

# Parracombe Community Questionnaire

As a resident, home or business owner in Parracombe or as a neighbour or visitor using facilities; Parracombe Parish Council is asking for your help with important initiatives in the village.

You will no doubt be aware of some of the changes going on in the village, the closure of the Village Post Office and Stores, the RAOB Village Hall freehold being offered for sale and the need for affordable housing to mention a few. Parracombe Parish Council are working in partnership with Exmoor National Park Authority (ENPA) to come up with a strategy to manage these as well as other initiatives. These include improving traffic safety around the school and parking for residents and visitors to the village. The result of this work will be a Parish Plan that documents the needs of the community and provides a roadmap for each of the projects identified.

Please take the time to complete this questionnaire and let us know your views. There will be a separate document circulating concerning affordable housing, to update similar data collated some 4 years ago.

The Parish Council will be running a drop in session at the Village Hall on 17 January 2018 from 14:30 to 19:00. The session will allow you to meet members of the Parish Council, Devon Communities Together and ENPA to find out more and informally share your views. We look forward to seeing you there.

We would like every adult in each household to complete a separate questionnaire. Further copies can be downloaded at [parracombe.org.uk](http://parracombe.org.uk). Please complete the questionnaire by 20 January 2018. After completing, you can bring along to the drop in session, drop it into the Fox & Goose, or scan and send to [admin@parracombe.org.uk](mailto:admin@parracombe.org.uk)

Thank you for your help.

Parracombe Parish Council

## Parracombe Post Office and Stores

With the closure of the current shop, the Parish Council is very keen to ensure that a Post Office and store remains in Parracombe. A Parish Council Sub-committee with a number of co-opted volunteers have worked hard to assess the possibility of setting up a Community Shop and Post Office. They have already carried out a preliminary questionnaire which has informed their report and which identifies the possible location for a Community Shop and potential grant funding options. They now need to assess the level of voluntary and financial support available within the community to establish feasibility before further commitment to the project.

1. Would you support the setting up of a replacement post office/store in Parracombe? **Yes / No** (please circle one).

a. *If you answered **no*** please tell us why you would not support a replacement shop.

---

---

---

2. Advice and experience from other rural areas indicate that a community owned service may be the most appropriate way forward. Would you support the Parish Council setting up a replacement Post office/store that is community owned and run through a community trust? **Yes / No** (please circle one)

a. *If you answered **no*** how would you see a new store operating?

---

---

---

3. A community trust places ownership and control with the community with a one member one vote constitution that guarantees equal say. Are you interested in finding out more about and potentially willing to be a member of a community trust? **Yes / No** (please circle one)

4. At a price of £25 per share (minimum membership requirement would be the purchase of one share) would you consider making an investment in a new shop? **Yes / No** (please circle one)

a. *If you answered **yes*** to investment, how many £25 shares do you think you might be willing to purchase? No of shares [\_\_\_\_] x £25 = [£\_\_\_\_]

5. Are there any other ways you would consider helping with raising funds?

Making a donation  Other \_\_\_\_\_  
Fundraising activities

6. Would you be able to be actively involved in the setting up of a replacement PO/store? **Yes / No** (please circle one)

a. *If you answered **yes** please tell us in what ways you may be able to be actively involved. Please tick all that apply.*

- |                       |                          |                        |                          |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Architectural drawing | <input type="checkbox"/> | Roofing                | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Building works        | <input type="checkbox"/> | Shop design and layout | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Carpentry             | <input type="checkbox"/> | Shelf fitting          | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Decorating            | <input type="checkbox"/> | Sign writing           | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Electrical            | <input type="checkbox"/> | Structural engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Plastering            | <input type="checkbox"/> | Tiling (wall / floors) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Plumbing              | <input type="checkbox"/> | Waste removal          | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Planning application  | <input type="checkbox"/> | Other _____            |                          |

7. Would you be able to commit to be actively involved in the voluntary running of a post office/store? **Yes / No** (please circle one) *If you answered **yes** please answer a. and b.*

a. What level of commitment do you think you would be able to make. If you are able please indicate frequency and how many hours you could commit to:

- |                |                          |                  |                  |
|----------------|--------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Regular weekly | <input type="checkbox"/> | Hours per week   | [__]             |
| Occasionally   | <input type="checkbox"/> | Occasional hours | [__] per [_____] |

b. How might you be able to help on a voluntary basis. Please tick all that apply.

- |                     |                          |                    |                          |
|---------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Delivery/collection | <input type="checkbox"/> | Serving tea/coffee | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Serving / till      | <input type="checkbox"/> | Stock checking     | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Cleaning            | <input type="checkbox"/> | Book keeping       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Shelf stacking      | <input type="checkbox"/> | Health and safety  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Pricing / labelling | <input type="checkbox"/> | Information Tech.  | <input type="checkbox"/> |

8. Are there other ways that you could help or have you any other experience that you would be able to offer. Please write this/these in the space below.

---

---

---

9. Would you be interested in a part time paid role if such an opportunity arose? **Yes / No** (please circle one)

10. It may be possible to include extra space in the post office/store e.g. for serving coffees. Do you agree with this idea? **Yes / No** (please circle one)
11. No final decisions have yet been made on a replacement shop / post office or where it should go. One idea is to repurpose the pavilion on the Coronation Playing Field which, if necessary, could be extended in due course. Do you agree with the idea of reusing the existing pavilion? **Yes / No** (please circle one)
- a. *If you answered **no** why do you disagree with its repurposing?*

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

12. Please provide any further comments you may have regarding a new shop and Post Office facility.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Village Hall

The Village Hall is leased from the RAOB by a Village Hall Charitable Trust, the Parish Council are assisting them as a Custodian Trustee. The lease for the hall came up for renewal this year and, to secure its continued use as a parish hall, the Council have served notice of renewal to the RAOB.

