

## **Broxton and District Parish Council**



## **PARISH SURVEY RESULTS 2019**

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### **Introduction**

The Parish Survey was distributed by post at the beginning of November to every home in the Parish, it was also made available online and advertised via the Parish Council's Facebook page and Nextdoor website.

The deadline for responses was the 30<sup>th</sup> November 2019 and 46 households returned completed, a 20% response rate.

## Summary of Results

### 1. ABOUT YOU

What age group are you?		
Answer choices	Responses	% <sup>1</sup>
Under 18 years	1	2%
18-25 years	1	2%
26-40 years	7	15%
41-65 years	24	53%
Over 65 years	26	58%
Answered by	45	68%
Skipped by	1	2%

How long have you lived in the parish?		
Answer choices	Responses	% <sup>2</sup>
0-5 years	5	13%
6-10 years	5	13%
11-15 years	6	15%
More than 15 years	23	59%
Answered by	37	80%
Skipped by	9	20%

### 2. LIKES AND DISLIKES

The thing I LIKE most about living in the Parish is...		
Categories	Description	Number of Comments
Rural	Respondents referred to rural environment, tranquillity, access to countryside, public rights of way, walking and riding. They also referred to beauty of the landscape and views.	47
People	Respondents referred to friendliness and community	8
Links	Respondents referred to road links and links to Tattenhall, Malpas etc.	4
Low Traffic	Respondents referred to low volumes of traffic	2
Other	Respondent stated 'Everything'	1

<sup>1</sup> Based on 45 responses

<sup>2</sup> Based on 37 responses

The thing I LIKE LEAST about living in the Parish is...		
Categories	Description	Number of Comments
Shop/Pub Facilities	Respondents referred to a lack of pub, shop or post office within walking distance. Others referred more specifically to a lack of facilities	17
ROAD	Respondents referred to the following: dangerous speeds on residential and main roads (A41 & A534), they highlighted danger of junction onto A534 as well as noise	10
Appearance	Respondents referred to 'eyesores' and mess in centre of Brown Knowl	9
Mobile/BB	Respondents referred to a lack of mobile signal or high-speed broadband	7
Maintenance	Respondents referred to lack of verge and pavement maintenance as well as a lack of winter ice/snow clearance	6
Public Trans	Respondents referred to a lack of public transport	4
Mud	Respondents referred to mud on roads left by agricultural vehicles which was not cleared up	3
Animals	Respondents referred to poor treatment of farm animals particularly with reference to muddy fields	3
Drains	Respondents referred to lack of maintenance resulting in flooding. There were also comments about smells and issues with septic tanks	2
Community	Lack of community	2
New	Respondents referred to new buildings and new residents making the area more suburban	2
Crime	Respondent referred to fear of crime - theft	1
Pheasants	Respondent referred to pheasants, poor gamekeepers, attitude & shooting	1

### 3. LOCAL AMENITIES

Does the parish have enough, too few, or too many amenities in the parish?		
Enough	15	32.60%
Too few	10	21.74%
Answered by	45	98%
Skipped by	1	2%

Are there any additional amenities you would like to see?		
Answered by	35	77%
Skipped by	11	23%

Are there any additional amenities that need improving?		
Answered by	31	67%
Skipped by	15	33%

Comments to the above questions have been combined.

Categories	Description	Number of Comments
Shop/Pub Facilities	Respondents referred to the need for a pub, shop or post office which would also be a meeting point and focus for the village, there was reference to meeting facilities and HUB	36
Play/Open Space, Pitch Benches	Respondents referred to the need for open spaces, a village, green play area for small children, benches and picnic tables and re-establishing the football pitch.	27
Maintenance	Respondents referred to increased tree & hedge planting & flower displays as well as protection of verges, there was also requests for better maintenance of the Green in Brown Knowl by defibrillator. There was a request for grit bins in Duckington. Litter and dog fouling were highlighted Additional pavements and maintenance of existing pavements on A534	11
Mobile/BB	Respondents requested improved mobile signals and faster broadband.	4
Public Trans	Respondents referred to a lack of public transport	4
Wildlife	A respondent requested improved bird hides	1
Signage	A respondent requested signage in village for visitors/tourists	1

The Sandstone Inn at Brown Knowl has been closed for two years. How important is it for you that it reopens as a public house to serve the local community?	Responses	%
Answer choices		
Very important	32	70%
Quite important	28	61%
Completely unimportant	1	2%
Answered by	45	98%
Skipped by	1	2%

If it is not important to you, can you tell us what you would like to happen to the site instead?		
Shop/Pub Facilities	The majority of respondents supported the redevelopment of a pub or shop in the site which would be used as a meeting place by all ages	6
Local Service	Respondents suggested that other services could be provided on the site possibly in addition to a pub/shop including taxi service, hairdressers. It was stressed these should be local services for local people.	2
Other	There was a recognition that a pub/shop may not be economically viable, but the respondents did not want the site to be for housing. There was also a recognition that the site was unsightly and should not be left in its current condition.	3
Answered by		8 17%
Skipped by		38 83%

#### 4. SAFETY

How safe do you feel living in Broxton Parish?		
Answer choices	Responses	%
Completely safe	9	20%
Safe	22	48%
Neither safe nor unsafe	10	22%
Not very safe	2	4%
Not safe at all	1	2%
Answered by	45	98%
Skipped by	1	2%

If you feel unsafe, please tell us what is concerning you.		
Crime	Respondents referred to burglaries as being of concern.	9
ROAD	Respondents referred to the speed of vehicles on the A534, A41 and the dangerous junction onto the A534 as well as speeding with the village. The condition of or lack of pavements was also mentioned	8
Other	A concern was raised regarding the time it takes for an ambulance or the police to reach the area in an emergency	1
Answered by		23 50%
Skipped by		23 50%

#### 5. LOCAL ENVIRONMENT

How important are local environmental issues to you?		
Very important	43	94%
Quite important	3	6%
Answered by	46	100%

