

What does your ideal village green look like?

SURVEY RESULTS Freshford Parish Council community consultation on the Tyning, 2016

Here are the responses received as a result of the Tyning consultation carried out in Freshford and surrounds in March 2016. Forms were distributed to each household in the Parish. Additional forms were available from the Parish Clerk, and were made available at other places around the village.

Notes: A total of 52 forms were returned. The results shown below are in two sections.

The first shows the TICK BOX RESULTS, giving the number of responses to each question.

The second section shows the ADDITIONAL TEXT COMMENTS in full.

Section 1 TICK BOX RESULTS

Question 1 Where do you live?

Freshford.....	50
Other.....	2

QUESTION 2 Hopes and Fears

Put a cross against any of these hopes or fears you agree with.

HOPES: I want the Tyning field:

Given on the the right is the number of households who ticked each one:

a) to be the same size/shape, i.e. not eaten into.....	41
b) to have a perimeter that deters cars	41
c) to have little man-made infrastructure.....	39
d) to be limited change.....	36
e) to be an open green space.....	41
f) to be a rural area in keeping with the village.....	50
g) to retain its charm and picturesque views.....	47
h) to have a healthy biodiversity	37
i) to be used and respected by all.....	44

FEARS: I'm worried about:

j) it becoming a car park.....	33
k) fly tipping.....	27
l) travellers.....	25
m) suburbanization.....	34
n) verge erosion.....	29
o) lack of maintenance (overgrown/brambles).....	25
p) too much maintenance (over manicured).....	29
q) rubbish/glass from picnickers.....	24
r) injury (e.g. from glass) and public liability.....	24

s) Please add your own hopes or fears: 21 households added their own hopes and fears and these are detailed on page 3

QUESTION 3 Fences and hedges

46 households made comments. These are on page 4

QUESTION 4 Maintenance

45 households made comments. These are on page 5

QUESTION 5 Grazing on Tyning field

40 households made comments. These are on page 7

QUESTION 6 Village green volunteers

19 households expressed an interest in volunteering and gave their email addresses

QUESTION 7 Dogs on the village green

Do you walk a dog on the village green?

- a) Yes.....24
- b) No.....28
- c) PC should make a rule that dogs be kept on leads on the Tynning field.....18
- d) We should have more bins where dog walkers can put bagged waste.....30
- e) There should be signs reminding owners to pick up their dog's waste.....37
- f) Other suggestions? 31 households made comments. These are detailed on page 8

QUESTION 8 Having fun

32 households made comments. These are on page 9

QUESTION 9 Community events

30 households made comments. These are on page 10

QUESTION 10 Accessibility

33 households made comments. These are on page 11

QUESTION 11 The school and the village green

38 households made comments. These are on page 12

QUESTION 12 The war memorial and cemetery

Would you like to see the hedge behind the war memorial removed?

- a) Yes.....12
- b) No.....31
- c) Don't know.....9
- d) Any other ideas for improvement in this area? 26 households made comments. These are on page 14

QUESTION 13 Views to the Westbury white horse

Would you like to see the views opened up as suggested?

- a) Yes.....36
- b) No.....10
- c) Don't know.....5

(1 person did not express a preference)

We hadn't provided space for additional comments here but 7 households made them anyway! Good for them. They're on page 15.

QUESTION 14 Parking

35 households made comments. These are on page 15

QUESTION 15 A new lay-by

36 households made comments. These are on page 16

QUESTION 16 Paths on the village green

- a) I like the grass paths across the Tynning field.38
- b) I'd prefer to have no paths across the field.....9
- c) I'd like to see existing paths improved if possible.....3
- d) Good idea to make grass paths more resilient.....24
- e) I'd like to see more paths across the Tynning field. 16 households made comments here. These are on page 17

QUESTION 17 A safer walking route?

Investigate the idea of creating a new gateway and path as detailed?

- a) Yes.....31
- b) No.....18
- c) Don't know.....3

We hadn't provided space for additional comments here but 8 households made them anyway! They're on page 18.

QUESTION 18 Community fruit trees

Are community fruit/nut trees a good idea for the village green?

- a) Yes.....18
- b) No.....28
- c) Don't know.....4

(2 households did not express a preference)

28 households made additional comments. These are on page 18

QUESTION 19 A space for nature

How important is it to manage the Tynning for nature?

- a) Very important.....29
- b) Quite important.....16
- c) Not at all important.....4

(3 households did not express a preference)

We hadn't provided space for additional comments here but 4 households made them anyway! They're on page 19.

Question 20 Other comments

35 households made comments. These are on page 19

Section 2 ADDITIONAL TEXT COMMENTS

Each form was numbered, so (001) to (052), in order to keep track of responses without giving away people's names.

QUESTION 2

We left space for households to add their own hopes and fears about the village green. This is what they said:

1. There needs to be made proper passing places for cars travelling on the road. (005)
2. As open a space as possible would be preferable. (006)
3. That it retains its natural rural feel – no formal paths. (007)
4. Hopes – to continue to exercise dogs off the lead. (011)
- 5.....Fears – dog fouling. (014)
6. We bought our cottage solely because we could watch cattle grazing on the Tynning from our kitchen windows. Half of that view was obliterated by the school extension and now the cows have gone. We would like to preserve the rest of our dream if possible. (017)
7. Fear of becoming car parking/drop off point for the school. (022)
8. Hope that the way is found to replace the barbed wire fence with more friendly barrier. Also muddy entrances could be improved? (026)
9. I am concerned that no longer grazing livestock will allow weed varieties to proliferate and therefore I would like to see appropriate meadow management to preserve biodiversity. (030)
10. If fencing is removed and replaced by short posts, speed bumps may need to be installed to slow traffic down - which does not at present always keep to 20mph. (031)
11. It's not that we don't care about the other fears listed it's just that we think they are unlikely to happen. (032)
12. I would like to see wildlife and flowers etc encouraged (034)
13. I like the idea of an internal flat path for the children to walk on. (037)
14. I hope it will remain a green space. I do not mind if it is not open. I hope it will be respected by all. It does not

- need to be used by all if they don't want to use it. (038)
15. Critical to deter from car parking and becoming a dog toiled. Could make better use of the view - cut trees to open up to Iford. (039)
16. Hope grazing cattle/sheep can be used to aid maintenance. (040)
17. We want the Tynning field to remain as an open green space. (041)
- 18.....Dog faeces! (crap). (042)
19. I do not want the Tynning to become Freshford dog toilet. (044)
20. I hope only minor changes are made to the current state of affairs. To be respected by all. I don't mean to be pedantic it's just I do not mind if only a few people use it, while I would want everyone to respect it!. (045)
21. I'd like to see it sectioned to create separate areas for dog walkers/wildlife diversity/children play zone and open green space. (048)

QUESTION 3

We asked households for observations on the fencing and hedging of the village green. This is what they said:

1. We feel that the hedge should be retained for the reasons given in the main document, but the rather ugly fence on the Tynning should be removed, as it's counter to its village green status. It should be replaced by short posts as suggested to discourage parking. (001)
2. I would like to see any hedges layed to give protection for birds. Why not plant a variety of shrubs along the top part of the Tynning field. This would make some interest, serve as a hedge and encourage bees and birds. (002)
3. Laying the Freshford Lane hedge is a great idea. (003)
4. As outlined in the main document, the issues are complex. Whilst accepting the upper part of the Tynning field cannot be safeguarded with barbed wire fencing it seems a nonsense that it is perfectly acceptable to maintain the hedgerow (complete with field gate) at the lower end, justified on 'historical grounds', yet a hedgerow to replace the existing upper fencing is somehow 'unacceptable'. (004)
5. We agree that it should be layed and native hedge species inplanted, preferably ones with berries for birds. (005)
6. The two edges adjoining the school are difficult to altar. The top edge could have posts both sides of the road and no fence. The cemetery edge could integrate cemetery, war monument and Alan Dodge memorial. (006)
7. If we can no longer have the cows grazing then remove the fence for an open aspect. (007)
8. I agree with retaining the hedge and would favour laying it in the traditional way. (008)
9. Remove all wire fences Retain and maintain the hedge. Increase wall height by the High Street. (009)
- 10... We feel short posts are an excellent idea. (010)
11. Posts would look more aesthetically pleasing, however we feel that the current fence offers more safety for children and dogs. (011)
12. He hedge along Freshford Lane to be retained and enhanced. The barbed wire fence to be removed. Short posts to be installed. Hedge between Tynning and cemetery to be improved and properly maintained. (012)
13. Agree with retaining the hedge along Freshford Lane. Also agree with removing barbed wire fence at the top of the Tynning and replacing it with short posts to prevent vehicle encroachment. (014)
14. Preferably keep a fence of some sort at he top of the Tynning. It solves other problems. Is anyone likely to object to B&NES? We don't like short posts – if there's no fence, a hump of earth along the Tynning planted with wildflowers would be preferable. (015)
- 15.....Remove the fencing – leave the hedge. (016)
16. By far the greater risk for users of the Tynning is from children and animals (wild and domestic) straying into traffic on the roads which bound and cross it. Risk from litter, dog poo, falls etc are trivial by comparison. So 1) the Freshford Lane hedge and gate should have Closed as its default position 2) the Tynning Lane barbed wire fence should not be removed but be enhanced by a planted hedge with gaps (as at present, or more) to allow free access whilst enhancing biodiversity (the greatest variety of species was found in last year's flora survey beneath the fence, where there has been no football for many years. 3) the existing cemetery hedge should remain. (017)
17. The last sentence sounds positive if viable. (019)
18. I'm glad that the hedge can be kept and would hope that it could be improved with laying in the traditional manner. I think the posts would be a good idea for protecting the top boundary from car parking. (020)
19. Keep and traditionally lay the hedge on Freshford Lane. opt plant native trees/hedges/fruit trees (apples) along the Tynning to deter cars parking and offer protection to children from cars. (021)

