

Baylham Neighbourhood / Village Plan – Survey Responses (Actual)

February 2020

Total forms returned = 35 / 112 (31%) Total respondents = 63

1) What do you like about living in Baylham and would not wish to lose?

Size of community, quaintness, friendliness, beautiful countryside, wealth of footpaths, village hall, church, quietness, support of neighbours, seeing horses and riders on road.

Living in small community where people are friendly & helpful, enjoy being in the countryside and yet only 7 mins from Needham & Ipswich, not like to lose any more countryside to stables, sheds, horse equipment or commercial structures eg orchard.

Size and nature of the village as it is, would not like to see it grow in terms of size or lose its rural nature. The church and village hall.

Rural hamlet and it should stay that way.

Good sense of community, rural position.

Quietness, surrounding countryside, semi-rural setting, friendliness of people, the village hall, regular coffee mornings and events.

We like the open space areas for walking the dogs and the peacefulness of village life.

I am a recent resident to Baylham so I don't have much to complain about.

Rural setting, community spirit.

Its rural character and ancient woodland, historic church, small unspoilt friendly village.

Countryside, peace & quiet, rural landscape, community spirit, friendly villagers – would not want to lose any of these aspects of living in Baylham.

Peace and quiet, bucolic scenes, farmland views.

Peace and quiet in a beautiful environment, the friendly village with plenty of footpaths and dark skies.

The countryside, the gaps between Lower St, the village and the Stone.

Countryside vista, number of footpaths, small size of village, relatively quiet lane!

Rural nature of village, the countryside, small friendly community, tranquillity; no street lights – like the natural night sky; also fact that it is 3 hamlets with countryside in between, not densely developed.

Peace and quiet countryside, wildlife and nature, the visible night sky as no street lighting.

Countryside views and the community.

Peace, tranquillity and countryside living with views; lovely walks on the doorstep.

The peace and the views.

Friendly caring community; wood, wild corners and the wildlife to be seen there; enough darkness to see the stars.

The rural aspect, the church and community. Living in the countryside but being close /within easy access to a town ie Needham Market.

Proximity to main routes and shopping; rural aspect.

The rural aspect and open spaces.

Small country hamlet with a friendly community.

It's a village of character and relatively quiet though still within reach of amenities; surrounded by lovely countryside.

Small rural friendly community wouldn't want to lose this.

Peace, quiet, green spaces, none of these.

Peace quiet, pretty green spaces supporting variety of wildlife; sense of community- self-contained.

People I have known in the village for a long time; lovely neighbours.

Really good neighbours, quiet lanes for walking and riding on, it would be ashamed to lose any of this.

Peace and quiet.

Peace, quiet and countryside surround.

2) What do you dislike or would like to see changed?

Don't want street lights, like to see village left as it is.

As comments above, would like to see the escalation of the above stopped.

Generally very happy with the village as it is, if could change one thing it would be the priority at the junction with Church Lane visibility very poor when leaving Church Lane this would reduce risk of accidents.

I dislike all the houses if passed that people want to build.

The maintenance of roads, particularly Church Lane, the increase in through traffic has become very noticeable over the last couple of years.

We dislike the speed which people drive up and down the street including farm lorries carrying their loads at very high speeds. We also would like to stop farmland all being sold off and developed inconsiderately. The mish-mash of caravans, camper vans, horse boxes and animal shelters on Baylham Common which is an eyesore but was once a pretty undulating valley.

Dislike the way the land surrounding the village is being sold off in small parcels (initially for agricultural /stabling use) and then planning applications being submitted for housing in entirely inappropriate areas – would like to this stopped.

The untidiness of 'equestrianism', shoddy stables and barns, illegal parking of caravans and motor homes, ridiculous planning applications.

Increasing incidence of 'clutter' associated with stable and caravans; caravans are banned on Upper Street yet appear to be ok when associated with horses; the creeping expansion of equine activity is steadily eroding the landscape.

Too many planning applications – how can we protect ourselves; poor drainage and road surfaces.

Developments purporting to be for agricultural or equine purposes which transform into housing; this creates bad feeling as a) deliberate deception, b) often unsightly, c) not gone through fair planning process d) land bought on the cheap when intention really to build.

Overhead cables – should be buried – worse now fibre has arrived as have not removed the old ones; creeping urbanisation eg signs, insensitive materials eg concrete instead of natural stone for kerbs etc, post and rail fences instead of hedges across fields; unsightly developments – stables/horse paddocks and the associated/accumulated junk that comes with them; and disrespect of the owners/occupiers for the landscape/environment.

Nothing x 3.

Even more footpaths to explore the countryside.

Encroach of urbanisation along B1113 from adjoining parishes.