What environmental improvements in the Parish would you like to see?			
Categories	Description	Number of Comments	
Maintenance	Respondents referred to the need to maintain hedges and verges (1 respondent requested a reduction in cutting), concerns were raised regarding the condition of PROW <sup>3</sup> Concerns were raised about litter and dog fouling including dog bags being thrown in hedges and the lack of bins. There was a request for more tradition sandstone walls.	15	
Drains	Respondents raised concerns about flooding on various roads and grids not being emptied. Concerns were raised regarding septic tanks meeting regulations & the need for main sewers.	6	
Trees	Respondents request additional planting of trees and hedges as well as protection of existing trees.	5	
Appearance	Respondents raised concerns regarding the appearance of properties in the centre of Brown Knowl	4	
Wildlife	Respondents requested protection for birds and small animals including Hares. There was a request for farmers to plant plants at the edge of fields to feed birds.	2	
ROAD	Respondents requested speed restrictions on the A534	2	
Planning	Prevention of development which is detrimental visually or ecologically but approval of small scale eco. Energy production e.g. small-scale wind turbines	2	
Plastic	Respondents identified large amounts of plastic used on farms which should be reduced	2	
Mobile/BB		1	
Answered by		39	85%
Skipped by		7	15%

## 6. IMPROVEMENTS

The thing I would most like to improve in the parish is...		
Shop/PUB		9
Appearance	Appearance of centre of Brown Knowl including view from Bickerton Hill.	9
ROAD	Increased road safety, particularly at junction with A534 and reduction in speeds	7
Public Trans		4
Mobile/BB		3
MUD	Removal of mud off roads and action against those not clearing mud.	3
Maintenance	Hedges & grids	3
Wildlife	Ecology	1

<sup>3</sup> Public Rights of Way

Trees		1
Animals	Animal welfare	1
Pitch		1
Drains	Flooding	1
Council	More representative	1
Answered by	42	91%
Skipped by	4	9%

## 7. PARISH PRECEPT

If people want to see more services and facilities from the Parish Council would you support an increase in the precept?		
Yes	22	48%
No	9	20%
Maybe	13	28%
Comments stated money must be spent in a transparent way	2	
Increase in precept depended on facilities provided and the number of people to benefit	2	
Answered by	45	98%
Skipped by	1	2%

## 8. YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

How do you currently receive news from the Parish council?		
Website	7	15%
Public Noticeboard	16	25%
Nextdoor	17	37%
Other <i>Word of Mouth, Post (occasionally), Email, Facebook, Friends</i>	6	13%
Don't Receive	10	22%
Answered by	45	98%
Skipped by	1	2%

Do you have any ideas what the Parish Council could do to improve communication with residents?		
Hand	Delivery of newsletters/updates to dwelling	10
Nextdoor	Provide information via Nextdoor	9
Online	Via website, social media/Facebook publicise website	7
Email	Emailed information, Newsletter	5

Newsletter	Use Village News or A41 Newsletters	2	
Minutes	Make minutes clearer	1	
Surgery	Hold surgery in pub	1	
Answered by		25	54%
Skipped by		21	46%

<b>Email Registration</b>			
Email addresses provided		20 <sup>4</sup>	
Forms with <b>no</b> Email addresses provided		26	

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<sup>4</sup> Two respondents provided 2 e-mail addresses.



## Summary of Results – General

Number Surveys Returned		
Surveys Returned	46	20%
By Post	17	37%
By Email	9	20%
By Hand	20	43%

Comments – Top Ten Topics		Number of Comments
Shop/Pub Facilities	Lack of ....	68
Maintenance	Village Green, Bins, Verges, Tree/hedge protection & Panting, litter	35
Play/Open Space, Pitch Benches		28
Road	Safety & Speeding	27
Appearance		22
Mobile/BB		15
Public Trans	Lack of ....	12
Trees/Wildlife	Ecology	11
Crime		10
Drains		9

Question Responses (listed according to number of responses)		
2. Likes & Dislikes - Dislikes	46	100%
5. Local Environment – Importance	46	100%
1. About you – Age Range	45	98%
2. Likes & Dislikes - Likes	45	98%
3. Local Amenities – Enough?	45	98%
3. Local Amenities – Sandstone	45	98%
4. Safety -Safe	45	98%
7. Parish Precept	45	98%
8. Parish Communications	45	98%
6. Improvements to Parish	42	91%
5. Local Environment - Improvements	39	85%
3. Local Amenities – Additional	35	77%
3. Local Amenities – Improvements	31	67%
8. Parish Communications – Email provided	18	39% <sup>5</sup>
8. Parish Communications – Comments	25	54%
4. Safety – Unsafe comments	23	50%
3. 3. Local Amenities – Sandstone – Comments	8	17%
7. Parish Precept – Comments	4	8%

<sup>5</sup> 2 forms submitted 2 email addresses.

## Full Survey Results

Number Surveys Returned		
Answer choices	Responses	%
Surveys Returned	46	20% <sup>6</sup>
By Post	17	37%
By Email	9	20%
By Hand	20	43%

### 1. ABOUT YOU

What age group are you?		
Answer choices	Responses	%
Under 18 years	1	2%
18-25 years	1	2%
26-40 years	7	15%
41-65 years	24	53%
Over 65 years	26	58%
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How long have you lived in the parish?		
Answer choices	Responses	%
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6-10 years	5	13%
11-15 years	6	15%
More than 15 years	23	59%
Answered by	37	80%
Skipped by	9	20%

### 2. LIKES AND DISLIKES

The thing I LIKE most about living in the Parish is...		
Responses		Category
Beautiful countryside, views & walks Everyone is very friendly when you meet them		Rural
		People
Close supportive relationships with people around us, Beautiful scenery		Rural
		People
That it is rural		Rural
Scenery, rural life, road links		Rural
		Links

<sup>6</sup> Based on 225 Surveys distributed.

