



Allensmore Neighbourhood Development plan

Summary of the Key Findings from the issues and Options document consultation

In March 2017, Allensmore Parish Council decided to create a Neighbourhood Development Plan and established a steering group comprising a number of parish councillors and local residents.

With help from consultants, Kirkwells Limited, this steering group has developed an issues and options document which sets out the key planning issues identified so far from the launch event in July 2017 and suggestions from the steering group and the consultants. It also includes some possible planning policy options for addressing these issues.

The document is considered a starting point and a consultation has been conducted to enable residents to comment upon and suggest changes in order to best reflect the views of the community.

The document was published on the parish council website (Allensmore.org.uk) on 9th January and hardcopies were made available in several public places and on request from any member of the steering group.

In addition to hosting a drop in event on 28th January, a response form or questionnaire was prepared and delivered to every household in the NDP area and provided a mechanism for every resident to comment on the document.

This is a brief summary of some of the key findings of that survey. Much more detail can be found in the main report, available on the Allensmore.org.uk website together with a series of files containing annotated maps and further attachments provided in response to the consultation. Please note that a large number of comments have been made on the response forms, which provide an important element of the feedback, however they are not summarised here, please see the main document for these.

A total of 372 response forms were delivered to 198 houses in the designated area between 12th and 17th January 2018.

89 forms were returned before 12th February. Based on an estimate of 474 people aged 16 and over resident in the designated area (derived from 2011 census figures), the returned forms represent 21% of those aged 16 and over.

About the respondents

- Of the 89 respondents to the survey, 42% were from Allensmore, 35% from Cobhall / Cobhall Common and 16% from Winnal / Winnal Common and 2 (2%) each from the Mawfield, Hungerstone and Webtree areas.

- Just 10% of the respondents were under 50 years old, while 24% were in their fifties, 28% in their sixties and 37% were older. 80% of the respondents had no children usually living in their household.
- Approaching half (46%) of respondents have lived in this parish for over 25 years, while 12% have lived here for less than 5 years.
- 36% of respondents are not in work or full time education and 31% work from home.

Vision and objectives

- A large majority (83%) of respondents felt the document provided a good summary of the local context, compared with 5% who did not.
- There was also strong support for the draft vision and objectives with 77% of respondents in agreement and 11% who disagreed.

Landscape and wildlife

- A very high proportion of respondents (88% in favour, 6% not) felt that the NDP should include a planning policy similar to the one suggested to protect the local landscape character. A number of suggestions were made for further features and views which should be protected by planning policies.
- Similarly, a very high proportion (82%) of respondents felt that the NDP should include a policy to protect wildlife.

Settlement boundaries

- When asked if the NDP should include settlement boundaries, around two-thirds (68%) of respondents felt they should, while a fifth (20%) did not think so.
- The majority (60%) of respondents thought the suggested settlement boundary for Allensmore was about right, while 20% feel it should be extended and 4% consider that it should be made smaller.
- With regard to the suggested settlement boundary for Cobhall Common, again a majority of respondents (56%) felt it is about right compared with 18% who considered that it should be extended and 10% who would like to see it made smaller.
- A large majority of respondents (63%) felt that the draft settlement boundary for Winnal is about right, compared with 13% who would like to see it extended and 1% who would feel it should be made smaller.

Housing

- The majority of respondents agreed that each of the suggested criteria (Brownfield, Infill, Scale/size of development, Access and Parking) should be used as a guide for speculative new housing. A number of people also commented that drainage should also be a factor.
- There was little support for having different criteria for each settlement with 44% of respondents saying "No" while 28% felt there should differ between the settlements.

- A majority (63%) of respondents felt we should plan for 12 new houses, the minimum number required by the Core Strategy, while 25% felt 13 – 20 houses was a more appropriate number and 11% felt the number should be in the range of 21 to 30.
- Most respondents (63%) considered that the new homes should be spread about evenly across the three settlements compared with 38% who disagreed.
- Most respondents believe the new developments should be either single houses (67%) or small scale developments of 2-3 houses (71%).
- The most popular types to be included in the new homes built were family homes (3 bedrooms) (75% of respondents would like to see these), starter homes of 1-2 bedrooms (60%) and conversion of existing non-residential buildings (60%). Of the types listed, there was least support for executive homes (4 or more bedrooms) which 17% would like to see included.
- A large majority support the new homes to be privately owned (88% of respondents) with the next most popular being affordable housing for sale (41%).
- There was strong support (75% of respondents) for the NDP to include a policy supporting the conversion of former agricultural buildings to promote economic development.

Roads, traffic and infrastructure

- More respondents were in favour of a cycleway from the village hall to Locks garage (58%) than were against (31%) while the views were about balanced for and against for a cycleway from the village hall to Belmont.
- Most respondents (61%) feel there is no need for additional directional signage, and there was little or no overall demand for “slow down” signs or for pursuing a lower speed limit on the A465.
- Nearly half (46%) of respondents find illegal dumping of waste to be a problem, while over a quarter (28%) do not, and a large majority (71%) would support or take part in an annual litter pick.
- Most respondents (60%) like the idea of a lower speed limit in the centre of their community while 31% disagree. Support was particularly strong amongst residents of Cobhall Common where 67% support the idea.
- A large majority (83%) of respondents do not support the installation of speed bumps or other traffic calming measures.
- An overwhelming majority of respondents want the NDP to include a policy to protect the village hall as a local community facility and encourage investment in new or improved facilities.
- Most respondents (59%) felt a policy should be included in the NDP to encourage improvements to the Church in order to enable a wider use of the building.