Lower Street speed limit needs to be in line with other villages in the county 30 mph; the increase in traffic, 5000 plus road users per weekday, 2 junctions, bus stops, a public footpath more than warrants an urgent review of the speed limit.

Lack of speed limit on Lower Street; accumulated litter from cars; poor state of public footpaths/verges.

Wish planners would back off; the village is being ruined by bad decisions.

People speeding through the village – 20 mph limit? Litter; people not cleaning up after their dogs.

The few people who don't respect the fact that it is a residential area with narrow roads and don't look out for pedestrians/ children.

Too much building on green land.

Increased traffic; building on SLA / rolling Suffolk countryside; hedgerows removed.

All outsiders coming from towns and not knowing the country life, keep the village for country people.

We like the village as it is. Who pays for the cost of a neighbourhood plan? We managed fine without one for years.

I was very surprised to hear the views of some during the parish meetings; I would like to see a wider inclusive community.

Nothing.

3) What are your thoughts about any growth or development in the village:

a) Residential

Extensions to existing properties are fine but no new development.

Village does not need any more houses in view of the number being built in surrounding area.

Not wish to see additional growth, further development would bring increased traffic and road not able to cope with increased volumes.

The village is big enough now.

We do not want any more houses.

Too many applications for houses/dwellings, lack of enforcement when original terms of permissions disregarded (sites Chalky Bottom and Heathcote) leads to unsightly outlook, countryside spoilt with caravans, diggers, solar panels, vehicles, all manner of equipment. There is no more room for growth except on unsuitable farmland.

Absolutely NO MORE! This area of Suffolk (particularly Gt Blakenham) is inundated with new house building.

No need in the village but likely acceptable on the outskirts nearer Claydon etc.

Limited natural growth in keeping with the rest of the village would be acceptable.

Only infill plots within the former settlement boundary should be allowed.

No problems about this per se except any growth or development should be infill or on suitable plots within the existing village boundary and not in rural areas away from the village and certainly not in Back Lane.

None needed – we have adequate facilities and there is plenty of housing stock at Gt Blakenham & Needham.

The village has already contributed to the necessary increase in housing and villagers have previously voted overwhelmingly for no further development.

No more except maybe identify somewhere for local young people.

The proposal for a little close of houses down near Baylham Garage/Old Dairy seem very suitable, also on main Road near 'Astraea'; don't think the rest of the village can take more.

No more needed as have had several new developments in recent years and already several more in the pipeline; Baylham has made more than its fair share to increasing the national housing stock.

As little as possible.

These country lanes are not suitable for any further development.

Infill or where existing views are not jeopardised only.

Small scale infill within the village envelope is OK, to provide smaller homes.

Extension of existing properties and new build type means there is now a lack of smaller lower cost homes for small households; first priority to those with links to the village; very limited scope – integrate new build into existing pattern of the 3 hamlets (Upper /Lower St/Stone) via infill.

Infill along Lower Street would be acceptable. Family houses would be appropriate; no more open farmland should be deceitfully developed.

In favour of individual dwellings sympathetic to the area but not large housing developments.

When the development at Lower Barn is completed I think there will have been enough houses built.

More than enough residential development (once Lower Barn developed) already; becoming straggly and spoilt.

Enough residential development in Upper Street already; no residential development on the Common or the valley between Upper Street and Back Lane.

A limited amount of development for younger families is necessary to keep the village vibrant.

Should only be built on what is already designated residential; no more on green belt.

Where it is sustainable ie closer to the bottom road/transport links; definitely not where it will endanger species of fauna/flora.

Only for residents and their families.

Affordable housing to allow young people to remain in the village – not just big expensive houses.

It's clear from the original property in Baylham that it was never a wealthy village being dominated by small cottages; new building in contrast have been large and detached; this mix seems to work well so future development of small affordable housing would maintain this balance.

Only affordable for youngsters in village, why should they move out when others in the village move in?

Now at capacity and no further development should be considered.

b) Commercial

None x 3.

None in or near the village, the commercial development along the B1113 is rapidly creeping towards us which is worrying.

Should be restricted to existing areas where access is good/adjacent to main road ie doesn't require vehicle to come through village,

Not in village.

Not conducive to village life.

Should be limited to local farm associated activities and the local garage.

No, the roads are not suitable for this type of traffic and if Upper St is ever closed almost impossible to pass.

There is enough commercial development going on towards Needham Market & Gt Blakenham so Baylham should be left in peace.

Depending on nature and location & appearance local business should be encouraged if it does not impact on the character of the village.

Only existing businesses with minor expansion where vital, any other development should only be related to local agricultural needs.

Do not feel that there is a need nor is there a suitable area for this to be sited.

None needed except perhaps to support rural activity.

The access roads to Upper Street are unsuitable for commercial traffic, Church Lane in particular is already potholed, commercial activity belongs on the B1113.

