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Introduction

In 2009 a comprehensive Parish Plan for Ufford was drawn up. This took 3 years to pull together and a magnificent 82% of questionnaires delivered were returned. The Plan gave Ufford Parish Council a comprehensive understanding of residents' views on items such as housing, transport, the environment and the Community.

In 2017 the Parish Council have undertaken to seek the opinions and thoughts of the residents of Ufford again and this report shows the data gathered, conclusions reached and a proposed action plan.

It is acknowledged that some areas covered in the review are outside the control of the Parish Council. However, we will work with other service providers to try and improve facilities wherever possible.

General Details

87 individual questionnaires were completed, 80 via the Online Questionnaire and 7 via a paper copy (*both asked identical questions*). This is disappointingly low compared to the 2009 Parish Plan, where questionnaires were personally delivered and collected, however it does still represent a sizeable number of Ufford residents.

The statements given represented 19 different roads, streets and closes in the village; almost each street was represented with some giving the thoughts and opinions of over 75% of the residents who lived there. Sadly two streets are not represented at all.

Almost half (45%) of questionnaires returned were completed by residents aged between 60 and 75, with a further 13% from residents over 75 years of age. This could indicate many things: perhaps these members of our community have more time in which to complete a survey? Perhaps younger residents lead busier lives, working longer hours and spending time raising their families?

This report sets out each question asked, the details of the answers given (shown as a percentage of the total responses) and additional comments received connected to the question. A list of general comments is on page 16.

Finally, Conclusions and a proposed Action Plan are detailed on page 17. We have also produced a Q & A sheet as Appendix 1, answering many of the questions posed in the review

Individual Question Results

*In answer to all questions, a rating of 1 indicates the participant **strongly disagrees** with the statement, whilst a rating of 6 indicates the partaker is in **complete agreement** with the statement in the question.*

Communication

Question 1

"The PUNCH is a great village newsletter and provides all the information I need about news and forthcoming events"

Results:

☹️ 😊

1	2	3	4	5	6	Did not answer
0%	1%	3%	17%	32%	46%	1%

Over 95% of participants feel the PUNCH is a great newsletter

Question 2

"The PUNCHLine is a very useful communication tool and I am satisfied with the style and volume of communications I receive"

Results:

☹️ 😊

1	2	3	4	5	6	Did not answer
0%	1%	1%	15%	25%	56%	2%

96% of contributors feel satisfied the PUNCHLine is a very useful communication tool and delivers the correct style and volume of articles

Comments received regarding Communications:

- "Nextdoor" is faster & more interactive. PUNCHLine Works in tandem with Nextdoor
- A Facebook page perhaps?
- I would like the Punchline to allow sales as it used to do.
- I'd welcome more Punchline emails perhaps reminding everyone about events in the pubs etc. but I accept this is resource heavy.
- It presents salient points with opportunity to speak live also should any clarification be required... Greatly appreciated... Other more divergent info gained on Ufford Nextdoor...
- Punch is too crowded and too small text to read comfortably. Punchline is too dominated by official news.
- Some of the punchlines are hysterical and serve to alarm the community, such as "Unwanted guests - No. 207". There should be less of this.
- Think use could be widened to include other events. Perhaps people could select types of communication they want to receive

Health, Facilities, Education and Housing

Question 3

“There are ample facilities for those under 18 years of age in Ufford, no further facilities are needed”

Results:

☹️ ☺️

1	2	3	4	5	6	Did not answer
3%	6%	37%	16%	14%	9%	15%

Mixed feeling here, perhaps this is because few younger people took part in the survey. Possibly a need for a separate ‘Young Persons’ Survey?

Comments received:

- A basic voluntary run cafe for 12 to 16-17 year olds at the recreation ground would be good
- More activities for 14 to 18 year old children maybe.

Question 4

“For people between the age of 19 and 59 there is the right mix of activities, social events and support”

Results:

☹️ ☺️

1	2	3	4	5	6	Did not answer
1%	1%	13%	44%	17%	11%	13%

Great to see 72% of responders agree that there is ‘the right mix of activities, social events and support’ for many people and some very good suggestions for improvements.