Quite & peaceful	Rural
Scenic location, walks	Rural
	Rural
Rural nature of the Parish the local community	People
Tranquillity & community	Rural
views & access to country walks. Basic services available in Tattenhall or Malpas but also easy access to Chester	Rural
	Links
	Rural
Rural solitude, most people try to get on with each other	People
Beautiful countryside. Peace & Quiet & Nice walks	Rural
The natural environment	Rural
Attractiveness of rural environment i.e. hills & woodland, enjoy quietness and friendliness of neighbourhood.	Rural
	People
Living in the rural community	Rural
The country atmosphere & the views	Rural
Scenery	Rural
Beautiful area	Rural
The peace and quiet, the scenery & low population	Rural
We enjoy village & country life, where every house is different & the neighbours are friendly	Rural
	People
The natural environment	Rural
	Rural
Rural environment, proximity to Chester, Whitchurch & Nantwich	Links
Peace & quiet of living in beautiful unspoilt countryside	Rural
The natural beauty	Rural
Quiet rural location close to plenty of woodland walks	Rural
The quiet & the surroundings & access to the public rights of way	Rural
Location	Links
The rural environment – being able to walk dogs & ride ponies safely	Rural
Rural living, long walks, community feel. Fab views.	Rural
	Rural
The landscape & community	People
Peace & quiet, rural, beautiful scenery, pretty houses	Rural
Brown Knowl is a lovely quiet place to live. One feels joyful and blessed to be living in such a lovely environment set so close to the Sandstone Trail. It is however changing for the worse.	Rural
Rural community atmosphere	Rural
Reduced traffic	Low Traffic
Fresh air	Rural
Outdoor pursuits on doorstep	Rural
Beautiful views	Rural
	Rural
Being close to the countryside, views, friendly people in the village.	People
	Low Traffic

Peaceful tranquillity of surrounding countryside & low volume of traffic through Sherrington Lane.	Rural	
Rural location, good neighbours.	Rural	
Peaceful, Access to great countryside	Rural	
The surrounding countryside which has not been spoilt.	Rural	
Ruralness!!	Rural	
Community, views, walks, rural location	Rural	
Rural location/Access to countryside	Rural	
It's an unspoilt village with lovely views without any new housing estates	Rural	
Everything	Everything	
The views	Rural	
Scenery & landscape	Rural	
Living in the countryside	Rural	
The rural location	Rural	
Answered by	45	98%
Skipped by	1	2%

The thing I like least about living in the Parish is...		
Responses	Category	
Main road, so dangerous. lack of shop/café/pub where you can meet other locals	Road	
	Shop/Pub	
Busy Traffic & traffic noise, No local Pub, Overgrown hedges & pavements in poor repair	Road	
	Shop/Pub	
	Maintenance	
New buildings	New	
Lack of public transport	Public Trans	
No public transport	Public Trans	
Local 'Eyesores', Foul smell(s) from storm drains from septic tank outflows direct to drain	Appearance	
	Drains	
Poor infrastructure for internet. Those of us inked directly to BT exchange via direct exchange lines are still receiving <10mb download speeds which inhibits the ability to work from home.	Mobile/BB	
The A534 main road	Road	
	Road	
	Shop/Pub	
	Maintenance	
	Drains	
People travelling too fast down narrow lanes - but speed signs are ugly! More driving courses	Road	
No local pub	Shop/Pub	
The limited sense of community caused, in part, by the geographical spread and division into hamlets	Community	
Nothing - except perhaps lateness of snow and ice clearance along the lanes.	Maintenance	

The amount of traffic and the speed it travels on the A41	Road
Using the A41	Road
Unrestricted speed limits on residential roads	Road
Lack of facilities	Facilities
New residents trying to turn it into a suburb	New
No local shop or pub	Shop/Pub
Distance to pub & shop	Shop/Pub
Lack of decent pub	Shop/Pub
Lack of a pub	Shop/Pub
No communal focal point now the Coppermine (Sandstone) has closed. The lack of utilities	Shop/Pub
many uninhabited & decrepit dwellings Farms with broken machinery	Appearance
Farmyard eyesores - cattle in muddy fields with no shelter or place to lie down.	Appearance Animals
Pheasants - poor gamekeepers, attitude & shooting. Danger to cars. Groups of cyclists and the litter they leave	Pheasants
No amenities in walking distance	Facilities
Farming untidy, leaving roads muddy/dirty etc. Verges not maintained properly. Container in middle of village! Farm animals not looked after well. Speeding traffic through village.	Appearance Maintenance Animals
The lack of a pub in the village, Not having the Sandstone Pub is very difficult and was one of the reasons for moving to the village	Shop/Pub
Lack of respect certain residents using agricultural vehicles depositing excessive mud on the roads which owners do not clear up. The lower part of Brown Knowl/Fullersmoor/Reading Room Lane is a disgrace with containers/agricultural vehicles on the roadside. Why are these allowed to remain?	Mud Appearance
The complete lack of consideration by resident farmers to actively changing what was a picturesque village centre into a container filled scrap yard which continues to grow. It is a disgrace and a danger to both walkers and traffic that the condition of the roads are deteriorating by the same farmers bringing heavy mud onto the roads and showing no effort in dealing with the mess.	Appearance Maintenance
Antisocial behaviour by small number of village inhabitants and visitors driving recklessly. Village inhabitants spoiling the village aesthetic with total disregard for neighbours with lack of care to their own property, their verges and thereby reducing property values around them. The state of the roads that by law should be cleaned to remove excess mud from tractors and bits of green plastic they seem to drop regularly.	Road Appearance Mud
I worry about the conditions on fields - very muddy and animals standing up to their hocks in mud for most of the year. Also, lots of stray feral cats outside <i>name provided</i> - get run over.	Animals

The speed of cars (often overtaking near The Sandstone Pub) on the A534. The decline & closure of local amenities: local pub, shop, post office. Lack of mobile phone signal.	Road	
	Shop/Pub	
	Mobile/BB	
Lack of amenities, Pub shop, public transport.	Facilities	
	Public Trans	
No shops, post office, pub, school, hard to feel part of a community	Shop/Pub	
	Community	
The accumulation of old vehicles, machinery, caravans, prison van etc a <u>blight</u> in the village of Brown Knowl.	Appearance	
Petty theft!!	Crime	
No facilities/amenities/public transport. Poor mobile coverage & broadband speed.	facilities	
	Pubic Trans	
	Mobile/BB	
Lack of broadband speed (currently 2)	Mobile/BB	
Unmaintained roads in winter with broken up shoulders and verges allowing roads to become flooded	Maintenance	
Nothing		
The mud & muck left on the rods by tractors & horses	Mud	
Farmyard eyesores. Poor mobile phone reception. No Pub.	Appearance	
	Mobile/BB	
	Shop/Pub	
Very poor internet connection. (Fibre is at the end of the lane but not connected)!	Mobile/BB	
Properties not cared for in centre of Brown Knowl/Sherrington Lane	Appearance	
Answered by	46	100%
Skipped by	0	0

