

UPPER MARSHWOOD VALE - NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

(For the parishes of Marshwood, Bettiscombe, Pilsdon and Stoke Abbott)

QUESTIONNAIRE

Neighbourhood planning is an exciting opportunity for us as a parish to influence how and where development could take place in our parish over the next 15 years and more.

Please take the time to fill out your individual questionnaire and be part of this. This questionnaire is largely formed from comments received at our three scoping sessions in Blackdown, Stoke Abbott and Bettiscombe. Your answers will help us understand what is most important to you and what our Neighbourhood Plan should focus on.

It is important to make clear that a 'Neighbourhood Plan' has a focus on land use and development and is not to be confused with our 'Parish Plan' which identified all manner of wider local issues, many of which we have already achieved.

Our Neighbourhood Plan will set out a vision for what the four parishes of the Upper Marshwood Vale (UMV) should be like to live and work in over the next 15 years and how that vision can be achieved. The process of making our plan has included scoping sessions where we recorded the ideas from the attendees. We will continue to provide information and to collect your feedback via our new website and its associated Facebook page (see links below) as well as via our UMV parish council magazine, 'Beneath the Vale'.

Our plan needs to conform to strategic local, national and EU planning policies, but it can enable us to put in place our own additional detailed local planning policies relating to infrastructure, business growth opportunities, housing and other development, where the community thinks it is necessary or beneficial to do so. Our agreed plan, will finally go before an independent examiner, and then be subject to a referendum in our UMV combined parishes, where under the regulations in the Localism Act 2011, over 50% of those voting must be in favour of the plan. Once approved, it will form part of the Statutory Development Plan for the area.

To read more <http://mycommunityrights.org.uk/neighbourhood-planning/>

You can see from this, just how important it is that each of you makes your views known, and that includes your children (who will be adults during the life of this plan). Only in that way can your views be reflected in the final document.

There are a number of ways you can respond:

1. Fill in this questionnaire and post it back to us in the reply-paid envelope;
2. More forms can be collected from Marshwood Post Office and shop, or the New Inn at Stoke Abbott, or printed off from the website [www.uppermarshwoodvale.org], and returned in the envelope provided or handed in to the Post Office & shop in Marshwood or the New Inn at Stoke Abbott.

We need your replies please before the end of January 2017, after which we will analyse the results and call public meetings to discuss the conclusions before moving on to produce a first draft of the plan.

Detailed information on the Neighbourhood Plan and its progress is provided on our new web-site (www.uppermarshwoodvale.org) and associated Facebook page (Upper Marshwood Vale Neighbourhood Plan) where queries can be made and comments left.

THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

The Upper Marshwood Vale (UMV) and Stoke Abbott (SA) are in a beautiful landscape in which to live, work and play.

1. In your view, which of these qualities make the UMV / SA a special place?

(Please tick your top 5)

- Distinctive landscape, views and scenery
- Traditional farming practices
- Woodland
- Biodiversity (flora and fauna)
- Distinctive, traditional building styles
- Tranquillity
- Country lanes
- Banks and hedgerows
- Character of village centres and settlements
- Dark skies with bright stars (lack of light pollution)

2. Which of the following do you feel are important to enable you to access and enjoy the local countryside?

(Please tick all that apply)

- Public footpaths
- Bridleways
- Woodland and forestry (where open to public)
- Off-road cycle paths and green lanes
- Common land
- Other, please specify -----

3. Should our plan have specific policies to protect any of the following?

- Banks and hedges
- Trees and wooded areas
- Local orchards
- Wild flowers

BUILT AND HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

Part of the character of parts of our parish (in particular SA) is due to the buildings. These have evolved over centuries, with older buildings being updated or extended and new buildings added as required.

4. What priorities do you think our Neighbourhood Plan should focus on?

(Please tick your top 5)

- Design, size and location of any new residential buildings
- Design, size and location of new residential extensions
- Design, size and location of new agricultural buildings
- Design, size and location of new industrial units
- Preserving the overall character of local buildings and settlements
- Preserving archeologically important sites
- Reducing flood risk to new and current housing sites
- Other, please specify -----

5. In your opinion, are existing flood defences and plans appropriate for the current flood risk?

Yes , No

What, if anything, do you think should be done in addition to reduce flood risk?

