

The analyses, comments and conclusions contained in this report are those derived from the 310 questionnaires returned from the 1200 distributed to all households in the village. Conclusions and potential actions have hence been arrived at from around a 30% response rate which is considered reasonable for this type of survey. The responses have been collated in chart form, by question, based on both the boxes ticked, and also the written comments where requested. All charts are included in annex.

The analyses have been grouped by subject headings (eg Traffic, Environment etc), which allows information from various questions to be cross-referenced with others to provide more complete information.

The overwhelming picture that emerges is of a village where people feel safe, enjoying the friendly community spirit, rural setting, views, walks, and good transport links. It was very much appreciated that the village provides a good level of local amenities such as shops, post office, doctors surgery. There were 40 people who indicated their willingness to volunteer in various capacities, which is a very positive sign of the “goodwill” present in the community.

The major concerns in the parish were identified as Traffic, Dog mess, Litter and Fly-tipping. On Traffic issues, speeding on the two “through routes” and Longton Road was the main concern, with more policing, speed bumps and cameras being the favoured controls. A considerable number of replies (70) considered no extra action was necessary, and 48% of responses were against residents monitoring speed. Parking was mentioned as a problem on Barlaston Park, Orchard Place, and Village Hall/Post Office, and Congestion at the Level Crossings was a perceived problem. Dog mess was a concern, mainly on the Canal towpath and Barlaston Park, and Litter reported generally, with Orchard Place and Barlaston Park seen as the worst areas. Lack of bins for both dog and general litter was highlighted. Action Plans for these items are proposed in the report.

Under the heading of Environment, hedges, trees and open spaces were appreciated, but concerns about the narrowness, or lack, of pavements, potholes in roads, and untrimmed hedges were expressed. The condition of pavements throughout the village was the main concern for disabled persons.

There was an average of 2.1 people, and just less than 1 car (which was able to be parked off the road) in the households that responded; with nearly 40% of persons aged over 60 years reflecting a village population of relatively high average age. Concerns were evident about waiting times for appointments at the surgery, and transport difficulties accessing local hospitals, dentists etc. Working persons expressed some difficulty with surgery opening hours.

Bus services were rarely or never used by 64% of those responding, with around 16% of these indicating that nothing would persuade them to do so. Amongst those who did, or would, use

buses, increased destinations and frequency, along with lower costs were the main items indicated.

Of the amenities within the village, the allotments were not used by the vast majority, with only a small amount of persons indicating an interest in using one. The Village Hall was well supported for Drama, private functions, dance and general sports, with a total of 19 other activities suggested. More persons thought there was no need for additional children's play facilities, than those in favour. If facilities were to be provided, Meadow Road and a "central" location were preferred.

There was an overwhelming response that any future residential development should be limited to the existing settlement boundaries, and should consist of a mixture of housing types. There was a clear majority in favour of low cost affordable dwellings for local people.

In terms of Communication of items within the village, there was a preference for the written word (Heron, Parish Magazine, notice boards), but the Parish Council website was also used by significant number of people.

To conclude, the last question asked for any other comments, and many different items were mentioned. Rewardingly the most comments on one subject (11) expressed satisfaction at the job being performed by the Parish Council, but, more interestingly, 7 comments asked for NO new housing development, 4 concerned the perceived poor image of the local pubs, 3 that the re-opening of Barlaston Station should be supported, and 3 that there are too many signs around the village.

The Authors of this report would like to thank all persons who filled in a questionnaire.

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## **SUBJECT**

## **TRAFFIC**

### **REFERENCE CHARTS USED**

QU 1 (tick boxes + comments), QU 8 (tick boxes + comments), QU 9 (tick boxes + comments), Qu 10, Qu 11

### **WHAT IS THE PROBLEM?**

Question 1 (tick boxes) showed that the problem of most concern was "Traffic"

### **WHERE?**

Question 1 (comments) showed that traffic problems (in blue) occurred overwhelmingly on the 4 roads leading to the crossroads in the village centre ie the "through routes" of Meaford Road, Tittensor Road, Old Road and Station Road. Longton Road and Barlaston Park scored less than 10 comments each.

### **TYPE of PROBLEM?**

Question 8 (tick boxes) showed "speed" as the overwhelming problem (170 hits), with "parking" next (90 hits), and "volume", and "No of HGV's" having over 50 hits each.

