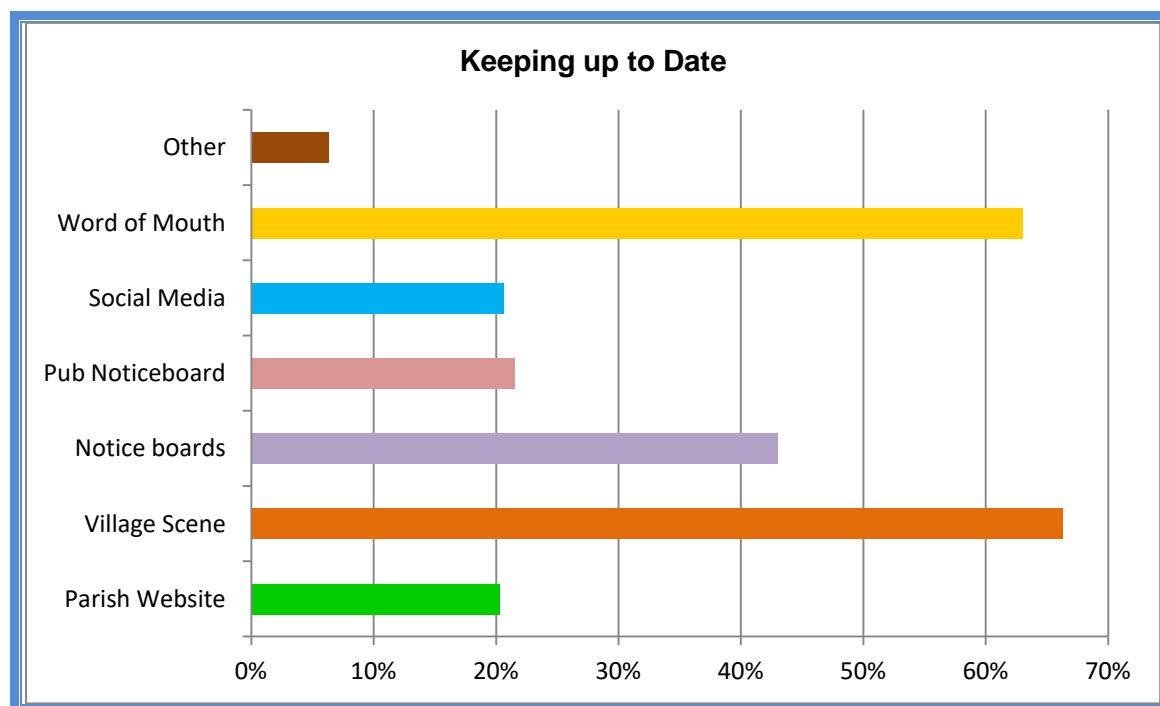


Village Infrastructure & Utilities

- Potholes are a clear bugbear for many with over 88% raising concerns regarding the state of the local roads. Drainage and overgrown verges were both highlighted by 49%.
- Only 30% reported having good broadband and/or mobile phone reception with over 44% reporting their personal life or business is adversely impacted.
- Potential energy saving initiatives were not seen as a very high priority; support for wind turbines was only given by 44%, car charging points by 50% and solar panels by 57%.
- 94% feel the council waste disposal service is good or adequate and nearly 95% rated street lighting around the parish as good or adequate.
- 78% use the Village Hall regularly or occasionally and 75% would support extra rooms being added to enhance the facilities. Suggestions were also given regarding potential use of church-owned premises.
- Only 29% belong to a club or society in the parish. A number of suggestions were received regarding other interests.

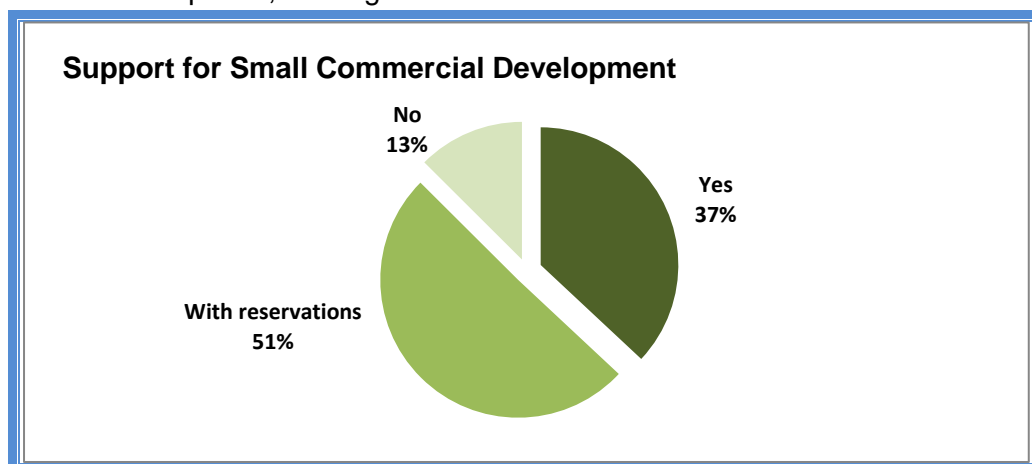
Parish Communication

- Keeping informed is quite inconsistent but people use a combination of sources to find out what is happening locally. 66% obtain information regarding parish activities from The Village Scene or 63% word of mouth, 43% look at parish notice boards, 21% the pub notice board and nearly 21% use social media. The parish website was only used occasionally by 40%, with 55% stating they never use it.



