



Sea Mills & Coombe Dingle Together

Community Plan





KEY

-  Addison Oak
-  1 Café on the Square
-  2 Play area
-  3 Phonebox museum
-  4 Post Office
-  5 Methodist Church
-  6 Tennis Courts
-  7 Trym Side allotments
-  8 Manor Farm Football Club
-  9 St Edyth's Church
-  10 GP Surgery
-  11 Primary School
-  12 Youth Club
-  13 Scout Hut
-  14 Recreation Ground
-  15 Library
-  16 Community Centre
-  17 Community Garden
-  18 Highgrove Church
-  19 Allotments
-  20 Red Bus Nursery
-  *i* Community noticeboards

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**Sea Mills &
Coombe Dingle**
Together

A voluntary, resident-led
community group

www.seamillsandcoombedingle.com

Introduction

Welcome to the Community Plan for Sea Mills and Coombe Dingle. This has been developed from responses to the survey distributed to all homes in the area in January 2019.

What is a Community Plan?

A Community Plan is a document that has been written by local residents. It has two key objectives:

- 1 The Plan consolidates issues, both big and small, raised in the survey that residents want addressed in this area. Using these issues as a starting point, we have developed a range of recommendations for future action.
- 2 The Plan sets out a long-term vision for our area. This is based on input from many local residents – collectively we can have greater influence in decision-making to ensure we get the best for our community.

Why create a Community Plan for Sea Mills & Coombe Dingle?

Many communities across Bristol have found a plan really useful, so it is important that Sea Mills and Coombe Dingle has one too. It will give us the basis for planning within our community over the coming years, and it will be essential to inform future developments in our area.

A Community Plan setting out our vision provides a collective voice and strengthens our ability to influence future decisions and public services. The plan can also be used to support funding and grant applications to help us set up and run specific projects and events that will benefit everyone.

This Community Plan is just the start – we welcome and encourage as many people as possible to support us. See page 18 for how you can get more involved...



Our Community Plan



Residents are proud of the historical aspects of the area



People value the benefit of being surrounded by so many green spaces



Sea Mills celebrated its Centenary in 2019



Sea Mills Flower Show has been running for decades

Key issues identified from responses to the survey are set out in this Plan – highlighting what people think about Sea Mills & Coombe Dingle, and the possible ways that the area could be improved.

The survey shows that people really care about this area, and provided lots of ideas about how to make things better. They are proud of the historical and environmental aspects of this neighbourhood. Residents enjoy the benefits of living in a community surrounded by so many green spaces, whilst also being in close proximity to the city centre. A significant number have lived here all of their lives, and many of these have local family going back several generations. A high number of survey respondents plan to be here for at least the next five years.

Our survey shows that people really care about our area, and have lots of ideas about how to make things better.

Recent initiatives like the Café on the Square, Sea Mills 100 celebrations and the return of the Flower Show were all mentioned as examples of a welcome trend of community activity. This shows the potential benefit of improving our community if we all work together.

Whilst there is a definite community spirit, we need to work towards extending this across the two areas. The survey also identified room for improvement and issues that people were less happy about. These include the cost and provision of public transport, littering and a lack of clear communication about what is going on locally.

In response to the findings of the survey, we have outlined initial recommendations to make our community a better place and to sustain improvements already underway (see page 13).

Many thanks to everyone who took the time to respond to the survey. With your continued enthusiasm, ideas and support of this community, we are confident that the recommendations in our Community Plan can be delivered.

The responses

This section is a summary of the results of this survey, and covers the following areas:



Health & wellbeing



Sport, fitness & green spaces



Education, skills & employment



Travel & transport



Crime



Shopping



Planning & community buildings



Our neighbourhood

You can read our recommendations in response to these findings on page 13, and find out more about how you can get involved with new community initiatives on page 18.

