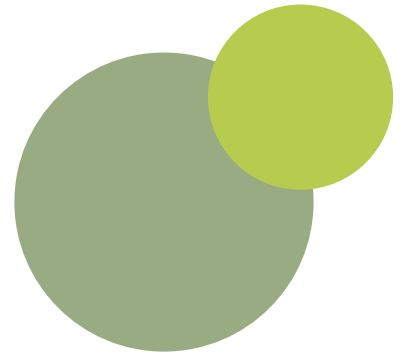




# Neroche Community Review 2022-23



## Executive Summary



Supported by



# Introduction

This Community Review report has been produced by using survey information collected and collated by Community Council of Somerset (CCS) from the respondents of Neroche Parish during March 2023. An analysis of the survey questions was undertaken by use of Survey Monkey and this with commentary can be found in the main body of the report.

This Community Review contains information that can be used to identify the needs of the parish, now and in the near future, it can also help inform Neroche Parish Council in its decision making, and its communication with Somerset Council.

Details of the methodology adopted for the survey questionnaire can be found in the main part of the report.

Within the main part of the report, the response to each question is clearly represented as a bar chart. Below each bar chart, the key findings associated with each individual question are commented on and discussed. Action points for both the Parish Council and Community Groups can be found in the Action Plan and Prioritisation page.



## Key highlights from the survey include:

1. A good response rate to the survey was achieved from Curland, Staple Fitzpaine and Bickenhall villages.
2. Compared to the 2010 Neroche Parish Plan, climate change, individuals' carbon footprint, the importance of biodiversity, maintenance of boundary features such as hedges and ditches and the management of the environment in general are now recognised as being of real importance. All of which have an impact on the character of the landscape.
3. There is interest for local initiatives such as wildflower planting and exploring the feasibility of developing green corridors to link habitats for nature and wildlife.
4. The majority of respondents would like to see the parish retain its rural nature.
5. Respondents highlighted traffic speeds, access to public transport and the maintenance of the road surfaces need to be improved. There is concern the duelling of the A358 is likely to increase traffic volumes locally.
6. The importance of Rights of Way (ROW) as a form of local amenity came across strongly for the whole of the community. Landowners should keep ROW free of obstructions and should ensure footpath and bridleways are properly maintained.
7. Broadband speed and mobile signals are in general still deemed to be inadequate. The rollout of faster broadband speeds may be addressed later in 2023.



8. The potential development at Orchard Portman is opposed by the vast majority of respondents. The whole of the Parish including Orchard Portman is currently classed by Somerset Council as OpenCountryside. This designation does not allow for major housing development.

9. Responses suggest there is a strong sense of community within the parish with a good range of events being held at Neroche Hall.

10. The Parish Newsletter, Church Parish magazine and E-mail alert are the most commonly accessed sources of information. Improvements to the Neroche Village website and parish notice boards need to be reviewed to help improve their use and impact.

11. The relatively old age of the community, means few children live within the parish. Ideally young people should be asked what activities they would wish to engage with in the community. The majority of employed people by local businesses work from home and the biggest improvement to this role would be increased broadband speed.

12. Respondents would like the Parish Council to be more pro-active particularly with statutory authorities where enforcement action is required.

13. Respondents would support the Parish Council taking in contracts for ditch maintenance and hedge cutting where appropriate.

14. As a result of the Focus Groups there is potential for developing two community action groups. One on environment/climate change and the other on Rights of Way.



# What next

It is clear that some of the issues raised by the survey can be readily addressed, while others are more deep-rooted and more difficult to solve. However, the survey will help inform decision making, and where effort and funding should be predominately focussed within the parish. Resolve and action by both the Parish Council and Community Groups will be necessary to accomplish some of the desired changes.

## Privacy Statement

Analysis was conducted by Smart Communities Ltd part of Community Council for Somerset (CCS) Group. Data was captured for legitimate and contractual purposes. Information was collected and analysed in accordance with Smart Communities Ltd role as a Data Controller and Data Processor.

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# Community *Your future plan* Review

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