



Community Services in Sawtry

Residents' Survey: results and analysis

Spring 2018

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Executive Summary

In February and March 2018 Hunts Forum conducted a survey of residents in Sawtry to find out what they liked, disliked and wanted to change about their community. There were three key objectives:

- to provide Hunts Forum, local councils and partner organisations with an insight into the views of residents
- to encourage residents to think critically and creatively about their community
- to nurture and support new and existing projects that addressed their concerns and desires

The survey was conducted online using Google Forms and publicised via the Sawtry Eye magazine, which is distributed free to all homes in Sawtry and surrounding villages. It was publicised via social media (Sawtry Scene Facebook page) and paper copies were made available at the CARESCO charity building and the CARESCO shop.

The survey included introductory text, as follows:

What are the best things about Sawtry? What could be better? Is there enough for you and your family to do?

Ben Pitt is the Communities Officer for Hunts Forum, an organisation that supports voluntary and community groups to help them set up, develop and grow. He's working in Sawtry this year and wants to find out what local residents think of existing community services, what they feel is missing and what can be done to fill the gaps.

Voluntary and community organisations might include pre-school groups, youth clubs, sports and exercise groups, support for older people or those with additional needs, faith groups, community car schemes, book clubs, community choirs, drawing classes, sewing clubs, gardening clubs, coffee mornings and cookery clubs. It includes organisations that support a range of activities, such as a residents' association, neighbourhood watch scheme or a timebank.

105 responses were submitted, with 99 online and 6 on paper. Most questions had free text answers. These answers have been analysed and grouped together by category and subcategory to establish trends.

Headline Trends

The responses showed a number of clear trends, as follows:

Residents place a high value on community.

When asked, "What are the best things about living in Sawtry?", 41 respondents (39%) made a reference to community spirit, community cohesion or community events. 33 respondents (31%) referred to friends, family, people or the general friendliness of the village.

Respondents were generally positive about living in Sawtry.

For the question, "Which words describe Sawtry?", respondents were given a list of nine positive, nine negative and three neutral words to choose from. 359 positive words were chosen compared to 67 negative words. 96% of people described it as "Friendly", with only 1% selecting "Anti-social". However, opinion was divided as to whether Sawtry is "Busy" (28%) or "Quiet" (29%). A similar number of people chose "Narrow-minded" (16%) and "Tolerant" (14%).

The biggest concerns are the rate of expansion of the village, crime and lack of youth provision.

A wide range of issues were expressed in response to the question, "What are your biggest concerns about living here?" but 56% of responses cited the expansion of the village in some way. Crime was mentioned by 21% of respondents, and a lack of provision for teenagers by 19%. The expansion of the village also featured heavily in responses to the question, "How has Sawtry changed in the last 10 years?" with 40% citing it as a negative change, and 3% as a positive.

Social media and the Sawtry Eye community newsletter are more effective than other means of communication.

77% of respondents cited social media as their means to finding out what's happening in the village, with the Sawtry Scene Facebook page featuring heavily. 70% mentioned the Sawtry Eye, a community newsletter produced by local charity CARESCO. Posters and noticeboards (15%), websites (3%) and flyers (0%) were much lower. These results may be distorted because invitations to complete the survey were distributed via the Sawtry Eye and Facebook.

There are lots of community activities already established in Sawtry.

When asked, "Which community events and groups have you or people in your household attended recently in Sawtry? What did you think of them?", 70 activities were mentioned.

There is relatively high demand for more youth activities.

When asked, "What new activities would you like to see?", 25% of people requested youth-related activities, with 16% specifically mentioning a skate park. 10% requested adult education classes. 39 other suggestions were made, ranging from boxing classes to community litter picks.

Half of respondents are interested in becoming more involved in community activities.

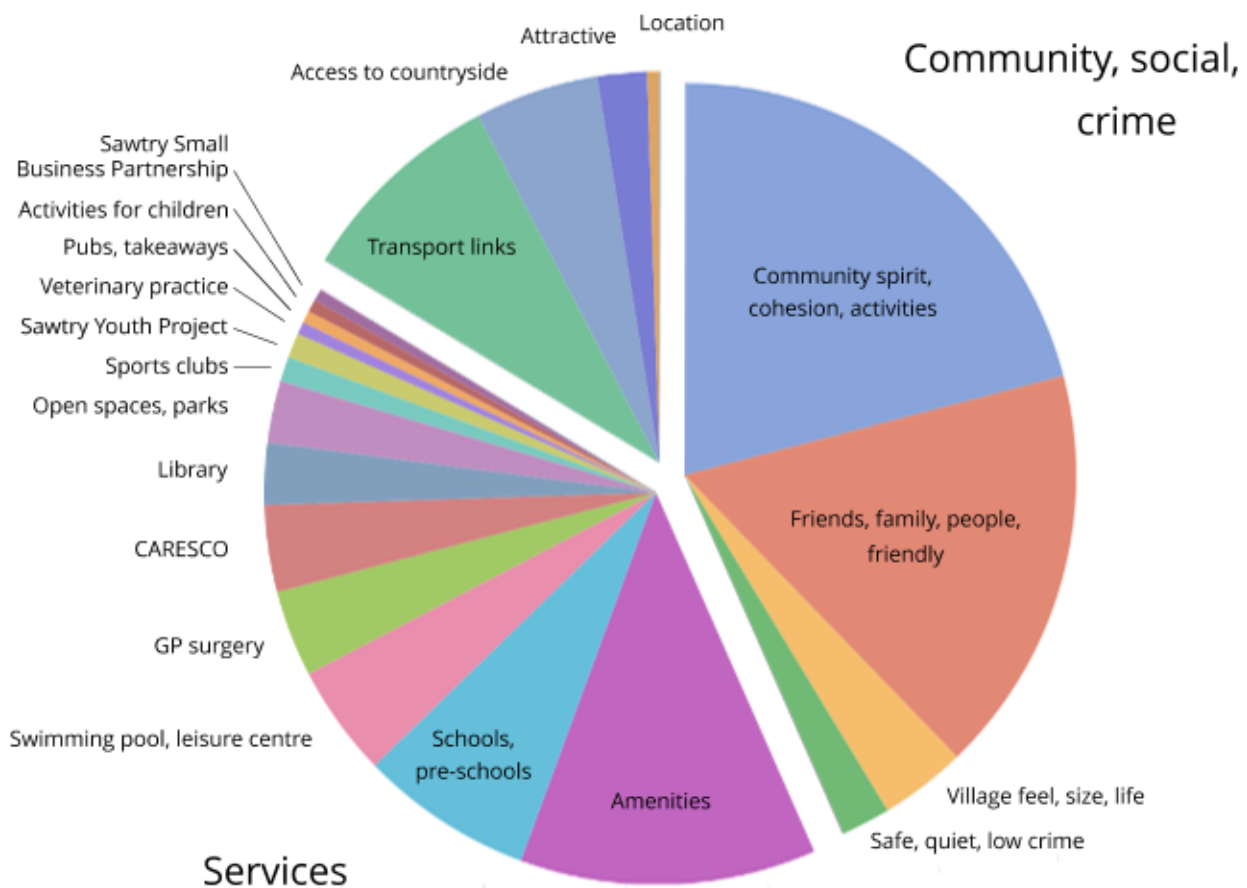
When asked, "Would you like to be more involved in community activities?", 20 replied "Yes" and 34 replied "Maybe", totalling 51% of responses to this question.

What are the best things about living in Sawtry?

Free text field; most respondents provided multiple answers

COMMUNITY, SOCIAL, CRIME		Open spaces, parks	5
Community spirit, cohesion, activities	41	Sports clubs	2
Friends, family, people, friendly	33	Sawtry Youth Project	2
Village feel, size, life	7	Veterinary practice	1
Safe, quiet, low crime	4	Pubs, takeaways	1
		Activities for children	1
SERVICES		Sawtry Small Business Partnership	1
Amenities	24		
Schools, pre-schools	14	PHYSICAL, ENVIRONMENTAL	
Swimming pool, leisure centre	9	Transport links	17
GP surgery	7	Access to countryside	10
CARESCO	7	Attractive	4
Library	5	Location	1

Physical, environmental



What are your biggest concerns about living here?

