

Somerset Local Plan: City, Town and Parish Council's Engagement Activity

1

Overview

Somerset Council is in the early stages of developing a new Local Plan for Somerset. This early engagement activity with City, Town, and Parish Councils looks to collect important information to help shape the Local Plan. City, Town and Parish Councils hold valuable knowledge about their local areas and settlements and therefore play a key role in voicing the interests and experiences of their communities. This activity aims to understand key issues about how settlements operate, including access to services, facilities, jobs, open spaces, and sports facilities. The areas of focus for this engagement exercise include:

- **Collecting information to inform our Settlement Assessment; and**
- **Considering options for our Open Spaces, Built Sports and Playing Pitch Strategy**

Why your views matter

City, Town and Parish Councils play a crucial role in representing the voices of communities. Views and representations made by City, Town and Parish Councils will therefore be key in planning for the future of Somerset and considering environmental, economic and social opportunities and challenges. We want to know what you think. What are the key opportunities and challenges in your area? What matters most to you?

This activity runs from Monday, 21 October to Sunday, 17 November.

You can respond online <https://somersetcouncil.citizenspace.com/planning/bf1957bd/>, or alternatively you can:

- Email responses to localplanningpolicy@somerset.gov.uk, or
- Post a response to Planning Policy, Somerset Council, County Hall, Taunton, Somerset, TA1 4DY.

Your chance to help shape our places and spaces

Somerset Council is seeking to ensure that we bring about positive change for our people and places; that will make the Somerset an even better place to live, work and visit. This Local Plan, when adopted, will help to deliver on some of the objectives the Council has set out. Your views are important in helping to shape what this looks like.

Your details

In order to ensure we can evidence fair and widespread engagement on the Local Plan, with members of the public and stakeholders, we need to ask you a few questions about your personal details.

We handle data in-line with GDPR, you can view our [privacy policy](#) to see how we will use and manage this data. We need this data in order to record your feedback as an official representation to this online engagement activity, and without it we cannot use your opinions to help shape the emerging Local Plan.

What is your name?

Tim Carty

What is your email address?

tim.carty@milborneportpc.org.uk

What is your organisation?

Milborne Port Parish Council

Section 1 - Settlement Assessment Overview

The new Somerset Local Plan will guide sustainable growth in the area, determining where new housing and jobs should go, and what infrastructure is needed. The plan aims to reflect the needs of local communities through early engagement with City, Town and Parish Councils, gathering their input and feedback.

A key part of this plan is the Settlement Assessment, which will look at the facilities and services in different areas to understand how self-sufficient and sustainable they are. This helps identify where more services or infrastructure are needed and informs decisions about where new developments should be focused. The overall development strategy will be based on this assessment and other evidence, aiming to promote sustainable growth by directing it to the most suitable places.

The current engagement seeks to understand the challenges and issues faced by City, Town and Parish Councils and gather suggestions for solutions. This will ensure the Local Plan aligns with the needs and goals of local communities.

The new Somerset Local Plan The new Somerset Local Plan will set out a strategy for delivering sustainable growth in Somerset, guiding the kinds of new housing and jobs needed and where they should go. It will identify appropriate areas and sites for development, along with the necessary infrastructure to support this growth, and set policies that will be used for determining planning applications.

This early engagement exercise with City, Town and Parish Councils aims to gather valuable input and feedback from local communities to inform the development of the Local Plan. This exercise is crucial in ensuring that the needs and priorities of these communities are considered from a very early stage in the plan-making process and will feed into our assessment of settlements in Somerset.

The Settlement Assessment forms part of the evidence base for the new Somerset Local Plan to understand the role and function of all the settlements across Somerset. The Settlement Assessment will provide a snapshot in time of the facilities and accessibility to services within the different settlements to understand the level of provision. This can help us see which settlements have the number and breadth of facilities to be more self-contained and those which may not be functioning in a way that would be classed as 'sustainable', where development may lead to additional car trips out of the settlement.

The Settlement Assessment will establish an evidence base that can assist in identifying service or infrastructure shortages which may help to underpin requirements from new developments. This, in turn, will support the formulation of a spatial strategy for the Local Plan, influencing how any identified developments needs are distributed across Somerset and promoting a sustainable pattern of development by focussing growth to the most sustainable places.

This piece of work will not ascertain the capacity for development of each settlement or to provide a quantum of new development that each settlement should accommodate. The overall level of new development directed to settlements in Somerset will be determined through the policies in the new Somerset Local Plan, taking account of the settlement assessment and other evidence as well as other relevant policy documents.

