

Council Tax

59. Would you be prepared to see an increase in your Council Tax to fund any improvements mentioned in this questionnaire?

Yes ☐ No ☐

And finally . . .

60. Do you have any other comments about the village?

Contact Information

Your answers to this survey will be held in confidence. Any specific comments that are published will not be attributed to an individual. However, it is helpful in our analysis of the results to know who has completed the survey so please provide your name and contact details below. This will allow us to follow up with you if we have any additional questions or points to clarify.

Name:

Address:

Telephone:

Email:

Thank you for completing the survey.

Please return your survey in the envelope provided by 31st August. You can deliver it to the postbox at the Village Hall; or you can stamp it and post it back.

Birlingham Parish Council



Village Survey 2015

Businesses

48. Do you operate a business from within the village (including self-employed)?

Yes ☐

No ☐

49. Do you think there is a need for a business-related development in the village?

(Tick all that apply)

Offices ☐

Workshops ☐

Storage units/packhouses ☐

None ☐

If you answered Yes to operating a business or being self-employed, please answer the remaining questions on these pages; otherwise, please leave them blank.

50. What is the nature of your business?

51. What market does your business serve? (Tick all that apply)

Local ☐

National ☐

Regional ☐

International ☐

52. When was the business started?

53. How many people do you employ (including yourself)?

	Total	Village		Total	Village
Full-time	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	Casual	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Part-time	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	Seasonal	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

54. Do have a website?

(Please give web address)

BIRLINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

VILLAGE SURVEY 2015

This survey is being conducted by Birlingham Parish Council to hear your opinions on how the village should develop in the coming years and is an opportunity for you to help shape the future changes to our village.

The idea for the survey came from a public meeting held in February and part of its purpose is to decide whether or not we should go ahead with creating either a Neighbourhood Plan or a Village Design Statement for Birlingham. Both types of plan are described in more detail on page 12 and on the village website at www.birlingham.org/survey2015.

However, the survey is about much more than just housing development. We also want to know your views on many other topics, such as local services, village amenities and public transport. All your answers will be confidential and no individual information will be shared with anyone else.

The survey is being delivered to everyone aged 18 or over. If you know of anyone else who lives in the village or owns property here and has not received a copy, then please put them in touch with us using the contact details opposite.

If you need further information about any of the questions or need help with completing any sections, you will find more details on the website, or you can ask us directly. If you would like a printed copy of any of this information, please contact us.

When we have collated all the survey responses, we will deliver a summary of the results to all households. The full results will be presented at a public meeting in the autumn, at which we will be deciding what sort of plan, if any, the village should adopt for the future.

Thank you for taking the time to complete the survey.

Parish Council

Parish councils are statutory bodies and their responsibilities are strictly governed by law. Birlingham Parish Council has seven members, who are elected for a term of four years, so the councillors elected last May will be due for re-election in 2019.

The Parish Council meets every two months and council meetings are open to the public.

Parish Council Responsibilities

The Parish Council has limited powers but has responsibilities to maintain or improve the environment and look after the interests of the local community. The Council is consulted by Wychavon District Council and Worcestershire County Council in certain areas and can influence those bodies for the benefit of the parish.

The Parish Council can also promote new ideas that benefit the community. For example, over the last three years the Council has initiated the Queen's Jubilee Celebrations, set up the village website and launched the village email.

Parish Council Spending

The Parish Council's income is mainly from a part of the Council Tax called the precept. In 2014/15 Birlingham's precept was £5000, equivalent to an average of £29.59 per household based on a Band D property. For the last two years the Council has been limited to a 2% increase each year (about £100 on the precept).

RECEIPTS	
Precept	5000.00
PAYMENTS	
Salaries (clerk, contractors)	2620.80
Birlingham Village Hall	500.00
Insurance (public liability, assets)	243.80
CALC (County Association of Local Councils)	151.54
Minor Payments (less than £100)	314.72
Plane Tree Provision	500.00
Transfer to Reserves	669.14
TOTAL	5000.00

The Reserves are used for unexpected expenditure, such as this year's contested election (expected to be approximately £700).