Free text field; most respondents provided multiple answers

COMMUNITY, SOCIAL, CRIME

Crime, increase in crime	22
Lack of police presence, police station	6
Traffic, speeding	6
Parking	5
Litter	3
Dog poo, dogs running loose	4
Anti-social behaviour	3
Sawtry Academy historic problems	1
Lack of CCTV	1
People being critical about events, unwilling to help	1
Aging population	1
Nimbyism	1
Not knowing the area well	1

SERVICES

Not enough for teenagers	20
Lack of amenities	9
GP is (or becoming) over-subscribed	9
Sports centre open for fewer hours, uncertain future	3

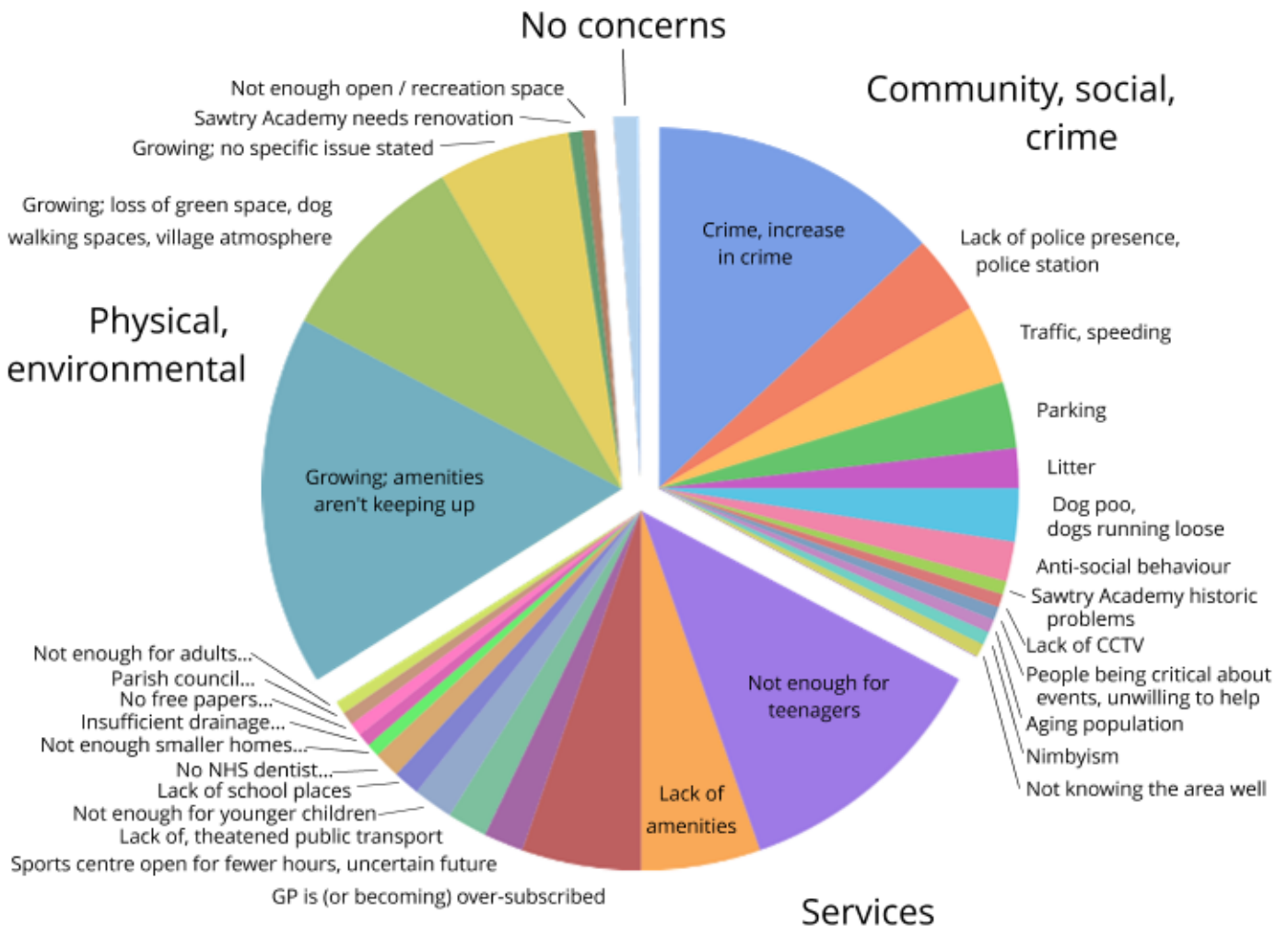
Lack of, threatened public transport	3
Not enough for younger children	3
Lack of school places	2
No NHS dentist, dentist over-subscribed	2
Not enough smaller homes for downsizing	1
Insufficient drainage for new homes	1
No free papers to find out what's going on	1
Not enough done by parish council	1
Not enough for adults who don't use pubs	1

PHYSICAL, ENVIRONMENTAL

Growing; amenities aren't keeping up	28
Growing; loss of green space, dog walking spaces, village atmosphere	15
Growing; no specific issue stated	10
Sawtry Academy needs renovation	1
Not enough open / recreation space	1

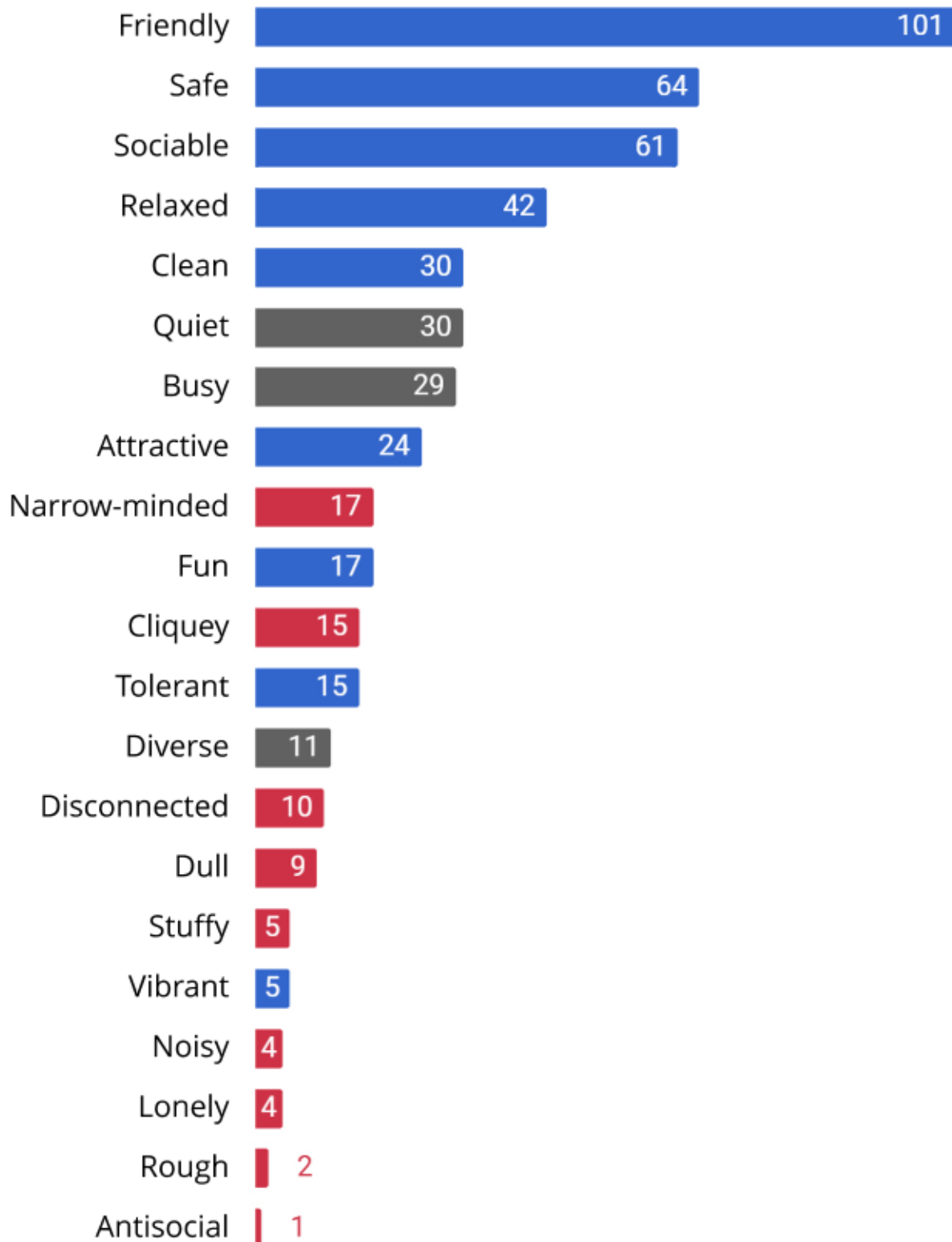
NO CONCERNS

No concerns	2
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Which words describe Sawtry?

