

SOMERBY NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT DROP-IN EVENT

18 JUNE 2016

CONSULTATION ANALYSIS



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1. Background

a) Project Brief

Yourlocale was commissioned by Somerby Parish Council to assist in the delivery of a drop-in event on Neighbourhood Planning on 18 June 2016. The event took place between 9:00 am and 1:00 pm at the Village Hall.

The aim of this event was to help engage the community in the development of the Neighbourhood Plan and to seek comments on the emerging topics – including Local Green Space and environment; community facilities and amenities; housing and design; and business. It was hoped that interest would be generated amongst the community for involvement in the Advisory Committee and Theme Groups which are to be established to consider the detail of the neighbourhood Plan.

b) Publicity

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

- leaflets were produced promoting the event and delivered to each household with the Parish magazine.
- Members of the Parish Council spoke to villagers to inform them of the event and to encourage attendance.

c) List of attendees

A list of attendees is available separately.

40 people attended the event



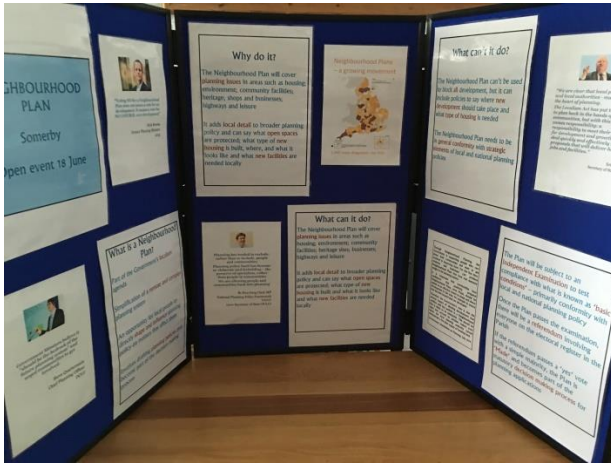
2. Format of Event

a) Process on the day

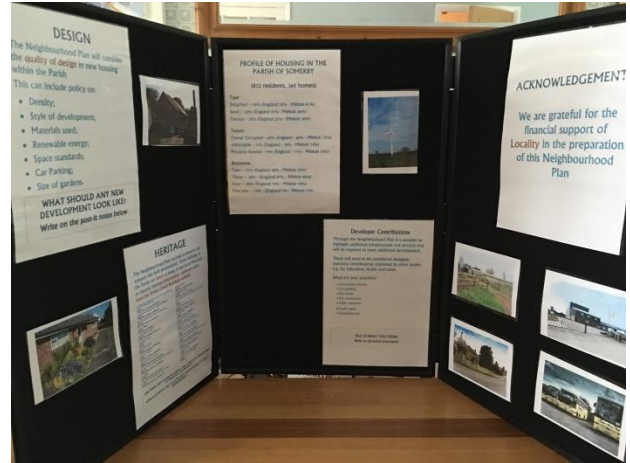
Sign in	Members of the Parish Council welcomed attendees on arrival and asked them to complete a contact sheet to record attendance. The arrangements for the Open event were explained.
Background	The first displays introduced Neighbourhood Planning and described the process that is being followed by Somerby Parish Council. Copies of explanatory booklets were available on the display stands.
Information	Copies of finalised Neighbourhood Plans were available for people to read as they walked around the displays. Large maps of the Parish were available within the room.
Consultation on key issues	A series of display boards were spread across the room, each of which focussed on a different topic related to planning and development, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Housing –housing mix, design and heritage ▪ Environment – existing designations and Local Green Space criteria ▪ Transport ▪ Businesses and Employment ▪ Community Facilities and amenities <p>Having read the displays, attendees were asked to comment on each topic using post-it notes and to place them on flip-chart paper alongside each display.</p>
Visual maps	A large map of the Parish was available and people were invited to place up to 3 blue dots on areas of recreation and up to 3 green dots in places enjoying good views. A further map offered participants the opportunity to mark areas within the Parish that they wish to see protected from development.

