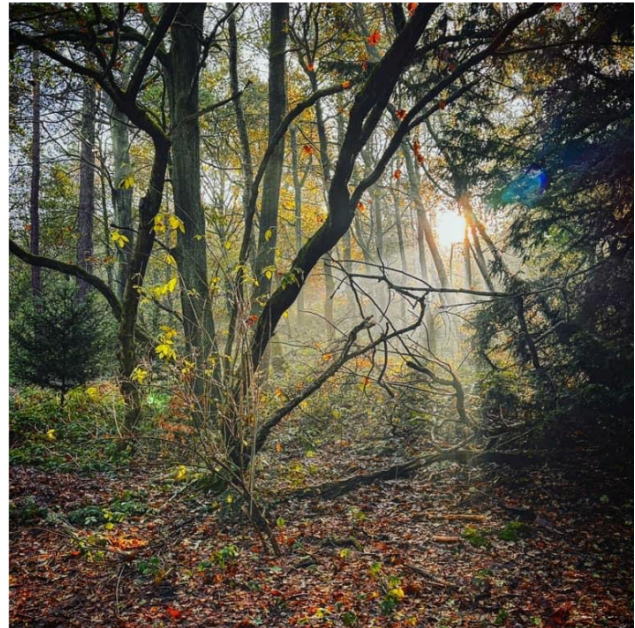


SEPTEMBER 2024

# COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

## BESTWOOD VILLAGE PARISH COUNCIL

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## Background

This consultation has been led by Bestwood Village Parish Council on behalf of the village.

Our primary goal was to find out what's important to members of our community and to collect evidence of this to support funding applications for projects to improve the village.

A paper questionnaire was delivered to every household (1,081 homes) and it was also promoted on the village Facebook page. People were given the opportunity to complete the paper version or an online version. Most people (90%) chose online. We received 210 responses representing 13% of the adult population.

We're confident there was a good mix of people living in different types of household and of those who have lived in the village for a differing number of years. There was an overrepresentation of women completing the questionnaire (65%) though we don't think this has much bearing on the overall results.

We also asked 13 village groups to complete an online questionnaire about their goals, members, challenges and plans so their views and insights could be included as part of the consultation process.

## Key findings

1. There are many reasons people **feel proud** to live in Bestwood Village, the most popular being easy access to beautiful countryside. It's clear that villagers dearly love Bestwood Country Park, Mill Lakes and the surrounding fields. People also told us they enjoy the sense of community spirit and the 'village feel' that comes with living here.
2. Most of us agree that **sports and leisure activities and amenities** could be better or are poor (81%). People told us that they'd like access to a gym or community leisure centre, more opportunities to take part in fitness classes, and more activities for children and young people, such as a youth club.

- 
3. Most of us agree that the sense of **connection, friendliness and inclusivity** in the village is good or very good (77%). People thought it could be even better if we had more community events, made better use of the Welfare and community centre, and had better integration between people living in the newer and older parts of the village.
  4. We are in strong agreement that **access to green space and opportunities to connect with nature** in the village are good or very good (95%). Some people are worried about the development of green spaces surrounding the village for housing. Some people would like the 'swampy' path around Mill Lakes to be improved, and others noted how sad they were about the impact of the Severn Trent pipeline on Bestwood Country Park.
  5. People are fairly split about **opportunities for children and young people** in the village, with 45% saying they are good or very good and 55% saying they could be better or are poor. People think things could be improved with more organised activities for young people, including better use of the community centre, by upgrading our existing parks or creating a new one, and setting up a youth club.
  6. Most of us agree that **safety of people and property** in the village is good or very good (60%). People would like to see more police presence in the village, an end to off-road bikers using the country park and better lighting on the routes from the village to Butlers Hill tram stop and Hucknall Lane.
  7. Most of us reported our **health and wellbeing** to be good or very good (70%). Many people are keen for the village to have its own GP surgery, pharmacy or dentist. Others say they're health would be improved by access to more health and fitness classes or a gym in the village.
  8. Most of us agree that **life living in Bestwood Village** is good or very good (80%). Ideas for making the village an even better place to live include more amenities to accommodate the expansion of the village (like shops, takeaways and sport facilities), better transport links (including more regular buses and better access to the tram); and better health provision such as a GP surgery or pharmacy.

- 
9. The village has a good number of **community groups** compared to its size and we have a core group of 'super volunteers' who run and support activities for the benefit of their neighbours and the green spaces surrounding us.
  10. Groups that are **actively seeking new members** include: Friends of Bestwood Country Park; Bestwood Country Park Wildlife Group; Bestwood Village Women's Institute; Bestwood Village Male Voice Choir; Bestwood Miners Welfare Band; and Bestwood w/s Bowling Club. It's clear that many of these groups will only continue to survive if they attract new members.
  11. Groups who are **actively seeking additional grant funding** to support their activities include: Bestwood Village Miners Welfare and Community Centre; Hawthorne Primary & Nursery School; Natural Athlete Community CIC; Friends of Bestwood Country Park; Bestwood Country Park Wildlife Group; and Bestwood Miners Welfare Brass Band.

## Acknowledgements

We are grateful to everyone who took the time to complete the consultation questionnaire. We would also like to thank: the village shop on Park Road, the Welfare Pub & Kitchen, and Hawthorne Primary and Nursery School for acting as collection points for paper questionnaires; and local graphic designer Eric Lopez, who designed the questionnaire. We are also very grateful to Mick and Gaynor David, Clair Vickery and Heather Smith who helped to distribute the questionnaires to homes in the village, we so appreciate your help!

Thank you also to everyone who sent us beautiful photos of the village to include in this report. Photos are by Kay Brown, Chris Burley, Sarah Burns, Tamsyn Cheetham, Gee Clogg, Carol Hart, Yvonne Hayes, Tracey Jackson, Siobhan Keddie, Leah McNab, Jennifer Nichol, Kirsty Owen, Louise Plackett, Margaret Scott, Finley Spurway, and Andrea Webster.

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## HOW WE ENGAGED THE COMMUNITY

This consultation took two approaches:

1. Asking individuals to share their experiences of living in Bestwood Village
2. Asking leaders from village groups to share their activities, challenges and plans

### Individual responses

Individuals members of the community were offered two ways to complete the consultation:

1. By hand - a paper consultation booklet was posted through the door of all 1,081 homes in the village. Collection boxes for completed questionnaires were placed in the shop on Park Road, The Welfare Public House and Kitchen and Hawthorne Primary and Nursery School. Additional copies of the consultation were also made available at The Welfare.
2. Online - a link to the consultation was shared on the village Facebook page 5 times throughout the consultation period.

The consultation booklet included an offer for anyone who couldn't complete the questionnaire for any reason to contact our Clerk so the council could support them, though no-one reached out to us about this.

### Community group responses

13 community groups were asked to complete their questionnaire online. No paper questionnaire was offered as the council had a reasonable expectation that group leaders would have access to a computer - though support was offered for anyone who did not.