### 3. LOCAL AMENITIES

Does the parish have enough, too few, or too many amenities in the parish?		
Answer choices	Category	
Enough	15	32.60%
Too few	10	21.74%
Too many		
Enough in Brown Knowl, No shop or pub or other amenities	Shop/Pub	
Generally good apart from closure of Sandstone Pub	Shop/Pub	
No Comment		

No	Not Enough
Main amenities that are lacking relate to infrastructure: public transport, high speed Wi-Fi and mobile phone signal	Shop/Pub
	Public Trans
	Mobile/BB
Not enough, play area for children, modest distribution of natural benches on the Hill.	Play
	Benches
Hardly any	Not Enough
We need to reinstate café where the Sandstone pub is situated, the football pitch and some picnic tables etc nearby for village families. Cut back shrubs and bushes nearby (let some light in)	Shop/pub
	Benches
	Maintenance
We believe the village has enough amenities	Enough
Plenty of greenspace: and much appreciated	Open Space
mobile signal required	Mobile/BB
The Parish lacks communal focal points on Brown Knowl for socialising. When I moved here 31 years go there were 2 pubs within walking distance; a shop & a post office, now there are none. Utilities are also an issue.	Shop/Pub
Public House & Restaurant	Shop/Pub
Local shop if that is an amenity	Shop/Pub
No Play areas for our children to enjoy. No facilities for young adults/teens. Not enough benches for walkers/elderly that visit village	Play
	Benches
Too few it would be great to get the small football pitch in order down Sandy Lane now we have so many families that have moved in.	Pitch
A village shop would be lovely but unrealistic to expect	Shop/Pub
A public house within walking distance of the centre of Brown Knowl	Shop/Pub
<p>Amenities need providing for the growing numbers of resident's children in the village. Although the community was historically farming based it is now time to recognise that it is now primarily residential and time to adapt and accommodate. There are 2 farms and in excess of 100 houses in the centre of Brown Knowl and Fullers Moor. The balance has changed.</p> <p>A small playground where parents could meet and oversee young children would be ideal. Perhaps purchase the apparent scrap yard on the corner where the defibrillator is. A quarter of an acre there would improve aesthetic and provide a small play area in the village centre. Possibly even providing a small timber coffee shop for parents and elderly would be far better use and perhaps more favourable to the planners. It may provide a hub and facility for ramblers, tourists at the B&amp;B and Lodges with an information board and a car park to stop visitors parking on grass verges through the village.</p> <p>Perhaps provide Village signs of agreed subtle design for Brown Knowl and Fullers Moor. .... e.g. Brown Knowl/ Fullers Moor welcome careful drivers.</p> <p>Benches are always welcome but the aesthetics around them must be maintained.</p>	Play
	Shop/Pub
	Signs
Ps A field in the forest where the old football pitch was is a poor option. It is detached and isolated. Residents are aware of recent dangerous canine activity in this area, so the area is totally inappropriate for young children.	Pitch

<p>Pleased improve debris from roads and reduce destruction of verges through village by parking or driving heavy vehicles over them. Perhaps planting them up would act as deterrent and improve aesthetic for visitors.</p> <p><b>The Sandstone Inn</b> needs to be levelled and replaced with whatever Bolesworth have in mind. Encourage Bolesworth to be honest with their views and to get on with whatever they have in mind as anything would be better than the dilapidated eyesore that occupies the space currently.</p> <p>However, as another consideration and income generator a small Co-Op would be a real asset to the village. Good income and I am sure would be very popular as the garage at the roundabout is a waste of space. If the Pub was replaced with some form of community hub.....Cafe and Pub and play area and small co-op shop then it would be useful; provide good income and act as a centre focus for village. Add a community room for Parish Council and local meetings use and it would be perfect. Could provide meeting space for elderly in village and for talks and local youth meeting space..... I am sure it would be a far better community use than just a pub. Everyone young and old would benefit.</p>	Maintenance	
	Shop/pub	
The Parish doesn't have any amenities! (Bar the National Trust Land - obviously)	Not Enough	
Limited play area for young children. Poorly maintained football pitch at foot of hill more benches/picnic table.	Play	
	Pitch	
	Benches	
Very little amenities	Not Enough	
Too few, but as a widespread group of homes with no central area, where would any go?	Not Enough	
No local amenities!	Not Enough	
No facilities/amenities/public transport	Public trans	
Poor mobile coverage & broadband speed.	Mobile/BB	
Due to wide dispersal of the community in this rural area, I'm not sure what amenities are currently provided?	Not Enough	
Public green would be nice.	Open Space	
Just about right. Perhaps we need somewhere for youngsters to play, restore football pitch in the woods.	Play	
	Pitch	
Too few green spaces/benches	Open Space	
	Benches	
Answered by	45	98%
Skipped by	1	2%

Are there any additional amenities you would like to see?	
Responses	Category
pub/shop/café/play area	Shop/Pub
	Play
Sandstone Pub	Shop/Pub



There should be more green space as the estates especially new ones being put up	Open Space	
Post office/Shop	Shop/Pub	
Pub	Shop/Pub	
Public transport	Public Trans	
Regular local bus service	Public Trans	
A pub and convenience store in Brown Knowl	Shop/Pub	
A pub	Shop/Pub	
village shop, pub & post office	Shop/Pub	
Pub & Shop	Shop/Pub	
A pub	Shop/Pub	
Café/Shop & a pub	Shop/Pub	
Football pitch maintained	Pitch	
Local grit boxes in Duckington (in green or black)	Maintenance	
Play area in the middle of village instead of the unsightly mess that is there now. Village signage needed!	Play	
The café at the Durham Heifer will solve other issues	Shop/Pub	
No		
Play area for children	Play	
A local (walking distance) pub with a local produce shop attached for simple items: milk, bread, eggs etc	Shop/Pub	
	Shop/Pub	
Pub, shop, public transport	Public Trans	
Would love to see a community shop	Shop/Pub	
Village pub & shop which would be a good social centre for the community	Shop/Pub	
Would like to know what exists and what could be available in the future. Local circular walking routes which are clear and open to residents in their immediate area (not NT)		
Large troughs of flowering plants in strategic places	Maintenance	
Pub	Shop/Pub	
Somewhere within walking distance to eat in the evening	Shop/Pub	
A village green to provide a focal point.	Hub	
	Public Trans	
Bus service/community centre	Hub	
Answered by	35	77%
Skipped by	11	23%