Tick boxes. Respondents could select multiple answers. Colour-coding (not included in the survey questions) denotes **positive**, **negative** and neutral attributes.



How has Sawtry changed in the last 10 years?

Free text field; some respondents provided multiple answers. Colour-coding denotes positive, negative and neutral or no comments.

COMMUNITY, SOCIAL, CRIME

More traffic / parking issues	9
More crime	6
More anti-social behaviour	6
More dog mess	3
Better community spirit	3
Less community spirit, village feel	3
More negativity	3
More litter	1

SERVICES

Loss of, stretched amenities	8
Better amenities	4
Worse schools	2

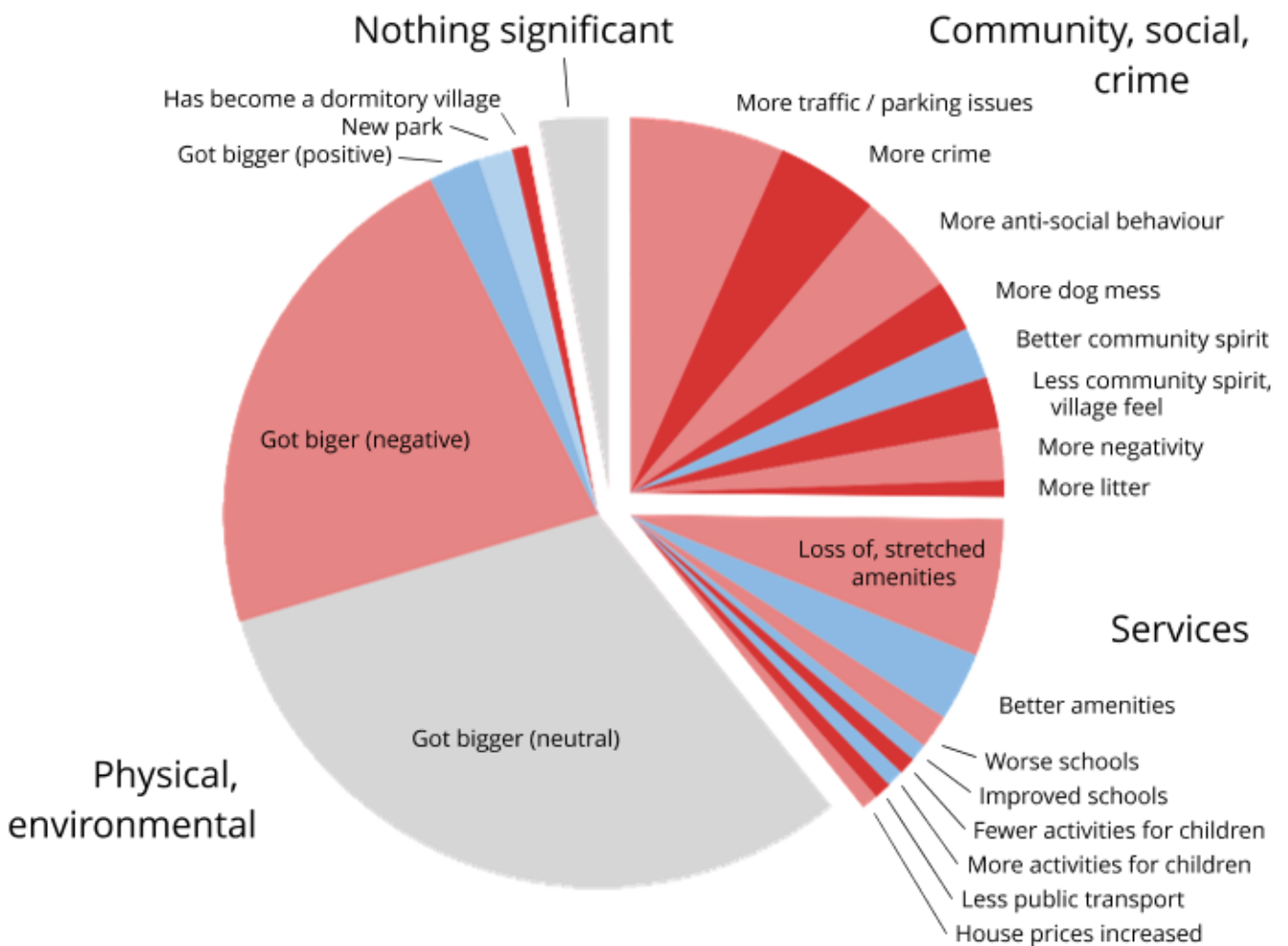
Improved schools	1
Fewer activities for children	1
More activities for children	1
Less public transport	1
House prices increased	1

PHYSICAL, ENVIRONMENTAL

Got bigger (neutral)	42
Got bigger (negative)	30
Got bigger (positive)	3
New park	2
Has become a dormitory village	1

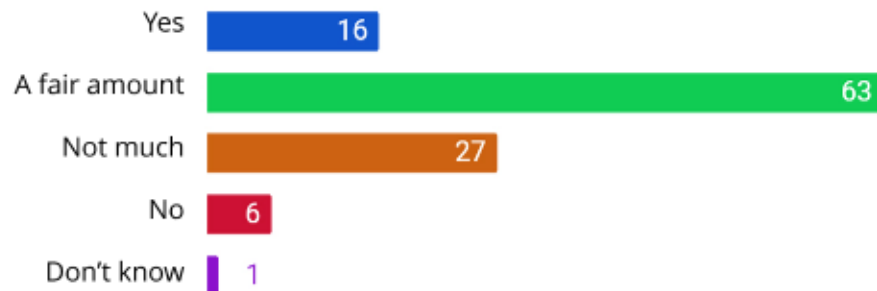
NOTHING SIGNIFICANT

Nothing significant	4
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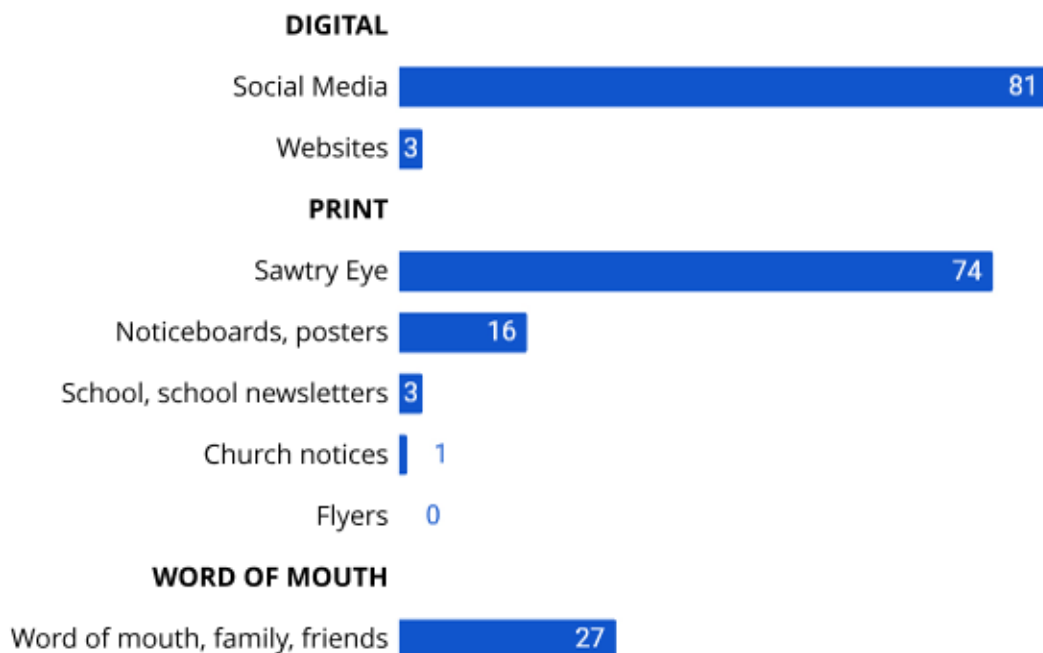
Is there a lot going on here for you and your household?