A more detailed explanation of these figures is given on the village website at www.birlingham.org/survey2015, along with more details of the Council's responsibilities.

Communications

9. Do you have internet access at home? Yes ☐ No ☐

10. If not and a village internet facility were available at the Village Hall, would you use it? Yes ☐ No ☐

11. Have you looked at the Village Website, www.birlingham.org? Yes ☐ No ☐

12. What parts of the website do you find most useful?

13. Do you have any comments/suggestions on how the website might be improved?

14. Do you receive the village email newsletter? Yes ☐ No ☐

If No, and you would like to receive it, please give your address or email address:

15. Do you have any comments/suggestions on how the email might be improved?

Village Facilities

A summary of answers to these questions will be passed on to the relevant organisations.

Birlingham Village Hall

30. Is the Village Hall important to you? Yes ☐ No ☐
31. What do you use the Village Hall for? (Tick all that apply)
- | | |
|---|---|
| Exercise classes <input type="checkbox"/> | Cuppa & Chat <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Attending meetings <input type="checkbox"/> | Other village events <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Parties <input type="checkbox"/> | I don't use the Hall <input type="checkbox"/> |
32. Are there other events you would like to see the Village Hall used for?

The Swan Inn

33. Is the village pub (The Swan) important to you? Yes ☐ No ☐
34. How often do you visit the pub to eat or drink?
- | | |
|---|---|
| Once or more a week <input type="checkbox"/> | Once or twice a year <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Once or more a month <input type="checkbox"/> | Never <input type="checkbox"/> |
35. Are there any events you particularly enjoy at the pub or would like to see introduced?

Birlingham Cricket Club & Grounds

36. Are the Cricket Club & grounds important to you? Yes ☐ No ☐
37. Do you play in or watch matches? Yes ☐ No ☐
38. Are there any events you particularly enjoy at the Cricket Club or would like to see introduced?

Environment

16. What is your main means of transport?
- | |
|---|
| Cycle <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Car or motorbike <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Bus <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Train <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Taxi <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Walking <input type="checkbox"/> |

Other (please specify):

17. Do you use any public rights of way in the parish?
(See map opposite)
- | |
|---------------------------------------|
| Once a week <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Once a month <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Once a year <input type="checkbox"/> |

18. Are you in favour of sustainable or renewal energy resources in the village?
(Tick all that apply)

- | |
|--|
| Solar panels on public or business buildings <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Wind turbines on public or business buildings <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Solar panels on residential buildings <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Wind turbines on residential buildings <input type="checkbox"/> |

Other (please specify):

Volunteering

19. How do you feel about volunteering to help in the village (for example, for the Flower & Produce Show, Village Hall, St James's Church, Parish Council or other village organisation)?

- | |
|---|
| I already volunteer <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Have volunteered in the past – feel I have done my bit <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Interested <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Interested but too many family/work commitments <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Would like to help but health or mobility prevent me <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Not interested <input type="checkbox"/> |

Village Plans

Planning decisions in Birlingham are currently made by reference to the general policies included in the new South Worcestershire Development Plan. Birlingham also has two areas identified as Conservation Areas and development within these areas has additional restrictions.

The Government has encouraged parishes nationwide to consider the creation of either a *Neighbourhood Plan* or a *Village Design Statement*. The differences between these two types of plan are given below, along with a description of Conservation Areas. Further information is available at www.birlingham.org/survey2015.

Neighbourhood Plan

A Neighbourhood Plan would carry legal weight as part of the South Worcestershire Development Plan but cannot prevent housing development taking place. It can, however, influence the type and location of any development. In addition, a Neighbourhood Plan is not just about housing; it also covers employment, shopping, transport, leisure and well-being, environment, sustainability and design.

