

Results Summary of The Footpath land use survey

By Harston Residents Group 4.3.2026 on Feb 2026

The issue of use of The Footpath land to north of southern space safeguarded for surgery parking did not come up as an issue in the NP consultation, probably because the likelihood of the large allotment becoming vacant was not known then.

Consultation on the southern end within the village framework for parking was overwhelmingly supported (93% agreed to NP policy HAR 19) by public consultation, along with other measures to reduce congestion in Church St - all together as one package. For this reason consultation was focused on the space beyond the area already consulted on.

Survey results

Present use of land.

The photo survey Feb 2026 of existing allotment use on S Cambs allotment map shows that the large allotment No 4 is well maintained. It was difficult to identify the boundaries of allotments 1, 2, 3 & 3A. No 1 appeared to have recently been cleared and No 2 had chickens on it. One opposite No 10 house had a car parked on it probably as the driveway for No 10 was full of cars. I don't think this is normally the case as I've never seen cars parked there before.

The questionnaire survey had 4 responses saying they rented allotments at present. Of the 4, 3 were 10, 14, 16 the Footpath & 16 Church St adjacent to Footpath so all in close proximity. All said they had allotment use and one had additional garden use. All 4 wished to continue renting, including tenants of the large allotments most people mistakenly thought would be vacated soon. The family maintaining it had had this for many years and their father before them. It had always been well maintained.

Additional comments given backed up the opinion that the area should be for Footpath residents use as they didn't want strangers going down what was a private road that those who were owner occupiers, were liable to pay maintenance for. They also didn't want the possibility of more cars. Nor did they want a loss of privacy with strangers able to see into back gardens. They also said existing residents used their own water supplies but there was none if people came who didn't live there.

Future Use of the land

Allotments: 12 out of 13 respondents said they were against anyone elsewhere in the village being able to use allotments there in the future and the one who said yes, was probably because they didn't live in The Footpath, but adjacent to it, so might be excluded if only Footpath residents were allowed to rent. 11 again said priority should be given to Footpath residents.

Only 3 people said they didn't want allotments, 9 for retaining them on land beyond the safeguarded area.

Doubling nature: No clear majority as 6 said they wanted the remaining land for a natural area with 7 not agreeing. However, only 4 said they wanted some of the land for a natural area, with 7 disagreeing. As regards the land safeguarded for parking, the majority (7) said it should remain as a natural area while waiting for the parking, but 4 disagreed. Recent very low mowing of the safeguarded area and removal of some bushes has reduced the biodiversity of the area.

Community amenity: the majority (7/8) didn't want a grassed area with bench or swings but a big majority (9) agreed that a proposal for an orchard with bench for local residents (put forward by No 2A) on the recently vacated large allotment was a good idea. NB this was on the assumption that it would become vacant, but the tenants are now saying they wish to retain the large allotment.

A separate summary of the comments from the responses are below the questionnaire. They support the majority view that the land in the Footpath should be for Footpath residents' use.

Harston Residents Group: The Footpath Land Use Survey results

Why this survey?

Some residents have raised concerns about the proposed use and maintenance of land in The Footpath, particularly since the large allotment (purple box on map) has recently become vacant.

Policy HAR19 of Harston Neighbourhood Plan, adopted in Oct 2025 has safeguarded land for future landscaped off-street parking for the Surgery at the southern end, inside the village development framework.

The present PC is considering reinstating all the remaining land as allotments. S Cambs own the land and they have previously considered using land in The Footpath for 'doubling nature'.

Please offer your opinions in this survey (circle yes or no)

Present use of the land

Do you currently rent any of the land from S Cambs? 4 Yes 9 No
Of the 4, 3 were 10, 14, 16 the Footpath & 16 church St adjacent to Footpath.

If Yes, is it used as an allotment? 4 Yes No
or for other garden use 3 Yes 1 No
Do you wish to continue renting the land? 4 Yes No

Future Use of the land

Allotments

I believe all the remaining land should be used for allotments for anyone living in the village 1 Yes 12 No

I believe that the residents of The Footpath should be given priority in renting the allotments 11 Yes 1 No
The one No is household who lives adjacent to Footpath.

I believe all the land in The Footpath should be rented to just residents of The Footpath 10 Yes 2 No

I believe none of the land beside The Footpath should be used for allotments 3 Yes 9 No
Those saying yes were 2, 2 a & 4 – opposite the large allotment

Doubling nature

I believe all of the remaining land should be used for a natural area 6 Yes 7 No

I believe some of the remaining land should be used for a natural area 4 Yes 7 No

I believe an interim natural area should remain on the land safeguarded for parking 7 Yes 4 No

Community amenity

I believe some of the land should be grassed over with possibly a bench for the elderly 4 Yes 7 No
Or possibly with a swing for the children. 4 Yes 8 No

I believe that the proposal for an orchard with bench for local residents on the recently vacated large allotment is a good idea 9 Yes 3 No
opposed by people who have the existing allotments

