

Plumpton Neighbourhood Plan

Village Consultation – Initial Open Day 29 April 2014

Analysis of the post it note comments left by 168 villagers

Using display boards and tables, we invited our neighbours to comment under the following themes:

- Village Identity
 - What makes Plumpton special? (15 responses)
 - Why do we live here? (24)
 - How do we feel about living here? (23)
 - What would we like for the future of Plumpton? (71)
- Housing (118)
- Transport (84)
- Business (28)
- Leisure (58)
- Wildlife and public spaces (31)
- Other matters (85)

(The numbers in brackets refer to the number of post- it notes that were left on each display board and table.) Many people will have left responses to more than one question, and because some responses had to be re-allocated because they were quite relevant to the question (i.e. refurbishing the Pit Stop in the Housing section). For this reason, the numbers and percentages should be interpreted as qualitative themes, indicating the balance of opinion, as opposed to absolute numbers.

Following is a breakdown of the themes in the questions. This process involved

- a) Reviewing the post it notes under each section and defining around 5 key themes that emerged.
- b) Counting the number of post it notes that adhered to each theme
- c) Some post its fell under more than one theme, for example one post it note said that “housing should consider fields, smaller sites and the needs of residents” a tick was placed under all three headings.
- d) After these initial themes were analysed, more clarity was found by group them together, so example ‘opposed to change’ vs ‘encouraging change’.
- e) Within these ‘master’ themes, the percentage of people defining the kind of change were recounted as a percentage of the overall people within the master theme, rather than as a percentage of all post it in that section.

Below is the summary data for all the different questions and themes. The raw data are available and can be requested from Paul Nicholson, Chair of the Neighbourhood Plan Committee. Email Paul.nicholson@plumptonpc.co.uk

Display 1: Village Identity

What makes Plumpton special?

	quiet, peaceful green landscape	safe	character/ community	facilities / location	dark nights	Strong emotion mentioned
total 15 comments (some post its with multiple comments)	11	0	7	1	0	5
percentage	73%	0%	47%	7%	0%	33%

Why do we live here?

	quiet, peaceful green landscape	safe	character/ community	facilities / location	dark nights	Strong emotion mentioned
Total 24 comments (some post its with multiple comments)	16	2	14	4	2	5
percentage	67%	8%	58%	17%	8%	21%

How do we feel about living here?

	quiet, peaceful green landscape	safe	character/ community	facilities / location	dark nights	Strong emotion mentioned
Total 23 comments (some post its with multiple comments)	14	2	8	2	2	11
Percentage	61%	9%	35%	9%	9%	48%

As you can see, the first three questions provoked very similar responses. Overall, there was a strong weighting towards a) the rural look aspect of the village, its greenery and tranquillity and; b) the sense of community and character.

Many people used terms like 'love' and 'belonging' and 'home', one post it even reported being "married to the village!" That strength of emotion also emerged as a theme, even when it was not

specifically requested. Our village neighbours feel very strongly about the village and its qualities, the most important being countryside views and a strong sense of community.

What would we like for the future of Plumpton?

	quiet, peaceful green landscape	safe	character/ community	facilities / location	dark nights
Total 24 comments (some post its with multiple comments)	16	2	14	4	2
percentage	67%	8%	58%	17%	8%

An overall summary of the post it notes in this whole section, led to the following summary:

	quiet, peaceful green landscape	safe	character/ community	facilities / location	dark nights
Overall re: village identity 172 comments (some post its with multiple comments)	68	6	54	31	13
Percentage of posts it mentioning each topic	40%	3%	31%	18%	8%

Display 2: Housing

The topic received a mix of response to potential development. The majority of people agreed that some development was acceptable, but had reservations.

	NO	No to specific sites	Yes if infrastructure	Yes if brownfield used / views / green protected	Yes if smaller sites	yes if affordable housing	Yes if climate sustainable
Total 118 comments (some post its with multiple comments)	14	14	9	30	45	36	7
percentage	12%	12%	8%	25%	38%	31%	6%

Of those who said yes with a condition of affordable housing, two specific groups were mentioned as having needs.

	families / young people	older people
Total	12	10
percentage	33%	28%

Overall, the balance of peoples' thoughts about development is as follows:

	Yes with terms	yes no conditions	No
Total	96	0	22
percentage	81%	0%	19%

No one responded that development should happen without conditions. Of those that agreed to development with conditions, there was a theme of resignation – “as we *have to*” – was one example of these comments. The conditions, are mainly weighted as follows:

1. Sites should be small and spread evenly around the village, to include sites north and south as well as east and west. There was only one response that conflicted this.
2. Brownfield sites should be used wherever possible and open countryside, views and wildlife protected.
3. Affordable housing should be incorporated to allow housing for young families, young people who want to remain in the village and our older neighbours who may be struggling to maintain larger homes.

Points 1 and 2 may well overlap – the need for smaller developments may be born from a motivation to retain rural characteristics. Of the people who indicated that they didn't want

development at all, five comments specifically referred to the Section 106 Covenants in place on certain fields in the village. Infrastructure concerns are expanded on the next page.

