



Rampton Residents Sustainability Survey 2024

Introduction

Following its creation in January 2024 as a working group of Rampton Parish Council (PC), the Sustainable Rampton group was asked by the PC to establish the sustainability issues of most concern to village residents in order to identify a number of environmentally-friendly actions and activities that would benefit villagers individually and collectively i.e. those issues that were most impacting on the environment and cost of living as well as individual and community health and well-being.

An impromptu activity was carried out, after an invited talk about Sustainable Rampton and green cleaning on 6 February 2024, to obtain the views of members of the Rampton Tea-club. Members were asked to consider how Sustainable Rampton could help villagers to live more sustainably individually and collectively. 21 responses were collated indicating that members were particularly concerned that residents should adopt practices aimed at protecting nature and the environment. A summary of responses is presented in Appendix 2.

A survey was subsequently designed to elicit all residents' views on 3 key areas: 1. Community and amenities, 2. Protecting nature and the environment and 3. Lifestyle changes - working towards Zero Waste, with a view to informing the work of both the PC and Sustainable Rampton. The survey was made available to residents online for a month from the beginning of March 2024¹. The views of the full range of villagers, including from school age children, were sought. Residents without internet access were able to complete the survey at the Tea Club on 19 March and the Action on Energy drop-in event on 23 March in the village hall. Residents were also invited, via the village newsletter, to contact members of Sustainable Rampton for assistance in completing the survey.

¹ <https://forms.gle/6QcsB5jxorHowyXc9>

Results

Section 1 - Residency and age groups

1. Are you a Rampton resident?

105 responses were received. 100% of respondents indicated that they are residents of Rampton.

2. What age group do you fall under?

105 responses

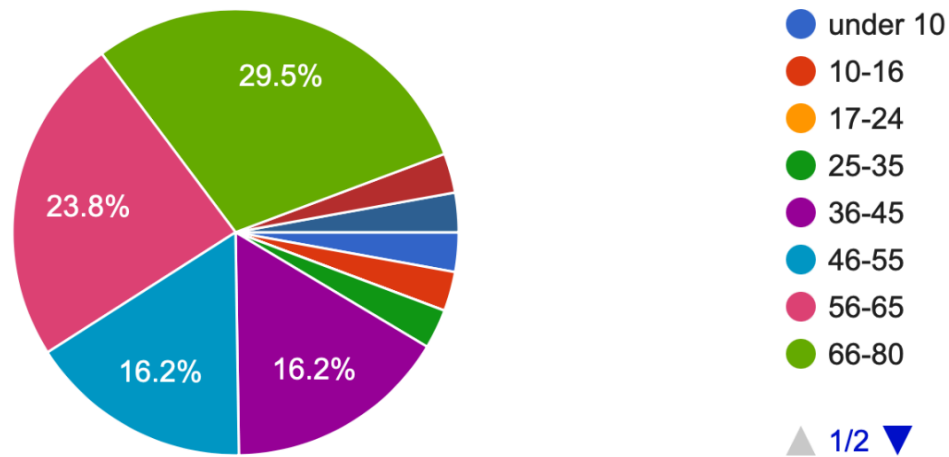


Fig.1. responses per age group

105 responses were received, all from village residents, representing 23.5% of the village population based on the 2021² census which totalled 447 inhabitants including 71 children aged 0-17 years. 3 (2.9%) respondents were over 80 and 3 (2.9%) preferred not to say. Only 6 respondents (5.8%) fell into the 0-17 age group, hence the response rate from the adult population, based on the census data, was 27.49%.

Section 2 - Community and amenities

Please indicate how important you think each of the below topics is within the village.