A Neighbourhood Plan is a formal process, defined by the government, which has to be followed and all points have to be evidence-based. As a result it could cost up to £15,000 due to the need for external consultants. Grants paying for about half of this are available with the balance having to be funded by the village. It also requires a large amount of volunteer's time and typically takes 3 to 4 years to complete.

Village Design Statement

A Village Design Statement describes the distinctive character of the village by reference to its landscape setting, the settlement shape and the nature of the buildings themselves; it draws up design principles based on these characteristics; and it is used to work with planners and developers to ensure that the agreed principles are observed in all aspects of development. It is likely that the Design Statement could be completed more quickly than the Neighbourhood Plan and require less far-reaching research and analysis.

Both types of plan are based on research into the history, development and current structure of the village; both require significant community involvement in their creation, leading to agreed proposals for guiding the future development of the village. **It is important to note that, because of the effort and time needed to set up either of these plans, the Parish Council cannot commit to starting a plan unless sufficient villagers volunteer to help.**

Conservation Area

A Conservation Area protects features such as trees and hedges, and ensures that new development and alterations to existing properties are in keeping with the area. Birlingham currently has two conservation areas, as shown on the maps on page 8.

Housing

Under the new South Worcestershire Development Plan, there are currently no plans for additional housing in Birlingham outside the Village Settlement Boundary (see Village Centre map opposite). This is due to Birlingham's lack of local amenities, such as a school, bus service and village shop. Under the plan, 'infill' (development in gaps between existing houses) may be considered within the Village Settlement Boundary.

20. If housing development were to be permitted, what should it be for?

(Tick all that apply)

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Affordable (social) housing | <input type="checkbox"/> | Retirement homes | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Starter homes | <input type="checkbox"/> | Sheltered/warden controlled | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Smaller family homes | <input type="checkbox"/> | Key worker homes | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Larger family homes | <input type="checkbox"/> | Mixed development | <input type="checkbox"/> |

21. If further housing development were to be permitted, what form should it take?

(Please refer to maps opposite and on centre pages) (Tick all that apply)

- Infill (i.e. within Village Settlement Boundary) ☐
- Individual houses outside Settlement Boundary but within parish ☐
- Small-scale development of less than 10 homes ☐
- Medium-scale development of between 10 & 30 homes ☐
- Larger-scale development of more than 30 homes ☐

22. Is there someone in your household who might need access to additional or alternative housing in the village in the next three years?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If Yes, what type?

