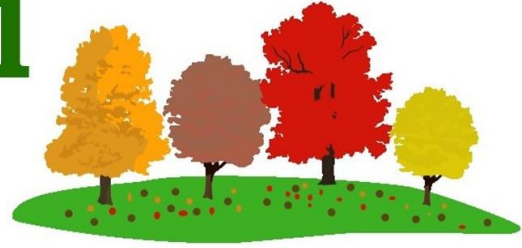


Sunningwell

Parish Council



Survey of Parishioner Feedback - Bayworth

May-June 2024

Introduction & Acknowledgement

This report summarises the feedback received from the door-to-door survey of Bayworth residents carried out in May and June 2024 on behalf of Sunningwell Parish Council (SPC).

As of 25 June, I have had conversations with people from 73 of the 84 occupied premises (87%). I have tried to summarise these accurately and without bias. This report records feedback, it does not propose actions or solutions. If any views have been omitted or misrepresented, I apologise - please let me know!

Many of the topics mentioned lie outside the direct control of the Parish Council but are nevertheless included for completeness.

Finally, thanks to those people who gave their time to share their thoughts (and sometimes their coffee). Feedback from those I have not spoken to, or further thoughts from those that I have, is welcomed and will be added to this report going forwards.

In the first instance this report is being hand-delivered to Bayworth residents. The intention is that it will subsequently be posted on SPCs website. If anyone has any objection or reservation about this, please let me know.

Cllr Mike Osborne Mike.Osborne@Sunningwell-PC.gov.uk

Aims of Survey

- To gather feedback on what Bayworth parishioners feel is important.
- To gather views on improving the appearance and amenity of the Triangle.
- To demonstrate and improve communication between Bayworth parishioners and SPC.
- Ultimately, to improve the community spirit within Bayworth by improving communication between parishioners.

Methodology

The preferred method for gathering feedback was personal conversation with residents by calling door-to-door. Conversations were typically with one or two people per address.

If residents were absent on more than one visit the flyer reproduced in Annexe 1 was posted through their door. This was followed by one or more subsequent personal visits.

Where feedback from the flyer was received by e-mail or text this was followed-up with an acknowledgement and a subsequent face-to-face conversation.

In conversation residents were first given the opportunity to raise any topic. After that the Bayworth Triangle flyer in Annexe 1 was used. This was the only topic on which any “prompt” was given.

Topics on which many people commented are included within the body of this report. Comments made less frequently are included in Annexe 2 and 3.

Areas of Common Agreement - Positives

There were several areas in which all the feedback received was positive and essentially in alignment, with no one offering a differing view. These included:

- People commenting how lucky they were to be living in Bayworth, citing the location and the proximity to easily-accessible countryside.
- Positive comments were also received about the community spirit and the peace and quiet of the location (but see the comments in the next section).
- Several people spoke fondly of events held in the past on Bayworth Triangle.
- This included positive comments about the ceremony for unveiling the Lest-we-Forget bench held on the Triangle in 2023.
- Those with a long history in Bayworth commented that the Triangle has never looked as good as it does today.
- Several people made unsolicited positive comments about the Santa’s Sleigh coming round each year.
- The seasonal illuminated Christmas Tree was welcomed by all expressing a view.
- The new bus service was welcomed by all who commented.

Areas of Common Agreement - Negatives

There were several areas in which all the feedback received was negative and essentially in alignment, with no one offering a differing view. These included:

Potholes

Including two recent examples of vehicles where even though several hundreds of pounds worth of damage was done to vehicles, the pot-holes were subsequently deemed to be below the threshold where compensation could be claimed.

Water Damage & Flooding

Although there were no reports of properties being actually flooded, three areas of concern were raised. One was the near-flooding of a property on Brumcombe Lane. Another was where persistent standing water adjacent to the gas supply has, for several years, resulted in water in the gas and internal corrosion of gas meters and gas-fired appliances on Quarry Road. And one was where water draining from Green Lane led to damp and rotting flooring in adjacent properties.

The flooding of the road between Bayworth and Sunningwell near the quarry was mentioned by many.

Access to Chapel

Concern over current and future access to Bayworth Chapel was raised by many.

Speeding

Speeding traffic in and entering the village was cited by many, with the main concerns being vehicles coming down Bayworth Lane from Boars Hill or into the village along Green Lane. Some people suggested that the speed limit outside of the village should be reduced from the default 60mph.

