

#### WEEDON BEC

#### 1. VILLAGE LIFE

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.

Village Hall (VH), Scout Hut (SH) Chapel Schoolroom (CS) Chapter House (CH), Croft Way Playing Field (CW) Riverside Court (RC), Jubilee Field (JF)

#### Health and Wellbeing:

Aerobics: (Adults) - twice weekly - VH

Baby Massage (Infants) weekly (term time) - VH Football: (Junior, Senior & Vets teams), weekly – JF Community Working Group – around the village

Young at Heart Support Group Walks (weekly) social events - monthly, VH

Judo (all), weekly - VH

Karate: (All ages), weekly - VH

Little Goslings (infants/pre-school), weekly (term time), VH

Mini Groovers (pre-school) - weekly - VH

Human Energy Running Club (All), weekly - CW

Slimming World: (Adults), weekly – VH

Tae-kwon-do: (All), weekly – SH Tai Chi – (Adults) twice weekly - VH

Tiddlers & Tots (0-4 years) weekly in term time. CH

Yoga/Pilates: (Adults), twice weekly - VH

#### **Hobbies and Interests:**

Age Concern, lunch club – monthly, Heart of England

Art group New courses (Adults), every two weeks-SH

Art group practice sessions (Adults), weekly – SH

Bell Ringing (All), weekly practice and training plus services – Church

Bird Watching. (Local enthusiast writes for every issue of village magazine)

Bridge Club: (Adult) weekly – (RC)

Craft Group (monthly) - CH

Craft Market (bi-monthly) - VH

Friends of Fireworld: National Fire Services Museum Trust – Ordnance Depot

Library Mobile Service - monthly - Sundays at various stops around village

Like Minded Ladies (Monthly) - CH

Plant Sales (Spring and Autumn) ran by Village Hall Committee. Orders taken and

delivered to households.

Scrabble Club (RC)

Weedon Bec History Society – 6 open meetings per year with presentations – CS

Woodturners: (Adult), fortnightly – VH
Weedon Bec 1914-1918 group (CS)

YouthPOD youth theatre - weekly - VH





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#### Education:

Weedon Bec Pre-School: Monday to Friday (term time only) VH Weedon Bec Little Goslings: 0-5yrs - weekly – term time only VH

Breakfast Club and Cool Zone – before and after school clubs (School)

After School interest classes like Cheer leading, Rugby and Street Dance (School)

#### **Organizations:**

Brownies: 7-11yrs - weekly in term time - CS

Beavers, Cubs and Scouts - weekly in term time - SH

FOWSA - Friends of Weedon School Association - bi-monthly - School

FOWS - Friends of Weedon Surgery - quarterly - CS

Friends of Weedon Garrison (Weedon Garrison)

Mothers Union - monthly - CH

Like Minded Ladies - monthly - CH

Weedon Bec Parish Council and planning committee – monthly – VH

Weedon Bec 1914-1918 group - monthly, CS

Weedon Bec History Society – monthly – CS

Women's Institute - monthly CS

Neighbourhood planning steering group - monthly - VH

Weedon Action Group – two weekly – Plume of Feathers room

Weedon Sports Association – quarterly – various locations

Village Hall Management Committee - bi-monthly - VH

Senior Citizen's Christmas Party - Village Hall Committee & helpers - VH

Weedon Bec Village Show Committee - quarterly - VH

Weedon Football Club

Weedon Junior Football Club

Weedon PreSchool

Weedon Travel Club

Many of the above organizations hold regular fund-raising activities in addition to their regular meetings. Examples are:

Weedon Sports Association: Quarterly Quiz Nights

Village Hall Management Committee: Autumn and Spring Plant Sales Friends of Weedon Garrison: Christmas Fair with Pantomime, Open Days

FOWSA: School Fete, Quiz Nights

Weedon Bec 1914-1918 group: Coffee Mornings, exhibitions

Weedon PreSchool: Bingo Nights, Pamper Nights Weedon Football Club: Race nights, Dances

# What events or activities do the Church / Religious Groups put on for the village? Please give details

#### **Chapter House (attached to Church)**

Bell Ringing - weekly practice

Craft Group – last Thursday each month

Coffee mornings - Saturdays bi-monthly

Like Minded Ladies – 2nd Thursday each month





	Mothers Union - Quilting classes - Tiddlers & Tots - Christmas Tree Fe sponsored by vario Organ and/or Cho Quiz - quarterly Men's Big Breakfa Open Church Wee Joint Concert, Cho Watling Street Sin Bible Studies Chapel Schoolro Coffee Mornings - Coffee Morning fo Over 50s program A variety of instruct jewelry making, ici Come and sing! (C Bible Studies	2nd Tuvarious school estival - cous villa ir recitations, hosekends urch + veckly recitations teame - actors teame cake celebra	bi-annual decorate age groups and residual - annually ted by the Vicar – m – various times throwedon Bec 1914-1 hearsals  Inited Reformed Character on Thursdays ent charities, once a nnually (Thurs/Fri – aching different craftes, chair aerobics. tion Praise) - month	ne we d Chr dents onthly ughor 918 g murch mont usual s, kn	ek istmas trees i	in the	Church Flore ling, wood		
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3.	Does your village villages?	put o	n any of these ever	nts o	take part in	any r	nearby		
	Fete Street Fair Please give detai		arnival Beer festival	◩	Bonfire nig	ht			
	Weedon FC Fete held on Jubilee Fig	_	nds Day – annually	to rais	se funds for th	ne Foo	otball Clul	b. It is	
	Weedon Primary School Fete – organized by the Friends of Weedon School as a fund-raiser for all the extras that make our school the best!								
	the Diamond Jubil weekend, the ever entertainment and Football Club and of local businesse	ee Celent incor fireworinvolve s in its ear. A	sequel!)  ebrations of 2012. Frorates the Village Frest. It is organized to the help of many of the preparation. It has beer Festival is incompleted.	leld of ete, by the of the ecom	ver the Augus children's gan Sports Asso local organiza e an occasion	st Bar nes, li ciatior ations n whic	ik Holiday ve n and the and the s ch is eage	/ support erly	





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Village Show, where village folk, including children, compete in numerous classes with their fruit, vegetables and flowers as well as their craftwork. It takes place annually at the Village Hall

Christmas Tree Festival, where over thirty trees are presented by village organization and individuals. It is held bi-annually and raises money for the Parish Church where it is held.