No more x2

No generic view, each case would need to be evaluated individually; Baylham Rare Breeds for example is an asset.

None preferably – possible VERY small scale extension of Business Park if well designed/discrete might be OK; otherwise not necessary with all the development going on at Needham.

Only on main road if fits and appropriate with existing business locations.

Not desirable.

Very limited scope – viability to be measured against impact on existing community especially traffic impact.

A community shop would be welcome perhaps selling excess produce from villagers' gardens.

Preferably not; if someone wants a business there are sites at the Lion Barn estate.

Any growth should be kept on the B1113; roads through village unsuitable for extra and/or heavier traffic.

Not in Upper Street it would involve increased traffic.
Appropriate on B1113.
None; turns what was once a hamlet, now a village into a town.
Ideally none – will bring in more traffic /footfall.
No strong views on this.
Do not require in a small hamlet.
Now at capacity and no further development should be considered, any commercial development seems to only be a shortcut to getting further residential development.

c) **Light industrial**

None x 6.
None in or near the village, the commercial development along the B1113 is rapidly creeping towards us which is worrying.
Should be restricted to existing areas where access is good/adjacent to main road ie doesn't require vehicle to come through village,
Not in village.
There is enough on Lower Street; it would not be suitable in the village.
Absolutely not, there are plenty of industrial areas in Needham market Gt Blakenham, Claydon etc.
No plenty of industrial opportunities just down the road.
Depending on nature and location & appearance local business should be encouraged if it does not impact on the character of the village.
Only existing businesses with minor expansion where vital, any other development should only be related to local agricultural needs.
Do not feel that there is a need nor is there a suitable area for this to be sited.
The access roads to Upper Street are unsuitable for commercial traffic, Church Lane in particular is already potholed, commercial activity belongs on the B1113.
No more x 2.
Only see Baylham Business area / formerly Sturgeons as suitable.
None preferably – possible VERY small scale extension of Business Park if well designed/discrete might be OK; otherwise not necessary with all the development going on at Needham.
Not desirable.
Very limited scope – viability to be measured against impact on existing community esp traffic impact.
There is sufficient light industry in Baylham; there are some chronic untidy developments around the Suffolk countryside and it would be sad to see that here.
Preferably not; if someone wants a business there are sites at the Lion Barn estate.
Any growth should be kept on the B1113; roads through village unsuitable for extra and/or heavier traffic.
Not in Upper Street it would involve increased traffic.
Appropriate on B1113.
Only people born and raised in the village.
No strong views on this.
Do not require in a small hamlet.
Now at capacity and no further development should be considered, any commercial development seems to only be a shortcut to getting further residential development.

d) **Leisure**

None x 3
Happy with the amount of leisure activities in VH/church, don't wish any more buildings or development in connection with leisure.
Other than use of village hall for leisure activities don't see any other options.
For whom would this apply?
Great for walkers already, there are enough leisure facilities outside the village; I hope Snoasis never gets built.
We are happy that there aren't any leisure facilities in the village, plenty nearby.
We don't see the need for any development – adequate facilities in the neighbourhood; exception possibly of children's playground.
Should be considered on its own merits; we still oppose the Snoasis development and the impact that it will have on the village.
We have very little public space which could accommodate growing or developing leisure facilities in the village.
Snoasis will loom on the horizon if built; the village hall and church host various activities and the footpaths are well used as almost every household has dogs.
Not really practical.

None. No more horse paddocks – village already swamped by them; BMSDC local plan indicates new housing is not sustainable why then are stables with their associated traffic (most belong to ‘outsiders’ who make at least 2 return trips a day).

The right project and the right location then yes.

The village has enough facilities for horses.

Very limited scope – viability to be measured against impact on existing community esp traffic impact; Snoasis looming nearby remains a cause for concern.

More use could be made of the village hall for exercise classes; a successful yoga finished only because the teacher moved profession.

There are many footpaths round Baylham; a sports centre would be nice but Baylham is too small.

You don’t expect to find ‘leisure’ other than that provided by the local countryside in a hamlet this size; footpaths aplenty here.

More maintenance of footpaths needed.

Fitness activity(ies) in the village hall; open air for outdoor activity.

Certainly not something the size of Snoasis, the land would be better suited to a park, fishing walks etc. Snoasis totally inappropriate; completely at odds with beautiful area there now- unspoilt with protected species.

More horses in the village and a play park for the young kids.

More off road horse riding to be made available – even if annual payment.

In an ideal world I would like to see Baylham embrace its many footpaths and extend off road access to horses; I fell it lacks identity and embracing the countryside it sits in, even encouraging people from outside the village to come and walk its paths may go some way to protecting it.

Not interested.

e) Other

None x 2.

