**Remenham Neighbourhood Plan**

**2016 Survey Analysis**

1. **Executive Summary**

* There was a relatively low response rate of 18% from the 260 households and 40 businesses in the village; but with 55 respondents it was felt the data collected was still statistically representative.
* As a whole, the residents of Remenham are very satisfied with the current characteristics of the village
* The rural nature of the parish is valued extremely highly; with limited support for future development and growth, particularly commercial projects. There was some support to new buildings for family homes and/or first time buyers.
* The main area of concern centres on the amount of traffic in and travelling through the village. Litter was also an area where improvements could be made.
* On the whole the respondents agree that the events that dominate the Parish, attracting many visitors, are an important part of parish life; but increasing the number of events further could meet with resistance.
* Monitoring the impact of the Rewind Festival as a whole, would be advised.
* Monitoring the impact of ancillary commercial activities all these events bring would also be advised; the resultant traffic being the most highly cited problem.
* The biggest change the Parish Council could make is addressing the traffic congestion, particularly the use of the roads by commuters. A one-way system would need careful thought given some additional comments made. Speeding in Remenham Lane, and to some extent on White Hill, is also a significant concern.
* There is a mixed response regarding whether there is a need for additional public transport; further investigation is advised as to which constituents may benefit from such services.
* Protecting established footpaths and preserving rights of way should be a fundamental priority for the Parish Council. Monitoring the access to areas of private land previously open to the public, and impact of any restrictions, would be advised.
* The satisfaction of provision of utilities in the village is mixed. It would be worth looking further into whether a significant dissatisfaction with mains sewerage is due to poor provision or, perhaps more likely, lack of availability to certain areas. Highway maintenance and recycling, relevant to the whole village, also received the highest levels of dissatisfaction.
* There is a good level of amenities on offer in Remenham, with St Nicholas Church a significant focal point of the village.
* Police coverage is considered adequate throughout the year, reducing only slightly during events.
* The availability of leisure and sports clubs in the village is considered an outstanding feature of the parish.
* The availability of arts and culture in the village produced a more neutral response, but a low level of disagreement indicates that demand is insufficient in any case.
* Communication and availability of information about the parish is considered good.
* Overall, the survey results produce a very positive picture and reflect what would be considered as a very high quality of life for the residents of Remenham.

1. **The Responses**
   1. **Response Rate**

* 55 respondents started completing the survey.
* Six dropped out at various points, resulting in 49 completed surveys.
* With approximately 260 households and 40 businesses in Remenham, this gives a participation rate of 18%. Whilst this may be lower than desired, it can still be considered statistically relevant.
* It is worth noting that the primary form of inviting people to complete the survey was through the Remenham Parish newsletter, which business owners wouldn’t necessarily have seen.
* Without more information about the respondents, however, it is not possible to determine whether the data is representative of the village in terms of its demographic and economic profile.
* It is worth noting that Remenham has an elderly population and may not necessarily have access to the internet; whilst there was only one request for a paper copy of the questionnaire, the method to request this was by email.
  1. **Who Responded**
* 34 of the 49 who completed the survey gave their name.
* 20 were male, 6 female, 3 completed as a couple, 2 on behalf of a business/club and 3 unknown.
* The majority of respondents did not state their connection to the village, but of the 14 that did, 9 were Remenham residents, 3 represented a Remenham Business, 1 a Remenham landowner and 1 works in the Remenham area on a daily basis.

1. **The Environment**
   1. **Statement Evaluation**

* 45 (83%), of those who answered, agree or strongly agree that the rural nature of the parish is the most significant and valued characteristic of the parish. 28 (51%) of the answers were ‘strongly agree’, which is a high proportion.
* 36 (69%), of those who answered, agree or strongly agree that there are adequate controls in place for the occasional flooding experienced. The majority of respondents selected agree (29/55%).
* 38 (70%), of whose who answered, agree or strongly agree that the environment of Remenham is well looked after. The majority of respondents selected ‘agree’ (33/61%).

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| **Answer Options** | **Strongly Agree** | **Agree** | **Neutral** | **Disagree** | **Strongly Disagree** | **Don't Know** |
| (a) The rural nature of the parish is the most significant and valued characteristic of the parish. | 28 | 17 | 7 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| (b) Parts of the Parish experience occasional flooding but adequate controls are in place. | 7 | 29 | 13 | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| (c) The environment of Remenham is well looked after. | 5 | 33 | 12 | 3 | 1 | 1 |

* 1. **Areas for Improvement**
* There was a total of 134 responses selected. This works out to be about 2 to 3 per respondent, although the most selected was 7, with some only selecting 1.
* The large majority of respondents (75%) selected traffic as being an area for improvement.
* Litter was also highlighted by 24 (44%) of respondents.
* Fly tipping, recycling and public transport all received around 14-15 responses each (25-27%).

