



**WHISSENDINE**

**PARISH**

**PLAN**

## **Contents**

	<b>Page number</b>
1. Introduction	3
2. Household Report	5.
a. Communication & Social Activity	5.
b. Environment	8.
c. Housing Need	10.
d. Traffic and Transport	11.
e. Crime and Community Safety	14.
f. Health and Social Care	15.
g. Family	17.
h. Business	19.
3. Youth Report	20.
4. Children- 7-10 years Report	23.
5. Post it board Report	27.
6. Focus Groups Report	30.
7. Action plan	

## **Appendix**

- I. Adult Questionnaire responses
- II. Youth Questionnaire responses
- III. Children's Questionnaire responses

# 1. Introduction

Following a public Parish Meeting in March 2007 a group of volunteer residents, with advice from the Leicestershire & Rutland Rural Community Council (LRRCC), formed the Whissendine Parish Plan (WPP) group which first met in May 2007.

The purpose of the group was, firstly, to devise means of seeking the views of Whissendine residents on various aspects of life in the village. To this end opinions were sought by “post -it” boards during feast week, at a Focus group meeting held in the village school and eventually by questionnaires distributed throughout the village. The latter involved considerable development in order to be as comprehensive as possible and to seek the opinions of different sectors of the community. Three different questionnaires, one for households, which the WPP Group recognised would principally reflect the adult views of the household, so to give children and young people in the village a say on their future two further questionnaires were developed, one for children of Primary school age, and a second for the 12 to 19 age group. Circulation and collection took place in July and August 2008. At all stages of this information seeking process, valuable advice was received from the LRRCC who also provided considerable help with collation of the data collected.

The next stage of the process was the preparation of a report based on the findings of the various public consultation exercises and the development of an action plan to reflect a consensus of residents’ opinions. The aim of the action plan is to suggest methods of achieving as many desired improvements to village life as possible.

## **Data Collected:**

Over 500 questionnaires were distributed throughout the parish. A total of 255 were returned (210 household, 36 youth & 9 children). Of the household surveys returned 136 were completed on behalf of the whole household and 71 as an individual response, a proportion of the latter were sole occupants of a property with the remainder taking the option of individual responses.

<b>Age distribution of residents represented in the Household survey</b>			
<b>Age</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>
0-4	22	8	14
5-10	25	11	14
11-17	41 (10%)	21	20
18-30	36 (9%)	20	16
31-44	72 (18%)	35	37
45-64	169 (42%)	79	90
65-74	91 (22%)	50	41
75+	41 (10%)	18	23

The quantity and quality of data received was good. The age and distribution of the respondents was similar to that recorded in previous surveys (see table below for comparison) and can therefore be considered statistically reliable as a good representation of community opinion.

<b>Age distribution in village from Housing Need Survey 2007 (adult occupancy)</b>	
<b>Age</b>	<b>Total</b>
16-25	5 (1%)
26-39	91 (18%)
40-59	223 (44%)
60-79	182 (36%)

The youth sample can also be considered to be statistically significant although there is insufficient external data available for comparison for this age group in the village.

Questionnaires were returned from all parts of the village in proportion to their population density.

The returns showed that most people were either in full or part time employment with the second largest group being retired (see below).

<b>Employment Status of Respondents</b>	
<b>Employment Status</b>	<b>Count</b>
Full-time	145
Part-time	58
Unemployed	4
Retired	159
Full-time education	85
Part-time education	6
House-wife/husband	14

Of the all the households that responded 14 households had one member of their household with a disability and 2 households two. Of these 5 households indicated they have problems in the village mainly relating to pavements.

Recommendations:

- Pass these points raised to the Parish Council and highways authority to see if improvements can be made.

More than half of the households that responded had lived in the village for over 10 years.

When asked, "if they had £5000 to spend on the village" there were a range of interesting answers which could be looked into further when the various groups and organisations address the action points.

## 2. Household Report

### a. Communication & Social Activity

#### Access to local news and information:

The table below highlights the percentage of those who responded who use each of the following methods of access to local news and information:

Method	Percentage who use
Grapevine Monthly Village Magazine	100%
Word of Mouth	73%
Village Notice Boards	53%
Local Press	51%
Village Web Site	5%

The Village Website is poorly used by village residents. This highlights a need to increase public awareness of where and how it can be used.

Recommendations:

- The website could be more actively publicised in the Grapevine Magazine which, as shown in the results above, is a well used and successful method of broadcasting information throughout the village.

#### Village facilities:

The majority of respondents were fully aware of the facilities available within the village (see table below)

Facility	Percentage Aware
Slipcote	91%
The White Lion Inn	88%
Village Hall	87%
St Andrew's Church	86%
Sports Club	82%
The Three Horseshoes	81%
Methodist Chapel	65%

Apart from the Methodist Chapel (which is poorly used and is closing), a fairly low proportion (between 3% and 14%) of respondents used key village facilities on at least a monthly basis. However as highlighted in the table below far more residents (mostly over 50%) use the facilities on an occasional basis.

<b>Facility</b>	<b>Percentage who use on an occasional basis</b>
The White Lion Inn	61%
Village Hall	57%
Slipcote	55%
St Andrew's Church	52%
The Three Horseshoes	43%
Sports Club	38%

When asked, “**why do you not use the facilities?**” (excluding the Methodist Chapel), between 12% and 24% of respondents indicated that either they did not want to, or that there is nothing of interest to them.

A further 38 comments were received giving a variety of other reasons for non use of facilities however no consistent theme emerged.

