

The Longdon Letter

LONGDON SURVEY 2026

The **Longdon Parish Council Survey 2026** will be shared with residents through articles in Longdon Letters. Look out in this edition for feedback on;

- Who responded to the survey.
- Are our priorities the same as last year.?
- How are we doing as your Parish Council.

We received 70 responses and lots of good ideas and contacts.

Our Heritage

The landscape of Cannock Chase has been forged by the interactions between people and the environment over thousands of years. The rich cultural legacy previous generations have left is fundamental to the special character of the area, and was one of the contributing factors to it being designated an **Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty AONB**) in 1958. Combined with an outstanding natural heritage, varied scenery, inspiring views, and sense of wildness and tranquillity - the Chase is one of England’s finest landscapes, whose distinctive character and natural beauty is so precious that it is protected in the national interest. The Cannock Chase AONB Management Plan provides the overarching framework for the future of the **National Landscape**, setting out our collective ambition for Nature, Climate, People and Place in response to the challenges for the area. ‘**Chase Past, Present and Future**’ sits alongside the Management Plan, and has been prepared by the *National Landscape Partnership* to provide more detail how it will look after the historic environment of the Chase working together with local interest groups, volunteers and sector professionals, as well as the owners and stewards of the heritage assets themselves.

Social, environmental and economic benefits provided by the historic environment Cannock Chase has over 1,200 heritage assets.

Around 50% of Cannock Chase is open access land, and there are 157 kms of Public Rights of Way as well as canal towpaths allowing access to a wide range of sites and features.

Feedback from visitors is that they value the Chase’s sense of history and place.

Historic environment attractions on the Chase are hugely popular:

For example, annual visitors to the National Trust Shugborough Estate exceed 250,000.

National figures (Historic England, Heritage Counts) show that:

- over 60% of adults regularly visit a heritage site each year
- increased health and life satisfaction is associated with more frequent visits to historical sites
- cultural engagement can reduce NHS costs associated with mental health
- the heritage sector is a source of economic prosperity (contributing £44.9 billion in Gross Added Value to the UK economy in 2022)
- the built heritage is a significant pull factor for business.

Over 90% of respondents to a 2010 survey agreed or strongly agreed that investment in their local historic environment made the area a better place in which to live, work, visit or operate a business.

A51 and Lysways Lane Flooding Update

A51 Longdon where drivers queued for up to an hour to get through.

Lysways Lane where the Ben Brook broke its banks

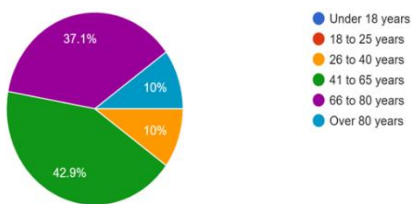
We have demanded regular gulley cleaning by SCC of all our roads and “hot spots” and we all need to continue to help to keep things clear where we can. We suspect some long term fix needs to be sorted out by working with the Environmental Agency, SCC and local landowners. Both these flooding “hot spots” lie within the known natural flood areas so careful management of flood waters needs to take place.

A recent review of the situation has resulted in several landowners adjacent to the Brook helping to remove blockages (e.g. large tree trunk in the culvert), dig out the brook where it is silting up and generally taken preventative measures to anticipate next spring’s flooding. (In the middle of a drought that is hard to imagine, but we know how our local climate has changed and we need to be ready for it.

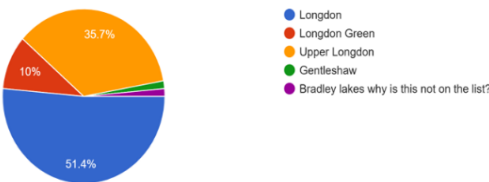
Survey 2026: Who responded?

It’s helpful to know where the responses are coming from to check if they are representative of our Parish. Similar to the 2025 survey, all villages were represented, but obviously because Longdon and Upper Longdon have a larger population, they had more responses. We were concerned whether we were actually getting response across all ages, and as the pie-chart below shows, we get responses from a spread of age groups which is encouraging. We are aware from the last census data that >41% of residents in Longdon parish are over 60 years of age This year we received 5 paper copies mainly from people over 65 years, so we are aware that not everyone enjoys surveys “online”, so we will now always offer a paper survey option too.

