

Harston Residents' Survey – 2014

How can we protect Harston's character? Answers on a postcard, please



The Future of our Village

The Harston Residents' Group is preparing some guidelines to give to the Council that will be taken into account when deciding on planning permission applications (read more at www.harstonvillage.uk).



We need as many views as possible to make sure we are reflecting the views of Harston residents accurately. To start the process, please tell us...

What do you like about Harston?

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)

What could be improved?

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)

Contact me at

Please hand in this postcard to the School, the Baptist Church, All Saints' Church, The Village Stores, Eden's Flowers, Hairs and Graces, Meadow Way Community Room, the Pemberton Arms, the Queen's Head, the Three Horseshoes, Vujon, the BP Garage or give us your ideas at www.harstonvillage.uk

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Summary

The Harston Residents Group was formed in June 2014 in response to the Parish Council's desire to create a Village Design Statement. At its early meetings the group considered the question of what constitutes Harston's distinctive identity and so what needs to be preserved to maintain that identity.

To start the process the group decided to solicit high-level views from Harston Residents and postcards were distributed to each house in Harston in July and October 2014. Residents were invited to express three things that they like about Harston and three things that they consider could be improved. The questions were deliberately open to avoid prompting answers and the intention was to gain a snapshot of local opinion which could be explored in more depth later.

82 responses were received in total, which represents 12% of households (or alternatively 5% of residents) and so whilst the responses cannot be said to represent the views of the majority of Harston residents, the emerging themes are a good indication of the range of views in the village that people care enough about to respond to a slightly vague survey.

The table below shows the categories into which the comments grouped themselves and the number of responses in each category, giving a view of the relative strength of opinion of the different areas¹. All of the comments received are given in full on the following pages.

What do you like?	What could be improved?
The village's amenities (48)	Traffic and the A10 (47)
The countryside / local environment (42)	Traffic speeding (30)
The sense of community & neighbours (32)	The village's amenities (30)
Harston's proximity to Cambridge (23)	Recreation facilities (28)
Harston's access to transport links (17)	How well the village is maintained (22)
The Recreation Ground & Orchard (16)	Cycling and Walking (18)
Living in a village (16)	Public Transport (10)
The village school (14)	Community Spirit (9)
	Housing (9)
	Parking (6)

¹ Note: some comments are repeated in different categories

Like: The countryside / local environment

Beautiful environment

Beauty of area/surrounding villages, pubs. Bus service is good

Close to Cambridge and Stansted yet rural

Country location combined with proximity to Cambridge

Country walks and bike rides from the doorstep

Countryside around Harston and walking paths

Excellent access to green space

Facilities on the doorstep, decent pub, shop, places to walk the dog without getting the car out

Footpath network is very good but connections could be improved

good local walking

Green Belt and rural views throughout the village.

Green spaces

Has greenbelt around it so easy access to the countryside

High street trees

Its rural appearance

Its rural setting

Landscape between Haslingfield and Harston

Like fields and trees around the village

looking out at fields behind and in front (end of London Road)

Lots of it is hidden, so you have to discover bits of it by accident.

Lovely countryside

Natural beauty

Open fields, meadows, orchard and recreation space

Open spaces

Open spaces - orchard, fields

Open views across countryside

Permissive paths for access to countryside

Plenty of countryside walks.

Rural feel, yet proximity to Cambridge, via scenic route

Semi-rural location

Special location very near Cambridge but still in the country

Surrounding countryside

Surrounding countryside

Surrounding fields

The "green-ness" - fields, trees etc.

The Drift and Button End walks

The Footpaths

The Nature Reserve, the football field and The Drift

The rural surround with quick links to Cambridge and beyond

The trees - the older trees lining the High Street etc.

The walks

Unique, beautiful environment

Like: The village school

Excellent local village school

Good school

Great primary school

Our lovely school.

School

The Primary School

The school

The school

The school

The School (when my children were there)

The school.

