



# Yealmpton village survey 2022

## Results



1099 forms (one per household) were distributed with the April Yealmpton Press. The closing date for return was 14 May. 253 completed forms have been received which is a response rate of 23%. Unsolicited survey response rate is rarely more than 20%. When reading the results of this survey, be aware that there is a difference between the number of households responding (253) and the number of people responding (377), so we have to be careful about comparing the two. Many people gave their views on a selection of questions and left others blank.

### Public Footpaths

There has been an increase in use of our Public Right of Ways (PROWs) around our parish over the last two years. A list of walks is on the Parish Council website. We have a team of volunteers who have each agreed to adopt a footpath.

#### Summary of comments received on Public Footpaths

Of the 253 completed questionnaires, 112 had written comments relating their profound appreciation of the public footpaths around Yealmpton, especially during lockdown. 24 new people volunteered to become ‘adopters’ to help maintain our footpaths. No other topic in the survey had this level of consensus or comments on the importance for their quality of life and ability to stay active, perhaps summarised by one of the many positive comments:

“These are what makes Yealmpton so special and are much appreciated”

Several people with mobility issues did comment on how much they miss being able to walk the paths. Others said how much they miss being able to walk the footpath along the river to the Toll House due to recent fencing by the landowner. In summary, comments were:

Positive comments and thanks	112
Maintenance issues	11
Dog mess/bad behaviour	7
Footpath along the river (loss of access)	10
Disability access	12

“Well maintained and a pleasure to use”

“I appreciate the work of the volunteers very much”

### Traffic and roads

We knew that the volume and speed of traffic was the overriding concern for people living in Yealmpton, and so we asked which parts of the village they find particularly dangerous due to traffic. Of the 253 completed forms, **162** gave us *additional written details* on this. The places giving the most concern are the points of entry to the village and along the A379 through the village:

Danger due to speeding traffic	
Traffic entering from Newton Ferrers	24
Ford Road, especially at 'the narrows' and junction with Ploughman Way Priority at the narrows suggested	43
Junction of New Road and Ford Road by the Borough dangerous for both pedestrians and vehicles	16
Torr Hill and Torr Bridge	16
Along the A379 in general	28
A379 Stray Park junction	12
A379 Yealmbury Hill junction	15
A379 Yealm Park junction	5
A379 Bowden Hill junction	4
A379 GP car park junction	2
A379 Between Farm shop and Stray Park	16
A379 Underhay, Speculation to Yealmbury Hill	39
Yealmbury Hill to garage, especially junction Elm Tree Park	18
A379 Speed from east end of village to Yeo and Yealmbridge - plus request to measure this and reducing speed limit	7
Yealmbury Hill dangerous	8
Bowden Hill dangerous	4
A379 Stray Park by school dangerous	4
<b>Total comments with detail on danger due to speeding traffic (all above)</b>	<b>261</b>
Parking considered a danger	
On A379 in the village	26
On New Road	33
On Torr Hill	3
Within Kitley Place estate	4
Three people suggested that we need <b>more parking</b> within the village.	

Elsewhere in the parish, roads considered dangerous include	
Crossing road at Two Crosses	5
Puslinch Bridge	2
Road to Smithleigh	2
Worston	1 (much increased traffic)

“The increased number of large heavy lorries that thunder through the village and nearby roads.’

We already have a system for monitoring excessive speeds (Speedwatch) and nine more people have volunteered to train for this. However, additional measures to reduce speed appear to be necessary.

### **20mph speed limit**

Yealmpton has applied to Devon County Council to be included in their trial for 20mph speed limits within smaller communities. We did receive comments suggesting that we need better information on how effective a 20mph limit would be before making a decision. We asked everyone for their views on the following,

If a 20mph limit were to be introduced:	% of 377 responding			
	Agree	disagree	unsure	Not stated
- drivers would not observe 20mph limit	47	24	24	5
- it would reduce risk of traffic accidents	74	10	13	3
- more people walking or cycling would mean fewer vehicles on the roads	48	22	24	6

Views on the introduction of a 20mph limit	% of 377 responding		
	Yes	No	Not stated
- would a 20mph speed limit make the village a more pleasant place to live and reduce pollution?	80	16	4
- would you support a 20mph speed limit in the area in which you live?	79	14	7

26 people added written comments regarding a 20mph speed limit. Eight suggested that a 20mph limit would help, but **enforcement** of existing 30mph speed limit would be welcomed. A few people suggested a 20mph limit

- for the whole village
- only on the main A379
- only on side roads
- only on Ford Road
- in Stray Park at school drop off/pick up times
- not at all.

### **Road repair**

Significant concern was expressed about potholes and the poor state of roads surfaces on the A379 and in Yealm Park. Several people commented that road signs need to be cleaned.

