



BURTON OVERY NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT DROP-IN EVENT

23 APRIL 2016

CONSULTATION ANALYSIS



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1. Background

a) Project Brief

Yourlocale was commissioned by Burton Overy Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Committee to assist in the delivery of a drop-in event on Neighbourhood Planning on 23 April 2016. The event took place between 10:00 am and 1:00 pm at the Village Hall.

The aim of this event was to help engage the community in the development of the Neighbourhood Plan and to seek comments on the emerging topics – including Local Green Space and environment; community facilities and amenities; housing and design; and business. It was hoped that interest would be generated amongst the community for involvement in the Theme Groups which are to be established to consider the detail of the neighbourhood Plan.

b) Publicity

The drop-in event was promoted in a variety of ways:

- Posters and leaflets were produced promoting the event
- Details of the consultation were advertised in the village newsletter
- Through the Community Questionnaire, the results from which were available for people to look at on the day

c) List of attendees

A list of attendees is available separately.

60? people attended the event (Mark to confirm)



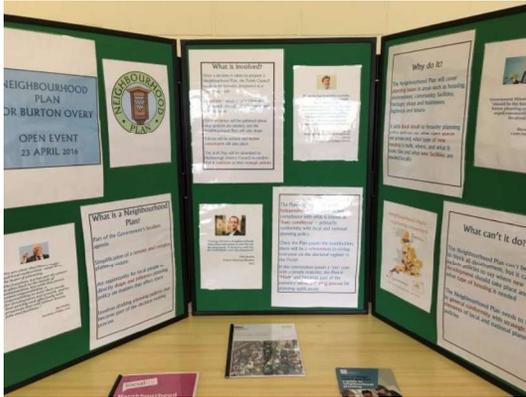
2. Format of Event

a) Process on the day

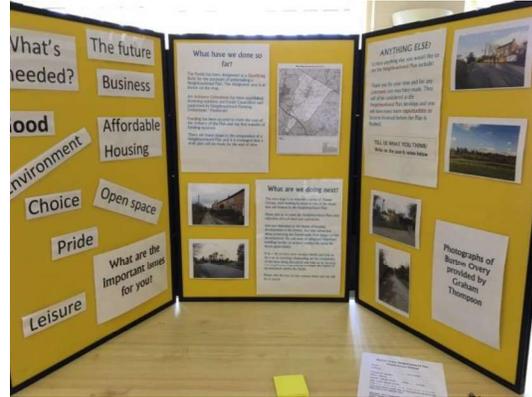
Sign in	Members of the Advisory Committee welcomed attendees on arrival and asked them to complete a contact sheet to record attendance. The arrangements for the Open event were explained.
Background	The first displays introduced Neighbourhood Planning and described the process that is being followed by Burton Overy Parish Council. Copies of explanatory booklets were available on the display stands.
Information	Copies of finalised Neighbourhood Plans were available for people to read as they walked around the displays. Large maps of the Parish were available on the walls within the room.
Consultation on key issues	A series of display boards were spread across the room, each of which focussed on a different topic related to planning and development, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Housing –housing mix, design and heritage▪ Environment – existing designations and Local Green Space criteria▪ Transport▪ Businesses and Employment▪ Community Facilities and amenities▪ Questionnaire results Having read the displays, attendees were asked to comment on each topic using post-it notes and to place them on flip-chart paper alongside each display.
Visual maps	A large map of the Parish was available and people were invited to place up to 3 blue dots on areas of recreation and up to 3 green dots in places enjoying good views.

b) Display Boards

General



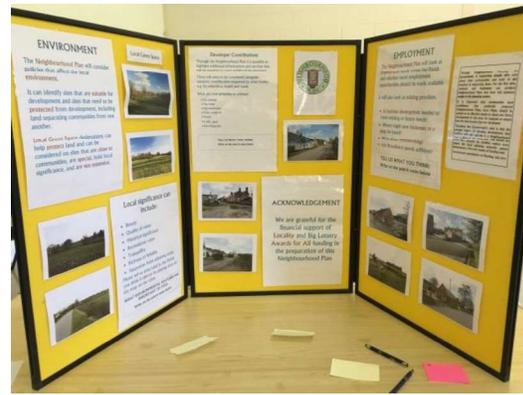
Progress



Housing



Environment



Community facilities, transport



Questionnaire



3. Results

Housing

Comments

- Burton Overy is a village...it needs to remain a village.
- Any new building should be in sympathetic materials and designs (though that doesn't mean it all has to be pastiche period style – good contemporary building in local materials if occasional could be good).
- New building should be in keeping with the village character.
- Keep density low and don't lose spatial character of village.
- Keep the "village aspect".
- More housing means more traffic!
- Low density, individual housing.
- Our village is a precious reminder of times gone by and an example of village life today. Don't spoil it.
- Whilst the rural design and feel is key to the nature of the village it should not completely preclude proper design that has a high degree of integrity.
- Idea for listed building – Manor House farm House (opposite church).
- We need to keep the village setting, keep in mind the design of the village.
- Consideration to stop the village becoming a retirement zone – homes for young families as well as older people (old family homes).
- Would like to see any new building include affordable housing. No public transport!
- I do think it is very important to keep what green spaces there are within the village as they are – they stop it being totally built up and are what makes this a beautiful village – not just another built up area.
- Village setting.