13 community groups responded to the questionnaire, these were: Bestwood Village Miners Welfare; Friends of Bestwood Country Park; Bestwood Country Park Wildlife Group; St Mark's Church; Hawthorne Primary and Nursery Schools; Boys' Brigade and Girls' Association; Natural Athlete CIC; St Mark's Baby and Toddler Group; Bestwood Welfare

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Diamonds Brass Band; Bestwood Village Male Voice Choir; Bestwood Village Bowls Club; Bestwood Village parkrun and Bestwood Village Women’s Institute.

### **Consultation period**

Consultation booklets were distributed to homes between 20th and 26th April 2024. The link to the online questionnaire was posted in the village Facebook group online on 22nd and 28th April, and 14th, 19th and 22nd May. The deadline was Sunday 19th May, although we did accept submissions after this date.

Community groups were contacted from 25th-27th July. The deadline was Thursday 15th August, and again, we accepted submissions after this date.

### **Individual response rate**

We had 210 responses from individuals. Of these, 20 (10%) completed the questionnaire by hand, and 190 (90%) completed it online. Based on the [village adult population of 1,663](#), this represents about 13% of individuals (excluding children). This means the results of this consultation are in the typical range for response rates for postal questionnaires, which is 5%-20% according to [Nottinghamshire County Council guidance](#).

### **Sample size and margin of error**

This sample size - the number of responses as a proportion of total population - represents a 7% [margin of error](#) which falls within the [acceptable range of 4-8%](#). This means that the council can have a good level of confidence that the results of the individual consultation questionnaire broadly represent the views of everyone in Bestwood Village.

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# RESPONSES

## 1. Why we're proud to live in Bestwood Village

### Response summary

We asked people, 'can you tell us why you like living and/or are proud to live in Bestwood Village?' and gave them a free text box to write their answer.

203 people answered the question. We read all the answers and clustered them under key themes. The table below outlines what people told us about why they like living in Bestwood Village. Some people gave us more than one reason and each reason has been counted.

| <b>Key theme</b>                                  | <b>Number of people who mentioned this in their answer</b> | <b>Percentage of people who mentioned this in their answer.</b> |
|---|--|---|
| Easy access to the countryside and green spaces   | 123  | 61%   |
| Community spirit                                  | 66   | 33%   |
| Peaceful village feel                             | 57   | 28%   |
| Location - proximity to both city and countryside | 40   | 20%   |
| Local history and mining heritage                 | 13   | 6%  |
| Family ties                                       | 8  | 4%  |
| Facilities (shop, school, church, Welfare)        | 7  | 3%  |
| Good for families                                 | 4  | 2%  |
| Safe  | 4  | 2%  |



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## Word cloud

This word cloud is a visual representation of the answers people gave us. The bigger the word, the more times it was mentioned.



## What people told us

*"Lived in the village since 1985. Good community spirit. No better place for us."*

*"We moved here for the great village to bring up a family. It's safe with low crime rates and we like the community feel to the village."*

*"Love the village, love that there is always someone to help no matter what."*

*"Living near the country park and lakes is the best. I'm proud of how we work together as a community."*

*"The mining heritage, the fact it's close to city centre but in the countryside. Beautiful country park and walks that never get old."*

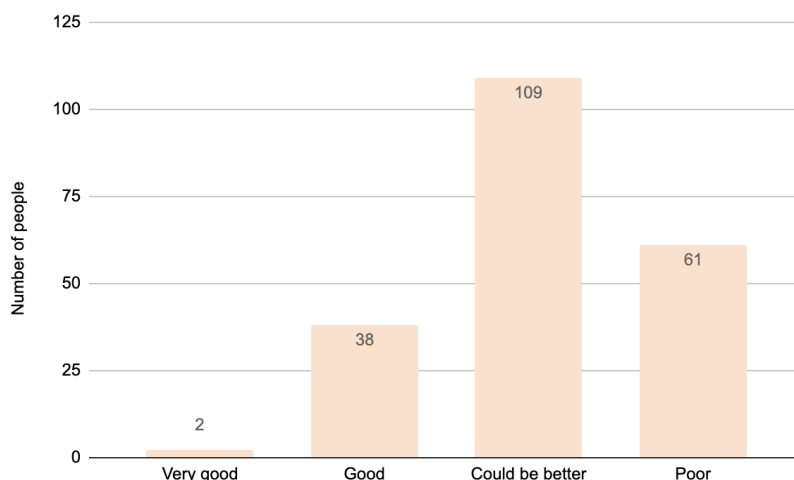
*"Lovely village with nature on our doorstep."*

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## 2. Sports, leisure, facilities and amenities

### Response summary

We asked people, *'How would you rate the level of access to community sports and leisure activities, facilities and amenities in the village?'* and gave them the option of four ratings. 210 people answered this question.



We then asked people, *'Is there anything that could improve your rating for access to sports and leisure facilities?'* and gave them a free text box for their answer.

137 people answered this question. We read all the answers and clustered them under key themes. The table below outlines the suggestions people made. Some people gave us more than one suggestion and each one has been counted separately.

| Key theme   | Number of people who mentioned this in their answer | Percentage of people who mentioned this in their answer. |
|---|---|--|
| A gym or community leisure centre   | 25  | 18%  |
| More indoor fitness and exercise classes e.g. yoga                              | 22  | 16%  |
| More activities for children and young people e.g. upgrades to park, youth club | 21  | 15%  |
| More information on what is already available                                   | 17  | 12%  |

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|   |    |     |
|---|----|-----|
| Upgrading of facilities we already have e.g. community centre / Welfare     | 15 | 11% |
| More outdoor facilities e.g. all-weather pitch, cricket nets, tennis courts | 14 | 10% |
| Better transport links to leisure and sport facilities outside the village  | 9  | 7%  |

### Word cloud

This word cloud is a visual representation of the answers people gave us.



### What people told us

*"Would be nice if the Welfare grounds were utilised better, maybe tennis courts."*

*"Increased sport activities in the park or a gym."*

*"It would be great to have more activities for children"*

*"Would like to hear of anything taking place, not always aware of what is available."*

*"There should be more classes in the community centre."*

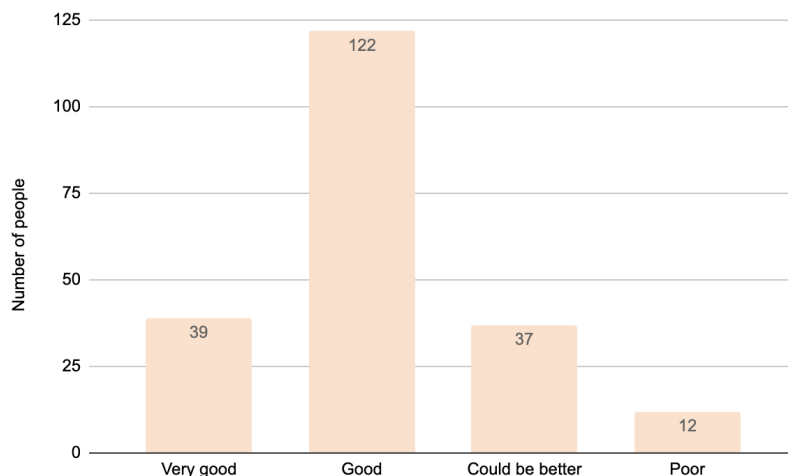
*"I think the village is missing a gym for cardio/weight training."*

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### 3. Connection, friendliness and inclusivity

#### Response summary

We asked people, *'how would you rate the sense of connection and friendliness between people and the level of inclusivity in the village?'* and gave them the option of four ratings. 210 people answered this question.