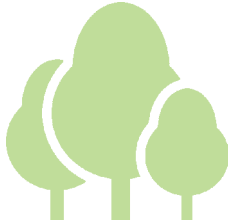
Health & wellbeing

You were asked what would improve health and wellbeing in the area... how much do you mix with friends and family? What do you think of local health services, and what potential services might you like to see?

What would have a positive effect on your health and wellbeing?

90%

said easy access to parks and green spaces

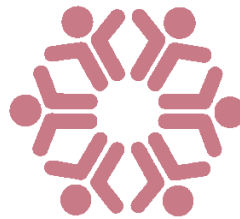


80%

said easy access to health services and appointments

57%

said easy access to sport, exercise and leisure facilities



58%

said a good community network

Local health service provision

People are generally satisfied with local health services. The most common requests for health services that are not currently available were for physiotherapy (11%); chiropody (10%); and counselling services (8%).

“Some preventative health initiatives would be good – how about an outdoor gym on the square in Sea Mills?”

“I’d like to see more help for people with dementia...”

Do you ever feel isolated or lonely?



No: 69%
 Sometimes: 25.5%
 Yes: 5.5%

How often do you meet with friends and family?

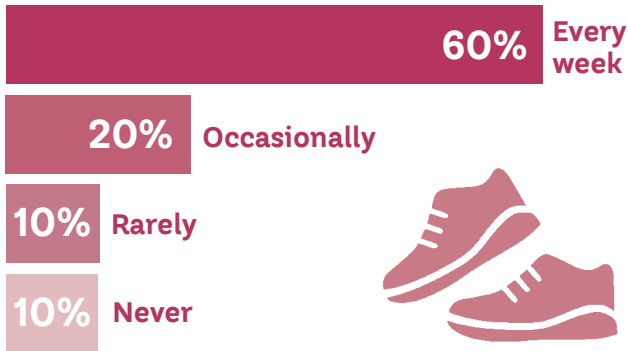
The majority of respondents see friends and family most days (72%) or weekly (63%). But 22% only see family a few times a year or not at all, and 10% only see friends a few times a year or not at all.

See page 13 for our recommendations 

Sport, fitness & green spaces

Here you explained about how you exercise and where you like to go; what you thought of local open spaces, and how you used them. It highlighted your views on the way spaces are maintained and how they could be improved.

How often do you take at least 2.5 hours of exercise a week?



Nearly **50%** of under-18s exercise for less than one hour each day

Only **15%** of under-18s engage with sport in local clubs



How often do you visit local parks?

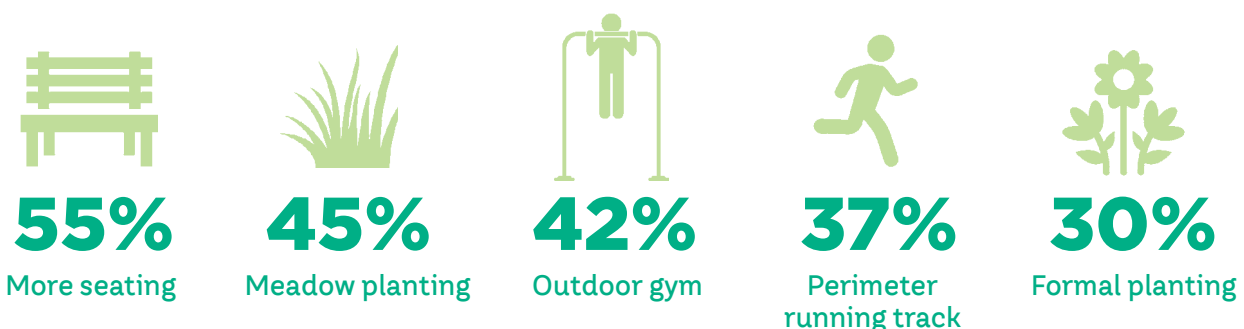


"I would love to see more classes and also team sports that I can join.. It would also be great to have one place that tells you what is going on."

"More allotments? They are very good for mental health."

