



Doddington Village Consultation

*How villagers see Doddington now & how they would like it to change,
both in village life & infrastructure*



Contents

1	Why are we doing this?	3
2	How we consulted the village	4
3	How people see Doddington now & how they want it to change	5
3.1	<i>Why do people like living in Doddington?</i>	5
3.2	<i>How people see Doddington now & in the future</i>	6
3.3	<i>There are concerns about traffic, over-development & public transport</i>	9
3.4	<i>Living in Doddington can be improved by fixing the problems</i>	9
4	Village life now, & how villagers want it to develop	11
4.1	<i>There's a lot going on in Doddington!</i>	11
4.2	<i>The village shops are well-used by people who want to support the local economy</i>	13
4.3	<i>What people would like to see in the village</i>	14
4.4	<i>There is little for young people to do in the village</i>	15
4.5	<i>Improving the village environment</i>	17
4.6	<i>Employment & commuting – more people are working from home</i>	18
4.7	<i>Crime is low, but some is not reported & people are not satisfied with the police response</i>	19
4.8	<i>Traffic is a concern for everyone, but especially for older residents</i>	21
5	Village infrastructure	23
5.1	<i>Villagers want to limit further house building</i>	23
5.2	<i>The school is valued, but is at capacity & there is strain on its facilities</i>	26
5.3	<i>The village's medical facilities are already stretched</i>	27
5.4	<i>The utilities need to be improved</i>	28
5.5	<i>The Fens Reservoir is welcomed</i>	29
6	Conclusions & Recommendations	30
6.1	<i>Key conclusions</i>	30
6.2	<i>Recommendations for the Neighbourhood Plan</i>	32
6.3	<i>Recommendations outside the Neighbourhood Plan</i>	32
6.4	<i>How this report should be used in the Neighbourhood Plan</i>	33
7	Appendix: Survey Questionnaire	34

Doddington Village Consultation

This is a detailed report on the village consultation prior to the first draft of the Neighbourhood Plan. It is part of the evidence base for the Doddington Neighbourhood Plan & will be included in the formal consultation statement. A separate two-page summary is available.

I Why are we doing this?

The importance of public consultation throughout the progress of a Neighbourhood Plan is clearly set out within national and local planning policy. Paragraph 29 of the National Planning Policy Framework (December 2023) states that:

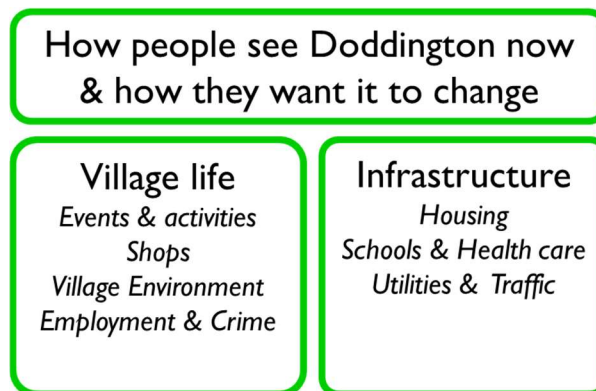
Neighbourhood planning gives communities the power to develop a shared vision for their area. Neighbourhood plans can shape, direct and help to deliver sustainable development, by influencing local planning decisions as part of the statutory development plan....

This is further confirmed by the Planning Practice Guidance covering Neighbourhood Plans¹. This confirms that a qualifying body should be inclusive and open in the preparation of its neighbourhood plan or Order and ensure that the wider community: is kept fully informed of what is being proposed; is able to make their views known throughout the process; has opportunities to be actively involved in shaping the emerging neighbourhood plan or Order; and is made aware of how their views have informed the draft neighbourhood plan or Order.

At the local level Fenland District Council adopted a Statement of Community Involvement in November 2023 which identifies the statutory and voluntary arrangements for consultation in respect of planning matters.

Residents will vote on whether or not to accept the Doddington Neighbourhood Plan in a referendum. It is therefore vital that the Plan addresses their ambitions & concerns for the future of the village & parish. The consultation process & this report encapsulate those ambitions & concerns.

This report begins with a short section on methodology, to explain what we did to consult the village. The results of this consultation then follow the following themes:



Whilst the Neighbourhood Plan will of necessity concentrate on infrastructure, the reason for talking about village life first will become apparent in the report – *what makes Doddington is its people*.

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/neighbourhood-planning--2>

2 How we consulted the village

Qualitative & quantitative market research techniques were used to find out what people think of living in Doddington, what they like & dislike about living in Doddington, how they would like the village to change in the next 15-20 years, & their views on certain specific issues.

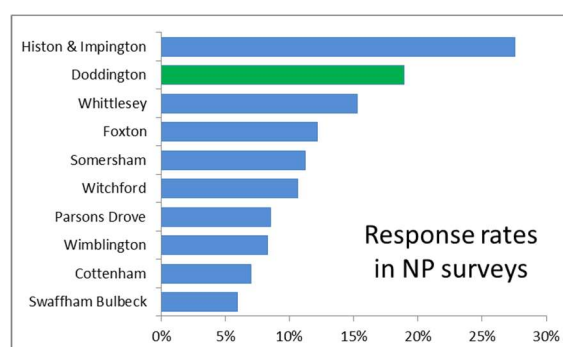
Qualitative research comprised a number of depth interviews with key people in the village as well as friends & neighbours, under the badge “The Village Conversation”. There were also focus groups with the Guides & Scouts, & the children at Lionel Walden School; & the schoolchildren did a special project on “Doddington in 20 years”. The research was done by members of the team, with an experienced market researcher conducting the focus groups, & giving advice to other team members on how to conduct depth interviews.

Quantitative research took the form of a village survey, with paper questionnaires included in the village magazine “Doddington Diary”, & an online version on the SurveyMonkey website. There were 40 questions, & the average time for completion was 15 minutes. A copy of the questionnaire is in appendix I.

The qualitative research was very useful in that it raised a number of issues that were included in the quantitative survey, but also gave the team members a broader perspective of what the village was thinking. Some groups constructing their Neighbourhood Plan may be persuaded to skip this stage in their hurry to progress to a survey, but our experience is that it made the survey & its subsequent results much richer, & improved understanding & perspectives within the team.

The quantitative survey yielded 464 responses. This is 19% of the village population, & at the time of writing was the second-best response rate in Cambridgeshire. 483 replied to the previous Doddington survey in 2016.

242 responses came from the online questionnaire, 222 from paper. We made a big effort to boost response, by bi-weekly Facebook prompts, a “call to arms” piece in the village magazine, posters on noticeboards, & prominent displays on the collection boxes in local shops.



The following shows the distribution of responses by age & gender, and compares it to the distribution of age & gender² as determined by the 2021 census.

	Women			Men		
	0-30	31-60	61+	0-30	31-60	61+
% Taking part in survey	7	28	25	3	15	21
% Living in village	13	19	16	15	18	14

This shows that, as expected, we got a very good response from women aged 30+ (responsible citizens with something to say), but a less good response from the young. To control bias, the results of the survey were therefore weighted to bring the sample in line with the village population³. The accuracy of the survey is illustrated by the fact that the % people who like living in Doddington is estimated at 93%, with the 95% confidence intervals⁴ being (91%,95%).

² Although we gave 4 categories for gender in the survey, less than 1% said other than male or female. The subgroup saying other than that is too small for analysis. We have omitted race for the same reason – 2021 Census data showed that less than 2.5% were other than White British.

³ The weights were the ratio of responses in the 18 age/sex groups, compared with the 2021 census. Weights were capped in the range [0.5,2.0] to avoid distortion from small subgroups.

⁴ If we had been able to ask everyone in Doddington, there is a 95% chance that this range would cover the true value.

3 How people see Doddington now & how they want it to change



93% people like living in Doddington

This is an extraordinary level of liking, and extends across all age groups, although the 0-20s were slightly more inclined to say “I like it a little” rather than “I like it very much”. This is possibly to be expected from the young, especially teenagers.

	All	0-20	21+
I like it very much	81	67	83
I like it a little	12	24	11
Total	93	90	94

3.1 Why do people like living in Doddington?

The reason why people like living in Doddington came through very clearly from both talking to people the survey, & can be encapsulated in three words:

Friendly, Community, Safe

In the survey, we asked people what they liked about living in Doddington, & without prompting their replies echoed this theme. A selection is shown in the box opposite.

34% of replies mentioned the friendly people, 30% the sense of community.

Safety was mentioned only by 4% in the survey, Safety is an emotional rather than a rational reason for liking, so may not have come to mind when completing the questionnaire, but it was talked about a lot in the Village Conversation & the next section shows that it was a strong driver for people’s perceptions of their village.

In other comments, 18% talked about Doddington being a peaceful, quiet village & 15% expounded the virtues of rural/village life. 15% praised the good amenities. 10% liked the surrounding countryside, especially for walks.

“The sense of community, the peace & tranquility, everything that village living brings ☺” (F,61-70)

“Sense of community and not too big a village” (M, 41-50)

“Everyone looks out for each other, great community spirit” (F, 31-40)

“Beautiful village, friendly caring people” (F, 41-50)

“Still retains a certain Fenland charm. Honest and unpretentious” (M, 61-70)

“From Doddingtons Diary to Carnival Day, to the Xmas lights & Santa run, a great community-led feeling” (M, 31-40)

“Living in peaceful village but with so much to offer. From vast amount of scenic walking routes, the right amount of amenities, friends residents and the sense of community!” (F, 21-30)

“I was born and bred in Doddington and have lived here virtually all my nearly 60 years. As did my mum, her dad and his parents too. I’ve seen a lot of changes but it’s still a lovely village to live in, there’s always lots going on and the people always seem friendly too. I wouldn’t want to live anywhere else” (F, 51-60)

“Friendliness. Made to feel at home from the first week I moved here 13 yrs ago” (F, 71-80)

“Safe when playing out & like the parks. Low vandalism” (F,0-10)

“I wouldn’t want to live anywhere else” (F, 51-60)

The children at Lionel Walden School like living in Doddington. They said that people are friendly - “everyone is really nice” said one child, and they feel safe. Community was not mentioned because it may be too abstract a notion for them at their lifestage - but all participate in outside activities. Scouts & Guides were the most popular, & earned a positive endorsement.

The Guides echoed this sentiment: “ *It’s the people. They’re friendly & approachable, especially if you need help*” They thought that Doddington is a nicely balanced village. One of the Guides lives in Wlmbington, but likes Doddington because it has more shops. Another lives in Chatteris, but likes Doddington because it is quieter. The general feeling was that there are sufficient shops & activities so that it is not dead & boring, but not so much that it is too busy & chaotic.

One girl at the school likened Doddington to a turtle – wandering around in big green fields living a peaceful life, but with a safe shell to provide assurance. A teacher likened Doddington to a peacock – a bit dull in initial appearance, but attractive when you get to know it.

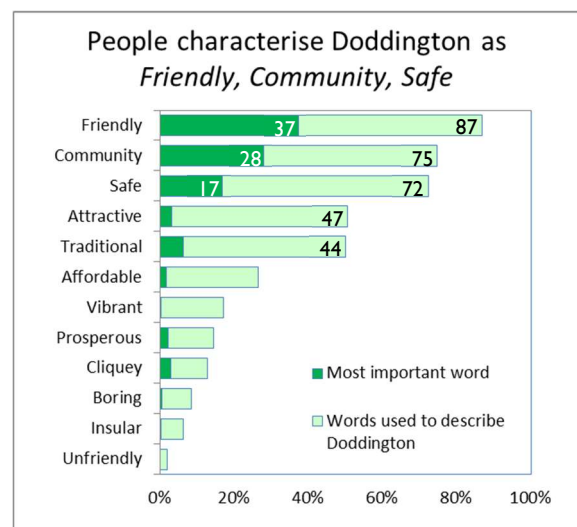
3.2 How people see Doddington now & in the future

Like people, Doddington can be seen in different ways, it has an image in people’s minds. The best way of eliciting this image is not to ask people directly, but to use a projective question & ask how they would describe Doddington to a friend.

