

SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS OF COMMUNITY CONSULTATIONS FOR THE HURST NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The community consultations provide an overview of the community's views on the issues and opportunities for Hurst. This information is the basis for the Hurst Neighbourhood Plan. The analysis brings together multiple sets of data collected from a series of face to face consultations (with open questions) and an individual household survey (with a mix of closed and open questions).

The community consultation information included:

- 376 responses (including multi comments) made over 7 local community events
- 349 individual household questionnaires returned

An inductive and deductive approach was taken to the analysis of the data. The 376 responses were inductively analysed, drawing out a number of emergent themes. The inductive approach involved allowing the data to determine the themes (rather than predetermining themes to look for). The themes evolved as more data was analysed, taking an inductive thematic analysis approach.

The individual household questionnaires were analysed through a deductive approach. There were two stages to the analysis: 1) analysis of specific content of the responses (i.e. the words/text that was written), which was undertaken by Bell Cornwell; 2) analysis of the subtext and assumptions within that data - a latent approach to analysis (undertaken by the HNPWG team).

Finally, the data was triangulated, bringing together the different sources to draw out the key findings.

The community findings revealed:

- **Protection of biodiversity, green and blue infrastructure.** There is strong sense from the community views to protect the green spaces, the fields, woodlands, wildlife, rural views, environment and tranquillity. The findings give evidence about the need to protect specific aspects of the local environment within the Parish which can be taken forward through policies, for example, protecting hedgerows and trees, protection of water features, enhancement of biodiversity and protection of local views/dark skies.
- **Development.** There is a concern regarding development in Hurst on our green spaces, the detriment to the Parish character and infrastructure from large developments, the protection of green gaps between settlements and concerns about land-banking.
The public community consultations revealed that a few houses could be acceptable, but only as infill or very small developments in appropriate places, that would not affect the character of the village, with a reluctance to extend the village envelope [development limit] any further in order to protect the green spaces. There were comments that smaller (eg 2 bed properties) were needed far more than large detached properties.
The household questionnaire revealed the majority of responses (33%) only wanted infill – small plots of one or two houses, with 20% suggesting that small developments of between 5 – 9 houses would be acceptable, and a further 20% suggesting that garden infill development would also be acceptable. Only 3 responses thought a development of more than 50 houses would be acceptable.
- **Parish character and identity.** There was a common view from respondents to retain the Parish character/identity; its rural feel and historic character is important and that it should not be allowed to extend into other settlements or urban sprawl. Conservation areas, listed buildings and wildlife sites already have protection through the planning system, however, the findings indicate that the significance and community value of these areas should be reflected within the Hurst Neighbourhood Plan.
- **Local facilities.** The protection of key local facilities should also be considered, and the findings revealed a strong sense of community, including the value of local amenities (the village shop and post office, a good, strong community spirit, good schools, good pubs and activities for the residents).
- **Housing.** Housing is a key issue; The household survey revealed that the majority of households wanted less than 24 new dwellings over the next 20 years, with a preference for smaller dwellings.

- **Traffic and Transport.** The analysis confirms the overall concern about traffic volume and the speeding along the main routes and country lanes in Hurst. It conclusively proved that the residents of Hurst are overly reliant on the motor car for work, shopping, education and accessing important facilities such as the dentist and GP surgery.

