



NORTHAMPTONSHIRE BEST VILLAGE ENTRY FORM 2015

1. VILLAGE LIFE

1. Please list the type and frequency of regular activities; including special interests or action groups, that go on in the village hall or any other village meeting place.

All the following meet weekly unless stated otherwise:

- *Dance classes (term-time; there are 25 dance classes each week)*
- *Short Mat Bowls*
- *Karate*
- *Guides (term-time)*
- *Brownies (term-time)*
- *Scouts (term-time)*
- *Beavers (term-time)*
- *Cubs (term-time)*
- *Youth Group (term-time)*
- *Mawsley Church*
- *Rainbows (term-time)*
- *Line Dancing*
- *Baby & Toddler Group (term-time)*
- *Daisy Day Care pre-school (4 times/week in term-time)*
- *Booiaka*
- *Insanity (fitness class)*
- *Kick Boxing*
- *Infants Music Makers (term-time)*
- *Badminton (3 times/week)*
- *Zumba*
- *Mawsley Community Choir*
- *Water colour class*
- *Baby massage*
- *Pilates*
- *Community Choir*
- *Bumps and Buggies (term-time)*
- *Gardening for All (monthly)*
- *Children's Wiggle Dance Theatre (10 sessions during the year)*
- *Book Club (monthly)*
- *Coffee Club (monthly): this is targeted at, but not confined to, the retired*
- *Gardening Club (monthly)*
- *Youth football club and coaching (seasonal)*
- *Adult football club (seasonal). However this is abeyance currently, but hopefully will be re-established for next season.*





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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Adult cricket club (seasonal)</i> • <i>Young people cricket club and coaching (seasonal)</i> • <i>Touch Rugby (seasonal)</i> • <i>Rounders (seasonal)</i> • <i>Children's summer holiday entertainment (weekly in school holidays)</i> • <i>Village darts competitions (irregular)</i> 													
2.	<p>What events or activities do the Church / Religious Groups put on for the village? Please give details</p> <p><i>Whilst there is no church building, there is a growing Church Community which meets at The Centre in Mawsley. Led by the Church of England it is open to and attended by people of all denominations. Services are informal with a particular emphasis on families.</i></p> <p><i>Services are held every week. Typical attendance is c. 25 adults and c. 25 children.</i></p> <p><i>The 1st Sunday of each month is a café-style church; this is focussed on inviting people in.</i></p> <p><i>On the 2nd & 4th Sundays, in addition to services, there are children's groups. 3rd Sundays is a service for all ages.</i></p> <p><i>There are a number of mid-week meetings including three groups engaging with the new Pilgrim Course about Christian discipleship.</i></p> <p><i>The Church publicises its activities via its own FaceBook page and website (currently being re-constructed); and the village Newsletter.</i></p> <p><i>The Church runs the Baby & Toddler Group (on behalf of the Mawsley Villagers Association) at The Centre at Mawsley each term-time week. This is publicised via its own FaceBook page, which is linked to the Church's own website, and updated weekly. Close links are maintained with the village health visitor, who will identify any parent / guardian who would value the social links that the Group brings. In such instances a member of the Group will normally contact the adult concerned to invite them along; as well as making them aware of the Group it also ensures they do not arrive and be faced with a room full of people they do not know.</i></p>													
3.	<p>Does your village put on any of these events or take part in any nearby villages?</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">Fete</td> <td style="width: 25%; text-align: center;">✓</td> <td style="width: 25%;">Carnival</td> <td style="width: 25%; text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="width: 25%;">Bonfire night</td> <td style="text-align: center;">✓</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Street Fair</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Beer festival</td> <td style="text-align: center;">✓</td> <td>Other</td> <td style="text-align: center;">✓</td> </tr> </table> <p>Please give details: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The annual Village Fete is a large-scale event which attracts over 1000</i> 	Fete	✓	Carnival	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bonfire night	✓	Street Fair	<input type="checkbox"/>	Beer festival	✓	Other	✓	
Fete	✓	Carnival	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bonfire night	✓									
Street Fair	<input type="checkbox"/>	Beer festival	✓	Other	✓									





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people each year. It involves most of the village's groups / clubs, who have a stall to raise funds and in some cases do exhibitions / demonstrations.