50%  thought public land is not adequately kept clear of litter, dog waste & fly tipped rubbish.

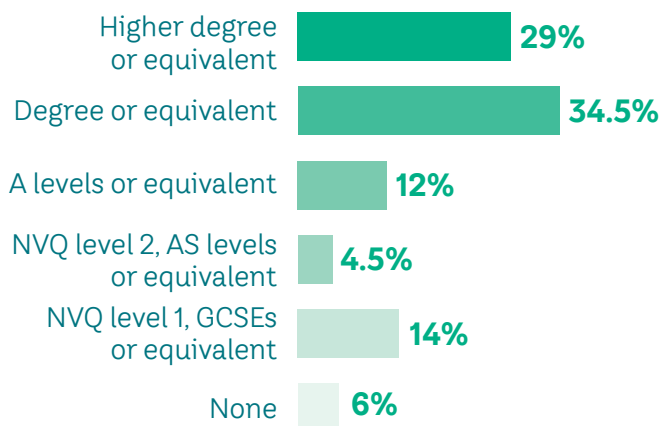
How could Sea Mills Recreation Ground be improved?



Education, skills & employment

Here you were asked what qualifications you have and whether you want to learn more. It looked at what would encourage you to develop new skills and which new ones you would be of interest; what jobs you do and how difficult it has been to find work.

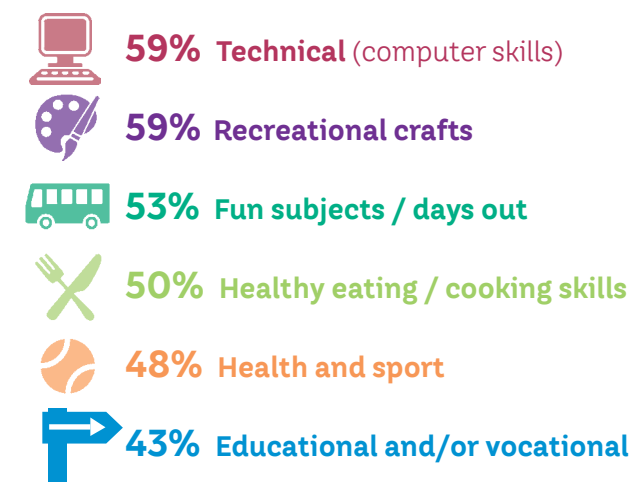
What is your highest level of qualification?



What would encourage you to take part in learning?

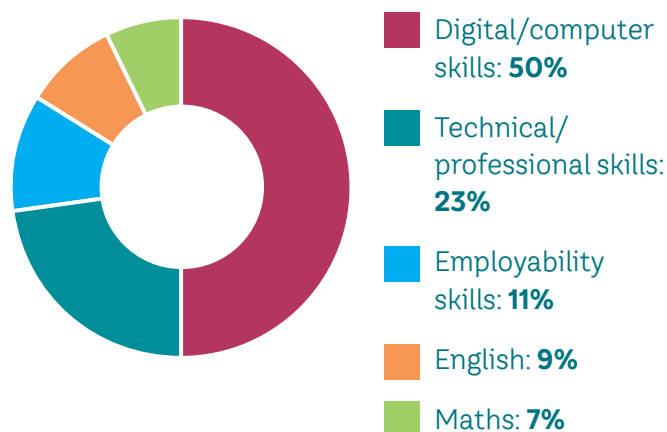
72% said they would be encouraged by free or low cost courses. 60% thought local provision would help, and 12% would be helped by improved childcare provision.

What subjects would interest you?



A significant number of respondents (25%) suggested a sign language course would be of interest. Learning a new language and First Aid were also popular suggestions.

