



ST NICHOLAS WITH BONVILSTON  
COMMUNITY  
SURVEY  
REPORT

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APRIL 2023 PREPARED BY FRANCESCA PRIDDING





Where we are  
**TODAY**

## Introduction

# WE'VE REACHED OUT TO HEAR YOUR VIEWS

St Nicholas with Bonvilston Community Council has engaged the services of the Local Government Resource Centre to help create a community-led plan for the area.

The Council decided that it needed to understand the priorities and aspirations of the local community and allow it to set a clear vision for the next few years with supporting objectives and targets against which progress may be measured. This community engagement exercise will help the Council focus on things that are most important to the community and assess the impact of the decisions it takes and the resources it allocates.

The starting point for the development of a community-led plan is the views, concerns and priorities of local people and it was decided to undertake a comprehensive household survey to gauge opinions on the services provided by the Council, future needs and local priorities for action. A publicity campaign was launched with a social media posts, flyers and posters. And a flyer was delivered to every residential property in the area with an invitation to complete an online survey form. In addition, hard copies of the survey were provided at local collection and drop-off points in the villages and sent out to those who requested a copy.

At the time of this analysis, 103 completed responses had been received by the Council.

This return rate compares favourably with other successful engagement exercises representing a more than 20% response rate for the community. This level of response is extremely encouraging and demonstrates the strength of public feeling. The map here (Fig.1) shows the spread of participation across the villages, they're represented by the blue pins. It is positive to see that the leaflet drop and communications have reached right across the community.

Multiple people from the same household completed the survey and there are places where the postcode is the same for more than one address.

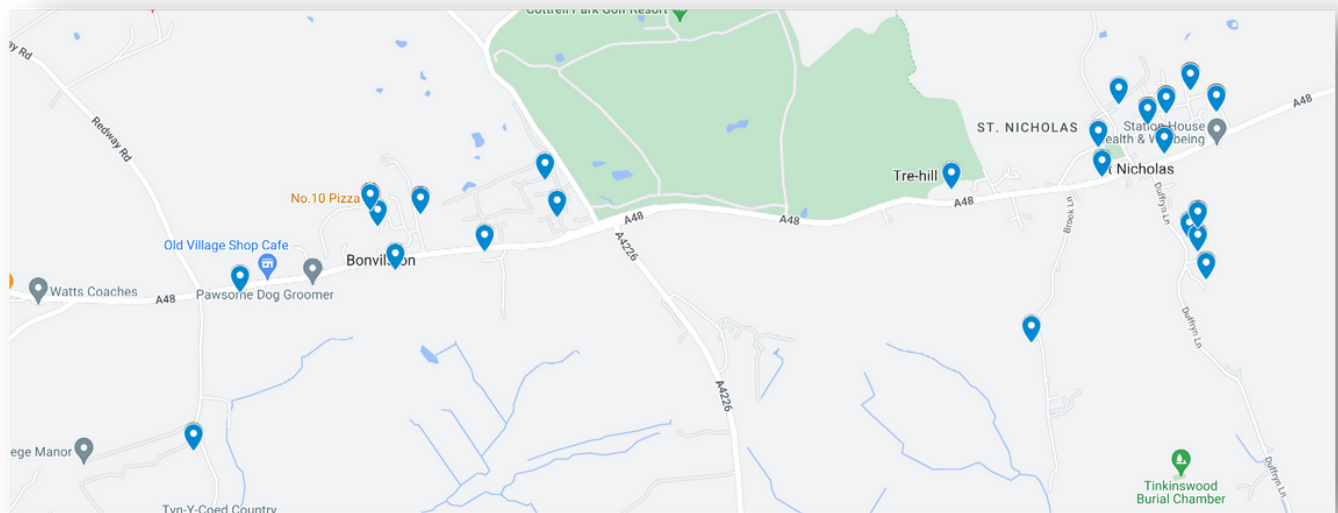


Fig.1 : Distribution of Survey Responses

Fig.2 shows the break down in the age of respondents. The most striking conclusion is that so few young people took part in the survey. This is not completely unexpected, but it does suggest that the Council needs to find new ways of engaging people under the age of 30 – this should be a recommendation arising from this review.

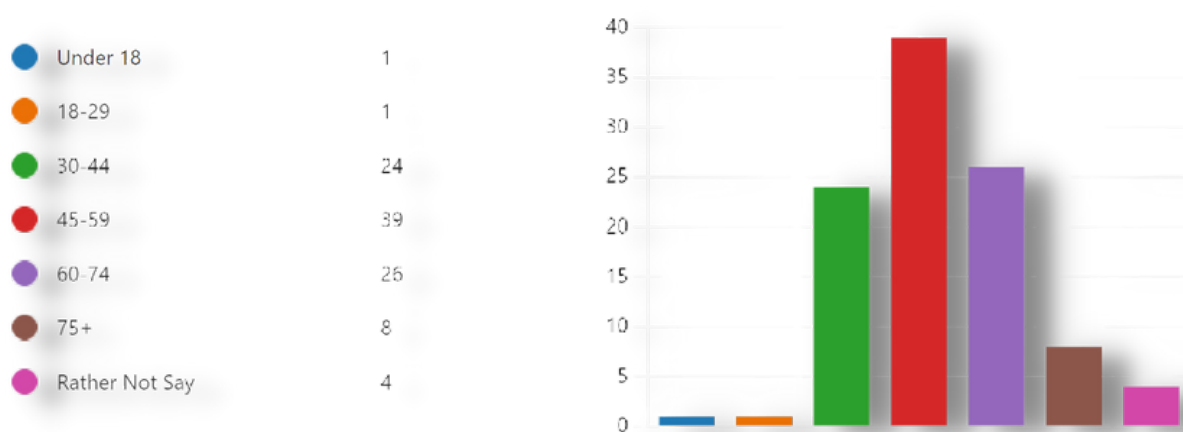


Fig.2 : Age of Respondents

More women than men engaged with the survey which is an interesting outcome, and may require further investigation into the means of engagement preferred by men, it is hoped that during the face-to-face stage of this consultation that men can be further encouraged to contribute. - Fig 3

