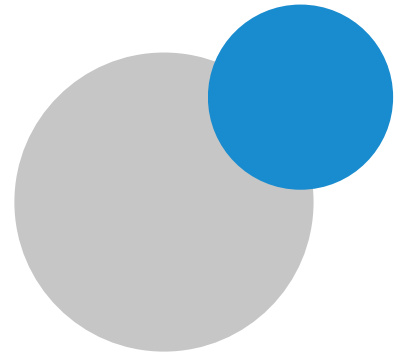




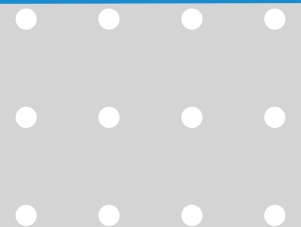
# Trudoxhill Community Review 2022-23



## Executive Summary



Supported by



# Executive Summary

The Community Review was conducted in early 2023 by the Parish Council. Its purpose was to gain the views of all residents of Trudoxhill and create this plan for the community. The 2021 census data stated that 439 people live in the parish. 125 surveys were completed.

## Overview of Findings

The responses indicate that 79 respondents were under 65 and 45 were over 65 years old, with one person not answering this question.

Open countryside is what people particularly like about living in Trudoxhill followed by a quiet environment and proximity to Frome.

While the majority like to receive communications about parish matters digitally, with a third of the respondents requesting preferring a hard copy. There was support for further activities in the village hall; in particular a cinema club and further wellness activities.

Shared car schemes, e-bike schemes or an electric charging point were not likely to be used by the majority of respondents, but 26 respondents reported that they would use community transport to local shops.

Speed of travel through the village was a clear concern with half of respondents favouring a traffic calming scheme of some description.

In regards to housing development in Trudoxhill support for home extensions was the most popular choice and large scale developments or extending village boundaries for development are the least favoured option.

Many respondents are actively involved in environmental issues domestically and would like sustainable practices to be promoted where possible.

There is a range of businesses operating in Trudoxhill including a number of home-based micro-businesses.



# Introduction and Methodology

The Parish Council and volunteer members of the parish, with the assistance of Smart Communities Ltd (SCL) devised the survey and distributed it in early 2023. The aim was to enquire into topics of interest to households. Questions were asked about demographics; living and working in Trudoxhill; communications; community facilities and services; traffic, travel and transport; climate and environmental issues including building development, wind turbines and businesses. The final question encouraged any other comments about these or any other matter.

A flyer for the survey with links to access it online or to request a paper copy was delivered by councillors to every household in the parish. Emails were sent with the flyer and links to the survey to all parishioners on the Parish Clerk's list (for the newsletter and Your View). The flyer was also put on the community Facebook page and Parish Council website. There were posters on noticeboards and a few posts in the village.

Trudoxhill has a population of 439 and 170 households, from which 125 surveys were returned providing a substantial foundation on which to base our Parish Plan.

The data has been analysed and the findings are shown below with their conclusions. The responses included answers to specific questions by ticking a box and, in certain instances, answering a request for further 'Other' comments or wider explanations for their answers. All results and comments will be made available to view online but this summary contains the main survey findings and some of the 'Other' comments are also referenced.



# Key Findings



## Demographics

The survey indicates that a large proportion of residents who are in employment are spending more working days in their home environments and commuting away from the village to a remote workplace less often. The Parish Council should consider the importance of continuing to press for the installation of a fast, reliable broadband service in Trudoxhill to ensure that broadband is not a reason for home workers to leave the village in order to operate their businesses.

The change in the working pattern across the country following on from the pandemic as more people are working from home, the survey showed that remaining in the village on a day-to-day basis, more local services, for example the lack of a shop has been mentioned many times, could be considered by local entrepreneurs.



## Parish Environment

Our quiet, rural environment is much appreciated by residents and, where possible, should be protected and enhanced. This is a matter to be addressed in the Action Plan which will become a tool to inform the Parish Council in planning application decisions. But unfortunately, our environment is not perfect, and a number of concerns were raised some of which could be considered by the Parish Council or monitored and managed by volunteers.

