



Community Amenities

Facilities in the village centre

For a village its size Shawbury has a good number of local facilities/shops. When asked in the PPQ if they considered shopping facilities in the village adequate a high proportion (86.2%) agreed. Indeed, one could very easily take such facilities for granted but clearly these are much valued by the local



community as they made them first in the Shawbury Parish's best feature. Allied to this question, we also sought the community's views on the Post Office; with 95.0% saying that the Post Office was important to them - so please make use of this local facility.

Library service

Shawbury Library is located within the Village Hall and has a full range of books, CDs, DVDs, talking books and four computers with free internet access. The Village Hall and to a certain extent the library has experienced the occasional difficulty with anti-social behaviour (see section on "Law and Order"). The PPQ therefore



asked how often people visited the library and what their thoughts were on the new opening times (Monday noon – 4pm, Wednesday 2pm – 6pm, Friday noon – 4pm and Saturday 10am – 1pm) introduced by the Library Service.



The results showed that 84.9% of those having an opinion on the new opening times were happy with them. It was however disappointing to learn that 82.5% rarely or never used the library, but it was heartening to learn that young people considered the library to be the Parish's best feature.

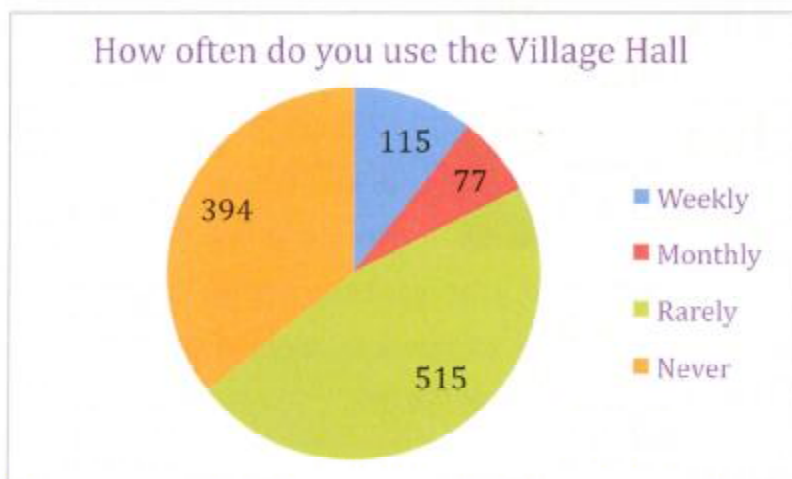
The PPSG forwarded these results to the Library Service and asked if it might be possible for the library to improve/encourage usage through publicity, events etc.

Village Hall



The community is fortunate to have a facility such as the Village Hall. Indeed the Village Hall was considered the fourth best feature in the Parish. Conversely, the railings around the Village Hall and the boarded-up windows were the second and tenth respectively worst features in the Parish.

The railings and the boarded up windows (now replaced with security blinds) have been the result of anti-social behaviour and vandalism by a small minority. Obviously, this can also influence patronage of the Village Hall, particularly during the hours of darkness. In response, a security officer has been used on some occasions. The anti-social behaviour and vandalism in Shawbury, and in this particular area, are discussed in the "Law and Order" section of this document.



The Village Hall clearly stimulates opinions within the village, hence the PPQ asked the local community how often they use the Village Hall.

As can be seen a high proportion (82.6%) said they rarely or never use the Village Hall. Clearly

there is a lack of use of this facility by the local community, and obviously the Village Hall is reliant on income generated by well established clubs/events. The Village Hall Committee is receptive to new ideas.



The results of the PPQ have been forwarded to the Village Hall Committee and Parish Council, and have been included in the Parish Plan Action List. However, a working party comprising of representatives from the Village Hall and Parish Council has already been set up to discuss ways forward to encourage greater usage and the opportunity of obtaining funding to support further events and/or an events co-ordinator for the Parish.



You may be surprised to know what's on at the Village Hall as it is used as a venue by a number of clubs, groups and societies and involves a range of ages - Age Concern, Belly dancing, Bingo, Bridge Club, Dancing, Drama group, Exercises for

60+, Flower club, Football committee, Gardeners club, Line dancing, Parish Council, Royal British Legion (Woman's and Men's), Rhythmtime for babies/tots, Senior club, Shawbury Tots, Slimmer's World, Tea dance, Walkers, Whist club and the WI.

The PPQ also asked if individuals would be willing to help run the Village Hall, 41 people said they would. However, a subsequent advert in the Shawbury News asking for these people to make themselves known met with no response.