No further applications should be approved for the change of use of agricultural land to the keeping of horses; we think Baylham already has enough.

The church is well supported; footpaths are not always well maintained and some become un-walkable due to nettles etc.

Back Road is entirely unsuitable for development and any along that road adversely affects the rural nature of the valley as is so dominant. Need to tighten up on grant of planning permission for stables or oversize/ unnecessary agricultural buildings being used as back door to circumvent regs to achieve dwellings on the site.

Very limited scope – viability to be measured against impact on existing community esp traffic impact

Poor state of public footpaths away from roads and poor signposting of same.

Is there any spare land? A children’s playground would be good for the youngsters.

More family orientated activities, difficult without outdoor site; encouragement for more to attend village hall events.

A small play area for children would benefit the village.

No, but it would be nice to see something other than horses.

4) Are you happy with the level of facilities/amenities in the village?

Yes x 11

Yes, accepted that the village was small and therefore limited facilities when we moved here.

There are none

What facilities and amenities?

Happy not to have street lights, possible mains gas would be worth looking into to avoid reliance on oil.

Good (village hall); the village is too small to merit other facilities but Needham Market is not far and is sufficient.

A designated smoking area should be at the rear to stop people hanging about on the road during parties.

We are both very happy with the current level of facilities/amenities in the village and do not feel these could be expanded in any way.

Yes, this is a comparatively ‘dark’ village with very few outside lights left on overnight, this would change dramatically with street lights.

Yes as long as bus service retained.

Yes, small village does not need more, we are well served by nearby villages and towns.

Yes, good walks.0.

Scope to use church/village hall in ways that help us reduce our carbon footprint (eg bringing services etc to Baylham to reduce individual travel.

The facilities seem appropriate for the size of the village.

It would be good to have a pub and a village shop but this is probably a pipe dream!

There are very few facilities but not a problem as long as one has private transport.

Children’s play area would add to the village attraction but location/site difficult.

People move/live here by choice knowing there is no shop/pub etc; however some form of community shop??

Yes, just like a quiet life

5) Any comments about the village hall?

Lack of heating, enjoy the facilities including coffee mornings, suggest sharing responsibility for the hall ie work parties to help clean, garden etc.

Interior needs updating badly, dark cold & old fashioned compared with others in area eg Westhorpe.

Good community facility although wonder if potential to increase use of it.

Nothing wrong with village hall, it's the village people who are not interested in it

It is an ideal place for coffee mornings and any village events.

Exterior possibly not in keeping with the village.

A great recently upgraded facility for the village.

Great to have such a well-supported hall.

Adequate for a village of this size.

We both love and cherish having a village hall but feel it needs updating to include suitable floor insulation and more efficient heating.

Adequate.

The village hall is central to the village and well used.

Maybe we could organise more activities and try and target the younger residents who do not generally attend.

Personally would have liked a rebuild rather than a refurb which still leaves it dark with ugly lighting BUT it is a vital, central part of the community and always has a good atmosphere and is useful.

Better more economical heating; coffee morning mugs not cups please, more practical and you get more than two mouthfuls!

It should be used more and at the heart of the community but it is not for the want of trying.

Could maybe go solar in future? Insulation to reduce heating costs?

The heating still needs improving – it's very noisy especially noticeable during talks; the floor is very cold and needs insulating; there are still condensation problems in the kitchen.

It's good to have a toilet and a new kitchen but the kitchen still seems damp; the actual hall will always be gloomy because of the dark wood walls.

Much improved; used regularly and a popular venue; could do with redecoration, heating improvements.

Much improved facilities, the monthly coffee morning is well supported and a great way to allow the community to get together; heating and ventilation could be improved.

Good to see coffee mornings well attended; recent refurbishment has improved the hall but heating needs modernisation; car park tarmacked, more helpers needed.

Village hall a bonus; well used focus of the village each first Saturday; few more events?

Don't use as most things are outdated.

Improvements good, but only use to vote.

Doesn't justify further investment, limited use, little value.

6) Any comments about the church?

Appreciate church being open in the day, pleased with work parties to clear graveyard, please church still used for services.

Like the church and churchyard which enhance the village, also like the programme of speakers.

Lovely historic building, again wonder could more use be made of it.

Nothing wrong with church hall, it's the village people who are not interested in it.

A beautiful landmark of special of special architectural and historic interest, the views should be maintained.

Historic asset to the village, adds to village life with festivals and churchyard clearance.

Beautiful and peaceful; also a rarity it is open to the public at all times.

Make sure it is kept well maintained.

Beautiful, well cared for by a few people; the kitchen and toilet addition was an excellent improvement; it needs more services (none so far in 2020) and a vicar who will engage with village.

Lovely building but not suitable for social events/talks – cold and uncomfortable.

