

Alvechurch Neighbourhood Parish Plan open day

The Jubilee Celebrations June 4th 2012

This document shows evidence gathered at the Alvechurch Parish Neighbourhood Plan stall at the open session event that took place in The Meadows field Alvechurch, on June 4th to coincide with Her Majesty the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations.

The event attracted large numbers of visitors with an estimated attendance of between 2-3000 people and the Neighbourhood Plan stall was one of the first to be encountered near the entrance to the field, and was one of 32 stalls plus accompanying catering stalls and live entertainment venues.

Our three display sheets were A3 large maps showing the Parish area and boundary and were headed; "What you like", "What you don't like" and "What you would like to improve about the parish". Visitors were invited to post comments on the appropriate board if they wished.

Our stall was manned throughout the event from 11a.m to 5.30 p.m by members of the Steering group each taking 1 hour slots and engaging with members of the community and visitors.

A total of 123 posties were stuck to the display sheets resulting in 141 comments altogether. It cannot be assumed that 123 people posted as they may well have posted on more than one display board and may well have made more than one comment per post. There were also many useful verbal opinions and comments received and noted by our helpers and seen as useful clues for the formatting of future open sessions to be held around the parish.

All of the comments are listed in full at the back of this document as Appendix A and are broken up into categories as shown in the charts on pages 3, 4 and 5, of this document.

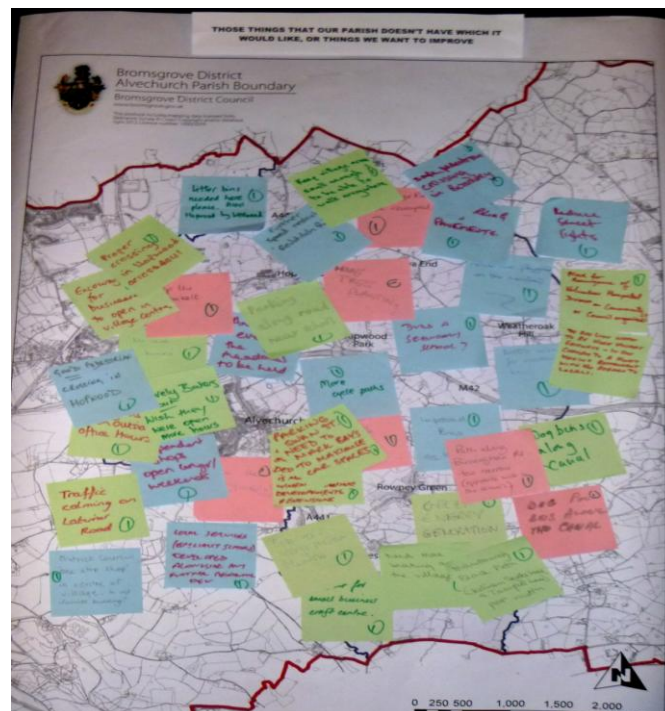
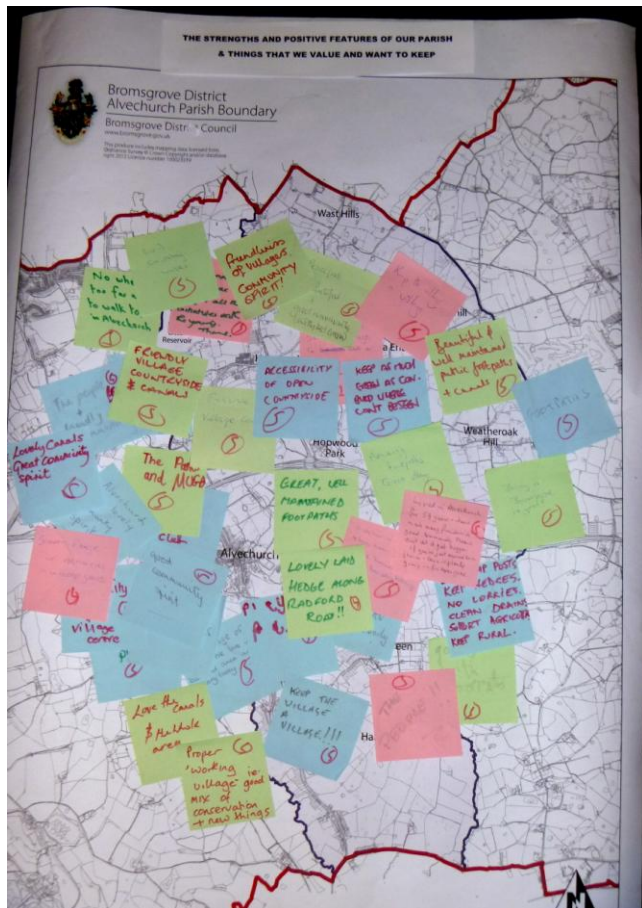