b) Display Boards

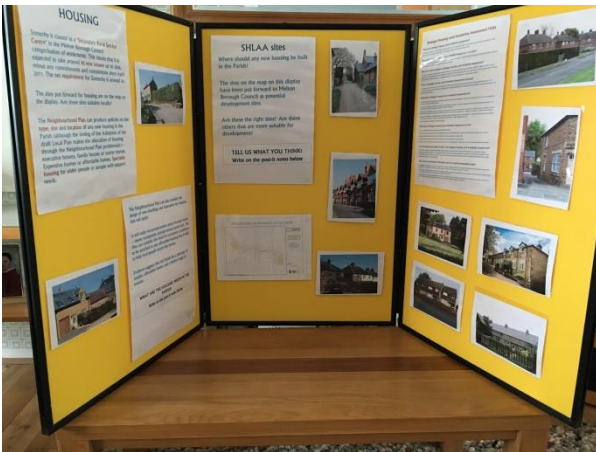
General



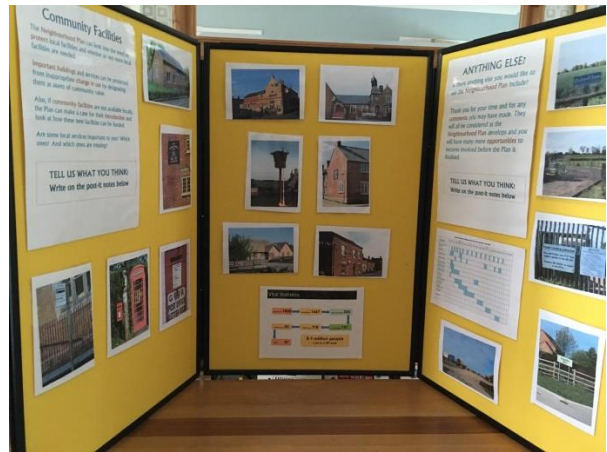
Design



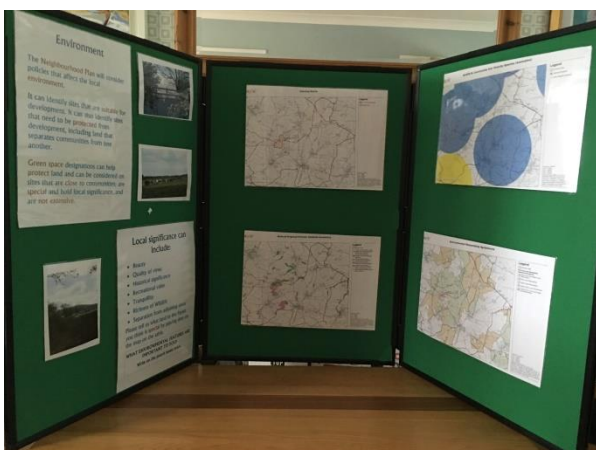
Housing



Community facilities



Environment



Designations



3. Results

Housing
Comments

- The plan for 50 new houses spread around the village should be quite sufficient and no more needed
- We need affordable housing for the future of our families. Their future is important and should be given priority
- Why can't we have infill development?
- If we must have big developments then the 2 proposed sites are OK providing traffic flow through village is eased and edge of village parking is made available
- Housing needs to be afforded by young people but not high density, limited parking estates
- New developments must mix housing to include bungalows not just high profit 4 bed detached
- Only very small developments targeted for the elderly and first time buyers
- Small houses will still be expensive. PLEASE no more ugly developments
- More 1 and 2 bed housing available for single families and older folks to downsize!!
- Organic gradual development should be adequate for village. Mixed requirement, particularly lower end
- Agree with PC on development strategy – small sites/starter homes
- No new homes until bypass and flood problems sorted
- 2 bedroom houses; decent living space – decent gardens needed!
- Infill development is the solution for this village to sustain its village environment. No large developments. We need smaller developments of house building to keep up the lovely character of our Somerby!
- Why are only the Somerby sites shown? Sadly we are behind the curve with the NP and other applications. The two sites identified are OK, although better sites could and should have been identified. Should Somerby be Primary Rural Service Centre? As there are none south of Melton?
- Building should fit into our Somerby environmental character – not much to ask is it?
- All development should take account of surrounding buildings and countryside. We must remain a rural community

- Can we have a more imaginative approach to creating housing for older people – co-housing schemes!!

Open Space and Environment

Comments

- Protect all that we can – we don't appreciate the asset we have. Development must be sympathetic
- Vigilance, good will and dialogue with landowners and statutory structures are important contributions to protection
- An emphasis to protect and maintain what we have in each village is important
- We need to find a way of promoting care for the local environment
- More green sites in Somerby area
- All rights of way must be preserved. All historic environment must be preserved and easily accessible
- The valley to the south of Somerby towards Owston is a rare survival of historic landscape and heritage assets
- Please ensure that the field in the middle of Burrough-on-the-Hill is preserved!
- Views to and from Burrough to Hill Fort across to Notts/Melton/Leicester especially to Hill Fort and back
- Things to keep – Town Estate gardens; Horse Pond; green space between Pickwell and Somerby
- Horse Pond and surrounding countryside are rich in wildlife and essential to this rural area. Light pollution also to be kept to a minimum
- The amount of rubbish accumulating in hedgerows on all approaches to the village is a disgrace
- Where is the general pride in our local environment...road to Pickwell from Somerby is a disgusting mess!
- Look at the risk of flooding in the surgery
- More and better coordinated cycle-ways