B1. Getting to know you. What age group do you belong to (person answering the survey only)
70 responses



A1. Understanding where respondents live will help us to understand how this survey is represented, can you tell us which part of the village you live in?
70 responses



Local Events in Summer/Autumn 2026

The *Lichfield Festival* has come and gone with the usual array of events and spectacles including the very successful *Cars in the Park*, concerts in the Cathedral and many artistic exhibitions and presentations. The free *Fuse Festival* has also been a highlight of our summer. We rely on village groups to let us know what is coming up, but unfortunately we have received no responses for this edition of Longdon Letter. However, looking forward, the **Longdon Show 2026** is planned for **Sunday 13th September in Longdon Village Hall** from 09:00 until 16:00. There will be prizes for the best displays of vegetables, fruit, plants, floral art, baking, photography and crafts. Put this in you diary and come a long to see that Longdon has Talent!



Longdon Open Gardens and Scarecrow Festival 2026 raises over £2000 for St James’ Church!

Congratulations are in order to all who organised and provided their gardens for this year’s **Open Gardens** event on 6/7 June. The amount of organising, preparation and hard graft to make this enjoyable annual event. This year there was an additional **Scarecrow Festival** – and there were some brilliant entries. Hopefully more residents will consider opening their gardens next year or even make their own scarecrow! The added bonus was the money raised for our amazing Norman church, St James the Great.

Meet Your MP

Dave Roberston, our Lichfield MP will be available for questions/conversation on his Summer Tour at **Longdon Village all on 4th August at 10:30 until 11:30.**

It’s so important to connect with our local MP (irrespective of your political persuasion!) because they are our representatives at Westminster and can make a real difference to any key issues you may have.

MPs are incredibly hard working and rarely have time to meet their constituents because of their Parliamentary duties -here’s your chance.

DAVE ROBERTSON MP IS GOING ON A VILLAGE TOUR!

REGISTER NOW TO SECURE YOUR PLACE

JULY 21 ARMITAGE & HANDSACRE 10:30am	AUGUST 4 LONGDON 10:30am
JULY 23 KINGS BROMLEY 10:30am	AUGUST 6 ABBOTS BROMLEY 10:30am
JULY 30 COLTON 10:30am	AUGUST 11 YOXALL 11am
JULY 31 HAMMERWICH 10:30am	AUGUST 11 NEWBOROUGH 2:30pm
AUGUST 3 FRADLEY 5:30PM	AUGUST 13 ALREWAS 5:30PM

Promoted by Fred Brown on behalf of Dave Robertson at Unit B&D, Trent Business Park, Eastern, Lichfield WS4 8RN

LET’S TALK HISTORY !

7.30pm Friday July 24th at
St James the Great Parish Church, Longdon
An illustrated talk by local historian John Shand on
“Church in medieval Longdon”

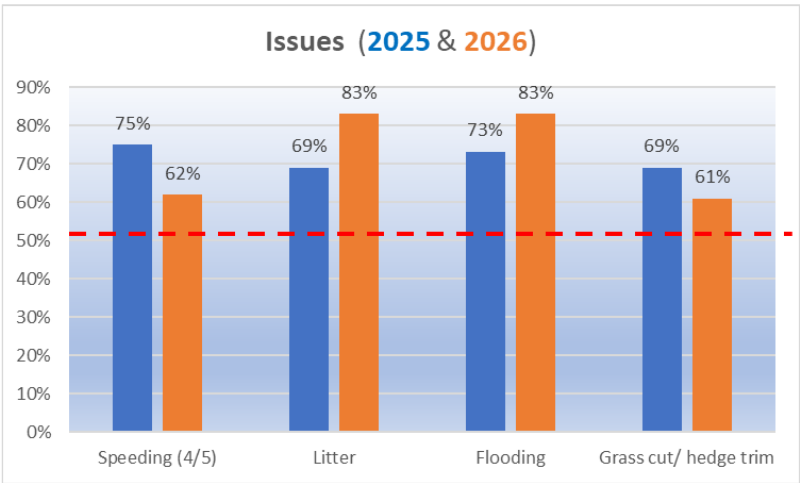
Live in, or visit Longdon? Know about Longdon's Rood Screen and Quinches? Can you imagine Longdon Church before it had a tower, or a vestry, or North Transept, or Stonywell Chapel? Come, enjoy a glass of wine & discover Longdon life in Medieval times . .