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| **Answer Options** | **Response Count** | **Response Percent** |
| None | 6 | 11% |
| Fly-tipping | 14 | 25% |
| Litter | 24 | 44% |
| Recycling | 15 | 27% |
| Public transport | 14 | 25% |
| Employment | 6 | 11% |
| Rights of way | 10 | 18% |
| Traffic | 41 | 75% |
| Other: | 4 | 7% |
| - Aston Lane road surface  - Safety provision during Regatta  - Fly posters and banners should be controlled  - Dog mess disposal |  |  |

1. **Land and Building Development**
   1. **Statement Evaluation**

* The majority of respondents (76%) strongly agreed or agreed that Remenham should continue to be in the Green Belt and Conservation Areas and not allow further building development.

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| **Answer Options** | **Strongly Agree** | **Agree** | **Neutral** | **Disagree** | **Strongly Disagree** | **Don't Know** |
| It is important that Remenham should continue to be in the Green Belt and Conservation Areas and not allow further building development. | 31 | 10 | 7 | 4 | 2 | 1 |

* 1. **Preferred Types of Development**
* Conversely, only 16 respondents (29%), selected ‘None’ when asked what their preference would be if new developments were allowed.
* Excluding the ‘None’ option, there were 75 responses to types of new developments that would be allowed. Most people (20) selected just one type, with the rest around two or three. Those who disagreed with the above statement tended to select more – some as many as six or seven.
* 24 respondents (44%) would make allowances for new family homes, with 20 (36%) allowing homes for young people/first time buyers and 16 (29%) allowing rural exception homes for parishioners.

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| **Answer Options** | **Response Count** | **Response Percent** |
| Family homes | 24 | 44% |
| Rural exception homes for parishioners | 16 | 29% |
| Homes for young people/first time buyers | 20 | 36% |
| Sheltered accommodation for the elderly | 10 | 18% |
| Office accommodation | 3 | 5% |
| None | 16 | 29% |
| Other | 2 | 4% |
| - Development of unused agricultural buildings  - Businesses that create employment |  |  |

1. **Commercial Development**
   1. **Statement Evaluation**

* The majority of respondents (67%) strongly agreed or agreed that no further commercial development should be permitted.

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| **Answer Options** | **Strongly Agree** | **Agree** | **Neutral** | **Disagree** | **Strongly Disagree** | **Don't Know** |
| No further commercial development should be permitted. | 27 | 9 | 9 | 5 | 3 | 1 |

* 1. **Types of Development Permitted/Encouraged**
* Correspondingly, 43% selected ‘no development should be allowed’ when asked if any types should be permitted or encouraged
* Of the 31 respondents who would permit development, 63 types were selected, the most being ‘small businesses’ (30%), closely followed by ‘shops and cafes’ (24%) and ‘small industrial workshops’ (20%).
* Very few respondents were in favour of businesses that would generate more than 15 jobs.

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| **Answer Options** | **Response Count** | **Response Percent** |
| Small businesses | 16 | 30% |
| Small industrial workshops | 11 | 20% |
| Other businesses generating up to 15 jobs | 8 | 15% |
| Businesses generating more than 15 jobs | 3 | 6% |
| Tourist attractions | 9 | 17% |
| Shops and cafes | 13 | 24% |
| No development should be allowed | 24 | 43% |
| Other | 3 | 6% |
| - Sporting events  - Those ticked should only be in the already built up areas  - Small business that can be deployed in existing unused agricultural buildings | | |

1. **Events (and Ancillary Commercial Activities)**
   1. **Statement Evaluation**

* The majority of respondents (63%) agree that the events dominating the Parish, which attract many visitors, are an important part of parish life.
* However, there are mixed feelings towards increasing the number of events further, with 42% disagreeing in some way to his, and 35% in favour.
* Resistance increases when covering the ancillary commercial activities these events brings, with 46% stating this is not acceptable to them, and just 29% in favour.