The Sports Club is a major facility for the Village which is inadequately used:

<b>How often do you use this facility?</b>				
	<i>Once/twice week</i>	<i>Monthly</i>	<i>Occasionally</i>	<i>Don't use</i>
Sports Club	11%	3%	38%	48%

The key reason for not using the Sports Club is that there is nothing of interest to do (49%).

All of the venues within the village were regarded as being very important or quite important with more than 82% of respondents showing support for each venue:

<b>Venue</b>	<b>Percentage who consider them very or quite important</b>
Village Hall	97%
St Andrews's Church	97%
Sports Club	93%
The Three Horseshoes	88%
The White Lion Inn	88%
Methodist Chapel	83%
Slipcote	82%

When asked about the future of the Village Hall and the Sports Club, 102 responses were received. Of these 36 said keep both the Village Hall and the Sports Club and a further 22 indicated that they were in favour of some form of amalgamation. There was support for continuing the refurbishment of the Village Hall and for improving the Sports Club. In response to access to community buildings 193 respondents said they had no problem, with 5 indicating a problem.

Recommendations:

- There was considerable support for extending the use of the Sports Club to a wider audience and making it more inclusive.

### **Membership of Organisations and Groups in the Village:**

Respondents were asked which Village Organisations/Groups they belonged to. Thirty-five organisations/groups were included on the questionnaire and a further 11 identified from respondents.

<b>Which Village organisations/groups do you belong to?</b>					
<i>Tennis Club</i>	13	<i>Holy Terrors</i>	6	<i>Knight School</i>	7
<i>Bowls Club</i>	15	<i>Church</i>	46	<i>Neighbourhood Watch</i>	41
<i>Cricket Club</i>	6	<i>Chapel</i>	5	<i>Hartbeats</i>	7
<i>Happy Circle</i>	18	<i>Bell ringers</i>	2	<i>Age Concern</i>	6
<i>Line Dancing</i>	3	<i>Scouts</i>	9	<i>Bobbin Lace Group</i>	2
<i>Badminton</i>	1	<i>Cubs</i>	10	<i>STARS</i>	9
<i>Pub Quiz Team</i>	8	<i>Rainbows</i>	1	<i>Aerobics</i>	9
<i>Pub Domino Team</i>	3	<i>Brownies</i>	2	<i>Drop off and drop in</i>	4
<i>Pentanque Team</i>	17	<i>Guides</i>	1	<i>Lastminutesingers.com</i>	7
<i>Melton M &amp; D Engineering Society</i>	1	<i>WI</i>	24	<i>Parents' Association</i>	11
<i>Lionheart Company of Bowmen</i>	1	<i>U3A</i>	8	<i>Whissard Dance group</i>	2
<i>Choir</i>	7	<i>Youth Forum</i>	1	<i>Other</i>	11

Seventy-six respondents indicated they would use and support new clubs or organisations and there were sixty six ideas for new clubs, sports and other activities including a Bridge Club, Yoga and other evening classes. However of the new ideas proposed, some were already in existence, for example the Tennis Club, the Three Horseshoes Golf Society, the Bowls Club (for indoor bowls) and Table Tennis.

Eighteen respondents indicated that they would be prepared to help to organise and run a new club.

Recommendations:

- A clear desire seems to exist for more activities in the village which links to maximising the use of the Sports Club. Further analysis of what opportunities exist here needs to be carried out.

## b. Environment

### Home Insulation and Energy Saving:

Generally those who responded had well insulated homes however the survey revealed that: -

- 20% of respondents don't have wall insulation
- 10% of respondents have part double glazing and approximately 5% have no double glazing

Of those that replied 85% have low energy light bulbs installed within their property however very few utilise alternative energy sources such as solar lighting or wind power. Most respondents (85%) have thermostatic radiator valves. The remaining 15% that do not have any may not have radiators, so assuming 15% could install them may be an over estimate.

Other energy saving techniques/devices used were mainly water butts. There were also recycling domestic water, turning switches off, combi boilers and wood burning stoves.

Recommendations:

- There is still room for improvement to the energy efficiency of some homes, though it's to be recognised that in older homes it is sometimes impossible or very difficult.
- Twenty nine of the respondents did not know where to go for energy advice, therefore having a speaker at a Parish Meeting or an information stand during feast week for people to get more advice and help would be useful.

### Recycling:

The majority of households regularly recycle, including an impressive number of respondents recycling items not collected by the council.

<b>Do you recycle any of the following materials? (Please tick all that apply)</b>			
<i>Glass</i>	208	<i>Clothes</i>	169
<i>Cans</i>	209	<i>Plastics</i>	183
<i>Garden waste</i>	205	<i>Food scraps</i>	90
<i>Waste paper</i>	208	<i>Don't recycle</i>	1
<i>Cardboard</i>	185	<i>Other</i>	15

The majority (71%) of those who responded have increased their recycling since the council introduced kerbside collections and 15 respondents commented on how good the new scheme is. Over 20 respondents would like the council to increase what it collects for recycling, in particular plastics and drinks cartons etc, a few also wanted to see batteries, metals and electrical items collected from the kerbside. A low number of people in Whissendine are currently recycling food waste.



Concern was raised by 15 respondents, that during the summer, fortnightly collections result in the bins smelling and attracting pests. Concern was also raised regarding the safety and potential problems of collecting glass in the current way.

Recommendations:

- Ask RCCDC to increase what can be collected at the kerbside or at recycling points.
- Look in to possibilities for encouraging recycling of food waste through compost bins wormaries etc.

### **Climate Change:**

Twenty-three people indicated their willingness to join a climate change group.

Recommendations:

- Arrange a meeting of all those who have indicated their willingness to join a climate group, and announce the first meeting at the parish meeting and in the Grapevine.

