

## Foulden Village Questionnaire 2025

### Introduction

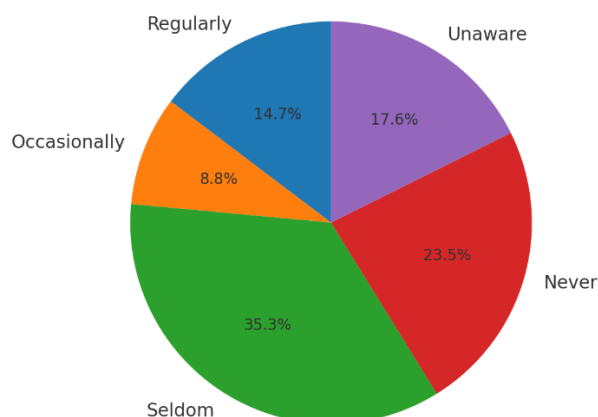
Thank you to everyone who completed the Foulden Village Questionnaire 2025. Your responses provide a valuable snapshot of what matters most to residents and will help guide future priorities for the Parish Council.

35 responses were received. Based on the 2021 Census estimate of 441 residents across 181 households, this represents around 8% of residents and 19% of households. These results provide a useful snapshot of views from engaged residents, but they should not be taken as fully representative of the whole village.

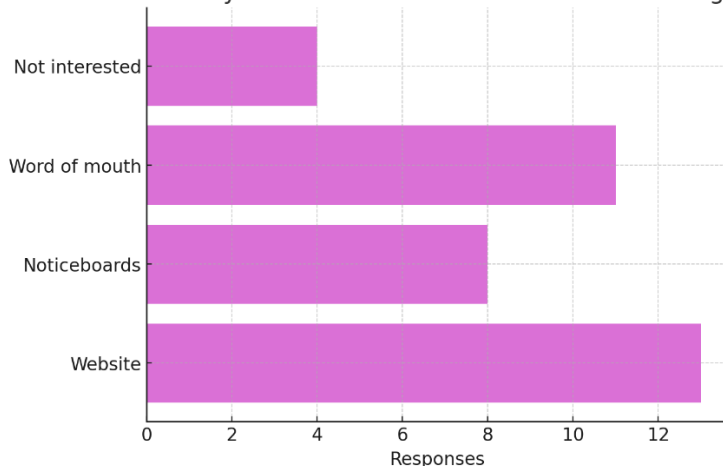
*The numbers shown in the left hand columns of the charts are the actual numbers of respondents, not the percentage of respondents.*

## Parish Council

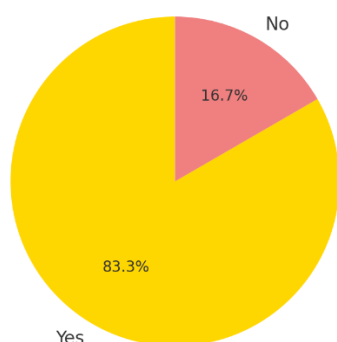
Do you attend Parish Council meetings?



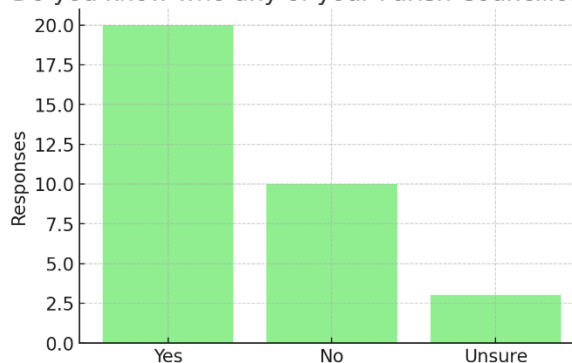
How do you find out about Parish Council meetings?



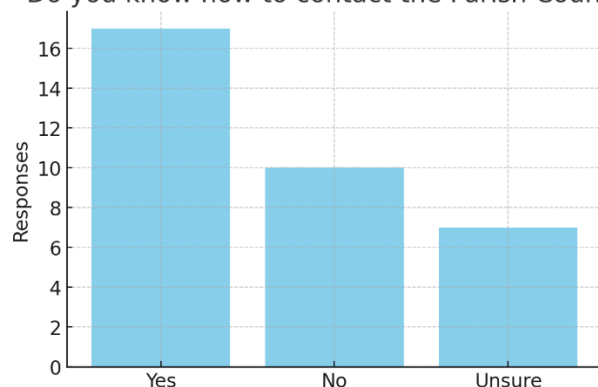
Are you interested in what the Parish Council does?



Do you know who any of your Parish Councillors are?

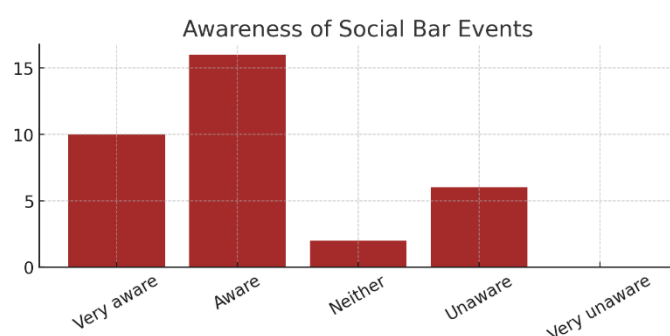
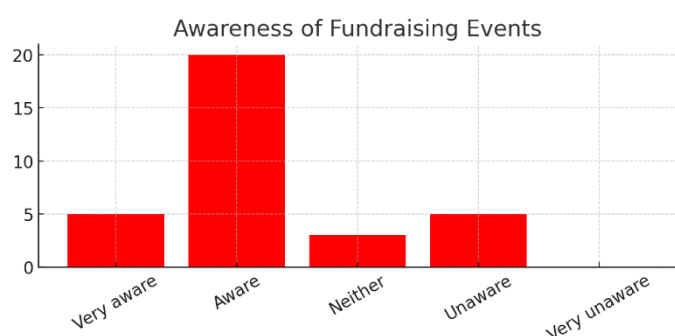
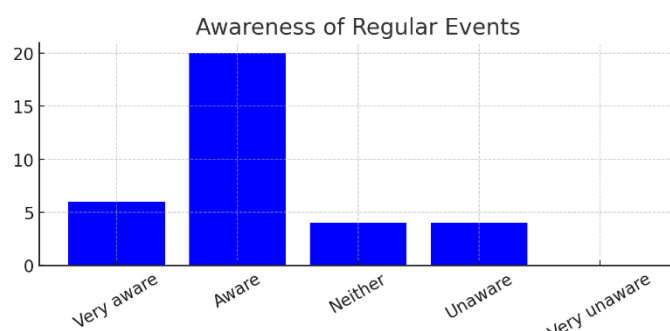
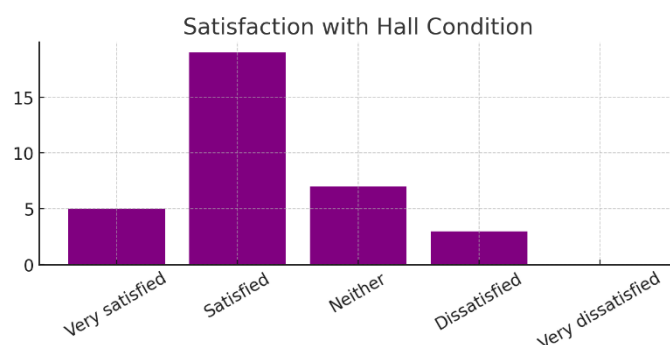
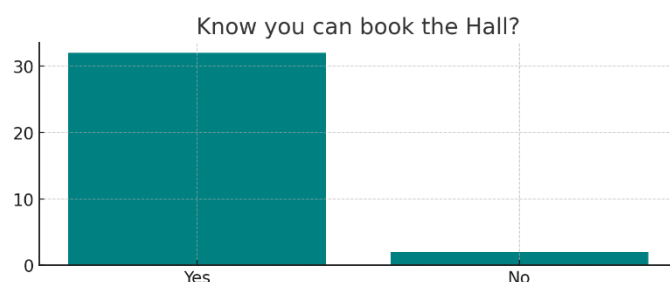
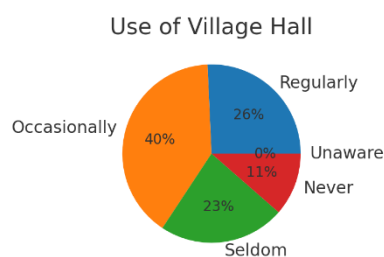


