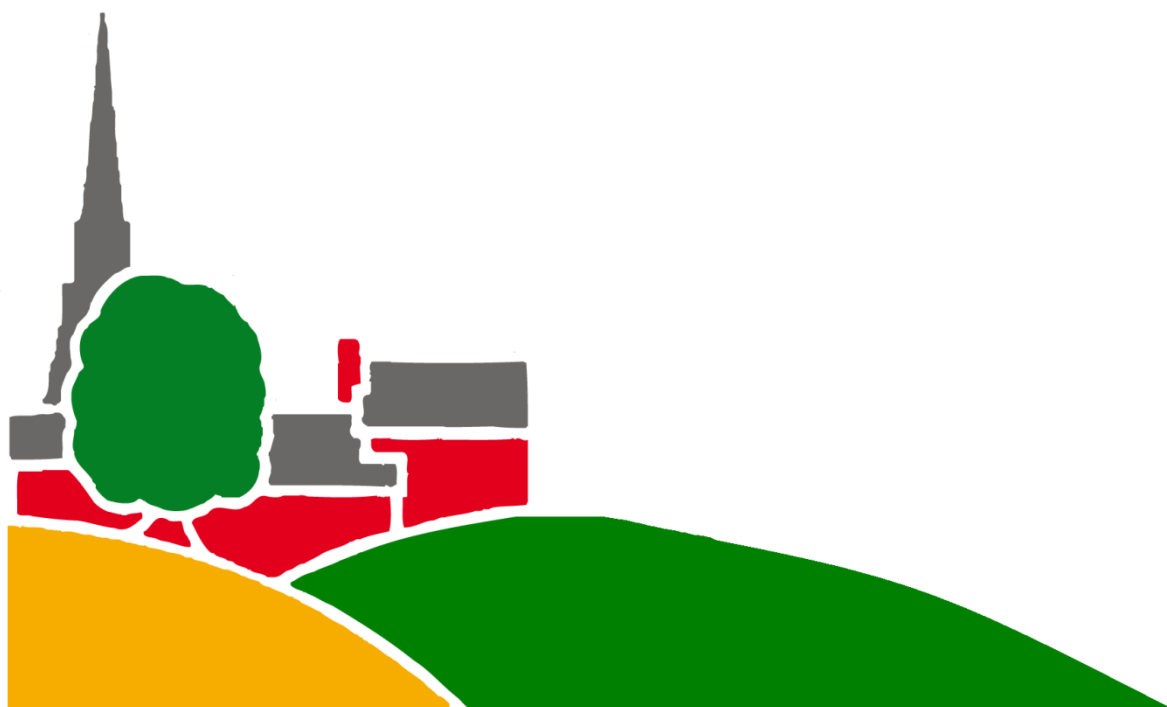


# Final results of Parish questionnaire

On behalf of

## Whitwick Parish Council.





## **INTRODUCTION**

The RCC were commissioned by Whitwick Parish Council to write a Parish Questionnaire. The objective was to raise the profile of the Parish Council within its second year of office and to find out what aspects of local service residents wanted to be prioritised. It is hoped that the results will enable the Parish Council to create an 'Action Plan' of short term, medium term and long term goals.

Copies of the questionnaire were included in the village newsletter 'Close Knit' and residents had the opportunity to complete the questionnaire 'on line' or by using the RCC's FREEPOST system. The questionnaire also gave the opportunity for residents to volunteer in order to support the community.

The original deadline of 30<sup>th</sup> April 2013 was extended until 30<sup>th</sup> September 2013 because Whitwick had the opportunity to consult residents at two major community events over the summer 'Woodstock in Whitwick' and 'Party in the Park', this final report encompasses all responses.

**1. RECREATION GROUNDS AND PUBLIC SPACES. When deciding how to spend the *Parish* portion of your Council Tax, what priority should be given to the following?**

