



Dear Villager,

AT LAST: THE VILLAGE QUESTIONNAIRE!

**This is your chance to tell us what you want for Meppershall!
Your views will form part of the Meppershall Village Plan.**

The Meppershall Village Plan will be submitted to the District and County authorities and will be taken into consideration in the decision-making process. In certain cases it will be possible for the Parish Council to deal with some of the issues raised; in other cases it will be left to the villagers themselves to decide on a course of action.

How to complete the questionnaire

Each questionnaire has enough space to accommodate responses from up to five people. We are asking everyone for their views, **from 8-year-olds upwards**. If you need an extra copy, please contact any of the team members (for details, see last page).

On the front page, complete the personal details of each respondent (person 1, person 2, etc.) Person 1 will then answer the questions using column 1, person 2 will complete column 2, and so on.

You do not have to complete all questions, those you have no opinion, or feel disinclined to answer, that's fine. If you have another answer, then please see the boxes on the last page.

You do not have to agree with each other.

The questionnaire does not ask you to disclose any personal details that would identify you. Any personal information you choose to provide will be treated in the strictest confidence.

Collection of the questionnaire

Questionnaires will be collected between 14th and 21st May

There are a number of options for returning your questionnaire:

- The questionnaire has been delivered to you in a plastic bag. Once you have completed it, put it back in the bag, seal it and leave it on your doorstep. A volunteer will collect it.
- Alternatively, you can drop it in to any of the team members (for details, see last page).
OR
- You can telephone one of the team and arrange for it to be picked up.

If you need help, contact one of the team (for details, see last page).

Remember: this is **your** chance to influence change!

Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire.

Returned copies will be entered into a draw for a bottle of champagne.
The winning number will be published in June's Messenger

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Before returning, tear of this strip to have to chance of winning a bottle of champagne

Your number is

This questionnaire is designed to allow up to five different people in the same household to provide answers independently of one another. In order to build your personal profile, please complete one of the columns below, marking the boxes as appropriate.

Thank you.

Please enter your post code (to ensure we have full village coverage) **SG17**

The first three questions, like the post-code above, help us to check against the known demographics of the village, to see that the returns are a representative sample of the village make-up and that we do not have a biased result. Thank you for completing these questions.

Qu 1 - Please indicate your age group	Person 1	Person 2	Person 3	Person 4	Person 5
8-11					
12-15					
16-19					
20-24					
25-29					
30-34					
35-39					
40-44					
45-59					
60-64					
65 and over					

Qu 2 - Please indicate whether you are male (M) or female (F)	Person 1	Person 2	Person 3	Person 4	Person 5

Qu 3 - How would you describe your ethnic origin?	Person 1	Person 2	Person 3	Person 4	Person 5
White					
Mixed race					
Asian or Asian British					
Black or Black British					
Chinese					
Other ethnic group (please specify below)					

PERSON				
1	2	3	4	5

Qu 4 - How long have you lived in this village?

Less than 1 year					
1-5 years					
6-15 years					
16-25 years					
26-50 years					
Over 50 years					

Disability Discrimination Act (DDA)

The definition of disability under the Disability Discrimination Act is: "A physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on a person's ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities"

Qu 5 - Access to village life

Are you a disabled person within the meaning of the DDA statement (see above)?					
Yes					
No					

Qu 6 - If you have answered Yes to Qu 5, do you have full access (tick where the answer is Yes) to the following: (If you answered No, please go to Qu 9).

Public transport					
Education					
Leisure activities					
Local facilities (shops, GP surgery etc.)					

Qu 7 - What is the nature of your disability?

Physical					
Sensory (e.g. hearing, sight)					
Learning					
Health-related (including mental health)					

Qu 8 - In order to gain equal access to all aspects of village life, what changes would benefit you most?

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Qu 9 - Does your household need or wish to move to different accommodation in the village?

Yes					
No					

Qu 10 - If you are unable to move to accommodation of the type you need, is this because of:

Property prices					
Lack of suitable properties to buy					
Lack of local housing association accommodation					
Lack of other rented accommodation					

Qu 11 - How many members of your household, if any, moved from the village in the last 10 years?

PERSON				
1	2	3	4	5

Qu 12 - How many left because of lack of employment?

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Qu 13 - How many left because of lack of suitable housing?