### **LOCATION?**

Question 8 (comments) isolated the “through routes”, and Longton Road, as the major locations for speeding. Wedgwood Drive was also a concern. Parking problems were seen principally on Barlaston Park, with some mention of Orchard Place and Village Hall/Post Office as other locations of concern. The numbers of HGV/LGV were a concern on the “through routes”. 35 persons commented on the congestion/delay caused at the level crossings, whilst 51 persons thought there were no significant locations of traffic problems.

#### **TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES REQUIRED?**

Question 9 (tick boxes) showed 70 hits for “no traffic calming measures are required”, and also 72 hits for “more policing” being the preferred solution. “Speed bumps” received 65 hits, with “Speed cameras” (57 hits), and “Chicanes” (33 hits) being the next most mentioned items. “Mini roundabouts” received 31 hits for a sole location – at the village crossroads.

#### **WHERE SHOULD TRAFFIC CALMING BE LOCATED?**

Question 9 (comments) identified that calming measures on the “through routes” were the most indicated locations.

#### **SHOULD RESIDENTS MONITOR SPEED?**

Question 10 160 hits for YES. 123 hits for NO.

#### **WOULD YOU JOIN A SPEEDWATCH GROUP?**

Question 11 40 hits for YES. 232 hits for NO.

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## **SUBJECT                      DOG MESS + LITTER + FLY-TIPPING**

#### **REFERENCE CHARTS USED**

All 3 subjects are addressed by QU 1 (tick boxes + comments)

#### **DOG MESS**

Question 1 (tick boxes) showed many persons (110 hits) were concerned about dog mess

Question 1 (comments) indicated the Canal Towpath and Barlaston Park as the major locations of concern.

#### **LITTER**

Question 1 (tick boxes) accumulated 92 hits for litter as a concern.

Question 1 (comments) highlighted Barlaston Park, Orchard Place, and General Village as sites of litter.

#### **FLY-TIPPING**

Question 1 (tick boxes) fly-tipping was a concern for 60 residents

Question 1 (comments) gave Meaford Road/Power Station, and Blurton Road as main sites of problems.

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## **SUBJECT**

## **ENVIRONMENT**

### **REFERENCE CHARTS USED**

Question 2, Question 4 (tick boxes + comments), Question 3 (tick boxes + comments)

### **WHICH LANDSCAPE FEATURES ARE IMPORTANT?**

Question 2 results indicated that Existing Open Spaces (257 hits), Farmland (191 hits), Trees (176 hits), and Hedgerows (151 hits) were all thought to be important to the village landscape.

### **WHICH LOCAL FEATURES ARE OF CONCERN?**

Question 4 (tick boxes) showed concerns about Pavements (87 hits), Roads (66 hits), Public Footpaths (51 hits), and Hedgerows (39 hits). A number of persons (64 hits) indicated no concerns about local features.

### **WHAT ARE THE CONCERNS?**

Question 4 (comments) highlighted major concerns with the narrowness, or lack, of pavements (52 hits), mainly on Old Road and Tittensor Road. The state of maintenance and unevenness of pavements (27 hits) was also commented upon. Potholes (17 hits), and speed/volume of traffic (13 hits) were the major items linked to Roads. Lack of maintenance was the main item (14 hits) linked to Public Footpaths, and the only concern with Hedgerows was the height (29 hits).

### **WHAT WASTE MANAGEMENT SERVICES ARE A PROBLEM?**

Question 3 (tick boxes) showed that that 107 persons said there were no problems in this area, whilst the provision of dog litter bins (76 hits), and normal litter bins (54 hits) were concerns for others. Verge litter picking (52 hits), and Fly-tipping (45 hits) were further concerns, with Street Cleaning (36 hits) and Refuse collection (27 hits) of less concern.

### **WHERE DOES THE PROBLEM OCCUR?**

Question 3 (comments) indicated the Canal Towpath (20 hits) and Barlaston Park (17 hits) as main areas linked to the non-existence of Dog Litter bins. The Village in general was also indicated as lacking dog litter bins (11 hits) and litter bins (11 hits). Verge litter picking was also seen as a whole village problem, but a minor one, with main problem areas on "through roads". Fly-tipping was a concern on Meaford Road and Blurton Road.

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## **SUBJECT**

## **TRANSPORT**

### **REFERENCE CHARTS USED**

Question 5 (tick boxes), Question 6 (tick boxes), Question 7 (tick boxes and comments)

### **HOW OFTEN DO YOU USE BUS SERVICES?**

64% of people who responded to this question indicated they rarely, or never, used a bus. Of those who did use the service there was a fairly even split between daily, weekly and monthly usage.