We then asked people, *'Is there anything that could improve your rating for sense of connection and friendliness?'* and gave them a free text box for their answer.

92 people answered this question. We read all the answers and clustered them under key themes. The table below outlines the suggestions people made. Some people gave us more than one suggestion and each one has been counted separately.

| Key theme   | Number of people who mentioned this in their answer | Percentage of people who mentioned this in their answer. |
|---|---|--|
| More community events to bring people together  | 15  | 16%  |
| Make better use of The Welfare and community centre                                   | 10  | 11%  |
| Better integration between people living in the older and newer parts of the village. | 9   | 10%  |

|  |   |    |
|--|---|----|
| Develop a new place to meet like a pub or cafe   | 8 | 9% |
| Raise awareness of activities that are happening | 8 | 9% |
| Reduce anti-social behaviour                     | 5 | 5% |
| More communities activities and/or clubs         | 4 | 4% |

### Word cloud

This word cloud is a visual representation of the answers people gave us.



### What people told us

*"I think we could bring the village together more through events."*

*"A focal point such as a pub, would be brilliant for the village, serving food, quiz nights, events."*

*"The community centre and Welfare don't seem to be the hubs of the village that they could be."*

*"The village is a friendly place but there is a noticeable split between the newer and older areas."*

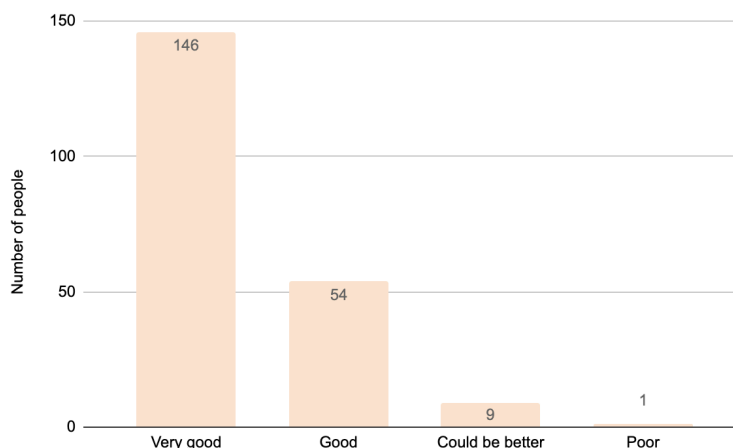
*"I find everyone to be friendly and helpful. I feel safe asking for help from others."*

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## 4. Natural environment, green space and nature

### Response summary

We asked people, *'how would you rate the natural environment, access to green space and opportunities to connect with nature in the village?'* and gave them the option of four ratings. 210 people answered this question.



We then asked people, *'Is there anything that could improve your rating for access to green spaces?'* and gave them a free text box for their answer.

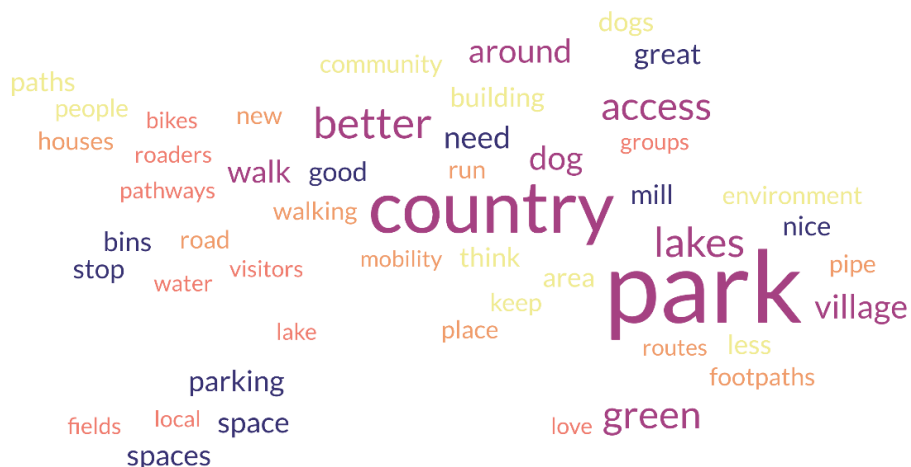
97 people answered this question. We read all the answers and clustered them under key themes. The table below outlines the suggestions people made. Some people gave us more than one suggestion and each one has been counted separately.

| Key theme   | Number of people who mentioned this in their answer | Percentage of people who mentioned this in their answer. |
|---|---|--|
| Stop building new homes on green spaces   | 13  | 13%  |
| Improve paths around Mill Lakes and country park, particularly those which get 'swampy' | 8   | 8%   |
| Sad to see the impact of the Severn Trent pipeline on the country park                  | 8   | 8%   |
| More signposted walks around the village include  | 8   | 8%   |

|   |   |    |
|---|---|----|
| country park and Mill Lakes   |   |    |
| Better access for disabled people / people with pushchairs to country park and Mill Lakes | 7 | 7% |
| More general and dog waste bins in green spaces   | 7 | 7% |
| More parking at country park and Mill Lakes   | 5 | 5% |
| Owners to keep dogs on leads in green spaces  | 4 | 4% |

### Word cloud

This word cloud is a visual representation of the answers people gave us.



### What people told us

*"Make all pathways through the park accessible for all prams, bikes and mobility transport."*

*"Have a set of walks around the country park signposted to encourage more people to access it."*

*"More dog waste/litter bins around the walk ways."*

*"Bestwood Country Park is fantastic. Mill Lakes is a nice, pleasant walk. Stop the off roaders."*

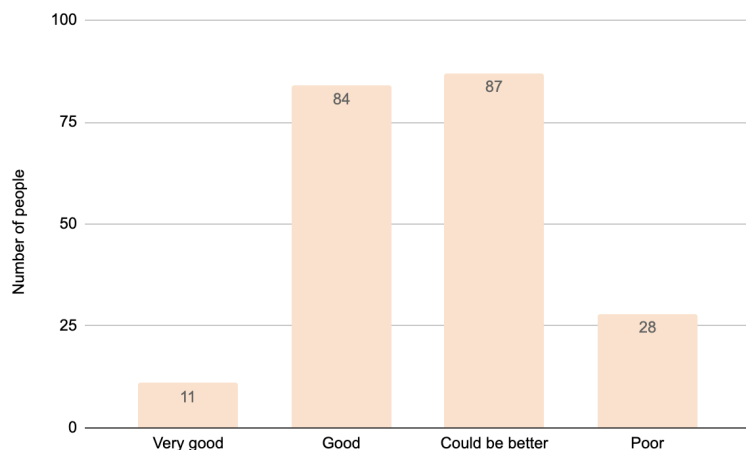
*"Please do not keep letting developers keep building on our green fields."*

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## 5. Opportunities for children and young people

### Response summary

We asked people, *'how would you rate the opportunities available for children and young people to play, learn and relax in the village?'* and gave them the option of four ratings. 210 people answered this question.



