

Executive Summary

The village of Sproughton is situated to the West of Ipswich and the parish boundary joins the Ipswich boundary at several points. The village consists of approximately 580 houses, although in the Hadleigh Road area there is continued development in small numbers. The nearest village with shopping facilities is Bramford, with a Co-Op Store, which contains the Post office. There is also a pharmacist and a paper shop in Bramford. To the North of the village is the small village of Burstall. To the west lies the market town of Hadleigh.

The village was effectively split by the building of the A14 in 1985. Church Lane, which used to connect to the eastern boundary of Hadleigh Road and London Road, was closed to vehicular traffic and is now joined by a very dark and forbidding pedestrian underpass. This has had the effect of isolating that part of the community from the main village; residents from the Hadleigh Road area feel more a part of Ipswich than the village of Sproughton - which is a great pity.

Sproughton High Street is the B1113. At times High Street is very heavy with through traffic, as is Lower Street which links to and from the A14. This is very evident if there is an accident on the A14: the village is then used as a major diversion which causes stress to those living in the High Street Lower Street area.

The old mediaeval core of the village bounded by the Church, Sproughton Mill and the Tithe Barn remains relatively intact. With this in mind the Parish Plan was analysed by area:

Area 1: Hadleigh and London Road,

Area 2: High Street and Lower Street,

Area 3: Church Lane and roads off.

Each area had its own points of view.

There are approximately 580 households in the parish some 263 households responded to the questionnaire. The population is around 1100 and the number of responses was 582.

There are a total of 94 young people under 18, 43 male and 51 female, amongst the responders. The adult population is 232 male and 256 female. The highest number of responses came from the 45-59-age group, followed by the 25-44 age group.

Traffic is a Major issue.

Sproughton High Street is the B1113 and at times is overloaded with through traffic, as is Lower Street which links to and from the A14. This is very evident if there is an accident on the A14, because the village is then used as a major diversion which causes stress to those living on the High Street Lower Street area. Vehicles exceeding the speed limit are another issue in both areas. Church Lane also gets overloaded especially at school opening times. There was wide support for speed control measures.

Generally street lighting was felt to be about right.

The responses told us that 54% of the respondents felt that the number of houses built during the last 10 years was about right, but that 15% felt there was too much. 18% felt those houses built were too expensive. It was also felt that there could be more social housing to enable those with families in the village to remain in the village and not be forced to move out. The Parish Council could investigate the possibility of involving a Housing Association if suitable land was to be found.

The majority of residents wanted the village to stay, as it is, namely a quiet residential village. Some 87% of residents work outside the village, most within a radius of 30 miles, but some travel more widely on business.

Generally the village is considered crime free and there are not many areas where residents feel unsafe. The underpass at the end of Church Lane came out the worst; this is somewhat forbidding at the best of times with graffiti and other items found there.

Residents felt that the quality of life for young people could be enhanced by more organised activities, possibly using the school or Tithe Barn for clubs. A table tennis club, a youth club, volleyball and Yoga were mentioned. For the over 25's interests such as Gardening, U3A, Arts and crafts, Computer Internet club and a Film/Cinema club were suggested. The major problem with this is who will run the clubs. Whilst a number of residents would be interested, very few would be prepared to help organise and run the clubs - another challenge.

The idea of a community shop was well received; with some 25% saying they would use it weekly and 7% saying they would use it daily. Some 40% said they would use it occasionally with only 8% saying they would not use it at all. The response to the question "would you be prepared to help in the shop?" was well received, with enough positive responses and offers of help in counter work and also home delivery to enable a rota of helpers to be worked out. If funds could be made available, this would be a great contribution to village life.

Overall, a high proportion of residents regard the countryside/landscape/wildlife as important assets and a positive reason to live in the Parish. The tranquillity offered by the countryside was frequently mentioned. Litter and high traffic volume were regarded as particularly negative factors of the overall area of Sproughton, although interestingly natural features such as nettles and mud were the most referenced access restrictions on footpaths.

Over 60% of residents thought that the Parish Council publicised its activities well and were aware of local concerns and feelings. Surprisingly, only around 20% of residents had ever attended the Annual Parish Meeting. This figure should be improved. Also, only 30% felt they would be prepared to pay through Council Tax for any improvements.

The results obtained from the plan have been used to develop an Action Plan for the parish. This will help the Parish Council and other organisations to develop and justify future projects, which are important to the community. The Parish Plan, which is after all a snapshot in time, will also provide historical information and a guide to the long term planning of the village.