Happy that the church still has services and is used for non-religious events as well.

It should be used more and at the heart of the community but it is not for the want of trying.

Could maybe go solar in future?

The church is a wonderful asset; more needs to be done to encourage its use other than for worship.

Needs a new heating system but this would be expensive; lovely church; good when it's used for social events, especially as it has a car park.

Sad congregation so small; CofE seem to think we don't matter as long as we pay them; active friends need more help.

Much improved facilities and a good alternative event venue in warmer weather; more volunteers needed for maintenance of church and churchyard.

Only small congregation but improvements have allowed for use for more open events; more helpers needed.

Whether used for worship by villagers or not the Church is an integral part of the village, should be maintained.

An historic building that should be preserved; crypt is interesting; facilities lend themselves to more talks/events.

Apart from its beautiful and should be embraced as the jewel in the crown of the village.

Don't use but my ancestors did.

Could be better utilised to accommodate coffee mornings, worthy of development.

7) Access to Public (Council/Local Authority/ Government) Services.

Are you happy with the level of public services available?

Yes x 10

No, the Planning Dept and Enforcement for Mid Suffolk appear to move with the pace of a snail especially when answering e-mails, the Enforcement Dept seems ineffective.

What services? Dustcart and library.

What services?

It has become apparent that since the sewage from the care home is pumped up into the village a nasty smell is often prevalent outside Park Farm; ditches could do with clearing to avoid flooding.

Yes in general; the practicality of more public services for such a small village is a limiting factor.

Yes.

Our experience of the buses has been patchy and has not encouraged us to use public transport.

What public services? Council offices at Needham Market boarded up, officers unobtainable by telephone, nobody phones you back; problems getting dustbin emptied once a week.

Yes, cannot see any increase in public services can be warranted with such a smallish community.

Cannot see we will ever be entitled to any extra services; the highways agency is shockingly slow at fixing potholes some are years old!

Planning enforcement seems non-existent and certainly ineffective. BMSDC policy documents sound good for protecting the countryside but application is ineffective eg large barns on small plots, rubbish/junk/parking/caravans on horse paddocks, lack of landscaping.

Access to local council offices is poor.

Public services already minimal, would not want to see further decline.

Yes get them when I need them

Unreliable refuse collection on Lower Street.

They all feel a bit distant but it helps having representatives at the parish meetings; a shame the MSDC office in Needham Market was closed.

There are odour problems in Upper Street from the public sewer.

Most services now available on line but periodic visits by police medical, financial advice would help those not on-line.

No; despite recent break-ins and thefts particularly on the outskirts of the village a rural police patrol would be a deterrent.

Do we have any?

All ok.

Yes in a tiny remote hamlet.

8) What are your thoughts about roads and traffic?

Maintenance is good, thanks to those who collect litter, don't want street lights, grateful for gritting in winter. Happy to have a speed limit sign if other villagers wish one but are not convinced it will make a difference, most people speeding are delivery vans & through traffic.

Road through village is reasonable however back lane would benefit from additional passing places (as demonstrated last Jan when the road was closed for an extended period of time), also would not want to see increased traffic volumes.

Roads not fit for all through traffic and HGVs.

There is too much through traffic and most (including large lorries and school transport) travels far too fast for the size of the road.

Traffic mostly local, roads could do with repairs and resurfacing as many areas are subsided.

The council have failed to adequately maintain village roads, particularly Church Lane; the amount of traffic has increased in recent years.

Adequate at the moment but definitely need to lower the speed limit.

There are too many potholes appearing in Church Lane, the council occasionally mend the odd one but leave others.

Traffic generally respects speed limit through the village with a few exceptions; junction to care home can be busy and is quite narrow with limited visibility for cars exiting near a bend.

We are concerned about the speed of vehicles particularly on our stretch of road with so many young horse riders, warning posts outside our property warning of our access adjacent to a blind bend have been destroyed by SCC contractors, SCC are refusing to replace them.

Traffic in recent times has increased considerably with the expansion of equine facilities which is not good as large vehicles/trailers are constantly in use and do not seem to worry too much about keeping to speed limits; however not sure we need a 20 mph limit although would not object to this – so long as everybody sticks to the 30 limit.

Potholes should be fixed; speed limit should be reduced to 20 mph and enforced; the junction of Church Lane /Upper Street is dangerous.

Some people drive too fast along Upper St, reducing to 20 mph might help, council reaction to potholes is so slow, new one appear while we are waiting for old ones to be fixed.

Road surface is poor; traffic is often too fast.

Apart from needing edges of road cleaning think lane and traffic fine also main road though around bus shelter is horrid; road through to Lt Blakenham is very badly potholed; flooding on main road between Moat farm and Darmsden is very bad.

