

RECORD OF OPEN EVENT - HELD BETWEEN 1.30 PM AND 4.00 PM ON SATURDAY THE 12TH SEPTEMBER 2015 AT THE WAVENDON COMMUNITY CENTRE, TO PRESENT AND RECEIVE FEEDBACK ON THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN QUESTIONNAIRE.

Present:

Cllr Jim Pittman (Wavendon Parish Council)
Cllr Norman Wilkes (Wavendon Parish Council)
Cllr Alan Pugh (Wavendon Parish Council)
Cllr David Hopkins (Wavendon Parish Council)
Sue Jobbins (Shapping Communities Limited)
Ron Jamieson (Neighbourhood Team Member)
Cllr Alice Bramall (Ward Councillor)
Ray Holmwood (St Marys Church)
17 – Local Residents.

Apologies:

None received.

Neighbourhood Plan Objectives:

The steering group has identified six issues that the plan will address and these are:

- Identifying local housing need and preferred sites for future development (outside the Strategic Land Allocation - SLA).
- Influencing design, type, tenure and scale of new housing outside of the SLA,
- Protecting important views and green spaces to help maintain the rural character of Wavendon Parish.
- Protecting Recreation Ground and Community Centre in Wavendon Village.
- Working with Milton Keynes Council to improve road safety in the parish and to address parking concerns at key locations. Also to introduce new cycle ways and footpaths in and around the parish to improve connection to community facilities and the countryside.
- Developing and enhancing the business economy of Wavendon Parish to ensure that it is as economically sustainable as possible when taking into account the new housing.

CONSULTATION TIME FRAME:

Re-Launch of plan with community	Sept 2014
Older Persons Consultation	October 14
Business Consultation	Not Completed
Questionnaire survey	April – June 2015
Consultation feedback exhibition	Sept 2015
Consultation on draft options for Plan	Feb 2016
Start of statutory consultation on pre-submission NP document (min 6 weeks)	April 2016
MKC Plan publicity (min 6 weeks)	June 2016
Referendum	Sept 2016

Objective 1 - Identifying local housing need and preferred sites for future development (outside the Strategic Land Allocation - SLA).

Questionnaire Feedback

1. The key theme to emerge from both the quantitative and qualitative feedback was that new housing development, excluding the Strategic Land Allocation (SLA) was not required in Wavendon Parish. The following quote is typical of the qualitative feedback; "*The SLA has taken all the available land, more than enough to supply our local needs, we will have absorbed more than enough to accommodate our local needs and our open spaces need protecting.*" When 16 potential sites for more housing were provided for respondents to evaluate, in each location the majority reported that they 'Strongly Disagreed' or 'Disagreed' with any further development
2. No Development at Wavendon Fields and Land West of Newport Road; In terms of potential sites for new development, respondents were most against any activity at 'Wavendon Fields' with 70% stating they 'Strongly Disagree' and 16% 'Disagree' and the 'Land West of Newport Road'. (65% Strongly Disagree and 15% Disagree) Qualitative analysis highlighted that the main reasons for the unpopularity of any new development at both of these sites, were the increase in traffic congestion and need to preserve green spaces/ buffer zones in the village.

Feedback received for Objective 1 is recorded below:

- Whilst most of us strongly disagree with any developments we will as usual be ignored in favour of profit.
- Presumably development East of Newport Road is acceptable. Does this not affect traffic congestion?
- Completely agree with the questionnaire feedback.
- Green spaces, not development.
- Completely agree no further housing. Walton Road traffic problem not yet addressed.
- No mention of 'problem' of Lower End Road – traffic volumes should not be increased.
- No development, the roads are already full to capacity. We need Green space for the feeling of 'Wellbeing'
- We agree with item 1.

Objective 2 - Influencing design, type, tenure and scale of new housing outside of the SLA.