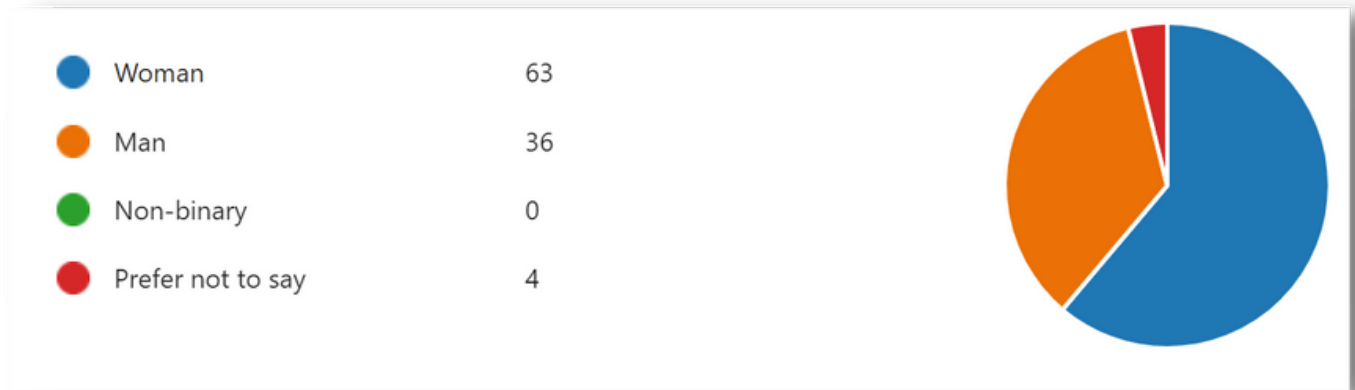


Fig 3 : Gender Split of Respondents

The question regarding length of time of residency is crucial to this survey, it is clear that in recent years many new people have moved to St. Nicholas and Bonvilston with those being resident for 2-5 years making up nearly 50% of the respondents. This would indicate that those newly moved to the area are keen to get involved and have something to say. The next most populous category is that of those residents living in the villages for over 20 years, so we can be sure that the responses come broadly from a place of long-standing local knowledge. Fig. 4

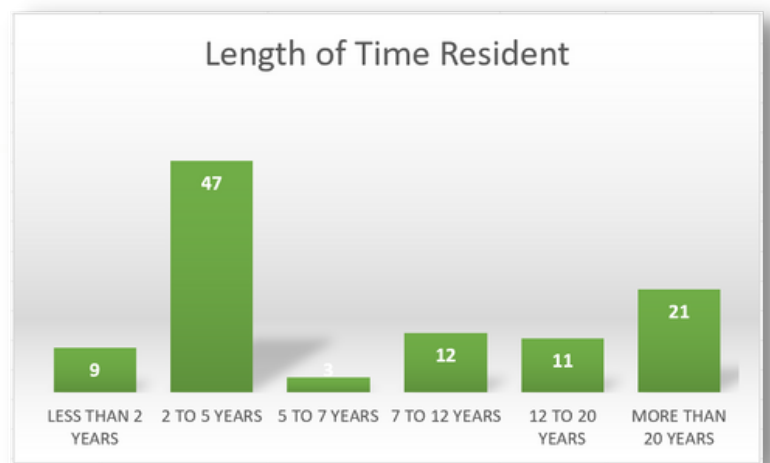


Fig 4 : Length of time resident

Figure 5 shows that the leaflet drop was successful, eliciting more than 65% of the total response, but also demonstrating that engagement via social media was considerable.

The next chart (Fig. 6) shows the first of the key findings of the survey – overall satisfaction with life in St. Nicholas and Bonvilston. It is very encouraging that 65% of respondents are either ‘very satisfied’ or ‘satisfied’ with life in the Villages. Only 13 respondents expressed any dissatisfaction. Quite rightly, the Community Council can be pleased with this result.

The Word Cloud at Fig. 7 succinctly sums up the major concern

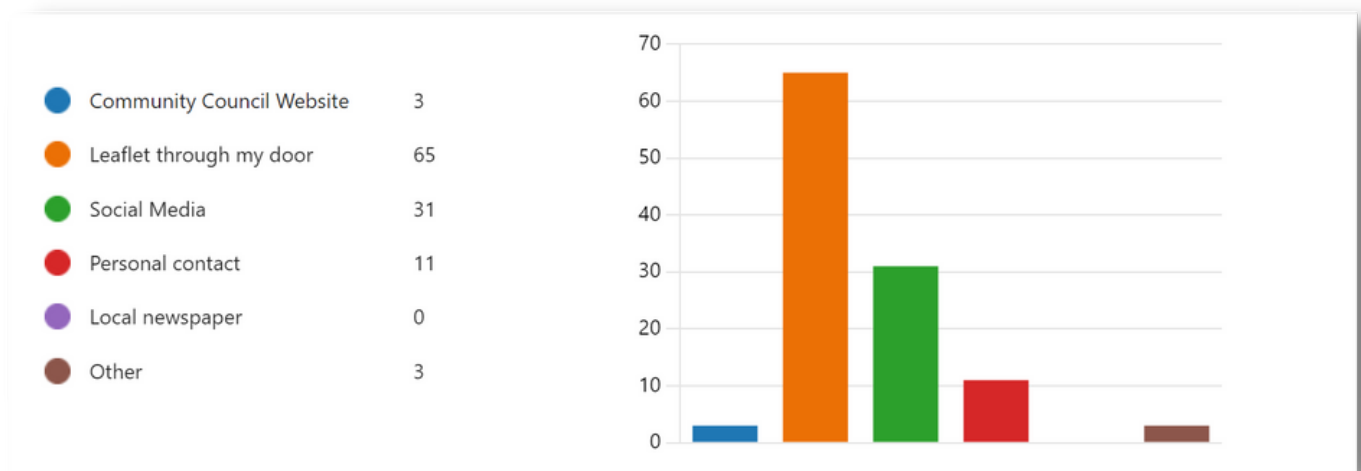


Fig 5: How did you hear?