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| **Answer Options** | **Strongly Agree** | **Agree** | **Neutral** | **Disagree** | **Strongly Disagree** | **Don't Know** |
| (a) For a significant period of the year the Parish is dominated by events which attract many visitors, and these are an important part of parish life. | 17 | 16 | 10 | 6 | 2 | 1 |
| (b) Properly controlled additional events should be welcomed. | 8 | 10 | 11 | 13 | 9 | 1 |
| (c) These events attract a significant number of ancillary commercial activities and this is acceptable to me. | 6 | 9 | 11 | 17 | 7 | 2 |

* 1. **Events Causing Particular Concern**
* The majority of respondents (43%) did not state there was an event causing particular concern.
* The event causing the most concern, however, is the Rewind Festival, with 33% selecting this.
* The rise of the walking and running events was mentioned in an ‘other’ answer.
* The person who cites there are ‘far too many events’ in an ‘other’ answer, also selected 5 of the 6 options given (not ‘other rowing regattas’)

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| **Answer Options** | **Response Count** | **Response Percent** |
| None | 23 | 43% |
| Henley Royal Regatta | 7 | 14% |
| Henley Festival | 5 | 10% |
| Rewind Festival | 17 | 33% |
| Henley Women’s Regatta | 5 | 8% |
| Other Rowing Regattas | 1 | 2% |
| The Henley Swim | 5 | 10% |
| Other | 5 | 10% |
| - The 'Remenham Rave' which is bolted onto the Royal Regatta. It is out of control and very detrimental to the quality of life in Remenham.  - The various walking and running events organised with little or no prior warning. Many have just started in the last few years.  - The overall creeping urbanisation effect of many  - Booms left in too long before and after HRR  - Far too many events | | |

* 1. **Ancillary Activities Causing Particular Concern**
* 39% of respondents reiterated that there were no concerns regarding events in the parish, or any ancillary activity.
* The remaining 32 respondents typically had more than one concern, particularly ‘night club’ and ‘commercial activity not associated with an event’.

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| **Answer Options** | **Response Count** | **Response Percent** |
| None | 20 | 39% |
| Corporate entertaining | 11 | 22% |
| Commercial activity not associated with an event | 21 | 41% |
| Night club | 21 | 41% |
| Use of residential property for commercial gain | 10 | 20% |
| Other | 3 | 4% |
| - A multitude of riverside bars  - I do not object to HRR itself but strongly object to the associated activities, Boujis, Remenham Barn activity after racing and corporate event in Temple Meadows  - Traffic | | |

* 1. **Consequences Causing Particular Concern**
* Respondents had more concern about the consequences of the events as opposed to the events themselves, with only 9 (18%) stating they had no concerns.
* Traffic congestion was the most highly cited (71%), with poor behaviour, rubbish and noise all being selected by 41-45% of respondents.

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| **Answer Options** | **Response Count** | **Response Percent** |
| None | 9 | 18% |
| Traffic congestion | 37 | 71% |
| Rubbish | 21 | 41% |
| Poor behaviour | 23 | 45% |
| Noise | 21 | 41% |
| Other | 3 | 6% |
| - Adding to river congestion and increasing safety issues to regular river users.  - Some events totally degrade the quality of life in Remenham.  - Drunken behaviour on the towpath, the lanes and adjacent homes - weaving cyclists in Remenham Lane is a nightmare for sober drivers | | |

1. **Highways, Traffic and Parking**
   1. **Statement Evaluation**

* An overwhelming majority of respondents (84%) strongly agreed or agreed that the traffic congestion is a major problem in the Parish, not only during events.

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| **Answer Options** | **Strongly Agree** | **Agree** | **Neutral** | **Disagree** | **Strongly Disagree** | **Don't Know** |
| Traffic congestion is a major problem in the Parish, not only during Events. | 19 | 23 | 7 | 1 | 0 | 1 |

* 1. **Action To Be Taken**
* 68% of respondents stated that action needs to be taken to address the use of the roads by commuter traffic.
* A significant number (46%) also raised speeding in Remenham Lane was an issue, with 26% citing speeding on White Hill.
* Many of those commenting under ‘other’ identify the problem as being the traffic lights on the bridge letting cars through too slowly in order to keep Henley clear of traffic.
* A couple of responses also identify speeding and congestion on the Wargrave Road as a problem.
  1. **Request for Highways Questionnaire**
* 24 of the 49 who answered this question said they would like the more detailed Highways Questionnaire.
* Only 17 of those 24 provided contact details in order to send it to them.

