



Riston Parish Community Engagement Questionnaire Analysis of Fraudulent Entries - 2023-2024

Below are detailed slides, which highlight how the Council identified the Fake/Fraudulent entries.

The Council had to take a view as to how to qualify these disingenuous entries. This was done by identifying the numbers fixed to the forms from the range used. Many of the numbers which were returned were not issued. We also defined patterns of returns using the date/time stamps.

The Council believes that this fraud was perpetrated by a single individual, and can only conclude that it was a nefarious attempt to skew – in a negative way - the genuine and legitimate feedback from Parish residents. The motive behind it cannot be to the benefit of the community, and remains unknown.

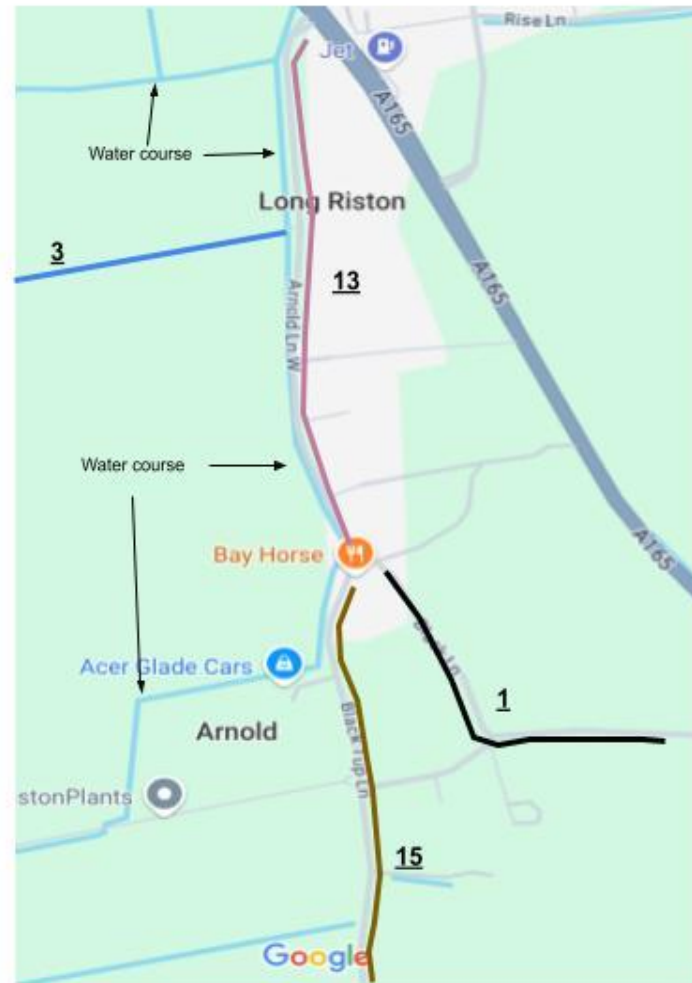
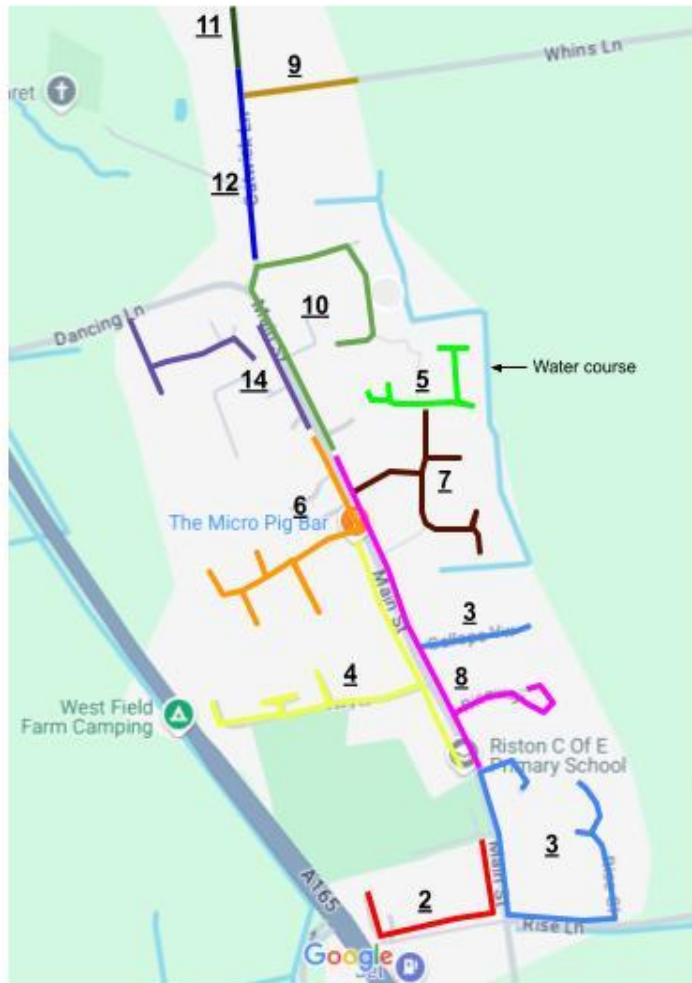
We received a total of **160** returns, both electronically and in paper form.

