



# OPTIONS CONSULTATION FOCUS

## SOME KEY FACTS FROM OUR SURVEYS

- There were 302 responses to our first survey
- 25% of respondents have lived in the Parish for more than 30 years
- 35% of respondents have lived in the Parish for between 11 and 30 years
- 25% of respondents have lived in the Parish for less than 5 years
- More than 80% of respondents owned their own home
- 56% of respondents were retired and for those in work 61% were employed outside the Parish, with the car being the primary means of transport to work.
- 55% of respondents were over the age of 66 and only 8.2% were under 50 years old.
- We asked you to assess the impact of COVID-19 on your lives and 55% of you stated that you would do more shopping on-line and 75% of you stated that they would avoid crowded areas.

### YOU TOLD US:

The most important factors that local residents agreed upon was that new buildings should be eco-friendly and in keeping with their surroundings. Other factors including opportunities to work from home, (so Broadband/4G was viewed as vital for home working), decent sized gardens and provision for off-road parking. Aspects such as low crime rate, dark skies and community buildings were also seen as very important.

#### > WHAT WE DID:

Commissioned design guidance for all new buildings that reflects these principles, which we now want your feedback on

### YOU TOLD US:

That you were concerned about increased traffic



**> WHAT WE DID:**

The amount of traffic in the area is not something the Neighbourhood Plan can influence, as much of the traffic arises from outside our parishes and is travelling through. Looking at the recorded accident data, the B3157 is where there have been a number of serious accidents in the last 10 years. However, this will be a consideration in terms of shaping our policies.

**YOU TOLD US:**

Open countryside was seen as very important along with significant trees and hedgerows, rural /coastal views. In the immediate environment you valued the green spaces in and around the villages and would like to see them protected

**> WHAT WE DID:**

We have assessed the green spaces that were most frequently mentioned against the national criteria for local green spaces and want to see if you agree with the list and reasons why they are important.

**YOU TOLD US:**

The iconic views that are important to you would like to see protected

**> WHAT WE DID:**

We have assessed the views that were frequently mentioned and want to see if you agree with the list and reasons why they are important.

**YOU TOLD US:**

How much housing might be needed in the different villages (generally limited to 'less than 10' although possibly up to 20 in Portesham), and possible locations where new development might be appropriate. 41% of respondents to our first survey said that fewer than 10 new homes would be required in their village.

**> WHAT WE DID:**

A call for sites, including contacting landowners whose sites were suggested. We have had these sites independently assessed in terms of their suitability in planning terms, and are now asking for your thoughts on whether or not the sites are suitable, and possible criteria to make sure that they could work successfully.



## **YOU TOLD US:**

The type of housing that you may need in the future, in particular this would be to buy or rent on the open market, with some need for starter / reduced cost homes. The main requirement was for 2 or 3 bedroom homes, with those looking to rent generally needing 1 or 2 bedroom properties. However, 81% of respondents to our first survey did not expect to require a new home within the Parish in the next 10 years.

### **> WHAT WE DID:**

We have worked with Dorset Council to further explore housing needs, taking into account the feedback, and will be using this information to shape our policies on housing.

## **YOU TOLD US:**

That there was general support for small-scale businesses (including workshops) and further tourism enterprises, but no real appetite for attracting larger scale enterprises. The businesses responding did not anticipate major growth (although we may re-run the consultation as the response rate was low) – most would look to improve their existing premises rather than need new premises, and there was a very limited response (4) from households who might look to establish a new business in (or relocate an existing business into). the area.

### **> WHAT WE DID:**

We are likely to adopt similar policies to the Local Plan on employment which do allow for conversions, farm diversification and for employment on the edges of settlements, reflecting the feedback from the consultation.

## **YOU TOLD US:**

That we should be supporting renewable energy schemes to make our villages more self-sufficient and reduce the cost of energy supply, although there was less support for onshore wind and commercial scale solar farms. There was strong support for roof based solar panels, energy from waste, air/ground source heat pumps and Electric car charging points.

### **> WHAT WE DID:**

We will look to reflect these findings in our policies, and potential look at kick-starting a group that might want to lead a community-led renewable energy project.

## **WE ARE STILL:**

*Hoping to undertake more consultation with young people and with the business community to make sure that their needs are taken into account.*