Community events

In recent years the bonfire and fireworks display has been organised by the scouts and RAF Shawbury and there had been fears that it could fold due to health and safety restrictions, insurances and of course, cost. During the surveys for the Parish Plan, a



number of people raised the issue of the village bonfire and fireworks display, it being a community event, and asking if it could return to the Recreation Ground. As a result of these comments, the Council agreed with the support of the RAF and scouts, to arrange and fund the 2008 display. When asked in the PPQ if they would like to see a bonfire and fireworks display on the Recreation Ground, 80.6% said they would. As such, the continuation of the event on an annual basis by the Parish Council (subject to continued support) has been included in the Parish Plan Action List.



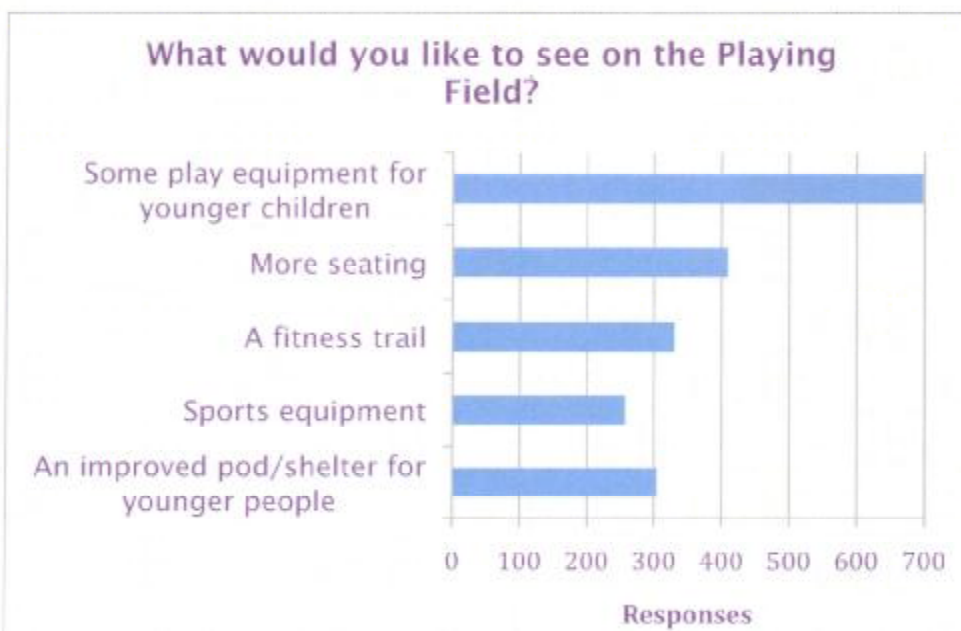
More recently a May Day Fair took place in 2009 to celebrate the completion of a new play area on the Recreation Ground – It is understood that there will be a similar event next year and hopefully in following years.

The third best feature of the Parish was the close knit/sense of community, as such, local community events can help foster and maintain community spirit. In the past scarecrow competitions have been held and this was mentioned again in the feedback we received. Other ideas that were raised were best-kept garden, hanging basket and flower competitions.

Recreation Ground



The Recreation Ground or playing field is leased from the Diocese of Lichfield by the Parish Council, and is a welcome area of green open space in the centre of Shawbury. Part of the area used to have two tennis courts but these fell into disrepair and have subsequently been removed. Goal posts have since been installed by the Parish Council following representations/communication with the local Youth Group and the Police Community Support Officer.



The PPQ asked people what they would like to see on the playing field (note - more than one choice was permitted). As one can see, by far the most popular (with over a third of responses) was for play equipment for younger children.



Indeed, the provision of a play area for young children was joint fifth on the community's priority list for the Parish. The Shawbury Action Group has been successful in obtaining funding for a playground etc., on the Recreation Ground, and one was duly installed in April 2009.

The location of the existing POD by the Recreation Ground car park had been the source of some concern as it was felt by some to be the focal point for anti-social behaviour.



