



Skelmanthorpe Community Action Group

Press Release

Village survey reveals traffic problems and policing levels are major concerns.

Skelmanthorpe Community Action Group revealed the results of the village survey conducted in December to establish the concerns of residents on a wide range of topics. The impact of the increasing volume of traffic is the major concern for people living in the village, with 87% of respondents identifying this as a problem. Not surprisingly the lack of parking also figured highly with 63% of respondents identifying this as an area of real dissatisfaction.

Increasing traffic volumes are the number one concern.

Philip Wheeler who administered the survey on behalf of SCAG commented; "The results of this survey confirm that people in the village are very concerned about increasing traffic volumes. This is an issue we have raised with Kirklees a number of times in relation to planning applications, but it's an issue they don't seem to take seriously, when granting planning consent for large developments in the village. The narrow roads and difficult junctions were never designed for the volumes of traffic using them today, yet every year the Council adds to the problem by allowing more development.

Parking is already a major problem, as anyone driving through the village at night or at the weekend, when most people are at home, can testify. A number of respondents feel very strongly that too many people are parking on the pavements making it impossible for pedestrians to use them. Yet nothing is done to improve the situation and attempts to expand parking spaces in the village are turned down. It's clear the Council just doesn't understand the problems we are facing in Skelmanthorpe."

People are concerned about the low level of policing.

The level of policing was the second highest area of concern with 83% of respondents highlighting concern about the low level of visible policing in the village. Given the concern about parking it's perhaps not surprising that 62% of people raised the issue of a lack of traffic wardens needed to prevent inappropriate parking. Christopher Ward Chairman of SCAG commented; " We have known for sometime that people are concerned about speeding and this is another issue we have repeatedly raised with Kirklees, but they keep telling us there isn't a problem. Clearly the people of Skelmanthorpe share our concerns and its time the local authority started to listen to the people who live here and experience these problems every day."

Other issues ranking high on the dissatisfaction scale are the lack of public toilets (67%), the lack of community facilities (56%), and the lack of seating in the village (54%).

The level of healthcare in the village is highly rated.

However, the survey wasn't all bad news; the provision of health care in the village received a very positive response with 83% of respondents stating their satisfaction. The general cleanliness of the village centre also scored well with 68% of people expressing satisfaction. Finally, local schools get a vote of confidence with 68% of respondents stating satisfaction.

Christopher Ward concludes; "Our aim in conducting this survey was to ensure that we are representing the views of the community when we raise issues with the local authority. It has also allowed people to raise other concerns we weren't aware of. For example, we discovered that many parents with children at school in the village are very unhappy about the lack of a crossing to help their children cross a very busy road to get too and from school. This is such an important issue that we are making urgent representation to the council to rectify the situation. Helping people to fight for action on issues like this is the reason we were formed, so the survey did a great service in bringing this to our attention. We have a meeting planned to share the information we have collected with our local councillors and to see what action can be taken."

END

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