

NOTICE FROM THE CHAILEY NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP

RESULTS OF THE “SHAPING CHAILEY” QUESTIONNAIRE

OVERALL RESULTS

We have received and analysed the responses from 125 villagers. The Parish Council thanks all of those who chose to respond to the questionnaire – it is, even now, not too late to make your views known.

The responses showed that the best perceived features of the village are those associated with its quiet rural setting and environment, in particular the Common, the overall rural feel of Chailey and the beauty of the surrounding countryside – especially the South Downs.

On the other hand, respondents identified a number of aspects of Chailey where they judged there to be considerable scope for improvement: job opportunities, public transport services, leisure facilities and shops. Weak community spirit, which is exacerbated by the extremely dispersed location of the village and the absence of a recognisable village hub, was another negative factor. The balance between praise and criticisms for the main village facilities and infrastructure was as follows: **Job Opportunities: -90; Public Transport: -73; Leisure Facilities: -59; Shops:-41; Housing: +6.**

THE RESPONDENTS

Every respondent bar one lived in Chailey – the sole exception was someone who has moved away since completing the questionnaire. 24% of respondents were active in some local group; 12% ran businesses locally and 9% worked in Chailey. 90% used the shops in Chailey, 74% used the pubs, 77% the Common, 70% the footpaths around the village, 32% social facilities, 10% educational establishments and 6% the sports facilities. 89% used a car as their main method of getting around the village, 30% walked and 13% used busses.

DETAILED FINDINGS

a) The Adequacy of Village Facilities

76% of respondents described **job opportunities** in the village as poor or inadequate. **Public transport** was rated as poor or inadequate by 61%. **Leisure facilities** were judged similarly by 59%. **Village shops** fared only a little better – 46% rated them inadequate whilst 17% found them to be excellent or good. The one overall positive response related to **housing** in the village. 27% rated it excellent or good, slightly more than the 22% who rated it poor or inadequate.

Housing Needs

The vast majority of respondents accepted the need for some more houses in the village, provided they were of the right type, built in the right places – e.g. not ribbon development along the A roads, were built in small developments, and of appropriate design in keeping with a rural village. 9% of respondents were opposed to any more houses being built in Chailey.

As regards the size of new houses, 43% favoured 1/2 bedrooms; 28% 3/4 bedrooms; 2% 5/6 bedrooms. As regards the type of new houses, 55% supported starter homes, 24% family houses, 16% sheltered housing, 11% bungalows and 10% apartments. 2% of respondents specified that all new housing in Chailey should be limited to affordable homes.

c) Job Opportunities in Chailey

65% of respondents judged these to be poor, very poor or non-existent. Only 3.5% judged them to be good and no one rated them excellent.

Strength of the Sense of Community in Chailey

54% of respondents judged this to be Fairly Strong or better (Strong or Very Strong). 36% judged it to be weak or worse. Geography - the spread out nature of the village – was cited as the major factor which worked against a stronger sense of community, despite the sterling efforts of the churches, “Chailey News” and the Bonfire Society.

Priorities for the Neighbourhood Plan

The responses suggest that housing is a prime concern in the parish. 9% of respondents viewed the Plan as the vehicle to prevent any further house building in the village; 4% want the Plan to prescribe that all new building in the village should be affordable housing for the young; 22% want the Plan to determine the type and nature of all future building in the village; 7% want the Plan to prescribe the specific locations for future house building in Chailey. 16% stated that the Plan must include policies designed specifically to maintain the village’s peaceful, rural nature, including provisions to ensure that new building occurs in small scale developments and NOT in mega estates.

Communications in the widest sense also featured strongly in the responses. 18% of respondents want the Plan to include policies to improve the quality of public transport serving the village. 9% want specific provisions to ensure that a footpath, suitable in all weathers for prams, buggies and cycles, is built alongside the A275 from the King’s Head cross roads to St. Peter’s School; 8% want the Plan to establish

more street lighting; 9% want the Plan to address road safety issues; 2% want the Plan to support increased and improved children's playgrounds.

Reflecting concerns expressed about the relatively poor strength of community spirit, 10% of respondents want the Plan to include policies specifically designed to enhance community spirit in Chailey.

NEXT STEPS

In the light of the responses to the questionnaire, the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group is preparing a statement of what the village should be like in 2030, the end of the period covered by the Plan. Three Task Groups - on housing; economic development & transport; and community facilities & the environment – comprising villagers who are interested in these topics, Steering Group members and parish councillors, will develop policies needed to realise the 2030 vision. Villagers will be consulted, before the Plan is finalised, about the vision and its supporting policies.

If you wish to be involved in the next stages of the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan, please register your interest with the Parish Clerk (01444 831453 or chaileypc@btconnect.com).