

Fordingbridge Town Council: Open Spaces Survey Results October 2020

Number of Household Recipient's: 3000

Number of Respondents: 430 (14%)

1. How would you rate the condition or features of the open spaces you visit.

Spaces indicated:

Falconwood (NFDC)	30%
Marl Lane (HCC)	71%
Allen Water Drive-left (FTC)	53%
Allen Water Drive-right (FTC)	55%
AVP (HCC)	52%
Recreation Ground (FTC)	63%
Sweatford Water Meadows (NFDC)	65%
Parsonage Park -left (FTC)	59%
Parsonage Park-right (NFDC)	51%
Other	13%

Other: Puddleslosh Lane, Ashford, Old Railway Line, Frog Lane, Bishops Pond, St Mary's, Whitsbury Rd SANG

	Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor
Maintenance	9%	47%	30%	7%	3%
Overall Impression	8%	50%	31%	3%	2%
Condition	3%	33%	43%	12%	3%
Ease of access-condition	8%	39%	33%	15%	2%
Facilities(children/young people	4%	26%	38%	16%	4%
Facilities older people	3%	17%	38%	27%	7%
Number condition seats/benches	0.9%	15%	37%	32%	9%
Trees	6%	40%	35%	9%	3%

2. If you could improve the open space you use most, which listed would you most like changed scale of 1-7(1 most wanted/7 least)

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Trees/Shrubs	28%	9%	11%	12%	10%	7%	6%
Bins: dog/litter	26%	13%	14%	11%	6%	10%	6%
Info Boards	4%	6%	11%	7%	9%	16%	28%
Improved boundaries	8%	10%	13%	15%	14%	14%	7%
Seating	18%	16%	12%	13%	12%	8%	3%
Better Paths	28%	19%	16%	8%	7%	6%	2%
Access to River/Stream	18%	15%	11%	10%	10%	8%	12%

3. If we could provide more types of open space, which would you choose. (Rate in order of importance 1-5.)1 very important, 5 least)

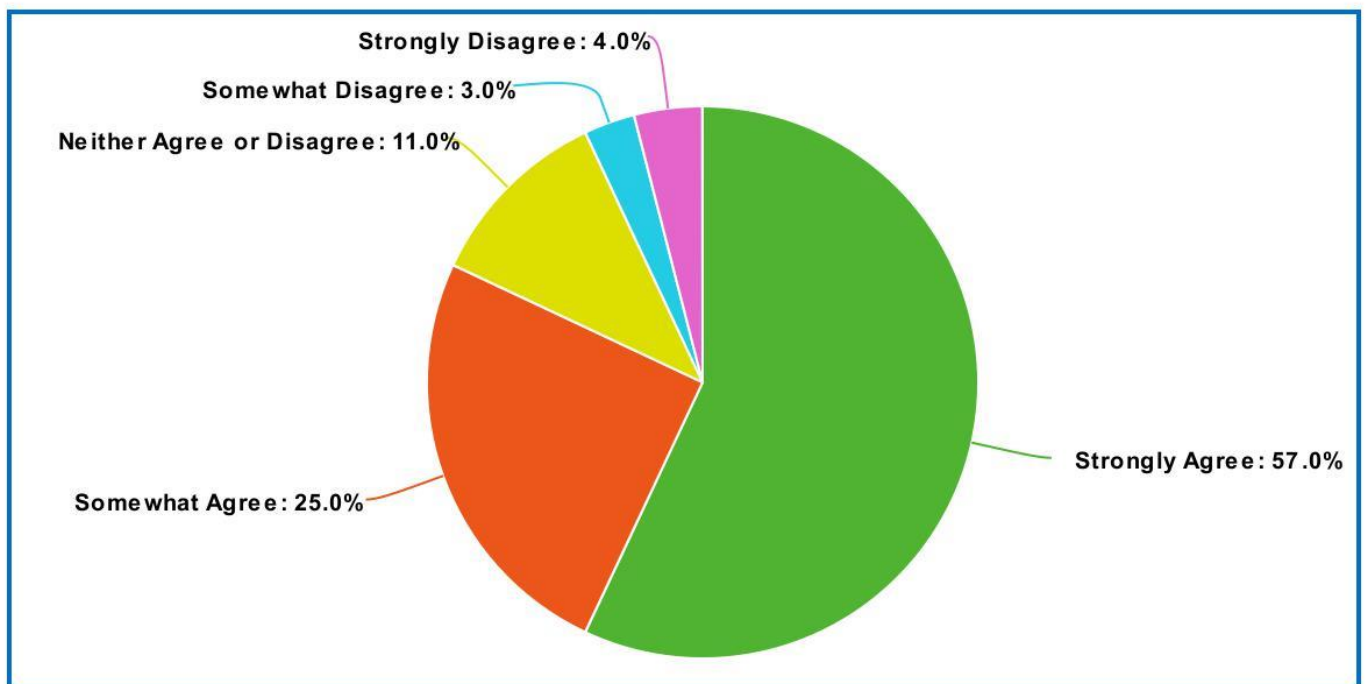
	1	2	3	4	5
Park or public garden with facilities	25%	14%	9%	21%	16%
Green Corridor	38%	17%	19%	8%	5%
Natural open space	42%	24%	13%	8%	5%
Visual green space	16%	10%	15%	13%	31%
Woodland	28%	20%	19%	11%	11%