### **Local Environment:**

Dog fouling was the biggest problem identified with nearly 70% of respondents having encountered frequent or occasional problems and over 40% feeling there should be more dog fouling bins. Nearly half of the respondents reported problems with litter, as well as significant numbers complaining about excessive noise, flies and avoidable bad smells. A few reported problems with noisy neighbours, bonfires and low flying aircraft.

Over 60% felt that hedgerows should be better maintained and more than 50% identified that trees should be preserved and that local footpaths should be improved and maintained. In addition over 40% suggested that more trees should be planted and woodlands looked after.

Forty-five of those responding to the household survey and 8 youth respondents said that they would be prepared to help with projects to help the environment:

Recommendations:

- Raise the problems encountered with the relevant authorities, with the list of specific instances and support for improvements.
- Consider setting up a group of those interested (including youth) in helping in the environment to work with the Parish Council and RCC to look at improving the environment with additional projects.

### c. Housing Need

The results of the survey indicate a need for affordable housing in the Parish. Four of those that responded indicated their house does not meet their current needs. Twenty one percent indicated that they or someone in their household would be looking for alternative accommodation within the next 5 years. Approximately 40% of those looking for accommodation would be children looking for independence and a further 40% would be the whole family. In addition to this 11 respondents had had family move away from the village due to lack of affordable housing and there was strong support from respondents for future building of new affordable housing.

<b>Would you support building homes in the village which helped to meet the needs of local people?</b>			
Yes	175	No	27

Recommendations:

- The housing needs highlighted by the survey should be passed on to the relevant authorities as it demonstrates the necessity for more detailed and better surveys to further examine the need.
- The village requires a range affordable housing and also sheltered accommodation to meet all needs.

## d. Traffic and Transport

### Traffic/Road Safety:

The majority of residents consider there to be 2 main areas of concern with regard to road safety; speeding & parking. Of less concern but still significant was nuisance from motor cyclists in certain areas (see table).

<b>What road safety concerns affect you in the village?</b>		
	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>
Speeding cars	176	18
Unsafe parking	138	25
Use of motorcycles	43	57
Use of bicycles	8	67
Other	14	13

### **Speeding:**

There is no area in the village considered safe from speeding. Residents were aware of particular problems close to their homes but there was a consensus that all approach roads &, above all, Main St were especially affected (see below).

<b>Main Areas of Concern to Residents – Speeding</b>	
<b>Area</b>	<b>Number of Respondents</b>
All roads in & around village:	28
Main St:	78
Oakham Rd:	27
Melton Rd:	19
Cow Lane:	18
Ashwell Rd:	17
Stapleford Rd:	9

Whilst it is acknowledged that there is a problem with speeding in & around the village there is little agreement on how to deal with it (see below).

<b>What would you support to control Speeding?</b>		
	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>
Speed cameras	75	48
Provision of chicanes	54	57
Speed advisory panels	118	22
Other measures	52	9

Amongst the other measures identified, provision of speed bumps received support (14) as did more frequent policing (5).

### Recommendations:

- Discussions need to take place with the County Council, Police & any other relevant agencies to address the undoubted speeding problem.

## Parking:

As with speeding, every area of the village had its share of complaints regarding unsafe (or inconsiderate) parking. Again there was a consensus that there were particular problem areas (see below). Generally all junctions in the village were considered potentially more dangerous as a result of unsafe parking.

Areas with Particular Parking Problems	
Area	Number of Respondents
Main St / Stapleford Rd junction /opposite school	52
Corner Ashwell Rd / Main St	43
Main St generally	38
Melton Rd	8
Station Rd / Main St junction	6
Foxhill / Main St junction	3
The Nook	3

Particular emphasis was put on the exacerbation of parking problems around the school at beginning & end of the school day and when there is an activity at the school. Problems on Main St were worse when there was an activity at the Village Hall. Car ownership within the village is relatively high & there are some areas where there is no alternative to on-road parking.

What would you support to control parking problems?		
	Yes	No
Double yellow lines	78	48

Other measures identified included; more off road parking in some areas and provision of lay-by space.

### Recommendations:

- Despite the relatively poor support for yellow lines, there are areas of significant danger particularly on bends & at junctions, where parking needs to be controlled.

## Motor Cycles:

The main complaint regarding the use of motor cycles involved off-road bikes (at least some of which are unregistered) on roads particularly at weekends. The complaints were of speeding, vandalism (damage to banks & verges) & noise.

### Recommendations:

- The police have been made aware of this situation in the past. Further action is needed to address the problem.

## Other Road Safety Issues:

There were several complaints regarding skip lorries both ignoring the weight restrictions & speeding. The problems identified with/by cyclists were split equally between those cyclists who were afraid to use the roads and other residents who felt intimidated by the inconsiderate behaviour of some cyclists (e.g. riding on pavements). Similarly there were a few complaints about horse riders not observing road courtesy.

## Recommendations:

- Whilst the lorry problem needs enforcement of the law the other problems are more educational. In both cases police involvement would be appropriate.

## **Transport:**

The high level of car ownership in the village is reflected in the relatively low usage of other means of transport (see table)

<b>What is your family's main form of transport to get to the following?</b>					
	<i>Work</i>	<i>Shops</i>	<i>Doctor</i>	<i>School</i>	<i>Sport / leisure activities</i>
Own car/van	125 (90%)	191 (82%)	193 (90%)	29 (42%)	145 (77%)
Bus	6 (4.3%)	36 (11%)	12 (6%)	17 (25%)	3
Car share	3	3	3	0	3
Motorcycle	2	0	1	0	2
Cycle	0	1	1	1	9(5%)
Walk	2	1	0	20 (30%)	26 (14%)
Other	1	0	0	2	0

The low use of car share is reflected by the fact that when asked only 42 (23%) out of 185 respondents would be willing to share a vehicle.