Comments received:

- Facilities and activities seem to be aimed at a selective circle. A wider range of activities would be attractive to others, especially singles, e.g. quiz nights, film evenings, dining out, bake-off!
- I think Ufford has some great facilities but I do feel a lot of clubs etc. are aimed at the older generation. I would love to see fitness classes like Zumba for example offered in the evenings rather than during the day when I cannot attend as I work. We have a fantastic play park for the children but unfortunately we still have older ones that feel the need to vandalise this and would love to think of a solution to the problem. The Community Hall is a great place and I have always wanted to see a youth club in Ufford as the hall has a pool table and would keep people off the park in the evenings.
- Most facilities are based in Lower Ufford, in which case access is easier. Elsewhere facilities are not so 'organised'.

- It's hard to answer the question about whether there are enough facilities, because there aren't really any, however we didn't move here for facilities, we can go elsewhere for them. At the moment, the playground is enough for us and our young children. Later in life they will need to venture to Woodbridge etc. for more things to do.
- Perhaps the clubs should have an open day each year so that interested parties can learn more about the activities and any ability needed. Or have an article in the Ufford Punch or both? Is there a good spread of ages across the clubs? Which clubs, if any, are looking for new members?
- St Marys Hall wonderful ambience SPRUNG FLOOR essential for exercise/dance/fitness outdoor gym/circuit as BBC advocating adult outdoor gym play area that has serious fitness health benefits would be brilliant
- We need a newsagents/post office
- with more residents add to community hall e.g. badminton court/stage and larger meeting room
- With Woodbridge being so close, there are enough facilities here already.

Question 5

“Those of us over 60 years of age have all the amenities we need, Ufford is a lively and energetic village to live in if you are over 60”

Results:

☹️ ☺️

1	2	3	4	5	6	Did not answer
0%	1%	9%	25%	20%	23%	22%

Again, another positive response for facilities for senior residents of Ufford. However, there is perhaps scope for looking at ways to combat the isolation of living in a small village.

Comments received:

- A minibus service once a week into Wickham Market and/or Woodbridge and return would be very welcome if this could be arranged.
- An outdoor gym for the elderly. The village is mostly retired people who need to keep fit, many villages have this now.
- Question [5] is interesting - Ufford is a lively and energetic village to live in if you are over 60 - this makes an assumption that everyone is fit and well and doesn't cover any issues with loneliness, disability or isolation.
- Tennis courts should be free for the community; there's no good reason why the playground, basketball court, etc. should be free and the tennis courts need special treatment. Upkeep should be paid for by the whole community, not just the rich.



Question 6

“Ufford has a great deal of footpaths and excellent access to open countryside”

Results:

☹️ ☺️

1	2	3	4	5	6	Did not answer
0%	1%	2%	17%	28%	44%	8%

We already knew Ufford had some excellent access to the great outdoors and it is good to hear that the vast majority of responders agree with us. Trick now is to keep these up to the high standards set and ensure everyone knows where to find them.

Comments received:

- I love finding footpaths through Ufford, but is there an actual footpath map available, also noted the potential closure of one (I think it’s over some Notcutts land but I may be mistaken). This is one on my favourite walks and closure would be disappointing
- So pleased the PC had the foresight to take ownership of the Parklands Wood. It is an excellent facility (and also saves it from development). I will be pleased if you can safeguard the area between School and Spring Lanes
- The Churchyard is lovely but only has one bench to sit on, it needs at least 3 please
- There's a lot of recreational facilities at the park and some lovely walks but I'm unaware of any groups or clubs that I might be able to take my children to - or even if there are any? I may have missed them somewhere though..!
- Footpaths and byways badly maintained

Question 7

“The village has exactly the right balance and mix of housing, somewhere for any size family to live”

Results:

☹️ ☺️

1	2	3	4	5	6	Did not answer
5%	3%	21%	31%	11%	17%	12%

Another mixed view on this question but the comments undoubtedly show that Ufford residents do not wish to see large-scale development in the village.