Traffic Volume – Lodge Hill

Concern over potential increased traffic levels resulting from the new Lodge Hill interchange was raised by many. There is also apprehension over what traffic-calming measures may be imposed.

Antisocial Behaviour

A number of instances of alleged antisocial behaviour were mentioned. While the Council appreciates being aware of such issues, they are outside the remit of the Council and the advice will continue to be to report any such occurrences to the police and/or housing association as appropriate.

Areas of Differing Views

There were some areas where feedback was commonly provided, but where views differed. These included:

Community Events or Peace & Quiet?

Although there is widespread appreciation of the benefits of living in a small village, some see these as primarily being part of a close community, and some see it as peace & quiet.

There have been instances where the peace and quiet enjoyed by some has been disturbed by community events organised by others. Conversely, there has been frustration among those organising community events that some people chose not to participate.

There is a view that the balance has changed over the years, with an increase in the fraction preferring peace & quiet. This, together with the reduced number of children and the advancing age of the organisers, has been cited as the reason for the reduction in the frequency of community events on the Triangle.

Neatly-trimmed or Wild?

There is a difference of opinion between those who prefer vegetation to be neatly-trimmed, and those who prefer a less cultivated appearance partly for the benefit of wildlife.

This difference appears in multiple forms – some people wanting hedges and verges to be trimmed more frequently for aesthetic and/or for visibility/safety reasons, with others wanting them left to grow naturally. The same applies to gardens, with some people being concerned that the more wild gardens may encourage rats. (There are some cases where gardens are overgrown due to neglect rather than a conscious decision).

Views on Bayworth Triangle

The doorstep discussions were conducted in such a way that the topic of the Triangle arose only when other topics had been exhausted. This perhaps resulted in a larger proportion of people expressing no strong view than might otherwise have been the case.

Grouping of Responses and Strength of Feeling

As the feedback was verbal and varied, I have had to make a judgement on how to group responses.

Many people said that they did not have a strong view or preference regarding suggestions for “improving” the Triangle. These are grouped as “No View” in the graphic below.

Others were happy to make a choice between the options presented on the flyer, but clearly did not have strong views. There was a mix of people preferring low fences, low hedges and planters, with almost none choosing a high-hedge or fence. Most people queried on-going maintenance. In the graphic below all these responses are grouped together in the “Do Something” group.

The people holding the strongest views were those whose first reaction was to want to leave the Triangle “As-is”. In discussion, some of these people were not resolutely against modest changes such as low fences, hedges or planters, or restrictions to prevent vehicles parking beyond the ends of the paved area, but I have nevertheless left these people in the “Leave As-is” category. Some people in this category preferred that the Triangle be left to become a more wild space and were against the addition of further man-made structures.

It became clear that there was a systematic geographical difference in opinions. Accordingly, I have split the responses from those living near the Triangle (within the red circle – 49 occupied residences) from those living further away outside the red circle (35 occupied residences).

More than 75% of those within the red circle expressed a definite view, with >80% of those preferring “Leave As-Is”. Outside the circle less than 50% expressed a definite view, with the vast majority of those choosing “Do Something”.

Observations

This survey of parishioner views was intended as the start of an ongoing discussion, not something that provides a fixed conclusion.