Setting up the stall early morning.

The stall at about 1pm.



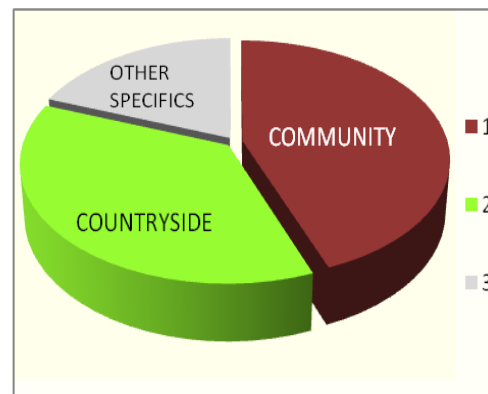
These are 3 photos of the maps used to let people make their comments; the results can be seen on pages, 3, 4 and 5. All the posts and comments can be seen in **Appendix A**.



WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT ALVECHURCH PARISH

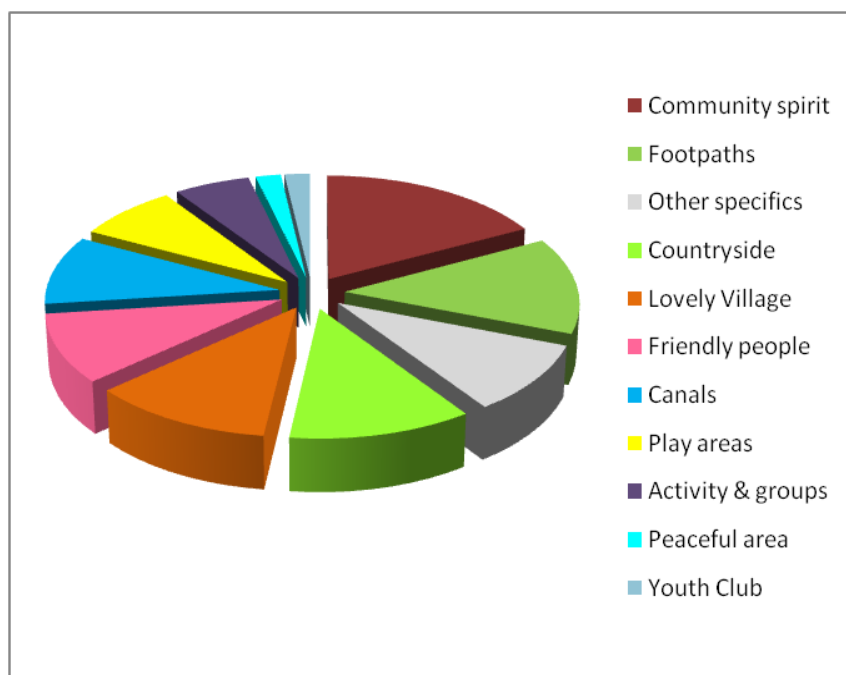
42 posts resulted in 52 comments, categorised into 3 main groups

	Comments	% of total
1.Community	23	44.231%
2.Countryside	19	36.538%
3.Other specifics	10	19.231%
TOTAL	52	



Results of a further breakdown of the 3 group headings.