Do you know how to contact the Parish Council?



Most respondents reported that they are aware of the Parish Council and how to contact it. Around half indicated that they know at least one councillor by name. While attendance at meetings is generally low, this is typical for parish councils, and a strong majority expressed interest in what the council does. Residents mainly find out about meetings and council activities through the village website, noticeboards, and word of mouth.

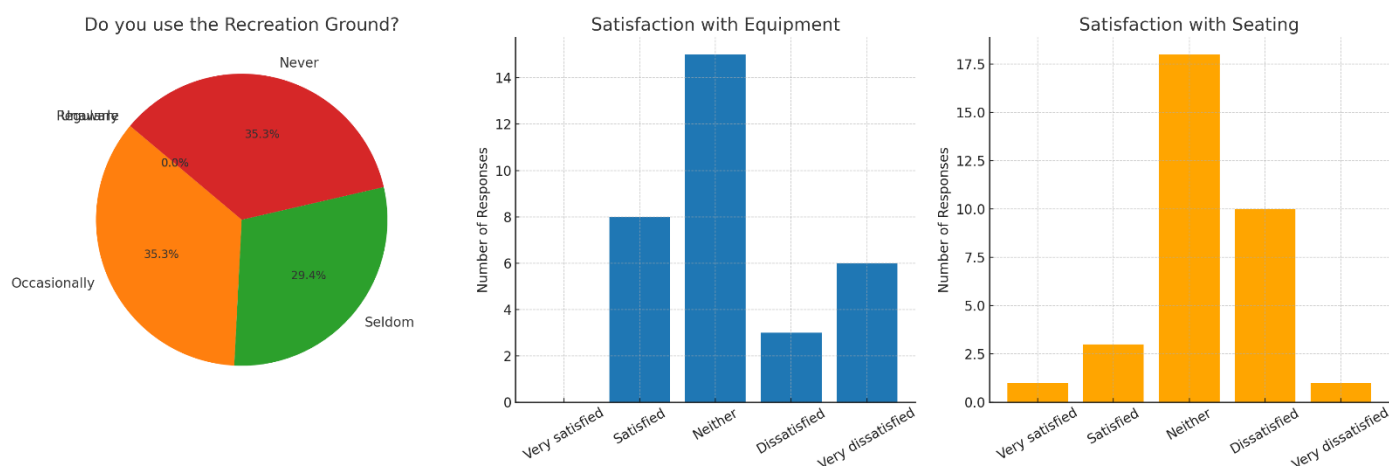
## Village Hall



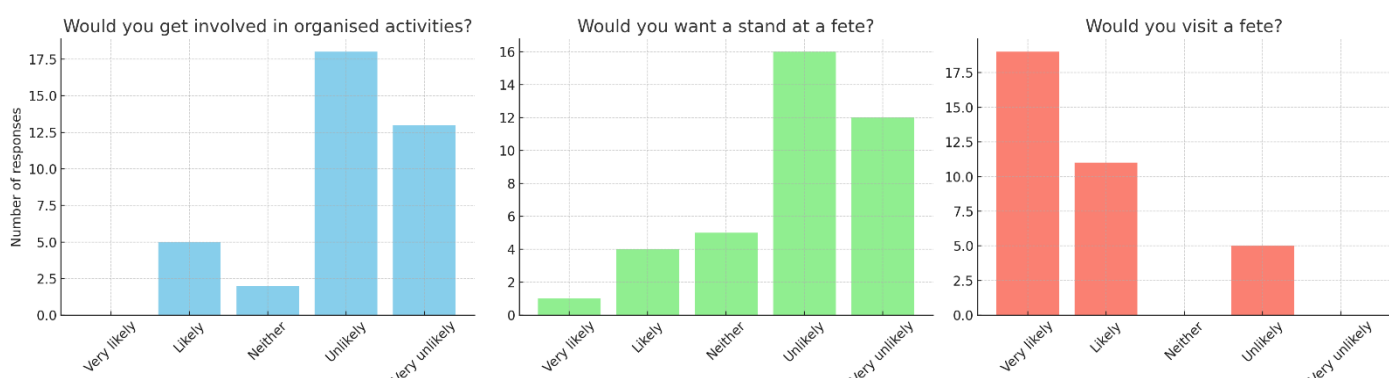
The Village Hall is well-used and highly valued by residents, with most people reporting that they attend at least occasionally and are satisfied with its condition. Awareness of booking arrangements is high, and many residents expressed interest in attending free or community events. With the pub currently closed, the hall is clearly an important social hub for the village.