Comments received:

- Concerned about the impact of increased development in the village - the current lack of facilities, I feel, contributes to the unique community life that exists in Ufford.
- Concerns regarding the amount of development
- Regarding housing, whilst I think that the housing provided now is good, I feel that Ufford is now in danger of becoming over developed and as such likely to lose its identity if we are not careful.

- I think there needs to be more smaller, maybe terraced housing, with small gardens - for those wishing to downsize and for first time buyers
- If it's built all over the joy will disappear.
- New housing is focused mainly on the "executive homes" and no local people can afford it
- No more housing development please!
- The excessive degree of housing developments currently and in recent years is rapidly destroying our village environment. There is and has been far too much development for a village the size of Ufford.
- The infrastructure and amenities will be affected by the proposed increase in house building in Ufford. The roads and services are not fit for any increase in the size of the village and will unfortunately lead to Ufford become a commuting dormitory village and impractical to walk around the village roads as people can do reasonably safely at the moment.
- The very last thing our village needs is further residential development i.e. 'in-fill' house building will destroy the look & feel of the village
- The new development seems too big with proposed phase 2 and I find the road junction confusing where the Avenue meets the Yarmouth Road, although it has been improved somewhat recently. With more traffic likely in future it will need looking at again I am sure.
- My greatest source of concern is the numerous proposals for further building. Small in-fills are fine, but with those under construction and permission already given that is enough.
- Personally I feel the biggest challenge facing Ufford is the possibility of additional local residential development, which will in my opinion ruin our lovely village



Community Services

Question 8

“Ufford has a magnificent Community Centre (aka Pavilion) and it needs no alterations or improvements at all, I am proud to use it”

Results:

☹ ☺

1	2	3	4	5	6	Did not answer
2%	1%	20%	37%	22%	6%	12%

Although many people enjoy using the Community Centre, one in five people disagree with this statement. There are some good ideas for improvements below.

Comments received:

- There should be some open restroom facilities at the pavilion, as there are in Bredfield, so that people can use the loos any time they are at the playing fields. They are normally locked.
- Community Centre ...is good but lacks atmosphere. It is useful but I am not 'proud to use it'
- Always need to keep on top of improvements/refurbishment as well as involving as many residents, of all ages, to help with this.
- The church hall and community hall need attention both to maintain the buildings and make better use by organising events to bring the community together
- Use of the Community Centre would be improved if it was larger - many years ago there were plans drawn up adding an extension. It needs an area (staging?) for a band/disco, enough room for tables and a dance floor. This would enable parties, balls and other celebrations to be held there.

Question 9

“St Mary’s Church Hall is an excellent facility and offers a great alternative meeting place to the Community Centre”

Results:

☹ ☺

1	2	3	4	5	6	Did not answer
1%	2%	16%	33%	21%	15%	12%

St Mary’s Church Hall is steeped in character and a real privilege to see all the old photographs on display. However, some have suggested it is time for a total upgrade.

Comments received:

- The Church Hall car park needs some attention, particularly for the winter months also lighting

- St Mary's Hall needs urgent attention. The ideal would be to replace it with something suitable for the next generation. A new visually beautiful building could be a real money earner for the church as it is in a beautiful location and would encourage weddings and receptions in the locale. Sadly the current building is falling apart and is no longer fit for purpose.
- As for the church hall, I think some fundraising is needed to replace it with a decent building.

Question 10

“Ufford’s Recreation Ground, with its magnificent new Play Park, is superb and no further additions are required”

Results:

☹ ☺

1	2	3	4	5	6	Did not answer
1%	1%	7%	33%	23%	23%	12%

Tremendous to see 8 out of 10 respondents agree the Recreation Ground is an excellent facility

Comments received:

- A footpath on the same side of the road as the recreation ground needs to be provided for children to access the recreation ground from the lower end of the village
- Always need to keep on top of improvements/refurbishment as well as involving as many residents, of all ages, to help with this.
- Crucial that our community, as it ages, stays fit... What new innovative and future forward ways can we introduce such as outdoor gym or... .. that combines neuroscience, medical and cultural/fitness research findings in a practical way
- Feel very grateful for the brilliant provision at the Rec which is so close to our house. In a village with such low facilities, this is particularly impressive, thank you.
- I would love to see a 3G football pitch behind the pavilion
- Information could be made available on a regular basis on emergency equipment such as defibrillators and first aid facilities, contacts for local police etc.
- The new play park is good but not 'magnificent' ... but I do agree that no further additions are required
- Maybe we need some security at the play area. Maybe go back to locking the gates and a security light and maybe CCTV.



