

# Crothorne and Charlton Village Hall Management Committee

Register Charity Number 523121

## RESULTS OF CROPTHORNE VILLAGE SURVEY 2010

- There are 244 dwellings in Crothorne and the survey was delivered to as many as possible. Of this 45 households returned a survey, which is good, with 81 responses.
- The villagers of Crothorne enjoy and use the Sheppey on a regular basis for exercise, relaxation and meeting friends. It is viewed, from the comments, as a valued asset for the village.
- Young people from the village were very interested in the survey: they filled out twice as many questionnaires as adults.
- 14 households wrote positive comments about the play project, 23 voiced no objection and 8 households had some concerns. All comments are listed.
- 73% said they would use a perimeter path it for exercise and access.
- A directional light for a ball practise area was popular with those who would use it, 60% said it would extend their use in the early evening.
- Children and young people were greatly in favour of an open shelter, with 77% of our youngsters saying they would use it. Over half the favourable responses to a shelter/ meeting point came from young people, showing that this is something they consider important to them.
- 10% of those surveyed were critical or voiced concerns about the idea of a shelter/ meeting point.



LOTTERY FUNDED

# SURVEY BREAKDOWN

The survey was carried out to find out what people are using the Sheppey for, how often they use it, when and if new facilities were installed, and what they might be used for.

## POPULATION RESULTS

At the last census Cropthorne has a population of 603 and 81 people responded to the survey. Of all the age groups the youngest age group 0-9 years responded the most at 21%. In general the younger end of the population responded more, suggesting that they are very interested in what the Sheppey is being used for and how often they use it.

## HOW OFTEN PEOPLE VISIT THE SHEPPEY

Over half of those surveyed visited the Sheppey once a week, which is brilliant, with over a fifth visiting once a day and sometimes more. Some could only visit the Sheppey rarely and said that this was because they were disabled with the Sheppey being too muddy for them to walk over or take a wheelchair.

## WHAT WE USE THE SHEPPEY FOR

Under half of us use the Sheppey for walking, especially our canine friends, playing and meeting friends. Many people ticked more than one box, so we use the Sheppey for all sorts of activities. Some reminded us that they use the Sheppey for other things such as football, picnics and the Walkabout.

## IDEAS FOR EXTENDING FACILITIES ON THE SHEPPEY

The perimeter path, light on the ball practise area and shelter all invoked some strong responses, these are enclosed later.

## **PERIMETER PATH**

The idea of a perimeter path on the whole was met very favourably with 59 people saying they would use it: that is 73% of the survey. The path has multiple uses, across all generations. There were 82 responses to what it could be used for and you chose: walking, cycling, jogging, exercise and walking the dog in descending popularity.

22 people said they would not use a path.

## **BALL PRACTISE AREA AND LIGHT TO EXTEND EVENING USE**

Around a third of those surveyed said they would use a ball practise area. This is statistically significant and shows a real need for somewhere to practise ball skills.

Of the 25 people who said they would use a ball practise area, 15 people said that if a light was installed, they would use it in the evening. So 60% of people using the ball practise area would also appreciate a light to extend evening use.

Proposed cut off times for the light were: 7pm, 8pm and 11pm.

## **SHELTER**

The idea of a shelter/ meeting point is very important to young people with 77% saying they would use it.

A shelter/ meeting point would be used by 37% of those surveyed, whilst 10% said they were against the idea of a shelter.

Of the 71 people who responded about the shelter/ meeting point, 26 said they would use it, 45 said they would not use it, of which 7 expressed concerns about the idea. The people who said they would use it were families, young people and some older people; with half saying they would use it during the daytime, and half both during the day and in the evening.

For extending the facilities on the Sheppey, a fifth said they would use exercise equipment. Picnics and play were also popular.

**Some of you took the time to tell us what you want on the Sheppey and how you would like it to improve. Here they all are:**