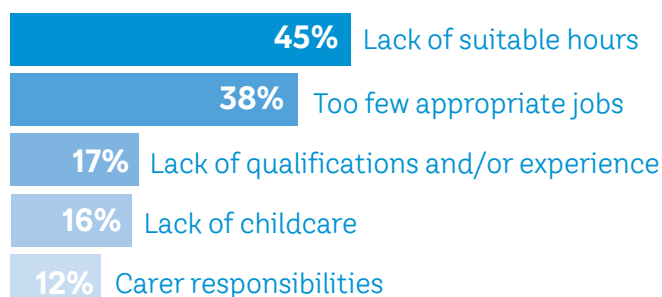
What new skills would you like to develop?



What is your first language?



Have you faced any difficulties in finding work over the past two years?



See page 13 for our recommendations

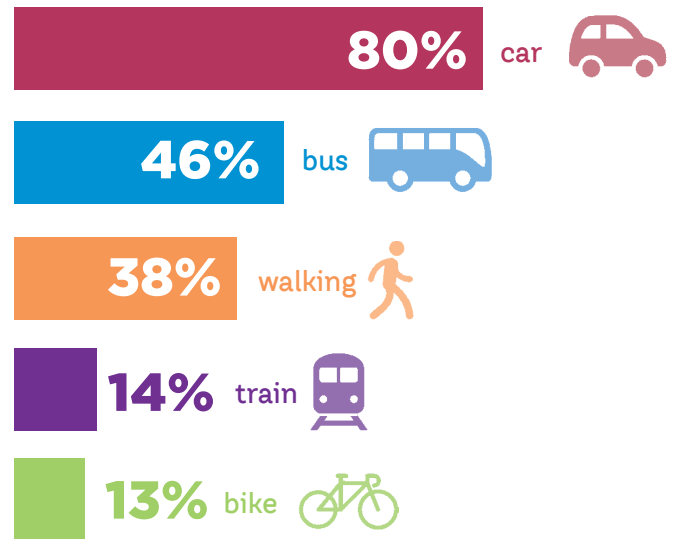
Travel and transport

You were asked in this section about what forms of transport you use, and your levels of satisfaction with local public transport.

Are you dissatisfied with local public transport?



What are the main forms of transport you use daily?



Crime

You were asked how safe you felt in your neighbourhood, if you've been affected by crime, and whether you ever experienced any discrimination.

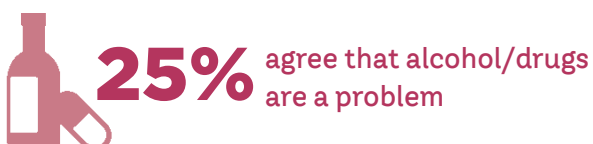
Do you feel safe walking around your neighbourhood?



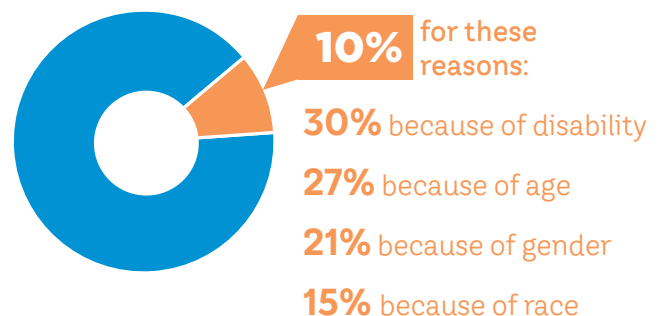
Is your life affected by crime?

Less than 10% feel that crime affects their life.

Do you feel that alcohol/drugs are a problem in the area?



Have you faced discrimination or harassment in the last year?



Are you happy with the level of police presence in the area?



Shopping

This measured how satisfied you are with local shops, what kind of shopping you do and how you go about it.

How satisfied are you with the choice of local shops?



“Our main weekly shop is delivered... we’d like to use local shops for top-up of milk and bread but they don’t sell what we want (organic milk and fresh bakery bread).”