Sub-topic: Infrastructure

The infrastructure concerns have been collated from all the boards, since they fell under housing, other matters, business and transport. Presented below are the range of topics raised as needing attention as part of any village development.

	wifi	water	electricity	Eco-friendly alternatives	Facilities (shop, pavilion)	gas
Total 44 responses, collated from various display boards	12	9	6	7	5	13
Percentage	27%	20%	14%	16%	11%	30%

The requirement for gas, and the cost of oil, seems most prevalent, shortly followed by the lack of good broadband provision (though this should be addressed by the end of the year).

The balance of specific issues presented here relates to the concerns highlighted in the housing section, where infrastructure investment was a condition of development.

Display 3: Business

When asked to comment on the village businesses and business opportunities, the following themes emerged.

	broadband	utilities	business premises needed	Business premises discouraged	tourism investment	create business advertising opps	support for local businesses
Total 28 responses	4	5	4	4	4	2	10
Percentage of respondents in agreement	14%	18%	14%	14%	14%	7%	36%

Our neighbours offered much support for local businesses and shared ideas for improving the economic activity of the village through tourism (cafe and cycle hire) in order to capitalise on the links to the South Downs National Park. Infrastructure once again emerged as a concern, and space, broadband and utilities were all mentioned. Some neighbours reported that they didn't want Plumpton to become a 'dormitory status', with only commuters residing in the village.

Overall, the balance of post its recommending some development and changes versus those wanting to maintain the status quo, is as follows:

	yes to change	no to change
Total 28 responses	18	10
Percentage of respondents in agreement	64%	36%

Display 4: Transport

There were a wide range of concerns raised by our neighbours in response to transport issues, some in direct conflict with each other.

	more speed limits	no to speed limits	more parking space	control parking	more trains / buses	Shop an issue	train parking an issue	accident concern	encourage greener transport
Total 83 responses	16	7	12	13	8	3	8	10	7
Percentage	19%	8%	14%	16%	10%	4%	10%	12%	8%

Many felt that extra speed limits were necessary, such as extending the 40 mile per hour upon entry / exit to the village, however some felt this was unnecessary and were particularly opposed to the introduction of a 20 mph zone.

Again, many people commented on transport on other display boards, those comments are summarised below:

	more speed limits	no to speed limits	more parking space	control parking	more trains / buses	Shop an issue	train parking an issue	accident concern	encourage greener transport
Total 37 responses	0	1	15	4	3	6	7	6	5
Percentage	0%	3%	41%	11%	8%	16%	19%	16%	14%

And a grand summary, combining the number of comments in total but obtaining the percentage using the largest sample size (due to the likelihood that people will have raised their points in more than one location, is as follows:

	more speed limits	no to speed limits	more parking space	control parking	more trains / buses	Shop an issue	train parking an issue	accident concern	encourage greener transport
Grand totals transport	16	8	27	17	11	9	15	16	12
percentage	19%	10%	33%	20%	13%	11%	18%	19%	14%

The same weight and balance of opinion exists in all three analyses, with parking being the main issue.

Display 5: Leisure activities

When asked about the need to maintain and develop leisure activities, the following themes emerged:

- Broadband access and utilities
- Provision of fitness activities
- Provisions specifically for children and teenagers
- Provisions specifically for older people
- Access to green spaces
- Support for clubs and societies
- Improved use of village facilities such as the village hall green and the pavilion.

	wifi & utilities	fitness activities	young people	older people	access to green spaces	support clubs societies	better use of /improve village facilities
Total	10	11	9	10	20	7	15
percentage	17%	19%	16%	17%	34%	12%	26%

Display 5: Public Spaces and Wildlife

Our neighbours were asked to note their priorities and thoughts around our public spaces and wildlife. The following themes emerged from the post it notes:

	Preserve wildlife	Preserve natural spaces	nature reserve	Carbon neutral	trees and hedges	concern about housing	total in favour of conservation as a village priority
Totals (total of 31 responses)	12	9	8	2	5	12	28
Percentage	39%	29%	26%	6%	16%	39%	90%

An overwhelming 90% of responses favoured conservation, of some form, as a village priority, which dovetails with the indications from the Village Identity board of Plumpton as a rural community. Of these, some referred particularly to the wildlife, others to trees and hedges and others to the need for natural public space. Two responses in particular highlighted a need to avoid overly managed open spaces and the emphasis was on natural, as opposed to just 'green', which wasn't mentioned at all.

Display 6: Other matters

Our neighbours were asked an open question on which matters, other than housing, that concerned them in the village. The themes emerging from the post it note responses were as follows:

	Infrastructure	transport	School	families	older people	Businesses	village GP needed	clubs and pubs
Total 78 responses	5	38	14	6	6	3	4	4
Percentage	6%	49%	18%	8%	8%	4%	5%	5%

As you can see, issues involving transport stood out as the most important, with the schools second. Many neighbours were concerned about the fall in standards at the school over the past few years, but were also hopeful that things were improving. The transport concerns and ideas were migrated to the transport section, as above.