

SOMERBY PARISH

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT DROP-IN EVENT

17 NOVEMBER 2018

CONSULTATION ANALYSIS



1. Background

Project Brief

Somerby Parish Council through its Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Committee organised an open event at the Methodist Church in Somerby on 17 November 2018 (12:00 pm – 3:00 pm) to share the emerging policies with those who live and work in the parish of Somerby.

The aim of this event was to see whether or not the local community supported the emerging policies – including ones on housing, Local Green Space and environment; community facilities; design; transport and business.

Publicity

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

- Members of the Parish Council and Advisory Committee spoke to villagers to inform them of the event and to encourage attendance.
- Leaflets and posters were distributed and were on display in the parish

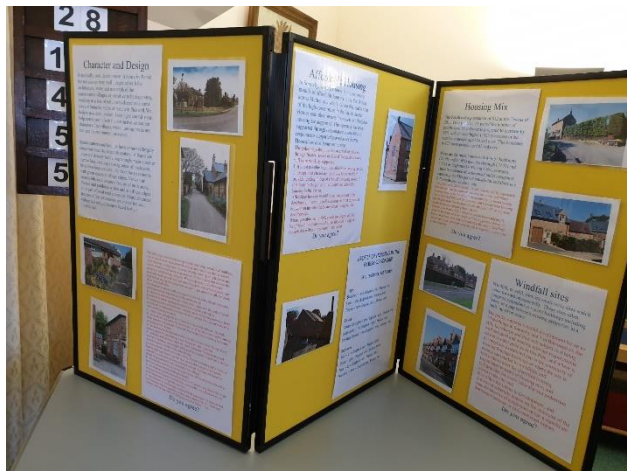
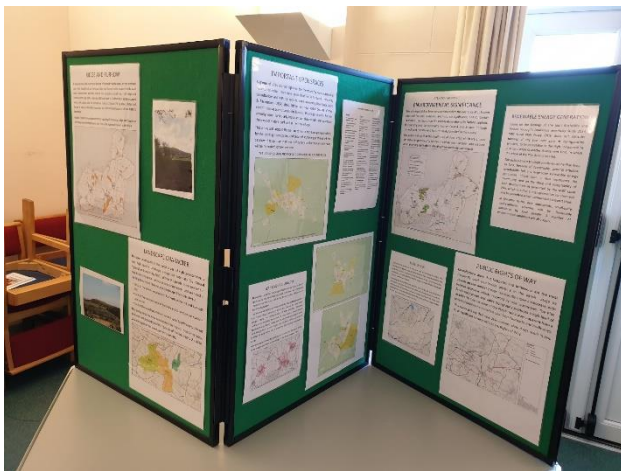
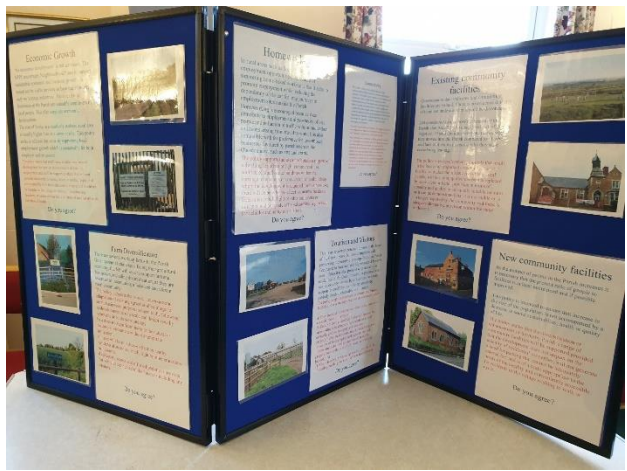
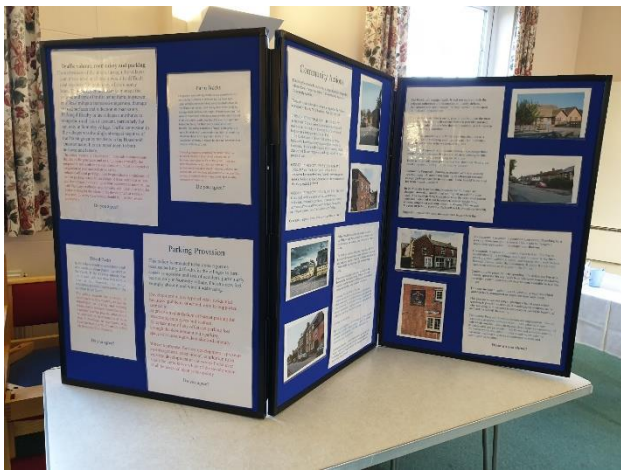
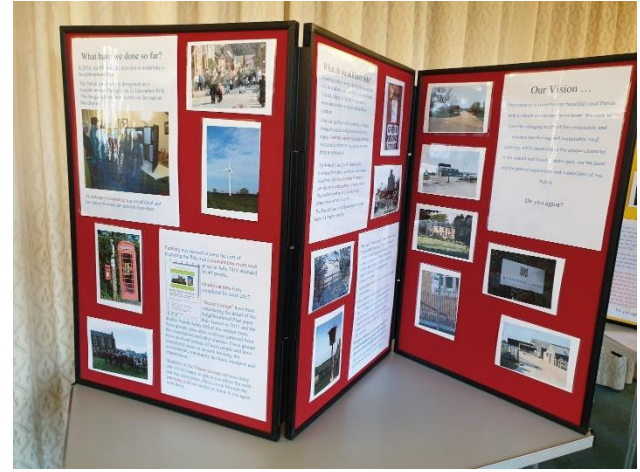
Attendees