No street lights please. 30 limit OK – 20 limit idea waste of time and money, it will not alter the behaviour of the very few who drive unreasonably; no 'traffic calming' please as increases noise and pollution and will cause a proliferation of signs; no flashing signs either please – KEEP BAYLHAM RURAL!! Ditches need to be maintained to reduce road damage in winter.

Roads are poorly maintained and inadequate for more traffic.

Too much driving too fast on all of Upper Street, Back Road and Stowmarket Road.

Some things travel too fast through the junction with Church Lane.

Crumbling ditch edges on lane to Stone are an accident waiting to happen.

Please see answer to Q2.

Should be a speed limit on Lower Street.

The 'back' road is mainly single lane but there are passing places and maybe that's a good thing as it helps keep Baylham a village and not a town.

Potholes and surfaces pretty bad in places; attempts to slow traffic through Upper Street would be good as more home deliveries than ever.

Road maintenance poor but not specific to Baylham; speeding traffic in Upper Street, also along the B1113, passing places needed along Back Lane.

Roads in poor condition, puddles near village hall are particular nuisance; lack of passing places on Back Street, Somersham Road large modern vehicles cause problems; few drivers who disrespect speed signs.

Traffic increased considerably in recent years; the back roads are not suitable for heavy vehicles, are poorly maintained; potholes repaired one year appear again quickly presumably due to shoddy workmanship.

Increasing; Neighbourhood Speed Watch? If drivers are responsible narrow lanes OK; need road sweepers.

When the road was blocked last year we had people around the back road blocking passing places with stones and trees – it's grass you can't kill it.

All ok, after all it is a country village.

In the main I find traffic levels low which is a good thing; the condition of the roads outside of the village is a different matter.

Roads are in a dreadful condition, potholes, flooding, ditches are cleared and debris just banked up to fall back.

Adequate. Speed bumps to slow down traffic.

9) Environment. Any comments on the local environment and/or countryside?

Beautiful area, good footpaths, loves to see sheep and alpacas.

Extremely disappointed and concerned about the littering of the countryside with field shelters, stables, permanent horse lorries without wheels parked and not moved, believe owners of these do not live in the village and make no contribution to community life, we understood that field shelters had to move every 6 months but none appear to have moved.

Baylham is rural in nature and would want to see this maintained.

It would be nice if the countryside was kept as countryside not covered with stables, outbuildings and houses.

Refer to comments under development, many areas (although private) are full of general rubbish and junk that seems to have no other home or place to be put.

The remaining unspoilt countryside around Baylham should be preserved (no more building) to prevent merging of urban areas.

Would like to see it retained as it is.

Love the horses but there are enough stables now; some of the footpaths are getting damaged by the horses.

We have a good mixture of woodland and farmed land in times of economic pressure on farmers.

Existing countryside should be maintained and enhanced by planting of more trees and hedgerows.

Main comment is the development on the brow of the hill which we face (on Back lane) and how the stables and barn building (yet unfinished) seem to create a lot of debris around their sites which look like a traveller's site and a serious blot on the landscape.

We support tree planting, we must protect our footpaths; we applaud the litter picking activity.
Until recently Baylham nestled in a gentle rural landscape largely unscathed by development; every time a new stable goes up the clutter increases; we would ask the council to refuse any more.
Not really but clutter around the horses and field shelters in the valley are a pity.
Litter pick and churchyard clearance teams periodically are good.
No plastic 'poo' bins pleased – better that it's thrown in the hedge or field and biodegrades.
It is a privilege to live in the village and respect the surroundings.
Attempted back door development of stables.
It needs to be kept clean and tidy; reduction of dog poo on footpaths.
It is important for Baylham to remain a green separation between Gt Blakenham and Needham Market.
In our mainly farmed landscape land management decision are critical; currently sympathetic management is allowing 'biodiversity' to recover and flourish in places; scope to do much more! Probably more to be done to help the 'built environment' to blend into the landscape especially newer buildings large and small; it takes time but there are many possibilities. The picturesque, peaceful qualities of Baylham ADD VALUE and it is in everyone's interests to work together to find innovative ways to preserve this as the village evolves.
It's very lovely however continued litter picks to maintain an acceptable level of tidiness probably essential especially on Lower Street.
As stated – footpath (Q3e)
I can sit in the kitchen and watch many varieties of birds feeding; there is no traffic noise,; this is why we like living in the countryside.
Inappropriate development beginning to take over and ruin what was a quiet, pretty hamlet; planners should listen to locals' points of view more.
A beautiful environment that needs protecting.
Attractive part of Gipping Valley – not acceptable for inappropriate development; need to adapt to climate change ie by having provision of local renewable power.
Litter has increased due to extra vehicles mainly by white van drivers who drive far too quickly for narrow lanes.
Tree planting scheme - excellent.
Snoasis, why build a big ... in the countryside.
Shame by-way by the Stone has such deep ruts in it caused by vehicles.
Lovely as it is.
Now at capacity and no further development should be considered, any commercial development seems to only be a shortcut to getting further residential development.
Very good , pity that landowners continue to be so protective but as this is historically the case I doubt there will be any change in the future.