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Qu 14 - As a large village, we have to absorb a proportion of the total development in the county. What type of property/development would you prefer to see? (Please tick all those you would find acceptable). (Please a X for those you would find UNacceptable).

Town houses					
Two-storey houses					
Bungalows					
Affordable housing					
Shared ownership housing					
One-bedroom starter homes					
Flats					
Retail development with housing above it					
Travellers' sites					
None					

Qu 15 - All developments in excess of 10 dwellings attract a 'planning gain', i.e. a certain amount of money is allocated indirectly to the village under a Section 106 agreement. How would you like to see these funds spent in Meppershall? (Please tick all alternatives you would find acceptable):

Recreation/sport					
Traffic calming measures					
Public open spaces					
Footpaths					
Support for local groups					
Support for the Village Hall					

Qu 16 - Please indicate car/transport ownership In this household

Bicycle					
Moped					
Motorbike/scooter					
Car					
Van					

Qu 17 – Travel Times - I drive a car most days between (tick as appropriate):

6 a.m. and 8 a.m.					
8 a.m. and 10 a.m.					
10 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.					
2:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m.					
4:30 p.m. and 7 p.m.					
7 p.m. and 6 a.m.					

PERSON				
1	2	3	4	5

Qu 18 – Rail Journeys - Twice a week or more, I drive to a railway station at:

Arlesey					
Bedford					
Flitwick					
Hitchin					
Letchworth					
Stevenage					

Qu 19 - Non Rail Travel - Twice a week or more, I drive to:

Baldock					
Bedford					
Biggleswade					
Flitwick					
Henlow					
Hitchin					
Letchworth					
London (including Greater London)					
Sandy					
Shefford					
Stevenage					

Qu 20 - Bus Use - (Except School Bus) – I use buses from the village (all types, including works bus, public service):

Daily					
Not daily but at least once a week					
Not weekly but at least once a month					
Not every month but at least twice a year					
Never use a bus from the village					

Qu 21 – “It would not be possible to live in the village if I did not have regular use of a car”

Agree					
Disagree					

Qu 22- The traffic problems I notice are:

Speeding in some areas of the village					
Difficulty parking in some areas of the village					
Bad parking causing obstruction					
Too many cars, resulting in congestion (at specific times)					
Car noise					
Car fumes					
There are no traffic problems					

PERSON				
1	2	3	4	5

Qu 23 - I would like to see the following traffic control measures put in place in the village where appropriate:

Speed bumps (sleeping policemen)					
Chicanes					
20 mph limits					
Zebra (or other controlled) crossings					
Automatic warning signs					
Rumble strips					
'Lollipop' crossing patrol					

Qu 24 - Do you think that a pavement is required between the village and Shefford?

Yes					
No					
No opinion					

Qu 25 - Other than the pavement in Question 24, is there anywhere else you think a new pavement might be necessary?

To Campton					
To Stondon					
On Chapel Road					
To Shillington					

Qu 26 - Parents of schoolchildren at Meppershall Lower School – are you aware of the Meppershall Lower School transport plan, including use of the “walking bus”?

Yes					
No					

Qu 27 - I drive a child or children to school:

Always					
More than twice a week					
Less than twice a week					
Sometimes					
Never					

Qu 28 - Aircraft noise over the village is a problem for me

Yes					
No					

Qu 29 - I share car journeys at least once a week for:

School					
Work					
Shopping					
Never					

PERSON				
1	2	3	4	5

Qu 30 - Are you currently:

Employed – full-time					
Employed – part-time					
Self-employed					
Unemployed					
In a government training scheme					
In full-time education					
Retired					
Semi-retired					
Unwaged housewife/husband					
Permanently sick/disabled					

Qu 31 - If you are employed, where do you work (if not applicable please go to Qu 34)

At home					
In the village					
Bedford					
Hitchin					
Letchworth					
London					
Shefford					
Stevenage					

Qu 32 – What is your main form of transport to and from work?

Walking					
Bicycle					
Motorcycle					
Own car					
Car share					
Scheduled bus					
Train (and taxi/bus)					
Taxi					
Work at home					

Qu 33 – What type of industry do you work in?

Agriculture / Horticulture					
Manufacturing					
Teaching / Education					
Retail & shops					
Healthcare					
Civil Service / Local Government					
IT / Communications					
Professional Services					
Banking / Financial Services					
Leisure & Tourism					
Armed Forces / Police					
Construction					

PERSON				
1	2	3	4	5

Qu 34 - Would you like to see more jobs becoming available in the village?