Not surprisingly fly-tipping was raised although, it was at the head of the list in the eyes of respondents. The Parish Council should consider what powers it has, or strategies it could develop, to alleviate this problem in any way.

Speeding vehicles was cited by many as a prime cause of concern. This is despite the activities of an active Community Speed Watch (CSW) team. With 50 local people expressing concern about speeding vehicles it is to be hoped that more of them would be willing to help expand the CSW team and increase the regularity of their watches to identify speeding vehicles and report them to the police.



# Key Findings



## Communication

The survey gave a range of options to choose for keeping people abreast of village events and news. Since the Survey was completed a new Trudoxhill website has been produced. The address is: [Trudoxhill.org.uk](http://Trudoxhill.org.uk)

For the time being it is clear that both hard-copy and electronic formats of 'Your View' and this document should be made available.



## Community Facilities and Services

It is clear that residents enjoy walking or riding the bridleways and footpaths of our rural environment including the opportunity to walk the footpaths in Postlebury Wood which appears to be a much loved and used resource. The Parish Council may need to consider addressing with the Somerset Rights of Way department and the Mendip Ramblers with the strength of this consultation behind it, the possibility of increasing the range of footpaths which currently exists by re-opening formerly used but currently closed footpaths.

Many residents have indicated that they would be likely to use a recreation area in Trudoxhill village if a suitable site could be provided. Trudoxhill is one of very few villages without a recreation area or playing field particularly for youngsters and teenagers but also for everybody to use in one way or another. The Parish Council should consider whether the numbers provide a sufficient mandate to either undertake further investigation or consultation or to seek the provision of a suitable site.

The Village Hall has the potential to offer a wide range of services and events and the survey indicated that not only would a wide range of activities be supported but a very considerable number of people (54) are prepared to help run or organise such activities. For example, the prime suggestion arising from the survey is that a regular cinema event could be organised, the Village Hall already possesses cinema equipment, and it would need little work or money to initiate. The results of the survey will be passed to the Village Hall committee for their attention and action as they think fit.

Additionally, the willingness of people who already support or help with parish or Village Hall activities was noted and is very encouraging. It suggests that further successful events could be arranged.

A number of people have called for a village shop. The numbers of those who have said they would use a shop, store or provider of some description might encourage an entrepreneur or community team to give more consideration to the idea of a shop, store or community exchange and for precisely which products. The Parish Council will consider how they might support any proposal which may come forward.

The Telephone Box issue raised a number of interesting suggestions. The Parish Council will give consideration to the use of the Telephone Box bearing in mind the answer choices and comments made.





## Traffic, Travel and Transport

Obviously, the use of cars features highly in this Survey and highlights the need for the Parish Council, insofar as it is able, to consider the likely requirement for electric charging points or whether it can facilitate or encourage the development of car share, community transport or e-bike hire schemes. The results could be reviewed every few years depending on the perceived need for action.

The speed of traffic through Trudoxhill, in the lanes and especially on Gare Hill Road is seen as a key issue. It could be addressed by recruiting more volunteers for CSW but it must be said that the introduction of traffic calming measures (including Speed Indicator Devices, speed bumps, chicanes or one-way systems, 20 mph limits and more signage) has long been the subject of many discussions between the Parish Council and Somerset Highways and the police over many years with some limited success. However, to date most schemes have failed to materialise either for lack of funding or reluctance on the part of the police or Somerset Council to adopt any particular scheme for either practical or legal reasons.

The answer choices and many suggestions for traffic calming will be considered by the Parish Council to determine how best to continue pursuing options for traffic calming, speed indicator devices (which could be shared with other parishes) weight restrictions, community bus service, and footpaths options which are feasible and might have a realistic chance of coming to fruition.



## Climate Emergency and Environment

A number of suggestions such as the establishment of a Conservation Group have been made which will be considered to identify action which could be successful. The findings indicate that planting more trees and hedgerows and arranging seed swap events are the most desired activities, but we need to have a little more understanding about where they should take place in the village and wider Parish area.



## Development and Business

The results of the survey will provide a strong foundation to direct the Parish Council in dealing with planning applications.



