

Creating change in Devon



# BERRYNARBOR PARISH COUNCIL: COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Report produced by:

Devon Communities Together  
Catalyst Consultancy Service,  
October 2024.



helping communities help themselves

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# 1. INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND

## 1.1 Berrynarbor Overview

Berrynarbor is a village located in the Sterridge Valley on the north coast of Devon, to the north of Exmoor and three miles east of Ilfracombe. The parish is surrounded clockwise by the parishes of Come Martin, Kentisbury, East Down, Marwood, Bittadon, and Ilfracombe<sup>1</sup>, situated within the North Devon Outstanding Area of Natural Beauty, a nationally important landscape designation in the UK, which contains a wide diversity of coastal landscapes and habitats. The village is home to a population of 859 residents<sup>2</sup>, having won many Britain in Bloom Awards and Best Kept Village competitions.<sup>3</sup>

Berrynarbor features a conservation area, the southwest section of which consists a series of fields, the northern region of these form Berrynarbor's recreation ground. The Conservation Area Character Appraisal notes that "the close association with the church, together with evidence of surviving water channels from its past as a water meadow, gives these fields a significant association with the settlement, and a degree of historic interest in their own right"<sup>4</sup>, highlighting the significance of the recreation ground, the key subject area around which this community consultation was designed to address.

Historically, Berrynarbor has been a thriving agricultural community, and while farming still plays a role, the village has diversified to accommodate tourism and local businesses, due to its proximity to Ilfracombe and Exmoor National Park.

For the purposes of this report and community consultation process, local wider community of Berrynarbor is defined by the population that resides within the parish map boundaries, as outlined in the North Devon District Council Ordnance Survey Map of Berrynarbor (See Figure 1)

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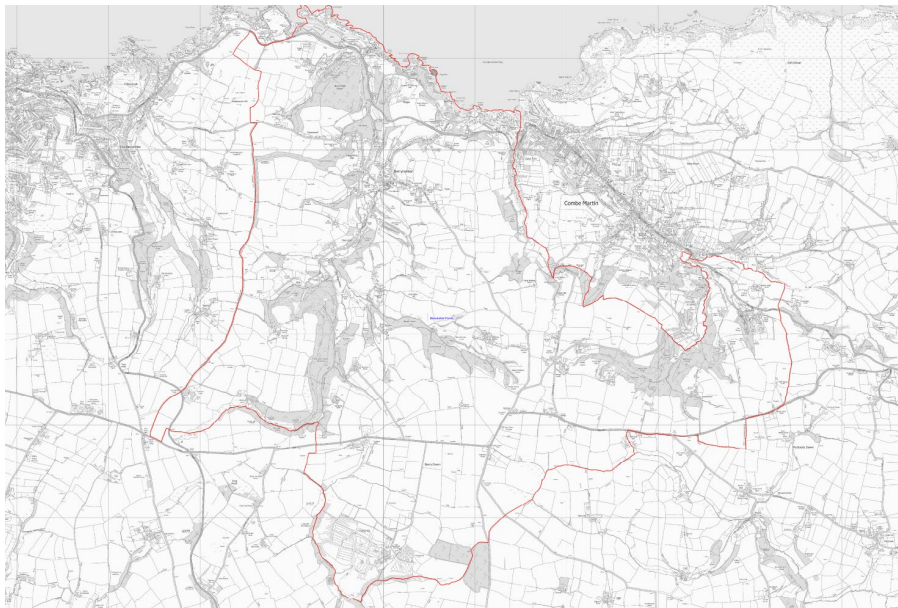
<sup>1</sup> <https://www.devon.gov.uk/factsandfigures/area-profiles/maps/>

<sup>2</sup> [2021 CENSUS FOR BERRYNARBOR PARISH](#)

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.berrynarborparishcouncil.org.uk/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.northdevon.gov.uk/media/299645/berrynarbor-appraisal-low-res.pdf>

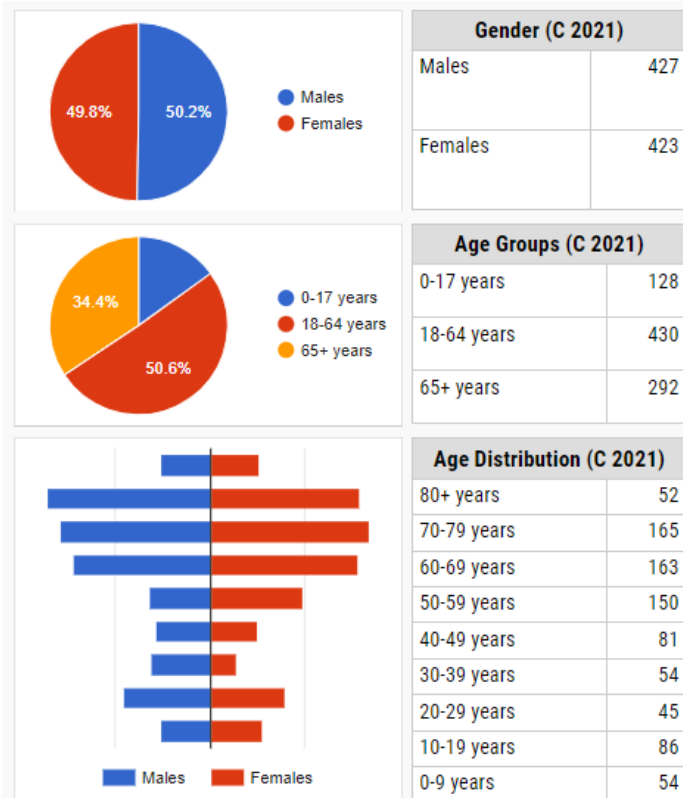
Figure 1 – Berrynarbor parish boundaries



