





Old Marston Parish Council

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Members of the public and press are welcome to attend the following meeting (Public Bodies (Admission to Meeting) Act 1960 Section 1& LGC 1972 S.100) unless precluded by the parish council by resolution during the whole or part of the proceedings. (S.O 3d). They may address the parish council on any matter of council business during the time allotted at the beginning of the meeting for public participation. Anyone wishing to speak must give prior notice with name and address to the clerk before the meeting starts.

No member of the public or press shall speak for more than 5 minutes unless the chairman so declares and the total time for public participation is 20 minutes. (S.O. 3f & g). There is no entitlement to speak at any other time during the meeting.

An issue raised shall not require a response at the meeting nor start a debate. The chairman may direct that an oral or written response be given (S.O. 3h) or that a note be made for later action.

A record of public participation may be included in the minutes and if any actions are required, they will be reported on at the next meeting.

You are invited to the MEETING of OLD MARSTON PARISH COUNCIL ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE to be held at **6:00pm on Monday 26th February 2024** at Mortimer Hall, where the following business will be transacted.

Yours faithfully

Tim Cann.
Parish Clerk

20th February 2024



NOTE: Please ensure that you have familiarised yourself with the items on the agenda before the meeting.

From time to time it may be unavoidable for members to arrive late or need to leave early. Please be aware these occurrences WILL be recorded in the minutes at the appropriate stage of the proceedings.

Councillors are requested to declare any prejudicial interest they have in any of the items.

AGENDA

- 1. Request if anyone is intending to record the proceeds of the meeting, if so, has any member of the public any objections in being included.**
- 2. Apologies for absence**
- 3. Requests from members of the public to speak: Please note you are required to complete a brief slip and return to the clerk prior to speaking.**
- 4. Minutes of the Meeting held on the 30th October 2023**
- 5. Matter Arising omitting those for which an agenda heading follows:**
- 6. Community Needs Survey Results:**
- 7. Possible topics for future surveys.**
- 8. Notes from 'tour' of parts of the parish**
- 9. Information sharing.**
- 10. Plus, anything of an urgent nature which has come to the clerk's attention since the agenda was set.**
- 11. Date of next meeting: - TBC**

Minutes of the Environment Committee Meeting held on the 30th October 2023 in the Mortimer Hall from 7:00pm.

Present:

Parish Council:

Alistair Morris – Chair (AM)

Charlotte Vinnicombe – Vice-Chair (CV)

Mary James (MJ)

Louise Upton (LU)

In attendance: Tim Cann (Clerk)

ENV 23/10/01 Intention to record the proceedings of the meeting: NONE.

ENV 23/10/02 Apologies for Absence: Skye Denno – prior engagement.

ENV 23/10/03 Request from member of the public to speak:

- NONE

ENV 23/10/04 Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 27th March 2023. It was **RESOLVED** these are a true record.

ENV 23/10/05 Matters Arising (omitting those for which an agenda heading follows):

- None.

ENV 23/10/06 Recycling Provision for Mortimer Hall:

- CV stated that promoting recycling is part of the committees' terms of reference and if the Mortimer Hall was interested in getting recycling bins it could be put to the parish council to consider grant assistance.

ENV 23/10/07 Value, purpose and commitment of the environment committee & proposal all parish council decisions should be taken through the lens of environmental and climate change:

- It was agreed that the committee needed to be more proactive in promoting its aims.

ENV 23/10/08 Parish council to write a letter to the Mortimer Hall expressing its keen desire and full financial support to getting the hall upgraded with insulation, solar panels battery and possible heat pump:

- It was agreed that this would be deferred for the time being.

ENV 23/10/09 Look at how the pavilion could be more eco-friendly:

- The Clerk informed the committee that an energy report had been already done. It was **RESOLVED** that this would be circulated to the committee.

ENV 23/10/10 More bike racks:

- It was **RESOLVED** to defer this and review possible sites for the next meeting.

ENV 23/10/11 Electric car recharging infrastructure:

The clerk reminded the committee that it had made a expression of interest for the Boults Lane. It was **RESOLVED** to defer this item to the next meeting.

ENV 23/10/12 Tour of parish council land in the Spring:

It was **RESOLVED** to have this on Saturday 3rd February 2024 at 2pm.

ENV 23/10/13 Reduce car traffic/increase active travel... one way with wide bike lane, access only:

The Clerk advised the committee that traffic situation was being looked at and that he will chase up to see where it is.