Are there any additional amenities that need improving?		
Responses	Category	
The Sandstone pub	Shop/Pub	
Pavements along A534	Maintenance	
Pavements: more needed & need to be maintained	Maintenance	

Existing road signs are falling over and not maintained	Maintenance
Need for a shop	Shop/Pub
Footpaths need clearing e.g. on A41 & A534	Maintenance
Play area/football area on the Brown Knowl end of field.	Pitch
None	
The telephone box (defibrillator) we repaired, the somebody kicked it in. When will it be repaired??	Maintenance
No	
The pub (Sandstones)	Shop/Pub
Football pitch & access to it	Pitch
Better screening for bird hides on Bickerton Hill & more regular wildlife feeding	Wildlife
Maintenance of Village Green by De-Fib - Looks mess	Maintenance
Football pitch & common ground. The planting of perennials & bulbs around Brown Knowl would be welcome	Pitch
Not that I've seen	
Bus shelter needs repairing	Maintenance
The Pub!	Shop/Pub
	Shop/Pub
Pub, shop, public transport	Public Trans
We need bus to stop at the old bus stop!	Public Trans
Brown know Green by the defibrillator and bench needs regular maintenance the PCC arranged a small working party to cut back, mow and clear the area, sufficient support from village residents could rectify this.	Maintenance
Broadband speed for those residents who are not located close to fibre lines and are low priority for BT. Improved road safety on our local roads, which include some major A & B roads. Litter picking on side of main roads	Mobile/BB
The football pitch mown and maintained, and local families made aware of its existence for use as a play area.	Pitch
Pub	Shop/Pub
The football pitch.	Pitch
The Sandstone pub needs to reopen.	Shop/Pub
Playing field with easy access to it.	Pitch
Answered by	31 67%
Skipped by	15 33%

The Sandstone Inn at Brown Knowl has been closed for two years. How important is it for you that it reopens as a public house to serve the local community?		
	Responses	%
Answer choices		
Very important	32	70
Quite important	28	61
Neither important nor unimportant		

Not important		
Completely unimportant	1	2%
Answered by	45	98%
Skipped by	1	2%

<b>If it is not important to you, can you tell us what you would like to happen to the site instead?</b>		
NEEDS to be turned back into a pub/coffee shop/café it's such an asset to our village, great venue for mums, walkers, locals to meet up/meet new people/congregate	Shop/Pub	
A pub or other community asset. Car park for visitors? (Not sold for Housing)	Shop/Pub	
Any chance of community centre or shop/café	Shop/Pub	
NB I would be very disappointed if the site was developed commercially for offices or any other use other than one to be used by the immediate & local community.	Local Service	
Understand that it's hard to make it an economical proposition. Hope it doesn't go to new houses.		
The site could be redesigned to accommodate a pub/restaurant facility, shop, offices for a taxi company and others offering full & part time services to local residents i.e. hairdresser	Shop/Pub	
	Local Service	
Ideally a pub again, but anything rather than it deteriorate, look unsightly, and be a target for travellers.	Shop/Pub	
I would like the Sandstone Inn to re-open as a public house but if that is not possible it should be used for something else rather than left empty.	Shop/Pub	
Answered by	8	17%
Skipped by	38	83%

#### 4. SAFETY

<b>How safe do you feel living in Broxton Parish?</b>		
Answer choices	Responses	%
Completely safe	9	20%
Safe	22	48%
Neither safe nor unsafe	10	22%
Not very safe	2	4%
Not safe at all	1	2%
Answered by	45	98%
Skipped by	1	2%

If you feel unsafe, please tell us what is concerning you.	
Responses	Category
Main Road - speed past the Sandstone Pub is horrendous, someone is going to be killed: We need a speed camera in place & double white lines to stop ridiculous over taking	ROAD
Unease due to theft from our building & complete lack of police interest.	Crime
local rural crime especially around Christmas	Crime
No pavement/footpath down A534 to bus stop. Feel very vulnerable walking on uneven verge when dark or snowy. Speed of vehicles on bendy parts of A534	ROAD
A lot of cruising vehicles slow down and look at your place	Crime
Generally ok but we have been burgled	Crime
Feel safe unless there are lampers out. Also feel unsafe travelling home around 10pm along A41 from Chester when HGVs tailgate when I stick to speed limits	ROAD
I feel the chance of something happening to us is unlikely but if we needed police or ambulance it takes too long for them to reach us.	Other
Speed of traffic on main road	ROAD
Some rural crime is apparent	Crime
Burglaries are a worry	Crime
Slight concern about burglary	Crime
Nextdoor Broxton tells us about criminal activity - could be extended to cover Harthill & Duckington, the area covered by Broxton & District Parish Council.	Crime
Garden theft	Crime
Lots of local burglaries	Crime
Constant speeding on Sherrington Lane by Village Idiots! Cat ran over, dead in lane! A534 is dangerous pulling out! Gypsies intimidating!!	ROAD
Not safe at all - Our biggest concern is the safety of the A534 from the Sandstone junction. Visibility is poor (read no visibility unless you pull out) looking left coming out at junction and people overtake at 70mph+. Very scary and lots of near misses. You are in the road and in their way before they see you or you see them. It is only a matter of time before there is a fatality.	ROAD
Personal safety network is good BUT the roads are particularly unsafe due to antisocial speeding through the village that will hopefully eventually be addressed through speeding group and Parish Council support. A534 needs sorting. It appears from Nextdoor that the white lines are a non-starter but cameras would no doubt slow traffic down and make drivers more reluctant to overtake.	ROAD
Burglary is always a worry	Crime
Safe re trespassers but as mentioned unsafe turning onto or crossing the A534 with speeding traffic	ROAD
Opportunistic burglaries of sheds & garden stuff is a concern.	Crime
Home Watch keeps us informed	Crime