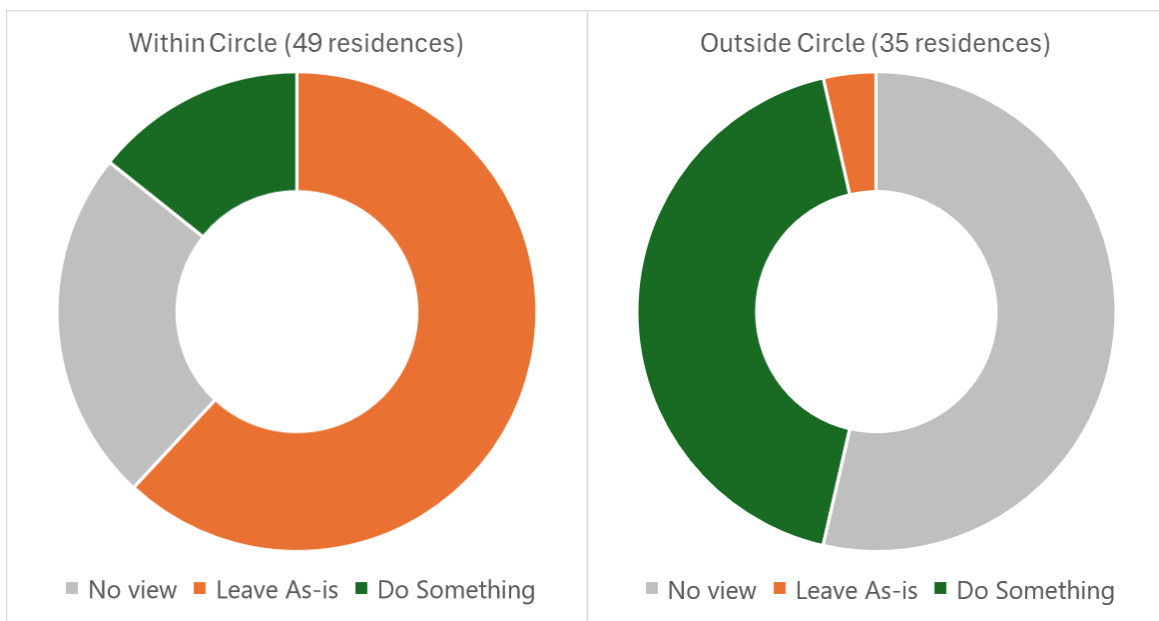
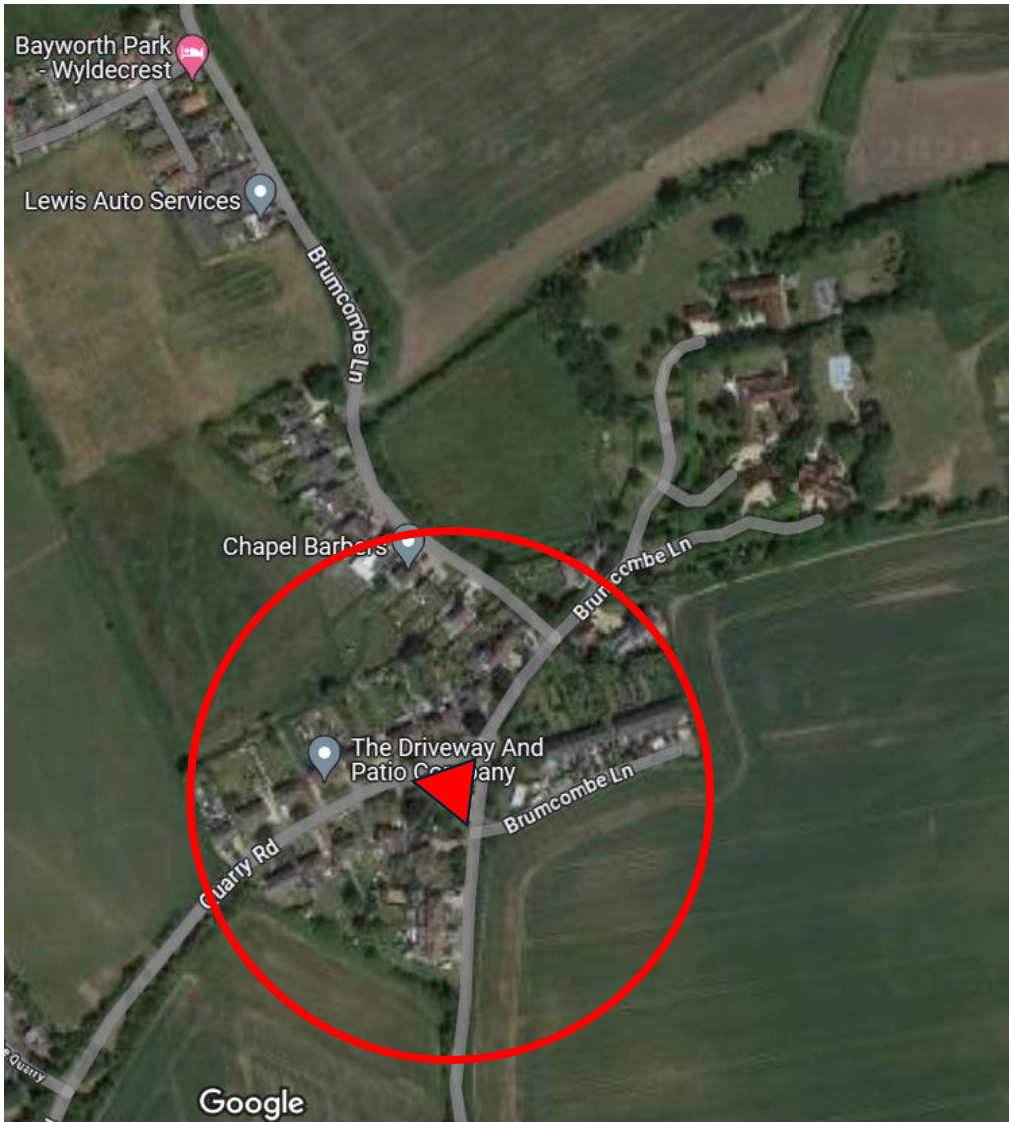
People are pleased and proud that appearance of The Triangle is better than it has ever been and are cautious about any plans to change it.