A range of words were chosen, but characterisation of Doddington came through clearly when we asked them which was the most important word:

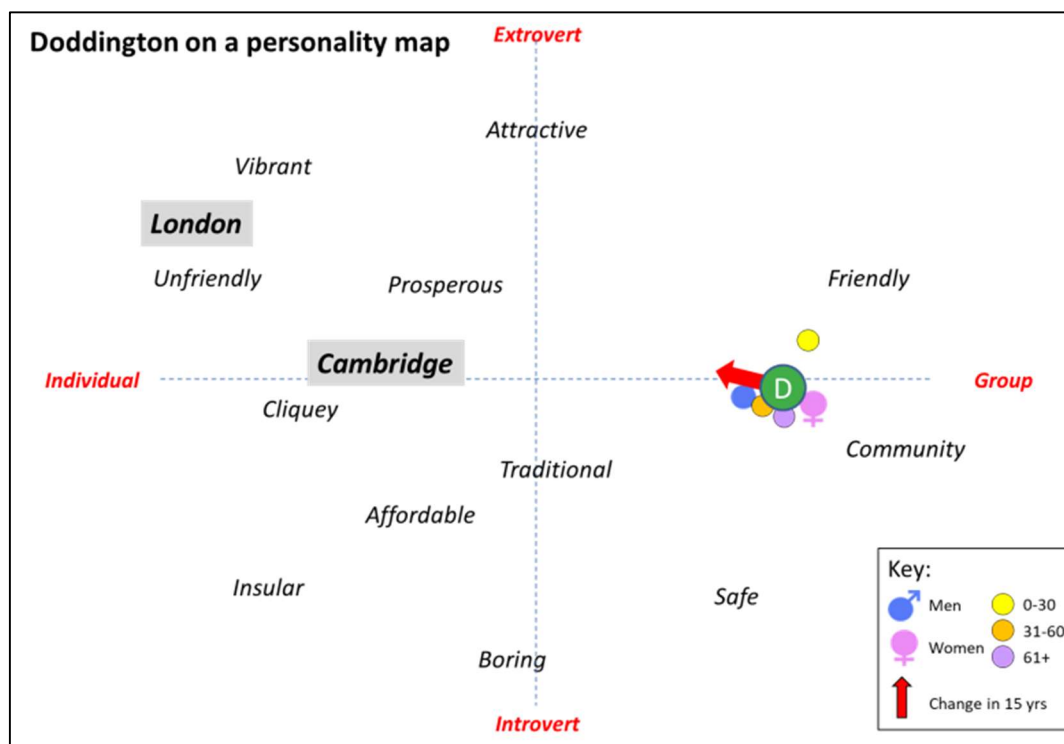
Friendly, Community, Safe

Note how Safe comes through more strongly than in the unprompted comment, underlining the emotional nature of this element of Doddington’s personality.



Attractive, traditional & Affordable were mentioned as words that might be used to describe Doddington, but they were not the most important words used. Most would agree that Doddington is not the most attractive of villages, certainly not in the picture postcard sense, but the closeness villagers feel for Doddington allows them to add these virtues to the core elements – just as you would when describing your family to a friend.

The words used in the survey were chosen because they allow the village to be positioned on a map⁵:



The two main axes of the map are Extrovert ↔ Introvert & Individual ↔ Group. Villagers positioned Doddington as being neither extrovert nor introvert, but very much a community acting for the group.

In contrast, London would be extrovert, but you're very much on your own. Cambridge is more vibrant, but somewhat cliques⁶.

The map's real benefit is in looking at the subtleties of differences between age groups, & how people would like to see the village in 15 years' time.

The younger 1/3rd of our village see Doddington as a little less introvert, slightly closer to Friendly, suggesting that they value the friendship of their peer groups more than the wider community activities in the village. This is borne out by some of the comments that were made: "Parks. School. Scouts" (M, 10-20) "Parks, School, Guides" (F, 10-20), "Community and walks" (F, 10-20). In contrast, the older third of the community lean more towards the traditional aspects of village life, no doubt reflecting their roots in the village (31% had lived more than 25 years in the village).

Men tended to see Doddington as slightly less introvert & more individual than women, who leaned more towards community. We shall see later that there is a lot going on in the village, & there are a number of groups with a slight (& it is slight) bias towards women in their patronage. So this difference between men & women reflects how they choose to use their time. With apologies for descending into stereotypes, this is women getting involved in village activities whilst men spend time with their mates at the pub.

⁵ The emotional descriptors were placed using the standard OCEAN model for personality & the author's judgement

⁶ These positions were not asked in the survey but came from a 2015 BBC/Cambridge University study [Where does my personality fit in? - BBC News](#)

There were no differences in their view of Doddington, between people who have lived in the village a long time, & relative newcomers.

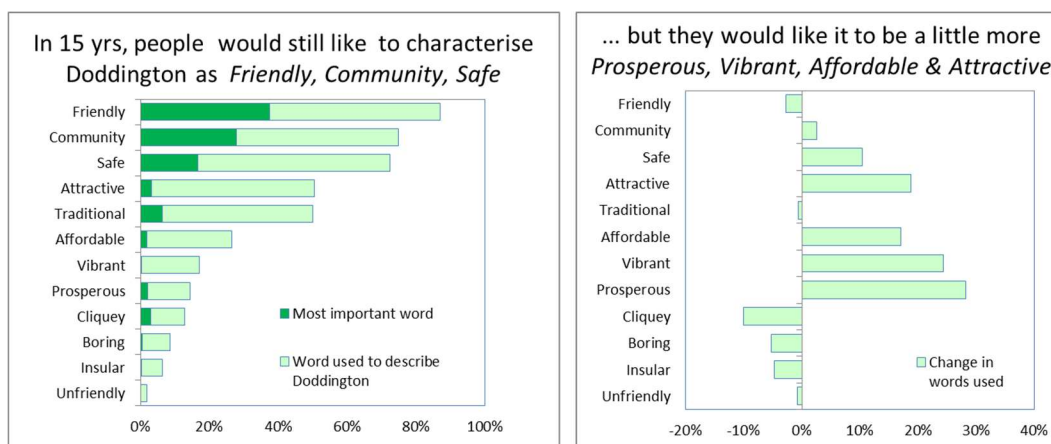
These groups are not shown on the map because their positions are exactly on top of each other, as this summary table demonstrates.

		15 years or less	More than 15 years
% who like living in Doddington		93%	94%
% who say the most important word to describe Doddington is:	Friendly	36%	35%
	Community	24%	38%
	Safe	16%	19%

This says a lot about the *Friendly Community* of Doddington, that it is welcoming to newcomers & makes them feel part of the village. This unity will be demonstrated later in people's involvement in the village, & is a strength of the village that we should take pride in.

The words "a little" & "slight" have been used liberally in this commentary, & it should be emphasised again that the difference between the various subgroups in the village is small – villagers all think of Doddington in the same way – *Friendly, Community, Safe*.

When we asked people how they might describe Doddington in 15 years' time, the clear answer was "very much as it is now". The red arrow shows the change they would like to see, & it is only a small one. The desire for little change is not a negative, no change, NIMBY response. It is more "we value what we've got & we want to keep that sense of *Friendly, Community, Safe*". Any change that was seen came not in the most important words used, but in the additional words used to describe Doddington. The red arrow on the personality map shows it to be towards *Vibrant, Attractive*, & a bit towards *Safe & Affordable*:



The movement towards *Vibrant/Attractive & Safe/Affordable* is a seemingly odd combination, but understandable in that people would like to see a more active & aspirational village, but are concerned about losing what we have. This concern about losing the village identity was expressed best in the Village Conversation, with a number of people saying "we're a village not a town/city/suburb". We shall also see this sentiment echoed in the next section, on people's concerns for the future of the village.

The young people we talked to in the Village Conversation were largely optimistic about the future. We gave them a projective scenario to imagine Doddington in 5 years' time, & like the wider village, their vision of a future Doddington was largely as it is now. But - it was tidier & brighter (showing people were taking care of it), and springtime (which signifies optimism). There would be a weekend market, more trees & flowers, & more (dog-friendly) nature walks. There would also be homes for refugees & joint activities with old people (showing social responsibility). Whilst the cynical may dismiss this as childish imagination, they show optimism & aspiration for the village & a vision the rest of the village would do well to embrace.

3.3 There are concerns about traffic, over-development & public transport

There were of course a number of dislikes & concerns about living in Doddington. These can be encapsulated as:

Traffic, Over-development, Public Transport, Infrastructure

- 31% of villagers mentioned traffic, both volume & speed.
- 15% were concerned about the number of houses being built,
- 13% bemoaned the lack of public transport
- 12% cited problems with the infrastructure.
- 10% were concerned anti-social behaviour, mainly young people hanging about & dog walkers leaving poo on the paths.
- 6% mentioned poor street lighting

“The lorries coming through and the amount of on street parking and parts of the village smell due to the drains!” (F, 41-50)

“Traffic speeding through the village and poor parking by the school.” (F, 51-60)

“Amount of houses being built & not enough infrastructure to cope with them all - from school to drains to transport links” (M, 61-70)

“The feeling that with increasing development, the village feel will be lost and we will become a suburb of March!!” (F, 61-70)

“Poor public transport - can't get a job easily with current bus services” (F, 61-70)

“Street lighting. It's so bad most people carry torches when out at night” (M, 51-60)

“There isn't much to do for people my age (17)” (F)

There were a few people who said they disliked living in Doddington. Analysing their specific dislikes in detail, there was nothing that stood out as an issue – they followed the pattern outlined above. It just seems to have been a question of degree that moves people from liking to disliking life in Doddington.

These dislikes will be analysed in detail later in this report. However, it is noteworthy that (a) 68% had a dislike whereas 87% had a like (b) the likes were all about people & the quality of life in the village, the dislikes all about things that can be fixed.

3.4 Living in Doddington can be improved by fixing the problems

We asked what could be done to improve living in Doddington. 67% of the village contributed an idea (most of them constructive), which is a credit to the community. People said:

Fix the problems, Traffic calming, more shops & community facilities

26% suggested traffic calming measures. The most popular suggestion was a 20mph limit through the village, followed by parking controls on High St & outside the school, & fixing the roads. There were a number of creative suggestions, including width & weight restrictions, a pedestrian crossing on High St, & making Ingles Lane one-way.

Under a general heading of “fix the problems”, 17% wanted better public transport, 10% better street lights, & 12% better infrastructure. In all, 64% of villagers mentioned something like this. Although fixing some problems will be difficult & costly, & some are long-standing issues, in the fight for scarce resources, to know that we have the strength of village opinion behind us is a powerful weapon.

10% suggested more shops, including a chemist, a butchers, bakers, small deli – but most of all a coffee shop! Remember, these were unprompted suggestions, & when we asked about a coffee shop later in the questionnaire, 72% of the village said “yes please!” More ideas for improvements came when at the end of the survey, we asked “is there anything you would like to add”. Another 25 respondents took the opportunity to contribute an idea, with some innovative & creative suggestions. Altogether, we had 334 suggestions for improving life in Doddington. The top 40 are shown on the next page & it is worth reading through this list for inspiration.

Top 40 suggestions for improving life in Doddington

"Better bus service. Community orchard and pond are for recreation. More safe walking routes that link to local towns." (F,51-60)

"Police patrols, more bridleways for us horse owners" (F,31-40)

"Toilet blocks for park, more street lights on Benwick Road" (F,31-40)

"The old mill could potentially be developed into something that improves the core centre of the village" (M,51-60)

"Wild areas" (M,11-20)

"Football goals with nets, more community events." (M,11-20)

"Make Doddington Hospital into a full scale enterprise" (M,71-80)

"More clubs for kids perhaps. Would be great if we had a bakery. Some means of managing traffic speed through the village" (F,51-60)

"Speed camera and 20 mph zone through the village high street. A local chemist other than the doctors surgery. Parking ban in Wood Street for the school." (M,61-70)

"Reliable bus services. A cafe and independent shops." (F,61-70)

"Chemist and coffee shop/bakers (and even a little bistro or similar, if room)." (F,51-60)

"Tearoom" (M,31-40)

"Be great to have a bakery, butchers, deli" (M,41-50)

"Another shop or two. Nice café or cosier pub. Pubs need updating or made cosier (village like)" (F,51-60)

"More public spaces (cafes and restaurants)" (F,11-20)

"Nice coffee shop" (F,71-80)

"Bakery and or cafe" (F,61-70)

"Village policing could be improved. Starbucks" (M,51-60)

"Coffee shop would be really lovely. Yoga, Pilates etc in Village Hall (if already, more advertising of groups etc)." (F,51-60)

"Would be great to have a bakers!" (F,41-50)

"Having a butchers in the village would be great" (F,31-40)

"Would love to see a shop which provides local produce, bread, meat, eggs, fruit & veg" (F,51-60)

"More small shops, such as butcher, greengrocer" (F,71-80)

"A youth club for teenagers. Better/more street lighting Better playground equipment, along the lines of Benwick/Manea. Not sure if updating what we have is going to be enough." (F,41-50)

"Youth club, updated skate park, exercise equipment in parks, more things on the Manor Park" (F,11-20)

"Width restrictions at either end of the village to stop speeding" (M,31-40)

"A crossing on the High St & better pavements" (F,61-70)

"Parking tickets for badly parked traffic around school" (M,61-70)

"Weight restrictions & traffic calming or speed reduction, particularly near the school" (P,51-60)

"More buses, joined up so you cango to the train station in March. Mini-buses!" (M,61-70)

"Cycleway or footpath linking Doddington with Chatteris" (F,51-60)

"Cycling group" (M,51-60)

"More effort from owners of fields/plots of land to stop them becoming overgrown and ending up as fenced waste lands." (F,61-70)

"1. Could the Minor Injuries Unit be better utilised to increase NHS limited bed availability 2. Could empty building in Newgate Street be refurbished 3. Could additional public seating be fitted around sports ground play field" (M,71-80)

"Reduce main street parking, maybe an off road car park should be planned" (M,61-70)

"It would be nice to see a police prescence on the streets, or even a drop-in vehicle or room for villagers to go to speak to police face to face." (M,61-70)

"Could do with a traffic mirror on High St/Benwick Rd junction to make it safer" (M,71-80)

"It would be so helpful if a list of very trusted carpenters, plumbers and general household needs could be put up somewhere." (M,71-80)

"Doddington is a great place to live. I would like to see more places to have a meal, watch a show, share a cocktail/mocktail. It would also be good to see a Saturday market, to bring customers to the village. I shall be going to the emergency meeting for the Christmas lights too! It's very important to keep that tradition up! Perhaps the pubs could organise more events and the village should support this (fund raising?). I know the pubs are profit making. But unless they have our support, they won't be there for long! Perhaps we could also organise more yard sales, more spring/summer/autumn fairs? Perhaps we can try tractor rides around the village and craft stalls? Advertised correctly, this could bring trade and vibrancy to the village? Happy to be on any steering committee! If you need to contact me: xxx@xxx.com" (F,51-60)

"I especially would like the field at top of Ingles Lane to remain as grazing for either cattle, sheep or horses." (F,61-70)

4 Village life now, & how villagers want it to develop

4.1 There's a lot going on in Doddington!

Out of a list of 27 regular events & activities, 87% of the village have been to at least one of them in the last year, and to 3.6 events on average.