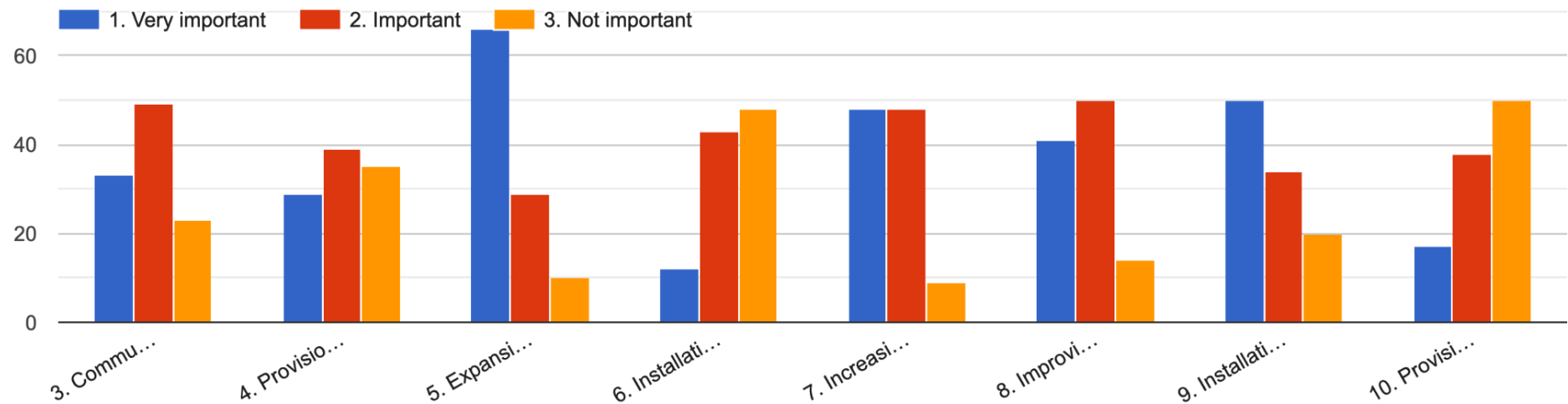


Fig.2. Relative importance of community focused topics

² https://citypopulation.de/en/uk/eastofengland/admin/south_cambridgeshire/E04001835__rampton/

Respondents were asked to indicate how important to the village they felt each of the 8 topics listed below are:

Q	Topic	Very Important	Important	Not Important	Total
3.	Community food growing to promote healthy eating and share fresh produce	33 (31.42%)	49 (46.67%)	23 (21.90%)	105
4.	Provision of a village compost to recycle garden and food waste	29 (28.16%)	39 (37.86%)	35 (33.98%)	103
5.	Expansion of local cycle and walking path network to promote a healthy alternative to car usage	66 (62.86%)	29 (27.62%)	10 (0.10%)	105
6.	Installation of public electric car chargers	12 (11.65%)	43 (41.75%)	48 (46.60%)	103
7.	Increasing communal wildflower areas	48 (45.71%)	48 (45.71%)	9 (0.09%)	105
8.	Improving the energy efficiency of the village hall	41 (39.05%)	50 (47.62%)	14 (13.33%)	105
9.	Installation of a community owned wind turbine to power households	50 (48.08%)	34 (32.69%)	20 (19.23%)	104
10.	Provision of a communal fruit storage facility to reduce waste	17 (16.19%)	38 (36.19%)	50 (47.62%)	105

Q11. Respondents were invited to add anything else they thought the village should focus on. All 27 free text responses to this question are provided in Appendix 1.

Of particular note:

8 respondents emphasised the need to reduce car usage through the provision of better public transport, ideally through a better bus service or alternatively car sharing.

5 others focused on sharing among residents in order to reduce food waste and support others in the community; the usefulness of a communal tool lending facility was also highlighted.

5 respondents also stressed the need to enhance and protect the natural environment in this section thus endorsing the positive responses to section 3.

Advice and education to enable residents to make lifestyle changes was requested, focusing on eating less meat, better recycling as well as reusing and repairing material items - very much in the spirit of working towards zero waste (reduce, reuse, repair and recycle).