Fig 6: Satisfaction

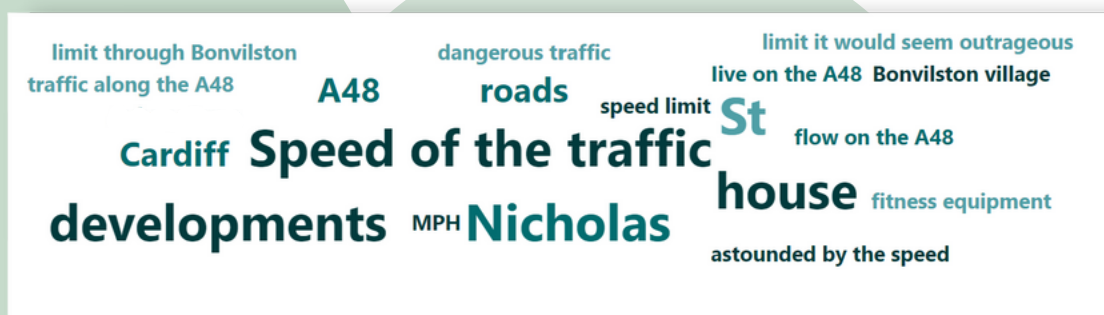


Fig 7: Dissatisfaction Cloud?

# SERVICES



The next section of the survey focused specifically on the services and activities provided by St. Nicholas with Bonvilston Community Council or services over which the Council could exert some influence over those that do provide them. The first (Fig. 8) looks at how important the various services and activities are to local people. There is a correlation in the results between the visibility and use of services and perceived importance – open spaces, grass cutting and litter featuring highly because they are more frequently experienced by the majority of respondents. Conversely, services such as the allotments or the arts, culture and heritage feature lower because they are not currently provided by the Council and as such not a priority.

In order to understand this better, another question was included in the survey which gives a more informative picture. Figure 9 shows how satisfied people are with local services. A service may be very important to a respondent but they may feel dissatisfied with the current level of provision. To enable better comparison, the results for this question include only those who expressed a view – either positive or negative. Overall satisfaction levels are very high across most services. When considered alongside the previous question this gives a valuable insight into where improvements may be needed. For example, activities for young people are important to over 31% of respondents but only 4% are satisfied with the present standard of service – it is clear that respondents would welcome improvements.

