Summary Results of Frindsbury Extra PC Neighbourhood Plan Survey

Q1 About You / Your Organisation

- **109 total responses.**
- **99.1%** of respondents are **residents** of Frindsbury Extra.
- **87.2%** have lived in the parish for <1 year, 1–5 years, 6–10 years, or 10+ years (combined).
- Very small representation from:
    - Nature/environment groups **3.7%**
    - Local businesses **2.8%**
    - Education **2.8%**
    - Faith-based groups **1.8%**
    - Voluntary/community groups **2.8%**
    - Public sector **1.8%**
- Total category selections: **224** (multiple selections allowed).

Q3 Community Services / Facilities

- **54.1%** say services **could be improved**.
- **22%** say services **meet needs**.
- **23.9%** say services **do not meet needs**.
- Overall: **Majority view was that "improvement (was) needed**."

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Q4 Local Transport

- **32.1%** selected **"Other"**.
- **28.4%** say transport **needs improvement**.
- **23.9%** say **fairly good**.
- **11%** say **poor**.
- **4.6%** say **very good**.
- Overall: **Transport is widely viewed as inadequate or mixed**.

Q5 Issues Important to Residents

(99 responses; multiple selections)

- **Roads/traffic** **90.9%**
- **Green spaces/environment** **83.8%**
- **Walking/cycling** **58.6%**
- **Shops/community facilities** **54.5%**
- **Local heritage** **50.5%**
- **Community/leisure** **34.3%**
- **Mix of land uses** **30.3%**
- **Quality of housing** **26.3%**

Q6 Housing Mix

- **75.2%** say there **is** a good mix.
- **9.2%** say **no**.
- **15.6%** are **not sure**.

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Q7 Protecting Green Spaces & Environment

- **87.2%** say **very important**.
- **10.1%** say **somewhat important**.
- **2.8%** say **not very important**.
- **0%** say **not at all important**.
- **Strong consensus** on environmental protection.

Q10 Willingness to Engage Further

- **61.5%** say **yes** to future consultation.

Written data:

1. Parish Strengths and Distinctive Characteristics

Analysis of responses to Q2 (85 responses) indicates a clear and consistent view of the parish's defining qualities. Respondents most frequently emphasised:

- **Community spirit and shared values – a friendly, respectful, and supportive environment, with long-standing residents and a welcoming attitude towards newcomers.**
- **Green spaces and countryside access – valued woodlands, walking routes, and the rural/semi-rural setting, with strong concern for the protection of open countryside.**
- **Heritage and historic identity – pride in Upnor, Medway views, and the area's long historical continuity.**
- **Village-like residential character – quiet neighbourhoods, distinct from the urban form of wider Medway, yet well-connected to surrounding towns.**
- **Inclusivity and cohesion – a diverse population without fragmentation, with a desire to maintain and strengthen community cohesion.**



Summary Results of Frindsbury Extra PC Neighbourhood Plan Survey

Overall finding: The parish's community identity, landscape setting, and heritage assets are regarded as its principal strengths and should be safeguarded through the Neighbourhood Plan.

2. Opportunities for Community Facilities and Local Assets

Responses to Q8 (109 responses) reveal mixed awareness of existing facilities but highlight several clear opportunities:

- **Old Civic Centre, Strood – identified as a potential site for future reuse.**
- **Aruthesa Centre – strong support for repurposing as a community-focused facility (e.g., community centre, village hall, children's play space). Respondents expressed clear opposition to use as an HMO, citing limited community benefit.**
- **Wainscott Memorial Hall – identified as a significant opportunity for enhanced community use, including arts, amateur dramatics, social events, and intergenerational activities.**
- **Community activation – respondents highlighted the need for more inclusive events to address loneliness and strengthen social ties.**

Overall finding: There is strong appetite for revitalising underused community buildings and expanding opportunities for social, cultural, and wellbeing activities. These themes directly support policies relating to community infrastructure.

3. Vision for the Parish in 10–15 Years

Responses to Q9 (109 responses) demonstrate a coherent long-term vision for the parish:

- **Preservation of village character – strong concern about overdevelopment and a desire to avoid becoming a "housing jungle".**
- **Protection of green spaces and heritage – emphasis on safeguarding countryside, open spaces, and historic assets such as Upnor Castle, ensuring continued public access.**

- **Transport and movement improvements – desire for reduced congestion (particularly around schools), improved pedestrian safety, better bus links, and alternatives to car dependency.**

- **Community wellbeing – aspiration to maintain a friendly, inclusive, and pleasant living environment.**

Overall finding: Residents envisage a green, sustainable, well-connected parish that retains its historic and village-like identity while improving movement and accessibility.

Conclusion

The Stakeholder Survey provides a robust evidence base for the emerging Neighbourhood Plan. The findings support policy development in the following areas:

- Character and heritage protection
- Community facilities and social infrastructure
- Green spaces and environmental stewardship
- Transport, movement, and connectivity

The responses demonstrate a shared ambition for a parish that is community-centred, environmentally protected, and sensitively managed over the next 10–15 years.

Bullet-Point Summary of Key Findings

Q2 Parish Strengths & Character (85 responses)

Dominant themes:

- **Community spirit** – repeatedly cited as a defining strength; residents describe a friendly, supportive, respectful atmosphere.
- **Green spaces & countryside access** – strong appreciation for woodland, open spaces, walking routes, and rural/semi-rural feel.

- **Historic and heritage assets** – references to Upnor, views of the Medway, and the area's long history.
- **Village-like character** – quiet residential feel, sense of belonging, long-term residents, and a balanced location close to Medway towns but still "tucked away".
- **Diversity without fragmentation** – some note Wainscott's mix of people and the absence of "micro-communities".

Overall: Residents value **community cohesion**, **green/rural character**, and **heritage**, and want these protected.

Q8 Underused Buildings / Future Opportunities (109 responses)

Key points:

- Many respondents say **"none", "not sure", or "don't know"**.
- **Specific sites mentioned:**
  - **Old Civic Centre in Strood** – suggested for reuse.
  - **Aruthesa Centre** – seen as underused; suggestions include community centre, village hall, playground; strong opposition to HMO use.
  - **Wainscott Memorial Hall** – highlighted as a major opportunity for **community arts, amateur dramatics, tea parties, inclusive events**, and tackling loneliness.
- **General themes:**
  - Desire for **more community initiatives**, especially intergenerational and inclusive activities.
  - Interest in **better use of existing halls and facilities** for social, creative, and wellbeing purposes.

Overall: Residents want **community spaces activated**, with a focus on **social connection, arts, and inclusive events**.



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Q9 – Vision for 10–15 Years' Time (109 responses)

Recurring aspirations:

- **Preserve village feel** – strong desire to avoid overdevelopment or becoming a "housing jungle".
- **Limit further population growth** – several respondents explicitly say "no more people".
- **Protect green spaces** – maintain pleasant environment and rural/historic character.
- **Better transport & less congestion** – especially around schools; improved bus links; safer walkways; fewer cars parked on roads.
- **Maintain heritage access** – concern for sites like Upnor Castle.
- **Community wellbeing** – desire for a stronger community feel and continued pleasant living environment.

CONCLUSION

Overall: The long-term vision is a **protected, green, village-like parish** with **controlled development**, **better transport**, and **stronger community cohesion**.