	<i>High Priority</i>	<i>Medium Priority</i>	<i>Low Priority</i>
Maintaining recreation grounds, public spaces and play areas	108 (66.3%)	42 (25.8%)	6 (3.7%)
Maintaining Whitwick Park	103 (63.2%)	47 (28.8%)	7 (4.3%)
Providing outdoor gym equipment for public use	15 (9.2%)	51 (31.3%)	84 (51.5%)
Whitwick skate park; extend, refurbish or change equipment	33 (20.2%)	79 (48.5%)	44 (27.0%)
Play opportunities for younger children	78 (47.9%)	59 (36.2%)	19 (11.7%)
Provision of youth facilities	84 (51.5%)	57 (35.0%)	12 (7.4%)
Christmas tree and/ or lights	36 (22.1%)	63 (38.9%)	54 (33.1%)
Maintaining the War Memorial and garden	108 (66.3%)	45 (27.6%)	4 (2.5%)
Maintaining the Mining Memorial Winding Wheel	79 (48.5%)	59 (36.2%)	17 (10.4%)
New street furniture- benches, bus shelters, etc	51 (31.3%)	76 (46.6%)	30 (18.4%)
Provide and maintain allotments	37 (22.7%)	63 (38.7%)	55 (33.7%)

**2. ENVIRONMENT. Would you support any of the following initiatives?**

	<i>High Priority</i>	<i>Medium Priority</i>	<i>Low Priority</i>
Community orchard	27 (16.6%)	60 (36.8%)	63 (38.7%)
Provision of grit bins	94 (57.7%)	52 (31.9%)	8 (4.9%)
Bulb planting at village entrances	58 (35.6%)	72 (44.2%)	24 (14.7%)
More bins for litter and dog waste	114 (69.9%)	35 (21.5%)	8 (4.9%)

**3. ACCESS TO INFORMATION. How would you prefer to find out about what the Parish Council is doing?**

	<i>Please tick</i>
Close- Knit magazine	119 (73.0%)
Parish Church newsletter	39 (23.9%)
Parish Council website	44 (27.0%)
Attending Parish Council meetings	16 (9.8%)
Social media (e.g. Facebook)	57 (35.0%)
Public notice boards	56 (34.4%)

**4. VOLUNTEERS.** In order to support our community, would you be interested in any volunteering opportunities in Whitwick?

7 (4.3%)	<i>Youth activities</i>
25 (15.3%)	<i>Community litter picks</i>
5 (3.1%)	<i>Footpath warden</i>
3 (1.8%)	<i>Tree warden</i>
6 (3.7%)	<i>Snow warden</i>
15 (9.2%)	<i>Environment group</i>
6 (3.7%)	<i>Other (please state below)</i>

Please state: 7 (4.3%)

- Nature Conservation
- Unfortunately I'm physically handicapped
- The church (St John's) runs youth clubs and does litter picks; it might be worth teaming up.
- If time allows it I perhaps would join some sort of group.
- My wife is interested in volunteering for visiting and talking to older people in the village.
- Scouts
- I already work in voluntarily at Century Theatre at Snibston and Thringstone Community Centre.

**5. YOUTH COUNCIL.** Would anyone aged 18 or under in your household be interested in serving on a youth council? If so, please provide contact details.

4 (2.5%) Yes  
66 (40.5%) No

Name: 6 (3.7%)  
Postal address: 4 (2.5%)  
Email address: 5 (3.1%)  
Telephone: 4 (2.5%)  
Mobile: 1 (0.6%)

**6. HOW CAN THE PARISH COUNCIL HELP MAKE WHITWICK A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE?**

95 (58.3%) responses:

- We are delighted that local residents now have the opportunity to influence decision making at a Parish level. My particular passion is for ecology and nature conservation; it would be great if some of the villages wild places could be developed and enhanced with nature and wildlife in mind. One "pet" hate is the amount of dog fouling which occurs on the local streets.
- hi, we could have farmers markets, after all we used to be a market town, also could we have a annual show or event promoting the town and its history.
- The parish council should come up with a development plan for the village in close consultation with

local people. NWLDC seems keen to turn Whitwick into a drab dormitory village of high density, shoddily built houses and the parish council should present and promote an alternative vision, created and supported by those who actually live in the village. The plan should, among other things, cover recreation, public services and job / business creation and should look at the actual housing needs of the village - giving villagers a chance to say how many and what sort of houses / flats they would like to see built, instead of having NWLDC impose shoddy and inappropriate developments on us all the time. The parish council should try to rekindle community spirit in the village and, in particular, encourage young people to value their local community. If it wasn't too expensive, perhaps twinning with a similar community in another European country could be investigated.