We have very high confidence that **62** are genuine. That equates to a response rate of **c16%**, which is good.

There were **3** late submissions, and **12** spoilt/damaged papers where respondents removed the unique number and/or rendered the QR unreadable. These were excluded from the analysis of the results. Spoilt papers carried the risk of duplication, deception and fraud.

Also excluded were **83** electronic returns that were deemed as fake/fraudulent. The data suggests that these **83** returns were generated by a **single individual**.

Round	Route
1	Black
2	Red
3	Blue
4	Yellow
5	Green
6	Orange
7	Brown
8	Pink
9	Olive
10	Light Green
11	Dark Green
12	Dark Blue
13	Purple
14	Light Blue
15	Dark Olive



Round	Delivered	Genuine Received	Non-Genuine Received	Genuine Return Rate %
1	18	1	0	6%
2	11	3	0	27%
3	39	4	5	10%
4	38	4	78	11%
5	24	2	0	8%
6	32	6	0	19%
7	30	11	0	37%
8	39	8	0	21%
9	10	2	0	20%
10	47	6	0	13%
11	19	2	0	11%
12	15	5	0	33%
13	40	2	0	5%
14	30	6	0	20%
15	3	0	0	0%

Fake and Fraudulent returns, and how we established this.

- **77** Returns were easily identified as fake/fraudulent as the form numbers were never issued and their submission timing was clearly dubious.
- A further **6** returns clearly appeared to fit the same patterns of fake/fraudulent returns when timings are observed.

In interpreting this data, we have had to take a pragmatic view to remove the known and suspected fraudulent data.

Patterns form in returns on 18/10/2024

Time sequencing shows patterns in batches of fake returns.

Duplicates

Eg: Number 3717 was returned via a Round 4 link, but the number was issued to Round 5.

