

## 13. Local Democracy

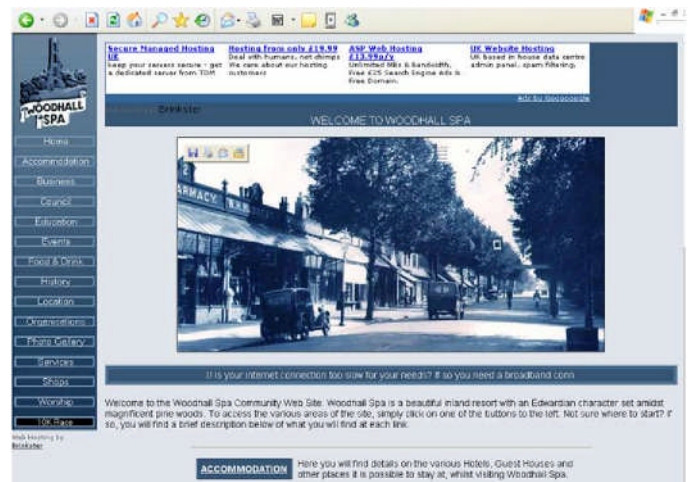
District level governance is provided by ELDC; there is little support for them to be found in Woodhall Spa. The general consensus brought up in meeting after meeting is that the ELDC is only interested in the coastal strip and neglect areas such as Woodhall Spa or makes ill-informed decisions that do not reflect the special character and needs of Woodhall Spa. It is disturbing that so many local resident voice the same opinion independently. Less than half the population knew how to contact either their two district councillors or county councillor. The information received from both district and county level on issues affecting Woodhall Spa was rated as poor by 41% and 47% respectively.

There certainly needs to be a long hard look at the methods of local governance. Clearly there is a need for our local representatives at all levels to be more accessible to their constituents, with that need being more manifest in terms of dissatisfaction the further up the local government hierarchy.

There are issues that arise from Woodhall Spa being a large village that make disseminating information all that more difficult, however the council must seek ways of better achieving a dialogue with the community. This may take some 'thinking outside the box' and some further discussions with community members to find the most appropriate way. A method already used was to have local information placed in the library, unfortunately many parishioners obviously did not know about this service provision and therefore some publicising is necessary. On a positive note 71% of people did know how to contact the Parish Council.

The Village website is obviously not doing as well as would be hoped, [www.woodhallspa.org.uk](http://www.woodhallspa.org.uk), with as many as 88% not using it and great many comments from people who did not know that it existed. When using certain search engines the website could not be found either. In alignment with 'E-Government' it would be appropriate for the council to look at ways of the Clerk using the website to distribute meeting notes and agendas, as well as taking in comments for meetings from the public. If the website were marketed correctly it could be supported by a small advertising charge to local companies, this would be only possible if enough hits were being generated. It could also be useful as a virtual notice board for local groups and clubs

The Parish Council has just begun a quarterly newsletter, which has been well-received. It's hoped that this will alleviate some of the communications problems highlighted by the household survey.



### What we want to achieve

### What do we need to do

To know more about what the Parish Council is doing and the decisions they are taking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to develop the new quarterly Newsletter</li> <li>Develop and enhance the web site to provide information on the Parish Council activities</li> <li>Use the web site to provide an interactive facility to canvass local opinion</li> <li>Improve the information flow on notice boards</li> </ul>
To know more about what decisions ELDC and Lincolnshire County Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ask the two organisations to keep us better informed</li> <li>Ask ELDC to communicate more with the community on planning, recycling and Jubilee Park issues</li> </ul>

- Ask LCC to communicate more with the community on road and bus service issues