Doors & wine bar open 7.00pm

Tickets £8 on the door, from St James Fundraising Team, call 07976 055161 or, email: tickets@stjames-longdon.org.uk

All proceeds to the upkeep of St James' Church

Survey Feedback



Again, your priorities in 2025 (blue) remain **speeding, litter, flooding and grass/hedge cutting**, remain the same in 2026 (orange) and are the Parish Council

Speeding Issues

Did you know we can obtain information about speeding and traffic from our SIDS (Speed Indicator Display Sign) cameras? Currently we have one on the bend of Brereton Hill lane and Upper Way in Upper Longdon and one opposite the school in Gentleshaw. The Parish Council review the data twice a year, so here is a summary of your data for this year.

Upper Longdon Data

UL1 June 26	INCOMING	OUTGOING
<30mph	90.4% (74.8%)	78.6% (65.6%)
31-40 mph	9.0% (24.6%)	19.8% (32.4%)
41-45 mph	0.4% (0.7%)	1.2% (1.55%)
51-60 mph	<0.1% (<0.1%)	0.42% (0.45%)

(Incoming is from the A51 going into Upper Longdon, outgoing is from the village towards the A51. The number in brackets is the Jan 26 data)

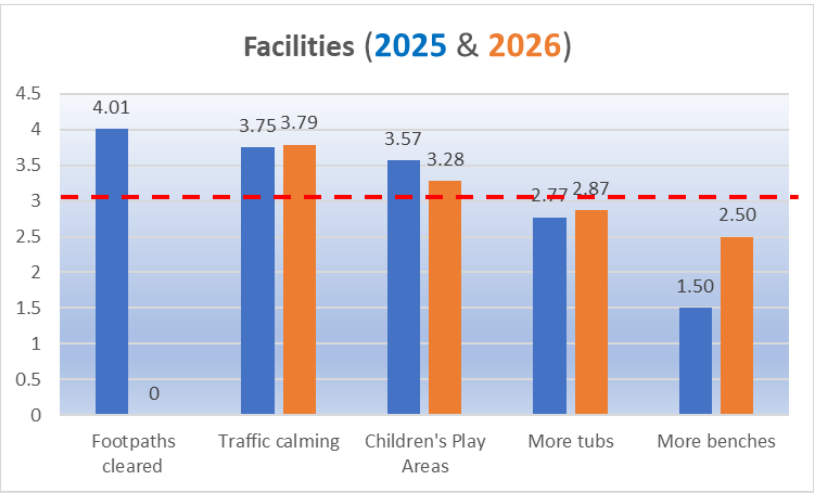
Fortunately, the majority of cars stay within the 30 mph speed limit but a minority showing excessive speed just before the bend into the village. We see 17,000-18,000 cars pass through the village each month! That’s about 600 cars a day! The average speed in January 2026 was 29-30 mph, but in June it has dropped to 25-27 mph. We don’t understand the reason for these patterns yet.

Gentleshaw Data

GS June 26	INCOMING	OUTGOING
<30mph	88.4%	77.0%
31- 40 mph	11.5%	21.1%
41- 50 mph	0.6%	1.7%
51-60 mph	<0.0%	0.1%

The Gentleshaw SIDS is positioned right opposite the school between a couple of junctions, so drivers mostly go slowly because of the school traffic and busy junctions. Alarmingly there still are some speeding drivers, but further analysis will show if they speed during school day hours. There are usually 14,000 – 17,000 cars per month, but much of this will be school traffic we suspect. The numbers drop during school holidays of course.

Survey Feedback



Facilities the Parish Wants.

Cleared footpaths, a children’s safe playing area(s) and more traffic calming measures are facilities you want us to pursue further. However, we need YOUR support to make these things happen!

“There’s a tree come down – can the Council Fix it?”

As your Parish Council we receive several messages a year informing us about either trees or branches that have come down, shrubs and bushes that are overgrown or verges that are full of weeds and look unsightly. Let’s explain the order of how these issues should be dealt with.