Community spirit	9	17.308%
Footpaths	7	13.462%
Other specifics	5	9.615%
Countryside	6	11.538%
Lovely Village	6	11.538%
Friendly people	5	9.615%
Canals	5	9.615%
Play areas	4	7.692%
Activity & groups	3	5.769%
Peaceful area	1	1.923%
Youth Club	1	1.923%
TOTAL	52	



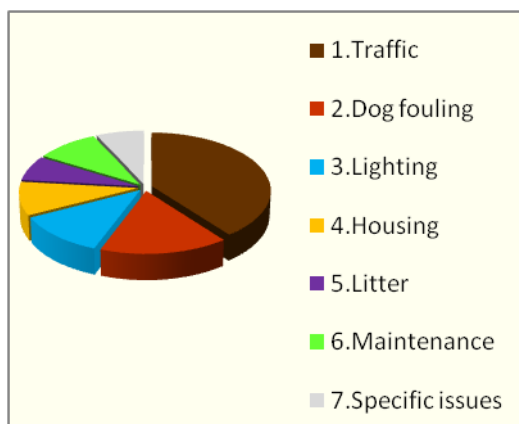
42 POSTS were stuck on this map, some posts having more than one comment, 52 comments in all. They fell largely into 3 groups; 23 about community subjects, that included community spirit, a good mix of old and new, friendliness and a lovely place in which to live. There were 19 comments relating to countryside subjects including; canals, footpaths and the beautiful countryside and environment itself. Finally there were 10 other more specific aspects including play areas, shops, pubs, the social club and The Lounge youth club.

WHAT DON'T YOU LIKE ABOUT THE PARISH

There were 40 posts on this board containing 43 comments

1.Traffic	17	39.535%
2.Dog fouling	7	16.279%
3.Lighting	5	11.628%
4.Housing	4	9.302%
5.Litter	3	6.977%
6.Maintenance	4	9.302%
7.Specific issues	3	6.977%

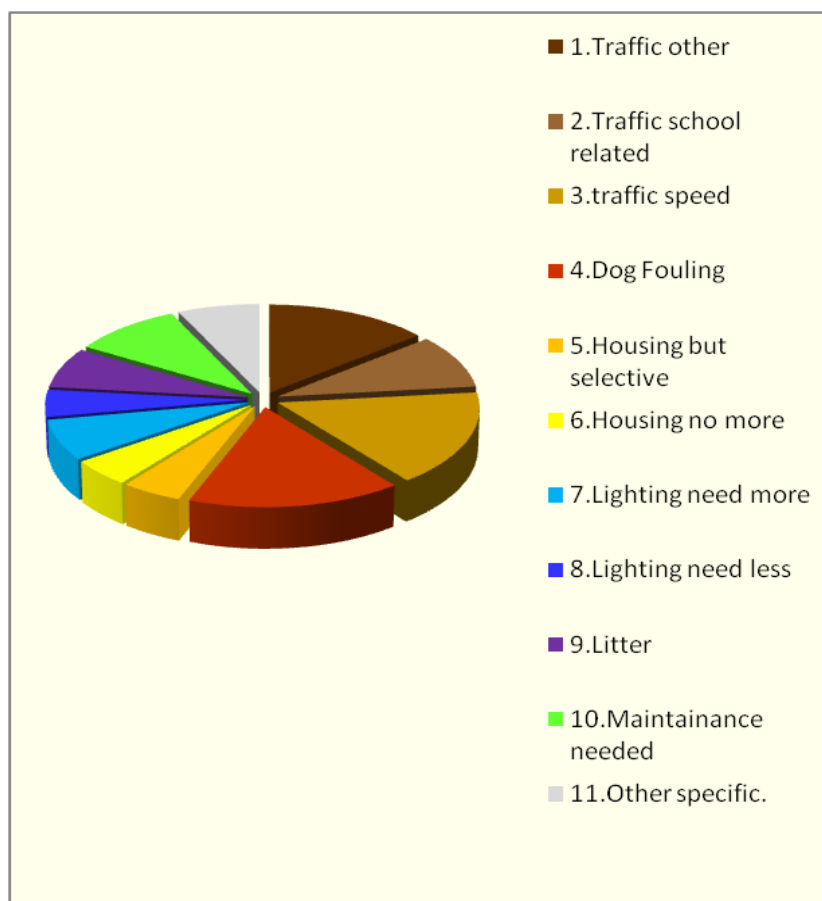
Total 43



Results of a further breakdown of the main group headings.