1a - Settlement Assessment

Understanding what services and facilities exist in your city or town, or in each settlement within your parish, will help us understand how self-sufficient they are or whether residents need to travel to access the things they need. We want to ensure that growth happens in sustainable locations, where people can access the services and facilities they most need close to home.

We have collected information on what services and facilities we think currently exist across the settlements of Somerset, but would like to verify this according to your local knowledge.

The purpose of a Settlements Assessment The purpose of the Settlements Assessment is to help us understand how our city, towns and villages currently work and function, as we

start to shape the future and set a strategy for determining the pattern, scale and nature of future development for our new Local Plan for Somerset. How our settlements currently function can give us clues about what we need to do in the future, to deliver positive outcomes for our communities.

To do this, we are looking at three broad topic areas, each of which gives us some insight into the varied roles currently performed by the Somerset's settlements, and how their functionality might be strengthened or may become more vulnerable in the future:

- Settlement size and growth, population and demography
- Access to (and provision of) retail and community services and facilities
- Employment role and economic activity

This initial engagement activity aims to enhance our knowledge by gathering your insights and experiences from your towns and parishes. Understanding individual settlements' roles, functions, strengths and vulnerabilities is an important step in getting to a future growth and development strategy that reflects the particular characteristics and needs of individual settlements. Or, to look at it another way: how addressing the strengths, needs, opportunities and constraints of each of our individual communities can come together into a growth strategy for the Somerset as a whole.

1. Please review the Excel Spreadsheet, below.

****The online questionnaire has a spreadsheet embedded so you will need to use the online survey to view it. Open the online survey, add temporary name/details and click through to question 1a (1) to see the spreadsheet.*

<https://somersetcouncil.citizenspace.com/planning/bf1957bd/>

2. Are there any settlements, within your Council area, that you think are missing from the assessment that should be included?

- Yes
 No
 Unsure

If yes, please provide further information.

We have the additional settlements of Milborne Wick and Goathill within our Parish but these have virtually no facilities.

3. To the best of your knowledge, do the community facilities we have identified match what you know is in your City or Town; or the settlements within your Parish?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

If not, please provide further information.

- 1) Local Access to a Community Store by foot – this is marked as “yes”. In reality the store is located on the west side of the settlement and most residents of the easterly and southern parts of the settlement would access by vehicle. The recent Community survey has indicated amongst residents a desire to access a retail store to the east of the village.
- 2) Nurseries and Pre-School – This is marked as “no” but we do in fact have a pre-school (Beeches). However, as a result of the material levels of recent development, with significant numbers of young families, the number of places is close to or fewer than what demand requires.
- 3) Essential Financial Services – This is marked as “no”, but we do have a Post Office (albeit located at the very western tip of the settlement) and a cashpoint (also to the west). We do not have banking services or cash deposit facilities other than these two instances.
- 4) Education Resources – marked “yes” but we do not understand what this is. We do have a Community Library as well as the Primary and Pre-Schools
- 5) Centres for Community Health and Wellbeing (eg Gymn and Swimming Pool) – this is marked as “yes”. Our swimming pool is only available in the summer
- 6) Clinics and Dentists – marked as “no” but we do have a formal private clinic for various forms of therapy and a number of from-home therapeutic service providers

4. Services and facilities within a settlement play a crucial role in shaping how a community functions and its significance in the broader context. In your view, what are the top 10 essential amenities that contribute to a community's self-sufficiency? Please rank them in order of importance, with 1 being the most critical.

	Ranking (top 10 only)
District Hospital	
Community Hospital	
Health Centre / GP Surgery	2
Pharmacy and Walk-ins	5
Higher Education College	
Secondary / Middle School	
Primary School	3
Nursery / Pre-school	4
Food shop	1
Comparison goods shops	
Village Hall / Meeting Rooms	9
Public House / Restaurant / Café	6
Bank / Building Society / Banking Hub	
Library	
Leisure Centre	
Post Office	10
Recreation Ground (incl. sports field)	7
Dentist / Optician	
Children's Play Area	8
Place of Worship / Faith Facility	

5. Does this list of community services and facilities need any changes, to reflect what might be necessary for a settlement to be self-sufficient?

- Yes
 No
 Unsure

If yes, please provide further information on items to add or remove.

Local employment opportunity, accessible by public transport and/or foot/cycle is a key element for social self sufficiency.