Interest in reducing dependency on fossil-fuel energy was expressed by **3** respondents.. This was echoed in free text responses to Sections 3 & 4.

Questions highlighted in bright green indicate those areas of most importance to the majority of respondents followed by those highlighted in a lighter green colour.

Recommendations - section 2

Sustainable Rampton to:

Short-medium term

1. work with the Parish Council to identify suitable areas for increasing wildflowers;
2. work with the Rampton Village Hall Management Committee (RVHMC) to improve the energy efficiency of the village hall;
3. work with the Parish Council to determine the level of community support for the development and management of a community food growing initiative;

Long term

- 4. work with the Parish Council to continue to lobby for expansion of cycle and walking path network;
- 5. work with Parish council to establish the feasibility of acquiring a community owned wind turbine to power households.

Section 3 - Protecting nature and the environment

Please indicate how important you think each of the below topics is.

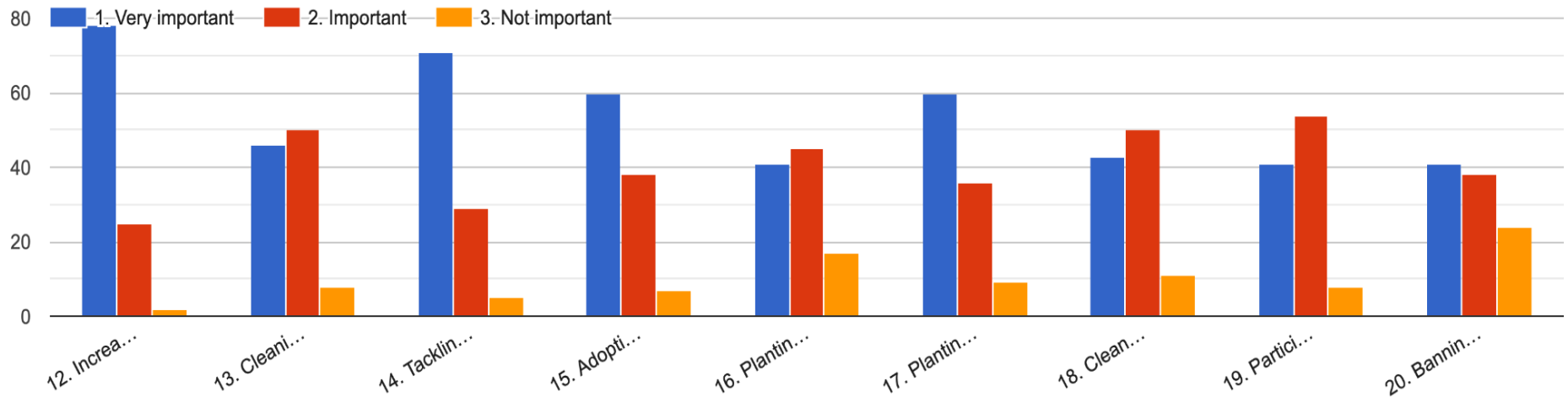


Fig. 3. Relative importance of environmental-focused matters

Respondents were asked to indicate how important each of the below actions would be in protecting and improving our local environment.

Q	Topic	Very Important	Important	Not Important	Total
12.	Increasing and protecting the habitats of plants and animals in our local ecosystem	78 (74.29%)	25 (23.80%)	2 (0.02%)	105
13.	Cleaning and maintaining the village pond	46 (44.23%)	50 (48.08%)	8 (0.08%)	104
14.	Tackling littering	71 (0.67%)	29 (27.62%)	5 (0.05%)	105
15.	Adopting wildlife gardening, providing a haven for the birds, bees and other animals and insects	60 (0.57%)	38 (0.36%)	7 (0.07%)	105
16.	Planting drought resistant plants	41 (0.40%)	45 (0.44%)	17 (0.17%)	103
17.	Planting more trees	60 (0.57%)	36 (0.34%)	9 (0.09%)	105
18.	Clean burning of wood as a domestic fuel	43 (0.41%)	50 (48.08%)	11 (0.11%)	104
19.	Participating in community clean-up and conservation initiatives	41 (0.40%)	54 (0.52%)	8 (0.08%)	103
20.	Banning bonfires of non-garden waste i.e. domestic and/or commercial waste	41 (0.40%)	38 (0.37%)	24 (0.23%)	103

Q21. Respondents were invited to add anything else they thought the village should focus on. All **11** free text responses to this question are provided in Appendix 1.