There is a good primary school

Village school

Village school, very friendly and churches welcoming

Like: The sense of community & neighbours

Community	Sense of a village in spite of A10 split
Community groups and activities esp events like village picnic	Small community and isn't surrounded by roads i.e. bypasses cutting people off from the countryside
Community Spirit	Small village community
Friendly and helpful people	The community feel
Friendly and safe place to bring up children	The community feel
Friendly people	The cultural activities: e.g. concerts, amateur dramatics, village hall activities
Friendly people	The friendliness of the people.
Friendly village	The friends I have made after living here for over 40 years.
Good carrying capacity retains village community	The older residents are friendly
How safe we feel in our house, street, walking around the village	The people
It is a lovely size to know people whilst having great transport links for work and play	The sense of care in the community: e.g. the Monday Lunch Club and the Meadow Way Community Centre, specifically to help the elderly.
Its community spirit	The sense of community
Its social activities	Very friendly area, neighbours care about each other
Local spirit. Neighbourliness is OUTSTANDING	Village community
Nice environment for families	We live in Church Street which is a lovely friendly community
People who have been living in Harston for a while seem to be very happy with the community	
People who live in Harston	

Like: Harston's proximity to Cambridge

Close enough to town but the advantage of being a village	Location - proximity to Cambridge
close proximity to Cambridge	Location close to Cambridge
close to Cambridge	Proximity to and separation from Cambridge
close to Cambridge	Proximity to Cambridge
Close to Cambridge and Stansted yet rural	Proximity to Cambridge
Close to hospital, Cambridge and villages	Proximity to Cambridge
Country location combined with proximity to Cambridge	Proximity to Cambridge. Regular buses
Distance to Cambridge	Relaxed village with quick access to Cambridge.
Ease of access to Cambridge	Rural feel, yet proximity to Cambridge, via scenic route
Easy access to City and Motorway	Special location very near Cambridge but still in the country
It is near Cambridge but still a village and should remain so.	The rural surround with quick links to Cambridge and beyond
It's close to Cambridge	

Like: Living in a village

A nice village

Close enough to town but the advantage of being a village

Good mix of residential, agricultural and commercial

It is a village with definite borders, not urban sprawl

It is near Cambridge but still a village and should remain so.

It is peaceful

Peaceful

Quiet and friendly

Relaxed village with quick access to Cambridge.

Small village

Still a village but needs a central point. No large stores/chains

That it retains its village status A sufficient number of houses already, thank you.

That it's not Cambridge

The current size and number of inhabitants

The quieter areas

Village feeling (no new development)

Like: The Recreation Ground and Orchard

Community facilities - the recreation ground and orchard/ meadow and the village hall

Community ground/orchard

Community orchard

Open fields, meadows, orchard and recreation space

Open spaces - orchard, fields

Orchard

Orchard and Rec

Orchard and the rec

Recreation Ground and fields behind

The Nature Reserve, the football field and The Drift

The orchard

The orchard

The orchard and rec

The rec and orchard

The recreation area and conservation

The recreation ground

Like: Harston's access to transport links

Accessibility to all directions

Beauty of area/surrounding villages, pubs. Bus service is good

Bus route to Cambridge

Bus services

Close to Cambridge and Stansted yet rural

Close to M11 and A14

Close to M11 and rail at Foxton

Close to major commuting routes (A14, M11 etc)

Easy access to City and Motorway

Good bus service to Cambridge and Royston

Good transport links to A1

It is a lovely size to know people whilst having great transport links for work and play

Its location: e.g. access to M11

Proximity to Cambridge. Regular buses

The A10

The A10

The rural surround with quick links to Cambridge and beyond

Like: The village's amenities

Beauty of area/surrounding villages, pubs. Bus service is good

Community facilities - the recreation ground and orchard/ meadow and the village hall

Community facilities - the recreation ground and orchard/ meadow and the village hall

Facilities on the doorstep, decent pub, shop, places to walk the dog without getting the car out

Friendly village shop

Good shop/Post Office

Got a garage shop

Got a post office with a friendly shop

Has church x 2, post office, school and a variety of clubs and pubs - friendly.

Having a Post Office and local shop

Having our own Post Office, shop, petrol station and florist.