Multiple choice - one answer allowed



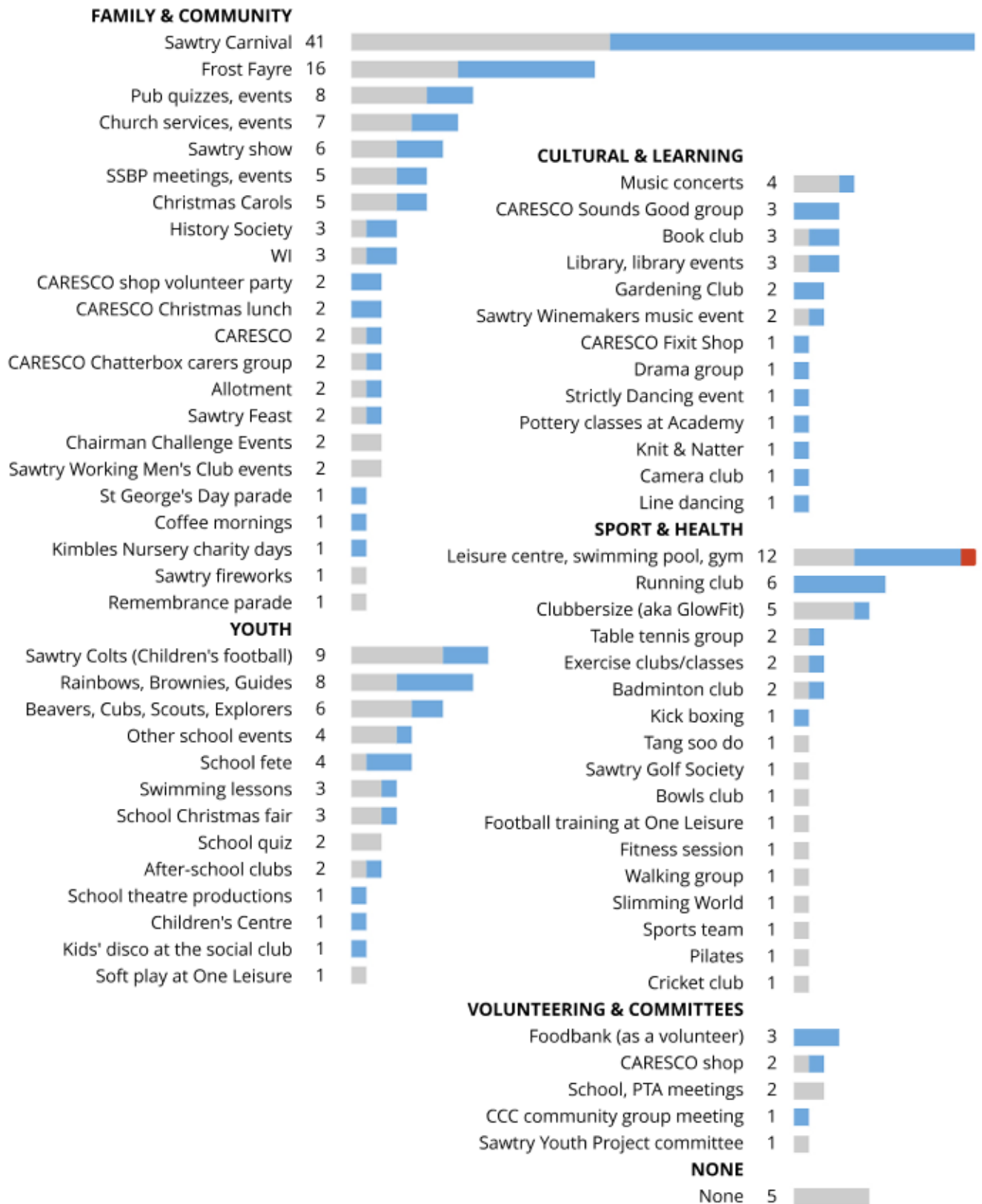
How do you find out what's going on in the village?

Free text; most respondents provided multiple answers



Which community events and groups have you (or people in your household) attended recently in Sawtry? What did you think of them?

Free text. Colour-coding denotes positive, negative and neutral or no comments.



What new activities would you like to see?

Free text.



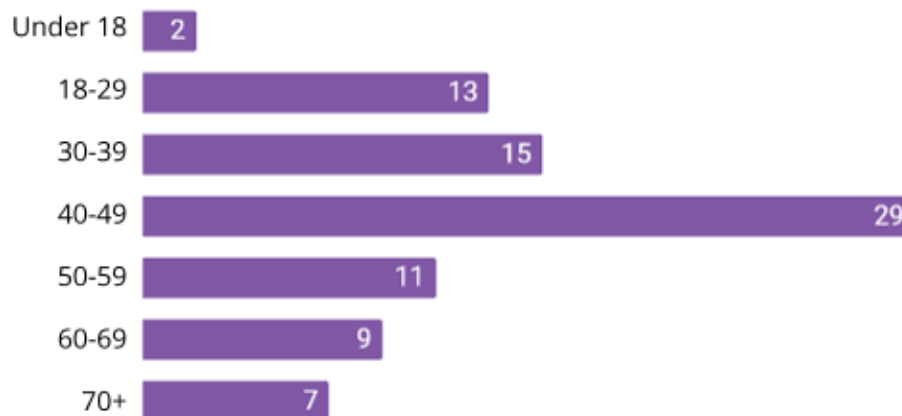
* (drawing, sewing, painting, cookery, IT, languages)

Would you like to be more involved in community activities?

Multiple choice (yes, maybe, not interested) with free text option.



Optional: how old are you?



Appendix: Answers in full

What are the best things about living in Sawtry?

Community feel about the village

Very friendly people and good local facilities which meet everyday needs..

(Usually) very friendly residents – rural location – good road links

The people

Everything you need, generally a good community atmosphere

Fresh air, country walks and wildlife

Lovely village to bring up my children. It has a great community spirit among most of the people which makes it a happy place.

Community

The facilities such as shops, the schools, the general community

Quick access to towns and cities

The level of facilities in an area that still has a village feel.

Most of the village are very friendly

Location, always been a very friendly village.

Ive lived here all my life (im 43) it did used to be such a lovely community sadly this is beginning to fade:(

St Judith's Field, Voluntary Groups, Small Businesses, Doctor's Surgery, Access to all main routes, but still in a village environment, Schools, Library, Swimming Pool,Gym, all the various classes held in the Sawtry village hall and college.

The people

Schools and doctors

The amenities

Living in a close community with lots of amenities close by.

I grew up in Sawtry as my parents moved here in 1972 I loved how the community looked out for each other we didn't have social media in those days however through social media we are kept informed on what's happening in the village and love how we do still pull together as a community

Access to Huntingdon and Peterborough - by car not public transport

Community spirit. This village is very friendly and there is so much to do.

School provision for all ages, leisure centre facilities within the village. Near countryside but easily accessible to road & rail networks.

Lots of amenities within walking distance and close to the A1 and A14 for commuting.

Community feel, local amenities such as doctors, library, co op!

Community spirit

Having good facilities like schools, doctors etc

School within walking distance

Village life, everything Caresco does

A sense of community. Good schools which are continuing to improve.

The best thing about visiting is: 1. Easy access off the A1. 2. Friendly locals.

Community spirit, sport clubs

People look out for each other

The surrounding countryside and the people

Good community feel, good access to main roads, excellent school facilities, lovely rural area.

It's a self contained community - schools from pre-school up to 6th form.

Community spirit. Always someone to help out in a crisis. Having a veterinary surgery in the village.

Open spaces

The community

Friendly people

Community sized help is only a question away. All you need do is ask, and bundles of friendly genuine people are willing to help.

Being able to get everything (within reason) on your doorstep

Has alot of amenities ie leisure centre ,pool, gym astro, etc and community spirit! caresco charity who serve the community. Good doctors surgery where u can get an appointment normally the same day. Sawtry youth project ..v good. Sawtry has a strong cub scout org and football clubs. Good neighbour's. I feel it v important for the leisure centre to stay open..lots of keep fit classes and swimming lessons

Village location, good transport links to city amenities, friendly neighbours

Shops and facilities walking distance.

A lovely community spirit.

The People. The Caresco charity and all it does for the village. Having the gym with the swimming pool and all the classes to walk to. Being near to the countryside/woodland trust. Having the academy and the library which help all ages. St Judith's village field and access to the Woodland Trust. Having allotments and lots of clubs to attend.