Transport

Question 11

“Public transport links in the village are excellent. The buses run frequently and at convenient times; I hardly ever use my car”

Results:

☹️ ☺️

1	2	3	4	5	6	Did not answer
34%	14%	23%	7%	2%	0%	20%

No surprises here! Vast majority of respondents feel public transport is totally inadequate through the village.

Comments received:

- Given that it is becoming increasingly difficult to park in Woodbridge, the bus services should be greatly improved. In addition perhaps bus timetables could be displayed on the bus stops and perhaps on the village notice board? Most vehicles exceed the speed limit though the village.
- Lack of good public transport is one of several reasons why Ufford is unsuitable for large new areas of housing. It is hard to live here without frequent car use.
- I do not use public transport.
- Rural transport needs to be reviewed, it needs to be integrated and meet the needs of residents. Cycling an option but needs safer cycle ways. Consider future with electric vehicles, charging points needed.
- We have a problem with speeding vehicles mainly late at night. Bus times have been improved since the implementation of the latest time table, however on at least one occasion the bus failed to arrive meaning that we cannot rely on it and revert to using the car, even though would rather not. The closure of the High St has caused us tremendous difficulties and car travel to Woodbridge and beyond means that the journey takes sometimes twice as long! The failure of the bus service to be implemented during this period has just not been acceptable. We feel isolated during this stressful period. Furthermore, it has been really annoying that due to less than adequate diversion signs, a stream of traffic continues to turn around and reverse outside our house! Very badly organised and thought out!
- We need better transport and possibly a shop
- The bus service to and from Ufford is barely adequate and non-existent in the evenings.



Question 12

“Drivers through the village are very considerate and always stick to the speed limit. I feel very safe when walking along our roads”

Results:

☹️ ☺️

1	2	3	4	5	6	Did not answer
25%	15%	29%	7%	9%	2%	13%

Wow....what excellent comments and suggestions from participants. No surprises at the scores given.

Comments received:

- Yarmouth Road traffic typically travels MUCH too fast and I feel in danger when I need to cross the road, especially with my young children.
- Would it be possible to request Spring Lane is given status as a quiet lane?
- With Suffolk being so flat, more people should cycle in Ufford
- Villagers are considerate... road closures past recent and up and coming mean we are becoming a rat-run... often abusive verbally and/or driving fast/inconsiderate of country village location
- Use of Ufford as a rat run is increasing but please do not use traffic calming measures.
- Ufford has become a rat-run for Rendlesham traffic as more pressure is put on Melton traffic lights this is only going to get worse. I have no confidence in Suffolk Coastal in their grasp of planning or infrastructure issues
- Transport issues are set to get very much worse as new developments in Woodbridge and possibly Ufford come on line. The village is already used as a rat run from Eyke and Rendlesham. The proposed Crown nursery development will make things very much worse as is shown by the chaos caused by the current road closure in the High Street
- Tractors drive too fast through the village. They should be restricted to 15mph in urban areas
- This is an ongoing problem as the village is used by so many as an alternative route (roadwork catastrophe) with so little regard for residents. We could start by getting all tractors etc. To slow right down. How about a 20 mph restriction?
- The speed limit along School Lane would be better set at 20mph as this seems to be the safest speed for the kind of road it is. 30 is too fast.
- The Avenue needs some more SLOW signs and perhaps some posts to safeguard the verges which get more and more eroded
- The roads are becoming busier and will continue to be so with all the building going on. We need a roundabout at the link to the A12 so people can turn North or South, not only South, and alleviate the traffic through the village roads
- The roads aren't wide enough for the heavy traffic we are now getting through the village
- Some of our lanes need a 20 mph speed limit
- Some way of slowing down the drivers generally. At certain times it is like a rat race waiting for an accident to happen.