## Recreation Ground

### Equipment & Seating

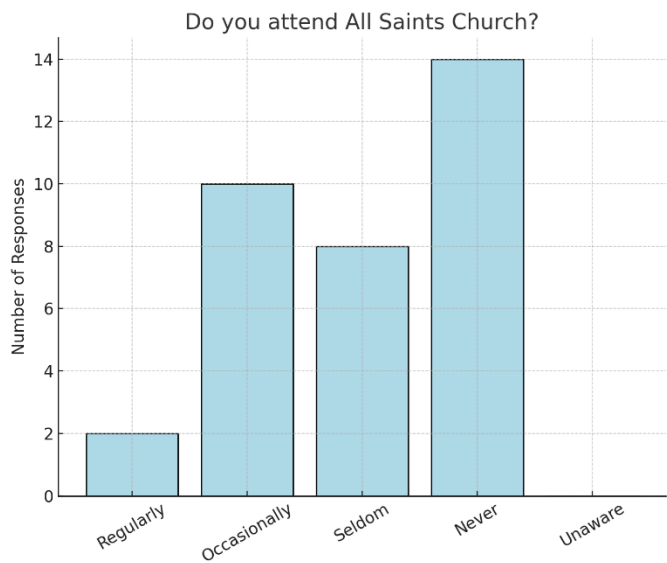


### Activities and events

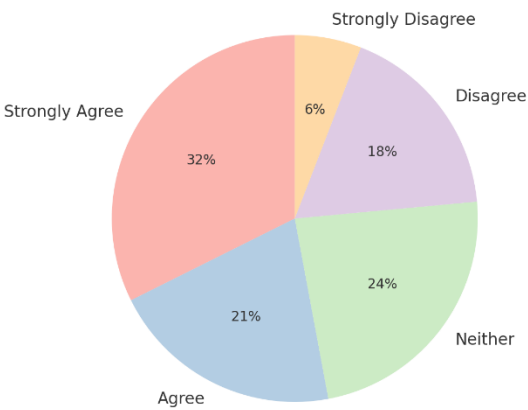


Residents clearly value the Recreation Ground and see it as a key community asset. There is strong enthusiasm for upgrading children's play equipment, improving the football area, and adding more seating. Many creative ideas were put forward for future activities, ranging from live music, tai-chi, and fitness sessions to car boot sales, picnics, and a traditional village fete. While views differ on dog access, the overall message is that the Recreation Ground has real potential to bring people together. Attendance at events is likely to be much higher than volunteering to run them, so the Parish Council may wish to focus on delivering core improvements and enabling resident-led events where possible.

All Saints Church

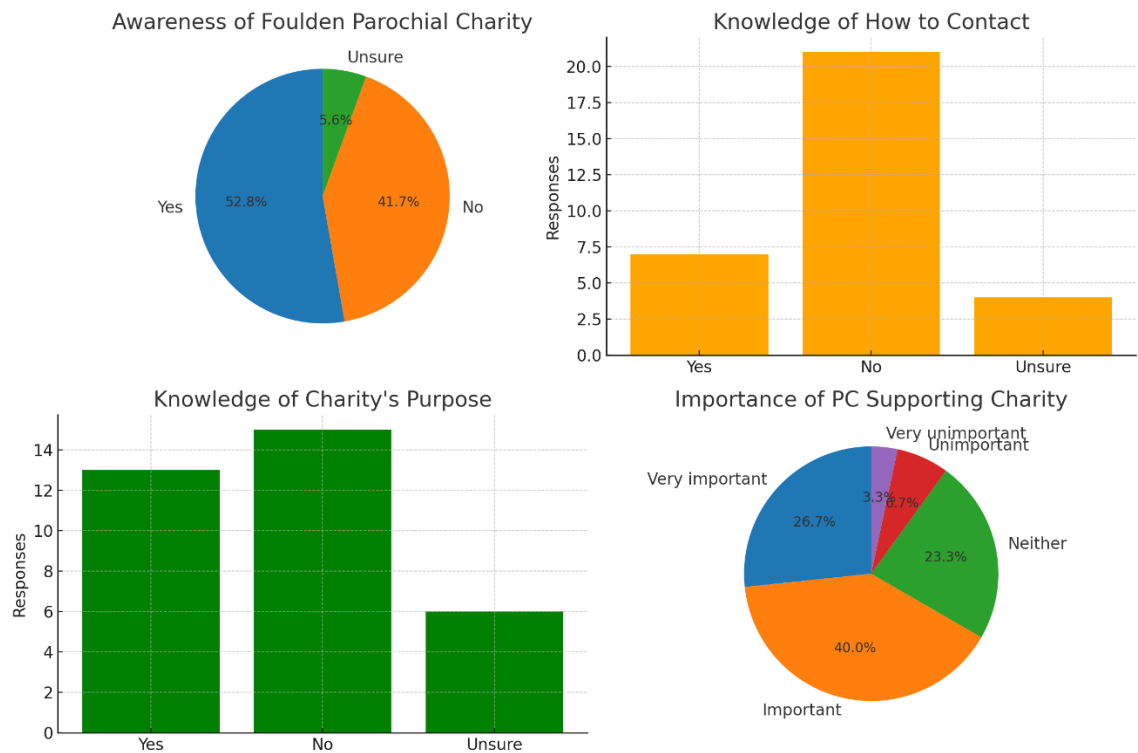


Should the Parish Council support the Church (e.g. grass cutting)?



The Church is a well-regarded part of village life, with many residents attending at least occasionally. There is broad support for the Parish Council to assist with practical costs where permitted, such as grass cutting, reflecting the value placed on the Church as both a place of worship and a shared community landmark.

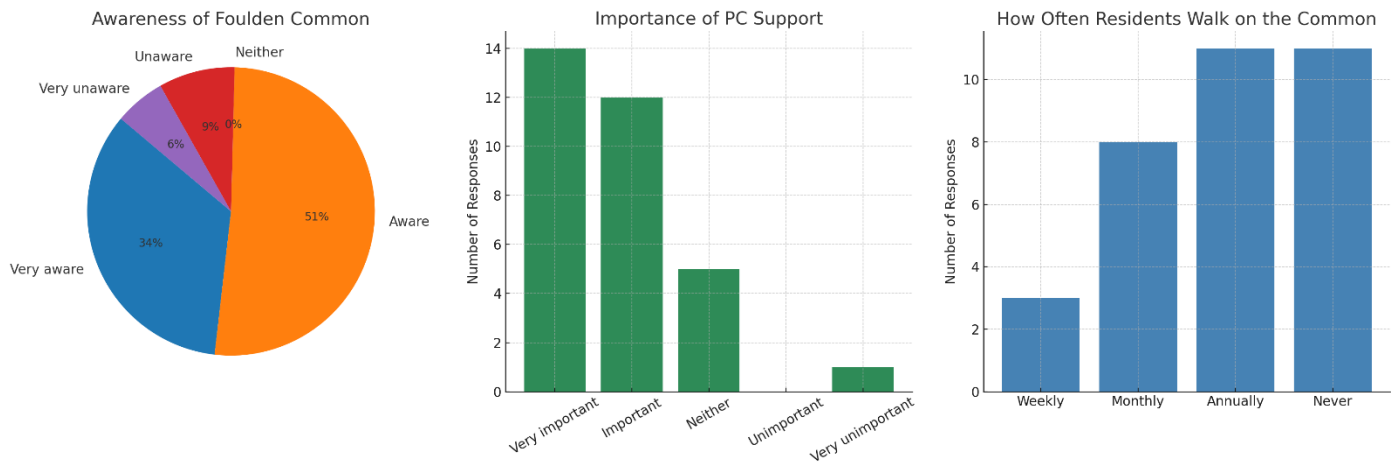
Parochial Charity



Awareness of the Parochial Charity is mixed, while some residents know about its role and purpose, many are unclear on how to contact it or what it does. Despite this, the majority view the charity as important and would like to see the Parish Council help to support and promote it. This suggests an opportunity to raise awareness and strengthen its profile so more residents can benefit.



