

Crudwell Parish Neighbourhood Plan, Community Engagement Survey Results

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Objectives

To inform all Parishioners and Stakeholders what a Neighbourhood Plan is and explain more about the process involved and how they can get involved.

Encourage Parishioners and Stakeholders to submit their views and comments (on the card insert) on the matters which they consider important in shaping development in the Parish.

To Identify key themes to explore further, as part of our Community Engagement Focus Group work, beginning in March 2018.

Methodology

On the 18th of November 2017, a leaflet, with two comment cards inserted, was distributed to all residents and businesses (we could identify) in the Parish. Parishioners were asked to reply by the 22nd of December and this deadline was later extended to the 16th January 2018 to account for Christmas Holidays. Drop boxes for comment cards were placed in key locations within the Parish – The Potting Shed Pub, The Wheatsheaf Pub, The Crudwell Village Postoffice and Crudwell CE Primary School. Additional leaflets and comment cards were left at the Village Hall. Posters were also hung in all those locations, on noticeboards in Eastcourt, Chelworth and Chedglow and on Telephone Poles around the Parish.

The leaflet and comment card:

- Provided an explanation of what a Neighbourhood Plan is and why we need one
- Set out the NP Process in 5 stages, explaining where and how parishioners can engage with the process.
- Encouraged Parishioners to tell us what they care about in Crudwell Parish by filling out a comment card
- Provided subject headings for reference (see attached)

Parishioners were then able to submit comments up until 16th January 2018, by:

- Filling out the comment card and posting it at one of our drop locations
- E-mailing comments to us directly
- Completing the survey online via SurveyMonkey

Parishioners were given contact information as follows:

- Website address www.my-crudwell.org/plan
- E-mail address plan@my-crudwell.org
- Address and a phone number

Breakdown of Respondents

We received 122 responses to our survey, with the following characteristics:

All 122 resident in the Parish - Comprising 3 in Chedglow, 111 in Crudwell, 5 in Eastcourt and 3 in Murcott

36 residents identified themselves as 60+, 1 as under 18, 1 as Disabled, 22 as Parents at School, 14 as working in the Parish, and 8 as local businesses/employers.

Key Messages from Public Engagement

Built Environment – 108/122 (89%) identified Built Environment as an area important to them.

The responses generally noted that any housing developments within Crudwell Parish need to be planned carefully and with a long-term view so as not to adversely impact the environment and put additional strain on infrastructure and community resources.

The responses generally questioned how infrastructure would be provided alongside any new development.

The Neighbourhood Plan should help ensure that any decisions taken are open, transparent and serve the interests of the community at large.

Many speak of the importance of any further allocation of sites for development in the Parish being based on a genuine need and taking into account the legitimate and real concerns felt by the local community as well as a full and careful consideration of the options available and any applicable environmental and infrastructure constraints.

- Housing in Principle – there was a range of views expressed:
 - no new development
 - no new greenfield development – brownfield and in-fill only / first
 - consider development at Eastcourt, Chedglow etc
 - must be well designed/ sympathetic
 - must deal with infrastructure impacts
 - need for housing to meet a particular need – affordable, social, starter, low-cost, for younger people, for older people, for disabled people, bungalows
 - consider making self-build plots available to help address need for affordable homes
 - smaller developments better than one larger development

- 10% increase (c25 new dwellings)/c40 new dwellings acceptable in 5 year period
 - should be gradual and small scale and not concentrated heavily at any one site (maximum of 12-15 houses).
 - don't stifle growth – create vibrant community
 - Crudwell Parish should not carry an undue burden for N. Wilts as a whole.
 - Retention of gaps between villages/avoidance of coalescence is important
 - Consider small-scale developments in outlying villages or other sites around the parish.
 - Consider development at the former RAF Kemble base in collaboration with Gloucestershire.
- Design – importance of retaining Cotswold style, high quality, importance of sustainability/green build standards/renewable energy, inclusion of electric car charging points, landscaping/softening, feeling of space.
 - Environment - consider impact on biodiversity
 - Need for pavement if new housing is proposed east of A429
 - Potential to consider Kemble Airfield
 - Retain character of village and the intrinsic 'community' element
 - Infrastructure - precede any development with appropriate capacity improvements in vital services such as roads, sewerage, water and drainage and schools.
 - Traffic is a major concern in amongst parishioners - many voiced concerns about rising volumes of traffic, with some highlighting what they see as a connection between large scale developments / executive homes, and increased volumes of traffic.
 - Environment – Some felt that new housing developments need to be planned with a long-term view so as not to adversely impact the environment. For instance extra run-off from more housing areas with increased impermeable surfaces is a concern for flooding. Overdevelopment of housing with associated 'land take' / fragmentation of habitats and destruction of habitats is a concern.

Traffic/Transport – 99/122 (81%) identified this as an area important to them.