ENV 23/10/14 Possible future projects/budget needs:

No definitive projects were proposed.

ENV 23/10/15 Items of an urgent nature which have come to the Clerk's attention since the agenda was set: NONE.

ENV 23/10/16 Information sharing (including correspondence):

- NONE.

ENV 23/10/17 Date of Next Meeting: Monday 26th February 2024 6pm

MEETING CLOSED: 8:15pm

OLD MARSTON PARISH COUNCIL COMMUNITY NEEDS SURVEY - RESULTS

Introduction

Firstly, Old Marston Parish Council would like to thank everyone who took the time to complete the survey.

The questionnaire was rather detailed, so took a while to complete, however, it gives the parish council some idea of resident's views and a starting base of future consultations.

No personal details were collected, unless the respondent wanted to be kept informed of information from the parish council where they gave their email address.

The survey was sent out between April and May 2023, the closing date was the 30th June 2023.

Most parish councillors hand delivered the survey to as many dwellings as possible in the parish, it was also available online from the council website. Completed forms could either be emailed, posted or hand delivered to the clerk or left at St Nicholas Church or the Old Marston Library.

Unfortunately, only 88 out of approximately 1,500 residents responded.

However, this is the first survey of its kind done by the parish council.

Where percentages are given, they are percentages of respondents not total residents.

Tim Cann

Clerk.

1. Do you live in: Old Marston New Marston

77 (88%) stated Old Marston,
3 (3%) said New Marston 8 (9%) didn't say.

2. What is your postcode.

3. Do you own or manage a business or organisation?

82 (93%) NO 4 Yes 2 Prefer not to say

4. Please circle which age group you fall into: There were no respondents below the age of 25, with over 55% from the over 65 age group.

Over 75 years old – 26, 65- to 74-year-old – 22,
55- to 64-year-old – 15, 35- to 44-year-old – 8,
45- to 54-year-old – 8, 25- to 34-year-old – 6. .
TOTAL 85 3 did not complete their age.

5. Please circle how many people live in your household:

24 people live alone, 37 people live with another person.
8 households have 3 people in, 10 households have 4,
1 have 5 or more.

6. Are you a parent, carer or guardian of a child or young person (aged 0 – 18):

70 people have no dependent children or young people living with them,
2 have under 5 years old,
6 have 6 to 10 years old,
9 have 11- to 18-year-old.

7. How long have you lived or worked in Old Marston:

No respondent had lived in Old Marston for a year or less.
7 have lived here for between 2 and 7 years,
10 have lived here for between 11 and 20 years,
54 people have lived in Old Marston for 20 or more years. That's almost 68%.

8. Which best describes your work:

48 people are retired
11 are in part time employment,
2 are not in any employed.

22 people are in full time employed,
2 people are self-employed,

9. Where do you work? If you are still working from home due to the pandemic and this will change back at some point please select where you are likely to be working once you return:

10 people work in Oxford
3 work elsewhere,
2 in Blackbird Leys

9 people work from home,
3 in Summertown and Headington,
1 in London, Kidlington, Abingdon.

10. What is the most common way you travel to work? Again, if you are working from home, please select how you are likely to travel once returned.

19 travel by car,
16 by bike,
1 by bus, train.

11. Overall, how much do you like or dislike Old Marston as a place to live:

57 (65%) strongly like.
2 neither like nor dislike

27 (31%) somewhat like,
0 strongly/ somewhat disliked.

12. What do you like most about living in Old Marston:

69 (78%) Proximity to countryside,
49 (56%) Good cycling/walking routes,
35 (40%) friendliness of people
28 (32%) Local transport network,
24 Local facilities, shops etc.,
23 for the schools,
9 Leisure & Sports Facilities

30 (34%) sense of community,
25 the proximity for commuting,
23 Proximity to family/friends
15 have lived here all their lives,
No one responded 'Nothing'.

Other responses included the Church, peace and quiet, Wildlife, trees, grass verges, good neighbours, Eco Hub, Beauty and historic interest of houses and environment, Proximity to Oxford and Summertown.