## Active travel

It is government and county policy to encourage active travel (walking or cycling) for everyone including those with a disability and young people age 12 and over, for everyday journeys.

### Walking

61 people responding to the survey said that they had **limited mobility**. If the responders are representative of the whole population of Yealmpton, that would suggest that there may be 270 people with limited mobility in the parish. Several people with mobility issues commented on how much they miss being able to walk our Public Footpaths.

We asked whether people were concerned about:	% of 377 people responding			
	Yes	No	Unsure	Not stated
Vehicles parking on pavements	58	29	6	7
Safety of pedestrians crossing roads	69	24	2	5
Safety walking to the shops, school	59	31	3	7
And whether a 20mph speed limit would be safer for pedestrians and cyclists:	81	9	7	3
plus whether a 20mph limit would encourage walking	41	32	22	5

In order to identify **where** the main problems are for pedestrians, we asked whether there are pavements in the village that are too narrow.

Places where pavements are considered difficult or dangerous	Number of comments
A379 garage to Yeo Park/Yealmbridge/Dunstone	34
A379 Underhay, Speculation, Fore St north side	22
A379 opposite shops and med centre (north side)	20
A379 Bens Farm shop to Silverbridge Way entrance	14
B3186 Ford Road narrows	13

In addition people told us about places where it is particularly dangerous to cross our roads:	Number of comments
The junction of New Road, Torr Hill and Ford Road near The Borough	17
From Elm Tree Park to garage across A379	12
From garage to New Road (no paving)	11
At Two Crosses	7

“I have seen traffic go on the pavement while pedestrians are walking on it to avoid traffic coming from the Modbury direction. It was so dangerous.”

“Parts are not wide enough for a pram!”

A new danger identified is the increasing number of electric scooters ridden by young people on our pavements.



It seems likely that the pavements on the A379 were adequate when built, but are now so narrow as to be dangerous for pedestrians with the volume of traffic and size of commercial vehicles using our roads.

### Cycling

186 cyclists were recorded on the survey forms. If those responding to the survey are representative of all households, there may be more than **800 cyclists** in the parish.

We asked whether people were concerned about the **safety** of cyclists using roads.

65% of people responding (377 people) said yes, they are.

24% said no, they are not

4% were unsure and 7% did not have a view on this.

We asked whether a **20mph** speed limit would be safer for pedestrians and cyclists

81% of people responding (377 people) said yes, it would

9% said no, it would not

7% were unsure and 3% did not have a view on this.

We asked “what actions would you support to reduce CO <sub>2</sub> emissions and encourage more exercise?”	% of 377 people responding			
	Yes	No	Unsure	Not stated
an improvement to public transport	88	8		4
traffic free path for active travellers linking Yealmpton to Plymouth	68	12	15	5
subsidies to landowners who permit traffic free routes on their land	55	16	16	13

Comments on other means of encouraging more exercise:	
We need safe cycle and walking routes Yealmpton to Brixton, Plymouth, Lee Mill and Ivybridge and Newton and Noss	12
Cycling is too dangerous on roads	12
Support for estuary route opening for cyclists	9
Make access to Silverbridge way safer for walkers	3
Road surfaces too bad for cycling	3

“The biggest difference for us would be a cycle path into Plymouth or/and better public transport. I cant get home after work if I use the bus”

“Last bus is 6.20 which is not adequate”

“Better cycle route from Yealmpton to Plymouth is crucial. Current route between Yealmpton and Elburton is a joke”

“Silverbridge Way is impassable to most road bikes. An alternative must be found (paving this properly and regular maintenance would help, but this is still not enough)”

“There is an increased number of large heavy lorries that thunder through the village and nearby roads”

“A379 too many inconsiderate cyclists causing danger and holdups – a cycle route would be excellent and safer for all”

## Climate change

Yealmpton Parish Council is committed to protecting the environment and the natural heritage of the Parish, whilst recognising the need for sustainable development and the provision of high quality public amenities and services. We believe that this can only be achieved by working in conjunction with parishioners, local businesses, landowners, community groups and The Yealm Climate Emergency and Environment Action Alliance (The Five Parish Alliance).

We asked whether people would support ways to reduce reliance on fossil fuels through:	% of 377 people responding			
	Yes	No	Unsure	Not stated
An improvement to public transport	88	8		4
A public charging point for electric cars	72	20		8
Car sharing/car clubs	54	28		18
Greater increase in price of fuel	10	82		8
Traffic free path for active travellers linking Yealmpton to Plymouth	68	12	15	5

While reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions due to transport is important, there are **other ways** we could, as a community, consider additional ways to respond to this.