Indoor car boot sales – Pocket Park Committee – 3-4 per year, Village Hall

Special events such as the Weedon at War- representatives from village groups have formed a working party to commemorate the outbreak of World War 1 and to research the history of those who fought in the war and of those left behind. There are a large number of soldiers who were killed in the war and are not commemorated in any way. It is the intention of this group to have these missing names put on the Village Cenotaph. Last year, poppies and wild flowers were sown at various locations throughout the village and these will be nurtured again this year to increase the display.

4. 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.

Weedon Art group has a full programme of classes for 2015. The group also meets up weekly for drop in art sessions which are open to anyone. They have a yearly art exhibition as well as an exhibition at the Village Show. More village talent than you could throw a stick at!

History Society has bi-monthly meetings with guest speakers and provides displays on a regular basis at Village. Their speakers generally are expert in either Weedon or Northamptonshire history. This is a very large and lively group which demonstrates the interest in our village both past and present.

Fireworld is still based in the listed Old Royal Ordnance Depot. They currently have numerous old fire appliances and whilst they are not on permanent display and accessible to all, they do attend Fetes and functions throughout the village and have annual Open Days.

The annual Village Show provides an opportunity for villagers to display a variety of art and crafts in the Village Hall. Again, it is amazing what goes on behind closed doors in Weedon with so many different talents on show.

St Peter and Paul Church project to repair roof including providing heritage information, learning and walking trails and are applying to Heritage Lottery for Funding (awaiting outcome).

Weedon Bec 1914-1918 group started in 2014 and it is intended that it will continue at least until 2019, the anniversary of the end of World War 1. It is the aim of the group to investigate the lives of both the soldiers that fought in WW1 as well as their families during the war and after. The final goal of the group is to get the names of all the





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soldiers who fought commemorated in a Book of Honour and Remembrance to be placed in the Parish Church as well as inscribing the names of the fallen who are not on the Village Cenotaph.

Much interest has been shown this year in a new organization, the Friends of Weedon Garrison. Because of the hugely historic and significant past of the Garrison, it was felt that it should become more part of the community rather than a place under lock and key. To this end a number of public events have taken place and are planned for the future. At all of these events the general public can roam around the garrison and soak up the atmosphere of two centuries of history

5. What do you do to welcome ALL new residents into village life? E.g. a welcome pack/newsletter?

Neighbourhood Watch and the Newsletter delivery team alert the Council to new residents. A local resident, with assistance from the Parish Council, is in the process of producing a "welcome pack" which will be hand-delivered to all new residents. This will include all relevant details of local amenities, clubs, organizations and details of the Weedon Web Site, a one-stop shop for everything going on. Of course, the Newsletter is delivered to every house in the village and is available

Of course, the Newsletter is delivered to every house in the village and is available from the local shops, surgery etc and on the village website

A business plan has been produced by the Parish council to help identify what it will be working on and looking to deliver in the next 3 years to help share this information with our Residents. It will be worked towards and reviewed on a regular basis and available on the village website.

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

There are road signs at all entrances to the village showing directions to the village centre and car parking. The minor roads into the village also have "gateway" flower boxes

On arrival at the village centre car park, there is a large mounted, illustrated Village Map depicting key aspects of the village.

Smaller versions of the same map are mounted on the canal towpath at the top of each of the paths leading down from the canal to the village. Weedon benefits greatly from visitors off the canal during the summer months as well as walkers from the Nene Valley Way which passes through the village.

We provide a walks booklet which gives detailed directions and observation notes for 4 themed walks in and around the village. The booklets are available free of charge at the Post Office and were distributed to every household when first published

The old red telephone box is used as an information point for leaflets, for the village businesses, groups etc.





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	Village Hall is signed all the way from the main A5 to its entrance in West Street.  Any large events, e.g. the Weedon Weekend, School Fete, Weedon Garrison open day, are advertised along the A45 and the A5 two weeks in advance. As Weedon lies adjacent to the A5/A45 traffic light-controlled junction, we have a captive audience every time the lights are on red!	
	2. COMMUNITY FACILITIES	
1.	Is there a Community Newsletter/Parish Magazine? Yes  No If Yes, please give details on frequency and circulation  Weedon News is produced bi-monthly by the Parish Council. It is distributed by a team of volunteers, to all households and some smaller businesses in village centre. Spare copies are also available in the Post Office.  Additional one-off flyers are also distributed with the newsletter.  Newsletter is a free publication.  Local events and news included in a weekly column for Weedon Bec in the Daventry Express and managed voluntarily by a local Resident.	
2.	Are there Public or Parish Notice Boards? Yes ☑ No  If Yes, please say where and how often they are updated  More than you could shake a stick at! Bridge Street – near canal steps Cavalry Fields – near play area Church Street – at the Post Office (Parish Council Notice Board) Harmans Way – adjacent Depot Wall New Croft – near the Doctors Surgery Queen Street – on the Upper Village Green The Whettles footpath – near New Street West Street – near the Village Hall Windsor Close - near the A45 crossing Croft Way Playing Field – near substation off Croft Way St Peter and Paul's Church Notice Board – Church Street United Reformed Church Notice board – Church Street Chapel School Room – New Street Each of the 9 Bus shelters in the village has locked notice-boards that are well used and kept updated. Riverside Drive Allotments and Church Street Allotments There are also three private notice boards that are used with the owner's permission Local businesses regularly provide window space for notices	





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Old Telephone box for information leaflets

Notice boards are updated every time someone puts up a new notice. All organizations have an agreement that, when posting a new notice, they remove any outdated ones. We find this works wonderfully well and keeps the boards clutter-free. The Parish Council up-date the locked boards in the bus shelters and the information available in the old telephone box.