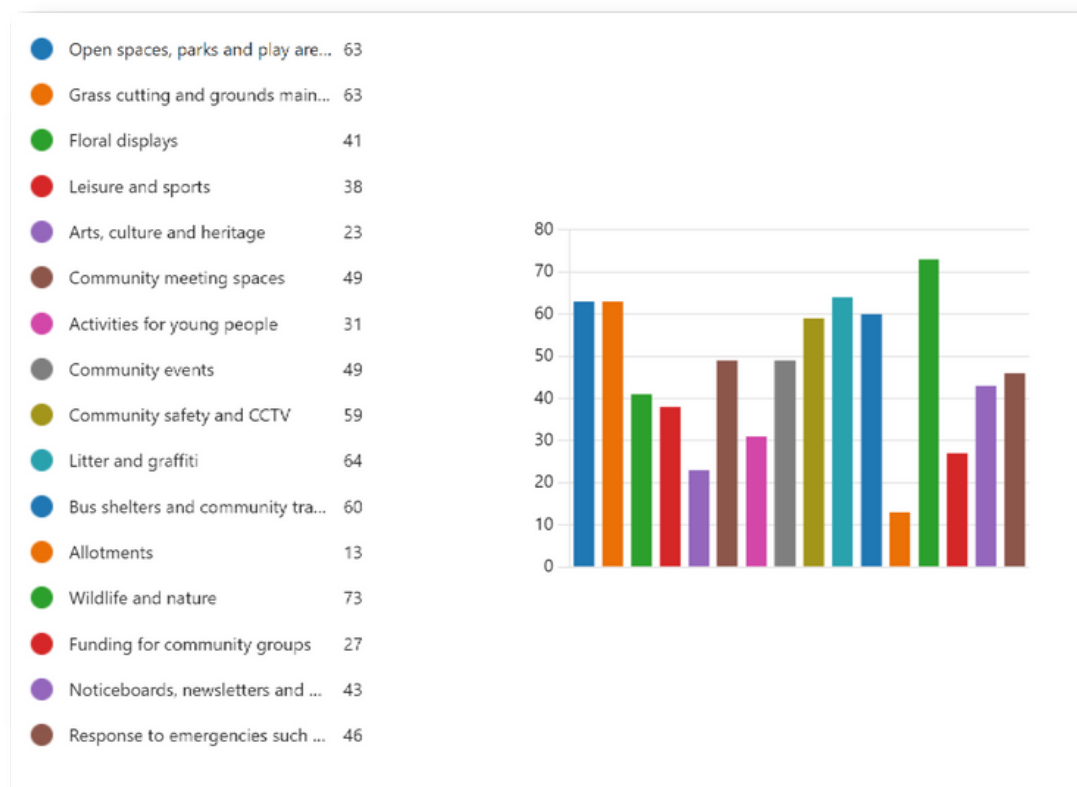


Fig.8 : Most Important

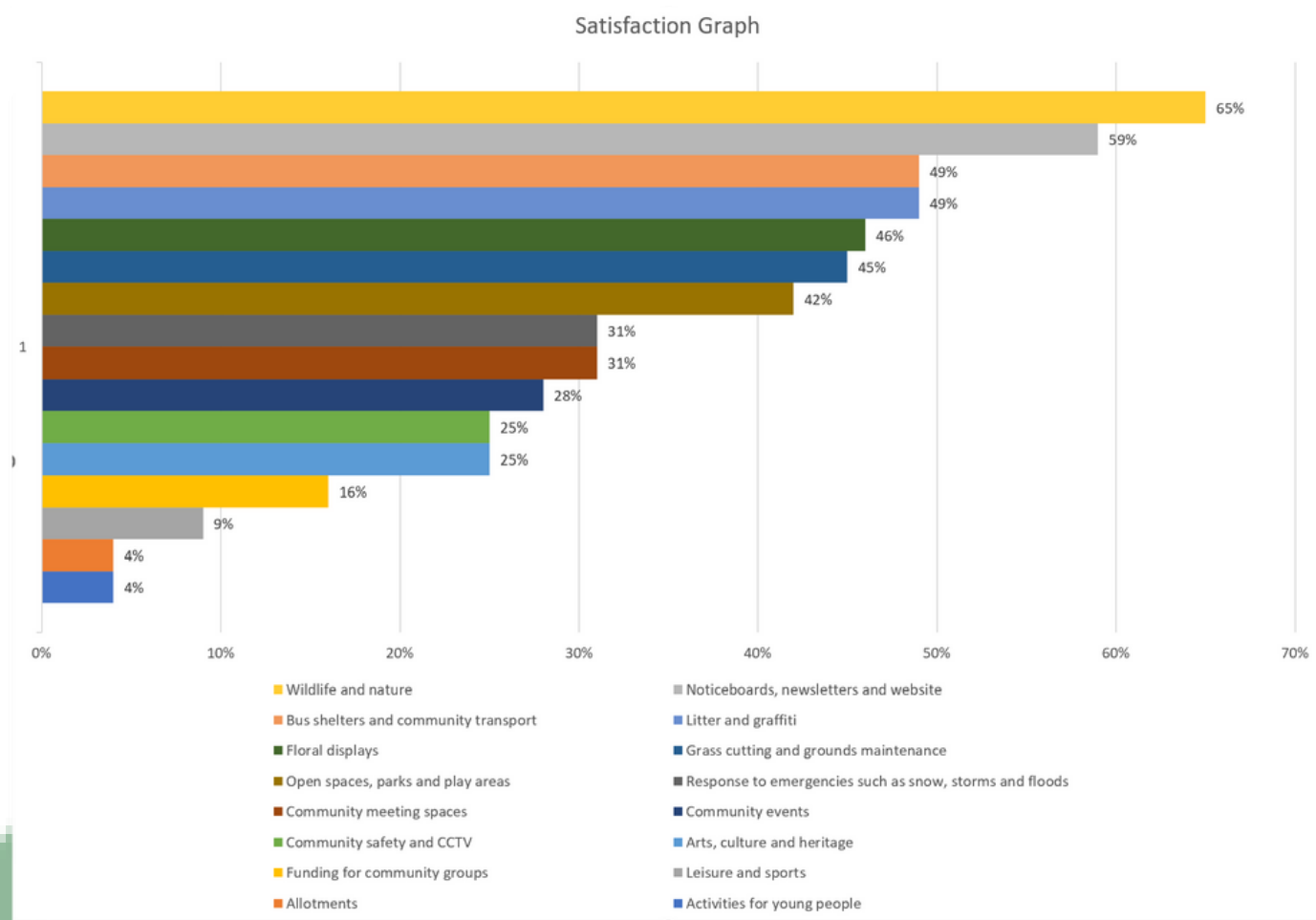


Fig.9 : Satisfaction Graph

Using the results shown in Fig.8 and Fig.9 it is possible to cross tabulate a useful analysis – the inverse correlation between importance and satisfaction. In simple terms, this is where people think something is important but are not happy with things at present. This shows where improvements would be most welcomed by respondents.

The line graph below (Fig.10) plots the Satisfaction Graph in blue and the Most Important Graph in orange and where the points diverge the most, those are the issues that require the most action from the Council

**Other local priorities for action**

The household survey focused mainly on those matters directly under the Community Council’s control – its services and activities. However, St. Nicholas with Bonvilston Community Council has an important part to play in all issues affecting the local community, either as a direct provider, grant funder, champion, partner or lobbyist. For this reason, the survey included a question about issues that are not the sole responsibility of the Council. The results of which can be seen at Fig. 11