- Traffic calming, traffic calming, traffic calming. North Street, Leicester Road & Loughborough Road are used as Rat-runs to Leicester & Loughborough during the day and there is a total disregard for the 30 mph speed limit. traffic calming on these roads and improved street furniture/traffic calming through the Market Place would improve safety and the appearance of the village to residents and passing motorists alike.
- try to keep the trees on streets, and keep whitwick at its current or better state with nature.
- Something for teenagers for Free! Make some of The footpaths accessible to wheelchair/pushchair users, ex; hermitage lake.
- Fine the people who don't poop scoop after their dogs, and fine them heavily. That, and name & shame them in the free papers!
- sort pot holes out ..there really bad at the mo
- I would like to see a drastic reduction in the amount of litter - particularly the bridlepath at the top of Thornborough Road, the old railway line footpath to Hermitage Lake. More consideration for the appearance round the pit wheel, perhaps more flower beds etc. A pedestrian crossing in the market place. Restrictions on Gem Taxis parking in the Market Place.
- providing housing estates with driveways for their own vehicles, St Bernards Road is too dangerous and although there are alot of parked cars people still drive round the estate too quickly.
- DOG MESS You cannot go for a walk and look round. All you have to do is LOOK DOWN, there is no pleasure going for a walk round Whitwick. I am 70 and go for a walk 2 or 3 times a week
- More kerbside flowers along suitable arterial routes at whitwick borders away from potential vandal damage - less litter bins because no one uses them but more pooper bins
- Maintain current parks and other amenities. Reduce the amount of litter through litter picks, more bins, improved street cleaning and community education. Support community events like Party in the Park and festivals. Support the work of Whitwick Community Enterprise and WAG. Renew mural under railway bridge and commission other sites.
- Community litter picks are a great idea. I would love to see more planting of trees
- A study of Loughborough Road re need for traffic calming and car parking in school area at times of delivering and collecting children
- Give the young places to meet/play. Skate park, etc. Top Priority. It's better than youths hanging around on street corners.
- Find and introduce good initiatives for reducing dog waste on the ground
- Work to create a culture among dog owners that leaving dog shit on the footpath, verges or private land or in plastic bags that are thrown in hedges, ditches etc is NOT ACCEPTABLE
- Please please grit side roads or at least put grit bins in every side road. They have been very dangerous the beginning of this year, and now. (School Lane) (Martin Close very bad. What happened to TJs. Missed very much by my granddaughter
- A real concern of mine is the parent car parking at school start and finish time, alot of the parents have no consideration for other road and footpath users in the area of Parsonwood Hill and Temple Hill and along Cademan St and Loughborough Rd. More should be done to get parents to walk their children to school as alot of the car users only live a short distance from the schools.
- Current footpaths lost due to leaseholders allowing horses to run free across public footpaths. Walkers have lost this amenity. Landowners are supposedly local builders who will use this in support of closing footpaths in favour of developments on the green wedge. Also speed bumps on Church Lane and Thornborough Road do little to slow speeding and are damaging to cars whatever speed they are taken at. No consultation prior to installation, impossibility of taking on board residents views now either. Previously told tough when cllr was questioned.
- Give the money back to the people they can spend it more wisely than any councillor
- Improve appearance of our streets and the [???]. So much rubbish, vehicles driving over grassed area/parking on pavements and now more dog mess on our footpaths since NWLDC notices to take it down!
- Provision of grit bins: Very High @ Thomas Road/Stinson Way/Holland Close. Whitwick needs to 'look better' to the outsider, attracting wealth to the area. Boarded up buildings DON'T look attractive. We need to promote Whitwick more, highlighting the excellent schools and community

spirit. I have a young child and it's sad to see TCs close. Friends from Lough/Barrow/Quorn raved about this excellent facility and many people are sad to see this family/community/excellent facility (which brought wealth to the area) close!! We live near Whitwick Park and there's often kids sitting on the youth centre roof!!