Other: Common Themes:

More footpaths/cycle routes, nature reserve, ponds, accessible spaces, allotments, dog friendly areas, spaces that preserve and encourage wildlife, picnic areas, access to river, more sports facilities

4. Proposed Trailway:

Proposed Trailway



■ Strongly Agree
 ■ Somewhat Agree
 ■ Neither Agree or Disagree
■ Somewhat Disagree
 ■ Strongly Disagree

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Comments:

Positive: Majority of responses would value the creation of a trailway due to recreational, health and environmental benefits as long as there is clear and separate cycling and walking lanes, that it is surfaced correctly and maintained. Needs to be linked to other through routes or circular.

Negative:

Concerns that this would be an over sanitised looking path. Should be used as a relief road needed with new housing developments. Not needed, already a footpath and used by cyclists.

5. How do you rate the condition of the footways around the Town?

Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor
0.5%	18%	43%	24%	12%

Comments:**Positive:**

None stipulated

Negative:

Dog excrement, overgrown hedges, narrow pavements, surfaces uneven, poor state of repair, risk of injury to pedestrians, not accessible, poorly lit, restricted, lack of maintenance.

6. How do you rate the condition of the roads in the Town?

Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor
0.2%	4%	20%	43%	31%

Comments:**Positive:**

Less cutting of verges will increase wildlife habitat.

Negative:

Poor condition of roads, potholes/uneven surfaces everywhere. No preventative action or planned maintenance taken. Not fit for purpose. Too many HGV's. Unsafe for road users, cyclists and pedestrians. Particular roads highlighted regarding very poor surfacing: Waverley Rd, High St, Salisbury Street, Salisbury Rd, Parsonage Park Drive, Station Rd, Ashford Rd. Verges not maintained

7. How do you rate the level of street lighting around the Town?

Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor
5%	39%	40%	10%	4%

Comments:

Positive:

Good generally. Lights could be switched off for longer at night to conserve energy.

Negative:

Requires updating. Patchy in some areas. Trees can obstruct lighting causing risks to pedestrians at night, particularly on Station Road. Poor lighting and reduced lighting hours can give rise to criminal and antisocial behaviours. Need a torch if walking at night.

8. How do you rate the provision of car parking around the Town?

Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor
12%	40%	30%	12%	4%

Comments:

Positive:

The town benefits from the large car park. Improved layout with new refurbishment of car park.

Negative:

Insufficient parking spaces in main car park, not enough long stay spaces. Too expensive, consideration should be give 30mins-60mins free parking or residents permits.
On street parking increasing with little enforcement, clearer signage, higher penalties.

9. How do you rate the provision of bus services in the Town?

Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor
8%	40%	27%	13%	4%

Comments:

Positive:

X3 good frequent and efficient service.