Similarly, availability of housing for persons who have grown up in the Parish and wish to remain is extremely important in retaining the social integrity of the community

Open spaces for all residents. There is a tension between those using the sports fields and those walking dogs without following the obligation to clear up dog fouling and to keep the dog on a lead.

6. If you have any further comments on community facilities and services, please add them here.

1) Greater emphasis on linking the approval of additional housing to additional employment land in suitable locations. You should be asking why a material application is not mixed use, rather than a straight residential application being the norm.

2) Planning teams should consult closely with the Parish Council regarding the ongoing community asset needs, and especially during the drafting and final sign off stages of s.106 agreements.

3) s.106 agreements are an important part of managing the community impact of new developments. Somerset Council should pursue the full delivery of these commitments with all the force and vigour at their disposal.

1b – Key Issues

We are keen to understand the key planning-related issues that you are experiencing in your city, town or parish, as we put together the evidence base that informs the development of the new Local Plan for Somerset. The geography of Somerset is wide and diverse and we want to ensure we hear about all the different issues affecting our communities.

A Local Plan covers topics such as: housing; employment; retail and services; infrastructure; conservation of habitats, species and heritage assets; and mitigating against and adapting to the effects of climate change. It is with these topics in mind, that the following questions are set.

Please note that questions on infrastructure provision and need are set out in the following section.

1. What are the top planning-related challenges or issues your city, town or parish is currently facing? (Please select in order of priority, 1 being most challenging; and 8 being least)

	Ranking
Housing affordability	1
housing availability	4
Adaptation to climate Change	8
Ability to walk and wheel to key services and facilities	2
Access to education	3
Access to public transport	5
Impacts on biodiversity, habitats and/or the environment	7
Health and wellbeing	6

2. Are there any other challenges or issues, not mentioned here, that your city, town or parish is currently facing? How would you prioritise these?

- Housing affordability and availability - these are intertwined considerations. At any given time there are usually a number of properties for sale within our parish, but this does not mean there is not a significant planning challenge regarding housing availability. The issue is around the availability of social housing, and wider rental properties in general, together with other initiatives such as shared equity and self-build. Our community needs a strong supply of for-sale and rental two to three bed starter homes with prioritisation for local people.

Continued on next page

- Public Transport - 50 years ago Milborne Port was a relatively self contained community. It is now essentially a dormitory community with a high percentage of economic activity being performed outside of the Parish. The facilities on our High Street (baker, bank, newsagent, vegetable shop, florist etc) have nearly all closed. With Sherborne three miles down the road this is unlikely to be reversed. To an extent this is “fine” for the top 80% of residents who have access to private transport, albeit it would be great if the day to day living spend were kept in the community

However for the less able, and the transport poor, reliance upon public transport in terms of both availability and cost is incredibly important. It is incredibly frustrating to read planning applications stating how excellent the public transport facilities in Milborne Port are (let alone the extensive remainder of the Parish) when these are only available during the day and not in the evenings, and are under threat from the very Council that allows such statements to go unquestioned. This is on your list, but it does not affect all residents, so we have ranked it lower than one or two other items. However, those it does affect are some of our most vulnerable and most in need of support, and they should not be neglected or have their future lifestyle in constant jeopardy by the threat of loss of what is already inadequate public transport coverage.

- Similarly, safe pedestrian and cycle access to facilities within and without the community is also important. Somerset Highways appear to be of the opinion that 2.0m wide pedestrian pavements are not a requirement for access between new developments and the community facilities. This simply needs to stop.

Further, there seems also to be a view that proposed road access should be approved if it is not actively dangerous, rather than Planning working with developers to achieve the best possible outcome. There is also virtually no consideration given to the knock on traffic implications outside of the immediate surround of a new development. We deserve better than this.

- Parking – this has become a major issue, not only because an 18th century village layout together with country lanes are not great design features to accommodate 21st century needs, but also because new development has not adequately catered for entirely predictable problems. A significant culprit is the Somerset Parking Policy which allows for garages to count as an off-road parking space even whilst noting that garages are rarely used for cars.
- Traffic – This, came up as the highest priority concern in our survey

**3. How do residents perceive these challenges, and what solutions might there be?
Please provide further information.**

In our recent community survey all these issues attracted a high level of feedback. Some of this is an expression of anger, with limited understanding of how it might be put right or who might be in a position to bear the costs. However, there have been observations around changes in policy, the interpretation of policy, and as importantly, attitude at Planning being at the heart of how traffic concerns could be fixed, especially around non-pedestrian users.