A total of 73 people attended the event.

2. Format of Event

Sign in	Members of the Advisory Committee welcomed attendees on arrival and recorded attendance. Arrangements for the Open Event were explained.
Background	The first displays introduced Neighbourhood Planning and described the process that had been followed to date..
Consultation on key issues	<p>A series of display boards were spread across the room, each of which focussed on the emerging policies within the draft Neighbourhood Plan – including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Housing – Site allocation, mix, design, affordable housing;▪ Environment –Local Green Space and other environmental protections including views;▪ Transport – Including parking and congestion;▪ Businesses and Employment;▪ Community Facilities; <p>Having read the displays, attendees were asked to indicate their support for the policy. General comments were welcomed, and members of the NP team were on hand to record people’s views.</p>

The next page shows the display boards detailing the emerging policies.



3. Consultation findings – analysis of ‘tick box’ responses

73 people signed in, 53 response sheets were returned (some couples completed one sheet between them)

TOPIC	AGREE	DISAGREE	UNSURE	NO TICK
OUR VISION	47	0	3	3
HOUSING	39	5	3	6
LIMITS TO DEVELOPMENT	39	6	5	3
WINDFALL SITES	36	3	6	8
CHARACTER & DESIGN	47	1	1	4
HOUSING MIX	36	7	4	6
AFFORDABLE HOUSING	35	6	7	5
EXISTING COMMUNITY FACILITIES	41	1	3	8
NEW COMMUNITY FACILITIES	40	1	2	10
ECONOMIC GROWTH	43	2	2	6
FARM DIVERSIFICATION	38	1	8	6
HOMEWORKING	45	0	1	7
TOURISM & VISITORS	36	0	3	14
CONNECTIVITY	32	2	1	18
TRAFFIC VOLUME, ROAD SAFETY, PARKING	42	1	4	6
FARM TRACKS	38	1	5	9
PARKING PROVISION	39	0	1	13
TRAVEL PACKS	34	4	6	9
COMMUNITY ACTIONS	32	1	4	16
TOTAL	739 (73.4%)	42 (4.2%)	69 (6.8%)	157 (15.6%)

Rows and columns total 1007 (19 x 53) therefore we have confidence in this count.