Friendly people (mostly), Sense of community

Good community spirit if you get involved with things that are going on. Small population. CARESCO look after lots of people.

Friendly community.

Friendly community

Friendly people

Good facilities, pretty safe

You don't need to leave the village to get what you want (shops pubs takeaways hairdressers schools keep fit)

I live and work in the village, me and my children all walk to school. My children have lots of good friends in the village as do I and my husband. It has great community spirit and generally find people to be friendly and kind. I come from Ireland and love the walks in the fields and I also love I can walk my younger kids to the park, swimming club and footy.

Facilities

Community spirit

Accessible to Huntingdon or Peterborough

People being nice and friendly

Being close to the countryside. Easy access to airports and the rest of the country. Friendly community spirit. CARESCO, the Sawtry Small Business Partnership, the Sawtry Youth Project, all the schools, the library, great little leisure centre.

Good range of shops, schools are all within walking distance

Community spirit

The doctors surgery

Being in a village with a close community

Community spirit

A friendly atmosphere and a lovely pretty village. Many people who can help, along with caresco.

It has amenities such as a schools, doctor's surgery, chemist, co-op, library leisure centre and churches as well as being on a bus route. It is also a good community with various clubs and groups.

It has major facilities. Schools dr's etc.

My family and friends in walking distance, I got to know people by working in bar.

All my friends. 2 x pubs. Take aways. Access.

Friendly community. My children get to go all the way through school in the village. Lots of lovely walks.

It's a village with all the amenities for everyday living. It's like going back on time, we love it

People so friendly very little traffic compared with the SE

Close to shops and A1M

it is nice , friendly community , good logistical connections to Peterborough and Huntingdon

The community. One leisure swimming pool.

a nice friendly place most of the time. local services available doctors library leisure centre

Locality

A good balance of activities and quietness

Small community schools shops bus route sports centre on walking distance

Rural location

The public are friendly

Friendly

I have now lived here for 30 years...in my experience Sawtry has always been and continues to be a very sociable and welcoming place to live

Friendly people

Lots of family events and a good feeling of community spirit

Community spirit

Self contained with everything you need in the village.

Peaceful

Peaceful

Access to the motorway, dog woking fields

Provisions for young children

Community spirit. Pretty village

Friendly Peaceful Lovely setting

Friendly, warm community

Lots of organisations within walking distance.

Friendly, always something to do

Things to get involved in. Bus service (could be more frequent though). Friendly but you have to use elbows to get in.

It's a relatively quiet village. I grew up in a large town, with lots of noise and drama. Sawtry life is comfortable, with many great shops and businesses.

Availability of community and hobby-based clubs. CARESCO clubs. Access to A1. Sawtry Leisure.

Community life

What are your biggest concerns about living here?

People can be very critical, especially on social media, about local events and people without knowing the facts, offering support or being constructive

Obviously the news about the college is a big disappointment. Apart from that, the amount of rubbish/litter, to be found by the sports centre and the back of the youth centre is regrettable. It seems to be unclear who should clear this up. In case this seems obsessive, on the other hand other areas that used to be messy are now much cleaner, so not all bad.

Crime ~ traffic ~ parking ~services

Cars being driven to fast in and around the village

Services such as doctors and shops coping with all the extra housing being built, as well as losing lots of the best dog walking spots, it's going to be very crowded soon

Urbanisation, crime

It becoming too big with no infrastructure to improve services.

Lack of provision for kids

The expansion

Lack of facilities for children between the ages of 11-17

Lack of activity for teenagers

The rapid growth

The van thefts and juveniles nothwibg enough to do in the village hence hanging around looking dodgy and quite frightening for people who are old or lack confidence going out at night

Lack of things to do for teenagers.

The amount of houses still being built/planning on being built making the roads very busy not enough amenities its also extremely difficult to get a drs appointment!

Over population which will affect our services such as Doctor's surgery, schooling.

Losing green space to housing development and lack of facilities such as shops and resources for teenagers.

No amenities for older Children

Dangerous parking

The infrastructure of the village is not keeping up with the growth. There are not enough school places or things to do for young people and children.

The village is growing rapidly which means more cars through the village and facilities aren't growing to cope with growth ie doctors and schools

Not enough for young people to do. Too much building work and no accommodation to help older people move to smaller more appropriate accommodation.

As it grows, the drainage needs to be addressed, also more room and Drs in the surgery.

Shortage of usable open recreation space/green space. Lack of park areas & leisure facilities for older children

I don't have any concerns.

How big the village is growing

Expansion which will obviously stretch these facilities

Lack of things to do, have to travel elsewhere for things like skate parks

Lack of police presence, lack of public transport, lack of things for teens to do

Lack of appropriate play facilities for older children (teenagers)

That as the area ages, young people won't feel encouraged to stay. Is there enough there to prevent disenfranchisement of teens and young adults?

Growth of community but not amenities

Loosing amenities, eg sports centre, it opens for less hours than it use to

That the village will get too big

1. The serious lack of amenities for an ever growing community.
2. Doctor surgery potentially struggling under the strain.
3. No NHS dentist
4. One small/medium co-op with inadequate parking facilities, (there are other smaller convenience stores, however they do not stock everything).
5. Over development of a rural area - too many large housing areas are being added to an already stretched village (schools, doctors, shops).
6. Not enough activities or provision for the younger generation (11-18yrs)

The increase in vehicle crime.

GP surgery too small. Parking is a serious problem. Senior school needs urgent building work. Not enough for children and young people to do. We need a youth club open every day.

Burglary's

The expansion rate vs the amount of facilities available

The infostructure of schools roads and shops

The massive increase in burglaries across the area! Haven't seen a police patrol for literally years.. Despite large numbers of incidents being reported.

The recent spate of theft crime!

Crime..lack of police station/ police prescence..sawtry is an easy target. No skate park (as yet)

Village growing fast but infrastructure not keeping up

Amount of litter and dog pool

Growth of housing and facilities not growing with them.

That we might lose our brilliant gym which has a pool and classes of all sorts. Thefts are increasing, littering is getting worse, dogs run loose on St Judith's field. That our bus service may reduce. Many dog owners let their dogs run loose on St Judith's field which is frightening for children and adults. Some signs displayed on StJudiths field would be valuable, making it clear that dogs should be kept on leads and what the fine is if not, would be very helpful. We need to keep the library going - it is a wonderful community asset

Burglaries, theft and the amount of police issues people have to report

That there will not be adequate infrastructure to support the growing population. We need more shops, buses, doctors.

Population growing faster than the infrastructure.

Crime

Too many houses being built and not enough facilities

Full of UKIP nimbys

Crime and lack of CCTV

I have to two older children and there isn't much for them to do apart from youth club which is once a week at SVA. My son still plays football. Generally they have more time with less to do.

Sports centre/pool will close

Crime rates seems high, target as close to A1, more Police presence needed.

Lack of Facilities

New developments yet no new school or doctors

Massive new housing developments chewing up green belt land.

Youth of today

Over development

Too many new houses being built eroding the green fields that make it attractive.

That it will grow too big and it will lose that sense of living in a village

Petty crime

Services unable to keep up with the rate of housing development.

How big the village population might grow and the impact this will have on the schools, surgery and traffic.

It may become too big a

Transport if I want to get back from train stations (London) or Peterborough/ Huntingdon and I can't drive because of drinking. Cost of taxi is practically same as travel card to cover London round London and back! For young generation that may just want bowling or cinemas v restricted. We sit between Huntingdon and Peterborough and get missed by both, no free papers and to find out what's going on you need to search.

increase in small crime

The village is growing faster than the amenities. I have no problem with new housing I know it's needed but we need the schools and other facilities to grow as well.

Growing too big without the infrastructure and amenities

I haven't got any real concerns. My pet hate is people not picking up after their dogs

Building building and more building

crime, not enough GP and dentist service once the new houses go up , not enough shops !!!

All the new houses with no growth in shops, more for teenagers to do.

all the new housing and how it will effect village services (doctors, roads). speeding cars through the village

Growing too large

A lack of regular, visible Police patrols with the proximity to the A1(M) affording easy getaway for increasing crime

Anti social behaviour

Over Expansion! Services not keeping up with population growth.