20. Retain hedges, remove fences. Fence on hedge of High Street to be as present (wire strands and posts) Not a safety barrier. (022)
- 21.....I go along with the PC's view. (023)
22. Broadly happy to maintain fences and hedges as they [two illegible words] good access from the sides of the Tynning. (024)
23. Glad the barbed wire fence is to go. The hedge at the bottom is needed because of the road. Don't know if it is a suitable hedge to cut and lay. (025)
24. Fully support replacing barbed wire with the posts providing these substantial enough. Agree with laying of the hedge. Are trees an option instead of posts? (026)
25. Surely the barbed wire fence can be replaced with plain wire. Same principle on planning permission to replace existing [word illegible]. (027)
26. While recognizing the legal situation, I am in favour of keeping as many boundaries as possible in order to protect the green. These should, obviously, be in keeping with the surroundings. (028)
27. Definitely keep the hedge. Laying would require regular attention and is not essential. (029)
28. Keeping the hedge boundaries is vital. Many species use hedges not only for habitat but also for transit lanes. Completely support removal of the barbed wire. (030)
29. Hedge along Freshford Lane for the whole length remain as it is. Along the Tynning top sections on both sides, along its whole length. More permanent and substantial posts close together should be installed to stop car parking and soil erosion. (033)
30. The hedge along Freshford Lane should definitely be kept. (034)
31. When barbed wire fence removed, existing raised verge must be maintained not flattened. (035)
32. The fence at the top should be removed and the small 'bank' it sits on should be softened/grassed but still discouraging to cars who might be tempted to half park (wheels of one side of the car on the road. (036)
33. Laying hedge in traditional manner (v good example along Branch Rd) Inplanting with new native hedge species. (037)
34. Wholeheartedly agree with keeping the hedge and laying it in the traditional manner. I would also like section of hedge along the top edge of the Tynning. Surely if there are gaps in the hedges you are not 'inclosing or enclosing a village green' (1857) because anyone can get in or out. To properly enclose something there must be no gaps. (038)
35. Remove barbed wire fence and replace with posts. (039)
36. Most definitely keep the hedge and maintain it in a way that maximises the use that birds, animals and plants can make of it. Ambivalent to fences elsewhere. If removed things in place to prevent parking are necessary. No parking for school or otherwise should be on the green. (040)
37. Agree that the posts should be placed along the top edge of the Tynning field. Happy for the hedge at the bottom of Tynning field to remain as it is. Safety barrier fence should have minimum visual impact. (041)
38. Retain high verge on Sharpstone Lane to deter cars and also retain hedge. (042)
39. Remove barbed wire fence and maintain barrier to prevent car parking ie earth mound as existing or other. (044)
40. I'd be happy for the barbed wire fence at the top to be removed and replaced with wooden posts. (045)
41. To remain I'd like the current arrangement to continue. (046)
42. I think it should be hedged or fenced for safety reasons, primarily. (048)
43. We remember that the hedge was not rich in variety. Also the PC is not consistent in its application of the Hedgerows Act. (049)
44. Wire fences will have to go now that it is a village green. (050)
45. The village green legislation in place makes it impossible to fence this village green as we could always be open to legal challenge. Retain the hedge and get rid of the fence at top. (051)
46. No barbed wire fence. Hedge should be natural. (052)

QUESTION 4

We asked households for their observations on the maintenance of the village green. This is what they had to say:

1. We feel that the current level of maintenance works well, allowing for a combination of paths and areas where wild flowers etc can flourish. It is neither over or under developed and appears to be a practical solution. (001)
- 2.....Encourage wild flowers (003)
3. Maintenance of the existing hedge as at present seems fine; to see it laid would be a welcome enhancement.

- Would not wish to see it over manicured. The diagonal footpath (ie from the Tynning corner towards Freshford Lane (field gate) is tricky towards the upper end, given the lie of the land. It is very easy to slip. Could this be cut back a little way into the slope. (004)
4. There should be mown paths as now, and other areas to be left longer and cutting delayed for the encouragement and seeding of wild flowers. (005)
 5. Most picnics appear to be on the flattish top portion. The steep slope could be left to be longer and wilder, contributing by offering a green vista area to the village. (006)
 6. It would be nice to have an uncut area with wildflowers. (007)
 7. Maintenance is on-going and expensive for the parish, so suggest a late summer cut of the whole meadow and paths meanwhile cut through and kept short. The rest left to hopefully produce wildflowers which need to be cut down when seed is set. (008)
 8. Keep the majority close cut and tidy. Have borders /other areas with longer grass to give a pleasant visual appearance. (009)
 9. We like the current look of the Tynning. Mown paths are wonderful. If the entire area was regularly mown – pupils from the primary school may be able to gain better access across the school curriculum (physical education etc). (010)
 10. We would prefer for paths to be mown and all other areas left longer to encourage wildflowers. (011)
 11. Think zoning might best balance all the needs. Grass on the relatively flat sections could be mown shorter as could connecting paths. (012)
 - 12....Keep it mown like the rest of the Tynning. (013)
 13. Agree that having a mix of mown paths and wilder areas that are mown less often is cost effective. However this approach limits the school's access and use of the Tynning The school were unable to use the Tynning for play for much of last summer due to the length of the grass and the nettles. Also in wet weather the mown paths tend to funnel the footfall in small areas which makes these very muddy and eroded. I think for summer 2016 a wider width of paths should be trialled as well as a mown play area for the school near the school access gate.
 14. We like the mown grass paths. Keep it looking as rural as possible. The field behind the Hall can be kept cut for games etc (015)
 15. Mown paths and minimum cutting of the rest. (016)
 16. It is the statutory duty of the PC to promote biodiversity on any land they own. Mowing the Tynning repeatedly will result in a badly maintained recreation ground. We could mow the central frequently used area more regularly and manage the two sides (next to the cemetery and under the oak tree) as wildflower meadow. Working parties could weed, seed and scythe these areas. Ideally sheep should graze it at the end of the summer for a few weeks. (017)
 17. Lines 7 to 9 sound viable and environmentally friendly. (019)
 18. I like the mown paths and the longer section. Biodiversity management – if a suitable scheme can be planned – would be ideal. (020)
 19. Very against closely mown grass recreation area. Huge opportunity to create a bio diverse meadow/grassland area with mown paths/areas and longer grass that is cut /grazed only a few times a year. (021)
 20. Paths should be definitely be mown. The rest of the grass should not be close cut, but not long enough to hide dog excrement. (023)
 21. It is more useful for families and children if it is mown. However a section of long grass or flowers would be pleasant too. (024)
 22. I think the grass needs to be mown to make it easy to walk over and not to become out of hand, with a shorter cut for regular paths. (025)
 23. Support zoning of Tynning so some areas longer grass than others. But avoid manicured appearance. (026)
 24. Animals grazing? Would require fencing to be maintained but would generate income. (027)
 25. There is a real risk of the green becoming suburban/park like. Maintenance would ideally be grazing but this has already been considered and ruled out. Therefore it should be the minimum necessary. (028)
 26. Prefer rough pasture. Existing mowed paths are fine. (029)
 27. Please can we consult experienced grassland managers to allow biodiversity to flourish within an accessible framework. Wild area and mown paths seem a good starting point. (030)
 28. I agree that having sections of longer grass/wildflowers is good, and maintained borders and paths. (031)