1. In most cases it is the responsibility of the **landowner** to maintain their boundary and any risks from trees and bushes causing damage or harm to others. Landowners (including home owners) have a duty to maintain their trees/shrubs and ultimately they are liable for any damage caused to others/their property as a result of a tree falling in a storm or otherwise. Please ensure you maintain the foliage all year in and around your property and especially to tidy up leaves from your trees etc. in the autumn.
2. In an emergency where a tree is blocking the highway or footpath it may be necessary to contact the **police** but also to contact **Staffordshire County Council Highways Division** to clear the acute problem.
3. Occasionally, your Parish Council will arrange for groups of volunteers as “hit squads” to tidy up, prune or cut back **public areas** that are untidy or at risk of either impairing drivers vision, or hindering pedestrians. This is entirely voluntary and often requires your support to roll up your sleeves and help out clearing specific areas. **Please consider volunteering when we ask for help.** A few hours work by a few can make a huge difference for all of us.

Thanks to Councillor Trevor Johnson

Our July Parish Council Meeting saw the retirement of Councillor Trevor Johnson who has been on LPC for five years and acted as Chair and Deputy Chair. Throughout his tenure Trevor has

shown great tenacity in sorting out the key problems in the Parish, namely flooding, making our villages look good and negotiating with a variety of organisations to get things done in the parish. He has always worked passionately to get things sorted and sometimes at great personal cost. (Here we see him on his 80th birthday at 7:30 AM checking the drains and gullies on Borough Lane!)



The Parish Council would like to thank Trevor for his years of leadership, hard work, tough negotiations and adept gardening skills in nurturing the bedding plants for our tubs and pots around the village. He has put up poppies, clipped hedgerows, cleaned gullies and ditches as well as oversee improvements to many of the flooding hot spots. We wish him a very happy retirement from the Parish Council, but he has assured us he is still happy to provide information, contacts and his vast experience on parish issues as we go forwards. **Trevor, THANK YOU VERY MUCH.**

What's been Happening in Longdon Parish?

Hey, Longdon Cricket Team – Howzat!

We note our village cricket team has been having some good success this summer with some great results and a few exceptional individual performances.

An historic moment for the club on 31st May as Longdon achieved a record breaking team score of 327 and a further record breaking individual score from Adam Shaw of 225 not out! Uttoxeter were worthy opponents and it was a thrilling match which went to the wire but Longdon



Longdon Cricket Club is always after new players. They play friendlies on Sundays and sometimes midweek. Their ground is actually based in Gentleshaw (WS15 4NB) but you can find out about the team on their Facebook Page or by contacting Aidan Peaty on 07919250731 or by email on Aidan.Peaty@outlook.com

As we're in for a hot summer, why not think of joining the team, watching a game or just follow them on social media. (.....it'll make a change from the World Cup)

Longdon out for Duck?

Our **Annual Village Duck Race** took place in Shropshire Brook in Longdon Village in early June. By all accounts it was a close run competition with eddy currents (Whoever he is! 😊), and weeds playing a big part in the proceedings. Apparently No.25 took a last minute lead and won the day by a close bill! (This was another excellent **Longdon Village Community Group** event and started at the Village Hall.)

This is one of the regular events put on by Longdon Village Community Group which not everyone hears about, but this all adds to the richness of life in our village and gets us out meeting each other.

We know from our 2026 Parish Survey, that residents like these sort of events and want to see more history talks, wildlife talks and other interesting subjects.



Longdon Village Hall

Our underused community gem – needs your help!

Longdon Village Hall is a fine community facility run by the Village Hall Trustees and is an excellent venue for clubs, meetings, parties and even wedding receptions.

Originally it was the Village School it was bought by the Trustees in 2004 and is run as a facility for all to use. However, there is a call for help from people like YOU... to volunteer to help increase the use of the building.

Could you help to put on even a single event (a talk, a music event, a regular meeting group, an exhibition or even an art class)? You don't need to make a huge commitment, try and see what you can do and decide how much or little you wish to do after that.

The VH Trustee team is led by Joan Fox who has done an amazing job leading the team over several decades, but they desperately need more volunteers to ensure the Village hall brings in income to maintain its fabulous structure.

Use the link below to the website to book events, see what's on and volunteer to help out.

[Longdon Village Hall, Staffordshire | Welcome](https://www.longdonvillagehall.co.uk/)



Longdon Village School 1910 (from a Mr Cowdell postcard)



Longdon Village Hall today