Loads of houses, no longer will be a village

Not enough to do for people who work and don't use the pubs

Total lack of improvements and/or increases to infrastructure and services despite continuing major housing developments...we have to accept some level of housebuilding but to do this without also improving and expanding infrastructure is not acceptable...I and many other people who live here are definitely NOT Nimbys but we just want to see development given the support it needs to keep services to the same standards that have been the norm for many years

Burglary and speeding cars

Everyone wants to live here so it could get too big and will the village be able to cope with the facilities ?

Increase in crime

Nothing major. Fed up with some dog owners with dogs off lead.

Not knowing the area very well

Speeding in the village in the 30 zone. Speeds of 50 mph are not uncommon

Burglaries

Increasing crime

Nothing to do for teenagers

Lack of shops esp good hardware shop

Too much development

Amount of housing being built onto the edges of the village.

Amount of houses going up and how fast.

How big it will get and effect on services. More houses, more unsocial behaviour, cars speeding.

Crime. Several burglaries, vandalism and other small crimes can make living in an isolated village very worrying.

Number of new houses without any improvement to the infrastructure. Inability of the Parish Council to do anything for the community apart from clearing up litter. Parking on streets is a problem.

Growth of village without supporting infrastructure

How has Sawtry changed in the last 10 years?

Been here 30 years, seen lots of new build but fundamentally hasn't changed that much!

More people living here, which is a good thing.

More housing with no appropriate infrastructure to improve schools - medical services - road access

To many new builds

Mainly the large amount of new houses being built. A lot of stuff has stayed the same

Been here 2 years - not much except more housing planned but services stretched .

It is becoming a bigger village. Some anti social behaviour is on the increase and crime seems to be on the increase too. Not all change is good. The biggest change is the size of the village yet the doctors and other amenities aren't able to grow with the village.

Less free activity for kids

More houses being built

Expansion of housing but no changes to infrastructure or facilities

Less community spirit

Not a lot, just new housing estates!

Yes too many new houses being built

Nothing has changed in 20 years. We've now got more houses but not more infrastructure to support it.

Yes it has got so much bigger just full of houses tho and not enough amenities :(

More houses

It hasn't. Just got bigger.

There is much more negativity about the village and it's amenities, even from those who do not use them, not helpful! There are also several pockets of 'bitchiness' which can often be aimed towards certain groups within the village.

It has grown quite significantly and has lost a number of amenities during that time.

Growth in houses and population

Much bigger and more of a dormitory village (people leave for work, shopping etc)

Many more people, houses,

Substantial increase in new houses & an increase in traffic

Increased housing. Some shops have closed but others have opened and expanded (co op). Awareness of negative attitudes about housing and youth project due to social media.

More businesses attracted to the village and more housing to be built

The schools have unfortunately not performed to standards and children have been under achieving

I can't remember anything big changing, I'm only 15!

Been here 5 years, more houses but no proportionate growth in infrastructure

I have lived here most of my life. The village has continued to grow and change. The growth of housing development is a concern to many, but I believe if the facilities match the growth, this can be a positive.

Not especially.

Schools improved, introduction of new park on estate, relocation of co-op.

Grown

More houses built

I have lived in the village since 1978 on and off. I have seen the village expand beyond recognition and some of the more unique features have been lost (bakers, hardware store, grocers, etc) I understand that this is because of larger shops taking business, however it is a real shame.

The population has become more diverse and I believe that, like in every area people live, there are a group of 'undesirables' who exhibit antisocial behaviour, however this is not common place.

The village has vastly changed since I was a child - there are lots more houses and the amenities and road system seem to be stretched.

Parts of Sawtry do not have a village feel.

House prices are out of control. My house has gone from 240K to 360K in just 4 years! £120K increase. On my current salary of £41K I couldn't afford to buy it now! How are youngsters going to buy a house in the village they grew up in? Crime has increased and with more people here it seems a little less cosy.

Many more dwellings have been built now more like a small town than a village.

More dog mess in public areas

It's expanded which has positives and negatives to the village.

Grown bigger more crime

Sawtry has increased in size. The amenities have not...

Grown in population - more tedious crime ie car break ins and drugs

Traffic alot busier with the new houses being built

It has grown in size but hasn't really changed much other than shops have moved around

Hasn't changed (Moved here Sept 2015)

Grown. Shops have closed.

The village has grown and appears to have gained some irresponsible characters. Eg littering has increased, dogs aren't kept on leads and dog poo isn't picked up

I have lived here all my life, and I am currently 18 years of age. Sawtry has changed a lot, there's a lot more housing, a lot more people, issues that have to be reported, gangs, and the well known drug users. When I was younger around the age of 12-14, I wouldn't have a problem walking through the village at night or when dark, however now being 18 I would not walk through the village in the dark, maybe I would more if I was with another person or group, but still highly unlikely. I would definitely never want any elderly to be on there own especially at night.

The junior & secondary schools have had poor management but this looks like it's getting better. There are more houses. We now have a decent chippy in rumbles. There is a lot more traffic & cars generally.

It has got bigger and become more sociable.

More housing

Grown in size

It hasn't.

It's grown and is splitting at the scenes

It's grown, more housing, more families but we have another park which is good.

Got much bigger

Only been here 3 years. Does seem busier since new estate was built.

Grown with population

Yes

200 houses next door to me and another 400 odd planned for up the road.

Bigger co-op, more houses, busier place to live

It's got busier, more houses built.

With the erosion of green fields we are fast becoming a satellite of Peterborough. We are losing the village feel and fast becoming a town.

It is a lot busier, more traffic, less parking at availability of local amenities and more crime

Got bigger

Much more housing

More houses.

Only more housing

Visible signs of drug use on streets, more bad and inconsiderate parking, when I moved here we were served by several bus routes one that ran all the way to Bedford.

Increased population

Thanks to social media I think more people are aware and get involved in community issues.

Too many extra houses

Only lived in the village for six months

Beyond all belief

developers make money without providing infrastructure

Lots more families, resulting in lots of cars, children and POTHOLE!

NA only moved here 10 months ago

More houses

Too many new houses being built - all putting a strain on services like our Doctors surgery

It has grown too much. There has been no increase in the local amenities and facilities, to compensate for the ever increasing number of villagers

Lots more teens hanging around in groups intimidating and noisy behaviour

Outgrown services!

More houses built

Lots more housing with no thought for amenities for more people

I refer to my reply to the question above regarding concerns about living here

More houses being built so quite concerned about

infrastructure

More houses being built, more clubs being offered

It's grown but I don't think the community feel has changed!

New housing, good comes with Sawtry Scene.

Only recently moved here.

New housing putting great strain on the schools which were already operating at capacity.

More rude keyboard warriors

More cliquy

More housing

More houses and so more people and more traffic

Too many more houses, and consequent stretched services

Completely over the many years I have been here.

Massively when we moved in there was only old school area as a school and college, no shops or loads houses, was a village then.

Busier, children more arrogant. Cars speeding more. More dog poo on pavement (I was a dog owner) still look after dogs. More litter especially near bus shelters and near shelter and seating in Judith's Field.

I've lived here for 4 years and not a lot has changed. I don't study, and never have in Sawtry as I went to another school. So I'm quite disconnected from village activities.

Regrettably the on-street parking on the through routes is becoming a major safety problem particularly as lorries for the industrial estate and co-op have to pass through the village.

Been here 30+ years. Culture is the same. Lost village swimming pool and gained leisure centre. Otherwise no change in infrastructure - just rearranging the deck chairs. Community offering just gets better.

Which community events and groups have you (or people in your household) attended recently in Sawtry? What did you think of them?

Sawtry Carnival is the biggest village event with something for everyone, the Sawtry Show is good fun and the Frost Fayre was a great success.

I have not been to any recently. My wife is more community-minded than I am.

Pub & club Quizzes ~ remembrance parade

Church, leisure centre, drama group all good

Sawtry carnival is always a good family/community day, fundraising days at the pubs are always nice too

Local book meeting, running club and after school clubs -

friendly and welcoming

Carnival was amazing. Sawtry frost fair also amazing. I am on the junior academies fundraising committee and attend their events, and as many as I can that interest my children. Sawtry small business partnership held a magician night that I attended. Was very good. Bingo events too.

Carnival, Christmas fayre, great but not enough of them

Crowning is the carnival court, lovely local tradition

Local sports team

Sawtry carnival

Children's Centre - great

Leisure centre -soft play is excellent for toddlers

All saints church - family services and messy church. Love going to these.

Just joined the none to run group which is great.

Generally go to the summer carnival each year.

Sawtry Carnival, frost fayre, fixit shop run by caresco (love caresco!)

