

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP



Neighbourhood Plan Survey Results

Key Findings

The following are a summary of the findings drawn from the 2019 Parish Survey, considered by respondents to be either very important or important. They will be used to inform the vision, aims and objectives and hence the policies for the Lea and Cleverton Parish Neighbourhood Plan.

IMPORTANT ASPECTS OF THE PARISH

- Over 95% of respondents considered the most important existing aspects of the Parish to be the surrounding countryside, the open spaces and the peaceful and safe nature of the Parish
- Over 70% of respondents considered the Lea Conservation Area to be an important asset of the Parish
- Over 70% of respondents considered having access to good public transport and to clubs and events to be important for the Parish community
- Over 50% of respondents considered the availability of appropriate housing and local employment opportunities to be important factors for the Parish community

IMPORTANT FACILITIES IN THE PARISH

- Over 90% of respondents considered the most important existing facilities of the Parish to be the Village Hall, the School, the Pub, and the Jubilee Playing Field: and the Parish's network of footpaths and bridleways
- Over 80% of respondents considered access to bus services to be important for the Parish community
- Over 50% of respondents considered churches, places of worship, the Church Rooms in Lea and the availability of allotments to be important features of the Parish

IMPORTANT ISSUES IN THE PARISH

- Traffic related issues; specifically too high traffic speeds (particularly tractors and farm machinery), parking congestion and damage to grass verges, were the most significant challenges cited by some 30% of respondents
- Poor roads, pavements, cycle tracks and footpaths together with insufficient public transport services were challenges cited by some 20% of respondents
- Lack of a village shop and post office facilities were cited as challenges by some 10% of respondents

HOUSING

- 88% of responses were against development in open countryside or green open spaces in villages

- 69% of respondents considered that some new housing should be built; 31% considered no new housing should be allowed, or had no opinion
- Of those in support of some new housing the majority were in favour of between 6 and 10 new houses during the Neighbourhood Plan period
- Affordable houses (for sale or rent) and new 2-3 bed houses were considered the two most important types of development; followed by sheltered accommodation and bungalows for older people
- The most important considerations for new housing development was that it should integrate with the character, style, materials, scale and height of existing housing

ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

- Highway improvements specifically linked to regulating traffic speed (lower speed limits, traffic calming measures) and controlling on-road parking (principally at the school, church corner and the village hall) were considered the most important challenges
- Improved broadband speed was considered the next most important challenge
- Better provisions for pedestrians, cyclists and horse-riders (pavements, footpaths, cycle paths, bridle paths) were considered the next most important challenge

FLOODING

- 22% of respondents are concerned about surface water flood risks and impacts
- Of those 58% are concerned about flooding in the lower part of The Street between Lea and Garsdon Primary School and Garsdon cross-roads

MANAGING CLIMATE CHANGE

- Over 80% of respondents considered that improvement in walking and cycling facilities to be very important or important in managing climate change impacts
- Over 80% of respondents consider the promotion of rainwater harvesting as part of development design to be important
- Over 80% of respondents consider facilities to promote the recycling of waste to be very important or important
- Over 80% of respondents consider the promotion of better insulation as part of development design to be very important or important
- Some 70% of respondents consider improved public transport facilities to be very important or important to manage the potential impacts of climate change

IMPORTANCE OF HERITAGE ASSETS

- Over 70% of respondents considered the conservation of heritage assets comprising both buildings and the areas between them, and non-heritage assets of architectural or historic interest, to be very important or important
- The rural nature and specific natural features considered valuable by the community comprise the fields, the woodlands and open countryside and the open aspects and views from the villages

- Specific anthropological features considered valuable by the community include the churches and chapels, the older buildings, the pub and village hall, the conservation area and Jubilee playing field

SUPPLEMENTARY FINDINGS

A number of other supplementary issues and opportunities were raised sufficiently frequently to be of significance.

- Existing ridge and furrow field systems are of historic value and should be retained and preserved
- Ecological and renewable features should be incorporated into all housing development
- Grass verges contribute to the open space of the village(s) and should be maintained and preserved
- No street lighting to be provided in villages to avoid light pollution at night
- Initiatives are required to address the lack of a village or community shop and post office
- Address lack of footpaths (i.e. pavements) in certain sections of Lea village and improve maintenance of footpaths and stiles
- The open aspect of Lea is one of its most important characteristics and therefore its open spaces and gardens and the corridor between houses and road frontage should be protected. Over development should be avoided with no loss of trees and hedgerows
- St Giles Church, Church of All Saints Garsdon, Garsdon Manor and Crab Mill have historical value and should be protected
- The Village Hall and Church Rooms are important community assets and both need upgrading or rebuilding