Other use & other comments (including reasons for preferences)

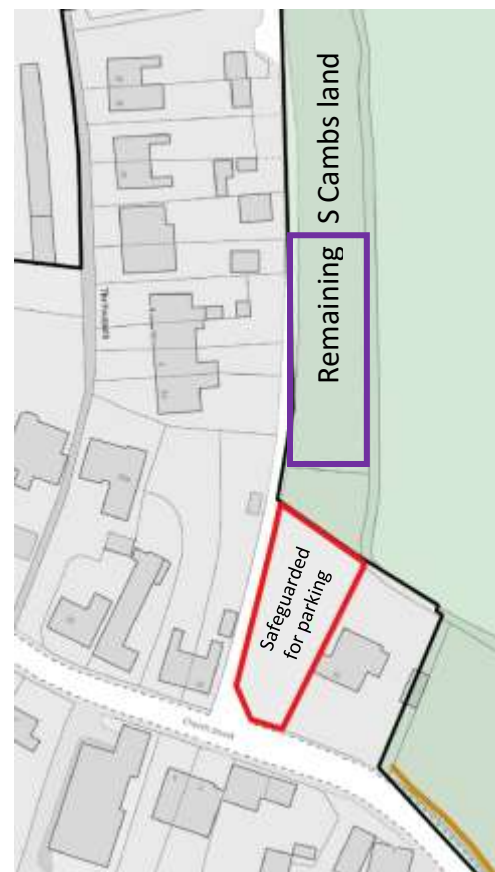
I believe all or some of the land should be used for:-

Continue overleaf

Your street and house number are No: Street: 8 from Footpath, 5 from Church St

Please post the completed survey in the letterbox of No 4 The Footpath, by 23 Feb 2026

Thank you



Summary of comments on HRG The Footpath Landuse survey

19 survey questionnaires were delivered. 10 to all The Footpath residences and 9 to nearby houses in Church St (12-22A and 1-9).

8 of the 10 Footpath questionnaires were returned (80%) and 5 for Church St (56%), overall a 68.5% response, particularly indicating the concern expressed by The Footpath residents.

In addition those below added further comments.

R2 Ch St	Note re first paragraph on survey sheet- 100% incorrect that large allotment has become vacant as they are the holders. Future use of allotment – support land for allotments but think that is optimistic based on recent interest as remaining plots have not been taken up & cultivated for some time. History- land used to be gardens of demolished houses, then 3 plots let and all 3 occupied by residents of Footpath. 1960s land taken out of use when main sewage system put in. Tenancy by father first, then sons for large allotment. Against swings as may encourage children to cross/risk road. Only support parking if for surgery not patients, as would need to control the latter.
R3 Ch St	Land used for residents, children play area or orchard.
R5 Footpath	Priority is to maintain the privacy of the road (The Footpath) for us residents. The road is maintained at expense of its residents & any additional users would mean damages would be paid for at The Footpath resident's expense. In order of preference: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rental of large allotment to No 2a – proposed for orchard & biodiversity/wildlife habitat. 2. S Cambs Doubling Nature 3. Allotments for The footpath Residents
R6 Footpath	Use for orchard. Swing if orchard proposal is refused. Residents of the Footpath have neither the time, if working, nor the energy, if elderly for more allotments, especially as several allotments are available on the Haslingfield road site. Also no access to water in the Footpath & no parking available.
R7 footpath	Residents of the footpath only
R8 Ch St	We believe the best idea are park with children's equipment, orchard with beehive.
R10 Footpath	20 years in Footpath, 30 in Harston – came here because it was tucked out of the way with farm one side and allotments the other. Already lost privacy to Beech Farm development would need to know how any possible additional traffic on footpath access road would be an enhancement for Footpath residents Proposals that refer to use of access road need to be mindful that it is a private road to Footpath dwellings along with pumping station at end & is not adopted by the council. Allotments to be used by wider community would be of detriment and cost to residents of Footpath because: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Where are they going to park? 2. Where are users going to get a water supply for effective cultivation? 3. How will users contribute to upkeep & maintenance of road (as residents of Footpath are liable)? No need for bench or swing as residents have ample room in gardens. Good play facilities area available in the Rec. Don't want people/strangers wandering along the Footpath access or dropping litter there. Better signage at entrance to Footpath would make it clear that it is access for Footpath residents not for the general public and that it is not access to the public footpath the other side of the houses. We think orchard suggestion by No 2A household for Footpath residents to use would be good use of the large allotment (if/when it becomes vacant).
R11 Footpath	We think the land should be for folks on the Footpath to use as allotments or as they see fit.
R12 Footpath	The Footpath is a dead end road. If this site becomes a playground etc people will drive to it and park along the Footpath. Some drivers that go to the GP surgery park directly in front of the road and block anyone trying to enter and leave.

24 Feb 2026 photo survey of the Footpath. NB: It was bin day so probably why bins were all out



Grass cut low on 4.3.2026 + brambles and some bushes removed