

Hoath Parish

Neighbourhood Plan

Questionnaire



Hoath Parish Coronation Big Lunch, May 2023

Our Community, Our Future

May 2025



View towards Mill Road

Hoath Parish Council - Privacy Notice – Anonymous Questionnaire

1. Introduction

Hoath Parish Council is conducting this questionnaire to gather feedback on the Parish Council's decision to produce a Neighbourhood Plan. This survey is completely anonymous, and no personal data will be collected.

2. What Data We Collect

We will only collect the responses you provide to the questionnaire. We do not collect any personal data (e.g., names, addresses, emails, or IP addresses).

3. Purpose of the Questionnaire

The responses will be used to inform future Parish Council decisions when drafting the Neighbourhood Plan.

4. How We Use and Store Your Responses

Responses are collected anonymously and cannot be traced back to individuals. Data will be stored securely and retained for 12 months, after which it will be permanently deleted. The results may be summarised and published, but no individual responses will be identifiable.

5. Your Rights

As this questionnaire is fully anonymous, your rights under UK GDPR (such as access, rectification, or erasure) do not apply to individual responses.

6. Contact Us

If you have any questions, please contact:

Parish Clerk

Hoath Parish Council

clerk@hoathparishcouncil.gov.uk

7. Further Information

For more information on data protection, you can visit the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) at www.ico.org.uk

Help shape how Hoath Parish develops -- Hoath Parish Council's Neighbourhood Plan Questionnaire gives you a chance to have your say.

Please Note: Every Parishioner has the right to submit answers!

Hoath Parish is being slowly surrounded by housing developments in Hersden and Sturry on one side, and by those in Herne and Broomfield on the other. In the process, woodland, bird and wildlife, agricultural land and open landscape are gradually disappearing, together with local biodiversity and opportunities for open-air recreation.

In addition, these developments, and those proposed for the future in Canterbury City Council's (CCC) draft Local Plan 2040, have increased, and will continue to increase, pressure on roads and services in and around our Parish.

Within this context, Hoath Parish is gradually becoming a "**green lung**" for our neighbouring Parishes and for the northern part of Canterbury District as a whole.

How do you, as a resident, want Hoath Parish to develop?

A Neighbourhood Plan (NP) gives local people a voice about the future of where they live and work. It adds another layer to the planning system which can protect what we have, and control what can happen in our Parish. This questionnaire is designed to give you the opportunity to provide us with your views. The policies in our NP will be shaped by your ideas and opinions.

Once the Planning Inspectorate has examined a NP to ensure it complies with national policy and legal requirements, and it is then approved by a Parish referendum, a NP becomes part of a district's Local Plan **and acquires statutory authority**. Planning applications will be tested against it. NB: NP's can be updated once adopted.

Timings. Hoath Parish Council's (HPC) ambition is for Hoath's NP to be integrated into CCC's 2040 Local Plan. CCC is encouraging us to achieve this, together with other District Parish Councils undertaking NPs. According to current timings, the new Local Plan will be adopted in the first half of 2026.

Please note: CCC's timings are determined by the Local Government Reorganisation (devolution) which is now taking place. It is estimated that CCC will cede its authority in three years to an East Kent Unitary Authority.

Hoath NP's current position. In December 2022, Hoath Parish Council registered its decision to undertake a Neighbourhood Plan with Canterbury City Council.

This **anonymous questionnaire** is based on feedback from Parish residents who took part in the NP consultation workshop at Hoath Parish/Village Hall in December 2023* and aims to dig deeper. (*The results of the 2023 workshop can be reviewed on Hoath Parish Council's website <https://hoathparishcouncil.gov.uk/>)

The elements of CCC's draft Local Plan 2040 which reinforce topics and concerns highlighted in the workshop's results, are integrated into the questionnaire.

Questionnaire topics: Parish Landscape, Green Space and Environment; Housing and Commercial Development, Design Standards; Rural Economy and Facilities; Parish Services, Amenities, Health and Wellbeing; Roads, Paths, Traffic Infrastructure, Safety. There are 39 questions. **Please Note: All feedback on these topics is incredibly important, however this questionnaire may raise issues that the Neighbourhood Plan won't be able to resolve.**

Working together. If you have questions and/or would like to take part in developing the NP, please get in touch with the **NP steering group**, by emailing our Parish Clerk at clerk@hoathparishcouncil.gov.uk

Neighbourhood Plan information. Parish Council updates about the NP's progress and timings of dedicated community meetings will be announced at Parish Council meetings, on the Parish website and social media, and in the monthly Hoath & Chislet Parish Magazine.