Earlier this year the Parish Council successfully obtained Community Asset Status which gives the hall additional protections, affords the community a say in its future and a right to bid should it be offered for sale. The Hall is also protected by Exmoor National Park Authority (ENPA) planning policy and cannot have any other use while its use as a Village Hall is needed.

In August the RAOB decided to sell their freehold interest and as an asset of community value we have exercised our right to bid, an independent valuation is being sought and a conditional offer has been made. If the Parish Council secures freehold title of the hall, but its use sometime in the future as a Hall ceases and a more valuable use is found, there is likely to be 'a clawback provision' requiring 50% of any additional value to go to the RAOB for a 25 year period. Again, the potential uses are governed by ENPA planning policy which restricts alternatives to Community Use, Employment Use or Affordable Housing.

13. With the information above, in principle do you endorse the purchase of the RAOB Hall? **Yes/No** (please circle one).

While the hall's future is secured for the benefit of the community, we would like to find out how it can better serve the community.

The questions in this section are designed to see if the current hall meets the needs of the village, how it could potentially be updated to meet future needs or if the Parish Council should investigate a new facility.

14. Do you attend events or activities at the village hall? **Yes / No** (please circle one)

a. *If you answered **yes*** please indicate on average how often:

Weekly	<input type="checkbox"/>	Few times a year	<input type="checkbox"/>
Monthly	<input type="checkbox"/>	Once a year	<input type="checkbox"/>

15. Do you regularly or have you in the past booked the village for events? **Yes / No** (please circle one)

a. *If you answered **yes*** please indicate how frequently you book the hall:

Weekly	<input type="checkbox"/>	Few times a year	<input type="checkbox"/>
Monthly	<input type="checkbox"/>	Once a year	<input type="checkbox"/>

b. For what purpose did you / do you book the hall?

---

16. Do you think that the hall currently meets the general needs of the village? i.e. subject to any ongoing renovations and decorations **Yes / No** (please circle one)

a. *If you answered **no** in what ways do you think that the hall does not meet the needs of the village?*

---

---

---

17. If a new hall were to be located elsewhere and could, for example, accommodate better facilities for sports, arts and local clubs would you support a relocated village hall? **Yes / No** (please circle one)

a. *If you answered **yes** for a new village hall, how would you see the existing RAOB Hall being used in the future? Please write your answer below.*

---

---

---

b. *If you answered **no** for a new village hall, for what reasons would you not support it? Please write your answer below.*

---

---

---

18. Please provide any other comments you may have on a village hall

---

---

---

---

## Coronation Playing Field

The following section seeks your views on the play facilities, tennis court and multi-use games area on the Coronation Playing Field.

The Pavilion at the Coronation Playing Field has been identified as the best available location for a Community Shop. The playing field is currently protected as a community facility by ENPA policy, meaning its use is safeguarded unless the same extent could be provided / a replacement of at least an equivalent standard could be secured. If this requirement were satisfied and a shop goes ahead, additional turning for delivery vehicles and parking will be required. The questions in this section are designed to gather your views on the current Playing Field its equipment, parking, how it might be improved and what is required or desirable for the future.

19. It appears that current recreational and sports facilities in the village, including the Coronation Playing Field, the playground and tennis courts are underutilised at present. Please tell us how you use these facilities, or if you or your family do not use them, please tell us the reasons below.

---

---

---

---

20. Please tell us what changes you think would encourage you/clubs to use the playing field/playground/tennis courts in the future?

---

---

---

---

21. There are some concerns about parking and traffic in the village and several ideas to address these concerns have been suggested
- Would you support a voluntary one-way system at the start and finish of the school day? **Yes / No** (please circle one)
  - Would you support measures to prevent parking in passing places? **Yes / No** (please circle one)
  - Would you support the designation of the parking place outside the Coronation Playing Field opposite Hillside as a disabled space? **Yes / No** (please circle one)

d. The Coronation Playing Field car park is used by some residents and visitors for overnight parking. If the car park was extended to accommodate additional parking would you support the Parish Council implementing a charge to support its running? **Yes / No** (please circle one)

22. Do you have any other issues you wish to raise about parking in the village and, if so, do you have any suggestions for how it might be improved? Please write your answer below.

---

---

---

Thank you for completing this survey. Your feedback and opinions are important. The Parish Council and ENPA will use the information you have provided in the Parracombe Parish Plan. Any published results of this survey will be anonymised.

Please provide your contact details below. Your name address and telephone number will only be used by the Parish Council and / or Exmoor National Park Authority, to keep you informed of progress and to contact you about the issues raised in this survey.

Name

---

Address

---

Tel No

---

email

---

Please indicate your preferred method of communication

Letter  Phone  email

Parracombe Parish Council will also be keeping the community informed with a regular email parish newsletter as well as a new web site. By providing your email you will be subscribed to the newsletter, you may update your preferences or unsubscribe at any time. If however you do not wish to be subscribed please tick the box below.

Please do not subscribe