We note that the government have extended the £2 cap on bus fares for a further year (albeit at £3). What is needed however is a long term commitment to rural bus routes (especially ours!), and perhaps a migration over time to a suite of (ideally energy and carbon efficient) vehicles in size terms that could cover the patterns of travel, so that existing size vehicles can cover peak times, but smaller units on less busy hours. Appreciate that driver remuneration is a very high cost, especially on a near-empty bus, but bear in mind that bus availability is not always supporting the whole of the community, it is supporting the most vulnerable and needy.

There has been mention of traffic calming, better enforcement on parking and speeding, an additional SID as possible solutions. Similarly better performance on pot holes has been suggested, and we note the government's commitment to this in the Budget, but await the detail of what that might mean in practice in Milborne Port.

4. Do you have any other comments on this topic?

We believe that this is where Somerset Council could really do some significant good at relatively limited cost. As a Parish Council we are not against new development (albeit that we have already had a lot), but it should be in the right place, or the right type, and as well designed as possible so as to enhance our community, especially for the people who already live in it.

1c - Infrastructure Priorities

The new Somerset Local Plan will set out a strategy for delivering sustainable growth in Somerset, guiding the kinds of new housing and jobs needed and where they should go. It will identify appropriate areas and sites for development, along with the necessary infrastructure to support this growth, and set policies that will be used for determining planning applications.

**1. What do you view as the top five infrastructure needs in your city, town or parish?
(Please select in order of priority, 1 being most important; and 5 being least)**

	Ranking (top 5 only)
GP's and healthcare	Good already but we must retain, and it must not be diluted by patients from other communities
Pre-school education	Good but we need more capacity
Primary education	Good already but we must retain
Secondary education	n/a
Tertiary education	n/a
Flood mitigation and alleviation	1 – we just about coped in May 2023 but we got circa 45mm a day, not the 130mm estimated to have landed on Yarlinton. Regs require new developments to cope with 145mm and our village infrastructure simply would not have a chance. We have a high number of properties exposed along the River Gascoigne, but this is not classified as a river. This is an accident waiting to happen and our current flood defence policy is that we must not have a flood.
Sports facilities, open spaces and play areas	Good already but needs some upgrading
Broadband	Gigaclear have been working to install fibre
Mobile reception	3 – getting better but still weak
Public transport	2 – see above
Active travel infrastructure	5 – see above. Pinford Lane to Sherborne being confirmed as a Public Right of Way would help dramatically
Postal and banking services	Needs a safe crossing over the A30. The small improvement scheme is designed and approved but there is no funding left in the budget (i.e. somewhere else was viewed to have been more important than we are). Keeping the Post Office is vital.
Community/village hall/meeting space	5 - Needs some upgrading
Health facilities such as pharmacies, dentists and opticians	Pharmacy Good already. We do not have a dental practice or opticians but these are available in Sherborne (subject to generic issues with cost and NHS dentistry)

**2. Are there any other provisions, not mentioned here, that you would like to mention?
How would you prioritise these?**

There is a commitment in the s.106 agreement for a development currently under construction to the provision of a Community Hub building, which would house our Community Library as well as being a display area for our Heritage and History Group and Community Museum. There is a degree of jeopardy in this regard. We are working with Somerset Planning and Legal, as well as the developer, to seek confirmation that the Hub will be completed. There is a high degree of public upset amongst residents (again reflected in the survey) and it would be helpful if the Council could continue its support in this regard.

The s.106 also provides for a commercial unit on the development, and support to ensure this is delivered would again be welcome. The survey identified the lack of a store on the eastern side of the village as a community need (though not explaining who would run this and take the related commercial risk).

There is a continuous issue with the joint use of the sports and recreation ground by insensitive dog walkers as well as sports users, including our children. The resultant dog fouling is both anti-social and potentially dangerous. It may be that at least some attempt at enforcement might improve matters, but it seems that a ban on dogs at the Rec may be the only solution. If so it would seem fair to provide an appropriate space where dog owners would be able to exercise their pets and so we are exploring the possibility of acquiring such an asset.

Section 2 begins on the next page...

Section 2 - Open Spaces, Built Sports and Playing Pitch Overview

We are currently working on an Open Space, Built Sports Facilities and Playing Pitch Strategy, which aims to assess the needs and opportunities for playing pitches, built sports facilities, and open spaces for play and recreation in Somerset. The strategy will cover the entire Somerset area and include the creation of a delivery strategy and a prioritised action plan to meet identified needs.