## 1.2 Population Profile

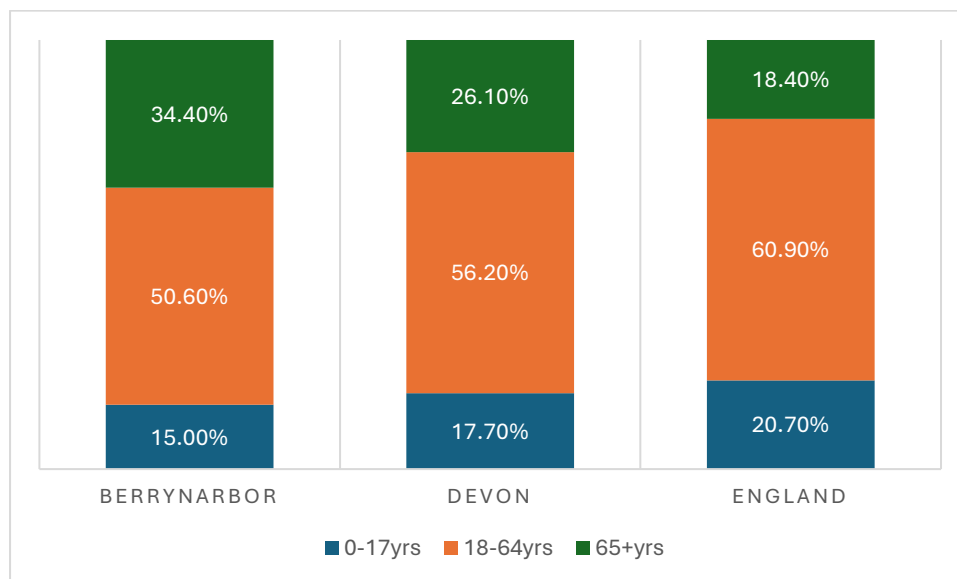
Some demographic characteristics of Berrynarbor are illustrated from Figs. 2 and 3, created using data sourced from the National Census 2021.

Figure 2: Age demographic of Berrynarbor<sup>5</sup>



<sup>5</sup> 2021 Census Profile for areas in England and Wales - Nomis

Figure 3: Age demographic of Berrynarbor



The total population of the Berrynarbor community is 859. The proportion of the population that is <18 years old/between 18-64 years old is slightly below the county-wide, and nation-wide averages, while the proportion of the population that is >65 years old is ~10% greater than the county-wide average, and almost two times the national average. The adult population is characterised by a greater proportion of older residents.

### 1.3 Berrynarbor Recreation Ground

The Berrynarbor Recreation Ground (BRG) aims to be a vital hub for community activities and social gatherings within the village, offering a versatile outdoor space that supports both recreational and sporting activities for residents and visitors alike.

Situated in the heart of Berrynarbor, this green space aims to play a central role in promoting community well-being and providing a venue for outdoor events, sports, and family-friendly activities.

Below is a satellite map of the BRG, followed by an image of the BRG taken on the day of the inception meeting between Berrynarbor Parish Council (BPC), and DCT.

Figure 4: Satellite map showing BRG location, denoted by Google Map location name “Pit Hill Play Area”<sup>6</sup>



Figure 5: Photograph of BRG



<sup>6</sup> <https://maps.app.goo.gl/k8eTSaRBfoX1MzMw8>

## 1.4 Catalyst & Devon Communities Together

Catalyst is the in-house consultancy service provided by Devon Communities Together (DCT). Catalyst provides a range of fee-based services to support communities in project planning, delivery and evaluation.

DCT is a charity that has worked to support Devon's rural communities for over 60 years. The stated mission of DCT is "to help communities to help themselves" and it does this by providing professional advice, training, and brokerage including consultancy services.

## 2. CONSULTATION OVERVIEW

The local community originally approached Berrynarbor Parish Council (BPC) to conduct a community survey on the BRG in Berrynarbor. BPC shared with DCT in the inception meeting that the current BRG is not fit for use, and that the community needed to provide input on what modifications could be made to the BRG.

BPC commissioned DCT to deliver a community consultation on the current state of the BRG, gathering feedback from what the local community deems to be most important about the BRG. The aims for the consultation included:

- Understanding what the local community feel that they want and need at the BRG
- The beginning of a better designed and used BRG,
- Featuring safer, more up-to-date equipment,
- Contributing to increased use by teens and adults,
- Ultimately leading to greater physical and mental wellbeing for local community.

### 2.1 Consultation Methodology

The consultation process was carefully planned and executed to ensure maximum engagement and feedback from the local community. Below is a comprehensive summary of the methodology and activities undertaken:

#### **Inception and Planning**

- The consultation began with an inception meeting in June 2024 between DCT and BPC in Berrynarbor. During this meeting, the scope of the consultation, stakeholder analysis, and community engagement strategies



were discussed and agreed upon. The consultation was designed to assess the current value of BRG to the community and gather input on its future development.

- DCT led the design, delivery, and management of the consultation, while BPC took on the responsibility for promoting the initiative within the community.

### **Survey Design**

- In July 2024, DCT designed an online household survey aimed at gathering insights from the local community regarding the BRG. The survey provided residents with the opportunity to participate and voice their opinions about the recreational space.
- Physical survey options were also made available for those who preferred or needed a non-digital option.
- At the request of BPC, three additional broader questions were incorporated into the survey to capture broader community feedback about Berrynarbor, beyond the specific focus on the BRG.

### **Promotion and Community Engagement**

- DCT designed a poster for BPC for promoting consultation (Figure 6)
- BPC actively promoted the consultation through multiple channels, including local newsletters and the Berrynarbor Facebook group.
- A community drop-in session was held in September 2024, which provided an additional opportunity for residents to complete the survey and share their thoughts in person. This event also facilitated discussions about the future of the BRG and encouraged further community input.

Figure 6: DCT poster used to promote community consultation.

# Have your say on improving the Recreation Field & Community Improvements for Berrynarbor!

Do you have ideas on how it could look in the future?  
Do you have any suggestions on improving Berrynarbor?  
Berrynarbor Parish Council have commissioned Devon  
Communities Together to facilitate this community  
consultation.

- Tell us your thoughts in our short ONLINE SURVEY
- Paper copies available upon request
- Survey closes on the 15th September 2024



[www.surveymonkey.com/r/37WN9DR](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/37WN9DR)

Paper copies are available and if you require any support in completing the survey, please contact [kellyyoung@berrynarborparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:kellyyoung@berrynarborparishcouncil.org.uk) or Devon Communities Together 01392 248919



### **Survey Period**

- The online survey was initially set to run from 31st August 2024 to 14th September 2024. However, BPC requested an extension to ensure broader participation. Consequently, the survey remained live until 31st September 2024.

