

Priors Hardwick – Have Your Say summary

These are the comments submitted to each “theme”, from both the “community conversation” event and also as submitted directly online up until August 2020.

1. Housing

To consider aspects of buying, selling, renting and building

05 Jan 20 - Rentals - renting and letting, sales and purchases

05 Jan 20 - Think about building new stock

16 Jan 20 - Do we want any starter homes in the village?

16 Jan 20 - Downsizing - ability to remain in the village - suitable housing for retirement

16 Jan 20 - There is a definite need for small affordable housing for people to be able to remain here, either downsizing on retirement or starting out in life. The issue at the moment seems to be that plans which claim to be for this need just aren't. They are for large, single, high value properties. In one recent case the 'downsizing' application was larger than the house to be vacated! We should support small developments of a number of affordable homes, possibly in conjunction with a housing associatio

17 Jan 20 - Regarding renting and Airbnb - to have a link on the village website advertising them

17 Jan 20 - Frankly, if you don't want built you have to allow market forces to take the strain. The lack of infrastructure, buses, shops, surgeries et al will always make this a 'rich' persons home by virtue of transport needs. And, as for an unwelcoming 'pub' !

18 Jan 20 - Affordable housing and limited build outside the Conservation area should remain a village policy. For Stratford Planning Authority to assist our ambitions as a Village, we must have a transparent agreed statement

19 Jan 20 - I'd like to see some affordable housing, both as starter homes & for downsizing. The 'affordableness' needs to be robustly defined & enforceable.

04 Mar 20 - 29th Feb 20 - Small houses and not all in one place.

04 Mar 20 - 29th Feb - Affordable housing and available for younger people and families. Retirement type properties also to those who don't own land.

04 Mar 20 - A little row of affordable housing.

04 Mar 20 - Cheap and/or smaller housing is a must given 1st time buyers have no opportunity and no scope for downsizing.

04 Mar 20 - How do we get to know and integrate owners of residential space within the village?

04 Mar 20 - Priors Hardwick is a nice village and doesn't need any new development - build at other locations.

04 Mar 20 - For 'locals' support small scale developments for first type buyers, those working locally or downsizing.

30 May 20 - For over 20 years I have visited new residents and supplied them with a 'package' of information and been their initial for any information etc.

However it is difficult to know about new residents who love into 'secondary' accommodation within some existing properties. Sometimes they're only short term lettings but others nor so,, and they may like/need to be on the village email list and have a magazine delivered each month

2. Footpaths, hedgerows and open spaces

To consider rural feel and identity

15 Jan 20 - Native hedging is preferable

16 Jan 20 - To ensure there is a maintenance plan in place to stop the green areas / verges being eroded by increasing traffic

To look after the hedgerows and trees and replant and trim as required with local species to encourage wildlife

17 Jan 20 - the village should maintain its agricultural heritage with a long term design and planting plan to keep native trees and shrubs in the vicinity supporting the local wildlife

17 Jan 20 - It would be a good idea to remove the dead tree on Lino's land for starters. It's an eyesore (so too is the tote bag of gravel alongside!)

17 Jan 20 - The most pleasing aspect of the village used to be the flora of the B.A. If we could encourage Nuno to restore what was a beautiful aspect of the village that'd be a start

19 Jan 20 - Can the village do more to protect the open spaces existing within the village from creeping development & erosion & change of use.

23 Feb 20 - Stopping people from parking on grass verges would be welcome. Surely AirBnB owners could monitor this as visitors are the main culprit.

23 Feb 20 - Light pollution! There seems to be much lighting in the village recently. I understand the need for some security lighting but do we need lights on for many hours? Also some security lights are poorly sited making them rather intrusive and at times 'blinding' for drivers.

25 Feb 20 - The many open spaces within the village are valuable public assets. It seems in recent years the village needs to protect these from adjacent landowners taking possession of these spaces & reducing the village amenity.

25 Feb 20 - Light pollution. I understand security lights, but there should be consideration for how it affects neighbours.

