



MARTOCK COMMUNITY PLAN 2024



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Introduction

The views of parishioners from this community survey will provide the evidence for two separate plans:

1. The Martock Community Plan prioritises the improvement of public facilities and services provided in Martock over the next 5 years. It builds on the current Martock Community Plan which was created from the previous residents' survey in 2017.
2. The Martock Neighbourhood Plan is a plan for how future housing development and infrastructure for the village should be planned. A refresh of the current plan, together with the Somerset Council Local Plan, will guide the direction and type of development allowed under planning law.

The survey aims to:

- Establish what Parishioners value most about living in Martock Parish, their level of happiness and the main issues which have affected their quality of life
- Establish the importance of current Parish facilities and what may be needed in the long term to meet the changing needs of the community
- Explore whether any additional help or access to services and information could be provided, particularly for those parishioners who feel lonely or isolated
- Explore a range of other issues from footpaths and cycleways, housing, travel and transport, environment, access to amenities, and employment.

Research was conducted between 1st and 21st September 2024. An article about the online and paper version survey was delivered to all households in the September Pinnacle community magazine, it was also promoted through leaflets and posters, social media and the library window. In addition, community volunteers also attended the Farmers' Market to complete questionnaires with visitors who had not already completed a survey. Paper versions of the survey were available to fill in in the library. In total 399 valid responses were received giving an almost 10% response rate.



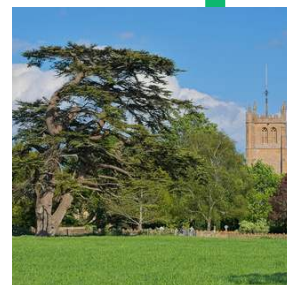
Key Findings

The results have now been analysed and a summary of the main findings follows:



About You

The majority of respondents live in Martock Parish. Nearly two in three respondents have lived in the Parish for more than 11 years. Less than a quarter have moved to the community since 2021, during or since the Covid 19 pandemic. The smallest group of respondents are those newest to the Parish. The sizeable majority are aged between 18 – 65 years old with around one in three aged over 65.



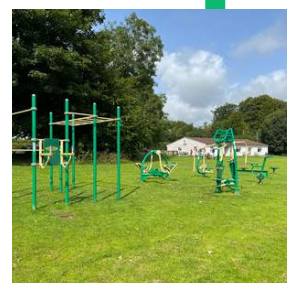
Your Parish

More than 3 out of 4 respondents value Martock's proximity to the countryside as most important to them, followed closely by local facilities, and then local history/heritage and community life. The majority of respondents are concerned with the traffic in Martock, and we see this issue arise again across other topics including Housing and Climate Emergency. Other primary concerns include health access, new development, dog fouling and crime and anti-social behaviour.



Investing in Martock

Nearly two in three respondents think that Youth Clubs and support for young people are most important for Parish Council investment. Support for older residents is fairly closely aligned, and the sizeable majority also feel there should be community support for families and vulnerable people. The survey asked *What facilities should be considered for future investment by Martock Parish Council*: facilities for young people once again attracted the largest response, closely followed by improved footpaths and bridleways. A strong theme in the "other" comments is around improving access around the parish, which is also raised in other key topics including Traffic, Travel & Transport and Local Environment.





Communication

Nearly three times as many respondents feel less positive about communications (not at all informed or not very well informed) than those who feel very well informed or extremely well informed, suggesting there is some work to be done around improving communication and promotion around activities and events. The Pinnacle is the most popular choice for the Parish Council to communicate, followed by Facebook. A regular e-newsletter is also a popular response alongside maintaining other non-digital options.



Community Facilities & Services

Footpaths and bridleways appear twice as popular than the Parish Hall in terms of use of community facilities, perhaps suggesting that people like to get out and about. The Recreation Ground and Library are also notable in their high use. "Other" comments highlighted usage of the scout hut, shops and church.

Name one new facility or resource you would use if it were available in Martock? Various sports facilities were mentioned, including a swimming pool, 3G pitch, improved pavilion facilities, pétanque, outdoor table tennis table, outdoor gym equipment and yoga. Supermarket/food shops are also a shared concern, with comments calling for better food shops in the Parish, as well as affordable greengrocer and allotments. There are calls for a community hub/parish hall fit for modern purpose with adequate parking, improved changing facilities, home working hub, community shop and information centre. Traffic, Travel and Transport issues are raised here as well, with comments around needing better bus services, new zebra crossing (the other end of North Street), and cycle paths.