There is a distinct difference of view between those close to the Triangle and those further away.

There is a willingness to arrange future “Triangle Events”, being respectful of the fact that some residents will not wish to be involved and may object to their peace and quiet being disturbed.

It may be that a consensus will emerge for some (modest) changes such as to prevent parking on the grass.

Summary of Views on Triangle








Annexe 1– Copy of Flyer

Sunningwell Parish Council

Sunningwell Parish Council is seeking feedback on what is important to the residents of Bayworth by calling door-to-door.

One topic is the appearance and amenity of the Triangle. Views are sought on installing a visual break between the parking and sitting areas – some examples are illustrated below.

 <p>1</p>	 <p>2</p>	
 <p>3</p>	 <p>4</p>	
 <p>5</p>	<table border="1"><tr><td>Thoughts or preferences? Not bothered? Comments on provision of benches? Other things which are higher priority?</td></tr></table>	Thoughts or preferences? Not bothered? Comments on provision of benches? Other things which are higher priority?
Thoughts or preferences? Not bothered? Comments on provision of benches? Other things which are higher priority?		

If you have received this note through your door that is because there was no answer when I called. I will call back later to hear your thoughts, or feel free to provide feedback through the contact details below.

There will be other opportunities for feedback before any decisions or actions are taken.

Cllr Mike Osborne

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Keep updated by subscribing to the Sunningwell Parish Council newsletter at

<https://sunningwell-pc.gov.uk/email-request-form/>

Annexe 2 - Views Expressed by Multiple People

A more frequent bus service was requested by several with both earlier and later departures to and from Oxford in particular.

Many people feel that they have not been consulted about the recent additions to the Triangle.

Of those expressing a view the majority are in favour of something to restrict parking on grass at the end(s) of the parking area so long as sight-lines are not compromised. There is a minority view against this from those not wanting any further structures on Triangle.

Several people commented that while they supported the concept of the Lest-we-Forget bench, what had been installed was not to their taste. A small number had sufficiently strong negative views to request the installed bench be removed. (As mentioned, the ceremony for unveiling was praised by all who made a comment).

Several people expressed a desire to avoid streetlights.

The state of footpaths was common area of complaint, with aspects of 4 of 5 local paths criticised.

The fact that flats in the Sovereign-owned maisonettes remain empty and in disrepair was commented on by several.

Annexe 3 - Views Expressed by Small Numbers of People

A school run bus serving secondary schools, primarily in Abingdon, was requested. It is thought that demographics will mean that the demand for this within Bayworth will increase in coming years.

Visits by mobile Fish & Chip van would be welcome.

More visits by Ice Cream van would be welcome.

Streetlighting would be welcome.

Install "bays" on the Triangle parking area.

Parking of vehicles on Quarry Road makes driving hazardous and forces vehicles into potholes.

Parking of vehicles on Quarry Road provides an effective natural traffic-calming.

Increased frequency of road-sweeping requested.

Would be good to have local shop for eggs etc (maybe at Flowing Well?)

Request for dog waste bin between Flowing Well and Penn Lane.

Exit from top of Bayworth Lane onto Foxcombe road is hazardous due to limited visibility. Property owner to cut back hedge further, and/or install mirror on opposite side of road.

Desire for Bus Stop signs.

The deer fences installed at the edges of fields have adversely affected the walking experience.

Access to North-bound bus stop near Triangle to not be compromised by parked vehicles.

Derelict unit on Residential Park is unsightly and potential home to vermin.

Although the seasonal illuminated Christmas Tree was welcomed by all expressing a view, the planted evergreen is not so well received, with some advocating for its removal on the grounds that it is out of place on the Triangle.

Fencing to create alcove around Lest-we-Forget bench suggested.

More inclusive wording on Lest-we-Forget bench plaque.