- Speed limits of 20mph should be imposed in the village and calming measures You cannot access a bus from Lower Ufford
- Speeding is happening all the time and it infuriates me as I am more often than not walking along the narrow paths with my 2 year old in his trike and my 6 month old in the carrier. Sometimes with them both in the double buggy and the speed and proximity cars come speeding past at is unbelievable. The paths are so narrow that I'm amazed we haven't been clipped by now. The speed of cars and trucks and Lorries past our window is also horrendous.
- Several single track lanes in the village that are unsuitable for additional traffic
- Sleeping policemen (humps) would slow traffic successfully
- Resident motorists display road courtesy in accordance to local knowledge of narrow lanes and pedestrian awareness , A minority of non-local visitors do not comply and perhaps a code of " near miss reporting may be of some use " During recent roadworks a number of weight restricted HGV,s have been using Lower Ufford lanes as a cut through .
- Road safety in the village has deteriorated during the past year or two as the country roads are increasingly used by "rat runners" avoiding busy junctions etc. and hurrying to get back to the main highway.
- During the period of the closure of the High Street and the diverted traffic into School Lane and The Avenue we see just what a problem this has been. These roads were never made for heavy traffic. Also the large tractors constantly driving through the village most with heavy trailers or farming equipment are driven extremely dangerously. Any serious or fatal accident with these vehicles would leave the victims in position of no recourse as most are driven by foreign nationals with no insurance for themselves or the vehicles, let alone a driving licence. This of course is the state of the national regulations controlling driving, or not controlling driving farm vehicles; however the local council could put load restrictions to heavy vehicles on certain roads to mitigate this problem. Has the Parrish Council ever thought of exploring this idea or do we have to wait till someone suffers a serious or fatal accident?
- People frequently fail to observe the give way sign when coming off the A12 at the top of the avenue and cut right across the path of cars coming up from Melton on the Yarmouth Rd. The road painting makes drivers assume all cars will be turning left with none going straight ahead. I have had many near misses, and fear there will be a serious accident one day. The road painting needs alteration.
- People not from the area tend to speed along the avenue/through Lower Ufford and don't seem to be aware of what potential hazards there are (tractors/only few passing places/large number of dog walkers). More signs signalling to slow down are needed.



- More work could be done to maintain our footpaths especially at road crossings and towards Wickham Market
- Hardly anyone sticks to 30, including the refuse trucks using the high street as a rat run to go up the A12, recent road closure showed just what a rat run this road is, due to the failure of Suffolk Coastal to adequately resource the road infrastructure for the houses it keeps agreeing to in Melton and Wickham - for which there is only a south bound entrance to A12 at the Melton end of our village and North bound at the other end. Meaning if people live at the wrong end they have to travel through the village. The main issue is coming from Wickham. There is a good piece of farm land which could be used as a staggered southbound entrance (similar to what Wickham have) at the Wickham Market side of the village. Can we badger the council to do something about this?
- I use my car for all journeys outside the village. Walking in Avenue, School Lane, Byng Hall Road and Lower Road is a bit dangerous with all the cars racing around.
- I walk and cycle more than drive and cars speed through the high street a lot
- Drivers should slow down when passing walkers, cyclists and riders not just whizz past throwing you into the verge!
- Driving through Ufford at present is very much a stop - start affair mainly due to road works.
- Some people race up Spring Lane round blind corners and it is very worrying when you have children on bicycles and dog walkers - let alone cars coming from the other direction.
- The roads are in an extremely bad state. Much narrower than they used to be because of the way they have always been resurfaced. This needs to be addressed and the mud and pebbles and grass removed.
- The state of the roads in the village (potholes) are a disgrace and particularly dangerous for cyclists. Lower Road/Old Church Road is like a minefield.
- The roads are in desperate attention to repair / replace the surface and speed reduction measures. The changes on Yarmouth Road appear to have made no difference.
- With the already authorised housing projects within the village and the ever larger commercial and farm vehicles using The Avenue, the width and the surface area of this road already needs serious attention.