Road safety

- Many commented that traffic capacity issues need to be addressed, (this could be about making buses more useable, and providing safer walking routes to school etc)
- Concerns about speed/safety, especially on A429 and Tetbury Lane – cameras, policing, traffic calming, extension of 30mph zone
- Better/more / continuous pavements (e.g. Tetbury Lane from The Street to village hall)/school /cycleways, accessibility for people with wheelchairs/pushchairs, safety of horse riders and cyclists
- Hazardous junctions
- Safe crossing points across A429, especially near Potting Shed/ school

Condition of roads, footpaths and byways

- Need to maintain roads better – unblock drains, resurface roads and footpaths

Public transport

- Need more buses – e.g. shuttle service to Malmesbury, Kemble station and Cirencester, improve timing of 93 bus service so it arrives in Malmesbury to connect with buses to Swindon/Bath/Chippenham
- More practical bus shelter that allows you to see buses coming

Community – 91/122 (75%) identified Community as an area important to them

General feeling that there is a strong sense of community – important that new developments across the Parish don't undermine this. Villages are friendly and inclusive.

Important to preserve the open public spaces, village hall, school, preschool, post office, mobile library, church and village events and support local businesses such as the Garage, pubs and hotels.

Facilities

- Re-establish a village shop / coffee shop – possibly community owned. Expand the post office in Crudwell.
- Need for more clubs, societies, community events for under 18s, working people and OAPs e.g. Yoga, tennis club, cricket club
- Preserve open spaces for recreation
- Recreation facilities for teenagers – e.g. outdoor table tennis, youth club
- Extend/update the village hall to offer more activities to encourage community cohesion
- Sports pavilion at playing field
- More dog poo bins
- Better recycling facilities at the village hall
- Medical facilities – first aid response team
- Don't forget about Eastcourt and other smaller villages in the Parish.
- Web/email based community information, e.g. Oaksey Buzz, importance of "What's on in Crudwell"

School

There was a range of views put forward on this subject:

- School is already at capacity, maintain at current levels OR find a new site with easy access and room for expansion
- Expand school to full form 1 entry
- Good school with small classes at threat from lots of development – school already full with no plans for expansion
- Development should be planned alongside expansion of primary school

- Concern also around school growing due to pavements and traffic – road safety
- Don't want to lose playground to classroom space
- Parking around school very limited – Mayhem at drop off and pick up times

Infrastructure – 85/122 (70%) identified Infrastructure as an area important to them

There is concern that Infrastructure as it stands is overstretched and needs investment / upgrading to support current population and any future development in the Parish.

Water and Sewage

- Surface water drainage/flooding – needs resolution – problems on Tetbury Lane and Tuners Lane referred to, need to clean out culverts.
- Sewerage system – problem with backing up in heavy rain.
- Water supply – suggestion of lower pressure after Ridgeway Farm development.

Broadband and Mobile signal

- Mobile phone – coverage poor in smaller villages and outlying areas.
- Broadband speeds are poor in much of the parish.
- Electricity supply – erratic at times (is this a major issue?)

Environment – 44/122 (36%) identified Environment as an area important to them.

- Maintain drainage channels
- Importance of protecting wildlife/focus on conservation
- Importance of recycling and waste reduction
- Traffic noise
- Impact of agricultural traffic, especially at harvest time
- Avoid light pollution, keep street lights to a minimum
- Manage pollution in watercourses
- Consider opportunities for green energy e.g. wind turbine to supply electricity
- Protection of green spaces
- Define nature of conservation area to enable it to be protected

Identity – 27/122 (22%) identified Identity as an area important to them. There were additional comments relating to Identity but these were wrapped up in Built Environment, Environment and Community.

- Villages wish to remain as communities where people actually “live” rather than becoming commuter villages for surrounding towns.
- Preserve character of village, particularly rural nature/agricultural context
- Protect heritage and conservation area
- Importance of relationship with Gloucestershire, e.g. Kemble airfield
- Importance of gaps between villages/towns

Economy – 19/122 (16%) identified Economy as an area important to them.

- Protect Kemble airfield as an employment location
- Expansion of job opportunities at Kemble Business Park
- Support local businesses and organisations e.g. holiday lets, coffee shops, Yoga etc
- Support working from home – e.g. faster broadband, better mobile coverage

Summary of Key Points

Infrastructure and Transport:

- Deal with flooding
- Deal with sewerage back up issues in heavy rain
- Provide necessary infrastructure enhancements alongside any development
- Improve mobile signal in outlying villages
- Faster broadband speeds for outlying areas of the Parish
- Improve road safety
- Adopt more holistic approach to public transport, ensuring more frequent bus services, linking with local towns, railway stations and connecting services to improve commuter connections and local journeys in line with the needs of the community.
- Tackle poor road conditions

Development and Design:

- Meet local housing needs, especially affordable housing
- Protect and enhance our natural, built and historic environment, as a rural and agricultural community, with appropriately located, scaled and designed new development

Environment:

- Protect the local landscape and farming community
- Protect the conservation area
- Preserve and maintain our green spaces, water courses and natural environment for the benefit of people, flora and wildlife
- Preserve and improve our recreational open spaces
- Better promotion and enablement of recycling and waste reduction
- Explore and exploit opportunities for green build standards, renewable energy

Community, leisure and identity:

- Improve and protect existing community facilities, especially school, church, local businesses, village hall and open spaces
- New facilities to support our growing population, which reflect the strong sense of community felt in our Parish, a village shop for example
- Improve recreation opportunities, especially for teenagers