What Would You Like to See Happen in Poughill?
Poughill Parish Council Budget Survey 2020 : Responses

A total of 86 questionnaires were delivered, one to each household in the Parish. 25 forms were returned, although not everyone answered all the questions. This is a response rate of 29%.

The survey was divided into two lists:

- List 1 – Potentially achievable in the short term, i.e. next 2-3 years, funded by residents through an increase in their Council Tax should there be sufficient interest.
- List 2 – Projects to be pursued in the long term funded through grant-seeking and fund-raising activities should there be sufficient interest.

A summary of the responses is provided below.

List 1 – Short Term Funded Through the Precept	For	Against	Weighted Score
Village Hall – assist with running/maintenance costs	18	4	20
Recreation Ground – assist with running/maintenance costs	17	4	15
Drive Carefully Through our Village Signs	14	7	11
Churchyard Maintenance – expand to include cutting back brambles/shrubs, path weeding, etc	15	6	9
Community Garden – assist with maintenance costs	12	8	4
Village Sign Flowerboxes – renew and improve planting	10	6	2
Green Activities – wild flower verges/plant a tree	9	8	-1
Gritting – join the Snow Wardens Scheme to grit the roads ourselves (will require volunteers)	10	11	-3
Bus Shelter – replace the glazing	7	12	-8
Noticeboards – improve provision	6	12	-9
Potholes – join the Community Road Warden Scheme to fill potholes ourselves (will require volunteers)	7	13	-10

List 2 – Long Term Funded Through Grants/Fund Raising	For	Against	Weighted Score
Defibrillator (will require volunteers to be trained)	19	5	23
Street Lighting – replace street light removed along the main road near the footpath	9	13	-3
Air Ambulance Landing Site	7	14	-7
Provide a New Cemetery (existing Churchyard is closed for burials)	6	14	-12

Additional comments were received from 13 respondents, as well as two letters. The Parish Council's response will be published in the December 2020 Poughill Parish Newsletter.

Comments related to specific items above were:

Churchyard Maintenance
- Items to do with the church should be funded from the extensive funds held by the church
- ask for church funds as well
- joint with the church
- church should do this themselves, not everyone is a user of the church or Christian

Recreation ground
- Recreation ground & play area is voluntarily run and requires funding to keep it going, assistance from the village budget will ensure there is money available to pay for the yearly insurance, inspections, grass cutting and maintenance upkeep and renewal of any equipment. There is a small pot currently available, but without help it will fall into disrepair and eventual closure, which would be horrible after all the work that was undertaken to improve the area over recent years. Any assistance would be so much appreciated.
- Pay enough already and these are not being done

Village Hall
- Pay enough already and these are not being done

Community Garden
- Does anyone use this?

Noticeboards
- Offer to pay material costs for volunteer to make a noticeboard – need one for Poughill Cross – top of village

Bus shelter
- Bus - what bus?

Gritting
- Should be done by the council
- Road tax should provide grit

Potholes
- Already pay for this through road tax
- Should be done by the council
- Should be filled by council funded by road tax.

Green activities
- Have you considered making the churchyard into a wildlife haven?

Village sign flowerboxes
- Will this upset people that have done it for years?
- I trust that you have not offended those in the village who undertake activities without any recognition. I am thinking of the two ladies who at their own expense plant up the village sign flowerbeds – yes the containers need replacing but they always have seasonal flowers in situ.

Drive Carefully sign
- Do you think people would take notice? The delivery drivers (much increased) won't take notice I suspect, particularly.

Street Lighting
- Why? Take a torch
- No extra street lights – keep skies dark!

Air Ambulance
- Fields?
- Are there not enough fields?
- Air ambulance will land as close as possible to the casualty – the landing site might not be the closest.

Suggestions:
- Annual maintenance of street drains, currently only cleaned every other year.
- Funding additional parking is more important than a burial ground
- More footpaths for off-road walks
- Re-surfacing of roads
- Tidy up the car park – kerbs and tarmac
- Sort out the telephone box. Perhaps lending library, mini shop, plants, eggs, veg?
- Short term it would be great to have some social events – perhaps the PC could help to fund a marquee or shelter?
- Maybe continue to co-ordinate the 'help scheme' – supporting people, particularly those who are feeling isolated – but to people not having to be desperate before they use it… befriending, walk to someone. Need some way of sharing needs and matching to volunteers.
- Maybe a pop-up tuck shop/take away occasionally

General comments:

- Would like to see these things happening with no increase in council tax, assisted by proper central government funding
- Many of the items listed could be done with volunteers – perhaps they would be forthcoming if the threat of an increase to parish precept is on the cards?
- My current priority is keeping my ongoing costs down, due to serious disruption of my income due to COVID19. So I do not support an increase in council tax. I believe a lot of List 1 can be covered by volunteers. Most of List 2 I do not agree with. I propose the village concentrates on issues of climate change, plant trees, solar power, wind turbine.
- List 1 – None of these if it means an increase in council tax – I already pay far too much for far too little. Could these just be done by volunteers anyway? Mel Stride just gave himself a payrise!! Our taxes should be doing the above without US paying more.
- I do not want an increase in my council tax – what do we get already? Perhaps those with the extra disposable income could donate more – some of us living close to the breadline (without benefits from gov).