

Curry Rivel Parish Council 2023 survey

The Survey

Curry Rivel Parish Council exists to serve and represent the people who live in the parish. To do that better, we ran a short survey in November and December 2023 to find out more about what people in the village think. The survey was put on the parish website, and was advertised in an article in Curry Rivel News. Paper copies were provided at a few village events.

Responses

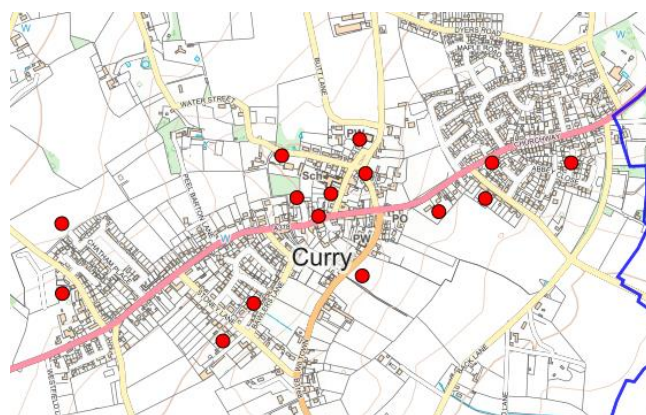
27 people responded, 14 on the Curry Rivel website, and 13 on paper copies. This is only about 1% of the parish population, but enough to draw some conclusions about what people in the parish think.

Locations of results

There was an optional question asking people for their postcode, so that we could check that there was a good geographic spread of responses.

The points on the map are the centres of postcodes where people responded. The outer parts of the parish were not represented.

There was one response from someone in Drayton; the others are all from the parish.



Answers to the questions

Do you follow the activities of your Parish Council?

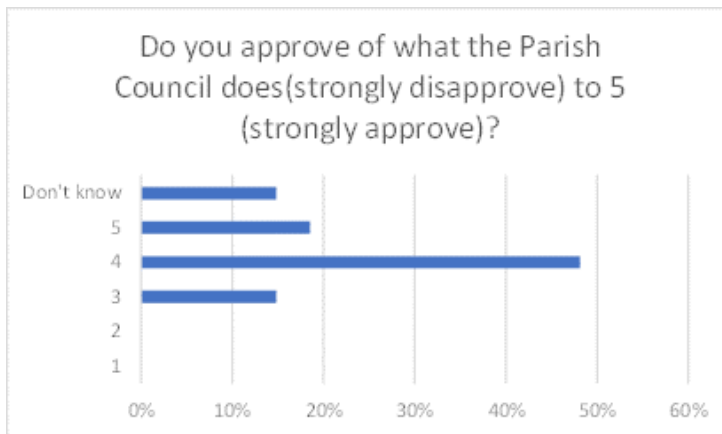
Yes	18
No	8
none	1

This is good to know, although it is probable that people who are interested in the Parish Council will have been more motivated to respond to the questionnaire.



Do you approve of what the Parish Council does? 1 (strongly disapprove) to 5 (strongly approve)?

1	0	0%
2	0	0%
3	4	15%
4	13	48%
5	5	19%
Don't know	4	15%
blank	1	4%

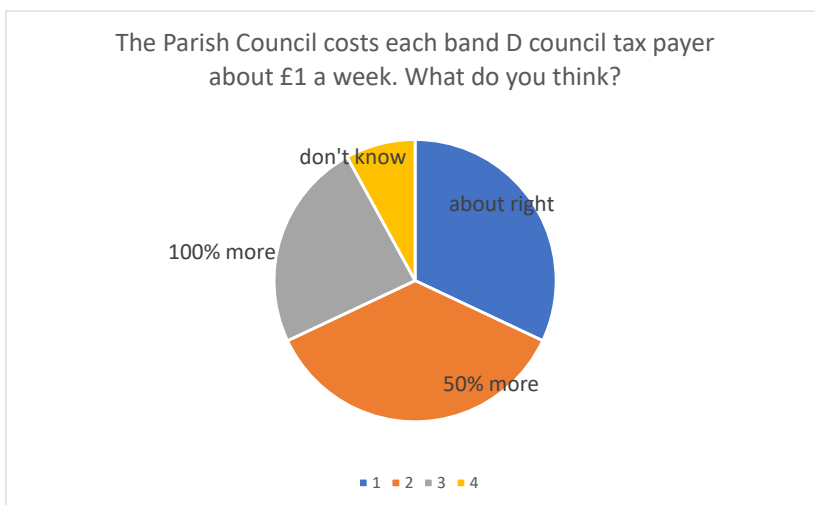


This is good news for the Parish Council, but again, people uninterested or frustrated with the Council will have been less likely to respond.

The Parish Council costs each band D council tax payer about £1 a week. What do you think?

The Parish Council should aim to do less and cost council tax payers less	0	0%
The cost and output of the Parish Council are about right	8	30%
The Parish Council should do more for the village, and ask for up to 50% more from council tax payers	9	33%
The Parish Council should do more for the village, and ask for up to 100% more from council tax payers	6	22%
Other (please write your suggestion)	0	0%
Don't know	2	7%
Blank	2	7%

It's interesting that just over half of the respondents thought that the Council should ask for more money at aim to do more, and no-one suggested that we should spend less. We considered this when making the budget for 2024-25. This was partly because we have allowed to pay for some things that Somerset Council will need to cut back on in the coming year, and partly because of a few specific items need one-off spending, for example, the cemetery is in need of refurbishment. This means that the part of council tax that goes to the parish (the precept) has gone up by 30% this year, but is still a very small part of the total council tax bill.



Would you support the PC applying to Somerset Council for a 20 mph limit through the village?

The cost, coming from the village council tax, would be £500 up front, for Somerset Council to investigate feasibility, and about £15,000 to implement it.

Yes	18	67%
No	9	33%
none	0	0%

Although the “yes” vote is twice the “no” vote, the number of people against the idea remains significant, and no-one responded with a “don’t know”. The council has received passionate communications from both sides of the argument. This is a debate that will continue!



Could you spare an hour or two a week to volunteer around the village?

A few people kindly responded to say that they could help. We will be in touch with them. Thank you!

Comments

There was a space for people to write their own comments and concerns. Concerns raised by more than one person, with numbers of people suggesting them, were:

Speeding	6
Sports field development	2
Pedestrian crossing at OneStop	2
Fingerpost refurbishment	2

These are all things that the Parish Council is actively working on. Speeding and traffic continue to be the number one concern for many people in Curry Rivel. Only one person mentioned housing developments. But given the size of the responses to a couple of recent planning applications, this might not be fully representative of the feelings in the village!

In summary

Thank you to everyone who took the time to respond to our survey. It is always useful to know what people think.

You don’t have to wait for the next survey to tell us, though: you can email clerk@curryrivel.org.uk at any time, or come along to Parish Council meetings, which are held at 7:30 p.m. in the Village Hall on the first Wednesday of most months (see the [village website](#) and the noticeboard outside the OneStop for details).