Eighty-four respondents (42%) never used the bus & 76 (51%) never used taxis. Those that did use taxis did so infrequently. The VAR social scheme is barely used at all.

Bus usage in the parish is summarised in the table below.

<b>How often do you use the bus?</b>	
Daily	8 (4%)
Weekly	34 (16%)
Monthly	33 (16%)
Other	44 (22%)

Overall (not necessarily bus users) 90% thought the service to be good or reasonable (55% good and 35% reasonable) while 10% thought it was poor. Comments suggested that there would be more uptake of bus services if an evening &/or weekend service was available.

## Recommendations:

- It is very possible that the deteriorating financial climate and changes to personal circumstances may lead to an increase in the usage of car share schemes & public transport. It would seem appropriate to discuss possible improvements to these services with the bus companies and other relevant organisations.
- There may be more people who would benefit from the VAR social car scheme if they had more information. Discussion with VAR regarding publicising the service could be beneficial.
- There was a minority demand for more cycle tracks.

## e. Crime and Community Safety

The majority of respondents 90% (175) felt safe in the village. The further 10% (19) named particular areas where they felt unsafe including; bus stops, Station Rd, The Nook, Cow Lane, Sherrards Close and between Foxhill and the Chapel (it must be noted that most respondents highlighted that these areas felt unsafe after dark). Further comments referred to the area around the White Lion/bridge/green near to pub closing times.

Forty-five percent of households that responded were members of Neighbourhood Watch & of the 55% who were not 82% were aware of their local contact. Similarly 80% of respondents were aware of the police non emergency number (0116 222 2222).

Despite the relatively high confidence rating in community safety & crime deterrence there were a significant number of respondents (more than 50%) who found the level of village policing unsatisfactory (see below).

<b>Police presence in the village:-</b>	
Good	7 (3.5%)
Reasonable	66 (33%)
Poor	102 (51%)
Don't Know	30 (12.5%)

Recommendations:

- In view of the above results discussions need to be held with the police to see how matters can be improved.

### **Cold Calling:**

Ninety percent of respondents would support Whissendine being a cold calling free area.

## f. Health and Social Care

### Health:

How do you get to the following Health Facilities?						
	<i>Own car</i>	<i>Bus</i>	<i>Taxi</i>	<i>VAR</i>	<i>Friend or relative</i>	<i>Other</i>
GP services	200	21	0	2	8	1
Nurse & other clinics	188	17	0	1	6	2
Hospital	188	11	0	1	11	7
Chemists	189	28	0	1	3	1
Opticians	185	24	0	1	3	1
Dentists	185	22	0	0	4	2

*Of those who responded 'Other' the majority (60%) used either the train or an ambulance to get to the hospitals in Leicester.*

From these results it appears that on the whole residents of Whissendine are coping, apart from those needing transport to hospitals in Leicester. However it must be noted that people rely greatly on the use of their own car. Increased running costs and reduced access to / ability to drive a private motor vehicle may lead to some residents finding access to healthcare more difficult in the future.

The small volume of people using the Voluntary Action Rutland (VAR) Social Car Scheme possibly indicates that many people do not know about it. Information should be published in the Grapevine, on the web site and on notice boards.

Respondents who having difficulty getting to the above facilities felt that they could be helped by:

Better transport arrangements	5 (2.5 %)
Medicine/prescription service	26 (12.4%)
GP branch surgery in Whissendine	37 (17.6%)
Nurse clinic in Whissendine	31 (14.8%)

### Recommendations:

- Better transport arrangements -The VAR social car scheme could be advertised and used more. The development of a Good Neighbour Scheme being introduced by the newly established Rutland Community Spirit Organisation might also be useful.
- Medicine/prescription service -
- It has been confirmed that most GP surgeries and chemists offer a free medicine/prescription delivery service to localities upon request. This too could be publicised to the community.
- GP Branch Surgery and/or a Nurse Clinic in Whissendine -  
From information received from one major practice, this possibility was not considered viable. Another practice however, which already operates a branch surgery in a village hall of another village, was more encouraging, indicating that if sufficient people in Whissendine were patients, it might be viable. As we now understand that the practices

at Oakham, Market Overton and Somerby have/are joining together, there is little more that can be done at present.

**Social Care:**

<b>If you have never used VAR, would you like more information?</b>			
Yes	10	No	170

Of those who responded 'No' to this questions, it is assumed that they are/have not been in urgent/immediate need of the services or are not fully aware of the services that VAR provide. It is considered that the relevant information should still be made more freely available to the community.

<b>Apart from calling 999, do you know how to get medical help in an emergency?</b>			
Yes	153	No	47

<b>If you have health problems, do you know how to get help with adaptations to make your life easier?</b>			
Yes	112	No	40

<b>Do you know how to get Meals on Wheels or other home support?</b>			
Yes	92	No	69

The above results suggest that all relevant contact details and information should be made more readily available to residents of Whissendine.

<b>Do you look after someone who has a long- term illness, condition or disability?</b>			
Yes	22	No	172

<b>Do you need any help?</b>			
Yes	4	No	82

Of those who responded 'No' to the above questions, it is assumed that they are not in urgent need of help at this time, however information should be made available to them for future reference.

The identity of the 4 respondents who need help is unknown. In addition to the Carers UK Line advertised in the Questionnaire It has now been established that a Generic Carers' Support Group operates locally from the VAR premises in Oakham (Tel) 01572 720052.