Yes					
No					
No opinion					

Qu 35 - If you answered Yes to Qu 34, what sort of employment would you support?

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Qu 36 - If a few small-scale light industrial workshops were proposed for the village, how would you be likely to react?

In favour					
Against					
No opinion					

Qu 37 - Would a vacancies board in the village be useful?

Yes					
No					
No opinion					

Qu 38 – Do you have access to the internet at home? (Please tick as appropriate)

Yes – I use it for work purposes					
Yes – I use it for non-work purposes					
I have broadband connection					
I do not have access					
No but I have access at work or through internet cafes					

Qu 39 - Please enter the number of children, if any, in your household who attend

Meppershall Lower School					
Henlow Middle School					
Robert Bloomfield Middle School					
Samuel Whitbread (Upper School) Community College					
Dame Alice Harper					
Bedford Modern School					

Qu 40 - (Schoolchildren) – Are you unable to take part in after-school activities? If so, please indicate why:

No public transport available					
No school transport available					
Distance between home and school					
Road safety hazards					
Not interested					

Qu 41 - If an extended school opening facility was made available, would you make use of this? (Extended school opening 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.)

Yes					
No					
No opinion					

PERSON				
1	2	3	4	5

Qu 42 - Do you make use of the adult education facilities at local colleges or schools?

Yes					
No					

Qu 43 - If you answered No to Qu 42, what is the main reason for this?

No public transport available					
No information available or information inadequate					
Interested, but the courses I would be interested in are not available locally					
Not interested					

Qu 44 - Do you know where the public footpaths & bridleways are in the village?

Yes					
No					
Some					
Not interested					

Qu 45 - How often do you use the public footpaths & bridleways in the village?

Regularly					
Occasionally					
Never					

Qu 46 - Do you find the footpaths cut, cleared and easy to use all year round?

Yes					
No					
No opinion					

Qu 47 - Do you find the public areas are free of litter and dog fouling?

Yes					
No					

Qu 48 - How often do you use the "small children" play area behind the Village Hall?

Regularly					
Occasionally					
Never					

Qu 49 - How often do you use the "small children" play area at Coneygate?

Regularly					
Occasionally					
Never					

Qu 50 - How often do you use the equipment for older children?

Regularly					
Occasionally					
Never					

PERSON				
1	2	3	4	5

Qu 51 - How often do you use the new MUGA (Multi-Use Games Area) hard surface play area?

Regularly					
Occasionally					
Never					

Qu 52 - Do you think the facilities for sports and outdoor recreation are adequate?

Yes					
No					

Qu 53 - How would you rate the following playing field facilities? Please indicate using G (good), F (fair), P (poor)

Playing field					
Safety					
Equipment					
Seating					

Qu 54 - With regard to Qu 52 and Qu 53, what improvements would you like to see?

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Qu 55 - Do you think floodlighting is necessary for the playing field and children's playground?

Yes					
No					

Qu 56 - Would you like to see any additional facilities/equipment for the following age groups?

0-5					
6-9					
10-13					
14-18					
19-60					
Over 60's					

Qu 57 - Do you find the grass areas around the village are regularly cut and well maintained?

Yes					
No					
No opinion					

Qu 58 - Do you visit the Old Road Meadow nature reserve?

Regularly					
Occasionally					
Never					
Don't know where it is					

PERSON				
1	2	3	4	5

Qu 59 - Do you have any difficulty accessing the following? (Please enter Y or N as applicable)

Chemist					
Chiropodist					
Dentist					
Doctor					
Hospital					
Optician					

Qu 60 - Do you think that Meppershall should have its own doctor's surgery, even if it is a satellite of the Shefford Health Centre?

Yes					
No					
No opinion					

Qu 61 - Are you willing to provide assistance in a "good neighbour" scheme (e.g. shopping for senior citizens, providing transport in emergencies, etc.)?

Yes					
No					
Possibly					

Qu 62 - How often would you be willing to provide assistance in a "good neighbour" scheme (e.g. shopping for senior citizens, providing transport in emergencies, etc.)?

Once a week					
Once a month					
Occasionally					
Never					

Qu 63 - Do you use the Link-Ride, and if so, how easy is it to arrange?

No					
Yes, but difficult to arrange					
Yes, easy to arrange					
Tried once and could not arrange it					

Qu 64 - Do you find it difficult to get an emergency lift?