# The Way Forward

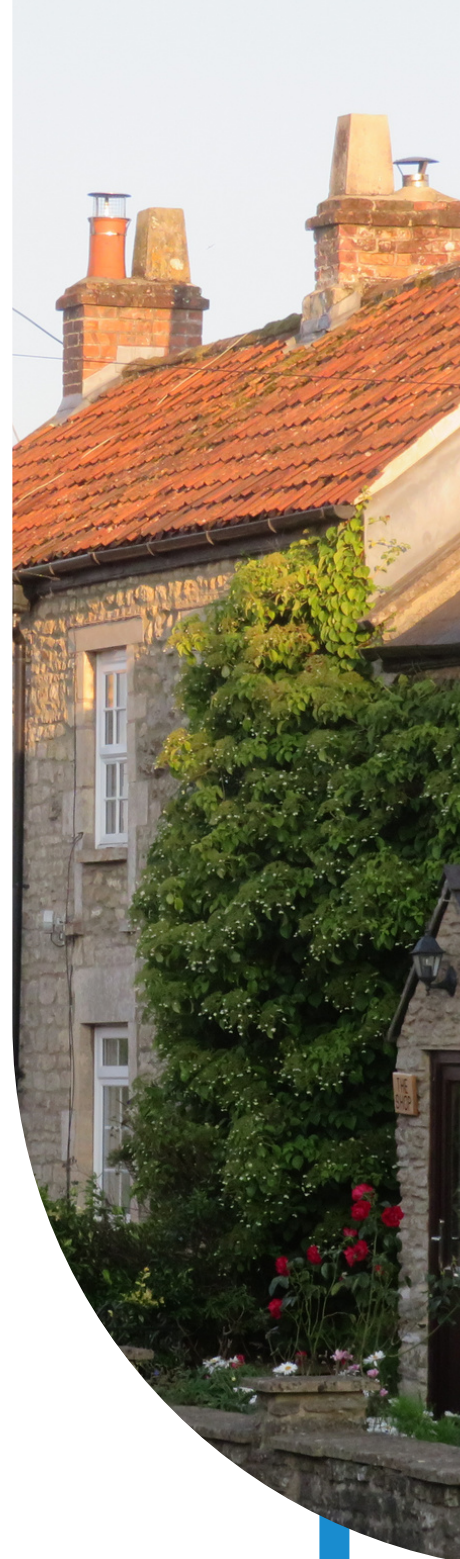
This Community Review is not solely for the Parish Council. It allows everyone who lives in the village and the wider parish area to see what residents care about and would like to see prioritised. The aim is to use the findings of the survey to create an Action Plan for the Parish Council, this will be a living document that will be regularly updated enabling us to monitor progress and ensure we are developing resources within the Parish in line with the findings from the Community Review.

As a Parish Council there is a limit to what we can influence, but based on the responses of those who returned the survey, we can concentrate our efforts on the things that you think matter.

To better understand the priorities of the survey and for you to understand how we are responding to your suggestions and to get to know those who are willing to help with village or Village Hall projects we are planning a public meeting in the Village Hall in the autumn.

This Community Review will put us in a stronger position to work with the new Somerset Council, the new LCNs (Local Community Networks) and other authorities, such as the Police and Highways, when we seek funding for community projects or improved services as it provides us with your views.

This work would not have been completed without your help. Thank you for completing the survey as the results below will shape the vision of our community for the future.



## Privacy Statement

Analysis was conducted by Smart Communities Ltd part of Community Council for Somerset (CCS) Group. Data was captured for legitimate and contractual purposes. Information was collected and analysed in accordance with Smart Communities Ltd role as a Data Controller and Data Processor.

If you would like to find out more about how we use your data or want to see a copy of information about you that we hold, please contact [info@somersetcc.org.uk](mailto:info@somersetcc.org.uk) or call 01823 331222. Protecting your Personal Data is important and we fully comply and adhere to the Principles of Data Protection set out in our Data Protection / Privacy Policy visit: [ccslovesomerset.org/smart-communities-ltd-policies/](https://ccslovesomerset.org/smart-communities-ltd-policies/).



# Community Review

Your future plan

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