29. I think it would be a good idea to have clearly mown paths, similar to paths that are being walked regularly at the moment. If a good patch could be mown adjacent to the school if the school can use it that would greatly enhance their play area. (032)
30. Maintenance of the Tynning field needs to be managed and weed free. If need be utilising weed killers. (033)
31. Please allow wild areas of grass to allow wildflowers etc to grow. No pesticides please! (034)
32. Fully support strategy which will retain Tynning's rural character as a field. Use of mown paths should be encouraged. Fully support biodiversity. (035)
33. Maintenance should be kept to a minimum that is essential and necessary for whatever turns out to be the eventual mix of uses.
34. Managing vegetation differently in diff zones is a good idea. (037)
35. I hope the experts will advise TAG on how to retain the Tynning's rural character as a field. I do not want it turned into a closely mown recreation ground. (038)
36. We should endeavour to make it a wildflower meadow and then perhaps have some mown paths through it. The wild flowers should be determined in accordance with what should occur naturally. Am not in favour of close mown - it will never be a flat field allowing play. (040)
37. Please leave the appearance of Tynning field as it currently is. Zoning should predominantly change the appearance of the field and is therefore not supported. (041)
- 38.....Retain rural character. (042)
39. To maintain as existing with paths and wild meadow. (044)
40. I am happy with how it is currently maintained and think it would be better if woodchips were laid when entrances/exits became muddy. (045)
41. Some areas if sectioned should be allowed to overgrow for wildlife diversity. (048)
42. We like the current mowing arrangement. Some levelling would improve access from High Street down to the existing gate. (049)
- 43.....I agree to how it looks now. (050)
44. Zoning a good idea, with some areas set aside for nature and managed accordingly. Some short areas and some long areas of grass for wildlife. (051)
- 45.....Not to be over manicured or built on. (052)

QUESTION 5

We invited households to share their observations on the grazing issue. This is what they had to say:

1. Whilst grazing has always been 'attractive' in the past, it is not longer practical given its village green status. (001)
2. Short term grazing after wildflower season - electric fence needed.
3. Cows need good boundaries and leave manure heaps. Sheep are known to be good at cropping grass. (006)
4. We always enjoyed having cows on the Tynning. (007)
5. Sadly grazing does not seem to be an option, with the village green status attached to the field A pity. (008)
6. As we have dogs and walk daily along/on the Tynning grazing would make this enjoyable routine difficult. (010)
7. Sadly although a nice idea, grazing does not seem to be practical. (011)
8. We recognize the difficulties but think we should keep open the possibility of conservation grazing from time to time. (012)
9. I am not enthusiastic about grazing as I think it is difficult to combine with an unfenced area and public access particularly for children. (014)
- 10.....It seems there are no options here. (015)
11. Like the idea of grazing animals but appreciate the problems this incurs. (016)
12. As [I was] a TAG [Tynning Advisory Group] member I fully appreciate the arguments for/against grazing. My personal view, though, is that grazing is a cheap, effective same mode of grass control. Keep the top fence and plant it with access gaps. Sheep fence the sloping field (not very expensive). Mow the middle (paths etc) in summer leaving the oak tree and cemetery ends as hay meadow. Graze sheep in Autumn. (See the Cumbria 'Open Green Spaces' Am introduction to managing Wildlife', July 2010. Maintain free public access throughout. (017)
- 13.....Complicated. Maybe part time grazing. (019)
14. A rural idea but with all the legalities in place it doesn't see practical/possible. (020)

15. Temporary fencing or even better removable fencing for short bouts of conservation grazing would enable residents to enjoy seeing the cattle/horses grazing and be of most benefit to the grassland and biodiversity. (021)
- 16.....Agree with the PC's view. (023)
17. I would prefer no grazing as this limits the recreation potential. However I recognize the benefit of keeping the grass down. (024)
18. I would have liked it to stay as it was with cows grazing it which gave the village such a lovely rural feel. So do whatever you can to keep that same feel. (025)
19. Consider grazing animals on Tynning not practical. (026)
- 20.....Could the legal situation be pursued. (027)
21. Conservation grazing is the most appealing solution, but not if it is illegal. (028)
22. Would encourage part time grazing. Could close up opening in barbed wire fence at this time. It seems perverse to restrict our pleasure and options of the field's use just because it is now called a 'green. Aim to retain flexibility. (029)
23. Reluctantly I have to accept that grazing is not compatible with village green status. (030)
24. It does not appear to be a viable proposition if the fences are removed and access for all, including dogs, is allowed. (031)
25. I don't see the point of grazing if we have purchased the land. If we want grazing why did we start this process at all. There were cows there then. (032)
26. A precedence has been set for the last couple of hundred years. Temporary pen fencing could be erected to contain live stock. (033)
- 27.....No grazing please. (034)
28. Loved the cows but accept not part of future use. (035)
29. Would electric fencing small areas for short periods for sheep, for example, not be possible without interfering with the openness of the rest and harm to the animals? (036)
- 30.....Why ask, if this is illegal! (037)
31. The information given in the consultation document indicates that this is not possible. What a pity the parish council put paid to the beautiful sight of cows grazing on Tynning field. (038)
- 32.....Not practical. (039)
33. Would like to see grazing area at the eastern end above the school where tree is. Electric fencing unsightly but split rail fence would look attractive and fit in with safety fence bordering school and main road. (042)
- 34.....No grazing in open land. (044)
35. I would not like grazing to take place on the field. (045)
- 36.....As previously used (046)
- 37.....Not in line with safety aspects. (048)
38. This is not possible now. I liked to see the cattle on this land. (050)
39. The PC cannot take the risk of a member of the public being injured by an animal however slight the risk. Confused legislation re fencing a village green makes grazing impossible. Electric fencing can only be used within a secure boundary fence, so not an option here. (051)
40. Grazing not possible, because fencing is illegal, apparently. (052)

QUESTION 7

We invited households to offer suggestions relating to dogs on the village green. This is what they said:

1. We are opposed to ever more street furniture. On my occasional dog walks, I have always felt there were sufficient bins. Irresponsible dog owners will always bag waste, irresponsible won't and will also ignore signs. (001, dog walker)
2. We would like to think we are responsible dog owners as are the majority (but not all) walkers we encourage in the village. We would not wish to see a situation where dogs must be on leads. Their freedom is already limited where grazing does take place in fields around the area, and also in the field at the rear of the memorial hall. Dog bin facilities are adequate at the present time (could do with one near the inn, though!). (004, dog walker)
3. We would be sorry for dogs to be on leads however there could be more signs all around the village reminding people to pick up their dog waste to encourage greater awareness and responsibility. (005, dog walker)
4. There are a few owners who do not / will not pick up poo. Long grass conceals dog poo, but in some conditions