### **Data Analysis and Reporting**

- Following the closure of the survey, DCT analysed the responses and provided preliminary findings to BPC on 8th October 2024.
- The final report, incorporating any additional inquiries and design elements requested by BPC, was scheduled for submission on 29th October 2024.

### **Consultation Objectives and Deliverables**

- The consultation aimed to gauge the local community's views on the BRG and gather insights on how the space could be improved or repurposed.
- The survey results, combined with feedback from the drop-in session, were used to produce this report with key findings and recommendations,

This approach ensured that the local community was actively involved in shaping the future of BRG, with both online and in-person engagement opportunities facilitating broad participation.

## **2.2 Survey Development**

DCT proposed 9 original questions (labelled 1-9 in survey under section 2.3 ) to collate data and insights on the future of the BRG.

Originally the consultation explored the potential development of a Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) at the BRG. However, planning and guidance advice shared from South West Water indicated that there were significant waterworks and clearance required, and so BPC decided to explore the potential MUGA development at a later date.

BPC contributed 3 additional questions (labelled 10-12 in survey under section 2.3) thereafter to gather wider feedback on Berryнарbor and its associated activities.

## **2.3 Household Survey – copy**

A copy of the Household Survey can be found in Appendix 1.

### 3. HOUSEHOLD SURVEY - RESULTS

The results of the survey were derived from 153 survey responses, which represents 18% of Berrynarbor's population. Individual survey responses, from here on out, are referred to as respondents.

The percentages and number of respondents given in our written responses are rounded up to the nearest whole number, for clarity of reading. These survey responses were gathered through:

- Online survey responses via SurveyMonkey - 144 responses (94%)
- Physical survey responses via paper copies - 9 responses (6%)
- These were produced by DCT and circulated by BPC.

The results are presented through 9 core themes, presenting the analysis and following conclusions in separate sections for each of these themes.

The themes are as follows:

- 1) How people feel about BRG
- 2) What people do at the BRG
- 3) How distance affects visits to BRG
- 4) Proportion of local community that have a disability
- 5) Ideas for improving BRG
- 6) Barriers to using BRG
- 7) Suggestions for improvements in Berrynarbor
- 8) Most helpful changes to improve Berrynarbor
- 9) Local community interest in joining local steering group

#### 3.1 Executive Summary

The survey reveals that the Berrynarbor community places significant value on the recreational field, which serves as an important space for social interaction, recreation, and community events. However, residents also highlighted areas for enhancement, such as road safety, parking availability, and better infrastructure. The insights provided in this report emphasise the community's desire for improvements that could foster greater usage and engagement with the recreational field.

While many respondents expressed positive sentiments regarding the field, the analysis also revealed specific concerns and ideas for improvement. Popular suggestions included reducing speed limits for better road safety, enhancing field

maintenance, increasing seating, and expanding sports facilities. These changes, though relatively minor, have the potential to greatly enhance community satisfaction and make the recreational field an even more welcoming place for all residents.

The findings provide a comprehensive view of the current usage patterns, needs, and aspirations of the community, offering valuable insights for planning and decision-making to ensure the recreational field continues to serve as an inclusive and cherished community asset.

### 3.2 How people feel about BRG.

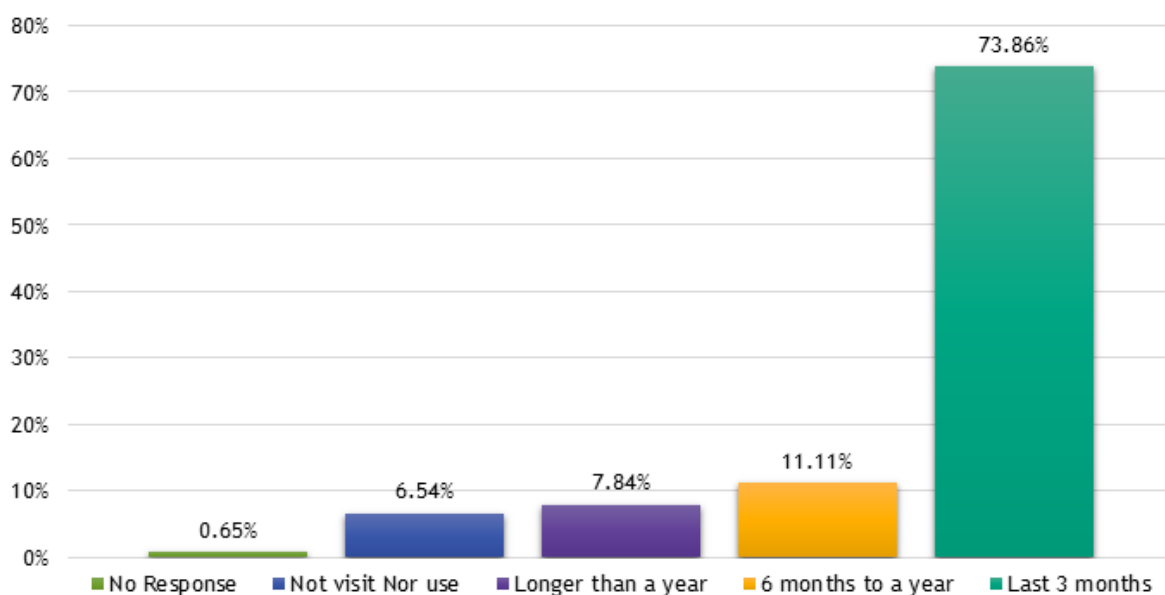
*Survey Question 6: When was the last time you visited or used the recreational field?*

*Survey Question 8 "Is there anything which prevents you from using the Recreational Field?"*

#### 3.2.1 Data Analysis

The survey results are summarised in Figure 7 below:

Figure 7 – bar chart showing survey respondents last visit to BRG



113 respondents (74%) had visited the recreational field within the last 3 months. Among them, 25 respondents (34%) live <0.5 miles away from the centre.



jargon. Certain words have certain sentiment scores – indicating whether they are positive, neutral, or negative.

The overall average sentiment score for Question 6 was 0.0861, which suggests respondents generally felt neutral, with a slight leaning towards positivity. However, it's important to note that 72 respondents (46%) either marked their response as "not applicable" or did not provide specific feedback, showing a significant level of disengagement.

### 3.2.2 Conclusion

This pattern reveals mixed of sentiments towards the BRG. 49 respondents (32.03%) of respondents expressed a very positive view, while 72 respondents (46%) chose not to express any strong opinions. Meanwhile, 33 respondents (22%) offered their concerns or shared ideas for improvement.