The strategy will inform the development of policies for the Somerset Local Plan, bringing together new and existing evidence bases into one comprehensive document. The provision of public open space and facilities for sport and recreation is considered essential for individual health and well-being, as well as for promoting sustainable communities.

The strategy will satisfy the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), which mandates local authorities to prepare planning policies based on robust and up-to-date assessments of open space, sports, and recreational facilities.

A robust strategy for improving spaces for play, sport, and recreation will contribute to improving the health and well-being of Somerset residents. Providing spaces where people can keep active, promotes healthy living, which has a positive impact on our physical and mental well-being. These positive outcomes contribute to reduced pressure on our valuable healthcare resources, whilst also tackling the root causes of some crime and anti-social behaviour.

Through this early engagement activity, we are seeking your local knowledge to further understand local provision and identify any areas of particular need.

2a - Community Views on Facilities

We would like to understand your views about the provision of open spaces, built sports and playing pitches in your city, town or parish, as we gather information to inform our Strategy and also the Local Plan.

1. How satisfied do you believe your local community is with the current provision of play, recreational, and open spaces in their area?

Choose your level of satisfaction

- Very satisfied
- Satisfied
- Neutral
- Dissatisfied
- Very Dissatisfied

2. What are your primary concerns regarding the provision of play areas, recreational spaces, and open spaces for your local community?

- Quality of provision
- Quantity of provision
- Accessibility via active travel
- Accessibility via public transport
- Physical accessibility
- Affordability
- Antisocial behaviour
- Littering
- Primary purpose misalignment with community needs/interests
- Lack of multifunctionality
- All of the above
- No concerns
- Other (please specify)

If "other", please specify:

Dog Fouling came as a higher concern than littering. Perhaps the reintroduction of a Council provided Dog Warden (provided they actually do some enforcement) might be a solution. Alternately the provision of dog fouling monitoring and enforcement by a Council organized private environmental security firm might help, funded by the fines imposed. Would only need doing a couple of days a month so could leverage across a wide band of Parishes. As noted above we are exploring the acquisition of a separate dog walking area.

On "Quality of provision" we are looking at a cycle of enhancement improvement of existing recreational facilities. This should not be read to mean facilities are poor, but they could be better. We face challenges with the size of the costs for items such as resurfacing our skate park as an example.

On "Physical accessibility" this relates to some of our footpaths (muddy and waterlogged), gates and signage which could be improved. Access for less able residents is currently minimal

3. Which types of play, recreational, and open spaces are most utilised currently by your local communities?

- Sports pitches
- Indoor sports centres/recreational facilities e.g. sports halls
- Outdoor recreational facilities e.g. tennis courts, bowling
- Playgrounds (equipped play area)
- Parks and gardens e.g. urban or country parks
- Natural areas e.g. woodland, wetlands, waterways
- Community gardens e.g. village greens, allotments, orchards
- Other (please specify)

If "other", please specify:

Allotments. These are located on the western side of the community and are heavily utilized. We have increased numbers through clearing some overgrown border areas. Additional allotment provision is included in the application for outline planning permission no 22/00180/OUT. A decision has been made to grant planning permission, though the decision has not yet been issued. This will improve provision on the east side of the community.

4. What kinds of additional play, recreational, and open spaces does the community need in your local area?

- Sports pitches
- Indoor sports centres/recreational facilities e.g. sports halls
- Outdoor recreational facilities e.g. tennis courts, bowling
- Playgrounds (equipped play area)
- Parks and gardens e.g. urban or country parks
- Natural areas e.g. woodland, wetlands, waterways
- Community gardens e.g. village greens, allotments, orchards
- Other (please specify)

If "other", please specify:

Please provide further comments on any additional needs you have identified

Dog walking area – partly for the benefit of dog owners and their pets, but equally so as to enable the closure of the Playing Fields to dogs so as to remove the problem of those few less responsible owners failing to clear up at a location where people, including our extensive children's sports teams, are playing sport training and exercising.

Upgrade of our playing fields from level 5 (inadequate) to 3 (good)

Gardens and Open Spaces. Due to the former industrial nature of the village and the related density of subsequent development there are limited open spaces at the heart of the community.

5. Which groups feel least served by the play, recreational, and open spaces in your local community?

- Children and young families
- Teenagers
- Older adults
- Low-income families
- Persons with disabilities
- Ethnic minorities
- Girls and young women
- Other (please specify)

If "other", please specify:

Note that the existing sports pavilion is too small but also pretty much single gender in layout, and that the extended version will include changing rooms for women and children.

