

# BERWICK VILLAGE PLAN SURVEY 2021 - RESULTS

## Leisure, Learning and Community Facilities

We would like to discover what you think of the facilities in Berwick and how they might be improved.

1. How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the availability and suitability of facilities in Berwick parish?

Very satisfied 6	Satisfied 23	Dissatisfied 14	Very Dissatisfied 0	No opinion/don't know 3
------------------	--------------	-----------------	---------------------	-------------------------

Please note 2 were satisfied/dissatisfied

2. What recreational activities do members of your household take part in? *eg: walking, dog walking, running, cycling, football etc*

Walking 41, Cycling 23, Dog Walking 20, Badminton 2, Running 12, Football 8, Swimming 7, Fishing 2, Bridge Playing 1, Canoeing 1, Fitness/Gym 3, Yoga 4, Gardening 3, Tennis 2, Singing 1, WI 1, Mahjong 1, Supper Club 1, History Group 1, Park 2, Shooting 1, Paddle boarding 1, Bird Watching 1, Use of Playground 1.

3. Are there additional facilities you'd like to see within Berwick parish?

Allotments 1, Five a side 1, Community Garden 1, Shop 14, Better Play Park 6, Nothing 16, Doctors 3, Signs on walls etc to make them more attractive to children 1, Tennis Court 4, Village Pond 1, Adult Exercise Equipment 2, Pedestrian bridge over railway 2, More road sweeping/gulley cleaning 1, Fishing in reservoir 2, More trains and buses 2, Talks/Events at Village Hall 1, Village Centre for a coffee shop, PO and meetings 1, Swimming 1, Footpath to reservoir 3, More cycle paths 1, Completion of Berwick Way 1, Better paths 1.

## Crime and Safety

4. Do you think there are crime/community safety problems in the parish?

Yes 19	No 28	Don't know 5
--------	-------	--------------

If yes, please provide comments?

Speeding cars 10, No continuation of footpath to reservoir 2, Speed limit too high 1, Traffic 1, Narrow pavements, roads and overgrown hedges 1, Car broken into 1, Attempted break in to shed 1, Dog fouling at Recreation Ground 1, Travellers checking out property 1, off road parking using coach road 1, Enforcing speed limit at Berwick Station 1, Rural crime out of control 1, Fast traffic makes missing paths more essential 1, Difficulty exiting onto A27 from Berwick Village which the current road 'improvements' will make worse 1.

## Youth Facilities

5. Which youth facilities do you or your children use?

Football pitch 3, Cycle path 2, None/NA 32, Playground 13, Field 6, Reservoir 1, When children were younger used Mother and Toddler Groups in Village Hall and Drusillas 1.

6. Are there ways in which these facilities could be improved?

Extension of cycle path 1, Update equipment 9, None/NA 30, Yes 1, Something for older children 5, Regular maintenance 1, Safe crossing for children 1, Path to reservoir 1, Nets for goals 1, Stop camping 1, Ban dogs 1,

# BERWICK VILLAGE PLAN SURVEY 2021 - RESULTS

Set up a local youth group 1, More seating 1 Tennis Court 1. Better use of village hall for activities 1. Small village so need to travel to clubs but that is the way it is and ok 1.

7. Are there any additional facilities that you think should be provided for the youth of Berwick?

Tennis Court 3, Basketball 1, Sailing at reservoir 1, No/NA 30, Meeting room 1, Youth Club 5, Small moveable goals 1, Split pitch into more variety 1, Dog Agility Equipment 1, Greater variety of play park equipment 2, Obstacle courses 1, Play equipment for older children 1, Yes 1, Community Response like Alfriston AEG 1, Safe cycle route to station 1, Not really as small village 1.

## Transport

It is very important that the existing transport facilities are at least maintained and ideally improved.

8. Which method of transport do you normally use when carrying out your day to day activities?

Car 50, Train 17, Bike 4, N/A 1, Walking 5, Bus 3, Tractor 1

9. If you never or rarely cycle, would more cycle routes within the parish persuade you to use this form of transport?

Yes 34

No 16

10. Are there improvements to walking routes and footpaths within the parish that you like to see?

Better maintenance of footpaths 9, Nothing 12, Footpath to reservoir 11, More connecting routes 2, More footpaths and less stiles for elderly dogs 2, Manicured footpaths 1, Dotted white line 1m from edge of road for cyclists and pedestrians 1, Safe pedestrian route from Upper Berwick to the station 1, Completion of Berwick Way 7, Stiles maintained 1, Complete path around reservoir 1, Safer road crossings 1, Selmeston path cleared 1, Better signposts 3, Access for locals to Bluebell Wood (Ludlay Copse) if only in bluebell season 1, More cycle routes 1, No 1, Full east-west pedestrian/cyclist links from Lewes to Polegate 1.