Date format: MM/DD/YYYY

Submitted Round Number	Timestamp	Number	Legal Number Match	Round Number Check/Match	Round Match	Genuine/Fake	Thinking about the last 12 months: Please tell us how you think you...
Round 3	10/18/2024 19:59:05	1755	1755	Round 3	TRUE	Poss Batch 1	1 Awful worst council I have
Round 4	10/18/2024 20:07:24	2993	2993	Round 4	TRUE	Poss Batch 1	1 the council we have is aw
Round 4	10/18/2024 20:21:45	2663	2663	Round 4	TRUE	Poss Batch 1	1 worst i have ever seen bri
Round 3	10/19/2024 8:23:19	2393	2393	Round 3	TRUE	Poss Batch 2	1 NEVER SEEN SUCH A I
Round 4	10/19/2024 8:30:19	3008	Fake Number	Round Issue	FALSE	Fake	1 not very well at all really
Round 4	10/19/2024 8:43:12	2917	2917	Round 4	TRUE	Poss Batch 2	1 so bad and if there was a
Round 4	10/19/2024 8:50:41	2001	Fake Number	Round Issue	FALSE	Fake	1 never in my 65 years hav
Round 4	10/19/2024 10:59:44	3009	3009	Round 4	TRUE	Poss Batch 2	1 complete farce this last y
Round 4	10/19/2024 11:03:26	1333	Fake Number	Round Issue	FALSE	Fake	1 badly
Round 3	10/19/2024 11:07:39	6641	Fake Number	Round Issue	FALSE	Fake	1 how do you think you hav
Round 4	10/19/2024 11:11:37	3002	Fake Number	Round Issue	FALSE	Fake	1 NOT WELL
Round 3	10/19/2024 11:17:43	2482	Fake Number	Round Issue	FALSE	Fake	1 LISTEN TO RESIDENTS
Round 4	10/19/2024 12:44:05	3130	Fake Number	Round Issue	FALSE	Fake	1 awful
Round 4	10/19/2024 12:46:21	2001	Fake Number	Round Issue	FALSE	Fake	1 BELOW PAR
Round 4	10/19/2024 12:53:59	7101	Fake Number	Round Issue	FALSE	Fake	1 not well at all wasted tim
Round 4	10/19/2024 12:59:36	3220	Fake Number	Round Issue	FALSE	Fake	1 NOT GOOD
Round 4	10/19/2024 13:04:55	6120	Fake Number	Round Issue	FALSE	Fake	1 Quit
Round 4	10/19/2024 13:10:05	7100	Fake Number	Round Issue	FALSE	Fake	1 either listen or leave
Round 4	10/19/2024 15:35:37	3717	3717	Round 5	FALSE	Fake	1 poor - very disappointed
Round 4	10/19/2024 15:41:00	1209	Fake Number	Round Issue	FALSE	Fake	1 VERY BADLY

All the Fake and Possible Fakes are very “negative” – patterns forming in the results. **All were submitted electronically.**

All Fake Entries gave a rating of 1 on Council Performance and gave negative feedback.

These two entries look Genuine

Pattern seems to start on 18th Oct at 19:59

Submission every 5 or 6 minutes.

Part way through the ‘batch upload sessions’, the perpetrator stops adding narrative which allow them to speed up, taking only 2 or 3 mins per submission.