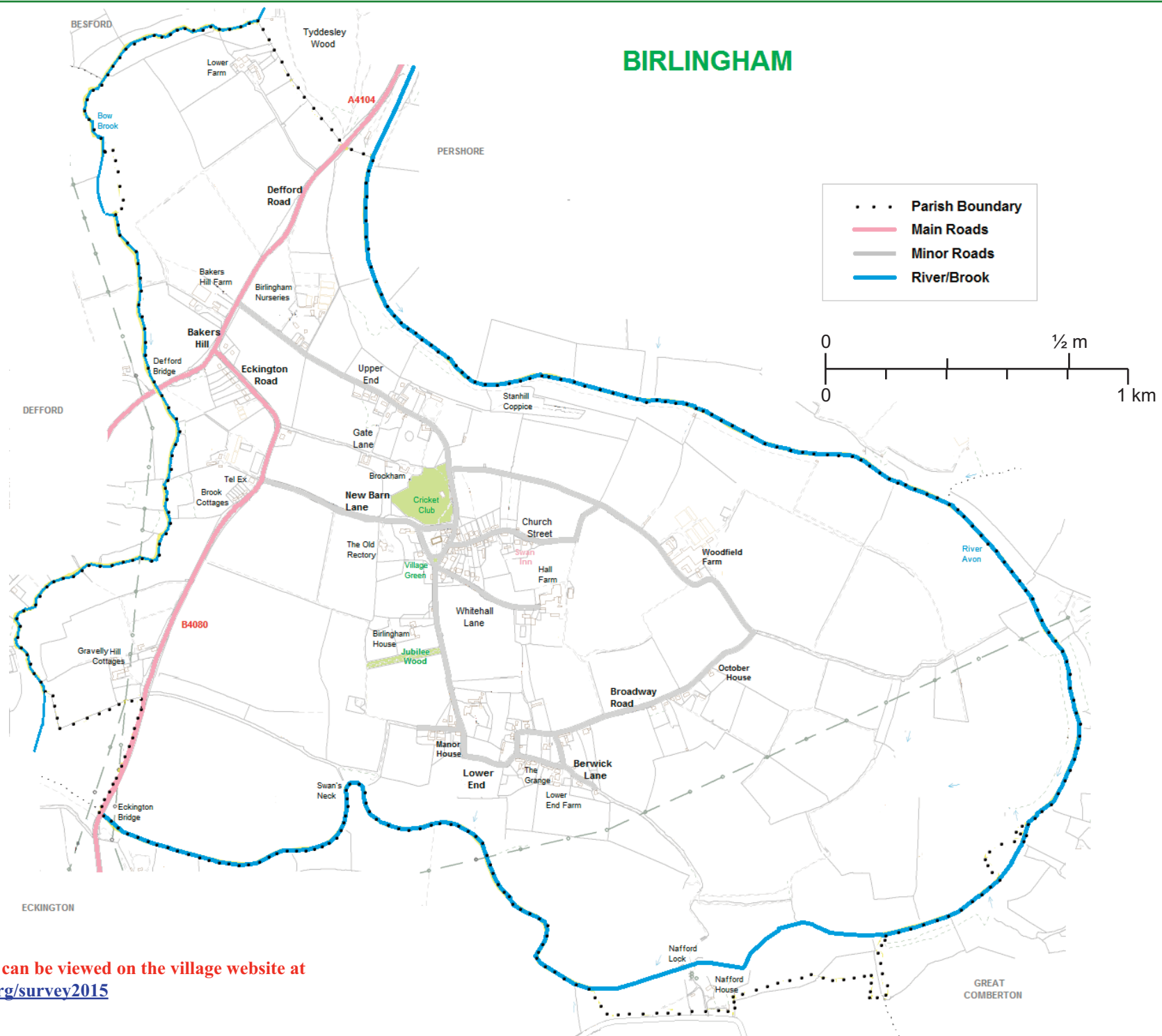
- | | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Affordable (social) housing | <input type="checkbox"/> | Retirement homes | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Starter homes | <input type="checkbox"/> | Sheltered/warden controlled | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Smaller family homes | <input type="checkbox"/> | Key worker homes | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Larger family homes | <input type="checkbox"/> | None | <input type="checkbox"/> |

23. If there were to be any development in the parish which of the following would you be most concerned about? (Tick all that apply)

- Impact on the environment ☐
- Impact on school intake ☐
- Impact on sport and leisure facilities ☐
- Increased traffic ☐

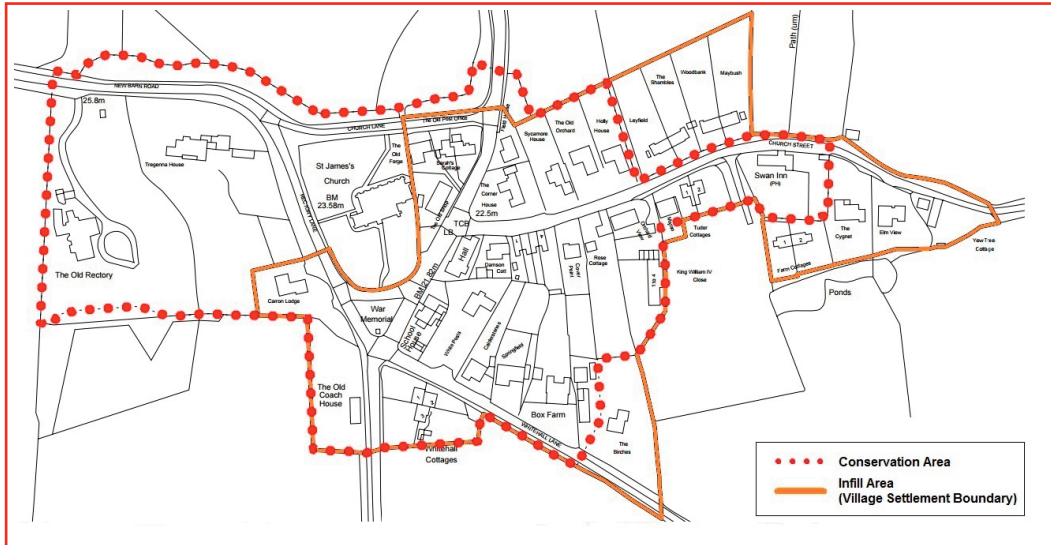
Other (please specify):