Questionnaire Feedback

1. Despite the overriding conclusion that new housing outside of the SLA was not required respondents were hypothetically asked to comment on the design, type, tenure and scale if any new development were to take place.
2. Type and Tenure; In terms of type and tenure 74% stated any new development should be affordable homes specifically for local people with a connection to Wavendon and 62% stated Homes for Sale on the Open Market. 80% of respondents also felt any new houses should fit in visually with the rest of the parish and should have off street parking. (72%)

3. Old and Young Person's Needs; Catering for the housing needs of both old and young people were identified in the survey results. When respondents were asked how important new housing development was in Wavendon Parish, 67% stated to enable older people to move into more suitable accommodation for their needs whilst 62% stated to enable local young people to remain living in the parish.
4. Development on Brownfield Land; 86% of respondents when considering sites to 'Accommodate more housing in Wavendon Parish, outside the SLA and other than the development on individual plots' felt 'Brownfield Land' was the most appropriate.
5. Conversion of Redundant or empty or derelict buildings; Highlighting the feeling that new housing was not needed 76% of those surveyed reported that the 'Conversion of redundant or empty or derelict buildings' was the appropriate form of future development in Wavendon Parish.

Feedback received for Objective 2 is recorded below:

- There is more than enough potential development (e.g. infill etc.) to cater for residents without large scale developments.
- Agree with Brownfield Site development and derelict / redundant buildings.
- Brownfield sites used first although I do feel that no new housing is needed. If new roads are built they should discourage rat running and speeding.
- Agree with item 2.

Objective 3 - Protecting important views and green spaces to help maintain the rural character of Wavendon Parish.

Questionnaire Feedback

1. Green Spaces and Buffer Zones; the preservation of the green spaces in and around Wavendon Parish was a key theme to emerge from the qualitative and quantitative feedback from the completed surveys. An example of a substantiating comment is "*We are really concerned that Wavendon is losing its character as a rural village, the reason we moved here.*" Quantitatively, 90% of respondents were 'Concerned a Lot' in terms of the impact any new housing development would have on the 'Rural nature of Wavendon Parish, such as the countryside and open spaces' and 70% of respondents stated that they would like to see more 'Buffer Zones' (wooded areas) over the next 15 years.
2. Protecting Green Spaces and Views; The need to protect important views and green spaces to help maintain the rural character of Wavendon Parish was evidenced when 95% of respondents stated the 'Green between St Mary's Close and Walton Road', 90% the 'Village entrance at the junction of Walton Road and Newport Road', 88% the 'Existing Allotments' and 87% the 'Green Island at the junction of Walton Road and Stockwell Lane' all needed protecting. Similarly, respondents were keen to see the following views of attractive buildings and landmarks protected, 90% the 'Rural character of Lower End Road', 88% the 'Rural character of Phoebe Lane', 86% the 'Wooded area off Walton Road' and 78% the 'Manor House view from Lower End Road'.

Feedback received for Objective 3 is recorded below:

- Character of village is already lost. Some recovery would be recovered if Walton Road is closed to THROUGH TRAFFIC, to end the constant use as a 'Rat Run'
- Agree with feedback for objective 3.
- Remember that Wavendon (& the Neighbourhood Plan) is more than Wavendon village. Other settlements within the Parish should also be protected.
- Agree – Green spaces needed and protected – character of the village is important. Large Buffer zone.
- Yes agree with feedback. Green spaces and character of village should be protected.
- Agree need for green buffer zone.
- The "buffer zone" already in place (SLA) and round the rest of Wavendon should be much bigger, not a narrow strip!
- Agree with feedback for objective 3.

Objective 4 - Protecting Recreation Ground and Community Centre in Wavendon Village.

Questionnaire Feedback

1. Despite low levels of use of the Community Centre and the Recreation Ground it was considered important to protect them. For example, 92% of respondents 'Occasionally' or 'rarely/ Never' used the Community Centre, yet 72% stated it was 'Very Important' to protect from future development of any sort. Similarly, 64% of respondents 'Occasionally' or 'rarely/ Never' used the Recreation Ground but 81% wanted to see it protected. In terms of suggested improvements for the Recreation Ground and Community Centre, 'car parking' the key theme to emerge.