Does your village have, or have access in any other villages to any sports and leisure facilities? Yes ☑ No ☐ If yes, please give details.

Jubilee Field – an open public space now designated as a Queen Elizabeth II Fields in Trust field as part of the challenge to create a grassroots legacy of the Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee, Olympic Games and Paralympic Games. Has football Pitch, play equipment for 11 to adult age group and benches alongside riverbank. Used mainly for the numerous football teams the village runs and for the large community events such as the Weedon Weekend. Regularly used by Children/Teenagers for knock around football and as a meeting place at the Youth Shelter

Croft Way – large open green space and enclosed area with play equipment for under 10 year olds. Used as an additional facility by the adjacent Primary School Cavalry Fields – enclosed area with play equipment for younger children

Regency Close / Lancers Way small flat open play space areas

Equestrian Way – Hitching Posts and Stonehenge

Pocket Park

Canal Towpath and Puddlebank offer circular walking links

Nene Way – long distance walking path comes through village

Human Energy 10k annual run hosted from a start and end point at Village Hall

All community rooms, as detailed in 1.1, are available for hire for private parties. There are also function rooms for hire in a number of the pubs. Skittles table and kids play garden in the Plume of Feathers pub. Pool table – Maltsters Darts in Wheatsheaf

Kids play garden at Heart of England

Weedon Sports Association are working on a project to build a Community space and Sports Changing Facility at Jubilee Field to replace no longer fit for purpose temporary showers and to provide additional, modern community space. Project is close to submitting planning application and is run by volunteers along with the services of a local architect. Watch this space! We are so close!





4.	Does your village have access to any kind of community transport or voluntary car scheme? Yes ☑ No □ If yes, please give details	
	DACT transport –volunteer drivers provide journeys to the hospitals and surgeries for the elderly, disabled and other residents, where required.	
	Morrisons Shopping Trip – weekly. The DACT bus is hired by a resident, officially Weedon Travel Club, for weekly shopping trips to Morrison's supermarket in Northampton. Picks people up at their doors and drops them off, mainly for elderly or housebound residents with no other source of transport. Very well supported and very popular.	
	Weedon and Flore Sunday Rovers – A joint venture between Flore & Weedon Bec Parish Councils offers varied day trips organized for subscribed members on Sundays and Bank Holidays.	
	Village events utilize DACT buses, for example Senior Citizens Christmas Party, Choir Recitals at Church	
	DACT also organize days out throughout the year and arrange pick-ups in the village if required. Very well supported and enjoyed by all.	
5.	Are there any village charities that provide support to the local community? If so, please give brief details, including how they are publicized. Yes ☑ No ☐ If yes, please give details Weedon Sports Association. Registered Charity 1026474— will help with any sporting or recreational activities via volunteer time or financial help. http://www.weedonsa.btck.co.uk/ and on Facebook  Weedon Bec Trust. Registered Charity 242221 — helps with school and university books for students. Information published on notice boards and local papers, generally around the time they are accepting applications.  Edmund Arnold Charity. Registered Charity 260589 — Educational Foundation — Donations towards primary education — small amount allocated to Weedon through a subsidiary of the main charity. Not advertised as the amount has to go to one specific recipient, the Primary School  Weedon Village Hall Registered Charity 304445 - is a vital amenity to the village	
	inclusive to all and used by many organizations as a meeting place, for social events and regular hosting of Pre-school. Extremely well used facility which acts as an	





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unofficial hub to the community.

Weedon Bec Recreational Charity Registered Charity 276808 for the use of activities in the village of Weedon Bec which promote the well-being of the villagers.

Estate Charity of Nathaniel Billing Registered Charity 309857 - Land rent to be used for poor and needy of Weedon Bec.

Weedon Bec Pre School Registered Charity 1045202 – to provide full day care facilities for children aged from 2 years 6 month. Advertising is via village newsletter, notice boards and via Primary School weekly newsletter and website.

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)

Village Design Statement (now Neighbourhood Plan) ☑ Work in Progress

Housing Needs Survey ☑ Completed 2011

Parish Plan ☑ Completed 2009

The Neighbourhood Plan steering group have undertaken two major consultations, a questionnaire to all households in June 2014 and a public open day in the Village Hall, with Bob the Builder and Peppa Pig visiting, to fact find from residents about how they see the village developing between now and 2029. In addition, there have been meetings with a variety of village groups and service providers. The draft Plan will be available for Public Consultation between 8th April 2015 and 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2015. It is intended that the NP referendum takes place in 2015 with the plan being adopted late 2015.

The Neighbourhood Plan group is formed from nine volunteers who are Residents plus 3 Parish councilors.

6b. Has your village identified any infrastructure or housing needs for the community? If so have any of these been actioned?

Our Housing Needs Survey was carried out in October 2011 and identified a requirement for 6 units. The Parish has fulfilled this requirement as we have recently had two developments built, one for 11 units of social housing (Starmers Row, off Queen Street) and the other development had 16 of affordable homes Redrow site) Planning Applications have been granted for apartments at several sites and not yet delivered e.g. Village Antiques Market

A very large planning application has recently been refused and is going to appeal. It is fair to say that there is a very large majority against this plan as it will destroy acres of prime greenfield site and cause untold problems with traffic in the village centre. From this application was born the Weedon Action Group who are vigorously opposed to this development. See weedonaction.co.uk

A further Housing Needs survey has been completed early 2015 as part of the Neighbourhood Plan fact-finding process which highlights the need not just for social/rented housing but for affordable homes for families and bungalows for people wishing to downsize or who have access problems.

