

Saddington Community Consultation



11 March 2017

Summary

Introduction

Yourlocale was commissioned by Saddington Parish Meeting to assist the Saddington Neighbourhood Forum Management Committee in the delivery of a drop-in event on Neighbourhood Planning on 11 March 2017. The event took place between 10:00 am and 1:00 pm at the St Helen's Church.

The aim of this event was to help engage the community in the development of the Neighbourhood Plan and to seek comments on the emerging topics – including Local Green Space and environment; community facilities and amenities; housing and design; and employment. It was hoped that interest would be generated amongst the community for involvement in the Theme Group process which is to be established in the coming weeks to consider the detail of the Neighbourhood Plan.

The drop-in event was promoted in a variety of ways:

- ✓ Advertised in the Parish Magazine.
- ✓ Leaflets were produced promoting the event and delivered to each household.
- ✓ Posters were displayed on the day and a sandwich board in place outside the venue.
- ✓ Members of the Management Committee spoke to villagers to inform them of the event.

44 people attended the event.

Format of Event

Members of the Management Committee welcomed attendees on arrival and asked them to complete a contact sheet to record attendance. The arrangements for the Open event were explained.

The first displays introduced Neighbourhood Planning and described the process that is being followed by the Management Committee on behalf of the Saddington Parish Meeting. Copies of explanatory booklets were available on the display stands.

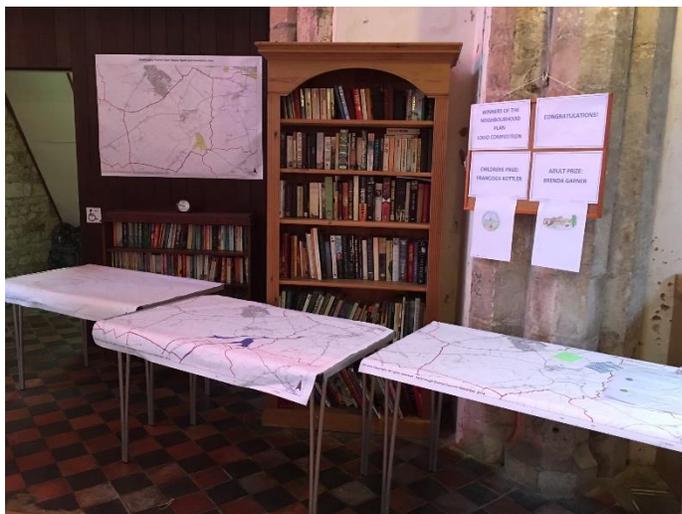
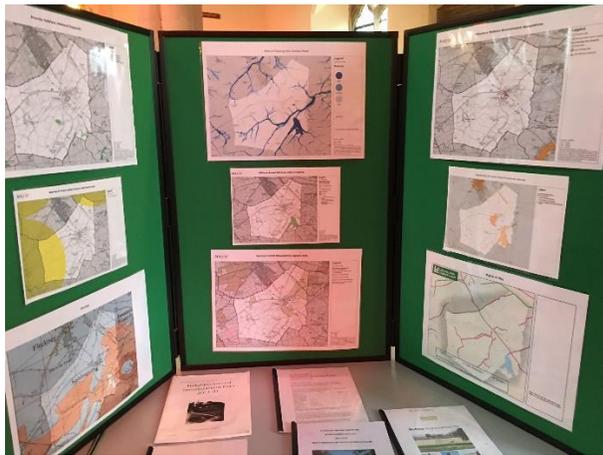
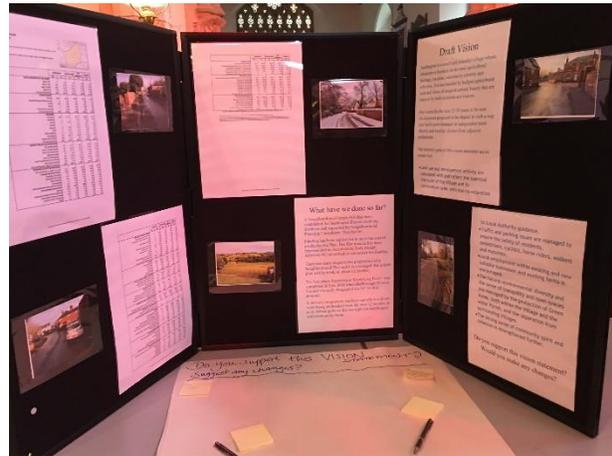
Copies of finalised Neighbourhood Plans were available for people to read as they walked around the displays and large maps of the Parish were available within the room showing aspects such as flood risk; heritage assets etc.