Open Space and Environment

Comments

- Protection of village green spaces for environment and wildlife...not parking, buildings and play areas.
- Separation: Great Glen is getting too near – will greatly affect quality of view
- I agree. I love the fact that the views from the village are rural. No housing estates can be seen
- Protection of Parish Boundaries and views
- Cooperate with adjoining Parishes to protect our rural setting
- Protection of boundaries and rural setting
- Need to protect village ridgeline. Problem with excess of cyclist blind bend 60mph limits

- Need to protect village ridgelines to ensure it remains an unspoilt environment for future generations
- Too many road signs and paint on roads
- Scruffy verges – too much rubbish. Might be nice to have a designated play area too
- Historical significance (ancient landscapes, ridge and furrow, etc). Meadowland and plant species variety. Views. Sense of village placement in landscape (lost if development encroaches from great Glen for example)
- Glen coming over the hill
- Utilities should be required to ensure that structures and interventions are appropriate in design and quality to a conservation village (cf new electricity substation!). Ditto kerbs, etc.
- Wild flowers are relatively absent in the area. Wildflower meadows?
- A large pond/lake would provide for a much greater wildlife diversity
- Any developer contributions will be commensurate to the scale of development. Forget it!
- The tranquillity is what makes it special
- Hear, hear!

Community Facilities and amenities

Comments

- Occasional bus (perhaps 1 running a week). Transport to Leicester
- Bus service?
- Be considered for ad-hoc bus service – Tues and Sat?
- Close enough to other areas with most amenities
- The more facilities the more you will open up for development
- Somewhere safe for the children to play
- Adventure playground for all the children
- Play area and facilities for young people. Especially a tennis court, given a very strong tennis tradition in the village
- Children's play area
- Village directory needed again

Employment

Comments

- Support our farmers
- The more facilities, the more pressure to accept development.
- Very poor mobile signal (Scotland Lane)
- Broadband and mobile phone signal are very poor (Beadswell Lane)

- Better phone reception
- Not needed in immediate local area as we are close enough to other areas for employment
- Only traditional countryside employment – no more factories, but countryside opportunities keep the village alive
- I don't think a shop would be a viable proposition. Most people have cars and therefore access to shops elsewhere
- On line shopping deliveries is already causing a marked increase in traffic – seems the way forward – a shop would not be viable...?

Transport
Comments

- No real requirement or demand for public transport
- More public transport ever-needed
- Bus service: the free taxi service (bookable) from B.O. to G. Glen bus stop seems to be a secret to many. The X3 service is VERY reduced for evening travel (Harborough – Leicester)
- Public transport is virtually non-existent. Propose car park for walkers in small hard area opposite Craig Langton's entrance
- Car parking can be an issue sometimes but it's the nature of the small cottages – not sure there is a solution
- Don't change the access roads – it keeps the village unique and rural
- Reduce speed limits in village
- (Reduce) through design features not sleeping policemen/road signs et al
- Sympathetic traffic calming
- Speeding through the village
- Bell Lane: – parking hinders getting past safely

Anything else?
Comments

- How can the NHP protect against the creep of Great Glen and Kibworth?
- It is important to retain the "heritage" of rural life. The village's proximity to so many urban residents offers the "lungs" to them without a long journey