1. **Public Transport Links**
   1. **Statement Evaluation**

* There was a mixed response to whether there is a need for additional public transport; 29% stated there should be more, 38% remained neutral and 33% indicated the current provision is sufficient.
* An additional comment provided at the end of the survey reads:
* *We have had a bus stop built on white Hill last summer but no buses running. It would be helpful to know when and if services will be running. A service into and out of Henley and up Remenham hill over the bridge would be advantageous*

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| **Answer Options** | **Strongly Agree** | **Agree** | **Neutral** | **Disagree** | **Strongly Disagree** | **Don't Know** |
| There is no need for any additional public transport in the area. | 4 | 12 | 18 | 10 | 4 | 3 |

1. **Footpaths and Rights of Way**
   1. **Statement Evaluation**

* The overwhelming majority (92%) strongly agreed or agreed that it is important that established footpaths are protected and rights of way preserved.
* 49% of respondents did not agree it is acceptable that access to areas of private land, previously open to the public, is becoming increasingly restricted.

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| **Answer Options** | **Strongly Agree** | **Agree** | **Neutral** | **Disagree** | **Strongly Disagree** | **Don't Know** |
| (a) It is important that established footpaths are protected and rights of way preserved. | 21 | 24 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| (b) It is acceptable that access to areas of private land, which the public have historically been able to use and enjoy, is becoming increasingly restricted, principally for health and safety reasons. | 7 | 7 | 11 | 12 | 12 | 1 |

* 1. **Footpaths of Particular Concern**
* Only 10 respondents answered this question, highlighting 23 footpaths of particular concern between them.
* An additional comment made at the end of the survey reads:
* *Restricting path 15 all year round to a minimum by Copas is just plain mean when walkers have previously enjoyed unrestricted access to these meadows. If the width of the path was tripled that would be better but I think it should be open access land to follow historic access rights.*

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| **Answer Options** | **Count** | **Percent** |
| Footpath 8: From Remenham Lane N of Home Farm, NE, NNE and N to Remenham Lane N of Remenham Court | 5 | 50% |
| Footpath 11: From White Hill (A423) at junction with Footpath 2, NW to Footpath 8 at Sham Hill | 4 | 40% |
| Footpath 15: From Footpath 4 SW of Remenham Church, NNE, NE, E and SE to Junction of Footpaths 4A and 17 | 4 | 40% |
| Footpath 7: From A423 E of Henley Bridge, NE to Remenham Lane | 2 | 20% |
| Footpath 10: From White Hill (A423) opp junction with Footpath 2, S, SE and SSW to Wargrave Road (A321) | 2 | 20% |
| Footpath 14: From Thames towpath (Footpath 15), SE to Entrance to Remenham Manor | 2 | 20% |
| Footpath 9: From Footpath 8 at Sham Hill, NE to Church Lane | 1 | 10% |
| Footpath 12: From Aston Lane S of Aston Farm, E and SE | 1 | 10% |
| Footpath 13: From County boundary S of Marsh Mill, SE | 1 | 10% |
| Footpath 16: From Footpath 4a SE of Hambledon Lock, SE to N end of Aston Ferry Lane | 1 | 10% |

1. **Utilities**
   1. **Statement Evaluation**

* There was a mixed response to whether there is satisfaction with the utilities provided in the Parish; 35% agreed (or which only 1 selected strongly agree), 37% remained neutral and 29% indicated the current provision is insufficient (5 strongly disagreeing with the statement).

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| **Answer Options** | **Strongly Agree** | **Agree** | **Neutral** | **Disagree** | **Strongly Disagree** | **Don't Know** |
| I am satisfied with the utilities provided in the Parish. | 1 | 16 | 18 | 9 | 5 | 1 |

* 1. **Lack of Access or Dissatisfaction**
* Mains sewerage, highway maintenance and recycling prompted the most answers for lack of access or dissatisfaction with utilities, with 35-37% of respondents selecting each of these.
* Comments added to the ‘other’ option all referred to the lack of glass recycling available.
* 25% of respondents selected Roadside care/street cleaning and broadband/internet access.
* 20% of respondents are dissatisfied or have no access to mains water or mains gas.
* Lack of mobile phone reception was selected by 9 respondents (18%).
* Only 6 respondents stated they were no utilities they had no access to or were dissatisfied with.
* Mains electricity was the only utility not to be selected for dissatisfaction of lack of access.

1. **Amenities**
   1. **Statement Evaluation**

* The majority of respondents (74%) strongly agree or agree that Remenham provides appropriate level of services, with 26% remaining neutral. No respondents disagreed.
* The overwhelming majority (89%) strongly agree or agree that St Nicholas Church is important to the Parish, with only 15% remaining neutral. No respondents disagreed.