Questionnaire copies. A copy of this questionnaire will be **hand delivered** to every Parish household during **May 2025**. A pre-addressed envelope will be included. Please email our Parish Clerk if you have any questions clerk@hoathparishcouncil.gov.uk

Closing date for responses: **30th June 2025**

Please send us your questionnaire even if incomplete! All input is important.

Responses. Please drop off your answers in **the Hoath Parish/Village Hall letterbox**

or send to

Parish Clerk, Hoath Parish Council, c/o Hoath Village Hall, 7 Church Rd, Canterbury CT3 4LA

Parish of Hoath, Canterbury District
(administrative boundary)



Source: Canterbury City Council

General Information

1. Do you support Hoath Parish Council undertaking a Neighbourhood Plan to give you a voice in shaping our Parish's future?

Yes	No	Unsure
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If no, please still return your questionnaire addressed to the Hoath Parish Council Clerk to the Village Hall letterbox as all responses are important.

2. How might you be willing to be involved in preparing the Neighbourhood Plan? **Please tick or circle.**

- Distributing information
- Helping with a website
- Joining the core group of organisers – the NP steering group -- in organising the data collection and running a survey
- Neighbourhood and resident outreach
- Responding to surveys
- Voting in the neighbourhood plan referendum
- I support the Neighbourhood Plan but unfortunately can't help at this time.
- Other – please share ideas!

If you'd like to take part, even if undecided how, please contact our Parish Clerk clerk@hoathparishcouncil.gov.uk

3. Where do you live? **Please tick the relevant place.**

Hoath village	Knaves Ash	Maypole	Ford	Shelvingford	Old Tree	Boyden Gate	Any other area in the Parish?

4. **Please circle** the age groups within your household and the number of people in each group (e.g. if there are two 9-year-olds, circle the category and write x2 on the dotted lines).

- | | | |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| • 0-9 | • 30-39 | • 60-69 |
| • 10-19 | • 40-49 | • 70-79 |
| • 20-29 | • 50-59 | • 80+ |

Parish Landscape, Green Space and Environment

Please Note: The proposed 17-house development at Church Farm, School Lane, Hoath, was one of the areas proposed to Canterbury City Council in response to its call for development sites in 2022. It is now included in **CCC's draft Local Plan 2040 as policy R18**. (CCC's **Draft LP 2040** available for consultation on Hoath Parish Council's website)

NB: The NP has no control over changes to views beyond Parish boundaries.

Key Parish landscape features

Woodland	Shelving Wood, Beacon Wood, East Blean, Clangate Wood, Buckwell Wood, Calfs Wood
Hedgerows	
Ponds, Springs & Wetland	Nethergong-Sarre Penn Valley, Shelvingford, Old Tree
Streams	Nethergong-Sarre Penn, Rushbourne, North Stream
Open fields, medieval field structure & drainage systems	
Long reaching views across the Parish, e.g., Holy Cross Church, a focal point which can be seen from different points in the Parish	

5. A. Looking at the countryside around our Parish, **which areas or parts of the landscape** have **special natural or visual significance** and need protection?

Please list site addresses / areas.

B. What **protections** should there be? (E.g., Tree Protection Orders (TPO), dark skies, extending the two Parish conservation areas, ponds.)

Note: Hoath Parish has **two conservation areas**: Hoath, Tile Lodge, Rushbourne; Ford, Maypole, Oldtree. Maps of both areas are at the end of this section.

Suggestions for protections:

6. Please give **as much detail as possible** to the following.

- A.** Which areas of **open space** in Hoath Parish do you value the most and would like to see **protected and/or enhanced** by the Neighbourhood Plan? (E.g., the Nethergong-Sarre Penn Valley, the fields opposite Holy Cross Church)
- B.** Which views **within the Parish** do you value the most and would like to see **protected and/or enhanced** by the Neighbourhood Plan? Please specify from where to where, (E.g., from the Church towards the allotments).
- C.** Although the NP **has no control over views beyond Parish boundaries**, it would be helpful to know which views **from the Parish you value the most?**

7. A. Which Parish areas **rich in biodiversity** would you like to see protected through the Neighbourhood Plan? (E.g. East Blean woods [Hicks Forstal Road], the Nethergong-Sarre Penn Valley wetland)

If possible, please name these.