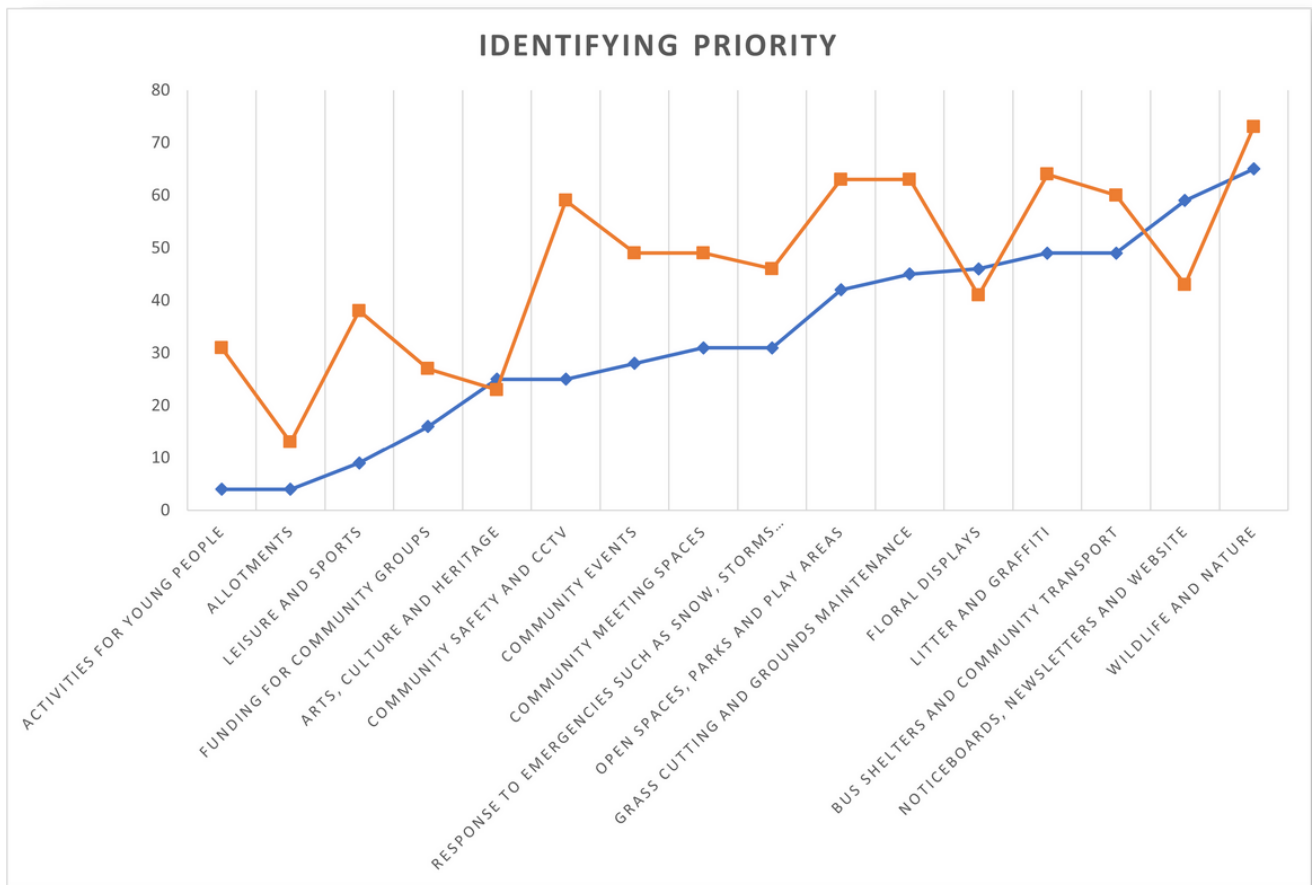


Fig.10 : Identifying Priority

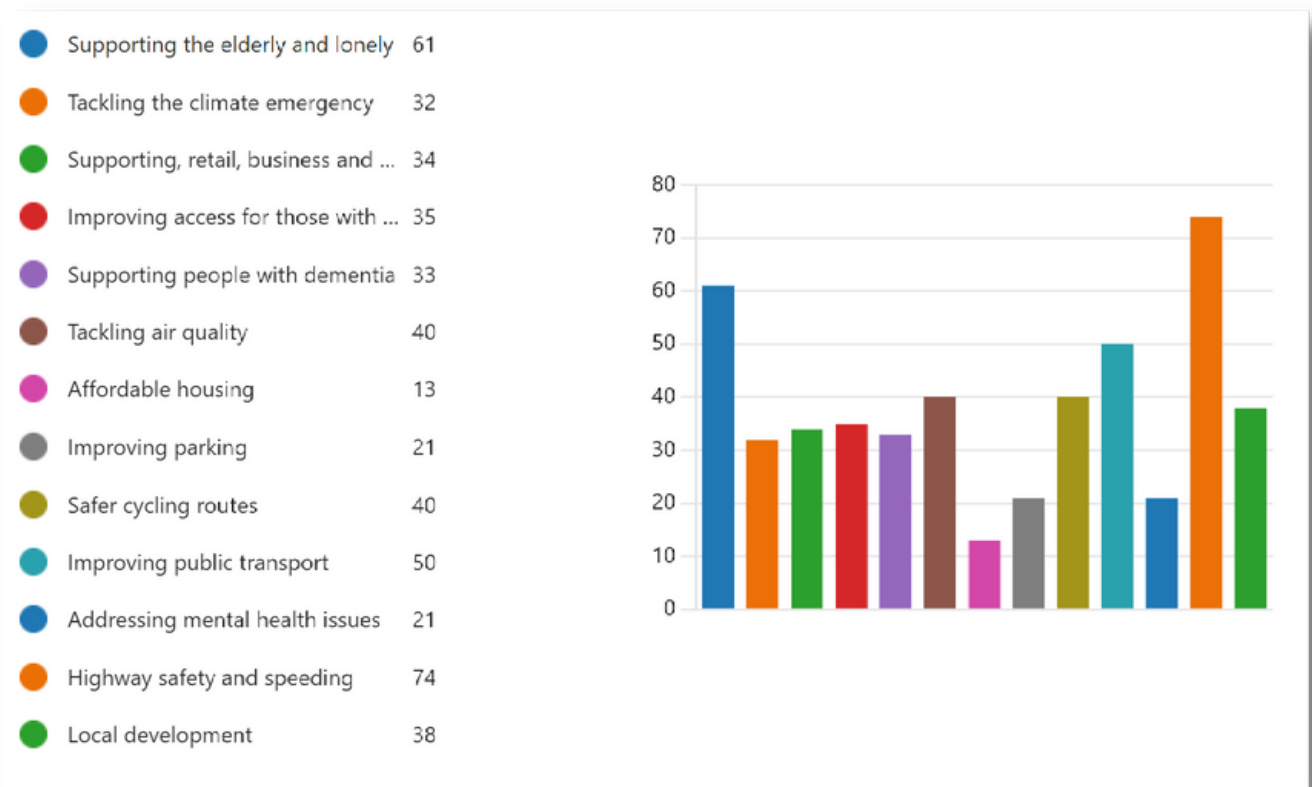


Fig.11: Wider Concerns



### **The views of residents**

56 residents took the opportunity to submit their ideas for improvements in the villages. These comments are listed in Annex A. This information provides a stock of ideas from which a community-led plan can be developed – by matching the ideas submitted with the priorities identified. This will inform part of the next phase of the community consultation work. Appendix A

### **A vision for the future**

The survey also gave respondents the chance to describe how they would like the parish to be in the future. 76 respondents provided their vision of St Nicholas and Bonvilston in 2033. By examining the common themes from the answers provided, it is possible to build up a common or shared vision. Appendix B

### **Next Steps**

The Council will now plan some dates and venues for in-person workshops designed to consider the content of this report and work on plans to address the issues most concerning the residents of the villages. Ultimately these events will produce, along with this document, the roadmap for future community plans, budgets and priorities for the Council.

Q. Is there anything else you think the Community Council should be doing?

Engaging on a face to face basis with all residents regardless of whether they live in privately owned property of social housing.

More visible in the community

Improving walking routes

As a new member of the community, it would be helpful to easily be able to find out information about local community events/information etc.

Speeding through village

There is also a house alarm with a persistent small dog alarm bark - somewhere on village farm that travels over to the a48 - so loud and goes off early morning and throughout the day - could be the unoccupied thatched cottage

Improving walking and cycling routes connecting the different parts of the village

Slowing traffic through villages. More play areas for children, safer walking routes between villages and to culverhouse cross. Some sort of community store or pub/coffee shop for st Nicholas

Safer foot paths for walking around the village. Also ghere are now a lot of young children and it seems the only play area is the one which is within the Cae Newydd estate.