26 Feb 20 - Light pollution. Why are lights left on overnight, please be considerate to your neighbours

28 Feb 20 - Let's get some "do not drive/park on the grass/verge" notices to help protect them

29 Feb 20 - Having bonfires is important for garden waste. Avoid burning plastic, rubber etc.

29 Feb 20 - Keep the rural identity of the village - point supported by many people

29 Feb 20 - Who maintains the trees on public area? Who should we report issues to?

29 Feb 20 - Who maintains kissing gates on public footpaths? Who should we report issues to?

29 Feb 20 - Who maintains footpaths and access to them? Who should we report issues to?

29 Feb 20 - Concern raised with light pollution in the village

29 Feb 20 - Can we have visible waymarkers for footpaths please?

29 Feb 20 - Can the monthly village walk be on a Sunday please?

29 Feb 20 - People with (big) dogs are unable to use styles - can we have more dog doors

29 Feb 20 - Encourage wild flowers etc on village open areas

29 Feb 20 - Strong support for and objections against hanging baskets!

29 Feb 20 - May be helpful to liaise with 'Parish Paths Partnership' (eg Andy Bean in Napton)

29 Feb 20 - Can the monthly village walk be dog friendly?

29 Feb 20 - Can the monthly village walk end with a drink at the Butchers Arms?

29 Feb 20 - Can we have a map of walks & footpaths using the village as a base?

29 Feb 20 - I love our footpaths, we need to maintain and promote them.

29 Feb 20 - Can the village protect its public open spaces by taking ownership of them?

04 Mar 20 - turn lights off at night please

04 Mar 20 - Encourage van/delivery drivers to drive on the roads provided for them, not grass verges.

30 May 20 - For technical reasons it's not possible at the moment to remove the dead tree from the land to the west of the Lych Gate. But if the person who posted this message would like to lend a hand with keeping that area of garden tidy, I'd be delighted - Margaret!

3. Infrastructure and utilities

To consider hardware and services, and sustainability

16 Jan 20 - Note that a local farmer has offered (?) a composting service I think. Could be interesting in light of Stratford DC's green bin levy...

17 Jan 20 - The SDC plan to charge for green waste while at the same time increasing their attendance fees (retrospectively!) quite frankly is deplorable. We should encourage everyone to join a village wide scheme and send a message to SDC as the first village to totally resist this imposition of a charge Act now before the next Council Tax bill please

19 Jan 20 - Increase the usability of the church building with a 'greening project' eg solar tiling on the roof, air source heat pump, underfloor heating...

23 Feb 20 - The church is an expensive to maintain and underused building. I am all in favour of making it more user friendly but still maintaining a suitable place for Christian worship. Eco friendly consideration should be a must when making the changes.

28 Feb 20 - What will be the impact (short and longer term) of the HS2 build phase and its eventual running - will traffic volumes change, what's happening to the Wormleighton road junction, are contractor and associated (sandwich vans) routes permitted to come through the village?

29 Feb 20 - Vehicle passing places on the road between Boddington and Hardwick are necessary in wet weather and when traffic increases due to HS2 road closures.

29 Feb 20 - Avoid introducing too many speed limit signs through the village. Maybe liaise with Clr Bob Stephens re repeater signs in a Conservation Area?

01 Mar 20 - From 26th Feb meeting >>>>

01 Mar 20 - Drains – A general review of the whole drainage system and see if we can get hold of a map of the drains.

01 Mar 20 - Smelly Drains – There seem to be many properties that are experiencing smelly drains. Many owners have tried numerous things to eradicate the smell with no success.

01 Mar 20 - Phone Signal – Why can't the service providers install a 'signal boosting facility' for all networks.

01 Mar 20 - Broadband – Fibre from the cabinet: we are all still on copper cable from 'the cabinet' which reduces the broadband speed.

01 Mar 20 - Kerbs & Verges – These need to be defined as there is constant damage caused by surface water.

01 Mar 20 - Road quality – There is generally a lot more erosion of the roads in particular on the edges. Pot holes/erosion of edges that are marked in yellow are seen to be recognised by the Highways and are waiting to be filled but any unmarked area that causes damage to wheels/tyres cannot be claimed for against the council.

01 Mar 20 - Parking on the verges – The roads are so narrow that it is dangerous to park cars by the side of the road, parking on the verges cause immense damage. Why can't the verges be made-up to take the weight of cars.