The first five events listed in the table can be described as “for everyone”. More than half the village went to the Carnival or to see the Christmas Lights switched on. The Village Hall & the Recreation Pavilion are well used, & Carnival Sports Day is well-supported. Importantly, these are events supported by everyone in the village – there are no differences in attendance by age, gender, or how long people have lived in the village.

The next 6 events are still popular, but here some demographic differences emerge. As might be expected, the Abbey Skate Park & the Beavers-Scouts are more popular amongst the under 50s (this includes parents of attendees). The Thrift Shop is more popular amongst the over-50s.

Interestingly, St Mary's Parish Church is more popular amongst long-standing residents (more than 25 yrs in the village), whilst the Methodist Church is more popular amongst women.

The final group are more specialist events & activities, & there are more demographic differences here. The Street Pride group, Under 5s & Future Stars attracted younger villagers, whilst the WI is attended by older residents.

% village attending any event/activity in the last year	87
Doddington Carnival	67
Christmas Lights Switch On	60
Doddington Carnival Sports Day	36
Event at the Village Hall	35
Event at the Recreation Pavilion	32
Abbey Skate Park	26
BeaversGuides/Scouts	22
Thrift Shop	18
Horticultural Society Annual Show	18
St Mary's Parish Church	14
Methodist Church	8.1
Street Pride Group	5.9
Parish Council Meeting	4.1
Under 5s Group	3.1
Women's Institute	2.7
Croquet	2.5
Future Stars	2.3
Football Club	1.4
Short Mat Bowls Club	1.2
Other (includes Bingo, Cricket, Warm Hub & Church Hall Social club)	5.5
No. attended	3.6



Overall, the under-50s & women were more involved, attending 4.2 & 4.1 events on average, compared to the 3.6 overall. There was no difference in involvement between long-established residents & relative newcomers (3.6 vs 3.7 respectively).

On the basis of this, we have defined people as “involved in the village” if they attend 1-3 events, and “very involved” if they attend 4 or more. People who were very involved in village liked living in Doddington more (97% vs 91%), but it is a moot point as to whether people who are less involved like living in Doddington less, or because they like living in Doddington less, they are less involved. What is certain is that the more we can encourage village events & activities, the more people will like living in Doddington.

It is difficult to compare these results with those from the 2016 survey, because the 2016 question was about “which activities do you support” rather than “which have you actually been to”, & the 2016 sample was heavily biased towards older people. Nevertheless, it does seem that Carnival, Christmas Lights & the Horticultural Society have gained in popularity, whilst the Thrift shop & WI have lost support

These events require willing volunteers to run them. 41% villagers said they were likely to volunteer, this increased to 49% amongst the under-30s & 57% of those who were (by the above definition) very involved in village activities. There was no difference between long-standing residents & those relatively new to the village.

The main reasons for not wanting to volunteer depended on age, the under 50s being likely to say “I’m too busy at the moment”, whereas the over-50s were more likely to say that they were too old or in poor health. Only 22% said they were just not interested (22%).

At the time of writing, the Christmas Lights Committee has resigned *en masse*, but there has not been a spontaneous group of volunteers coming forward. Given the popularity of the Christmas lights & the above results from the survey, this is very surprising & somewhat disappointing. It may be that we have to encourage the under-50s who do not want to volunteer because they are too busy, by telling them Christmas Lights won’t take up much of their time, & telling the over-50s that they can contribute without having to climb ladders.

There was a small undercurrent of “cliqueiness” in the survey. No-one cited this as a reason not to volunteer, but “cliquey” was selected as a word to describe Doddington by 13% sample, there were 4% comments in the unprompted dislikes, & there was some comment in the Village Conversation. The nature of these comments suggests that people, particularly outsiders & those new to the village, would like to get involved, but don’t know how to. After the 2016 village survey, a “welcome pack” was produced, & the completion of the Neighbourhood Plan might be an opportunity to update this, publicise it online in the “Doddington’s Doings” Facebook Page, & keep it updated.

4.2 The village shops are well-used by people who want to support the local economy

94% of the village use at least one of our shops, pubs or businesses, & 5 shops are used on average (36% of the shops, pubs or businesses in the village). Given that we are a small village, this is very creditable.

Everyone in the village has been to the OneStop shop, & almost everyone has eaten from the Fish Bar. Most have drunk at the Three Tuns, or bought plants from Megaplants.

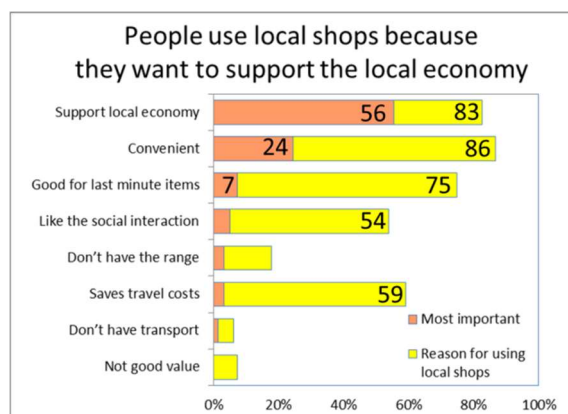
As was the case with events and activities, these popular shops are patronised by everyone – there are no demographic differences.

The next four shops in the list are still popular. They might be described as more traditional shops, in that they tend to be patronised by the older, longer-term residents.

The other shops are more specialist. As you might expect, the hair/beauty salons tend to be patronised by women, & the Washbrook Farm Motocross by younger villagers.

Those who are very involved in village life (as defined in the last section), go to 5.6 shops on average. The two pubs, newsagents & Tessa's benefit from this, partly because those who are very involved in village life go to more shops anyway, but also because they want to support the local economy.

% using any of these shops or businesses in the last year	94
OneStop shop	91
Doddington Fish Bar	82
Three Tuns	66
Megaplants	65
Doddington Newsagents	49
Delfland	38
The George	35
Doddington Garden Centre	34
Tessa's Hair Salon	14
Reflections by Charlotte	11
Washbrook Farm Motocross	4.9
Gieves Cutting & Styling	3.0
Bowls Bi-Us	1.7
Other (includes Thrift Shop, Beauty at No.8, Fields End)	2.7
Average no. shops used	5.0



We asked people their reasons for using of local shops & businesses, and the clear answer was that they wanted to support the local economy.

There were of course lots of other reasons for using our local shops – convenience, last-minute items, social interaction; but when we asked people what was their most important reason was, 56% said supporting the local economy.

This is very encouraging for the development of the village economy, as we shall see in the next section.

4.3 What people would like to see in the village

When asked what facilities or activities people would like to see in the village, their answer was loud & clear

We want a coffee shop!

This was endorsed by all age groups, & we saw in section 2.4 on improving life in Doddington that there was strong support for having a variety of shops, with suggestions for a bakery, deli, local produce, bistro/restaurant, café/tea room, butchers, chemist & even a fast food franchise.

Retail & work patterns have already changed in the UK, & the Covid pandemic of 2020-21 accelerated changes that were happening anyway. In an Observer article from 2020⁷, Mary Portas argues that the High Street should not be saved, but should be changed completely. She forecasted that growth in retail would come from enterprises that offered a social experience rather than goods. Ted Rubin⁸ has argued that physical retail outlets should offer experience to back up their internet delivery (eg Apple Stores).

Many small towns are grappling with their retail future, but the plans for March seem to be a move towards a café culture - coffee shops, restaurants, nail bars, & so on. However, that removes their point of difference with surrounding communities, & entitles us in Doddington to ask “*why travel to March or Chatteris when you can have a great coffee with friends in Doddington?*”

There will be a lot of hard work between saying “we want a coffee shop” & achieving it. The issues are discussed in the penultimate section on conclusions & recommendations. For now, it is worth noting that another key trend is for more people to work from home, & they will value a coffee shop for a break, or a Business Centre (24%) for office support.

Amongst the other requests, & as you might expect, 0-50s were more keen on the outdoor activities than the 51+s. Women were keener on outdoor gym equipment than men (39% vs 28%), whilst men were more keen on the bowls green. Again as expected, those who were very involved in the village wanted more (3.6 suggestions vs 2.6 less involved). Young people (0-20) were more keen than their elders on a variety of things, these are considered in the next section

Allotment gardens got good support across all groups, & should be specifically considered in the Neighbourhood Plan as being a good use of land & increasing the green spaces in the village.

What people want to see in the village	%
Coffee shop	67
Better park facilities	45
Outdoor gym equipment	33
Youth Club	33
Allotment gardens	31
Better sports facilities	28
Tennis courts	25
Business Centre (with café and office facilities)	24
Bowls green	10
Cricket club	9
Other (includes chemist, bistro, deli, bakery, butchers)	6

⁷ Observer, 6 Dec 20

⁸ Social Media & Marketing Feb 2018

4.4 There is little for young people to do in the village

“There isn’t much to do for people my age (17)” (F). This was a common complaint by 0-20s in the unprompted comments, & we recognise & sympathise with it. There are no clubs/coffee shops/cinemas for young people in the village, & no public transport in the evening to take them to March/Wisbech &c. They are isolated, & left to their own devices. This has led to a backlash from older residents, with 10% complaining of antisocial behaviour - *“Youths terrorising the neighbourhood” (F,31-40).*



There are thriving Scout & Guide groups in the village. The focus groups revealed a high degree of social responsibility amongst the kids. They recognise that the different clubs & groups make an impact on Doddington, creating an opportunity to give back by volunteering. *“I’m on the ... & work in the shop, you feel like you get to know people & make an impact on Doddington events, & help to keep it going.”⁹*

Other activities would be welcome. Doddington has an under 11 football team, but nothing for older players, & this was something the schoolchildren wanted as an alternative to going to Wimblington or Chatteris. They also participated in Rugby Tots (they come to the school) & Zumba at the Village Hall, but this is with adults rather than just for them.

The survey showed that what young people want is:

A coffee shop, a youth club, & better park facilities

	0-20	21+
Coffee shop	67	68
Youth club	63	28
Better park facilities	63	42
Outdoor gym equipment	63	29
Better sports facilities	44	25
Tennis courts	41	22

They were very enthusiastic about a coffee shop, & had clear ideas of what it would look like. It would be open before school, so they can get coffee & meet their friends before catching the school bus. They would go there after school & chill with their mates, & perhaps do some homework before going home. And in the evenings to chill. They thought it would also be used by their Mums after school drop-off, & older people during the day. The coffee shop would serve coffee & cakes, & the ambience would be key. It would be a comfortable appealing place to meet friends – without overt adult supervision.



A Youth Club would be welcomed, & again our young people had clear ideas about what it would look like & how it would be run. Its primary aim would be to provide a place to go & meet their friends & talk to other people with similar interests.

It would be run by a group of people with different skills, & might have several tables, one doing craft or art, another discussing gaming, another teaching guitar. Adults would be there to help & explain rather than supervise *“I don’t mind having adults there, but I don’t want too many there or you wouldn’t be able to have fun”*, although this was balanced by *“It would be nice to have younger ones (adults) who are a bit more flexible .. and some not so flexible, otherwise we’d have a riot on our hands”*. Again, the key is the freedom for them to make their own entertainment, without overt adult supervision.

There was some variance of views in how often it would meet - once a week was the median view. There would be the occasional film night – meeting with friends for a movie is a completely different experience to watching movies with the family (whether at home or outside) because it’s building social independence.

The youth club was endorsed by the wider village: 7% village mentioned it in the unprompted suggestions, & as the table above shows, 28% of 20+s thought the village should have one.

⁹ Part of the quote removed for anonymity

Youth clubs need the right leader & the right facilities to flourish, & we should both learn from both past experience & current best practice in establishing a new one. This is discussed further in the conclusions & recommendations.

The young people of the village spend a lot of their spare time in the parks, & are expert on the facilities. Their verdict was *“the parks are OK but could do with some improvements”*. They like the Abbey Skate park, mainly because it’s a place to meet & chill out with friends, rather than a park for skateboarding. (They mentioned the bandstand on Market Hill in Chatteris or the skate park in Manea as similar places to hang out).