## Road Traffic and Parking

With Berwick being a traffic route between the A22 and the A27 we are all aware of the increased traffic particularly during rush hours.

11. Do you have adequate parking spaces at your property for your vehicles?

Yes 48

No 3

12. Do you have any general concerns about parking in Berwick?

*eg; damage from parking vehicles, cars blocking your entrance, commuter parking*

Car parking on main road is dangerous 1, No concerns 33, Verge parking 3, want more street parking to slow traffic 1, Commuter parking in Station Road and Cornfield Crescent 2, Speed and number of lorries makes it dangerous to pull out of drives 1, Inconsiderate parking by pub, walkers and church goers 1, Insufficient parking at Post Office 1, Station car parking is expensive 1, Other firms won't allow residents parking 1, 'Total Chaos' 1, Lack of parking for visitors 1, Parking Company at station is 'awful' 1, Dangerous parking around the reservoir at times 1, Newcomers seem to think that Posturite's car park is a public car park and wander around when wagons are being loaded 1. Generally parking on C39 causes chaos at/during rush hours 1.

13. Should new housing have off street parking for two cars?

Yes 40

No 8

## BERWICK VILLAGE PLAN SURVEY 2021 - RESULTS

14. Should new housing have car ports rather than garages, keeping cars off the road?

Yes 21	No 15
--------	-------

15. With regard to traffic calming measures, what if possible would you like to see and where?  
eg: *nothing, speed bumps, alternative speed limiting flashing signs*

Speed cameras 13, speed bumps 16, Width restrictions/pinch points 5, Higher kerbs, Route change to stop drag racing 1, Parking on roads 1, Flashing signs 5, Right of way 1, Speed limits 1, Reduced speed limit (40mph) from Berwick roundabout to station 1. More police checks 1, Chicanes 5, Contrast road colour for speed limit changes 1, Speed limiting signs 1, 'Turn off engine at station' signs 1, Reduce speed at Reservoir 1, Speed Enforcement by locals 1, White dotted lines 1, Reduce the straight line of Station Road 1, Average speed checks 1, Staggered flower beds 1, Anything 1, Crossing at station or Village Hall, Give ways along long straight stretch from Station going north 1. No overloading local road network with excessive traffic in the first place! 40mph limit on minor roads, 40 mph limit at least on C39 from Common Lane to Drusillas roundabout 1, None 1.

16. Are there places in Berwick where you think parking or traffic volumes cause inconvenience, danger or environmental damage?

Yes 36	No 10
--------	-------

If yes, where and when?

Outside houses 2, On the road by The Cricketers 1, Speeding cars on Station Road in general 14, No – 11, Railway Crossing 10, By Reservoir 7, Between Common Lane and the Reservoir 2, Lower Berwick 1, A27 Common Lane and Selmeston Junction 3, By Village Hall 2, By the proposed new development (33 homes) 1, A27 roadworks 1, A27 approaches 1, Common Lane/Chilverbridge Road 1, Common Lane Station/Road junction 1, Cars driving in outside lane when level crossing down 1. More heavy vehicles 1, Firle Estates plans for a housing estate would have resulted in longer queues at the level crossing 1, Village Hall hard to cross road. Crossing on blind corner dangerous 1, switch off engine sign 1, Volume of traffic is high 1, Exiting Berwick Village onto A27, Failure of authorities to keep grass cut for visibility even when asked 1.