- make picking up more difficult. (006, dog walker)
- 5.Name and shame those we know are ignoring their dogs mess. Perhaps warn the village that dogs will have to be kept on leads in the field if dog mess persists. (008, dog walker)
- 6.Keeping the grass short should help to reduce dog fouling and failure to clean it up. (009, dog walker)
- 7.The long grass can make it difficult to collect the dog waste but not that difficult! Locals we meet seem to be responsible about this are we are – we wonder if it is more a visitor/walker issue? (010, dog walker)
- 8.Responsible dog owners pick up their waste. (011, dog walker)
- 9.Not convinced that rules need to be made. It may be that the community would instead accept an understanding that dogs be kept on leads etc or even not walked on the field side. (012, non dog walker)
- 10.Dogs must be kept on a lead. The village paths are all being fouled by dogs. (013, non dog walker)
- 11.Dog fouling is definitely a problem. If dogs can run free off the lead then they will foul around the perimeter where children will also play and explore. (014, non dog walker)
- 12.Keep signs to a minimum here. (015, non dog walker)
- 13.Signs should illustrate the fact that children play in the long grass areas and the fouling is a health risk. (016, non dog walker)
- 14.Freedom to exercise a dog in a central space is a considerable health benefit to the elderly. Releasing my own dog there is a delight to us but BUT she stays on a lead if I can't be sure of being able to pick up (eg slippery underfoot, ankle injury). Those who leave poo are blatant in their negligence so 1) more notices; 2) regular articles in village publications; 3) volunteer organised 'spot check' days so that there is a real risk of being named and shamed. (017, dog walker)
- 15.The top level has access to waste bins – perhaps one is needed at the bottom entrance to Freshford Lane. (020, dog walker)
- 16.We need to impose stricter social fines or name and shames on owners who allow their dogs to foul without themselves clearing up. It's shocking how many owners I see just leaving poo. (021, dog walker)
- 17.All dog owners must take responsibility to clear up after their dogs. Many already do, and pressure should be applied to those who don't. Use small well placed notices only. Dogs on leads and heel warnings re dog poo a possible option if problem persists. (022, dog walker)
- 18.Children from the village school have been prevented from playing out because of dog fouling. This is totally unacceptable. There should be severer penalties and a clear notice. (023, non dog walker)
- 19.There needs to be a bin near the lower entrance for dog waste. (025, dog walker)
- 20.Put signs on bins rather than separate signs cluttering up the green. (026, non dog walker)
- 21.Owners not picking up waste should be fined by PC one evidence is available. (027, dog walker)
- 22.If dogs are allowed to run free and there are no fences to contain them from the road, there is the potential for accidents. It is also easier to pick up after dogs on leads. (031, non dog walker)
- 23.Signs that it is a children's play area. Visitors to the village see the village green as an open field and therefore do not pick up waste. I think people opposed to children on the green might deliberately leave waste. (032, dog walker)
- 24.There are already enough bins around the top of the Tynning Field. It cannot be enforced banning unless a fence is erected all around the Tynning field to stop dog from entering. (033, dog walker)
- 25.....Would support bylaw. (035, non dog walker)
- 26.More bins and more signs but sparingly. We must try to build on the sense of responsibility that goes with dog ownership. This is better than it used to be but regular articles in The Bulletin and elsewhere will be a reminder. (036, non dog walker)
- 27.Signs explaining the harm caused by humans by dog faeces. (038, non dog walker)
- 28.Notices putting fines in place for fouling. (040, non dog walker)
- 29.Perhaps just one new bin (near the gate at the bottom). (045, non dog owner)
- 30.Have dedicated areas on the green. (048, non dog owner)
- 31.Bin required near lower gate. Dog owners already ignore lead notice on playground field. We are frustrated with the behaviour of a few. Maybe encourage naming and shaming. (049, dog owner)

QUESTION 8

We invited households for comments on activities on the village green. This is what they said:

- 1.The slope is the major deterrent to most activities (having fun). We are happy to see horse-riding there. We don't see 'having fun' activities being a problem given the terrain. (001)
- 2.....Community kite flying day. (003)
- 3.Given the steepness of the incline, any practical usage (other than for picnics for example) would be very limited - maybe Easter egg rolling? Tobogganing is better suited to Church Fields, given the rather prickly hedge at the field boundary! (004)
- 4.We agree with what is said in the consultation document. (005)
- 5.I think the slope would act against team games. Picnics and places to sit to enjoy the views are the most important. (006)
- 6.Bicycle riding is dangerous on this steep slope. I have seen one rider in trouble. Walkers could be hurt. (008)
- 7.Occasional fun activity that doesn't harm the grass should be encouraged. But nothing regular. (009)
- 8.A lovely spot for a picnic. Some discreet seating could be installed on the field side of the Tynning and perhaps a celebratory beacon! (012)
- 9.....No horses to be allowed. (013)
- 10.All lawful recreational activities to be encouraged. (016)
- 11.I have no objection to people riding horses, chasing dogs, organising children's races or any other lawful activity as long as the grass surface is not permanently damaged. I understand that wheeled vehicles are not allowed on a village green. (017)
- 12.Lines 4 to 6 'the use of' makes good sense (but not sure about tobogganing. (019)
- 13.....Points made seem very valid. (020)
- 14.Use should be open and free. Field slope is too great for horses or bicycles, both of which could be a nuisance. All users should avoid leaving litter or mess. (022)
- 15.....Agree with the PC. (023)
- 16.I would feel it would be inappropriate to have horses on the green. Other activities would be fine as long as not disruptive to the land. (024)
- 17.I'm not keen on the prospect of cycles going at speed down the steep parts because it could cut up the surface and put other people off being there. (025)
- 18.Common sense would indicate horse riding and cycling not suitable in place which is a pedestrian area. (026)
- 19.Because of its gradient, most sports are necessarily very restricted Even tobogganing could be dangerous. (029)
- 20.I would prefer to not encourage horse riding on the Tynning. Many riders in the area have managed without the use of this field up till now.
- 21.Ball games would be a problem due to the slope and risk of balls falling on the roads. (031)
- 22.I think it would be fair to ask horse riders to be aware of churning up the ground and to avoid the Tynning when it is wet. I would support all other pastimes. (032)
- 23.It is unnecessary for the school to over utilise the field for pastime or recreational pursuits. (033)
- 24.....No horse-riding. (035)
- 25.Anything legitimate should be encouraged but it won't take much horse-riding before it becomes a nuisance. It can very quickly churn the grass to mud. Can we limit horse-riding to just crossing the green and prohibit galloping around? (036)
- 26.It would be quickly churned up by horses - a pity it's legal! (037)
- 27.....Annual kite flying festival? (039)
- 28.Horses and vehicles of any kind should be excluded from Tynning field. The contours/slopes pose obvious hazards. (041)
- 29.Agree limit horses to walking only and no bike riding. (042)
- 30.....It should be open to all. (048)
- 31.Horses have already cut up the path adjacent to the upper Tynning road. We would support a ban. (049)
- 32.....Good for winter sports when it snows. (050)

QUESTION 9

We invited households to offer suggestions for community events on the village green. Here are their ideas:

- 1.It seems unlikely that organisations would choose to use the field for activities other than the flat area on the Tynning and there appears to be sufficient regulations in place to prevent misuse. (001)

- 2.....Community picnics. Queen's 90th. (003)
- 3.Community events (eg village picnic aforementioned) may be better suited to the level area adjacent to Tynning wood, where village bonfires have been held in the past. (004)
- 4.....I agree (006)
- 5.This field has very limited use for most games. Cheese rolling, assault course? Behind the village hall will probably still be more popular. (008)
- 6.....Your list seems fine. (009)
- 7.We have no objection to community events being held here. (011)
- 8.We are fortunate to have the playground at the back of the hall for community events – kitchen available, electricity, loos etc. Not need to overburden the Tynning.
- 9.It would be good to use the space for more community fundraising events so it becomes more at the heart of community life. (014)
- 10.As stated in the document it's an obvious place to have community events like picnics and fetes and this seems to be a very good use of the green. (015)
- 11.Yes, definitely use for more village events/activities. (016)
- 12.The gradient and surface (irregular) of the Tynning is part of its charm and any organised event of any size would be difficult because of it. Caring for the green (eg hedge laying, weeding, spreading wild flower seed maintaining benches) might naturally lead to an event such as an outdoor supper or picnic or musical evening. The only sports event I can think of is cheese rolling! (017)
- 13.Folk band and a bit of dancing (slope a bit problematic) Children's co-operative games! (019)
- 14.I'm in favour of the kind of events we've had in the past – fairly low key village get together. The nature of the land makes it unsuitable for larger, more commercial events. (020)
- 15.Let's use it as much as we can and avoid bureaucracy as much as possible. People use it at their own risk. (022)
- 16.The more the area can be used for communal village activities the better. (023)
- 17.Anything which involves rolling something down the slope to see who can roll the furthest. (025)
- 18.....An annual fete? (027)
- 19.The flat section at the top of the Tynning can be used as it has been in the past. (029)
- 20.I would like to see the village green uses for all/any 'not for profit' events of celebrations or gatherings. (030)
- 21.Any community events which can take place on such a slope would be supported by us. (032)
- 22.....No over monopolisation by anybody. (033)
- 23.Special events would be nice. Are we actually allowed music? (037)
- 24.....None. (038)
- 25.Nice to have a yearly picnic and maypole dancing (at the top). (040)
- 26.....Should be encouraged. (042)
- 27.....Agreement. and no further comments. (044)
- 28.Happy for these to take place on the green. (045)
- 29.Open air concerts (not just old folks music either) picnic tables etc. (048)
- 30.....Cheese rolling would be fun. (050)