The draft Neighbourhood Plan has successfully identified sites suitable for housing





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and other development, e.g. additional recreation space and space for employment units, none of which detract from the amenity of the village or add to traffic problems in the village centre.

The draft Neighbourhood Plan has also identified where there should be new footpaths and bridges over the Nene to improve connectivity within the village and access to countryside.

Daventry Link Road plans have been shared at Public meeting enabling Residents to ask questions and comment as necessary. This will help Weedon enormously by hopefully removing heavy and volumes of traffic away from the High Street and A45/A5 crossroads traffic lights. NCC awaiting permission to be granted and work expected to start late 2015.

Volunteer Road Warden works in conjunction with parish council to report matters that need fixing to MGWSP who do the repairs e.g. pot holes, broken signs, footpaths needing repair, overgrown trees near roads.

The draft neighbourhood Plan has identified areas of green space adjacent to the village which are well used by local residents and qualify for protection as Local Green Spaces as defined in the National Policy Planning Framework

Not quite infrastructure but certainly improvements to a current village asset, the Village Hall management committee are investigating installation of a Hearing Loop and electronic doors to assist the older generation and improved services at the hall along with additional parking for the hall and school.

Has your Parish Council used its powers to introduce crime prevention measures? E.g. Village Special Constable, CCTV, Neighbourhood Watch.
 Yes ☑ No ☐ If yes, please list measures introduced

Neighbourhood Watch is active in the village and we continue to encourage wider membership to increase coverage.

Community Speedwatch is carried out once or twice each year by a group of residents, under the guidance of the Police

CCTV was installed in our large playing field for a period of six months to monitor the area. CCTV is also present in the centre of the village.

Village representatives attend quarterly meetings of the Weedon Beat Community Panel to determine local policing priorities

Parish Councillors are volunteering to 'walkabout' with PCSO to share information

Vehicle Activated Speed sign has been purchased to use in the village to deter speeding. It is a mobile sign that can be used at various points around the village.





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#### 3. BUSINESS

1. About how many businesses do you have in your village and surrounding area?

List below the types of businesses

106

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

Please see attached list at end of entry form

We are aware of a number of people who are self-employed, working from home. However it is difficult to be sure of exact numbers.

We have included a number of businesses that may not operate in the village itself but are run by village residents.

2. How do local businesses support community life, beyond offering employment? E.g. sponsorship of local events or village activities.

Many local businesses provide raffle prizes / sponsorship for the school fete and other fund-raising events organized by Friends of Weedon School Association and Weedon Bec Preschool.

Weedon Bec Football Club kit is sponsored by The Brinjol Indian Restaurant Whilst Hi-Force sponsors the Junior football teams with kit and costs of training.

A local butcher provides burgers and sausages for the BBQ for several fundraising events. Also donates the meat for Senior Citizens Christmas Party.

The Plume of Feathers and the Wheatsheaf host fun days and fundraising events to support local charities / causes and national charities that have impacted on local people.

Bramble Patch quilting shop hosts exhibitions that raise money for charity and a show is hosted in the Church annually.

Many local businesses are receptive to requests for help and often offer time, expertise or goods to help with village events or projects.

Atlantechs provide transport for all events as required, as do Weatherday Nursery.

We are assisted and sponsored at all major events by AC Tipper Hire, Adville and Mould Shop and all electrical work is carried out by D.K. Electrics.

3 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.

The Industrial estate at Cavalry Fields and the units within the Ordnance Depot provide a wide range of full and part time employment for local residents of all ages.





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A specialist lead light window company offers apprenticeship schemes The variety of retail outlets and pubs / restaurants also provides employment opportunities for local people. The Parish Council employs three local people: parish clerk and two litter-pickers as well as offering contracts on a tendering basis, some of which have been taken up by local businesses from within the village e.g. grass-cutting, cemetery maintenance A business affected by fire damage has remained in village and is rebuilding it's premises to continue trading and offer further job opportunities Conversion of closed public house to retail outlet has boosted new job opportunities The draft Neighbourhood Plan has identified a site where housing, small business, live/work units and self build housing could fit into the community Are villagers involved in running any of the village services? E.g. Shop, Café, 4. etc. Yes  $oldsymbol{
abla}$ If yes, please give details New this year is the Side Line Café. This is run by a number of parents for the benefit of the Junior Football on match days. They provide hot drinks and bacon butties for spectators, at the same time raising money for training courses. Cemetery maintenance is carried out by a village contractor. The Post Office is locally owned and run Weedon Bec Preschool is run by local mothers. Likewise, Piglets Nursery Village Hall Management Committee are all volunteers giving their time freely. Café on High Street Maltsters, Wheatsheaf and Plume of Feathers **Tudor Greengrocers** Village Salon, Blades and Vanilla Hair Design are locally owned

	4. YOUNG PEOPLE		
1a.	Does the village have, or have access to, any Crèches, Playgroups or Toddler groups or clubs aimed at pre-school children? Yes ☑ No ☐ If yes, please give details		
	Piglets Nursery – OFSTED nursery in the Old Chapel, Bridge Street		
	Weedon Pre-School – OFSTED Pre-school care held in Village Hall		