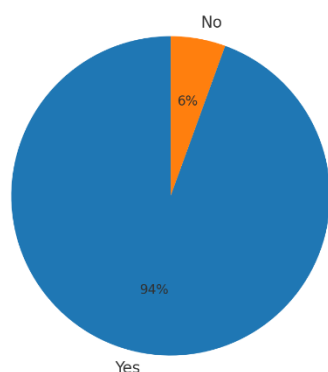
FoulDen Common



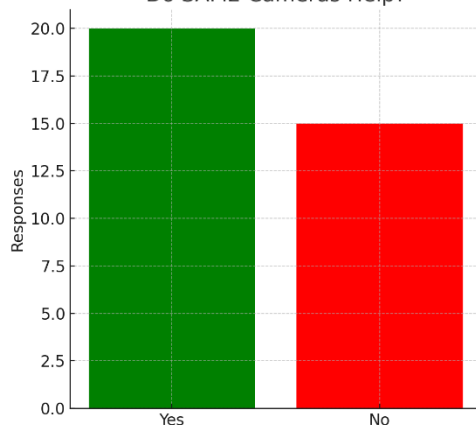
FoulDen Common is widely recognised and valued, with many residents aware of its special scientific interest designation. A majority see Parish Council support and promotion of the Common as important, even though actual usage varies, ranging from weekly walks to little or no direct use. The overall picture is that the Common is considered an important amenity and a key part of the local environment.

## Defibrillator and Traffic Concerns

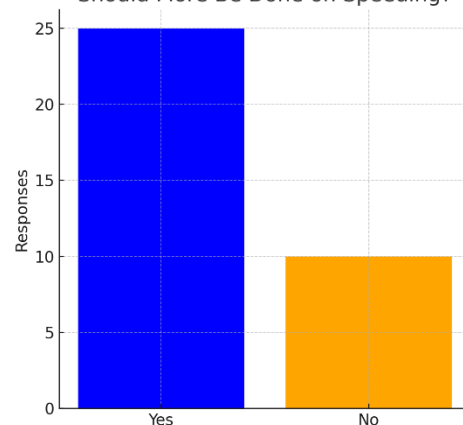
Awareness of Village Defibrillator



Do SAM2 Cameras Help?



Should More Be Done on Speeding?



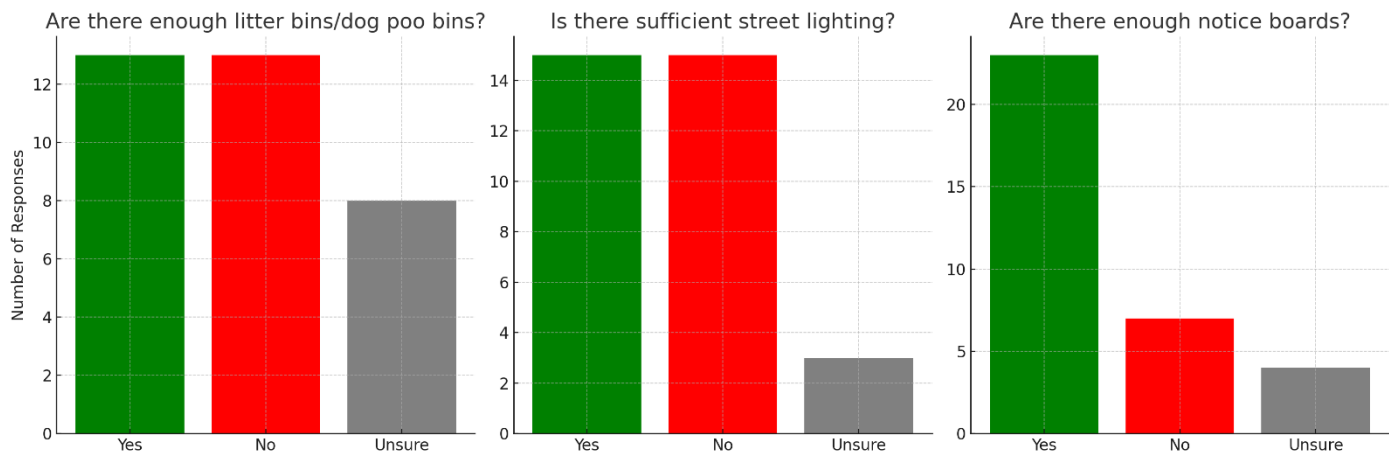
It is very encouraging that almost all residents are aware of the village defibrillator. Looking ahead, defibrillators typically need replacing every 10–12 years, so it would be sensible for the Parish Council to begin exploring future funding options now to ensure there is no gap in provision.

Traffic speed is a recurring concern, with residents highlighting several hotspots across the village. The SAM2 cameras are valued, but many feel more is needed. It's important to note that Norfolk County Council (NCC) is the highways authority and any changes, such as new speed limits, signage, or traffic calming, must meet their strict criteria and follow Department for Transport rules.

In practice, this means that changes to speed limits are only considered where there is strong evidence, often including accident data. While this can feel frustrating, the Parish Council can still play a useful role by collecting residents' concerns, highlighting hotspots, and feeding this information into NCC consultations. In some cases, smaller-scale measures may also be possible under the Norfolk Parish Partnership scheme, which supports community-backed projects.



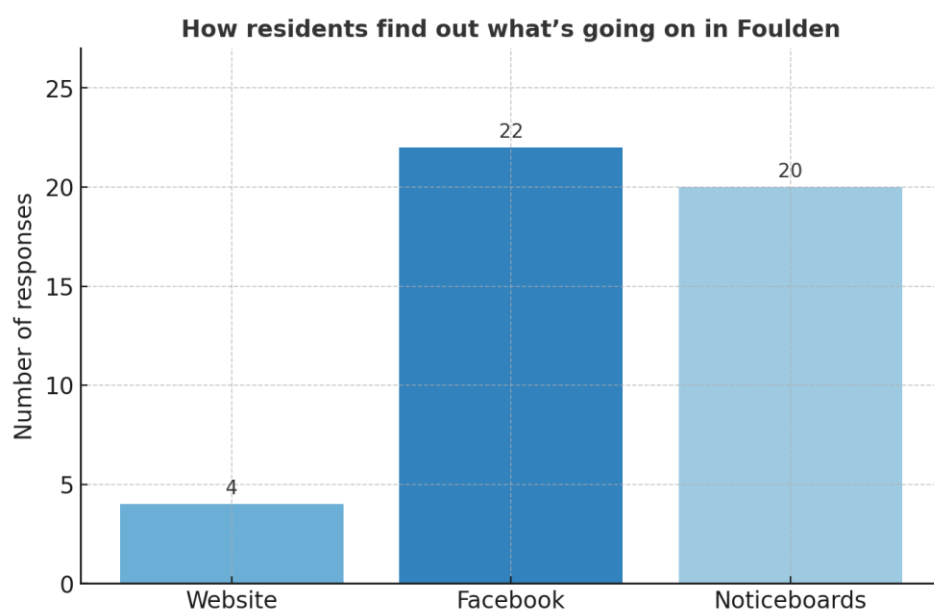
Amenities



Feedback on amenities shows a balance of opinion. Some residents are satisfied with litter and dog waste bins, while others would like more. Street lighting also received a mix of views: some find it sufficient, while others see scope for improvement. Noticeboards are generally considered adequate, though a few suggested additional provisions. As a side note, Breckland District Council currently empties parish dog bins at no charge, a benefit not all districts offer.

