

## RESULTS OF THE PERIMETER LAND SURVEY

Approximately 600 questionnaires were distributed in November 2009, the great majority, around 575, were delivered to households surrounding the school land and the remainder were handed out to path users one lunchtime. A total of 63 completed questionnaires were returned to the school office.

**Question 1** was concerned with the respondents – where they live and for how long they have lived there, whether or not they work in Wirksworth and if so where and for how long, and whether or not they have children going to school in Wirksworth, and if so, which schools they attend.

**Table 1 – Locations of households represented**

Blind Lane	2	Bournebrook Ave	4	Brooklands Ave	5
Canterbury Terrace	5	Chapel Lane	1	Coldwell St	2
Derby Rd	1	Gorsey Bank	8	Greenway Croft	1
Ian Ave	2	King Edward St	1	Ladyflatts	1
Mill Yard	1	Nether Gardens	2	North End	4
Recreation Rd	1	Slater Crescent	2	St Mary's Gate	3
Wash Green	3	West End	1	Willowbath Lane	2
Wirksworth Gardens	Hall3	No address given	3	Elsewhere	1

The respondents had lived in Wirksworth for varying lengths of time.

**Table 2 – years lived in Wirksworth**

>5 yrs	5 – 10 yrs	11 – 20 yrs	21 – 30 yrs	31 – 40 yrs	41 – 50 yrs	51 – 60 yrs	61 – 70 yrs	70 < yrs
10	8	9	8	8	5	1	4	2

21 respondents also work in Wirksworth, eleven of whom use the footpaths to access their work. The majority gave the location of their work and for how many years they had worked there. 14 other respondents noted that they are retired.

**Table 3 - Location of employment and years worked**

Chapel Lane	3 yrs	Hannage Way	30 yrs	St John's St	40 yrs
Church Walk	not given	Hannage Way	8 yrs	St John's St	2 yrs
Coldwell St	10 yrs	Harrison Drive	not given	St Mary's Gate	9 yrs
Coldwell St	25 yrs	Harrison Drive	5 yrs	The Dale	4 yrs
Greenhill	20 yrs	Market Place	not given	Wood St	22 yrs
Greenway Croft	5 mths	Mill Yard	6 yrs	Wood St	not given

14 households had children at school in Wirksworth, ten of these households use the footpaths to access school (represents 19 children).

**Table 4 – Schools attended and use of paths**

Anthony Gell	Wirksworth Juniors	Wirksworth Infants	Nursery
attend	use paths	attend	use paths
8	5	10	8
			7
			6
			attend
			1

**Question 2** was concerned with the frequency with which the respondents use the footpaths in the three specified areas. Area 1 = The Hannages (footpath 38); Area 2 = Nobles Yard to Coldwell St (footpaths 39 and 44) and Area 3 = Nether Gardens to Nobles Yard (footpath 105).

Frequency of use of paths

**Table 5**

Frequency of use	up to 4 times a day	up to twice a day	2/3 times a week	about once a week	about once a month	a few times a year	rarely/ never	Total
Area 1 – Hannages	9	11	19	14	5	4		62
Area 2 – Nobles Yard	5	7	10	9	14	8		53
Area 3 – Nether Gdns	2	2	9	13	10	13	3	52
total	16	20	38	36	29	25	3	167

**Question 3** was concerned with the respondents' reasons for using footpaths

**Table 6 – Reasons for using paths**

Access Health Centre	36	Access schools	14
Access shops/library etc	33	Access work (2 to railway station)	13
Walk for pleasure, fresh air	23	Walk dog	9
Access Leisure Centre	22	Other	16

Other reasons included – visiting friends and relatives (7) running (3) visiting churches (2) clearing rubbish (1) recycling (1) football (1) cycling (1)

**Question 4** asked how the respondents use the footpaths

**Table 7 – How use the paths**

	usually	sometimes
on foot	61	1
pushing a pram/buggy	4	7
cycling	2	12

mobility scooter/wheelchair		2
other (using a stick/ children's scooters/ running)	3	

**Question 5** asked the respondents to rate the quality of the environment of the footpaths and land around the perimeter of the school grounds on a scale of one (poor) to five (good) and then to comment on what they like about the areas as they are currently and what improvements they would like to see made to the areas.