Fourteen volunteers (only 12 provided contact details) offered to assist carers in Whissendine. The LRRCC Rutland Community Spirit Project welcomes such volunteers to work as part of their Good Neighbour Scheme (for more information visit [www.ruralcc.org.uk](http://www.ruralcc.org.uk) or telephone 0116 2662905.



## g. Family

From the results received (shown below) it appears that there is a fairly even split of children in the various age ranges which suggests that the village has a balanced and vibrant community.

<b>How many children do you have?</b>						
	<i>Under 3 years</i>	<i>3-6 years</i>	<i>7-9 years</i>	<i>10-12 years</i>	<i>13-15 years</i>	<i>16-17 years</i>
Own children	12	15	17	14	16	15
Grandchildren	12	9	6	4	3	1
Children you care for	1	1	1	1	0	0

### **Facilities and Activities for Children and Young People:**

<b>Do your children go to/ use any of the following run by volunteers in the village?</b>			
<i>Drop off and drop in</i>	3	<i>Youth Forum</i>	5
<i>Holy Terrors</i>	8	<i>Bowls Club</i>	0
<i>The play area in the Nook</i>	41	<i>Cricket Club</i>	1
<i>Football posts at the Sports Club</i>	11	<i>Hartbeats</i>	4
<i>Cubs</i>	10	<i>Tennis Club</i>	8
<i>Scouts</i>	14	<i>Rainbows</i>	4
<i>Knight School</i>	2	<i>Brownies</i>	1
<i>Sunday School</i>	6	<i>Guides</i>	3
<i>Summer Play Scheme</i>	11	<i>Other</i>	3

By far the most used area for children within the village is the Nook play area with 40% of those that responded saying that they used it; of these 68% said that their children used the Nook unsupervised. Of those that do not use the play area the main reasons given were anti-social behaviour and the lack of suitable equipment for older children. When asked if they considered the facilities provided in the play area were good, reasonable, poor or no opinion, 57% said they thought they were reasonable with 14% saying they were poor.

Suggestions of how the area could be improved included; new challenging equipment for older children, toddler friendly equipment and more seating. Other responses referred to the quality of the play area in Market Overton.

<b>Are there any activities which your children would like to do but can't?</b>			
Yes	41%	No	59%

When asked this question nearly 60% of respondents were happy with the level of activities offered in the village. The most common recreational facility that people wanted was a flat area of ground to play football and basketball. Other suggestions included the possible use of the Sports Club facilities on a pay to play basis.

<b>Would you like to see the Banks (area surrounding the Play Area) used for other activities?</b>			
Yes	40%	No	60%

When asked "about developing the Banks" - 60% of respondents were against it. Of those that did want to see the area developed the most common replies were for a family picnic area/BBQ site, fitness/ trim trail and a site for young people to meet.

When asked, "if people would be prepared to help out with any of the current activities/ clubs" 36% of those that replied already help out in some way.

<b>Would you be prepared to help with any of the following, even if just for a few hours? Please tick all that apply (All volunteers are subject to a CRB check)</b>			
<i>Drop off and drop in</i>	4	<i>Brownies</i>	0
<i>Holy Terrors</i>	1	<i>Guides</i>	0
<i>Cubs</i>	1	<i>Before-school club</i>	0
<i>Scouts</i>	2	<i>After-school club</i>	0
<i>Sunday School</i>	1	<i>Parent/ toddler group</i>	1
<i>Youth Forum</i>	0	<i>Crèche</i>	0
<i>Knight School</i>	1	<i>Summer Play scheme</i>	1
<i>Rainbows</i>	0	<i>Other</i>	10

### **Childcare:**

The majority of respondents (78%) were happy with childcare provision available locally. The remainder felt childcare provision could be improved by provision of a holiday club, after school activities and all day nursery care. There was significant support for the provision of an after school club and of a day nursery with each receiving about 20% of responses. There was considerable support (81%) for a child minder/ babysitting list, but the vast majority of people (90%) did not want to be involved themselves.

### **Education and Schools:**

Children from the village attend a range of schools with 27% of those that responded attending Whissendine C E, 21% Vale of Catmose College and 14% Whissendine Pre-school. When asked "which Pre-school session parents would like" - 60% said mornings and 30% wanting full day care. The preferred location for this Pre-school care was at the Primary school (60%) with the present location being second (30%). It was thought that having the Pre-school on the same site as the primary school would help children to move more easily through the transition between the schools. Failing this closer links should be made between the older Pre-school children and the village school.

Whissendine C E school had been visited by only 39% of those that responded and only 14% of these were interested in helping out in the following areas.

<b>If yes, please tick your area of interest and give your details on the attached confidential Contact Sheet:</b>			
<i>Reading</i>	12	<i>Science</i>	3
<i>Art/ craft</i>	3	<i>Gardening</i>	5
<i>Cookery</i>	4	<i>Sport</i>	1

Recommendations:

- The names of volunteers will be passed on to the school in due course.

When asked, "if people would like to attend a range of activities run at the school" - between 83%-95% said no. 86% of people that replied thought that the school was very important to the village and only 1% thought it was not.

When asked “if people would like to use the school building”- of the 275 people that responded; 45% would be interested in evening classes (academic/hobbies), 25% for leisure activities and 19% for social events such as clubs and dancing sessions. Other suggestions included extra lessons for children that have some difficulties and supervised youth sessions.

## **h. Business**

Thirty-six respondents worked from a base in the village, 50% half-time and 50% full-time. Of those who work in the village the following applies:

<b>Employment Type</b>	<b>Number of Respondents</b>
Self-employed	21
Work for an employer	13
Run your own business	14

Those running their own businesses employed 32 people 17 of whom were village residents and 15 who reside outside Whissendine.