The Parish Council is already acting in these areas: a new litter/dog bin is being installed at the Recreation Ground, new noticeboards are in the final stages of planning, and a five-year programme to renew street lighting stock is under consideration.

## Communication

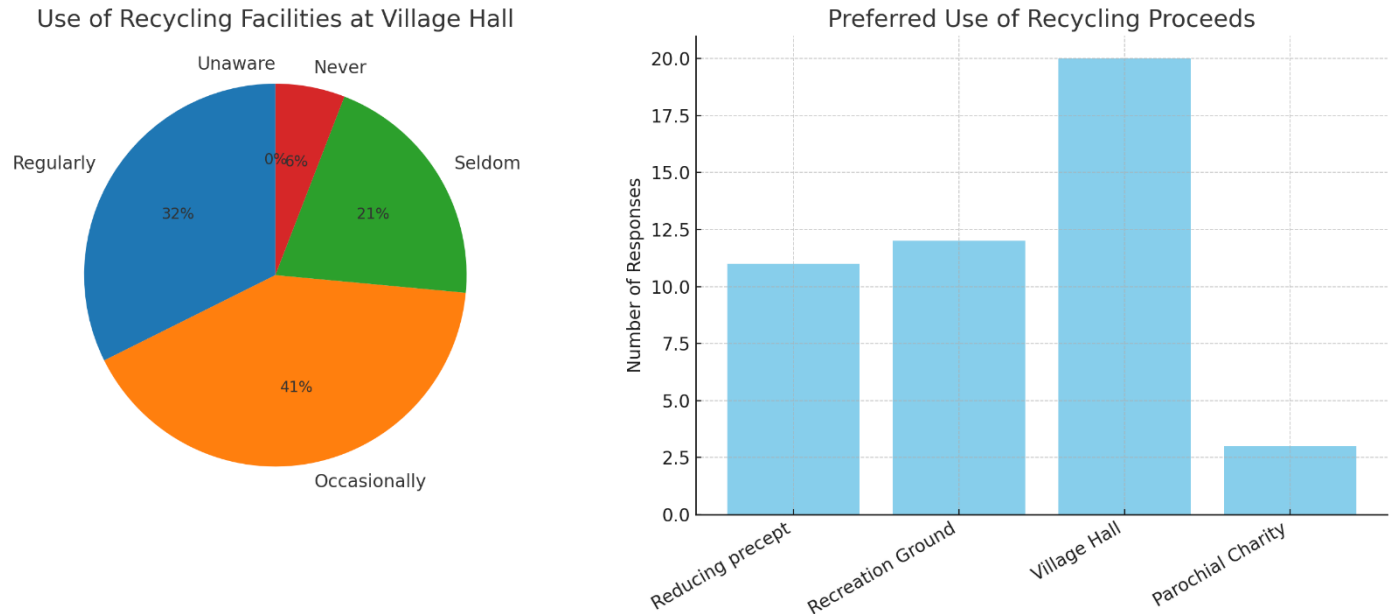


Residents rely most heavily on Facebook and noticeboards for information, with the village website also used, though less frequently. The most effective way to reach people is clearly through a mix of online and physical noticeboards.

Suggestions from residents included keeping noticeboards more up to date, ensuring council meeting dates and decisions are clearly posted, and making it easier to know who the councillors are and how to contact them. A few residents asked for wider use of other channels (Instagram, emailed newsletters), but these were less commonly mentioned.

The feedback shows that while communication is broadly working, small improvements, especially ensuring timely updates and reducing out-of-date material, could make a noticeable difference.

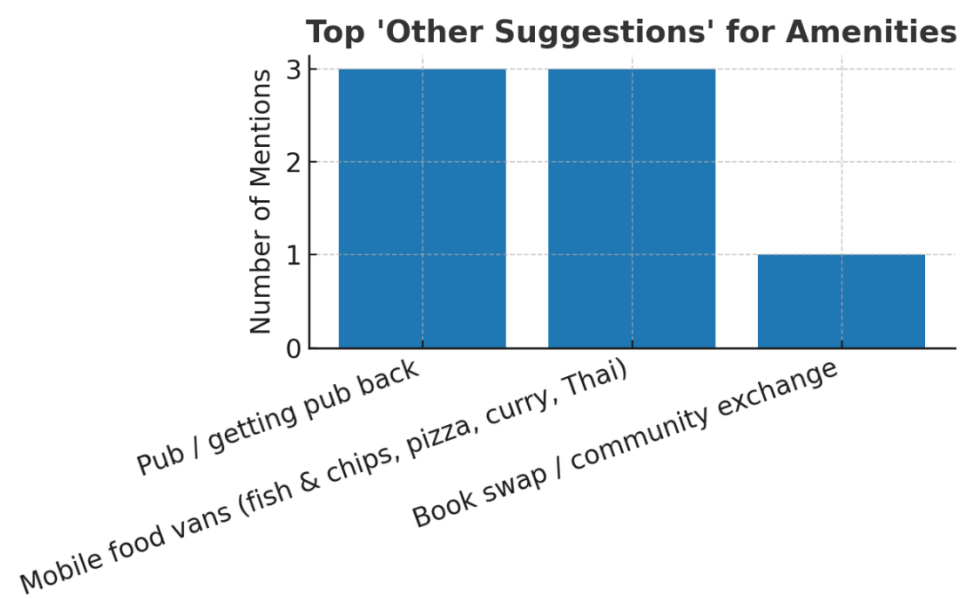
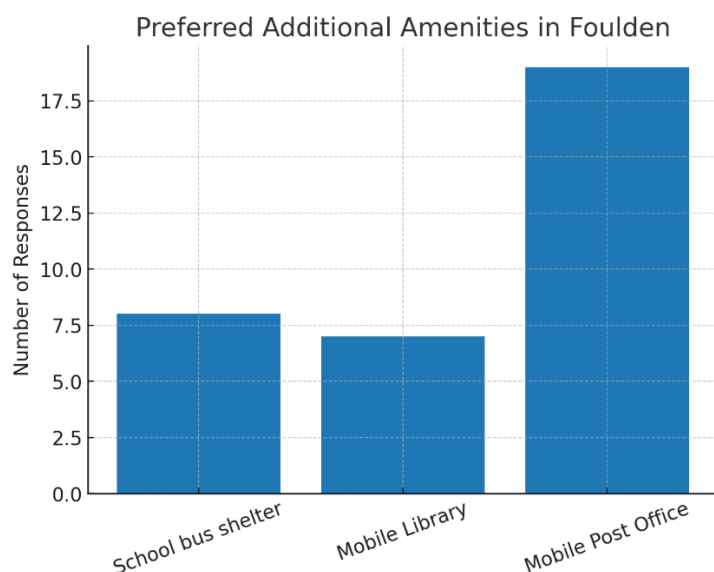
**Recycling**



Most residents make use of the recycling facilities at the Village Hall, with the income generated providing a modest contribution of around £300 per year. When asked how this money should be used, the strongest support was for it to go towards the Village Hall and improvements at the Recreation Ground. Smaller numbers suggested using it to reduce the parish precept or to support the Foulden Parochial Charity.