1.Traffic other	6	13.953%
2.Traffic school related	4	9.302%
3.traffic speed	7	16.279%
4.Dog Fouling	7	16.279%
5.Housing but selective	2	4.651%
6.Housing no more	2	4.651%
7.Lighting need more	3	6.977%
8.Lighting need less	2	4.651%
9.Litter	3	6.977%
10.Maintainance needed	4	9.302%
11.Other specific.	3	6.977%

43

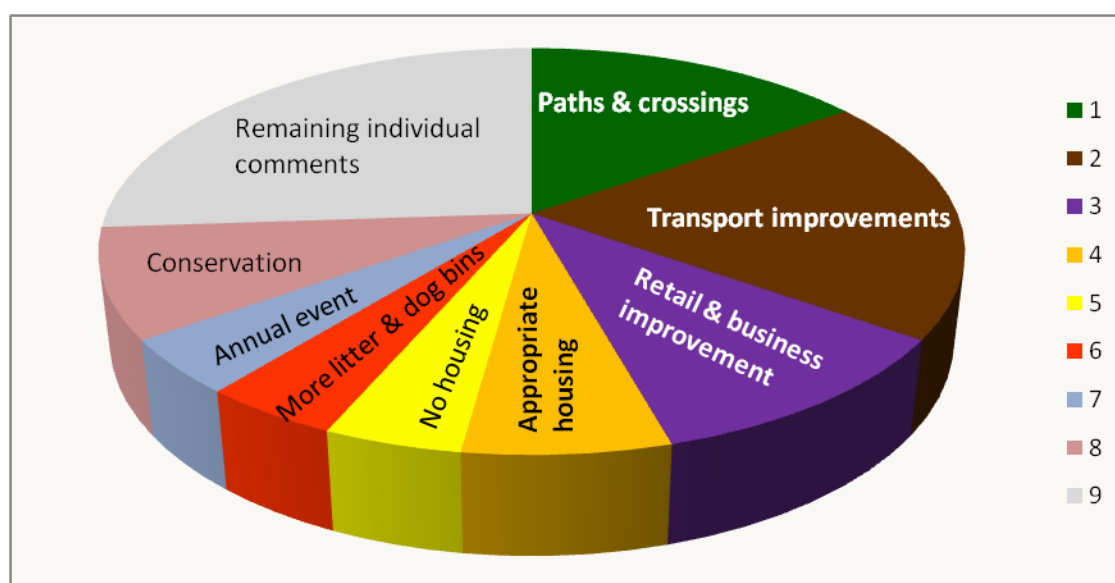


There were 40 posts resulting in 43 comments. By far the biggest group, 17, were about traffic and transport issues, including buses, parking, crossings and speeding and school related . The others were more varied. There were 7 about dog fouling, including on the canal paths. Street lighting was mentioned by 5, 2 wanting less and 3 more. 4 people mentioned housing, 2 not wanting any more and 2 identifying types of housing they did or didn't want. Litter was a problem identified by 3 people, and 4 raised specific maintenance/tidiness issues. There were 3 specific individual issues, about Hopwood Village hall and shop signs and noise from the social club.

What would you like to improve about our Parish

There were 41 posts on this board containing 46 comments

1. Paths & Crossings	7	15.217%
2. Other transport improvements	9	19.565%
3. Improve retail & business opportunities	5	10.870%
4. Appropriate Housing	3	6.522%
5. No further housing	2	4.348%
6. Litter and Dog Bins needed	2	4.348%
7. Hold annual Parish event	2	4.348%
8. Conservation	4	8.696%
8. Remaining Individual comments	12	26.087%
Total	46	



There were 41 posts with 46 comments. The answers in this section were much more diverse. There were 7 pedestrian issues, about footpaths and crossings. 9 mentioned other traffic or transport improvements. 5 comments mentioned shops and other businesses as an area for improvement, especially their restricted opening hours. 4 mentioned housing, 2 relating to the appropriateness of possible specific development and 2 against any further housing. 3 wanted improvements in litter/dog mess collection. 2 wanted an annual village festival. One post included 6 comments, 4 on conservation, one included in transport and another in the other comments section, about drains. The remaining 12 were rather more individual, ranging from building a secondary school to canal moorings and providing more seating and immediate issues like the threat to the social club.