We asked whether people would support:	% of 377 people responding			
	Yes	No	Unsure	Not stated
Educational events on nature and CO <sub>2</sub> emissions	71	7	15	7
An information day on ground and air source heat pumps	58	21	14	7

Most suggestions for ways to minimise climate change related to public transport and carbon neutral heating systems:

“Not sure of value of information days until the government is clear about implementation/funding of non fossil fuel gas heating”

“Reduce public transport fares and improve cycle path route to Plymouth to reduce commuter car use”

“Information to house owners around managing lighting and other energy uses”

## Biodiversity

We explained that last year (2021) the Parish Council agreed to allow the grass on some verges to be cut less frequently in the interest of wildlife and biodiversity. In the survey we asked for views on this before the 2022 cutting season.

We asked for views on biodiversity	% of 377 People responding			
	Yes	No	Unsure	Not stated
planting more trees in the parish	86	3	8	3
reducing the mowing frequency of some grass verges in order to provide a habitat for wildlife and pollination plants	66	21	11	2
planting more ornamental pollinator-friendly plants and wildflowers	86	3	7	4
providing bird/bat boxes	81	6	8	5
encouraging hedgehog runs by making a small hole in garden fences	80	7	8	4
Would you support BeeWild or the Environment Group by volunteering your time?	27	44	17	12

A variety of views were expressed in comments on biodiversity in Yealmpton. In summary:

- Seven were fully supportive of reduced mowing frequency for some verges
- Nine were not supportive of reduced mowing frequency for some verges
- Five believe that rewilding measures within the village are not necessary
- Two expressed concern about impairment of visual splay if grass is left uncut for too long
- Three people expressed a wish for more consultation on rewilding in advance.

‘Reducing mowing frequency of grass verges is SO important”

“I prefer to see the village looking tidy”

There was support for provision of bird and bat boxes and other measures to safeguard the bat environment.

“I would attach a bird box to my house”

“Consider reducing lighting where bats are known to live”

Five people suggested that we start a community orchard and six that more trees should be planted in the village.

## Sport

We already have a fair range of sport facilities in the village: the athletics ground, a bowls club, a rifle club, a multi-use games area and an annual village sports day.

We asked for views about the athletics ground	% of 377 People responding			
	Yes	No	Maybe	Not stated
Do you currently use the athletics ground for sport or recreation?	17	75	4	4
Were you aware that you could rent the pavilion? for events such as a birthday party?	22	65	2	11
<b>Would you give some time to help at the athletics ground with:</b>				
Hedge trimming	2	78	1	19
Grass cutting	2	79	1	18
Assistance on match days	1	79	1	19
Assistance with sports days / events	3	76	3	18
Committee work	1	79	1	19
Fund raising	3	75	3	19

There are no paid staff involved with running the athletics ground. Three people have offered to help.

### **Multi-use games area**

We explained:

- YCA, with the school, manages the multi-use games area (MUGA)
- the Multi-use Games Area (MUGA) is within the Primary School grounds
- it can be booked for a small fee through the Community Association (YCA) for tennis, netball and five a side football.

We asked for suggestions as to how we could make the MUGA more user friendly:	Number of responses
change the booking system	11
Start regular teams/clubs for specific sports	5
Install floodlights	5
Provide a tennis court (it does!)	5
Less restriction on times available	5
Make it free to use	4

Other comments suggest that there are some maintenance issues, and that mixed use (football, tennis, badminton) does not work for everyone.

### **Other sports**

We asked whether there are any other sports or events that would interest you?

Eight people mentioned tennis, for which a court is already available (MUGA). There were 21 other sports suggested, none of which had more than one vote. It would seem that while people in Yealmpton would like a wider range of sport facilities to be provided, they would prefer them to be free and few are enthusiastic about offering support as volunteers.

### **Activities for young people**

On the survey form we explained that provision of services for young people was outside the Parish Council's direct area of influence. Historically, youth clubs have met in Yealmpton in various sites including the athletic field (old club house and current pavilion), Methodist Church and the lower Parish Room. In the absence of local authority funding, these groups have been run by volunteers in the past.

For a Youth Club to begin again there would need to be adult volunteers to provide support for the running of such a club. Youth clubs provide a safe social space, away from home and school environments, where young people can relax, engage, enjoy themselves and grow. Most offer activities (sport, craft), accompanied trips and some training (e.g. safe practice when babysitting). We asked whether anyone would be interested in assisting in the running of a youth club and three people have come forward. Ten more people said that they think it is important that young people have a youth club in the village. One suggested that the Parish Council contribute to paying for a youth worker and two suggested efforts to offer transport to youth facilities in neighbouring areas.

“The vast majority of young people who live in the village are lovely,  
polite, considerate and caring.”

### **Yealmpton Community Association**

The Association (YCA) was formed in 1985 to build, maintain and manage the Community Centre in Stray Park. The YCA committee now acts as host for smaller projects of benefit to the people of Yealmpton including Yealmpton Press, Men's Shed, Bee Wild, the Parish Room, multi-use games area (MUGA) and the Community Friendship Project.