Feedback received for Objective 4 is recorded below:

- Protecting the recreation ground is vital.
 - 1) To keep green space around the village.
 - 2) To provide recreational space for a changing demographic (new development). Current use / investment is limited by car parking. To achieve more use, could the new playing field car parking facilities also be used for the recreation / Community Centre / School? There would need to be access by foot from one to the other. Also resident parking only for Walton Road / St Marys Close.
- The Community Centre is a key facility for the wider local community.
- Car parking is an issue it should be clear that any new parking is used by all (e.g. church, residents, community centre and not just the school).
- Yes we agree it needs to be protected.
- Community Centre and recreation ground should be protected with additional car parking.

Objective 5 - Working with Milton Keynes Council to improve road safety in the parish and to address parking concerns at key locations. Also to introduce new cycle ways and footpaths in and around the parish to improve connection to community facilities and the countryside.

Questionnaire Feedback

- 1) High Volume of Car Users; The majority (96%) of residents travel in and around Wavendon Parish on a daily basis in their own or company car/ van.
- 2) Rush Hour, Speed and Volume of Traffic; 'Peak Rush Hour Traffic' (84%), 'Speed of Traffic' (81%), 'Volume of Traffic' (80%) and 'Large vans and Lorries passing through the village/ parish' (73%) were the current key traffic concerns in and around Wavendon Parish. In terms of 'Peak Rush Hour Traffic', 'Speed' and 'Volume' Newport Road and Walton Road were the most cited locations. The following is an example of a comment encompassing the key concerns "*I have lived on Newport Road for 28 years and have noticed the tremendous increase in traffic. It is exceedingly dangerous coming out of our drive to turn onto Newport Road, we live on the bend. The house shakes when Lorries pass. The speed and volume of traffic when walking or cycling is very frightening.*"
- 3) Increased Congestion with Housing Development; In terms of any further housing development outside of the SLA, concerns in regards to traffic was also key theme to emerge from the general qualitative feedback. "*The roads in the area cannot take any more traffic*". Newport Road was once again an area of particular concern. Quantitative data substantiated the literal comments with 89% of respondents 'Concerned a Lot' in regards to 'Access problems due to increased traffic and congestion' and 80% 'Concerned a Lot' in terms of 'Increased parking needs.'
- 4) Based on the feedback received for Objective 5, do you agree with this / or does this need to change in anyway?

Feedback received for Objective 5 is recorded below:

- Speed, volume of traffic is killing the country feel of the village. Walton Road, Newport Road are very dangerous, difficult to cross to get to the bus stop and cycle to Lower End Road.
- Lower End Road (a designated cycle route) is potentially lethal for cyclists. HGV's are banned but frequently use it.
- Car parking is a major issue; Church events, Community events, School events etc. mean that we cannot park near our homes.
- Car parking in Wavendon (especially in the village, by residents) is out of control.
- Agree completely with objective 5.
- Lower End Road is 'Route 51' a national cycle route, this is not made very clear on signs. Lower the speed.
- Close Walton Road.
- Let's not forget the impact of heavy (& much more fast moving traffic) on Newport Road.
- Roads through Wavendon village cannot take any more traffic, especially double decker buses.

Objective 6 - Developing and enhancing the business economy of Wavendon Parish to ensure that it is as economically sustainable as possible when taking into account the new housing.

Questionnaire Feedback

Retail Shop - In regards to the sort of business or activity which think should be encouraged within Wavendon Parish over the next 15 years, 47% of respondents reported that a Retail shop was 'Possibly Needed' and 14% 'Definitely Needed'.

Feedback received for Objective 6 is recorded below:

- Do not see any need for business or retail, MK is well developed. Retail is a few minutes away at Kingston.
- There are probably enough "Shoe box" warehouses in Magna Park now. It is time to concentrate on more quality work / jobs.
- I see Wavendon as basically residential – no need for further business.
- If the new developments in the north remain part of the Parish then there will be retail facilities.
- Local 'Retail Store' would be a benefit.
- A retail outlet would definitely benefit the village.
- Local shops tend to be too expensive versa supermarkets.

Other Topics.

Feedback received is recorded below:

- More care needs to be taken at school opening / closing times by parents parking on the road.
- Good feedback so far.
- This all seems very sensible and appropriate for the village! Good work.
- Well organised feedback. Thanks.