We then asked people, *'Is there anything that could improve your rating for opportunities for children and young people?'* and gave them a free text box for their answer.

117 people answered this question. We read all the answers and clustered them under key themes. The table below outlines the suggestions people made. Some people gave us more than one suggestion and each one has been counted separately.

| Key theme  | Number of people who mentioned this in their answer | Percentage of people who mentioned this in their answer. |
|--|---|--|
| More organised activities for young people inc. better use of the community centre | 23  | 20%  |
| Upgrade existing parks / create a new park on High Main Drive.                     | 16  | 14%  |
| Set up a youth club  | 15  | 13%  |



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## Word cloud

This word cloud is a visual representation of the answers people gave us.



## What people told us

*"All my children's after school activities are outside the village. The children need to have a safe place they can go to use the community centre or village hall for a youth centre."*

*"More weekend activities, bank holiday fun days. Bring the community together."*

*"Children have the country park and the play park, the nearby community centre also does things for the community."*

*"The youth bus is excellent but additional activities are needed."*

*"More fun days, more to do especially within the country park."*

*"We could do with a play park in High Main Drive as it was originally planned."*

*"Build an indoor/outdoor safe area for them to join, offering different forms of activities, events & outings to all local children of different age groups."*

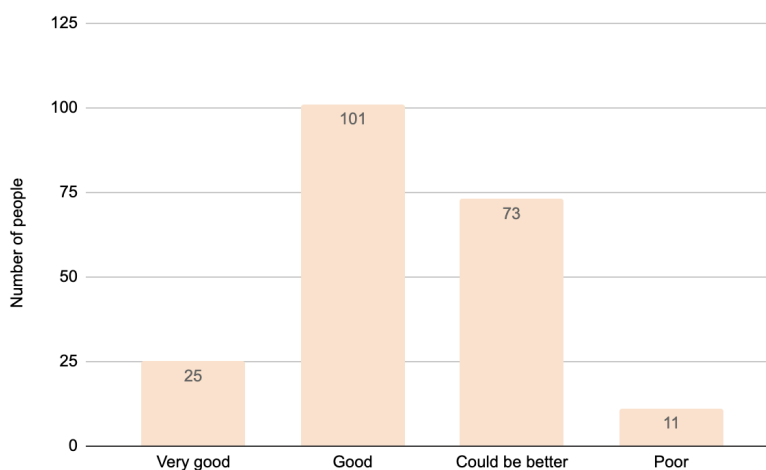
*"A youth club might be a good idea where they can meet up and socialise safely."*

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## 6. Safety of people and property

### Response summary

We asked people, *'How would you rate the overall safety of people and property in the village?'* and gave them the option of four ratings. 210 people answered this question.



We then asked people, *'is there anything that could improve your rating for safety?'* and gave them a free text box for their answer.

125 people answered this question. We read all the answers and clustered them under key themes. The table below outlines the suggestions people made. Some people gave us more than one suggestion and each one has been counted separately.

| Key theme  | Number of people who mentioned this in their answer | Percentage of people who mentioned this in their answer. |
|--|---|--|
| More police or community support officer presence in the village | 43  | 34%  |
| Stop off-road bikers using the country park                      | 27  | 22%  |
| Better lighting on route to Butlers Hill and Hucknall Lane       | 16  | 13%  |

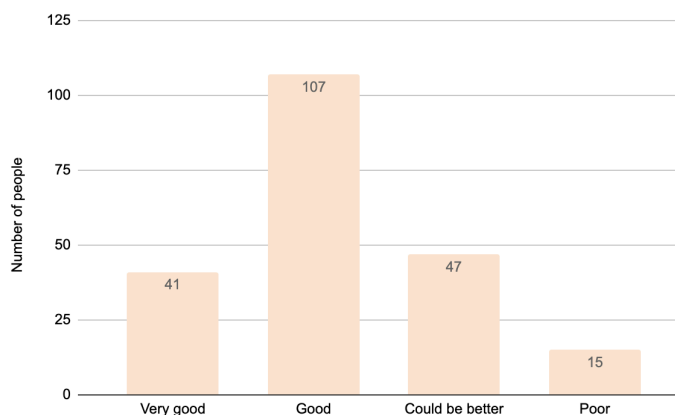


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## 7. Health and wellbeing

### Response summary

We asked people, *'how would you rate your overall health and wellbeing?' and gave them the option of four ratings. 210 people answered this question.*



We then asked people, *'is there anything (in the village) that could improve your rating for health and wellbeing?' and gave them a free text box for their answer.*

112 people answered this question. We read all the answers and clustered them under key themes. The table below outlines the suggestions people made. Some people gave us more than one suggestion and each one has been counted separately.

| Key theme   | Number of people who mentioned this in their answer | Percentage of people who mentioned this in their answer. |
|---|---|--|
| A doctors surgery or pharmacy for the village                 | 52  | 46%  |
| More health and fitness classes / a gym                       | 30  | 27%  |
| A dentist for the village                                     | 11  | 10%  |
| More opportunities to connect with people                     | 7   | 6%   |
| Better transport links to health services outside the village | 6   | 5%   |

|                      |   |    |
|----------------------|---|----|
| Improved road safety | 4 | 4% |
|----------------------|---|----|

## Word cloud

This word cloud is a visual representation of the answers people gave us.



## What people told us

*"Doctors surgery (even if it's not full time to start with). Perhaps a mobile pharmacy etc."*

*"Think we need to have more places to go to for the lonely and vulnerable people & a meal."*

*"Be nice if there was more fitness classes etc in the village."*

*"Better and more frequent bus service to get to medical appointments."*

*"Health and wellbeing drop in centres / pop ups in the village."*

*"Would be nice to have our own doctors, dentist services within the village."*

*"More aerobics type sessions. Art classes."*

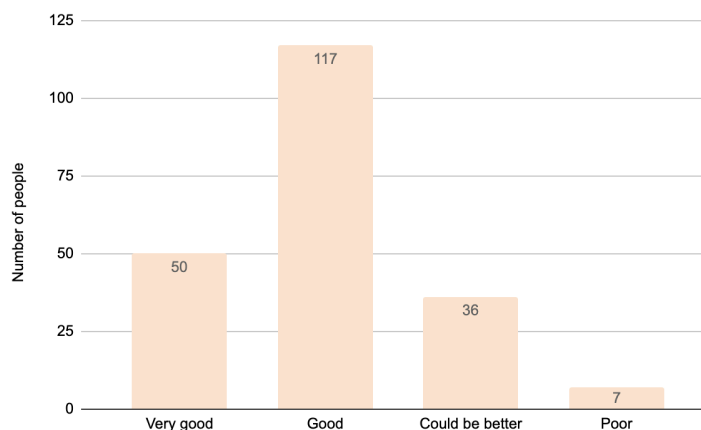
*"It's perfect for me I regularly go running around the country park and mill lakes."*

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## 8. Life living in Bestwood Village

### Response summary

We asked people, *'overall, how would you rate life living in Bestwood Village?'* and gave them the option of four ratings. 210 people answered this question.



We then asked people, *'is there anything that you've not told us about already that could improve your rating for life overall in the village?'* and gave them a free text box for their answer.