We asked for comments to help plan for the future.

<b>New projects suggested were:</b>	
- Provision of concerts/musical events	10
- Start a film club	8
- Set up a youth group/ provide events for young people	7
- YCA much appreciated	5
<b>Request for YCA to set up</b>	
- new sporting facilities and clubs	12 (9 different sports mentioned)
- a variety of new activities for smaller children	7
- various classes to keep fit	4
- events (carnival, defib training)	6

- biodiversity activities	3
- additional DIY activities	5
- art and craft club	3
- lunch/bingo for older people	3

There were also individual requests for YCA to set up a food bank collection point, a Scout group, a village WhatsApp group for news and events, a women's group, a French conversation group, a First Aid course, a village quiz team, ballroom dancing and to resurface the boules court in Bakery Square.

In contrast to this list of requests for YCA action, there were only two volunteers offered to help with running YCA. This will limit the ability to respond.

We asked whether people would be willing to pay an annual subscription to the YCA to increase its scope to provide additional village activities.

61 said yes

27 said no

26 said maybe.

## Housing

The average house price in South Hams in 2020 was 11.7 times average annual earnings, which is higher than in most parts of UK, so we asked:

	No	Yes
Is there a member of your household who cannot find affordable housing?	215	25

If responders are representative of the whole of Yealmpton, there may be more than 100 people who cannot find affordable housing at present and more people may have already been forced to move elsewhere.

	Rented	Owned	Other
Is your home:	13	228	2

Many people had strong views on housing issues:

Opposed to second homes	28
Support more building of affordable housing	25
Opposed to more house building	13
Allocation of affordable housing for local people	11
Concern about insufficient infrastructure	6
Quality/location of any development	5
More housing suitable for elderly	5

Opposed to Collaton development	5
Ban building on greenfield sites	3
Air B&B/holiday lets a problem	3
More affordable long term rental	2
Support Collaton development	1

## Yealm water quality and sewage treatment

The quality of the water in the River Yealm is sometimes a threat to wildlife and poor for swimming. Working with the Westcountry Rivers Trust, The Yealm Estuary to Moor project is setting up a monitoring system so that we have more detailed information on the sources of pollution (field runoff, animal slurry, sewage outfall). We asked whether people would you like to be trained as a volunteer **citizen scientist** later in 2022 and 45 more people came forward to volunteer and are in the process of being approved as citizen scientists.

“Is the sewage system fit for purpose with increased building in the village”

“Stop SWW dumping sewage into the Yealm on a frequent and regular basis”

## Police

Whilst policing is outside the Parish Council’s direct area of influence, we asked whether people had specific concerns. There were no positive comments in this section. In fact there were relatively few comments, and many of those included expressions of anger. It may be that many local people now have very low expectations of policing in Yealmpton.

The main subjects of concern were	Number of comments
- No Police presence in the village	14
- Antisocial behaviour by young people in the village centre, Stray Park, the Athletics Field and Fore Street	14
- Speeding vehicles and no Police action	9
- Scooters and motor bikes (not on the road)	5
- Presence of drug dealers Torr Hill, bus stop and Bakery Square	2
- Littering, vandalism and fly tipping	5
- Impossibility of contacting the Police/no named officer	3
- Police not attending reported crimes	2

“Cannot remember seeing a Police presence in the village”

“Visible Police would deter anti-social behaviour”

## Parish Council communications

On the survey form we asked which methods of communication used by the Parish Council, people found useful.

Views on communication by Yealmpton Parish Council	% of 377 People responding		
	Useful	Not useful	Not stated
The Yealmpton Press	96	1	3
Monthly meetings	66	17	17
Parish Council website	67	15	18
Parish Council Facebook page	55	26	19
Noticeboards	67	18	15

There were many comments in this section of the survey thanking the Parish Councillors for their work:

“I massively appreciate the hard work put in!”

“The Ukraine crisis made me think about how we as a village would co-ordinate ourselves.  
The Council did a fantastic job during Covid. Thankyou”

“Yealmpton village is a lovely place to live  
– congratulations to the hard working members of the Parish Council”

Thanks to all those who helped to design questions for the survey, who stuffed the envelopes, delivered the survey with the Yealmpton Press, acted as collection points (Nelli’s, Luscombe Maye, YCA) and spent hours entering data – Cllrs Barton, Endicott and Durman.

### What next?

The results will be debated by the Parish Council and action taken where we are able. This will be reported in the minutes of the monthly council meetings (on our website and a summary in Yealmpton Press). We would also welcome your comments: [linda.durman@yealmpton-pc.gov.uk](mailto:linda.durman@yealmpton-pc.gov.uk) 01752 81070