Questions highlighted in bright green indicate those areas of most importance to the majority of respondents.

In addition to those free text responses captured in the Section 2 summary, **4** respondents felt that more needs to be done to stop the burning of non-garden waste.

Recommendations - section 3

Sustainable Rampton to:

Short-medium term

1. work with the Parish Council to apply for a grant to clean and maintain the village pond (Q13)
2. work with the RVHMC and other village community groups to tackle littering (Q14).

Long term

3. work with the Parish Council to develop a nature recovery plan.
4. following development of nature recovery plan, work with the Parish Council to apply for grants to enhance nature recovery (Q12 & 17) including planting more trees.
5. work with other village community groups to encourage wildlife gardening (Q15)
6. work with other village community groups and other local sustainable groups to facilitate participation in community clean-up and conservation initiatives (Q19).

Section 4 - Lifestyle changes, working towards zero waste

In this section respondents were able to select one of the three options 1, 2 or 3 plus option 4, hence total responses for some questions exceeded 105.

Please indicate below those activities you are already doing, considering doing or feel unable to commit to doing AND indicate which ones you would like more information about

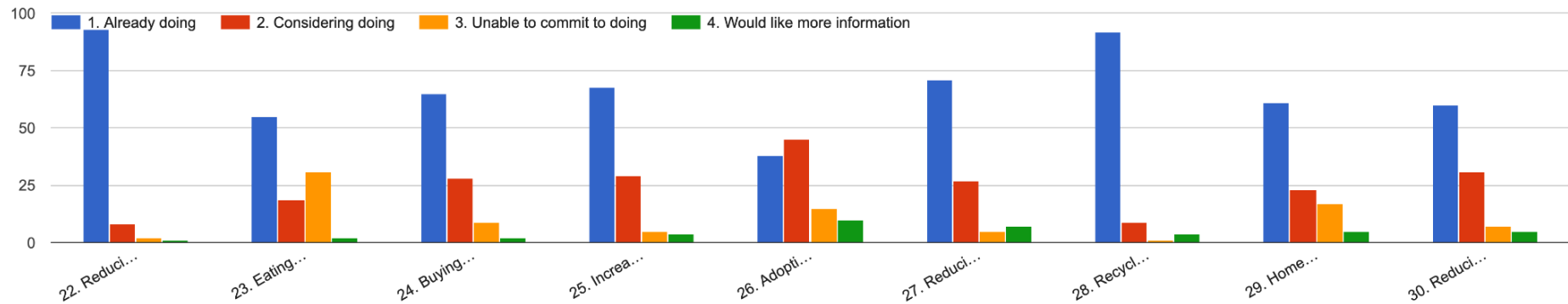


Fig.4. Indication of lifestyle practices respondents have adopted, are considering adopting or feel unable to adopt, plus additional information sought

Q	Topic	Already doing	Considering doing	Unable to commit to doing	Like more information	Total responses
22.	Reducing food waste	93 (89.42%)	8 (7.69%)	2 (1.92%)	1 (0.96%)	104
23.	Eating less meat	55 (51.40%)	19 (17.76%)	31 (28.97%)	2 (1.87%)	107
24.	Buying fewer new things, buying 'pre-loved' instead	65	28	9	2	104
25.	Increasing the energy efficiency of your home	68	29	5	4	106
26.	Adopting eco or green cleaning practices and products that don't damage the environment	38	45	15	10	108
27.	Reducing plastic waste	71	27	5	7	110
28.	Recycling wherever possible anything that can't be reused or repaired	92	9	1	5	107
29.	Home composting	61	23	17	5	106
30.	Reducing water consumption in the home and outdoors	60	31	7	5	103

Q31. Respondents were invited to indicate any other changes they intend/would like to make and whether they would like any help or more information in order to make those changes. All 9 free text responses to this question are provided in Appendix 1.