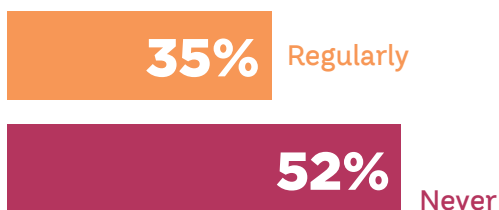
How often do you go food shopping?



61% say they also shop for odds and ends in between.

“I live in a shared house, and one of my housemates does the shopping for us all.”

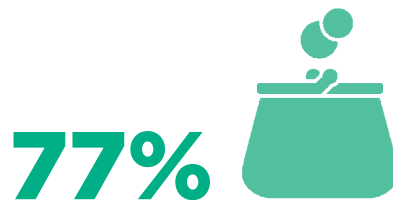
How often do you do your household shopping online?



People report it being fast, convenient and saving time.

Would you be interested in being involved in a food buying group?

68% were not interested in a food buying group, but if one was set up then 30% of people might be interested.



of people who responded said that they like to support local shops to keep them in business.

“I use local shops in Henleaze where I can buy more plastic-free products.”

See page 13 for our recommendations

Community services & facilities

Here you were asked what new facilities you might like to see in the area, how much you value the local buildings and services, and specifically what you thought about the library.

Which buildings do you value most?



75%

Sea Mills Surgery



74%

Kingsweston House



68%

Café on the Square

"I would like to see better lighting and clear pathways - relying on a mobility scooter means I can't go out at night."

Would you like to be more involved in the development of this area?



38% Yes

"I would really like to see the Iron Bridge finally fixed."

What future development would you support?

67%

Leisure and health facilities

66%

Youth facilities

"I would like the area to retain all of its green spaces."

What are your thoughts about Sea Mills library?



91%

of people were in favour of keeping the library open, despite the city council feeling it is insufficiently used.

"I think we should keep our local library and expand its services."



96%

agreed that people of all abilities should have access to literature, and also that children should be encouraged to read more books.

Our neighbourhood

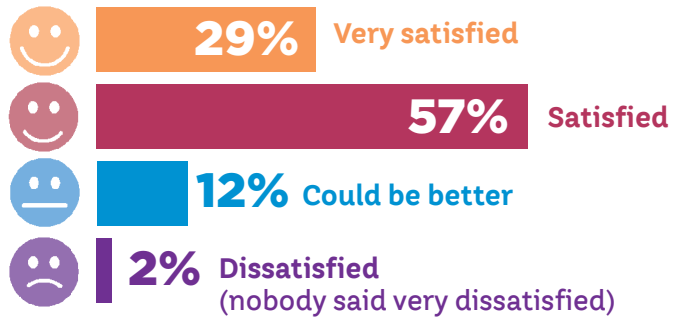
Here you were asked how long you have lived here and how satisfied you are with your neighbourhood. You also told us what you consider to be a problem in this area, and whether you know enough about what's going on locally.

Do you like living in this area?

86% ✓

of respondents are satisfied or very satisfied with living in Sea Mills and Coombe Dingle.

Almost **50%** felt the area has changed little over the past three years, and **23%** thought it had improved.



"I think there's been a large increase in community spirit over the past five years."

What do you consider to be a problem in this area?

57% cost of public transport

55% a lack of facilities for young people

55% traffic speed control

47% pedestrian safety

22% illegal and inconsiderate parking

22% flytipping / litter

How long have you lived in this area?



There's a real mix, with residents who have lived here for decades along with many recent arrivals. **60%** of respondents have lived here for more than 10 years.

"I'd like to see a safe area for teenagers to go out and meet, and more events that appeal to young people."

Do you feel you know enough about what's on locally?

63% felt they didn't know enough about what's on

76% of people would like to see more noticeboards in the area

"I'm not very confident at joining things, but I do like the idea of helping out."

What next?

Health and wellbeing

Residents gave us lots of ideas about possible improvements to the health and wellbeing of our community. The survey highlighted changes people would like to see in general healthcare, their contact with healthcare professionals, and the help available for specific conditions.

