

DREAMS AND NIGHTMARES

Dreams

- footpaths to be able to get about between different parts of the village (7.1a, 7.7, 9.17) **
- more integration, socialisation and events (3.3, 7.7)
- good lighting on the station approach and around the old Sondes Arms for safety (2.1f, 10.7)
- attention to public safety in the area of Selling Station (5.2)
- improvement of Selling Station (9.17)
- a safe recreation area (3.2, 3.3, 7.2)
- a shop (6.4, 8.3e)
- accommodation for older people (8.3d, 8.4, 1.3b)
- provision for the younger and the older residents (8.3d)
- more affordable housing, especially for local people (8.3b, 8.5)
- accurate information from the Parish Council to all residents (10.2, 10.4, 10.14)

Nightmares

- volume of traffic on our roads (2.1a, 7.7, 10.7)
- the speed of the traffic (2.1c, 7.7)
- high number of very large lorries (2.1b, 7.7)
- high number of deep and damaging potholes (2.1h)
- degraded verges narrowing the width of roads (2.1i)
- flooding in certain areas (2.1j)
- the state of repair of the roads (2.4)
- litter and fly-tipping (5.3d, 7.5b, 7.5c, 10.8j)
- maintenance of footpaths (3.1, 3.3, 5.3j)
- low community spirit (7.7)
- uncontrolled development, domestic and commercial (8.3f, 8.3g)
- lack of facilities and amenities if village expands (8.4)

What you like

- the beauty of the area, the space and peace and quiet (2.1j, 7.7, 8.4, 10.21, 11.16)
- Perry Wood (3.1, 7.1b)
- the public houses are seen to be important for the village (3.1, 6.3, 10.21)

** Numbers refer to the questions in the survey document; see, for example, Interpretation of the Questionnaire in the next section
Items are not in any order of importance

THE PARISH SURVEY

INTRODUCTION

A government programme on advising communities how to set their own agenda was introduced to Selling Parish Council in 2012. The Council supported the idea of a consultative process, encouraging the residents of Selling to say how the village should be maintained and improved.

A consultant from ACRE (Action within Communities in Rural England, which draws together the community support agencies across the country) talked to the Parish Council in 2013. She said that Parish Plans should be about “... *consultation and consensus and people collaborating for the greater good of the majority.*”. There should be “... *a community-led appraisal to take stock of things that work well and things that need to be improved*”. She said that the momentum should come from the residents of Selling, and not just from the Parish Council.

So, a residents' steering group of volunteers emerged. During 2014 and 2015, in line with best advice, they arranged a survey of local views, making it as wide in scope as possible, leaving plenty of opportunity for people to say what they thought, without being tied down by restrictive questions. The survey went out to residents in the Autumn of 2015. The results were presented to the Parish Council in the Spring of 2016.

The Parish Council's part in this activity has been to encourage and over-see progress. No longer working without information, the Council can now use the results of the survey to follow up resident's needs and ideas, aspirations and annoyances, with a good degree of certainty of what they are. Joining with the Council, the residents of Selling are encouraged to be a continuing part of this process, to put their voluntary work and care behind dealing with the issues that they have raised and obtaining the outcomes that they want.

SUMMARY

Selling is a place of beauty, space, peace and tranquillity. Its rural nature is much loved by its residents. So are its footpaths, woods and village hall, public houses and station. There is strong feeling amongst residents that this happy state should be looked after and preserved.

This need for conservation is acutely underlined when the nature of the resident population becomes clear. In the data given in the Survey in the Autumn of 2015, whilst the greatest number of people (66) falls within the 26-64 age group, a number almost as great (59) represents the over 65s. When this information is added to the fact that half the population has been here for more than 20 years, and that one person in five was actually born here, then a strong desire for preservation and conservation may be intuited. The evidence of the survey bears out this view, and, if there is to be any building development at all, it must be carried out with great care and reference to the needs and desires of the resident population.

In the Survey, many opinions and feelings, needs and concerns became clear. The headline features are indicated on the Dreams and Nightmares page. Where feelings were strongest, they mostly revolved around traffic,

building development and conservation of what is good.

Perhaps the greatest disadvantage faced by our village is its pattern of housing, spread out into numerous hamlets. Each of these groups of dwellings is separated from the others by country lanes which have no pavements, and along which many vehicles, some of them very large, travel at quite high speeds for the conditions. For much of the year, field-footpaths which connect the hamlets, are only passable with difficulty. This leads to a society where cohesion and interaction are not easy to maintain, and a fragmented character can easily develop. We need to look at ways of overcoming this, and there were calls in the Survey for action in this area.

There is a need for facilities for children, but their low number suggests that the simple provision of recreation space for a few children may not be the best way forward. A more imaginative approach is perhaps needed, with children's space incorporated into a *village* recreation space or spaces, maybe with imaginative facilities and integration for all ages, even if, in the early days, this only consists of the original aim of a space to kick a ball.

There are certain areas of local life, where the Parish Council may need to champion this village. The roads and the station are clearly areas where constant vigilance and effort are needed in negotiation with the relevant borough and county authorities.

The Parish Council may also be able to encourage and promote many of the amenities and facilities which residents call for, now that they are known. The Parish Council cannot open a shop, for example, but could strongly support any initiative taken in this direction. The Parish Council can also lend support to all steps in the direction of integration and interaction in village life, helping to overcome the forces of disintegration brought about by our lack of a village green and village centre.

Selling Parish Council would like to thank everyone who has taken part in this Survey, including those who set up and managed the process, all those who gave help and advice, and especially all those who filled in the questionnaire. Many thanks!

Most people will probably want to read no further than this, or maybe only the Dreams and Nightmares section at the beginning, but what follows is, first of all, the main points and most important thoughts given in the Survey, and then all the Survey material itself, numbers, graphs and text. The full information is given here, for anyone who has the time and the stamina to examine it. The full numerical data are given, exactly as they were collected from the questionnaires, and every word that residents wrote follows on from that. The whole document will form the basis for some of the Parish Council's work for the next period of time.

At the beginning of the Parish Planning process, Selling Parish Council's decision was that they would support *residents* in collecting and compiling information and evidence. It is now the Parish Council's responsibility to use these in the construction of a Plan for Selling.

The Steering Group listed over-leaf presents this information to Selling Parish Council, in the hope that it will be useful to them and to all residents of Selling, for some time to come.

April 2016

The Parish Plan Steering Group has been:

Tanya Gibson (Chair, Resident when we began and now also Parish Councillor)

Glynis Rumley (as Councillor until May 2014 elections)

Theresa Bestic (Resident)

Amy Willmott (Resident)

Georgina Ashford (Resident)

Martin Webb (as Resident rather than Councillor)

(and a number of other Residents from time to time, whom we thank for their invaluable help, support, advice and attendance at meetings)

Why are numbers of responses not always consistent?

When looking closely at the graphs and the numerical data in the following pages, please be aware that residents have sometimes only filled in some of the boxes, and have left other boxes blank.

This leads to some figures not always adding up exactly.

For example, see page 21.