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	runs Tae Kwon Do classes for youngsters.	
2b.	Are these clubs/groups helped or financed by community fund raising? Yes ☑ No ☐ If yes, please give details  FOWSA as detailed in 1b above. All groups can also apply to the Weedon Sports Association who will consider and finance any request for equipment.	
3.	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 ☑ No ☐ If yes, please list.  Brownies, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts all run in the village. These groups are flourishing with increasing numbers. Brownies can move up to the Local Scout group if they wish or can feed into Guide units in nearby villages e.g. Bugbrooke, Harpole, Newnham Weedon Junior Football Club – teams and training for 5 – 16 years olds YouthPOD theatre group – Sunday afternoon in Village Hall Messy Church – once a month in St Peter and Paul Church	
	5. OLDER PEOPLE	
1.	How are older people involved in village life? E.g. reading in schools, oral history projects, parish council.  Please give details.  The Parish Council has 6 councillors who are over retirement age A number of older people are involved in the volunteer reading support at the primary school.  The Village Show actively encourages involvement from our older people with some Entry Classes that lend themselves to pastimes such as knitting, embroidery, flower arranging and painting. There are also a number of older people who have allotments who also enter their produce in the show.  The majority of members of the Pocket Park group are older people.  Monthly lunches run by Age UK are well attended at a local hostelry.  The Riverside Court residents host a monthly lunch club where residents of the village are invited to attend. They also run weekly Bingo afternoons which the village are invited to. It is worth mentioning that they also compete in the Best Garden Competition for Orbit Homes and are the current holders of the trophy. Riverside Court has a very active committee who also organize events, meals, activities and it is open to retired people in the village. It is the most welcoming home for older persons and really is a jewel in the crown for Weedon.  Senior Citizens Christmas Party for approximately 120 people with full Christmas Lunch and entertainment, organized and cooked by village volunteers, many of whom are retired.  Weekly coffee mornings at the Chapel School rooms  Many projects/classes etc have no age restrictions, other than the schools, so all ages	





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	are encouraged to join in.  The Sunday Rovers provides very popular and reasonably priced day trips that particularly appeal to the older age group.  St Peter and Paul Roof repair project will involve the PCC, Church Wardens and volunteers, many of whom are retired, to deliver heritage outcomes History Society have many retirees who attend the presentations.	
	The Weedon Bec 1914-18 group has involved present day residents and people who live outside the village who had relatives involved in WW1 in recording and researching their history and attending commemorative events.	
2.	Are there any village schemes to help older people? E.g. transport, housing etc.  Yes  No  If yes, please give details  As mentioned before, Riverside Court is wonderful establishment for the older person.	
	They can take part in as much or as little as they like and all live in self-contained flats with communal facilities such as a lounge, TV room, Library, laundry and health suite. There are also quite a large number of social housing and private bungalows in the village. The social housing bungalows are let by Daventry District Housing to the elderly and disabled on a strict needs basis. They also have access to a shared computer	
	Weedon Travel Club, run by a local resident, runs a shopping trip every fortnight to Morrisons Supermarket in Northampton. Fifteen residents are picked up and taken and then returned to their door.	
	Young at Heart is an organization that runs bi-monthly classes in the Village Hall for people who have had or are in danger of having heart problems. It is a social occasion which incorporates advise, exercise and social interaction. It was started by a Weedon resident following the demise of the heart unit at Danetre Hospital. It has proved to be very popular and is of great benefit to the village.	
	Daventry Area Community Transport (DACT) operates in the village with volunteers driving the needy to hospital appointments etc. This is a valuable service without which many would struggle with public transport.	
	That having been said, Weedon is blessed with very good public transport with buses running every hour to Northampton and Daventry which with the bus pass scheme in operation, means that most older people are not confined to the village.	
3.	Are there any informal support services for older people in the village? E.g. Neighbourhood schemes. Yes ☑ No ☐ If yes, please give details	
	There is a No Cold Calling Zone in Riverside Drive where a large number of our elderly people live in both the sheltered accommodation or independently in bungalows.	





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There are numerous examples of informal care arrangements within the village where neighbours support older or infirm people to enable them to remain at home. Neighbourhood Watch encourages people to look out for one another of which many may be elderly

The Parish Council developed an Emergency Plan for the village that actively seeks to identify vulnerable people and support available if there was to be a crisis affecting the village. This plan identifies resources and equipment that can be called upon if needed. This is of particularly importance with regard to flooding in the village. There was bad event in 1998 which flooded the centre of Weedon and made many people homeless for some time. Since then, improvements have been made to the storage capacity of the river and the alignment through the village which has reduced the risk quite considerably. With the Emergency Plan now in place, Weedon should be a safer place to live.

#### 6. ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY (10 Marks)

- 1. What environmental / conservation activities goes on in your village? Include any measures to improve the appearance of your village. For example: -
  - Wildlife conservation area
- ☑ Allotments

☑ Pocket Parks

- ☑ Tree or flower planting
- ☑ Churchyard Conservation

Please give details.

The Pocket Park was opened in June 2012 and regular maintenance is carried out by volunteers. Primary School have an Eco Club which also helps out at the Pocket Park, They have installed bird boxes, bug hotel and are looking at doing something for bumble bees. Benches and Bird watching hide provide leisure opportunities.

There is a site opposite Neneside on the north bank of the Nene which is identified by the Northants Naturalists Group as a site of special interest (it appears on maps)

Community Working Group established to perform tasks around the village which promotes community involvement e.g. Hitching post painting and ground clearance. Meeting with Canals and Rivers Trust to liaise on how we can work with them as the Community Work Group to improve areas around the canal

Phase1 Street light replacement to low energy bulbs with lower light pollution carried out in March 2012 to 48 units, with Phase2 scheduled for autumn 2015 to include a further 30 units.

Volunteer Highways Warden appointed to liaise with Northants. County Council Highways on all matters. We also have a volunteer Tree Warden.