Some of the services requested in the survey are already provided in the area but residents don't know about them; other services are not available. It's clear that efficient circulation of up-to-date information about available health services is an important first step. Further development of relationships between health providers and patients should also help to improve the health and wellbeing of residents.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- Community representatives to meet with local GP Practice Managers to share and discuss the findings of the survey. This could include looking at local health data demographics and prevalent conditions to identify any relevant new services for the community.
- Promote the Patient Participation Group at local surgeries so residents can work with the GP practices in the area to improve information about existing services.
- Look at more effective ways of circulating information about how to access existing services. This will include promotion of potential new services such as physiotherapy, chiropody and counselling.
- Identify, develop and aim to fund projects that specifically support those in the community who feel lonely and isolated.

"I'd like there to be a drop-in baby clinic (like the one in Shirehampton) for weighing and to see the health visitor."

"We need Saturday appointments."

"What about some alternative therapies – chiropractic, osteopath and life coaching?"





A fit and active community

Many respondents identified the importance of increased exercise, as well as access to green spaces, to promote good health and fitness. There is an opportunity to build on the existing sports clubs and leisure facilities in the area whilst looking to develop new and different activities.

86% of respondents said that they do not use local facilities – often this was due to lack of clear information. There was enthusiasm for more opportunities to be active. Some people suggested what they would like to see, and others offered to help with setting up new activities.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- Create a network of local sports clubs and facilities, making use of the survey results to plan future developments and improve engagement across the community.
- Promote sports facilities through the new website, community noticeboards, and *The Community Voice* newsletter.
- Identify ways to adapt existing, and develop new, facilities in a more inclusive way, for example by providing activities
 - outside of working hours
 - for families and younger children
 - for older people
- Work with the GP practice to explore ways to promote local activities through social prescribing initiatives, for example health walks in Blaise Estate.
- Promote and support membership of local clubs and events such as the Family Park Run at Kings Weston on Sundays.

“Most activities take place in the day and I work 9-5.”

“It would be great to have one place, whether online or on a notice board, that tells you what is going on.”

“I would love to see some exercise classes and sports teams for women, to allow me to exercise with others.”

Regeneration of public spaces

We are very fortunate in this area to be surrounded by so many green spaces, and Blaise and Kings Weston estates are visited regularly by many local people. Respondents also identified other public spaces they like to use, such as the Recreation Ground and Trymside.

It is evident that there are a lack of facilities for young people, which is an obvious area that needs addressing.

One resident summarised that Sea Mills and Coombe Dingle needs some 'care and attention'. The survey identified clearly that this area suffers from littering, dog fouling, and an increase in fly tipping.

It's clear that our public spaces are valued, and a significant number of respondents to the survey have offered to volunteer to improve and maintain these important areas of our community.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- Work with local parks and organisations like Friends of Blaise to identify, organise and promote volunteering opportunities and community events.
- Bring interested partners together to refurbish and manage the tennis courts at Dingle Close.
- Set up a group to plan how to regenerate and maintain the Recreation Ground and Trym Side Open Space.
- Look at feasibility, and identify funding opportunities, to develop new facilities for younger people such as an outdoor gym and skate park.
- Promote pride in our community – see page 17 for recommendations.

“I try to litterpick where I can and I would be happy to join in with a regularly organised litter pick.”

“I would be happy to help collect waste for the council to remove.”

“I keep the grass verge outside my property tidy and I enjoy cutting the grass there.”





Learning and training

The survey showed that there is a real need for more learning and self-improvement opportunities to be provided locally. The interest in possible subjects is wide-ranging, from vocational and technical subjects through to health & wellbeing and more recreational craft courses.