BIRLINGHAM

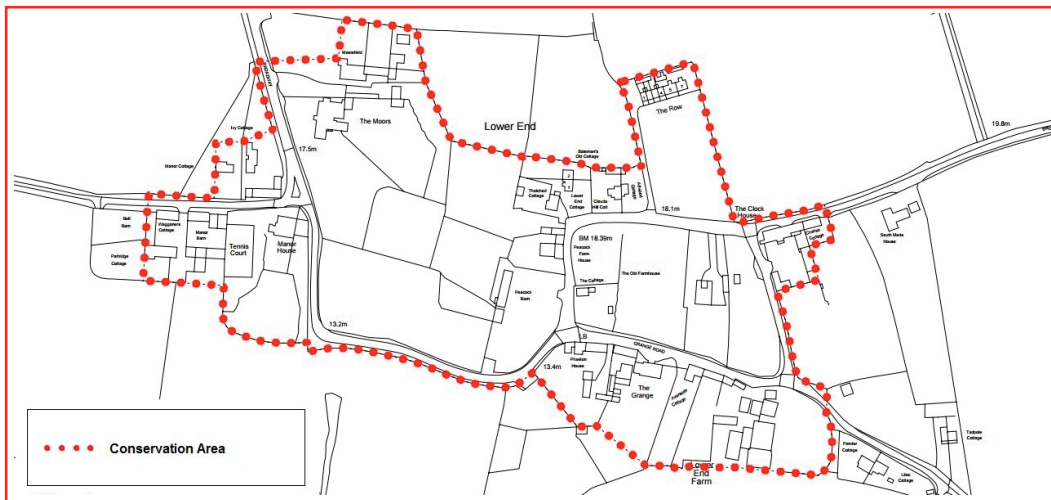


A larger scale map can be viewed on the village website at
www.birlingham.org/survey2015

Village Centre



Lower End



Larger scale maps can be viewed on the village website at
www.birlingham.org/survey2015

24. Does Birlingham need a Neighbourhood Plan?

(Please read page opposite before answering)

Yes ☐ No ☐

25. Does Birlingham need a Village Design Statement?

Yes ☐ No ☐

26. Would you be willing to commit your time to help develop a Neighbourhood Plan or Village Design Statement?

Yes ☐ No ☐

27. Would you be willing to contribute towards the cost?

Yes ☐ No ☐

28. Are you happy with the Conservation Areas as currently defined?

(See maps on page 8)