Potential Employment Opportunities

- 88% would welcome small commercial development to provide additional employment opportunities within the parish, although 51% would have some reservations:



Final Observations

A number of very valid points have been raised by the survey, together with specific additional comments provided by respondents to some key questions. These will be very helpful to the Parish Council when reviewing the findings and considering next steps. However it must be emphasised that there are also a large number of concerns which can be greatly improved or influenced by all of us as residents of Buckland Brewer. For example, speeding, inconsiderate parking, dog fouling, littering and other anti-social behaviour.

Complaints relating to local council provided services (e.g. waste collection) can be reported via the Torridge District Council website. Road maintenance and transport issues (e.g. potholes, hedges) can be reported via the Devon County Council website. In either case, reporting only takes a few minutes and the sites are very clear and easy to use. There are obvious advantages in reporting in this way as it is free, there is an immediate formal record of the complaint and you can monitor progress and follow up if it is not addressed within a reasonable timescale. Therefore all parishioners are encouraged to familiarise themselves with these very important online tools.

<https://www.torridge.gov.uk/article/14532/Report-It>

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/report-a-problem/>

Next Steps

A full summary will be presented to the Parish Council for actions to be documented and implemented accordingly. Relevant comments will also be provided to the Village Shop Committee.

The Parish Plan Steering Group would particularly like to draw the Parish Council's attention to the list in the attached Appendix, as these desires/concerns were very clearly expressed by a significant number of respondents. (It is acknowledged that there may be legal constraints associated with some recommendations.)

Finally, it is recommended that the Parish Council regularly reviews the Parish Plan findings and associated actions (at least every 5 years) and provides a brief progress report to parishioners via the parish website.

Parish Plan Steering Group:

Steve Harding, Jon Hector, David Heywood, Jo Lloyd, Jo Miles, Barry Noakes, Al Sutton, Dave Watson

APPENDIX

Subject	Observation / Suggested Action
Parking	There are many complaints about parking but all are about other people, e.g. inconsiderate parking by neighbours. No one has complained that they do not have anywhere to park.
Traffic & Speeding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The suggestion of a new road around the back of the village is likely to be a non-starter; it is not in the local plan so Devon County Council will not build it and developers cannot be required to construct it or contribute towards its cost. b. The introduction of speed humps is suggested. If DCC agree that these can be installed then they may fund it or it could be funded by the developments through S106 contributions or Community Infrastructure Levy. c. Additional electronic speed warning signs are recommended so that all of the main entry/exit points to the village centre are covered and data is captured, i.e. Hillpark, Cherry Vale Road. d. There are a number of blind junctions within the village that are potential accident hotspots and are particularly vulnerable to speeding vehicles. It is recommended that mirrors are installed to help reduce risk. Examples include Barton Road, Tuckers Park, Hillpark.
Communication	This needs a kick start. Residents could be encouraged to make much better use of the website, social media and to take the Village Scene.
Environmental Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Comments included maintenance problems, such as potholes, flooding and hedgerows. It is strongly recommended that residents are encouraged to self-report issues promptly using the online tools available. b. General improvements to the environment were suggested, e.g. more trees, litter picking, and there was some support for green energy. Notwithstanding it is recommended that a vehicle charging point is installed at Buckland Brewer Hall.
Youth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. There were requests for the Youth Club to be re-established. b. Provision for children under two years of age, although those commenting also stated they already attended groups outside the Parish. c. Several requests were received for play facilities to be installed on the community field. In view of the imminent development and the number of young families already living nearby, this is something which is highly recommended.
Other Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. There were a number of requests for other social/sporting groups. These will need to be investigated and volunteers sought if any are to come to fruition. b. The Hall, Church and two Chapels in the parish should liaise to identify room availability. Restrictions regarding use was also cited as a bugbear by some. c. There was support for Neighbourhood and Farm Watch.
Development	There were extremely strong views against further development. It is accepted that proposals already included in the local plan are unlikely to be stopped but any development which has not been "agreed" certainly does not have support from residents. (Many do not even support the local plan content.)
Loss of Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Parishioners are very keen to keep the pub, school, shop and bus service. b. There were many suggestions of improving the frequency and route of the bus service. However, past experiments to develop the bus service have not been well supported so changes are unlikely. c. It is recommended that Parishioners without access to transport are made aware of the community services provided by Devon County Council (Travel Devon).
Mobile & Broadband	Nearly half of respondents consider their mobile or broadband reception to be poor and another quarter have intermittent problems. It is recommended that steps are taken to investigate how reception can be greatly improved, given the increasing reliance on technology and the very significant impact on the Parish.
Dog Fouling, Fly Tipping & Littering	A number of comments related to inconsiderate dog owners, fly tipping on parish land and inappropriate disposal of waste. It is recommended that steps are taken to identify individuals and advice is sought to identify how offenders can be censured (e.g. name and shame) and the legal channels available for repeated breaches.