Pub is good. No community event s

We always go to the Christmas fairs at the school. Have also been to a SSBP meeting.

Carnival, school fetes both good and well organised.

"The carnival (we always attend this and love it)

Church quiz at the old school hall

Science department quiz at the village academy

Frost Fayre

School Christmas Fayre at both infant and junior schools

My son attends football on Sunday mornings

My daughter goes to brownies

Both go to swimming lessons at one leisure.

I attend clubbercise on a Tuesday night.

I go to a book group.

We are well invested in social and leisure activities within the village.

As I work the groups that I would attend are whilst I'm at work

Sawtry carnival and Sawtry show -saw people I never see in the normal day or week.

Christmas Day Lunch. Wonderful, - Various coffee mornings, always popular.

Chatterbox group for carers. Such a help. W.I. very friendly and sociable. The Methodist and All Saints Churches both ready with a warm welcome.

None to Run group since October - group set up by volunteers for anyone wishing to start running. Even though we've met our initial goal I still meet with the group 3 times a week for runs & exercise & enjoy the social aspect as well as the support from others.

Sawtry Carnival, school meetings.

Carnival - Very good lovely atmosphere, Library Events - always friendly

Clubbercise

Feast supper, Cricket club, Sawtry carnival, Sawtry youth project, Bowls club.

Sawtry Carnival - well-organised, lots to do, a bit small
Frost Fair - fun day, great grotto

Sawtry Walk To Run - I run it so have to say good things!
Sawtry Small Business Partnership

Sawtry carnival- fun, busy and exciting. A great village annual event! Two of my children are part of the Sawtry Colts football teams- they love playing football and being part of a team. We use one leisure on a weekly basis- this could be busier and better utilised by the community.

The local gym and Sawtry carnival are very good.

Football clubs, guides, exercise clubs.

Girl guiding- amazing

Sawtry colts football matches at Greenfields are fun, football training at the sports centre. Badminton club at the sports centre. Karaoke at at The Bell pub. Sawtry show has a great sense of community

1. Sawtry Carnival (fantastic community event, well organised and supported)

2. Frost Fayre (Christmas stalls organised by SSBP - again well organised)

3. Christmas Carols - poor turn out - badly advertised - well organised but not supported.

4. Chairman Challenge Events - well publicised but often not on at convenient times.

5. Rainbows/Brownies/Guides and Beavers/Cubs/Scouts for young children

There are lots of exercise groups in the village which is great - via OneLeisure or private sessions. Lots of mother and baby/toddler sessions too - although these are dwindling because of the lack of SureStart funding.

Sawtry carnival is a great annual event.

School fetes and fairs. Usually really well attended.

Carnival

Cubs. School fetes. Kimble's Nursery charity days. Carnival. Frost farye. All very good well planned events/groups

The Sawtry carnival is great. Our first child has recently been born so we will be joining baby groups and more social activities soon as I've only heard good things.

Sawtry carnival

Caresco charity shop, sawtry club events (working mens club) sawtry school pta and SVA fundraisers, quiz.. fetes, sawtry carnival, local events and groups v important. I deliver Sawtry eye..local free village magazine.. advertises lots of community events

Carnival, carol service, children are in junior and secondary schools so attend events there. Daughter swims. Son explorers

N/A

Scouts, carnival committee, Sawtry show, explorers, kick boxing all good groups.

The gym - excellent (all sorts of classes and the swimming pool). Book club - enjoyable. Pottery classes at the Academy -great. More classes at the Academy would be wonderful. The allotment, The Caresco shop - a fantastic resource. The Gardening club - interesting. The Library - a great resource. The History society occasionally - very good

Sawtry Carvanival - We go every year and they are good, however every year it's on the numbers of people that attend are getting less and less.

Caresco carers groups, carnival last year, carol service, quiz nights, Wyton Band concert, fitness session, walking group

My sons both play for sawtry colts and my husband is a member of the SSBP which is a useful group.

Tang soo do

Frost fayre carnival

Girlguiding, clubbercise- both great fun!

Slimming world and the pub quiz

Swimming one leisure - good. Football - Sawtry colts. Number of after school clubs - JSA. Sawtry Golf society. Glowfit

Caresco, Sawtry walk to run, carnival

Xmas fayre -ok. Carnival - fun day out in the village

None

NA

Sawtry Frost Fayre, Sawtry Small Business Partnership fundraising events, School (SVA) concerts.

RAF band night at the Academy. Sawtry Fireworks.

Sawtry Frost Fayre at Village Academy, well organised and very enjoyable. Sawtry Running group which again is well organised and great for meeting new people. Sawtry Colts Football club, my Son plays football.

Frost Fayre Carnival great community attendance

Guides- new leader has made it much more enjoyable and improved activities. Carnival- always a good day with lots of local support. Carnival court- well organised. Sawtry badminton club- well supported and good value for money. St George's parade/remembrance parade- good turnout. Frost Faye/ carols- good turnout, enjoyable day. Sva productions- lots of hard work put in by very talented children and staff, always very good.

All Saints Church services. Messy Church (as volunteer). WI Knit & Natter. Sawtry History Society

None

Recently went to Holme silver clay workshop, pop to charity shop, table tennis group, carol services before Christmas, well attended.

Fate. Beer festivals at the pubs. Events at the club.

Frost fair. Carnival. Quiz nights

None

CARESCO

The Doctors I having been so poorly they are super

Caresco, fantastic, Pilates at the Old School ,

Swimming lessons - fantastic. Exercise classes at one leisure - good. Brownies - great. Allotment - good.

sawtry running group: a very well organised friendly group. the carnival: a lovely fun day out

Carnival

Carnival school based stuff

Sawtry Show, Carnival, Chairman's Challenge, WI, Knit & Natter, Camera Club, Brampton Scale Model Club. All worthwhile events and organisations. Leisure Centre, sadly appears to be in decline, not providing the same useful services as it once did. Library, good facility but being elbowed out by the College.

There appears to be a lot of support & events for the elderly.

Carnival, cubs,

Sawtry carnival - we love it!!! Clubbercise with Lou know at the academy - been going since it started over a year ago. Charity event at the greystones - good turn out and well organised. Kids disco at the social club - we are regulars at that along with a group of our friends. My daughter attends rainbows in the village and has made lots of friends. My son attends football training and loves it. Both attend swimming at the leisure centre

Gym (including classes) - very enjoyable and friendly.

Haven't attended any

Village Carnival

Soft play at one leisure

Sawtry carnival. Great atmosphere.

Church ; Local History. Library Local History society very good

Gardening Club, great. Leisure Centre, classes

Line dancing - excellent. Singing - enjoyable. Old Time singing and dancing - very enjoyable. Table tennis - enjoyable. Swimming - good when I can do it.

Christmas fayre - brilliant. Swimming (grandchildren), football. I belong to Sawtry Winemakers and Sawtry Show. I do anything. I have lived here from Tottenham 46.5 years ago.

Wyton RAF Band - Great as usual. Xmas @ CARESCO - good. Sawtry Feast - amazing. Strictly Dancing - very good evening you meet people not seen recently. Wine makers ukelele band - v good evening, invited non-member.

Foodbank -- I am a volunteer at the foodbank and they do amazing work to help people here.

Sounds Good Group @ CARESCO - growing into a friendship group. CARESCO shop volunteer party - appreciation for volunteers and meeting other volunteers who you don't otherwise see. Sawtry Show Committee - annual village community event. Foodbank - helping others.

Foodbank volunteer meeting - enjoy the benefits of volunteering. "Sounds Good" group - enjoy the benefits of singing with like-minded people. CARESCO shop volunteer party - relaxed, appreciative, fun for volunteers. Community group meeting help by CCC - great initiative by CCC. Sawtry Show committee - great, all-inclusive community event.

What new activities would you like to see?

Long awaited skate park. A Community Hub. Becoming a

Dementia Friendly Community.

In a perfect world there would be adult education classes at the college/academy. Languages classes would be brilliant, as they are no longer offered at Huntingdon Regional College.

?

Don't know

A good secure dog run, like the one at St Judith's field but bigger and better

Targeted groups or meetings for youth. Free swimming. Health and leisure for all ages that is subsidised

Not sure really. Maybe cinema evenings.

More for kids and young people

Christmas tree on the green and more seasonal community activities

Teenage and family

None really!