QUESTION 10

We invited households to offer suggestions on making the village green more accessible for the less able. This is what they said:

- 1.Wheelchair space on the road is a good idea. We are happy with the suggestions in the main document. (001)
- 2.The present entry points from the Tynning could perhaps be altered to allow a more gentle slope which would allow access along the level grassy upper pathway parallel to the Tynning [lane]. Similar access could be gained on the lower level along the hedgerow, perhaps with improved drainage. (004)
- 3.Improving access ideas are good but hard to imagine the main field being usable. (003)
- 4.Needs advice but necessary. The entrance from the Tynning road certainly needs improvement. (005)
- 5.Car parking near war memorial and modest landscaping to make 'flat' area long top with places to sit. (006)
- 6.It would be nice to include benches n the green for less able to sit on the flat area inside the fence. (007)
- 7.....Agree with ideas stated in the report. (008)
- 8.Not sure we need to do anything more than your ideas in para 10. (009)

- 9.....Flat areas near benches are a good idea. (011)
- 10.We agree with your thoughts as to how things could be improved for the less able. (012)
- 11.The current benches have no views. It would be good to add a couple of benches facing north for the less mobile and also open up the views from the current benches facing south. (014)
- 12.Agree with making all areas wheelchair friendly. Pushchairs these days can cross fields easily – so don't really need special consideration. (015)
- 13.As pointed out it is already accessible. Small further hard space would be fine. (016)
- 14.The vulnerable space opposite the war memorial could be made accessible for one or more disabled vehicles. Wheelchairs could then cross to a space beneath the war memorial which could be close to the Aland Dodge memorial seat if this comes about. Wheelchair spaces next to existing seats near the lane could also be cleared and made firm (being an appropriate surface).
- 15.I think what you suggest for wheelchair users is fine. The Tynning field is not really an option for wheelchairs due to the steep slope but it is fine for pushchairs as it is. (018)
- 16.Para 2 sounds possible and invaluable for wheelchair users and others with disabilities. (019)
- 17.....Agree with main document ideas. (020)
- 18.If you allow parking for pushchairs then the school run drivers will park all along it. There should be no additional parking on the Tynning otherwise it makes this dangerous. It is the only flat and relatively safe place for children to ride bicycles in the village. Parked cars would stop this.
- 19.Access is fine. Users of limited mobility will have to avoid hazardous areas, slopes etc. We should not make special provision, or indeed provide disabled parking. The yellow road graffiti around the school is already bad enough. (022)
- 20.One has to be realistic about numbers. There will not be rows of wheelchairs lining up. It's fine as it is. (023)
- 21.I would agree that parking for less able at the top of the Tynning would be sensible. (024)
- 22.I find it really hard to walk from the entrance from the Tynning near the High Street to the lower entrance because there is a really steep bit level with the top of the school grounds. (025)
- 23.Ideas described in main document seems the way to go. (026)
- 24.I fully support the effort to make this space accessible and enjoyable to all. (030)
- 25.As stated the top of the Tynning could incorporate areas for wheelchairs, push chairs etc. (031)
- 26.I'm not sure we can make the green more accessible but the lane and pavement can be improved if necessary. (032)
- 27.no modification to the Tynning field for this accessibility purpose. Better provision should be made on all access roads surrounding the field with complimentary ramping into the field. (033)
- 28.An entrance at the eastern end at the top could be paved with the plastic mesh that can't be seen but prevents rotting. This part of the green is the only place that is significantly flat. (036)
- 29.I don't like the idea of too many paths but perhaps a gravel path at the bottom level would be a good opening into a flattened area with picnic tables (durable) 2 or 3. (037)
- 30.Happy for there to be a space for wheelchair users to park possibly by the war memorial. (038)
- 31.Make a parking area (ink 1 x disabled) opposite cemetery and war memorial where skip was. (042)
- 32.....Mown pathways. (048)
- 33.Difficult to achieve. Maybe a wheelchair accessible path between gate and school. (049)

QUESTION 11

We invited comments on the interaction between the school and the village green. This is what households said:

- 1.We are happy with the current arrangements regarding the school's usage. (001)
- 2.Whilst usage by the school is to be welcomed, as it would add to the vibrancy of the village community we would not wish to see any form of play equipment installed which would bring with it the possibility of a 'push' at some future date for permanent installation.. The school is already well provided for in terms of recreational space at the rear of the memorial hall. Litter is already a slight problem on the school 'approach' pathways. (004)
- 3.....Agreed. (005)
- 4.I agree. Seeing the school use the Tynning is highly desirable as long as this does not prevent other users using the space. (006)
- 5.Agree that the school should be encouraged to use the field when possible. (008)

6. Agree. The school should not dictate events. (009)
7. It is an excellent resource for the school – their playground is limited in size and has no major green space. Children should be able to play on grass! (010)
8. The extra school space is welcomed, however it must not be allowed to restrict other users. (011)
- 9.....No area should be fenced off. (013)
10. It was a pity the school could not use the Tynning more last summer due to the length of the grass and nettles. I would like to see a larger mown area in the summer for school use. (014)
11. Great for the school to use the field/green for playtimes. No other reason to try and keep some fencing though. (015)
12. Definitely the school should be encouraged to use the green. (016)
13. I am very pleased to share the Tynning with the children from the school. Temporary marking of the play area, as used at present, seems to work well. There should be no permanent fencing. (017)
14. We can surely all share this space provided dogs are on leads
- 15.....I like seeing the children out there. (020)
16. Everyone should be able to use, benefit and enhance the area, the school included as long as others are not turfed off or that the school's demands for a neatly mowed green space does not override the most important need for an equally bio diverse, rich landscape. (021)
17. Agree statement. School should have equal access with the whole community and no specially designated areas. (022)
18. The school should not be allowed to fence off any part, but the children should be free to play without fear or rolling in dog mess. (023)
19. It would be great for the school to use the green. I think a soft path at the bottom would be beneficial. (024)
20. I am happy with what they do at the moment, but would not be happy in the future if they felt they could lay claim to use of that area. (025)
21. The school should be aware of the requirement to share the space. No fencing allowed and no discouragement of other users. (028)
22. Agree with what has been written in document. (029)
23. Absolutely vital that the school does not claim ownership or sole use of the Tynning but I totally support and encourage the school's use of this natural village resource. (030)
24. Wild life area could be created that the school could use for education. (031)
25. I would love to see the school make more use of it but the way in which it is mowed and the collection of dog poo play a big part in whether this is possible. (032)
26. The school has use of the village playing field and compared to other schools (especially inner cities) has a safer route to traverse between locations. All should have use of the field at all times and segregation of the field at specific times and days should not be tolerated. (033)
27. There should be no fenced off area specifically for the school and definitely no parking on the Tynning for the school. We need to be encouraging children to walk and get exercise. (034)
28. Whilst fully welcoming the supervised use of the Tynning by the school children for play and learning, this use must not progressively lead to use by the school which would require the erection of permanent fences or structures. (035)
29. The school should continue to use the Tynning as it does now. Free to move anywhere but no fencing, even temporary. (036)
30. Lovely to have the children be able to sit and exercise on it in the summer One accessible area to the school could surely be dog free. (037)
31. Happy that schoolchildren can use it in the same way as other users. School should inform parents of risks to health from dog faeces. (038)
32. Support use by school but area should not be fenced off. (042)
33. I'd like the current arrangement to continue. (045)
34. The school is independent of the green and should have no rights to use the space over villagers. It should manage its own affairs and as is clear by the car issue twice a day, many children are not directly local. The green should not be influenced by the school. (048)
- 35.....We support full usage by the school. (049)

- 36.The school should not consider that any part of the land is for their exclusive use. (050)
- 37.Good for schoolchildren to use and enjoy green as some of them may be looking after it when we are gone! (051)
- 38.As long as no fencing off, green should be available to the school. (052)

QUESTION 12

We invited households to offer ideas about improving the area around the war memorial. This is what they said:

- 1.It would be good to improve the visibility of the war memorial, without removing the hedge between the village green and the cemetery. Short posts in the area would also be effective and beneficial. (001)
- 2.The hedge is a good backdrop for the memorial. (003)
- 3.The slope on the approach to the cemetery gate can prove slippery and dangerous in wet conditions. Could some form of concrete slop (or steps) be considered? Compacted mud area below horse chestnut tree could perhaps be improved to allow for 2 or 3 vehicles to be parked, alleviating some of the local pressure on parking spaces. (004)
- 4.Good idea to put posts in dumping ground opposite. Alternatively making it suitable for parking instead of in front of the war memorial. (005)
- 5.The war memorial cemetery and A. Dodge memorial share the celebration and memory of past lives. Integrating all three, or separating them from the Tynning by a 'ha ha' or change in level would further open up the view. (006)
- 6.I think the hedge creates a 'special space' which is separate from activities in the field and should be retained. (008)
- 7.But remove the hedge next to the village green [between cemetery and green]. (009)
- 8.Parked cars in front of the memorial seems a bigger issue. If this could be kept clear, we think it would be more respectful and a greater focal point. (010)
- 9.Putting posts up opposite the war memorial would be welcomed. The land should be cleared and allowed to have natural grass growth. (011)
- 10.We think that the site of the war memorial would be improved if the hedge was taken out and that it would offer a fine view of the memorial walking up the field towards that corner of the Tynning. (012)
- 11.Do not remove the hedge. War memorial and cemetery are a private place of sanctuary for people and must be kept as such. (013)
- 12.The area opposite the war memorial does need improvement to prevent dumping and builders' skips. Could this be turned into a proper surfaced parking area? (014)
- 13.Please don't put up short posts! Could the area where the skips were be made into a small gravelled car parking space for residents only. This would then allow a no parking sign in front of the war memorial. (015)
- 14.Parking space is required and this area [opposite the war memorial] may provide a useful area for this. (016)
- 15.The war memorial is largely situated in a dark, unwelcoming corner. Removing or lowering the hedge could include it in the 'warmth' of the Tynning. There should be an effective barrier to car parking in front of it. (017)
- 16.Lowering the [war memorial] hedge to make a focal point is a good idea. Would it be possible to put mesh under the surface (as has been done in the field next to St Mary's church in Limpley Stoke) so that occasional cars could park in the recently cleared space opposite war memorial. The mesh could be grassed over to keep the green aspect and not look like an official parking area. Sharpstone is desperately in need of space for visitors' cars. (018)
- 17.The hedge frames the war memorial as a special space. Don't remove it. Equally keep the cemetery divided. No need for change. (022)
- 18.The cemetery should be separate. It's a private place. (023)
- 19.....Reduce hedge better? (026)
- 20.....Don't have strong feelings. (032)
- 21.Of greater priority is the need to consider extending the cemetery boundary for the future. This represents a necessary incursion into the Tynning field unlike any other proposals on this form. (033)
- 22.Retaining the hedge delineates this area and creates a more contemplative sanctuary. Area could also have cobbles across Tynning to signify its place in the Tynning. Agree area opposite should have short posts to stop parking. Also no parking should be allowed in front of memorial. It is often obscured. If short posts across the bare earth area maybe these could be removable as this land has been useful for access for removal lorries parking here when Sharpstone properties sold and also for builder's storage for Sharpstone properties. However if used to these purposes, fee charged to those residents for its use and strict time limit on use. (035)
- 23.[remove hedge behind memorial] But combine the removal with an integration of the road in front and perhaps the space on the other side of the road to make a memorial area. (036)

24. Retain the fence between the cemetery and Tynning field. (038)
25. Double yellow lines next to the green but gravel opposite area to allow for car parking. (039)
26. Open up hedge between Tynning and cemetery to create one joined space. (044)
27. A road treatment in front of the memorial. The PC has a poor record for achieving an acceptable solution. (049)

QUESTION 13

Some households made additional comments on the idea of opening up views at the top of the Tynning:

1. Keep some trees that provide windbreak and fell others for view. (006)
2. [don't open up views] The tree line would look odd. (009)
3. We fear that many of the trees blocking the view are on private land. (012)
4. In theory I would like these views restored but the work involved would be considerable, damage to what has become a mature woodland would be great and the task would have to be repeated regularly. So probably not worth the effort. (017)
5. [yes to opening up view] and to the planting of new trees in suitable areas. (026)
6. Keep the cemetery fenced. Small posts opposite would not prevent skips. (027)
7. Keep cemetery and Tynning completely separate.

QUESTION 14

We invited households to make observations on the parking issue. This is what they said:

1. It's clear that further parking on Freshford Lane cannot be permitted because of the hedge. Unfortunately, some of the parking spaces are used by rail/bus travellers and this is impossible to monitor in a village. (001)
2. I would not like any of the hedge removed in Freshford Lane. (002)
3. Surely, were the existing layby in Freshford Lane to be elongated parallel with the hedgerow, this would not impact directly on the village green. Hopefully reducing the problem of vehicles parking on the opposite pavement, which forces pedestrians onto the busy roadway every school day. (004)
4. Passing places to avoid driving over the grass. (005)
5. The rubbish tip opposite the war memorial could provide for disabled access to the green. (006)
6. There does not seem to be any answer to the parking problems Village green status has tied our hands. (008)
7. Using the current layby for school buses and then an all weather path along the lower end of the Tynning is a good idea. (011)
8. Agree with your thoughts re Freshford Lane. From time to time people do park on the Tynning at the top but we don't see it as a constant problem. (012)
9.No parking on village field. (013)
10. I do not want to see any of the Tynning lost to parking along Freshford Lane. (014)
11. We're glad that parking can't be increased right next to the green. (015)
12. It is not necessary to tarmac, hard matting through which grass can grow will be fine. (016)
13.I agree with the PC (018)
14.I can't see any way round the legalities. (020)
15. This is an ancient hedge and it's good that no additional parking will be allowed. (021)
16. No options available. The road through the Tynning should not be used regularly by school parents for parking. The verges are badly damaged by passing and parked cars. The area opposite the war memorial is inappropriately used as a turning circle. Clean the no parking stone. (022)
17. No parking in this area. The wooden posts should be extended further and cars forbidden to park anywhere along this area. (023)
18.No increased parking provision. (024)
19. Introduce residents' parking permits to avoid spill over from station car park. (027)
20. Extra parking is illegal as stated. It would also merely encourage more cars into the village. (028)
21.Agree with documents. (029)
22. No use of the village green for car parking. (030)
23. It is a great pity an area for parking was not set aside before the field because a designated village green How was this missed. Was it not allowed? (031)
24. Can the hedge be dug up and moved back by 8ft or so and replanted thereby providing parking and retaining the hedge? Would it survive? (032)

- 25.....Fully support this proposal. (033)
- 26.....Definitely no parking on the green. (034)
- 27.....Agree no car parking encroachment. (035)
- 28.I am pleased that there can be no scheme to increase the car parking along Freshford Lane. (038)
- 29.Need to deter parking at junctions and a need for deterrence posting along the entire green boundary (but with 2 passing places). (039)
- 30.Lets get to the 21st century rather than 19th when there were no cars or buses. Present arrangement outside school is waiting for an accident to happen. Challenge out of date legislation and apply to create a bus pull in at a safe point on Freshford Lane beyond the school. (042)
- 31.....Extend restriction posts. (046)
- 32.Absolutely no to parking. It's contradictory to all health, wellbeing and natural messages. It's a temporary issue at certain times of the day (school). (048)
- 33.Our views are well known. As long as the PC chooses not to recognise the parking problem for the hill, shop, pre-school, primary school, surgery and residents, then nothing will change. (049)
- 34.Village greens are special areas set aside in law for recreation. So Sec of state unlikely – very unlikely – to allow deregulation of green for parking. In any case, if more parking spaces are made they will be monopolised by commuters who cannot get into the railway station car park. (051)
- 35.....No parking on the green. (052)

QUESTION 15

Comments were invited regarding the possibility of a new layby in Freshford Lane. This is what households said:

- 1.Any suggestions regarding the improvement of school access for the children, particularly those on buses/taxis is to be welcomed. The current situation, with buses blocking the only school pedestrian exit is horrendously dangerous and is probably the most urgent issue in the village at the moment. (001)
- 2.It would be better to use existing gage opening in Freshford Lane to house the bus stop for the school. This is already churned up by cars trying to enter the layby. This would not encroach on the field itself. (002)
- 3.Given the restrictions which are comprehensively outlined in the main document, it is difficult to see how this can be achieved. (004)
- 4.....Worth exploring. (005)
- 5.Freshford Lane layby seems to have the kiss of death. More important is the Sharpstone Lane road which has so narrow a rack that cars cannot pass without illegally trespassing on the Tynning. (006)
- 6.Improving the existing layby and access to the school seems like a good idea. We note damage to the edge of grass verges /unacceptable parking. (010)
- 7.We have looked at this in some considerable details. Use of the layby to further along the lane does not in our view offer a satisfactory solution. It is too remote from the school entrance. (012)
- 8.The current path linking the layby to the school is well used already I agree the layby could be used for school but parking if the school are willing to support this ie providing a member of staff to walk the children to the bus. (014)
- 9.I wouldn't object to a section by the school being used for a layby for the bus. Parent's should use the Galleries car park and deter parking along what should be a pavement. (016)
- 10.I am strongly in favour of the Tynning remaining intact as marked on the 1717 maps. I would lose all confidence in the PC if an application were made to de-register or 'land exchange' any part of it. The existing layby up towards the shop would serve well [illegible word] as long as the old hedge is well protected) and a path in the field side of the hedge (running closely beside it so as not to destroy existing views) would be a much safer passage for children and all pedestrians. I would like this to be a chicken-wire covered board walk, but such a structure is not lawful on a village green. (017)
- 11.Often increased parking mean increased traffic. it would be great if parents shared transport (I'm sure many do) or walked – those in the village. (019)
- 12.I don't think deregistering part of the green to create a layby is a good idea. I would prefer the idea of using the existing layby and linking it to school with a pathway (as in 17). (020)
- 13.There is a layby on Freshford Lane which the bus should have priority over. Too many village people drive their kids to school. We need to encourage bus, bicycle and walking. (021)

14. Shouldn't be necessary. Why can't parents just stop near the school for their children to alight. Why to they have to park and walk? A drop off point outside the school would be best. Remove unwanted yellow markings, which intrude. (022)
15. Leave it as it is. People living outside the catchment area should think twice about sending children to the village school. (023)
16. I don't think it is necessary to have a new layby. (024)
17. Think about where the hedge is which I imagine is owned by the houses opposite. (they can't be very pleased). This would be just for the bus. (025)
18. The safety of children is the responsibility of parents not the village. The problem is illegal parking when dropping off. (027)
19. Using the existing layby is a good idea. Attempting to create a new one is not. (028)
20. Relocating the school bus to the layby at the pound would reduce risk and improve the safety conditions at drop off and pick up times. (030)
21. [creating school layby before village green status] seems to have been a missed opportunity. (031)
22. Would support exploring the last idea in this section, improving the existing layby. (032)
23. Under no circumstances should the Tynning field or its hedge suffer to a layby. The risk is self generated by parents parking in appropriately causing more danger. Sort the parents out. No bark paths. For a 'user' that shows no loyalty to the village way of life and believes they they have a right to traffic provision for their own benefit. (033)
24. No new layby. Paths across the Tynning behind the hedge would make it safer for children walking to school. Could we use rubber, open 'grating' that you see on car parks that grass grows through and can be mown. This gives a firmer surface. (034)
25. Use of the existing layby for school bus parking should be looked at again. The possibility of a path between there and the school, behind the hedge, on the green, would provide a safe connection. In fact, the children even now have created a path from next to the layby to a gate into the school. Has the bus ever parked there to pick up and drop off? (036)
26. Obviously a bigger parking area at the end of the Tynning near the cemetery boundary would be useful but is apparently illegal! (037)
27. I think the school could help matters by ensuring there is enough help to get the children on and off the bus quickly, thereby reducing the amount of time the bus is parked outside the school. I'm not in favour of the bus using space in the existing layby. (038)
28. Need deterrence to encourage use of existing layby and hall parking. (039)
29. We need an off highway bus stop. (042)
30. A new layby would be beneficial but if it cannot be built then ok. (044)
31. Happy for this to happen. I'd like the current arrangement to continue. (045)
32. I quote from section 14 at top of page 7 'it is a criminal offence to damage the surface of a green... creating a surfaced passing place along the Tynning Lane would be a problem for the same reason'. Though narrow, Tynning lane carries two-way traffic and there is no practical alternative to this. I hope the prohibition would only apply to the northern (currently fenced) side of the lane. At present, when two vehicles cross, one of them has to mount the grass verge on the southern side, to its detriment. To provide a hard-surface passing place there is common sense, and would not so much cause damage as prevent it. (047)
33. No, we should encourage different modes. It is only school drop and collect times that it's an issue and there's no obvious solution, eg car share, being promoted or visible. (048)
34. Should only be considered as part of a comprehensive plan for an area between the school and the hall area. (049)
35. Not necessary. (051)
36. No. (052)

QUESTION 16

We asked if more paths should be made on the village green. This is what households said:

1. By slight levelling of the diagonal path (ie from the Tynning corner towards Freshford Lane (field gate)). (004)
2. Varying paths and routes might destroy wildflowers getting established. (008)
3. We note very muddy/slippery access into the Tynning during the winter. Perhaps this will improve when the fence

- is replaced with posts? (010)
- 4.[more paths] possibly from the area of the pound up towards the war memorial. (012)
 - 5.I like the idea of varying the paths cross the Tynning to reduce wear. (014)
 - 6.....Improve the surfaces near gateways. (015)
 - 7.Footfall will destroy the appearance and biodiversity of the Tynning in tie. “formalising’ or hard surfacing them would be a disaster. Mowing alternative routes might work. Topping bark shavings at the gateways helps prevent erosion (see footpath from Tynning to Mill). (017)
 - 8.No need to change the existing arrangement. (022)
 - 9.....This is the countryside! (023)
 - 10.....Improve surfaces near gateways. (026)
 - 11.Certainly the gateways need to have improved surfaces. (031)
 - 12.People tend to follow the most direct route. (032)
 - 13.It is a field for village use, not a thoroughfare. (033)
 - 14.A path from the current gate at the bottom to the school as outlined in section 17 . Also one leading down to the bottom right hand corner of the field (the corner closest to the shop). This would require an entrance/exit. I'd like the current arrangement to continue. (045)

QUESTION 17

Some households commented on the idea of a study for an off-road path along the lower edge of the Tynning:

- 1.Very good idea especially if it removed the buses from the school entrance. (001)
- 2.Could be combined with path inside Galleries field, as in neighbourhood plan. Happy to discuss. (003)
- 3.Gates on the lower road are invitations to small children and animals to pill down on the slope straight across the road. (006)
- 4.Yes, but it would need to be sensitively designed and constructed. (010)
- 5.I think the existing mown path from the layby to the new school gate is adequate. (014)
- 6.[yes to feasibility study] But doesn't it get flooded there in the winter?
- 7.Would be better to upgrade the pavement on other side of road up to shop. (026)
- 8.The muddy areas could be improved with bark chippings. (030)

QUESTION 18

We asked for observations on community fruit trees. This was the response:

- 1.Community fruit trees sound lovely but may not be practical given the need for volunteers. Infilling the hedge with blackberries and nuts might be a more sustainable solution. (001)
- 2.In theory good idea - but open to controversy. (002)
- 3.....Happy to help plant/maintain. (003)
- 4.Unless careful consideration is given to the planting area(s) they might well detract from the integrity of the 'open space' concept. (004)
- 5.....Also nuts and berries in the hedge. (005)
- 6.Fruit which is not gathered is a real problem. It falls, goes rotten and is a mess – and not being able to sell means the village would lack incentive, particularly when a glut occurs. (006)
- 7.Open to vandalism and require on-going maintenance. (008)
- 8.We prefer infilling the hedge with blackberries. (010)
- 9.Would agree that some fruit trees could be planted as part of a revitalised hedge along Freshford Lane. (012)
- 10.A few trees near the graveyard boundary would be an asset to the community. (014)
- 11.A small orchard would be great – but needs looking after. Good for shade in the summer when picnicking. (015)
- 12.Cider apples? Freshford cider sounds good! (016)
- 13.Community orchards/orchards are important for wildlife and heritage apple breeds. I've experiences strong community cohesion benefits through the initiation of community orchards and the customs/activities surrounding orchard and free fruit for the villagers. Already there is a well-established apple day at the village shop. (021)
- 14.Risks disagreement on harvesting fruit. Maintenance could be costly. Most people have their own gardens. Brambles could be left round boundaries for blackberries. (022)
- 15.Two or three trees, especially with blossom, would be nice. (023)