While the sum is not large, it is clear residents see value in it being reinvested back into visible community assets.

## Other Amenities

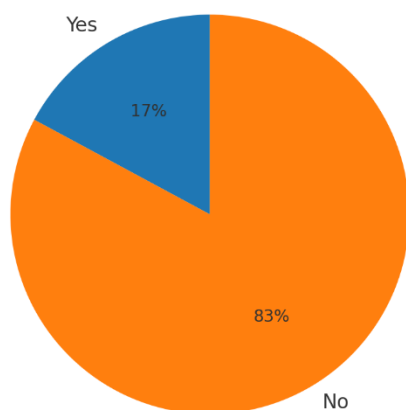


Residents shared a wide range of ideas for amenities they would like to see in Foulden. Some suggestions are practical and commonly voiced, in particular, there was strong support for a mobile Post Office service, alongside interest in a school bus shelter and the return of a mobile library.

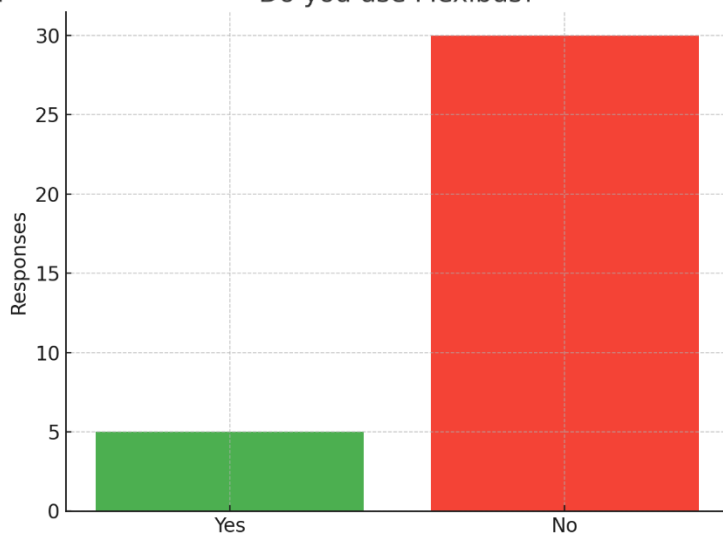
Others put forward more aspirational or community-spirited ideas, from pop-up food vans, markets, and book swaps, to exploring ways the village pub could return in some form. While not all of these are within the Parish Council's control, they reflect residents' desire for more facilities that bring people together and make daily life more convenient.

## Public Transport

Do you need public transport to get to shops etc?



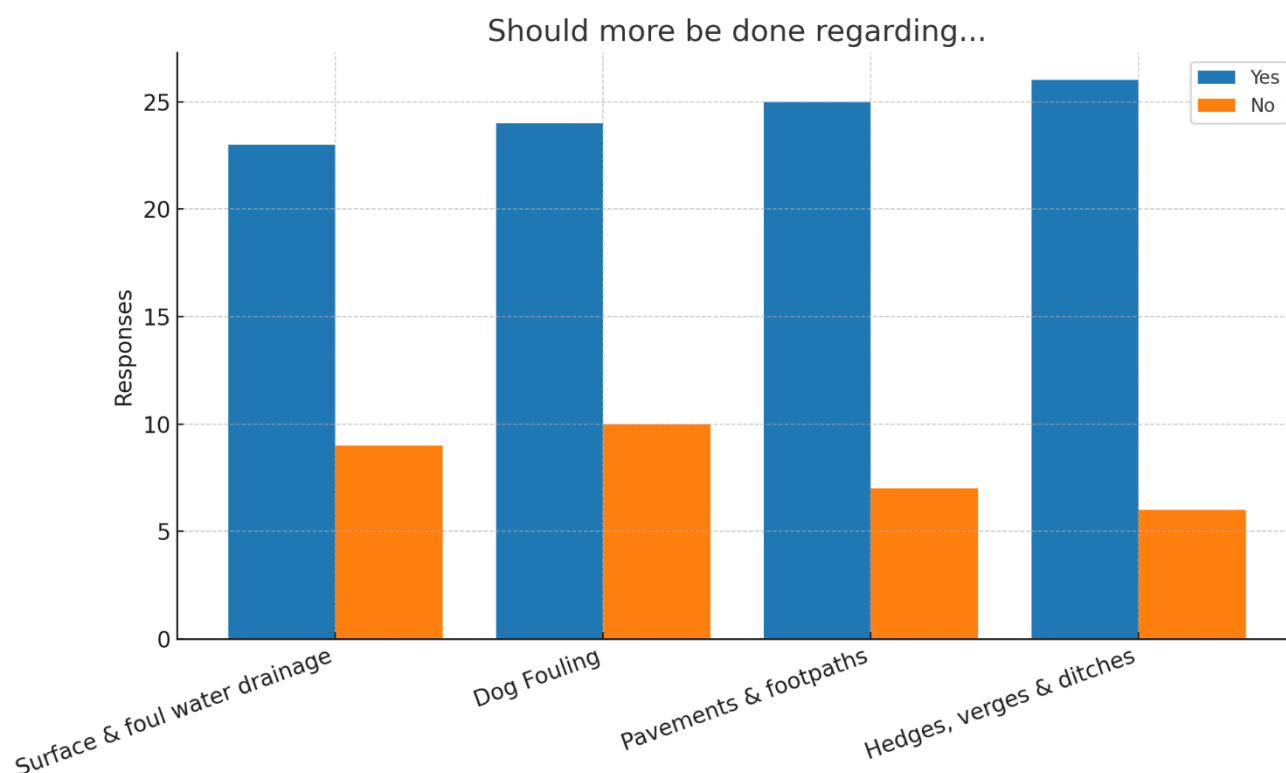
Do you use Flexibus?



Responses show that the majority of residents who completed the survey are not reliant on public transport, reflecting Foulden's rural setting and high car ownership. A small number do use or depend on services such as the Flexibus, though concerns were raised about reliability and limited timings.

Flexibus is currently a Norfolk County Council project supported by government funding. The Parish Council could help by sharing information on how to use it and feeding back issues to NCC.

## Community Maintenance



Most respondents felt that more should be done on issues such as drainage, dog fouling, pavements, and the cutting back of hedges, verges, and ditches. While many of these matters fall under the responsibility of other authorities (for example, Norfolk County Council or landowners), the Parish Council can play a helpful role.

One practical option would be to use Facebook and the village noticeboards to run a yearly programme of seasonal awareness. For example:

- **Spring/Summer** – reminding residents how to report overgrown hedges, verges, and footpaths.
- **Autumn/Winter** – guidance on reporting drainage and flooding issues, mud on the roads, and damaged surfaces.
- **All year** – how to report pot holes, broken pavements, or faulty streetlights.

This approach gives residents the knowledge to act quickly, while ensuring concerns reach the right authority.