Questions highlighted in bright green indicate those lifestyle changes that the largest number of respondents felt unable to commit to followed by those highlighted in a lighter green colour.

Recommendations - section 4

Sustainable Rampton to:

1. develop materials/information to raise awareness and encourage adoption of more sustainable lifestyle practices and processes, particular in those areas where awareness and uptake appears to be low i.e. Q23, 26, 29, 24, 25, 30;
2. run Repair Cafes and SWISH (clothes exchange) events to reduce the amount of materials sent to landfill.

Summary

While acknowledging that those who complete surveys may be motivated to do so because they have a particular interest in the area(s) under consideration and that for a survey of village residents there is likely to be an inherent sense of civic duty that acts as an additional incentive, survey responses indicate that a significant number of villagers are interested in helping to make Rampton a more environmentally sustainable place to live. These views were also espoused by members of the Tea-Club.

Taking into account the small size of the group, the fact that it is in its infancy and the number of issues to be tackled, Sustainable Rampton proposes to focus in the first instance on taking forward those activities that can be realised in the short to medium term. Hence, the recommendations which have emerged from the responses received for each section are subdivided into short-medium and long-term timeframes.

Sustainable Rampton would like to take this opportunity to thank all respondents for taking the time to complete the survey.

The Parish Council endorsed all of the recommendations at its meeting on 22 May 2024.

Sharon Waller on behalf of Sustainable Rampton

22 May 2024

Free text survey responses

Section 2 - Community and amenities, 27 responses

Q11. Please add anything else you think the village should focus on in the below text box:

1. Flood risks
2. Public transport e.g. **regular buses** and a village shop so residents can walk to it rather than having to drive to another village
3. Mobile phone mast
4. Expansion of **bus service** to promote a greener alternative to individual car usage. Expansion of voi scooter network to include Rampton to promote a greener alternative to individual car usage.
5. The village should focus on local issues affecting local people, not global issues with minimal affect. For example growing local produce is commendable but global trade can produce increased economic benefits for all people including Rampton. That will not change. Cycle paths need reducing because increasing cycle paths increase congestion and pollution. People will not stop having cars, it is an economic reality. More electric chargers will not increase EV sales. Ideology is all well and good but people should be aware of other points of view that they may not be comfortable about to make a reason and informed choice. One size does not fit all as the saying goes.
6. Increase size of village orchard, pear apple plums green gage etc, maybe plant some cider apple varieties and hold a yearly juice pressing activity and bottle and ferment some village cider, the fruits of the labour being free for all who contribute on the juicing days.
7. It would be great if we could have our own 'repair cafe' list of residents willing/able to do jobs like repair clothing and furniture for a small fee. One of the biggest wastes is clothing so maybe doing a gladrags swap seasonally could be considered?
8. Just a comment on the local generation - wind turbine - nice idea but fraught with potential expensive technical complications. Perhaps locate it where the historical windmill used to be? (Northstowe get to look it then!) As a power feed to the village (or grid or wherever) is necessary from the windmill might as well include a solar field as well. Fence it off. May also create one part time job managing. Perhaps get

Cambs council to provide more 'set-aside' on their land within the parish for wildlife habitat and more pathways for locals (much like Manor Wood was once)