From those who provided feedback, we noticed recurring themes in their comments. The main ideas highlighted were:

- **Dog Walking:** mentioned 6 times, showing the field's value for pet owners.
- **Children's Use:** mentioned 8 times, suggesting that providing facilities for children is a priority.
- **Lack of Toilets:** mentioned 3 times, highlighting a common concern about the availability of amenities.
- **Community Events:** was mentioned twice, indicating a desire for more activities that bring people together.
- **Parking and Accessibility:** Issues related to parking and steep climbs were mentioned multiple times, reflecting concerns about accessibility.

Other common themes included the need for more green space, seating, and general maintenance. This distribution tells a nuanced story: while a segment of the community clearly values the recreational field and enjoys it as it is, there is also a sizeable portion that is either disengaged or feels that changes are needed.

The key takeaway here is that about 82 respondents (54%) of respondents appear to have an interest in shaping the future of the recreational area - whether through positive reinforcement or by raising suggestions and concerns.

This mix of perspectives represents both a challenge and an opportunity. Engaging the disengaged and addressing the concerns of those willing to provide feedback could be key steps in making the recreational field an even better space for the entire community.

### 3.3 What people do at the BRG

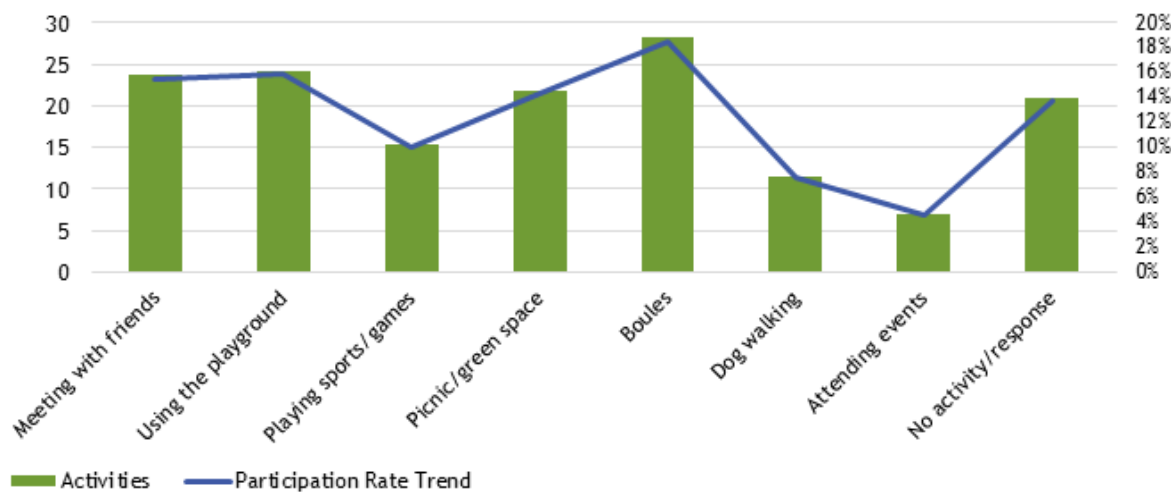
Survey Question 7: Do you participate in any of the following activities at the recreational field?

#### 3.3.1 Data Analysis

The recreational field serves as a vibrant space for a wide range of activities that bring people together.

The results are visually represented in Figure 9 below:

Figure 9: Bar chart showing active participation rates at the BRG



The most popular activities at the field are as follows – the following percentages were calculated using proportional analysis:

- **#1 Boules: 42 residents (27%):** Boules is particularly popular among older adults, highlighting the recreational field's inclusivity and its role in promoting activities suited to different age groups.
- **#2 Using the playground: 35 respondents (23%):** Families with young children find the playground to be an essential feature, providing a safe and engaging area for children to play.



- **#3 Socialising with friends: 33 respondents (22%):** The field is a popular gathering spot, offering a welcoming environment where people of all ages can connect and enjoy each other's company.
- **#4: Picnicking or enjoying the green space: 30 respondents (20%):** Many respondents appreciate the opportunity to relax and enjoy the natural surroundings, making the field a peaceful spot for picnics and leisure time.
- **#5 None/No activity/No response: 29 respondents (19%):** A significant portion of respondents did not participate in any specific activities, suggesting potential barriers or a lack of awareness about the available facilities.
- **#6 Playing football or other sports/games 24 respondents (15.4%):** The availability of open spaces for sports encourages active lifestyles, especially among younger community members.
- **#7 Dog walking area: 18 respondents: (12%):** The field is valued by pet owners as a convenient and safe space to walk their dogs, contributing to a sense of community for pet lovers.
- **#8 Supporting/attending events: 8 respondents (5%):** Events hosted at the field help foster a sense of community spirit and participation, though there is potential to increase this engagement.

### 3.3.2 Conclusion

The recreational field caters well to a variety of social and recreational needs, particularly for families, children, older adults, and pet owners. Its role as a versatile community space is evident from the range of activities it supports—from playing sports and socialising with friends to walking dogs and enjoying quiet picnics.

Expanding the facilities, such as adding more sports areas or amenities like toilets and seating, could further attract a wider demographic, particularly younger residents and those who currently do not use the field.

It is important to acknowledge that boules is not strictly part of the BRG, but the number of responses indicates that the local community believe the boules area is part of the BRG.

By building on the field's existing strengths and addressing the concerns raised, the community can ensure that this vital space continues to meet the evolving needs of all residents.

### 3.4 How distance affects visits to BRG

Survey Question 5: In which area of Berrynarbor do you reside?

