

ENGLISHCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Serving Barrow, Englishcombe, Haycombe, Inglesbatch, Kilkenny & Nailwell.

Englishcombe Parish Council

Emma Pryce
The Old Rectory
Newton St. Loe
Bath
BA2 9DU

Thursday 12th June 2025

Dear Emma,

On behalf of Englishcombe Parish Council, I am writing to share the findings of a recent parish-wide survey conducted to assess community interest in the provision of a dedicated local space for events and activities. We believe these results will be of interest to the Duchy of Cornwall given your ongoing support for community initiatives and land stewardship in our area. As discussed in our meeting on Thursday 12th May, we have a strong, favourable community support for a special space for our Parish and we will outline the detail below.

In March 2025, the Parish Council distributed 120 surveys to households across Englishcombe and its surrounding hamlets. We received 33 completed responses, yielding a return rate of 27.5%. While modest in number, the responses represent a broad demographic cross-section of the parish and offer meaningful insight into local priorities. We also received responses from multi-generational homes, often with three to five individuals contributing to one survey.

Notably, there was overwhelming support for the establishment of a community space. Of the 33 households that responded, 32 expressed a clear desire to have access to such a space. This strongly enforces the message from our Annual Parish Assembly in May as well as an additional Parish meeting held in June, that our community desires a community space. The types of events and activities supported were wide-ranging and included:

- Village events and celebrations (31 mentions)
- Public meetings, parish council events, and a polling station (26–28 mentions each)
- Charity sales, craft fairs, and jumble sales (16–22 mentions)
- Church events, committee meetings, and a village library (20–22 mentions)
- Health and wellbeing activities such as keep fit classes (24 mentions)

Additionally, open-ended suggestions included youth activities, chapel coffee mornings, a gardening club, a book exchange, and even a potential village pub or café. These responses reflect not only enthusiasm for communal space but also the potential for it to support intergenerational connection, wellbeing, and civic engagement.

The Parish Council is now actively exploring opportunities to meet this clearly identified need. We would be grateful for the Duchy's consideration in supporting or facilitating discussions regarding any land or buildings under your management that might be made available for such community use.

The Parish Council are aware that a group of residents have formed a 'Save our Schoolhouse' group targeted at preserving the Old Schoolhouse building. Whilst these residents have

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every right to conduct their own research and communication, we wanted to re-iterate that the message coming from this group is not one endorsed by the Parish Council. The community have stated their want for a community asset and as a Parish Council, it is our responsibility to see that through. We are happy to be informed of this groups plans or communication with yourselves however they do not represent the views or feelings of Englishcombe Parish Council.

At the Englishcombe Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 12th June 2025, the Parish Council voted to affirm their stance. That stance is to listen to the feedback raised within the community survey and to support yourselves with the possible conversion of the Wheelwrights Barn. Due to the vast amount of work, time and money that needs to be spent on The Old Schoolhouse, to bring it to a reasonable, rental standard, the Parish Council have decided that their resources are best deployed in assisting with the conversion of the Wheelwrights Barn, which is already leased to the Parish Council for the benefit of the community.

Thank you for your time and continued engagement with the community of Englishcombe.

Your sincerely,



Jack Turner

Locum Parish Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer.

Englishcombe Parish Council.

Clerk@englishcombe-pc.gov.uk

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