Conversely those that used the POD considered it to be inadequate and exposed to the elements. Following consideration of all these comments, the Parish Council obtained funding for a new and improved POD for younger people in a different

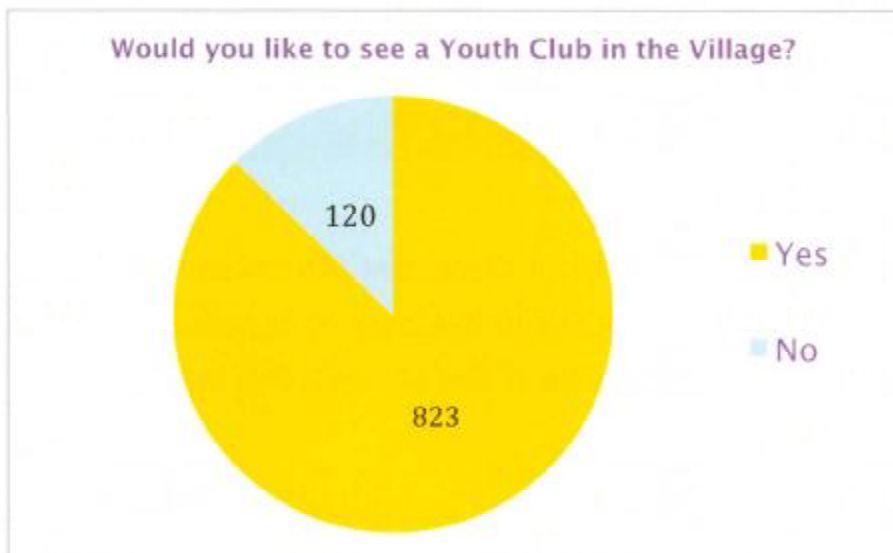
location, and this was installed in March 2009.

The provision of seating, fitness trail and sports equipment have been included in the Parish Plan Action List.

Youth Club

The PPQ asked if the community would like to see a Youth Club in the Village. There was a very positive response with 87.3% saying that they would. Whilst it would be difficult to

provide a dedicated self contained Youth Club, there seems to be scope to provide a covered meeting place in which to convene. Indeed, the Village Hall is amenable to this, should it be adequately supervised. The PPQ foresaw this and asked if anyone would be willing to be a leader or help in running a Youth Club,



and 77 people said they would. This response was followed up in the Shawbury News but only a handful came forward.

Clearly a facility such as this will be of great benefit to the Parish, as it would assist in the development of young people within the community. Various comments were received as to priorities for the Parish, with the need to provide "youth club facilities" being the seventh most popular priority, and having "facilities for the youth" and "somewhere organised for the youth/children to meet (youth



group)/have activities" being the joint eighth most popular priority. The provision of a "Youth Club" has therefore been included in the Parish Plan Action List. See also the section on "Young People".

Football

Shawbury United Football Club was founded in 1992 when it started as members of the West Shropshire Alliance. Since then, and following a number of promotions, they are now playing in the West Midlands Premier Division. As they don't have a ground with facilities in Shawbury, they are playing their "home" matches at the Butler Sports Centre, Bowens Field in Wem. The club also has a "juniors" section.

From PPQ feedback from households and young people, we received comments about the provision of a football pitch and changing facilities in Shawbury. We understand that the club would ideally wish to have a ground in Shawbury, but this will require land, adequate facilities and access, which would require a significant financial investment by the football club, although they may be able to attract sports grants to assist them.



Crown green bowling

The Shawbury Bowling Club was established in the mid 1940's and plays crown green bowling at the Elephant and Castle PH. They participate in two local leagues, one of which takes place on a Monday (Terry Jones Wem Bowling League), the other on a Friday (Tanners Shropshire Bowling League). As the club is relatively small with about 20 members, they often experience difficulty meeting running costs. They have tried to promote the club locally, but so far have met with little success. However, if anyone is interested in taking part or can offer additional funding, they should contact one of the regular members. If there were more members, regular social bowling nights could be considered in the future.

Fishing

We have the River Roden flowing through the Parish, which offers the possibility of fishing. This sport can provide an interest and can also be a diversionary activity for young people. The PPQ asked people if they would go fishing in the River Roden if it were possible. Over a fifth (218 people) of those responding said they would. The new lease from the Diocese of Lichfield, which also includes the moat field, allows, under permit by the Parish Council, the fishing of the river at this particular location.



The river adjacent to the glebe field could also be used for fishing, but this would require further negotiations with the agents for the Diocese. This will be pursued by the Parish Council, as it is included in the Parish Plan Action List. It should also be noted that an angling club has been set up, with appropriate funding already acquired to help it set up and stock a local pond with fish.

Seating

The Parish Council provided a number of seats around Shawbury, most of which have remained in-situ, but some have been removed/relocated following concerns about the number of young people congregating. The PPQ asked the community whether they would like to see more seating around the Parish. 55.7% wished to have more seating with the three most popular areas suggested being in the centre of the village/shops, the Recreation Ground and the moat area. Other areas have also been suggested at different locations throughout the Parish.