Yes ☐ No ☐

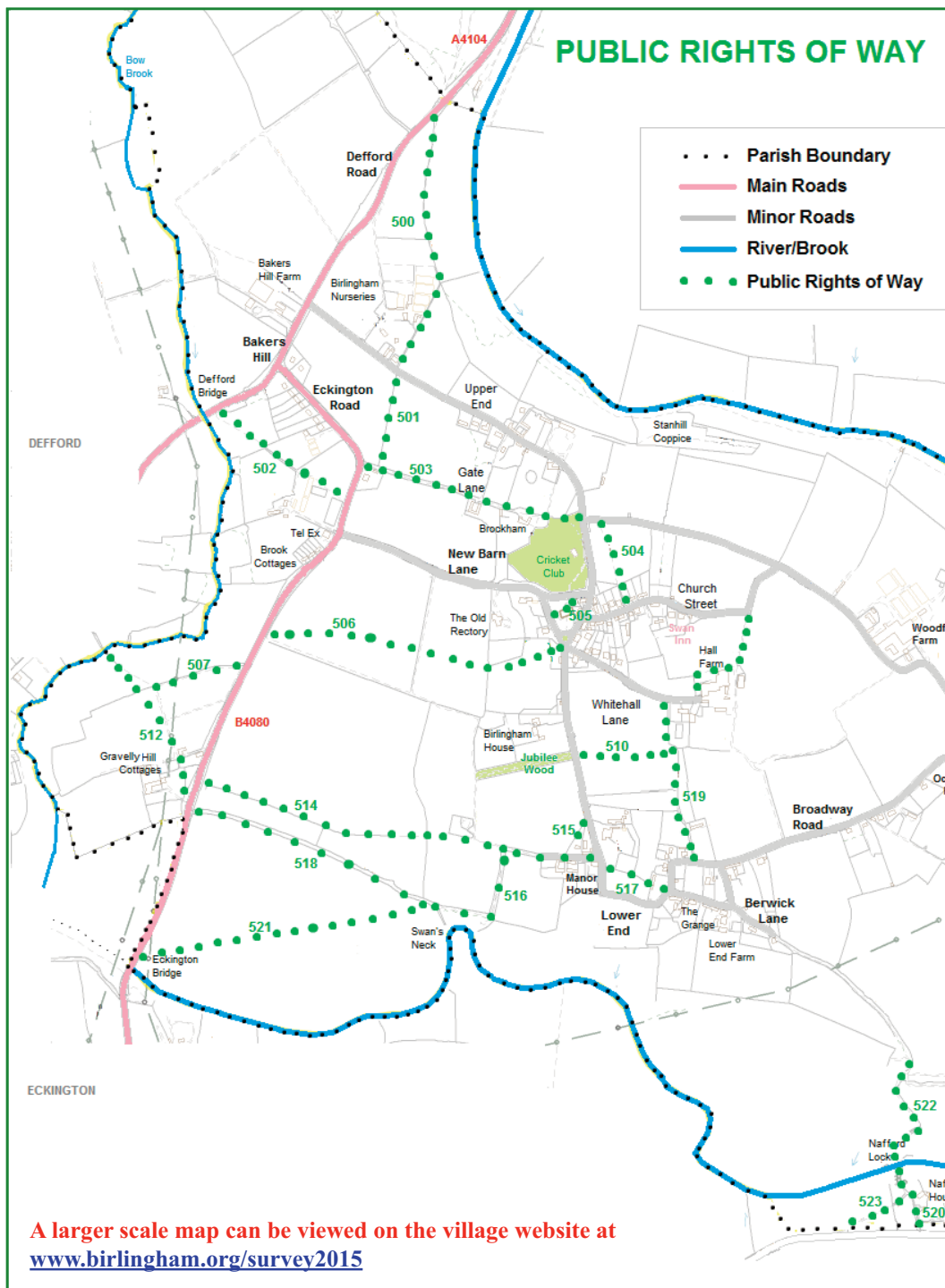
If No, how should they be changed?

29. Are there any open spaces that you would like protected from development?

(e.g. a communal area or a field)

Yes ☐ No ☐

If Yes, where are they?



St James's Church

39. Are you a regular member of the St James's Church congregation?

Yes ☐ No ☐

40. For which of the following reasons is the church important to you?

(Tick all that apply)

- | | |
|---|--|
| Spiritual fellowship <input type="checkbox"/> | Focal point for the community <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Worship <input type="checkbox"/> | Historic building <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Baptism <input type="checkbox"/> | Venue for events <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Weddings <input type="checkbox"/> | Place for contemplation <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Funerals <input type="checkbox"/> | Churchyard <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Church bells <input type="checkbox"/> | Not important <input type="checkbox"/> |

41. Do you think the church should be used for other (non-religious) events?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If so, what type of events?

