

# BPC-BVRA Resident Survey November 2022

## Survey results

### Survey distribution

Printed copy distributed to 1500 residents of Barkham Parish (which includes Arborfield Green) via the regular distribution of the Barkham Parish Council magazine Village Info. Distribution took place during the month of November 2022. Survey closing date was 30<sup>th</sup> November 2022

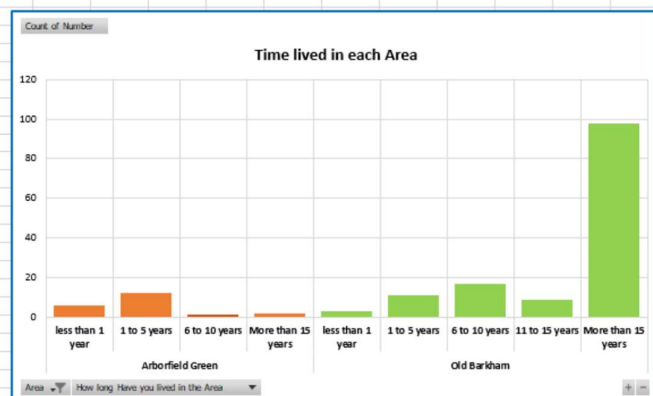
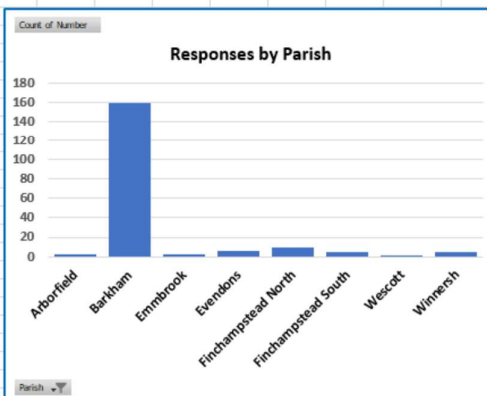
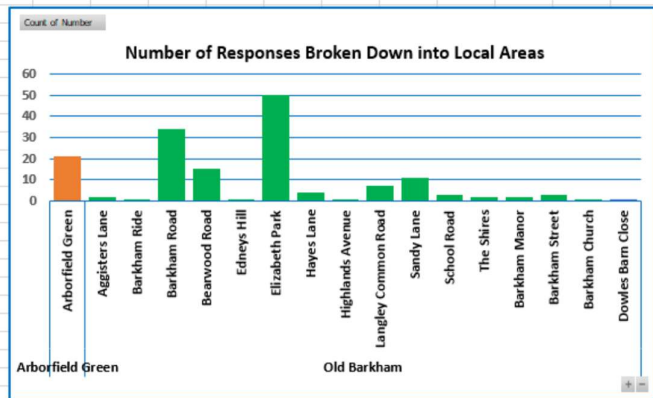
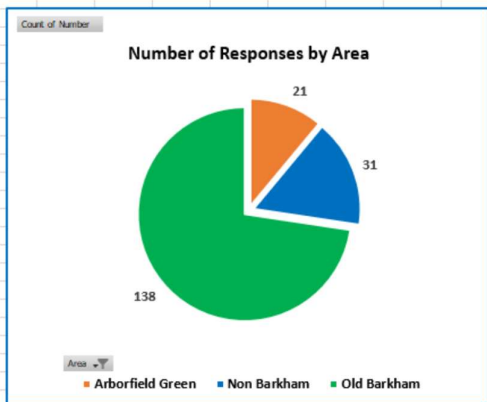
Responses as of 29 November = 190/12% (non-responses = 1310) Analysis is conducted on 190 responses

144 residents have provided their name and email address and 139 would like to receive a summary of the results

### Breakdown by demographics

The majority of responses – 73% - came from “Old Barkham” with the key areas being Elizabeth Park, Barkham Road and Bearwood Road. It is encouraging that 11% of responses come from Arborfield Green rather than none at all. 16% of the responses came from outside Barkham mainly from DevWatch subscribers and possible sharing of the survey link.