They would like a better shelter in the Skate Park – at the moment it’s just a canopy, & they’d like sides to keep out the rain & wind, & more seating, so that it becomes an area to chill rather than observe.



They’d like to see picnic tables & benches in the wider Abbey Park for summer afternoons, & benches for football spectators – and possibly floodlights & goals with nets. Whilst these are specific requests, the Abbey Park is a big open area, with the playgrounds & skate park pushed out to the extremities. Amenities in the middle would make it feel more welcoming for the whole community.

The new play equipment in the Abbey Park was welcomed by the youngest children (especially the slide), the older children respected it & did not try to misbehave. The older children/teenagers like the idea of outdoor gym equipment, & think that there would be no problem with vandalism, because the older teenagers who might damage it would be damaging something that they themselves use.

There are some problems with older teenagers in the parks. Older teenagers are OK if they’re on their own, & can be helpful in showing the younger ones tricks & techniques. The problem comes when there’s a group of older teenagers, & one will cause trouble as a way of showing off or showing dominance of the group. *“It (trouble) normally comes in gangs. Children on their own are normally nice ... some of them get together in gangs and it’s normally one of them influencing the others ... so they all become, like, different from what they really are.”* However, this seems to be an occasional rather than a widespread problem & the younger teenagers have evolved their own strategies for dealing with it – either knowing which older ones to avoid (through the grapevine) or standing up for themselves if older ones are hogging the ramps. It might be tempting to stamp out misbehaviour by involving the police, but this would not be welcomed by the young – at the moment, they are managing it by themselves.

There are problems with vandalism. Younger teenagers hate vandalism & graffiti, because it desecrates something that is really important to them. The isolation of the skate park means misbehaviour has the potential to go unobserved, & although CCTV is present it may not be eliminating the problem.

On a more cerebral note, the schoolchildren would like a mini library in the village (other villages have repurposed phone boxes for this). There is a mobile library, but its times & locations are not for them.

To conclude, the three opportunities: *Coffee shop, Youth Club, Better park facilities* should be a legacy for the future of the village.

4.5 Improving the village environment

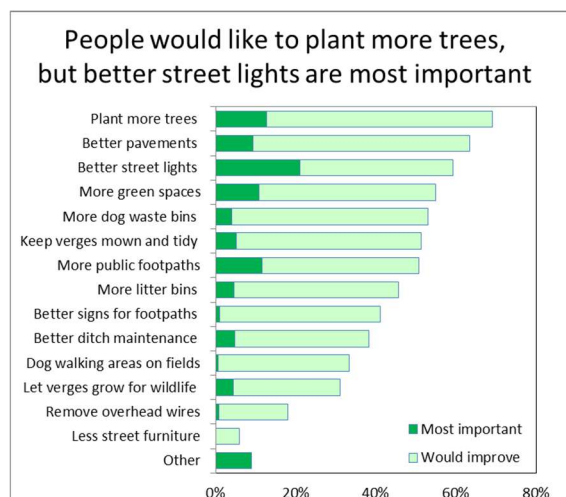
In a long shopping list of things that might improve the village environment, villagers wanted a lot, asking for 6.2 things out of the 15.



! Street Light outside the Church (unprocessed photo)

The clear priority was for better street lights. This was raised as an issue in the unprompted dislikes & concerns, & the Village Conversation revealed that the main concern was the sparseness of the new LED lights – bright underneath them, but with large dark gaps between. This makes people feel unsafe:

“It’s so bad most people carry torches when out at night”.(M,51-60)



We should seek assurance from FDC/CCC that our street lighting meets BS5489, especially in regards to luminance.

The next most popular set of requests showed a difference between the 0-30 age group & the 61+ age group (with the 31-60s between these views).

The young were keen on environmental issues – planting more trees, having more green spaces, & letting verges grow for wildlife; whereas the 61+ age group wanted better pavements & tidy verges. AT least everyone wanted better street lights.

% saying would improve	0-30	61+
Plant more trees	70	57
More dog waste bins	65	43
More green spaces	64	43
More litter bins	59	41
Let verges grow for wildlife	43	32
Better street lights	57	55
Better pavements	44	68
Keep verges mown & tidy	40	56

“An enclosed, safe, dog exercise field would be brilliant” (F, 61-70)
“Better policing of parking at school times” (M, 61-70)
“More public seating” (M, 71-80)
“Parking on only one side of road on high street” (F, 51-60)
“Solar street lights” (F, 71-80)
“Better signposts for cycle paths” (M, 51-60)

The “other” category prompted some interesting requests, some of which came up in the suggested improvements to the village (section 2.4). In particular, the idea of a cycle path between Doddington & Chatteris was requested before.

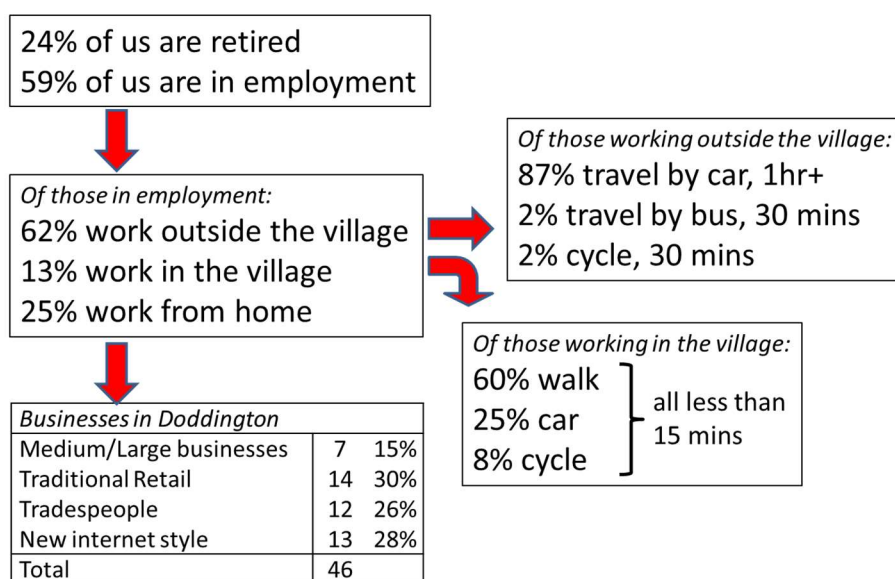
There was more emphasis on environmental improvements than there was in the 2016 survey. Planting more trees, more green spaces, more public footpaths & letting verges grow for wildlife got a greater endorsement this time than in 2016. Street lighting was asked in a different question in 2016, when 65% thought it was adequate then, although some poorly lit areas were identified. It seems to have been the change to LED lighting that has made the difference.

4.6 Employment & commuting – more people are working from home

59% of the village are in full-time employment, 24% of us are retired, & the rest in full-time education or training, unpaid employment (eg carer), sick or disabled. Only 1% claim to be unemployed, well below the national & regional average (3.7% & 3.3%)..

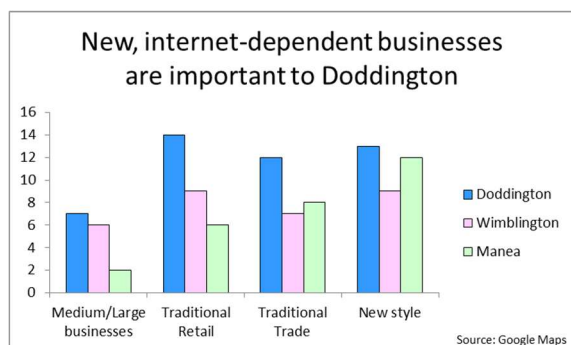
The 59% in employment compares well to the 2021 census, where 59% of the Doddington/Wimblington/Manea MSOA were judged to be economically active (although the ONS advises caution with this statistic because census day was in a pandemic). The 2016 survey found 55% village working, but that is likely to be an underestimate because that survey sample was biased to older people.

The following flowchart shows where those in employment work, how they get to work, & how long it takes them.



38% of those employed work in the village or from home. There were fears expressed in the Village Conversation that Doddington might become a dormitory village, but this statistic belies that.

The number working from home is a sign of how changing work practices will benefit Doddington. ONS data shows that the proportion of people hybrid working in the UK has risen from 12% in 2019 to 28% in January 2023¹⁰. As this trend continues, more people will want to work from home. They will need infrastructure to support that – better broadband speed & mobile phone signal, & a coffee shop/business centre to provide business support (photocopying/somewhere to meet, perhaps secretarial services).



There are already a significant number of new businesses in Doddington that rely on the internet - more than in Wimblington or Manea¹¹.

Whilst we would not want to deprecate our sibling villages, making Doddington an attractive place to live & work is the key to growing the new economy. We need the infrastructure, but our friendly safe community is our trump card.

¹⁰ [Characteristics of homeworkers, Great Britain - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://ons.gov.uk)

¹¹ Data from a survey of businesses listed on Google Maps

Returning to the flowchart & those that have to work outside the village, almost all have to travel by car, & take over an hour to get to work. Few cycle, & even fewer travel by bus - the poor service means that their bus journeys are necessarily shorter because they cannot rely on connections.

The emerging Fenland Local Plan expresses a desire to encourage cycling, for health & environmental reasons¹². This statistic shows that that ambition needs work to be realised – the isolation of Doddington, the busy roads in poor condition, & the lack of cycle paths make cycling to work a hazardous journey:

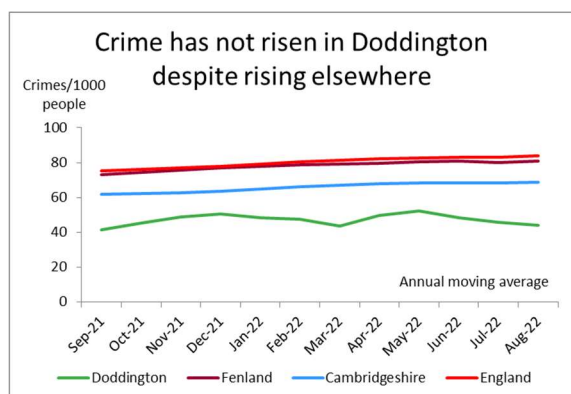
“Lack of safe cycleways out of the village. I daren't cycle to Chatteris for shopping. Although well within my abilities, it's just too dangerous. I cycle to March, but there is no cycleway until I reach the other side of Wimblington” (F,51-60)

4.7 Crime is low, but some is not reported & people are not satisfied with the police response

Villagers feel that Doddington is a safe village. They said so in their unprompted likes, in the Village Conversation, & Safe is one of the key characteristics of Doddington. There were concerns about anti-social behaviour mentioned by 11% people, but these seemed to be general worries rather than specific incidents.

Police data¹³ shows that recorded crime rates are low in Doddington compared with Fenland, Cambridgeshire & England.

Recorded crimes/1000 people, Year ending August 22	
England	84
Cambridgeshire	69
Fenland	81
Doddington	44



Moreover, the same data shows that crime rates have been stable in Doddington over the last two years, whilst crime in Cambridgeshire & England has risen slightly.

Crime location data¹⁴ shows that there are no “trouble spots” in the village.

However, it is well-known that public perception is that crime is more prevalent than it really is. This perception

will affect villagers’ recollection of crime they have experienced & witnessed, so it is necessary to bear this in mind when looking at the survey results.

The table on the right shows that 31% of the village say they have experienced or witnessed a crime in the last year, & that 18% have reported it to the police.

The two most common crimes, of public nuisance & vandalism were less likely to be reported than illegal drug use. It is clear from the unprompted likes about living in Doddington that illegal drug use is something villagers feel strongly about: *“Police turning a blind eye at drug dealing” (M,61-70)*

“One pub isn’t welcoming & the other is a drugs den” (F,41-50)

% village experiencing or witnessing a crime in the last year	Experienced /witnessed	Reported	% reported
Any	31	18	60
Public nuisance/drunkenness	11.1	4.4	40
Vandalism	10.7	6.3	59
Illegal drug use	9.8	7.1	73
Verbal assault	7.8	6.4	82
Fraud/conman (including online)	4.7	2.2	48
Car crime	4.0	1.8	44
Burglary/theft	2.7	2.3	85
Bodily assault	1.4	1.2	88
Average no. experienced	1.8		

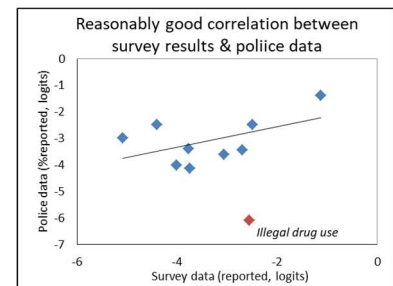
¹² Sustainability Objective 3.1 & policy LP20, with many other mentions in the plan.