Ufford Parish Council

Question 13

“Ufford Parish Council are working hard and doing a great job. I know how to contact the Clerk and where to find all the information I need”

Results:

☹ ☺

1	2	3	4	5	6	Did not answer
0%	1%	3%	24%	21%	37%	14%

We are overwhelmed with these results and will continue to work hard to support all Ufford residents where we can.

Comments received:

- At the moment it's fine but a proper election would give a stronger sense of democracy
- Communication is fantastic.
- I should like to see the Parish Council taking a greater leadership role in social problems such as litter, vandalism etc. Whilst the council definitely does a great job it does fly under the radar a little. Social issues tend to lessen when the perpetrators realise that their community sees it as unacceptable behaviour.
- PunchLine is great, I feel well informed. Judi is superb. Thanks for all you do to help Ufford stay a lovely place to live.
- The efforts of the Parish Council are much appreciated and valued by the village
- The UPC are really helpful; Judi is really REALLY excellent.
- We really appreciate the work undertaken by the Parish Clerk who continues to keep us informed

Other General Comments Received

- As the majority of villagers probably use the recycling bins, would it be possible to have an additional notice board for those of us who don't get down to the village centre very often?
- It was sad there wasn't a fete this year in the village, the garden show didn't really appeal to us as a young family or if it was suitable there wasn't much advertisement for it.
- It's a lovely safe village with good facilities for its size
- The Parish Council wrote recently about introducing a Village Fete. Why not combine this with the successful Gardening Show rather than have another summer event. There could be a Dog Show and lots more stalls, etc.
- The present 'traffic and planning' applications are our present problem.
- I met some lovely people in Lodge road whilst objecting to the potential development and we have stayed chatty since then which is really nice. I don't feel alone in Ufford. It's a really friendly place. I can't wait to retire and start to enjoy what it really has to offer, join some clubs and finally start to live my life rather than work, work, work.
- This survey breaks all the rules of surveys with its leading questions. One can agree with parts of questions and disagree with other parts, making them almost impossible to answer. Any conclusions drawn from the results are likely to be highly misleading.
- Ufford is a lovely village which needs to be carefully managed to ensure development and facilities meet needs of the residents. Engaging the community as happened with the proposed development at Crown Nurseries demonstrates residents support.
- Perhaps a village festival, children's youth club, CAMEO evening
- Ufford continues to be a lovely place to live with great neighbours, yet we are seriously considering moving house should the level of inappropriate and unsustainable development continue. We need better infrastructure to support it too, doctor surgeries are full and the roads continuously jammed.
- **I like Ufford as it is!**

Conclusions

Firstly, we would like to thank all residents who took the time to complete the Ufford Parish Review 2017. Although returns were lower in number than we would have liked both the raw data gathered and comments submitted have been very useful.

It is clear a number of elements are causing concern to a great deal of residents:

- Development - large scale development already underway and the continuing threat of more houses, light industry and commercial developments on Ufford's green spaces
- Highways - including speeding drivers, pot holes and inappropriate speed limits,
- Public Transport (or the lack of it!),
- Youth facilities (or the lack of them!)

However, many residents are very happy living in Ufford and cite the excellent open spaces, very good clubs and societies for residents. In addition, positive community spirit and good village communications are obviously appreciated by many.

Action Plan

Ufford Parish Council commit to the following Action Plan; in order of importance:

To continue...

1. Monitoring all Planning applications and using Planning Law and Guidance as a basis for any objection to inappropriate levels of development in the village
2. Logging all highways issues (pot holes, damaged/missing signs, speeding drivers, etc.) with Suffolk County Council and Suffolk Police
3. Working closely with the PUNCH Team to support the PUNCH Magazine and PUNCHLine in order to continue to raise standards of communication in the village. At the same time continually assessing the tone of communications to ensure they are at the correct level.
4. To promote the footpaths and Ufford Heritage Trail through distribution of the leaflets and on-line documentation
5. To review all Parish Council methods of communication (web site, notice boards, etc.) and to improve where required.