### **WHAT WOULD MAKE YOU USE BUSES MORE OFTEN?**

The biggest number of replies here showed that additional destinations and routes, along with greater frequency both morning and evening, would be the biggest considerations. A significant number of people indicated that nothing would persuade them to use buses.

### **IF ANYONE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD IS DISABLED, ARE ANY OF THE FOLLOWING INADEQUATE?**

From the 43 responses to this question, 26 indicated pavements were a problem, with 11 citing access to shops, and 6 saying roads were inadequate.

### **WHERE DO THE PROBLEMS INDICATED ABOVE, OCCUR?**

Pavements were indicated as a general problem throughout the village, and access to shops in Orchard Place and on Barlaston Park, a perceived difficulty.

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## **SUBJECT**

## **AMENITIES**

### **REFERENCE CHARTS USED**

Question 12 (tick boxes), Question 13 (tick boxes + comments), Question 14 (tick boxes), Question 15 (tick boxes + comments).

### **WHAT IS YOUR OPINION OF EXISTING PROVISION OF ALLOTMENTS?**

Of those who responded to this question, 232 persons did not use the allotments, 30 persons indicated an interest for the future and 18 persons would like to know how to get one. 11 persons used the allotments with 8 indicating they are OK, and 3 saying there could be some improvements.

### **IF YOU'VE USED THE VILLAGE HALL, WHAT TYPE OF EVENTS DID YOU ATTEND?**

Here the most popular events were Drama (plays) with 52 hits, private functions (39 hits), Dance (31 hits), and Arts/Crafts (23 hits). Sports, Health/Wellbeing, and Parent/Toddler groups received 18, 17 and 16 hits respectively. A large number of replies (79) indicated the person was unlikely to use the Village Hall.

### **PLEASE ADVISE US OF ANY OTHER ACTIVITIES YOU WOULD TAKE PART IN**

This produced a total of 44 responses suggesting 19 different activities. The most popular suggestions were W.I (6 hits), Yoga/Pilates, Drop-in centre, and Live Music (4 hits each). A Quiz night, Village Show, and Keep fit had 3 hits each.

### **DID ANYONE IN YOU HOUSEHOLD USE THE BARLASTON PARK MULIT-USE GAMES AREA?**

This showed only a small number of responses (24 in total), with 11 hits indicating under 5 years old, 6 hits for 5-11 years old and 7 hits over 11 years of age. The overall level of responses may be linked to the location of this facility, and the relatively high average age of the persons responding to the questionnaire

**DO YOU BELIEVE THERE IS A DEMAND FOR ADDITIONAL PLAY FACILITIES?**

Here 102 replies were YES, and 93 NO.

**WHERE WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE ADDITIONAL PLAY FACILITIES?**

Out of a total of 40 responses , 33 indicated a central area such as Meadow Road as being suitable, with a further 3 indicating the “lower village”.

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**SUBJECT**                      **HOUSING**

**REFERENCE CHARTS USED**

Question 16 (tick boxes), Question 17 (tick boxes), Question 18 (tick boxes)

**IF NEW HOMES ARE BUILT, SHOULD ONE OF THE PRIORITIES BE FOR LOW-COST AFFORDABLE DWELLINGS FOR LOCAL PEOPLE?**

Here 177 people indicated YES, and 85 people replied NO.

**SHOULD ANY FUTURE DEVELOPMENT BE LIMITED TO EXISTING BOUNDARIES, OR NOT LIMITED TO THE VILLAGE BOUNDARIES ie ONTO GREEN FIELD SITES?**

Of 271 responses, the overwhelming majority (91.9%), indicated that development should be limited to existing boundaries of the settlements.

**IF NEW HOMES ARE EVER BUILT, WHAT TYPE SHOULD THEY BE?**

Many responses to this question indicated a type of house (eg detached, or Senior citizens), but then, also, indicated a “mixture” of housing should be built. Given this problem affecting detailed analysis, the main responses indicated a clear preference for a “mixture” of all types of housing, apart from flats/apartments which received very few hits (11 out of 336 total).

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**SUBJECT**                      **CRIME/SAFETY**

**REFERENCE CHARTS USED**

Question 19 (tick boxes + comments), Question 20 (tick boxes)

**DO YOU FEEL SAFE IN THE PARISH ENVIRONMENT?**

The vast majority (95.5% of persons responding) answered YES to this question. 13 replies of 292 stated they did NOT feel safe.