Concentrate on the speeding through the village

Activities and facilities for young people and children

Protecting the environment in the village, we have had 2 developments built recently which has increased traffic substantially and negatively affected noise and pollution levels

Address the lack of accessibility on footpaths, stiles can be impossible for many to pass who could otherwise enjoy miles of footpaths with the use of closing gates. Cows have also charged in the field for sale, through which a public footpath runs - could easily have been a fatality or fatalities.

Providing allotments, this will help with peoples general fitness, provide interaction with others and many more mental health benefits

Bring the community together

Addressing speeding vehicles in through both villages must be a priority. The width of pavements particularly in St Nicholas places pedestrians and especially children within metres of HGV's and is both frightening and dangerous.

Permanent speed cameras through both villages and 20mph speed limit, especially in St Nicholas near Primary School

Spending budget sensibility. Addressing matters within its control. Not spending the majority of its budget on Administration/legal costs. Looking maybe to support some youth and elderly person initiatives.

Keeping hold of our green spaces and protecting it and our wildlife from development

The Community Council does some great things but it's not seen, propose that a town hall type meeting is held to explain its purpose and gain support to drive a plan that's produced as an outcome of this survey.

Duffryn Lane is overgrown with brambles and So many people use it to drive and walk to Duffryn Gardens. The road marks are covered. So much litter, I feel ashamed when people come from abroad to see the Burial chamber or the Gardens

Wider pavements where they are narrow and unsafe for more than single file walking to allow for pedestrians and cyclists. Narrowing and resurfacing road to reduce speed and noise. Reducing speed limit in Bonvilston in line with St Nicholas. Changing street lighting through Bonvilston from tall and extremely bright lights more suitable for dual carriageway to smaller and dimmer street lights more in keeping with a village.

Safer walking routes

Organising local events it get togethers

The flowers and Christmas tree decorations have been wonderful in St. Nicholas but I haven't noticed anything in Bonvilston.

I'm unaware of any sports teams or facilities in either village e.g. tennis and cricket, which would be most welcome.

We love the social events at the reading rooms in Bonvilston, would like more, and we don't hear of anything in St Nicholas or if we are welcome to attend as we live on the outskirts of Bonvilston

Rather than allotments I think a large community allotment would be more beneficial. It could feed the community for free and the community could all get involved in volunteering to maintain it. There would obviously need to be some lead volunteers who have the time and skills to manage it though.

Sorting out pot holes in lanes

Maintenance around estate eg grass cutting etc

Observing possible population change brought by residential development and hence its pressure on existing facilities and transport

Please can we look at redeveloping the wooded area next to Button Ride for the south of 48 community to use? Lighting to be improved on the way up to lights and to right of churchyard (as you look at front of church). Bus stops cleaned and painted rather than replaced. Vale Litter picking team encouraged to add Duffryn Lane to route and additional bin for recycling as well as black bags at Tinkinswood parking lot. More quarterly information sheets about what the community council does do and spend money on. Nicer flower displays on main road and encouraging residents to come forward with specific ideas around the themes you have included on this questionnaire.

Stopping further housing development .

Newsletters.

Cleaning public areas including bus shelters. Having more pride in the villages - appearance, heritage

Safer, more equitable streets.

Electronic noticeboards

Provide more public seating.

Coffee mornings

Community gathering - Hire room at Dyffryn or Amelia Trust Farm

Wildflowers and wildlife habitat improvement

Improve public open spaces

Public information points

Fitness trails

Improve public rights of way/Footpaths, including signage and information.

More two-way communication with residents

Being proactive to preserve the village characteristics and strongly resisting the increasing urbanisation of these historic settlements.

Preserving and enforcing speeding limits of vehicles through the villages which may then encourage more pedestrian activities. It's almost an extreme sport to walk along sections of the A48. A speed limit is what is says on the sign not a minimum speed to travel through the area. It's the A48 not the M48

Not sure if its Community Council business but the roads in our area and in the Vale and beyond are in a terrible condition. There are numerous potholes and road markings are worn away making roads more unsafe than they should be.

It would be good to see the Vale and Community Councils being more transparent about how and where our very high council tax charges are actually being spent.

Segregated Cycle lane and speed reduction on A48

Try to keep the villages rural, there seems to have been endless development over the past few years.

Paying proper attention to speeding through St Nicholas which is an every day and night (breaking of the law) event. The worst culprits are lage lorries. A camera van has no effect as lorry drivers spot it from their cabs. Frequesntly, a police officer on a motor bike has a speed gun when you enter Cowbridge. I have not seen him on entry to St Nicholas. Can cameras please be installed c/f Gloucestershire.

Linking with the Tax Payers alliance to try and drive down council tax. Getting the public sector to offer a value-for-money service to the tax payer.

Looking after the elderly. Some local care providers are not up to the job and putting the elderly's health and mental wellbeing at risk. We do not want to be treated by foreign students with no training. Certainly a good idea for the elderly to stay in their own home but quality care is essential. This is not being provided by some businesses. Just like schools these businesses need to be monitored/vetted. People's lives are at risk. Look after the elderly. The council care sysem is very good but doesn't last longterm and folk are left to fend for themselves.

Litter picking hub

Parking by the shop - large vehicles and traffic

Speeding

Updating bus stops which give electronic info about bus times and delays etc on screens

1. Improving stiles which are in disrepair, and ideally replacing with "kissing gates" so easier access for the elderly, those with a disability and fog dog walkers. 2. Also very frustrating when dogs foul the pavement 3. Overhanging hedges along the A48.

Road safety including speed cameras (to include The Tumble)

I would like to see a crossing at the shop. This would also help to slow down traffic through the village

Max speed for vehicles through Bonvilston - 30 max speed would be appropriate given the St Nicholas speed limit. Controlling vehicle speeds is inadequate.

Air pollution could be tackled with lower speed limits- The pedestrian footpaths along the A48 in parts are inaccessible.This is made worse very often after hedge cutting and tree lopping when the detriment is left to block the path .

