



Hallow NDP Community Survey Report

An overview of residents' comments

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Key findings

The issues that were raised most often in the comments concerned school provision and traffic. Traffic issues included the volume of traffic and safety issues, most notably the number of speeding vehicles but also parking and the difficulty in crossing the roads, both for pedestrians and cars.

Other frequently mentioned issues included sewerage and drainage together with the lack of bus services.

Method

32 typed pages of comments were received when the survey results had been input into Survey Monkey. All the comments were reviewed and grouped into themes. Where there were a large number of comments on a particular theme, these were counted. Comments were related to a question number but it was not possible to tell if the same person had made the same comment in more than one section.

Single comments are not normally included and, in some cases, concerning location specific problems, it was not possible to identify the location. Comments referring to roles that the NDP cannot address (such as scout leaders) are not included unless there are large numbers of them.

In some parts of the questionnaire, respondents were asked to identify the location where particular problems were identified, these were also collected and reported upon.

Some comments were difficult to analyse as it was not always clear what the respondent meant by a term. For example, a footpath would normally mean a right of way, usually off road, and a pavement would be a path alongside a road but it might be clear from the text that the respondent was talking about a pavement. Common sense was then used in the analysis where possible.

General findings

There were 20 comments on the wish to maintain the significant gap and not too become a suburb of Worcester. A few comments were made on maintaining a gap to the north of the village.

There were 74 separate comments raising the concern about how the schools would cope with increased numbers of residents. Mostly these were about the primary school but also about secondary schooling.

In total, there were more comments about traffic related issues than anything else. There were 73 general comments about traffic including the volume, the quality of the roads and road safety issues. There were 85 comments relating to the speed of traffic through the village and the need to slow down the traffic by various measures including the enforcement of speed limits. There were 39 comments relating to

potholes. There were 38 requests for safe crossing points in the village, mostly by the school but also for Moseley Road. A number of respondents expressed the view that a serious accident was likely to happen. There were a number of comments suggesting that the current risks to traffic turning right onto the main road would be reduced if there was no speeding. The other risk factor for safety were parking problems, again, mainly near the school but also on Moseley Road and Oakleigh Avenue. 50 residents made comments on this issue.

There were 53 comments on the paucity of bus services with a number of people saying that they would use the bus more with a better service and that this would help traffic congestion. There were 7 comments on the need for a safe cycle path through the village and into Worcester and that this would encourage more use of bicycles.

The term footpath and pavements were used interchangeably and from the text of the comments it is thought that there were 11 comments mainly about the pavements. The narrowness was an issue, compounded by cars being parked on them at peak times.

There were 58 comments on sewerage and drain issues, these are detailed more fully under location specific issues.

Housing comments supported the finding in the rest of the survey. There were 11 comments on the desire not to have any more estates including a number of negative comments on the appearance of the Hayfields and Royal Oak developments. There were no positive comments on the above. There were 11 comments on the need for houses that people could afford and a few comments on the need for smaller dwellings. There were two comments on the need for community led social housing. There was some support for new housing but that this should include innovative modern architecture (4) and energy efficient features such as solar panels and rainwater storage (3). 4 respondents acknowledged the need for new housing but were concerned about the capacity of infrastructure.

When answering questions on amenities, 14 comments were received about the wish to have some sort of medical/dental or pharmacy facility in the village. There were 4 comments on the need for improvements to the village hall and three requests for a more traditional type of pub.

Amenities valued at present included footpaths (11), the Parish Hall, the playground and the village green.

There were a number of comments relating to the Neighbourhood Development Plan itself. There were some supportive comments for the plan and the work done but a number (8) negative comments about the Parish Council. These relate to a perceived lateness in starting a neighbourhood plan and a perceived lack of interest in a Neighbourhood Development Plan from the Parish Council. There were concerns that Hallow has been disadvantaged by producing a plan later than other villages.

Location Specific Issues

There were concerns raised about speeding throughout the whole village but a number of comments on the issue of the national speed limit between Worcester and the 30mph entering the south side of Hallow. A number of respondents felt that this caused an increased risk to the traffic emerging from Parkfield Ave (already identified as dangerous by Malvern Hills DC) and meant that cars were speeding on entering the village. There were a number of requests to reduce the speed limit in this section.

Parking was an issue on the Main Road in Hallow (33 comments), particularly near the school and Ladygo stores at school pick up times. There were concerns both about the lack of parking space and the risk posed by the number of cars parked. Some cars park on the pavement and compromise access for wheelchairs and buggies. There were also a few concerns about parking at the top of Moseley Road and the Post Office.

The road junctions causing most difficulty (10 comments) were at Moseley Road, Oakley Avenue and the Main Road although concerns were expressed about the increasing traffic from Lower Broadheath.

The area which was reported most often as having sewerage problems (16 reports) was around Moseley Road and Oakley Avenue. There were also problems reported in this area with storm drains (17 reports). The text of the comments were only counted if it was clear whether the issue was with the drains or sewers. 4 people reported that the sewer at the end of Parkfield Lane needed regularly unblocking by Severn Trent.

There were 5 reports of a sewage smell in Shoulton Lane.

There were 10 reports of blocked storm drains along the Main Road near The Green and two on Church Lane by the new build house.

Other isolated reports of blockage include Greenhill Lane drainage ditch, Heath Close drain and Coppice Close septic tank.

Suggestions for change

There were a number of suggestions relating to traffic. There were 10 requests to reduce the speed limit between Hallow and Worcester and 4 suggestions to reduce the speed limit to 20mph near the school. There were a number of requests for fixed speed cameras including those that average speed over a longer distance (as on motorways).

Suggestions were made to have roundabouts at the end of Moseley Road and also at the Shoulton Lane/Main Road junction. There was also a view that this would help to slow down traffic through the village and a number of respondents made non specific suggestions for traffic calming measures to be adopted.

Many comments were received suggesting that measures should be taken to reduce traffic such as better options for other transport including walking.

Suggestions for improvements to amenities (at least 2 comments received) included footpaths, more dog waste bins, the parish hall, scout hut, the church and more youth facilities.