- Bonfire Night is also a large-scale event. 936 adult tickets were sold last year and children go free (estimated c. 400).
- The Beer Festival is held at The Centre at Mawsley; it has evolved into a stand-alone Cask Ale Festival, which will be held twice in 2015.

Others:

- Open Gardens; not every year but will definitely be held in 2015
- Local Foods & Craft Fair
- Charity Dog Show
- Pantomime
- Amateur Dramatics plays / recitals
- Carol Service
- Children's Christmas party
- Children's Halloween party
- Children's' Easter Party
- Easter Egg hunt
- Touch Rugby tournament
- The village has organised a formal ball most years; including 2012/13/14, and will be again in November 2015.
- Food & Drink Festival
- Father Christmas on his sleigh travels round the village each year; carols are sung and money collected - which is donated to charity; last Christmas to the male cancer charity Orchid.
- Fun Event organised by Mawsley Youth Football Club
- Choir concert

In addition The Centre at Mawsley has recently employed a Bar Promotions Manager, with the objective of laying on more events on a regular basis, with special emphasis for two key age groups in the village - children and older people. Events already / to be held in 2015:

- Teenage party (4 times/year)
- Children's film show (monthly)
- Tea dance with live music (monthly)
- Bingo (monthly)
- Race Night (twice/year)
- Quiz Night (monthly)
- Karaoke nights (6 times/year)
- Family Fun Friday evenings with bouncy castles etc. and BBQ (c. 20/year,





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	<p><i>across the summer)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Charity Nights (2/3 year; one to raise funds for Prostate Cancer held in March 2015)</i> • <i>Brewery trip; vineyard trip</i> • <i>Wine tasting</i> <p><i>Quiz Night is long-standing but the rest are new; so this will mean an additional 70 events in 2015.</i></p>	
4.	<p>Does your village put on any Arts or History/Heritage activities or do you take part in these activities in nearby villages? If yes, please give details.</p> <p><i>Arts:</i></p> <p><i>The Mawsley Amateur Dramatic Society puts on 3 performances each year, including a pantomime. The Community Choir is going from strength to strength and has recently won a number of awards at Choir competitions. Also there are a number of art-based groups, including 25 dance classes; water colour classes; Infants Music Makers and a Book Club.</i></p> <p><i>History / Heritage:</i></p> <p><i>As the village is only 12 years old there is little village history to feature.</i></p> <p><i>However the village Newsletter often features articles on the history of the surrounding area.</i></p>	
5.	<p>What do you do to welcome ALL new residents into village life? E.g. a welcome pack/newsletter?</p> <p><i>During the development of the village every new resident received a welcome pack and usually a personal welcome visit from a volunteer member of the Mawsley Villagers Association.</i></p> <p><i>This has now been revived and with effect from April this year new residents will be given an updated welcome pack. This has been developed by, and ongoing distribution will be managed by, the MVA.</i></p>	





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New residents will be located by a number of means:

- *Contacts with local estate agents, who advise us of sales completions.*
- *Checks with the Land Registry (via free commercial website).*
- *MVA and Parish Council members looking for "To Let" boards in the village; especially when they are shown as "Let" or taken down.*
- *Reminders in the village Newsletter for anyone who has noticed the arrival of a new resident to advise us.*
- *Existing residents to request a Welcome Pack for their newly moved in neighbour.*

Also the village newsletter is produced every 2 months and delivered to every household, so any new resident will soon realise the welcome that awaits them plus the range of activities and facilities that the village can offer them.

The Coffee Club operates an informal process whereby any older people who are new to the village are invited to join the Club.

6. *What do you do to welcome visitors to your village? In terms of information, facilities, events etc.*

To attract visitors major village events are advertised outside the village, e.g. by banners on the A43 roundabout.

A Wedding Fayre is held at The Centre at Mawsley each year.

There are a series of websites; accessed via a Mawsley village web portal (see Section 7 Q 1). In addition The Centre at Mawsley is currently developing a micro-website (i.e. embedded within its main site) to publicise and promote The Centre as an affordable wedding venue to intending couples in the surrounding area.