Focus on keeping the village a rural community, surrounded by fields and preserving existing character. E.g. old buildings, old walls, small roads etc.

There is a drug problem where people are using drugs in the community at night around St Nicholas which is threatening for neighbours and horrible - certainly a dramatic increase. I would like to see the CC working with the police to increase surveillance of this I see as essential and community awareness of the issue so that parents are aware that their children may be involved. I see this as a major priority for St Nicholas. I would not wish to encourage the development of shared leisure spaces as these are just areas that would promote the congregation of such groups unless these were separate from the residential properties.

Install speed cameras and sweep the roads

Cleaning up signposts and bus shelters etc.... Everything looks grubby. Happy to help but need equipment to do so.

Pressurising Vale Council to reduce speed limits on main road as far too many vehicles travel far too fast. Plus Sycamore Cross junction lights continue to be an accident waiting to happen!!

Using all funds available to the council annually to make improvements to the village for the benefit of all including keeping the village clean and well presented both north and south of the A48. Replacing the black plastic flower planters with more attractive wooden planters and ensure adequate Year round, colourful planting.

Ensuring that the school and space behind the new school is accessible in the evenings for the residents of St Nicholas-there is a lack of green space for children to play football or play freely as it stands

Not approving solar panel farms as it's a ridiculous idea to remove livestock for solar panel farms that don't give that much renewable energy. Obviously councils are getting money for installing them so they go

Not reducing speed for the 'climate' as science has proven driving in lower gears gives off more emissions. We are not stupid

Too much grass cutting, as this has a negative impact on wildlife. Hedgerows too well maintained, so fewer nesting opportunities. No wild meadows or rewild, no tree planting. Too much development in the countryside.

More managed space for wildlife to help counter the loss of biodiversity

Reducing speed limits (20mph in residential areas) and stopping parking on pavements

Improve condition of footpaths and stiles

Organising and/or funding local groups for both adults and children.

Protecting the Bonvilston Village Green and maintaining parts that aren't being developed. The CC should push to purchase this land again and look to make the existing space more useable for children.

Q. Imagine, you are writing an email in 2033 telling someone what life is like. What do you hope to be able to say about St. Nicholas and Bonvilston?

Its a great place to live if you are working as Cardiff and Cardiff Bay are 30 minutes away with good access to M4.

Cowbridge is only 15 minutes away and we have excellent shops at Culverhouse Cross. The village has a school and a church but not much for anyone who is retired or single. No much for teenagers either. Not much connection between the villlage of St Nicholas with the Redrow development. No community hub and the pub is long gone.

That they focussed on the cost of living crisis for families

That the area is friendly and welcoming (our experiences so far :-))

There are local businesses and a local shop to access.

There are more public footpaths, accessible and sign posted. More access to nature, outdoor leisure and sports.

There is easily accessible information about the community/events.

Lovely pub

Great walks nearby

Quiet and peaceful

There's a path away from the road lining the entire village

Safe, beautiful, quiet village with good local pub and plenty of country walks.

St Nicholas is a great vibrant village. It consists of some great amenities on your door step with a lovely friendly village feel. It's great for bringing up young children with lots to do and a great school. A lovely little local shop and pub.

A thriving village community with lots of local various groups eg fitness, parent groups, hobbies. A new village shop in St Nicholas with fresh local produce and great coffee. A lovely local play park with nature play area and cafe

It's no longer a village

Wonderful place to live. But don't come here if you expect town-like facilities.

I hope to say "a welcoming community with plenty of green fields and good public bus service and a safe cycle route between Cardiff and the Vale", however with the latest LDP site proposals it may be simply "a suburb of Cardiff"

I hope to say that it is a semi rural village with beautiful countryside to walk in and enjoy with fresh air and low pollution levels however I fear this will not be the case and if more housing developments are built I don't think I will be living here in 2033

Semi-rural, losing sense of community and history, and rather spoilt by road noise and fast vehicles. The new estate built on fields isn't something anyone idealises however not everyone was born in St Nicholas or inherited a house and people need to live somewhere, the estate is isolated and deliberately excluded from any sense of the village.

It like to say the traffic was tolerable and that it had a great sense of community

A quiet village to live in, which is friendly with open spaces well maintained.

That traffic flow, especially HGV, have reduced back to levels experienced prior to the completion of the 5 mile lane. With the remaining traffic staying within the 30 mph limit

An idyllic low crime rural location supported by an active community council BUT traffic is a major impediment to quality of life.

Lovely rural location, close to the City. Very concerned about constantly speeding traffic and noise from HGVs

Both have pretty and tidy villages. It's supports activities for both youngsters and elderly in its community. Has good pavements and bus shelters. Both have a community hub.

That 5 mile lane was extended to take away the speeding lorries from the village.

I would like to be able to say that we kept hold of as many of our green spaces as possible and looked after our wildlife. And not that it used to be all green here, but they cut down our ancient trees and destroyed our green land and turned it to grey concrete for overpriced houses most people can't afford..

There's community spirit is incredible, people care and support one of another. It's a safe place where people can feel safe to walk alone. There is a communal centre where people meet and exchanged ideas and buy and sell local produce and crafts. There are 4 festivals per year where both villages come together and celebrate the success of the area.

There is a a community hub within walking distance from St Nicholas. A village hall where people can meet and take part in activities and meet their neighbours

A healthy community that has regular events and takes care of its residents

An area where all residents, human, animal and bird, are valued. Nature can be enjoyed in clean air, without noise and pollution from fast traffic and bright street lights. With narrow road and wide pavements to allow safety from any traffic and public footpaths accessible to all and their dogs!

I don't answer these nonsense questions!

That everyone was treated equally regardless of income or house size.

The village modernised but not to the detriment on the character or community.

A vibrant cohesive community

A beautiful part of the Vale of Glamorgan with a vibrant community life. A safe place to live.

The traffic is far less dangerous now that the new traffic calming measures have been introduced.

The village really needs something to bring the community out of their houses and together this could be a pub, a shop, a community allotment where valuable skills could be gained by the younger generations. Whatever it is it needs to have a strong focus on tackling climate change and supporting a sustainable future.