- B.** Which areas **within** Hoath Parish have **the most potential for biodiversity gain, enhancement or restoration?** (E.g., the former airfield [parallel to Maypole Road, bordering East Blean], the Nethergong-Sarre Penn Valley [home to beavers], Rushbourne valley, wetland in these areas.)
- C.** How do you think **that increasing/enhancing/restoring biodiversity** can be best achieved? (E.g., with community orchards, hedgerows, verges, tree planting, wetland creation)

8. A. Should existing **separations** between the settlements – Knaves Ash, Hoath, Maypole, Old Tree, Ford, Shelvingford – **be maintained as Green Gaps?**

	Yes	No	Unsure
Between Knaves Ash and Hoath village			
Between Knaves Ash and Maypole			
Between Hoath village and Old Tree			
Between Maypole and Hoath village			
Between Maypole and Old Tree			

Between Maypole and Ford			
Between Maypole and Shelvingford			
Between Old Tree and Shelvingford			
Between East Blean wood, Maypole and Hoath village			
Between Old Tree and Boyden Gate			
Between Shelvingford and Ford			
Between Hoath village and the Nethergong-Sarre Penn Valley			
Others – please add			

B. Should these open spaces be defined as Green Gaps to maintain the existing separations between these settlements? Please tick your answer.

Yes	No	Unsure
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9. A. How satisfied are you with **Parish Public Rights of Way (PRoW:** paths which allow the public to pass through private land), **bridleways** (there is one in the Parish), **connectivity between green areas** such as East Blean, the Nethergong-Sarre Penn Valley, Beacon Wood, Boyden Gate and the Parish settlements.

Please tick your response:

Very satisfied	Dissatisfied
Satisfied	Very dissatisfied
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	

If you think there are problems, please identify. If possible, please suggest a solution too.

B. Would you **support multi-use PRoWs** (E.g., paths used for pedestrians/bridleways/bike trails or any combination of these)? **Please tick.**

Yes	No	Unsure
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Do you have any preferences? If possible, please also say where these should be, or suggest other ways of accessing the landscape.

C. Should the Parish work to **reinstate historic PRoWs** (PRoWs on old Ordnance Survey maps) to expand the PRoW networks and support connectivity? **Please tick.**

Yes	No	Unsure
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10. Do you support controlling light pollution to preserve Hoath Parish's current dark skies status* (dark skies = night skies are dark and stars clearly visible)?

***Dark sky maps** show Hoath Parish is a dark island surrounded by light from encroaching developments. (**Canterbury Landscape Character Assessment and Biodiversity Appraisal**, 2020, Figure 3.10, levels of dark skies and light pollution; **CPRE's dark skies map**)

Yes	No	Unsure
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Context: CCC's draft Local Plan 2040 supports minimising light pollution, DM18 (e.g., from street/ outdoor/commercial/residential lighting). Light pollution can have significant impacts on wildlife and human wellbeing.

Do you have any comments or suggestions?

11. Do you support protecting ponds, natural springs, drainage ditches and streams in the Parish as part of preserving habitats, wildlife connectivity, landscapes, and recreation spaces for community wellbeing?

Yes	No	Unsure
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Do you have any comments or suggestions?

12. A. Would you support renewable energy installations in the Parish? For example, solar, wind, biomass, anaerobic digestion.

Yes	No	Unsure
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B. Do you have a preference? Please tick.

	Yes	No	Unsure
Solar			
Wind			
Biomass			

Anaerobic digestion			
No renewable energy			

C. If yes to solar, please tick where you would like to see it.

	Yes	No	Unsure
On private homes			
On Parish public buildings, e.g., on the primary school, village hall			
On the Parish car park			
On quality farmland			

Do you have any other comments or suggestions?

D. Would you support large-scale battery energy storage systems in the Parish?

Yes	No	Unsure
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13. Do you support working with Parish landowners to improve climate resilience by planting trees (e.g., native varieties, orchards) and hedgerows and creating wetlands?