I like it as we have no superstore

Like good restaurants - especially Vujon

Local amenities including shops, post office, pubs and petrol station.

Local businesses

Local facilities - shop, hairdresser, Doctors' surgery, village hall etc.

Lovely village hall

No supermarket

Our village shop is great. NO to Tesco. No No No. Bring back Subaru or Volvo

Post Office and shop

Post Office and Shop have almost everything you need at last minute and great hours

Post Office is a plus in the village shop

Post Office, shop, hairdresser, surgery

Pubs

Pubs

Pubs and restaurants

Shops

Still a village but needs a central point. No large stores/chains

Superb village store and Post Office

That we have a post office in a nice friendly grocery store

The 5 Ps of a good village: Post Office, Pub, Parish Church, Petrol, Provisions

The Amenities

The Church

The doctors at the surgery although I think they have become too busy in last 10 years.

The fact that it has a church, school, doctor's surgery with its own dispensary, various clubs and village amenities including the hairdresser and beauty salon

The Harston Post Office And Shop: It's useful to have a food shop at the centre of Harston.

The shop

The shop and post office

The shop and the family which run it

The Shop and the Post Office

The Village Hall

The village hall

There is no supermarket

Village school, very friendly and churches welcoming

Village shop

Village shop and post office

Village Shop and Post Office - Church - school

Wonderful having a GP Practice with dispensary and a Village shop with a Post Office.

Other Likes

As it is

It's where I got married

No ribbon development please

The Buildings

Tidy

Improvement: Traffic and the A10

In advance - a way of coping with ever-denser traffic coming through the village.

A bypass or better traffic calming

A bypass! The A10 is so busy or at least better traffic calming

A crossing could be put near the lights as you come into the village from Cambridge

A10 has become extremely busy, if there are proposal to build a bypass from Royston to M11 or similar it should be pursued

A10 road

A10 road traffic, especially number of trucks

Addition of a By-pass

Another road crossing

Better pavements

Bypass

Bypass

Bypass

Bypass and train station

Bypass!

Bypass!!!

Bypass/divert heavy traffic

Crossing at traffic lights as you enter from Cambridge

Detour the heavy traffic off the A10

Divert heavy lorries

Heavy traffic diverted

It would be wonderful to lose some of the heavy traffic through the village.

Less through traffic/ through traffic that actually kept to the speed limit

Less traffic

Less traffic and travelling more slowly

Less traffic on A 10 and 30 mile an hour speed limit on London Road

More pedestrian crossings.

Please, an A10 by-pass (this was mandated to the PC back in the early 2000's after a special village meeting to gauge and collect opinion - overwhelmingly, people wanted one then. I really think the time is ripe to re-visit.

Reduce traffic on A10

Reduced traffic levels and speed (especially articulated trucks, which should be using the A505 instead)

Roads like most places could be improved

The A10 congestion should be reduced by providing a bypass route from Royston to motorway.

The A10 need to be better monitored by highways due to high accident rate on corner near war memorial

The condition of the roads

The road

Traffic

Traffic - quantity and speeds through the village. E.g. London road should be have a 30 mile per hour limit and have flashing speed limit signs to remind people. Speed signage should be improved.

Traffic control in general/more crossings, cycle ways - a Bypass!

Traffic control so that we can get onto the main road (car) and cross it (foot)

Traffic on the A10

Traffic re-routed onto A505/M11 especially lorry's satnavs should show A505/M11 as preferred route

Traffic slow along A10 (too much, too quick)

Traffic volume and speed through village.
Bypass

Very heavy traffic on the High Street (time we had a bypass)

We need a bypass

We don't need a bypass spoiling greenbelt land. We need traffic sent on A505/M11 instead. Garages don't like this as it supposedly removes 'clients' so get rid of the garages as well.

The by-pass is way overdue and has been discussed since the late '50's. We have a recorded mandate from earlier "this" century after a village meeting where the vote was carried to petition SCDC and the Highways Agencies for the same. Now, more than ever, we have the immediate responsibility to keep chasing the Government for something that they are bound to provide for a rural community such as ours.