- Well for a start stop vehicles parking half on the footpaths makes life difficult for us old pensioners and blind people. A few tickets would do the trick maybe.
- Support Close-Knit magazine as it helps to build a community spirit. More independent shops, eg greengrocer, make Whitwick inviting to investors
- Whitwick Park to open and close a little later, it states park closes at dusk but it always closes earlier than stated. It is an easy walk through from housing estate to Doctors surgery for those who don't drive. Kids on skate park/playground can't access the park between 4-6pm because park gates closed so they are breaking the metal fence to gain access as children finish school at these times. What is the point having a park/playground for them if they can't use it. Also not enough dog waste bins. Would be nice for the park to be planted flowers and flowers around Whitwick to make it a nice place to see when you go for walks. More grit bins and when icy to put grit on paths on main roads like North Street. Walking on paths to get to Doctors Surgery when I was pregnant I wasn't very happy due to slipping and very dangerous for the elderly. Thank you.
- Listen to concerns of residents and act upon them. Clean up and maintain all areas. The Market Place businesses are shabby, can the Parish Council approach them? Do not allow any more 'fast food' outlets in.
- Improve the look of the Market Place. DO NOT BUILD ANYMORE KEBAB SHOPS. Place more litter bins in the area and invest in planing flowers and village entrances. The Market Place looks dreadful and needs improving drastically. A local shop would improve.
- New path Castle Street to Market Place, maintained wall and hedging. Weekly swept and kept litter free. Reduce noise from Three Crowns so residents can actually sleep at night. Also needs: (1) businesses to clean up their own litter, bottles, chewing gum, broken glass (2) need safe roads and paths for pedestrians (3) noise levels to stop at night so residents can sleep (4) regular policing to prevent crime (5) prevent gangs of youths congregating late at night on pathway from Market Street to Castle Street for no apparent reason.
- Grit the paths when it snows, enforce the laws on dog fouling, if possible grit the roads on the estates if it snows so people can get out. Keep litter under control. Be there to help if people are scared of vandals. Sort out parking at the schools.
- Encouraging youngsters to take a pride in their village. Perhaps with litter picks etc
- Support local businesses
- outdoor gym equipment - it would cost alot and would probably get vandalised quickly Whitwick Skate park - it's fine as it is Play opportunities for young children - there is not alot for little children Provision of youth facilities - there is a youth club already and leisure centre to use as well as the skate park in Whitwick Park, how much more to they need. Personally speaking, I do think there is a lot already for older children and teenagers in the village, but unfortunately they are the ones least able to appreciate it. Facilities for young children is quite sparse. The model train at the leisure centre was always popular when my two were little. Perhaps arrange something regular with the owners of that in line with fundraising for the village or something (?) Maybe fundraiser for CCDTV cameras to help eliminate the threat of vandalism in the village. I would love to volunteer but cannot commit to long term projects as I just do not have the spare time. If I can be of any help with regard to anything which needs a photographer I have a large collection of photographs of Whitwick and surrounding area which you are free to use or if you want photos of specific things I would oblige. In an ideal work all the mentioned would make Whitwick a better place. However, there are two main factors which prevent this - maoney and vandals. If anything 'nice' is put in place you can guarantee it would be vandalised so as I mentioned previously perhaps raise money for some kind of security system for the village, ie CCTV to help reduce threat of vandalism etc, would also help catch the irresponsible dog owners who allow their dogs to foul and don't pick it up! (The park and leisure centre are terrible.)
- tidy it up, keep it clean, help residents, more bus services used to be 10 mins, now 2 an hour, which come through village. Improve the look ie flowers do help look at other villages. organise community events and not leave to private businesses. improve King Ed - Castle rock is great but worried about King Ed.
- Provide more youth facilities
- speed bumps or clear speed limit signs on leicester road coming down from the wood end as this used as a race track. this also applies for the st.bernards/beaumont rd estate. more places for the younger teenagers as Doner Master isnt a youth centre to hang around in, to block the entrance with scooters on the floor or scooter stunt being performed putting the public off from purchasing a take away. my biggy would be the parking on church lane outside new swannington primary. people seem to park on both sides of the lane lately which makes the flow of passing traffic difficult, puts people at danger and blocks the way for bigger emergency vehicle to get up to school should they

be needed.