**Table 8 – Rating the quality of the present environment in the different areas**

	1 (poor)	2	3	4	5 (good)
Area 1	12	9	17	19	5
Area 2	16	12	15	12	2
Area 3	12	12	24	6	1

Comments (see Appendix for detailed comments)

55 people commented on what they like most about these areas as they are at present. The comments fell into three main categories, although a further seven people commented that there was 'nothing' they liked about the areas at present, some saying how much they had deteriorated during their lifetime.

**Table 9 – Like about areas as they are**

Natural environment/ wildlife/ views/ green space/ peace and quiet	37
Route away from traffic/ easy access into town centre/watch sport	34
Good surface to paths/appreciation of new ramps and recent widening	12

56 people commented on the improvements that they would you like to see made to these areas and these fell into nine main categories.

**Table 10 – Improvements would like to see made**

Dog mess – enforcement of clearing up, policing, fines, more bins and signs	39
Litter – more bins, regular litter picking, signs, discouragement	29
Maintenance of grass, hedges, leaves, nettles etc to stop encroaching onto paths	21
Lighting – solar powered, automatic	12
Repairs to fencing	10
Widening of paths	6
Improve surfaces	5
Behaviour	4

High levels of displeasure were expressed in relation to dog mess which is clearly a serious matter that needs to be tackled. The comments show graphically how strongly people feel about this and, to a slightly lesser extent, the litter.

**Question 6** was concerned with the proposals that are being considered for the environmental improvements. Respondents were asked to score these on a scale from 'one' for something they would not like to 'five' for something they would really like to see.

#### Proposals

**Table 11 – opinions on proposals**

Rating (1 = would not like; 5 = really like)	1	2	3	4	5
Native tree and shrub planting where appropriate	3	3	9	7	36
Managing the grassland to encourage wild flowers	2	2	3	4	48
Better management of hedgerows	0	1	8	8	45
Removal or replacement of dilapidated fences to define school grounds and keep dogs off playing fields	2	0	4	6	50
Existing small pond to be extended to encourage spawning of frogs and newts	2	5	8	7	34
Display panels describing the history, habitats and wildlife in the area	9	7	19	8	15
Art trail between Coldwell Street and Brooklands Avenue	17	6	10	9	10
Signs to deter litter dropping and dog fouling	2	0	1	4	48

People also commented, some very negatively suggesting that vandalism would destroy any improvements attempted. Others expressed concern about young children and ponds or felt that there are enough trees there already. However, there is clearly considerable support for most of the proposals especially work on fencing, better management of the grassland and hedgerows and more signs. The art trail and the display panels were less popular.

**Question 7** Respondents were asked if they had any other ideas for features we might reasonably consider for inclusion in our proposals and 34 people commented. The responses can be divided into those that were concerned with remedies for dealing with dog mess and litter, suggestions for lighting, warnings about the potential repercussions of any work we might undertake, and those which actually suggested something new. (See Appendix for full list).

**Table 12 – Other ideas**

Something new

Warnings/criticisms	15
Litter	11
Lighting	9
Dog mess	8

New ideas included – waymarking at entrances to the paths, some seating, wider pathways to allow for cyclists and pedestrians, sign delineating legal use of playing fields, rather than fencing off field which will be breached make gates/styles for people (not dogs), proper path up bank from Hannages to school grass, signs saying whom to contact if notice damage/flooding/hazards etc, a dog walking area, consideration of unused part of playing field (near Area 3) to be used for local parking for residents in St Mary's Gate.

Warnings/criticisms included – more trees would spoil views and 'people can hide behind them – a danger to children', 'do not get carried away! – clear and clean well looked after paths would be a good start!', 'don't run before you can walk!', signs/ wild flowers/ young trees and art trail would be vandalised, several commented that they like the flora as it is and expressed concern that it might be spoilt or the established eco-system be interfered with, 'remember this is a flood plain and it did recently flood'. Two people had very strong feelings about the 'Alcatraz' and 'electricity sub-station' style of the new fencing.

**Question 8** The final question asked if they would like to be involved in the project in any way. Fifteen people said that they would. The majority (12) offered to help with tree/shrub planting and hedgerow management, four said that they would do 'anything', two offered to do occasional litter-picking, two offered help with an art trail, two suggested having 'family days' to help and one offered to help with clearing footpaths.

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