Over half of respondents say that better knowledge of activities/events would help them take part in more activities – a finding we also see earlier in Communications. In terms of new community events, the most popular response is to introduce a Village Fete in Martock, similarly popular are a beer/cider/local produce market/festival and street fair.





Housing

66 people (just 16.5%) indicated that their current housing is not suitable. Of those, more than 1 in 4 respondents say their home is too small. Other factors in unsuitable housing are living with parents/in someone else's home and renting when they would like to buy. Respondents to this question indicate the greatest need is for affordable housing for local people unable to buy or afford market rents, followed by 2 bedrooms starter homes. More than 1 in 4 respondents do not think any more housing is needed.

A large majority feel that future developments will put pressure on health services. A similar proportion fear the impact on traffic congestion – as we have seen earlier in the findings. The majority are also concerned with the loss of green space and pressure on school places.



Climate Emergency

The Climate and Nature Emergency is very important or extremely important to the majority of respondents. Only 22 say it is not at all important to them. Nearly half of respondents say that improved public transport would help them reduce their personal carbon footprint. This chimes with findings in Community Facilities & Services where better transport links were a recurring theme in comments around new resources/facilities. A repair café and safer cycling routes across the Parish (as before) are also important here.

When asked how to improve biodiversity and wildlife conservation, tree planting is the most popular choice followed by garden event days and setting up a Martock conservation group. The large majority place high important on protecting wildlife and access to it.





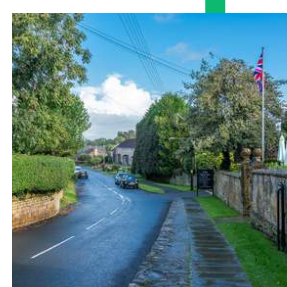
Local Environment

Dog fouling is the highest concern here followed by flooding, water pollution, litter and fly tipping. Emerging themes in the comments include the problem of dog fouling and litter particularly on the Rec, and fly tipping at Foldhill Lane. The issues around improving access seen earlier in the survey (Investing in Martock) are repeated in many of the comments again here.



Traffic, Travel & Transport

The top 4 concerns around Traffic are very closely aligned: road condition, followed by speed of traffic, volume of traffic and parked cars. Improving access for wheelchair users, mobility scooters and buggies is another concern (as seen earlier in Investing in Martock, Community Facilities and Climate Emergency) and traffic around school pick up/drop off times.



While a large number of respondents to this question do not feel that improved public transport will help them access any services, the small majority do feel improvements would help them and particularly help them access GP/Hospital services. Only 4 respondents to this question already use the Slinky Community Transport, and other respondents are equally split in their awareness of the service.

For those with an opinion, most think the best way to address traffic problems is to increase parking restrictions, followed by improved pavements, traffic calming schemes and improved footpaths (as before).



Young People & Children

The outstanding majority of respondents use the Stoke Road Rec Ground, followed by Hills Orchard Rec and Bracey Road Rec. Structured club activities appear much less popular, with Scouts and uniform groups and Youth Club. When asked to name one new facility or activity that young people would like to use in Martock, the largest responses are around sports provision, suggesting 3G football and cricket pitch, bigger skatepark, boxing club, BMX track, gymnastics, swimming pool, mini golf, outdoor gym equipment, outdoor table tennis table, paddle ball.



Next Steps

The Steering Group is now developing an action and funding plan based on the issues raised by the community through this work. This will be the focus and priority of the Parish Council over the next couple of years as they oversee the actions which ideally are undertaken by the most appropriate community group or individuals. The Parish Council will review progress against actions on a regular basis and will include an update in its annual report.



Privacy Statement

Analysis is conducted by Community Council for Somerset (CCS). Data is captured for legitimate and contractual purposes. Information is collected and analysed in accordance with Community Council for Somerset's role as a Data Controller and Data Processor.

Data is shared in accordance with the Data Sharing Agreement between CCS and Martock Parish Council.

Martock M3 Community Partnership has entered any paper copies using standard proprietary online survey software. Once entered all paper copies have been destroyed.

Digital copies are retained for 12 months and deleted after this period. Any personal data that is captured is anonymised with the report and held securely for the purposes of analysis.

No data will be published which can identify an individual without their consent. If you have entered your details to take part in the prize draw and you win, your data is shared with Martock M3 Community Partnership.

If you would like to find out more about how we use your data or want to see a copy of information about you that we hold, please contact info@somersetccc.org.uk or call 01823 331222. Protecting your Personal Data is important and we fully comply and adhere to the Principles of Data Protection set out in our Data Protection / Privacy Policy visit: <https://ccslovesomerset.org/data-protection-policy/> and <https://ccslovesomerset.org/privacy/>

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