The majority of respondents have lived in Old Barkham for more than 15 years and fall into the 65+ age group with no children living at home.

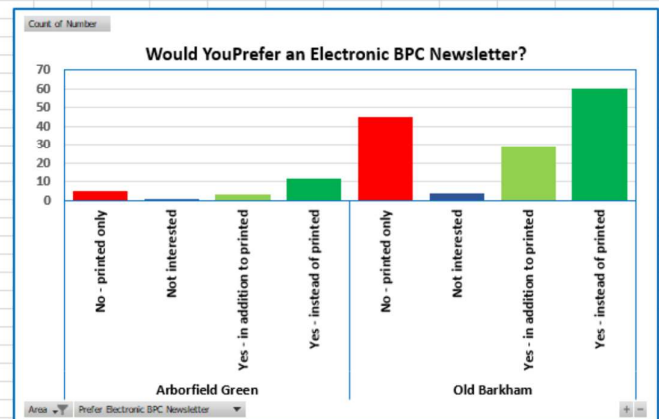
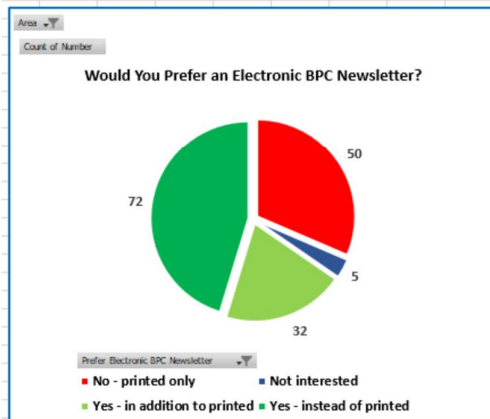
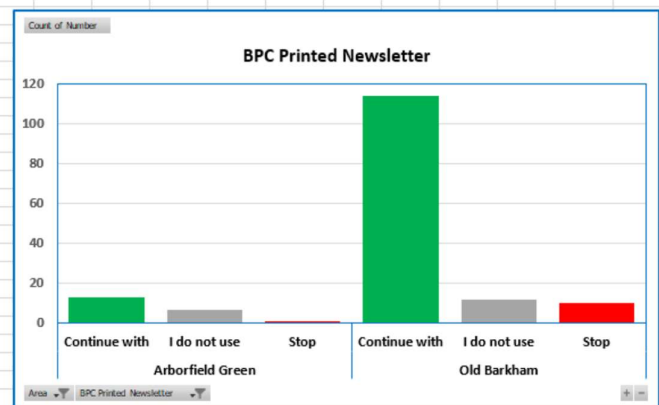
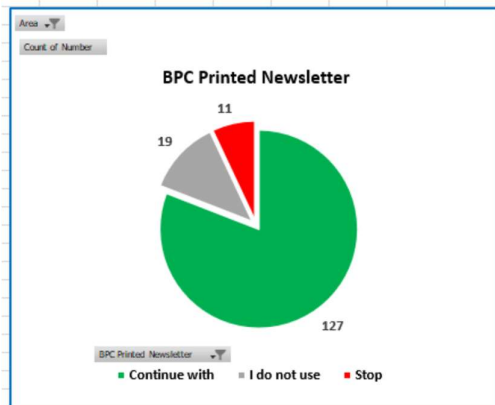