#### 3.4.1 Data Analysis

The results are shown below in Table 1:

Table 1: visit frequency compared with distance that respondent resides from centre

<b>Visit frequency out of total of 153 respondents (left column) compared with respondents' distance from centre (right column)</b>	
<b>No response</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There were no respondents indicating "&gt;2 miles" or "&gt; 1mile" distance who did not respond to visit frequency.</li> <li>• 1 respondent indicated no response, and all were from those living &lt;0.05 miles away.</li> </ul>
<b>You do not visit or use</b> Total: 10 respondents (7%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 out of 12 respondents (17%) living &gt;2 miles from centre.</li> <li>• 8 out of 129 respondents (6%) living &lt;0.05 miles from centre.</li> </ul>
<b>&gt;1 year</b> Total: 12 respondents (8%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 out of 10 respondents (20%) living &gt;2 miles from centre.</li> <li>• 8 out of 109 respondents (6%) living 0.5 miles from centre.</li> <li>• 2 out of 10 respondents (20%) living &gt;1 mile from centre.</li> <li>• 8 out of 129 respondents (6%) live &lt;0.05 miles from centre.</li> </ul>
<b>6 months to 1 year</b> Total: 17 respondents (8%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 out of 12 respondents (17%) living &gt;2 miles from centre</li> <li>• 2 out of 10 respondents (20%) living &gt;1 mile from centre</li> <li>• 13 out of 129 respondents (10%) living &lt;0.5 miles from centre</li> </ul>

<p><b>Within last 3 months</b></p> <p>Total: 113 (74%)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7 out of 12 respondents (58%) living &gt;2 miles from centre</li> <li>• 6 out of 10 respondents (60%) living &gt;1 mile from centre</li> <li>• 99 out of 129 respondents (77%) living &lt;0.05 miles from centre</li> </ul>
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To summarise, total distribution by distance to centre:

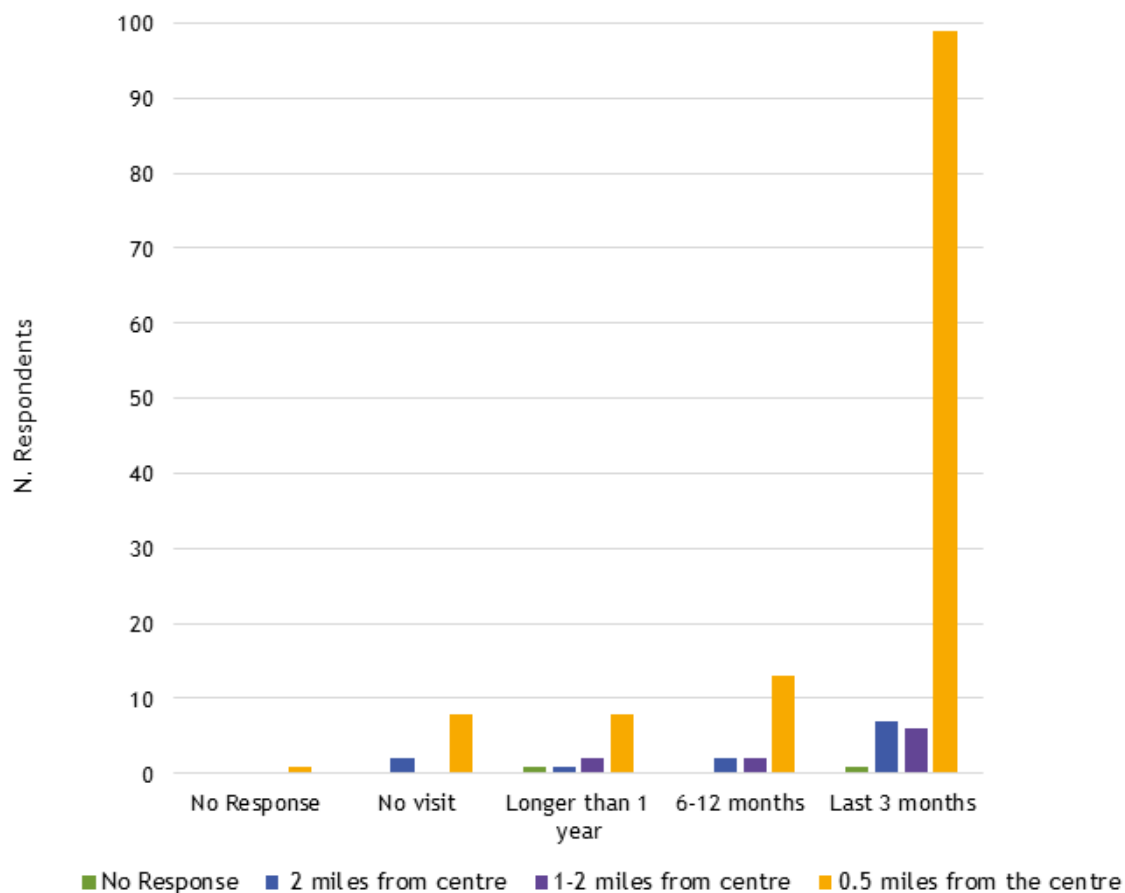
- No response: 2 respondents
- >2 miles from centre: 12 respondents (8%)
- >1 mile from centre: 10 respondents (7%)
- < 0.05 miles from centre: 129 respondents (84%)

Total distribution by visit frequency (based on last visit)

- No response: 1 respondent
- You do not visit or use: 10 respondents (7%)
- >1 year: 12 respondents: (8%)
- 6 months to 1 year: 17 respondents (11%)
- Within last 3 months: 113 respondents (74%)

This data is visually represented on Figure 10 overleaf:

Figure 10: bar chart showing impact of distance on visit frequency at centre



### 3.4.2 Conclusion

#### Distance's Impact on Visit Frequency:

- The highest percentage of frequent visits, within the last 3 months (77%), comes from those living <0.5 miles from the centre, indicating a strong influence of proximity on visit frequency.
- As distance increases, the percentage of respondents who visit less frequently or do not visit also increases.

#### Non-Visitors vs Distance:

- A significant portion of those who do not visit or use the area live >2 miles away (17%), suggesting that distance is a barrier to regular use of the area.

#### Patterns Among Frequent Visitors:

- A substantial majority (74%) of respondents who visited the area within the last 3 months are from half a mile or less from the centre, reinforcing the trend of higher engagement among closer residents.

## 3.5 Proportion of local community that have a disability

Survey Question 4: Do you consider yourself to have a disability?