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| **Answer Options** | **Strongly Agree** | **Agree** | **Neutral** | **Disagree** | **Strongly Disagree** | **Don't Know** |
| (a) Remenham provides an appropriate level of services (St Nicholas Church, Parish Hall, a garage, pubs and access to schooling and medical facilities). | 7 | 28 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| (b) St Nicholas Church is important to the Parish for regular services, weddings, as a building of historic interest and as a focal point for the Parish. | 15 | 27 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 1 |

1. **Policing**
   1. **Statement Evaluation**

* The majority (60%) of respondents strongly agree or agree that there is adequate and appropriate policing during the year, with only 16% disagreeing.
* The majority (58%) remain in agreement for during events, although fewer remain neutral, moving to 24% disagreeing there is adequate police covering during these times.

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| **Answer Options** | **Strongly Agree** | **Agree** | **Neutral** | **Disagree** | **Strongly Disagree** | **Don't Know** |
| (a) There is adequate and appropriate police coverage during the year. | 3 | 24 | 11 | 5 | 2 | 5 |
| (b) There is adequate additional police coverage during Events. | 3 | 23 | 8 | 9 | 2 | 5 |

1. **Leisure and Sport**
   1. **Statement Evaluation**

* The overwhelming majority (92%) agree that leisure and sport is one of the outstanding features of the Parish.

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| **Answer Options** | **Strongly Agree** | **Agree** | **Neutral** | **Disagree** | **Strongly Disagree** | **Don't Know** |
| Leisure and sport is one of the outstanding features of the Parish, with three rowing clubs, a Cricket Club, Canoe Club and nearby golf club. These should continue to be available to parishioners and others from Henley and the surrounding area. | 20 | 25 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 1 |

1. **Arts and Culture**
   1. **Statement Evaluation**

* The majority of respondents (57%) agree that there are adequate facilities and opportunities for Arts and Culture.
* 36% of respondents remained neutral, perhaps because this is not relevant to them.
* Three respondents (6%) disagreed that there was sufficient provision.

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| **Answer Options** | **Strongly Agree** | **Agree** | **Neutral** | **Disagree** | **Strongly Disagree** | **Don't Know** |
| There are adequate facilities and opportunities for Arts and Culture. | 5 | 22 | 17 | 3 | 0 | 3 |

1. **Communications**
   1. **Statement Evaluation**

* The large majority of respondents (80%) strongly agree or agree that there is adequate sources of information about the parish.
* Nine respondents (18%) remained neutral and only 1 respondent (2%) disagreed.
* A couple of ‘additional comments’ at the end of the survey, however, referred to a lack of notice boards.

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| **Answer Options** | **Strongly Agree** | **Agree** | **Neutral** | **Disagree** | **Strongly Disagree** | **Don't Know** |
| There are adequate sources of information about the parish and its activities and local events (website, Remenham Newsletter, Parish Notice Board, emails) | 7 | 32 | 9 | 1 | 0 | 1 |

1. **Additional Comments**

* Eleven respondents took the opportunity to provide additional comments, the majority relating to traffic congestion and speed restrictions:
* *The main areas of concern are the level of traffic in Remenham Church Lane diverting from White Hill, the size of the articulated lorries coming down Remenham Church Lane to White Hill Farm and the developments of Copas Brothers at White Hill Farm vis a vis the turkeys.*
* *On several occasions I have been overtaken from both directions by cars exceeding 30mph. Even the no u-turn signs are ignored. Speed cameras would ensure speed is reduced significantly.*
* *Repetitive and poor quality patching of potholes in the centre section of Aston lane should be addressed by relaying the 60m stretch and installing a drain. Over 10 years this will be lower cost than sending vehicles for frequent pothole patching.*
* *"USAGE AND SPEED IN THE LANES - All people that live in the lanes, as well as adjacent locals, should be able to use them without restriction. To impose "usage restrictions" on any of the lanes would lead to undesirable consequences on us all and would further divide an already extended and small community*
* *If “usage restrictions”, such as creating a Cul de Sac by the Church forcing locals to join the Whitehill queues, or putting in place a one-way system, were imposed locals would have to put up with a 24 hour a day restriction whereas rat-runners are periodic by nature. To take revenge on “rat-runners” would end up causing more harm to locals than to the rat-runners – or an overreaction in a situation where there is no definitive solution would lead to self-harm and satisfy nobody.*
* *Speed and aggressive driving are the dangerous aspects on our narrow lanes but it is a proven fact that a one-way system leads to faster speeds as there is no opposing flow. It is thus likely that the speeding issue would be exacerbated by a one-way system.*
* A couple of comments referred to what a great place Remenham is to live; but also worth noting…
* *I greatly value the community feeling in Remenham (such as Thespians, village fete and local celebrations). The work involved in making these events happen is falling a fewer and fewer shoulders. More local support is needed to ensure they continue for many years to come.*