## Responses by question

### 1. What is your view of the BPC Village Info (Vinfo) magazine?

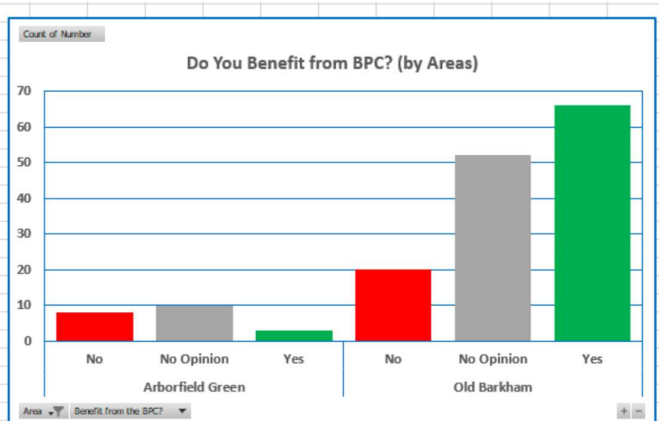
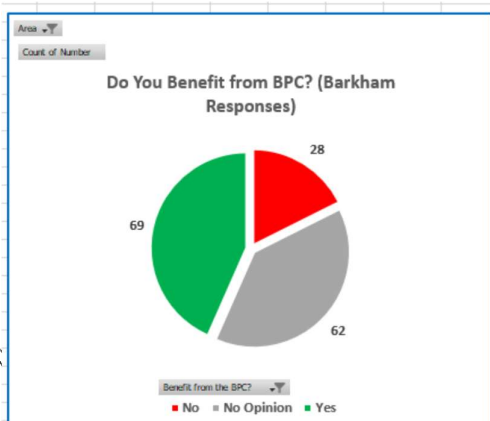
#### Choices were to Continue, Stop, or Do not use

The majority of Barkham residents (81%) voted to continue with the printed newsletter produced by BPC. They were also given the choice if they would prefer an electronic newsletter instead or as an addition and the results are shown below. As we don't hold residents email addresses then we would need to work with BVRA who do have a large number of these if we decided to publicise a web-based version.



### 2. Do you currently benefit from Barkham Parish Council (BPC)?

Only 43% of Barkham residents who responded saw a benefit from BPC, 18% saw no benefit and 39% had no opinion. This situation was worse in Arborfield Green where only 14% of respondees saw a benefit.



It is clear that BPC need to do more work to raise its profile in Arborfield Green and provide some real value to Barkham residents who live there.

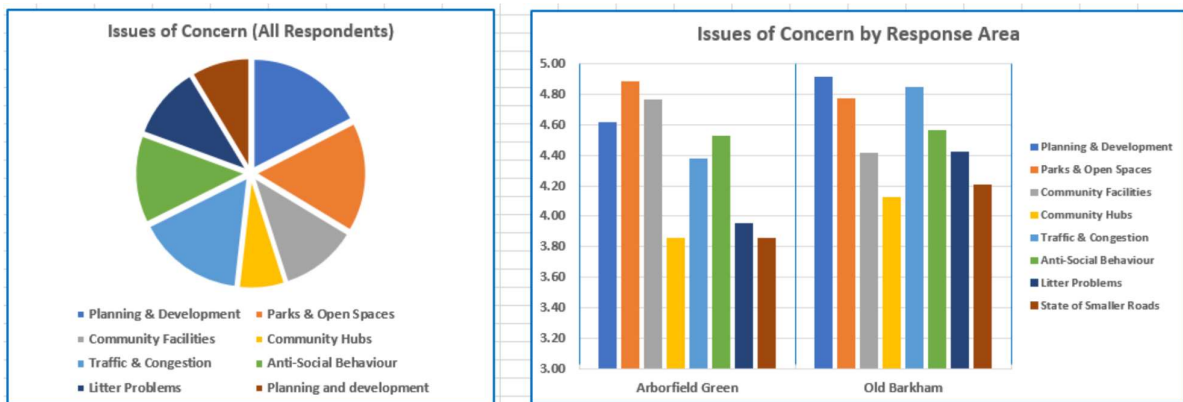
### 3. Future Focus

The overwhelming priority of importance for 90% of residents is planning and development, e.g., the number of houses being built in Barkham or illegal developments without planning permission. Correlating with this is having plenty of parks and open spaces and this has been clarified by some residents to include greenfield sites, fields, woods etc. Traffic and congestion are a natural concern as the infrastructure is not available to accommodate the increasing number of houses.

Community facilities such as shops and cafes follow in secondary place and community hubs such as the District and Community Centres in tertiary importance

Comments complain about the increasing development applications and plans, roadworks, traffic and congestion including speeding controls. The state of the roads is also mentioned.