Within the six Mawsley FaceBook sites there is one that focuses on village life generally, and one that covers events / activities etc. at The Centre at Mawsley. FaceBook is used to attract members to both Mawsley Choir and the Line Dancing group from nearby villages.

As outlined in Section 2 Q3 the village's extensive sports facilities are shared with the cricket and football clubs from adjoining villages.





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Signs directing people from the village entrances to the Medical Centre, shops and The Centre at Mawsley have recently been erected.

The MVA has raised with the Parish Council the issue of some form of decorative village sign to go at the village entrances; this concept will be pursued jointly by both parties over the coming months.

2. COMMUNITY FACILITIES

1. Is there a Community Newsletter/Parish Magazine? Yes No

If Yes, please give details on frequency and circulation

The village newsletter ("News & Views") is produced by the Mawsley Villagers Association, edited on an entirely voluntary basis and published every 2 months. Typically it is 28 A4 pages. It is distributed, by a team of villagers, by hand to every single household in the village - usually within 3 days of publication. It always contains the following:

- *News of village activities and reports on events*
- *Letters from villagers; also any concerns about the village raised to the editor*
- *Reports from a wide range of village groups and clubs*
- *Notification of / invitation to forthcoming events*
- *Reports from the Parish Council*
- *Reports from the Mawsley Villagers Association*
- *Reports from the village school*
- *Reports from The Centre at Mawsley*
- *Report from the developers (Taylor Wimpey)*

In addition it usually also features:

- *An article on the history of the local area*
- *An article on local wildlife*
- *Something suitably humorous*

It also carries advertising, mainly of local businesses and always adverts that are directly relevant to residents. This, as well as covering printing costs, is a vital source of fund-raising for the village; it has generated a surplus of £7,700 over the last two years.

A copy of a recent edition is included with this application form.





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2.	<p>Are there Public or Parish Notice Boards? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If Yes, please say where and how often they are updated</p> <p><i>There are two parish noticeboard within the village and a further one within The Centre at Mawsley. They are updated c. every 2 weeks.</i></p> <p><i>There is also a large public noticeboard, situated within The Centre at Mawsley; this is sub-divided into sections which are allocated to village groups and clubs. Additionally there is a display box in The Centre at Mawsley for flyers etc. for local events and activities.</i></p>	
3.	<p>Does your village have, or have access in any other villages to any sports and leisure facilities? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please give details.</p> <p><i>Sports:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Full-size football pitch</i> • <i>Cricket pitch, with 4 wicket grass square and additional artificial wicket. Within this it should be noted that an established cricket club from a nearby village merged with the embryonic Mawsley cricket club to form Loddington & Mawsley Cricket Club. This was done so that Mawsley gained the expertise and experience from an established and successful club; and that club gained access to Mawsley's excellent facilities.</i> <p><i>Exactly the same process and rationale was followed to create Walgrave Amber & Mawsley Football Club.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>2 x junior football pitches</i> • <i>Rounders pitch</i> • <i>Touch Rugby uses parts of the football pitches</i> <p><i>Leisure:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Toddler / smaller children play area</i> • <i>Older children play area</i> • <i>Skate park</i> • <i>Tarmac and fenced ball court (for 5 - a side football; basketball etc.)</i> • <i>BMX track</i> • <i>Approx. 10 acres of playing fields. All of the football and cricket etc. pitches are open to general recreational use when matches not being played.</i> • <i>25 allotments</i> • <i>Various green open spaces within the village</i> • <i>A wooded area; used for walking and by the children</i> • <i>A cycle track around the village</i> • <i>An 8 acre eco-meadow; used for walking and by the children. Ownership of</i> 	