Improvement: Traffic speeding

A 30mph speed limit on London Rd, like the rest of Harston.

Church Street speeding/A10 corner

Controlling the speed of cars on various roads into the village to ensure they stick to the limit.

Enforcing of speed limits along High Street/Royston Road. Introduce speed cameras

Less through traffic/ through traffic that actually kept to the speed limit

Less traffic and travelling more slowly

Less traffic on A 10 and 30 mile an hour speed limit on London Road

London road speed limit to 30mph (unless this would change the timings on the traffic lights)

Reduce London Road speed limit

Reduced traffic levels and speed (especially articulated trucks, which should be using the A505 instead)

Slow down A10 traffic enough that people choose alternative routes

Slowing of traffic on the A10 - install speed cameras, especially outside the primary school and village hall

Speed bumps/traffic calming measures

Speed calming measures down Church St, Station Rd and London Rd

Speed limit enforcement

Speed reduction on High Street

Speed restrictions.

Speeding on the high street. Traffic calming needs to be put into place, especially near the school

The A10 to be properly a 30 mph road and Church Street to be a 20 mph

Traffic - quantity and speeds through the village. E.g. London road should be have a 30 mile per hour limit and have flashing speed limit signs to remind people. Speed signage should be improved.

Traffic is so fast

Traffic is so fast. More safe crossings and traffic calming.

Traffic slow along A10 (too much, too quick)

Traffic volume and speed through village. Bypass

Traffic, you never see a mobile speed trap in the village. There is no respect for them fact there is a school in station road and it is 30mph.

Lorries driving past our house at 60mph is frankly dangerous. The national speed limit just past the residential section of London Road means drivers still drive recklessly in the residential section. I have even been overtaken in both directions between my house and the Vujon junction which is frankly ludicrous.

We live in London Rd and we have 2 little ones under 5. Traffic is terrible here. I really cannot understand how it has been allowed to keep 40mph in a lovely and quite village like Harston.

Safety is a big concern for us, recently I attended a AA course where they made clear the huge difference between driving at 30mph to 40mph, in any traffic accident is a matter of live or die. At the end of the road (towards Newton) it gets worst as lots of cars exceed 40mph!

It's a nice village but is blighted by the fast speed of cars and lorries and what seems to be a large increase in number of vehicles.

I think speed cameras on the A10 at either end of the village would slow vehicles down and would thus make it a less favourable route. It would also generate revenue.

Improvement: Public transport

Bus service - service should be extended to include early and late evening services.

Public transport (more than 1 bus an hour - up to the Park & Ride, at least)

Buses out of the village at times that get working people to work or the station

Public transport. Buses running later and on Sundays

Public transport

Re-open the train station

Public transport

Transport Harston to Park and Ride. If not by bus could the community car scheme include this in their service?

Public transport

We should also work towards getting our railway station back. It would make communications so much easier. Our buses are infrequent, few and don't run much later than early evening. This is quite extraordinary given that other smaller and further villages to Cambridge enjoy a far more regular and well used service.

Improvement: Cycling & Walking

A proper cycle lane through the village.
Pavements are dangerous due to large hedges
hiding drives and road is busy and cyclists are
used as traffic calming measure.

Better cycle path along the A 10

Better footpaths and a clear cycle path.

Better maintained and safe cycle paths

Connect footpaths between Queens close and
new road etc.

Cycle path into Cambridge. Dangerous
driveways with no vision for cars and bushes
growing on to pavement

Cycle paths

Cycle/foot paths

Ensure the footpath/ cycleway connections
into/out of the village are in good shape. For

example connecting the east end of London
Road to Donkey Lane would improve the
connectivity with Hauxton. The footpath to
Barrington is difficult to navigate in places

Footpath to Newton

Harston High Street needs a cycle path

Looking at cycling alternatives for the High
Street especially.

More footpath connections

More paths

Places for people to walk

Safer cycle paths

The cycle path on the high street and access
for bikes.

Cycle tracks criss-crossing from one side of the A10 to the other are ridiculous.

Improvement: Recreation facilities

A sports building

Access to the Recreation Ground before 08:30
(like we used to have)

Better focal point for the village and better
use of the rec.

