

SANDERSTEAD APCM 2018
KEY POINTS FROM PRESENTATION BY
ST AUGUSTINE'S MISSION PROJECT TEAM
AND QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION

1. Methodology

The Community Audit was based on two periods of fieldwork (15th & 17th February), plus extensive discussions with community stakeholders and church leaders. 32 interview responses had been obtained. It was noted in discussion that older people were more inclined to agree to be interviewed, with several people in younger age-groups declining.

2. Character of the Area

Hamsey Green was generally thought to be friendly, peaceful and secure, with most people knowing at least some of their neighbours. Positive characteristics were:

- Community feeling;
- Convenience for transport and shops.

Negatives were:

- Lack of activities for children and young people;
- Lack of provision for the elderly (particularly somewhere to meet);
- No pub nowadays.

3. Meeting People and Help with Problems

One third of respondents would recommend going to a pub to meet new people, which also featured as a place to have a good time. Many of the respondents did not know where to turn to for advice if they had a problem. Others, interestingly, would look to Caterham for advice, rather than Sanderstead or elsewhere in the Borough of Croydon.

4. Religious Views & Identities

Most respondents believed in God, of whom the majority identified as Christian. Asked what questions they would put to God if they had a chance, many had not thought about the issue, but the most common question would be why there was so much evil and suffering in the world (in a general or

specifically personal context). A small majority identified as churchgoers (11/32 regularly; 7/32 occasionally), whilst 14/32 were of no church.

5. Attitudes to St Antony's

27/32 respondents were familiar with St Antony's. Many would welcome the church having a more visible presence and a wider role, particularly in the provision of facilities for the young and for the elderly and in hosting community events.

6. Conclusions and Issues for the Parish

- There were great opportunities for Mission in Hamsey Green.
- Key areas were: children & young people; advice & support for residents; making the church more visible in the community.
- But there was a great lack of resources and people to do this at St Antony's.
- The greatest challenge was changing our traditional culture and way of doing things.
- There was a great deal going on in the parish generally.
- But, if we wanted to take advantage of the opportunities in Hamsey Green, were our resources deployed most effectively and were we working as collaboratively as we could?