Blacksmith Lane, no age	<p>“A perimeter path would be useful as my husband is in a wheelchair and I am disabled.”</p> <p>“It is difficult to walk round the village for the lack of pavements.”</p>
Brook Lane, 48	<p>“My family would use play equipment for the older children.”</p>
No address, no age	<p>“My children have grown up but I would like to see the older children being catered for.”</p> <p>“We need more lighting in Cropthorne, especially near the bus stop.”</p>
Lower Croft. 25	<p>“Jog &amp; exercise track would be fantastic!”</p>
Lower Croft. 24	<p>“We would use a trim trail and jogging track interspersed by exercise stations.”</p> <p>“We feel that the village would greatly benefit from a safe and fun place to exercise.”</p>
Field Barn Lane	<p>“More seating please.”</p>
Brook Lane. 10	<p>“I want adventure play equipment or dirt track.”</p>
Brook Lane. 8	<p>“I want a big slide and play equipment. “</p>
Main street, no age	<p>“Good idea for a shelter.”</p>
50+	<p>“The all weather path sounds a great idea. The Sheppey is good to walk but shoes get really wet.”</p>
No address	<p>“Perimeter path- good idea, low level lighting would help for joggers after work in winter and for dog walkers.”</p>
Main road, 9	<p>“The Sheppey is good for younger children but not much for older ones. We love playing on the Sheppey.”</p>

Main Road, 5	“Can we buy ice creams there?”
Middle Lane. 55	“I’d like to see the Sheppey playing field used more by young people.”
Middle Lane. 11	“The Sheppey was originally built for activities for kids so the kids deserve more on it for them.”
Middle Lane. 8	“If there was more to do on the Sheppey, it would be more fun.”
Main road. 42	“There should be more for youngsters.” “Bring play to children.”
Main road. 41	“It’s a lovely place to sit and watch the kids.” “More things for children.”
57+	“I walk dogs very early in the morning and late at night- a light would be good.”
Middle Lane, no age	The new play area at Broadway might be a good place to visit for ideas for equipment at the Sheppey.
Main Street. 70+	“We use the play area for grandchildren.”
Field Barn Lane, 65	“We use the play area for grandchildren.”
Main Street, 59	“We use the play area for grandchildren.”
Brook lane. 62	“We use the play area for grandchildren.”
Main Street, no age	“We use the play area for grandchildren.”



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**Some you had some concerns about the ideas for extending facilities on the Sheppey. Here they all are:**

<p>Blacksmiths Lane. 73 + 78</p>	<p>“A shelter in the Sheppey is not only not required but would, like the bus shelter, be likely to attract an undesirable element and, like the bus shelter, would probably be vandalized.”</p> <p>“The installation of a perimeter path and a shelter would turn a natural open recreational area into a copy of an inner city park.”</p>
<p>Blacksmiths Lane, no age</p>	<p>“All dogs should be on a lead.”</p> <p>“If the bus shelter is anything to go by it wouldn’t last long and as most of the benches around the field and in the play area have graffiti on already a shelter would give them something else to write on.”</p>
<p>Blacksmith Lane, no age</p>	<p>“A directional light is a bad idea. Think if the local residents! It would encourage youths to cause nuisance.”</p> <p>“Definitely not! Who would want a shelter if they have a home to go to. It would only serve to annoy residents who live around the Sheppey area. The minority causing a nuisance to the majority. What re you suggesting is done in this shelter?!”</p>
<p>Blacksmith Lane, no age</p>	<p>“A directional light is a very bad idea. It would encourage youths to congregate and cause noise and nuisance in what is a tranquil setting!”</p> <p>“What are you suggesting the shelter is used for? It would just cause noise and nuisance by the minority for the majority who live near to the Sheppey.”</p>
<p>Lower Croft. Over 70</p>	<p>“Although we do not use the Sheppey field now, as residents of Crophorne for almost 50 years we feel the area should remain “green and pleasant”, typical of a rural setting.... Also should any of these ideas be implemented there is the question of cost of maintenance in the future.”</p>



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Main Street. 52	“Design considerations for walkabout and other Sheppey events. Path could be slippery in cold or damp weather, moss growth under trees. Urbanises a rural area.”
Main Street. 82+78	“I do not feel that at this time it is necessary to spend more money on the Sheppey, particularly due to the fact that we see little evidence that the skateboarding rink is used. There seems to be a philosophy that all the time extra cash is required for some new idea that has been drummed up, and that all ideas must be satisfied.”
Main Street. 14 ½	“I don’t like going to the Sheppey in the evening because all the bullies hang around.”
Main Street. 16	“Would not use the shelter as all the boys and girls that hang around the bus shelter would probably be in it.”
Main, 47	“There has been so much deliberate damage to the bus shelter- why put up another shelter for the yobs to destroy.”
Main Street. 37	“The perimeter path would turn into a dog walk and thereafter dog loo.”
Main Street, no age	“Jogging on the Sheppey is best on the grass.”
No address, no age	“We already have one shelter, the bus shelter!! Which is always being kicked about and used for many activities!!”