122 people answered this question. We read all the answers and clustered them under key themes. The table below outlines the suggestions people made. Some people gave us more than one suggestion and each one has been counted separately.

| Key theme  | Number of people who mentioned this in their answer | Percentage of people who mentioned this in their answer. |
|--|---|--|
| More amenities to accommodate the expansion of the village e.g. shops, takeaways, sports | 33  | 27%  |
| Better transport links, including more buses and better links to the tram                | 32  | 26%  |
| Health facilities e.g. a GP surgery or pharmacy  | 20  | 16%  |
| More places to socialise e.g. cafe, pub  | 14  | 12%  |

|   |    |     |
|---|----|-----|
| Better public safety e.g. lighting, road safety, tackling off-road motorbikes | 13 | 10% |
| More work to stop the flooding inc. Moor Road and footpath to Butlers Hill    | 8  | 6%  |
| Better use of existing buildings e.g. Welfare, community centre               | 8  | 6%  |
| Remove the speed humps on Moor Road   | 7  | 6%  |
| Prevent dog fouling through more bins / enforcement                           | 6  | 5%  |
| More street cleaning / stop littering   | 5  | 4%  |
| Better road conditions e.g. tackle potholes                                   | 4  | 3%  |

## Word cloud

This word cloud is a visual representation of the answers people gave us.



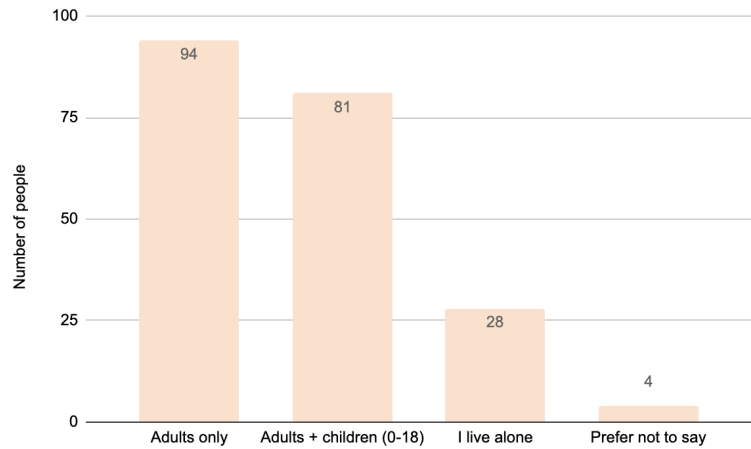
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## WHO COMPLETED THE QUESTIONNAIRE?

### Households

We asked people *'who lives in your house?'* and gave them four options.

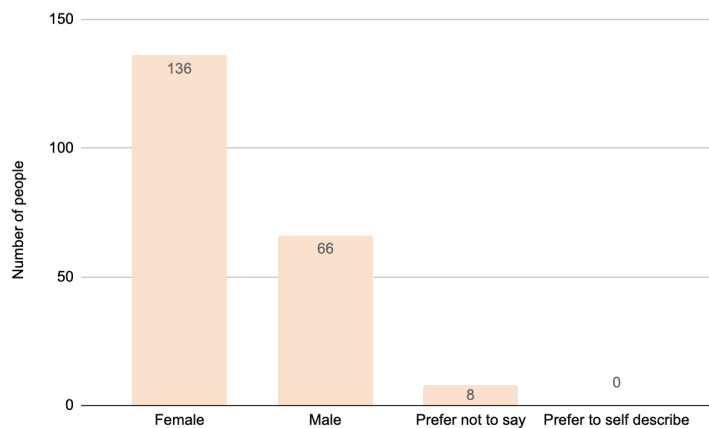
207 people answered this question.



### Gender

We asked people *'what is your gender?'* and gave them four options, including the option to self describe.

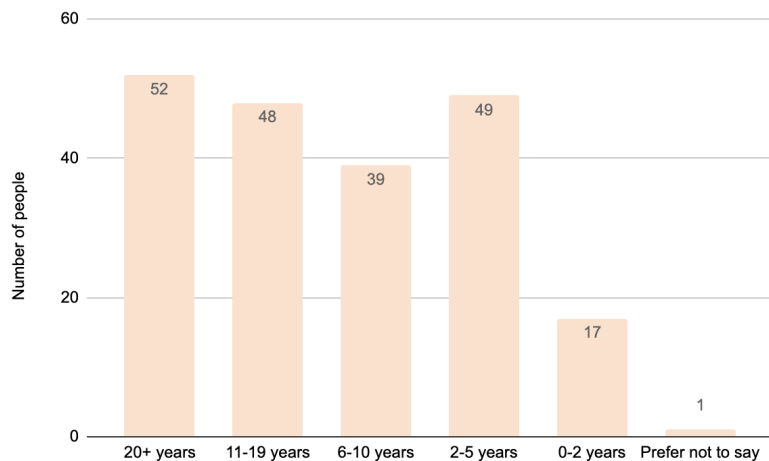
210 people answered this question.



### Time living in the village

We asked people *'how long have you lived in the village?'* and gave them six options.

206 people answered this question.





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## VILLAGE GROUPS

### [28th Nottingham Boys' Brigade and Girls' Association](#)

#### **Purpose, goals and activities**

We have faith in children and young people and provide opportunities for them to learn, grow and discover in a safe, fun and caring environment which is rooted in the Christian faith. There's something for every young person whether it's camping or kayaking, first aid or five a side, music or crafts. We support our members to gain achievement badges in six areas (get creative, get active, get involved, get learning, get adventurous and get into the bible). We also offer them the opportunity to get involved in battalion competitions, the marching band, and the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme. We are open to young people aged 5 – 18. We meet at St Mark's Church on a Monday evening during term-time and our youth group (for members Year 7 upwards) meets once a month on a Sunday evening. We charge an annual fee of £10 per family and weekly subs of £2.00 per child per night.

#### **Beneficiaries / members**

We are open to all young people aged 5–18. At the moment we are at capacity with 45 young members. We would love to welcome more members but unfortunately we are limited by the space available and so we have a waiting list.

#### **Collaboration with other groups**

We work with St Mark's Church, Bestwood Male Voice Choir and the parish council. We have also worked with the Women's Institute and The Welfare in the past. We are happy to work with any other groups and be involved in village events.

#### **Funding**

Our income is from the annual enrolment fee and our weekly subs. We are committed to keeping our subs affordable but need to cover national and local affiliation and insurance fees. For 2024/25 we estimate this will be £1,500. At present subs cover this cost but this does limit the types of activity we are able to do.

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## **Challenges**

Our main challenge is space. We would like to welcome more members but do not have the space to do this. Recently we have welcomed a number of new members with additional needs. We would like to ensure that our officers are equipped to meet their needs by offering additional training. We would also like to purchase more band equipment that is suitable for the younger members of our group.

## **Future plans**

We are hoping to grow our marching band but instruments are expensive, particularly those that are the right size for our young people!

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## **Bestwood Village Male Voice Choir**

### **Purpose, goals and activities**

We are a Male Voice Choir and our goal is to promote, improve and develop public education of male voice choir singing. We provide concerts at all kinds of venues e.g. churches, village halls and concert halls, as well as singing at weddings and funerals . We meet on Tuesdays evenings from 7.30pm – 9.30 pm at the community centre.