It is important that any educational opportunities are accessible to all members of the community, and are provided at a reasonable cost. There was consistent feedback that people would like to know more about what's available, so more needs to be done to promote talks, courses and workshops. Whilst there is a limit to what can be provided in this area, city-wide learning opportunities could also be more effectively promoted here.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- Explore funding options for new learning and training opportunities.
- Identify a network of local venues suitable for workshops, talks and training courses.
- Develop a network of interested partners and residents to promote and manage local learning; to include Bristol City College and other city-wide service providers.
- Develop an inclusion statement with the community and share with all training providers and funders.
- Negotiate with providers in neighbouring areas, such as Henbury Leisure Centre, to identify and promote sports and health-related training not available in this area.
- Run workshops in community development for volunteers, to build effective networks across the area and ensure that these recommendations are sustainable.

“The courses at Stoke Lodge could be better advertised in this area.”

“I’d be interested in courses in first aid, sign language, art and maybe baking.”

“How about counselling or mental health courses?”

Developing our community

Sea Mills and Coombe Dingle both benefit from a strong sense of community, but many people identified the need to bring the two communities closer together. Respondents were supportive of the increase in community events for all ages and backgrounds. It is encouraging to see many people offering to be involved in helping with future events.

Sea Mills and Coombe Dingle Together, a voluntary, resident-led community group, has been formed in direct response to the results of the survey. Our initial priority has been to develop and publish this plan, but this is just a starting point. We have arranged for new noticeboards to be installed across the area, we are putting together a new website, and will be holding quarterly community meetings. These initiatives, alongside working closely with *The Community Voice* team, will enable us to communicate future developments and events more effectively.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- Look at developing and promoting a programme of inclusive community events for Sea Mills and Coombe Dingle.
- Identify and apply for grants to fund these events.
- Increase the number of community noticeboards, and ensure they feature up-to-date information, and that the content of each noticeboard is consistent.
- Run a quarterly Community Meeting to inform and involve local residents.
- Promote pride in our community:
 - Engage regularly with local councillors, using the ward-wide meetings to discuss and tackle issues such as fly tipping, speeding and parking issues, and the cost and reliability of public transport provision.
 - Encourage more people to clear litter as they walk around their neighbourhood and join in with national and city-wide litter picks.
 - Develop activities with local schools and organisations to improve the cleanliness of the area.
- Work towards funding a dedicated Community Development Worker, who would be the catalyst to bring many of the recommendations in this report to fruition.

“Events on the square have been popular and well attended. They bring all ages together and improve our community networks.”

“I would like this to be a friendly and inclusive community where people don't feel lonely or isolated.”

“I would like to see Coombe Dingle involved more – it's out on a limb due to a lack of community space.”

“I'm really grateful for the amazing work of community volunteers over the last few years – thank you!”

A vision for the future



HEIDI SIMPSON

The Café on the Square is the focus of many community events in Sea Mills



MARTHA STREET

The street party in Pitchcombe Gardens in Coombe Dingle is a well-attended annual fixture



MARIA STUART

Sea Mills Community Garden has been a successful initiative to bring people together

Sea Mills and Coombe Dingle have a strong sense of community, but we need to build on existing successes and find new ways of bringing people together across the whole area.

It's clear that residents want this community to be more inclusive and welcoming. By forming effective groups we can communicate more clearly and involve and engage with more people. Everything we do should be accessible to the whole community, and particularly those who feel isolated and lonely.

GET INVOLVED!

Whilst our survey showed that 86% of our community are satisfied with living in Sea Mills and Coombe Dingle, it also highlighted many issues that need to be addressed. **This can only happen with your help...**

Sea Mills & Coombe Dingle Together is a voluntary resident-led community group formed in response to the survey results. In order to start making a real change, we are asking as many people as possible to get involved and to offer what help they can. We need your support, time, ideas and know-how to begin to deliver on the recommendations within this plan and to achieve more still.

If we work together, we can shape a future for our community that all can share in and make happen.