¹³ Source: police.data.uk & Cambridgeshire Insight

¹⁴ Each crime recorded has an approximate GPS location

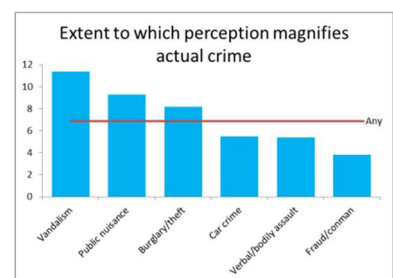
Correlation of the survey data with the police crime statistics is complicated by the fact that (a) the categories used in the survey do not exactly match the official ones (b) the police record the number of crimes rather than the % people reporting them. We have matched the survey data with police categories by combining the burglary/theft categories. The police have no category for verbal assault, so that has been combined with bodily assault in correlating with police data. Finally, police data do not record fraud because that is dealt with nationally, so we have used official data from the Crime Survey for England & Wales¹⁵. A statistical technique has been used to convert the number of crimes recorded by the police to the % people that will have experienced them¹⁶

The chart on the right shows that there is a reasonably good correlation between the survey data on crimes people say they have reported to the police, & the police data on reported crime, re-worked to show the % people who would have reported the crime from the number of crimes reported¹⁷. The exception is illegal drug use, where more people say they have reported it than are accounted for in police statistics.



A bi-product of this analysis as an estimate as to which crimes are magnified by public perception & by how much. There are two factors driving this. First, we asked “experienced or witnessed”, so people will recall crimes that they may not themselves have experienced. They will also recall crimes that did not strictly occur in the last year, but made such an impact that they wanted to include them in the survey. Finally, there will be a bias towards social norms in saying that they reported the crime when they did not.

The crimes most likely to be magnified in public perception are vandalism & public nuisance/drunkenness. In the case of vandalism, evidence of this hangs around for some time, reinforcing the perception that it is commonplace. Similarly, public nuisance is not often reported, partly because we may feel “what are the police going to do”, & partly because we do not want to bother our busy police with trivial matters.



With the correlation between police data & survey data established, we can now re-arrange the main table & add data on police response & villagers’ satisfaction with that response.

	% village experiencing/reporting a crime in the last year			% crimes experienced that are reported	% crimes reported that police respond to	% very/quite satisfied with response
	Experienced /witnessed	Reported %	Police data %			
Any	31	18	25	60	84	20
Verbal assault	7.8	6.4	7.8	82	85	16
Bodily assault	1.4	1.2		88	91	0
Burglary/theft	2.7	2.3	1.6	85	100	16
Illegal drug use	9.8	7.1	0.2	73	72	11
Vandalism	10.7	6.3	3.1	59	85	12
Public nuisance/drunkenness	11.1	4.4	3.7	40	81	17
Car crime	4.0	1.8	1.8	44	89	8
Fraud/conman (incl online)	4.7	2.2	3.2	48	87	40
Average no. experienced	1.8					

¹⁵ The [Crime Survey for England & Wales](#) is a large survey run by the ONS that carefully dissects respondents’ experience of crime & is used to produce official data

¹⁶ Crimes can be assumed to occur at random in a Poisson process. If the mean number of crimes in a period of length t is mt , the probability of an individual experiencing one is $1 - e^{-\lambda mt}$. λ is the perception factor discussed above.

¹⁷ The chart shows these %s as logits= $\ln(p/(1-p))$, which is the appropriate statistical way of dealing with this data.

Crimes near the top of the table are almost all reported, whilst crimes towards the bottom are less likely to be reported - either because people see them as less serious or they are fatalistic about the outcome when involving the police.

Police response to crimes that are reported is high – 84% answering the question say they got a response after reporting a crime. However, villagers' satisfaction with that response was low. The exception is fraud, which is dealt with via a national website & hotline¹⁸. This police service provides a good response to reporting, with reassuring messages & advice. However, for other crimes, person reporting the crime may not hear anything, & the eventual outcome may be months/years after reporting. Satisfaction would be improved by progress reports, & a national/regional system could be set up that would not require too much police resource.

So we have, as we do in the rest of the country, have the classic dichotomy between actual crime & fear of crime – the public think that crime is more prevalent than it actually is. The counter to this is some good PR. Articles in the Doddington Diary (with the actual crime statistics) would help. A visible police presence in the village would be welcomed, & the visit of the Police Van on 8th March this year is a good example. We will not be able to go back to the “bobby on a bike”, but we should work with the police to find the modern equivalent.

4.8 Traffic is a concern for everyone, but especially for older residents

Traffic was the biggest concern raised when we asked, without prompting, “What, if anything, do you dislike about living in Doddington?” 31% mentioned this as a dislike/concern, for example:

“How fast people drive through the village” (M, 31-40)

“Traffic speeding through the village and poor parking by the school.” (F, 51-60)

“Speed and size of some of the traffic that travels through the village” (M, 61-70)

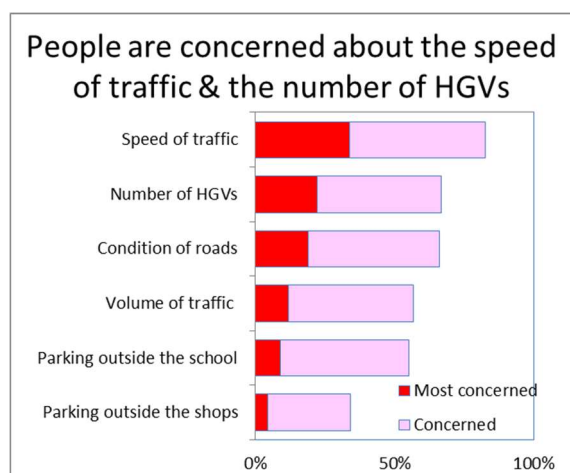
“Some people drive too fast through village and the amount of lorries has increased a lot” (F, 71-80)

“The lack of care by some drivers especially regarding speed and lack of attention to other road users” (M, 71-80)

“Heavy traffic through the village, difficult to cross the road at some times of the day” (F, 61-70)

When we prompted people “How concerned are you about traffic in the village?”, 71% villagers said they were concerned. This rises to 82% for the over-60s, & 86% for ladies over 60. Even the young were concerned.

% concerned	Female	Male	All
0-30	35	46	39
31-60	73	77	75
61+	86	80	82
All ages	68	74	71



The main concern is the speed of traffic through the village, but concern about the number of HGVs & the condition of the roads is not far behind.

Everyone was concerned about speed, but older residents were more concerned about the number of HGVs. Younger residents were more concerned about the condition of the roads & parking outside the shops, than older residents.

In the 2016 village survey the similar concerns were expressed – speed of traffic, number of HGVs, volume of traffic. The condition of the roads was not asked then.

¹⁸ Action Fraud

Like crime, people's perception of the speed of traffic is somewhat exaggerated. A recent speed gun survey¹⁹ showed that 86% cars were within the 30mph speed limit in Doddington, & the maximum speed recorded was 37mph. The siting of the survey was at the junction of Childs Lane with High Street, & it is reasonable to expect that traffic would be slower as cars navigate past parking at the school & the shops in the centre of the village. It is likely that people's concern about speed is not actual speed, but a combination of speed & the perceived danger from cars passing each other where the road narrows because of parked cars.

Viewing perception of speed as perception of danger means that people's concern about speed cannot be dismissed as unfounded, & we need to act on it. In the survey we asked, again unprompted, *"what should be improved to make living in Doddington better?"* Traffic calming measures were mentioned by 26% people. Suggestions included:

"A joined-up traffic calming and traffic management scheme throughout the village" (M, 61-70)

"Ingles lane 1 way traffic" (M, 51-60)

"Lower speed limits" (M, 81+)

"Speed camera and 20 mph zone through the village high street." (M, 61-70)

"Traffic calming measures in the village, from Doddington sign to Doddington sign" (F, 61-70)

"Width restrictions at either end of the village to stop speeding" (M, 31-40)

"A crossing on the High St" (F, 61-70)

"Reduce speed to 30mph on Primrose Hill" (M, 71-80)

"Roads!!!! So dangerous and damaged" (F, 61-70)

The most popular suggestions were a 20mph speed limit in the village, followed by parking restrictions in High St & outside the school. Specific speed control measures were asked in the 2016 survey, although the answers were not particularly helpful then, as villagers said "everything". Nonetheless, it points to a continuing problem where action has not been taken, which elevates concerns.

It is likely that actual speeds & the number of injuries are too low to promote the village high up in the authorities' list of priorities. Imaginative schemes may need to be considered, & RoSPA have a helpful community guide²⁰ which lists some of them.

¹⁹ Intelligent Data Collection Survey ID06206 B1093 Doddington High Street 20 January 2022

²⁰ [RoSPA's Community Speed Complaint Guide](#)

5 Village infrastructure

To save space in the survey, we did not ask about aspects of the village infrastructure where accurate data was available from other sources, for example the 2021 Census & a Housing Needs Survey. These will be dealt with in the Neighbourhood Plan itself.

5.1 Villagers want to limit further house building

As noted above, 15% of the unprompted dislikes or concerns about living in Doddington were about house building & over-development, making it the second most worrying concern after traffic

“Amount of houses being built & not enough infrastructure to cope with them all - from school to drains to transport links” (M,71-80)

“The worry of the council agreeing to expanding properties in the village” (M,31-40)

“Constant threat of large scale planning applications” (F,41-50)

“The feeling that with increasing development, the village feel will be lost and we will become a suburb of March!!” (F, 61-70)

“The constant plans to expand our village and transformation. The infrastructure, school & village amenities are not built or designed for this. It must stop before our village is turned into a town.” (F,41-50)

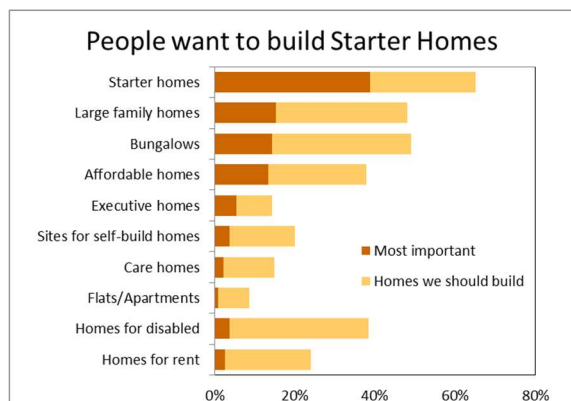
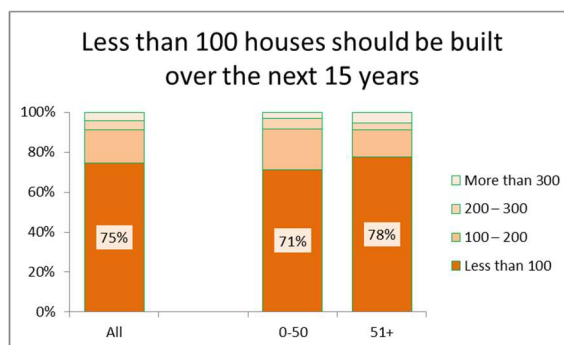
The last two quotes encapsulated a fear that came up frequently in the Village Conversation – that Doddington would grow so big it would lose its village identity, something that villagers would deeply regret. It was also the driver towards the move to Safety in villagers’ views of a future Doddington, as discussed in section 2.2.

In the survey, villagers were asked how many houses should be built in Doddington over the next 15 years. The answer was clear:

75% said that no more than 100 new houses should be built over the next 15 years
91% said no more than 200 new houses

These figures varied only slightly by age, with 71% 0-50s saying no more than 100 houses, compared with 78% over-50s. Both age groups agree that no more than 200 houses should be built.

In the 2016 survey, 74% participants thought there was no need for more housing in the village. Since then, 38 more houses have been built, a 4% increase on the then housing stock. Whilst modest, this will have hardened attitudes against new building.



When it comes to the question of what sort of homes we should build, the overall view is “not the sort of homes we see on planning applications”.

A variety of house types were selected as homes we should build, but, as before, asking “which is the most important” separates the “this is what I think I should say” (social norms) from the “this is what I really want” & reveals a clear list of priorities.

The priorities are starter homes (1-2 beds), followed by large family homes (3-4 beds), bungalows & affordable homes. Only 5% thought Executive homes (5+ beds) were important to build.

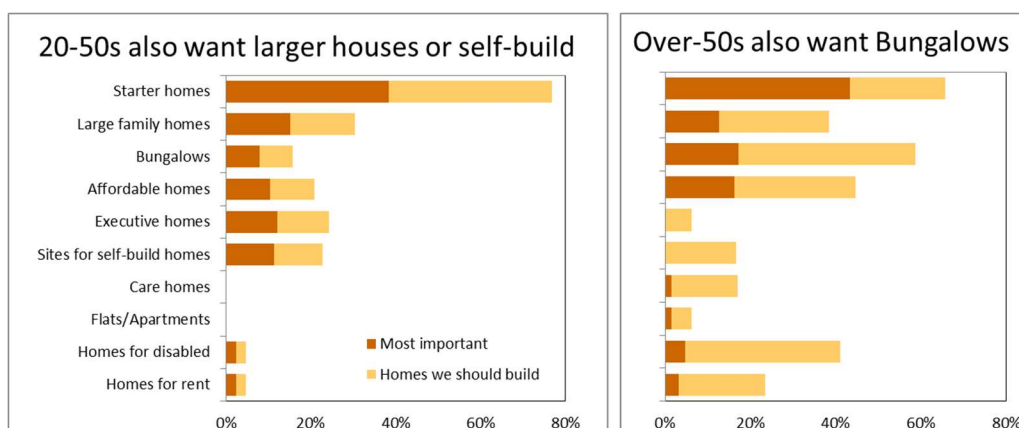
4% people thought sites for self-build homes were most important, this goes up to 11% in the 20-50 age group most likely to build them (see below).

