

Report on the the Scoping Survey Numbers and Written Representations

General

The purpose of the Scoping Survey is to provide a broad perspective on the Planning Issues in play within the Stoke Hammond Parish.

The Parish has approximately 800 residents in Stoke Hammond Village and surrounding areas and 500 residents in the new Newton Leys development.

There were 96 responses to the survey with single figures from Newton Leys. The following feedback is unlikely to be at all representative of the issues felt by Newton Leys Parishioners.

Priority Order of Issues for the Community

Looking purely at the numbers managing traffic impacts were of greatest concern, whilst protecting sensitive landscapes and enhancing community facilities were deemed very important to two-thirds of respondents.

Protecting Bio diversity, preserving heritage, protecting agriculture and existing buildings maintaining their current feel was deemed very important by 50% of people.

The written comments add some additional clarity. About 40% were in favour of no further development, with 55% suggesting it should be within the village boundaries and 5% recommending building on the edge. Protecting the Villages key Green spaces was also given a significant number of mentions.

With respect to Traffic, planning concerns were largely to do with access to new developments and the growing problems of parking within the new estates, on the main road and around the village shop. Very few comments were made with respect to resolving speeding but those that did were strongly in favour of traffic calming measures.

96% of people stated the network of footpaths were important to them, reflecting their significance in peoples leisure activities. Over half of the respondents felt there was a need for additional footpaths and the written responses provided details of where these should be. A link to the 3 Locks Pub was particularly desired.

The numbers show that with respect to housing type desired two thirds favoured special housing for the elderly, first time buyers and 2/3 bedroom houses. There was negligible support for the introduction of flats.

Facilities Questions

The numbers showed a universal desire for the return of the Pub (98%). Two thirds favoured a kid's recreational area and a café. Over 50% felt there was a need for a pre school/Junior School and a chemist.

The written responses relating to teenagers and seniors showed a desire for a meeting place/café specifically for seniors and a youth club facility plus extra sporting facilities for youngsters.

The specific questions relating to the Community Centre demonstrated 50% of people felt it wasn't fit for purpose. The majority of complaints quoting it was too small and that the growing playgroup made daytime use impossible. Similarly the Sports Club was felt to be too small to provide the full range of sports facilities for the size of our current community.

The playground was largely deemed a good resource although there were some requests for improvements to accommodate older children.

The additional question with respect to the best use of Bragenham Side was largely split between 3 options. Firstly to maintain as natural green space enabling walking (with and without dogs), picnics, nature activities possibly with an Orchard. The second option was for a multi service building/Community Centre/Village hall that would be big enough to offer daytime use and a broader range of sports facilities. The third option was to utilize the field to expand outside sports activities such as Tennis and youth football. Other less significant ideas were to use the field as allotments and as parking to support the existing community infrastructure or new ones. Clearly many of these ideas are not mutually exclusive.

The overall out take on this section is that the existing facilities do not satisfy the community need and that there is scope to extend existing or build new facilities within the community.

Landscape and Heritage

The landscape and heritage questions largely supported the value people put on being part of a village. 88% of respondents thought it very important to protect the local landscape from harmful development and 82% thought it very important to protect local gaps between the parish and surrounding urban areas. On balance landscape was deemed more important than buildings and bio diversity with 58% saying the former was very important and 55% the latter.

In particular the value of village walks was raised in writing by over half the respondents. The Church, Church Road and Old School Lane all received significant mentions and the views across the Brickhills, the Canal as well as those from the church received the most comments.

Potential Development Sites

Only 16% of respondents actually mentioned a potential development site and only 4 areas got more than one mention. These were Bragenaham Side, Community Centre and land, the field adjacent to the sports field (not Bragenham Side) and land by the Church where the old buildings exist.

Demographics

Only 57% of respondents added the postcode so its difficult to be precise how representative this is of the whole village geographically.

The age distribution of respondents was

18 – 24	4%
25 – 44	13%
45 - 64	51 %
65 – 79	26%
80 +	7%

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