- 16.[no to fruit trees, but] Planting other types of trees good. (026)
- 17.Long term maintenance issues. Not rural in aspect. (028)
- 18.Fruit and nut trees would provide habitat for wildlife and enhance biodiversity. Blackberry bushes along a perimeter would be a positive addition. (030)
- 19.Fruit trees could encourage climbing by children in the future to claim the fruit, and a possible hazard. Some more native trees towards the cemetery end would be good for wildlife and not block the view. (031)
- 20.....Maintenance would be an issue. (032)
- 21.This issues focus upon maintenance and long-term ownership of the trees. (033)
- 22.What about a few specimen copper beeches and/or oaks as well, for future generations. (034)
- 23.But not many (say 5 per cent of the green, on a sloping part) and of the low maintenance, hardy, fruitful type, such as Bramley apples. (036)
- 24.Maintenance might be difficult. They could contribute to a charming more formal picnic area. (037)
- 25.The Tynning field should remain as it is: an open space. (041)
- 26.....Blackberry hedges a good idea. (043)
- 27.....[don't know] Planting scheme required. (044)
- 28.Maintenance? Yes if part of a nature habitat set u p. (048)

QUESTION 19

Some households made additional comments on the idea of managing the Tynning field for nature:

- 1.The Tynning needs to have a community focus rather than a wildlife focus. (010)
- 2.[management of nature] measures must be consistent with the Tynning's primary purpose of village green. (012)
- 3.Quite important for the hedgerows, not so concerned about the field itself. (024)
- 4.If it is managed correctly the Tynning field should manage itself. (033)

QUESTION 20

We left space at the end of the survey for any other comments. This was the response:

- 1.The bare earth across from the war memorial needs some thought. Whilst no one would wish to see dumping it may be that a screened area for skip0s could be provided. For the houses in Sharpstone, it must be very difficult when they are having any work done. A skip is usually only short term. (001)
- 2.We would like to thank the parish councillors for all the work that they do on our behalf. (001)
- 3.Pursue ideas in second para of Section 19 comments [improve biodiversity, encourage wildflowers etc]. (003)
- 4.We would wish to acknowledge the care and consideration which has gone into the preparation of this comprehensive survey. Congratulations and thanks are due to all concerned. With regard to the protection of the Tynning edge adjacent to the Sharpstone approach, I have long advocated a strip of cellular paving (concrete with hexagonal holes to allow grass to grow through). I have had first hand experience of this in a college environment with heavy-duty vehicles passing along a track way in a conservation area. It worked very well, preventing the grassy area turning to mud. As I also found wooden posts for protection are a short-term solution - they either rot or are knocked over. I understand that initial installation could be quite costly but feel that many Freshford residents would be willing to sponsor a metre or two if approached. It would be a rather better outcome than the unsightly mud-churned mess which it so often is. (004)
- 5.We would like to thanks the Parish Council very much for all the time and effort already put in and for the opportunity to give our comments. (005)
- 6.Take the fence along Sharpstone Lane out, level [illegible few words] from a flat surface of maximum size. Reduce the road's visual impact by poles on both sides of the road in this a shared space dimension. Integrate war memorial, cemetery and A. dodge memorial. Remove any hedges etc to open out the view and control dogs, children etc by a difference in level. (006)
- 7.This field is not without many problems and there appear to be no easy answers. The village green status, while good for preserving open spaces in the village, creates many problems in terms of long term maintenance. (008)
- 8.We are impressed by the consultation between Freshford PC and village residents. We use this space every day as we walk our dog and recognise it as a key... (010)
- 9.We think the path from the layby to school is a very good idea for safety, however the entrance should be directly into the school, not back on the Freshford Lane where more congestion will be created. We would like to thank all

- those involved in putting this well thought out document together. (011)
10. We think the PC should be congratulated for purchasing the Tynning and subsequently for producing this consultation document. A lot of hard work has been done and its tone is factual, objective and well balanced. (012)
11. The style of this consultation is leading. It does not really invite innovative suggestions and directs the reader to the PC's preferred approach. (014)
- 12..... Thank you for consulting us. (015)
13. Very excited about the possible improvements possible here especially getting the view back over the overgrown trees. (016)
14. I would like to see q 19 disregarded in any parish deliberations. Managing the Tynning for nature is NOT a matter of public consensus – rather it is the duty of any public authority under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006. The July 2015 Chalkhill environmental report makes reference to this study There is a document which might be helpful: 'Guidance for Public Authorities on Implementing the Biodiversity Duty'. Failure to discharge this duty will leave the PC and those of us who were on TAG open to challenge as surely as failure to provide free public access to our village green. (017)
15. Since we are paying 20 per cent more this year on our contribution to the parish precept, any extra expense for the maintenance of the Tynning would be unacceptable to most of us I admit there would have to be some initial outlay for any projects considered and hope this 20 per cent increase reflects this and that the precept will be reduced in future years. (018)
16. The acquisition of Tynning field as a village green appears to have been mainly for the benefit of dog walkers. They have proved to be unworthy of the privilege rendering the area unsafe for children to play in and unpleasant for the casual dog less stroller. Return the area to its former useful purpose, grazing for cattle. (019)
17. The Tynning management should be an inspiration and example setting and educational living example of how to manage land well in our village. We need to balance the needs for human 'play' with those of struggling nature and wildlife. The Tynning is a huge opportunity to do something meaningful and initiate a legacy of good practice. I hope it won't be missed. Thank you. (021)
18. An area at the graveyard end could be left unsown to encourage wild flowers. Some seeds of egg poppies could be sown and encouraged. (022)
19. I am very impressed with the consultation document but would like to make two observations. First, we don't want everything to look too neat and stylized. Second, the PC simply must take a more proactive and stricter view on parking and dog mess. It is nothing short of disgraceful that the schoolchildren should be denied playing in the field because of dog fouling. Totally unacceptable. I've noticed that many of the best beaches in Wales have bad dogs altogether. (023)
20. I have a reference book on British villages with a section on village green and activities which I would be pleased to lend if anyone was interested. (025)
21. I have never heard or seen such a steep area of land designated a village green. I definitely think of a village green as a flat area with perhaps a few trees around the edge, maybe cricket in the middle. It really was most suitable to be used as in the past with cows grazing, so what you can do seems very limited except as a walkway for other parts of the village. I hope it will be mown once or twice a year to stop it becoming overgrown. (025)
22. Appreciate what a thorough job TAG has done in considering all aspects and producing this consultation document. (026)
23. Avoid changes which would convert the Tynning field to a park. Maintain as rural an aspect as possible. (029)
24. I think it is really important to put in more short posts along Tynning Lane. There are a lot of car tracks on the grass at the moment and according to several villagers they're caused by school mums. Not sure this is true. Could easily be any van/lorry/car driver etc. (032)
25. This is for us all, for all age groups and interests. Wildlife and nature should be of paramount importance. (034)
26. The work that has been done by TAG is excellent and provides a very sensible, sound road map of future management of this critical and much loved village asset. Congratulations. (035)
27. What is important is to strike a balance between satisfying as many people as possible at the least cost and the least amount of voluntary labour. Easier said than done. Well done everyone involved in getting this far. (036)
28. We are very lucky to have such an amenity but it does need good professional input and management. (037)
29. Extremely disappointed with how Freshford Parish Council dealt with the whole issue of Tynning Field. At least this questionnaire is attempting to deal with things now in a democratic way. (038)

- 30.The Tynning field should be left as an open green space. (041)
- 31.A very well researched and put together report and questionnaire. Well done to all involved! (042)
- 32.Purchase of this field has opened a can of works. Not only is there the cost of purchase (which was above value) but also the continuing high cost of maintenance. To my knowledge over more than 30 years no objection was made to the field being fenced and use for agricultural purposes. Indeed it was not generally known that it had village green status. The field at present is a mess and I consider it should be returned to its former use. (046)
- 33.....Thank you for all your work on this. (049)
- 34.My opinion is that a village green should be flat and have a suitable surface for various recreations. I'm sorry to be negative but I didn't think that buying the piece of land in question would be an asset to the village as a greet but an expensive liability over the years to come. I think this piece of land is totally unsuitable as a village green. It's only suitable for grazing and this is no impossible. I voted against buying it!. (050)
- 35.I have written a short history of the Tynning. It can be seen on my unfinished website Freshfordtynning.wordpress.com. I am happy to expand this or hand it over to someone else if the PC would prefer. I do have permission to reproduce the illustrations.