10) What are your thoughts about community activities?

Happy with what goes on.
The programme of village hall/church activities is just the right amount, coffee mornings are important for socialising, activities well balanced and varied, we are happy to help with litter pick.
Enjoy monthly coffee mornings which help keep people updated on local issues and gives village sense of community and chance to get to know people, increased variety of activities would perhaps encourage different people to get involved.
What activities?
What community activities? Who would support any activities that we did have?
Enjoy what is on offer.
Frequent activities are organised, usually centred on the village hall.
Village Hall is adequate.
The village hall and PCC/Friends of the Church lay on a variety of events for a limited number of supporters.
Very good.
It would be nice to have community activities which could more bring together the residents of the village – but attempts in the past have not always been successful. Mrs Would love to see dancing and/or singing choir activities, I wouldn't mind a pub night occasionally in the village hall.
Adequate.
Baylham is a thriving community with plenty of interest for anyone who wishes to participate.
We should try to do more ie if something is successful do more than once per year ie summer and winter quiz.
Litter pick and churchyard clearance teams periodically are good. There could always be more in village hall but would require more people willing to organise and I think those who already do this do a very good job; Gt Blakenham's community cinema is going well and a good idea might be worth trying here.
Yoga again please!
The village hall and church friends put on a number of excellent events – more community support would perhaps see more events which might be more varied as more income would cover higher costs of such events.
Monthly coffee mornings work well; dedicated volunteers make things happen – up to all of us to volunteer to expand the range of activities - many hands make light work.
There is a good range of activities; new ideas always welcome.

Litter pick brilliant idea.

The Friends and village hall committees do their best to provide entertainment but it's up to the villagers to support them or even suggest other ideas.

Village Hall and Friends of Church very active; could do with more help and support; events such as litter pick do immense good in bringing community together.

More people needed to volunteer to join committees and PCC; there is a core of residents who attend events but we need to attract a wider audience.

Essential that there are activities to encourage village cohesion- litter collection excellent; monthly coffee mornings; habitat maintenance.

Possibly make use of the village hall even more, activities to appeal to a wide range of ages; youth club, art/craft skills.

Although we are keen to support the church and wider village by attending events the activities/talks have not engaged me enough to attend.

Just want a quiet life.

Adequate to meet the level of interest in the village. Would be interested in a community shop and social/leisure groups knitting/books etc

11) Any comments affecting children and young people in the village?

Good that there is school transport.

Perhaps we could have an annual activity free for children (or bi-annual) eg painting/craft/nature activity together with volunteers?

Very limited opportunities currently, could something be done in terms of events in the village hall, if Baylham does become a parish council could there be a young persons' representative/member?

Nothing for them to do.

How many are there in the village to affect?

It's a great place to grow up although lack of housing means not many young families in the village.

Nature's playground is all around us just waiting to be discovered.

Sorry no young people living here.

They would probably appreciate a youth club in the village hall if someone could be found to run it.

Few children in the village but no facilities for them, no footpath through village for safety of pedestrians.

Difficulties in attracting children/young people to join in; few children at moment but must try affordable house in right place.

Not enough housing for them we need more young people or the village will die.

Please support young people who wish to stay in the village they grew up in.

Nature of housing does not encourage families with youngsters so demand will always be low and any activities will be costly and poorly supported.

12) Any comments affecting the elderly and/or disabled in the village?

None.

A good idea to have a villager take on the role of pastoral care so that if anyone needs help or are ill or lonely and needs a visit these needs could be met? Even if there was a telephone number it might be reassuring for some eg a helpline, we know of someone in the village who needed help with shopping, they asked for help via technology but no one in the village responded, maybe because not everyone uses technology.

Likewise could specific events be organised for this group eg lunch club, community group; do we know where these people live – people may be willing/able to offer assistance to them.

Nothing for them to do.

Access to the village hall is not adequate for the disabled and elderly.

The village can feel isolated – car pool or dial a ride schemes might be useful.

Neighbours rally round when necessary and prescriptions/meals on wheels/ supermarket deliveries are available.

I would like us to have a help team of volunteers who could be called on if needed; I would be happy to help others and also when I was house bound myself for 6 weeks would have appreciated offers myself.

Could a support volunteer network be set up to help these residents? This could be in bad weather and just generally whenever it is needed.

Community transport from the village to Needham or Stowmarket might be useful to some.

Neighbourly kindness and support is strong; I hope it will remain this way long into the future – essential to bridge the vast limitations of statutory services.