Children's play equipment in the recreation
ground (for grandchildren)

Facilities e.g. playground, gym

Facilities for young adults (tennis courts?)

I think it is a shame that the village no longer
has a cricket team but such is life.

More facilities on Rec. i.e. tennis courts

Move children's play area further into playing
field

Need a gym

Older children's play equipment

Put swimming pool on Saab garage site

Rec and playground area - even once the new
equipment is installed, there are things that
could be done to make the Rec more useful
and utilized.

Recreation ground

Recreation park. More children's play
apparatus

Some playground and sport areas

Swing park

Tennis court or something for young to do.
Low density housing.

The park

The playground and facilities for children

The rec and playground space - given the
space it could be SO much more for the village

The Recreation ground and play area - the
worst in South Cambs despite being one of
the largest areas.

The swing park, footpaths/walks
 Toilet facilities on the rec to be accessible always
 Playground facilities for young children - present facilities vastly inferior to e.g. Haslingfield

A decent children's play area - all of the surrounding villages put us to shame in this regard!

It was a great step backwards when [dog walkers] were banned from using the Recreation Ground before 08:30, as this move simply hit the professionals within the village who had no choice but to walk early in the morning...I would be enormously grateful if we could restore early morning access [and return to a fixed closing hour], and there are several others in similar positions who would also back this suggestion. *[edited]*

We await the developments with the play area, but most importantly, you'll need to secure it with proper CCTV, security and flood lighting (just a word from one who is in contact with many other Parish Councils whose new play areas are all too easily damaged, vandalised or abused).

Improvement: The village's amenities

A bank
 A butcher and a baker. More community orchards
 A coffee shop near the centre which could become a reasonably - priced restaurant by night - for instance, and Italian restaurant.
 A good cafe or coffee shop
 A Green Grocers
 A nice, good quality deli & cafe (such as Shelford deli or Magog farm shop)
 A shop which is useful for things other than the odd emergency purchase
 Be nice to have a fish and chip shop or van
 Care/Nursing Home. Quite a number of elderly people in Harston. Relatives have to travel to see them.
 Don't let Tesco in
 Fish and chip shop
 Get rid of the garages. Who needs 3 top end car sales places in a tiny village
 Good fish and chip shop
 Harston needs a supermarket

It would also be useful to use the village hall car park for visits to the village shop/post office.
 Keeping Tesco's out (look at Shelford)
 Limited facilities - a locally run independent coffee shop would be great
 Local bakers
 More amenities, shops in particular
 More shops
 More shops, eg butcher, baker, greengrocer, NOT supermarkets, NOT TESCO
 Pavilion - could be changed so that it is more useful for community events. E.g. extending it on one side to create a large room with a window for community groups or for hire.
 Remove the threat of Tesco, which is likely to ruin local businesses
 Say no to Tesco
 Say no to Tesco
 The pub
 The pubs
 The village hall should have a coffee shop in it like the new one in Melbourn. It would be a

great place for the community to mix and meet

Would be nice to have a coffee shop/cafe/bakery etc. in the village and for the only village shop to be less grungy

Our surgery is stretched beyond its original purpose size. It amazes me we still have a service - we need to protect it and improve it.

Improvement: How well the village is maintained

Bus stop High Street in dire need of replacement

Cutting back trees and shrubs alongside footpaths on A10 and Church Street

Drains not cleared

Fix the bus shelter opposite the bp garage, it's almost falling down.

Footpaths!!! the state is terrible and not nice for kids to ride bikes or scooter or even to walk

Harston must have its own clear identity and not become just a suburb of Cambridge. The entrance into the village should be updated with white fencing like other small villages in the area and more trees. The general housekeeping needs to be kept update e.g. weeds on the central reservation by London Road, old signage by the PFS and the shop, broken wall by Park House and bus shelters.

High street, the footpath is dirty with the overhanging trees

Keeping hedges cut back from footpaths and keep the cycle way clear from overgrown verges and hedges

Keeping the village tidy is very important as it helps reduce further mess or vandalism.

