**Feedback from Oakthorpe, Donisthorpe & Acresford Parish Council (ODAPC) 2023 Questionnaire**

The results were disappointing. Using the 3VN parish magazine every household in the parish received the questionnaire form, also details of the form were available on the Parish Council website. Residents had up to two months to complete the questionnaire, there was a drop off point in each village for forms, or they could be completed online.

In spite of the Parish Council’s attempt to reach out to **every** resident response was less than 1%. The PC are reaching out to allow you **all** to have your say in what happens in our Parish, how we should be spending **your** money. It is proving hard to get you involved. We **really** need **your** help and input. Below are points from the questionnaire and your comments.

***\**** *Comment - ‘Parish Council should listen to the views of parishioners rather than just putting their agenda forward’…* -The PC **do** listen to the views of the parishioners. Most of the monthly agenda is set from your views put to councillors in person, complaints sent to the manager by residents or (only occasionally) as a result of a parishioner bringing up an issue at a monthly PC meeting. Councillors represent **you**, this can only happen if **you** get involved. We **really** want to know your opinions.

***\*****‘What is good about our parish?*’… *‘The peace and quiet and easy access to the* *countryside*’*…* -To ensure this remains so it is **important** that **everyone** gets involved in the forthcoming **‘LOCAL PLAN’.** Show your interest, this will affect the future of all three villages. We **can** have our say (if we don’t the powers that be easily get their way!)

***\**** *‘great community spirit’ and ‘lack of community spirit’* were mentioned -We are three villages but one Parish. Two of our villages no longer have a community meeting place. To keep what the parish has the residents of all three villages must work together as **one community**. The only way forward is for **all** of us to support the groups, events and businesses in **our parish**. If not we will become ‘*just commuter villages’* (as stated on one response)

A positive we have noticed from the few responses we did receive was that the majority of problems that you identified are ones on which we are already working:-

**\***’*Speeding/traffic calming’…* -ODAPC have purchased MVAS machines which are moved around the parish, we are considering more. Unfortunately, we cannot always site them where we would like, we are dictated to by LCC Highways. These units are collecting data which is forwarded to LCC and the police which is building up evidence to back our claims of speeding. -We support any voluntary groups who wish join the Speedwatch scheme. Donisthorpe collected valuable data from their two Speedwatch initiatives last year. Oakthorpe residents have indicated that they would like a Speedwatch in the village this year. To arrange this there need to be **at least** twelve volunteers for this. We need **you** to stand up and be counted. -In 2023 the PC put in suggestions for permanent traffic calming measures for ‘hotspots’ in the parish, all were turned down by Highways. We are currently looking at alternatives.

**\****’Inconsiderate parking’* … -If you are having problems using pavements contact the manager and this will be reported and followed up. \*’*Overgrown hedges encroaching on pavements’*… -There is a new scheme where any residence which has had a complaint about the hedge being overgrown will receive a postcard requesting it be cut (a hedge should not be growing out beyond the property boundary, this means the ‘branches’ not the trunk/stem) Report issues to the parish manager (it helps if you can also include a photograph).

***\*’****No dog poo bins on woodland trails’…* -These are **not** ODAPC responsibility. ODAPC have over thirty bins throughout the parish which can be used for litter/dog poo. The emptying of these is paid for by ODAPC (**your money**). A need for dog poo bins for the Parish Orchard has been noted, we are working on this.

**\*’***Pavement cleaning, weed clearing on paths and verges’…* -Again not our responsibility but the manager, if made aware, will report such issues to the relevant department. ODAPC are considering certain jobs being done by our contractors but this involves juggling the budget. If parishioners fail to become involved it is extremely hard for us to judge what **you** consider to be a priority, **please** give us your support.

**\****’Anti-social behaviour’…* -If you follow the monthly police reports for this area our villages come out well (in all respects) compared to others around us. A number of Parish Councillors regularly go to the Police Surgeries that cover this area (3-4 per month) and are trying to build up a good rapport with our Community Officers and keep in the loop. You can go to these surgeries, or report to us, we must all show concern.

ODAPC have made a lot of progress over the last few years but there is still a long way to go, we cannot do it without **your** input so **please** get involved. Onwards and Upwards.