### Housing

17. How suitable do you feel the following sizes of potential new developments would be for the parish

	Not Suitable	Quite Suitable	Very Suitable
One large development	39	0	2
Medium sized developments	38	4	1
Small developments	15	23	9
Individual plots	7	17	20

A few queries were raised about the definition of each size. Some residents either did not complete all or some of the questions in the Housing Section. Some only ticked small developments or individual plots. Two felt there should be an option for no housing,

18. What importance would you give to the following types of new property in new developments in Berwick parish?

## BERWICK VILLAGE PLAN SURVEY 2021 - RESULTS

	Not Important	Quite Important	Very Important
One bedroom homes	25	10	6
Two bedroom homes	15	18	15
Three bedroom homes	14	22	9
Four or more bedroom homes	30	7	4
Bungalows	20	12	12
Flats	32	7	2
Affordable Housing*	14	12	18

*\* Affordable housing is social rented, affordable rented and intermediate housing, provided to eligible households whose needs are not met by the market.*

### 19. What importance would you give to the provision of new housing for each of the following groups?

	Not Important	Quite Important	Very Important
Sheltered	16	13	7
Assisted living	17	11	9
People with reduced mobility	13	17	6
Young families/starter homes	11	15	17
People with local connections	6	11	26

### 20. What importance would you give to the type of ownership/tenure in any new development?

	Not Important	Quite Important	Very Important
Privately owned	6	10	16
Rented	10	16	3
Shared ownership	9	16	4
A mixture of all or some of the above	8	10	17

### 21. What do you think is the best way of preserving Berwick's rural character?

	Not Important	Quite Important	Very Important

## BERWICK VILLAGE PLAN SURVEY 2021 - RESULTS

Height of housing kept low	3	7	31
Materials in keeping with the village	0	9	29
Mix of building styles	7	12	18
Creating diversity in buildings	9	11	15

### Any other ideas?

'Think. Other places such as Polegate or Hailsham houses could be built and it wouldn't affect building the community in the slightest. Building in Berwick would be a shame and would change the character of the village 1, No new road through Berwick. No large developments. More trains and train use to reduce car emissions 1, Look at Poundbury in Dorset 1, Development should be kept to a minimum 1, No oil or gas heating – these can be dirty and noisy and for the climate we must stop locking in our addiction to fossil fuels, electric is the future 1, Berwick used to have two local brickyards. Brick construction should dominate 1, The linear character of the village should be maintained 2. Very difficult to comment on the above as we don't want more houses built 1. Apart from government dictats we don't NEED more houses 1. The population is actually falling 1, Rural workshops, village shop 1, Obviously not creating a new road near station entrance due to congestion and deaths caused by this. Other sites in Berwick offer safer integration with already busy road 1, Limited Building 1, Not allow building (only 8 houses to be built by 2027) 1, Preserving the village character is best served by no further expansion or development of residential housing 1, Generous outdoor spaces 1, Leave as is 1, No large developments. Do not obstruct residents' current outlook or the general vista of the Downs. Use small 'infill' approach 1, No more housing! 1, Not allowing mass development. Keep the linear design 1. Single plots if a good space can be found are the way forward 1. This form should have an option against housing but for me the prime brown site available is the northern brickyard near the reservoir and a discreet small development in there would be beneficial to the village. Perhaps a mini roundabout to slow traffic and a new pavement to the reservoir. The impact on the vast majority of the residents would be zero and a new pavement would benefit everyone. I do not agree with a new housing development in Berwick 1, The way to preserve the rural identity is not to build new developments 1. Don't build any new buildings 1, Off road parking – most houses have two cars + 1. Loaded questions sponsored by landowners/Wealden. Leave our village as it is. No more development needed 2. Small amount of additional housing to meet local village/parish share of need only 1.

### 22. What level of importance do you give to the following design and layout features for new housing developments in Berwick?

*One resident said this was a leading question, two others said I do not agree with a housing development in Berwick. I just want single plots 1 and said their answers refer to single plots 2. I do not agree – BPC should be ashamed to ask 1.*

	Not Important	Quite Important	Very Important
In keeping with rural character	0	5	37
Reflect current housing density	5	7	27
Modern innovative structures	25	7	3
Adequate storage areas (bikes, scooters, waste bins etc)	1	12	24
Energy Efficiency	1	6	33
Adequate parking on premises	2	7	32

## BERWICK VILLAGE PLAN SURVEY 2021 - RESULTS

Garden length – less than 10m	18	9	3
Garden length – 10 - 20m	7	15	16
Communal greens, play areas and open spaces	1	10	27

### Infrastructure

By infrastructure we mean the basic physical structures and facilities needed for society to operate effectively in a day to day basis eg; buildings, roads, power supplies, communications etc.