## Other Issues Raised

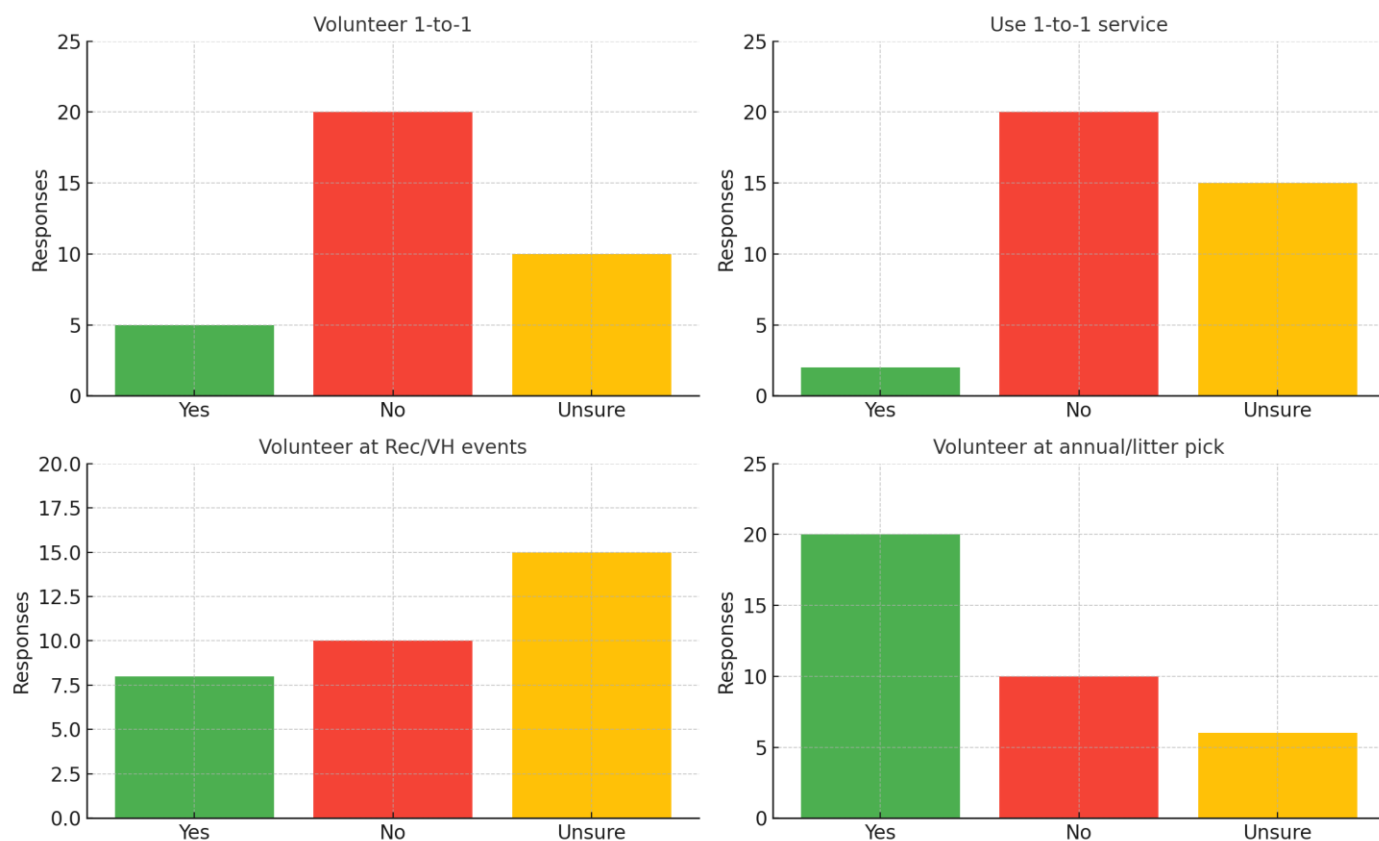
Residents shared a wide variety of extra thoughts and suggestions, many of which sit outside the Parish Council's direct powers but are still very important to village life. Key themes included:

- **Footpaths and rights of way** – several people would like to see easier access, clearer signage, and hedges kept back from paths. The PC could explore providing a simple map of local rights of way on noticeboards and online, with seasonal reminders about how to report blocked or unsafe paths to NCC.
- **Trees, hedges, and verges** – there were concerns about visibility at junctions and overgrown areas. The PC does directly manage some trees and has recently completed a professional tree risk survey as part of its ongoing maintenance programme. Other issues fall to NCC or landowners, but the PC can help by raising awareness of how residents can report them.
- **Roads and drainage** – potholes, damaged verges, and standing water after heavy rain were all mentioned. These are NCC responsibilities, but residents can help by reporting them through tools such as "FixMyStreet" so they are logged quickly.
- **Streetlights** – a small number of residents noted lights on during the day. As the PC owns the village streetlights, clear contact details could be displayed on the posts to make fault reporting easier.
- **Community upkeep** – there was strong support for regular litter picks and keeping ditches and streams clear to encourage wildlife. A spring litter pick could be a great way of bringing the community together.
- **The pub and village facilities** – many comments touched on the future of the pub site, some on access to the Common due to livestock, and others with ideas for more spaces for people to meet and gather.

Overall, these ideas show how much residents care about Foulden's environment and amenities. A **seasonal awareness programme** on Facebook and noticeboards could be a friendly way to keep everyone informed about who looks after what, and how to report issues quickly and effectively.

## Organised Activities

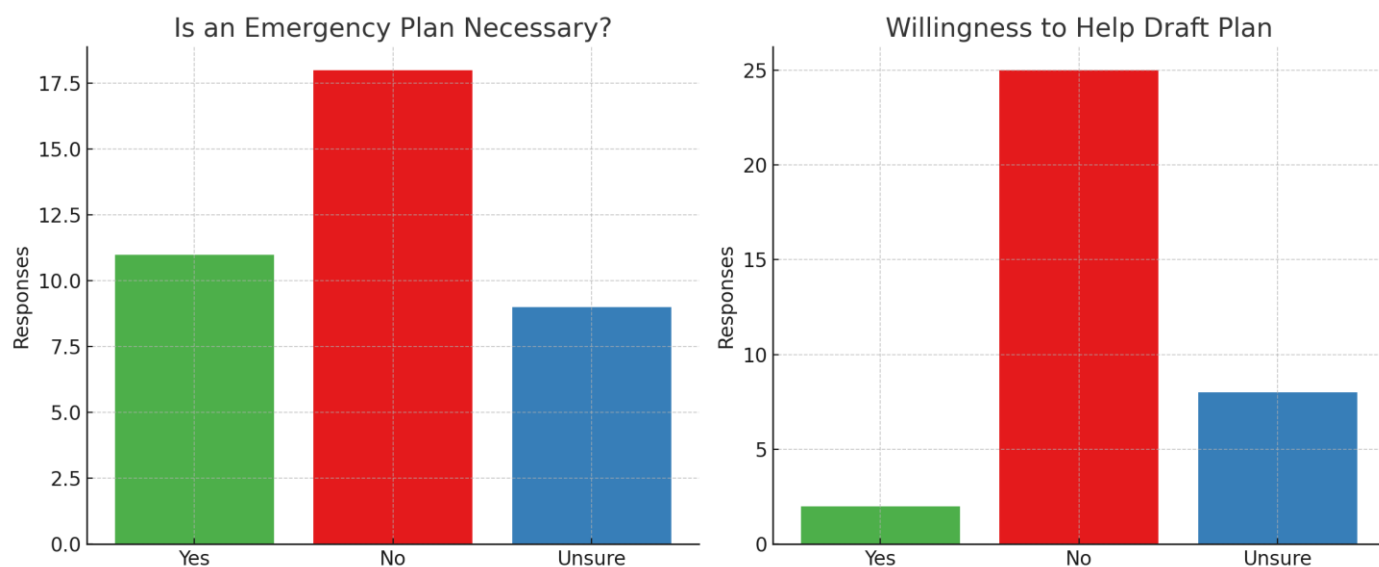
### Organised Activities - Volunteering & Participation



