

### **Alburgh Village Questionnaire 2023**

*We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to those of you who took the time to fill out our questionnaire. Your valuable feedback is instrumental in helping us to improve the facilities in our village. We have carefully reviewed each response and have worked diligently to implement as many changes as possible. We eagerly anticipate receiving responses to the next questionnaire which will be distributed in the coming months to gauge the effectiveness of these adjustments. Thank you once again for your participation and support in our ongoing journey.*

*Mark Thompson*

*Chair of Alburgh Parish Council*

### **Response Summary**

*The questionnaire was circulated in the first quarter of 2023 and with 18 responses from 200 the response rate was 9%. There was significant change during the remainder of the year and it's hoped that another questionnaire in the next few months and advertising more widely, the response rate will improve. Interestingly more 2 person households responded but that may reflect the number of 2-person households in the village. The 18 households included a broad mix of all age groups identified and across differing village locations with The Street and Low Road representing a higher response rate but there are also more households in these 2 locations.*

### **Millenium Garden**

*The 17 responses showed 0 households using the garden on a weekly basis and a further 9 never using the garden, 6 using it occasionally and 1 household on a monthly basis.*

#### **Actions:**

*Over the last few months part of the hedge separating the garden from the proposed pétanque court has been removed. Following discussions with the Millenium Garden volunteers and parish councillors there are plans to remove a larger section of the hedging between these two areas to make them interconnecting and visible. It is also planned to improve the area around the pond. We will continue to work closely with the Millenium Garden volunteers to make it visible and accessible. We would also like to do some fund raising to help with the purchase of additional outside furniture and a gazebo. In the following weeks we will be looking for volunteers to help with this work and to also start a village pétanque team.*

### **Playing Field**

*Of 16 responses 1 household uses the area weekly, 6 occasionally and 9 never. These may reflect whether there are children within the households as it is unlikely adult only households would use the area.*

### **Park Equipment**

*7 responses saying it is not used and / or no children but a roundabout, monkey bars, shelter and the provision of a swing for disabled children would improve the area. There were also comments recommending improved maintenance.*

#### **Actions:**

*The parish councillors have plans to improve the equipment and a regular maintenance and inspection programme has already been in place for some time.*

### **Additional Village Facilities**

*Suggestions included adult gym equipment, better outside lighting, pétanque, bus shelter and Fish & Chips van.*

#### **Actions:**

*All of the above suggestions are currently being actively considered across the PC and VHC and the Fish and Chips van makes its first appearance on the village hall car park on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March from 5–8pm.*

### **What events/activities would you like to see?**

*Similar responses resonated across this and the following 2 questions:*

- *More social events for older people, anything for the younger 'oldies' not necessarily exercise orientated*
- *Walks, dog walks, footpath clearing,*
- *Youth club*
- *More cinema, bar nights*
- *Music nights, general entertainment*
- *Fete / family event / Summer bbq*

- *Adult only bar night with maybe an adult's pool or table tennis tournament*
- *An event to celebrate the Kings Coronation and/or Village Centenary Family*
- *Easter craft morning, egg hunt for children*
- *Exercise classes*
- *Village Open Gardens*
- *The PC/VHC are making great improvements to engage with the community.*
- *I am very happy with current activities*
- *The Platinum Jubilee was very successful and brought the village together*

### **Village Hall**

*14 households use the village hall with 10 saying occasionally and 2 use both weekly and monthly.*

### **Village Hall Bar**

*Again, 17 responses resulted in 6 households not using the bar but 11 varying between monthly 5, occasionally 5 and weekly 1.*

### **Actions:**

*We would expect the next Questionnaire to show increased usage for both the hall and bar with the regular bar nights, Alburgh Academy, film nights and matinees, Monday Morning Community Cafe and additional events including a Summer Village Party planned for 31<sup>st</sup> August.*

*The VHC are also planning events for 2024 and these will be advertised well in advance.*

### **Tennis Court**

*With 14 responses saying they never use the courts and only 1 using regularly it quite probable that the regular users didn't respond to the questionnaire.*

### **Church**

*17 responses with an almost equal split between 8 never using, 7 occasionally and 1 weekly and 1 monthly household using the church.*

### **How do people hear about events?**

*Broad mix of communication which appears to be well covered with the magazine 16, word of mouth 15, Alburgh Talk 10, Facebook and the noticeboard both with 6 and other (2).*

### **Action:**

*The new noticeboard may help improve communications and continuing with Letterbox Drops (carried out ahead of the Coronation Party and before Christmas) which have been well received and provide a tangible reminder for people about upcoming events.*

### **What groups would you like to see?**

*Arts and Crafts, youth club, conservation group e.g. litter picking, improving habitat for wildlife, planting more bulbs and wildflower, yoga classes, walking group, exercise classes, table tennis, keep fit for retired people, folk music or similar band.*

### **Action:**

*Following the questionnaire response, the PC/VHC organised craft events, keep fit classes for older people and Zumba for everyone. Unfortunately, none of these groups continued due to a lack of attendees.*

*A Teen Zone is underway in the Village Hall. We can facilitate putting like-minded people in touch with each other via Alburgh / Denton Talk and our facebook page.*

### **What could improve your experience of living in the village?**

### **What could we do better?**

*These two questions provided a wide range of responses including improved communication between PC/VHC and residents, reduce speeding (top choice), adult only bar nights as well as family bar nights, clearing of footpaths, better advertising and magazine, and don't assume everyone uses social media to name but a few.*

### **Actions:**

*Quite a few of the actions have already been tried with both family and adult-only bar nights. Significant improvements in advertising upcoming events and the Parish Magazine, new noticeboard and letterbox drops to ensure we are reaching everyone.*

*The communications being put out regularly are: Noticeboard, Parish magazine, Alburgh Talk, Denton Talk, Alburgh Facebook and Letterbox Drops.*

*Everyone is welcome at the Alburgh Café on Monday mornings (funded by the Alburgh Academy events) which ran from the beginning of November to end of March, where you can catch up on what's going on in the village and have a coffee/tea/bacon roll/cakes/biscuits – all free of charge - plus a warm welcome to everyone. Who doesn't love a bacon roll (vegan and vegetarian options are available)?*

**From April – October this will run on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month and then resume weekly from November 2024.**

**Speeding** issues continue to be a top priority for residents and the PC who engage regularly with Norfolk County Council, Highways and the Police in efforts to find ways of reducing speeding in the village. A grant application to Norfolk County Council for village gateway signs has just been approved – details to follow.

**The Speed Watch Team are always looking for more volunteers as well.**

**Footpath and litter picking** – A litter pick is being organised for 2<sup>nd</sup> half of May – details to follow.

**What things do you particularly enjoy about the village?**

*Again, a real mix of thoughts and ideas which are grouped together and for us all to share and reflect on:*

- *Socialising at bar nights, family bar nights, adult bar nights*
- *Concerts, film nights, quiz nights, entertainment when available, special evenings like Burns Night, board games/cards etc*
- *Peace*
- *Cycling, our footpaths, set aside land and walks around village*
- *Architecture, church building, built environment, local history*
- *The Grain opening on Fridays and Saturdays, Food nights, Alburgh Ice cream,*
- *Tuesday Group, Church activities,*
- *Fetes and parties etc where whole village comes together and the Jubilee Garden Party was great*
- *The people, our friends, friendly people, Safe area*