### **Beneficiaries / members**

We have currently 27 members and we'd be very happy to welcome more men in our ranks. We're a very supportive group and we welcome experienced and novice singers alike.

### **Collaboration with other groups**

We perform at the former Bestwood Colliery site on occasions and every year we join Remembrance day events at the Cenotaph and St Mark's Church, as well as at St Mark's Sunday carol service.

### **Funding**

We are funded through members subscriptions and from any profit made from performances after expenses. As a registered charity we also claim Gift Aid. Our annual subscription from members is becoming even more costly as we have a reducing number of singers. It's really important to us that we continue to attract new members.

### **Challenges**

Recruitment has become more difficult as the years go by with fewer young people interested in choral singing. We'd like for local schools to encourage participation in singing

### **Future plans**

This year we performed at the Papplewick Festival and we have concerts booked at St Helena's Church in West Leake and with other local choirs at Southwell Minster in October.

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Next year we have a singing weekend in Scarborough. We are also hosting a group concert on behalf of the National Association of Choirs East Midlands Group at St Mary's Church in Hucknall.

### **Ideas for the village**

We would like to see an annual summer festival including as many local organisations as possible to attend.

### **Contact**

David Riley – Chair – Bestwood Male Voice Choir - [davidandhilda78@gmail.com](mailto:davidandhilda78@gmail.com)

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## **Bestwood Village Miners' Welfare and Community Centre**

### **Purpose, goals and activities**

Our goal is to bring the community together in a social environment. Groups based at the Welfare include the bowls club, 'Black Diamonds' band, and karate, dance, craft, football, sewing and lunch clubs. The groups are self-funding and we offer them affordable space for their activities. From September we operate as a 'warm hub' three days a week through the winter. We're also the base for the weekly Gedling Borough Council advice centre. All activities take place either at the Welfare, village hall, community centre or recreation ground (off High Main Drive). We also host and/or run community events such as the Christmas Lights switch on, Hallowe'en activities, or film screenings. In addition, we host a pizza. We let the community know what's happening via our Facebook page and through word of mouth.

### **Beneficiaries / members**

We host activities for children and young people, for adults and for older people. We have about 300-400 people taking part in activities each week, though all the groups who have a home here, and our bar, would benefit from having more people come through the doors.

### **Collaboration with other groups**

We're home to many different groups in the village. We know the Wildlife Group would like to work with us on projects like bee hives. We'd like to work more closely with the parish council, perhaps with a councillor on our board of trustees to help us be more connected.

### **Funding**

Our primary sources of funding (in order of income generation) are: booking for the community centre, village hall and board room; the Welfare Pub & Kitchen bar (from which all profits go to the Welfare charity); and grants (although since Covid these have dried up a bit). We're in need of capital grants for any major redevelopment. We'd love to add a cafe, or even create some small shop units on site.

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## **Challenges**

Our major challenge is generating enough income to stay open. At the moment we don't have the resources to open more in the daytime. We know other village halls open everyday with lots of groups using them at the same time, but the layout of our spaces means we're not geared up for this. Ideally we need smaller spaces so different groups can use the facilities at the same time. We'd really like people to use us more - we're not a members club - everyone is welcome and we want the community to feel at home here.

## **Future plans**

In the short to medium term we'd like to get a new kitchen in place as the current one is small and impractical. A new kitchen would mean we can offer meals at affordable prices and get more people through the door. The FA has visited the site and we're hoping we can now progress with a new 5G sports pitch. We're currently working on our long term funding strategy to redevelop the building. If anyone has any experience in writing funding applications and/or researching funding opportunities we would like to hear from you!

## **Ideas for the village**

It would be great if more villagers could see the Welfare as a place for them and the community, rather than something they just walk past.

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## **Bestwood Village parkrun**

### **Purpose, goals and activities**

A free, fun, and friendly weekly community event. Walk, jog, or run 5k, volunteer or spectate. Our purpose is to help people to start or stay active. We meet on Saturdays at 9am at Bestwood Country Park off Park Road. People taking part complete one lap clockwise around the park, starting from the Dynamo House. It's free to take part but we ask people to register online before your first run. You only ever register with parkrun once and don't forget to bring a scannable copy of your barcode.

### **Beneficiaries / members**

Anyone can attend parkrun. Children under the age of 11 must stay with a supervising adult whilst out on the course. People travel from all over the world to visit all the different parkruns. There are currently over 2,300 parkrun events in 22 countries. It's hard to know how many people will turn up to parkrun on a Saturday at Bestwood but on average it's around 100.

### **Collaboration with other groups**

We work closely with Dynamo Cafe, mainly buying their freshly baked goods. Some of our volunteers bake cakes for them to sell .

### **Funding**

We don't have a source of income. parkrun is a free event that is run by volunteers. People can donate to a parkrun if they want to.

### **Challenges**

Our main challenge is that parking is very limited in the village. We're being very mindful not to annoy local residents for the couple of hours we're at the park on Saturday morning.

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## **Bestwood Village Women's Institute**

### **Purpose, goals and activities**

We offer a programme of fun and engaging monthly meetings for women. Meetings might include education, crafts, a social or visiting speakers. We meet at the Dynamo Cafe every 4th Wednesday of the month. Members pay an annual subscription of £48. To join, just come along to a meeting.

### **Beneficiaries / members**

We currently have 11 members and we'd like to have many more! We welcome women of all ages from 18 upwards. We encourage people to come along to make friends, meet like-minded people and take part in our activities.

### **Collaboration with other groups**

We try to get involved with events in the village.

### **Funding**

Our funding comes mainly from membership though this isn't quite sufficient with the number of members we have at the moment. If membership doesn't increase we may have to close.

### **Challenges**

Trying to recruit new members - please consider joining us!

### **Future plans**

We have a programme planned to March 2025.

### **Ideas for the village**

We'd like to see village groups working together, not in isolation. We'd also like to see more local healthcare facilities like a GP surgery or pharmacist.



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## **Bestwood Welfare 'Black Diamonds' Band**

### **Purpose, goals and activities**

We play music using brass instruments and our band has been in the village since around 1896. We meet at the community centre on Thursdays from 7.30pm. The cost is £2 per week and instruments are provided.

### **Beneficiaries / members**

We have nine members at the moment and more are welcome. We accept adults or anyone who can play.

### **Collaboration with other groups**

We perform at the village Christmas tree light switch on and Christmas Fayre. We sometimes do the odd performance with the Bestwood Village Male Voice Choir.

### **Funding**

We're paid for some performances and we also receive grants to support us. Members pay weekly subs and more members will enable us to employ a conductor.

### **Challenges**

Ideally we need our own space and we'd like to set up a music area at the community centre for anyone to book and use, and for us to be able to teach music. We're able to teach swing, as well as brass. We have already been allocated an area, we just need the funding to do the building work inside.

### **Future plans**

We'd like to compete in contests again. We were a championship band in the past, but a reduction in local bus services changed this as most of us travelled to competitions on the bus but now this isn't possible as we can't get home again due to changes in the timetable. We would like to train more people in the village to pick up the band mantle as we're not getting any younger!