Consultation on key issues

A series of display boards were spread across the room, each of which focused on a different topic related to planning and development, including:

- ✓ Housing –housing mix, design and heritage
- ✓ Environment – existing designations and Local Green Space criteria
- ✓ Transport, Employment and Community Facilities

Display Boards and maps



Having read the displays, attendees were asked to comment on each topic using post-it notes and to place them on flip-chart paper alongside each display.

A large map of the Parish was available and people were invited to place up to 3 blue dots on areas of recreation and up to 3 green dots in places enjoying good views.

The following is a record of each of the comments made:

HOUSING:

- No large housing developments
- Small housing developments – not large ones
- Sect 2 Q1 not clear. No big developments wanted or needed
- Saddington not suitable for large developments – 1 person disagreed with this: "Not true"
- Any devt. sites identified should be "infill" rather encroaching on green belt
- Large scale devt. inappropriate
- The "village" should be protected. It is a part of English heritage. No to large scale devt.
- Family homes preferable
- Smaller homes still need transport and increase in traffic levels can cause problems

AFFORDABLE HOUSING:

- We need more affordable housing and starter homes. No preference for the schemes mentioned
- Yes – housing should be a mix of Housing Association, starter homes and others
- We need smaller houses. Many large houses already. Not affordable for young families
- Yes – essential for a balance of community
- Smaller homes required and industrial design
- Smaller homes still need transport and increase in traffic levels can cause problems. Therefore Saddington more suitable for mid and larger homes and bungalows
- Build on Lime Farm – large houses

DESIGN:

- Traditional construction NOT overblown modern
- The design and materials used in any housing should be in keeping with the village outlook
- Vernacular or hi-tech - no "tudorbethan" such as Barratt, David Wilson, etc.
- In keeping with village
- Not fussed – got to move with the times
- Good modern design is OK

HERITAGE:

- Ivy Cottage, Weir Road is also a Grade II listed building
- No encroachment on present parish boundaries please x1
- No encroachment on the parish boundary – eg. Saddington Grange, Fleckney!
- Protect the listed buildings for future generations
- Keep villages separate
- Keep green space between villages. Do not ruin villages by making them one!

ENVIRONMENT:

- Tranquility; separation from Fleckney, Kibworth etc; outstanding views; access to countryside
- Wildlife; tranquility; open countryside; how the environment shapes community
- Wildlife; quiet and peaceful. Open unspoilt countryside
- We like a peaceful living- the reason why Saddington is so perfect. Say no to increased traffic. Keep open countryside
- Tranquil environment. No more traffic – already dangerous, large lorries. Keep open countryside
- More to be done with litter/rubbish in and out of village
- More bins (somewhere?)