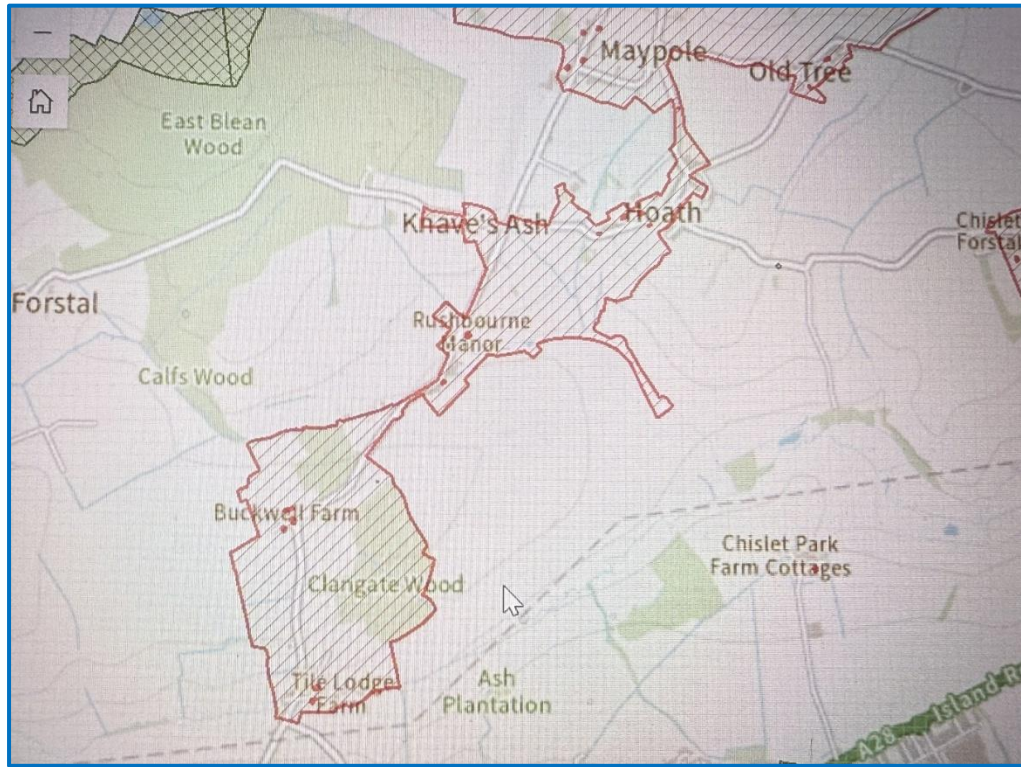
Yes	No	Unsure
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Do you have any comments or suggestions?

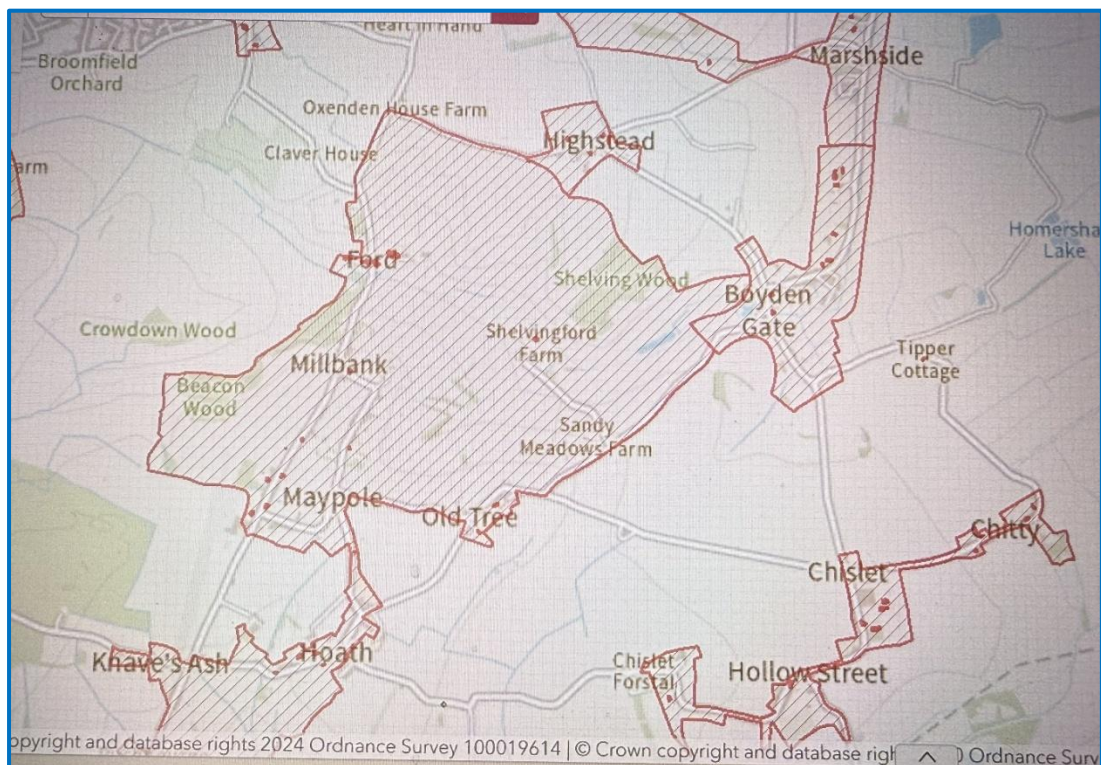
Hoath Parish Conservation Areas

Source: Canterbury City Council

A. Hoath, Rushbourne, Tile Lodge



B. Ford, Maypole, Oldtree



Housing and Commercial Development, Design Standards

14. Do you support **further** small estate-type residential developments in Hoath Parish beyond the Church Farm development of 17 houses (draft Local Plan 2040, policy R18)?