- Cleaner environment with exercise areas and walking routes with places to rest.
- Clean streets, busy streets, happy streets, safe streets, user friendly streets, free streets, traffic friendly streets, environmentally friendly streets, would make Whitwick a better place to live.
- Regular, organised litter clearing. Fines for people allowing dogs to foul streets and not cleaning up after them. Organise community events.
- keep it tidy! Litter is a problem, particularly in hedges like at the end of Ferrers Road/ Hall.
- Enforcement of heavy fines to anyone who fly tips within the area. Also better maintenance of Leicester Road to prevent heavy rain washing all debris from the road down the driveways.
- Freshen up village centre more raised flower beds, bins for people rubbish/dog mess continue to support community events
- Clearly marked dog walks
- Have wardens walking around
- I am a 32 year old, there was not a lot to do as a teenager in the village, and I notice a lot of teenagers still hanging around in the evenings. It would be good to give them a place to socialise. Otherwise, well done for your work so far.
- Provide litter bins on HALL lane between Council houses & lady Jane PH, Also on Tiverton avenue footpath lampposts outside Nos. 44 & 42. Also if possible put up illuminated speed signs preferably with speed cameras facing both ways [looking up located just below Peterfield road jct] & looking down located by lamppost opposite No. 233 HALL lane.] Some cars which are local seem to treat this road as a their own private race track [particularly between [7 & 9am] & 11pm & [2.30am]
- GET SOME PROPER POLICING ON THE STREETS ei; ON THEIR FEET WITH BOOTS ON
- ensuring that any new builds are suitable family size houses /bungalows and decent plot sizes, not rabbit boxes that people cannot afford to grow from or move from. also with parking. parking for residents of Green Lane is an issue since the gas works was developed? They said it wouldn't be and within weeks it was! Do not allow the Whitwick wedge to be developed. Brown field sites should be used first. Allow more individual self build developments and plots which are traditionally more aesthetically pleasing and sustainably built. The police and other authority and council representatives should lead by example. That the council motives and decisions are none political. No deals with tesco this has blighted Coalville and made the shops derelict in that area. Parking on paths is getting to be an issue with regular parking on the cross hatched area on the crossing at the entrance of the jitty that leads to Whitwick Park on Church Lane, rendering the safety work that was done at the crossing void. Parents with pushchairs regularly have to walk in the road to pass cars parked on the paths. Children struggle to pass cars on the paths on scooters or bikes.
- Pavements and potholes repaired. Grass verges cut more often
- Include residents who live on the outskirts of the village. I live on the boundary of Whitwick but do not receive information about Whitwick, neither do I receive from Thringstone. Hanging baskets or tubs at beginning of village would be nice. I would be happy to look after one.
- Make representations against major developments on greenfield sites. Protect the unique fauna, flora and geology of the area. Protect the few remaining old buildings or value litter - petty crime
- By providing more dog waste bins than there are! Also more bins for litter
- My son loves the fitness/gym equipment that is in Coalville park so I think its a fantastic idea to help get young children off their sofa/beds and help stop them just sitting on game consoles/facebook and stop over weight children GIVE THEM SOMETHING TO HELP THEM EXERCISE
- Continue with community based events, keep streets clean and stop fly-tipping
- Remove most of the unnecessary signs, humps, masses of white and yellow paint that is generally of no use or effect and make Whitwick look like a village again
- Keep it clean
- Move skate park away from small children as the language from some is not nice but they need somewhere to go. Dog mess is a problem
- More dog-litter bins everywhere 2. Move war-memorial to opposite Polly's on main road
- Get rid of speed ramps Church Lane
- No more housing!! Keep green areas and woodland
- A litter bin in Church Lane next to shop. Urgent
- Clean up dog mess. Community youth group run by someone who has the ability to change the minds and attitudes of young individuals and help them build futures for better lives
- Keep doing what you're doing
- I moved here two years ago and love the village. Everyone is very friendly and welcoming
- Tough one! Two aspects - the physical environment and making sure all is done to improve the look and feel and to ensure vacant properties are used and schemes such as the proposed new coop don't have unnecessary obstacles. The other aspect is the community spirit and encouraging development of this. (NB - Youth Council "maybe")
- Control noise from Three Crowns pub from 11pm to closing



