

Linby Neighbourhood Development Plan

In this, our second Neighbourhood Plan Newsletter, we report on:

- the key findings from the June drop in event and consultation questionnaire
- the next steps in developing the neighbourhood plan
- ways residents can comment further and help to shape the plan

Consultation Responses – Key Issues

Over the summer months we held a drop in event and circulated an initial questionnaire to residents. The aim of this was to get an idea of what residents feel are the main strengths and weaknesses of living in the village, its key characteristics and the concerns regarding the services and facilities. We also asked for your concerns about development.

We had 43 questionnaires returned – around 30% which is quite a good level of response. These give us something to build on as we develop the plan further.

In terms of **strengths** the rural character of the village scored strongly. Next were green and open spaces; friendly and safe environment, sense of community and access to the countryside.

When it comes to **weaknesses** the strongest issues identified were the volume and speed of traffic followed by pedestrian safety, school traffic, car parking and noise. Matters such as dog fouling, litter, excessive signage and anti-social behaviour were not identified as strong weaknesses.

Addressing traffic issues also featured in the response to asking what single change people wanted to see.

On the **use of village facilities** more than 2/3 of respondents (74%) used Brooke Farm Shop and 72% the pub. About half use the village hall and Linby Meadow.

When questioned about potential development of new employment land at Top Wighay the key issue of concern was extra traffic, followed by noise, parking and hours of operation.

95% of respondents said that the design and layout of new developments should respect and reflect the essential characteristics and appearance of the village and 77% agreed there should be a mix of housing types and tenures. High importance was placed on having family homes and bungalows.

With regard to the forms of transport, and frequency of use, the car (74%), walking (70%) and tram (67%) scored highest followed by bike and bus (35%) and train (26%).

Comments were made about the need to improve bus services; access to the Tram; road and pavement maintenance; school parking; cycle paths; enforcing HGV restrictions; improving

broadband; having somewhere to play; the need for health facilities; local schools, areas for wildlife and parks and play areas.

We have also been speaking to key local stakeholders – businesses, organisations, school etc. to gain their views.

We will use the information to focus on what matters to residents.

Next Steps

We have been successful in gaining special grant aid to help in the development of the Neighbourhood Plan. In view of the potential significant developments in the Parish we have also gained access to some technical support packages.

Taking account of the main issues and concerns from residents we have engaged the services of a **traffic and transport consultant**. We will be looking at key issues concerning speed and volume of traffic and more specifically the effects on pedestrian access.

The aim is to take a look at what innovative and creative solutions might be developed to address the highways and transport elements of the Plan – looking to define schemes and options beyond the usual speed humps, cameras and crossings. Take a look at our website where we will be putting a document, “Traffic in Villages”, which shows the solutions some other villages have come up with.

Our initial area of technical support comes in the form of developing a ‘**Heritage and Character Assessment**’. This broadly identifies the physical features which define the area and contribute to its special character and sense of place. Residents have told us they want to see any new developments respect our character and key features and the assessment will help in this.

These two areas of work will be progressed over the coming months and we will feedback and offer opportunities for residents to influence the outcomes.

Ways for Residents to Learn More and to Comment

There is a dedicated Neighbourhood Plan section on the Parish Website www.linby.org.uk where you can see more information about the Neighbourhood Plan.

We would welcome comment and feedback on the findings of the questionnaire. Do you agree with the key issues highlighted? Would you be interested in being on small discussion groups on aspects of the plan? Please email the parish clerk liz.linbypc@sky.com or contact her on 07971 700434

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Please share this newsletter with everyone in your household. Thank you for your support and responses.