Submitted Round Number	Timestamp	Number	Legal Number Match	Round Number Check/Match	Round Match	Genuine/Fake	Q 1 Thinking about the last 12 months: Please tell us how you think you...	
Round 3	9/17/2024 14:48:55	2383	2383	Round 3	TRUE	Genuine	1	The ParishCouncil council have had numerous complaints regarding the conduct of individ
Round 6	9/23/2024 10:58:39	4085	4085	Round 6	TRUE	Genuine	1	•7 resignations - 5 councilors, clerk and caretaker in the last year with no explanation to
Round 3	10/18/2024 19:59:05	1755	1755	Round 3	TRUE	Poss Batch 1	1	Awful worst council I have ever seen.
Round 4	10/18/2024 20:07:24	2993	2993	Round 4	TRUE	Poss Batch 1	1	the council we have is awful wasteful and ineffective
Round 4	10/18/2024 20:21:45	2663	2663	Round 4	TRUE	Poss Batch 1	1	worst i have ever seen bring back the people that knew how to govern
Round 3	10/19/2024 8:23:19	2393	2393	Round 3	TRUE	Poss Batch 2	1	NEVER SEEN SUCH A FARCE
Round 4	10/19/2024 8:30:19	3008	Fake Number	Round Issue	FALSE	Fake	1	not very well at all really
Round 4	10/19/2024 8:43:12	2917	2917	Round 4	TRUE	Poss Batch 2	1	so bad and if there was a negative score I would have selected that one.
Round 4	10/19/2024 8:50:41	2001	Fake Number	Round Issue	FALSE	Fake	1	never in my 65 years have i seen such a farce
Round 4	10/19/2024 10:59:44	3009	3009	Round 4	TRUE	Poss Batch 2	1	complete farce this last year and a half clueless and moronic no regrd to resident
Round 4	10/19/2024 11:03:26	1333	Fake Number	Round Issue	FALSE	Fake	1	badly
Round 3	10/19/2024 11:07:39	6641	Fake Number	Round Issue	FALSE	Fake	1	how do you think you have done , my view is amateurish
Round 4	10/19/2024 11:11:37	3002	Fake Number	Round Issue	FALSE	Fake	1	NOT WELL
Round 3	10/19/2024 11:17:43	2482	Fake Number	Round Issue	FALSE	Fake	1	LISTEN TO RESIDENTS THE MAJORITY NOT THE MINORITY
Round 4	10/19/2024 12:44:05	3130	Fake Number	Round Issue	FALSE	Fake	1	awful
Round 4	10/19/2024 12:48:21	2001	Fake Number	Round Issue	FALSE	Fake	1	BELOW PAR
Round 4	10/19/2024 12:53:59	7101	Fake Number	Round Issue	FALSE	Fake	1	not well at all wasted time wasted money made us a joke in holderness
Round 4	10/19/2024 12:59:36	3220	Fake Number	Round Issue	FALSE	Fake	1	NOT GOOD
Round 4	10/19/2024 13:04:55	6120	Fake Number	Round Issue	FALSE	Fake	1	Quit
Round 4	10/19/2024 13:10:05	7100	Fake Number	Round Issue	FALSE	Fake	1	either listen or leave
Round 4	10/19/2024 15:35:37	3717	3717	Round 5	FALSE	Fake	1	poor - very disappointed
Round 4	10/19/2024 15:41:00	1209	Fake Number	Round Issue	FALSE	Fake	1	VERY BADLY
Round 4	10/19/2024 15:47:41	3001	Fake Number	Round Issue	FALSE	Fake	1	you not be asking if you know you have failed us
Round 4	10/19/2024 15:54:24	4571	Fake Number	Round Issue	FALSE	Fake	1	I have lived in the village for many years and never seen such a dysfunctional parish coun
Round 4	10/19/2024 16:03:49	8530	Fake Number	Round Issue	FALSE	Fake	1	represent us properly do the job well else resign and let someone capable take over what
Round 4	10/19/2024 19:03:35	6100	Fake Number	Round Issue	FALSE	Fake	1	you need to listen and represent us, not your own agendas.
Round 4	10/19/2024 19:05:15	1049	Fake Number	Round Issue	FALSE	Fake	1	
Round 4	10/19/2024 19:06:33	2044	Fake Number	Round Issue	FALSE	Fake	1	
Round 4	10/19/2024 19:07:43	6688	Fake Number	Round Issue	FALSE	Fake	1	
Round 4	10/19/2024 19:08:53	4512	Fake Number	Round Issue	FALSE	Fake	1	
Round 4	10/19/2024 19:10:09	2910	Fake Number	Round Issue	FALSE	Fake	1	
Round 4	10/19/2024 19:11:14	7154	Fake Number	Round Issue	FALSE	Fake	1	
Round 4	10/19/2024 19:12:22	4130	Fake Number	Round Issue	FALSE	Fake	1	
Round 4	10/19/2024 19:13:24	7561	Fake Number	Round Issue	FALSE	Fake	1	

4	20-Oct
5	21-Oct
6	Oct
7	10/21/2024 6:55:28
8	10/21/2024 6:57:45
9	10/21/2024 6:59:57
10	10/21/2024 7:03:21
11	10/21/2024 7:05:47
12	10/21/2024 7:08:46
13	10/21/2024 7:11:35
14	24-Oct
15	Oct
16	10/24/2024 10:41:29
17	25-Oct
18	Oct
19	10/25/2024 9:11:33
20	10/25/2024 9:12:59
21	10/25/2024 9:22:26
22	10/25/2024 9:24:27
23	10/25/2024 9:26:10
24	10/25/2024 9:27:48
25	10/25/2024 9:34:41
26	10/25/2024 11:41:13
17	26-Oct

31-Oct
Oct
10/31/2024 8:08:12
10/31/2024 8:09:59
10/31/2024 8:12:00
10/31/2024 8:13:33
10/31/2024 8:15:04
10/31/2024 8:16:23
10/31/2024 8:17:51
10/31/2024 8:19:43
10/31/2024 8:21:31
10/31/2024 8:23:00
10/31/2024 19:25:29
10/31/2024 19:27:04
10/31/2024 19:28:23
10/31/2024 19:44:03
10/31/2024 19:48:43
10/31/2024 19:51:47
10/31/2024 19:57:15
10/31/2024 20:01:55
10/31/2024 20:17:29
10/31/2024 20:18:36

Examples of Fraud Patterns.