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	<p><i>this has now been transferred from the developers; this means that work to create for the village a pocket park, community orchard, bird hides and a remembrance garden - all of which are in early planning stage - can now go ahead. However this has been delayed due to the apparent inability of Kettering Borough Council to confirm that it is now in their ownership; we will need to get permission and a licence or lease from them.</i></p> <p><i>It should be noted that the older children play area, skate park, ball court and BMX track were all funded by the village's own efforts and grant-raising, led by The Mawsley Villagers Association, at a total cost of £70,000.</i></p> <p><i>We have recently completed a "quiet area" (as there is no churchyard for people to sit in to remember lost loved ones) and memorial within the village green area, funded from within the village. This is the location for the Remembrance Sunday service, which is attended by over 100 villagers.</i></p>	
4.	<p>Does your village have access to any kind of community transport or voluntary car scheme? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please give details</p> <p><i>Although there is no formal voluntary car scheme, the strong community ethos of the village means that lifts can often be arranged. This is also facilitated by Mawsley's FaceBook page called "Mawsley Buddies", which was set up specifically to be a process whereby people in the village could call on other villagers for help /advice etc..</i></p> <p><i>Moreover the village does have a regular bus service; hourly each way between Kettering and Northampton. Services run until 19:00 from Kettering to Mawsley.</i></p>	
5.	<p>Are there any village charities that provide support to the local community? If so, please give brief details, including how they are publicized.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please give details</p> <p><i>The Mawsley Villagers Association (MVA):</i> <i>A registered charity (no. 1117458) that was set up from the very earliest days of the village's development. Its role is to develop and promote social facilities and events; to encourage a sense of community; to make Mawsley an enjoyable and inclusive place to live. Until Mawsley Parish Council was formed in 2007 (prior to then it was a part of Cransley Parish) it also undertook many of the roles of a</i></p>	





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parish council, often working with Cransley PC.

The MVA is run entirely by volunteers. There are 5 main sub-groups:

- *The Centre at Mawsley Community Interest Company (The Centre is the trading arm of the charity)*
- *Under 5s group; which, with the help of the Church, runs a Baby & Toddler session once/week in term time*
- *Youth Club: which, runs the Club once/week in term time*
- *Website: development and content*
- *Newsletter publication*

Since its inception in 2002 the MVA has raised the money to be able to grant over £45,000 (plus obtaining a further £65,000 from grants by external organisations) to the village. Beneficiaries have included:

- *The Centre at Mawsley*
- *Every village group / club*
- *Individuals (to support personal development)*
- *The Youth Club*
- *The older children's play area / skate ramps / ball court / BMX track*
- *Fencing around the younger children play area*
- *Mawsley Amateur Dramatics*
- *Easter Egg Hunt (over a number of years)*
- *Children's Christmas party (over a number of years)*

The developers, as a part of their S106 commitments, set up a Community Fund for the village. Its purpose is to help fund the social development and facilities of the village. The fund is managed by the Parish Council. Any village group or non-commercial organisation can apply for a grant from the Fund, which will contribute up to 75% of the cost of an appropriate (i.e. of benefit to the village) project (85% re The Centre at Mawsley).

Grants have included:

- *The Centre at Mawsley*
- *The Cricket Club*
- *The older children's play area / skate ramps / ball court / BMX track fund*
- *Short mat bowls*
- *The Choir*
- *Mawsley Scouts*
- *Rounders*
- *Baby & Toddler Group*
- *Mawsley Amateur Dramatics*





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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mawsley School Olympics Project</i> • <i>Short mat bowls</i> 	
6a.	<p>Please tick whether your community has carried out in the last 5 years or is planning to carry out any of the following (Do not send in copies of these documents at this stage)</p> <p>Village Design Statement <input type="checkbox"/> Housing Needs Survey <input type="checkbox"/> Parish Plan <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>As a new village these are not yet relevant. However the Parish Council has started the process to develop a Neighbourhood Plan; the area designation has been submitted to Kettering Council and is currently in the public consultation phase.</i></p>	
6b.	<p>Has your village identified any infrastructure or housing needs for the community? If so have any of these been actioned?</p> <p><i>The Parish Council has recently considered proposals for some land, the use for which has yet to be allocated, to be made available for community housing for older people. This is targeted at encouraging older residents who are no longer able to maintain their own home to move to sheltered accommodation within the village rather than have to move out; and also at older people who wish to move into the village to be close to their relatives who are already residents here.</i></p> <p><i>The Parish Council has been through an extensive process to try get to such accommodation. This entailed a number of meetings with the land-owner, who prepared plans for the site, which were refined during the course of these meetings.</i></p> <p><i>However when we raised the issue with Kettering Council Planning Dept. they made it clear that they would not agree to this as this site is allocated to leisure/community use.</i></p> <p><i>The project is currently stalled as there is no other suitable site in the village.</i></p> <p><i>However Kettering Council's draft 5 year Housing Strategy makes provision for a small-scale (50-70 houses) extension of Mawsley. When this goes ahead the Parish Council will press for some community housing for older people to be included.</i></p>	





