

Neighbourhood Plan

Summary of Survey Results



Virtually all the results of the survey are now entered up on the website: 137 responses; there were 6 others that were not sufficiently fully completed, for the site to accept. The full results will be available on the site shortly.

Section 1: Housing & Development

Rother District Council's local plan dictates that 30 dwellings should be built in the Parish over the next 15 years.

47% said they were happy with this; 41% thought there should be less.

1. Where should these new houses be built?

98% felt only brown-field sites should be developed, and 86% said that they should be within the village development area.

2. What type(s) of housing should be built in the Parish in the next 15 years?

The main preferences were:

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|---|-----|
| Housing Association for rent/shared ownership | 51% |
| Low cost for owner occupation | 79% |
| Family homes for owner occupation | 61% |
| Suitable for the elderly | 52% |

3. Important features for any new development

Design in keeping with nearby houses, including gardens, keeping existing trees and hedges, appropriate distance from neighbouring houses, and off-street parking were all considered important or very important by the majority (between 75% and 88%, apart from parking 93%).

4. Worries about further development in the parish

The main worries were:

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|-----|-----------------------------------|-----|
| Lack of adequate parking | 83% | Increased traffic | 76% |
| Loss of countryside &/ green space | 72% | Building on a flood-plain | 66% |
| Unsafe pedestrian routes | 61% | Not including affordable housing | 59% |
| Overloaded sewage & drainage | 56% | Oversubscribed medical facilities | 41% |

Section 2: Community, infrastructure and local economy

1. Do you think the following groups are sufficiently catered for by facilities in the parish at present?

The majority felt that pre-school and school-age children, and adults and the elderly, were sufficiently catered for, but young adults, and the disabled, were not. There were suggestions for how to improve the position of young adults: transport to towns and more social activities and sports (including football); and for the disabled: a road crossing, pavement improvements, community bus service and a satellite surgery.

2. Adequacy of the services currently in the Parish

Almost everybody was happy with all the services, except some 50% were unhappy with mobile phone reception and broadband speed. There were suggestions about the provision of mains gas in the village, and mains drainage in the outlying areas.

3. Which local businesses and/or services operating in the parish do you use?

The majority use all the local shops, the Post Office, and the Bistro. There were suggestions for other shops, including a bakery, pharmacy, an affordable grocery shop/general store, and some other less likely ones.

4. Concerns

All the listed concerns were considered important or very important by the majority. The biggest concerns were litter (81%), dog fouling (77%), burglary (75%), and flooding (69%)

5. Tourism

There was an almost equal split between those who thought enough was done, those who thought not, and those who answered "don't know". Many thought there were too many B and B's, but some thought we needed more, and publicising walks was considered important.

Section 3: Transport & traffic

1. Does your household use public transport to and from the Parish?

25% use the train frequently, only 4% the bus, and 0% taxis.

2. What can be done to help residents without access to private cars get to vital services (for example hospitals)?

Improve the bus services, encourage car-sharing and voluntary driver schemes ("dial a ride").

3. How can the condition of the roads be improved?

There were comments concerning pothole repairs, discouraging driving on pavements, hedge cutting in country lanes, reducing heavy lorries, and cleaning drains and ditches and keeping them repaired.

4. Are there any roads in the Parish that you consider should have a different speed limit or other form of traffic control?

Almost all the roads in the parish were mentioned and there were many comments.

5. Do you have any concerns about parking in the village? If so where?

There were many concerns about parking in and around the village.

Section 4: Farming, environment and countryside

1. How important are the following farming activities to the Parish?

All farming activities were considered important or very important by almost everybody. There were comments regarding river clearance and maintenance, and the control of deer and badgers.

2. How important are the following countryside activities in the Parish?

All the listed countryside activities were considered important or very important. There were comments about improvements to footpaths and bridleways, and suggestions about off-road cycle paths, dog-friendly styles, and overgrown river banks not suitable for fishing. Painting and photography were mentioned as additional important activities.

3. What features are important in the Parish?

Almost everybody felt all the listed features were important or very important, and the churchyard was mentioned as an addition - to be maintained for future generations. There was some interest in the provision of allotments and community orchards.

Section 5 Your household

60% of those who responded live in the village centre, 40% in the outlying parts.

47% have lived here for 20+ years; 21% for less than 5 years; and the balance for 6 - 20 years.