Analysis of returns shows distribution and frequency of 1 or 2 responses per round per day *typically*.

During peak fraud days we saw 40 per day (one every few minutes) highly irregular.

Problem dates seem to be mainly 19th, 21st 25th and 31st Oct for Round 4.

This forced us to examine and look for wider patterns.

Count of Genuine/Fake	Column Labels	Round 1	Round 11	Round 12	Round 13	Round 14	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Round 5	Round 6	Round 7	Round 8	Round 9	Grand Total
Row Labels															
Sep		1	1	1		3	1	2	1		1	4	3		18
12-Sep						1									1
13-Sep			1												1
14-Sep						2									2
15-Sep									1			1			2
17-Sep								1							1
18-Sep												1	1		1
19-Sep											1	1			2
20-Sep							1								1
21-Sep			1												1
22-Sep								1							1
23-Sep											1	1			2
24-Sep		1													1
25-Sep												1			1
29-Sep												1			1
Oct			1				1	5	76	2	1	2	4	1	93
01-Oct												1			1
02-Oct													1		1
08-Oct											1				1
13-Oct													1		1
16-Oct														1	1
18-Oct								1	2						3
19-Oct								4	40			1			45
20-Oct									7				1		1
21-Oct									7						7
24-Oct								1							1
25-Oct									7				1		8
26-Oct															2
29-Oct			1												1
31-Oct									20		2				20
Nov		4	1	5	2	3	1	2	5		4	5	1	1	34
01-Nov									2						2
02-Nov							1								1
03-Nov								1							1
20-Nov		4	1	5	2	1		2		2	3			1	21
21-Nov						2		1	1		2	2	1		9
Grand Total		1	6	2	5	2	6	3	9	82	2	6	11	8	145

Irregular patterns and high volumes detected in Round 4.

20th & 21st November are when all the identifiable genuine paper surveys were manually keyed into the database.

In the interests of transparency, here are some of the more “publishable” responses to the Grants-related question from some of the replies deemed as FAKE/FRAUDULENT.

The Parish Council says:

It is noteworthy that the fake/fraudulent responses have deeply-negative opinions of the introduction of the Grants Policy.

We understand the Grants Policy represents a significant change to the ‘ad-hoc’ funding arrangements that were used in prior years. These were heavily criticised by the Audit undertaken in early 2024. This newly-introduced policy is critical to ensuring fair and transparent allocation of public grant funds. It is not unique to Riston Parish but does now align with good governance widely used by most Councils.

Q4 - The Parish Council can provide grants to community groups to help them provide facilities and services to our community.

- why do you need a grant
- why grants ?
- just support the services
- NO ONE ELSE DO THIS
- that idea is stupid
- the old way has always worked why are you changing it sounds an awful idea
- why is this even need to be ?
- pointless
- never
- JUST SUPPORT THOSE THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE YOU DO NOT
- WHY THE PROCESS CHANGE
- too complicated
- SUPPORT THE GROUPS
- far too complex why change other councils do not do this around here
- WHY GRANTS
- business as usual why this Process now ?
- why change
- a grant seems too complex
- JUST SUPPORT THE GROUPS THAT DO GOOD FOR US RESIDENTS
- support those that do good , not your own agenda items
- THE GROUPS ARE THE ONLY ONES DELIVERING FOR US
- fund those that bring true change not your own pet projects
- just give the money to people that are and continue to deliver good for the village, your budget is small and you are allowed to gift around six thousand which i think your are only at fifty five percent of this. just grow up and do the right thing.