

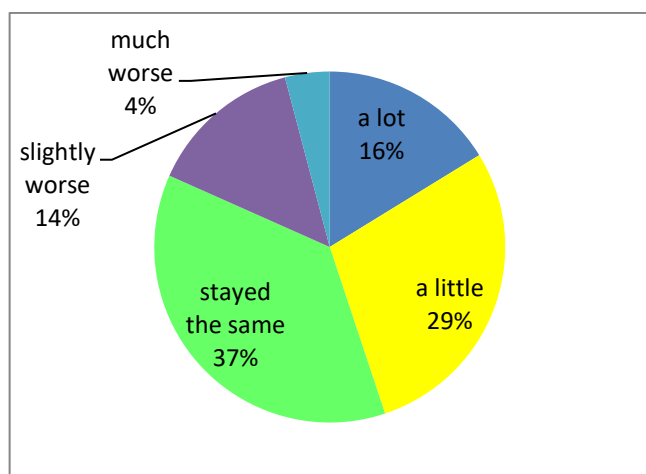
Section 3 – The Community

3.1 Do you feel involved in the community and know what is going on ?

	2016		2010
Yes	308	47.2%	45%
No	62	9.5%	12%
A little	257	39.4%	43%
Did not answer	25	3.9%	

3.2 Do you feel that the community spirit has improved in the last 5 years ?

After eliminating the 97 people who did not answer, the percentages are as follows:-



After eliminating those who did not answer, this means 45% thought that the community spirit had improved, whereas 18% thought it had got worse.

Many respondents recognised the hard work and dedication put in by volunteers to run community events.



The Doherty family at the Magna Carta festival, courtesy of Suffolk Free Press

3.3 Which of these events have you attended ?

Tick all that apply.

The Jubilee	298
Pumpkins in the Park	67
Concerts in Clare Church	189
Christmas Lights Switch On	461
Magna Carta	341
Quizzes	167
Christmas/Summer Fetes	398
Party in the Park	335

Historically, the town held many large events usually organised by the CCA (Clare Community Association) but these diminished as Health and Safety legislation and insurance rates increased. The Christmas Lights continued throughout, thanks to the hard work and leadership of Malcolm and June Smith (who organised it for many years), Pippa Smith, Marie Baker, Clare Kent and Barbara Wilder who replaced them, followed by Victoria Stone, and now Howard Downer.

In 2012 the town honoured the Queen's Jubilee and in 2015 there was a week-long celebration of Magna Carta with medieval-themed events, bringing many Clare organisations and individuals together.

The re-formation of the CCA in 2016 opened up a new chapter in the history of Clare events, designed to increase community spirit, bring enjoyment to people of all ages and help smaller organisations to raise funds. In all, they organised 24 events in their first year, from large events such as the Party in the Park and the Christmas Fair to smaller events such as films for children in the Social Club.

Smaller events take place throughout the year organised by the many Clare organisations – horticultural shows, walks, tours, coffee mornings, talks, flower demonstrations, art exhibitions, choral singing, and much, much more.

Clare Town Council thanks everyone who gives so freely of their time to make Clare such an amazing place to live !

Since the last survey the Town Council has :

- ✓ Sponsored the Christmas Lights on an annual basis.
- ✓ Provided start-up funding for the Jubilee celebrations 2012, Magna Carta 2015 and the Party in the Park 2016 and 2017. This funding covers essential items such as insurance, health and safety, events licences etc.
- ✓ Provided support-funding for numerous local organisations including Clare in Bloom, Treble C Choir and the Clare Youth Association Committee.
- ✓ Individual members of the council have also helped with organising many of the events.

Action Point 3A

To continue to use start-up funding as the mechanism to support local charitable organisations running local events. In this way the widest possible number of groups and individuals can become involved in their community and enjoy the experience.

See also Section 4 for further information and action on Tourism and Wool Town events.

“I would like to thank the Clare Community Association, the Christmas Lights and the volunteers of the Country Park for all their hard work in contributing towards making Clare such a pleasant place to live.”

3.5 How do you find out what is happening in Clare?

Clare Focus Magazine	543
Word of Mouth	460
Noticeboard in Pashler’s Alley	430
Local shops/posters	365
Chevron	310
Newspapers	163
Noticeboard of Town Hall	152
Social media	139
Clare-suffolk.co.uk website	119
Clare Community Association website	86
Noticeboard near Cock Inn	85
Other noticeboards	72
Pupil book bags via school	50
CHOC website	9

Note : At the time of the survey, free newspapers were still being delivered to homes but these have now stopped. Additionally, the websites for Clare-suffolk.co.uk, Clare Community Association and CHOC had only recently been created, changed or updated.

Since the last survey we have:

- ✓ Established Chevron which is delivered to all homes.
- ✓ Started the production of very full Annual Parish Reports.
- ✓ Established a new website.
- ✓ Established 4 yearly development plans and reported on progress through the Chevron and Annual Reports.
- ✓ Held major consultations on the divestment of the Country Park, traffic/HGV surveys, the impact of Vision 2031/development of land behind the Swan and the 4 Year Plan itself.

“More information on organisations etc. needed in Focus and on noticeboards.....not everyone can go online.”