Design

Comments

- Needs car parking
- Current development in Manor Lane is not in keeping with surrounding properties and is very high density
- Open space to be incorporated. Car parking. In keeping with the vernacular
- Ironstone please
- Let's not have off-the-shelf housing
- Not high density houses, these tend to have limited parking and we already have issues with street parking
- The proposed development on Oakham Rd is certainly not designed to fit into the local area. Too many houses in a very confined area
- Need to respond to existing need in size, type and cost and be considered in the profile of the Neighbourhood Plan
- 1 and 2 bed terrace, semi-detached and bungalows
- Bungalows

Transport

Comments

- High St/Church Lane/Manor Lane....no more traffic- cannot cope. Access from Manor Lane can be dangerous!
- This planned extra housing will mean 50,000 movements per year on Somerby roads
- Roads through village already crowded – houses, buses, cyclists, etc. We need some parking strategy for the High St
- Transport needs improving for those unable to drive. Traffic flow through village needs controlling (I am partially sighted)
- What public transport?
- Village with existing traffic issues. Cannot cope with housing development making access to High St more dangerous
- On road parking in the High St needs to be reviewed ASAP
- Church Lane and Manor Lane cannot cope with more traffic
- Church Lane cannot cope with any more traffic

- Local agricultural economy and tourism depends on free movement on High St
- Review parking restrictions around the priority access sign at west end of village. Cars parked incorrectly cause access problems
- Off road parking should/must be provided on any infill plots
- Better off road parking facility needed or alternative routing. Better local transport
- Too much traffic = any more large developments will increase problem
- Traffic calming through Somerby still needed
- Pedestrian link with Borough Fort Country Park needs to be improved – either long walk through woods or road
- Church Lane too busy now – worst problem is passing places. 4 people agreed with this
- Yellow line reinstated in High St now! – was promised 6 months ago
- Back road to Great Dalby is full of potholes – lots of risk of accidents!
- Traffic calming in High St
- Traffic calming in High St – 20 mph limit
- The High St cannot cope with more traffic as it is a single track road!! Issues with parking on High St
- Need to improve (or at least maintain) flow of traffic through Somerby
- Ageing population: public transport requirement! Young families too!

Community Facilities and amenities

Comments

- The pub; all the village halls; phone boxes; school; post boxes; pond; gardens
- Transport as I am partially sighted. Open spaces for health and well-being

Employment

Comments

- Local employment is needed but needs a well thought out strategic approach
- A tourism development strategy developed to utilize heritage, exercise, and mental well-being and for jobs
- Local employment from home made possible through better internet connection

Developer Contributions

Comments

- Contributions as a coordinated part of the overall plan will be the most effective
- School; playing fields; traffic calming; village hall improvements
- Car parking for any village residents
- More parking for village residents off High St? Do fair price!!
- Parking. Most families have 2 cars these days!

Anything else?

Comments

- Need the school expanding to suit the housing
- School needs to be able to expand and have improved outside space

4. Summary of findings

Comments were made which reflected a range of opinions. However, attendees demonstrated a consistency of opinion in a number of key areas:

Housing

This section (along with Environment) generated the second-highest response after the section addressing Transport/Access/Highways.

Out of a total of 15 comments on Housing in the village, 5 were in favour of affordable and/or smaller housing in particular for young people/ families and older residents. 1 respondent was clear that they wanted no more houses at all whilst four others highlighted their wish for future building to be on a small scale.

2 responses stated that any development should complement the existing buildings and surrounding countryside. A further response called for a “more imaginative approach” to building for older residents, such as co-housing schemes.

Housing Design

The 10 comments in total generally expressed a desire for any new houses to be in keeping with the village, smaller homes with adequate parking and open space in relation to them.