Yes					
No					
Have not yet had the need					

Qu 65 - Have you used the "Wanderbus" and was it easy to arrange?

No					
Yes, but difficult to arrange					
Yes, easy to arrange					
Tried once and could not arrange it					

Qu 66 - What are your views on the standard of the police service covering the village?

Good					
Reasonable					
Poor					
No opinion					

PERSON				
1	2	3	4	5

Qu 67 - What are your views on the standard of the postal service covering the village?

Good					
Reasonable					
Poor					
No opinion					

Qu 68 - What are your views on the standard of the recycling schemes covering the village?

Good					
Reasonable					
Poor					
No opinion					

Qu 69 - There is currently no Neighbourhood Watch scheme. Would you be willing to support one?

Yes					
No					
No opinion					

Qu 70 - Have you been a victim of a crime that you did not report in the village in the last five years?

Yes					
No					

Qu 71 - If you answered Yes to Qu 70 was it a crime against your person or your property?

Person					
Vehicle					
Property					

Qu 72 - Please indicate any crime or security concerns

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Qu 73 - What is your opinion of the street cleaning?

Good					
Reasonable					
Poor					
No opinion					

Qu 74 - Do you think there is a need for more shopping facilities in the village?

Yes					
No					
No opinion					

PERSON				
1	2	3	4	5

Qu 75 - Do you use any of the following?

Post Office					
Village shop					
Bakery					
Public house					

Qu 76 - How often (on average) do you use the facilities you noted in Qu 75?

Daily					
Weekly					
Monthly					
Rarely					
Never					

Qu 77- Do you use a home delivery service for:

Milk					
Greengrocery					
Frozen food					
Newspapers					
Supermarket shopping					

Qu 78 - How often (on average) do you use the delivery services you noted in Qu 77?

Daily					
Weekly					
Monthly					
Rarely					
Never					

Qu 79 - Do you regularly use any of the following mobile services?

Hairdresser					
Car servicing and repairs					
Library					
Gardener					
Window cleaner					

Qu 80 - How do you rate the quality of the retail services in the village?

Good					
Poor					
Fair					
No opinion					

Qu 81 - When you use the retail services in the village, is it because you:

Like to support local shops					
Like the social interaction					
Want to save transport costs					
Want last-minute items					
Find it inconvenient to use your own or public transport					

PERSON				
1	2	3	4	5

Qu 82 - What other types of shops or services not already mentioned would you like to see in the village?

Butcher					
Cafe					
Chemist					
Clothes / Shoes					
Farm shop/ fruit & veg.					
Hairdresser					
Hardware					
Takeaway, e.g. fish & chips etc					

Qu 83 - What is your opinion of 'door step' sellers or cold callers? (Please tick one box)

Like					
Do not mind					
Dislike					
No opinion					

Qu 84 - Do you think the Village Hall is adequate for the needs of the village?

Yes					
No					

Qu 85 - Do you think it should be replaced?

Yes					
No					

Qu 86 - Do you think the Village Hall should be funded by the Parish Council from council taxes?

Yes					
No					
No opinion					

Qu 87 - Do you use the Social Club?

Yes					
No					

Qu 88 - Please list any new clubs you would you like to see formed

Qu 89 - Would you be in favour of teenagers in the village having their own self-managed club with appropriate supervision?

Yes					
No					

Qu 90 - If in favour, would you be willing to offer assistance?

Yes					
No					

PERSON				
1	2	3	4	5

Qu 91 - Do you frequent the Sugar Loaf public house?

Regularly					
Occasionally					
Never					

Qu 92 - I have a telephone ('land line') connection at home

Yes					
No					
I do not have a telephone (land line) at home and use only a mobile phone					
I do not use a telephone of any description at my home					

Qu 93 - I have regular contact with my neighbours

At least daily					
At least weekly					
Rarely					
Not at all					

Qu 94 - I look at the village website at least once a month

Yes					
No					

Qu 95 - I look at local village information (council/ local business/ timetables of local transport EXCLUDING SCHOOL INFORMATION) on the web at least once a month

Yes					
No					

Qu 96 - I read notices on the official public notice boards in the village.

At least every other day					
At least once a week					
Monthly					
Hardly ever					
What notice boards? I have not seen any					

Qu 97 - If your answer to Qu 96 was "Hardly ever" is there a particular reason for this?