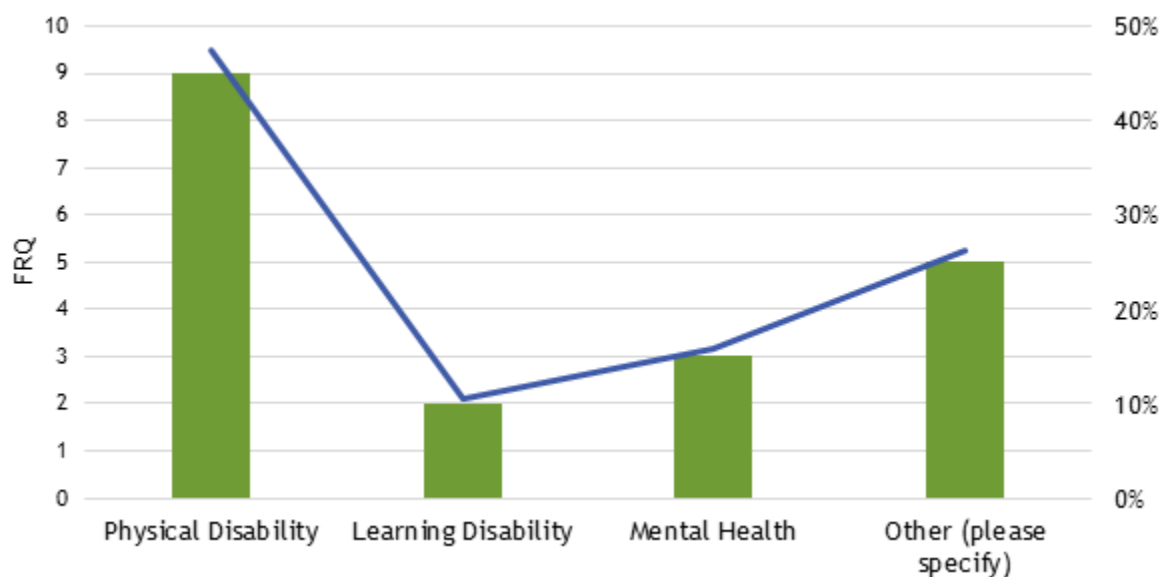
### 3.5.1 Data Analysis

The results are shown below in Table 2, and visually represented in Figure 11 below the table.

Table 2 – Question 4 results

Yes	No	Prefer not to say	Physical Disability	Learning Disability	Mental Health	Other (please specify)
18	128	5	9	2	3	5
11.92%	84.77%	3.31%	47.37%	10.53%	15.79%	26.32%

Figure 11: respondent health conditions



Among the 18 respondents (12%) that reported having a disability :

- 9 respondents (47%) indicated they have a physical disability
- 2 respondents (11%) indicated they have a learning disability
- 3 respondents (18) cited mental health issues
- 5 respondents (36%) mentioned other types of disabilities

These insights reflect a diverse range of challenges faced by respondents, highlighting the importance of considering various needs when improving accessibility.

### 3.5.2 Conclusion

Improving accessibility for disabled residents could make the recreational field more inclusive and increase its usability. Addressing specific needs such as physical accessibility, mental health considerations, and amenities for those with other disabilities would help ensure that the field is welcoming to everyone in the community.

This is particularly relevant given the size of the community; if the council invests in accessibility features such as secure pathways, pedestrian crossings, zebra crossings, and traffic lights, it could significantly increase engagement among those with additional needs.

These measures would not only improve physical access but also provide a sense of safety and independence for residents, particularly those with mobility challenges or other disabilities. Adding accessible amenities like toilets and seating areas designed for those with disabilities would further enhance the usability of the recreational area.

Such steps can help ensure that the field is not only physically accessible but also a truly inclusive space that meets the needs of all its residents, encouraging wider participation and fostering a more connected community.

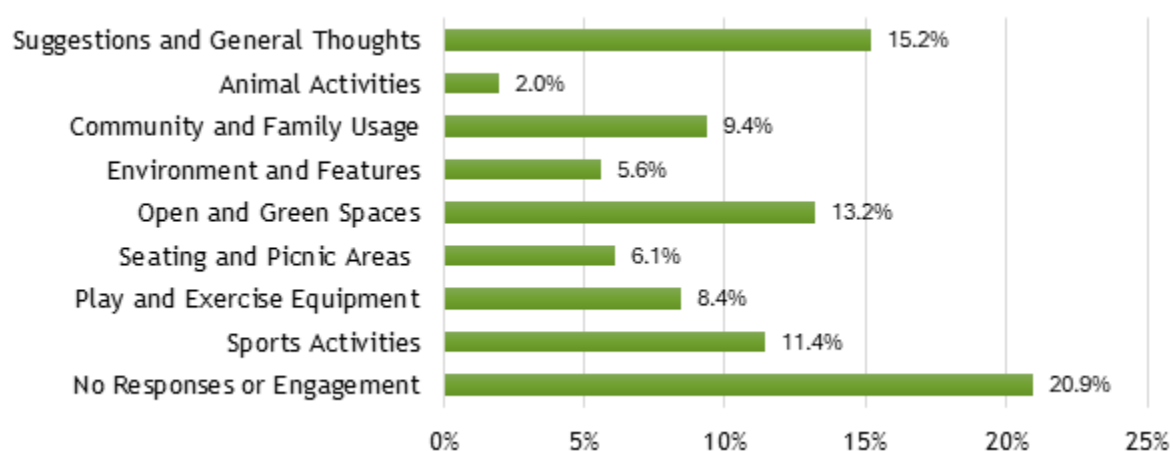
## 3.6 Ideas for improving BRG

Survey Question 9: Do you have any suggestions for improving community use of the recreational field?

### 3.6.1 Data Analysis

Figure 12 below visually represents the different themes shared in responses to Question 9:

Figure 12: bar chart showing main categories of suggestions for improving the BRG



The analysis of the suggestions shows several recurring themes that reflect the community's desires and concerns for the recreational field. To better understand the themes being shared, we collated the number of bigrams and monograms – these can be understood through thinking of words as the building blocks of language. Monograms are single letters, and bigrams are pairs of letters. Based on bigrams and monograms extracted from the responses, the key areas of focus are:

#### #1 No response: 32 respondents (21%)

- No engagement with question
- Significant level of disengagement

#### #2 Suggestions and general thought: 22 respondents (15%)

- General positive descriptive words such as “great”, “good”, “love”, “like”, “encourage”, and “enjoy” used
- These suggest that many respondents are satisfied, but these often included other suggestions, with terms such as “maybe”, “needs”, “new”, “make” used in same respondent answers

- Responses reflect diverse ideas for enhancing overall experience

**#3 Open and green spaces:** 20 respondents (13%)

- Frequent mention of terms like “green”, “space”, “space”, “open”, “grass”, “area”
- Highlighting importance of preserving open areas for general recreational use and relaxation