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7.	<p>Has your Parish Council used its powers to introduce crime prevention measures? E.g. Village Special Constable, CCTV, Neighbourhood Watch.</p> <p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If yes, please list measures introduced</p> <p><i>Neighbourhood Watch: there are 10 volunteers, plus an overall co-ordinator, covering much of the village.</i></p> <p><i>CCTV: has been installed to cover the whole of the exterior, plus the main internal corridor, of The Centre at Mawsley.</i></p> <p><i>The Parish Council extends a special invitation to the Police to attend its monthly meetings; one or two PCSOs attend most meetings.</i></p>
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3. BUSINESS

1.	<p>About how many businesses do you have in your village and surrounding area?</p> <p><i>c. 75</i></p> <p>List below the types of businesses E.g. Shops, Working Farms, Garages, Pubs, Hotels, Cafes, Window Cleaners, Sale of Plants, Hairdressers, Bed & Breakfast, Self employed working from home, Pick your Own, etc</p> <p><i>Village Shop (One-Stop) x 1</i> <i>Farms x 8</i> <i>Café / restaurant & take-away x 2</i> <i>Beauty salon; nails; eyelashes x 3</i> <i>Nursery / day care x 2</i> <i>Hairdressers x 1</i> <i>Pharmacy x 1</i> <i>Optician x 1</i> <i>Dental clinic x 1</i> <i>Estate agent x 1</i> <i>Driving school x 2</i> <i>General maintenance x 2</i> <i>Plumber x 1</i> <i>Community Centre and bar x 1</i> <i>Shoe wholesaler x 1</i> <i>Painter & Decorator x 2</i></p>
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	<p><i>Photography Studio x 1</i> <i>Curtain, Blind and Soft Furnishings maker x 1</i> <i>Child minders / carers x 5</i> <i>Self-employed working from home: c. 40</i></p> <p><i>In addition there are 7 large office units currently available to rent.</i></p>	
2.	<p>How do local businesses support community life, beyond offering employment? E.g. sponsorship of local events or village activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Centre at Mawsley, albeit owned and run by the village, is nonetheless a local business. Its ethos and purpose is to be the central point of the village community, whilst still operating as a commercial business. To that end it hosts a wide range of community groups /clubs etc. - in fact the first 21 listed in Section 1 Q1. The room hire rates for these local groups are significantly below cost to The Centre; to charge full cost recovery would not be affordable for most groups, and hence they would no longer be viable. The substantial losses made as a result of this are offset by running the bar / lounge on a proper commercial basis. As there is no pub in the village, and there never will be, this again is an instance of the village community coming together to create facilities for the village. The main hall and meeting room at The Centre enable villagers to hold children's and adults' parties, discos, weddings, christenings etc. within the village. Indeed in 2014 there were 94 such events; the vast majority of which were for people in the village. Furthermore, as outlined in Section 2 Q3, there will be an <u>additional</u> 70 events in 2015.</i> • <i>Horts Estate Agents have made a generous contribution towards the cost of a major raffle prize for the village fete for each of the last 3 years.</i> • <i>The dentist clinic based in the village sponsors young people in the village participating in motor sport.</i> • <i>The dentist is also the main sponsor for Touch Rugby.</i> • <i>India2Mawsley restaurant & take-away sponsors the village Rounders and Youth football teams by paying for their kit.</i> • <i>A local farmer has supplied a number of trees for the village FOC; and helped with various outdoor projects by supplying machinery and labour FOC.</i> • <i>A local electrical contractor supplied extensive consultancy FOC to address some latent defects within the fabric of the building of The</i> 	