Community spirit exists in an aesthetically pleasing and safe environment.

Lovely small well kept and safe social community with a central multipurpose cafe/shop/pub for people to socialise.

Supportive and friendly community, beautiful scenery outside the window, quiet ,clean and tidy, rich of cultural heritage.

An idyllic low crime rural location supported by an active community council BUT traffic is a major impediment to quality of life.

Lovely rural location, close to the City. Very concerned about constantly speeding traffic and noise from HGVs

A self contained small community with caring neighbourhood and rich biodiversity.

Nice community but no local groups to join

Great community spirit and no crime

I am now living in a beautiful semi rural clean and friendly village called St Nicholas in the Vale Of Glamorgan there is less traffic passing through the village as there has been a new bypass road built around Peterstone Super Ely and the traffic that does pass through is monitored very closely by active average speed cameras

In 2023 the C.C.managed to prevent more houses being built in what was once a beautiful village.

Cycling away from traffic to reach local destinations and towns - Barry, Cowbridge.

Community Hub with share shed, shop, weekend bar, coffee mornings, cafe. A warm space for all.

A dementia and age friendly community - mobility scooter access, plenty of public seating.

A clean Community - bus shelters, signage. Little litter.

Accessible countryside for all that's well signposted and facilities to welcome walkers.

Lots of productive agriculture and local produce available.

Less heavy road traffic - cars. Car Club replacing car ownership.

People exercising on street fitness stations. Fun equipment for younger residents too.

Thriving local pubs and restaurants.

Not too rural - accessible by car but traffic too fast to cycle safely. Ok transport links. Lovely pub and walks around the village

What have you done?

It would be nice to say there is some sort of community spirit and evidence of regular community events.

Speed reduction and segregated cycle lane on A48

Peaceful country villages

A good place to live!

Crazy high council tax, for which you get substandard paths, pavements and roads. The area is a risk of overdevelopment. St. Nicholas and Bonvilston, are located in Drakeford's Republic of Wales, and therefore will forever be subjected to a Hard Left Welsh Labour government in the National Assembly!

I would hope Bonvilston would be regarded as a safe place to live. I never used to but now always keep the door locked and have installed CCTV as we are beginning to feel unsafe in our own home.



Good local playground, speed limit through bonvilston reduced, pavement wider through bonvilston or new cycling lane. Local allotments and community energy heat source

It's a pleasant place to live but very much dependant on Cardiff as there are no shops or pubs/cafes. Possibility to open up church as a community hub.

Friendly and a sense of community but within easy reach of Cardiff and Cowbridge. Hopefully not over developed in 2033 or at least there is the infrastructure to support it e.g. a playground for young children. Maybe green spaces are preserved like the one in front of Maes y Ffynnon however I doubt it as the council "consults" but does what it wants anyway...hence the development at Sycamore Cross.

I live in a village called St Nicholas. It is quiet with limited road traffic noise. We have lots of outdoor spaces. I can take the children for a walk without worry as there are safe paths. There are plenty of places to walk off the main road which are also safe for lone females. It is a very safe place to live with next to no crime.

Good community with continued places to meet. Manageable traffic through the village.

Great place to live with a first class community spirit .

I would hope to say that there is a strong community spirit .

Quiet and lovely.

No sports facilities (field to train)

Poor transport cowbridge or cardiff only options and costs a stupid amount if you're brave enough to stand in the dark with no phone signal on the bus stop. Not very safe.

Beautifully located village , quiet and has Cardiff on its doorstep.

Resolution of the drugs issue and a much more positive community experience where a minority of people who don't care about the community spoil it for the majority. A decrease in traffic through st Nicholas and Duffryn lane on roads that are not made to support it and a greater respect for others.

The village of St Nicholas is a lovely place to live and walk around now that the roads are being cleaned, less rubbish and the traffic speed is controlled.

It was the best thing when the village shop/coffee shop opened up in St Nicholas, and helped bring people together again. Even better when the micro brewery came with a license, and we had a pub again.

Community with strong community identity and lots of local events

St Nicholas is a lovely safe community with lots of wildlife and natural beauty (and there's a lovely new cafe/pub!)

St Nicholas is lovely quiet area but need a car because no shops or pubs in under 2 miles. Nowhere to meet in the community

A rural village with excellent public transport system to Cardiff. A community area with different activities for all age groups.

A clean, pretty village with safe cycle routes and open places for the community of all ages to play and socialise

Small built up village with little or no amenities for young children

The new bypass hasn't impacted traffic through St. Nicholas.

That's total bullshit though.

Dear friend Life is great here-there is a supportive community with plenty of green space that is accessible for all. There are affordable community spaces for us to meet and also to partake in sports and yoga activities. The public transport system is excellent and there is no need for a car here. The grounds are well kept and there are pretty flowers in the vicinity all year round. There is a small shop and cafe in the centre of St Nicholas which is supported by the Community. The school is thriving and the traffic through St Nicholas is not excessive. The speed limit has been reduced to 20mph which helps towards cleaning the air and making it quieter and safer. Best wishes

It's a countryside village surrounded by working fields which it has done so for how many years. Changing the landscape would be a disaster and not as appealing as it is.

The councils in Wales putting speed limits to 20mph for climate change is funny because it's not better for the climate. Hopefully St. Nicholas and Bonvilston take a stand and keep these villages moving with the current speed limits which has worked since for over 50 years.

It's a small village with few facilities, a good sense of community but in various areas rather than in the village as a whole

We've restored nature!!!

This is an attractive semi-rural residential area with good transport links and access to a wildlife-rich countryside

Great environment with lots of open space/wildlife/fresh air at the moment although this could well change soon ! We need easy access for children to walk safely to school/park ..very difficult negotiating busy road with small children in tow ..and a permanent speed camera ..too late if we have to wait for another fatality before anything can be installed!

A friendly, safe community where children are able to play, explore and make friends on their doorstep. The village green still remains and is the heart of the community where children, adults and the whole community meet. The roads and pavements are safer, allowing safe travel within and between the villages. The village is well maintained and reflects the premium that it costs to live here.