It does not appear that the key concerns of Barkham residents is much different to those of other areas within Wokingham that are experiencing similar issues and pressures impacting quality of life.



### 4. What is the ONE thing that would make your life better in the area?

Not surprisingly decreasing/stopping housing development tops the list of nearly all residents' wish list. Speed limits, roadworks, bus services and road conditions are all of key concern.

### 5. BPC has access to funds that can be used for local development projects to improve the infrastructure and facilities in Barkham Parish. Please suggest one project that you think would help?

- Wild Park for strolling and sitting in, not just grass like so many "green spaces"
- Continuous shared footpath/cycleway along Bearwood Road to link Barkham & Sindlesham
- Local transport (currently useless!)
- More park equipment for youngsters
- Foot and Cycle paths
- Community cafe

- *Doctor's surgery.*
- *Community Orchard*
- *Facilities for youth and youth activities*
- *Better bus service*
- *More footpaths etc to encourage walking instead of driving*
- *Improve amenities for teenagers*
- *Maintenance of the open spaces*
- *Village hall as a keep warm space for arts and crafts, games, coffee mornings for the over 65s and meeting space for new mums etc, Christmas fare, summer fete etc.*
- *Safer footpaths/cycle way along Barkham Ride*
- *Footpaths along roads without pavements*
- *Local policing*
- *Understanding what BPC can do when WBC is in control*
- *State of the smaller local roads*
- *Bollards to stop 4 x4 s in The Coombes*
- *More facilities for teenagers*
- *A pavement from Highlands Avenue to the National Grid so commuters can cycle to Winnersh Train Station and pupils can cycle to The Forest School.*
- *Is there anything you can do to promote the signage of local footpaths? Encourage walkers, so they can enjoy the local countryside.*
- *Local celebrations e.g., King Charles coronation and maintenance of Elizabeth Park/. Village hall*
- *Community Garden*
- *A village centre with shops and cafés to support an expanding community*
- *Safe walking routes along roads where none currently exist.*
- *EV charging points*
- *Allotment facilities possibly at Rook's Nest as now no housing is occurring it might be useful to have some sort of community plan for the area in question.*
- *Encourage small businesses/ pop-up shops to provide services*
- *Probably not within your remit, but a GP surgery in Barkham would be fantastic*
- *A safe crossing for Bohunt schoolchildren on the end of Biggs Lane near Commonfield Lane.*
- *Off road cycle paths*
- *Improvement to the Village Hall. New kitchen, possibly adding on another hall or meeting rooms. Electric points in the car park of the village hall. At least 10 to benefit the residents of the village and outside the church. What is happening with the solar farm?*
- *Walk-in/mobile medical unit available for a limited period two or three times a week for the over 65s.*
- *Improved cycle routes on main roads if that is possible*
- *Anything aimed at younger residents*
- *Pavement up Bearwood road*
- *Footpath along Bearwood Road from near Coombes Lane all the way to St Catherine's Church*
- *Traffic calming on Bearwood Road particularly near the post office.*
- *A coffee shop would be nice*
- *Medical centre*
- *A frequent Shuttle bus service between garrison and Wokingham (that does not go via Finch) as a quicker alternative to leopard 3*
- *Greenway between Barkham and Arborfield Green adjacent to Langley Common Road*