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	<p><i>Centre at Mawsley. They worked with villagers, again FOC, to bring these to the attention of the builders and seek corrective work.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The same local electrical contractor supplies and installs temporary external lighting and power supply for the village Fete and for Bonfire Night each year.</i> • <i>A number of local businesses sponsor the pantomime in exchange simply for a mention in the programme.</i> • <i>The Kettering branch of a National joinery company donated an ex-display / part new kitchen to The Centre at Mawsley. This would have cost the village c. £12,000 to buy.</i> 	
3.	<p>Describe briefly, what employment opportunities are available for <u>local people</u> in the area? E.g. part-time work, job-sharing, apprenticeships or training.</p> <p><i>Not merely opportunities, but a number of instances in practice - local people are employed within the village:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>In the various village shops</i> • <i>At the nursery</i> • <i>At The Centre at Mawsley</i> • <i>At the Daisy Day Care Pre-School</i> • <i>As childminder helpers</i> • <i>Farmworker</i> • <i>At the school:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - as teaching assistants } - as learning assistants } 18 employees and 11 - deputy site supervisor } volunteers are village - cleaners } residents 	
4.	<p>Are villagers involved in running any of the village services? E.g. Shop, Café, etc. Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please give details</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Centre at Mawsley is run by a board of directors, all of whom live in the village.</i> • <i>The manager of the Daisy Day Care Pre-School lives in the village.</i> 	

4. YOUNG PEOPLE

1a.	<p>Does the village have, or have access to, any Crèches, Playgroups or Toddler groups or clubs aimed at pre-school children? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please give details</p>	
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	<p><i>The following are self-funded voluntary groups, run entirely by volunteers:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Bumps & Buggies: for pregnant mums and babies</i> • <i>Baby & Toddler Group</i> <p><i>There are also the following commercial organisations:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Daisy Day Care: open 4 times/week in term time</i> • <i>Mawsley Day Nursery: open every weekday all year round</i> • <i>Infants Music Makers (term-time)</i> 	
1b.	<p>Are these groups helped or financed by community fund raising? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please give details</p> <p><i>Both the MVA and the Community Fund have given grants to Bumps & Buggies and Baby & Toddler Group for toys / equipment.</i></p>	
2a.	<p>Does the village have any immediately after school clubs/groups for children and young people in the local area? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please give details</p> <p><i>Mawsley Day Nursery offers:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Breakfast club</i> • <i>After-school club</i> • <i>Holiday club</i> 	
2b.	<p>Are these clubs/groups helped or financed by community fund raising? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please give details</p> <p><i>(No because these are commercial organisations)</i></p>	
3.	<p>Do you have any youth groups/clubs in the village, or access to them in nearby villages? E.g. Scouts, Guides, Church, Sports Clubs, etc. Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If yes, please list.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Youth Club</i> • <i>Rainbows</i> • <i>Brownies</i> • <i>Guides</i> 	





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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Scouts</i> • <i>Beavers</i> • <i>Cubs</i> • <i>Youth football club and coaching</i> • <i>Young people cricket club and coaching</i> • <i>Church services / club for children</i> <p><i>The village recognises the need for further facilities for older children and so a project has been set up, jointly by the Parish Council and the MVA, to identify what those requirements might be; this of course includes representatives from the older children. This will then lead into a project to meet those requirements, including, where necessary, raising funds.</i></p>	
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5. OLDER PEOPLE

1.	<p>How are older people involved in village life? E.g. reading in schools, oral history projects, parish council. Please give details.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Currently 5 of the 7 Parish Councillors are older</i> • <i>5 older people currently regularly do reading at the school</i> • <i>The Coffee Club, which is targeted at, but not confined to, the retired and has more than 60 members, runs days out / visits (e.g. plans for 2015 include a Downton Experience, visits to Drayton House and Lowick, and a trip to the seaside) and usually has guest speakers to its monthly meetings.</i> • <i>The Last of the Summer Wine Club is a group of mainly retired and mainly men who do maintenance and small-scale building work (e.g. bike shelter; fence repairs; renovation and on-going maintenance of the pond and its surround) around the village on a voluntary basis.</i> • <i>Some of the trustees of the Mawsley Villagers Association are older people.</i> • <i>The Centre at Mawsley Community Interest Company features 2 older people as part of the management team.</i> 	
2.	<p>Are there any village schemes to help older people? E.g. transport, housing etc. Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If yes, please give details</p> <p><i>As outlined in Section 2 Q6b the Parish Council has actively sought to secure housing accommodation suitable for older / infirm people, and although we are not able to go ahead currently it remains a live issue, to be addressed once a suitable site becomes available.</i></p>	