Ten (40%) of the posts available in local businesses required some training, only three specified child care/education, farming, IT and photography.

A minority of businesses (3) had facilities they were prepared to share (photocopying, meeting room, fax, report binder). There was an offer of “foundation stage learning outside play area” based at the primary school.

There was little support (5) for regular meetings of village based businesses, but nearly 50% (16) of respondents would be interested in a Whissendine business directory. With the help of local publicity (Grapevine, Website etc) it should be possible for village businesses to get together to produce a business directory.

It was felt that the maintenance of a Post Office in the village would help local businesses. With the continuing policy of Post Office closures it is probably fruitless to campaign for re-opening of this facility in the village, unless there is a change of policy in the future, with a move towards sustainable communities.

### 3.Youth Report

Thirty -eight young people took the time to complete a questionnaire to which there was a fairly even split between male and female respondents. A third of responses came from both the 11-13 yrs and 14-15 yrs age groups. The remaining third were split equally between the 16-17 yrs and 18-19 yrs groups. Three respondents didn't give their age.

**Leisure and Recreation:**

- Those responding indicated that age groups of up to 5 yrs and 6-9yrs are well catered for within the village.
- Many respondents identified that provision for young people aged 10-12yrs and for those over 16 is limited within the village. Unfortunately there seems to have been an error in the final questionnaire and the 13 -16 yrs box was not printed, so there are no results for this age group. Given the responses to the age groups above and below, it should be assumed that there needs to be more provision for them too.
- Nearly all meet at friends' homes, with a third meeting in both the play area and in other locations (mainly on roads) around where they live. Only six said that they meet at the Sports Club.
- When asked "what additional facilities they would like", two thirds would like provision to meet outside in an area with seating, shelter and lighting. Nearly two thirds wanted to have an indoor meeting place with seating and lighting. Other suggestions included toilets, homework room, computers, games consol, basketball court, more swings and a place where they could have a drink.
- When asked, "how the village could be improved for younger people" - the following responses were received:

Required Improvement	Number of Responses
Improved Play Area	17
Adventure Playground	12
More supervised activities	5
Nature trail	6
Nature area	7
All-weather ball games area	22
Other	5

- When asked, "what additional activities they would like", the most common responses were 9 for badminton, 7 for horse riding and another 7 for martial arts.
- More than half of those that responded made suggestions relating to what they would like from a youth club.
- Ten of those who responded said they would like to be involved in helping organise any new activities.

**Transport:**

- There is good use of public transport for young people to travel to school and also for socialising and shopping.
- When asked, "what could be done to improve public transport" - twelve would like an 8pm – 11pm bus service and nineteen would like a Sunday bus service.

### **Safety:**

- The majority felt either safe or very safe in the village during the day, however a few respondents felt unsafe in the evening/after dark.
- Only ten knew the local Police Officer, nearly a third would like a greater Police presence, nearly half would like a better consultation between the Police and young people and 10 would like easier access to the Police Station.

### **Road Safety:**

- Most respondents generally felt safe on the roads in the village.
- Seventeen highlighted particular roads/locations where they did not feel safe.
- The majority felt that double yellow lines, speed cameras and chicanes are unnecessary. However there was some support for provision of speed advisory panels.
- The majority felt that footpaths and bridleways are in good order, however a significant proportion said they were not.

### **Information and Communication:**

- Most respondents find out what is on through the grapevine and word of mouth.
- Over a third said they would read a young people's notice board.

### **Environment and Community:**

- When asked, "what they thought would improve the environment" -most wanted to keep footpaths clear and well marked and have more litter and dog fouling bins. Other popular suggestions included planting and maintaining trees and hedgerows and improving grass cutting.
- Eight young people said they would be prepared to help with any projects to improve the environment.

Involving young people in improving the environment is a good way for them to care about and take ownership of their surroundings. This could help to reduce vandalism and misuse of village facilities. It could also help bridge the gap between young and old and provide the opportunity for young people to engage proactively with adults and the older generation in the village.

### **Education:**

- The majority who responded were in full time education, attending a wide range of schools and colleges locally.
- The majority are either planning to go into further education or are already attending.
- Eight respondents travel 5-20 miles to access further education with a similar number travelling over 20 miles.
- The majority didn't know if they would use additional training courses if provided. However there was a wide range of training courses suggested that might be of interest to them.

### **Housing and Health:**

- Most had not thought whether or not they would like to live in the village when they are older, ten said they would like to live in the village and an identical number said they would not.
- The table below highlights the accommodation desired by young people in the village for their first home:

Flat/apartment	9	Starter home	8
House	9	None of these	1
Shared ownership	2	Do not know	10

- Many didn't know the type of housing this would be but of those that did most thought it would be privately owned or rented.
- One respondent indicated that they look after someone with a long-term illness, condition or disability. They did not indicate whether they have or wanted help.
- A high number of volunteers would be willing to do babysitting and dog walking with nearly half of them willing to go on a village list.
- Most of those who responded would ask family for advice, with a significant number also asking friends. There may be a need to make sure they have easy access to information in the village so they share good advice.

### **About Whissendine;**

When asked, "what they would most like to see in the village" - the most popular idea for the village was youth shelters, with thirty of those that responded thinking it was a good or reasonable idea, closely followed by an all weather ball games area, youth club, better street lighting and more seating around the village. Generally they were less keen on a nature park.