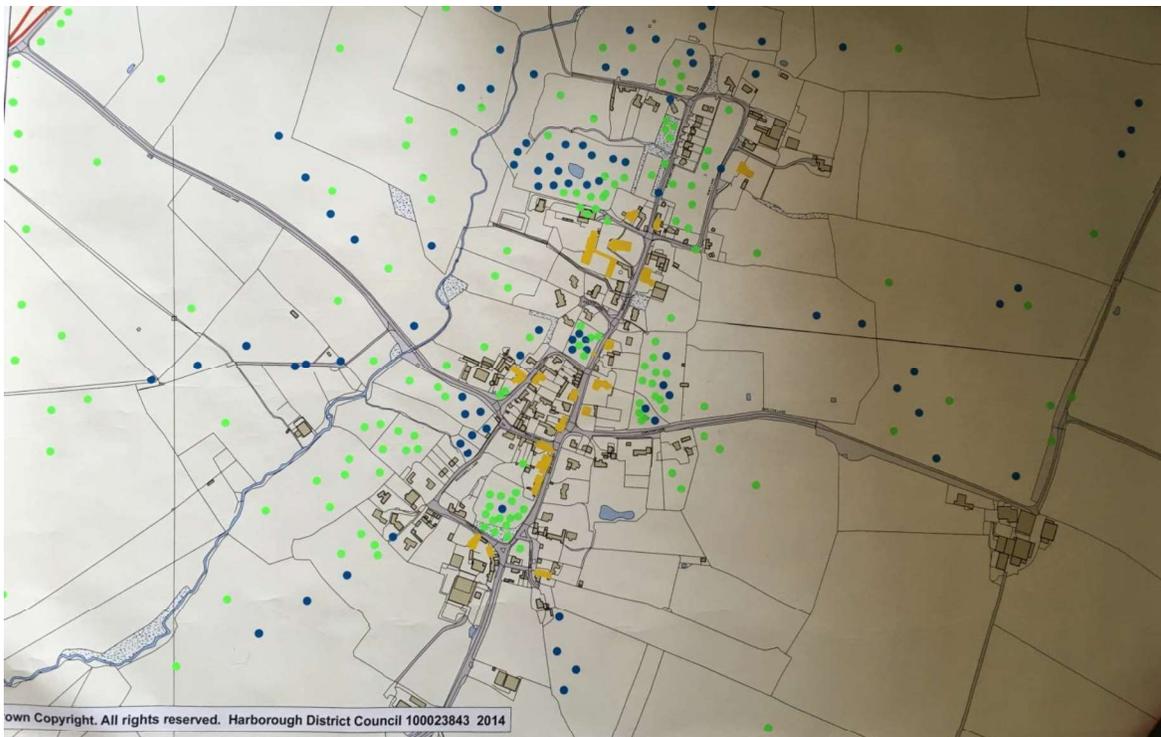
4. Summary of findings

Comments were made which reflected a wide range of opinions. However, people who attended the consultation event in Burton Overy demonstrated a consistency of opinion in a number of key areas:

Environment

There was a considerable degree of interest shown in the environmental displays, which generated the greatest number of responses at 18. Numerous responses were specifically about the importance of retaining and protecting open green spaces in and around Burton Overy, including rural views and the protection of wildlife areas (6). One respondent suggested cooperating with adjoining parishes to protect the village's rural setting, and another comment highlighted the significance of the ancient landscape, e.g. ridge and furrow, and the need to protect it from encroaching developments (e.g. Great Glen). There were 2 specific wishes expressed in terms of wildlife enhancement in the area: a large pond/lake and a wildlife meadow. A further 2 comments advised the need to protect the village ridgeline, and 2 others felt that there was too much road signage present.

The 'dot' analysis showed the areas of open space that are valued by the community. Blue dots signify important spaces for recreation whilst green dots represent good views.



Housing, Heritage and Design

This section generated the second-highest response after the section addressing Environment.

Out of a total of 15 comments on Housing in the village, 7 were in favour of any housing development being of a rural design sympathetic to the village. 3 respondents wished to protect the green space setting of the village if building took place, and 2 respondents specifically referenced the need for affordable housing for young families, and one stating that consideration be given to the village not becoming "a retirement zone".

Business/Employment

This display generated 9 responses. 3 respondents raised the issue of poor current broadband and mobile phone reception in the village. One villager promoted countryside employment to “keep the village alive”. Two others felt that a shop was not a viable option, citing on line shopping and ease of access to shops by car.

Transport and Highways

This area of the consultation drew a total of 11 responses. In the event of development, respondents drew attention to the need to provide more traffic calming and traffic management, adequate parking and improved public transport links.

The need for improved public transport was cited by 3 people, along with consideration being given to vehicle speed limits and sympathetic traffic calming being raised by 4.

Concerns over current lack of available car parking in the village was raised by 2 respondents, with one example given of the difficulty experienced in getting past parked cars along Bell Lane.

Community facilities/amenities

10 respondents commented on this section. 4 people felt that a play/adventure area/facility was needed for children and young people with a specific suggestion of “a tennis court, given a very strong tennis tradition in the village”. 3 villagers would like a bus service running 1-2 times per week, one noting the specific destination of Leicester. One person suggested that providing more facilities would “open up” the village for development whilst another said that there were sufficient amenities provided nearby.

Anything Else?

One respondent asked how the Neighbourhood Plan could protect against the “creep” of the villages of Great Glen and Kibworth.

A further respondent reiterated the point already raised by others: the importance of retaining the “heritage” of rural life, and added that this should be for the benefit and appreciation of everyone in the area, living either rurally or in a more “urban” environment.





**Gary Kirk
Yourlocale
April 2016**