Maintenance of roads, pavements and cycle way

New bus shelter

Paths bad state

Pavement surfacing in the Paddock and Lawrence Lea - it hasn't been resurfaced for donkey's years and now looks very tatty

Removal of over-hanging bushes etc. along pavements

The island at the approach to the village on the traffic lights with London Road is an eyesore and gives an "untidy-we-don't-care" impression

The litter on A10, outside the shop and at the school

The trees at the front of 38 The Limes

Tidy verges and pavements

Trees and hedges cut back

Trees on the green spaces looked after when branches are broken

To have clean pavements (particularly bad in autumn)

North approach to the village. Central reservation by the traffic lights is appalling.

Improvement: Community Spirit

A better "community" spirit.

More of a village hub

Neighbourhood Watch

Sense of community

Street party <http://www.thebiglunch.com>.

We don't have children in school in Harston nor are we church goes so it's difficult to feel a part of a community

There is no central event to bring the village together, unlike Shelford for example

Having Village events - we're the only village I'm aware in our area that has no distinctive major village events.

Harston is a good place to live but there's room for more community spirit - for bringing people together more often so that we are living together and not just next to each other.

I also feel that apart from the churches and pubs Harston lacks a local meeting place that is open all the time such as a small independent coffee and cake shop. Somewhere Mums and babies can just drop into during the day.

Improvement: Parking

Church Street. Less parking in the street, especially during surgery

Lack of parking at the surgery

More parking in Church Street

More parking in Station Road (school)

Re-locate Dr Surgery from Church St to the recreational ground where there is better parking

The Drs Surgery needs more parking and patients need discouraging from parking over drive ways etc. on Church Street

Improvement: Housing

Affordable housing for locals

Building more houses which adds more traffic

Further housing to be limited to a few houses and these to be affordable for local people

No more housing

No more new estates - only infilling

Range of housing (not much affordable housing)

Stop more building in back gardens

We want less planning permission for buildings

I would have thought the existing and proposed local plan policies control new development adequately in the village. A Neighbourhood Plan will be useful if residents want something more/ greater levels of development. Having said that it is always useful to be prepared in case some future development proposal comes along unexpectedly

Other Improvements

Access to the river

Bus stop at end of Queens Close for Shelford

Ensure the primary school has enough classrooms and adequate facilities for the growth of the village

Having an active, democratic, elected Parish Council interested what's best for the whole village and not personal agendas - and a PC website that was maintained and modern!

Increased reception signal for mobile devices (e.g. phones, radios etc)

Some support for the soft play place that seems to be really struggling

Village communication

Vujon: It sits on a busy corner, but remains relatively empty. Either make it meet monthly goals, or replace it, else it will slowly crumble.

Other Comments

At what levels are issues such as the Bayer sports field and developments at Trumpington discussed with Hauxton Parish Council?

Could you please update me on the playground funding and the total we have to spend and when we can order etc?

I am quite shocked that new developments such as Trumpington meadows are done without dealing with the access roads. Access to supermarket is very difficult due to traffic.

Receiving the newsletters, and now the website, is nice to find out what is happening in Harston.

The development down Orchard Close is an example of how good new housing can look, so we must try to make sure similar house building is as tasteful

The stop Tesco campaign seems to be very one sided assuming that everybody is against Tesco. It would have a lot more validity if there was a for/against vote collected by visiting houses (not by email or on line via the web site). I suspect many people who do not use computers will vote for.

There is not need for a supermarket in the village. As traffic is my no 1 concern, I am amazed that Tesco are even considering a store on the busy A10: I dread the chaos if it gets the go-ahead! I come from Swavesey, where there has never been a supermarket and it is a thriving village. It is bigger than Harston. Why do we need one here? Why does Tesco have to cash in on the fact that we have a main road running through our village? A better bus service to take those without a car to the larger store in Royston would be better for everyone.

There have been a number of young men riding motorbikes without helmets around Queen's close.

Village magazine monthly

We have a beautiful village. Don't turn it into Trumpington.

Where did this idea come from, is it anything to do with the local planning requirements?