Comparing with the 2016 survey, starter homes & large family homes were thought to be more important in this survey. Bungalows were not asked in 2016.

		% saying most important to build
	Starter homes (1-2 beds)	39%
	Large family homes (3-4 beds)	15%
	Bungalows	14%
	Affordable homes	13%
	Executive homes (5+ beds)	5%

13% people thought that affordable homes, which included social housing & shared ownership schemes, were the most important to build. This was the clear priority for what might be called community housing. The other types of community housing in the survey were homes for people with disabilities (4%), homes for rent (3%) & care homes (2%), 2% for homes for the disabled, & 2% for homes for rent. The latter two were cited more often as homes we should build without attaining the status of “most important”. They should be considered as part of the mix in the Neighbourhood Plan.

There was a distinct difference in opinion by lifecycle, between 20-50s who are building a family with little spare cash & little equity; & the over-50s, who are becoming empty-nesters with more cash & equity. Both groups want starter homes, the 20-50s out of need & the over-50s out of worries for their children’s housing prospects. The over-50s want affordable homes (for the same reasons), but also bungalows for themselves. Interestingly, there is not a big demand for care homes, or homes for people with disabilities – even in the 71+ age groups.



In contrast, the 20-50s want large family homes, executive homes (5+ beds) & sites for self-build homes. This is an aspiration for themselves as individuals, which contrasts with care for the group (the principal axis on the map in section 2.2).

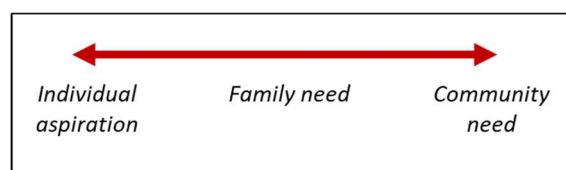
There was no difference in views between long-standing residents & relative newcomers, despite the fact that it is the latter group who would be more likely to live in new houses.

Some of the long-standing residents will be people who were born & brought up in the village, & looking for houses of their own, but a big driver of these views will be the *Friendly Community* ethos of the village.

Aside from the question of profitability, developers & especially the large house builders, will conduct a lot of good market research on what their potential buyers want. However, it is likely that that research concentrates on their potential buyers, meaning that individual aspiration has much more influence on the research than community need.

How long have you lived in Doddington?	15 years or less	More than 15 years
How many houses should we build over the next 15 years?		
Less than 100	73%	78%
Less than 200	90%	93%
Most important type of house to build:		
Starter homes	35%	45%
Large family homes	16%	12%
Bungalows	15%	15%
Affordable homes	11%	18%
Executive homes	7%	0%

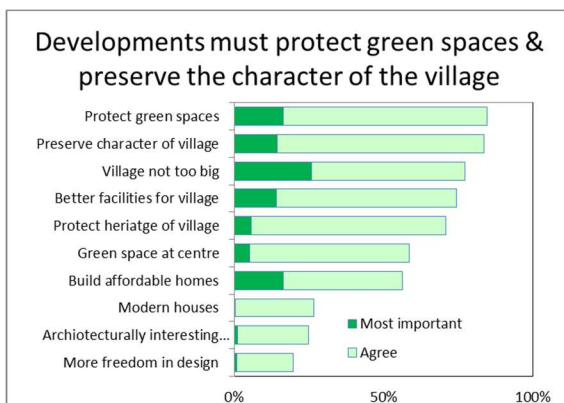
The desire to satisfy individual aspiration, laudable as it is, leads to a choice of house types that does not meet the community's needs, & that in turn creates hostility in the community. There is a need for dialogue with developers so that both needs can be met, & developers can work with the community as an alternative to being constantly opposed. From the community's point of view, this would build some credibility, & avoid the risk of always opposing & being dismissed as "a bunch of NIMBYs"



In the survey, we asked what the village wanted from new developments, in terms of their design, appearance & scale.

Villagers said that new developments should protect green spaces & preserve the character of the village, but when subjected to the "most important" test, scale was the issue, & they said the village must not get too big.

Villagers said that new developments must contribute better facilities for the village. Everyone recognises that the village infrastructure is under great strain & many say it should limit further building. Such contributions from developers, therefore, must be substantial and not token. This should be an important part of the Neighbourhood Plan.



Preserving the character of the village was seen as being more important than protecting the heritage of the village, a subtle difference but one which reflects the value of Doddington as a community rather than its buildings. For exactly the same reason, building affordable homes for families was more important than building architecturally interesting houses or modern houses with modern facilities.

As before, there were differences between the 21-50 age/lifestage & the over-50s. The 20-50s were more keen on protecting our green spaces, whereas the older group were more concerned about the village becoming too big.

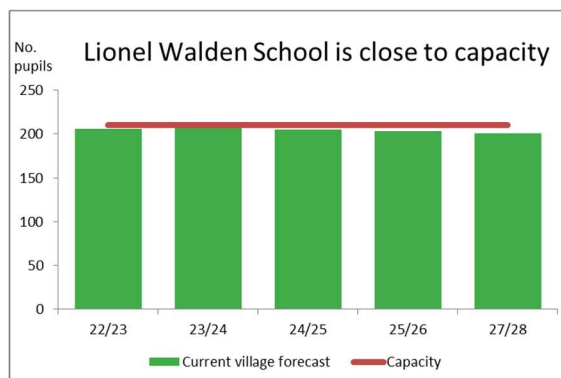
5.2 The school is valued, but is at capacity & there is strain on its facilities

It is clear from the Village Conversation that Lionel Walden school is well-regarded by parents & valued by the village. The last four Ofsted Reports have been either Outstanding or Good.

The school childrens' views on the future of Doddington, the Parks & a Youth Club have already been covered in sections 2.2 & 3.4 of this report, and it is clear that they like living in Doddington, are optimistic about the future, & display a high level of social responsibility.

The problem with the school is that it is very close to capacity, & unable to accommodate extra children.

The chart shows the number of children currently attending the school & the forecast for the next four years²¹. The red line is the official capacity of 210.



Cambridge CC's official estimate is that for every 10 new houses built, there will be 2.5 extra children of primary school age²². Clearly, even a modest number of new houses in the village will result in children living in the village not being able to go to school there.

The problem is exacerbated by the small footprint of Lionel Walden School. The school has expanded over recent years, but there is no room on the current site for further expansion.

The current situation is putting strain on the school's facilities. The table shows the number of people taking part in the survey, who attend school themselves or whose children attend school. It shows the satisfaction with the school's facilities & whether parents/children got their first choice.

Children think better of their facilities than their parents, but that is to be expected, as children are generally less critical.

	No. attending school	% Satisfied with facilities		% who got first choice
		Children	Parents	
No. answering question	115			
Pre-school	14	100	100	100
Lionel Walden School	94	100	84	93
Other primary	11	100	100	100
Secondary School	54	86	86	94
University	12		100	92
Other (includes Abbey College, Wilsbech Grammar)	18			100
Average		91	88	94

However, it is noticeable that parents are less satisfied with the facilities at Lionel Walden school than at other schools – 84% vs 93% (a difference that is statistically significant).

In the 2016 survey, 91% said they got their first choice of school.

²¹ Cambridgeshire CC

²² Cambridgeshire CC Planning Obligations Strategy (2016)

5.3 The village's medical facilities are already stretched

88% of the village have used at least one of the village's medical facilities in the last year, and 2.7 facilities on average.

% village using in last year	All	0-20	20-60	61+	Distance In miles
Any facility	88	86	87	92	
Doddington Medical Centre	73	55	76	76	1
Minor Injuries Unit	47	45	50	41	1
Doddington Community Hospital	45	17	48	51	1
Hinchingbrooke Hospital	38	28	38	42	20
Peterborough Hospital	27	10	26	37	25
Addenbrooke's Hospital	3	0	2	8	30
Papworth Hospital	1	0	0	3	30
Other (includes Ely, Fitzwilliam, Wisbech eye centre)	4	7	5	0	
Average no. facilities used	2.7	1.9	2.8	2.8	

It might be thought that use would be highest amongst the young (0-20) & old (61+), but use is similar across all ages. The only age effect is perhaps that as you get old you acquire conditions that need treatment across a number of specialist centres.

It was clear from both the unprompted comment & the Village Conversation that the medical facilities are well-valued, especially with the Minor Injuries Unit & Doddington Community Hospital on our doorstep. Indeed, there was a desire to make more creative use of these facilities, as a convalescent facility or outreach hospital with virtual wards, to ease pressure on the wider NHS. There was a suggestion that Doddington could become a Health Hub, with these facilities acting with the prominent care homes in the village to offer a wider care facility that would be a major asset for Fenland.

"Make Doddington Hospital into a full scale enterprise" (M, 71-80)

"Minor Injuries Unit be better utilised to increase NHS limited bed availability" (M, 71-80)

"The hospital should remain as an integral part of the village" (M, 61-70)

There was an equivalent worry about losing these facilities, with people citing the time it takes to get to Hinchingbrooke or Peterborough Hospitals, especially with the depletion of bus services. The table above shows just how remote these facilities are. The journey to either takes a long time - 40 minutes by car & nearly 2 hours on public transport (2019 data from Cambridgeshire Insight).

The health of Doddington's residents is slightly worse than the surrounding villages & Fenland, & worse than in Cambridgeshire or England as a whole²³. The table on the right shows two relevant statistics from the 2021 Census. The Health column gives the % people reporting themselves to be in good or very good health. The Disability column is the % people who said their day-to-day activities were limited a little or a lot by disability.

	Health	Disability
Cambridgeshire	84	16
England	82	17
Manea	80	20
Wimblington	79	19
Fenland	79	
Doddington	78	22

The % in good or very good health in Doddington, has declined slightly since the 2011 census. The average age in Doddington is 45 now (2021 census), & Cambridgeshire Insight forecast that this will increase to 49 by 2041.

²³ Source: Cambridgeshire Insight

The Doctors' Surgery (Fenland Group Practice) is at full stretch. This was reflected in unprompted comments in the survey:

"Doctor's Surgery - where has the service gone?" (M, 61-70)

"A doctors surgery in crisis " (M, 61-70)

"Inability to get into the doctors " (F, 41-50)

This situation will get worse if we are to deal with an ageing population in declining health, and a significant increase in population consequent on new housing.

5.4 The utilities need to be improved

"Doddington is one big sewerage problem!" (F, 51-60)

91% of the village relies on mains sewerage (5% have a septic tank & 4% have a sewage treatment plant). 21% reported a problem with water or sewerage in the last year, mainly blockage (42%), overflow (40%) & smells (20%). 21% may seem small, but for a serious problem like this it should be zero. The following comments were typical:

"Waste not going away properly and smell all the time" (M, 31-40)

"Electricity power outages. Blocked sewer drains due to design when properties built" (F, 61-70)

"Sewage pipes get blocked on Wimblington Road" (F, 41-50)

"Water not flushing away correctly due to blockages on the mains .. too many houses" (F, 31-40)

"Constant blocked drains" (F, 41-50)

"Wood street terrible smells internally coming from drains/external sewage smells also" (F, 61-70)

"Sewage coming up through cover in the garden after heavy rain" (F, 71-80)

"Backs up and overflows onto our driveway. Also occurs when large rain fall as system cannot cope." (M, 31-40)

"Mains pipe in road has been blocked several times" (M, 51-60)

"Excess rain often results in sewage escaping" (F, 61-70)

There has been some recent (Feb23) Facebook traffic about lorries carting away excess sewage from the Wood Street pumping station, but this was not an isolated problem – a survey of FB posts over Oct-Dec 22 produced 7 posts attracting an average of 14 comments each, putting it near the top of the list (it's not the number of posts that matters, but how people respond to them that shows the level of concern).

For confidentiality, we were not able to collect data in the survey that would pinpoint exactly where these sewage problems occurred, but it is clear that they cause great concern & distress to villagers when they happen – in a Maslowvian sense, they impact villagers' desire for safety & security.

In the 2016 survey, 26% villagers said that the sewerage system must be improved before further development took place in the village – *plus ça change, mais plus ça même chose*.

The other utilities did not attract the same degree of concern – if there were problems, they were quickly fixed (eg. electricity supply problems in December 22/January 23). 90% of the village rely on mains gas & electricity, 9% have solar panels & 3% a heat pump. 10% reported problems with low water pressure.

There was strong support for green energy – 88% would support a solar farms & wind turbines in the parish. As expected support was higher amongst the young, but not by much.



The charts show that incentives would really help. It is important that they are unobtrusive, that persuades an extra 37%; & giving discounts on electricity costs persuades an extra 24%.

People were generally satisfied with their telecommunications. 68% were satisfied with their broadband speed & 63% with their mobile phone signal. However, both these utilities will come under pressure in the near future.

