

## RPC Neighbourhood Development Plan Questionnaire and Drop-in Session Analysis for Local Amenities and Community Facilities

Whilst the NDP had specific questions relating to local amenities and community facilities, other areas of questioning have incorporated answers which cover this topic also. I have tried to amalgamate all the answers below.

*The identity of the distinct settlements within Rennington Parish enable residents to enjoy life in a pleasant, well-serviced rural setting.*

What is important about living in the Parish:

### Responses

57% - access to leisure and recreational facilities

48% - community group

77% - social interaction and community cohesion

13% - access to and quality of local schools

31.5% - access to shops

### Comments

- In the 1990s/early 2000s we used to have big village BBQs with all the families & children. It would be nice if this could happen again
- The pub. Hopefully community cohesion will improve through the NDP process. Access to good local schools will be crucial in attracting young families

What is the single most important thing that needs to be better to improve the quality of life in Rennington Parish:

### Comments

- Local shop (5 specific comments)
- Keeping community hubs
- Retain the village pub (4 specific comments)
- Greater community engagement - a community that holds conversations that seek to determine what might be a shared sense of place for the parish
- Community activities requiring the positive action and interaction of residents. There are too many cliques, however the Neighbourhood Plan cannot address these issues (5 specific comments on this viewpoint)
- Access to ultrafast fibre broadband
- More activities in the village hall to bring people together more and provide more leisure activities (more kinds of exercise classes, book group or book swap, local history or whatever people want)

*In promoting the use of green spaces, our objective is to provide attractive locations for residents and visitors to enjoy. This will include the network of public rights of way (footpaths and bridleways), recreational spaces, and community facilities.*

Considering the recreational spaces and community facilities (village hall, village pub, village green, cricket club, parish churches) , do you wish to comment further:

### Comments

- Pub is very important (7 specific comments plus suggestion to apply for ACV)

- Cricket club is very important
- All the amenities mentioned should be retained (17 specific comments)
- If we wish to attract young people then some of the area within the village greens could be used for play areas and football.
- What about a tennis court
- All Saints Church Rennington is available for community use; not just for church services
- In the case of churches, supply currently exceeds demand (in terms of regular church attendance) and ensuring the sustainability of parish churches into the future is a significant challenge
- Rock would benefit from a hall community social hub which is presently under consideration with the Church
- We would like a consultation on the future of Rennington Village Hall regarding funding, scarecrow event and improved support/or lack of support
- Keep the village green as a green space & prohibit parking on the green
- I do not think church/religion should be involved in Parish Council matters
- Our village hall became the permanent base for a model railway club and our new village hall (Blacksmith's Hall) has never really been available for village use and is currently used by a gin distillery
- The churches are facing big challenges, both financially and in personnel to do the work
- I would also mention the model railway club which occupies the former Rock village hall
- These are vitally important but need to be extended. A community shop, children's play area (on the cricket ground or village green) would be a start
- Both parish churches & village hall requires investment so that their full potential can be realised
- Facilities need to be of community wide interest, non-factional, and provide contemporary standards of service, recreation, well-being, etc.  
Additional outdoor facilities are needed. Examples: Nature walks away from gamekeeper managed areas; safe dog walking/off-lead exercise areas away from road traffic and game kept areas
- Designated area for safe, off-lead dog walking
- There are car parking issues in both Rock and Rennington which need consideration. Verge parking in Rennington has invaded privacy of occupants on occasions
- I do think the villagers could support the village hall, churches and pub more. There are more houses than ever but also less support than there has ever been
- Would like to see some play areas in each community space ; possibly some outdoor sports equipment for adult fitness
- More activities in village hall? Community shop? Community cafe?
- I think the village hall could be used more and possibly one of the village buildings (village hall, pub or other) could be used to incorporate a business such as shop/PO/ cafe. Sometimes these are community run
- Maintain village green at Rennington and promote dog waste bins especially if increased housing

*We need to understand your views on the transport options and infrastructure within the distinct communities of the Parish.*

Internet/broadband facilities – have included this comment as it is an amenity and facility.

### Analysis

There is considerable overlap in comments concerning what needs to be better and what needs to be retained.

The Horseshoes and Rennington Village Hall have received both positive and negative feedback. There are concerns about the future of the pub with the majority view that it should be retained as a pub and that people should use it or lose it.

Rock needs a 'community hub' since the old village hall has been used for the model railway club and the new village hall has become a gin distillery.

More outdoor facilities have been suggested e.g. for adult fitness; children's play areas; safer off-lead dog walking areas.

There has been a strong representation for a local/village/community shop.

Question 17 asked for additional comments:

- The area around the pond at Rock would benefit from being made more attractive as even now many people find it a desirable place to sit and relax
- A public house is essential, as is the church and village hall
- Consider the possibility of creating a village pond in Rennington (this could be considered an amenity)
- Attracting younger people and families is crucial, but the amenities and employment opportunities need to be there as the relationship between the three are symbiotic
- Provision of healthcare is important for quality of life