**23. Please tell us what you think about the infrastructure where you live. How do you rate the following**

	Good	Acceptable	Poor	Don't Know
Sewerage/drainage	16	16	18	2
Water supply	34	14	3	0
Electricity	36	12	4	0
Gas (23 with no gas or n/a)	4	3	14	2
Mobile phone	13	22	13	0
Broadband	11	14	23	0
Pavements	1	18	28	0
Roads	6	25	18	0
Doctors Facilities (5 n/a or none)	5	10	27	3
Dentists Facilities (6 n/a or none)	5	8	28	3

### The Natural Landscape, the Built Environment and Green Spaces

**24. What priorities should the Parish Council have in helping to protect the natural environment?**

*Residents were asked to tick the three they consider most important*

Minimise light pollution by supporting a 'dark skies' policy	37
Minimise the level of noise and other forms of pollution	32
Promote the preservation and restoration of key local habitats and wildlife biodiversity	41
Promote the protection of existing mature or important trees and hedgerows, groups of trees or woodland	42

## BERWICK VILLAGE PLAN SURVEY 2021 - RESULTS

Manage the visual impact, scale and location of alternative energy installations	<b>30</b>
--	-----------

***Add further comments here***

<p>11 felt all apply. Other comments made were; that decisions should reflect climate change and biodiversity 1. Plant wildflowers on road verges 1 and keep hedgerows 1. Pollution at level crossing 1. Traffic calming would help 1. We have enough solar panels 1. Whilst alternative energy is obviously a good idea, the siting, layout and impact needs to be managed carefully 1. We have our fair share of solar farms so I think you should think very carefully before approving all these so called 'do good' solar farms which are taking our fields. It is too late for trees, Firle Estate has butchered many lovely, mature trees 1. Parish Council should oppose any future developments 1.</p>
---

**25. What priorities should the Parish Council have in helping to protect the quality of the existing built environment?**

Define and preserve the boundaries of the villages	<b>33</b>
Building design to be in keeping with the scale, location and appearance of the existing buildings.	<b>29</b>
Use traditional local building materials (Use modern materials sympathically 1)	<b>19</b>
Promote a high level of energy conservation/environmental sustainability in new buildings.	<b>25</b>
Ensure that business and residential development is in harmony with the rural character of the parish and sits well in the landscape	<b>34</b>
Improve flood prevention measures, both within the design of buildings and elsewhere.	<b>18</b>

*Further comments added*

<p>8 said all the above really apply. 2 said don't expand too much. More questions weighed towards a new housing development, I am anti any new developments above 8 or 10 plots 1. This section doesn't make sense as it asks about protecting existing built environment but then refers to new buildings 1. Stop new building 1. Question weighted 1. Stop asking loaded questions skewed towards more development. Also councilors should be Parish residents, and must update the declaration of interests which at least one has failed to do 1, Only support small scale development up to 20 homes to 2027 (11 built in Cornfield Cresecnt). Pro rata if plan extended 1.</p>
---

**26. Should the Parish Council help to promote the following?**

*Residents were asked to tick the three they consider most important*

Maintain and improve present green space and recreational areas (No more building will fix this 1)	<b>39</b>
Enhanced protection of historic and natural features (No more building will fix this 1)	<b>22</b>
Enhanced protection of the landscape (use brownfield sites 1) (No more building will fix this 1)	<b>36</b>

## BERWICK VILLAGE PLAN SURVEY 2021 - RESULTS

Better pedestrian and cycle access (No more building will fix this 1)	<b>32</b>
Positive management of the varied local wildlife (Leave fields and hedgerows alone 1)	<b>28</b>
Improved flood prevention measures	<b>14</b>

### Employment and Business

**27. Do you think there is a need for the following types of small scale business development in Berwick?**

A village shop	36	Small commercial units	6
Small starter office units	9	Creative work-shop spaces	15
Serviced office units	1	None of these	12

**28. We'd like your opinion on business and employment in the Parish.**

	Yes	No
Should we encourage more local businesses?	19	23
Should we encourage more local jobs?	23	21

**If you think we need more businesses or jobs in the Parish, please suggest what is needed and where;**

We have enough business for the Berwick population 1, Café 2, Support what we already have 1, Small local employers for local people 1, Tourism with good rail links is more valuable than new roads 2. Working from home is a good idea as it saves on commuting – maybe encourage local internet based businesses 1. Working from home is acceptable – is this a Parish matter? 1. N/A 1. Nice to see more artisans/craft workers and locally produced food, fruit etc eg Farmers' Market 1, Shop 1, A community shop for groceries but also offering a shop front for local art and craft producers would be nice 1.No – this is a rural parish and there are rural jobs and offices at home and in converted farm offices and buildings 1.