01 Mar 20 - Solar Energy – Possible location for panels to be sited.

01 Mar 20 - Re-cycling of green waste/composting as an alternative to Green Bin collection & charging.

01 Mar 20 - Affordable Housing – We understand that most children within the village go to private school, would it not be the case that affordable housing would mean the possible need for a local school.

01 Mar 20 - Speeding through the village – The amount of traffic is far greater than it was a few years ago and it's going to get worse especially with the on-set of HS2. How do we manage this, people don't take any notice of signage.

01 Mar 20 - Community Area – If we can find a site for it, is there a possibility to apply to divert the HS2 money to some other community project, i.e. developing the Church for Community use.

01 Mar 20 - <<< end of Wed 26th Feb comments

30 May 20 - With reference to the school, we already have a very good one! It's called The Priors School, it belongs to both villages and it's situated at Priors Marston. It's status is Free School - which means it receives its funding directly from the government - thanks to 16 years of very hard work of residents from both villages..

4. Community health, education and wellbeing

To consider social issues, community and inclusion

16 Jan 20 - Defibrillator

17 Jan 20 - Reconfiguration of the church to create a community meeting space to accommodate social groups eg toddlers, coffee mornings, home workers networking.

17 Jan 20 - To somehow work with the Butchers Arms to make it more integrated - either making a room available for meetings on an offer rather than an ask basis, and how about resident loyalty/discounts?

18 Jan 20 - Conversion of the back of the church to accommodate meetings and encourage community events would be a good starting point

19 Jan 20 - Make the church building more suitable for diverse local community use, eg pensioner groups, crech, toilets, public meetings, hire for functions,

22 Jan 20 - A more flexible space within the church to enable community events to take place within the village

23 Feb 20 - Blanket ban on all bonfires.

23 Feb 20 - I'd like to see the village ALL saying NO to additional cost for garden refuse collection and to make a stand. Raising Councillors allowances retrospectively at the same time as this imposition is obscene and should be fought

25 Feb 20 - A community kitchen garden/plot that belongs to the whole village. Village volunteers to run it with all benefitting from it.

25 Feb 20 - Conversion of the back of the church for community meetings and events.

25 Feb 20 - A weekly fitness (road) walking group.

28 Feb 20 - Ban bonfires, especially if not garden waste e.g. business waste, even if garden waste, how do other communities handle this?

28 Feb 20 - A regular board games evening in the Butchers Arms back bar room would be nice

29 Feb 20 - points added from wed nights session at The Butchers Arms

29 Feb 20 - Additional comments from wed nights session.

29 Feb 20 - Defibrillator...yes.

1st aid courses for the village. BHF and St Johns ambulance run them.

Village meeting: The church is too cold and lay out of seating etc not suitable for meetings.

is the set up for the village meeting intimidating? Some people come once and then never again.

29 Feb 20 - Light pollution: Too many lights on for prolonged periods?

Butchers Arms: a community monthly 'get together' eg Fish and chips night would be welcome.

Bonfires. We cannot have a blanket ban as there is no law against them. There are rules re what you can/cant burn.

29 Feb 20 - Church Building:

Some reorganizing, warmth and plumbing would make it a welcome community asset.

That would make it a place where one could make a hot drink, sit in the still and quiet, pray meditate, get close to God,(as can be done in one of the other churches in the group)

Other suggested uses: Weekly coffee morning, Knit and natter group ,

29 Feb 20 - It was noted that some ares of the village did not take part in anything that's going on and the question is WHY?

Community Allotment and /or somewhere we can sell our surplus veg from our gardens.

Meeting place:One visitor commented on the great community spirit but sadly nowhere suitable in the village to meet.

29 Feb 20 - Current community activities,

Monthly walk. There was a suggestion re having that on a Sun.

Afternoon tea once a month.

Weekly fitness walk.

29 Feb 20 - Fete: As its every 2 years could we have a village event in alternate years. eg, Bar b q, barn dance,Summer Prom.

Networking:

Helpline

Buddy System.

There is a wheelchair available to borrow, Its ket in the church, Contact PCC to borrow it.