4.0 Consultation findings – summary of verbatim comments

Out of 53 response sheets 46 contained at least one comment in free text. All of these have been collated verbatim and retained. This document is a summary. Nobody commented on all sections and most only on two or three therefore the spreadsheet of 'agree / disagree / unsure' ticks is a much better quantitative indication of support or otherwise for the draft policies themselves, but these comments have high qualitative value. Comments summarised as follows:

VISION

Seven comments. Two praising it, one questioning whether the community is presently 'vibrant', one preferring 'adaptation' to 'conservation', one I couldn't understand, two making comments on later headings (so included there).

HOUSING

- 5 x All housing developments should be small.
- 4 x Development should be limited because of limited roads infrastructure and congestion.
- 3 x Somerby cannot / should not sustain more than new 44 houses.
- 1 x Parish needs more housing but careful consideration is necessary.
- 1 x Develop infill plots before green fields.
- 1 x Somerby can sustain no more than already planned, Pickwell and Burrough should take more.
- 1 x No development on flood plain.
- 1 x Particular need for affordable housing.
- 1 x Particular need for bungalows.
- 1 x Reservations about the MBC site allocations because the parish would easily meet the housing requirement without them.
- 1 x Suggestion for demolition and replacement with better quality homes (where appropriate).
- 1 x Concern that lack of gas supply in Somerby restricts heating / fuel options.

LIMITS TO DEVELOPMENT

- 3 x NP should prevent development of SOM 2, SOM 3 or both.
- 3 x Keep development small.
- 2 x LTD essential to maintain character of the villages as per the NP vision.
- 1 x Green fields should be outside LTD. Prefer brownfield sites.
- 1 x We also need to control developments outside the limits to development.
- 1 x Objection to a development already approved with disregard for proposed LTD.
- 1 x Support limits due to traffic issues.
- 1 x Will need reviewing on a regular basis.
- 1 x Query on definition of LTD.

WINDFALL SITES

- 2 x Urging careful consideration and caution.
- 2 x Queries on definition.
- 1 x Windfall preferable to large housing developments.
- 1 x Ensure wildlife homes are respected eg. In old barns.
- 1 x Importance of materials and traditional design/construction methods.
- 1 x Ten houses is too impacting (too many) for a windfall site.
- 1 x Consider demolition and better rebuilding on less viable sites.

CHARACTER & DESIGN

- 2 x Design must be sympathetic to the setting (not necessarily 'traditional').
- 2 x Must include adequate provision for car parking / transport.
- 1 x Village centre is difficult to develop.
- 1 x Trees and hedges should be retained not replaced.
- 1 x Skyline not very important.
- 1 x Query how this will address older persons' age-specific needs?

HOUSING MIX

- 2 x More smaller houses / bungalows for the elderly (to release larger houses).
- 1 x Elderly need improved public transport as well.
- 1 x Families likely to need 3-4 bed houses. Smaller houses not compatible with homeworking.
- 1 x Mix needs to reflect rural community need.
- 1 x Rooms classed as 'bedrooms' might be used for eg. Studies, offices etc.
- 1 x Query whether older people want to downsize.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

- 17 x General (often strong) support for affordable housing, but some qualified this support:
 - 3 x only for people with a local connection, not 'overspill' from elsewhere.
 - 3 x only if it caters for both ends of the age spectrum (including disability).
 - 2 x affordable homes in Melton would be more effective because of travel costs.
 - 1 x only if accompanied by better public transport.
 - 1 x only if integrated within schemes, not separated.
 - 1 x not if it diverts funds from other priorities.
 - 1 x only if housing density is not too high.
- 2 x Somerby already has enough. No more unless need proved.
- 1 x Preference for affordable purchase / shared ownership rather than rental.
- 1 x Affordable housing would still have to meet all other criteria in the NP.
- 1 x Query definition of exactly what affordable housing is.
- 1 x Affordable housing might increase crime.

EXISTING COMMUNITY FACILITIES

- 1 x Any development should offer better provision not just equivalent.
- 1 x There is a limit to what a village can provide. Different people want different things.
- 1 x Facilities are already good.

