

# **Medbourne Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Committee**

## **Neighbourhood Plan Questionnaire – Analysis**

### **Introduction**

Towards the end of 2014 the Parish Council circulated a questionnaire to all households relating to HDC Planning Policy. This specifically considered housing and included a statement that Medbourne could be allocated 50 additional houses to be built between 2015 and 2031. The questions focussed on the level of involvement that villagers wanted in the process, the types of development and where they might be built. The Parish Council undertook a brief analysis that noted the number of questionnaires delivered, numbers returned, the number of people that were in favour of forming a Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Committee and a ranking for where people preferred the houses to be built. The responses provide very useful baseline evidence as to the views of the village which will be incorporated into any future plan. This paper is a brief analysis of the responses.

### **Analysis**

A total of 379 questionnaires were delivered and 253 were returned. The percentage of returned questionnaires, 67% is very high and the result of them being collected by councillors. The results and comments have proved extremely helpful in providing qualitative information and a review of postcodes gives a better indication as to where people preferred any houses to be built. In addition the questionnaire gave 4 options for the preferred type of development:

1. One big development
2. 2-3 medium sized developments
3. 5-6 smaller sized developments
4. A combination of all of the above

### **Findings**

The comments are best reported as short bullet points:

- A common theme was that the potential of 50 houses was too many for Medbourne although a minority thought that this could be achieved without an adverse impact on the village understanding the general need for housing, for young people who want to remain in Medbourne when they leave the family home and those who want to downsize.
- Some people did not complete the map as people thought that the areas were too large and did not easily reflect preferred options
- The options chosen indicate that the majority, although not all, respondents preferred any building to be away from their own house.

- A minority of people believed that it was too early to ask such questions and some did not believe that HDC wanted that number of houses to be in Medbourne
- There was further comment on ensuring that the Conservation area was protected in particular with regard to poorly planned and inappropriate infill which it was said can undermine the fabric of the village
- The responses to the types of developments preferred are particularly useful. Using the questions above the 253 responses were as follows:

1. A single large development	7
2. 2-3 medium sized developments	30
3. 5 to 6 smaller developments	132
4. A combination	23
5. A combination of small and medium	17
6. No answer expressed or spoilt	44

## **Conclusion**

Although there was some criticism of the process the questionnaire has provided useful information as to the views of those living in the village and there was a clear majority of people expressing a desire to be involved or have some input in the process. Most important was the support for a Neighbourhood Plan and the Parish Council acted quickly in setting up a Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Committee. The Committee has now met regularly since August and will be regularly posting updates and consulting further as the creation of a Neighbourhood Plan gives greater control over any developments in the village. Housing is only one aspect of the Neighbourhood Plan but as HDC publish the Local Plan options early in 2016 the Committee will be in a better position to communicate effectively to the village taking into consideration the points raised in the responses. The evidence is restricted by the knowledge of plans at that time and these will change but importantly the village is now much more aware of potential developments and the importance of involvement and influence

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