Ofcom figures show that broadband speeds vary between 15 & 20Mbps on standard ADSL FTTC²⁴ in the village, but can be much lower in the wider parish. 80Mbps is delivered with full fibre. These speeds are OK for web browsing or TV streaming - but not for real-time gaming in households with multiple users. As one of the Guides said, *"If my Mum & my brother are on, I have to switch off & go & read a book"*.

This has implications for the future. BT will be switching Doddington to internet phones (VOIP) soon. This does not consume much bandwidth, but could impact households with already heavy use. Section 3.6 above identified a growth in the number of new businesses relying on the internet, as well as an increased the number of people working from home. Our telecommunications will need to be upgraded to be able to carry more traffic.

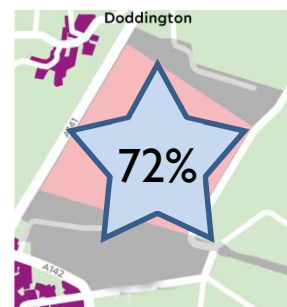
The quality of the mobile phone signal in the village depends on your supplier. EE (who also carry BT & PlusNet) have a 4G mast at Doddington Hospital, and another 4G mast near Station Road in Wimblington. This gives good coverage to the village & OK coverage in the wider parish. In contrast, Vodafone and Three only use the 4G mast in Wimblington, which gives OK coverage in the village centre but problems elsewhere.

Interestingly, only 8/460 people in the survey said they did not have broadband or a mobile phone.

5.5 The Fens Reservoir is welcomed

72% village supported the Fens Reservoir project, with 25% neutral & only 3% opposed.

As might be expected, support was slightly higher amongst men & those who were very involved in village activities. We might also expect support to be higher amongst those who had asked for sporty/outdoor facilities in the village, & therefore hoping to make the most of the promised facilities – but this was not the case. Both sporty & non-sporty types gave the same support, suggesting that the village will make the most of the new environment.



²⁴ ADSL FTTC is what most of us have – communication is via fibre to the cabinets in the village, but then copper telephone wires to the house. Fibre is in the village, & can be delivered to the house at extra cost.

6 Conclusions & Recommendations

6.1 Key conclusions

93% people like living in Doddington. They like living in Doddington because it is

Friendly, Community, Safe

Villagers reasons for liking life in Doddington were variations on the theme of friendly people & the sense of community, “*everyone looks out for each other*” as one woman said. “Safe” was mentioned by only a few, but it is an emotional attribute, & when we asked how they would describe Doddington to a friend, it came through as strongly as Friendly & Community. These three words give Doddington a unique personality. We may not be the prettiest village - “*Honest & unpretentious with a certain Fenland charm*” was a big a complement as villagers managed – but what we really value are the friendly people, how we come together as a community, & the sense of safety that brings.

When asked how they might describe the village in 15 years’ time, the answer was pretty much as it is now. This is not a negative, no change, NIMBY response. This is more “we value what we’ve got & we want to keep that sense of *Friendly, Community, Safe*”. There was a desire for a slightly more vibrant & prosperous village, but this was countered by a desire to be more safe, not losing what we have.

There were, of course, dislikes & concerns about life in Doddington. The biggest concern was about traffic through the village, mainly speeding & the number of HGVs. All age groups were worried about this, but in particular it concerned 86% of women over 60.

The second biggest concern was about over-development of the village, with people worried that with too many and the wrong type of houses being built, the village would lose its character & identity. To quote one woman, “*the village feel will be lost and we will become a suburb of March!*”. This concern was compounded by a worry that the village infrastructure was over-stretched. There are three main issues:

- Lionel Walden primary school is valued by the village and is a good school. But it is at capacity & has no room for further expansion, & will not be able to accommodate the predicted number of children from new houses being built.
- The medical facilities are well-used. The Doctors’ surgery is stretched, & there is constant concern that we may lose Doddington Community Hospital & the Minor Injuries Unit. Doddington is less healthy & has more people with disabilities than surrounding areas, & with the average age forecast to increase significantly, increasing strain will be put on these valued facilities.
- 21% have had problems with their sewerage in the last year, mainly blockage & sewer overflow. This causes major concern to those affected, because it attacks their fundamental desire for safety & security.

It is therefore no surprise that when asked how many houses should be built in the next 15 years:

75% said that no more than 100 new houses & 91% said no more than 200 new houses

In addition, the houses villagers would like to be built are not the houses that are proposed on current planning applications. The village’s priorities are for starter homes, large family homes, bungalows & affordable homes (this includes social housing & shared ownership schemes). The village was also keen that new developments preserve the character of the village, & contribute better facilities for the village – substantial facilities rather than tokens.

Turning back to village life & how villagers want it to develop, there’s a lot going on in Doddington! Almost all the village have been to an event or activity in the last year. Two-thirds of the village went to Doddington Carnival, or attended the Christmas Lights switch on. More than a third went to the Carnival Sports Day, or an event at the Village Hall or the Recreation Ground Pavilion. Abbey Skate Park was well-used, & the

various Guide & Scout groups well supported by the young. The Horticultural Society Show & the two churches were well attended.

The village shops, pubs & businesses were well-used. 94% of the village had been to at least one in the last year, with 91% of the village using the One-Stop Shop. Almost everyone has eaten from the Fish Bar, most have drunk at the Three Tuns or the George, or stocked their garden from Megaplants. However, the most important fact is that villagers said they use the shops because they want to support the local economy. When we asked what people would like to see in the village, the answer was loud and clear

We want a coffee shop!

This was endorsed by all age groups in the village, with similar suggestions for a bakery/deli & a business centre/café to support the new businesses emerging in the village & those working from home. Whilst March & Chatteris are struggling with their retail future & seeing a solution in coffee shops & nail bars, we should ask “*why travel to March or Chatteris when you can have a good local coffee with friends in Doddington?*”

Other things that people would like to see in the village were better park facilities & a Youth Club. A common complaint from young villagers was “*there isn't much to do for people my age*”. The young were very supportive of a coffee shop as a way to chill out with friends away from overt adult supervision. They were also keen on a Youth Club, & had clear ideas about how it would work & who would run it.

Young people make good use of the parks & would like to see better park facilities. They had specific requests for better facilities in the Abbey Skate park, & are keen (as are the rest of the village) on outdoor gym equipment. There are concerns about graffiti & misbehaviour of older teenagers (aided by the isolation of the skate park), but younger teenagers have strategies for dealing with this.

The three opportunities

Coffee shop, Better park facilities, Youth Club

... should be a legacy for the future of the village. They would also help to allay the concerns amongst older residents about anti-social behaviour.

Doddington is a safe village. Crime rates are almost half those in Fenland or England, & have not risen as they have in other areas. There are no crime “hot spots” in the village. Villagers report the more serious crimes to the police, but whilst the police respond to most crimes, villagers are not satisfied with that response. The exception is Fraud, which is handled by a national hotline, which seems to be good at keeping people informed – something local police might learn from. People’s experience of crime in the village correlates reasonably well with police data, the exception being illegal drug use, where the recorded rates are much lower than they should be.

59% the village are in full or part time employment, with 24% retired. Of those in employment, 38% work in the village or from home. Changing work patterns & new, internet-dependent businesses mean that this proportion will increase, & the infrastructure needs to develop to support this.

Those who work in the village are fortunate to be able to walk to work in less than 15 minutes, whilst their colleagues who have to travel go by car & take over an hour to get to work. Only 2% travel by bus, and then for short journeys. The bus service is too infrequent at the start of the day & too unreliable for connections enabling a longer journey. If we are trying to promote public transport to wean people off the car & improve the environment, the poor bus service in Doddington is a major obstacle.

6.2 Recommendations for the Neighbourhood Plan

- (1) The Neighbourhood Plan should envisage less than 100 new houses. If this is not feasible, & 100-200 new houses are needed, the village will need to be convinced of the necessity & benefits of new development.
- (2) A clear statement is needed on the type of houses that need to be built, & serious thought needs to be given on mechanisms to make sure developers deliver against this requirement, especially addressing changes between planning and building.
- (3) A design code should be developed to ensure that new developments preserve the character of the village.
- (4) The village wants new developments to contribute better facilities for the village, & these should be substantial rather than token. The Neighbourhood Plan should set out a list of facilities we could reasonably ask for.
- (5) The Neighbourhood Plan must address the infrastructure issues that concern the village. Whilst the Neighbourhood Plan cannot solve these problems, it should recommend a way forward on key issues like the school, medical facilities & sewerage. The Neighbourhood Plan must state when new developments can start, & link this to the ability of the infrastructure to cope with extra houses.
- (6) A key stage in constructing the Neighbourhood Plan is consultation with key stakeholders. This is an important opportunity to discuss infrastructure problems with the relevant bodies, to elicit their intentions & plans for upgrading our infrastructure.
- (7) Constructing the Neighbourhood Plan will take some time, & it is important that the village is left to think “we had our say in the survey, but nothing happened”. The DNPG must continue to communicate progress, particularly on specific concerns raised in this consultation.

6.3 Recommendations outside the Neighbourhood Plan

One lady who contributed a lot of suggestions in the top 40 list, & concluded “... happy to be on any steering committee! If you need to contact me: xxx@xxx.com” (F,51-60), has a valid point - constructing a Neighbourhood Plan is a waste of time if we do nothing with it. Doddington is a village that wants to improve its facilities, & clearly has a large number of villagers who are enthusiastic for change.

These are not my personal recommendations, but recommendations based on my analysis of the Village Conversation & the Village Survey. Some of them are not things the Neighbourhood Plan can address directly, so we need to consider how they can be delivered. They are not addressed to the Parish Council directly, although the Parish Council will have a view on things that have been done in the past & how to make them happen successfully this time.

- (8) The Parish Council should review the list of Top 40 suggestions in section 2.4 to identify the “low-hanging fruit” of ideas that can be implemented or at least started quickly. That would enable the village to see progress, something which would be appreciated.
- (9) We need a group of enthusiasts to work with the Parish Council to take things forward, people who have the resources, influence & chutzpah to make things happen. This should not be a formal “coffee shop committee”, more a network of enablers
- (10) In particular, delivery of a coffee shop depends on finding a young local entrepreneur keen to have a go, & enabling the financial support to make it happen. This might involve crowd funding & the expertise of the Parish Council in finding start-up grants.
- (11) There will be no shortage of naysayers who will point out many valid reasons why things cannot be done. We need to learn lessons from past failures to improve the chances of success this time.
 - For example, there was a coffee shop in the village some years ago, but the business was unsuccessful – mainly because of the ambience. Both the George & the Church have served coffee in the past, but *a coffee shop is not a shop that serves coffee* – it’s much much more than that. The insight from this report is that a coffee shop is a place to chill out with friends. The coffee needs to be good, but ambience is king.
 - Similarly, there used to be a Youth Club in the village, which discontinued for uncertain reasons (stories vary). The insight from this report is that a youth club needs to be run as its members

would like it to be run, catering to their needs & with the minimum of overt supervisions - & not as adults think it should be run.

- (12) Crime is low in Doddington & villagers feel safe, but some positive communication would help to improve villagers' satisfaction with the police response. The Parish Council should discuss options at their next liaison meeting with the police. The possible under-recording of illegal drugs use should also be investigated.
- (13) Traffic is a concern for all villagers, the main concerns being the speed of the traffic through the village & the number of HGVs. Speed surveys show that actual speeds are not excessive & there have been few injuries, so measures like a 20mph speed limit may not meet official criteria for implementation. Imaginative alternatives for traffic calming need to be considered, This is something where the Parish Council & Community Speedwatch Group should be invited to plan a way forward.
- (14) Villagers were reasonably satisfied with their broadband speeds & mobile phone signals, although Ofcom data says that the former may come under strain with future developments, & the latter depends on having the right supplier. This will be an important infrastructure for the future, & the Parish Council should have its performance on the agenda (annually).
- (15) Formal contact should be made with Anglia Water to influence the planning of the new Fens Reservoir. If we want it to be called "Doddington Water" & provide facilities that will help the village prosper, we need to be influencing them early.

6.4 How this report should be used in the Neighbourhood Plan

This report provides a strong foundation for the Doddington Neighbourhood Plan, in that the community has made its views clear. Having read through 19 other Neighbourhood Plans, I get the impression that most were written by a group that consulted the village because they had to, but then went ahead and did what they wanted. This may be an unfair inference on their hard work & good intentions, but we must not fall into that trap. We must reference the Village Consultation at all relevant opportunities, to show that what we recommend does not come from us, but from the whole village.

This will also be a strong defence against the pushback we will get from officials who disagree with or do not like our conclusions. The temptation will be for them to dismiss our plan as "just the opinion of a bunch on NIMBYs". Again, this may be an unfair accusation, but if we can demonstrate that what we recommend is based on hard evidence & clear village opinion, we will be in a strong position.

JIH
13Mar23
Updated 2Mar24

7 Appendix: Survey Questionnaire

Doddington Village Survey – Your Village, Your Views, Your Future

Welcome to the survey, which will help to plan Doddington's future over the next 15-20 years. Please read the article in this issue of Doddington Diary, which says what we are trying to do and how your answers will help.