9. continue to promote solar panels and insulation
10. I think we should have a community food chest for surplus milk or other food that people can dip into. **More buses would be brilliant and maybe a car share scheme/ car lift scheme** people could sign up to if they wanted to regularly offer lifts for a fee.
11. Across the village, a great deal of fruits (mostly apples and pears) go to waste every autumn. There is an opportunity to explore the idea of a '**communal**' storage facility where fruit could be deposited by residents at harvest, stored to preserve it and recovered periodically at later dates. Waste is reduced, food miles reduced, food is more nutritious and likely 'organic'. The storage facility need not be large, it would require to be insulated but power for cooling (or heating) could likely be supplied by small solar and battery. There are wellbeing benefits from any communal activity like this.
12. Bulk buying of eco friendly products
13. **Sharing** of fresh produce so older people can obtain small portion of items such as cauliflowers,
14. Community fridge
15. I would like to clarify why I have answered question 6 by saying "not important". Parking provision would be required and could Rampton cope with people visiting to use the electricity from nearby villages, if their villages do not provide the same.
16. Hedge and tree planting
17. Bulk purchase of solar PV
18. **Guided bus stop** to enable access to adequate public transport and **reduce car usage**
19. Tool **sharing** facility eg ladders, lawnmowers, drills, etc. This would allow villagers to borrow items needed only once or twice, and therefore be able to spend their money on everyday costs rather than on infrequently used expensive items.
- 20. Car sharing**
21. **Better, more frequent, public transport links to Cambridge.** Either via links to existing networks, eg busway or as part of a regular route.
22. Dietary advice to encourage less meat consumption, whilst keeping healthy protein intake. **Lobbying to get request bus stop on bus way.** More wild verges, and encouraging people to have wilder gardens.

23. Recycling scheme - not everyone can get to the recycling centre etc. Northstowe had a day where people could bring items to a centralised location for recycling. Also, somewhere we can recycle tetrapaks, plastics (those not suitable for blue bin) etc.
24. **A regular bus route** from the village
25. Education - value of recycling and how to recycle. What happens to our blue bin contents- does SCDC _actually_ recycle them? What is the impact if some households throw in dirty rubbish? What can be recycled and what can't? Do different materials need to be separated? Can we get feedback on the usability of Rampton's rubbish collection and could we make improvement a community effort?
26. **Usable public transport to reduce car use**
27. Extend footpath to end of village in the Willingham direction. Village warden and neighbourhood watch to check on vulnerable elderly (70 people in Rampton over 70 in 2021 census). 20mph speed limit through village.

Section 3 - Protecting nature and the environment, 11 responses

21. Please add anything else you think the village should focus on in the below text box:

1. Don't want to ban fire pits because we like those but only smelly bonfires
2. I think it's important to distinguish between bonfire and fire pit. We do occasionally burn a fire pit at the back of the garden but we use dry seasoned fuel and aim to minimise smoke, whereas bonfires burn wet wood and garden waste and are very smelly. I would hate to end up banning social activities like fire pits and barbecues in an over zealous attack on bonfires. I just want to be able to hang my laundry out! The biggest problem around here is a farm that burns all sorts - I saw them burning sofas and furniture, and plastic - rather than garden bonfires. I think limited numbers of garden bonfires are perfectly fine but maybe limited days like can only burn W-F or something - leave the weekends free for garden entertaining and at least some days for laundry!
3. Village Hall solar panels
4. If a way exists to persuade people to not heat their homes with solid fuels exists this should be promoted especially considering the favourable economic position many home owners in the village appear to be in, it seems very selfish of them to continue this unnecessary practice.