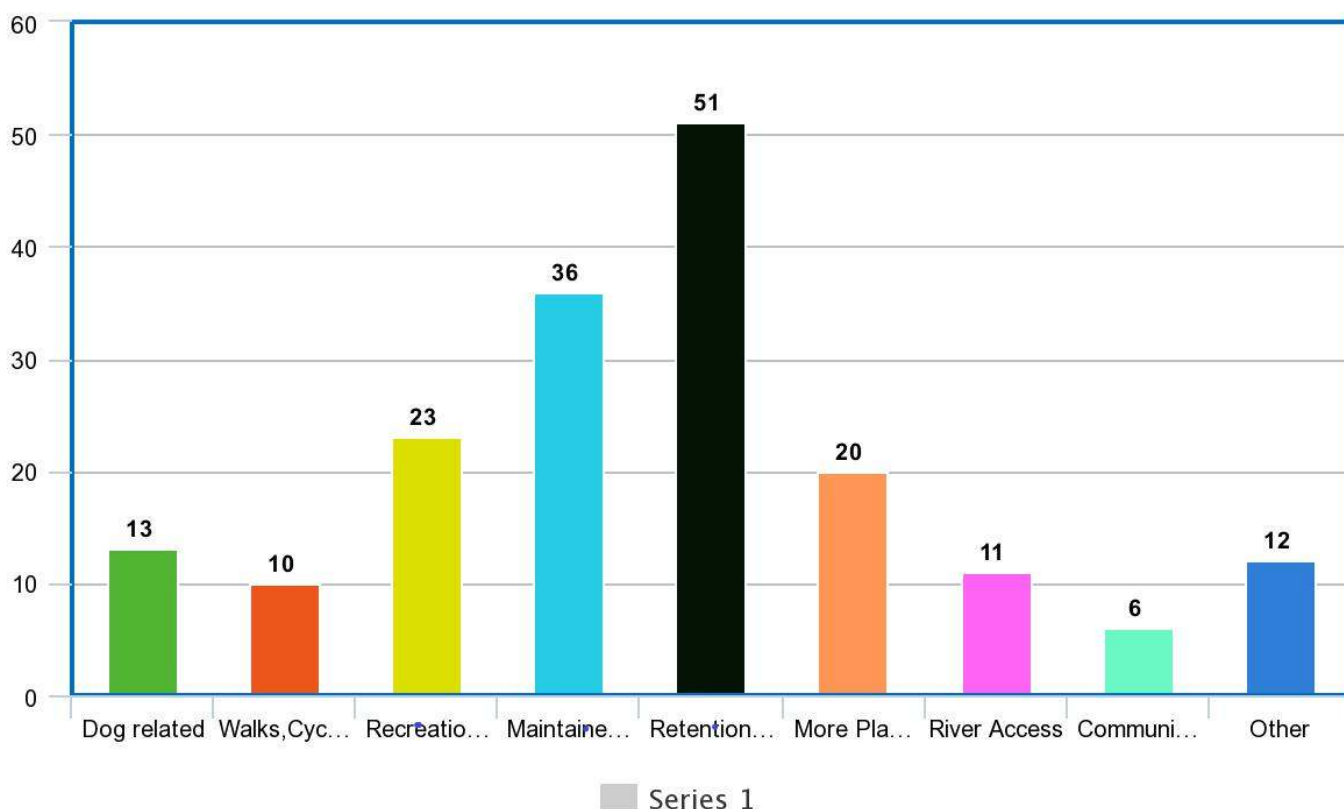
Negative:

Paucity of other bus services- no provision for other routes/rural connections. Links needed with Southampton. More stops throughout Fordingbridge i.e.: Ashford Rd, Parsonage Park, and the outskirts of town. Limited in the evening and weekend. For young people evening service is poor. New bus shelters required. Too expensive.

10. Any other suggestion regarding Open Spaces?

Categories

Qu 10: Suggestions regarding open spaces



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Comments

Dog related: The need for more dog bins, dog related signage (clear up the mess etc) dog friendly spaces.

Rights of Way: More walking routes, footpaths, cycle tracks. Land owners should be held to account for failing to upkeep/obstructing rights of way.

Recreational Facilities, Equipment, Seating: Recreation ground play park needs reviewing to look at updating play equipment. Providing equipment for adults to exercise. Parsonage Park, prone to flooding and therefore at certain times of the year the play area is unable to be used. More seating required around the town. More natural play areas trials etc.

Maintenance: Proactive: maintenance planning on all spaces should be paramount to enjoy continued use. This should not be reactive and reliant on public reporting. Funds should be available to upkeep areas.

Retention and Development of Open Spaces:

By allowing new builds in the numbers planned for Fordingbridge, there will be no open spaces. Don't build, preserve and enhance what limited spaces remain.

Planting:

More planting of trees and other plants is needed to enhance spaces and create habitats and bio-diverse areas for insects and wildlife. Consider creating nature reserves/ponds etc.

River Access:

Fordingbridge is a riverside town, however access is limited and therefore there is little benefit had from the river particularly for residents. Riverside walking routes, a bridge from the town through to the recreation ground what be advantageous. Visitors to the town would be able to access the town safely without navigating roads and narrow pavements. Increase trade to the town.

Community Projects/Allotments.

More housing will increase the demand for allotments and should be negotiated with developers. Community initiatives/projects i.e. community allotments, orchards, bee keeping using volunteer groups.

Other:

Compulsory purchase of land to provide open spaces

Fordingbridge appears to be neglected in terms of HCC and NFDC action and funding.

11. Age Demographic

Under 18	18-24yrs	25-34yrs	35-44yrs	45-54yrs	55-64yrs	65 and over
0.2%	0.2%	4%	8%	11%	22%	54%