To initiate...

1. Discussion around how to engage with Ufford's younger residents, seeking their views on facilities, support and issues affecting them.
2. Dialogue with the Community and Parish Hall Management Teams to investigate additional fitness classes in the evenings (Zumba, Yoga, etc.) and other social gatherings
3. Discussion with Age UK to discover how best the Parish Council can engage with residents who may be lonely, isolated or disabled (in a way that prevents them taking part in most activities) and how these people can be included in village life.
4. Talks with the Bus companies to see if timetabling can allow for more buses and journeys in to the evening. In addition to provide clear timetable information on the Ufford Web Pages and at all Bus Stops
5. A review of all comments received around highways issues and to provide a separate comprehensive report.
6. Talks with clubs and societies in the village to discuss how they can improve promotion of their activities and promote membership.

It is hoped that through these action points we can help keep Ufford the very special village it is. If you would like to be part of a team to put these in to place please contact the Parish Clerk (details below)

Ufford Parish Council

January 2018

Parish Clerk: Judi Hallett, Manor Farm, Hollesley, Woodbridge, Suffolk IP12 3NB

Telephone: 01394 411405 or 07739 411927

E-mail: ufford.pc@hotmail.com

Appendix 1 – Questions and Answers

1. Would a Facebook page be a good idea for the village?

UPC have discussed having a Facebook Page in the past but it was discounted due to administration issues. Any comments would need checking for any abusive content and this could potentially take a very long time. However, there is nothing to stop an individual setting up an Ufford Facebook Page. These work very well in other villages.

2. The text in the PUNCH is too small

If you have issues reading the printed version of the PUNCH you can always try looking online at the electronic version. A link to this can be found at <http://www.uffordpunch.org.uk> and the text can be expanded upon to aid reading. If you do not have a computer at home, the internet is freely accessible in Woodbridge Library.

3. Why are some PUNCHLine reports hysterical?

The three PUNCHLine administrators do try to keep headings sensible but on occasions ‘eye-catching’ words are used to alert readers to very important articles.

4. An outdoor Gym would be excellent...

At the Play Park two pieces of Adult Gym equipment are installed. In addition to this, did you know that around Ufford Park Hotel is a circular walk with pieces of outdoor gym equipment placed periodically? Why not take a healthy walk, do a little gym exercise and then call in to the hotel for coffee!

5. The Community Hall should be expanded to include a larger hall for badminton and dances/bands.

The Parish Council will be discussing options for the Community Hall now that ownership has finally been established. We will need to balance the needs of the community against facilities already provided by neighbouring villages (such as Bromeswell and Wickham Market) to ensure we do not provide a facility that is already available.

6. The Community Hall Car Park needs attention

Good news. Refurbishment of the Community Hall Car Park is the next big project on the Parish Council’s list. We already have a healthy fund established and we will be looking towards grants in 2018.

7. We need CCTV at the Recreation Ground to combat the vandalism to the Play Park

Your wish is our command! Three CCTV cameras have recently been installed at the Recreation Ground and within the first 24 hours of being operational they detected a crime.

8. Not everyone is fit and well; how do we combat social isolation and loneliness?

This is perhaps the most important comment to come out of the review. UPC will initially seek the opinions of organisations such as Age UK to see what steps can be taken. The idea of a ‘Welcome Club’ has been suggested, where tea, coffee and cake are taken alongside board and card games, or just social chit-chat, at a minimal cost.

