

Broadwindsor Group Parish Council

Neighbourhood Development Plan Update on Progress

Volunteers from within the Parish have been making steady progress on the Neighbourhood Plan, I hope this article will help to keep you informed.

A significant milestone was gathering your views through the questionnaire and the results are available for all to see on the Broadwindsor Parish Council website on the Neighbourhood Plan section. (broadwindsorgroup.gov.uk/community/neighbourhood-plan)

I would like to thank everyone who took the time and effort to complete this questionnaire, we received a 60% response rate which is very good in comparison to other places.

The Plan vision for development within the Parish

Your responses helped to develop the vision which is now driving the Plan:

“Our vision is that during the next twenty years residents will have enough suitable and environmentally friendly homes, which fit into the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty which they value so highly; and that there will be good schools, safe roadways and support for local employment and local services which ensure that all ages, in every part of our parish, are able to enjoy life to the full.”

A brief summary of some of the questionnaire findings

What people value

Facilities for leisure and recreation, good social life and community spirit and neighbourliness; local services and shops, the distinctive character of villages and buildings, landscape and scenery, plus being in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Concerns

There is dissatisfaction both with parking and safety for cyclists and walkers, and by far the greatest number of written suggestions were about speed and the size of vehicles.

There was clear support for increasing the number of passing places but no desire for increased street lighting.

Employment and Buildings

Protection of existing employment sites, allowing conversion of redundant buildings to employment use and encouraging more people to work from home were popular.

Development

There was little support for open market and private rental housing. However there was support for adaptable and shared ownership and housing association homes, especially for younger local people. A Community Land Trust type scheme was supported.

1 or 2 bedroom homes for first time buyers was the most strongly supported option, there was clear opposition to having larger development sites and the preferred option was to have more sites with fewer houses. Most disagreed that there should be less growth than had happened previously, the strongest support was to continue the average rate of development (about 5 a year).

Next stages

Protecting areas you value

We are listing all the green spaces in the Parish that we would like to see protected from any development so that these are written into the plan, for example the allotments, Hursey Common, all the recreational areas, sports fields and the cricket ground. Many parts of our Parish have A.O.N.B protection already but *there might be areas that you find important to protect, so please let us have your thoughts and suggestions so we don't miss any!*

Call for Sites

We have to put out a “call for sites” to collate any areas that people might like to develop: part of a large garden, a redundant building, or land not being used for any other purpose. There is no guarantee that any of the sites put forward will get planning permission. Having this information is important for the Plan, because it is going to be our way forward with regard to planning and development for about the next 20 years.

I would like to thank all the members of the Neighbourhood Planning Committee for their continued support and hard work in getting the plan to where we are now and look forward to finishing this task as soon as possible. (If you could help on our small committee, do please let me know, see below for contact details).

For information on the “Call for Sites” and application form please see the Parish Council website or contact me (about the call for sites, to offer help, or anything else about the Plan) via rowlandhibbard@yahoo.co.uk or write to me: Rowland Hibbard , Meadow View, Kittwhistle, Beaminster, Dorset DT8 3LG.

Rowland Hibbard
(Chairman)