Comments from members of the community at the Alvechurch Jubilee Picnic, 4/6/ 2012

N.B. Each bullet point represents one post-it. Where the comments have been split up into more than one for the analysis, this is indicated in brackets

1. What do you like about Alvechurch Parish and want to keep?

1.1. A big group of responses referred to community spirit and activities:

- Great range of activities and interest groups (2)
- Friendly village
- Great community spirit
- Good community spirit
- Lived in Alvechurch for 59 years – have made many friends in a good community. Please don't let it get bigger. If you've just moved here – join in – there is plenty going on for everyone.(2)
- Proper working village – i.e. good mix of conservation and new things
- The people!
- Friendliness of villagers. Community spirit (2)
- The people and friendly community
- Keep the village a village
- Keep the village a village
- Alvechurch is home and has been for 70 years. Thank heaven for such a lovely village
- Alvechurch has lovely community spirit
- Peaceful and beautiful and good community (Withybed Green) (2)
- Lovely community spirit and village centre (2)
- Great community spirit. Love the Lounge and all the initiatives with the young – thanks (– last one counted in section 1.3) *

16 (23) (includes 2 comments to be added from section 1.2 below) *

1.2. An equally large group spoke of the countryside and walks:

- I love the canal
- Lovely canal.
- Lovely laid hedge along Radford Road
- Beautiful and well-maintained public footpaths and canals (2)
- Love the canals and the whole area (2)
- Good job with footpaths
- Good country walks
- Nowhere is too far away to walk to in Alvechurch
- Footpaths
- Amazing footpaths. Great village (– second to be counted in 1.1) *
- Great, well-maintained footpaths
- Accessibility to open countryside
- Countryside and canals (2)
- Great village to live in – open countryside (– first to be counted in 1.1.) *
- We live in a beautiful area and are very lucky
- Super lengths-man

16 (19)

1.3. Others mentioned specific aspects:

- Play in the park
- Playgrounds
- The parks and MUGA (2)

- Great pubs!
- Preserve the village centre
- Good range of shops
- Save our social club!
- Being in Bromsgrove is good!

NB. (Comment on Lounge from 1.1 to be added) *

..
8 (10)

2. What don't you like about Alvechurch Parish?

2.1. Traffic and transport issues were a priority

- All children go to High School in Bromsgrove – can we have buses to go there!
- Proper zebra crossing at the school
- Better train links needed
- Restrict speed in Grange Lane
- Traffic pinch points
- Entry into Meadow Lane sometimes blocked by parked cars. Emergency access could be improved by some restriction
- Parking chaos at school pick-up
- Traffic speeding down Radford Road – dangerous pulling out of Old Rectory Road. Need lower speed limit.
- Motorway noise
- Tanyard Lane left turn at roundabout – people **always** mount the kerb onto Birmingham Road. Can it be made safer?
- Potholes on Birmingham Road service road
- Cut through a crossing from new estate (old school site) to new school
- Traffic calming on Radford Road by speed limit signs (90% of vehicles exceed limit)
- Parking outside Birmingham Road school should be curtailed
- Speeding on Radford Road
- Speeding cars through village
- Traffic calming needed coming down Bear Hill

17

2.2. We have a problem with dog owners

- Dog poo along path between Latimer Road and Robins Hill Drive
- Dog fouling
- People put dog mess in bags but then leave plastic bags around
- Need a few more dog bins
- Dog mess along canal
- Dog mess on canal paths
- Clean up after your dog please

7

2.3. There were mixed feelings about street lighting

- Too much orange light at 2 am on Radford Road
- No more street lighting - we have enough
- Poor street lighting – no lights at all in Bear Hill Drive footpath
- Some corners need better street lighting
- Street Lighting on corner of Snake Lane and Withybed Lane

5

2.4. There are a few litter issues

- Litter in Redditch Road and other areas
- Litter, glasses broken or not, NOISE from social club (2, second to be included in 2.7) *
- Rubbish along link road near steps to services

3

2.5. We have mixed feelings about housing

- No more large housing estates on outskirts
- Leave the village as a village and don't build any more houses
- We have enough houses now
- More housing schemes like Glebe Road

4

2.6. Some maintenance was called for

- Hedges along path from Hopwood to Alvechurch need trimming
- Too many weeds in front gardens
- Unusable George Road play area
- Meadows always waterlogged