We have plans to upgrade the MUGA next to the tennis courts for use for five a side football, which would allow for walking football for older adults, even if only informally.

Provision for teenagers in our facilities suite would be materially improved were our skate park to be resurfaced and remodeled.

6. While the Local Plan doesn't deliver or maintain play, recreational, and open spaces, it ensures these needs are planned for in existing and new developments. What do you think are the most important roles of the Local Plan in enhancing these facilities in your community? (Please rank in order of importance, 1 being the most important)

	Ranking
Allocation of sites - for additional facilities	3
Protecting and enhancing sites – protecting from encroaching development and enhancing through considering other play/recreational uses	1
Promoting community participation – in the planning process, ensuring that facilities meet local needs and support healthy lifestyles	4
Sustainable development – integrating recreational facilities into urban and rural planning through improved accessibility through active travel and public transport	2
Inclusiveness for everyone	6
Ensuring climate resilience of recreational spaces	5

7. What are the main obstacles in sustaining and providing play, recreational, and open spaces within your local community? (Please rank in order of importance, with 1 being the most important)

	Ranking
Funding	1
Management	5
Resources	3
Land availability	2
Addressing safety concerns	6
Other (please specify)	4

If "other", please specify:

Volunteers. There is an ever increasing expectation that facilities and the clubs that use them will be run for the Community rather than by it, and bit by bit we are seeing these groups and activities stopping. This is the way of the world all over and as a Parish Council we have stepped in to protect key elements of our community, such as the Library and the Village Hall. The costs are passed on to the Community by way of higher precept.

However, the "commuting" nature of the community does mean that many adults (and of course secondary school children) are now spending time travelling, and are hence less likely to have the time or energy to volunteer towards the greater good of the community. This commuting is for work, but also for shopping and other non-employment activity. Increasing the economic activity of the community through higher employment land (where possible, and it is hard reversing a trend that has been allowed to continue for some decades), and ensuring we do not lose the remaining economic facilities we have would likely have an indirect positive impact on volunteering as well.

2b - Location of Facilities

We have identified the location of open spaces, built sports and playing pitches in your area, but need to verify this against your local knowledge.

****The online questionnaire has an interactive map so you will need to use the online survey to view this map. Open the online survey, add temporary name/details and click through to question 2b (1) to see the map. <https://sومersetcouncil.citizenspace.com/planning/bf1957bd/> It asks you to check the map below matches your local knowledge of open spaces, built sports facilities and playing pitches in your city or town, or for settlements in your parish. If there are any facilities you would like to add or amend, please drop a pin on the map.*

1. Does the map match your knowledge of the location of open spaces, built sports facilities and playing pitches in your city or town, or for settlements in your parish?

- Yes
 No
 Unsure

If "no" or "unsure", please drop a pin on the map to identify an additional location, or a feature that is incorrect, and provide further comments below.

Good but not quite.

The "Top Rec" on the Western side of the village is an area that includes the Gainsborough Recreation Area, and the skate park. This is clearly an open space facility. However, the southern half of this pink marked area is our community allotments - also an open space but for recreation of a different sort.

If you travel up Station Road to the north of the village towards Milborne Wick, as far as the bridge underneath the main train line between Exeter and London there is a further community open space area. This is our Parish Arboretum, which is located to the south east of the bridge.

On Wheathill Lane in the east of the village there are two pink marked open space areas. The first is a small block owned by Somerset County and formerly used as a school playing pitch. This is now a wilding area. Further east is the cemetery, which is marked out correctly, but is incomplete. The area to the north of the cemetery, adjacent to the Recreation Ground is owned by Milborne Port Parish Council and acquired for future expansion of the cemetery. This is unlikely to be needed for that purpose for a decade or so, and we are currently looking as to how best to use it in the interim. However, it is a Parish Council owned Open Space that is not currently marked as such. In the development on the corner of Station Road and Wheathill Lane there is now a "Village Square" area that was part of the mixed use component of the development's planning permission. This is a new open space and is already being used informally by kids on bikes.

If you have any further comments on open spaces, built sports facilities and playing pitches, please add them here.

In response to its calls for expressions of interest regarding capital assets, the Parish Council has said it would be interested in a number of plots of Council owned land around the village. Some of these are existing open spaces and marked as such. Some are mere road verges. However, we have expressed an interest in a sizeable plot on Combe Hill to the northwest of the village, which would be used primarily as a dog walking area.

This is the end of the questionnaire. Thank you for taking the time to contribute.