The survey shows that while residents may be hesitant about one-to-one volunteering, there is good appetite for one-off activities that bring people together, such as a community litter pick or village upkeep day. These kinds of events not only improve the village but also encourage social connections, and could be a successful way of building community spirit in the future.



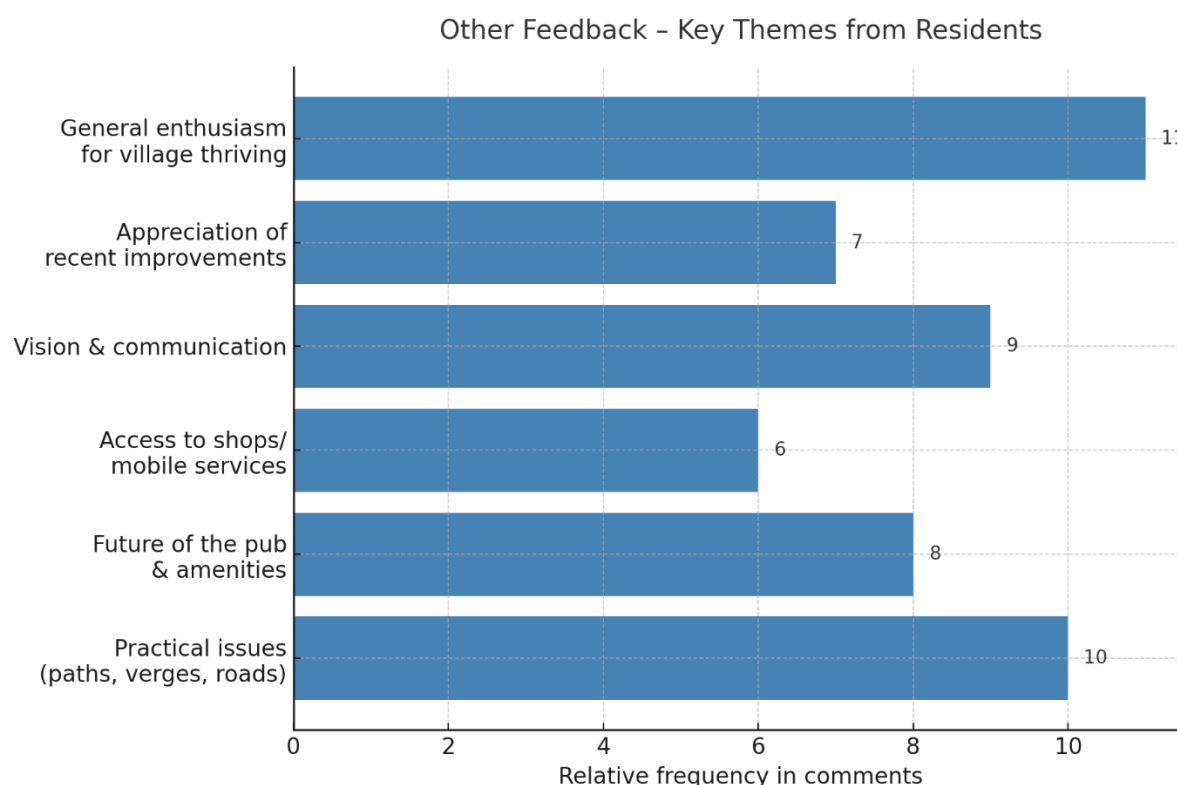
## Resilience/Emergency Plan



Responses showed mixed feelings about whether Foulden needs a formal emergency plan, with a fairly even split between “yes,” “no,” and “unsure.” Only two people said they would be willing to help draft such a plan, while the majority would not.

This suggests that while some residents see the value, there isn’t strong community appetite to take it forward at present.

## Other Feedback



The final section of the questionnaire invited residents to share anything not already covered. Comments ranged from practical issues (such as rights of way signage, grass cutting, road conditions, and damaged verges) to bigger themes like the future of the pub, access to shops or mobile services, and the overall vision for the village.

Some residents expressed appreciation for improvements already made, especially around the village hall and church, while others called for clearer communication and more visible progress on projects. A recurring theme was the desire for the Parish Council to be proactive in setting out its priorities and ensuring residents understand both what it can do and what sits with other authorities such as Norfolk County Council or Breckland District Council.

Many of the suggestions reflect a strong enthusiasm for making Foulden a better place, even where they fall outside the Parish Council's powers. The feedback highlights residents' interest in seeing the village thrive as a community.

## **Suggested Next Steps**

The Parish Council's role is to make steady, practical improvements that help Foulden remain a safe, tidy, and welcoming village for all.

Possible next steps for the council to consider:

- Complete new noticeboards and ensure they're kept up to date.
- Progress the five-year streetlighting renewal plan and consider adding contact details to posts for fault reporting.
- Arrange for a mobile post office to come to Foulden
- Seek funding for a bus shelter
- Restore Mobile Library services
- Seek grant funding for gradual improvements at the Recreation Ground, beginning with the replacement of swings as a first step.
- Plan ahead for future defibrillator replacement.
- Organise one community litter pick a year (possibly with resident volunteers taking the lead).

## **Awareness & Communication**

- Use noticeboards and Facebook for simple seasonal reminders about reporting issues (hedges, drainage, potholes, streetlights, dog fouling).
- Work with the PCC to raise awareness of the Parochial Charity.
- Share information about Flexibus and other services via existing channels.

## **Partnership & Advocacy**

- Collate residents' traffic concerns and pass to NCC Highways, if numerous or persistent issues arrange a village visit with the NCC Highways Engineer to explore possible solutions, such as improved signage or road markings; consider Parish Partnership bids where viable.
- Support All Saints Church with small practical contributions (e.g. grass cutting, within rules).
- Promote awareness of Foulden Common's SSSI status and work with the landowner to provide up to date information on the village hall noticeboards and gate entrances informing walkers about when and which livestock are on which parts of the Common.
- Reinvest recycling income (c. £300/year) into visible community assets, prioritise Recreation Ground and Village Hall.

## **Closing Thoughts**

This questionnaire has shown how much residents care about Foulden's future. Not everything can be tackled at once, but by focusing on clear priorities, working with partners, and keeping communication open, the Parish Council can make steady progress. Thank you again to everyone who took part, your feedback will continue to guide the parish council's efforts.

August 2025