Answered by	23	50%
Skipped by	23	50%

## 5. LOCAL ENVIRONMENT

How important are local environmental issues to you?		
Answer choices	Responses	%
Very important	43	94%
Quite important	3	6%
Neith important nor unimportant		
Not important		
Completely unimportant		
Answered by	46	100%
Skipped by	0	0

What environmental improvements in the Parish would you like to see?	
Responses	
N/A I think we live in a lovely area - I can't think of any improvements :-)	
Large trees protected; new trees planted. Proper maintenance of hedges. Historic buildings protected & maintained	Trees
	Historic
Protect the hares & ground nesting birds, there needs to be a reintroduction of small mammals	Wildlife
Continued pressure to ensure residents follow septic outflow rules	Drains
Speed of traffic needs to be lower on A534 and Old Coach Road - this contributes to increase in pollution and is also a significant risk to cyclists, other road users and pedestrians.	Road
Bins to collect dog waste.	Maintenance
Less verge cutting, regulation of hedge cutting.	Maintenance
Attention to regular flooding on Old Coach Road & Hall Lane,	Drains
Removal of litter (& glass) at top of New Lane (Dropping stone) & paths up to caves. Plant more trees	Maintenance
	Trees
Mains sewage	Drains
Farms in village <u>NOT</u> used as unlicensed waste storage facilities	Appearance
Drainage, Less/No farm plastic, ensure planning applications are not detrimental to trees/wildlife or visually.	Drains
	Planning
	Plastic
Litter on verges - we regularly have to tidy it up near our house	Maintenance
Better management of road drainage, farmers planting more wild bird food crops on field margins	Wildlife
	Maintenance

No dog litter disposal bins anywhere in the village, considering we have a huge amount of walkers! Plastic bags/sheets left around by the local farmers on the roads. - Don't want more residential developments on local fields	Plastic
It would be great to try and do something about the dog fouling and plethora of plastic bags hung in trees in the woods.	Maintenance
Visual environment - Agricultural vehicles & container removed from roadside. Hedges grown around unsightly areas as stated.	Appearance
Some of the public rights of way are in a shocking state. In particular the field at the end of Lower Sandy Lane where the footpath disappears under several feet of mud. My feeling is that the landowner has no interest in allowing the right of way to be used and so is happy to keep it in a poor state. It keeps folk off his land. In the same location on a recent walk there was evidence of large pools of oil or diesel dropped onto the road at the field gate. Further, I've also noticed pools of diesel or oil on the main village road while passing the church clearly coming from the farms in the centre. Poorly maintained tractor vehicles are to blame. I have seen one farmer spreading large quantities of strange smelling effluent from a tractor driven tanker on a field close to the National Trust entrance gate to the Sandstone trail. Indeed, there are times of the year when there are piles of obnoxious smelling material dumped in the same place adjacent to an old football field. My question is - is this safe for us all in the village? I do feel sorry for residents living close-by who have to put up with it.	Maintenance
Local environment is very important but not at the expense of safety. At a time where every election manifesto supports planting trees..... why are the forests of Bickerton and Larkton being chopped down? Makes no sense. Discourage use of local green belt sites for further housing estate development (as is being cited for Broomhill Lane) as wildlife will be affected as will views. (Lodges were however built sympathetically for environment and do fit in so this is a plus for village). Perhaps now, adhere to the local plan. Pay more attention to maintaining verges and perhaps plant with bulbs etc to encourage bees and insects. Aesthetically it will improve village. Perhaps encourage small scale wind turbines if viable so that ecological energy can be generated. Nothing larger however. Discourage visible sun panels as aesthetically they are ugly!	Maintenance
	Trees
	Planning
Dog fouling is not prevalent but present. Roads not always in good condition - oil leak last year on road for example.	Maintenance
Brown Knowl is not connected to mains sewage drainage & there is an environmental risk from untreated sewage discharge. Solution: either introduce main sewage drainage or local households need to update their sewage treatment plants in line with current legislation. Ditches also need to be maintained.	Drains
Stop throwing of dog waste bags. More regular mowing of public areas.	Maintenance
Bin for litter by carpark to Bickerton Hill - I pick up lots of plastic/cans and take them home, on Hill and along roadside	Maintenance
Replace all the trees that were torn down on the Hill. We need more trees for the environment!	Trees

Most residents maintain their frontages in excellent condition, however, there are a few exceptions that let this lovely village down, container units on the side of the road, piles of building materials, wrecked vehicles, lack of property maintenance and unkempt hedges often reducing the width of the lanes.	Appearance	
Liaison with public footpaths to ensure local paths are accessible and ideally simple maps available showing interesting features (bluebell woods, escarpment etc). Not just NT or Sandstone trail. Walking is a healthy exercise and an initiative on this basis would benefit the community. Ask residents if they would support such an initiative.	Maintenance	
Public rights of way and footpaths patrolled and kept navigable. Better mobile phone reception (more aerials?)	Mobile/BB	
	Maintenance	
cleaner roads	Maintenance	
Removal of farmyard eyesores. Less farm plastic waste. Communal sewerage system to replace septic tanks. Hedge planting. Repair of traditional sandstone walls.	Appearance	
	Trees	
	Drains	
	Maintenance	
A speed limit on the Old Coach Road as it can be dangerous when walking or riding	ROAD	
Regular hedge cutting	Maintenance	
Answered by	39	85%
Skipped by	7	15%

## 6. IMPROVEMENTS

The thing I would most like to improve in the parish is...	
Responses	Category
Meeting place for locals, as mentioned pub/shop/café	Shop/Pub
Sell The Sandstone Pub so that it can be renovated and given a chance to thrive. Establish low speed limits on narrow country lanes. Maintain hedges & footpaths - essential for safety	Shop/Pub
	ROAD
	Maintenance
Ecology	Wildlife
Better public transport or safer way of getting to existing bus stop (no pavement to nearest bus stop on A41)	Public Trans
Public transport	Public Trans
Encourage to improve local eyesores, help set standards of acceptability.	Appearance
Internet speed as mentioned before	Mobile/BB
Streetlights in more remote areas. Better water drainage	Streetlights
	Drains
Village shop - general groceries/newspaper	Shop/Pub
Bus services	Public Trans
We need a pub!	Shop/Pub
Speed restrictions	ROAD
Hedge cutting	Maintenance