There is now access to the village hall so everyone should be able to join in the activities; the church is also accessible.

A kind thoughtful village which seems to look after its elderly well.

No bus service except at B1113 and no footpath to bus stop.

Well-being really requires community transport although neighbours do good job.

A number of villages have a pool of volunteer drivers to help people with problems attend appointments etc; this would be nice to see; a small charge could be made to go towards community funds ie upkeep of village hall/church.

A system of providing service – lifts/shopping/gardening/decorating; for those that need them keep within the village- volunteers.

Baylham care home very supportive.

Neighbours are generally good at supporting vulnerable people in the village.

13) Please feel free to comment on any other matters.

Well done to everyone who is trying to keep everything together, thanks for all the hard work.

Many villagers are fed up with applications submitted, turned down then resubmitted under a different guise ... eg a bungalow becomes a farmworkers cottageIs there any way the planning/enforcement dept can be shaken up by those at County level, do they have performance targets, are they monitored for improvement, both are relevant for what goes on or is allowed at village level, perhaps our MP could come and meet villagers to give us an overview of how he sees his role.

Formation of Parish Council would be a very positive step, particularly with regard to giving the village a stronger voice in planning matters, introduction of Baylham Newsletter and quarterly village meeting also welcomed.

One of the main problems is the lack of support for any village activities by all but a few regular people; we have a reasonable population but a lot of people don't seem interested in village life, it's always the same(very welcome) people who come to anything that is provided by the village committees; another problem is horse muck on the street particularly outside gateways and drives – if your horse drops muck it would be a nice gesture if you come and clear it up, at least push it into the verge.

I chose to live in Baylham because of the quiet, semi-rural setting; there has been a recent onslaught of housing developments in the near vicinity which may gradually threaten the character of the Baylham; my prime concern for the future is to protect and maintain the environment, wildlife and surroundings of the village; there should be no more housebuilding in the village because there are plenty of new housing developments in the local area.

Thank you for doing this!

It is a great shame that game keepers and equestrian managers are enforcing public footpath only, we used to be able to roam more; people adding posts and obstructions along the road side is idiocy and has caused damage to vehicles.

Baylham is outside the MSDC's development area and has already accepted more than its fair share of new housing; there seems to be an assumption that land can be bought up, permission for changes of use will be given and then planning permission will follow; we would ask MSDC to make clear that no development will be allowed on amenity land. Given the lack of bridle paths we would ask the Council to refuse any further requests for the keeping of horses in the village. Few riders actually live in Baylham so they have no vested interest in looking after footpaths and keeping their premises tidy.

This is a nice little village community too much development and in the wrong place could ruin it.

We have a lovely village, both environment and neighbours; I know the world is fast changing but I like things pretty much as they are in my 'home environment'.

A village suggestion box where ideas/issues can be put forward (anonymously if need be), it could be out at events/coffee mornings etc and then recorded, more broadly published and discussed by the village, like this questionnaire but always available.

Baylham is a good place to live in; we should be careful to keep it as it is; it doesn't really need 'improving'; just try to ensure it doesn't get spoilt by allowing lots of houses to be built; there are enough new houses in the surrounding area.

Planners are slowly and surely spoiling the character of our village by dubious and unsuitable decisions eg back Lane fiascos and the Common; 18 houses have been squeezed into the village in the last 18yrs; potentially now another 8 or 9 at Lower Barn; back Lane valley is now completely spoilt and looks like Steptoe's yard; the Common is a mess with a livery yard as is Hill Farm.

Internet connections for most people are adequate; mobile phone connections/reception could be better for future.

Now that the church has a toilet and small kitchen for making tea/coffee etc could some of the events now held in the village hall such as talks be held in the Church? As there is no longer a village shop, the nearest Needham or the Community Shop in Somersham, could it be considered at the monthly coffee mornings in the village hall a table for local produce such as eggs, home grown vegetables etc? Again a poll of volunteer drivers would be useful for those that cannot get there so we could partake more in village life. With the incredible discovery of the vault in the church this should be capitalised on with some of the events currently held in the village hall moved there, part proceeds of the ticket sales going towards upkeep.

Please don't block drains in the village just because they flow through your property it affects others; there is nothing wrong with driving at 30 mph but a lot of people in the village need to look ahead when driving so they can pull over to let people past – not drive past a passing place and then just stop in the road.

I feel a village plan is a really good idea, further engagement with residents via different forms of communication could ensure that it is as inclusive and representative as possible (survey monkeyface to face chats etc).

It would be nice to see a greater enforcement of planning restrictions particularly with regard to people living on sites in caravans; restrictions seem to be flouted with little consequence. Would like to open communication with horse owners encouraging them to be a little more respectful of others and clear up their mess.