**Note:** Residents were asked to complete the next section only if one or more members of your household manage a business in the Parish, own a business located in the Parish or are self-employed and based in the Parish. This section was included to tell us about the needs of businesses located here and will help us to understand if we can potentially help local businesses.

**29. Do you run a business from?**

Home	15	Premises in the Parish	4
------	----	------------------------	---



# BERWICK VILLAGE PLAN SURVEY 2021 - RESULTS

**30. How many people do you employ, including yourself?**

2, 1, 14, 5, 1, 1,  
2, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1,  
2, 3, 1, 1

**31. Which sector best describes your business activity?**

Farming/Horticulture	3	Building Trade	0
Manufacturing	0	IT/Business	3
Arts & Crafts	2	Food/Catering	0
Retail	1	Consultancy	7
Tourism/Leisure	1	Other	7

**32. Do you experience difficulties with the following**

Recruiting trained/experience staff	0	Recruiting trainees/apprentices	0
Training staff	0	Transport for staff to/from work	1
Lack of local childcare facilities	2	Poor broadband	10
Poor mobile phone reception	7	Parking	1
Tourism/Leisure	1	Other	3

**Other difficulties, please state below;**

Poor train service and cost for local trains compared to London 1. Reduction of direct trains to London 1, Lack of regular trains to London 1, None 1.

**33. Are your business premises?**

Very suitable <b>12</b>	Adequate <b>4</b>	Unsuitable <b>1</b>
-------------------------	-------------------	---------------------

**If your business premises are unsuitable please explain why below;**

I need an office! (1).

**34. Would you be interested in premises in the Parish?**

Office space <b>1</b>	Packing, manufacturing space, warehousing or storage <b>0</b>	Workshop <b>2</b>	Other <b>2</b>
-----------------------	---	-------------------	----------------

# BERWICK VILLAGE PLAN SURVEY 2021 - RESULTS

If other, please state below;

Community space to share information about local projects 1. Storage for large machinery 1. Any of the above will put a cost burden on the business. The only winner will be the landowner 1. No – not required in small rural parish 1.

## Parish Matters

### 35. How do you receive information about Parish matters?

*Residents were asked to tick all that apply*

Parish News <b>46</b>	Notice Boards <b>16</b>	Parish Council website <b>6</b>	Word of mouth <b>30</b>	Social Media <b>20</b>
-----------------------	-------------------------	---------------------------------	-------------------------	------------------------

### 36. How would you prefer to receive information?

*Residents were asked to tick their main preference only*

Parish News <b>43</b>	Notice Boards <b>12</b>	Social Media <b>21</b>	Not Interested <b>1</b>	Other <b>6</b>
-----------------------	-------------------------	------------------------	-------------------------	----------------

If other, please specify below;

11 said email please. We used to get a Parish Newsletter 1. Make Parish News more interesting if possible 1. A noticeboard outside the hall would be useful 1, Can we be advised of meetings please? 1, Monthly newsletter by email please if possible 1, Parish Council should have an email list to send updates (people could add themselves via the website) 1, the Parish should support no dual carriageway 3. Direct emails from Alison appreciated 1. It is a good idea that Parish Meetings are being publicized more in advance eg; on WhatsApp 1. (Parish communication is poor. The noticeboard is 'conveniently' not updated. Council are very secretive as several cllrs are following their own agendas or prompted by their landlords. I would ask each cllr to tell the parish exactly what they have done for us in the last 12 months that actually benefits residents, and does not further their personal interests) 1. Minutes are slow to appear after meetings and this could be improved. Local WhatsApp Group could be better used 1.

Other comments;

Transport – A27 and plans for dual carriageway. This is unnecessary. The problems arise at either end of the A27 – Beddingham and Polegate. These are the causes of the delays. If these problems are resolved the length of queuing would dramatically reduce. The Parish Council should object to further unnecessary work on our section of the A27.

Reduced rail service from the station!

Points not covered elsewhere: We are in favour of only modest increase in house numbers – WE ARE NOT in favour of larger developments of 10+ houses. We would like the council to be active and visible in opposing dualling of the A27 and would like to promote alternatives to using cars (ie; improving rail services).

Halve of this is about housing? This questionnaire is very poorly designed as 1: makes key assumptions of reader being in favour of development without asking. 2: nor does it ask about scale if supported.

7th September 2021