Road safety, especially A534 at junction with Sherrington Lane	ROAD
Social activities esp. now pub has closed. Encourage/attract a farmer/retailer to do doorstep milk deliveries, in glass returnable bottles.	Shop/Pub
Better road safety on the A534	ROAD
Rejuvenation of abandoned houses and their gardens	Appearance
Improved utilities	
Improve the visual impact from Bickerton Hill	Appearance
Community meeting place	Hub
Control & management of pheasants - an accident is waiting to happen	Pheasants
Faster Internet!	Mobile/BB
Parish Council needs to represent our Community ie: more females!!!! More parents and less farmers. Improve road safety	Council
a pub, the football pitch, some planting - in that order.	Shop/Pub
	Pitch
	Trees
As previously stated in addition farmers clear Reading Room Lane & Sandy Lane regularly following mud deposits	Mud
Feel part of the community	Other
Most residents maintain their frontages in excellent condition, however, there are a few exceptions that let this lovely village down, container units on the side of the road, piles of building materials, wrecked vehicles, lack of property maintenance and unkempt hedges often reducing the width of the lanes.	Appearance
As previously mentioned, a clearance of the <u>junk</u> at the centre of the village and a new pub	Appearance
Removal of building materials/container from centre of village outside <i>name provided</i> house, general tidy up of that area also trailers & pig shelters down reading room lane - removal of.	Appearance
Re-opening The Sandstone to provide a hub for local residents, walkers & enhance the experience of living/visiting Brown Knowl.	Shop/Pub
Address unsightly property debris	Appearance
Speed limit along A534. Better views of A534 when leaving Brown Knowl/Fullersmoor/Harthill. Stop vehicles parking next to the broadband box diagonally opposite The Sandstone. They block the view when leaving the road from Harthill.	ROAD
First consider the balance of the Parish Council. Much as I appreciate that people put their names forward, I know of people who should be on the Council but feel intimidated by the number of males on the council at present. The current ratio of 9:1 males to females is unacceptable. There are no female voices on the Council from Brown Knowl, Fullers Moor or Broxton or Duckington. There are few parents of younger children represented either. Furthermore, there are 3 farmers out of 10 councillors. Considering the 2011 census and the increases in residential in the last 8 years the Parish Council is	Council



<p>unrepresentative of our Parish and both the number of farmers vs residents and female to male ratios need addressing at the earliest opportunity. Ask around and the majority of people had no idea when the elections took place which is also unacceptable. Those representative groups missing should be actively encouraged and welcomed to stand.</p> <p>Please concentrate on improving safety on the roads in the village and on the A roads. Someone is going to get seriously hurt.</p> <p>Please ensure that the farming community respect the larger residential community and clean the roads of excessive mud. It isn't the drains or the mud flowing down the hill as cited as the cause. We watch it fall off the tractors daily. Lower Sandy Lane is an example of total disregard and antisocial behaviour and is disrespectful of the poor residents who live at the end of the lane. Reading Room Lane is also a mess and difficult to walk along. It is unacceptable and rather than report it repeatedly to highways, the culprits should be addressed by the Parish Council to encourage a change in practice.</p> <p>Please do anything possible to eradicate the eyesore that exists in the centre of the village. It is a disgrace and an embarrassment to the community and to members of the Parish Council. A container in the centre of the village, a scrap yard in a green belt field and the verges being loaded with scrap metal, building debris and pig huts along the verges on Reading Room Lane are all unacceptable and are considered by many in the village as "Antisocial" It gives the other very tidy farmers a bad name and is unnecessary.</p> <p>Residents are repeatedly exposed to the apparent animal welfare issues on Reading Room Lane. A number of people have reported such issues to the RSPCA and Environment. There is no excuse for poor farming practice, and we do not wish to be exposed to this on a daily basis. Would the Parish Council and its members please take measures to ensure that basic farming standards are adhered to.</p> <p>The Parish council needs to act in the interests of the community. It needs to be representative, transparent and accountable. 3 reputable quotes should be available for all work undertaken. The cost of the Phone Box refurb was scandalous, and no other quotes prepared or visible. This was a theme of discontent in the village and reflected poorly on the Parish Council.</p>	Mud
	Appearance
	Animals
	ROAD
Broadband speed	Mobile/BB
A bus service coming through the village to go to Chester and Whitchurch	Public Trans
Hedges maintained; grids cleared	Maintenance
The Sandstone pub reopening.	Shop/Pub
The drains are not cleared regularly & there is considerable build-up of water on Old Coach Road at the end of Old Hall Lane and on the A534. Especially dangerous in icy weather. The drain opposite Meadow Lane on the lane leading up to the car park is also blocked causing Old Coach Road to be wet & potentially dangerous. The drain is continuously blocked as it is silted up.	Drains
Safe roads especially turning onto A534	ROAD

<p>Several primary things need improving in Brown Knowl:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Farmers in the village showing more respect for the residents by cleaning up the mud off the roads left by their tractors and dealing with their leaking vehicles. [The Highways Act 7980 makes it an offence to deposit mud and other things on the highway S148). In addition, the act provides that if a person without lawful authority or excuse deposits anything whatsoever on a highway in consequence of which a user of the highway is injured or endangered, then he is guilty of an offence (5161). Therefore, if you deposit mud on the highway you run the risk of committing a criminal offence and may face prosecution and a fine. It is not very well known but in addition, if there is significant mud on a vehicle, such as a tractor, it may constitute the more serious offence of dangerous driving under the Road Traffic Act 7988. This is because 52A of that act states that the term "dangerous" can include anything attached to a vehicle (which can include mud).</li> <li>2. Removing redundant scrap pig pens and trailers abandoned on the road edge on Reading Room Lane.</li> <li>3. Repairing Reading Room Lane at the site of a new barn where the road is collapsing due to farm vehicles.</li> <li>4. Tidying up the embarrassing eyesore in the centre of the village of containers and ever-growing detritus in full view of the residents and visitors to the village. It is understood from chatting with locals that on-going improvements at the farm have precluded the removal of some of these items. This has been going on for years and getting worse and are certainly no improvement. Clearly there is no incentive from the parish council to do anything! I can imagine visitors to the chalets must comment when driving through the village at what a pigsty it looks!</li> <li>5. Improve the management of farms in the village to respect their neighbours in the way they would wish to be respected.</li> </ol> <p>In summary The Parish Council needs to take a zero tolerance policy with regard to these issues and to be seen to be dealing with them quickly and decisively. This would give residents hope that their village could recover, otherwise what is the point! After all I'm sure I'm not the only one to raise these issues.</p>	Mud	
	Appearance	
Answered by	42	91%
Skipped by	4	9%