Yes	No	Unsure
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15. Thinking about **future residential development**, where **do you think future development could** be located?

1 (Not Good) to 5 (Very Good) – you might have several topics of equal importance!

Converted farm and other buildings	
Bringing old redundant buildings back into use	
Development in gardens subject to strict criteria	
Agricultural fields	
Conservation areas	
Demolition and re-building of homes	
Infill (fields between homes and settlements)	
None	

Do you have other comments or suggestions about possible future residential developments and their location?

16. Are there areas within Hoath Parish which you think **could/should** be considered for any of the following development? **Please indicate with as much detail as possible.**

Residential	
Commercial	
Community Use	
Green Space	

Are there any other comments or suggestions that you would like to make about possible developments and where they could be located?

17. Are there areas in the Parish where you think **there should be NO type of development?**

Please indicate with as much detail as possible

No Residential	
No Commercial	
No Community Use	

Please share any additional thoughts regarding development and **where this should NOT take place?**

18. If there is future residential development in the Parish, **what type of housing would you like to see?**

	Yes	No	Unsure
Flats			
Retirement housing			
Bungalows			
Terraced houses			
Semi-detached houses			
Detached houses			
Extra care housing			
Other			
None			

Do you have other comments or suggestions?

19. Please indicate the residential and commercial design standards you would like to see included.

	Yes	No	Unsure
All new builds should meet the maximum standards for energy efficiency (i.e., highest level of thermal efficiency)			
New builds should have good internal daylighting			
New builds should have soundproofing			
New builds should have space for home working			
Features in keeping with the age and character of buildings and conservation areas			
Pitched roofs			
Dormer windows			
Wooden weatherboarding			
Clay/slate/natural materials			
Wooden window frames			
Local materials			
Windows double/triple glazing			
Insulation in walls, roofs and floors			
Solar panels on roofs			
Battery energy storage systems in the house			
All areas for gardens/paths/parking to be permeable to allow drainage and have systems for water capture			
Rainwater harvesting			
Greywater recycling			
Post and rail fencing			
Gardens to maintain/strengthen biodiversity			
New developments provide a minimum of 20% biodiversity net gain			
Gardens to contain integrated composting facilities			
Hedgerows to separate gardens from public space			
Gardens to include a minimum of one fruit tree			
Hedges planted with local varieties to encourage wildlife in gardens			
Biodiversity in gardens to be enhanced with bird/swift bricks or boxes, bat boxes and hedgehog highway routes in fences			
External lighting to preserve Parish dark skies			
Storage space and space for refuse and recycling (e.g., bin stores) to be integrated with boundary treatments for front gardens			
Integrated bicycle stands			
Other			

Please include suggestions.

Rural Economy and Facilities

Context: Canterbury City Council's draft Local Plan 2040 emphasises **protecting the rural character of Canterbury District** while also **supporting rural businesses to grow and adapt to the times**, and, when appropriate, **diversify. Best and Most Versatile agricultural land (BMV, Grades 1,2,3a)** should be **protected from loss through development** other than in exceptional circumstances (Policy DS12).

20. To maintain the vibrancy of the Parish and **provide local opportunities for employment**, what areas of business development would you consider appropriate for the Parish?

Please indicate businesses you might like to see in the Parish.

	Yes	No	Unsure
Farming			
Agri-environmental schemes			
Equestrian businesses			
Horticulture			
Viticulture			
Renewable energy			
Holiday accommodation			
Environmental tourism			
Farm shop			
Village shop			
Other			

Please add any further comments here.

21. Do you think there are other ways of enhancing the **Parish economy**? If so, how?

22. Hoath Parish is characterised by highly productive farmland which has provided crops for decades. Do you think **Best and Most Versatile agricultural land** should be protected for agricultural use?

Yes	No	Unsure
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Please share the reasons for your answer.