Subsequent to the PPQ more seating is to be provided within the Parish by the Parish Council. The provision of additional seating throughout the Parish has therefore been included in the Parish Plan Action List.

Community volunteering

Many social groups and activities in Shawbury can only function through the efforts of volunteers. There are a number of opportunities for people to help in Shawbury, and by becoming involved with local projects, volunteers can actually see the difference their time makes. Physical changes, such as improving open spaces, can have an immediate environmental impact, while assisting others helps an individual build confidence, make new friends and make the community a better place for all.



Certainly many people in Shawbury already give their time and energy to help others. There are a large number of people in the Parish who might be willing to play a more active role, if a way could be found to harness their energies. The PPSG have suggested that a series of well-publicised community action days should be held to tackle issues such as litter picking,

clean-ups, maintaining public spaces such as the Recreation Ground or Moat. The establishment of a volunteer register in Shawbury might also be of great benefit to many community groups and individuals.

Coffee/tea shop

During our initial sample surveys of the community, the possibility of a drop-in coffee/tea shop in the village was raised on various occasions. Although the Elephant & Castle public house serves tea/coffee, some may prefer not to venture into a public house for this type of refreshment. The PPQ therefore sought to gauge the community's response to the idea of a voluntary-led tea/coffee shop in the church or Village Hall. Encouragingly 48.5% said they would support such a venture and 117 people said they would help run it!

As previously mentioned, a working party has been set up to discuss ways to encourage greater usage of the Village Hall together with other innovations that could attract funding, and has also been included in the Parish Plan Action List.

Good Neighbour Scheme

A 'close knit sense of community, friendly/helpful people, community spirit and pride,' were ranked combined third on the community's best feature of the Parish. The PPQ also asked if the community would support an official "Good Neighbour Scheme" and 41.3% said that they would. We noted that 28% of the respondents were over 66 and 31% were retired.

There is, however an unofficial good neighbour scheme already present in parts of the village. Also a community car scheme with a charge for mileage is available to anyone who needs to get to the hospital, surgery, dentist or any other appointment. It may be best to publicise the Voluntary Car Scheme more and try to recruit drivers or make the local community more aware of the various local agencies available to assist them.

Access to facilities



Access to facilities is taken for granted by most people but for those with disabilities it can restrict or even prevent them from undertaking day-to-day tasks. The PPQ sought to gauge the extent of the difficulties and identify problem areas. 14.6% mentioned poor access to facilities in the Parish, particularly concerning crossing the A53 by the shops and the narrow footway by the Elephant and Castle PH. Narrow/no footways, lack of dropped crossings, access to the moat, parking on the footway, wheelchair access to shops were also mentioned. Whilst only 142 were aware of problems it would be beneficial to set up a Shawbury Access Group (SAG) to investigate

access issues within the parish, and this will be included in the Parish Plan Action List.

Public toilet facilities

The PPQ showed 54.7% wanted to see a public toilet in the village centre. There used to be toilets in the village but they were removed following continual damage. Provision of facilities using either existing lavatories at perhaps the Elephant and Castle PH or Village Hall, or purpose built facilities with a charge have been included in the Parish Plan Action List.

Places of worship

The 2001 Census revealed that 2,535 people (83.28%) within the Parish were Christian, 25 people (0.76%) had another religion, 296 people had no religion (9.72%) and 186 people did not state a religion (6.11%).

There are three places of worship within the Parish, namely Moreton Mill Methodist Chapel, St. Peter's Church on the RAF base and St. Mary's Church in the centre of the village. The PPQ revealed that almost 89.2% said they rarely or never attended church. Of the remainder, 71 people attend weekly and 43 people attend monthly. Most of those attending services patronised St. Mary's Church.



However, when asked if they would use the Church for weddings or christenings, 70.5% said that they would. The PPQ also raised the question, as it would be useful to both the Church and Parish Council, as to whether they wished to be buried or interred at St. Mary's churchyard or the Council's burial ground. This information, together with some of the other comments received (such as the anti-social behaviour in the churchyard/burial ground), has been passed to the relevant churches and Parish Council.

One facet of church life, which the local community may not be aware of, is campanology (bell ringing) at local churches, with practice nights on Monday at Moreton Corbet or Stanton and for Shawbury Sunday Service.

The 'Church' was considered by the community to be the second best feature of the Parish.