Trees are essential in our residential environment because they absorb pollution, provide shade and shelter, a haven for wildlife, create attractive settings, calm traffic, produce edible fruit and nuts, and reduce storm water runoff.

6. Please tell us where, if anywhere, you would like to see more trees being planted in our built and natural environment?

Types - (Please tick all that apply)

- Fruit and nut trees (apple, cherry, etc.)
- Native species (oak, ash, etc.)
- Non-native (climate change & landscaping)

Where - (Please tick all that apply)

- New developments
- Private gardens
- Rural highway verges
- Public open spaces
- Rural farm hedge banks
- Screening agricultural buildings
- Farmland and woodland
- A village orchard

ENERGY AND LOW CARBON ALTERNATIVES

We are all aware of the future potential for steady increases in energy costs. Encouraging local forms of energy production, with less reliance upon costly fossil fuels will be beneficial for us all.

7. Which, if any, of the following technologies are you supportive of being installed sensitively in our parish?

(Please tick all that apply)

- Small wind turbine under 25 metres (82ft)
- Hydro power (e.g. using streams / rivers)
- Large wind turbine 25-100 metres (82-328ft)
- Solar panels on homes
- Solar panels on farm or commercial buildings
- Solar panels - agricultural land (small scale rotating or fixed vertical array)
- Solar panels - agricultural land (whole fields)
- Solar hot water tubes on homes
- None of the above
- Other, please specify -----

TRANSPORT AND ACCESSIBILITY

8. Do you walk or cycle to access local facilities e.g. - work, shop, Post Office, church or to visit friends?

Daily , Weekly , Monthly , Less Often

9. What would encourage you to walk or cycle more?

- Improved path and cycle ways
- Reduced speed of traffic
- Nothing

10. Approximately how many car journeys do you make each week?

- None
- Under 10
- 11-20
- More than 20

11. To support any future development our parish's roads will need to be able to cope with any additional traffic. Would you support any of these:

- Increased number of passing places
- Road widening
- Road strengthening
- The roads are already adequate

12. If any of the following became available within the parish, would you use them in the future:

- Car-sharing scheme
- Electric car charging points at the shop

13. Do you think the character of our settlements and lanes could be enhanced by reducing unnecessary signage and street furniture?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

POPULATION AND HOUSING

It is increasingly challenging for local young people to find, or afford, local homes and people are living longer. These pressures on housing could be addressed through carefully managed development within our parish. Over the last 2 years, 8 new affordable homes were created in UMV parish.

14. Over the next 15 years, how many more new homes do you think should be created in our parish to meet our housing needs?

- Fewer
- More and how many
- None at all

15. Which of the following housing tenures do you think we need to encourage in our parish?

(Please tick all that apply)

- Privately owned
- Privately rented
- Part ownership housing scheme through a Community Land Trust / Housing Association
- Community-led self-build housing scheme
- Affordable housing (rented via Housing Association)

16. Over the next 15 years, which of the following types of housing do you think would be most appropriate in our parish?

(Please tick all that apply)

Types of housing

- New build detached houses - 2 bedroom , 3 bedroom , 4 bedroom
- New build semi-detached - 1 bedroom , 2 bedroom , 3 bedroom , 4 bedroom
- New build terraces - 1 bedroom , 2 bedroom , 3 bedroom
- New build flats - 1 bedroom , 2 bedroom , 3 bedroom
- New build single-storey houses - 1 bedroom , 2 bedroom , 3 bedroom
- Barn conversions
- Support for the removal of 'tied' status where a property is no longer part of a 'working farm' and is in separate ownership.
- Allow larger dwellings or farms to be divided into several smaller homes
- Multiple occupancy (e.g. converting/extending garage for a 'granny flat')
- Communal living (e.g. farmhouse occupied by several families or different generations of the same family with communal areas)
- Nursing home, rest home or respite care home
- Retirement housing (small units – maintained gardens and communal areas)
- Sheltered housing (small units with care/warden available on site)
- Work / live (light industrial or retail units with owners' accommodation)

If you are a landowner, would you be prepared to make land available for any future housing or new business venture? We would be grateful to know where this might be and the size of the plot.