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3.	<p>Are there any informal support services for older people in the village? E.g. Neighbourhood schemes. Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please give details</p> <p><i>The Coffee Club actively seeks to identify older people who need help of some kind; and then members do what they can.</i></p> <p><i>A feature of Mawsley is the way in which people just help each other; these are not even informal groups - it is just a part of everyday village life, especially between older people.</i></p>	
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6. ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY (10 Marks)

1.	<p>What environmental / conservation activities goes on in your village? Include any measures to improve the appearance of your village. For example: -</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife conservation area <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Allotments</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Pocket Parks <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tree or flower planting</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Churchyard Conservation <i>n/a as no churchyard</i></p> <p>Please give details.</p> <p><i>There are 25 allotments.</i></p> <p><i>The old pond and surrounding area has been completely renovated by, and is maintained by, volunteers from the village. It now holds water, and has a seating area. It is used by the school for practical work re science.</i></p> <p><i>Over 100 trees were obtained from an agricultural auctioneer and planted around the village.</i></p> <p><i>A large number of daffodils and snowdrops have been planted around the village.</i></p> <p><i>As covered in Section 2 Q3 once we have access to work on the eco-meadow area it is planned to develop a Pocket Park and a community orchard.</i></p>	
2.	<p>Have you produced any leaflets or maps, guides to support any of these activities? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please give details.</p> <p><i>However as we are a new village, as the village was built over time street maps</i></p>	





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	<i>and SatNavs lagged behind - often by a couple of years or so. Therefore we produced our own street map. Copy enclosed.</i>	
3.	<p>Does the village have 'tidy up days' or regular litter pick? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Please give details of how this is organized.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The litter pick is usually twice/year; the organisers have varied, from the Church to young people. The first this year will be 28th March, for which over 30 volunteers have been recruited; and the local farmer will help by collecting all the full bags. There are also a small number of individuals who litter pick on a regular basis.</i> <i>In addition the Parish Council has purchased a stock of litter grabbers which can be borrowed by any villager at any time.</i> 	
4.	<p>Are there any community projects introduced by the village to reduce its 'carbon footprint'?</p> <p>E.g. recycling, energy efficiency or solar energy, or local food schemes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>As all the houses are relatively new, energy efficiency is not so much of an issue.</i> <i>Kettering Borough Council operates a very effective doorstep recycling scheme in the village so the village has not had to introduce a recycling scheme.</i> 	

7. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

1.	<p>What are your main websites for publicising village information and activities? Please give the addresses. The IT judges will particularly look to see how easy the site is to find, ease of use, comprehensiveness and how up to date the site is kept.</p> <p><i>The main village website is: http://www.mawsleyvillage.co.uk</i></p> <p><i>This is a portal to a range of village websites, both community (i.e. the Parish Council; The Mawsley Villagers Association; Mawsley Allotments etc.) and medical (doctor; dentist); plus a map of the village.</i></p>	
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	<p><i>The Parish Council has a dedicated section within the village website. It features agendas, historical minutes and key documents that would be of interest to the general public. http://www.mawsleyvillage.co.uk/parish-council-minutes</i></p>	
2.	<p>How does the Parish Council or other community groups use social media (websites, email, blogs, facebook, twitter etc) for communicating information? Please give examples.</p> <p><i>Mawsley currently has a number of Facebook pages that relate to village life:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mawsley - General chit-chat, help, assistance, Neighbourhood Watch, dog poo, wheelie bin discussions - in fact anything and everything.</i> • <i>Mawsley Trading - Items for sale in Mawsley</i> • <i>Mawsley Buddies - an online buddy system - lifts to station etc.</i> • <i>Mawsley Reviews - reviews of local restaurants etc.</i> • <i>Mawsley Touch Rugby - village touch rugby team who are quite successful</i> • <i>TCAM (i.e. The Centre at Mawsley) - general Facebook page promoting up-and-coming events etc.</i> • <i>The Parish Council is currently debating whether to set up its own FaceBook site; however a decision will not be made until the new Council is elected in May.</i> <p><i>Generally, people find these pages either by being a friend who has already joined or by searching online.</i></p> <p><i>All the above pages are run/maintained by village folk and there is no single owner.</i></p>	

8. YOUR VILLAGE

FINALLY & IMPORTANTLY: Tell us what makes your village a special place for residents and visitors.