Parish Services, Amenities, Health and Wellbeing

NB: Hoath Parish amenities: Hoath Parish Hall, Holy Cross Church, Hoath Primary School, the Prince of Wales pub, The Gate Inn, Hoath Village Green and car park, The Paddock, Allotments

23. Generally, how satisfied are you with the local services and amenities in the Parish?

Very satisfied	
Fairly satisfied	
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	
Fairly dissatisfied	
Very dissatisfied	

Do you have comments or suggestions?

24. Please rate the following statements from 1 (Not important) to 5 (Very important)

Provision of a rural bus route to link the Parish to Canterbury and Herne Bay	
Encourage car sharing schemes	
Bicycle routes	
Public Rights of Way	
Multiuse paths (PRoW/Bridleways) linking communities and green spaces	
Other	

25. Are there sufficient health and wellbeing facilities in the Parish? Please circle.

Yes	No	Unsure
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Do you have any other comments or suggestions?

26. Which of the following would you wish to see as an improvement to Parish facilities? Please tick the ones you are likely to use.

	Yes	No	Unsure
Education/learning centre (adults)			

Hot desk hub for people working from home			
Nursery/pre-school playgroups			
Youth clubs			
Adult daytime activities			
Playground			
Other			

Do you have any other comments and suggestions?

27. What facilities for informal recreation would enhance the quality of life for Parish residents? Please include suggestions.

28. What improvements could be made to Parish amenities, e.g., open spaces, leisure sites, walking, equestrian and cycling routes, areas to promote healthy living?

Where would you locate these?

Roads, Paths, Traffic Infrastructure, Safety

29. Are there Parish areas affected by issues such as pollution, noise, road damage, restricted verges, drainage and/or flooding?

If so, **please identify** the issues.

Please add any other issues you feel apply.

Issue/issues:

Area:

30. Do you think road safety for pedestrians, equestrians, cyclists and drivers is a problem in the Parish? **Please tick your response.**

Strongly agree	Strongly disagree
Agree	Don't know
Disagree	

What could/should be done to help improve road safety?

31. To what extent do you think **traffic congestion** is a problem in the Parish? **Please tick your response.**

A very serious problem	Not a very serious problem
A serious problem	Not a problem at all

If congestion is a problem, please describe when and where there is congestion.

What should be done to improve the situation?

32. To what extent do you think **traffic speed** is a problem in the Parish? **Please tick your response.**

A very serious problem	Not a very serious problem
A serious problem	Not a problem at all

If traffic speed is a problem, please describe when and where there is congestion.

What should be done to improve the situation?

33. Please rate the following statements from 1 (Not important) to 5 (Very important).

Better signage of paths and bridleways	
Dedicated fitness trails	
Dedicated off road cycle trails	
Map boards showing footpath routes	
Continue improving stiles/gates for access	
More bridleways	
More Public Rights of Way	
Other	

What other facilities would you like to see?

34. Please rate the following statements from 1 (Not important) to 5 (Very important)

More public parking spaces	
Providing (extra) off street parking where possible	
Prompt filling of potholes and other road defects	
Enforcement of dog fouling laws on footways	
Provide extra litter bins	
Installation of electric car charging points	
Enhancement of the Village Green	
Enhancement of the Paddock	
Other	

35. To what extent do you agree with the statement:

The streets and public spaces in the area offer a safe environment.

Please tick your response. If you disagree, please explain why.

Strongly agree	Disagree
Agree	Strongly disagree
Don't know	

36. What are your feelings/thoughts about safety, crime and policing?

	Yes	No	Unsure
Do you generally feel safe			
Would you like to see more police patrols			
Would you like to see street lighting in the Parish			
Do you feel that levels of crime are decreasing			
Would you feel safer with, and join, a Neighbourhood Watch?			

Please add any further comments here.

37. Which features within the Parish need protection and/or improvement? If possible, please say why.

38. Have we forgotten anything?

Please use this space to tell us what you think we have missed or what you consider of great importance to our Parish.

39. If we needed to concentrate on ONE issue, what would it be?

**Thank you for sending us your questionnaire, even if incomplete,
and sharing your thoughts.**

Deadline: 30th June 2025

Please drop off your answers in Hoath's Parish/Village Hall letterbox

or send to

**Parish Clerk, Hoath Parish Council, c/o Hoath Village Hall, 7 Church Rd,
Canterbury CT3 4LA**

More thoughts . . .?



View from Hoath village to Upstreet, with crowns of trees in the Nethergong-Sarre Penn Valley in the middle distance



View across fields to Hoath village, Spring 2025