

JANUARY PARISH SURVEY

The Plumpton Parish Neighbour Plan (“PPNP”) survey was issued in January 2015 and the closing date for returns was 2 February.

Thank you to all residents who returned their questionnaires and to all members of the PPNP Steering Group who helped to collect them and input the results. An amazing 57% of questionnaires were returned which is one of the best response rates for Neighbourhood Plan questionnaires locally.

The main feeling amongst parishioners was that they enjoy the rural nature and sense of community of our parish and do not want it to change and expand too noticeably or rapidly. This is in keeping with the views and opinions expressed in the previous two PPNP consultations. The results are still subject to audit but, in summary, the provisional results are as follows (with percentages being of those who responded):

In terms of the future development of the parish, 63% of residents would like to see the parish retain its linear shape.

Rather than wishing to see the parish grow to encourage an increase in services, parishioners would prefer to encourage people to live and work locally and to encourage tourism in the village.

The vast majority (91%) of respondents would like all those listed aspects of current village life preserved i.e. no street lighting, clubs and societies, bus/train services, post office and shop, school, pavilion and village hall. Additional aspects to be preserved include the church (19%), pubs (13%) and railway crossing gates (9%).

The majority of people (95%) felt that the countryside, footpaths and views of the South Downs contribute to their quality of life.

90% of residents would like wildlife considerations to be incorporated into any new developments. Most (87%) would prefer any new housing to be in small developments of 10 to 20 units being built over a long period of time. The majority (81%) would like these developments to consist of small and medium sized units with provision being made for retirement/warden assisted homes and possibly a care or nursing home.

The majority (68%) would support a community led approach to the management of housing and other community assets in the PPNP.

In terms of employment, more opportunities were welcomed, but parishioners were against (57%) more land being used to provide this.

50% of respondents think that our roads are not well maintained with 54% thinking that the footpaths are well maintained. 82% have no particular view about cycle paths, and 84% thought the same about bridleways. People were of an equally

divided opinion on whether pavements are well maintained or not and most people either had no particular view (47%) or thought that parking areas were poorly maintained (41%).

55% of respondents feel that there should be no paid for parking at the station and 68% feel that there should be no paid for parking at playing field. 16% had no particular view and 28% would welcome paid for parking at the station and 18% at the playing field.

In terms of sustainable energy, 56% of parishioners had no particular view or said that it wasn't important although 44% supported the options outlined.

Further reports will give detailed results once the audit is completed. There will also be reports on the business survey in detail and the young person's survey where 65 returns were received.

The prize draw was made at the Parish Council meeting on 10 February and the two lucky winners are being notified.

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