

Suckley Parish Council actions resulting from the 2023 Parish Survey

The 2023 Suckley parish survey was distributed to all parish residences and 89 completed surveys were collected. The results have been analysed and further discussed by the parish council and it has been decided that we will pursue the actions below.

Newsletter

The parish council intends to produce a quarterly newsletter and the content will include school, church and local societies news, along with updates on district and parish council activities. The intention is for this to be published on the parish council website but hard copies for those without internet access on request.

Library

It was identified that the mobile library service was relatively poorly utilised and so we will be investigating if additional, more convenient stops can be added and the schedule will be publicised via the parish newsletter.

Footpaths

A high number of respondents said that footpaths were important to them and a good number provided contact details with regard to joining working parties to help with necessary clearance or maintenance work. Since the survey was instigated it has now been announced by Worcestershire County Council that they will fund the parish lengthsman to undertake any footpath clearance required. Therefore we will retain the contact details provided for any future tasks that may arise and encourage reporting of any necessary footpath issues preferably via the WCC online reporting system or to the parish council footpath warden.

Housing

The survey showed the majority of respondents supported either affordable/ starter homes, this information will be used by the parish council when considering future planning applications.

Shopping / Transport

It appears that many residents use Malvern for their main shopping activities but other than taxis, there are no direct public transport options to Malvern; the one that existed a few years ago was discontinued presumably because of lack of use. The parish council will endeavour to promote this requirement as well as advertising the current bus timetable via the newsletter.

Use of parish council funds

It is good to see that there is a level of support aligning with the parish councils existing plans and achievements such as work on footpaths, playing field/ play equipment upgrades, parish newsletter, number of notice boards and locations. Please note that matters concerning roads (maintenance, speed limits, over hanging trees etc) are not within the parish council's gift to control and any concerns should be reported to Worcestershire County Council via their online reporting system or any persistent issues raised with one of your parish councillors.

Village Events

It is clear that many residents would support a village show which is encouraging since the parish council has already kicked off organising a Suckley Village Show for Saturday 28th June 2025 by forming a show committee. Anyone who wishes to join this committee or would be able to volunteer to help in any way should contact the chairman of the show committee, Steve Gray.

The survey indicated interest for many other types of events and interest groups and it should be noted that whilst setting up and running additional events and societies is not core to the parish council's remit, they will aim to support and facilitate any group or individual who wished to do so.

Speed Limits

The survey results indicate that most respondents do not feel current speed limits on roads in Suckley are appropriate and the majority would support a blanket 30mph limit throughout the parish (i.e. removing all unrestricted speed limit zones). The parish council has been in contact with Worcestershire County Council Highways department and has had a meeting with our MP Harriet Baldwin regarding this issue and we will continue to pursue reduced speed limits and other highways issues in Suckley.

Playing Field/ Play Equipment

Again, it is encouraging to see that residents wishes align with parish council thinking regarding the playing fields since this area has received a lot of attention over the past year or so, with significant expenditure to improve the facilities. The football pitch has, with new goals and a revised grass cutting service, been made useable again (notwithstanding the weather), and at least one football team has started to make regular use of it. It may be possible to develop this aspect so that there would be scope for young persons' football teams to link with the adult team and benefit from coaching etc.

Some of the play equipment has been improved or added to including the new climbing wall and others yet to be done. The pavilion/changing rooms are now well on the way to completion with new showers being installed and the electric system being updated. Access from the car park has been improved, new picnic tables acquired, more litter bins installed, new LED floodlights installed for the all weather pitch and a CCTV system now operating to improve security and safety. That said, there is more to do and we hope that the next stage will allow for renovation of the all-weather pitch as well as reviewing ideas now received for additional children's play equipment.

Anyone who has not visited the playing fields recently would be encouraged to do so to see the recent improvements for themselves.