Don't go past the notice boards					
I pass the notice boards but they are positioned out of the way					
Not interested in the notices					
Don't know where they are.					
Not maintained.					
Do not have interesting information.					

Qu 98 - I get my main local news from

Television					
The Messenger					
The Comet					
The Advertiser					
Local radio					
Beds on Sunday					

PERSON				
1	2	3	4	5

Qu 99 - I discuss local events with local people (other than my immediate neighbours)

Once or twice a week					
Once or twice a month					
Rarely					
Not at all					

Qu 100 - Would you regard yourself as

Atheist					
Buddhist					
Christian					
Hindu					
Jewish					
Muslim					
Not interested					

Qu 101 - Do you attend a place of worship?

One or more times a week					
Once a month					
Only on church festivals					
Only for weddings, baptisms, funerals					
Never					

Qu 102 - Place of worship - please specify:

Parish Church					
Methodist Chapel					
Informal house meetings					
Outside the village					

Qu 103 - Is the parish church important to you for:

Sunday worship					
Baptisms, weddings, funerals					
As a historical building					
Family members interred in churchyard					
Social life					
It is of no interest to me					

Qu 104 - Would you worship at St Mary's church if there was more emphasis on:

Ecumenical style worship in conjunction with other denominations					
Informal all-age services, with occasional family meals					
Praise-type worship with modern music					
Reflective and meditative style services					
Not interested					

PERSON				
1	2	3	4	5

Qu 105 - St Mary's churchyard has limited capacity for future burials. Given this fact, is it important to you that there will be provision for burials:

Within church grounds					
Within the Meppershall parish boundary					
Not interested					

Qu 106 - At present, the Methodist Chapel is rarely open for worship. Would you like to be able to worship there?

Yes					
No					

Qu 107 - Will you be attending the public meeting to discuss the findings of this questionnaire?

Yes					
No					

Qu 108 - If suggestions arising as a result of this questionnaire require money for implementation, where should the money come from? (Note: the Parish Council will receive £28,000 this year via your council tax.)

Private contributions					
Council tax increases					
Fundraising					
Sponsorship					
Grants					

Qu 109 - How would you like the village to develop?

As a working community					
As a retirement community					
As a commuter community					
As a tourist centre					
To stay as it is					

Qu 110 - Do you think the village verges should be "improved" by a flower planting scheme?

Yes					
No					
No opinion					

Qu 111 - On average, six villagers attend the monthly Parish Council meetings, which are open to everybody. The Parish Council is interested to know why more villagers do not attend. Is this because you:

Are not interested					
Are unaware of the meetings					
Have other commitments					
Perceive them as boring					
Feel they don't concern you					
Are too busy					
Feel the Parish Council is already doing a good job					

- In formulating this questionnaire, we have tried to devise questions that help us focus on the future. However, we recognise that we may have overlooked some issues that you might wish to raise.
- Please use the boxes below to draw our attention to any such issues.
- You may think that there is a simple answer to a particular question and we have not offered that as an option. (The “OTHER” answer you have thought of)
- Please enter ONE point per box to ensure your views are taken into consideration.
- Please may we ask you to keep your comments brief (within the confines of the box) as we hope to have several hundred questionnaires to process and analyse.

Item 1

Person	1	2	3	4	5		Question (if applicable)		

Item 2

Person	1	2	3	4	5		Question (if applicable)		

Item 3

Person	1	2	3	4	5		Question (if applicable)		

Item 4

Person	1	2	3	4	5		Question (if applicable)		

Item 5

Person	1	2	3	4	5		Question (if applicable)		

If you need help

If you have any queries regarding the questions, the team will be delighted to assist. You can contact:

- | | | |
|------------------------|--------|----------------------------|
| • John West | 813157 | 6 Brookside |
| • John Thompson | 815129 | 9 Church Road |
| • David & Jill Foskett | 851770 | 11 Orchard Close |
| • Julia Roberts | 811503 | 7 Brookside |
| • Jill Hickling | 817492 | 53 High Street |
| • Carolyn Holmes | 850619 | 19 Buxton Close |
| • Peter Chapman | 813497 | 9 Brookside |
| • Colette House | 815585 | 90 Fildyke Road |
| • Gilly Chegwyn | 815663 | Jupiter House, Chapel Road |
| • Richard Phillips | 815663 | Jupiter House, Chapel Road |