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## Ideas for the village

We'd like more contact between other village groups and the Miner's Welfare as there's much that could be achieved if people took an interest in [the Welfare charity](#) (which is different to the Welfare Pub and Kitchen, though the pub surplus does fund the charity). Should the current charity trustees resign, there is a risk that the landowners - CISWO (Coal Industry Social Welfare Organisation) - may sell the land that is currently home to the Welfare, the village hall and community centre ([as has happened in other areas](#)).

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## **Bestwood w/s Bowling Club**

### **Purpose, goals and activities**

We are an outdoor bowling club. We play on the bowling green at the Welfare.

### **Beneficiaries / members**

We have 16 members and most of us are pensioners.

### **Funding**

Members pay a yearly membership fee, alongside match fees when they play.

### **Challenges**

It's expensive to fund the cost of machine repairs or replacement.

### **Future plans**

Our plans are to continue trying to meet the challenge of paying for the upkeep of the bowling area and the upkeep of the machines.

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## **Friends of Bestwood Country Park**

### **Purpose, goals and activities**

We are a forum for all users of the park and people who live near it. We liaise with Notts County Council (the landowners) to enhance the experience of those who use the park and to protect the flora and fauna within it. Our volunteers run the Dynamo Cafe in the park on Saturday mornings. We also have a conservation group and we run events in the park. We have regular meetings and update the community through our email/printed newsletter.

### **Beneficiaries / members**

Anyone can join us as a member, and there is no membership fee. Everyone is welcome to get involved. We have 200 people signed up to our email list and about 40 of them are active members. Our wildlife group in particular has attracted children as well as adults. New volunteers to run the cafe and the winding engine house would be very welcome.

### **Collaboration with other groups**

We liaise with Bestwood Village Parish Council when organising events like The Darling Buds of May. We have welcomed the attendance of two St Albans parish councillors at our meetings and we are working with them on a revamp of the Japanese Gardens.

### **Funding**

Our only source of income is generated by the Dynamo House cafe. It covers our costs for the newsletter, other printing and wildlife group equipment. Major projects like the refurbishing of Andy's Adventure playground require grants.

### **Challenges**

Ideally, we are looking for volunteers who are hale and hearty, and have time to devote to our projects. Many of our current volunteers are past retirement age and this isn't sustainable so younger volunteers would be very welcome.

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## **Future plans**

We'd like to persuade Gedling Borough Council to work with us on restoring the Japanese Gardens. We'd also like to produce a new information leaflet for the Winding Engine House. We hope to have a say on the remediation work that's carried out after the Severn Trent pipeline has been completed. In the long term, we'd like to do what we can to improve facilities in the park, including: extending Dynamo House to include a classroom, repairing the current disabled toilet and provision of new toilets near Dynamo House; expansion of the car park; provision of ranger cover at weekend. All this will involve a major commitment from Notts County Council and very likely a major bid for third party funding.

## **Ideas for the village**

A major problem for many residents, especially the elderly and families with young children, is the precarious nature of the bus services linking the village to the city, leading to social isolation. Our volunteer-run cafe at Dynamo House, which operates on Saturdays and Bank Holiday Mondays, aims to act as a community hub, but the village could do with more such regular hubs.

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## **Hawthorne Primary and Nursery School**

### **Purpose, goals and activities**

Hawthorne Primary and Nursery School prides itself in being a welcoming school, one where children will flourish and realise their potential, whatever that potential might be. We value getting to know all our children. This means we have a better idea of what motivates them and what success should look like for them. We are committed to providing our children with the very best opportunities and experiences, and we are proud of the relationships that we have with our children, parents and the community. We believe that all pupils have the ability to achieve wonderful things. Our aim is to ensure that our children are happy and enjoy their time at school. This is achieved by providing an environment where children feel safe to explore the new challenges and learning opportunities they encounter. All our staff are passionate about making children happy, developing their confidence and inspiring them to be successful.

### **Beneficiaries / members**

There are currently 225 pupils on roll. We support the pupils through their primary school age and to ensure that their families receive the support they need. We are a member of the Flying High Trust. We have a strong Governing body consisting of seven members with a wide range of experience who are committed to ensuring that Hawthorne is the best place for our children to be. In September of this year, we welcome Limetrees - a before and after school provider - who will provide wrap-around care for our families.

### **Collaboration with other groups**

We welcome the opportunity to work more closely with groups in the village, time allowing. Our school choir loves to perform and thoroughly enjoyed attending the Christmas Fayre last year. Many of the children at the school attend the local Boys Brigade so there are also clear links there. We regularly visit the church as part of our RE curriculum and also hold our carol concert there during the festive period. We would like to thank the parish council for supporting us with funding towards our improved Early Years outdoor area.

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## **Funding**

The majority of funding comes through the government, however as budgets are so tight - a common theme across the education system - we are becoming more creative and applying for additional grants to support the work. eg, parish council supporting the development of the outdoor provision.

## **Challenges**

Moving to Flying High Partnership was the right thing for the school. We get a lot of support from their central team in terms of school improvement and access to opportunities such as the Trust Awards, Trust Sports competition etc. The main challenge for us is workload, which is ever increasing, and funding.

## **Future plans**

The main aim for the school is to be full! We have a fantastic facility, a great staff team and wonderful pupils and families. As the village grows, so too will the school.

## **Ideas for the village**

We strongly believe we are stronger together. We recently reached out to the village through the community Facebook page in an attempt to recruit some reading volunteers. We recruited eight fantastic individuals who will give up their time to read with our pupils. It is evident already that both the children and the volunteers value this time.

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## **Natural Athlete Community Health and Fitness CIC**

### **Purpose, goals and activities**

We provide training and nutrition services to improve people's physical and mental health. Some services are provided on a commercial basis and this helps to support our free services to the community. Our goals are to: provide physical activity services in the village (including classes) and increase the offering of sports and wellness facilities in the village. We mainly offer 1-2-1 services at the moment due to capacity while we seek further funding. We provide services to both nursing homes in the village and have planned circuit sessions at the Welfare. Anyone who wants to take part in activities can find our contact details through our website.

### **Beneficiaries / members**

We are currently supporting about 24 adults with mental health support through fitness and nutrition activities and services. Each week we offer a free class to about 60 older adults from Eden Lodge Care Home and Hawthorne Nursing Home. Once we get our cycling and group circuit classes going, we'll be supporting a further 50 adults per week. We would love to be able to serve more people but we have to secure more funding to be able to deliver more services. (We are currently apply for funding from the National Lottery Community Fund).

### **Collaboration with other groups**

We offer health classes to residents at Eden Lodge and Hawthorne.

### **Funding**

We are funded through a mixture of grant funding and commercial services (sessions that people pay for). Funding is currently sufficient to cover the cost of our limited provision but an increase in funding would help us to offer more free community services. Without commercial services / grant funding we would not be able to provide any free services.



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## **Challenges**

More grant funding would help to increase our capacity to support more people. We'd welcome support from local organisations or from people who can help us to develop our services as most of our time is devoted to delivery with individuals and the community.