NEW COMMUNITY FACILITIES

- 4 x Link new facilities to risk of increased traffic, parking problems, reduced road safety.
- 1 x We should encourage provision of more facilities.
- 1 x We don't need any more facilities.
- 1 x Only if they do not impact on amenity of existing properties. On
- 1 x Increase green lane network for motorcycles.

ECONOMIC GROWTH

- 4 x Yes but it must be small / careful / environmental / in keeping with village life.
- 4 x Yes but not if it worsens the traffic situation.
- 1 x Economic development must not cause light pollution.

FARM DIVERSIFICATION

- 2 x Not huge barns in middle of fields (one mentions light pollution).
- 1 x Need to ensure that field margins are protected.
- 1 x Worried about parking.
- 1 x Must be properly controlled.
- 1 x Must be in keeping with locality.

HOMEWORKING

- 1 x Worried about increase in traffic issues.
- 1 x Broadband and mobile phone reception need improving.
- 1 x Provided any building etc. is small scale.
- 1 x Visitors to business should only be during office hours.

TOURISM

- 1 x Very much to be encouraged.
- 1 x Must have no adverse impact on nearby residents.
- 1 x Consider traffic / parking impact.

1 x People will always come and go as they feel like it.

CONNECTIVITY

3 x Improve the postal service.

4 x Improve broadband and mobile phone reception.

2 x Health risks from electromagnetism outweigh benefits. Do not use new transmitters.

TRAFFIC VOLUME, ROAD SAFETY, PARKING

7 x Specific concern that new development / growth will worsen congestion / parking / road safety.

4 x General concern about ongoing traffic and parking problems.

1 x Strong support for NP policies.

1 x Not sure NP policy will work in Somerby.

1 x Express need to keep this issue before MBC and make them recognize it.

FARM TRACKS

2 x Must be for farm traffic only.

1 x Query if landowners will let them be used other than by their own vehicles.

1 x Query will they be available to horses?

1 x Suggestion that if this could be linked with footpaths it would be helpful.

PARKING PROVISION

3 x Something must be done but it seems impossible / difficult to address.

2 x Any new developments should include adequate parking facilities.

1 x Parking permits for High St residents who already have parking behind their property.

1 x Parking standards to reflect National standards and predictions of car growth, use of electric vehicles, cycling and flexibility.

1 x Encourage those who already have parking spaces to use them or 'rent' to others.

TRAVEL PACKS

2 x They're a good idea.

3 x The bus service isn't very useful.

1 x Free bus pass only for people on benefits.

1 x Not everyone requires one.

1 x Should be a low priority / not necessary.

1 x Add to bus 'or such equivalent as may exist at the time'.

1 x Points out walking and cycling not safe between Burrough and Somerby.

1 x Query who would keep the pack up to date?

1 x Query where does that leave current dwellings of less than 5?

COMMUNITY ACTIONS

2 x People offering their 'spare' off road parking to others is unlikely to help much.

1 x Concerned about flooding.

1 x Concerned about street lighting.

1 x Concerned about large wind turbines.

1 x Encourage small businesses.

1 x Need community actions for the environment.

'OTHER'

2 x Requests to prevent light pollution and curb badly-designed floodlights (commercial or domestic)

1 x Bus service needs to be retained.

1 x Could be more forward-looking on energy, biodiversity and transport.

1 x Support a footpath and cycle way between Somerby and Burrough and Burrough Hill.

1 x Suggestion: to consult former residents to establish why they left.

1 x Suggestion: Travel provision to, from and between the villages is essential to tourism.

1 x Query: are biodiversity, green spaces etc in the plan? The actions we have are not clear.

4 x Queries on mapped features:

- Important open spaces – parkland HP2 extends further to Pickwell road on the village margin marked behind Hall Farm.
- Wildlife – priority species – curlews on farmland on Newbold Lane.
- Biodiversity & wildlife – Marefield Ln crossing at top not on map. Can you tell us what species were identified?
- Public rights of way – did the poster have all rights of way on? You have missed crossing Marefield / Dawsons Lane.

5.0 Photographs of event