- *More cycle routes - improvement of safety for cycling along the Barkham Road*
- *Litter is a terrible problem, I would love to see more bins*
- *More swings suitable for teens at park in the Lilacs*
- *Provide a footpath/cycle way along all of Bearwood Road to Sindlesham*
- *Lots of elderly people in the area who are susceptible to modern scams based around technology. Setting up a local volunteer group, who are DBS cleared and tech savvy, to assist local residents (particularly the elderly) to avoid scams.*
- *Widen Commonfield Lane*
- *Upgrade the Village Hall*
- *No comment.*
- *Policing to enable residents to feel safe*
- *Take the 30-mph limit further up the Bearwood Road small hill to Highlands Av and make a footpath between Hayes Lane and Coombes Lane.*
- *Better access for pedestrians and vehicles to the BVH. The single-track road would benefit from improved passing places. Perhaps low-level lighting for pedestrians triggered by movement. Facelift to the Village Hall which has seen few obvious improvements for over 20 years. Improve footpaths in the Coombes especially the area around the Dips which has become quite treacherous. The steps built some 20 years ago have worn/rotted away.*
- *More speed limit signs*
- *Improved cycleways - and continuous path along Bearwood rd*
- *Tree planting*
- *Speed control cameras on Barkham rd in area of housing numbers 350 upwards*
- *Pub cafe or nature / wildlife initiatives*
- *Better footpaths and cycleways*
- *I think we are adequately provided for as we are, we have the necessary post office shop, village hall, and are close enough to Wokingham for anything else generally needed.*
- *Resurface roads in the area*
- *Maintenance of paths through woods*
- *Better roads*
- *Reopening school road*
- *Speed awareness digital units I think traffic did slow down except A1 lorries.*
- *Speed awareness*
- *Speed awareness units*
- *Reduce speed limits. Road humps. Chicanes.*
- *Improve waterlogged countryside pathways by wooden planks and footways.*
- *Clear vegetation, weeds and rubbish from all the small areas of land that don't appear to be claimed by house owners, WBC or anyone else, e.g., junction of Thorn Close/The Lilacs.*
- *A dentist and coffee shop. Better use of Barkham Village Hall & Green: a football pitch with some facilities; Warm place for people to go; outreach programme for older residents, better cycle routes to The Holt or more local buses.*
- *Improvement to some of the public footpaths*
- *Better cycle ways*
- *Speed cameras and traffic calming*
- **MORE DEFIBRILLATORS**
- *Some type of crossing on Barkham Rd. I worry about children trying to cross and older people. Near the junction of Doles and Sandy Lane where people try to cross for the bus would be good.*

- *Protection of green areas and encouragement of wildlife diversity*
- *Reduce the speed of cars and remedy narrow pavements along Barkham Street*
- *Continue the good work on countryside footpaths etc*
- *Probably would not be funded by Parish Council but as residents of Barkham Manor, we are affected badly by traffic noise on the section of road outside the manor wall. This is due to heavy lorries, mostly from A1 off Bearwood Rd but this section of road from Bearwood Rd to the Bull needs resurfacing too & speed restrictions need to be enforced.*
- *History boards*
- *Clubs for young adults and teenagers*
- *Some place for the youth to meet.*
- *Build a supermarket*
- *Placing build-outs along Barkham Road between its junctions at Doles Lane / Sandy Lane and Bearwood Road*
- *Making Edney's Hill safer - maybe one way or an enforced speed limit. It is extremely busy now that GPS directs cars to the road, plus the thriving school in Evendons and businesses, all of which attract increased traffic movements.*
- *A good farm shop*
- *More playground facilities*
- *A community cafe that can encourage young people to gain work experience*
- *Beautify the pond near the church*
- *Sufficient parking at the Arborfield Green community centre, so it can be used by those that do not live at Arborfield Green. Signage so that people know that they are in Barkham when at Arborfield Green and Rooks Nest Farm.*
- *Pedestrian route from Sandy Lane into Wokingham by access over field behind Leathern Bottle so that path joins footpath off Limmerhill Road leading into Woosehill and Wokingham*
- *The completed Arborfield Green Village Centre and all that was promised by Crest*
- *Arborfield Green in particular needs better community shops, pub, cafe*
- *Double yellow lines at junction between lilacs and Bearwood road for safer ingress or egress*
- *Local food shop to stop traffic going into Wokingham*
- *Improved foot and cycle paths.*
- *Maintain the natural environment resisting unnecessary modernisation*
- *An upgrade of the Village Hall - both to the main structure and the outside green space and terrace*
- *Another GP surgery*
- *Pedestrian crossing between Langley Common Road and Biggs Lane.*
- *A cycleway on dangerous roads -Barkham, Bearwood*
- *Any project that helps to combat climate change*