Other Facilities/Amenities

The Parish Council cannot necessarily deliver additional services but it can pass on your views to the relevant authorities.

42. What other facilities or amenities would you like to see in the village?

(Tick all that apply)

- | |
|--|
| A village shop <input type="checkbox"/> |
| A bus service <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Sports facilities <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Youth facilities <input type="checkbox"/> |
| None <input type="checkbox"/> |

Other (please specify):

About You

This information will be used to provide a summary of the make-up of the village. You do not have to answer all the questions – but if you do, it will help us to get a better picture of the village.

1. **Are you Male or Female?** Male ☐ Female ☐
2. **What age group do you belong to?** 18-29 ☐ 30-44 ☐
45-64 ☐ 65+ ☐
3. **How many people live in your household?**
4. **How many children under 18 do you have in your household?**
What are their ages?
5. **How long have you lived in the village?** Less than 1 year ☐
2-5 years ☐
6-10 years ☐
11-25 years ☐
25+ years ☐
6. **What were your reasons for moving to the village?**
(Tick all that apply) Born here ☐
Ease of commuting ☐ Moved here with family ☐
Nearby countryside ☐ Retired here ☐
Right housing ☐ Grew up here ☐
Good schools in the area ☐ Work in the area ☐
7. **Employment** (Tick all that apply) Employed full time ☐
Housemaker ☐ Employed part time ☐
Student ☐ Self-employed ☐
Retired ☐ Unemployed ☐
8. **Where do you work or study?** Not applicable ☐
Work from home ☐
Locally ☐
Further afield ☐

43. Are you interested in Parish Council matters?

(Tick all that apply)

I am aware of the dates of PC meetings ☐

I look at the agenda for meetings ☐

I read the PC meeting notes in the newsletter ☐

I read the full minutes on the website ☐

I know who the councillors and clerk are ☐

44. Are you aware that the Parish Council's funds are raised from the precept?

(i.e. the part of your Council Tax allocated to the Parish)

Yes ☐ No ☐

45. Are you happy with the way the Parish Council spends the precept?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If No, what would you change?

46. Are there any activities for which the Parish Council is responsible that need improving?

47. Do any of these services need to be improved? (Tick all that apply)

Mains water, drains, sewerage (Severn Trent) ☐

Flood protection (Severn Trent) ☐

Highways, road signs (Highways Authority) ☐

Grass cutting, road verges (Highways Authority) ☐

Waste collection/recycling (Wychavon DC) ☐

Planning (Wychavon DC) ☐

Road sweeping (Wychavon DC) ☐

Police services ☐

HGV weight limit enforcement (Trading Standards) ☐

Birlingham Parish Council cannot make changes to these services but it can lobby on your behalf for improvements. Please give any detailed comments on these services on a separate sheet.

Contact Details

June Hiden

Clerk to Birlingham Parish Council

Lamorna
Broadway Road
Birlingham
WR10 3AF

Tel. 01386 751717 (answerphone)

email: birlingham_clerk@yahoo.co.uk

For more background information on the survey, visit:

www.birlingham.org/survey2015

Please return completed surveys to:

Village Survey 2015
Birlingham Parish Council
c/o Birlingham Village Hall
Birlingham
WR10 3AB

Please return your surveys to the postbox at the Village Hall using the envelope provided; alternatively you can stamp the envelope and post it back.

Closing date for receipt of surveys: 31st August 2015

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55. Do you advertise locally? (Tick all that apply)

Pershore Journal ☐

Birlingham Bystander ☐

Village website, birlingham.org ☐

Village Hall website ☐

Other (please specify):

56. Are you likely to expand your business in the next 4 years?

Yes, in the village ☐

Yes, elsewhere ☐

No ☐

If elsewhere, why is this and where will the expansion occur?

57. How well does the village meet/support your business needs?

58. Are there any village facilities/activities that would be of benefit in supporting your business?