Please detach this questionnaire from your copy of the Diary. There are 40 questions, but almost all ask for a tick or cross, and it should take no more than 15 minutes to complete. We'd like everyone in your household to participate, especially the younger members – it's their future! All your answers will be anonymous & confidential. If you'd prefer to complete the questionnaire online, please scan the QR code or go to <https://surveymonkey.co.uk/r/DoddingtonSurvey2023>



The first questions we'd like to ask are about you, and how much you like living in Doddington

Q1 How old are you? <i>Please tick the box that applies, there is one column for each member of your household. If there are more than 6 in your household, please add ticks on the right hand side.</i>	1 st person	2 nd person	3 rd person	4 th person	5 th person	6 th person
0-10 years						
11-20 years						
21-30 years						
31-40 years						
41-50 years						
51-60 years						
61-70 years						
71-80 years						
81 & older						

Q2 What is your gender? <i>Please tick the box that applies</i>	1 st person	2 nd person	3 rd person	4 th person	5 th person	6 th person
Female						
Male						
Other						
Prefer not to say						

Q3 How long have you lived in Doddington village or the Parish?	1 st person	2 nd person	3 rd person	4 th person	5 th person	6 th person
5 years or less						
6-15 years						
16-24 years						
25 years or more						
I don't live in Doddington						

Q4 How much do you like living in Doddington?	1 st person	2 nd person	3 rd person	4 th person	5 th person	6 th person
I like it very much						
I like it a little						
I neither like nor dislike it						
I dislike it a little						
I dislike it a lot						

Q5 What do you most like about living in Doddington? <i>Please write your person number in the left hand box</i>	
Person no.	
Person no.	
Person no.	

Q6 What, if anything, do you dislike about living in Doddington? <i>Please write your person number in the left hand box</i>	
Person no.	
Person no.	
Person no.	

Q7 What should be improved to make living in Doddington better? <i>Please write your person number in the left hand box</i>	
Person no.	
Person no.	
Person no.	

Q8 If you were talking to a friend about living in Doddington, which of the following words would you use? <i>Please tick as many as apply, then circle the most important one</i>	1 st person	2 nd person	3 rd person	4 th person	5 th person	6 th person
Vibrant						
Prosperous						
Attractive						
Friendly						
Community						
Safe						
Traditional						
Boring						
Insular						
Affordable						
Cliquey						
Unfriendly						

Q9 If you were talking to the same friend in 15 year's time, which of the following words would you like to be able to use? <i>Please tick as many as apply, then circle the most important one</i>	1 st person	2 nd person	3 rd person	4 th person	5 th person	6 th person
Vibrant						
Prosperous						
Attractive						
Friendly						
Community						
Safe						
Traditional						
Boring						
Insular						
Affordable						
Cliquey						
Unfriendly						

The next questions are about housing

Q10 At the moment, there are just over 1000 homes in the village. How many more should we build over the next 15 years?	1 st person	2 nd person	3 rd person	4 th person	5 th person	6 th person
Less than 100						
100 – 200						
200 – 300						
More than 300						

Q11 What sort of homes should we build? Please tick as many as you think is right, then circle the most important one	1 st person	2 nd person	3 rd person	4 th person	5 th person	6 th person
Executive homes (5+ bedrooms)						
Large family homes (3-4 bedrooms)						
Starter homes (1-2 bedrooms)						
Sites for self-build homes						
Bungalows						
Flats/Apartments						
Affordable homes (social housing/shared ownership)						
Homes for rent						
Homes for people with disabilities						
Care homes						

Q12 Thinking about the design, appearance & scale of new developments, with which of these statements do you agree? Please tick all that apply, then circle the most important	1 st person	2 nd person	3 rd person	4 th person	5 th person	6 th person
We need to protect the heritage of the village						
We need to preserve the character of the village						
We need to protect green spaces						
Some parts of the village should have more freedom in design						
We need more architecturally interesting buildings						
The village must not become too big						
New developments must have green space at their centre						
New developments must contribute better facilities for the village						
We need to build modern houses with modern facilities						
We need to build affordable homes for families						

Pre-school, Schools & Education If you have no children in education, please skip to Q16

Q13 Which school (if any) do you or your children go to? Please tick all that apply	1 st person	2 nd person	3 rd person	4 th person	5 th person	6 th person
Pre-school						
Lionel Walden School						
Thomas Eaton School						
Primary School in Chatteris						
Primary School in March						
Secondary School						
School for those with special needs						
Apprentice Scheme						
University						
Home educated						
Other (Please state)						
None						
Don't have children of school age						

Q14 How satisfied are you with the facilities the school has?	1 st person	2 nd person	3 rd person	4 th person	5 th person	6 th person
Very satisfied						
Quite satisfied						
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied						
A bit dissatisfied						
Very dissatisfied						

Q15 Did you or your children get their first choice of school?	1 st person	2 nd person	3 rd person	4 th person	5 th person	6 th person
Yes						
No						

Health & Social Services

Q16 Which of the following services have you used in the last year? Please tick all that apply	1 st person	2 nd person	3 rd person	4 th person	5 th person	6 th person
Doddington Medical Centre (Doctors)						
Doddington Community Hospital						
Minor Injuries Unit						
Peterborough Hospital						
Hinchingbrooke Hospital						
Other (please state)						

Utilities - Water, sewerage, electricity, gas & oil

Q17 Which of the following do you use to heat/power your home? Please tick all that apply	1 st person	2 nd person	3 rd person	4 th person	5 th person	6 th person
Mains gas						
Bottled gas						
Oil						
Mains electricity						
Solar panels						
Wind turbine						
Heat pump						
Other (please specify)						

Q18 How is your sewage managed?	1 st person	2 nd person	3 rd person	4 th person	5 th person	6 th person
Mains sewer						
Sewage treatment plant						
Septic tank						
Other (please specify)						

Q19 Have you had any problems with your water supply or sewage in the last year?	1 st person	2 nd person	3 rd person	4 th person	5 th person	6 th person
Yes						
No						

Q20 If you answered yes, what were these problems?

Q21 Which of the following would best improve the environment of the village? Please tick all that apply, circle most important one	1 st person	2 nd person	3 rd person	4 th person	5 th person	6 th person
Plant more trees						
More green spaces in the village						
Keep verges mown and tidy						
Let verges grow for wildlife						
Open more public footpaths and bridleways						
Better maintenance of pavements						
Better signposts for footpaths						
Better ditch maintenance						
Better street lights						
Removal of overhead wires (electricity, telephone)						
Less street furniture (i.e. signs, bollards, etc.)						
Allocate dog walking areas on Abbey Field/Recreation Ground						
Provide more litter bins						
Provide more dog waste bins						
Other (please state)						

Q22 Thinking about the generation of green energy, please say whether you agree or disagree with the following statements	1 st person	2 nd person	3 rd person	4 th person	5 th person	6 th person
I would support a solar farm in the parish	Agree					
	Agree, if it was not intrusive					
	Agree, if it gave me a discount on my electricity costs					
	Disagree					
I would support wind turbines in the parish	Agree					
	Agree, if they were not intrusive					
	Agree, if they gave me a discount on my electricity costs					
	Disagree					

Village Attractions

Q23 Which of the following activities or events have you been to in the last year? Please tick all that apply.	1 st person	2 nd person	3 rd person	4 th person	5 th person	6 th person
Abbey Skate Park						
Beavers/Rainbows/Brownies/Cubs/Guides/Scouts						
Christmas Lights Switch On						
Croquet						
Doddington Carnival						
Doddington Carnival Sports Day						
Event at the Recreation Pavilion						
Event at the Village Hall						
Football Club						
Future Stars						
Horticultural Society Annual Show						
Methodist Church						
Parish Council Meeting						
Short Mat Bowls Club						
St Mary's Parish Church						
Street Pride Group						
Thrift Shop						
Under 5s Group						
Women's Institute						
Other (please state)						

Q24 Which of the following activities or facilities would you like to see in the village? Please tick all that apply.	1 st person	2 nd person	3 rd person	4 th person	5 th person	6 th person
Better park facilities						
Better sports facilities						
Outdoor gym equipment						
Tennis courts						
Cricket club						
Bowls green						
Allotment gardens						
Youth Club						
Coffee shop						
Business Centre (with café and office facilities)						
Other (please state)						

Q25 Most activities in the village rely on groups of volunteers to organise them. How likely would you be to volunteer to help?	1 st person	2 nd person	3 rd person	4 th person	5 th person	6 th person
Very Likely						
Likely						
Neither likely nor unlikely						
Unlikely						
Very unlikely						

Q26 If you answered “Unlikely” or “Very Unlikely” to Q25, what are your main reasons for saying so? Please tick all that apply	1 st person	2 nd person	3 rd person	4 th person	5 th person	6 th person
I’m too busy at the moment						
I don’t think I have the skills to contribute						
These groups are run by people I don’t like						
None of the activities are relevant to me						
I’m not really interested						
Other (please state)						

Q27 From what you know at the moment, how supportive are you of the Fens Reservoir project?	1 st person	2 nd person	3 rd person	4 th person	5 th person	6 th person
Very supportive						
Somewhat supportive						
Neither supportive nor opposed						
Somewhat opposed						
Strongly opposed						

Shops & local businesses

Q28 Which of the following shops, pubs or businesses have you used in the last year?	1 st person	2 nd person	3 rd person	4 th person	5 th person	6 th person
OneStop shop						
Doddington Newsagents						
Three Tuns						
The George						
Doddington Fish Bar						
Doddington Garden Centre						
Delfland						
Megaplants						
Tessa’s Hair Salon						
Gieves Cutting & Styling						
Reflections by Charlotte						
Bowls Bi-Us						
Washbrook Farm Motocross						
Other (please state)						

Q29 Which of the following best reflects your opinion of local shops & businesses? Please tick as many as you think apply, then circle the most important one	1 st person	2 nd person	3 rd person	4 th person	5 th person	6 th person
I like to support the local economy and community						
I like the social interaction						
Local shops are convenient						
Local shops are good for last minute items						
Shopping locally saves travel costs						
I don't have transport						
Local shops do not provide good value						
Local shops don't have the range of goods I need						

Employment Thanks for continuing to answer this questionnaire – just a few more questions to go!

Q30 What is your employment status at the moment?	1 st person	2 nd person	3 rd person	4 th person	5 th person	6 th person
Part-time, full time or self employed						
Unpaid employment (eg houseperson, carer)						
Unemployed						
In full-time education or training						
Sick/disabled						
Retired						

Q31 Where do you work?	1 st person	2 nd person	3 rd person	4 th person	5 th person	6 th person
At home (this includes teleworking from home)						
In the village						
Outside the village						

If you are in employment and travel to work, please answer the next two questions. Otherwise, please skip to Q34

Q32 How do you travel to work?	1 st person	2 nd person	3 rd person	4 th person	5 th person	6 th person
Walk						
Cycle						
Bus						
Car						
Other (please state)						

Q33 How long does your journey usually take?	1 st person	2 nd person	3 rd person	4 th person	5 th person	6 th person
Less than 15 mins						
15-30 minutes						
30 minutes – 1 hour						
1 - 2 hours						
More than 2 hours						

Transport & roads

Q34 How concerned are you about traffic in the village?	1 st person	2 nd person	3 rd person	4 th person	5 th person	6 th person
Not at all concerned						
Not very concerned						
Slightly concerned						
Very concerned						

If you answered "slightly" or "very concerned", please answer the next question. Otherwise, please skip to Q36

Q35 You said that you were slightly/very concerned about traffic in the village. Which of these factors concerns your most? Please tick all that apply, then circle the most important one.	1 st person	2 nd person	3 rd person	4 th person	5 th person	6 th person
The speed of traffic through Doddington						
The volume of traffic						
The number of HGVs						
Parking outside the shops						
Parking outside the school						
The condition of the roads						

Telecommunications

Q36 How satisfied are you with your broadband speed?	1 st person	2 nd person	3 rd person	4 th person	5 th person	6 th person
Very satisfied						
Quite satisfied						
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied						
A bit dissatisfied						
Very dissatisfied						
Don't have broadband						

Q37 How satisfied are you with your mobile phone signal?	1 st person	2 nd person	3 rd person	4 th person	5 th person	6 th person
Very satisfied						
Quite satisfied						
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied						
A bit dissatisfied						
Very dissatisfied						
Don't have a mobile						

Security & Policing

Q38 Have you experienced or witnessed the following in the last year? Please tick all that apply	1 st person	2 nd person	3 rd person	4 th person	5 th person	6 th person
Burglary						
Theft from house						
Theft from garden or outbuilding						
Car crime						
Vandalism						
Verbal assault						
Bodily assault						
Fraud/conman (including online)						
Public nuisance/drunkenness						
Illegal drug use						
Other (please state)						
None of these						

Q39 How satisfied were you with the response from the police?	1 st person	2 nd person	3 rd person	4 th person	5 th person	6 th person
Very satisfied						
Quite satisfied						
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied						
A bit dissatisfied						
Very dissatisfied						
Reported it, but no response						
Didn't report it						

Thank you for completing the questionnaire! Is there anything you'd like to add?

Please post your questionnaire in one of our collection boxes before 28 th February:	One-Stop shop Doddington Newsagents	Three Tuns The George