13. And what do you dislike most about living in Old Marston:

46 (52%) Traffic and congestion, 42 (48%) State or roads/footpath,
37 (42%) Over development
35 (40%) Lack of local facilities and amenities such as shops etc.
26 (30%) Danger of cycling/walking, 14 Air pollution,
14 Lack of Community spirit, 10 Lack of leisure/sport facilities,
2 Poor parks and recreation areas
2 responded there was nothing they disliked,

Other responses were the fact there is a lack of medical facilities, poor public transport, overgrown vegetation, the proposed Marston Ferry Road bus gate, the litter dumping in Elsfeld Road and anti-social behaviour. There were also LTNs, Speeding traffic, Health issues from Wi-Fi and mobile phone signals, Speed on Cherwell Drive, Plans to build on farmland, Empty house on Maltfield Road, Parking in Elsfeld Road, Loss of village shop & PO, External appearance of MH, Noise pollution ambulance sirens on Cherwell Drive, CPZ not enforced, Poor collection of rubbish in public areas, No mail collection near Mortimer Gardens, Traffic rat run and bollards, Illegal parking for school run, Cyclists and scooters riding dangerously on pavements, Marston does not need a community centre as St Nicks church offers good services.

14. How would you rate the following in Old Marston?

Facilities/things to do for preschool children:

26 (44%) didn't know 12 (20%) responded Fair,
7 responded Good, 6 responded Poor,
5 responded Very Poor, 3 responded excellent.

Facilities/things to do for children aged 5 to 11:

12 (29%) Fair 12 (29%) Didn't know,
8 responded Good, 8 responded Poor,
1 very poor 0 responded Excellent.

Facilities/things to do for people aged 12 to 18:

29 (46%) Didn't know	16 (25%) Poor,
9 responded Very Poor,	6 responded Fair,
3 responded Good,	No one responded excellent.

Facilities for people aged 18 to 65:

22 (34%) Poor,	16 (25%) didn't known,	14 (22%) Fair,
6 Good,	6 Very Poor,	1 excellent.

Facilities for people over 65:

25 (33%) Didn't know,	18 (24%) Very Poor,	15 (20%) Fair,
13 Poor,	4 Good,	1 excellent.

15. How often do you visit the following:**Mortimer Hall Recreation Ground:**

25 (29%) Never,	24 (28%) few times a year,	9 once,
8 every few weeks,	9 yearly,	5 weekly,
5 once a month,	1 not heard of it.	

Boults Lane Recreation Ground:

29 (37%) Never,	22 (28%) few times a year,	8 weekly,
5 Monthly,	5 Didn't know,	4 Yearly,
3 every few weeks,	2 Once.	

Mill Lane Allotments:

47 (63%) Never,	6 weekly,	6 Once,
5 few times a year,	4 Didn't know,	3 every few weeks,
3 once a year,	1 never heard of it.	

Mill Lane Playing Field:

27 (52%) Never,	8 few times a year,	5 Once,
4 Never heard of it,	3 Didn't know,	2 every few weeks,
2 Monthly,	1 weekly.	

Orchard Triangle

27 (36%) Never,	15 (20%) few times a year,	8 once a month,
7 Never heard of it,	5 Didn't know,	4 weekly,
4 every few weeks,	3 once a year,	3 once.

Croft Road Recreation Ground:

22 (30%) weekly,	18 (25%) Never,	14 few times a year,
7 every few weeks,	3 monthly,	3 Once,
3 Didn't know,	2 Never heard of it,	1 once a year.

Back Lane

20 (25%) few times a year,	16 (20%) Never,	12 weekly,
10 Monthly,	5 every few weeks,	5 Didn't know,
4 once a year,	4 Never heard of it,	3 once.

Mortimer Hall

20 (27%) Few times a year,	17 (23%) Never,	12 Once a year,
8 Once,	6 Monthly,	4 weekly,
4 every few weeks,	3 Didn't know,	1 never heard of it.

Church Hall

27 (33%) Never,	16 (20%) Few times a year,	11 weekly,
10 Once,	7 Once a year,	4 every few weeks,
3 Didn't know,	2 monthly,	1 never heard of it.

Roy Garner Pavilion:

47 (59%) Never,	10 Never heard of it,	8 Few times a year,
5 Once,	5 Didn't know,	2 Once a year,
1 weekly,	1 every few weeks.	

OXSRAD:

36 (51%) Never,	11 Few times a year,	6 Once a year,
6 Once,	4 weekly,	3 every few weeks,
2 Never heard of it,	2 Didn't know.	

St Nicholas Church:

36 (44%) Never,	11 Few times a year,	10 weekly,
6 every few weeks,	6 once a year,	6 once,
5 Didn't know,	2 never heard of it.	