A litter pick of verges and hedges is organized annually as part of the National Community initiative and the Parish Council employ two part-time litter pickers

Parish Council and volunteers have been actively planting bulbs around the village for



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#### NORTHAMPTONSHIRE BEST VILLAGE ENTRY FORM 2015

# WEEDON BEC

a number of years. Last year the Weedon at War group sowed poppy seeds and wild flowers around the village verges to commemorate the start of World War 1 as part of the Big Poppy Plant. These will be maintained this year until the areas have thickened out and the weeds do not dominate.

Village gateways have planters which were made by a local resident and are planted and maintained by volunteers

There are two allotment sites in the village (63 plots). Rain water harvesting and composting are actively encouraged at both sites. At the Riverside allotment site, investigations are underway as to the possibilities of sinking a borehole for a water supply. Watch this space!

There was a recent project to encourage residents and retailers in the village to go "Plastic Bag Free". Although this project achieved limited success the involvement of local school children in a poster campaign did raise awareness and continues to do so. It is a mark of the success of the campaign that you now have to ask if you want a bag rather than be given it automatically.

The Parish Churchyard has been partly put over to conservation as there is a magnificent array of snowdrops in the springtime.

Dog Poo Campaign – use of spray paint on dog poo to try to highlight the mess and guilt the owners to clear up after their dogs. Running alongside new poster campaign to ask Dog Owners to clear up after their dog.

As stated previously, the draft Neighbourhood Plan has identified areas of Local Green Space which link with existing open space to make up several Green Corridors which cross the village east – west and join the Canal Conservation area which runs roughly NW-SE. These are important wildlife corridors and, once defined in the plan, will be preserved, protected and managed to encourage diversity of habitat.

2.	Have you produce	d any leafl	ets c	or maps	s, guides to sup	port any of the	ese
-	activities?	Yes		No 🗆	]		
	If yes, please give	details.					

A Village Map is installed at the Village Car Park at Jubilee Field and at the top of each of the canal towpath entrances. This is of great use to visiting boaters.

An information board is installed at the Pocket Park; this is changed quarterly to show what is around in the park during the relevant season.

The Pocket Park has its own website <a href="http://www.weedonbecpocketpark.btck.co.uk/">http://www.weedonbecpocketpark.btck.co.uk/</a> to report its progress and there is a link to this from the village website.

There is a "Bird notes" report in each edition of Weedon Newsletter with information regarding birds that have been seen or are expected in the local area.





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	A Village Walks leaflet has been produced to encourage residents to explore and walk around the village with notable sights, birds and nature that might be seen en route.	
	Village Website has a section about Living in Weedon Bec and includes a section detailing Public Footpaths and Local walks in and around the village	
3.	Does the village have 'tidy up days' or regular litter pick? Yes ☑ No □ Please give details of how this is organized.	
	This takes place in March as part of the National Community Litter Pick initiative. It is organized by the Parish Council and involves volunteers from all the village organizations from the Cubs to the Women's Institute. They all meet at Jubilee Field and are given high-viz vests, gloves and sacks. The volunteers are usually split into pairs and given a street or area to clear. It lasts about two hours and ends with coffee and bacon butties at the Sideline Cafe. Lovely jubbly!	
	The Parish Council employs two part-time litter pickers who keep the village remarkably clear. It is generally the approach roads to village which need the extra effort.	
	Certain areas adjacent to the A5/A45 are covered by Enterprise, the Daventry district Council, and reports of littering in these areas has resulted in special litter picks.	
4.	Are there any community projects introduced by the village to reduce its	
	'carbon footprint'? E.g. recycling, energy efficiency or solar energy, or local food schemes.	
	The Village Hall has been fitted with 32 solar panels which produce electricity throughout the year. These have proved to be most successful and have reduced consumption from the grid markedly. The village hall has reduced its carbon footprint quite considerably in the last few years by installing a highly insulated roof and gas boiler heating system. The Committee also has a contract with Grundon who sort the general waste and recycle as much as possible. Generally this achieves more than 95% recycling which is pretty amazing. All external lights have now been replaced with low energy L.E.D's.	
	We have two clothing banks in the village, one at the Village Hall for the Air Ambulance and one at the school for the local hospice.	
	We are well served by Daventry District Council with green recycling and food waste collection along with the usual "black bin".	
	Phase 2 of the low energy replacement bulbs scheme for the street lighting will take place this autumn.	
	The local benefice, i.e. Weedon, Everdon and Dodford, run a food collection scheme which is donated to the Daventry Food Bank. The Women's Institute runs a similar scheme.	





# WEEDON BEC

#### 7. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

1. 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.

The main Parish web site is : <a href="http://www.weedonbec-village.co.uk">http://www.weedonbec-village.co.uk</a>

A Parish Councillor is investigating a move towards a standard website being promoted by NCALC under 'NN One' project that links into NCC, DDC and other key pieces of information, whilst still enabling local information to be promoted. A quotation is being obtained at the moment. This initiative has been rolled out successfully in Leicestershire, for example Braunstone Parish use this standard template delivered by

See http://braunstonetown.leicestershireparishcouncils.org

Template has now been adopted by NCALC. See <a href="http://www.northantscalc.gov.uk/">http://www.northantscalc.gov.uk/</a>

The Neighbourhood planning group has its own web site at <a href="www.weedonnp.info">www.weedonnp.info</a> & can be contacted via facebook

<u>http://weedonaction.co.uk/</u> Residents group opposed to speculative development in the village

<u>www.weedonsa.btck.co.uk</u> Weedon Sports Association promote their projects and events via the website and includes Facebook and Twitter

http://www.weedonjuniorfc.co.uk Weedon Junior Football Club

http://www.weedonfc.co.uk/ Weedon Senior and Veterans Football Club

http://www.weedonbecprimary.co.uk/ Weedon Primary School

http://www.greensnortonandweedonmedicalpractice.co.uk/ Weedon Bec Doctors Surgery

These are a few examples of village groups or services websites that exist in the village.