## **PLEASE STATE THE REASONS FOR YOUR ANSWER**

The main reasons stated for feeling safe were “we have never experienced a problem” (50%), “quiet friendly village” (22%), and “limited/low crime rate” (21%). Of the 13 persons who did not feel safe, 6 were because of anti-social behaviour, 2 because of speeding traffic.

## **HAS ANYONE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD SUFFERED FROM CRIME IN THE VILLAGE IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS?**

As reflected above, the vast majority reported no crime (230 hits). Of the replies indicating problems, Anti-social behaviour had 26 hits, vandalism had 11 hits, burglary or theft and car crime 9 hits each, and other crime 4 hits.

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## **SUBJECT**                      **HEALTH**

### **REFERENCE CHARTS USED**

Question 22 (tick boxes + comments)

## **DOES ANYONE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD HAVE ANY DIFFICULTIES WHEN THEY NEED TO VISIT OR USE ANY OF THE FOLLOWING?**

The responses received are listed below:-

Health Centre 53 hits, Hospitals 23 hits, Mental health support 2 hits, Sheltered housing 0 hits, Elderly residents support 3 hits, Dentist 11 hits, Hospices 2 hits, Residential care 4 hits, Single Parent support 1 hit, Personal care help 2 hits.

### **DETAILS OF THE PROBLEMS LISTED?**

Of the 61 responses to this item, 26 stated transport issues as a problem, and these were the only problems linked to Hospitals and Dentists. Concerning the Health Centre, 25 responses indicated problems with waiting times for appointments, and a further 10 with opening hours (mainly associated with working persons access).

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## **SUBJECT**                      **COMMUNICATION**

### **REFERENCE CHARTS USED**

Question 24 (tick boxes), Question 25 (tick boxes + comments)

## **WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE MORE INFLUENCE ON KEY ISSUES via THE PARISH COUNCIL?**

In response to this question 39% of those who replied answered YES, with 61% indicating NO.

### **HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE INFORMED ABOUT PARISH MATTERS?**

Here there was a clear preference for the “written word” with the Heron receiving 245 hits, Parish Magazine 179 hits, and Village Notice boards 134 hits (many persons made multiple choices).The Parish Council Website had 102 hits. The only other method suggested was E-mail with 19 hits.

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## **SUBJECT**                      **HOUSEHOLD DETAILS**

### **REFERENCE CHARTS USED**

Question 26 (tick boxes), Question 27 (tick boxes), Question 28 (tick boxes)

### **HOW MANY CARS DOES YOUR HOUSEHOLD KEEP AT HOME?**

There were 298 households who responded to this question, with the results below:-

No cars – 24, One car – 125, Two cars – 109, More than two cars – 40.

### **ARE YOU ABLE TO PARK EVERY CAR OFF THE ROAD?**

250 responses were received, as below:-

208 answered YES (83%), 42 answered NO (17%)

### **HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE THERE IN THE FOLLOWING AGE GROUPS IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD?**

Under 10 – 56

11 to 17 yrs – 28

18 to 30 yrs – 64

31 to 45 yrs – 108

46 to 60 yrs - 139

61 to 74 yrs – 163

75 and over – 98

Thus in this survey, under 30 yrs = 25%, 30 to 60 yrs = 36%, over 60 yrs = 39%

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## **SUBJECT**                      **VILLAGE LIFE**

### **REFERENCE CHARTS USED**

Question 29 (comments)

### **WHAT DO YOU MOST LIKE ABOUT LIVING IN THE VILLAGE?**

The comments received have been grouped into the following 7 generic headings:-

Friendly Community - 113

Rural setting/Quiet village – 112

Canal/Downs/Views/Walks – 66

Amenities (shops, post office, doctors) – 54

Safe Environment – 19

Church – 4

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**SUBJECT**

**ANY OTHER COMMENTS?**

**REFERENCE CHARTS USED**

Question 30 (comments)

A total of 44 comments were received covering a broad range of subjects, and have been ordered as below, down to a minimum of 2 mentions:-

Parish Council is performing well – 11

No new housing development needed – 7

Re-open Barlaston Station – 4

Poor quality of local pubs – 4

Too many signs/notices in centre of village – 3

Poor housekeeping (SRH) on Barlaston Park -2

Too much parking on pavements -2