	<i>Good</i>	<i>Reasonable</i>	<i>Poor</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
Youth shelters	19	11	2	3
All-weather ball games area	27	1	3	5
Youth Club	9	18	3	4
Better street lighting	17	12	2	3
More seating around the village	19	9	4	1
A nature park	8	6	16	5

Most liked aspects of the village:

- Safe & peaceful
- Rural /countryside
- Feast week / sports
- Friends / knowing people / good community spirit

Most disliked aspects of the village:

- Speeding
- Dog fouling
- No shops
- Lack of things to do for teenagers

- Older people's attitude to them
- Friend not living in the village
- Public transport

When asked, "if they had £5000 to spend on the village"- from an interesting range of answers two themes stood out; which were increasing sports provision for youths and somewhere for them to go and meet.

**Youth Council:**

Of those who responded to the youth questionnaire 9 (25%) indicated that they would be interested in being on a youth council, thus generating enough to get one successfully established within the village.



## 4. Children – 7 to 10 Years Report

There were ten responses from the children in the village aged 7 – 10 years. Although the number of responses is low it is important to consider views of the young people who took the time and effort to reply.

In terms of gender it was an even split with 5 girls and 5 boys responding.

### **Leisure and Recreation:**

- In terms of age, respondents predominantly felt that the up to 5 yrs and the 6-9 yrs are well catered for within the village. However several of those responding did indicate that the age groups 6-9 and those 10 & above are not. This may indicate a need to improve and increase the facilities available for these specific age groups.
- Significantly there were no responses to say that the disabled were well catered for, but two said they were not.
- Most meet their friends at each other's homes; only one used the Sports Club (which is surprising as 3 of those who responded said they were members of the Tennis Club) or play area. This indicates that these areas may not be appealing enough to this age group.
- In response to the type of facilities they would like, there was strong support for an indoor meeting place, and several who would like more outdoor space.
- To improve the village for young people just under half wanted more benches, more organised outings and more outdoor facilities. Only one wanted better transport.
- Those responding were keen for the village to have a youth club and an all weather ball games area, with both a youth shelter and a nature park also popular.

### **Road Safety:**

- Over half who responded did not feel safe on the village roads.
- Seven gave specific instances of roads where they don't feel safe.

### **Information and Communication:**

- 7-10s mostly find out what's on through the Grapevine and word of mouth.
- There was strong support for a Children's Notice Board.

### **Environment and Community:**

- The respondents thought that planting / preserving trees, creating more ponds and looking after woodland would improve the environment.
- Half of those who responded would be prepared to help with an environmental project.

### **Education:**

- The majority of those who responded are at Whissendine C E Primary School. One is at Langham.
- Over half walk to school, but for clubs and activities they go by car.

### **Health:**

Nobody who responded looks after anyone or needs help.

### **About Whissendine:**

- When asked “what they would like in the village” - those responding were keenest on having a youth club and an all weather ball games area, with a youth shelter and Nature Park coming a close joint second.
- When asked, “what they liked about Whissendine” - there were lots of comments on friends, the countryside and village activities.
- When asked, “what they disliked” - several said nothing and some made comments on fast driving.

When asked, “If you had £5,000 to spend on a youth project in the village, what would you use it on” ? - the following responses were received:

- Building a meeting place for Children
- Adventure playground
- More sports for children not always provided at the school
- Improving the play area
- Skate board park, more activities
- Speed cameras, new bins, zebra crossing
- The sports hall being looked after for all the village to use
- A place to meet friends

## 5. Post it board Report

### **Pink** 4 – 10 years

- I like the school
- I like going to Rainbows and Nursery. I like the park too
- More Stuff in the park!!!
- Good community sprit
- Caring community
- Lively
- Buses at weekends, in the evenings/ night would be very acceptable
- Whissendine School is COOL!!!!
- A bigger adventure playground in the park
- More ICT stuff and art
- Ducks in the steam
- Bigger playground for Whissendine Cof E primary School
- Whissendine ROCKS!!
- Whissendine is the best
- More frequent buses to Melton and Oakham
- Cheaper housing!
- Whissendine School is cool!

### **Green** 11 – 19 years

- We need more facilities – e.g. park for us with Skate Park
- Dog owners should pick up litter
- Children Shouldn't go in the brook its dangerous
- More Community support police officers about
- More places to go!
- I think we need more things to do because it is getting a boring village and the teenagers are going to Oakham instead
- Busses go to fast.
- Dog poo on the path when I go to school
- We need more activities like feast week
- Brook to be lowered, so that it
- Doesn't flood the road
- Get some good stuff
- More activities like feast week!
- Spikes on the chains hurt so change them to ordinary chains
- It's boring and we need more things to do because it's getting boring for us teenagers and there's nowhere for us to go
- Exciting activities + s well good neighbourhood
- Its is a bit boring out + about but other than that Whissendine ROCKS!!
- Somewhere for us to play football with proper nets / goals
- Somewhere to go – meet friends

## Yellow Adult

- Slower Bus drivers
- Paths to create circular routes
- No Parking outside School on Main Street
- A Doctors surgery would be extremely useful, especially for the older villagers
- Get 7 Trent to sort the village green – dig it out and start again.
- No Parking by the school
- Proper youth/ young peoples centre
- More thought when parking – not near corners / in turning circles/ blocking drives
- Good community sprit & activities
- Should be “park & walk” for the school (parking at Sports Club) Children would be fitter and roads safer
- Full village shop with newspapers etc
- Greater Consultation regarding youth project
- Loose the speed humps
- Doctors surgery temporary or part time
- Whissendine is a lovely peaceful village
- Facilities for youth using the sports field for football
- Say no to phone masts near houses
- Police presence
- Parking on pavements
- There are quite a few thugs in the village. Please keep them out! Otherwise a pleasant village to be in
- Youth project practical problems need consideration or else it will fail
- Speed of traffic in Cow Lane
- Housing infill should be controlled
- Keep village hall in the middle of the village
- Doctors surgery needed
- Seat by bus stop at chapel for older people
- Eliminate Parish council
- Stop flooding at the bridge
- Maintenance of the village by the County Council needs more care and attention!
- The Nook needs resurfacing before the present surface breaks up entirely
- Seat would be nice by the Chapel Bus stop
- Doctors Surgery even part time would be acceptable
- No parking near the school
- Improvements to levels of ‘tarmac’ paving. I fell on an uneven stretch of Hall Close
- No more houses
- Doctors surgery would be a great help
- Something needs doing about dog fouling. What can we do?
- Survey of village footpaths to improve access-? Permissive
- Paths to create circular routes
- More attractive entrances to the village Trees etc
- Stop barking dogs in Sherrard Close
- Speed ramps on entrance to village like at Greetham
- Discounted Beer for Crinklies
- Kids in Mill Grove play elsewhere sometimes