How does the Parish Council or other community groups use social media (websites, email, blogs, facebook, twitter etc) for communicating information? Please give examples.

As already mentioned, Weedon Parish Council has its web site at <a href="http://www.weedonbec-village.co.uk">http://www.weedonbec-village.co.uk</a> and also has its own Facebook page.





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There are also many Facebook pages developed for Weedon Residents. These include the following examples:

Weedon Bec Past & Present – History site showing old photographs of old buildings, areas and people of the village from the past. Comments are welcomed from all.

Weedon Bec Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group – provides regular updates in the Weedon News, gives feedback by leaflet drops to all households on the progress of the plan.

Weedon Residents Against the Development in Weedon – site run by a large group of villagers against the proposed development.

Things for Sale in Weedon – general sale site

Weedon Bec 1914-18 group – progress on what Weedon is doing to commemorate the Great War.

Weedon Art Group – site showing the progress of the budding artists we have in the village.

The Primary School has their own blog site and Facebook page which is used to communicate school news and events. This was used to keep Parents and interested parties up to date with the recent build works to extend the school to provide extra classroom facilities and improved Headmaster and Bursar Offices.

Many other groups such as Football Club, Weedon Sports Association, Weedon Bec Early Risers and Cool Zone all use Facebook to share information.

Neighbourhood Watch information is communicated via a subscribed email distribution list.

#### 8. YOUR VILLAGE

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

What makes Weedon special? **The people!** If you want to live in a chocolate box village, that's not Weedon! If you want to live a quiet life in a secluded village, that's not Weedon! Weedon is not so much a village as a community that just happen to live near each other. The community is vibrant, forward-looking and has an attitude of "Can we? Yes, we can!", and we will fight to preserve that way of life. So many villages in Northamptonshire are threatened by imposed developments. Weedon are the same. We are not against development per se but let <u>us</u> decide where the right place is.

The process of making the Neighbourhood Plan has brought together people who are not perhaps by nature joiners of groups but are interested in how the village grows in the future





# WEEDON BEC

and the steering group has sought out and encouraged local groups, businesses and service providers to come up with ideas of how they would wish to see the village develop. All ages have been involved, the oldest group member being over 80. It has encouraged some to get to grips with new IT skills and learn and understand a great deal more about how planning works and how local people can make their views felt.

Of course, any community needs a hub and, in Weedon, this is provided by the Village Hall. This is where young and old, residents and visitors, the able and the less able, meet and integrate. We are very proud of our hall which is one of the largest in the district. It provides an excellent venue for the Village Show and hosts many village-orientated events including quiz nights, keep fit classes, woodturning and concerts. It is filled to capacity with the annual Senior Citizens Xmas Party where around 120 of Weedon Senior Residents enjoy a completely free 3 course roast dinner and all the trimmings with professional entertainment as well. This party is organised, prepared and funded completely by volunteer Weedon residents who form the committee.

We do not forget the religious needs of Weedon residents either. These are fulfilled by the Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul and the United Reformed Chapel. Apart from regular services they both provide other social events including weekly coffee mornings, quiz nights, craft meetings, bell ringing and the well supported monthly Men's Big Breakfast at the Chapter House. All faiths combine to hold a service at the Weedon Weekender which we spoke about earlier in our submission.

And the older members of our community are not forgotten. Hidden away down a cul-desac is a gem of a retirement home! Riverside Court is a modern housing project which provides excellent accommodation for older folk. It is a social hub within the village and hosts many Community social events in very pleasant surroundings.

Thirsty? There's no need to be! The village of Weedon currently has four public houses that all do a good trade with three of the four providing good food. When the Weedon Garrison had a full complement of military personnel there were over forty ale houses and pubs in the village! The pubs also provide free meeting rooms for village organisations and all donate to village events when requested.

One of the main advantages of living in Weedon is that you really have no need to go out of the village for anything. We have two general stores, post office, pubs, garages, dentist, doctor's surgery, male and female hairdressers, chip shop, Indian and Chinese take-aways, greengrocers.......! We even have a veterinary practice for our fur and feather friends! Strangely though, no charity shop....vet!

From the above it is easy to see why Weedon Bec is likely to be identified by planning authorities as a village that can sustain an increase in population (known as a primary service village) and, whilst residents do not want the village to sprawl and lose the atmosphere and community spirit, most accept that future generations will want to live somewhere and are open to the idea of new housing and other development as long as it is on our terms.

Education is very important for our younger residents. Weedon Bec Primary School, recently extended, became part of the IMAT group Academy of schools. It is proud that it's most recent Ofsted inspection rated it as "Good". The primary school is supported by a locally run preschool and a separate nursery school.

Just because we are a village does not mean we are missing out on the future. No Sir! We are fortunate in that high speed broadband is now available in the village. The Village Hall and the parish church are both taking the opportunity to have broadband installed to benefit their users. From our submission you will see that most groups have embraced the





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new technologies and are up to speed on social media and the world wide web. We said that it is the people that make Weedon so special. There are host of opportunities for residents who wish to get involved in volunteer work in Weedon and the immediate area. There is Neighbourhood Watch, Weedon Bec Parish Council, Weedon Sports Association, Weedon Scouts, Senior Citizens Party Group, Weedon Speed Watch, Weedon Pocket Park Group, Weedon WW1 Group, Weedon Village Hall Committee, Friends of Weedon School and Friends of Weedon Surgery to name just a few...A special mention should be given the Weedon Neighbourhood Plan Steering group. Established by the Parish Council this volunteer group has been working extremely hard to prepare the Neighbourhood Plan for the village. The plan has been drafted and will soon go for independent examination and scrutiny by the planning inspectorate to be included in local planning policy by Daventry Council.