4

2.7. And a couple of specific issues

- More use of the Village Hall by the community of Hopwood
- More appropriate shop signs – often too modern and poor colours

NB. (Comment on Noise issue from 2.4 to be added in) *

3

3. What improvements would you make to Alvechurch Parish?

3.1. The answers in this section are much more diverse. There were some pedestrian issues

- Maintaining Black Path (between Snake Lane and Tanyard Lane) – poor width
- Path along Birmingham Road, opposite side to school – too narrow
- Safe pedestrian crossing needed in Bordesley
- Proper crossing in Hopwood across A441
- **Good** pedestrian crossing in Hopwood
- No parking on pavements
- Keep village area small enough to walk everywhere

7

3.2. There were a few suggestions about roads and traffic

- Further speed restrictions on Redditch Road
- Better road access to Crown Meadow
- Parking on Swan Street – need to mark bays to maximise car spaces
- Stop parking along road near school
- Traffic calming on Latimer Road
- Reduce street lights
- More cycle paths
- Improved bus services eg to local hospitals

NB (Comment about Lorries to be included from 3.4) *

8(9)

3.3. Shops and other businesses were seen as an area for improvement

- Encouragement for businesses to open in village centre
- Support for small business craft centre
- Lovely baker but wish they were open more hours
- Greengrocers should be open outside office hours
- Independent shops should open longer and weekends

5

3.4. One person wanted several conservation measures

- Keep rural. No lamp posts. Keep hedges. Support agriculture. No lorries (included in 3.2) * Clean drains.(included in 3.7) *

1(4)

3.5. The event itself led to some comments

- Annual event at the Meadows please
- Annual event to be held at the Meadows

2

3.6. A few mentioned housing

- No more houses
- BDC should ensure the design criteria are maintained when allowing developments and extensions
- Local services should be developed alongside any further residential development
- Keep the green belt

4

3.7. The rest were rather more individual

- Build a secondary school
- More tree planting
- Green energy generation
- Better moorings for visiting boats
- Adventure playground on the Meadows
- George Road park revamped
- Litter bins needed on A441 Hopwood by the Westmead
- Dog poo bins along the canal
- Dog bins along the canal
- Need for resurgence of volunteer hospital drivers - community or council organised?
- District Council one-stop shop in centre of village – in old chemist's building?
- Need more seating around the village
- The Red Lion needs to be more village-friendly – it has changed to a money-making restaurant with no regard to locals
- Save the social club!

NB. (Comment on clean drains to be included from 3.4) *

14(15)

Total posts for each board, 40, 43, and 41. Total comments from each board, 52, 43 and 46

There was also a quiz for juniors and adults available about the Alvechurch Parish area. The tie breaker questions were formulated to result in extra comments coming forward from both age groups, these results can be seen below.

Quiz tie-breakers

Adults: The main improvement I would make to Alvechurch Parish is..

- Do maintenance on a regular basis – drains etc
- Reduce speed limit outside the schools and re-instate raised kerb stones along Birmingham Road
- More signage required for the small roundabout at the bottom of Tanyard Lane
- No further multi-unit housing developments
- An annual village fair

Children's: I think the best thing about Alvechurch is..

- The friendly people and helpful community
- Good range of shops
- The good community spirit
- The community, amount of shops, location – nearly everything
- I live here

Summary.

The broad aspirations of the community as shown in these responses can be summarised as follows. Residents value the community spirit and the “villagey-ness” of the parish, with its range of interest groups and activities. They also value very highly the open countryside, canals and well-maintained footpaths, and their easy accessibility. These two aspects appear to be at the heart of the way the community sees itself, and will therefore have influence on the making of the Neighbourhood Plan. They may, for example, have an impact on decisions about how new housing; green belt, facilities, roads and lighting are seen for the future.

The most-identified problems are concerned with traffic and transport. They include improvements in safety and access of current roads, and also improvements in public transport. Whilst these may not be directly applicable to the Plan, they should help in forming background sustainable evidence for future proposed land use.

Housing did not seem to be a huge priority at this event nor did it carry a consensus of opinion. However, a number of respondents say either that they don't want more housing or that they want further housing to be in appropriate and small-scale developments.

The local shops and small businesses are valued, but some people consider they should be added to, and that their service may be too restricted.