9. Why are the tennis courts not free for everyone to use?

Although the tennis court sits on the Recreation Ground it is not owned or run by the Parish Council. The Ufford Tennis Club fully fund the court and have to pay for repairs and maintenance of both the court and the fence. However, they are very keen to engage with new members and costs are not as expensive as you think. If you are interested in playing Tennis please contact Dan Lever on 01394 420156

10. How do I find out about all the footpaths in Ufford?

Firstly, visit the Church or one of the pubs and pick up both the 'Ufford Footpaths' and 'Ufford Heritage Trail' leaflets. These leaflets are also available in external containers at the Community Hall and St Mary's Parish Hall. In addition to these there is a link to the definitive map in the Ufford Web Site.

11. Bus frequencies have improved recently but we never know if the bus is going to arrive or if it is running late

UPC will be contacting the bus companies in the next few weeks to see if interactive display boards can be installed at the bus stops and/or an App can be developed to allow people with a Smart Phone to track the bus on its journey (this happens in other towns). We will also be asking if an evening service would be possible.

12. The junction at the top of The Avenue is so dangerous; there are 'near misses' there every day and soon someone is going to get seriously injured or even killed. Why doesn't the Parish Council do something about it?

The unusual layout and confusing priority system on the junction at the top of The Avenue causes the most letters of complaint and concern to the Parish Council. As you may be aware, UPC are not the highway authority (that is the responsibility of Suffolk County Council (SCC)) so legally we are not permitted to take any action. However, we *can* and *do* report the ongoing issues to SCC; providing them with details of near misses, photographs and accounts of accidents.

Recently a SCC Highways inspector visited Ufford to speak about a separate matter and, when he was leaving, he witnessed another 'near-miss' on this junction.

The official line from SCC is "*...although there continue to be near misses these don't result in collisions and as such it becomes difficulty to justify spending money on a solution. We have all looked at options but these tend to be expensive*".

It is an unfortunate fact that **until** (and sadly not before) someone is killed at this junction then money will not be spent improving it.

13. Is it possible that Spring Lane could be designated a 'Quiet Lane'?

This is possible. However, due to a lack of resources SCC cannot commit any manpower to Quiet Lanes at present. It is also worth noting that the designation of a road as a 'Quiet Lane' makes no statutory difference to the types of vehicles that can use it, nor does it alter the speed limit. It simple alerts drivers to the fact that they may come across someone walking, cycling or horse riding along the lane and to take extra care.

14. Can we have a 20 mph speed limit along some roads?

Put quite simply, no. SCC only install 20 mph speed limits in residential urban areas where there is a history of significant accidents.

15. We need a south bound entrance on to the A12 at the north end of the village, this will stop all Wickham Market traffic travelling through Ufford

This has been raised with SCC on a number of occasions. However, the cost would run in to £10m's and they simply do not have the funds to pay for such work.

16. We need a roundabout on the A12 at the south bound entrance (near Grove Farm) to allow traffic to turn north and stop all Melton traffic travelling up through Ufford

Please see answer to question 15.

17. A proper election of Parish Councillors would give a stronger sense of democracy

We agree 100%. However, despite re-elections of Parish Councillors happening every 4 years (and these being heavily advertised), for as long as can be remembered there have only ever been 11 or fewer candidates for the 11 positions on the Parish Council. When this is the case an election is not necessary and SCDC simply appoint each of the candidates automatically.

If you are interested in standing as a Parish Councillor please contact the Clerk and you will be notified individually when the elections are coming up (next scheduled elections are May 2019)

18. Could we have an additional notice board near the re-cycle bins, as most people go there?

There is a notice board near the re-cycling bins, just to the right of the entrance to the Community Centre

19. Why can't a Village Fete be combined with the very successful Garden Club Annual Show?

The magnificent Gardening Club annual show gets better every year and we understand the committee are looking for new ways to expand it to open it up to more residents.

20. This survey breaks all the rules of surveys with its leading questions; any conclusions drawn from it are likely to be highly misleading.

So sorry if we have offended you. The statements in each question were constructed in such a way to deliberately provoke people in to reacting to them. We hope the added ability for comments to be left would allow people to explain their answer if they agreed with part of the statement but not all of it.

21. What about a Village Festival or Cameo Evening?

Hold that thought! An Ufford Arts Festival is presently being planned for later in 2018 and we hope this will be an annual event.