Being located within the beautiful Northamptonshire countryside residents do not have to venture far to enjoy it. There are several dedicated walks around the village locality. These were recently notified to residents in a specially commissioned free booklet illustrated by a Weedon artist. These proved very popular and a second edition is being proposed by the parish council. Two long distance walks intersect the village, these being The Nene Way and The Macmillan Way. The canal towpath of the Grand Union provides easy level walking in an interesting and pleasant environment.

As regards sporting activities Weedon has six amateur football clubs active in the football season. Three Junior and three senior teams are administered by Weedon Football Club which is run entirely by Weedon residents. The recently formed junior football teams are proving extremely popular and are well supported both home and away. They have both boy and girl players. The senior teams have been established since 1968. Other sports available in the village include running, (with the Human Energy Club) pilates, zumba, tae kwon do, aerobics classes and boxercise. It is envisaged that when the proposed Community Sport building for Weedon comes on line that table tennis, long mat bowls and other indoor sports will become established too.

Of course, not everything in the garden is rosy! While there is enthusiasm for a variety of sporting activities in Weedon, the village is very much below the district standard for sports pitches and informal recreation space. The Village has two playing fields, one with a sports pitch. Both playing fields have really good children's activity equipment areas. There is however a lack of flat land within the parish suitable for sport and recreation. The draft Neighbourhood Plan has identified a piece of land between the A5 and Ellands Lane to the east of the village which is accessible to all parts of the village, is not suitable for building and which should be set aside for future expansion and diversification of sports and leisure activities. Watch this space!

O.K. so that is fine for the villagers. But what is there for visitors? Although tucked away in a corner off the A45/A5 junction, we are blessed with many visitors who pass through the parish by road, by water (canal) or by foot (long distant footpaths). Weedon is easily reached by road as the A5 trunk road passes through the village and the A45 serves an east-west route and to the M1 motorway. Many are drawn by the plethora of antique shops on the High Street. When they arrive they realise what a rich history Weedon has. The village is very proud of the historic Weedon Garrison. This 19<sup>th</sup> century Grade 11\* listed building hosted an open day in 2014 in remembrance of the Great War. This attracted several thousand visitors from Weedon and surrounding areas all keen to view the attractions and the unique buildings and success has convinced the owners to hold another





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open day this year. The Parish Church dates back Norman times. Frequently, bell ringers call by to ring changes. Some even arrive by narrow boat and moor up at the canal side adjacent to the churchyard.

Ramblers and walkers using the two long distance footpaths can stop and enjoy a pint (or two) in the village pubs. The Village Hall hosts many national dog breed shows as it is conveniently situated centrally in the country. This brings many visitors to the village and helps maintain our Community building. Many narrow boat users and canal holiday makers stop over at Weedon and take advantage of the shopping facilities, pubs and eating places available here. The village centre car park has an information board and map of the area for visitors to use and the old post office telephone box situated in West Street has further visitor information. Visitors are encouraged and made most welcome in Weedon! And of the future? Residents both old and new are now eagerly awaiting the commencement of the proposed Flore and Weedon bypass. This link road will give Weedon a more tranquil village environment. whilst, at the same time, opening up even more possibilities for improving the village infrastructure and housing stock.

So there you have it. Weedon is proud to put itself forward for the Best Village competition because, well, quite frankly, it is! To finish with, just a little anecdote we heard of only last week. A lady from Hinckley is so certain that she wants to move here she has leafleted every bungalow in the village to see if anyone is thinking of moving! And the best bit? No one is! That speaks volumes. Enough said!

# THANK YOU FOR YOUR CO-OPERATION AND GOOD LUCK!

List of Businesses: in the village and businesses run by people from home and of the village but primarily based elsewhere.

Business name	Business specialism
Curvilinear Ltd	Antiques
Helios and Co	Antiques
Village Antiques Market	Antiques
Shabby Genteel	Antiques
Archi-Tec	Architect
Walker Associate Architects	Architect
Approvenable Ltd	Architecture and Engineering design
Jamie Bird Furniture	Bespoke furniture
William Piper Narrowboats	Boat hire and maintenance
Concoform Marina	Boat yard
Serendipity Brides	Bridal wear
Jamie Cheney	Builder





	LUON BLC
Exterior Elegance Ltd	Builders
FJC Leatherland & Son	Builders
M W Davies	Builders
Tennerman Builders	Builders
People for Profits	Business management Consultant
Cafe on the High Street	Café
Papillon Cakes	Cake makers
Wheatsheaf cakes and bakes	Cake makers
Automotive Distribution Service	Car parts
Weedon Motor Company	Car sales
Atlantechs Seating Ltd	Car seating bespoke
Weedon Hand Car Wash	Car wash
Wicked Wheels, Building 15	Car wheel suppliers and restorers
Keith the Carpet Fitter, Unit 75	Carpet Fitter
Little and Large	Caterers
John Jackson	Central Heating
Weedon Pharmacy	Chemist
Piglets Nursery	Children's nursery
On Demand Carpet and Upholstery	Cleaners
Cleaners	
Heritage Guild Windows	Conservation window manufacture
Trekkers Ltd	Couriers
Joyride Bikes	Cycling and Accessories
Adville Ltd	DC Power specialists
Weedon Healthy Tooth Team	Dentist
Reland Ltd, Building 86	Developers
The Rose Wardrobe	Dress Shop
D.K. Electrics	Electricians
David Knight Engineering	Engineers
3i-FM	Estate and Facilities management
Lockfast Europe	Exhibition Designers
A J Russell	Farming
H C Russell and Son	Farming
Mr J Wareing-Russell	Farming
Mr M Wills	Farming
Mr R Wareing-Russell	Farming
W R Russell	Farming
Howard FM	Financial Advisors
Clarkes Garage	Garage services
The Garage at The Depot	Garage services
Martin Mills	General Maintenance
Tudor Greengrocers	Greengrocers
Blades	Hair dressing
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