

COLLATION OF QUESTIONNAIRE

A copy of our questionnaire was delivered to every house in the village. We had 28 replies.

We also contacted 31 farmers/landowners by letter and to date we have had 27 replies.

Introduction.

Shearsby is a rural parish in South Leicestershire and the land is mostly agricultural. A large proportion of land is taken up by the three working farms in the village, Thorpehill, Willow Brook, and Beanhill, and much of the rest by farms whose land borders Shearsby from the adjoining parishes. Most of the area is under grass and used as pasture for sheep. Some beef cattle are also kept. The arable fields contain cereal, rape, beans and kale, much of which is winter fodder. Both Thorpehill Farm and Willowbrook Farm have several fields under the stewardship of Natural England.

The few fields left within the conservation area are, on the whole, pasture land mostly grazed by sheep. These fields need to be kept to maintain the rural aspect and to help prevent flooding in the village centre.

The village lies in a hollow with the village green at its centre and it is a close community made up of just seven streets and lanes. The green areas, interspersed around the village and within the conservation boundary, help to provide tranquillity and contribute to the character of the place. The green areas are what make Shearsby special.

Answers to Question 1: The Village Green

Most people did not want to see the green changed in any way and points were made as follows:-

1. The green is a beautiful green space used by many people for a variety of activities. The hope is that it continues to be maintained to a high standard, with regard to trees fencing, wall etc. The edges of the green are strimmed only once a year to encourage wild flowers and wild life.
2. It is a village green. Keep it so. It is not a sports field.
3. No extension to the play area.
4. An extra bench would be useful, and please can we have a picnic table near the play apparatus.
5. A request that the edges are strimmed in summer as well as Autumn.

6. A boules pitch and outdoor ping pong table would be good.

Answers to question 2: Welford Road Bank.

1. 12 persons wanted no change at all.
2. One person pointed out that the two trees were both rare elm trees and need care to protect.
3. Shrubs and bushes round the edge.
4. Planted with cherry trees as they are good for the birds. Tree planting would break up the plain area.
5. Could an area be planted with wild flower seeds?
6. Leave it as it is, it is easier for mowing.
7. Could a bench be put on this area?

. Answers to Question 3: The grass verge by Welford Road bungalows

1. This area and the adjacent garages were designated by H.D.C. for affordable housing. Is this still so?
2. 13 persons wanted no change.
3. Meadow planting with wild flowers would encourage wildlife and enhance appearance. Mow only a path for access.
4. It is a pleasant green area for the residents who live in the bungalows to overlook. Possibly a bench so that they could enjoy the space.
5. Trees could be planted.

Answers to Question 4: The field at the top of Fenny Lane and Bears' Hole.

1. Should this be protected? 17 answered YES, one said absolutely, one said definitely, so that adds up to 19. One said , NO.
2. It should be kept as agricultural pasture land.
3. It certainly needs proper husbandry. It is a disgrace to the village.
4. It is very sad to see this field in its current neglected state. Similarly it is sad that the stream is no longer flowing freely. The field, the stream and Bears' Hole have always been an important part of this village and should be protected. When properly managed and maintained this is a delightful area to walk through when following the footpaths around the village. Can the Council act on this please.
5. As you mentioned, the village children have always played around Bears' Hole. My daughter played there as a child and I feel that now the stream has been blocked it is very unsafe for children. The recent damming of the stream will also cause the stream bed below the dam to grow full of weeds etc., because the water is not

allowed to flow for so much of the year. This dam should never have been allowed.
This dam is changing the whole ecology of the stream bed below the dam.

Question 5 : The spinney in Second Close (field9569)

1. The farmer's wishes come first. (1)
2. 4 persons said "Keep it as it is".
3. 9 persons said "Yes. Please protect it".
4. 1 person said "No."

Question 6: The spinney with the snowdrops.

1. The farmer's wishes come first. (1)
2. 3 persons said "Keep it as it is."
3. 9 persons said "Yes. Please protect it."
4. 1 person said "No."

Question 7: The footpath where the old A50 was cut off in the 1970's.

1. This is a wildlife reserve. Access could be better.
2. This is a wildlife area and should be left unchanged.
3. The briars could be cut back.
4. This footpath needs to be more accessible to walkers but not to motor bikes or vehicles.
5. Please ensure that the right of way is accessible.
6. This area needs clearing.
7. This area should be protected and needs joining to the village with a footpath, so that it can be accessed without the danger of walking along the edge of the A5199 which is a very busy road.