## 7. PARISH PRECEPT

If people want to see more services and facilities from the Parish Council would you support an increase in the precept?		
Answer choices	Responses	%
Yes	22	48%
No	9	20%
Maybe	13	28%
Comments:		



	Hand	
I had no idea that the parish had a website! I have heard people talk of Nextdoor hence my selecting the box above. Inform residents of meeting dates. Elections and candidates via website, Next door or by fliers.	Online	
The Parish Council need to make their Website known to the community by perhaps a leaflet drop. However, those that can't get out and are elderly may have no means of getting information and may not use IT.	Online	
	Hand	
Perhaps an update inserted into the A41 magazine that reaches most would be useful. Perhaps a chat with the very nice chap who drops them off could be negotiated? A summary that can be added on the Nextdoor site would also be useful. I see no reason why that would be a conflict. Councillors are notable by their absence on this site. I suspect they possibly deem it a conflict in interests. I do see their spouses provide welcome input frequently.	Newsletter	
	Nextdoor	
Parish surgery (in local pub) to discuss current issues & communication via email on Nextdoor Broxton.	Nextdoor	
	Email	
	Surgery	
Publicise in simple terms what the current objectives and services of the Parish Council are and what services they are able to provide the community. I feel Nextdoor has been a great success with regards to communication and bringing the community together. If the Parish Council want to see what matters to the residents, the conversations on this would be a good indication.	Nextdoor	
A regular newsletter delivered to houses in the Village.	Hand	
Collate a list of email addresses & send notifications of upcoming meetings plus minutes afterwards.	Email	
Send message via next door.	Nextdoor	
Local newsletter once a month.	Hand	
Use social media, get slot on Nextdoor, regular newsletter.	Nextdoor	
	Online	
	Hand	
Answered by	25	54%
Skipped by	21	46%

Email Registration	
Email addresses provided	20 <sup>7</sup>
Email addresses not provided	26

Additional Comments	
Thank you for taking the time to ask what we all think. Fingers crossed we can improve the village further with people's suggestions.	

<sup>7</sup> Two respondents provided 2 e-mail addresses.

## Broxton and District Parish Council



## PARISH SURVEY 2019

Your Parish Council invites you to participate in this short survey. It will help us to understand the issues that you care about, and the improvements you would like us to address over the coming year. Your views are important so please take the time to tell us what you think by completing and returning this form which can also be found on our website at <http://www.broxtonanddistrict-pc.co.uk> by **Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2019.**

### 1. ABOUT YOU (please tick appropriate box)

What age group are you?	
Under 18 years	<input type="checkbox"/>
18-25 years	<input type="checkbox"/>
26-40 years	<input type="checkbox"/>
41-65 years	<input type="checkbox"/>
Over 65 years	<input type="checkbox"/>

How long have you lived in the parish?	
0-5 years	<input type="checkbox"/>
6-10 years	<input type="checkbox"/>
11-15 years	<input type="checkbox"/>
More than 15 years	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>

### 2. LIKES AND DISLIKES

<b>The thing I like most about living in the Parish is...</b>
<b>The thing I like least about living in the Parish is...</b>

### 3. LOCAL AMENITIES

<b>Does the parish have enough, too few, or too many amenities in the parish (amenities include play areas, benches, public green space)?</b>

Are there any additional amenities you would like to see?
Are there any existing amenities that need improving?

The Sandstone Inn at Brown Knowl has been closed for two years. How important is it for you that it reopens as a public house to serve the local community? (please tick appropriate box)	
Very important	
Quite important	
Neither important nor unimportant	
Not important	
Completely unimportant	

If it is not important to you, can you tell us what you would like to happen to the site instead?
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#### 4. SAFETY (please tick appropriate box)

How safe do you feel living in Broxton Parish?	
Completely safe	
Safe	
Neither safe nor unsafe	
Not very safe	
Not safe at all	

If you feel unsafe, please tell us what is concerning you.
--

## 5. LOCAL ENVIRONMENT

<b>How important are local environmental issues to you? (This can include air and water quality, litter, dog fouling, access to public rights of way, protection of wildlife, trees and heritage).</b> (please tick appropriate box)	
Very important	
Quite important	
Neither important nor unimportant	
Not important	
Completely unimportant	

<b>What environmental improvements in the Parish would you like to see?</b>

## 6. IMPROVEMENTS

<b>The thing I would most like to improve in the parish is...</b>

## 7. PARISH PRECEPT

<b>If people want to see more services and facilities from the Parish Council would you support an increase in the precept?</b> (please tick appropriate box)	
Yes	
No	
Maybe	

## 8. YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

<b>How do you currently receive news from the Parish Council?</b> (please tick appropriate box)	
Website	
Public Noticeboard	
Nextdoor	
Other	
I don't receive any news	

**Do you have any ideas what the Parish Council could do to improve communication with residents?**

**If you would like to sign up to receive communications with the Parish council, please leave your name and email address<sup>8</sup>.**

*Thank you for taking the time to complete this form, please make sure you return it!*

**Completed forms can be returned by:**

**Email to [clerk@broxtonanddistrict-pc.co.uk](mailto:clerk@broxtonanddistrict-pc.co.uk),**

**Post to Broxton & District Parish Council, 62 Well Street, Malpas, SY14 8QH**

**Hand to Fieldway, Sherrington Lane, Brown Knowl Broxton, CH3 9JU.**

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<sup>8</sup> *The information you have provided (personal information such as name, address, email address, phone number, organisation) will be processed and stored to enable us to contact you with information about the Parish Council. Your personal information will be not shared or provided to any other third party without your permission. The only exception would be when we are required to do so by law enforcement authorities.*