More fundraising events

More things for younger generations to do

Skatepark

Facilities for teenagers and supermarket

More activities for older children and more community fun days

Something for young people to do outdoors

Well organised dance classes for older children

The swimming pool open more during the day which I know is difficult

Better times at leisure centre for those that work full time. Larger supermarket.

Evening classes brought back.

Dance or exercise classes for ages 11 years & up. I think there is a real lack of classes for this age group here and locally.

None

Not sure

More group activities for retired men many of which are widowed and wouldn't go to other activities in the village as the ladies tend to run them and wouldn't interest them perhaps woodwork classes, project working where they could meet chat and use many of their skills. Also working very closely with SYP for a wheeled facility as is much needed for our young and teenage residents.

SKATE PARK

More for teens, netball team

A community area that can be used by all for leisure activities. ie outside gym equipment, appropriate play for older children. I'd love to see tennis courts back in Sawtry again- we had them once, but the Astro turf took over the space

Skate park.

More variety of fitness class, more external areas for teenagers.

Longer opening hours at sports centre

Drama group for teenagers

More community events (village picnics, fun runs, etc)

Skate park! The SYP show that the young'uns are able to put their games consoles down and do something - this should be encouraged.

Youth club.

Family activities

A community Centre, an all weather child's play facility, a skate park facility

More groups for young ones.

I'll have a think about that..

More for young adults

Skate park for children

More for age 10 and upwards, we don't tend to go to things as they are often on Saturdays and we all attend hunts music school on a Saturday!

More for children-older children.

We are happy with range of activities and those not in village are available locally.

Drawing, sewing and painting classes at the Academy - not at the same time as Pottery. Lots more attendance and support for the gym - it needs someone to market it better as it's a great resource. Gym equipment and a skate park on St Judith's field.

More for the teenage ages. They have shut down the youth club in Sawtry, which would be the only place really where you could go out with friends or anything like that. I don't feel when I was growing up that there was anything really I could go and do for the teenage ages, especially around the ages of 13-16.

Singing for fun, more swimming sessions available, night classes, community cinema club,

More free at the point of use facilities for all ages. St Judith's field is a wasted space in my opinion. A better dog run would be good.

Ballet

Skate board park

Humanist group or philosophy group.

Not sure

Outdoor play and gym equipment for teens and adults. Would be nice if the secondary school could hold evening classes in cookery and IT ect... It would be nice if there was some boxing classes, my son did boxing at PE and really enjoyed it but there's nothing local.

Community coffee shop with art/activities linked in with charity shop as seen in Devon, allowing networking for isolated/marginalised people in the village and selling of their goods in the shop

Football for 3 year olds

Better gym

More for kids

Skate park for my son.

More charity events

Something for teenagers such as skatepark.

I like to see more amenities for for the younger generation as it is rather boring here for them.

More outdoor facilities for young people.

Not sure

Improvements in the leisure centre

Art (drawing & painting) group. Worker's Educational Association branch. There is a branch in Alconbury, but you can't get there without a car. Otherwise you have to go into Huntingdon. If there was a branch in Sawtry, less able people could take advantage of this excellent resource.

More for young kids

Looking forward to spring clean up, know syp do clean could they involve locals quarterly maybe? Community guided walks to woods and local sites maybe, woodland trust, history society, leisure centre.

Better football facilities.

More youth clubs and facilities for children.

None

There seems to be a lot for the elderly, not much for the mid life people

More for little ones

more swimming for the public during the day, too restricted so I cant use the pool

Skate park for kids.

Skatepark and the buildings that should have been here ages ago

All pretty good

More activities for young people, and more activities that are nature focused for the whole community. This is especially so with the proximity to the Woods and the Fens

More for teens youth groups sports groups

Events at the Leisure Centre at practical times. It s not just for the College.

Skate park, more things to do...

Perhaps some evening classes at college

Costa. Christmas tree and Carols. Love the Santa visits!

More family Events - like the one at the greystones

More for the youths

Dog training classes

Salsa dancing

Dog training classes, Zumba, dance classes

More for toddlers

Greater range of exercise classes at evenings/weekends. Activities for teens

Coffee shop/ cafe. Proper place for young people to meet safely.

Help with swimming for adults.

Skate park (for grandchildren)

Armed guard on allotments

For many years the youth groups have asked for a skate park but the Parish Council - or some members - block it.

U3A and more night classes.

Is there anything else you'd like to tell me?

Sawtry is a great place to live, though some help in moving some ideas forward would be helpful.

Sorry I cannot offer my time. Since I have retired I have no spare time at all, once people discovered I was not at work. Good luck with your projects.

I think it's good that people are trying to do more/offer more to the community

I do love sawtry and there is quite a lot going on that you have to pay for. We are lucky to have a leisure centre but is so expensive when you have 3 children.

Lived here on and off 40 years. There's never been anything going on. However the annual carnival is a great addition

More activities for the younger generation, toddlers and more amenities to cope with the growing village

There are not many places that have as much as we do here. We are very lucky

The addition of a coffee shop would be a huge asset to the village. There aren't many daytime venues that provide somewhere to meet for friends & families. Pubs aren't for everyone!

I support the plans for a skate park and activities for young people. It is disappointing that some of the village are so against the new housing as it must be very unwelcoming.

Sports centre needs to promote itself better, it would then be used more and could open longer.

We love living in Sawtry and want to keep the village and community feel. The amenities need to be looked at with the ever increasing housing developments.

I am concerned about the big housing developments. They are wrapping around Sawtry with huge numbers of houses with little, or no, investment in support in the schools or medical facilities. They probably said that in the 70s when the Deerpark and Rockingham estates were built. My biggest concern is that the new build plans don't include 2 bedroom houses or 1 bedroom accommodation so youngsters

starting out won't have an option of buying a new house in the village and existing houses are going up in value so fast they can't save fast enough to even come up with a deposit.

New houses and new people are coming to the village, it would be good to have something that welcomes the people and retains the community feel & spirit for the future

Good luck!

The gym needs much better marketing support. It's a wonderful asset with the pool and all the classes. This could become even more of a hub. The Academy used to be a community school - it would be great if it could become so again and offer classes on all topics as it used to do. The Sawtry Youth project needs support - it would be great to have a skate park and exercise equipment on St Judith's field for everyone to use. We need to make sure the Library does get moved successfully. The Academy rebuild needs to happen and not get stopped. The signage for St Judith's making it clear that dog must be kept on leads would be a big help.

I feel that the teenagers of the village don't have places to go or do! I feel if there are more places in the village where they could go there would be less people saying how bad us teenagers and young adults are, especially for just wearing a hood, especially if it's actually raining. I think in Sawtry, teenagers have a undeserved bad thing around them, which I feel is highly unfair as we are all not bad. I also would like to thank you for taking the time to listen and take in everyone's opinions and suggestions and for also helping us change as a village.

Could do with more schools

Iv lived in sawtry 22 years, I'm a keen fitness enthusiast and want to give back to the village what me and my wife enjoy, currently attending courses to complete my qualifications in personal training so I can accommodate this ambition. Only concern I have is there is no industrial units available to achieve this. The village is growing but the business aspect has been left behind in the thought process to create jobs, and a more thriving environment for the younger generations who either can't drive or have some means of transport

Would like to see more diverse shops, such as bakery and fruit and veg. Glad to see butchers is coming.

The minority spoil things for majority be it parking, litter, behaviour, dog fouling, a better community positive togetherness and more doing the right thing rather than tearing people or each other apart. Ie show people the way, make them want to be part of it rather than shame them into being "good citizens" and breeding more anger.

Sawtry is a hidden gem, please don't spoil it.

Good luck to you

a walking group would be nice

We are a family with 2 children in junior school

i have noticed since moving here the litter issue is getting worse

I would really like to see more groups for pre school children and teens

Sawtry is fantastic for families and we love it here ! Would love to see more family events throughout the year if possible

I think Sawtry is a little gem of a place. Love being near the woods.

As a single newbie here I find it hard to get involved in the community , maybe single groups or newbie groups would be a good idea

Litter is also major problem, the bus stop nearest to the funeral parlour is a great example. A bin is immediately adjacent, but this is too much for lots of people who simply drop it on the floor of the shelter.

We have never wanted to move out of Sawtry.

It's still a village (just). There is a big gap of income between some retired so limits how much you can do and entertain friends.

HDC do not have any control over developers in the village who only want to profit from building too many houses without adding to the amenities or jobs. It is becoming a dormitory town.

I feel that this community has been badly let down by HDC who have failed to ensure joined-up thinking in the development of this village.