**#4 Sports activities:** 17 respondents (11%)

- Many respondents focused on expanding opportunities for sports
- Frequent mention of terms like “football”, “goals”, “pitch”, “nets”
- This reflects strong interest in enhancing sports facilities, particular for football but also for adding facilities for other sports such as basketball

**#5 Community and family usage** 14 respondents (9%)

- Notable focus on fostering community and family use of field
- Terms like “community”, “families”, “events”, “school” used
- Suggesting that residents want more activities that bring community together and support family engagement

**#6 Play & exercise equipment:** 12 respondents (8%)

- Numerous mentions of playground and fitness-related items
- Frequent mention of terms such as “equipment”, “exercise”, “outdoor gym”, “swing”
- Respondents emphasised need for updated and diverse exercise options for both children and adults

**#7 Seating & picnic areas:** 9 respondents (6%)

- Respondents expressed desire for more comfortable spaces for gatherings
- Terms mentioned include “picnic tables”, “benches”, “shelter”
- Terms indicate preference for creating areas where families and groups can gather and relax

**#8 Environment and features:** 8 respondents (6%)

- Terms mentioned include specific features such as “gate”, “playing field”, “parking area”, “near sewage”
- Environmental concerns such as maintaining natural aspects were brought up





supporting pet activities, could significantly enhance the field's usability and appeal.

Engaging with the community to address these needs can help make the recreational field a better, more inclusive space for everyone.

## 3.7 Barriers to using BRG

*Survey Question 8: Please tell us if there is anything that prevents you from using the recreational field.*

### 3.7.1 Data Analysis

Based on the survey results:

- 70 respondents (46%) of participants did not/chose not to respond to question
- 32 respondents (22%) of the total respondents stated that the field is perfect as it is
- Remaining 49 respondents (32%) identified barriers preventing them using the BRG

These barriers can be broken down into the following categories. The commonly mentioned terms in answers are included in bullet point lists below categories:

**Access and Usability Issues:** 17 respondents (11%)

- “Dog walking” - 10 residents (7%)
- “Climbs home” - 5 respondents (3%)
- “Field longer” - 5 respondents (3%)
- “Parking field” - 5 respondents (3%)

**Personal Circumstances or Preferences:** 14 respondents (9%)

- “Children” – 6 respondents
- “Walking area” – 5 respondents (3%)
- “Play area” 5 respondents (3%)

**Safety Concerns:** 9 respondents (6%)

- Dog (6%)
- Dangerous dogs (1%)

**Environmental Concerns:** 6 respondents (4%)

- “Green space” - 5 respondents (3%)

- “Lack of toilets” - 5 respondents (3%)

**Community and Usage:** 8 respondents (5%)

- “Community events” 3 respondents (2%)
- “Open green” – 3 respondents (2%)

**Aesthetic or Environmental Quality:** 8 respondents (5%)

- “Seating shelter” – 3 respondents (2%)
- “Green” - 2 respondents (1%)

**Other Concerns:** 5 respondents (3%)

- “Manage steep” - 5 respondents (3%)
- “Time” – 2 respondents (1%)

The most frequently cited barriers fall under Access and Usability Issues and Personal Circumstances or Preferences, followed by Safety Concerns. These categories highlight that accessibility, safety, and individual circumstances play a major role in preventing the community from fully utilising the recreational field. Addressing these issues can potentially enhance community engagement and the overall experience of the recreational area.

It is also important to note that some members of the community face similar barriers related to disabilities, as discussed in Section 4. 18 respondents (12% of total) reported having a disability. Improving accessibility for disabled residents, including secure pathways, seating areas, and amenities, could make the recreational field more inclusive and ensure it meets the needs of all residents, fostering greater participation.

We produced another word cloud to highlight the answers provided, shown below in Figure 14. An explanation of what a word cloud is was described earlier in results section of this report, specifically under sub-section 3.2.1.



### 3.8.1 Data Analysis

#### Summary of Redistributed Percentages

##### **1. Traffic and Speed Regulation – 37 respondents (24%)**

Traffic and speed regulation emerges as the most prominent concern among the residents, accounting for the highest proportion of suggestions. This indicates that residents are particularly worried about road safety, speeding vehicles, and the need for effective traffic control. Specific areas of focus might include implementing speed limits, adding more speed bumps, and creating safe pedestrian crossings. Addressing this issue could have a direct and significant impact on improving the quality of life by enhancing safety and reducing traffic incidents in the village.

##### **2. Road and Parking Issues – 24 respondents (16%)**

The second-highest concern is related to road and parking issues. The residents have highlighted problems such as parking difficulties and the poor condition of roads, which includes potholes and general maintenance. Improving road quality and addressing parking concerns would not only make it more convenient for residents but also contribute to a safer environment for both drivers and pedestrians. The focus could be on allocating designated parking areas, maintaining existing roads, and addressing pothole repairs.

##### **3. Public Transportation and Services – 15 respondents (10%)**

Public transportation and services represent a notable concern, with residents requesting improvements in bus services, frequency, and accessibility. This suggests that the current transportation infrastructure might not be meeting their needs, particularly for those who rely on public transit to access essential services. Improving bus schedules, extending routes, and ensuring better connections to nearby towns could enhance the overall mobility of the community, reduce isolation, and make daily commuting easier for everyone, especially for those without private vehicles.

##### **4. Community Facilities and Amenities – 14 respondents (9%)**

Community facilities and amenities, such as the recreational park, community centres, and recreational facilities, also make up a significant proportion of responses. Residents value spaces that encourage social interaction, leisure, and community engagement. Expanding existing facilities or adding new amenities, such as playgrounds, community halls, and social activity spaces, could help foster a stronger community spirit and provide opportunities for residents of all ages to gather and interact.

## **5. Green Spaces and Community Environment** – 14 respondents (9%)

Green spaces and the overall community environment are important to the residents of Berrynarbor, who desire well-maintained public areas, hedges, and green spaces for recreation. Improvements such as the upkeep of parks, trimming overgrown hedges, and creating new outdoor recreational areas could enhance the aesthetic appeal of the village while promoting a healthy lifestyle through outdoor activities.

