

## **Appendix 3: Community engagement: summary of survey results**

### **1 Purpose**

This appendix presents a summary of the results of a series of surveys undertaken in support of the preparation of the Parish Neighbourhood Plan

### **2 Background**

Between September 2019 and February 2020, the Neighbourhood Plan team organised a number of surveys of key community groups in the Parish. notably local residents, businesses, school students and landowners. The aim was to gather views on a range of issues, in particular those relating to the current and future use of land within the Parish. a summary of the key findings of these surveys is presented in this appendix. More detail can be found on the parish Neighbourhood Plan website at [www.lfcnp.co.uk](http://www.lfcnp.co.uk).

### **3 Residents' survey**

The residents' survey was carried out in September 2019, via a questionnaire delivered to every household in the Parish, together with the option to respond online. There were 552 completed questionnaires, representing a response rate of c13% of all households. There was a significant representation of all communities and most age groups, with particularly high response rates from the more established communities of Laverstock and Ford and from those aged 60 or over. There was a more limited response from adults aged 18-30 and from residents in Longhedge village. The main conclusions can be summarised as:

#### **3.1 Parish and its setting**

Residents particularly value the semi-rural nature of the Parish, proximity to, views of and accessibility of countryside and the open spaces / green spaces within the Parish.

#### **3.2 Amenities**

Residents were asked to rate a wide range of local amenities. In general, these were rated good or adequate across all communities. The notable exceptions were for a surgery, pharmacy and dentist in Old Sarum/ Longhedge, where a majority of respondents expressed dissatisfaction with their provision and in Laverstock/Milford and Ford, where a smaller but significant proportion of respondents also rated their provision as either poor or not available. In Longhedge, respondents expressed a significant level of dissatisfaction with virtually all local amenities. It should be noted that amenities had been promised within both Old Sarum and Longhedge new developments.

#### **3.3 Movement**

Respondents were asked for their views on the footpath and cycle path networks and bus links to the city. Of those expressing an opinion, a majority of **all** respondents rated all three as either good or adequate. However, for residents in Ford, Hampton Park and Longhedge, for younger respondents (18-30), and for families with children, a majority rated the cycle path network as poor.

Residents were asked for their views on a range of traffic problems. A majority of all respondents strongly agreed that there was too much traffic on narrow roads, excessive speeds and dangerous/inconsiderate parking, especially near schools. Roman Road/Ford Road, Church Road and Milford Mill Road were rated as either frequently or almost always a problem by a large majority in the communities closest to them, with Church Road, Laverstock and Milford Mill Road seen as having the greatest problems across the parish as a whole.

### 3.4 Future development

Residents were asked for their views on the scale of future housing development in the parish. Of those expressing an opinion, three quarters regarded 100 dwellings as the maximum which should be built over the next fifteen years, with c40% wishing to limit development to infill only.

Respondents also favoured small scale development on individual sites: of those expressing an opinion, three quarters would prefer an upper limit of 50 dwellings per site, with c40% expressing a preference for 10 dwellings or less.

### 3.5 Specific Issues

Residents were asked for their views on a number of statements relating to development. A majority strongly agreed with the following:

- the water meadows along the River Bourne should be protected against any type of development (strongly agree 88%).
- the community owned open spaces, such as Castle Hill Country Park should be legally protected from future development (strongly agree 80%).
- Old Sarum and Longhedge should remain a separate settlement, separated from Salisbury city by the current agricultural buffer (strongly agree: all respondents: 59%; Old Sarum Longhedge respondents: 78%).
- any development in Laverstock, Milford and Ford should be limited to infill (1 or 2 houses per site) - (strongly agree: all respondents 60%; Laverstock/Milford respondents 67%; Ford respondents 81%).
- any development within the Parish should have low impact on the visual character of the landscape (strongly agree 88%).
- any development within or adjacent to the Old Sarum Airfield should not harm the historic setting of the Airfield Conservation Area (strongly agree 72%).
- any land already designated for development should be used in preference to developing green space (strongly agree 75%).
- the balance between developed land, agricultural land, and public open space should always ensure that the semi-rural character of the parish is maintained (strongly agree: 88%).
- the majority of respondents from Old Sarum and Longhedge strongly agreed that land designated for commercial use in Longhedge and Old Sarum should be developed as such to provide more local employment (Old Sarum / Longhedge respondents: strongly agree: 53%; somewhat agree 19%; all parish respondents: strongly agree 47%, somewhat agree 31%).