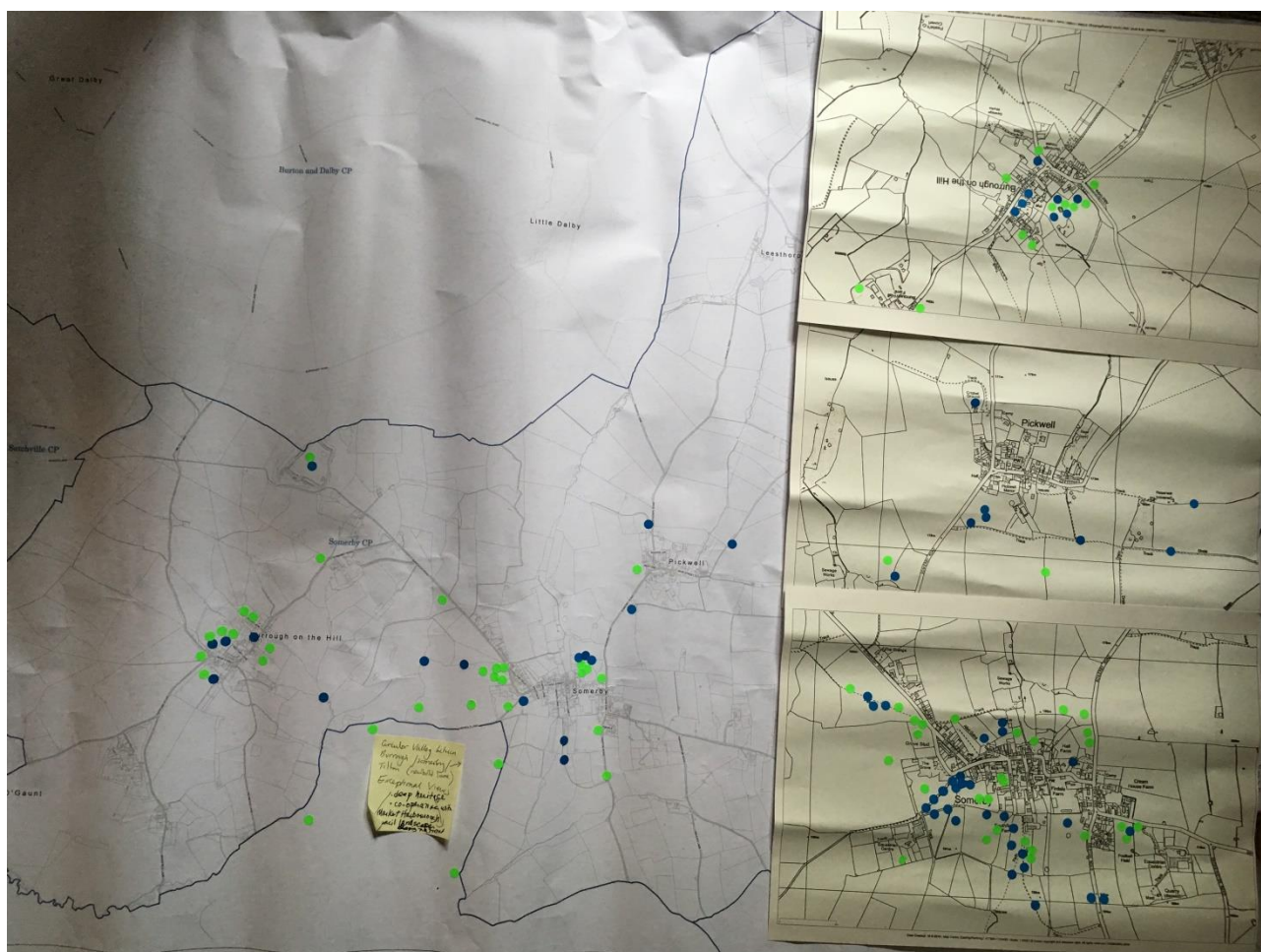
Employment

3 comments were made which reflected that any local employment opportunities needed to be developed strategically, and the need to take improved internet connection for home working into account.

Environment

There was a considerable degree of interest shown in the environmental displays, with a total of 15 responses. Numerous responses were specifically about the importance of retaining and protecting open green spaces, wildlife and specific views in and around Somerby, with the areas in and around Burrough-on-the-Hill, Hill Fort and Horse Pond receiving special mention.

The following open spaces were prioritised. Blue dots signifying important recreation space and green dots representing good views.



Transport/Access

This display drew the highest number of responses – a total of 23. In the event of development, respondents drew attention to the need to provide more traffic calming and traffic management, adequate parking and some public transport links. Reference was made to the existing traffic management and parking issues on High

St a total of 9 times, with Church Lane referenced 4 times in this respect and Manor Lane twice.

The need for public transport to/from Somerby to meet the needs of a potential growth and change in population was cited by 2 people.

Community facilities/amenities

This area for consideration generated just 2 responses. One comment referred to the village pub, the village hall, school; phone boxes, post boxes, pond and gardens being important to Somerby; the other comment cited the importance of public transport and open spaces.

Developer Contributions

3 of the 5 responses wished to see any potential developer contributions devoted to providing additional parking in the village – both residential and public. One respondent cited potential contributions for the improvement of Somerby's school, playing fields, village hall and traffic calming.

Anything Else?

Both of the respondents to this section reiterated the need for the school's built and outside space to be expanded upon.

Gary Kirk
Yourlocale
June 2016