## **Future plans**

We are awaiting cycling leader training to be able to start free cycling groups in the village. We are still working on funding for a community gym and mental health space. We are also looking at the possibility of outsourcing our provision of mental health services due to the majority of our service users presenting with these problems.

## **Ideas for the village**

It would be good to see additional facilities and services for sport as well as free nutrition and health education classes

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## **St Mark's Church**

### **Purpose, goals and activities**

Our main activities are church services (including weddings, baptisms and funerals and services in nursing homes) and children's groups. Our main goals are to worship God, to build faith and community and to serve those around us. Our main service is at 10am on Sunday morning. Each week we host/run activities for children, in people's homes as required and monthly in Hawthorne Nursing Home and the Country Park. We also visit the school and have children visit the church. We help to mark secular and religious festivals and anniversaries around the village like the Remembrance Parade, carols in the Country Park at Christmas. Other than our children's groups, which make a small charge, the majority of our activities are free. Due to limited space, the Boys' Brigade has a waiting list, but you can just turn up for the services and other activities. The vicar or associate priest should be contacted for services like weddings, funerals and christenings and there may be a fee for some of these.

### **Beneficiaries / members**

Everyone is welcome. Church goes benefit from the strength of church family relationships, and young people from the opportunity to serve alongside adults, e.g. playing instruments or helping with event refreshments and tech etc. The community benefits from the groups we run, the building and grounds we maintain, and the continuation of the venue. We are a small congregation and range in age from 6 months to over 80. It would be lovely to welcome more people to church.

### **Collaboration with other groups**

We are happy to work with anyone who invites us to get involved. We try to be part of any village wide events, we work with the Bestwood Male Voice Choir for Remembrance, have worked with The Welfare on the village bonfire, we visit the school and the nursing homes.

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## **Funding**

We are primarily funded by the giving of the congregation. In the past we have also applied for grants for large projects, for example, Veolia helped with refurbishing the church to make it more useable, and we have applied to the parish council in the past for help to run events including the village bonfire. We also receive a limited amount of income from one-off services such as weddings and funerals but the amount received does not usually cover the cost of the significant amount of work involved in these.

## **Challenges**

Maintenance costs! Keeping a Victorian church warm and dry and free from vandalism is hard going, as well as ground maintenance and managing fly tipping. Really we need support with financing it, as the graveyard and building are important to the wider community but are maintained entirely by the Sunday congregation.

## **Future plans**

We would like to extend if we could raise grant funding, allowing us to accommodate more children in our groups and store the equipment they need. At the moment we have two rooms and four sections in our Boys' Brigade - the logistics of ensuring everyone is safe and having fun is challenging! We really need to update our technical equipment so that funerals and services can be managed more easily. We still offer a service on Zoom each week which is valued by those of our congregation with mobility issues but our mobile internet signal is not fantastic and it would be great to have secure broadband to address this. This would also allow us to stream services such as weddings and funerals for those who are unable to attend.

## **Ideas for the village**

We work to support all the other groups where we can, and our members make every effort to be active in the community on a practical level with members who are school governors, visitors at nursing homes and on the parish council. Unfortunately as other groups would probably agree, there are never enough hands or pennies for the work we'd all like to do to build community in our village.

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## **St Mark's Baby and Toddler Group**

### **Purpose, goals and activities**

We offer play and social space for babies and children up to age 3 and their carers. Sessions include free play equipment, craft activities, singing and movement. This is all offered with a Christian ethos. Parents and carers who join us have the opportunity to socialise with each other and the group leaders. Our part-time priest is a regular attender and acts as link to church services including baptisms and weddings. We meet at St Mark's Church every Tuesday from 9am-11am during school term time. Cost is £1.50 per child including tea, coffee and toast.

### **Beneficiaries / members**

We have about 15-20 children attending each week, plus their parents, grandparents and carers. This is about the most we have capacity to host. Many people travel from the surrounding areas to attend.

### **Collaboration with other groups**

The group is run by St Mark's church and both leaders are regular church members. The group operates independently of other groups in the village and it is difficult to see how such involvement might be beneficial.

### **Funding**

The group is entirely self-funding through the weekly charge made which currently is deemed to be adequate.

### **Challenges**

Operating the group itself presents no particular challenge, (other than that to our own energy levels!). However, as leaders we face the constant challenge of revealing God's love to those taking part.

### **Future plans**

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None, other than to continue what is considered to be a successful and popular group.

### **Ideas for the village**

As we're a group which supports carers and children, we are aware that organised village facilities for children as they grow are somewhat scarce, particularly for older children and teens. The Boy's Brigade and Girl's Association fill some of this void, but a well-run youth club based in the community centre would be a great asset.

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## **Wildlife Group**

### **Purpose, goals and activities**

We support the conservation of Bestwood Country Park. Our main goals are to protect, improve and record biodiversity within the park. We endeavour to have monthly meetings at Dynamo House and it's free to take part. We organise birdseed for sale at the Dynamo Cafe, have a weekly butterfly transect, have regular moth and bat nights and organise bird walks. We try to highlight issues within the country park.

### **Beneficiaries / members**

Our main beneficiary is the flora and fauna in the country park, however we believe that human contact with green spaces is vital to our health and wellbeing. All are welcome at our events and we try to be accessible to all. We have members from primary school age to those in retirement. We have a core membership of about 20 people, with more dipping in and out.

### **Collaboration with other groups**

We have made links with Moor Pond Woods Hucknall Wildlife Group , NGwild and Friends of Gedling CP as these groups either border the Bestwood Country Park or have common goals . We have also been in contact with St Mark's Church and the Parish council and the Welfare. We work very closely with the RSPB as Bestwood Country Park is the Southern Gateway to Sherwood Forest. It was the RSPB who helped us save a section of the country park that would have been turned into a lorry compound during work for the pipeline and helped us save rare fungi in Parkside pasture. During this time we also made good contacts with Natural England. We have a strong collaborative relationship with Severn Trent River Rangers due to the ongoing pollution at Mill Lakes and due to these links we were able to help the parish council get the flooding on the footpath resolved. We are currently working with the Environment Agency to

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try to get mitigation for the pollution in Mill Lakes. We work with the park owners NCC and Greenwood .

## **Funding**

We are part of the Friends of Bestwood Country Park and we can apply to them for money to support our activities (this is generated from the Dynamo Cafe). However we have also applied for two wildlife specific grants.

## **Challenges**

We'd like to have more core members to support our activities. Since starting the group we have had several wildlife battles such as the discovery of the extent of pollution at Mill lakes and the Severn Trent Pipeline, protecting the cowfield as an area for ground nesting birds .

## **Future plans**

We would like to have a 'young recorders' group. This would be a way for young people to learn about different species and conservation and may give them skills for a future career. We would like to bring the country park into the village more by encouraging small wild spaces or tweaking management of grass verges . We would like to offer a program of talks in the evening with different Nottinghamshire wildlife experts .

## **Ideas for the village**

A connection with nature and being wild is incredible for mental health . We would love for kids to have the right to roam like many of us did as children, so a speed limit on Park Road might help. Thinking big, we would love to have a wildlife specific centre or some sort of community wildlife garden . A space where people could come and get their hands dirty!