29 Feb 20 - Points from Wed evening at Butchers Arms that are not already on the list.

30 May 20 - There is already an afternoon tea once a month and it's advertised in every issue of the Parish Magazine!!

30 May 20 - Following the Coronavirus pandemic, there is likely to be a review of the role of the Church with greater opportunities for local involvement. Priors Hardwick could be at the forefront in optimising the use of the church for greater benefit to all.

24 Aug 20 - catch up from 17 Jan 20 - we should, subject to the agreement of the church authorities, apply to have the pews in the back of St Mary's church taken out and the area made more multi-functional for meetings and other village gatherings. There are numerous examples where this innovation has led to a greater use of a church with all the attendant benefits that this can bring.

5. Local business

To consider startups, home-working, agriculture and commerce

16 Jan 20 - We could look to try to get high-speed fibre-to-the-premises internet which might support this.

16 Jan 20 - To have a work hub for locals to discuss and swaps contacts

17 Jan 20 - Do we have a village interest in the ongoing appeal of the Butchers Arms as a restaurant as opposed to a village pub?

17 Jan 20 - The. Butchers Arms IS a Restaurant. What a cheek to expect a business to change. It's their business not the village's.

17 Jan 20 - A monthly Saturday Breakfast meeting could be established for those businesses with a broad based interest. There's a good pub in Upper Boddington, that could be approached, we all know the Landlady!

29 Jan 20 - To increase the footfall at the Butcher's Arms, would Nuno consider a room suitable for customers wearing work clothes, wet clothes, muddy boots etc? To attract locals, walkers, canal boaters, cyclists using drinks, hot snacks, comfy chairs, a blanket if you're cold, tethered tools for bicycle adjustment...

30 Jan 20 - Heaven forbid to this suggestion above. Is someone trying to create a community here!

24 Feb 20 - Would Nuno consider a 'Local's menu' with one set dish for each night of the week at a discounted price. I.e Steak and chips, pie and mash, burger etc at say £10 per head.

28 Feb 20 - Can we put in place networking or promotion for local businesses, trades and professions - a breakfast club, a directory, a dinner club?

28 Feb 20 - How to promote home or near-to-home working and minimise car miles - press for FTTP fast internet, set up a "hub" e.g. in the church somehow or promote the Priors Hall facility, or other/elsewhere?

28 Feb 20 - Could we institute a "Hardwick pound" (or even wider a "Priors Pound") to encourage bartering and use of local services?

28 Feb 20 - Could we encourage attendance at the Butchers Arms with a monthly community-facing dinner club, could be "pub fare" ...

28 Feb 20 - Can we encourage business startups, are there any identified local skills we can foster, is there a theme we can embrace (like Hay-on Wye being a book town) ?

28 Feb 20 - Promote local lodgings so they get the business opportunity if there is a local event (party, wedding etc) rather than a larger nearby hotel. Could do this on the village website.

28 Feb 20 - Would there be interest in a mobile shop for this and other villages - selling produce, packet goods, "zero waste" packaging. Practically could this work on any sort of published schedule, could it be on-demand? Saving multiple people's car miles if nothing else...

28 Feb 20 - LEADER funding for the rural economy. Although it looks like A) the scheme is now closed for applications and B) it doesn't cover our immediate area.

29 Feb 20 - Any support for a micro-brewery in the church tower?

29 Feb 20 - Concerns with debris on the roads from hedge cutting.

29 Feb 20 - When flail cutting hedgerows, can saplings be identified and allowed to grow into trees?

99. Other

Anything outside the other specific themes

17 Jan 20 - The two yearly Church Fete could be interspersed on alternate years with a village only party on the Green with fundraising as a secondary objective to increasing community spirit and engagement

18 Jan 20 - There is clearly a village appetite for Community Events- witness 2019 Village fete/Tug of War/ Harvest Supper, all of which were well supported

23 Feb 20 - A neighbourhood watch officer would be a start.

28 Feb 20 - How will this initiative be sustained beyond any early enthusiasm?

23 Aug 20 - Catchup from 17 Jan 20 - might need to convert to a parish *council* to create a transparent, acknowledged and respected planning policy and to allow the village a mechanism to own and manage land.