COMMUNITY FACILITIES:

- More facilities to be available to a changing demographic. More facilities for children. Village hall needed!
- Saddington has a great community. A village hall would be wonderful if space could be found
- Need to protect the allotments!
- There are no children's facilities, or communal green space – needed.
- I think for a village the size of Saddington we do not need any more facilities

ACCESS and HIGHWAYS:

- More housing developments WILL increase our village traffic. The roads are too narrow to cope with more inconsiderate drivers
- Traffic number and speed is an increasing problem including HGVs, made worse by development at Kibworth. Traffic calming measures
- We need traffic calming measures. Pinch points? Too many HGVs
- Traffic calming and residents' car parking needed
- We need more traffic calming measures – too much speeding especially at peak times and late at night
- Huge vehicles and speeding cars – suggest pinch points

- Traffic and speed are major problems. Somehow this needs to be addressed
- Increasing volume of traffic is a problem. Comes from surrounding villages. Footpaths are small and poor
- Parking in centre of village difficult and sometimes dangerous. Increased traffic causing problems. Speed of traffic dangerous
- Stop parking on footpaths. Restrict speed through village
- Provision for car parking to help keep roads open

EMPLOYMENT:

- Home business should be encouraged but not if it involves introducing more traffic
- Home business OK if not involves visiting trade and extra congestion
- Many small businesses with employment opportunity

DO YOU SUPPORT THIS VISION STATEMENT? Suggest any changes?

- Yes – fully support the Vision with no changes suggested - x2
- Yes – fully support the vision and the importance of villagers being involved
- Yes - fully support the vision statement. No more loud traffic!
- Fully support statement. Too much traffic through village already
- Yes, fully support. Less speeding traffic and large HGVs!
- Support this. Definite opposition to large scale development
- I support the Vision Statement, and would like all devt. proposals to strengthen the community spirit
- Fully support. Would like to maintain its independent identity and keen that adjacent settlements don't encroach
- Support the plan/statement but would not want to encourage more business if it increased traffic

Summary of findings

Comments were made which reflected a wide range of opinions. Respondents were generally in favour of any new development on a limited scale, of house designs in keeping with the character of the village, and on sites which are not on the areas of separation between Saddington and Fleckney. Consistency of opinion was demonstrated in a number of key areas:

Housing, Heritage and Design

This grouped section generated the second-highest response after the section on Access and Highways. Out of a total of 10 comments on Housing in the village, 6 were in favour of any housing development being small scale, with 4 out of 6 comments on Design wanting rural design sympathetic to the village. 5 out of 7 respondents on Heritage wished for the villages

(Saddington and Fleckney) to retain the green open space between them, with one comment stating that the village's listed buildings should be preserved for future generations.

Affordable Housing

4 out of the 7 respondents specifically referenced the need for a range of affordable housing, one citing this would benefit young families and another that affordable housing is needed to balance the community. Two comments called for larger homes and bungalows to be built, one respondent stating that occupants of smaller properties may need public transport which would add to the existing traffic problems.

Access and Highways

This area of the consultation drew the greatest number of responses – 11. In the event of development, all respondents highlighted the need to provide more traffic calming, traffic management and adequate, safe parking areas in an already congested village. Two residents specifically noted that footpaths in Saddington are small and poor and inappropriately parked upon.

Environment

5 out of 7 respondents described what it meant to them to live in Saddington, valuing the tranquility, quiet, "outstanding views" and open countryside, and so wishing to protect this. Respondents reiterated the concerns stated in the Housing section: that any development should preserve the areas of separation between Saddington and Fleckney.

Levels of rubbish and litter and the need for bins in the village was raised as an issue by 2 residents.

Community facilities/amenities

Of the 5 comments to this section, 2 felt that more facilities were needed for the village's children, and 2 respondents stated that a village hall would be a benefit. One other person wished for protection of the allotments, and another for a communal open space in the village.

One comment disagreed with all of the above and stated that no further facilities were warranted in a village the size of Saddington.

Employment

2 of the 3 respondents welcomed the growth of home business, but not if it created more traffic and congestion. Another comment recognised the potential employment opportunity of home businesses.

Do you support this Vision Statement?

In addition to the reiteration of points already raised, for example the impact of any development on existing areas of separation, additional traffic congestion and speeding caused and the preference for small-scale development, the 11 respondents were unanimous in supporting the Vision Statement for Saddington.