Other Library 2 Eco-hub 1

16. How do you usually find out about things that are happening in Old Marston:

69 (78%) Marston Times	49 (56%) Word of mouth,
21 (24%) Council noticeboard,	20 (23%) find out via Facebook,
15 While shopping locally,	12 Council website,
6 Don't find out,	5 from Twitter,
4 Local or street email groups,	3 from the Church noticeboard,
2 While at the pub,	2 Marston Mums,
1 via Nextdoor.	

17. What, if anything, most worries you about the future of Old Marston:

46 (52%) More traffic,	35 (40%) Lack of Medical Facilities,
33 (38%) Over development,	26 (30%) Lack of affordable housing,
20 (23%) Lack of facilities for the old,	15 (17%) Air quality/pollution,
12 Lack of facilities for children/young,	12 Pressure on parking places,
11 Loss of identity in community,	11 Higher crime levels,
8 Lack of facilities/services for disabled,	1 Lack of leisure facilities,
1 doesn't have any worries.	

Others responses; were for LTN's, Parking on street, Health from Wi-Fi & phone signals, Speeding on Cherwell Drive, Loss of identity as a village, Local Environment, Lack of segregated cycle paths, Risk of losing our vicar, Risk of losing our library, Climate change, Decent shops (no lidl or Aldi) Lack of community Centre, Lack of rubbish bins, Back Lane unkept bridle path, Grass verges need cutting regularly, Loss of farming and over-use of green areas and Loss of access to Ferry Leisure Centre due to bus gates.

18. Please answer the following questions if you own or manage a business or organisation in Old Marston

How many people do you employ?

3 do not employ anyone, 1 employ 1 to 9 people,

19. Before this survey have you heard of the Parish Council:

77 said YES, 2 said NO

20. Are you satisfied with council run things:

30 Fairly satisfied, 16 Neither, 9 people are Very Satisfied,
8 fairly dissatisfied, 5 Very dissatisfied, 5 Don't know.

21. Do you receive the Parish Council Newsletter:

49 YES, 22 NO, 12 Don't know.

22. Have you visited the parish council website in the last year:

51 No, 25 replied YES 2 Don't know/can't remember.

23. How would you rate the parish council website:

14 Good, 13 Don't know, 7 Fair, 5 Poor,
3 Excellent.

24. Are you interested in signing up by email to receive e-newsletters and information from the parish council:

42 (61%) YES 14 (20%) NO 8 Don't know 5 replied not online.

OLD MARSTON PARISH COUNCIL COMMUNITY NEEDS 2023 SURVEY

Anecdotal responses:

INTRODUCTION

The following statements are not necessarily the views of Old Marston Parish Council. They are comments made by residents on the latest survey.

- Please take action on requesting a speed limit of 20mph on Cherwell Drive. I've asked the PCC for this several times over the last 2 years – no action.
- Too many cars parked on road when houses have garages,
- The yellow barrier at Croft Road recreation blocks the cycle lane and makes it dangerous for pedestrians and cyclists.
- Can the PC employ a youth worker? (maybe in conjunction with other organisations or swan school)
- Historical issues with lack of proper financial management of football pavilion,
- Loss of village shop and post office although we are lucky to have co-op and post office albeit rather dull and run-down.

- School delivery and collection traffic chaos
- Glad there are now more cycle racks, but the public external appearance of Mortimer Hall is downright depressing. It needs beautifying.
- Just had vets bill of £600 to remove grass seeds from dogs' paws – grass needs to be cut regularly.
- This form was not delivered to my house, I could not download it to complete it online. I had to print it out and complete it. I have tried to put it in named places, church was closed, Mortimer Hall was closed, can't email it as it wasn't possible to complete online.
- The football pavilion creates huge amounts of waste which is not recycled. The pavilion cost, residents a huge amount of money and is private. It creates an unpleasant atmosphere, huge waste and regularly mows/destroys wildflower verges.
- Boults Lane is a cut through to allotments.
- Mill Lane playing field is a cut through to walk not a playing field,
- The pavilion is a complete waste of money.
- Please remember not everyone has the internet so are unable to receive emails or download information.
- Illegal parking when picking up and dropping off children.
- Please get residents to cut back hedges, the paths are getting narrower, and you have to bend to miss branches.
- The parish council doesn't listen.
- Community identity already lost.
- Too many in village stuck up and not from here originally.
- Orchard Triangle is just a poo area for dogs.
- St Nicholas Church is under used.
- I am R.C. but have great respect for the female priest. We are not all C of E. It was a renowned fact that people were co-opted on for a vote for various matters, which meant the direct action was taken.
- Would it not be more constructive to give a new makeover to Mortimer Hall rather than a new building.
- St Nicholas Church – Skye is a lovely lady, as is her husband Joel, a lovely gentleman but although the church would have been the Centre of a village in times gone by now not every dwelling is church of England we are of all faiths.
- I think it is a great pity that the local shop closed. There is tremendous interest in a volunteer led community shop/café to provide a hub for community development and support for the elderly