Appendix 1

5. Banning bonfires would go hand in hand with village compost facility for garden waste
6. Turn off street lights between midnight and dawn. They not only are a huge waste of electricity but also pollute the night sky. Also disorienting for wildlife -I have heard birds singing at night down the end of King St near the street lights. The 'safety' argument to have street lights on all night is nonsense. If turned off the electric cost saved could be credited back to the village, whether home owners or facilities. Educate villages to where the Rampton parish geographical boundaries are. This may help individuals in developing ideas and engender sense of ownership/belonging.
7. I'm not a big fan of banning much. I feel it's better to educate and inform to change behaviours. With respect to the question on bonfires. This could be interpreted as banning bonfires of garden waste / organic material which although I don't do much of, I would not wish to ban it. Burning some domestic waste is not legal, but some is legal e.g. a wooden chair, organic material. Burning most commercial waste is not legal anyway.
8. I'm not against bonfires for garden waste. The question is a bit confusing.
9. Collection of large domestic rubbish twice a year. Cameras installed for fly tipping
10. Hedge and tree planting on Cow Lane out on the Fen
11. Bonfires burning plastic and other non-garden waste are a fairly regular occurrence at the end of King Street and other areas in the village creating noxious fumes which pollute the environment and are a real nuisance as well as a health hazard. Household waste should be disposed of at recycling centres while business waste should be collected by registered waste carriers.

Section 4 - Lifestyle changes working towards Zero Waste, 9 responses

31. Please add any other changes you intend/would like to make and whether you would like any help or more information in order to make those changes, in the below text box:

1. No space for garden composting. Bath for young child at home
2. I'm 9 I don't know
3. Moving to wood burning for home heating. Need to have more practical info on commercial wood fuel suppliers and ideas where to source 'freebie' and otherwise wasted wood.
4. Buying ethically produced and sustainable products
5. Taking less flights
6. Install battery storage system to improve self consumption of solar pv
7. reducing electricity usage ie air conditioning ,tumble driers etc
8. Although I'm doing my best to do all of these things I feel I could do more if better informed.
9. Encourage use of water butts

Summary of Post-It Activity Feedback from the Tuesday Tea Club, 6 February 2024

Activity: Help us focus on what we can do to help people in our community live more sustainably

- Yellow post-it: Write down 3 things **individuals** could do
- Pink post-it: Write down 3 things the **village as a community** could / should do

Individuals could:

Action	Count	Activity	Comments
Refuse	5	Toxic cleaning products	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pay attention to what is in what we buy; 2. Change my washing powder; 3. Use permacarbonate for cleaning; 4. Use non fairy liquid for washing up; 5. Use products with care, seek alternatives that doesn't damage the environment.
Reduce	4	Driving	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Travel with thought, one journey to do much; 2. Drive less, car share; 3. Drive less, walk more; 4. Drive less, use bus.
	4	Energy consumption	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reduce energy consumption by 1% 2. Dry clothes outside; 3. Get solar for house; 4. Burn wood, not oil.
	1	Water usage	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Shower less, wear clothes longer
	1	Plastic packaging	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Buy more items with less plastic packaging
	1	Food	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Eat less rubbish & try ?
Reuse	2	Refillable containers	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Use refillable bottles, i.e. empty washing up liquid bottles using own plastic bottles 2. Try to reuse not throw away
Repair	0		
Recycle	3	Recycle Information Composting	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Recycle 2. Need to find out about recycling 3. Compost

All of the above comments focus on reducing the impact on the environment.

Village could / should

Theme	Count	Comments
Nature / biodiversity	6	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tree planting; 2. Tree planting on available common / council land; 3. Replace trees that are damaged by the weather; 4. Provide safe crossings for animals; 5. Holes in fences for hedgehogs; 6. Grow plants in garden bees like.
Environment	4	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Slow traffic, less pollution, less from tyres and fuel; 2. Make sure the drains are cleaned regularly; 3. Litter pick safely; 4. Land fill*
Composting	3	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Community compost; 2. Community compost for garden waste; 3. Village composter
Eco-products	3	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Buying eco-friendly products in bulk to share in community; 2. Do leaflet drop with some information like alternative to bleach; 3. Circulate information on what to use and how to use alternatives.
Communication / Information sharing	3	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Introduce a newsheet; 2. Have interactive get togethers to share information; 3. Communication*
Events	1	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A community event bringing things to swap / sell that we no longer use; (Using above monies for charity or local good cause)
Transport	1	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bus to village

*these comments were on the same post-it without any indication of what the author thought the community could / should do.