- Kerbs are poor on main Street so when it rains water pours into Horton's Lane bypassing drains
- Remove grassy hump in Sherrards Close so cars can park near their houses and avoid parking on paths + congestion
- Doctors Surgery
- The pavement from Paddocks Close to Station Rd is a disgrace. It slopes towards the road, has numerous cracks in which are most dangerous
- Speed controls needed on Main St especially at the bend by Honey-Suckle Cottage
- Doctors Surgery in the village
- Slower traffic through village
- Flashing "30" speed boards on Melton Road (similar to new ones at Burton Lazars)
- Less dog mess on paths!
- Less dog mess
- Traffic calming on the east entrance
- Bus to run later in evenings or just weekends
- Better playground for children – more equipment i.e. adventure / trim trail style
- A place for children to play football after school
- More playgrounds or better adventure playground for children
- More tennis courts

#### **Blue** Business

- Clear up dog mess!!
- Speed bumps in Cow Lane

# 6. Focus Groups Report

## Whissendine – Results from Ideas Wall – 28 March 2008

- More Police
- Provision for youth
- No parking spaces (3 car lengths) at various intervals – Alding, Main Street and outside the school
- Bus just for children
- More local activities like events
- De-Fib in the village – Need trained operator (x 3)
- Incentives for dog owners to stop fouling of footpaths
- Public transport extended to evenings – Small mini buses
- Facilities for youth. Place top hang out with mates rather than street corners
- If services (Post Office, shop, newsagent) are not available in village, have a regular mobile service (x3)
- Increase use of school facilities (x2)
- Bus shelter by Church (x2)
- Outdoor interesting teens area which appeals to older generation as well
- In Slipcote, have lunch boxes for children
- Public transport outside of current timetable
- More frequent service of buses at peak times
- Bring back the ducks (x1)
- More affordable housing sympathetically built
- Hard surface path along Oakham road to Langham, like Cottsesmore/Greetham etc.
- Youth on Parish plan committee (x 4)
- Have free beer once a month
- Set up a youth club with premises central to the village (x 2)
- No phone masts
- Part of road sectioned off for cyclists on normal bikes
- Flowers to decorate the Whissendine sign (x2)
- Access to medical facilities in village (x6)
- Mini pup for children
- Community centre with shops, gardens, homework room, computer room, café, games room, 3 different age group rooms and more
- Play area at the top end of the village
- Concerns on parking in Main street, particularly on Bishop's corner (x3)

(x the number indicates other people who indicated that they agree with the comment)

### **Adult Session**

#### Community Facilities

- More adult classes: painting, photography, languages etc.
- More activities in the Village Hall e.g. Yoga
- Improved space in the Village Hall, storage a priority

- Village store/general shop/newsagent – selling local produce especially bread and fruit and veg to meet the needs of the village
- Community Centre that complements the Village Hall and Sports Club

### **Youth Issues**

- Involve the youth in organising 'Feast Week'
- Youth Club
- Organised trips for teenagers
- Involve youths in all village groups
- A meeting place – maybe a youth shelter in the village?

### **Environment**

- Prettier exposure in village – (flower baskets along main Street) – 'Whissendine in Bloom'
- Stop dog fouling
- Walking group
- Developing nature trails for families to follow
- Tackle problems with flooding in the village

### **Health**

- Defibrillator in the village
- Prescription pick up facility
- Local medical provision
- Doctor's surgery in village
- Health clinics for new mums

### **Traffic and Transport**

- Bus service during the evening
- Integrated transport system where buses are linked to train times
- Speed indicators
- Open Whissendine Station
- Community mini-bus
- Cycle paths or routes

### **Crime and Community Safety**

- Involve/ provide facilities for youth to reduce anti-social behaviour
- Visible police presence (Beat Bobby)
- Stop cold calling in the village
- Reduce speed limits on country lanes

## **Whissendine Focus group – Youth Responses**

### **Youth Issues**

- Play area in the village possibly controlled by CCTV for safety concerns
- Youth Club for teenagers with Pool tables, TV, PC's, Games tables etc.
- General Centre that houses Post Office, youth Group, health surgery
- Homework room equipped with PC's within Community Centre

### **Traffic and Transport**

- Separate area for cyclists i.e. Cycle paths or routes
- More bus shelters required. Where there are existing bus stops, seats or additional seats are needed
- Reduce the speed of the traffic to 20MPH throughout all of the village not just by the school
- Increase number of buses to Oakham as well as a separate bus for children only – in addition to the school bus

### **Environment**

- Limit housing in the village
- Don't allow phone masts in the village especially with concerns over health
- Communal garden

### **Miscellaneous**

- Café and shop for all ages to use
- Young person on the Parish Council or Parish Plan Steering Group
- General concerns re crime. More Police Officers needed
- Doctor's surgery in the village that could be located in a Community Centre