ECONOMY AND EMPLOYMENT

Developing our local economy could bring many economic and employment benefits to our parish. To enable this we need to think about what types of local employment we wish to encourage, and what needs to be done to support this.

17. If you are currently in employment, how far do you travel to your place of work?

Less than one 45 mins journey

More than 45 mins journey

Distance to work - Under 10 miles , over 10 miles , over 20 miles

18. Have you considered starting a business from home?

Yes , No , Already do

19. Have you considered working from home?

Yes , No , Already do

20. Would you be interested in using a local 'hot desk' facility (i.e. fully equipped local office space available for rent on a weekly, daily or hourly rate)?

Yes , No , Already do

21. Would you welcome any of the following to support local employment and community use opportunities?

(Please tick all that apply)

Small retail units e.g. village or community shop

Work and light industrial units

Small industrial units / artisan units

Off-street parking facility

Allotments

Conversion of barns to workspace

Expanding traditional agricultural enterprises

Provision of a local artisan work hub ('hot desk-ing' and 'eco friendly')

Farm shop

Addition of washing up and toilet facilities in Marshwood church

Other -----

22. What, if any, forms of small scale tourism related building or land use do you welcome in our parish?

(Please tick all that apply)

Yurt / tepee / shepherd huts / glamping, etc

Small caravanning site (5 vans or fewer)

Pubs / restaurants / cafes

Self-catering accommodation

Traditional small camping site (five tents or fewer)

Small hotel / bed & breakfast

We recognise that living in a farming community brings benefits and challenges to our community, what do you consider to be:

23. The main benefits? -----

24. The main challenges? -----

SOCIETY, COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES

Below is a list of services or facilities that you may use, either in our parish or nearby, we would like to know what you use and how often.

25. What you use:

(Please tick all that apply)

- Village/community shop, farm shop - Post Office - visits per month []
- Farm gate sales e.g. eggs - visits per month []
- Pharmacy, doctor's surgery. Where? ----- - visits per month []
- Youth club - visits per month []
- Childcare, home-based pre-school or nursery / primary school - visits per month []
- Park or recreation field, football / cricket pitch, tennis court - visits per month []
- Play area (under 5s) - visits per month []
- Village / community hall, swimming pool - visits per month []

26. Would you welcome community ownership of any of the following?

- Renewable energy schemes
- Woodland or hedgerows for fuel
- Woodland for amenity use
- Other, please specify -----

27. The mobile phone signal remains poor across the parish. Would you welcome better mobile coverage for the parish?

- Yes for phone calls
- Yes, including mobile data for web-browsing

28. Would you be prepared to accept the visual impact near you, of a mast to achieve necessary coverage?

Yes [], No [], Maybe []

29. Do you use the internet?

(Please tick all that apply)

- To work from home
- For personal shopping, banking, groceries, etc.
- For entertainment
- To work at a business premises within the parish
- To video call, email or social media friends and family
- Not at all

30. Do you think the internet adds new possibilities to rural living for you in terms of:

(Please tick all that apply)

- Working from home
- Engaging with local services
- Running a business locally
- Shopping and services (banking, insurance etc.)
- Communicating with friends and family
- Entertainment
- Other, please specify -----
- None of the above

PERSONAL SITUATION

31. Which age range are you and other members of your household in?

(If there is more than one person in an age range please put a number against that age range)

- 0-10
- 11-18
- 19-21
- 22-35
- 36-45
- 46-60
- Over 60

32. Are you:

- In full time work or self-employed
- Working from home
- Running a local business
- A full time carer for:
 - Children
 - Adults
- In full time education
- In part-time work
- Unemployed
- Homemaker
- Retired
- Other, please specify -----

33. How long have you lived in the parish?

0-5 years , 6-10 years , 11-20 years , 21-30 years , 31+ years

Personal Details -

Please note if you wish to make an anonymous return, that is an acceptable response. We would, however, like to have your post code, so that we can understand where the responses are coming from. All responses will be kept private and will only be accessible to the team analysing the results. The details of individual comments and their attribution will not be made public or passed on to a third party.

Please let us have your details as follows:

Name:

Address:

Postcode:

Email address (if you have one):