- keep streets clean and litter free. Keep brook near Church debris free
- Remove the 2 benches adjacent to the 'Donar Master' take-away. This might have the effect of reducing the number of used food cartons there. Request the owners of same establishment to clean-up this area (they are making the profits).
- From a security point of view I would like the street lighting to be re-assessed as many small housing estates are very dark at night - especially during the autumn/winter months
- Parking round schools. Disabled and people have to walk on the road
- Cleaning up litter and resolving the NWLC issues with the access road behind George Street as the road is extremely unsafe
- Better policing
- Support for housebound sick and elderly
- Walkway to be kept clear (way markers) in fields due to recent dog walk path was covered in weeds had to walk over farmers potatoes. More litter bins and notice board regularly updated. More dog waste bins and more benches. Whitwick Park to be fenced around.
- Skate park for older children should be separate to younger area. Youth club doesn't appear to be open often. More litter bins - dog waste is a big problem. Free dog bags at park area.
- Community facilities and activities
- We love living in Whitwick. The people are very friendly but there is not too much for the youth to do in the area
- Litter and dog fouling a priority. Communal village hall. Improve the state of footpaths - patched up
- update delapidated buildings and keep it looking like a pleasant village. help local businesses with business rates/premises/advertisement. get our community centre built
- Please alter the bump on the road outside 'Park View' and also stop cars parking on pavements, as like myself who uses a mobility scooter finds it hard down Church Lane, Thornborough Road when you get stupid people who think it's funny to park on pavements, also like to see a letter box outside Park View as it's a long way down market place for others to walk. I also think it's hard people trying to get out or in Park View e.g. ambulances or any 999 or visitors or yourself trying to get out onto the main road is impossible. But as usual nobody notices until there will be a fatal accident, so get your finger out and make my life, also my hubby's safer to get out. I also think going back to cars on pavements is also a flaming nuisance to people like my hubby who is blind, when he also has trouble getting about because of THESE IDIOTS WHO HAVE CARS PARKED ON PAVEMENTS, PLEASE HELP US ALL.
- Support us to challenge anti social behaviour. Stop private landlords renting to badly behaved council tenants when neighbours on the same street have to pay a fortune on mortgages to have the same living standards. Stop bad behaviour from public houses and noise from the sand public houses.
- Ski lift up the hill as no public transport, with a visitor centre and cafe at the top. No point in doing newsletters because no one can get up the hill to deliver them. If you live at the top of the hill and have to rely on public transport, you are totally isolated from the rest of the village. Forget gym equipment just get people to carry old peoples shopping up the hill for them. And don't waste money on bins that have to be maintained, educate people to take rubbish and dog poo home.
- I think the community events that happen really help in bringing the community together. Maybe Whitwick could do a free booklet on local walks around the area, or a walk route in the close knit magazine. Be good for events in the local pubs, leisure centre etc. to be advertised as well so people know what is on where and when in advance.
- Employe Dog wardens with 'real' power to fine and manage the state of the streets footpaths. look at parking facilities around areas that people live on roads with double yellow lines who have to park across other peoples areas blocking roads and driveways.
- Litter is a big problem in the village. Speeding motorists are an issue to. road conditions also
- I THINK THAT A DEFIBRILATOR FOR THE VILLAGE WOULD BE BENEFICIAL - IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE LEISURE CENTRE ALREADY HAS ONE THAT I AM NOT AWARE OF - I THINK THAT HAVING ONE ACCESSIBLE FOR THE VILLAGE AND TRAINING VILLAGERS TO USE IT WOULD BE VERY GOOD FOR LOCAL PEOPLE
- Whitwick needs to be cleaned up. Need a mini suppermarket in the centre to help create focal point in the village. Stop taxi cabs taking up all parking spaces in the market place including disabled spaces. Youth Centre in the park - who runs it?, who uses it? when's it open? nobody seems to know - doesn't appear to be available to all. Village needs more information on the parish council - who is on it, how is it funded and how is money spent.
- 1. make the park accessible to mobility scooters from Briers Way and Church lane at present I cannot get into the park unless I go around the Road 2. provide basket ball nets with goal area marking as other parks have in the area have. 3. make the field flat with proper drainage at present it waterlogged when it rains the children cannot use it 4. leave the park open to foot traffic 24/7 at night there are still people using the park. 5. put lights over skate board area and

shelter for people if the weather is inclement. our house backs unto the park and I have no complaints regarding noise or behaviour at all .

- Most important issue to myself is speeding vehicles throughout the village
- It is best placed - locally - to know what is required or hoped for and therefore best able to make decisions.
- We need to try and get the "yoof" off the streets, encourage a sense of community (e.g. village fetes etc?) and generally make the village a cleaner, safer place to be, especially in terms of stuff like the amount of broken glass everywhere.
- Keep cars OFF grass verges/pavements by liasing with appropriate authorities? Parked cars are ruining grass verges on Hall Lane. Also parked cars on pavements are blocking them/making it dangerous/difficult for wheelchair users. I think we are missing the popular Youth Clubs run by churches in my youth. They gave young people a night out to look forward to at next to no cost, - and hopefully improved our social skills as we grew older! The Closeknit Magazine is much appreciated.  
/organise monthly walks for Coalville Ramblers.
- Any initiative which brings the people of Whitwick together to make their environment more pleasant and sustainable
- Find and introduce good initiatives for reducing dog waste on the ground

**NAME AND CONTACT DETAILS** (optional- required for prize drawer and volunteering opportunities)

Name	119 (73.0%)
Postal address:	116 (71.2%)
Email address:	75 (46.0%)
Telephone:	79 (48.5%)