## **6. Safety and Wellbeing** – 6 respondents (4%)

Safety and wellbeing concerns are present, though they rank lower compared to other categories. Issues raised include dangerous areas and ensuring a safer environment, particularly for vulnerable populations such as children and the elderly. Residents may want enhanced lighting in certain areas, as well as improvements to pedestrian pathways to increase safety during evenings and at intersections.

## **7. No Response** – 41 respondents (27%)

This percentage indicates that 27% of respondents did not provide an answer for this section. In this survey, participants were allowed to choose up to three options, but 125 out of a total of 459 possible responses were left blank. This suggests that while some respondents chose not to answer, it was still an option available to them.

These responses are summarised in the word cloud in Figure 15 below. An explanation of what a word cloud is was described earlier in results section of this report, specifically under sub-section 3.2.1.



## 3.9 Most helpful changes to improve Berrynarbor

*Survey Question 11: What do you think would be the most helpful change we could make to improve Berrynarbor village?*

### 3.9.1 Data Analysis

The survey asked respondents what they think would be the most helpful change to improve Berrynarbor village. The responses were analysed using both monogram and bigram frequency counts, as well as categorising them into key themes. An explanation of what monograms and bigrams are was provided earlier on in the report, under sub-section 4.6.1.

Key Categories of Suggestions:

**Traffic & Road Safety** – 34 respondents (22%)

- This was the most frequently mentioned category
- Highlighting issues related to road safety, including:
  - Speed limits (e.g., “speed limit,” “20 mph,” “mph speed”)
  - Traffic control measures such as installing traffic cameras or adding road signs.
  - Specific areas mentioned included "Barton Lane" and "A399."

**Community & Amenities** – 20 respondents (13%)

- Upgrading or improving community spaces such as "Manor Hall" and adding amenities for the community were frequently mentioned.
- Engagement with community activities was also mentioned as a priority to bring people together.

**Parking & Vehicles** – 14 residents (9%)

- Many residents were concerned about parking issues.
- Suggestions included restricting parking through measures like double yellow lines, introducing resident-only permits, and reducing congestion in key areas.

**Public Spaces & Recreation** – 12 residents (8.25%)

- Improvements to public areas like the "playing field," "dog field," and other green spaces were seen as important.
- Creating areas for more community activities could enhance the quality of life in Berrynarbor.





### 3.9.2 Conclusion

Based on the analysis, the following were identified as the most impactful changes that would benefit residents of Berrynarbor:

These priorities align with the feedback provided by residents, indicating that enhancing road safety, managing parking more effectively, and investing in community amenities are key to improving life in Berrynarbor.

## 3.10 Local community interest in joining local steering group

*Survey Question 12: Would you be interested in joining a local Steering Group to help facilitate community improvements?*

### 3.10.1 Data Analysis

The results were as follows:

- 92 respondents (60%) indicated they were not interested in joining a Steering Group
- 19 respondents (12%) indicated they were interested in joining.
- 42 respondents (27%) did not provide a clear response.

### 3.10.2 Conclusion

Although most residents are not interested in joining the Steering Group, 19 respondents have highlighted that they are willing to contribute to community improvements – this constitutes quite a large group of people.

## 4. EVALUATION

Following the completion of this community consultation, below are our key findings and recommendations.

Key findings:

- **Community engagement:** The proportion of the community that engaged with the survey is actively engaged and has a strong interest in the future of the BRG. There is a large contingent of the population however, that did not engage with the survey – these reasons are not fully understood because of their lack of engagement.
- **Key concerns:** The most pressing concerns are related to BRG access, safety, and amenities.
- **Desired improvements:** the local community is has specified that the following improvements are most important: improved parking, safer walking paths, more seating areas, and better sports facilities.
- **Community spirit:** The community values the BRG as a space for social interaction and community events.

In light of our extensive data analysis, and our key findings, we present our recommendations below:

1. **Enhance BRG and wider Berrynarbor accessibility:** Improve pedestrian access, parking, and lighting
2. **Upgrade BRG facilities:** Invest in new sports equipment, seating, and play areas.
3. **Prioritise pedestrian safety:** Implement measures to address safety concerns, such as better lighting and clear pathways.
4. **Increase community engagement:** organise community events and activities to promote social interaction.

By addressing these key areas, the BPC can significantly improve the BRG and enhance the quality of life for the local community.

## 5. APPENDICES

### Appendix 1 – Household Survey

Plaintext version below. Link to survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/37wn9dr>

Appendix 1 attached separately as .pdf

### **Berrynarbour Recreational Field & Community Improvements**

Berrynarbor Recreational Field & Community Development Proposal.

Have your say on possible community improvements in Berrynarbor. Berrynarbor Parish Council are conducting a fresh survey to better understand the needs and requirements of our local village community, including the recreational field.

Berrynarbor Parish Council have commissioned Devon Communities Together to facilitate this community consultation.

#### **Question Title**

1. Name (optional)

#### **Question Title**

2. Gender

Male

Female

Transgender

Gender Fluid

Prefer not to say

#### **Question Title**

3. Age Range

11-18

18-24

25-34

35-44

45-54

55-64

65+

**Question Title**

4. Do you consider yourself to have a disability?

Yes

No

Prefer Not To Say

If yes please tell us which type of disability you have :

Physical Disability

Learning Disability

Mental Health

Other (please specify)

**Question Title**

5. In which area of Berrynarbor do you reside?

Half a mile or less from the centre of the village?

More than a mile from the centre of the village?

More than 2 miles from the centre of the village?

**Question Title**

6. When was the last time you visited or used the recreational field?

Within the last 3 months

6 months to a year

Longer than a year

You do not visit or use the recreational field

**Question Title**

7. Do you participate in any of the following activities at the recreational field?

Socialising with friends

Using the playground

Playing football or other sports/games

Picnic or enjoying the green space

Boules

Other (please specify)

**Question Title**

8. Please tell us if there is anything which prevents you from using the Recreational Field?

**Question Title**

9. Do you have any suggestions for improving community use of the recreational field?

**Question Title**

10. If you could change 3 things to improve the quality of life for residents of Berrynarbor, what would those 3 improvements be?

1

2

3

**Question Title**

11. What do you think would be the most helpful change we could make to improve Berrynarbor village ?

**Question Title**

12. Would you be interested in joining a local Steering Group to help facilitate community improvements?

Yes

No

If yes, please provide contact details below