and young families. Ideally this would be provided as part of the redevelopment of Mortimer Hall, which is obsolete.

- Marston does not need a Community Centre as St Nicholas Church offer good services, i.e., coffee pot and lunch club and an 'Eco' shop, so a Community Centre is not needed. A Community Centre would involve further traffic congestion in the village, well it isn't a 'village' no more what with the 3 housing developments taking place. The 'village' cannot take any more traffic what with the new Swan School traffic. The 'S' bend can't cope, the traffic calming 'blocks' do not help – all these do is cause road-rage/confrontation. The 'big' buses have difficulty moving along through the 'village' as it is, but at least the 'village' has a good bus service now, so people can access the local shops - we do not want to lose our local shops!
- There will be even more traffic congestion if Oxford City Council grant permission for the 'Community Hall' at the OXSRD site – Marsh Lane cannot cope with more traffic this 'community Hall' would generate. The traffic is at a standstill and backing up onto the A40 – Ambulances have a difficult time in trying to get to the hospitals. All this traffic is using the 'village' and Elms Drive as a 'rat run'.
- Traffic gates on Marston Ferry Road. This should not be allowed to go ahead. How are people expected to access the local shops/facilities – I suppose use extra fuel in their cars to drive up the A40 which is always congested and wait to turn on to Banbury Road to access shops, doctors, dentists, etc. on the Banbury Road.
- Old Marston village will be grid locked. All very well that Oxford City Council want everyone to use their bicycle – not everyone can or has the confidence to ride a bicycle.
- In the recent report on pollution, it says that pollution is worse than ever on Cowley Road, Iffley Road and St. Clements – that's what these LTN's cause.
- Tender to resurface Boults Lane car park. How can Old Marston Parish Council justify spending £39,784.00 plus VAT and £14,880.00 plus VAT when the area is hardly used. If the work needs to be done, then ask for a contribution from Marston Saints Football Club.
- 'No mow May' – isn't everywhere a mess – although good excuse for Oxford City Council not to mow. Bugs and insects survived long before 'no mow May' was brought in. Farmers also leave headlands for bugs/insects/birds. Get and mow the verges now or knock some money off everyone's Council Tax for the month of May. Doesn't

Oxford City Council realise what a fire hazard these uncut verges are – it only needs a cigarette and up it goes!

- St Nicholas Churchyard – At last this has been mown and strimmed off, although, a general gardening sort out is still needed. The verges outside the church need to be mown off too – dreadful when you have weddings/hearses parking outside.
- Memorial garden – weeds growing in the shingle. There is a tree which overhangs people's memorial stones – people have paid a lot of money to have these stones made only to have the overhanging trees spilling their sap all over them. Please get them cut back and tidy up underneath this tree.
- The library/Harlow Garden – needs mowing and strimming – years ago this was kept spotless.

Old Marston Parish Council have a leaflet about a circular walk (Back Lane) – may I remind you that this Back Lane is actually a Bridleway, so horses take precedence over anyone. The Back Lane should be left alone i.e., no hard pavement or lights and it is not a cycle track! The British Horse Society are aware of this Bridleway and are keeping an eye on how it is run and maintained.

Old Marston Parish Council – Calendar of Meetings 2023/24

Date	Meeting	Time	Venue
26 th February	Environment Committee	6pm	Mortimer Hall
4 th March	Full Council	7pm	Mortimer Hall
25 th March	P,RG,A,C Committee*	6pm	Mortimer Hall
8 th April	Full Council	7pm	Mortimer Hall
29 th April	Finance Committee	6pm	Mortimer Hall

*P,RG,A & C Pavilion, Recreation grounds, Allotments & Cemetery Committee

The above are the standard meeting dates schedules for 2023-24.

Although additional meetings may be convened with the appropriate notice period and will be posted on the website and noticeboard.