Residents were also asked for their views on each a series of statements relating to energy conservation. A small majority of respondents strongly agreed that:

- any future buildings should be designed for zero net energy usage (strongly agree 54%, somewhat agree 31%);
- all future houses/offices should have an electric vehicle charging facility (strongly agree 54%, somewhat agree 28%).

There was more qualified support for the following statements:

- solar panel farms should be permitted (strongly agree 37%, somewhat agree 38%).
- wind turbines should be permitted (strongly agree 38%, somewhat agree 27%).
- construction of more commercial buildings to allow more local people to work closer to home (strongly agree 13%, somewhat agree 36%).

However, little disagreement was expressed with any of these statements.

### **3.6 Respondents' additional comments**

50% of respondents made comments about future development in the Parish. Most of the comments made largely reinforced the majority views expressed in response to specific questions. Across all communities and most age groups, two topics attracted significantly more mentions than the rest: opposition to anything other than very limited further development (26%) and the inadequacy of the existing road system and its adverse impact on residents (23%). Less than 10% of responses were in support of additional development for housing or commercial purposes.

### **4 Survey of School Students**

In December 2019 a survey of school students was carried out via an online questionnaire. All three secondary schools in the Parish participated. It was the intention to conduct the survey primarily among Year 11 (15-16 year old) students. In the event, almost all the 136 respondents were from Year 9 (13-14 year olds). Half the respondents lived in the Parish.

Perhaps understandably, there was a high proportion of neutral responses to many of the questions in the survey. However, amongst those expressing an opinion, it was clear that students living in the Parish liked:

- being close to Salisbury yet separate
- the proximity to the countryside and green spaces, including Old Sarum Airfield
- the location of their school

There was a particular dislike of the traffic congestion around the school.

They rated local amenities such as bus links to the city, sports and recreational facilities, footpath and cycle path network as good or adequate.

Green spaces in the Parish – other than Old Sarum Greenspace - tend to be visited very infrequently, if at all.

Looking to the future, they were in favour of:

- protection of water meadows and community-owned spaces
- more new business premises in the Parish, in order to provide more job opportunities close to home.

### **5 Survey of local businesses**

In October/November 2019, a survey of local businesses with their own premises was carried out via a questionnaire delivered to all such businesses in the Parish, together with the option for completion online. There were 35 completed questionnaires, representing a response rate of c30%.

Businesses were asked for their views on various aspects of their current location. In general there was high degree of satisfaction with their current location, with a substantial majority of respondents rating as “very good or good” the overall size of site, building layout and size, site access and proximity to customers. However, a substantial minority were concerned about availability of skilled staff, broadband speed and the local road network.

Few businesses responding to the survey were currently planning to relocate and of the quarter who were planning to expand in the next few years, most intended to remain on their current site. When asked for their views on factors which they would take into account if they were looking to relocate,

most of the businesses would prefer to stay locally and move to buildings already constructed (typically less than 1,000 sq metres), rather than acquire land.

## **6 Survey of Landowners**

A survey carried out in January/February 2020, asking for their views about the future of their land holdings. This revealed considerable interest by landowners throughout the parish in development of land, primarily for housing. At least five landowners have engaged planning consultants to prepare schemes for greenfield sites ranging in size from 3 ha to 13 ha in both the north and south of the parish. In all these cases, potential schemes to improve biodiversity and wild life habitats, public access and connectivity appeared to be conditional upon approval for development of sites for housing and/or commercial purposes.