



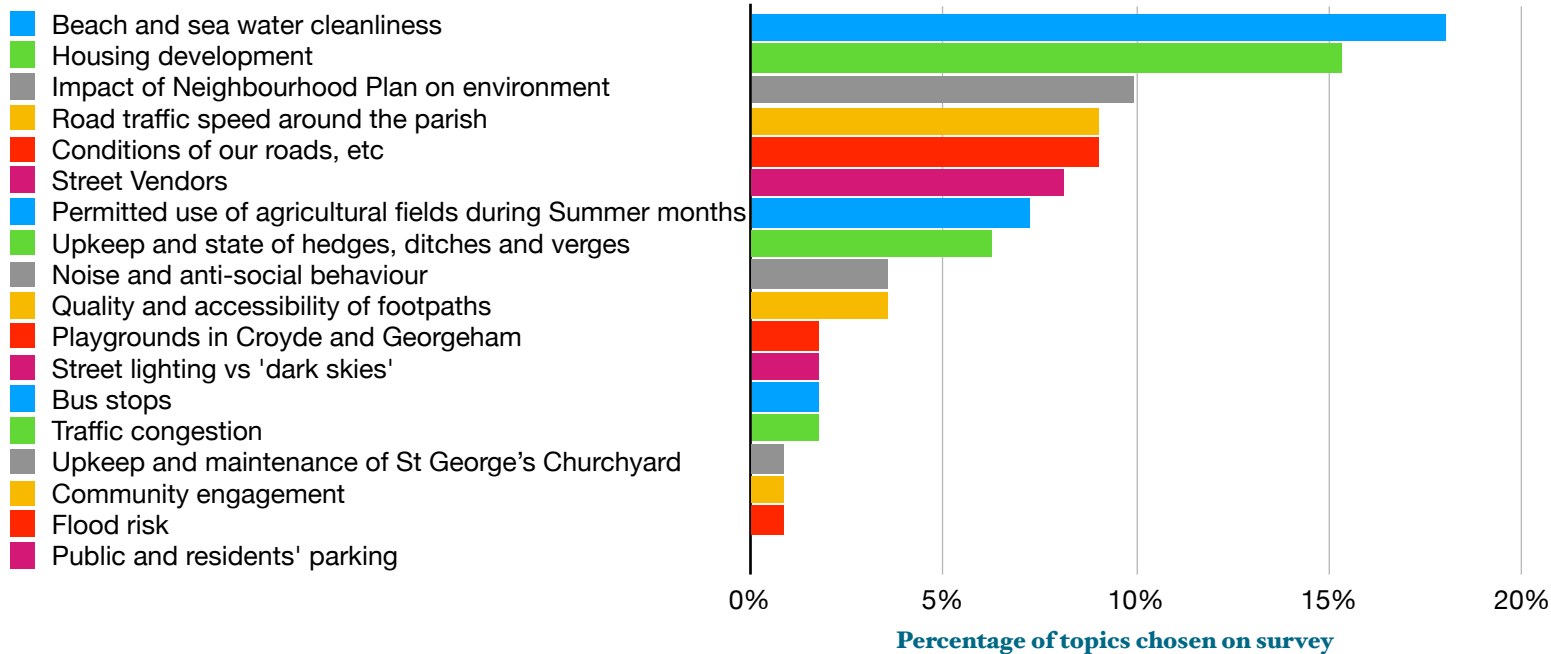
Open Evening Results

Summary of Feedback

On the 7th February, we held an open evening at Croyde Village Hall in which local parishioners could voice their opinions as well as chat to organisations and individuals running stands on topics such as Speed watch, National Trust, Hedge Maintenance, Housing, etc.

As part of the event, we asked parishioners to let us know their views on key topics by completing our survey or leaving views on the night via flip charts and post-its notes.

The information has been collated and the aim of this report is to show the results and some of the key comments associated.



Summarising the comments for the top priorities:

1. **Beach and sea water cleanliness.** There is real concern that SWWA have been dumping untreated sewage for years and this is causing health issues for bathers. They often cannot swim due to sewage warnings. People are asking for the water to be tested and monitored much more often. Poor water quality will deter visitors from coming to our beaches which will impact the tourist industry and local economy.
2. **Housing development.** A very common complaint is that new builds are too large and are exacerbating the housing crisis as there are insufficient family homes for local people. Many developments are for second homes that aren't used much leaving many "lights out" areas during the off season - particularly in Croyde. People consider that there is massive overdevelopment which is changing the character of the area: "planning appears to be driven by greed not need". Overall, people are keen that the parish retains its appeal as having small villages surrounded by beautiful countryside which are protected from overdevelopment. One suggestion is that holiday lets should pay a tax that goes into the local economy as residents have to put up with noise and disruption late into the night during the Summer season. Some houses are not being renovated in accordance with planning policies.
3. **Impact of the Neighbourhood Plan.** Some have the view that the NP has too many loopholes and people are getting around its policies. People feel that the Parish do a good job regarding planning applications (backed by the NP) but that ideas can be overruled by the district council.
4. **Road traffic speed.** A number of people said that areas without pavements should have the low speed limit enforced as many cities have this and yet they have street lighting and pavements. Also, there is disquiet about areas with housing where the national speed limit (60 mph) applies which is considered very dangerous - for example, between Croyde, Forda and Georgeham. It is felt that Speed guns and the Speed Watch group are a good way to enforce this.
5. **Street vendors.** A major concern is that Pizza and other beach trucks should not be allowed to park on double yellow lines and take up space in parking bays as this causes road safety issues. Also that, these vendors impact local businesses as they're not paying rates, etc so there's unfair competition as they are profiting from the area for 3 months without any input. A few people have made comments about a wetsuit vendor flaunting the parking rules and undercutting local shops with poor quality products.

6. Permitted use of agricultural fields in Summer. Several people said that the increased use will impact Croyde as a village and that the fields should be used for animals /crops not taking business away from local shops/ pubs like Skybar. There's a feeling that there will be a potential for noise and nuisance as well as the degradation of the surrounding beautiful countryside and the fear of extended use of National Trust land with planning applications to erect permanent structures. Many want the use of these fields to be limited and action taken when regulations are breached.

7. Upkeep of hedges, ditches and verges. Many parishioners consider that our ancient hedgerows should be protected and people prosecuted if they dig them up. Also, that local farmers need to use equipment that can be driven along the roads without damaging verges. Others say that there are too many overgrown hedges/trees which owners don't trim back and that this needs to be enforced since it makes two way traffic difficult as well as causing the gutters to get blocked leading to flooding. One idea is to create a map of all hedges and for the PC to be asked for it's opinion about which ones are a priority for cutting back taking into account health and safety issues for cyclists and walkers - as well as vehicles being damaged by scratching.