For last year's Best Village competition we asked villagers what they thought; the responses were so overwhelming and positive that we have reproduced them here again. These are verbatim responses, not edited in any way:

I think that Mawsley is a great village to be a part of as there is such a friendly and welcoming atmosphere and it offers a vast array of great facilities on our doorstep,





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everything from shops and medical facilities to schools and sports clubs for the young and old - there is something for everyone.

Fabulous place, sooooo glad we moved here. Love it.

Nikki

Our friends always comment that we must know everyone when walking round the village with us. Actually we don't, it is just that everyone is so friendly and always says 'hello'.

Also we have a fantastic Primary School on our doorstep!

Cheryl & Steve

We think Mawsley is special because as well as the beautifully designed village layout, a delicious Indian takeaway/restaurant, and fantastic community spirit, we have some of the most beautiful countryside literally our doorstep! We can't imagine living anywhere else!

Heather and Rob Mallinson

I find people are friendly and helpful and my neighbours are fabulous.

I would know where to turn for help and advice.

There are lots of things to do and to join in.

You can start something new - a club, an activity, an interest.

I am actively encouraged to share my ideas with others and to become involved.

Strangers I speak to think villagers are helpful and friendly - this is a question I often ask them.

There is a definite sense of 'community here' and over time more and more people are learning to 'own' this idea and to contribute - in their own way and when they have the time.

The way our village looks is important to most people who live here.

The village is always well-informed through 'News and Views' about what is going on. I regard the editor as tenacious - she teases out what villagers need to know. Even if people bin their copy they cannot ever say they have not been informed. This kind of communication is very important in any community until such time as 'Face Book' etc. take over the world!

Pat D

I grew up in villages as did many generations of my family. It is amazing to see how this embryonic village is taking on, year by year, the unique and envied characteristics of more established villages in this part of the county. It's a bit magical and makes me proud to be a Mawsleyite.

Gil and Andrea Lucas





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We were attracted to the village three and a half years ago by the warmth of the welcome from all residents and the overwhelming sense of community. So much has been done in so short a space of time by so many.

Rob

Mawsley is a special place to live because we are a community who look after each other. As a community we have pulled together to support friends and neighbours going through difficult times, and we come together to celebrate the good times. We also work together to achieve things for the village as a whole including those who run a wide range of clubs and activities for the benefit of the villagers, as well as the huge number of volunteers who help out with our village events.

Mawsley will always be a special place because the people who have chosen to live here put a real value on the sense of community which has been built by us all.

Vicky

Parents at the Under 5s Group got together at a meeting and each wrote down their thoughts. Each response is relayed here verbatim, viz.:

- *There is a lovely community spirit and a great place to bring up children*
- *The community and lots of special events*
- *The amount of lovely people always willing to do something for others*
- *The facilities and activities for children*
- *The Groups*
- *Everything you need in one place*
- *The friendly community*
- *The people. Very friendly, and there are loads of great groups; e.g. toddler group*
- *The surrounding countryside. Lots of footpaths across the fields. The children love the pond*
- *The groups and community spirit available*
- *Countryside*
- *The toddler group (2 comments)*
- *The people*
- *The friendly people; community spirit!*
- *The community*

Parents at the Under 5s Group





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Mawsley is special because

- *Rural setting*
- *Facilities...Surgery, Dentist, shops , school, The Centre*
- *Community spirit*
- *Like minded people who care for the place they live.*
- *Diverse group of interests and voluntary involvement.*

Tom S

Mawsley has a great community spirit which brings together people from all walks of life.

Gareth

We have loved living here from the very first day we moved here. That first August night, with no street lighting, we wandered peaceably through the village and gazed up at the sky on a starry, starry night and picked out the Milky Way and the Plough and somehow felt utterly contented. And that is how it has been ever since. It is a wonderful place to be.

Frances & David

So to summarise:

Mawsley has worked hard to develop itself as an inclusive and fun community - and it shows.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CO-OPERATION AND GOOD LUCK!