Please get in touch to find out more at seamillsandcoombedingle@gmail.com



**Sea Mills &
Coombe Dingle**
Together

www.seamillsandcoombedingle.com

The making of this Plan

A working group was established in 2018, made up of residents of Sea Mills and Coombe Dingle, and those involved with local organisations. Based on research into other Community Plans, an outline survey was drafted, and then circulated at local community events and online. This helped to shape the questions and to work out how best to engage as many respondents as possible.

The aim of the survey was to cover many aspects of life in our community – green spaces, employment, education, crime, shopping, health and wellbeing, community facilities, and more. Questions were designed to allow for numerical analysis, whilst also providing respondents with the option to add their own comments and suggestions. We used the online platform ‘SMART Survey’ to both design the survey and to manage the surveying process.

The survey was hand delivered by volunteers to a majority of residential properties in the area – over 2500 households in total – and was also available to complete online. It was advertised in local newsletters, on posters, online forums, social media and by knocking on residents’ doors. The survey was promoted widely at local events, and all public spaces had copies of the survey freely available.

Volunteers were on hand to provide assistance in completing the survey to those who needed it, including residents in sheltered accommodation. Surveys filled in by hand were either returned in a Freepost envelope or dropped off at collection boxes located around the area. In addition to local residents, we also sought the views of those who are active in our community, but don’t necessarily live here.

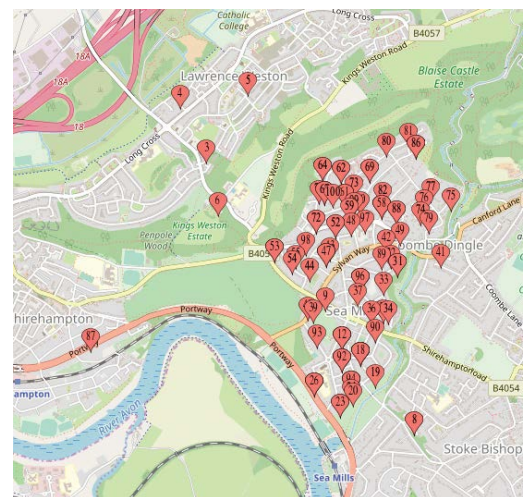
363 completed surveys were returned – a response rate higher than the average of other local areas that had undertaken similar surveys. Responses were analysed by our working group, in consultation with Community Plan teams from elsewhere in Bristol. Surveys from postcodes outside of this area were reviewed to ensure that only relevant answers from these were included, to avoid skewing the overall results.

Key findings from this analysis were then interpreted and presented in a visual form to make the data more accessible. A set of recommendations for future action were developed from this data to form the basis of this Community Plan, which will be distributed as printed copies and a downloadable pdf on www.seamillsandcoombedingletogether.com. All of the original, anonymised, data is also freely available online.

This Community Plan has taken a great deal of collective time, effort, skill and enthusiasm by a small group of people dedicated to producing it. We are grateful to all the residents who gave their time and energy to deliver and complete the survey, to our volunteer team and the working group who made it possible for Sea Mills and Coombe Dingle to have our own Community Plan.



The surveys were hand delivered by volunteers to more than 2500 local households.



There was a good range of responses from across Sea Mills and Coombe Dingle.

With thanks...

Our thanks to all the volunteers, too numerous to name, who helped with the development of this Community Plan in so many different ways:

- Developing and designing the survey
- Delivering and helping others to complete the survey
- Inputting the results and analysing data
- Hosting focus groups
- Attending focus groups and other meetings
- Offering advice and expertise
- Developing, designing and distributing the plan

Our thanks to funders:



We are also very grateful for additional support:



Copies of this Community Plan can be found in Sea Mills Library and at www.seamillsandcoombedingle.com. The complete, anonymised data and information generated from our survey can also be downloaded from this website.



**Sea Mills &
Coombe Dingle**
Together

Please get in touch to find out more about how you can get involved at:
seamillsandcoombedingle@gmail.com

www.seamillsandcoombedingle.com